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Welcome back!

Welcome members, new and old, to a new university year! We hope the break has left you all refreshed, excited and perhaps even a little richer (in either material wealth or experience). The common room has certainly missed you all. There have been some exciting changes in your absence—such as the new, *functional* computers that we now have. That's right, you can now open Microsoft Word in mere seconds!

Other things, you'll be glad to know, have remained the same. The fridge and sandwich toaster are still there and doing their thing. It is still always hammer time. So to celebrate this coming together of old and new, familiar and exciting, we already have our first event of the year planned:

WELCOME PIZZA NIGHT, TONIGHT!

WHEN: Tonight (Wednesday, March 7), 5-8pm

WHERE: The Science Advanced Students common room (Building 19, G07—if you need directions, just email us, because it would be devastating if you missed out)

WHAT: Free pizza, beer, soft drink and general good times.

WHY: In the words of our Vice President:

Do you find yourself spending your Wednesday nights not eating pizza and drinking beer? Are you sick and tired of not being a MASS³ member when all the coolest kids on the block are flouting their membership status? Do you really want me to stop asking rhetorical questions? Then come along!

You're all welcome, and in fact, the more the merrier. There'll be good times to be had by all, and even if you hate spending time in the company of other people, hey, I don't see anyone else around here offering you free beer.

Facebook event available: <http://www.facebook.com/events/245393422214478/>

MASS³ : Things to acquire

Membership Cards

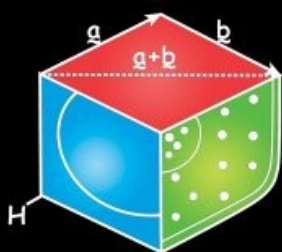
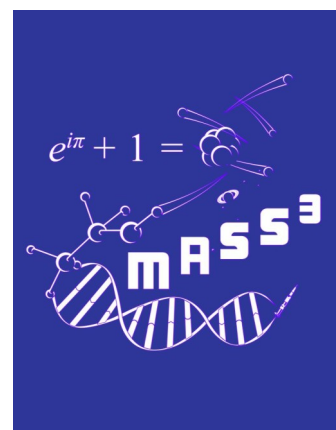
2012 membership cards are now available in the Science Advanced Students common room (Building 19, G07). They are not only attractive and colourful, but they are also useful—sign up (if you haven't already) and collect one to find out exactly how.

T-shirts

The prototypes are here, they are comfy, and they are MASS-cubey. A must for any MASS³-er.

The t-shirts will be navy blue, with the design shown to the right, and will cost \$27.

If you are interested in purchasing a MASS³ t-shirt, please email an expression of interest to mass3@monashclubs.org—this will give us an idea of how many to order.



MASS³ Website and Facebook page

Our website is undergoing maintenance at the moment (too much Russian spam) but this situation will be rectified soon. We will let you know as soon as it is fully functional again.

In the meantime, don't forget that MASS³ has a Facebook group, keeping you updated with news, events, discussions and giving you a chance to have your own rants. So make sure you check it out!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/masscubed/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

GradFest (Thursday March 8)

Graduating this year? Or starting to have a good think about what happens when you do? GradFest is the biggest careers event on campus, where you can meet over 100 employers looking to hire graduates for 2013. This is a great opportunity to learn about potential job opportunities and explore possible career pathways. Plus, **entry is FREE with your Monash ID card.**

The Science session will run from **2.30 - 5pm** in the Sports Precinct. To learn more, take a look at the organisations attending (all 100+ of them) and book to attend, visit www.tinyurl.com/gradfest.

OGM (Week 4)

The main purpose of this OGM will be to elect a **first-year representative** for the MASS³ committee. Being on a club committee is a great way to get involved with university life and learn essential management skills, and we would highly recommend this position to any first-year who is prepared to offer just a little of their time for the club. If you'd like to give this a go or know someone who you think would be perfect, be sure to attend!

Even if you are not a first-year or do not know many of the first-years, we strongly encourage you to come along. If you can't make the Pizza Night, this will be a great chance to catch up with other club members that you might not have seen for a while, and meet the next 'generation' of science nerds!

Trivia Night (Week 5, Tuesday March 27)

SAVE THE DATE! Owing to the huge success of this event last year, we have decided to make it a regular. Held at Sir John's Bar in the Campus Centre, the MASS³ Trivia Night is set to start at **7.30pm** and finish up at about **10pm**. There will be food, drinks, questions, prizes and much fun to be had.

If you like eating, drinking, being right, pretending to be right when you're not, celebrating your nerdiness or just being plain stupid, then you will love this event.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

Science Student Leadership Program:

Moving to MOODLE

As we are sure you are aware, the system that the Science Faculty is using this year has been changed from Blackboard to the (hopefully) more sophisticated Moodle2.

What we would like to remind you all, though, is that under your units there will be the **Science Student Leadership Program FY 2012**. This program, initiated last year, aims to equip bright students with decent life and leadership skills—after all, we all know that high marks aren't necessarily everything.

The 'Unit' in Moodle is an excellent resource, providing you with all the information you need to get the most out of this program.

Remember, when you graduate your participation in the Science Student Leadership Program will be acknowledged, which could potentially help you in postgraduate job-hunting!

Some of the activities and resources available within the program include:

- *Peer Buddy Program:* Buddying up with an older/younger student for the purposes of help with study, course advice and general help getting the most out of university
- *Academic mentorship:* Being paired with an academic member of staff who can give you insight and experience into their work and research
- *Volunteering at the John Monash Science School*
- *Work Placements*
- *Scientific seminars:* free to attend, the program for these seminars is available on Moodle, so you can take a look to see which ones you would be interested in attending
- *In2Science Program:* Gives you the opportunity to act as a 'student mentor' at a government school, to encourage passion for science

So as not to let these fantastic opportunities pass you by, be sure to take a look at the *Science Student Leadership Program* page on Moodle. Again, it should be under your 'Units' (on the left-hand side) and everything you need to know, as well as who to contact, is up there.

If you have any questions or queries about the program, don't hesitate to contact us, either!

Overheard at Welcome Camp

Guy: “Everyone knows the sexiest guys wear Green Lantern T-shirts.”

Guy: “So anyone here into sports?”

* Silence*

Guy: “I do give off a certain air of homosexuality.”

Guy1: (corrects Guy 2)

Guy2: “Shut up, you! It was a good story, alright?”

Richard Reina (to Guy1): “You got told..”

Girl: (looking for a method to light a fire) “Come on, there must be someone on this camp who smokes...”

Guy1: “You’re forgetting these are science advanced students.”

Guy2: (talking in separate conversation) “It is way past my bedtime.”

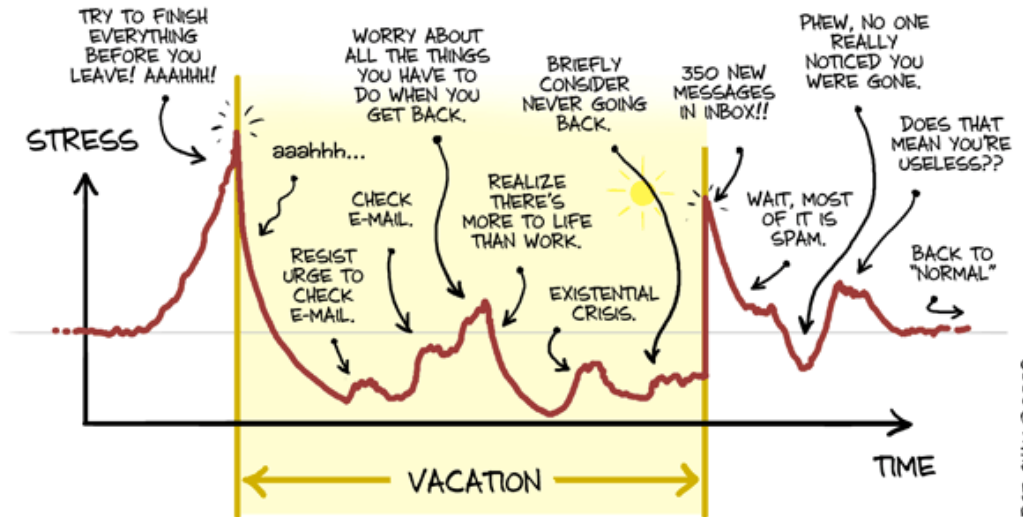
Guy1: “See?”

Girl: “I have never heard anyone talk this much shit in my entire life.”

■ **These are just a few of our personal favourites, some of which are intentionally taken out of context for humorous effect. We hope all of the first years enjoyed the 2012 Welcome Camp as much as we did!**

COMICS

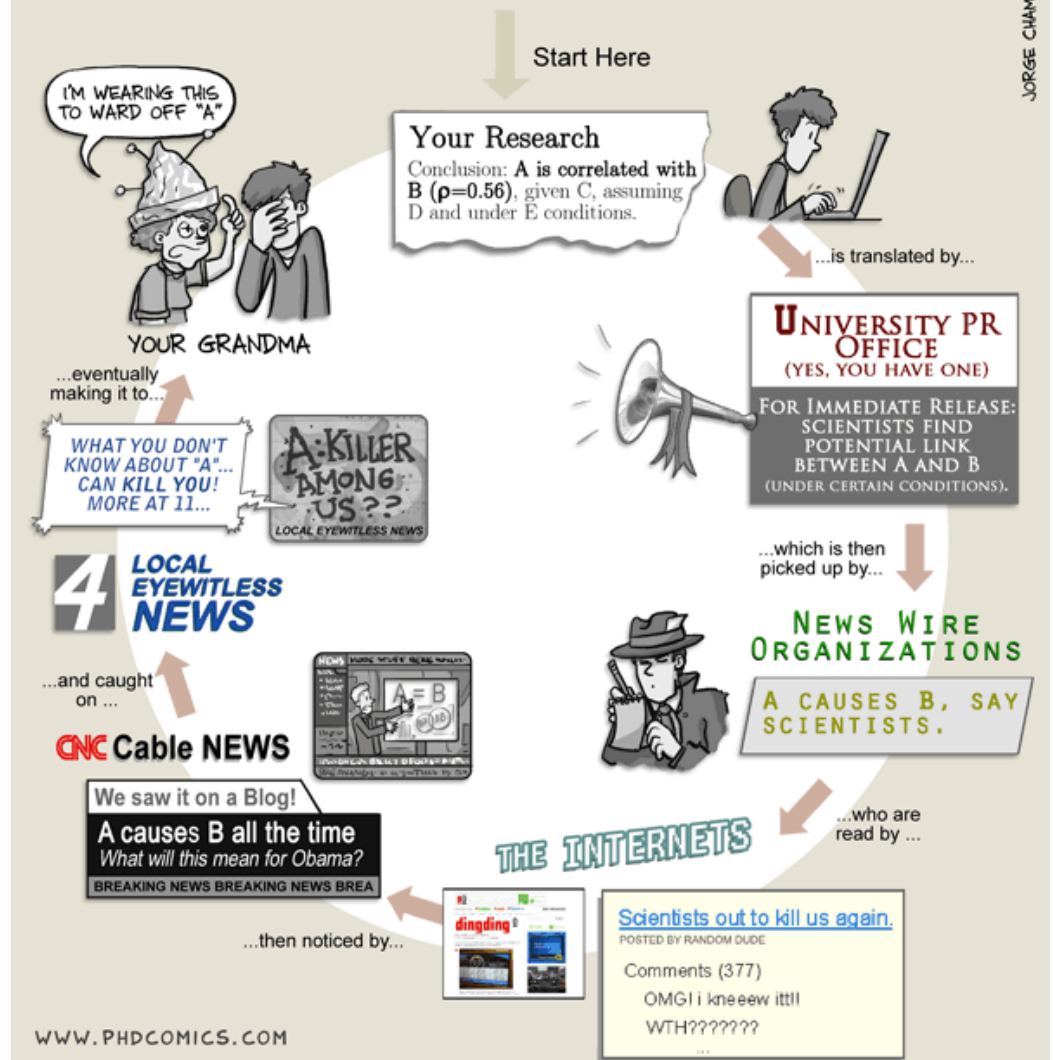
VACATION RELAXATION?



JORGE CHAM © 2009

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

THE SCIENCE NEWS CYCLE



JORGE CHAM © 2009

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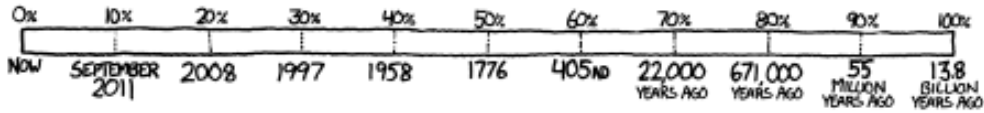
WHEN I HAVE A BORING TASK TO GET THROUGH—A THREE-HOUR LECTURE, A GIANT FILE DOWNLOAD, OR A LONG-TERM POINT GOAL IN FITOCRACY— I USE THIS FORMULA TO CONVERT THE PERCENTAGE COMPLETED (P) INTO A DATE:

$$T = (\text{CURRENT DATE}) - \left(e^{20.3444p^3 + 3} - e^3 \right) \text{YEARS}$$

WHEN THE TASK IS 0% DONE, IT GIVES TODAY'S DATE, AND AS I MAKE PROGRESS, I MOVE FURTHER AND FURTHER BACK IN TIME.

INVERSE:

$$p = \sqrt[3]{\frac{\ln(T + e^3) - 3}{20.3444}}$$



IT MOVES SLOWLY THROUGH THE PAST FEW YEARS, THEN STEADILY ACCELERATES. I TUNED THE FORMULA SO THE TIME SPENT IN EACH PART OF THE PAST IS LOOSELY PROPORTIONAL TO HOW WELL I KNOW IT. THIS MEANS I HIT FAMILIAR LANDMARKS WITH EACH BIT OF PROGRESS, GIVING ME A SATISFYING SENSE OF MOVEMENT.

7.308%	DECEMBER 18, 2011
AROUND THIS TIME:	
KIM JONG-IL DIES. US LEAVES IRAQ.	

31.12%	FEBRUARY 1995
AROUND THIS TIME:	
WINDOWS 95 DEBUTS OJ FOUND NOT GUILTY	

47.91%	1844
AROUND THIS TIME:	
RUBBER VULCANIZED, BICYCLE INVENTED, WRENCH PATENTED.	

70.33%	24,000 YEARS AGO
AROUND THIS TIME:	
CAVES PAINTED, CERAMIC ART MADE. NEANDERTHALS EXTINCT.	

90.42%	68 MILLION YEARS AGO
AROUND THIS TIME:	
FIRST FLOWERING PLANTS. CHIXULUB IMPACT KILLS OFF MOST DINOSAURS.	

100%	13.76 BILLION YEARS AGO
AROUND THIS TIME:	
UNIVERSE BEGINS. FIRST STARS IGNITE.	
DOWNLOAD COMPLETE	

SWOOSH!
WATCHING ALL THAT TIME
BLUR PAST IS SUCH A RUSH!

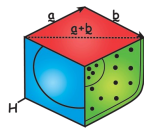
SO... YOU'VE TRIED TO MAKE AN
EXTREME SPORT OUT OF... WAITING.



Any queries, complaints, ideas, discussion material or advice for the editor?

Any content that you'd like to contribute to future newsletters (the next will be published towards the end of this semester)?

Send the Editor an email at: aaul4@student.monash.edu



MASS'3