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Thanks to all contributors - Martin, Sam, Keith, Annie, Elle, Adam, Jeffrey, Tim, Josh, and Ben. Enjoy the read!

- Luci

# MASS<sup>3</sup>

# Newsletter

ISSUE 1

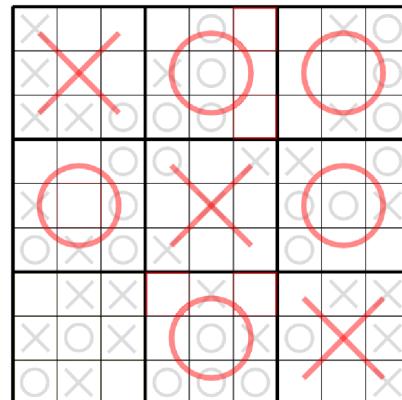
APRIL 2014

## MASS<sup>3</sup> OGM 2014

The MASS<sup>3</sup> Ordinary General Meeting was held on the 27th March to elect our first year representative, and also to elect a new webmaster. (Unfortunately Will could not continue to be webmaster due to switching university courses). We had a good turn out of people, with many new first years attending. We had a few people nominate for first year rep, but in the end it was Michael "Keith" Beards who was elected. Sam Pryor was elected unopposed as the new webmaster. A big congratulations to our new committee members! Also, we all should give our appreciation to Will Donohoe - though his time as webmaster was short, he managed to revolutionise the website. Good job, Will!

## Ultimate Tic Tac Toe Tournament

As you may recall, a number of MASS<sup>3</sup> members were participating in an Ultimate Tic Tac Toe Tournament (if you don't know what this is, you can find out by reading the previous newsletter). To pick up where the last newsletter left off, Ethan won in his game against Tim, but was then defeated by Ben. Ben and Alex then battled it out in the Ultimate Tic Tac Toe Grand Final! It was an intense game, but after 49 moves Ben claimed victory and became the Ultimate Champion of Ultimate Tic Tac Toe.



A reconstruction of the Tic Tac Toe final  
- Ben is X, Alex is O

## Membership Cards

This year's membership cards are available! Now with [insert number] new constants and atomic weights! If you are a member but have not received them ask Michael Khng for one - they are a must have!

# President's Report

Hi everyone! For those who don't know me, I'm Josh, and I'm the President of MASS<sup>3</sup>.

2014 has been a big year for the club: we have an entire new course of students and a free printer! Not everyone is an official member of the course yet, but we'll have a little recruiting drive soon in preparation for the upcoming Trivia Night!

As for Trivia Night, the current plan is for May 1st: the Thursday after Mid-Semester Break. Confirmation of the date is coming very soon, as we are in contact with Sir John's Bar. In the mean time, get your minds ready and your costume hands working: the theme will be announced soon, so keep your eyes on the Common Room fridge!

If you have any troubles with workload or other matters, don't be afraid to contact any of the committee members, or even our regular, hardworking members, for advice. We may be a small club, but everyone's willing to help out.

Thanks for your time, and don't forget: Science!

- Josh Marlow  
President of MASS<sup>3</sup>



## MASS<sup>3</sup> Website and Facebook

Check out the MASS<sup>3</sup> website, which has been revolutionised by Will, our former webmaster! The website has a new, sleeker look, and not a single gif in sight.

URL: <http://masscubed.com>

Website includes

- News and events
- Information about the club and common room
- An archive of all the newsletters from the past few years
- Information and contact details of the committee

Also be sure to join our facebook page, where you can get the latest club news as well as share and discuss ideas or internet links.

Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/masscubed/>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Trivia Night

It's that time of year again, the time for MASS<sup>3</sup>'s renowned annual Trivia Night! It's possibly the most exciting event that MASS<sup>3</sup> holds so you simply cannot miss it! There will be drinks, chips, quizzes, competitions and costume-wearing. It's a great opportunity to reveal to everyone your insane skills (or lack of) and overall it's a lot of fun, so come along!

**Date:** Thursday 1st May (to be confirmed)

**Time:** 7pm

**Place:** Sir John's Bar

**Theme:** Back in Time

**Price:** \$5 for MSA members, \$10 for non-MSA

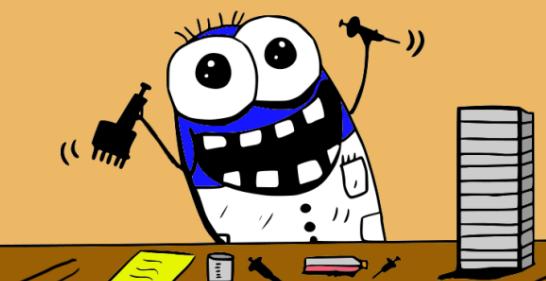
## Study Nights

Every semester MASS<sup>3</sup> holds two study nights. If you are struggling with any of your subjects, this can be an opportunity to discuss content and receive help from other students in your subjects or older students who have done these subjects before. If you are not struggling with any of your subjects, this can be an opportunity to help students who are less comfortable with their subject content. The study nights are usually held in the common room from 6pm onwards a few weeks before exams - so keep an eye out for details later in semester!

Macadamia nut



Academia nut



(c) The Upturned Microscope (photo from Wikipedia)

# A Guide to the Common Room

One of the best things about being a member of MASS<sup>3</sup> is that you have access to the MASS<sup>3</sup> Common room. It has lots of facilities and is a great place to hang out, play games, make new friends and maybe even study . Here is a guide of what the common room has to offer, as well as some considerations when using these things to make life in the common room great for everyone.



## Microwaves and toasters

Heating things up makes lunches so much more exciting. Just make sure they are clean after you use them, using cloth, sponges or paper towel provided in the common room. Give the sandwich toaster a wipe down when it cools so that the next person can use it, and if there are any spills in the microwave, clean them up.

## Dishes and cutlery

These are for everyone to use, as long as you clean them afterwards (and don't steal forks). There is detergent, sponges and hot water in the sink for you to use - do this as soon as you have finished using the dishes, otherwise they tend to get out of control.



## Communal food

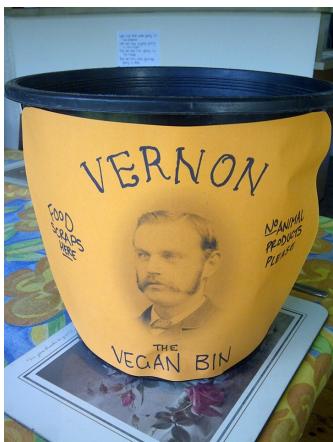
There is some food in the common room such as tea and coffee that is free for anybody. Just don't be greedy e.g. grab all the teabags and take them home.



## Fridge

Great for making food last longer! Using the fridge comes with a set of rules:

1. Label your food with a name and date.
2. Unlabelled food will be chucked out 5pm on Fridays, unless it looks good in which case it is up for grabs from ANYONE (so basically you are no longer entitled to your food after 5pm on Fridays)
3. Unlabelled Tupperware containers get a second chance, as we appreciate their quality. These are put in the freezer when we sort through the fridge on Fridays, but will be chucked out the following Friday if not claimed.

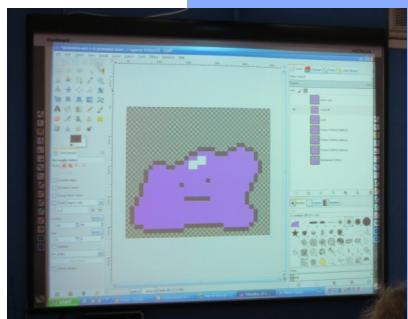


## Bins

We have 3 bins, a regular bin, recycling bin and Vernon the vegan bin. Vernon is our compost bin, for fruit and vegetable rubbish only - no animal products, and preferably not too much citrus.

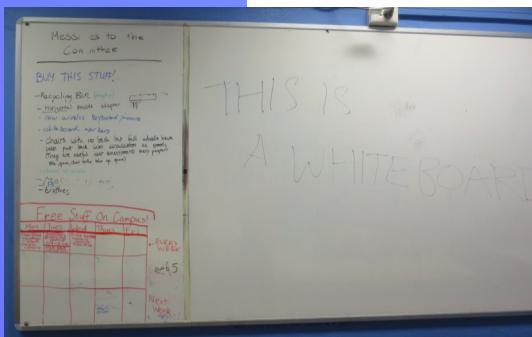
## Smartboard, Computers and printers

Always come in handy, whether for study or games. Just keep in mind that if you stay logged in when you leave the common room, it is highly likely that someone will jump on your facebook/email/moodle and post something embarrassing, and you will have to endure the shame.



## Ceiling

Our ceiling has our name in metcards. It has existed since before time (or at the very least since before the current honours students first came to the common room, which in MASS<sup>3</sup> terms is a very long time). Don't mess with it.



## Whiteboards

These can be very helpful to use when studying, and are also used for quoting people out of context, leaving messages to the committee, advertising events or free food and just general doodling. Keep in mind that anything can be erased unless it is specified to be left there (but please don't erase quotes, messages to the committee or advertisements without good reason).

## Other things in the common room

- ◊ Tables
- ◊ Chairs, with and without wheels
- ◊ A couch
- ◊ A cupboard where you can keep your labcoat
- ◊ A pin board
- ◊ A dodgy Rubik's cube



**So, welcome or welcome back to the common room, have a good time, be considerate and we'll all get along just fine!**

## Introducing: Keith Beards, first year representative

*He's the new sensation sweeping the nation... of MASS<sup>3</sup>. I asked Keith some questions so we can get to know the man who will be representing the first years for the coming year.*

### **Why do some people insist on calling you Michael when your name is clearly Keith?**

I really don't know. I mean, clearly my name is Keith. They can even check my Facebook.

### **Why did you choose to nominate for first year rep?**

Seemed like a good idea at the time, I guess? I was around a lot and had gotten to know a few second and third years, I felt like I'd be a good addition as such.

### **What do you want to achieve in this position over the next year?**

At this point, my main goal would probably be to make sure messages from the first years get to the committee while everyone is still getting to know each other.

### **What do you plan to major in?**

Geoscience and pure mathematics. That's right Jake, I'm not doing physics.



### **What is the best thing about science?**

The fact that there's a career for everything - if it doesn't exist yet, just invent it when you finish your degree.

### **Who's your favourite committee member?**

Ben, he really seems to take charge as president and knows how to handle everything.

### **What is your favourite breed of ferret?**

Furret - it can even learn surf!

### **What's one interesting fact about you?**

I'm legally blind in one eye - the thick glasses aren't just to fuel my nerd stereotype!

## Introducing: Sam Pryor, Webmaster

*Our other member we are welcoming to the MASS<sup>3</sup> committee is our second year Sam Pryor, master of the web. Who is the guy and what will become of our internet? I asked Sam some questions to find out.*

### **Why do some people insist on calling you Sam when your name is clearly Sam?**

It's a sophisticated play on the pronunciation. You see, Sam sounds a little like Sam if you use the same flick of the tongue in both. Try chanting 'Sam' 20 or so times and you might start to get it, but if you don't then don't worry because our editor has been at it for ages.

### **What do you hope to do with the website in the coming year?**

I'm thinking lemonparty meets nyan cat.

### **Will you bring back the gif?**

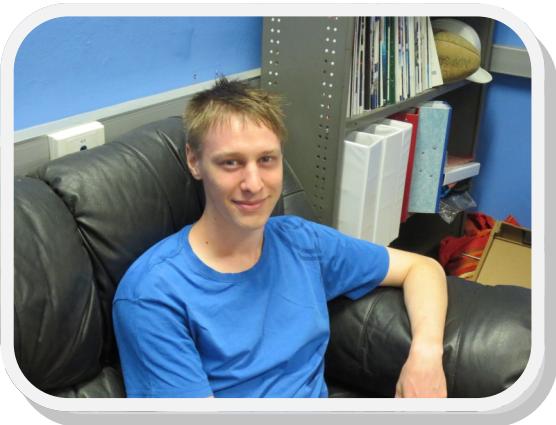
Part of the induction ritual/ceremony as Webmaster included vowing to protect all Jaffykind from the horrors of 'the GIF'. If I break this solemn vow I will have to be re-sworn, and I don't know where we will find another human sacrifice...

### **What are you majoring in?**

Physics and computer science.

### **What is the best thing about MASS<sup>3</sup>?**

Having an awesome common room where we can hang out and play games, watch videos and VERY rarely, study.



**If you were stranded on a desert island with nothing but some string, 2 pegs and an accordion, what would your plan of action be?**

Try to learn the accordion, give up, tie the string around a coconut and practice hammer throw, use the pegs to escape the island (details omitted).

### **What's your favourite thing on the internet?**

As with most people, this changes weekly. However I fondly remember the golden age of flash videos from my youth.

### **What is the internet?**

While many details about the internet are vague, it appears to have been invented by Sir Isaac Newton in 1939 as a means of circulating Nazi propaganda. The internet back then was in a primitive, now completely outdated form, called 'Internet Explorer' and was lacking many of the essential features it has today, such as time travel and Norton Security Scan.

Source - Wikipedia

# Everything We Wish We Had Known About Honours

*Words of wisdom by Annie, Adam, Jeffrey, Tim and Elle*

Honours is like an epic quest. You begin by strolling along familiar paths. The sun is shining. You have some notion that the journey will not all be sunshine and butterflies, but you feel prepared. You hold your head high and march into the unknown.

You meet goblins. Skeletons in the dark. Demons that work their way into your mind. Some days, you forget the purpose of your quest. Some days, it seems as though it is just this, tomorrow, and tomorrow, until the end of time. You become tired. Hungry. You forget to eat. You forget the sound of wind. The feeling of the sun on your face. You even forget your own name.

Each small victory is sweet, and each brings you closer to the dragon. You dread the dragon but you also long for the day when you finally reach it. And somehow, you make it there. You slay it. Or defeat it in a battle of wits, whichever you prefer. And somehow, confusingly, you emerge from the cave to find yourself with a stack of paper and a number. It is over. The sun is shining and everything is as it was when you left it.

As members of MASS<sup>3</sup>, most of you will some at some point embark on that thing we call Honours. As survivors of this perilous quest, we felt it would be nice to make sure you are truly prepared. In other words, we would like to offer you some of the advice that we wish we were given.

## **Put some time into choosing a supervisor**

*'Talk to lots of supervisors. Talk to the secret hidden people.' – Tim*

As MASS<sup>3</sup>-ers, many of you will be at the liberty of choosing your Honours supervisor, rather than just taking whoever is left. Make use of this and don't take it for granted.

The ideal supervisor-student relationship is mutualistic. The supervisor gains a minion who collects data that can hopefully be published. The student gains an expert advisor who can help them to design a reasonable Honours project and write a decent thesis. Both supervisor and student should recognise the difference between something that would be lots of work and something that is simply not achievable within 8 months. Lots of work is to be expected. However, it should not come at the cost of your end result.

Talk to lots of supervisors. Not just the teachers – there are plenty of people who you did not meet in your classes. Ask questions about what they would expect for you, and how much input you would have in the direction of the project. Then talk to their previous Honours students. You are perfectly entitled to do this. What did they like about their supervisor? What did they find frustrating? Not all students are the same and some will work better with some supervisors than others. Use this information to decide who you will work well with. Your supervisor will be your first port of call for the better part of a year, so you will want to choose someone you feel comfortable talking to and especially asking questions of.

## **Your research group is important**

*'Group can almost be more important than supervisor, and far more important than project.' – Elle*

Your supervisor might not be the only person you need to work well with. This is particularly true for chemistry and some areas of biology. If your supervisor has a research group, these people are likely to become your advisors and support network on a day-to-day basis.

## Your project doesn't have to be the most exciting one

*'Above all, choose a project that's flexible and achievable.' – Annie*

Ideally, you want a project that is achievable, gives you new skills, and is inherently interesting to you. That is in order of importance. A project doesn't necessarily have to interest you from the beginning. You will find that the project becomes interesting to you when you become more engaged with it, provided that it is achievable and you learn something new.

## Think ahead

*'There might be things you can do beforehand that can count towards your Honours mark' – Tim*

For example, there might be summer units. Or, if there aren't any summer units, there might be things you can do before you start that can make your life much, much easier. Of course, you don't want to be too burnt out before you even begin. But if you do some reading over summer, start thinking about your project and coursework, or even run a pilot study, you will thank yourself later.

## Have Your Own Input

*'Honours broke my mind.' – Jeffrey*

Your supervisor will tell you things. Think about them, don't just agree and regurgitate. If they are a good supervisor, they will be prepared to discuss things with you, rather than simply expecting you to remember everything they say. But also bear in mind that they have probably been doing this for much longer than you, and no matter how smart you are, it is a good idea to heed their advice.

## Consider demonstrating

*'Consider doing some teaching associate or demonstrating work – I know I found that one of the most rewarding aspects of Honours.' – Jeffrey*

For some of you this will be optional, for others it will be compulsory, while for some of you it might not be possible. But if it is possible, it is certainly worth giving a go.

## Expect hard work

*'There is a reason I want a six month break now.' – Jeffrey*

Some people cruise through Honours more easily than others, but everybody works hard. Some people work very hard at the beginning and are able to ease off towards the end. Some people have to maintain reasonably insane hours throughout the year. Some people have to work themselves to the bone at the very end. But, when it's all said and done, it is one year. It will not go on forever. It will end. Repeat this to yourself like a mantra, if necessary.

## Look after yourself

*'Don't get sick.' – Jeffrey*

Where possible, try working well, instead of working hard. And when you do have to work hard, try not to do it to the expense of everything else. Engage in social interactions. Eat well. Do some exercise.

*Everything we wish we had known about honours continued*

Set aside a little time every day to de-stress. Get some sleep. There is one way in which things can always get worse: by getting sick. Honours is sometimes not fun, but believe us, it's less fun when you're sick, and that applies to both your physical health and your mental health.

### **Have a support network**

*'What are friends for if not complaining to?' – Adam*

It is easy to lose track of people when you are working almost around the clock, but it is absolutely essential to have some kind of support network. Your family and friends mean well and will try to help, but it can be difficult for people who have never done research full time to understand the pressures and stresses of Honours, even if they work long hours or study a traditionally intensive subject like medicine. This is why you should also try to have and maintain strong relationships with at least a couple of people who are doing or have done Honours.

MASS<sup>3</sup> puts you at an advantage here as you will already know some people doing Honours at the same time as you, but it can also be helpful to become friends with other people in your Honours cohort and research group. They will understand exactly what you are going through and give you a place to vent your frustrations without having to explain a thing. Take advantage of this regularly and they can help make your (and you can help make their) Honours year immeasurably better.

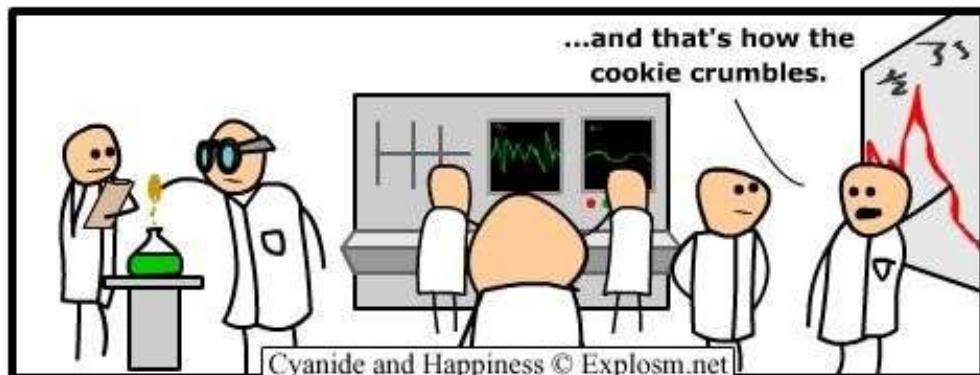
### **Believe in yourself**

*'I hate clichés' – Adam*

It might sound glib, but when things start going wrong (and at some point or other, they inevitably will) it's important to believe in yourself. You wouldn't be let in to Honours if your School didn't think you had the potential to succeed as a professional scientist and produce publication-level material, and the fact that your supervisor took you on as a student means they agree with that sentiment. It may not happen that you're able to publish and after Honours you may decide to leave science altogether, but that's not important, what's important is that you have the potential. In fact, come Semester 2 your supervisor will likely be consulting you for your opinions of the project, so never stop reminding yourself that you are intelligent and competent enough to be where you are, because you are.

### **And finally, it will all be fine.**

*'It is a giant bitch but it is also a great year.' – Elle*



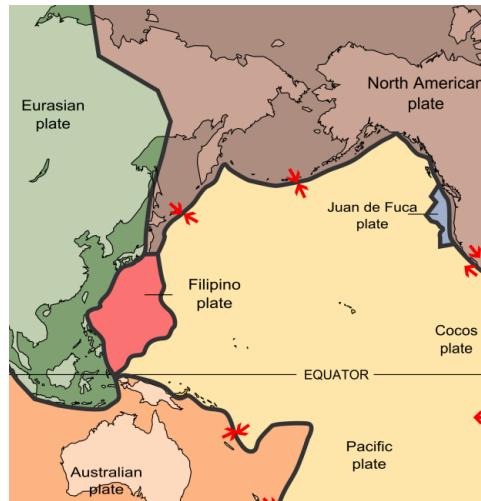
# The Eulogy of the Philippine Sea Plate

A dejected, tragic story in modern plate tectonics by Martin Nguyen

Wedged between the south of Japan and east of the Philippines lies a small, lonely plate whose interests include: baking peridotite through uplift of ophiolite suites, causing volcanic tantrums, making unnecessarily enormous holes and finally... getting brutally and systematically murdered.

Meet the Philippine Sea Plate (PSP).

The only plate currently on Earth which is completely surrounded by subduction zones which, barring the sexual geology puns, means regions where plates go to die by falling under another plate and getting sucked into the abyss we call the mantle. Thus you can probably guess the implications of saying it's the only plate surrounded by subduction



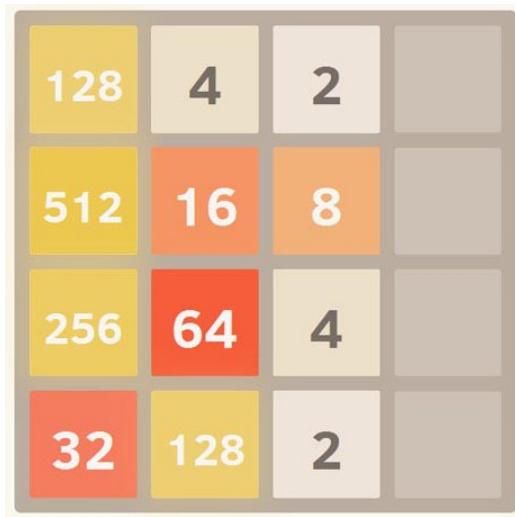
Though before this plate was being rotisserie-d for the great East Pacific Tectonic Nomnom Bonanza, it created plenty of geological goodies which include the vast majority of Taiwan (yes, all 23,373,517 people there need to thank the PSP), some deliciously wonderful holes for mankind to swim into for funsies (I'm looking at you, Mariana trench) and the planted seeds for new, picturesque sandy beaches with lush foliage and leafy glades full of tourism... alas in at least another 1000 years or so.

Regardless, it's clear that in this plate's relatively young life of approximately 2.6 billion years, it has given great joy and life to the eastern Pacific boundary... which has unfortunately caused mass jealousy in its surrounding brothers and sisters. And so we come to a little conclusion that tectonic plates are amazing things. As temperamental and murderous as they are, they are the reason for our continual existence on this planet, the scenic landscapes we choose to colonise and conquer and the ever dynamic home we call Earth.

So let's give them some appreciation. Who knows, maybe that plate you learn to love will just get viciously subducted by its mum, or dad, or whatever personification you'd like to think of.

# The Latest Rage: 2048

Everyone's been at it on the internet and on their smartphones: 2048, the simple yet surprisingly addictive puzzle game, referred to as "almost like Candy Crush for maths geek". If you are unfamiliar with the game (unlikely at this stage especially if you were in the common room last week), it is a sliding number tile style game where you join tiles of the same number together to form bigger tiles, ultimately trying to get tile 2048 without filling the grid with tiles. Many variants of 2048 have been created, and here are a few of my favourites:

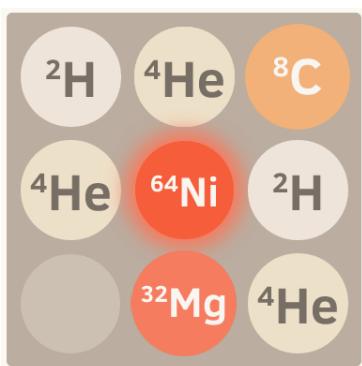


## 2048 Numberwang

If you have seen the 'Numberwang' quiz show (Mitchell and Webb) you will appreciate this silly version. Even if you haven't, give it a try and you may still find it amusing!

## Doge2048

Wow. Much colours. Such addiction. So time waste.



## Isotopic 2048

Great for chemistry nerds. This version is particularly good because as well as being an chemistry variation, it adds a new challenge to the game - some elements are unstable and you must merge them to form a stable element in a certain number of moves or they will decay!

## 2048-Tetris

The name explains it pretty well - it's 2048 but in Tetris style, so that the tiles fall from the top and you have to place them so they will merge with other tiles so that the tiles don't reach the top of the screen.

# A Silken Lie

*A rambling by Martin Nguyen*

I could quite easily tell you that you are important, you are significant, you are special and continue to shower you in compliments to ad infinitum but that would be a lie. I could tell you the very world you live in is one built on order, rationality and continuity but that would damage the integrity of the near non-existent support society rests on so precariously.

You are ultimately one of 7.215 billion people, born with the same potential and basic physiological components to achieve just as much as the person beside you barring the unfortunate disability. You are no more important or significant than the next Homo sapien but that does not detract from the inescapable fact that you can do a myriad of things before you die. Every hope, dream or aspiration you have is a chance that you will somehow improve the earth you stand on for future generations.

Despite knowing of the poverty, the natural disasters and the slow death of fauna across the globe, I have been almost subdued by a façade of commercialism and politics. We are told to be happy despite this. Told that our society is the best. But a scientist who helps one society and discounts the others is as blind as the politician he subscribes to.

The truth is we live in a world of lies – perhaps this is necessary to the function of societies as sociologist George Simmel suggests - but this doesn't mean we should, as intellectual members of the world, believe them for one second. I hope sincerely that in this mess of a society we live in, we can develop ideas and inspire others to create ideas which would quieten the existential crisis beeping inside all of us.

Science is for benefiting the world because individually like scientific data points, you are insignificant but collectively, an armada of scientists working to better the world is undeniably one of the most significant things to behold. So dream big. Let your passions be inspired by charity, and as the Dalai Lama said, the oneness of humanity because there is still much that is wrong with humanity but we can fix that. One ridiculous equation at a time. Oh and of course a little self-serving because you owe it to yourself. Wasn't the allure of science for most the promise of blowing things up and cutting things open?

SCI 2020  
SCHOOL OF SCIENCES

*The following quotes were heard from people in the common room, many taking out of context to add humour. Enjoy!*

“Aren’t kamikaze pilots the ones who do those cool tricks?”

“Do you always speak like Batman?”

“So [Lolita] is all about cute things?”

“I know what an enema is!”

“Nobody is Indian... except that guy.”

“It’s SCI2020 as a course instead of a unit.”

“AND THEY CHOSE IT?”

~ on global challenges

“I kind of wish he had laser vision so that he could burn a hole in your head.”

“I have cancer #first world problems”

“Eww that would make me God.”

“Which goat do you guys think is sexier?”

“We should have made it spell MASS^3!” ~ on the ceiling metcards

“Also, I’m an idiot.”

“You have to have good marks... I guess that’s why they won’t let you do it...”

“Ah! Segregation!”

“I visited the great toilet.”

“Rocks and porn? Aren’t they synonymous?”

“It’s basically Vietnam but with emus.”

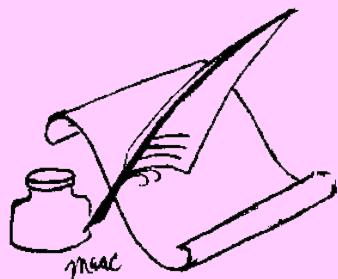
“Why aren’t I a girl?”

“The Aztecs ate black people.”

“Stay away from my genitals!”

“I only want to cut off Michelle’s limbs.”

# Advice Column



*I don't know anyone else in my course, and everyone else is so chummy... What do I do???*

From 3520

Dear 3520,

It can seem tough when everyone seems to know each other except you, but in reality I think you'll find that most people would be happy to be your friend and include you – you just sometimes have to take the first step, and introduce yourself. If you have trouble making conversation, you can start by just talking about subjects you do (e.g. ask someone for help on an assignment). But please, just drop by the common room and talk to us – we're nice people and will be happy to meet you, and we'd welcome you to a game of Konec Hry.

Good Luck!

The Editor

Dear Readers,

*How does one rub a ferret's body along one's perineum gracefully?*

Sincerely,

*I want to try new things*

Dear I want to try new things,

Try using a furret—Keith says it's his favourite type.

Sincerely,

The Editor

Dear Readers,

*I have inverted nipples. How can I increase my sexual appeal?*

Sincerely,

*Nipple Freak*

Dear Nipple Freak,

Don't worry about increasing your sexual appeal – you have your own special niche, and I bet there are people out there who are into that kind of thing but struggling to find it. For anything, no matter how bizarre, there is something with a fetish for it, so just keep searching ;)

The Editor

Hey, love your advice!

Just a quick q: if I have a crush on our handsome and beautiful president, what should I do? I'm so daunted by his greatness!

Thanks~

I don't blame you – he is pretty handsome:



Sadly, my advice for you is to move on – he is far too old for you (assuming you are a member of MASS<sup>3</sup>, meaning you are about a third his age) and in all likelihood you will probably never meet him during your life at Monash.

(I am assuming here that you were referring to the President of Monash. No other president of ours that is both handsome and great comes to mind)

*My friend keeps orgasming upon discussing rocks, and I'm starting to get scared that he might be a geosexual...*

*From a concerned friend*

Dear concerned friend,

Be considerate towards your friend – to me, it sounds like you might be acting a little geophobic. There is nothing wrong with being geosexual – if it makes him happy, that's all that matters. Perhaps the more important thing is to re-examine your own attitude.

Sincerely,  
The Editor

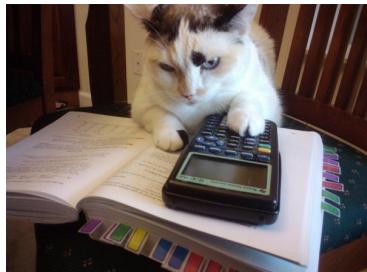
Got a question? You can submit it anonymously by sending it from the MASS<sup>3</sup> advice email!

Username: mass3secret@gmail.com  
Password: mass3#swag

Then email lcaul1@student.monash.edu

If you submitted a question and it's not here - fear not: it will be published in the next newsletter!

# Puzzles and Riddles



$$\text{CAT} = (\text{C}+\text{A}+\text{T}) \times \text{CxAxT}$$

Where C, A and T are 3 different numerals.

What numeral does each letter represent?

Ten students are cleaning the common room one day (calm down, this is a hypothetical situation). While cleaning the couch, one of the students finds \$100 in spare change (in \$1 coins) under the cushions.

As we all know, the common room has a strict ranking system; everyone has a number which is based on how much they're in the common room, what major/s they're doing, and how jaffy they are.

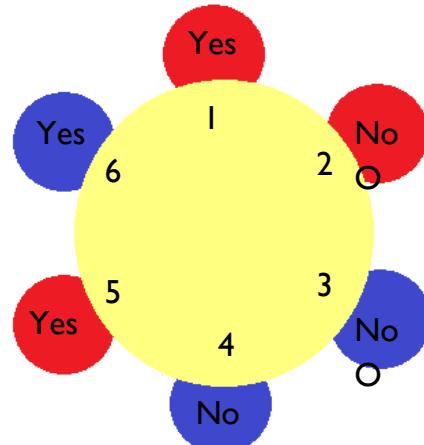
Based on this ranking system the ten students decide on a system to determine how to split the \$100 dollars. The highest ranking student (#1) will propose a way to divide it up. Then all the students (including #1) will vote on the proposal. If 50% or more of the students agree on the system, then that is how the money will be divided up. However, if less than 50% of the students vote for the proposal, then #1 will be beaten up and thrown into the physics dumpster. Then the next highest ranking student (#2) will propose a way of splitting the money amongst the 9 remaining students, which will be voted on, etc. This process will repeat until a proposal is agreed upon.

Let's assume all the students are very greedy and very smart. They want the money and will vote against a proposition if they think they can get more money if the proposal were to fail.

You are student #1. Your aim is to get as much money as possible, and avoid getting beaten up. What is your proposal?

*Thanks to Ben Jones for the puzzle!*

Three third years (red) and three first years (blue) of MASS<sup>3</sup> are seated in the common room (the table is depicted as round of the riddle's purposes). One of them has the Rubik's cube hidden beneath his or her chair. Either all the thirds years tell the truth and all the first years lie, or vice versa, but we do not know which. When asked the question "Is the Rubik's cube under a chair next to you?" the MASS<sup>3</sup> students responded as indicated. Under which seat is the Rubik's cube hidden?



How can you make 24, using each of the numbers 5,5,5, and 1 once?  
The only operations allowed are addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

### Answers for previous newsletter (issue 2, 2013)

\*spoiler alert\* The message says SNAPE\_KILLS\_DUMBLEDORE.

There were no winners on this one I'm afraid, probably because you all have busy lives and/or there was a typo in the coding. If you want to know how to get the answer, pester Ben Jones.

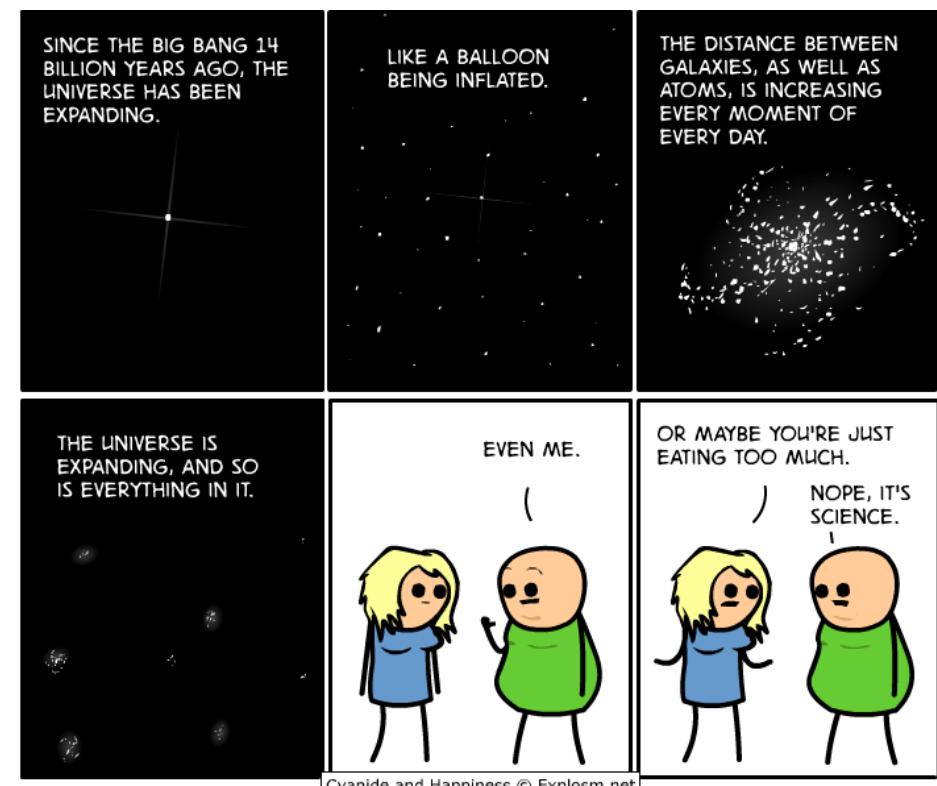
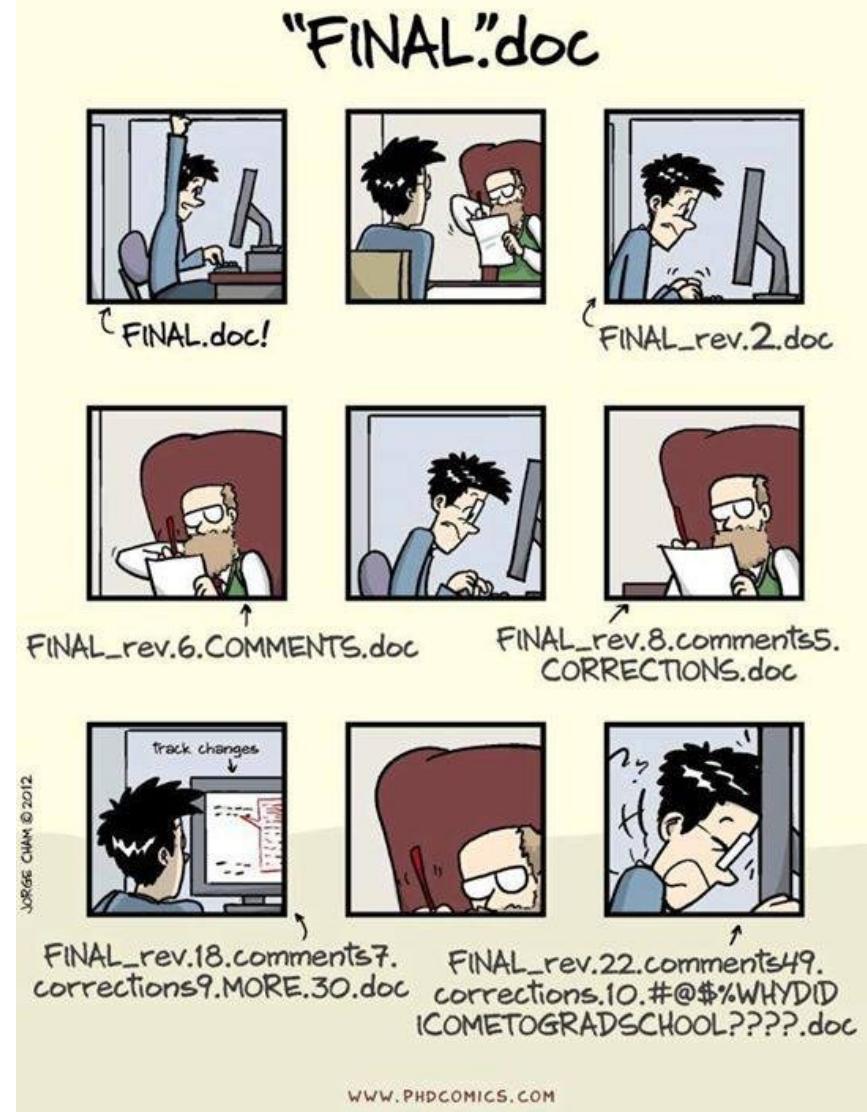
Half of 13 is 8. The rule works using the roman numerals of the number (so 13 is XIII) and cutting the numerals in half horizontally (thus we are halving the numbers physically rather than numerically!). The top half forms the new number (VIII which is 8).

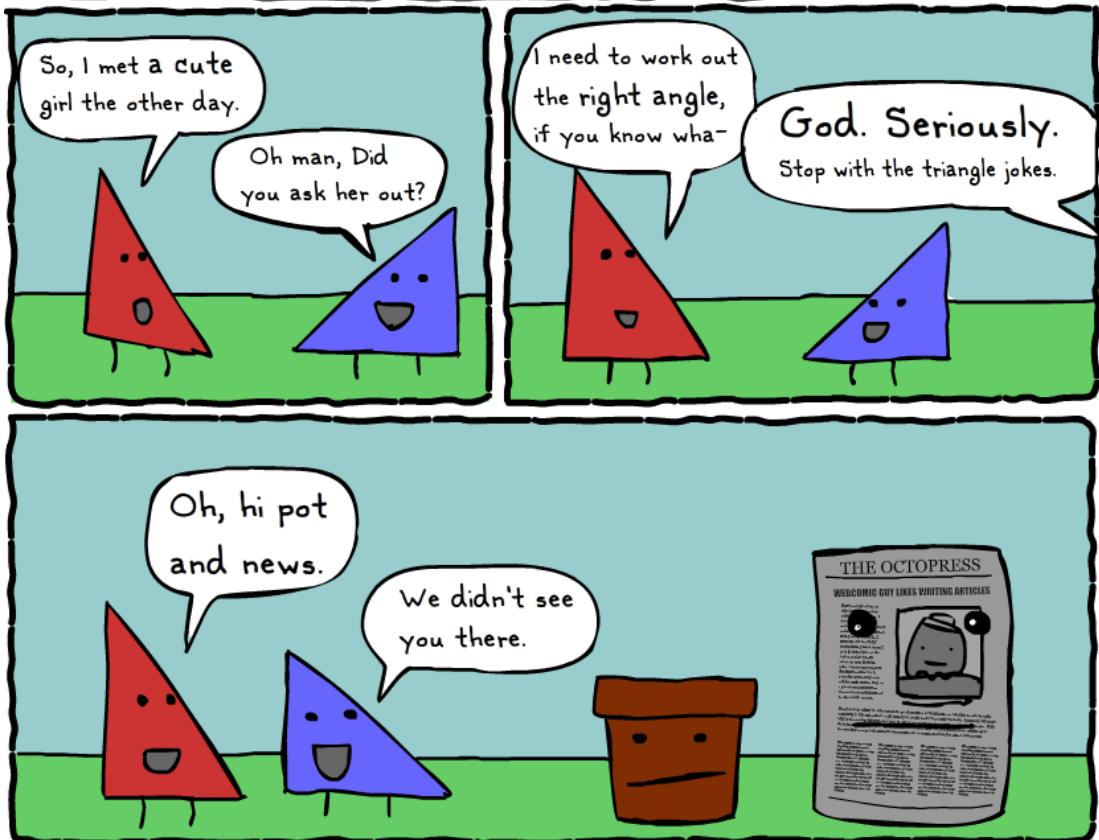
The bear is white!

If you follow the directions, the only way you could end up at the same spot you started is if you were at the North Pole. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the bear would be a polar bear, as you don't see many other bears around. If you happen to be in the North Pole and find a bear that isn't white, by all means seek me out and complain immensely, if it makes you feel better.

A dictionary!

# SOMEONE





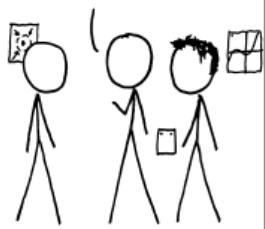
## THINGS TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR EXPERIMENT TO FINISH

(OR SIMULATION TO RUN, OR CODE TO COMPILE, OR...)

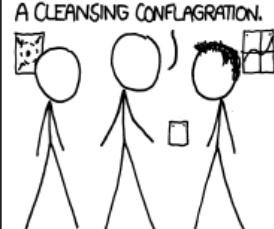


## LOS ALAMOS, 1945...

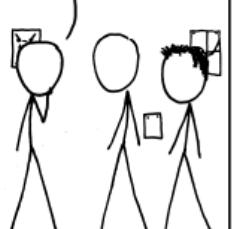
WE HAVE A DECISION. IF WEVE DONE OUR MATH RIGHT, THIS TEST WILL UNLEASH HEAVENS FIRE AND MAKE US AS GODS.



BUT IT'S POSSIBLE WE MADE A MISTAKE, AND THE HEAT WILL IGNITE THE ATMOSPHERE, DESTROYING THE PLANET IN A CLEANSING CONFLAGRATION.



WOW. UM. QUESTION:  
JUST TO DOUBLE-CHECK-  
ALTHOUGH IM 99% SURE-



IS IT "SOH CAH TOA"  
OR "COH SAH TOA"?

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...  
CAN SOMEONE  
REDO STEVE'S WORK?

I DON'T  
WANT  
TO DO  
THE TEST  
ANMORE.

If you have any material, suggestions or ideas for next newsletter, or any queries, complaints, or advice for the editor:

Send me an email at: [lcaull@student.monash.edu](mailto:lcaull@student.monash.edu)

