

snowdozer



“WHAT ARE SOME BUDGET-FRIENDLY 0-DAY IDEAS THE MATH FACULTY COULD TRY?”

Hello esteemed readership,

Welcome to the last issue of the term! Summer always flies by so fast. My last exam is on the 19th, and I could lie and tell you that I'm going to make the most of the last week of August after I'm free, but I fully intend to rot in my room playing *Factorio* or something until the next term starts. Even right now, with two final projects due in the first week of August, I am barely resisting the pull of the game. Railroad management.....

I hope everyone's feeling optimistic (or at least not too bad) about finals. And if you're a professor, I hope you're not feeling evil and rubbing your hands together with delight while cooking up a devious final. In the meantime, why not distract ourselves with this delicious, delectable issue? We've got a couple of great music and video game reviews, in case you were looking for recommendations. Our writers also seemed to be feeling particularly safety-conscious, so you can expect a comparison of the hand-washing standards across campus, as well as a spotlight on the racial biases in first-aid training. As for the rest, well, it's **mathNEWS**. You know what we're like. Unless you don't, in which case why not delve further into this copy and find out?

Otherwise, please make sure you don't get too consumed by the finals grind. Obviously don't forsake studying completely, but remember that it's important to take breaks and go outside. There's a band crawl coming up this weekend (the day after the issue releases I think?) that seems promising, as well as the usual events planned by the University for de-stressing around finals time. I heard there were goats on campus for goat yoga this week. How did they train a goat to do yoga?

I am going to practice what I preach and go take a FAT nap before continuing to study. I wish you all well! (*Gnome runs past*) Whoa what the fuck guys did anyone else see that?

barkED
Editor, mathNEWS

Cover art for this issue provided by snowdozer.

FINGERSINSOCKETS	teach them how to count cards so next year everyone can raid a casino and rinse them of money
SEASONEDSLACKER	Have everyone march around campus together while honking like Mr. Goose
別	origami!
SUNSET	Collectively write a single mathNEWS article
RYESAKI	painting flags like Eng Soc
MRBLUESKY	Lock them in MC and force them to write mathNEWS articles
LARS NOOTBAAR	iFly
LEAH	twenty one pilots concert
REVIVAL	joint orientation with western
SNOWDOZER	Grease pole
AXON-TERMINAL	collectively manually measure the area of ring road
JUBBLE	All you can eat buffet
LYSSA V33	Be really nice to the engineers (I have no stake in this I swear)
ABELIANKWYJIBO	Integration Bee

ARTICLE OF THE ISSUE

This issue's AOTI, *Pale Limitations*, is brought to you by Lyssa VV3. 'Tis the story of straw-man and Manstraw, and how their mortality rates are dependent on whether or not they blush in shades of fuchsia, according to standard first aid courses. A delightfully sharp article reminding you that medical guidelines are not always written with every patient in mind. My lovely **mathNEWS** writer, please come pick up your prize at MC 3030



loafED
Editor, mathNEWS

Some people become evil due to bad breath.

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

DOCUMENTARY FILM RECOMMENDATIONS

I used to think that documentaries were boring and stuffy. I thought they were just voice overs, carefully constructed interviews, and archival footage.

Luckily, I've been enlightened.

I was COMPLETELY watching the wrong ones. Documentaries don't just summarize events after the fact. Sometimes they capture real life as it happens. To me, those are the ones that are able to compete with fiction. Knowing that everything is real, that these people actually did and said these things in front of a camera, makes everything heightened. It's like hearing gossip from a friend, but this time there are visuals. I'll be on the edge of my seat, gasping out loud, as I watch some of these, repeating "I can't believe this shit is real, I can't believe this shit is real???" With that in mind, here are some documentaries that I've liked:

COMEDIAN (2002)

Before this movie, I had really no idea how much work went into being a comedian. I'd assumed they just came up with a couple jokes and then went and performed them. Well, this movie completely corrected me. We get to see two comedians, Jerry Seinfeld and Orny Adams, as they spend night after night in comedy clubs, meticulously testing and refining their performances. There's no formal interviews, the camera crew just acts as a fly on the wall. Because of that, they're able to capture such truthful moments. Through their actions and conversations with others, we get to watch as Seinfeld struggles with uncertainty and Adams constantly self-sabotages. Also, the editing is amazing. For example: at one point in the movie, Adams gets invited to perform for *Just For Laughs*. We watch as he calls his friends and family, laughing and sharing the news. Then it cuts and he's in the same spot but now fully sprawled out on the sidewalk, talking about how he's fundamentally unlovable and incapable of happiness. Like, is that not CRAZY??

PEDAL (2001)

Since watching this movie, I can no longer stand hearing someone whip out a, "I was born in the wrong generation." I know that, unlike me, the extent of their motivation is that they enjoy basic nostalgia-bait things like "music" and "fashion." While I too wish that I was born twenty years earlier, it's for a much more significant reason: so that I can be a bike messenger.

In *Pedal*, we get to peek into the world of NYC's bike messengers. It follows a wide range of couriers in their everyday lives, some of which are really rough. It seems like a hard life, but (and feel free to call me shallow here), I just could not get over how damn COOL everyone was. Bike couriers were truly the cowboys of the 1990s. Weaving through traffic (livestock!) on your trusty steel steed (flesh horse), how much more western can you get?

ORIGINAL CAST ALBUM: COMPANY (1970)

This movie achieves literally every single thing I mentioned at the beginning of this article. It's about the 18-hour recording session for the original cast album of the musical *Company*, and the whole thing is just so TIGHT. It's just a group of musicians in a room together, trying to create something perfect. This isn't a one-off performance of the musical. The original cast album is a permanent piece of work that people will examine for years to come. Everyone knows this, and tension in the room is HIGH. They're all relentlessly pushing each other and themselves. Through all this, they seem to forget about the cameras, and so it doesn't come off as a documentary. It just feels like you're in the room with them, getting an intimate view to the process of making something. I'm pretty nosy, and for someone with zero chance of being in a Broadway recording room, this movie answered all my questions. Also the soundtrack is obviously amazing because they're just singing Sondheim songs the entire time.

trolleyproblem22

1. Anyone who'd willingly DRIVE through a downtown core is no better than a sheep, really...

I SHILL ANOTHER INDIE RHYTHM GAME

Last year, esteemed indie rhythm game developers Lowiro announced what is in my opinion the most compelling PC rhythm game by far: *In Falsus*. The gameplay involves your left hand on the keyboard, shifting between six keys, and your right hand on the mouse, and is somewhat reminiscent of the arcade game *O.N.G.E.K.I.* It doesn't really play like any other rhythm game out there on PC, and even skilled rhythm game players struggled really hard on the demo when it released. It's really exciting to see novel gameplay in a genre/medium which has been somewhat oversaturated with basic vertically scrolling games. What's actually new news is that we finally have a release date: September 9th. If you're looking for a highly polished experience, and don't mind the cost and the insane difficulty curve, I highly recommend buying it when it releases.

hyperlynx

MIRACLE SORT

call me miracle sort the way I do nothing but keep expecting that I get sorted out (into a relationship)

fingersinsockets

PALE LIMITATIONS

PEOPLE ARE BLACK SOMETIMES, THIS FACT HAS STUMPED MANY

As part of being a team leader for first-year orientation, you are required to take a first-aid course and become certified in CPR. This isn't complicated; in fact, the University of Waterloo offers a variety of courses for very reasonable prices.

I myself, dear reader, took one of these courses. It was very educational and was taught by a lovely representative of the Lifesaving Society of Canada. Throughout the course, we were taught vital ways to identify a variety of life-threatening ailments, take heat stroke for example. Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency that occurs when the body overheats. Some symptoms include:¹

- High core temperature, above 40°C (104°F)
- Hot, dry skin
- Flushed (red) or pale skin

For complete recovery, people with heat stroke must be cooled down immediately, which means that it needs to be identified immediately.

WOULDN'T IT BE COMPLETELY INSANE IF THE SYMPTOMS THAT STUDENTS ACROSS CANADA ARE BEING TAUGHT ONLY APPLIED TO A PORTION OF THE POPULATION??

Well indeed, straw-man, it would be insane. Insane but completely and totally true. For you see, my flaxen friend, in the official *Comprehensive Guide for First Aid & CPR* by the Red Cross,¹ "pale" skin is used as a diagnostic criterion not once, not twice, but 14 separate times. This is without even mentioning "ashen," "flushed," "red," or "pink."

WHO GIVES A SHIT?

Me, straw-man, me gives a shit. Imagine for a second that you have been appointed as the person responsible for a group of twenty sad, scared little first years; you and your compatriots have all taken the Waterloo-recommended training and are collectively responsible for providing first aid in case something goes wrong. Now imagine that it's a hot day, not a warm day, but a go-die-in-a-hole, don't-touch-me **hot** day. Unfortunately for internal body temperatures and human rights in general, it is also orientation week, which means that you and your gaggle of vaguely homesick initiates will be outside, in the hot sun, all day. Thankfully, you are fully prepared for the occasion, have told everyone to drink plenty of water, and are training in recognizing the signs of overheating. Within your group, there is a black student named Manstraw. Manstraw has been steadily progressing toward heatstroke throughout the day, not drinking water, not taking breaks, etc. With so many students to keep track of, it's hard to keep track of who's drinking enough, so instead you and the other leaders rely on your training to make quick judgements on who is doing fine and who needs to be cooled down. Unfortunately for Manstraw, he physically cannot become pale and therefore will never meet the diagnostic criteria for heatstroke, despite the fact that he is currently suffering from heatstroke. Manstraw passes out and must be

rushed to a hospital. This situation was completely avoidable, but unfortunately no one was taught the signs of heatstroke on dark skin.

... :(

Don't worry, straw-man, Manstraw will make a full recovery in the hospital, because I am God in this hypothetical and it would be kinda sad if he died.

... :)

This kind of situation is the reality for anybody unable to visually blush, flush, etc. In both first aid training and even in formal medical settings, visual symptoms are usually only shown on a single skin tone, and it very often leads to misdiagnoses of completely preventable problems.²

THAT KINDA SUCKS. WHY IS THAT?

It's not active malice that caused the discrepancy in training material. It is probably safe to assume that the people at the various first aid societies are not secret white supremacists; however, they are members of society, and we do in fact live in a white supremacist society. We, as people, tend to imagine an "average person;" they likely imagine a white person, and as such, that is what gets put into teaching material.

WHAT COULD BE DONE TO FIX THIS?

Thankfully, the solution here is pretty simple: just add inclusive language and examples to first aid and medical training material. Something similar to foundation shade marketing with a shade range of symptoms would probably go a very long way to bridging this gap. While we're at it, providing training material on different body types would also be helpful; gender inequality in CPR training alone is the topic of an entirely separate article.



Despite all this, it's definitely better to be more first-aid trained rather than less, and any amount of knowledge can drastically improve outcomes in an emergency. If you have the time, I highly recommend getting yourself trained in first aid; you never know when it could be useful!

TL;DR: First Aid Good, Systemic Racism Bad?

Lyssa V33

References

1. https://cdn.redcross.ca/prodmedia/crc/documents/Comprehensive_Guide_for_FirstAidCPR_en.pdf
2. <http://myamericannurse.com/color-awareness-a-must-for-patient-assessment/>

GOD DAMN IT STOP MAKING CHILDREN

ON MY PORCH



WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU

WHY THE FUCK DO YOU LOT KEEP MAKING CHILDREN
ON MY PORCH

WHAT THE FUCK

DO YOU NOT SEE THE EGGS OF YORE???

STOP MAKING KIDS

TotallyNotAGoose

THERE WERE THREE EGGS

NOW THERE ARE FOUR

YOUR CHILDREN ARE UGLY AND YOU SHOULD STOP MAKING
MORE

THEY SPLIT UP MY FAVOURITE WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE :((

AND THE WORST THING ABOUT IT IS THAT IT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO AND I DIDN'T NOTICE

Right, so, I like it when people have favourite Wikipedia articles, and for a long time, I have maintained that my personal favourite is the Wikipedia *List of Common Misconceptions*. I understand this to be a somewhat unoriginal choice, but it's popular for a reason—I do think that you can something new each time you read it. After interrupting a hookup mid-action to peruse the Wikipedia *List of Sexually Active Popes*, we pulled up the *List of Common Misconceptions*. To my personal dismay, we found that the formerly beautifully long list had been neatly organized into several smaller lists and the Wikipedia page itself no longer actually contained any corrections to misconceptions. To bring myself closure and to justify spending an inordinate period of time thinking about this, I opted to look into it for my article this issue. This turned out to be a poor choice because it led to a lot of time spent reading the lists and not actually getting any writing done, but I have ended up with some things to say about it.

The article explains that the original large list had been split into multiple category-based lists “in order to manage page size and loading time,” and while I do respect the logic of this, I found that one of the great charms of the article was how diverse its contents were. I feel like the new topics-based organization, which has three primary pages (Arts and Culture; History; and Science, Technology, and Mathematics) and “additional lists” with more narrow focuses that I guess have enough content to have their own entry, takes away a lot of the spontaneity of the original list—it feels like you now have to go looking for specific corrections rather than just having them presented to you. It seems like it's lost its charm. Maybe that's just me not liking change, though. That would be in character for me.

Here's the real kicker, though: when I pulled up the Wayback Machine to see when the change had been made (because I find that easier than going through Wikipedia's edit logs), I

had to tab back a lot further than I expected. And it turns out that the split actually happened on July 19, 2025, with a notice about the proposed change appearing about one year earlier in July 2024. Does this mean I haven't visited the webpage I call my favourite Wikipedia article in at least a year, possibly two? Am I a fake fan of the Wikipedia *List of Common Misconceptions*? As is natural in such cases, upon coming to this realization, I had a minor crisis of Wikipedia fan impostor syndrome. Thankfully, the **pizzaQUEST** volunteers had returned by this point and we could now enjoy the fruits of their labour, which distracted me from a full-blown spiral into wondering if my beloved article would be able to forgive me for my disloyalty.

On a lighter note, while digging through old captures of the page, I found out that one of the things that made the List such a popular choice was xkcd 843, which, in retrospect, was probably how I learned of the article. I kind of hope that's true, because the most probable alternative is a Reddit thread and quite frankly that's much more embarrassing.

Anyway, over the course of the evening, I have begrudgingly come to accept the list in its new form, even if I miss how it used to be. The fact remains, though, that it is in a new form now, and I may have to find a new favourite. If anyone has any suggestions, let me know.

axon_terminal



THEOTOWN

A REVIEW OF A GAME YOU MIGHT WANT TO PLAY

TheoTown is an indie city-building sim published by blueflower in 2019. Its isometric pixel graphics are quite a standout within the genre, creating a charming atmosphere as you watch the little square people and cars meander around the town you lovingly built (or lovingly destroyed using the natural disaster mechanic). Zoom in far enough, and the art abstracts away to splotches of color. Zoom out, and you can view your whole city from afar, the bustling metropolis you yourself created and are responsible for—one of my favorite parts of city building sims.

The mechanics are pretty in-depth, albeit unfinished in places. The primary gameplay consists of expanding your city by improving infrastructure (roads, education) and adding more commercial, residential, or industrial zoning to meet demand. Along the way, you must keep track of your budget and balance earnings from taxes with spending on public services, all the while making sure every new area built has sufficient support from fire departments, healthcare services, parks, and so on. Your residents have “happiness” scores across multiple areas that you must try and keep high. When your city gets big enough, it can be connected with neighbouring plots to export/import resources.



AN EXAMPLE OF MANAGING TRAFFIC CONGESTION WITHIN THE GAME, WHICH AFFECTS TRANSPORTATION HAPPINESS.

The non-comprehensive mechanics are unfortunately the ones I'd have liked to see most. As someone who loves building train networks in games, I was a little disappointed to learn that trains in the game are mostly cosmetic. You can build stations for passenger and cargo trains, but they mostly just positively influence the transportation happiness in a certain radius around the station. I really hope this is something that comes in future updates, and honestly I might just write my own plugin for it in the meantime.

Plugins are supported by the developer, and some are even featured on the store as official game extensions. They tend towards the decorative side, providing well-known landmarks

and various fun tidbits to create all kinds of different-looking cities. There are a few QOL plugins that help with the UI, which can be clunky at times. Seeing this for the first time honestly made me wonder if I had unknowingly been playing a cozy game expecting city-builder game mechanics, but after having a look at the developer's description of the game, I think it is just a rough-around-the-edges city-builder with a community that likes making things look pretty. Which I'm not opposed to at all—I really like adding nature elements to the larger cities, which can get quite busy and concrete-heavy otherwise.



LOOKING OVER A THEOTOWN CITY. Features the plugins “Busy Nature” and “River with sidewalk,” among others.

The Steam port of the game is twelve-ish dollars, which I'm personally okay with paying, but if you can get it on sale, try to do so. Where this game really shines is on mobile: it's available for free on both Android and IOS, and by mobile game standards it is incredibly high-quality. It kept me occupied throughout high school before I had a computer that could run heftier games.¹ If you're a fan of management and building games, I'd check it out.

mobpsychofan

1. The requirements for this game on Steam include a minimum of 1024 MB of RAM. This can genuinely run on a ham sandwich. I really appreciate that about it.

I JUST NEED AN ARTICLE FOR FREE PIZZA

The title above so I can get free pizza from pizza nova :)



ekyshan

N ALBUMS I LISTENED TO LATELY

I am terrible at reviewing music but I'm too lazy to write a real article :p

I AM A BIRD NOW — ANOHNI

ANOHNI is a beautiful genius who has blessed us all with her voice... also the album has got like bird theming which is obviously awesome. Beautiful, emotional ballads (I am a sucker for ballads) with a soulful sensibility.

RECORDINGS FROM THE ÅLAND ISLANDS — JEREMIAH CHIU & MARTA SOFIA HONER

Really nice sort of ambient chill music, I find it nice for studying! It has this natural, organic energy, and some of the sounds just scratch my brain in the right way. It has this "field recording" feeling for me.

PASSION: A NEW MUSICAL (ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST RECORDING) — STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Underrated Sondheim musical. I loop this shit. This is some of the most lush and gorgeous music that Sondheim has written (normally he's pretty angular)... it is so beautiful and warm. It's like velvety with the sweeping strings and clearly evoking a Puccini-esque late Romantic operatic style, which just adds to the totally unabashed melodrama, the heightened emotion of it all. If you're a Sondheim fan, watch *Passion* (1994)!!! There's multiple full proshots for free on YouTube, and I love the original with Donna Murphy.

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BAT — FINN STREUPER

More nice chill studyable music. I feel like it's a very nice blend of electric and acoustic with just a lick of jazzish flavour. It's nice to listen to when you're just sitting and chilling out :)

HOMOGENIC — BJÖRK

The first two times I listened to *Homogenic* I was not paying enough attention to realize that this is such a good album! I love it so much, I listened to it seven more times. Björk is a once-in-a-lifetime visionary genius. The use of strings is gorgeous, as a viola player she really understands my spirit. I really like how she is so unfettered with her emotions and her experiences with love. She is a stained glass window and we are all looking through it.

BONUS: STRING QUARTET NO. 1 (FROM MY LIFE) — BEDŘICH SMETANA

My friend played this in the Instrumental Chamber Ensembles concert last Saturday and it was great!! It is one of those pieces that is intensely programmatic, so it's better with context. Also the viola part is incredibly meaty and super fun (I am biased). The 3rd movement is my favourite; it's dedicated to his wife and encapsulates his love for her. The melody is completely gorgeous and the emotion is huge in the moment,

I sometimes think that Smetana can be gratuitous or a bit heavy-handed, but I believe that love just feels this big!

rutabaga413

I'M SO READY TO LEAVE

I'm not graduating; I'm just eagerly awaiting the start of my co-op term. Not that I'm actually happy to go work for a job, butttttt I HATE SCHOOL. Bro, I'm actually so done OK. I've done three terms in a row, and all my other sequence friends have shared all their amazing happy fun times. I want happy fun times. I've never had the joy of going on co-op yet, and now there's this odd one-month period where the term is ending before I can go try it. I'm not saying I wanna skip the buffer break between this term and co-op; that is oh so desperately needed. But I must admit I'm so ready to give up on my grades, like finals are starting soon, but also like I can pass. Might not do well but I can pass, and now that's all I care about. Anyway, I just feel like I have senioritis... in my 2A??? Absurd honestly.



Jubble

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UW'S BASTION OF ERUDITE THOUGHT SINCE 1973

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THOUGHTS FROM MY TRIP TO CHARLOTTETOWN

I say hello to the taxi driver as he loads my suitcase into the back. As I sit down and close the door, I begin the game in my head where my brain decides how social I can be that day. Unexpectedly, I roll high. I ask him, “Isn’t it a beautiful morning?” “Yes,” he says, and then promptly puts on a podcast. This is the full extent of our conversation for the hour and a half car ride.

The podcast, called “Rohnspired” plays in a flat, monotone key, only briefly interrupted by loud, flashy adverts for various AI services on Fiverr. On that note, I am certain that this entire podcast is narrated by AI. This voice speaks in a never-ending loop of grindset affirmations, such as “spending your time with high value individuals,” “focusing on the things that *matter* rather than *distractions*,” and various parables involving cathedral building or blacksmiths losing everything and then making it back through sheer belief and consistency.

Looking up this podcast afterwards, it appears that the content for this podcast is an AI model fed on the speeches of 1960s “motivational speaker” Jim Rohn, who passed away in 2004. He was known as a mentor of other grifters, such as the founder of Herbalife and Tony Robbins. As I was reading about this, it hit me how weird our current moment is, that we are reviving dead grifters in order to make AI slop for new audiences. I wonder how my middle-aged immigrant taxi driver found himself here. He was old enough that he could be my dad.

We sit quietly with the words of Jim as the beautiful sun casts itself over the 401.

As it turns out, Charlottetown is not a huge place. And when you have to spend four days on your own, you see everything that is even slightly considered a tourist attraction. This is how I find myself faux-european-touristing inside the 110 year-old St. Dunstons Basilica, the tallest building in town.

As I step up the grand stone stairs, I enter into the script I’ve written for myself, following what I believe a non-Christian entering into a Christian place of worship should do as a tourist. I make sure to remove my hat and walk through the grand oak doors.

I stare up at the grand ceiling. It looks unremarkable compared to the many other cathedrals I have visited.

I stare at the stained glass. The figures have a more modern quality to them. Canadian soldiers at war. Fishermen. Church administrators from the 1960s dressing to evoke something greater and more ancient than their current circumstances.

Curious, I set out towards them, through the other tourists milling about, double checking that my phone’s flash is off.

As I frame the stained glass in my camera, one of the millers brushes past me. Curious, my eyes follow their path.

They open the door to a confession booth, stare into it, and then urgently, quietly, close it. They quickly turn away, and as they do we make eye contact. It is only for a few seconds as I quickly look away, and they go towards another stained window, praying fervently.

I suddenly feel very small. Who am I to be gawking around in this place?



To believe so deeply in something is an act that scares me. You could just as well be putting your faith in AI Jim Rohn, as into another religion of some sorts.¹ To give yourself over to an idea is an intense force, a power that I feel uncomfortable interrupting. Yet, every once in a while, I find myself an unwitting tourist to places of immense belief. *Bringing popcorn to the funeral*, to paraphrase another **mathNEWS** author.

The best we can do is enjoy the sunrise filtering through the stained glass, recognizing and respecting the devotion it took to get it there, and what that devotion may have cost.

Lars Nootbaar

1. And many are putting their unquestioning faith in even worse things these days.

GIVE ME JUSTICE

AKA WHY I CAN'T TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE

You think that you know me. You think that we are the same, that we are friends because you think and feel the same way. But I am me, you are you, and we are nothing alike.

Don’t ask what’s in my pants. Don’t ask when I started what hormones, why I chose my name, or who you think I really am. You don’t get to assume my secrets. Don’t assume anything about me—you don’t know a single thing until I tell you with my own words.

You haven’t clocked me as anything other than pissed at your bullshit.

See me for who I am, not for who you think I was. Don’t give me another pronoun circle, I want justice.

anonymousTranssexual

FIELD OF BLUE AND PINK

LOSING CHESS TO A DOG WHO'S ANNOYINGLY GOOD AT IT

Oct 2018: Toby Fox releases *DELTARUNE Chapter 1*, which follows a human named Kris and their monster classmate Susie as they find a Dark World in the school closet. There, in the empty Castle Town, they find a cloaked figure, Ralsei, the Prince from the Dark (his assigned role in the legend he tells), and learn that they are the three heroes of prophecy, fated to seal the Dark Worlds. After being told to take off the cloak muffling his voice, he obliges, showing his green robes and his hat, casting a dark shadow over his face.

As the tutorial character, he teaches combat and explains the controls to mechanics (often confusing Susie). His healing spells and low defensive stats characterizes him as healer, though in his retelling of the legend, the cloaked Prince is wreathed in fire, despite him having no fire spells.

At the end, Ralsei finally takes off his hat, revealing his face and coming out with his true appearance (resembling a certain goat monster).

Sept 2019: On Twitter, Toby Fox teases the song *Lost Girl* and an arrangement over dialogue portraits of Susie, Noelle (Kris's childhood friend(?)), and also Ralsei...

Sept 2021: *Chapter 2* is released. Ralsei continues to not wear his hat, though the game strangely still continues to use his hatted icon in battle interface.

When attempting to equip the Mannequin – wearing a blue dress resembling one in *Undertale*, often associated with acquiring dream bodies and becoming one's true self – on Ralsei, he instead says “Um, the d-dress is cute...” unlike other party members.

In one conversation, Ralsei talks about how it's nice that Susie is so Susie-like, and questions what it even means for Ralsei to be “Ralsei-like.”

June 2025: *Chapter 3* and *Chapter 4* release together. Kicking off, Ralsei explains that Darkners (like him) are just objects given illusory forms, they aren't real, and they shouldn't have feelings or desires.

The game boards still use Ralsei's old hatted appearance too. The official Ralsei plushie is also used for various gags, culminating with his PopularBoy ACT in the Tenna battle turning him into the plushie for a turn, giving points based on how much he is hurt or healed by others.

In a conversation with him, you can comment on his face, and either learn that his face is one of the few things he likes about himself, he sees himself as “just a shadow,” or that he apologizes and berates himself for enjoying compliments.

In Castle Town, the two can find Ralsei's bedroom strikingly empty. With the *Lost Girl* song playing (which has otherwise only ever played for girls), he insists that it's his purpose to

make the two happy, that he doesn't deserve to have anything for himself. After Susie leaves to get furniture, Ralsei admits his lack of hobbies or interests, but lately, he feels like he's been developing his own opinions, desires and fears, and asks if it's okay for him to.

Chapter 4 introduces the Prophecy – the unwavering narrative and mechanics itself – and the burden he bears in being its prophet. While the other two are described differently in Ralsei's retelling, Ralsei is referred to similarly across both: “the prince from the dark” — “the prince, alone in deepest dark,” and is depicted as a cloaked figure surrounded by fire in both too. It's obvious that his role of Prince is preordained by fate, what the world defines him as.

Only Ralsei overall reacts positively to equipping the Princess Ribbon, and the White, Pink, and the Blue Ribbon.

June 2026: *Chapter 5* releases.

In a climbing mini-game, you can see Ralsei in a cute pink dress. Usually, he says he can be your princess, if you want him to be. Replying, “Nah bro...” has him instantly change back to his usual outfit, looking dejected, supposing that he has more experience being a prince. Answering, “Of course!” he excitedly twirls and poses, saying that he's been a prince for a while, but not a princess yet. He supposes the only difference is in presentation, but it's fun to try new things, hesitantly adding “as long as it's what other people want.”

Then, in the Dark World, we meet Flowery, a flamboyant ikemen-style anime guy who took shape from a flower but acts like a human, is several symbolic relations from Ralsei, and spends much time teasing him specifically. Flowery stuffs him into a closet(!) of unnecessary things, full of his old hats (from his still-hat-wearing interface icon) and forces said hat onto him later, saying “doesn't he look much better this way?” Flowery also does things like replace him in the party, give himself maximum stats, ignore config settings, force Ralsei into a butler outfit, etc...

Later, in more sincere dialogue, the two argue over Ralsei's faith against his arrogance towards fate, the impossibility of defying fate, and how Ralsei hides his fire magic. After assuring him that the heroes will save the world no matter what, Flowery gives him drink vouchers, and clocks him looking longingly at the blue and pink one. He tells Ralsei to just get his fave and not worry about Kris, ending off with a “Got it, Princess?” to which he only blushes angrily. Which could mean anything.

Right before storming the Top of Castle, Ralsei's title changes from “Artemisia: Goes well with tea” to “Dark Vine: Watering their own thorns.”

In a later confrontation, Ralsei accuses Flowery of pretending to be something he's not. He calls out their projecting, asking

them to explain the issue with that. Startled, Ralsei insists he can't run from his purpose as a flower, and how they themselves are obligated to follow their own roles as heroes. In response, Flowery admits he was just teasing them to trip them out of their shell of inferiority/repression and to realize they could be happy, but noticed he only made them jealous that he doesn't have to follow the rules. Ralsei retorts with the threat that if they don't follow the rules, everything will fall apart. Then, ending with this heart-wrenching exchange:



Sunset

SNAIL LIFE

WHAT I DO IN A DAY

When I woke up, the moon was shining bright. I emerged from my shell and slithered out of the shade of a leaf. Today was gonna be a happy day. I met my friends in the morning, and they were all happy. I ate some yummy grass and leaves, and saw my friends again in the evening. We ate yummy plants together and talked about everything we saw and ate while exploring, like we do every day. We all love exploring, so it's good that there'll never be an end to it. There are always new places to go, and new friends to meet. I usually don't know where I wake, since I sleep somewhere different everyday. As long as I can stay safe from the hot sun, I don't mind where I sleep. I have so many friends and I don't get to see all of them everyday. Sometimes I don't know where some of them go, and sometimes I never see them again.

That night, I went to bed in a good mood, but when I woke up, I felt uneasy. The moon was just as pretty as it was yesterday. A lot of snails seemed worried. Some of my friends said they heard bad things were happening. Some friends said that good things were happening. I want to believe all of them, but there's only one right answer. While I was sifting through the tall blades of grass, I heard the ground rumble in rhythmic thumps. Soon after, overhead in the distance, I saw a tree moving. It was not quite as fast as a fly, but it was definitely faster than a snail. I think the rumbling was because of the tree. That morning, I went to sleep scared.

SlitheringSam

mathNEWS PIZZA SELECTION

WAHOO: PINEAPPLE PIZZA MADE IT IN

The spelling and formatting are preserved and suggestions are presented in the original order. The bolded and asterisked pizzas were selected.

This week's pizza suggestions:

1. ***Pineapple, plant based pepperoni, hot peppers (9)**
2. mushroom, zucchini, plant based pepperoni (7)
3. black olives, pepperoni, pineapple (the ping pong pizza) (7)
4. ***green pepper, ground beef, red onion (11)**
5. ***(i love chicken and tmoato) chicken, omato, bruschetta (16)**
6. ***pepperoni, green peppers, extrsa cheese (10)**
7. ***(accidentally bough the anthology twize pizza) bacon tomato onion (10)**
8. no cheese, no sauce, double arichoke, anchovies (4)
"it is bad"—contentED
9. ***pesto base, grilled chicken, roasted red peppers, sundried tomatoes (13)**
10. no cheese, black olives, bbq base (155i6) (1)
11. ***DF cheese, tomato, sundried tomatoes, extra tomato sauce (999999) 1984**
"I rigged the system"—the lactose intolerant
12. ***pesto base, grilled chicken, roasted garlic, spinach (9)**
13. ***parmesan, asiago, feta (10)**
14. ***(public transit pizza) PRESTO base, asiaGO cheese, GarlicRoasted, Tomato (18)**
15. ***spinach, spanish onion, roasted garlic (13)**

As those who regularly attend **prodNIGHT**s know, **mathNEWS** writers select pizzas by approval voting. Writers scramble to suggest their pizzas to *contentED* and, needless to say, suggestions can be creative. Thankfully, gone are the days of "none pizza, left beef" and *most* suggestions are edible.

Suggestions 8 and 10 are suspect. The others are real pizzas that are somewhat reasonable to order. The public transit pizza is good, which is not always a given for a trendy sounding **mathNEWS** pizza. It is interesting to see that burger pizza (cheddar, ground beef, onions) did not make the list, and hasn't for quite a while. Shockingly, we do not have a cheese pizza this week.

Over my four years as a **mathNEWS** writer I've seen pizza trends come and go. I am glad to see we are currently ordering edible pizzas, and that BBQ base has fallen out of favour.

QUAAAAAAAAAACK

[mathNEWS]

THE MUSICAL INTERDUDES X THE NICU!!!!!!!!!!

UWACC-VERSE FANFIC

UWACC NEEDS MORE LOVE... AND YAOI STOCKS ARE UP...

the piano lay bare on E7 6th floor, as the NICU!!!!!!!!!! stared straight up at the liminal ceiling, his tight orange pants and his low ominous hum serving as a warning for those who dared study around his presence. he felt most comfortable on the couch in the corner, the spot where he truly became the silly small group for UW A Cappella Club's Spring 2026 End of Term Concert that he was meant to be.

from all this, the Musical Interdudes knew he'd be there, and he wasn't afraid of a fight. he walked across campus, from the MC basement rehearsal room upstairs to the linkedin bridge, ready to confront the ginger copycat.

MI walked in, fist in his yellow jacket pocket and brought NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s stare towards him.

"hey! were you trying to mock me at the concert? because you know, you don't want to mess with a criminal..." he declared.

NICU!!!!!!!!!! raised both their eyebrows and torso to the tall, brutish man standing near the E5 entrance and tried to explain himself.

"what? no- no i-" he stammered, cheeks flushed. he took a few seconds to compose his thoughts as MI gracefully walked towards the couch, his gritted teeth softening and daggered eyes retracting.

before MI could speak again, NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s mouth opened and MI gazed at his lips moving with each carefully crafted word.

"i got the idea from you, but it was never to mock you. i admire your humour and uniqueness and got rather inspired. i'm sorry if you felt offended in any way."

the corners of MI's eyes drooped, his body melted into the couch and his arms draped over NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s shoulders. with every new thought, slow streams of tears fell down his cheeks.

"no, i'm sorry for assuming the worst in you. i've always been undervalued as an acapella group because of my interest in comedy and storytelling through skits and my obnoxiously bold colour, so seeing someone else do the same brought up my insecurities. i loved your performance, and certainly you made me and the people move. my anger came from jealousy and it is unfair to blame it all on you," he muttered, finally wiping his wet cheeks with his jacket sleeve.

NICU!!!!!!!!!! held his hands on MI's shoulders and dragged them back, letting MI's honeyed eyes stare deeply into his.

"it hurts me when you say that about yourself," he spat out. "i love how you make others gasp and laugh, and yellow really suits you."

NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s hands travelled up to his face, where he wiped some of the tears pooling under MI's eyes with his thumbs. MI's chest rose by the change in touch, sighing in unison as NICU!!!!!!!!!! took a deep breath in and held it for four.

"you should really love yourself more, like the way i've adored you from afar."

the contrast between the cold still E7 and the sweet warmth NICU!!!!!!!!!! shared struck MI and reminded him of the fire in his heart he chose to once ignore.

as MI bathed in the heat, NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s face likewise became hot and only realized the fate of his words after they spilled out like boiling soup.

"uhm—i didn't mean for that to sound so romantic, but—"

"no, i've admired you as well, and only now realized my jealousy was the anguish of not having you in my arms," MI responded, his hands grasping NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s forearms.

"NICU!!!!!!!!!! can i kiss you?"

"gladly, this is what i've always wanted," his face beaming before puckering into a relaxed kiss, with MI's arms unfolding and wrapping to NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s shoulder blades. it felt like calm, the bliss that both of them needed after the concert stress.

MI dipped his face back and looked back at NICU!!!!!!!!!! his flush radiating through his skin and his pupils dilated, leaving barely any hazel to show.

"you've always wanted this?" MI's eyebrow furrowed. "then perhaps i should bring you all the joy i can provide."

NICU!!!!!!!!!! smiled greatly. "i would really like that," he whispered.

their embrace started with small kisses peppered with the touch of MI's fingers crawling into NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s brassy hair and his hand falling down to MI's neck. as NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s thumb grazed over MI's adam's apple, their kiss became more passionate, with their lips pressing down with increasing vigour, inhaling each other's breath and letting their tongues meet each other every now and again. their bodies fell down horizontally, with MI's hand cradling NICU's head at the arm of the couch, gripping onto twists of hair like taut rope.

at last, their lips grew apart and MI's hand retracted away from NICU!!!!!!!!!!'s skull, him lightly panting from his primal desire fulfilled, and almost just getting started.

"would you mind it if i took off a few buttons of yours?" MI wondered, smirking at the giddy NICU!!!!!!!!!!.

NICU!!!!!!!! shivered at the thought, and nodded eagerly at the prospect of MI's fingers touching his chest.

what he didn't expect was MI's teeth pulling the fabric near the buttons, but he watched intently at the tugs and glares from MI. after the second button, every time MI's head of black hair bobbed down to NICU!!!!!!!!'s torso, they scritchd his skin and played with the strands of hairs until the cotton was fully done, leaving NICU!!!!!!!! upper half bare.

MI pushed one side of the shirt off until NICU!!!!!!!!'s pec was exposed. he touched his chest softly, tracing the edges of his sides and arms, admiring the view he was blessed with.

"can i leave a mark on you?" MI asked.

"yes, yes please." NICU!!!!!!!! agreed enthusiastically.

as MI's lips dived down onto the skin beneath NICU!!!!!!!!'s clavicle and sucked, the elevator door opened and out trailed a janitor, surprised by the lack of peace.

"now what am i invading on?" shouted the janitor.

MI immediately got up off of NICU!!!!!!!! and responded with a flurry of sorry's, as NICU!!!!!!!! stared at the ceiling a bit longer.

"come, let's dance to the beat of our hearts."

Dollar Store Person

baow baow

WHAT IS A FELLOWSHIP AND WHY DO I KINDA WANT ONE

LARP LARP LARP SAHUR

If you have ever been cursed with poor self-esteem with an undertone of a crushing need to try to develop your career instead of focusing on school because you've mentally given up a long time ago, you may find yourself doomscrolling LinkedIn.

As I'm doing so, I'm checking out the subtitles under people's names on each of their posts. I spot a common theme, especially among those who I have noticed dipping their toes into the 'sport' (I mean that sarcastically) of LinkedIn larping. Aside from their constant, pontifical posting, many have the title 'fellow @ xyz company'.

Taking a look at the companies offering fellowships to post-secondary students, these seem to be startups that seem to have recently gained traction and recruit students to promote not only their product or service, but also their company's culture.

It's come to my attention that there are different kinds of fellowships—they are most known as merit-based funding or training programs that support advanced studies, research, or professional development. They are typically for post-grads, going into a specialized field, oftentimes prestigious positions to practise medicine or an intensive STEM field.

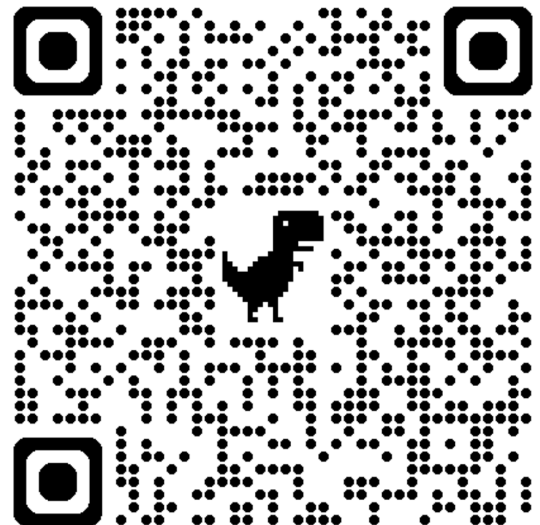
As a second-year math student, I'm not talking about those, but rather the ones that enforce that you post on LinkedIn about the service online and pay you a fixed rate based on the post's impressions. I, myself, recently applied for one. It shall be unnamed for the sake of privacy but it's an online service built to help students—that's all I'll say.

I applied to it on a whim after seeing it online, not thinking much of it but a little under a week later, turns out I made

it into the second round! They requested a video of under a minute from everyone who made it to the second round, answering what they are passionate about and what they hoped to gain from the fellowship. I made a little slideshow and submitted my video.

Unfortunately, I didn't make it. But, I am remaining optimistic. Anyways, if any of y'all got any tips for LinkedIn larping, how to score a fellowship (maybe possibly a referral :3), fill in the Google form!

See y'all next term! :D



A REVIEW OF HEATHERS (2018)

Spoiler warning for: *Heathers* (the Broadway show, the original movie, and the 2018 TV adaptation), *Scott Pilgrim*, and *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off*.

Over the last few months I have been on a bit of a *Heathers* kick. A friend introduced me to the musical about 2 months ago and I've been obsessing ever since. That's why, when I learned that there was a TV adaptation in 2018 that was badly received, I jumped at the chance to watch it through and write an article on it. Now, having watched the whole show, I can only say it was... something.

The *Heathers* TV show was a 2018 production that was a modernized version of the story. Notably to me, it stars SNL cast member and *Dropout* star Jeremy Culhane in a supporting role unique to the show. This show was originally supposed to have a second season, but that was cancelled before it came out.

Now, the idea of a modern day setting isn't an issue. It's been done well before, like with *Romeo + Juliet*. When it comes down to these adaptations with a setting change, there are a few things that I think are necessary to make it good. Thus, here are *fingersinsockets'* rules for a good adaptation that isn't just a retelling of the story:

1. Keep the main and important supporting characters fundamentally the same (spare some exceptions).
2. Have good writing that supports the changes that are made.
3. Do not not try to live up to and "be" the original source material. Figure out what this show wants to be and work from there.

Adaptations like this are meant to be played around with. Of course they are. A *Heathers* adaptation that makes no changes to anything would be fucked from the start, because you've placed characters and settings distinctly tied to the late '80s in the late 2010s. However, this show must have some personal vendetta against those rules, given how much they are broken.

1. KEEP THE MAIN AND IMPORTANT SUPPORTING CHARACTERS FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME.

In the original *Heathers*, the Heathers are meant to be this super mainstream, conventionally attractive, idolized, group of mean girls. Now we have the TV Heathers. Heather Chandler is bigger, Heather Duke is genderqueer, and Heather McNamara is mixed-race and bisexual. The changes feel entirely borrowed from the nightmare of a *Fox News* host who complains about wokeness.

Now, intersectionality does not inherently fuck up their characters. Being a modernized *Heathers*, having a Heather be a minority is not out of the question. However, the amount of intersectionality does put their characters into question. When there's this mix of queer and ethnic identities, it's hard to make the case that the Heathers are still this uncaring,

controlling, idolized, mainstream group. Making Chandler an SJW also fucks with that character, even if it is entirely surface-level and if she uses cancel culture like a weapon.

Veronica is fucked up with this too. In the originals, Veronica is strongly defined by one of her lines, "I think there's good in every one of us." She feels remorse and regret for every death that she and JD cause, including Kurt and Ram, who were rapists. TV Veronica follows this until episode 3, where she goes full JD and follows his line of sociopathic thinking. All of this entirely fucks up their characters.

2. HAVE GOOD WRITING THAT SUPPORTS THE CHANGES THAT ARE MADE.

The writing does not salvage the train wreck of the character changes.

The plot is immediately derailed from its source material, with Chandler surviving the murder attempt at the end of episode 1. Making a massive change to the plot is not an issue, but it must be backed by the writing. For example, *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off* makes a massive change in the first episode with Matthew Patel "winning" against Scott, but is still an incredible series backed up by writing. TV *Heathers* fails almost immediately. The plot changes don't have massive issues, but none of the writing makes it convincing that the changes were worth it.

None of the writers seemingly know how to write Gen Z characters. Duke must complain that they didn't use a filter for a memorial photo. Mac questions whether or not you unfollow the social media account of someone who died. They can't consistently write good comedy either, which pisses me off because they had some good jokes, so they CAN write it. However, when they have to approach anything topical, they must approach it like boomers. The teachers must question how "fat people can be popular," and whether or not more minorities are popular now. Duke is genderqueer, so there must be a scene where the teachers struggle with pronouns. The situations end up feeling like they are framed to make the teachers and principal seem more reasonable in questioning these things than they really are.

All in all, this writing is trash.

3. DO NOT TRY TO LIVE UP TO AND "BE" THE ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL.

The show, in all its failed comedy, is too serious. trying so desperately to give itself the cult classic vibe. The show clearly came in not quite knowing what was wanted of it, and pushed it in a direction it clearly was not meant to go.

One of the best things about *Heathers* were the sayings that came from it: "how very," "what's your damage," and "fuck me gently with a chainsaw" all hold up well. TV *Heathers* tries hard to replicate this, with "how just" and "what's your daddy wound" trying and failing badly. They really do try, because

they insert using the word “just” so often, trying to make it take off in a way that takes you out of the show.

So what we have is a modern-day TV adaptation of a movie where the characters have been fundamentally changed, badly written, and try too hard to live up to the original. However, if you change the writing, the way it adapts the source material, and everything else about it, it could be so good.

fingersinsockets

TO MY ROOMMATE

You are the most insufferable and shameless person I’ve ever had the displeasure of sharing a living space with. Time and time again, you have blatantly disrespected me and the common rules set by everyone, with zero indication of remorse or self-reflection. I’ve spent far too long trying to be the bigger person and letting you have your way, naively thinking you would mature if I lead by example, but I have since realized that you either genuinely cannot understand how your actions affect others, or don’t care enough to understand.

The way you can so casually be dismissive of my comfort and rightful space in the apartment I pay to live in, genuinely needs to be studied. You claim I don’t show common decency, wearing headphones all the time and not saying hello to you, but have you ever considered that I have nothing substantial to say to anyone that can’t grasp basic respect? Whatever demonic perspective of me you’ve painted in your head is entirely born from your habitual, arrogant way of looking at the world.

I’ve told you before, after the incident of you telling me to mind my tone when I reminded you to not sing in the kitchen at midnight, that I will extend the same amount of respect that you show to me. If anything, I have shown you more respect than you could ever deserve in your entire lifetime, simply because I am too kind for my own good. I believe that the world may be cruel but I don’t have to be, but I shouldn’t have to destroy myself to care about someone who only cares when their privileges are slightly restricted.

For a very long time, you made me feel like I wasn’t being accommodating enough, that everyone goes through something similar and since no one talks about it, I must be being dramatic. I thought I was the one at fault for wanting to feel safe and comfortable in my own living space; that hearing ear-piercing screams and insulting conversations through the walls was normal; that the strong “smell” of food (somewhat) from my culture (pan-fried tomatoes and salmon, egg fried rice with cabbages) was somehow disrespecting you. I thought I wasn’t being fair and accommodating when I requested not to have the AC on $24\frac{1}{2}$ after the heatwave because of my joints’ sensitivity to cold temperatures, when you laughed in my face and proceeded to turn the temperature down to 21 after everyone was asleep.

You brought your boyfriend to stay overnight multiple times either without notice or straight up lying by omission, despite agreeing to at least a day’s notice beforehand and all of us having expressed how uncomfortable we are with some random man in the apartment. I certainly don’t appreciate hearing you guys having sex through the vents or him snoring or leaving marinated piss and shit in the toilet, or making out in the dark on the living room couch at midnight and scaring the shit out of me.

When confronted with my concerns, you ignore everything I say and insult my way of living. When approached to find a compromise, again you remain purposefully ignorant but throw an embarrassing tantrum when I stand my ground and don’t follow your every whim.

I hate you. Hate is a strong word, and I don’t like using it, but nothing else can describe the amount of disdain I hold in my heart for everything you represent; your privilege, your demeanour, your audacity; your disrespect, and everything you’ve done since September.

Never in my entire life have I ever held so much anger in my heart for one person. I don’t claim to be a saint, and I do my fair share of complaining, but it is astounding how you can bring out twenty years’ worth of repressed emotions just from one sentence. It speaks volumes about your inherent privilege and upbringing if you can say such vile comments without batting an eye, and have the audacity to fake kindness when you need something and belittle me when I refuse to play along. The worst part is that I know for a fact that while I am left cold and shaking for hours from anger, overthinking the scenario over and over in my head and spiralling into genuine mental distress, you sleep soundly right next door without a care in the world and expect everything to go exactly how you want the next day.

If there’s one positive thing that’s come out of this situation, it’s that I’ve learnt to speak up immediately when something is wrong or there is something I don’t agree with. Trying to be the bigger person is negligible in face of genuine mental immaturity, and I don’t deserve to have my mental health and anger revolve around a fool. I shouldn’t be setting myself on fire just to keep others warm, and if the situation is out of my hands, I deserve to have it free from my mind as well.

I hope, from the bottom of your heart, that you can find peace in whatever twisted narrative of the world you’ve built for yourself and everyone so unfortunate enough to have been swept into it, like myself. In my future, you will become the meaningless clown who lives on solely as a funny story I tell people that truly matter to me.

May I find peace in your torment.



atlaslynx

GENDER AND SEXUALITY OF SELECT GRT BUSES BASED PURELY ON VIBES

301 ION LIGHT RAIL

The ION is a beautiful transgender woman, obviously. She's asexual.

302 ION BUS

Egg.

201 IXPRESS FISCHER-HALLMAN

Cis straight woman. You know how lesbians and like some pretty traditional Christians end up having the same fashion sense? Yeah that's her. Very religious but secretly super woke.

202 IXPRESS UNIVERSITY

A bisexual trans guy whose tinder profile is a picture of himself holding a fish. It's like a medium-sized fish.

204 IXPRESS HIGHLAND-VICTORIA

Bigender lesbian.

205 IXPRESS OTTAWA

204's younger twin brother. Cis gay.

206 IXPRESS CORONATION

They have NO IDEA what their gender is, but they'll fuck anyone who gives them money.

1 QUEEN RIVER

Cishet manic pixie dream girl who WISHES she were a lesbian tbh.

6 BRIDGE-COURTLAND

Cis bi man.

7 KING

AuDHD aroace agender anarchist!!!!

8 WEBER

Trans man who has had bottom surgery. That bus has a dick.

9 LAKESHORE

Genderfluid and pan.

12 WESTMOUNT

Transbian. Faked her death to transition back in like the 1960s.

19 HAZEL

Frat boy who's definitely *some* flavour of not straight.

20 VICTORIA-FREDERICK

Single mom who just realized she can experiment a little.

21 ELMIRA

Old woman with a "roommate" who thinks being gay is a choice and you can just choose to marry a nice man and have kids instead!

29 KEATS-UNIVERSITY

Guy who's homophobic cuz his parents got divorced after his dad came out as gay. Probably cis, might not be straight tbh.

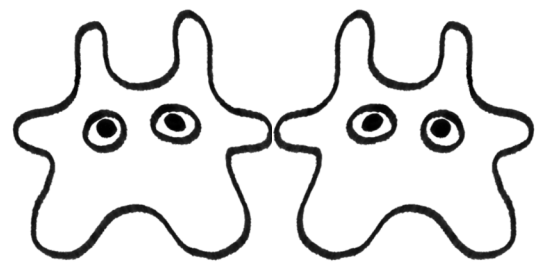
30 RING ROAD

Genderfluid, asexual, and biromantic.

31 COLUMBIA

Aromantic pansexual cis man who exclusively bottoms.

RapidEyeMovement



**I wonder if I can make
the square alien doodles
hold hands somehow...**

**A mathNEWS EDITOR WHO
BELIEVES IN THE POWER OF
LOVE TO CONQUER HEARTS**

A META-ARTICLE PSA TO WRITERS

MY FIRST AND MAYBE LAST ARTICLE

I realized that I'm graduating in less than a month. Sure, even alumni are eligible to submit articles to **mathNEWS**. But it seems like a limited opportunity to submit an article while you still pay for its publication as a math student.

While I barely wrote anything, I read quite a few issues with all types of content; solid posts that I still find clever... and also cursed posts that I wish I could unsee/unread.

Here is where the PSA comes in: writers... don't take your chance to write for granted. Think of readers when writing.

mathNEWS already has its own guidelines about the purpose of articles, and there is fair flexibility. But when I was

comparing the recent issues with the ones from years ago, I was convinced that we students can really get caught up in expressing for the sake of expressing, without thinking of making a meaningful influence on the audience.

Even jokes serve their purpose with their punchline. Even aiming to be intentionally cursed is better than having no punchline (or somewhat less bad)!

Anyway... my time has come [*insert Master Oogway meme*]. Goodbye...

a min late

profQUOTES

CO 454: HOWARD KARLOFF

“Where did I get this example? Struggling, and work, and suffering.

“To be honest, I don't know. I found these results online yesterday.

CS 240E: TOM IAGOVET

“Steal from your sibling. If you can't steal from your sibling, steal from your parent. If you can't steal from your parent, delete yourself.

CS 466: LAP CHI LAU

“Now we relax it, and hope for the best.

“You ask me for the proof and you aren't even interested in it, you aren't even looking at it.

CS 488: TOSHIYA HACHISUKA

“Mario is not a circle.

ECON 102: KATE RYBCZYNSKI

“You could use child labour

ECON 201: ANDREW GIBSON

“We're not gonna bully him, cus he's into *Pokemon* and poor.

FINE 228: XUAN YE

“I respect your right to fail.

MATH 235: LEO JUNG

“I thought I was a genius until I finished my undergrad

“Thanks to this proposition I erased

“You do this until you die

MUSIC 140: SIMON WOOD

“My wife left me today.

PHYS 242: MATTEO MARIANTONI

“*[Spots cockroach in lecture room]* I should add him to LEARN and let him write the exam.

PMATH 450: ALEXANDRU NICA

“I'm cooked! ... Oh wait, I'm not cooked yet.

STAT 230: SURYA BANERJEE

“Reason you're drunk is because I want it to be random

“Nothing I say should be taken seriously

“Waiting time for me to die

STAT 331: PETER BALK

“Does anyone feel sorry for this fellow getting underpaid? I mean, they are still making \$250,000 a year in 2015.

“Imagine you just woke up from a long coma and your doctor says, “it's freezing [three months ago], but you are free to go.” Are you going to walk out with shorts?

ADDING MODULES TO C: EXTENSIONS

This continues the discussion from my earlier article, [Adding Modules to C: Implementation Details](#). To avoid reiterating details, let's assume you can extract all symbol definitions (eg. `struct Node { struct Edge **edges; };`) from a C file. With this information, you can figure out the dependencies between symbols (eg. the definition of `struct Node` needs the declaration of `struct Edge`). Additionally, we introduce the keywords `module`, `import` and `export` (eg. `module SomeModule; import OtherModule; export struct Node { structure Edge **edges; };`).

This module system is powerful, but we want more. Let's look at some extensions.

HANDLING HEADER FILES

The way the module system is currently set up doesn't allow you to have header files or forward declarations. How do we make header files work in our system? Here, we can take inspiration from C++20 modules, which offer two solutions: `import "header_name.h";` and the global module fragment. `import "header_name.h";` bundles the header file into the module system, so we can handle symbol dependencies just like modules. But what if you need the header file's preprocessor macros? You can write `#include "header_name"` in the global module fragment instead. One of the challenges this introduces is how to deduplicate symbols: if module A and module B both `#include <stdio.h>` in their global module fragments, then `printf()` looks like it refers to two different function declarations. One way to fix this is to compare hashes, which would find that the `printf()` function declarations are the same.

EXPORT/IMPORT

This is so if you write `export import otherModule;` inside `module someModule;`, then if another module writes `import someModule;`, it should also end up importing `otherModule`. Now, because the module system works after the preprocessor has run, we don't handle exporting macros, so imports are order-independent. This makes this really easy to implement—just append to the import list.

MODULE NAMESPACING

This is also borrowing from the C++20 module standard. Basically, you append the module name to the symbol name (eg. `someVariable@someModule`), so if you have two modules that both define `someVariable`, you don't end up with a linker symbol clash. Note that this means the module system has to rename symbol uses inside a file (eg. `foo(a);` becomes `foo@someModule(a@otherModule);`), which adds a lot of implementation work. Another random idea is: what if two libraries both use the same module name for one of their modules? Then you'd have to do binary editing shenanigans to append the library name... I'll leave that to future work.

IMPORT AS MODULE_NAME

Note that `import someModule;` is a wildcard import, akin to `from someModule import *` in Python. Changing the syntax to `import someModule as SM;` would allow `SM.someVariable` instead of polluting the namespace. To make this work, you have to change the grammar to allow `struct SM.someStruct x;`. Also, when this combines with extension "export/import," you end up with `SM.OM.someStruct2` and `OM.someStruct2` looking different but referring to the same struct. Oh well.

TAGGED EXPORTS

What if some modules need access to a certain function, but most modules shouldn't have access to it? If we were to use the concept of "friend classes" from C++, we would have to expose everything, which kinda sucks. Instead, we can make imports and exports parameterized: `export(tag)` means `import M(tag);` gets it, but not `import M;`. Some work needs to be done to figure out the syntax details, but it's not too bad to implement.



That's a lot of possible extensions (and this is a shortlist!), but which ones are important? Well, this work is for a thesis, and I need to implement a module system for Cforall. In that case, only the extension "Handling header files" is needed out of the five here. Well, there are actually two additional big extensions I need to add:

HANDLING STATIC INITIALIZATION ORDER

When you disallow cyclic imports (eg. C++20 modules), you have a clear ordering because the import dependencies form a tree. With cyclic modules, it's a bit cooked because rings don't have a start or an end. The D programming language uses a runtime solution to handle static initialization even with cyclic imports, and I'll probably use that. There's another option to do complex static analysis to avoid work at runtime, but that's a lot of work and I'm tired.

HANDLING FUNCTION OVERLOADING

Cforall is big on overloading. It not only overloads on parameter types, but it also overloads on the return type! This means that overload resolution is quite complex—it works over the entire expression. Unfortunately, I might have to touch this system in order to handle scoping rules (eg. if `someFunction@someModule` isn't imported into scope, then don't consider it for overload resolution). It might be easy, or it might be so hard that I get kicked out of school before I can do it the "right way." We'll see.

Anyways, sorry for the infodump, but a technical article like this is always going to be dry like a research paper (if it's digital, I hope your computer is dry. If it's printed, I hope it's

not soggy). Hopefully this series has helped you figure out if grad school is for you.

SaltOverflow

send help

By the way, I have a video for those of you too lazy to read:

<https://youtu.be/p8NpyBIRbEQ>

RANKING ALL MY COURSES THIS SEMESTER

1. INFORMATION THEORY (CO 432)

This is my favorite course this semester. The professor was amazing and explained things well, the content was really interesting, and the assignments were really fun to work through. Sadly though, I had to drop this course as I was busy and could barely study for the second midterm worth 40% ☹️ (the curse of being a MathSoc exec). But overall, I love the content for this course and I wish I could've devoted more time to this course and see it to its completion. The only complaint I have is that I wish the second midterm was the day of the WD drop date, since I could have tried it, and if I failed it, I could drop the class after. Also I really like what the TA did by taking off -0.1 mark every time I made a little mistake in my proof, as it doesn't penalize me much for making small mistakes, but also made me aware of the mistakes I made by removing marks for it.

9.9/10

2. MUSIC THEORY 1 (MUSIC 270)

This class was not what I was expecting. I thought the class would be teaching intermediate music theory and be a follow up course to Fundamentals of Music Theory (MUSIC 111). It turns out that the main music theory courses (i.e. music theory 1–4) each cover a different era of music, starting from church music in the 12th century, covering the invention of clefs, accidentals, and ledger lines (in the first class), and eventually going into the composition of church music, paraphrasing, and four-part harmonies (which is basically the rest of the class). It was really fun learning how to compose music, but it was also really annoying because there are a bajillion rules you need to remember. For example, don't leap by a tritone, don't have parallel 5ths or 8ths, etc etc.

In addition, one thing that is fun, but annoying, is the insane amount of work for this course. Every week, you have to do an assignment you hand in class, an online assignment on a subscription service called Artusi (you have to pay \$40 for this ☹️), and either a vocal quiz where you sing and do rhythm, or a dictation quiz where you have to identify intervals and transcribe music. I spend most of my time on this course purely because of the sheer amount of work this course has. It's really useful to do though, and especially the dictation aspects are really useful as I want to try transcribing music in the future. In addition, the Artusi subscription also has a lot of additional music theory exercises covering chords, harmony, pitch, rhythm, counterpoint, etc. I enjoyed doing these additional exercises for fun, but lowkey the subscription model pmo because my access ends in September.

8/10

3. TOPICS IN GRAPH THEORY (CO 749)

To be honest, the way this course is structured, I have not really gotten out much of it. The lectures are recorded so I don't feel the need to go to lectures, and the assignments are in groups, so I don't have to do every question and I collaborate with my peers. The assignment content and the course content are also disjoint, so even when I skip lectures, I can still do the assignment. One thing I liked and disliked was the Zoom lectures. The lectures are recorded on Zoom using the Zoom whiteboard. I loved it because the lectures are recorded with AI transcription (though the transcription is pretty ass) and we students can participate in the notes, but also it sucks as it was harder to understand than if SpirkI just wrote it all out on the blackboard, as I couldn't take notes fast enough, especially since I was using Quiver to handmake the graphs, because of the scrolling.

In terms of course content, in the beginning of term when I did go to lectures, I really enjoyed the course content. Further, the assignment questions are fun to do. They are pretty hard and I usually needed to ask my peers for some hints, but overall I had fun doing the assignment questions.

One pet peeve though is that SpirkI set office hours to be at a time that works for everyone but one person. Guess who that one person is...

7/10

4. BEGINNER FRENCH (FR 101)

I wish this course would be in person. This course is lowkey really birdy and moves too slowly for an introductory language course. I could probably learn more from Duolingo tbh. They didn't even go through much grammar, which is what I was expecting. For example, they didn't go over past tense. What helped is having friends who know French and can teach you some of the things the course never really taught you, and help you with your pronunciation for the speaking tests. At least I'll probably get a decent mark for it. Overall, I think I'll just learn French by the natural method and doing Duolingo going forward.

4/10

Fried Rice

THE BIGGIE'S GUIDE TO WATERLOO

OBVIOUSLY JUST RESTAURANT REVIEWS (I SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY EATING OUT AT PLACES)

Have you ever been super hungry and don't know where to go get food? Well you're in luck, because I spent wayyyy too much money on food this term! Here is a list of places I ate, and my rating of them!

Let's start with dessert because I love dessert and it's also easier for me because I've been to the fewest dessert places out of dinner, lunch and dessert (I'm struggling to remember all the food places I've been to)

DESSERT:

D-Spot Dessert: 9.5/10 I have unironically been here so many times that when they came out with a rewards card the guy at the counter recognized me and then told me 'you should get one of these, I see you here everyday or every other day' (I did go there that often so I couldn't refute this). Anyways, this place is absolutely amazing, only thing is that it's a bit expensive (especially the milkshakes—they are really good though).

Cinnaholic: 7/10 Basically, you can build your own cinnamon bun, seems really cool (it is), but the cinnamon bun was just really dry. Maybe I got unlucky though, so I'm giving them the benefit of the doubt and giving them a 7/10.

The Bingsu Cafe: 8/10 Bingsu is like shaved ice, except it's not an ice block it's like a frozen block of milk. It's kind of like ice cream—it's really good. Only critique is that *The Bingsu Cafe* just doesn't have a lot of variety; they only have like ten different flavours, however they are all really good.

Snowday: 8.5/10 Another bingsu place, also really good. They have less options than *The Bingsu Cafe*; however, I personally think they are a bit better just because of the quality of them. Just beware though, they are also a bit more expensive—although you also get more for the price so it's a bit of a give-and-take situation.

Fuwa Fuwa: 6.5/10 Japanese pancake place, I don't know man, they're pretty expensive and the pancakes are like 'egg tasting' if that makes sense? Maybe I'm crazy. I've been there a few times, they're ok, just expensive for pancakes as well. However if you really like fluffy pancakes, this is probably the place for you.

Old Fire Hall Confectionery: 6/10 Overly expensive, ice cream is just basic Kawartha ice cream, I don't know, not the best.

LUNCH/DINNER (I DON'T KNOW WHAT CRITERIA I WOULD PUT TO SEPERATE THIS FROM LUNCH OR DINNER YK):

The Works: 10/10 I know this is just a burger place but I actually promise it is the single best burger place you will ever go to. The burgers are more expensive but it's also a sit down restaurant, the patties and everything are made fresh, and it's

so incredibly worth it. If you go I suggest getting the Tragically Maple, it's my personal favourite.

Ajisen Ramen: 8.5/10 It's a very typical ramen place, nothing very special about it. However, it's also just a very solid option to go for.

Katsuya: 8/10 They just really don't have a lot of options and they're kind of overpriced for what you get. Don't get me wrong, the food is good, but it just wasn't anything exceptionally special.

Kinton Ramen: 9/10 Priced better than Ajisen Ramen, AND they're peanut-friendly. This is important because I have a friend who has a really bad peanut allergy and there aren't a lot of places that she can go to; however, this is one of them—they get extra credit for this.

Sole Uptown: 9/10 Definitely the most expensive place on this list, however it's not like overly expensive. Really good pasta, good but less-good chicken. Very good gelato and sorbet. If you're looking for a fancy place to take someone on a date (*wink wink*) then take them here.

Ennio's: 9.5/10 Easily the best pasta place in the area around the university. If you want good pasta just go here, trust me. Still slightly more expensive (like \$20-\$30) but it is genuinely worth it (coming from an Italian, the pasta is good).

Pho Anh Vu: 9.5/10 I really really like this place. Isn't too expensive, I always leave feeling full in a good way. The sparkling lemonade is really good too! Yum yum yummy.

BBQ Chicken: 9/10 It's really really good, my fav is definitely the soy garlic (kinda basic, I know). Only reason it gets a point off is because it's kind of expensive.

Molly Bloom's Irish Pub: 6/10 Honestly just really expensive, got a large thing of wings, they said it was two pounds and it didn't even look like one. Large wings cost like \$30 as well, just really not worth. Wings were ok, nothing special, wouldn't go back—at least not for the same thing.

Mizu Restaurant: 9/10 Honestly a really good place, pretty underrated. There was nobody there when I went—probably because it's kind of tucked into a corner—but it's one of the best ramen places I've been to. The chicken that they add is reallyyyy good as well ngl.

Unfortunately, I have no more space to give more recommendations (word limit) but these are just some of my fav places, along with others I just felt like mentioning; go try them!

WRITER THOUGHTS #2

QUESTION: WHAT IS A FUNNY EMBARRASSING STORY OF YOURS?

Welcome back, guess this isn't going anywhere. I'd like to apologize to anyone who hoped this would not continue, I am deeply sorry and hope you can forgive me. In all seriousness, thanks to everyone who contributed to this as well as the first **writerTHOUGHTS**, and thanks to the editors for deeming the first edition article of the issue. Anyway, below are the writers' responses to the question: "what is a funny embarrassing story of yours?"

MAJ1CKED

Today I found out I am unironically allergic to grass

MRBLLUESKY

The fact I published the form for this with a grammar mistake, spelling comfortable as comterful. Furthermore I got immediately clocked for it.

FINGERSINSOCKETS

i've been tripping on the same flat spot of the Renison caf since September

YALEVOYLIAN

I used to have a 3DS, but I don't anymore, because I once took it to a park and left it there by accident. I think I was 8 or 9 at the time.

FLOWERYYY_

At the WUSA waterpark day I thought they weren't serving food. But then they announced that they were serving the last few servings of pizza. It was really funny because the second

they announced it, I bolted out of the pool and ran for my crocs and almost left my friends behind.

ANONYMOUS

I'm gonna be anon cuz this is too embarrassing but basically in grade 2 or 3 we used to have this "prof de semaine" thing where each week one kid would teach the rest of the class something and one time it was my turn I was tryna hold in a FAT fart but I couldn't and in front of the class halfway through talking—BPPRPBPPRRPRTTTTT!!!! But the thing is, NOBODY thought it was little me and EVERYONE thought it was this one dude sitting in the front and they kept going OMG [insert dude's name], YOU FARTED!!! and I was so embarrassed I didn't even say anything I just looked at him in shock and he kept denying and to this day I feel so bad.

DOLLAR STORE PERSON

last weekend, i was far too drunk (embarrassing to begin with) and consistently flirted with a friend in front of my more-than-friend only to turn to him and say "are you jealous?" to the most poly man ever. also threw up on him if that makes it more embarrassing but i laughed hearing this tidbit back

AXON_TERMINAL

I can't think of a specific story but I am deeply ashamed of the fact that one piece of comfort media for me is a reddit-reading podcast

writerTHOUGHTS

STUPID CHILD LEARNS TO FLY

IN YOUR AREA



The small fledgling has ventured beyond their home.

They flew out onto the sidewalk, and then into the road.

Though they practically got run over by a car, they managed to fly their way into the forest with their parents.

Farewell little fledgling, may you annoy me as your parents have.

TotallyNotAGoose

For some reason they decided to land in the middle of the lane and stand there dumbly. The wheels of the car didn't touch the little bird physically as they were in between the wheels, it was more the sheer force of the car and the wind being parted that knocked them over. No photos because who records a bird potentially getting run over? Also turns out there were four eggs all along, just that three didn't hatch.

:(

N HANDWASHING METHODS

"A CLEAN HAND IS A CLEAN MIND" - LARS NOOTBAAR

THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

1. **Wet hands** thoroughly under warm running water.
2. **Lather with soap:** Put a small amount of liquid soap in the palm of one hand. Bar soaps are not as hygienic as liquid soaps because they stay moist and attract germs. If a bar soap is the only option, it should be stored on a rack so that the bar does not sit in water.
3. Scrub hands vigorously for at least 15–20 seconds so that you produce lather. Sing Happy Birthday while you do this. Soap and scrubbing helps to dislodge and remove germs.
4. Be sure to get the backs of the hands, wrists, between the fingers and under/around your nails.
5. Rinse your hands well under clean warm running water for at least 10 seconds.
6. *[continued]*

REGION OF WATERLOO

1. **Wet hands** under warm running water.
2. **Apply** enough **liquid soap** to cover all areas of your hands. Antibacterial soap is not required.
3. Rub hands together for at least 15 seconds. Rub finger tips, between fingers, back of hands, base of thumbs and under wrist creating lather.
4. Rinse off all soap under warm running water.
5. Dry hands with a clean, single-use towel.
6. Turn off water with towel.

CITY OF TORONTO

1. **Wet hands.**
2. **Apply soap.**
3. Lather for 15 seconds. Rub between fingers, back of hands, fingertips, under nails.
4. Rinse well under running water.
5. Dry hands well with paper towel or hot air blower.
6. Turn taps off with paper towel, if available.

THE MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT

1. **Wet hands**
2. **Dispense soap**
3. Lather (20 seconds)
4. Rinse
5. Towel dry
6. Turn off with towel

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO

1. **Wet hands** with warm (not hot or cold) water; hot or cold water is hard on the hands, and will lead to dryness.
2. **Apply liquid or foam soap.**

3. Vigorously lather all surfaces of hands for a minimum of 15 seconds. Removal of transient or acquired bacteria requires a minimum of 15 seconds of mechanical action. *Pay particular attention to finger tips, between fingers, backs of hands and base of the thumbs; these are the most commonly missed areas.*
4. Using a rubbing motion, thoroughly rinse soap from hands; residual soap can lead to dryness and cracking of skin.
5. Dry hands thoroughly by blotting hands gently with a paper towel; rubbing vigorously with paper towels can damage the skin.
6. Turn off taps with paper towel, to avoid recontamination of the hands.

HEALTH CANADA

1. **Wet hands with water.**
2. **Apply soap while your hands are out of the water.**
3. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds (including your palms, back of each hand, between fingers, thumbs and under your nails).
4. Rinse hands well with clean water.
5. Dry hands well with clean cloth or paper towel.
6. Turn off tap using the cloth or paper towel.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO CHEMICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IN EVERY WASHROOM OF E6

1. Soap first



this is my roman empire

1. <https://uwaterloo.ca/employee-health-accommodations/influenza-information>
2. <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/programs-and-services/public-health/infection-and-disease/preventing-infections/>
3. <https://www.healthunit.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/MLHU-Six-Step-Handwashing-Method.pdf>
4. <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/hand-hygiene/>
5. https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/B/2014/bp-hand-hygiene.pdf?rev=b08dd72e55ce469bbaba1950d2f0ff05&sc_lang=en&hash=152D47E18521FAD16E015D1D3BBECB42

6. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/reduce-spread-infectious-diseases-wash-hands-infographic.html>

7. <https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/about/index.html>

MAINSTREAM GENERIC SHOUNEN ANIME? REALLY?? -_- SOME OTHER HIDDEN GEMS THAT MAKE YOU MORE CULTURED

A couple of weeks ago, I had a chat with one of my newly acquainted friends about the different genres of anime. As someone who strongly dislikes mainstream generic shounen anime (pretty ironic coming from a *Sword Art Online* fan aye?), the conversation prompted me to share my reasons for disliking mainstream generic shounen.

I have been a heavy anime fan since grade 5 and I have watched through, from beginning to end, a wide variety of bangers and trash shows. So in a sense, I would say I'm pretty deep down the anime rabbit hole and pretty in love with the whole anime culture. However, during my highschool summer days when I was working at a summer camp (because my parents force me to touch grass), things start to get wonky.

Before the summer camp actually begins, we have a week of so-called "staff training" and of course, how can it be a staff training without awkward ice breaker sessions where you share your hobbies? So during these sessions, I would always mention that I am a big anime fan and oftentimes, there would be a handful of other people who also call themselves an "anime fan" come up to me to chat more.

These small chats would usually start with me asking them about the shows they've watched and I would always get answers like *Attack on Titan*, *Jojo's Bizarre Adventure*, *One Piece*, *My Hero Academia*, *Naruto*, etc. You know, the mainstream generic shounen anime back in the day. If I esd lucky, I might get some *Re:Zero*, *Hunter x Hunter*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, etc. (I bet if I go work at a summer camp now, I would get stuff like *JJK*, *Chainsaw Man* or *Dr. Stone*).

Now, since I'd only known these people for like a few minutes, I would go along and be like "Oh great great, these are classic shows! :DDD." But the conversation would die very quickly as soon as they ask me for the shows I've watched because I would answer them, with full honesty like, *Owari no Seraph*, *Chivalry of a Failed Knight*, *No Game No Life*, *Irregular at Magic Highschool*, *Eromanga Sensei*, *Date A Live*, etc. And then they would stare at me like how I stare at my instructor in my PMATH class (now mind you, these shows were already very popular in the East-Asian countries). So I thought maybe the shows I named were too niche and I would name a few more popular shows like *The Rising of the Shield Hero*, *That Time I got Reincarnated as a Slime*, *Sword Art Online*, *Rascal Does Not Dream of Bunny Girl Senpai*, *Madoka Magica*, etc., and they would still look at me, confused.

At this point of the conversation, I was usually very disappointed because the conversation would just awkwardly end there and we did not get to know each other any more.

For the rest of that day I would just think to myself, how can you confidently call yourself an anime fan if you haven't wanted to live in an iron city called Aincrad after watching *Sword Art Online*? How can you confidently call yourself an anime fan if you haven't gotten into a heated debate on whether Rem or Emilia is better after watching *Re:Zero*? How can you confidently call yourself an anime fan if you haven't

- been traumatized after watching *Madoka Magica*
- fallen in love with vampires after watching *Owari no Seraph*
- gotten depression after watching *Your Lie in April*
- cried your heart out after watching *Charlotte* or *Angel Beats* or *Plastic Memories* or *Guilty Crown*
- been tricked by a cute cat 'girl' after watching *Re:Zero*
- experienced trashy seasonal isekais with long ahh titles like *My Isekai Life: I Gained a Second Character Class and Became the Strongest Sage in the World!* or *Suppose a Kid from the Last Dungeon Boonies Moved to a Starter Town*
- waited 12 years for *No Game No Life* season 2 and STILL got nothing
- worshipped Nanjo Yoshino and Mikasa Mikoto after hearing the first opening of *A Certain Scientific Railgun* for the first time
- dreamed of having a bunny girl senpai in real life after watching *Rascal Does Not Dream of Bunny Girl Senpai*
- destroyed your computer after watching *Rent A Girlfriend*
- gotten addicted to Rie Kugimiya's voice after watching *Zero no Tsukaima* or *Toradora!* or *Shakugan no Shana* or *Hayate the Combat Butler*

Now, despite my long rant, I am still whole-heartedly happy that the anime culture is becoming more widely accepted after the COVID pandemic. It truly feels great that more and more people are trying out anime for the first time and realizing it is nowhere close to the stereotypes we had in the past. If you happen to be new to the anime culture and really want to get immersed in the culture quickly, try some of the shows I've mentioned.

Oh and I almost forgot. I've got a question for you.

Would you like to make contracts with Kyubey and become magical girls?

Durkheim

MINITHOUGHTS ON FORZA HORIZON 6

VROOMMMM VROOOOOOOOM VRRRRRRRRR VROOOOMMM

Forza Horizon 6 is definitely a high-effort game. This was admittedly our first-ever *Forza*. We were absolutely blown away by the sheer amount of content available. Any even mildly well-known car is available for you to drive (provided you slip Microsoft a couple hundred), and for each car, you can upgrade every single component from the spark plugs to the tire rims. You can then tune everything from your gear ratios to the stiffness of your suspension.

I (*aaqsr*) found myself spending more time on these screens than in actual races, which I am quite happy with (I love spreadsheets). The radio music is spectacular, with various DJs that jump on in between songs. Every one of them is oozing with personality, and I wish they had more voice lines.

Welp, that was the good stuff. Now for the bad stuff. The game is bullshit expensive, and has so much god damn DLC (despite having been released a few months ago). The plot feels quite soulless, and the characters in the game might as

well not exist. The setting of Japan could have been great (who doesn't love some Tokyo drift), but is never used to its full advantage. Instead, the game just goes for an "Asian" vibe to its setting. The main city, as *amirdadp* reports, "might as well be Korea instead. Where is Tokyo??" And in the countryside, you might as well just be in any nation with left-hand traffic.

The game also keeps showing the player cutscenes of cool scripted shit happening. Instead of, you know, letting them actually *do* those things. Very immersion-breaking.

amirdadp gives it a solid 6/10. I (*aaqsr*) think I would give it more if they just took out the story and left behind the music and spreadsheets.

Overall verdict: try & see if you can get the game for free

aaqsr & amirdadp

THE JOKE I'M PROUDEST OF

GRANDPA RAMBLES ABOUT THE OLDEN DAYS FOR A LITTLE WHILE

It's been some time so the details are a little hazy on this one, but the essence of it is still fresh in my mind.

One time in grade 10, I was heading out of the gym with an acquaintance from my class. We would pair up for activities a decent amount that year, because most of my friends did not take gym in grade 10, and he was a similarly unathletic and somewhat odd individual who I could get along with alright, perhaps a little more comfortably than with most other people in that gym class. We never got particularly close, though, because ultimately we were fairly different as people. Which kind of sucks, because while I had some other people I could hang out with, he didn't, so I was his most reliable option. I've run into that situation a few times now, and I don't think I've ever known how to deal with it well. I don't think I've ever been *mean* about it, but I would be far too passive and end up spending less time with closer friends while creating a mediocre time for myself and the other person, which is not great for anyone involved. I still think of that guy sometimes. I hope he's doing well for himself.

Where was I? Right, we were walking out of the gym together, and I was joking around about whatever nonsense was on my mind. I think we had just finished up health class, so it was probably inspired by that. The entrance to the gym in my high school, at least the one that we were walking out of, was at the end of a short corridor. The only people in this short corridor other than the two of us was a group of three older—well, they could have been 9th graders, but I was pretty sure they were older—girls who were heading towards the gym. The one in the middle seemed to be doing badly in some way, because the others were helping her walk by letting her wrap

her arms around their shoulders for support. I don't know what happened with her exactly—maybe she got injured, or maybe she was feeling sick. All I know was that the trio didn't seem very happy.

Or, now that I think of it, maybe they were leaving the gym and the other guy and I were heading into it, since it would make more sense to take an injured person out of the gym than to bring them into it? But also, I quite clearly remember that I was heading out of the gym back then. Maybe there was some kind of office in the gym with some first aid equipment in it, which would explain why they were heading to the gym? I'm not sure. I've never been injured badly enough in gym to require first aid, although I did get whacked in the nuts real hard once and had to lie down for a little while. I don't know. This is all wild speculation. I don't even know anything about those girls' situation, aside from what I briefly saw when walking in or out of the gym that day.

I'll go with what I think I remember. We were coming out of the gym, and as we walked past the students, I somewhat loudly and animatedly made something to the effect of the following remark to my companion (the exact quote is escaping me now):

Why the hell don't we get periods?? We need to put the "men" back in "menstruation."

Upon hearing this profound and deeply original statement, the girl getting helped promptly collapsed on the ground with laughter, with her friends getting pulled down slightly as she crumpled. I remember her extreme and immediate reaction to

this joke made me theorize that the reason why she was being helped along was due to her going through horrible period cramps at the time, but that's just a guess.

I remember feeling very satisfied by that reaction. It's easy to see why—something I had said had made someone go from pain to laughter, and also, let's face it, that someone being an older student and a girl made her approval feel more significant to me.

But I don't know. It's been a long time. The pleasant memory is still there, but every time I think back to it, more details and context are lost or distorted, and it just gets less and less fun every time if I don't trust myself from before. It

really makes me wonder. What guarantee was there that the girl was older? That was never anything more than an assumption. Or more significantly, was she even laughing? What if she collapsed due to a sudden burst of pain, and what I remembered or interpreted as laughter was very much not that? What if she wasn't even listening to what I had said? What if... well, does it really matter if no one can know for sure?

All I can say with certainty is that I remember making a dumb period joke in grade 10, and it made someone laugh hard enough that for a moment, their troubles didn't matter.

the government's only spy

EATING ALONE IS SCARY

So I decided to stay in Waterloo this last weekend when all my friends aren't here. Like, duh, yeah I could've studied and caught up on all the classes I'm behind on, butttt I am mildly hungry. Now I could cook smth because it's 5pm and I have so much time in the day. However, I have no food left in my fridge. I could go buy smth, buttttt that's so much effort. At this point, I just wanna go eat anything. So why not bring some happy fun times to my weekend and go sit down in a restaurant and stuff my big back. Now, keep in mind, this is the first time I have ever decided to eat out by myself. And it not being take-out. Like actually stay there, interact with people, eat food ALONE, lie to the server and say everything is good when I'm sad and alone, pay with a tip (ew), and go home.

Nevertheless, you may not realize it now, but it is of great importance that I choose a yummylicious place to eat. Even if it is a terrible experience, at least I get my money's worth and am satisfied. Now to prove to myself that I am worthy of such an exclusive sit-down, I decided to walk an hour to this location (mostly cause I woke up at 1pm and need

to touch grass). My brain said it was ok cause I could take a 10min bus ride back right after. Anywho the location is irrelevant, but after I started my walk my family called me. As I was explaining my plan, the questions each of them asked me separately were, "Who are you going with?" or, "Omg do you have a date???" Now I had to explain to my family that I have no friends and I was going alone. So now I'm more self-conscious about my choices. Why the hell am I going to eat alone? This is silly. Why didn't I just get Campus Pizza and sit on my floor watching *Spongebob*?

But no, I'm locked in; I'm determined to continue my walk forth, and when I arrived... I chickened out. Ok, idk what I expected: it's a Saturday during dinner time, an hour away from campus, so of course the restaurant will be filled with families. After seeing how packed it was, I could not bring myself to stay and sit to eat. So as any self-respecting person would do... I ordered take-out, caught the bus back, and watched *Spongebob* on my floor.

Jubble

A CIPHER CHALLENGE

UT MBG GSR FVWF YSGFMUS PABGVPSF EQQUUBU BGH HB YS W JUZZ VZJWGQ MCH FC GBOFOGUQO

I am designing a puzzle game for Socrattica S26 EOT on July 29thh. By the timee this article is released, the challenge may have been wrapped up. Nonetheless, I have two days left to workk on it. I think I can deesign it to be an adventure like yyou would normally expect iin a tabletop roleplaying game.

The adventure guild iss looking for local talents to explore the Enchanted Forest and learn about its secrets. As the adventurers walk inside, they hear the whispers of the animals. Attuning with nature, the adventurers learn the mmelodies of oowls, rabbits, froogs, squirrels and foxes. As they sinng the melody, the animals respond, leading them towards five directions. Adventurers spread out, following along the melodies. At the end of the trail, each adventurer

discovers a shrine for idols representing a unique animal. A trinket magically appears, which seems to be offered by the animal spirit. The adventurers regroup, sharing the tales of their encounters. What is the secret of the forest? Everyone has their own thoughts. The mysteries are told, but new clues are appearing. When the next adventure takes place, people will make new discoveries.

ERENEGIV



eralogos

THE CURSE OF CREATIVITY

There's this concept, called The Curse of Creativity, generally defined to be the concept where an artist must suffer and bear an emotional and/or physical burden for being creative.

In detail, this could mean the act of creating must be painful, success and having their works be wildly appreciated must come at a grave cost, and that without it, artists will not be successful, nor fulfill their purpose.

ANALOGY

My friend once told me he saw this analogy online, and found it to be very appropriate for the creative process: creating is like breathing—inhaling is when you consume creative works, and exhaling is when you produce something. When you inhale a large quantity of inspirational works, whether they are movies, paintings, books, you are inspired and *compelled* to exhale, to create.

It's quite accurate biologically as well. The brain is only able to recombine previously-known concepts to create something new, and cannot generate a new idea from nothing.

To create is quite the mentally challenging process. Bloom's Taxonomy of learning used to assign evaluation as the highest level of learning, and creativity as #2, but now it has changed its ranking and put creativity as #1.

CONNECTED EXAMPLES

The first time I was introduced to this concept was a video titled "*The Curse of Creativity*" by Pursuit of Wonder on Youtube. It briefly tells the tale of a talented, depressed writer producing quality stories with depressing concepts. She was wildly successful but unhappy. But after her depression went into remission (caused by a neurological condition and her diet) she felt much lighter and happier, but her works became boring and unpopular.

Which brings me back to a memory from Grade 9 English class, where the teach told us famous works often come from troubling times, such as George Orwell. That concept made me fear that to be a good writer, I had to suffer. And that all happy writers were doomed to be lost to time.

Another loosely related example would be *I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream*. (Spoilers ahead) the hateful supercomputer "AM" cursed its creators for putting logistical limits in its programming, resulting in AM not being able to create, condemning AM to its existence. AM trapped its creators in a living hell, unable to die. And for this I wonder, would AM have been happier, if it were able to create?

Blue Period was a semi-popular anime back during its air in October 2021. I recommend it, and it talks about all the practical and emotional trials one would have to face for creating, from perception of failure and success, to comparing

two characters with a life of passion but no talent, and one with talent but no passion.

Which reminds me, btw, Hokusai (famous Japanese painter) would be so absorbed in painting that he would not clean his room and moved over 90 times in his life just to avoid it.

THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

You might find this article to be a collection of loosely connected concepts. That's because I can't seem to get my thoughts straight, ideas spontaneously come out of my head like kernels bursting out of a popcorn pot. I languish at the thought of not being able to convey my words exactly as how I thought the concept to appear as (a good analogy of how it feels is trying to explain a vague, blurry concept during an exam, one that you forgot to study).

I have written quite a few things over the past seven years, I started to keep a journal when I was 15 and wrote about 10% of my thoughts in there—from the most minute detail, to thoughts about the most important things in life.

I have also written quite a few published articles for different journals including **mathNEWS**, and showed some high-effort ones to my friends. However, the same friend who said my diction was terrible (lack of vocabulary) for one article would also say some other articles are decent. I personally cannot tell or feel the difference, and it saddens me greatly as I have no way of judging for myself whether my writing has improved or not.

Visual art, however, is a little different, despite still experiencing trouble when trying to distinguish the quality of a piece, or the level of my skill, it's a little bit more apparent than writing. Still, days vary where a flow state can occur on the first day resulting in something amazing, and spend hours only to end up with trash the very next day (artist's block).

I just seem to never be consistent, just like my fluctuating KDA in a *Valorant* game.

FINAL NOTES

It's up to you to find your "compromise" or "solution" to this dilemma. For me personally, it was when I brought up this deeply instilled fear to my Creative Writing Professor (Claire Tacon the goat). She told me that her friends said being depressed often didn't make them a better writer.

To me, it means that depression is probably more of a debuff to writers than a superpower. And since we suffer as we live, there's always something to write about. And if I have to suffer anyways, I might as well create.

At the end of the day, my most recent experience with the Curse of Creativity, is actually this **mathNEWS!** On my way to **prodNIGHT**, I thought of so many interesting concepts. And

then when I finally sat down, I was compelled to procrastinate because fleshing out these ideas was a painful mental exercise, something I felt very hesitant about doing. I also wanted to write something good, polished, written proof that my writing has improved, but I just could not connect my ideas properly.

And it was so painful, and I don't like what I wrote, but I choose to write anyways.

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Ginger Ryesaki

This time's article is its full version as well! If you have any comments or questions, feel free to email me at g2731i@uwaterloo.ca or DM me on Discord: ryesaki

N ISLAND FACTS - HABOMAI ISLANDS

The islands for this article were not easy to find information on, let me tell you. I wasn't expecting anything too bad going in, they're fairly large and had obviously been inhabited at some point, but it turns out almost all the information on these is either in Japanese or Russian. In any case, after much Google Translating, I'm happy to present to you the Habomai Islands.



- A medium-sized archipelago of ~14 Russian(?) islands just off the northeast coast of Japan (roughly 9,290 km northwest of mathNEWS)
- The islands were originally inhabited by the Ainu, one of the indigenous peoples of Japan, before coming under Japanese administration in the 17th century
- By the early 20th century, the islands hosted fairly large villages, mostly based around fishing and kelp harvesting. The largest island had a population of some 2000 people, four inns with restaurants, an elementary school, and several canneries
- In the final days of WWII, the islands were occupied by Soviet troops, and all Japanese residents were deported to the mainland. The Soviet Union claimed sovereignty over the island as part of a wartime agreement which gave them control of the nearby Kuril island chain. However, Japan disputed this, claiming Habomai was its own distinct group of islands
- This dispute has just... never been resolved, and largely because of this Japan and the Soviets/Russia STILL haven't signed a formal peace treaty

following WWII. The islands remain uninhabited, though Russia maintains a small border guard outpost

- The thing that really makes Habomai stand out to me is how incredible it is to look at from a satellite view. Because there is almost no vegetation other than bamboo grass, and because the villages on the islands were abandoned very quickly and left to decay without being disturbed, you can see the outlines of all the houses, rooms, roads and fields that used to exist there. The level of detail is really incredible
- There are also some amazing maps of the islands. hoppou.go.jp, an organization which advocates for Japanese control of the island, has a collection of hundreds of maps dating back centuries under the "research" section. If you're nerdy about old maps you will not be disappointed

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

FATCullen

WHICH WAY WESTERN MAN?

Energy Monitor 6 - Home Series X (2nd) \$119.99	2012 Honda Civic Sedan 4dr MANUAL SHIFT Racing Edition \$3,990
Pioneer Evolution PRO - Active \$469.99	
Samsung 48 inch Odyssey G9 QLED VA Gaming Monitor Curved 240Hz 1ms VR Ready \$998.00	
Logitech G502 Gaming Mouse \$489.96	
SteelSeries Arctis 7X Gaming Headset \$1,921.28	
Subtotal (6 items): \$3,999.22	

aaqsr

MY FAVOURITE ALBUMS THIS TERM

S26 EDITION

Some words of advice: plan your courses out so that your last term is as relaxing as possible. That way, you can listen to as much music as you want.

MORE THAN A NEW DISCOVERY (1967) — LAURA NYRO

Of all the discoveries I've made this year, Laura is the one I'm the most thankful for. Her voice continues to enchant me and her effortless mastery of both happy and sad songs is awe-inspiring. Her first studio album, much like *Eli*, is a delightful mix of hard hitters and ballads, all written herself. Many of these songs would later be performed by more popular musicians, and it's very cool to see how they came to be.

BOX FOR BUDDY, BOX FOR STAR (2024) — THIS IS LORELEI

Slightly weird and sufficiently depressing indie rock with a tinge of country? Sign me up! This dude's monotone voice works surprisingly well with the lyrical subject matter; he sings so matter-of-factly that you really need to be listening to digest what he's saying. The super deluxe cover album is also quite good and features some pretty big names; a testament to the quality of the original project.

THE WOW! SIGNAL (2026) — MUSE

After a string of subpar releases over the past several years, Muse is back in their form. It's no *Origin of Symmetry* but it's definitely a step in that direction. This time around, the chances they take pay off: "Be With You" is a beautiful moment of tenderness, the random Ellie Goulding feature actually works, and the longer tracks don't overstay their welcome. If you miss old Muse, you'll find something to enjoy on here.

THE APPLE TREE UNDER THE SEA (2026) — HEMLOCKE SPRINGS

I had heard a couple of the singles before this came out and put off listening to the whole album; add this to my infinite list of bad choices. Normally such theatrical pop music would not appeal to me, but something about her voice and the production choices... I'm still in a chokehold. "W-W-W-W-W" and "Be the Girl" might be my favourite songs so far this year.

THE NEW ABNORMAL (2020) — THE STROKES

I came back to this album in light of the *Reality Awaits* announcement and it's just fantastic. Like *The Wow! Signal*, it's an example of a band reflecting on the passage of time and returning to their roots while still sounding fresh. The melodies stick in your head, the synths and guitars mix perfectly, and the meandering compositions help *The New Abnormal* stand out from the band's more tightly packed albums.

BLIZZARD (2025) — DOVE ELLIS

How would I describe Dove Ellis... a marginally happier Cameron Winter with access to strings? That seems pretty apt. Joking aside, *Blizzard* is dense yet incredibly rewarding. It provides a strange sense of comfort despite its melancholic undertones, except for the last song "Away You Stride" which is just soul-crushing and cancels out all the warm fuzzies.

WINCING THE NIGHT AWAY (2007) — THE SHINS

This band's first two albums are like heroin to me and I wish I listened to this sooner. It's more polished than their early work, but not to the point where their original charm is lost. I kind of feel like a hipster whenever I put this on, which is probably the point. Don't let that deter you though!

VICTORY (2026) — MADEON

Obligatory French album. I had no idea who Madeon was until I saw *Victory*'s cover online; I don't know why but I just relate to the pose he's striking. Suffice to say, electroclash house music was not what I was expecting. No complaints though, it's a good time.

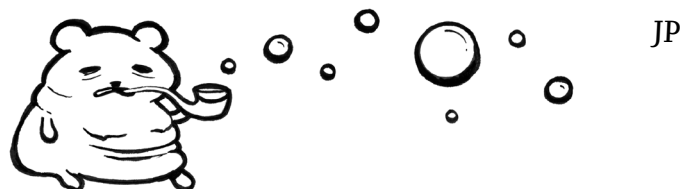
I BUILT YOU A TOWER (2026) — DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

I guess this is the semester of 2000s bands that still make good music. It may not be as rough around the edges as their earlier work, but their talent has only improved over time and the songs are just as emotional. I strongly believe that divorced middle aged men are perhaps the best musicians that exist. And the divorcees out here running ultramarathons despite all that; major respect.

YOU SEEM PRETTY SAD FOR A GIRL SO IN LOVE (2026) — OLIVIA RODRIGO

I was afraid of this given how ambitious it seemed to be, but Olivia's third album is absolutely breathtaking. While I do miss the punk influence that was more present on *Sour* and *Guts*, she pulls off new wave so well. Her classic ballads are back too, and this is undoubtedly the best collection of them. If only her concert tickets weren't so expensive and hard to come by...

Another article down. Maybe it will be my last one, maybe it won't. Can alumni write articles? Stay tuned, I guess.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FURNITURE?

- bed x5
- that weird-looking lamp in the corner
- hoosier
- sconce
- The MathSoc Chair
- piano (10-year untouched house decor)
- shelf
- bookshelf, like a floor to ceiling shelf, but not necessarily containing books
- futon
- curvy S chairs on mc 3rd floor
- couch
- cheese grater
- rocking chair
- loveseat
- chaise longue
- chair x2
- throne
- hotel cuck chair
- chair—I HATE COUCHES; can i submit a furniture i hate??? I HATE COUCHES GRRR
- floor
- 301 ION Light Rail
- gas stove
- A large, high quality beanbag chair that will support every one of my joints
- hyper-ergonomic office chair (that I can't afford) which allows me to sit down without back pain >:(
- slav squat
- air conditioner
- the complimentary body lotion in the little plastic bougie squeeze bottle

mathgeek

I WANT MORE PEOPLE TO PLAY DEAD PLATE

I WANT MY FRIENDS TO PLAY THIS SILLY CHEF YAOI GAME (TW: CANNIBALISM, CARTOONISH GORE, MURDER)

Dead Plate is a game where the player, Rody, is a broke little himbo pining after his ex-girlfriend, Manon. It explores his tendency to go to extremes to please his current partner at his own expense, which is why Manon left him. He lives in an absurdly messy, cheap apartment with water constantly leaking from the washroom plumbing.

When he finds an advertisement on the newspaper for a waitering job at a famous high-end restaurant, he applies, and somehow gets hired. The restaurant is called *La Gueule de Saturne*, French for *Saturn's Mouth* (you know, the Roman god), except "gueule" is usually used for animals. *[Editors' note: to clarify, "gueule" is akin to "maw."]* I think the feeling of the name gets through pretty well, it's creative. His boss is a chef

named Vincent who used to eat worms as a kid. He is almost the opposite of Rody, he's competent, classy (if we ignore the worm eating), and handsome. Allegedly.

If that isn't enough to convince you to play, note that Vincent and Rody have some weird tension going on, especially if you decide to speak to Vincent more during work. Yaoi. If you want to play a game about a loser waiting tables and getting verbally abused by, as well as verbally abusing, his boss, play *Dead Plate*. Manon hate is not tolerated. ALSO, the music is PEAK, the edits are PEAK, the fanart is PEAK, and this was made by three people so the dev team is PEAK.

yaoiChef

CAMPUS RESPONSE TEAM BEEF

MY OPPS SAVE LIVES

So I was spending my weekend in MC because I have no life (and it gives me a free room and monitor). I was chilling. I was playing *Victoria 3*, had a YouTube video playing on the extra monitor, and was enjoying my brief bit of joy before finals. Then! I was told that this classroom was booked in one hour by the Campus Response Team.

I was FUMING with rage, my ears blasting out hot air, my heart pounding with fury! I stood up with a fire in my eyes, pure vitriol and rage building up in my throat, and roared, "okay, thanks." They then left and I sat in my defeat before leaving, my heart having been broken by such travesty. I would never recover. How could they do this to me? This is worse than when my parents got divorced (I was three and

they had a healthy divorce). Worse than when I was a picky eater (I actively refused trying new foods for so longggg). This is my Pluto-becoming-a-dwarf-planet moment. I sat in my new classroom (also in MC) and knew I wanted my revenge. This is the origin of this article. I don't know what I'll

do, but Campus Response Team, I won't forget what you did to me!

MrCampusResponseTeamHaterSky

Just to clarify, Campus Response Team didn't actually do anything wrong, BUT I am a petty bitch

IN GAÚCHO¹ PORTUGUESE WE SAY

- “you got peed on” when you get scolded by someone
- “you are shitting and walking” when you don’t care about something²
- “you got flip-flopped” when you get humiliated by someone
- “you are caterpillar-ing” when you are chilling under the sun
- “you landed in your friend’s house” when you do a sleepover
- “spring-breaker” instead of speed-bump
- “little cock” for this type of bread:



- “capaz” for yes
- “capaz” for no
- “bah” to express surprise
- “bah” to express disappointment
- “bah” to express confusion
- “bah” to fill in awkward silences

and I think that’s beautiful

leah

I DID DRAG AND KINDA LIKED IT

PLUS I GOT NUMBER 1 BABY!!!!

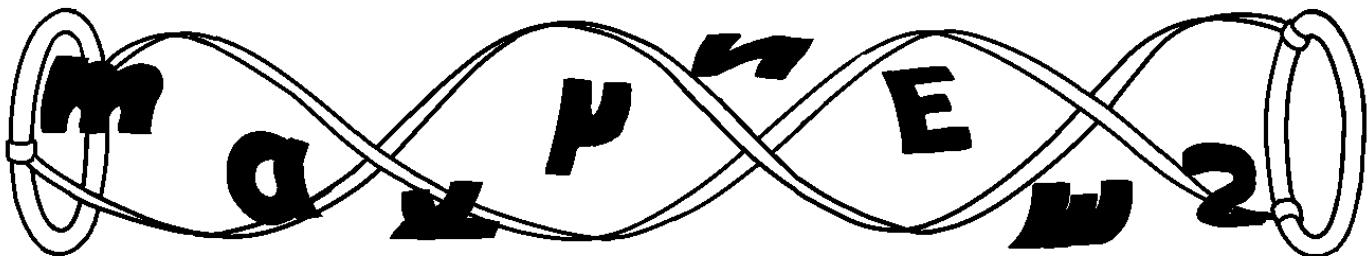
I have known I wasn’t straight and fancied men since I was 13, even if my understanding of that reality evolved as I better got to know myself. At the same time though, I always felt a sort of disconnect from more traditional aspects of the Queer experience. For instance, I never really had an interest in drag. I can not fully explain why, I just never found much interest. Plus, whenever I watch anything gay I feel a sort of cringe effect, which is 100% some sort of internalized homophobia that I’ve been working on.

Anyway, in mid July I went to a close friend’s birthday, and after some 10/10 burgers were made, we discussed what to do next. What ended up happening was that the girls did all the guys’ makeup, and then there was a runway where all the men would strut down, hit a few poses, and go back. I got lucky and the woman doing my makeup was an absolute master (shoutout to her), and after some eyebrow plucking, eyeliner, glitter makeup, and lip plumper, I looked fabulous. I can’t explain the feeling, but it just felt good. In a way it made me not feel the need to perform masculinity in a sense. Don’t get me wrong, I am happy to be a guy, but the societal expectations of what it means to be a man can just suck. One of these being the restriction of male self expression, which I do think I have done in the past even if not consciously. I don’t know if it was the fact I did it, or all the guys were doing it, but I felt much more comfortable to do non-masculine things, be more catty and sorta lean into gay stereotypes, which felt strangely nice in a way I could not explain. I do not even associate much with these stereotypes but being able to actually experience it was uniquely validating.

Then came the runway, and for it, I wore my beautiful makeup, my makeup artist’s shirt, and heels that did not fit my wide ass feet. I strutted down the walkway (aka my friends basement) and I must say I killed it. In the video recording you can hear the screams as I posed and strutted away. Not to mention I got first place in the contest, 18%. It was honestly phenomenal and just felt so good, I rode that high well into the night. Thinking about it now though, it does make me ponder about things. Mainly being, how can I re-experience this? I do not own any makeup, nor do I have the funds to get makeup right now for obvious reasons. As well, it just seems more fun with friends that you can trust than alone.

MrDragSky

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaúcho_dialect
2. I use this one all the time! And a while ago, while reading a book, I learned about a variation where “you shit and re-shit” about something lol



HAPPY BELATED FIELDS MEDAL REVEAL

gridCOMMENT 161.6

good evening gridWORDers,

fields medalists are out (as i'm sure you're all aware) and it was a BIG one this year. i mean, these are the first fields medals to be awarded since 2022!!! can you believe it????

in all seriousness, the lineup this year was pretty cool. made me swell with pride a little, not just in that i'm watching my own people represent us on the world academic stage, but it also just makes me emotional seeing deserving individuals get recognized for their hard work and efforts. speaking of which, i believe many of you are now studying hard for finals!! hopefully your hard work and efforts pay off as well

anyway, last time i asked you all: what is something you are proud of that no one ever asks you about? and you all said:

- *Pletal*: I can memorize the order of a full deck of cards

pletal, while you win by default, i have to say that is incredibly impressive and i probably would have given it to you anyway. i imagine that would be super hard to beat, and i, too, am proud of you.

please pick up your prize at the **mathNEWS** office in mc 3030. no **gridQUESTION** for the last issue!!!! have an awesome finals season and an even more awesome break, and i will see you all in september

good night,

spaghettiiinhalers

ACROSS

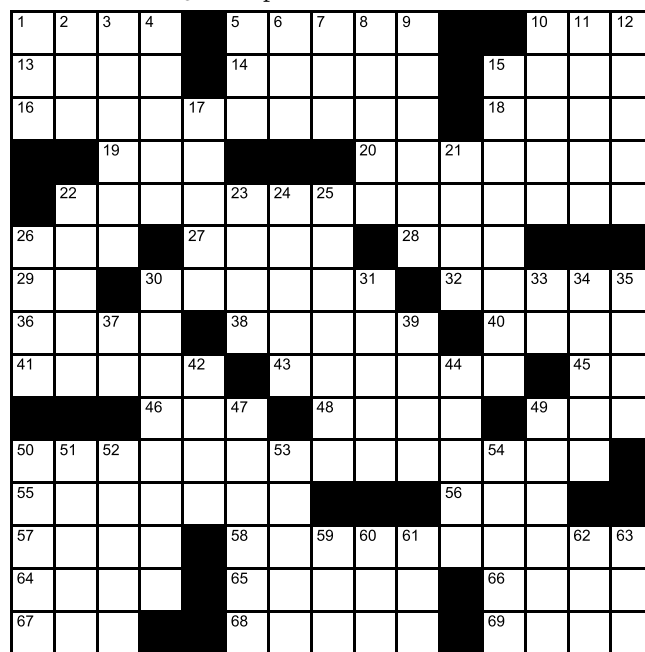
1. Disturb
5. Tips one's hat
10. Disturb
13. Beheaded Boleyn
14. Pacific phosphate exporter
15. Naval base?
16. Fields medalist who proved the MNOP conjecture*
18. Killer whale
19. Served, colloquially
20. Showed gratitude to
22. Closet organizers
26. Little piggy
27. Toward sunrise
28. Pull along
29. PM counterpart
30. Disaster
32. Rock bottom
36. Cotton fabric
38. Fine fabrics
40. Taboo
41. Bitter
43. Fields medalist who derived Boltzmann equation from hard-sphere dynamics for rarefied gases*
45. The Last of ____
46. Long ride?
48. Bait
49. Lode load
50. Fields medalist who proved the André-Oort conjecture for Siegel modular varieties*
55. Resolve, as differences
56. Symbol that denotes an obj. in math
57. Impose, as a tax
58. Capital vices
64. Old Chinese money
65. Soak

66. Go postal
67. Foxy
68. Missouri River tributary
69. Like custard

DOWN

1. Astrophysicist in "Big Bang Theory"
2. Musician Yoko
3. Breathe in
4. Slow
5. Genetic stuff
6. Dinghy propeller
7. Bad blood
8. Foam
9. Beach wear
10. Sitcom star Delta
11. Sore spot in stomach
12. Sword lilies, for short
15. Fields medalist who proved the three-dimensional Kakeya conjecture*
17. Nursery rhyme boy
21. Auth. unknown
22. Strip
23. Project ____ Mary
24. Op-ed piece
25. Incentives
26. Spanish snack
30. C=O group
31. Stonecrop
33. Execute
34. Bury
35. Like some wines
37. ____, myself, and I
39. Dry
42. Black Death symptom
44. Having chutzpah

47. Kind of apartment
49. Rowing a boat
50. Dumps
51. "He's ____ nowhere man" (Beatles lyric)
52. Quail group
53. Arises
54. En ____ (all together)
59. Attorneys' org.
60. Made a hole
61. Filmmaker Spike
62. Shrew
63. Snoop



Drop your gridWORD solutions off at MC 3030!

A LOWKEY SUPER CHILL mathNEWS EDITOR

SUN AUG 2

International Forgiveness Day

MON AUG 3

Civic holiday

TUE AUG 4

Make-up day for Victoria Day: lectures follow a Monday schedule

WED AUG 5

Last day of classes

THU AUG 6

Drop with WF ends

FRI AUG 7

Final examinations begin
In-person exam days for online courses

SAT AUG 8

In-person exam days for online courses

SUN AUG 9

Final examination emergency days

MON AUG 10

National S'mores Day

TUE AUG 11

WED AUG 12

In-person exam days for online courses

THU AUG 13

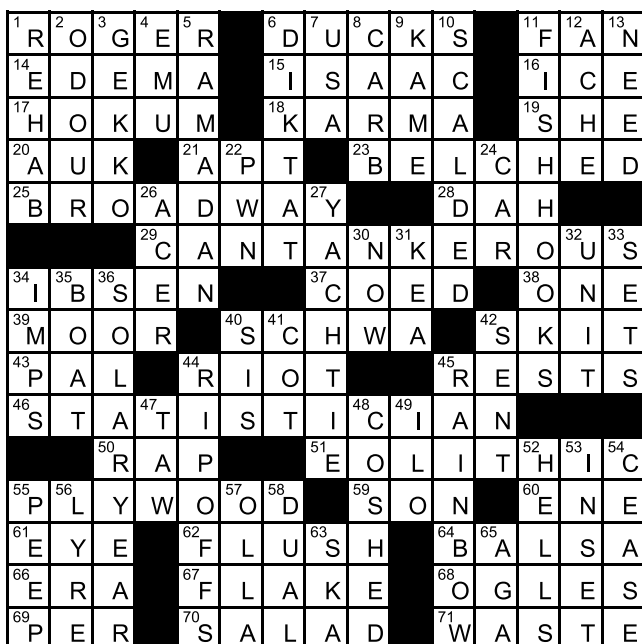
FRI AUG 14

National Creamsicle Day

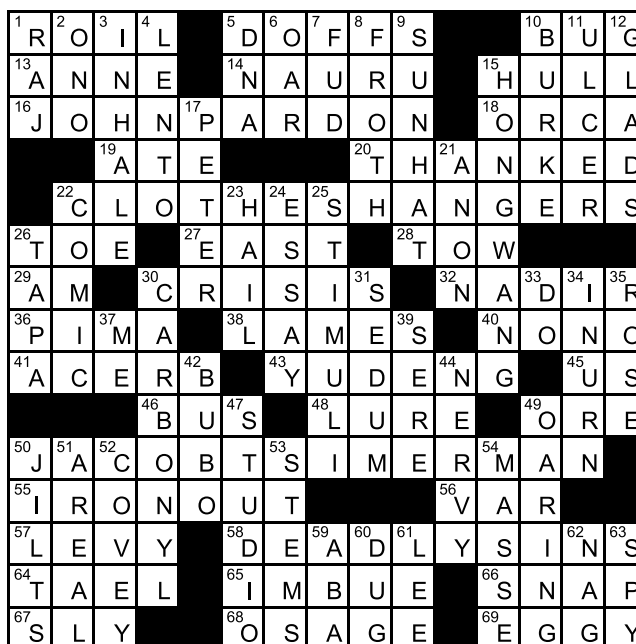
SAT AUG 15

In-person exam days for online courses

LAST ISSUE'S gridSOLUTION



THIS ISSUE'S gridSOLUTION



SAD IT'S OVER? SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

YOUR NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

W S F 20 YY W S F 20 YY W S F 20 YY
TERMS

Canada \$7.50 per term, \$20 per year
United States \$10.00 per term, \$25 per year
Overseas \$15.00 per term, \$35 per year