

FISHWRAP

Monday, June 13, 2011

Fishue $e^{1.0986}$

YOUR "FINEST" SOURCE
OF "NEWS" SINCE 1988

Nibbles & Bytes Trying Longer Summer Hours

Because of Nibbles & Bytes' horrendous summer hours (despite the many engineers in the ELW & ECS over the summer), the ESS has lobbied HFCS (*Housing, Food, and Conference Services, not High-Fructose Corn Syrup*) to keep N&B open later. They have agreed to keep it open until 4:30 for a trial run of a few weeks. If this trial run is profit-

able for them, they will be keeping it open these later hours for the rest of the summer.

It is unfortunate the HFCS is strictly a money-making service, rather than a service run by the university for the purpose of helping students. But that's the way it is, so hopefully these trial hours will be successful.

Reminder: pick up your shirt!

If you were at Epic Engr Time and you left your old shirt in the box when getting an awesome new one and haven't picked it up yet, come by the ESS office to pick your old shirt up!

UVEC, Park Day, Girls' Night, LAN party, and more!

See pages 2-3 for more info
about these upcoming events!

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Go Canucks! 1 more!



Heard a prof or fellow student say something embarrassing or incriminating? Send it to fishwrap@engr.uvic.ca

"I bet if you put that chair underwater it would call marine mammals." -R. Bhiladvala

"Here's the circuit. It's like a chihuahua." -F. Gebaldi

"There are no holes large enough." -M. Zastre

Events & Announcements

Girls' Night

Another reminder that Girls Night is this Friday! We will be going to the IMAX for a 5pm showing of *Born to Be Wild*. We will be meeting in the ESS and leaving at 4pm to catch the #4 bus down to the museum (you can also meet us down there if you prefer). Remember to bring your student cards.

After the movie, we will be having dinner at Cafe Mexico until around 8pm and then a "Girls celebration" will commence shortly after.

RSVP to Tiffany (tyu@uvic.ca), or email her with any questions.

LAN Party

What's better than a LAN Party with pizza and tons of video games? The first ever ESS/CSCU combined LAN party is happening on June 24th at 7:30pm in the 2nd floor ECS labs. Contact Tiffany (tyu@uvic.ca) for questions or to discuss your obsessiveness with LAN parties.

Slushie Fridays

Still happening every Friday in the ESS office! Slushies are free, cups 50¢

Soccer

Do you like soccer? Do you like playing soccer? Come play on the engineering intramural team every Thursday night! Signup sheet is on the ESS door.

Black Jackets

The ESS will be ordering more black jackets soon. They are \$75, or \$80 if you want one with an embroidered Viktor Viking on the arm. Come into the ESS office to order one or for more info. The deadline is 2 weeks from today.

Park Day

Like Sun? How about a BBQ? Games? Friends? A significant lack of math questions? Well you then you should consider coming out this Saturday (June 18) to Mount Doug Park for a relaxing day full of all these things.

So what is it? You'll be hanging out in the sun and playing simple summer games like bocce, croquet and more if you feel like it. We're going to set up a barbecue and sell burgers, hotdogs, and corn, but everything else will be free. It's at Mount Doug park, the entrance to which is right at the intersection of Ash and Cordova Bay road (just google-map it). This park is truly a beautiful spot: it is set in a nice wooded area overlooking the ocean and gets really nice around midday. So come check out the first 'lightly structured' event that uses summer's full potential, and bring whoever you want!

Any questions can be directed at Nigel (nsyro@uvic.ca). If you're sure you want to come, feel free to let Nigel know so we know how much food to bring.



UVEC is coming!

The UVic Engineering Competition will be happening Saturday, July 16th. Registration is now open at ess.uvic.ca. We will be hosting the following competitions:

Senior Team Design: In this category, third and fourth year students are confronted with an engineering design problem. On the competition day, they have 8 hours to implement their solution with the materials provided.

Innovative Design: This category requires the competitors to present an innovative and commercially viable solution to a problem of their own choosing. They are expected to carry out market research and feasibility studies as well as draft a business proposal for their product.

Consulting Engineering: The Consulting Engineering category gives teams of four participants five hours to devise an innovative solution to a real-world problem prescribed by a hypothetical client. Each team is expected to assess the economic and social aspect of the problem and present a proposal to a hypothetical client.

Engineering Communications: In the Engineering Communication category competitors are asked to describe a technical subject in lay-man's terms and present a structured analysis of its societal and environmental impacts. The competitors are judged on their presentation and verbal skills.

Impromptu Debate: The Impromptu Debate category challenges participants to defend, from a given viewpoint, a topic disclosed just before the debate. Each team is composed of two members and they are expected to present a structured defense of the assigned topic.

The competition is being held in the ECS lobby at 9:00AM, and will run through basically the entire day. All participants will receive a free lunch and prizes will be awarded to the winners of each competition. Winners of the competitions will also qualify for WEC, the Western Engineering Competition, which is being held in Calgary.

Fire up those engineering brain cells and sign up your team. Registration is open until July 6th and is available online at ess.uvic.ca



Go Canucks!

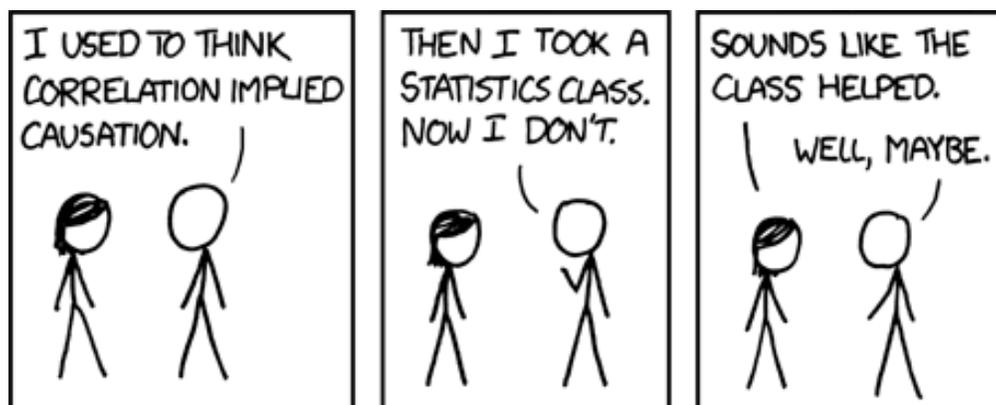


We are all Canucks and this is our time. 40 years we have waited. Cheered. Screamed. Celebrated. Rioted. This year we've won the division. Won the Presidents. Snatched the Hawks' season out of midair. Sent the Preds into extinction. Taught the Sharks how the West was won. And now only the cup remains. Yet there remains one team between it and us: Boston. The biggest, toughest, and strongest team we have faced all year. It takes 16 playoff wins to claim the cup and today Vancouver has 15 of those. At 5pm tonight the Canucks look to set that number to 16. Yes, just one win in Boston tonight or Vancouver on Wednesday is all it now takes. All it takes to realize a 40 year dream. All it takes to bring the cup back to Canada after 18 long years. To unite Canucks Nation in Vancouver and across Canada in celebration. So no matter how much you have to do, no matter what else is going on in your life, whether you follow hockey or not, make sure to watch your Vancouver Canucks tonight as they attempt to clinch one of the most coveted trophies in all of sports: Lord Stanley. Because we are all Canucks and this is our time.



The scene at Robson & Granville Friday after game 5

XKCD: Correlation



by Randall Munroe, xkcd.com. Licensed under Creative Commons.

Calculator Nerd

I Know Calculator-Fu!

*Feel like your prof has you trapped in The Matrix to harvest your energy?
Your calculator can help you break free!*

There's been a lot of talk lately about whether or not graphing calculators should be allowed in Elec 250. Personally, I also think it's reasonable for profs to expect students to have a TI-83/84 or better on midterms and finals (although I also think profs should go easy on errors caused by not having one). Even many high schools require them, and a used TI-83 can be found on Ebay within Canada for around \$50 (including shipping).



Of course, a graphing calculator is no good if you don't know how to use it. This past week I've realized that I've been taking it for granted that all engineering students know how to use their calculators to their full potential. It turns out not everyone is a calculator nerd like I am. While the matrix functions on a TI-83 may seem daunting at first, they're actually so easy a Mechie could learn them.

TI-83/84

First, get to the Matrix editor. On a TI-83+ or newer, this will be [2nd] [x^{-1}]. On a regular TI-83, there is a dedicated [MATRX] button in place of the 83+'s "apps" button. From the Matrix screen, scroll over to "edit". Select a matrix and press "enter". Next, enter the matrix size. Remember that you want an augmented matrix, so for a system of 3 equations you would make the size 3x4. Now enter the values into your matrix.

Now that you've created your matrix, go back to the main Matrix editor screen (with [2nd] [x^{-1}]) and scroll over to "MATH". This will give you a list of all functions that can be performed on a matrix. To solve a matrix, scroll down to "rref()". Press [ENTER] to put this command onto the home screen. Next, go back to the Matrix editor. Stay on the "Names" screen, scroll to your new matrix, and press enter to put your matrix into your equation. Close the bracket and press enter. There you go. If you can't see the whole matrix, you can scroll left and right to see the rest.

TI-89

Instead of a matrix editor like on a TI-83, an 89 uses a syntax similar to MATLAB. Use square brackets around each row, as well as around the entire matrix. Values in a row are separated by commas. You can either enter a matrix directly into a function or store it in a variable and put that variable into the function.

For a list of all functions that can be performed on a matrix, go to "MATH" (by pressing [2ND] [5]) and then scroll down to "4: Matrix", press the right arrow to open the menu, scroll to the function you want, and press [ENTER]. If you don't want to go through a menu every time you want to perform a calculation on a matrix, you can also manually enter the name of the function with the alpha keys. The function you will want to use to solve a matrix is "rref()".

For example, to solve the system:

$$3x + 7y = 0$$

$$2x + y = 3$$

enter the following:

$$\text{rref}([[3,7,0][2,1,3]])$$

As with all TI-89 functions, if you want the answer in decimals instead of exact values, press [\diamond] [ENTER] for the " \approx " function.



Next week: Imma chargin' mah phasor!

The alot is better than you at everything.

by Allie Brosh, hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com

As a grammatically conscientious person who frequents internet forums and YouTube, I have found it necessary to develop a few coping mechanisms. When someone types out “u” instead of “you,” instead of getting mad, I imagine them having only one finger on each hand and then their actions seem reasonable. If I only had one finger on each hand, I’d leave out unnecessary letters too!

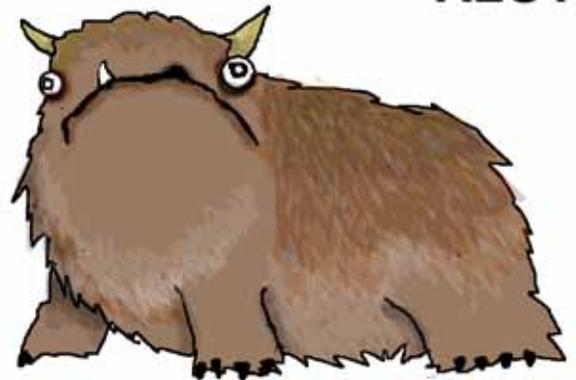


If I come across a person who seems to completely ignore the existence of apostrophes and capital letters and types things like “im an eagle and im typing with my talons, so dont make fun of me cuz this is hard,” I like to imagine that they actually are an eagle typing with their talons. It would be a hassle if you had to hop in the air and use your feet to karate-chop two keys simultaneously every time you wanted to use the shift key to make a capital letter. Also, eagles lack manual dexterity, so I can understand why they’d want to leave out apostrophes. Eagles are all about efficiency.



But there is one grammatical mistake that I particularly enjoy encountering. It has become almost fun for me to come across people who take the phrase “a lot” and condense it down into one word, because when someone says “alot,” this is what I imagine:

ALOT



The Alot is an imaginary creature that I made up to help me deal with my compulsive need to correct other people's grammar. It kind of looks like a cross between a bear, a yak and a pug, and it has provided hours of entertainment for me in a situation where I'd normally be left feeling angry and disillusioned with the world.

I CARE ABOUT THIS ALOT

For example, when I read the sentence “I care about this alot,” this is what I imagine:





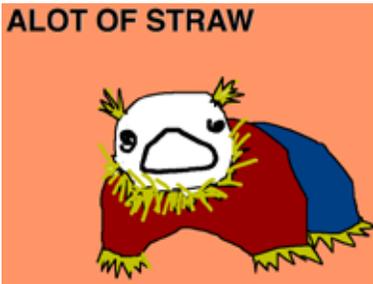
ALOT OF FIRE



ALOT OF MIST

Similarly, when someone says "alot of _____", I picture an Alot made out of whatever they are talking about.

If someone says something like "I feel lonely alot" or "I'm angry alot," I'm going to imagine them standing there with an emo haircut, sharing their feelings with an Alot.



ALOT OF STRAW

ALOT OF BEER CANS



I'M SAD, ALOT...



The Alot is incredibly versatile.

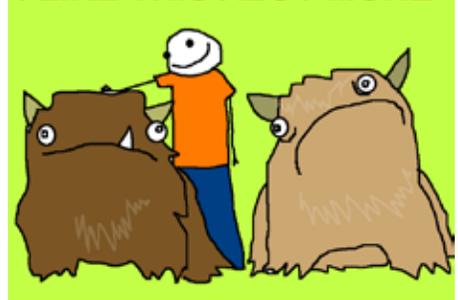
CHARGING ALOT



I HEAR THAT ALOT...



I LIKE THIS ALOT MORE



ALOT MORE DANGEROUS



So the next time you are reading along and you see some guy ranting about how he is "alot better at swimming than Michael Phelps," instead of getting angry, you can be like "You're right! Alots are known for their superior swimming capabilities."

ALOT

MICHAEL PHELPS



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Based on a work at hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com.

The Love Engineer

How to Deal with Females

When I first started engineering and talked about engineering boys to my female friends, their first thought would be, “oh... nerds.” Are you insulted? If I was a man I probably would be. I would obviously want females to say, “OMG a huge population of testosterone. So hot!! Please let me hang around you while you study in ELW so I can stalk them!” Imagine... if all of us were more talented in the dating area and had a better love reputation, there’d be more girls hanging around ELW and the gender ratio might be more balanced. How do you become a good date? Well, analyze the situation chart below:

Situation	Typical Male Engineer	The Fix
You are stinky. You need to start smelling good. What do you do?	“Oh, I saw that axe commercial where all the girls attack the man who sprayed himself silly. I’m going to start doing that.”	There is nothing I hate more than axe (or anything else overpowering). The more fresh & subtle the smell, the more it lures a girl in, especially when she’s close to you. I used to spend hours in the laundry detergent aisle when I worked in a grocery store (hint hint).
You don’t exercise. You never work out. Fitness is not part of your regimen.	“MEAT WILL MAKE ME STRONG!! GAWHAHAWH!”	Ok, you can eat your meat if you feel like it makes you stronger. To be honest, it doesn’t really matter if you’re skinny* or super muscular. The only turnoff is when you’re so unfit you can’t exercise, run, do anything active or keep up with a girl. I once went on a hike with a guy up Mt. Finlayson and he was so lame he gave up halfway. Not impressed!
You are about to have a conversation with a female.	“Easy. I’ll boast about my GPA and tell her about all the courses I’m taking this semester.”	That is boring. I hate it when guys go on about their brains** Conversations about real life situations and society are the best and can show how deep you are.
You exchanged numbers with a female	“I think I will wait for her to call me.”	Are you an idiot?! ELW has the worst reception. If you miss a call and it doesn’t show up on your phone, she will think you’re a jerk cuz you never called back. Figure this out yourself.
You are going on a date. You don’t know what to wear.	“I think I’ll wear a shirt and jeans, or a polo with dress pants.”	Good job. Formal Fridays has prepared you well.
You’ve invited a female into your room	“I will hunt a moose and hang it on my wall. I am a man. I can hunt.”	TAKE THAT DOWN!!!! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF FOR MURDERING ANIMALS!!

* If you are anorexic, then that is scary. You should never be skinnier, or weigh less than your date.

** If the female is majoring in a program that is not engineering, make sure you do not make engineering sound superior, as if you’re smarter than all the other students on campus, because even though it’s true, you don’t want to come off as cocky. Besides, she will have already figured that out anyways.

What Grinds My Gears

Smartphone obsolescence

My Nexus One, which was Google's flagship phone when it was announced 16 months ago, is already ridiculously obsolete. It's slow, it doesn't have enough ROM, and it crashes all the time from running out of memory if I don't reboot it every day. And this is the case with most year-old smartphones, too. I will be likely be getting a new phone when my contract expires in a few months, and I am expecting my new phone to have similar problems after a year. I'm thankful I'm only on a 2-year contract - what are you supposed to do on a 3-year?

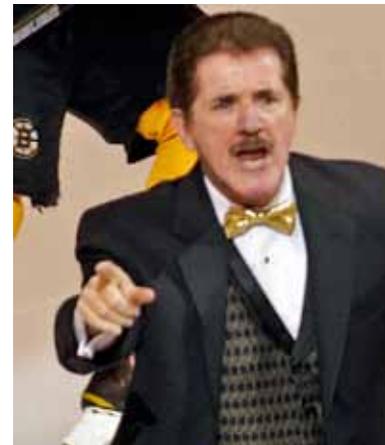
And don't say "well if you just got an iPhone, you wouldn't have this problem." How many people do you know who still have an iPhone 3GS? Yeah, there are a few still around, but not many. 3GS's run pretty slowly if you update to the latest version of iOS (and if you don't, you can't multitask). And if you have an iPhone 4, it's impossible to change the battery, thanks to Apple using a screw head not found anywhere else; once your phone is 2 years old and your battery can barely hold a charge, you have no choice but to pay Apple to take a couple screws off.

With phones becoming more like computers, they've inherited some of the problems of computers as well, and rapid obsolescence is one of them. It sucks.

Boston Bruins' Anthem Singer

Seriously, what the heck? First of all, he's not that great a singer. He can't hold a pitch and uses way too much vibrato. Second, what's up with his celebration at the end? Seriously, it looks even stupider than Conan O'Brien's intro dance (I actually like Conan, but I think some of the things he does are incredibly stupid). I'm not sure if anyone else has noticed this, but in said celebration, he gives a V-sign. If his palm was facing outward, this would be a sign of peace, or possibly the number two. But no, his palm is facing inward, which is how you flip someone off in many countries, including the UK and Australia (seriously, look up "V sign" on Wikipedia).

I guess there's one thing I like about the guy: he provides yet one more reason beating Boston is going to be awesome.



XKCD: Server Attention Span



Concert review

USS

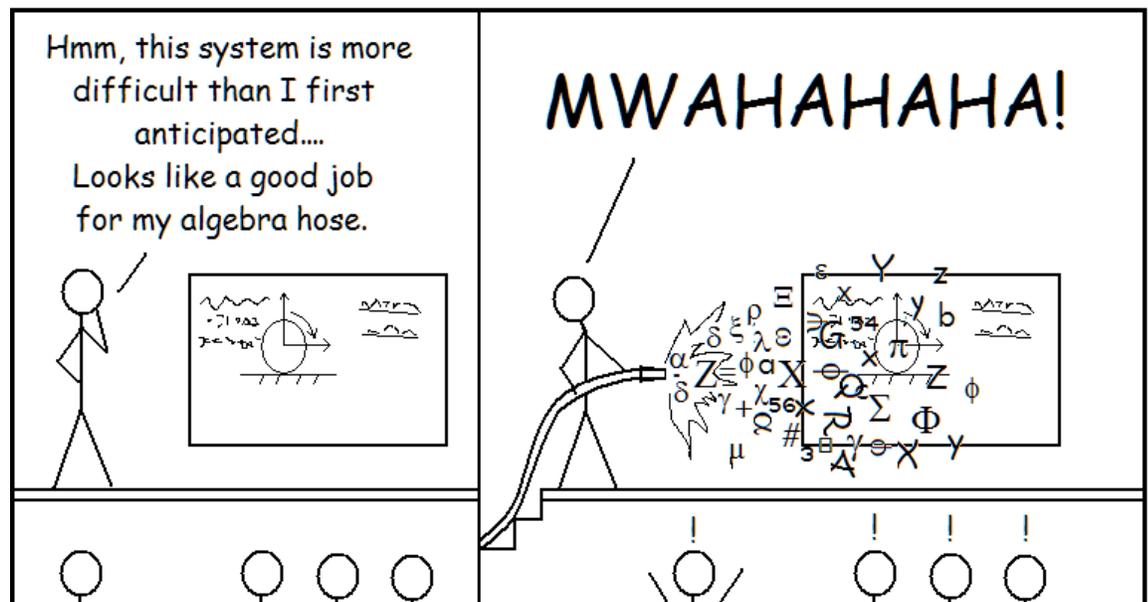
May 28 at Sugar Nightclub

From the lightning clouds of Venus with a bullet, mystery and romance proudly present live and direct from the ether, Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker! The theatrical duo from Toronto that blew doors from hinges May 28th at Sugar. For their opening act the Human Kebab (Jason Parsons), decided that his keyboard section could only be played while doing a headstand with the keyboard still on the table, so that's how he played it. But that was just the beginning. They then roared through the core of their setlist including Anti-Venom, Hollowpoint Sniper Hyperbole, and Laces Out, which left the crowd completely exhausted. To give everyone a break, it was time to make a smoothie on stage to share with the audience; I'm told it was delicious. From there it was time to learn about Stationary Robbery, the tale of inflicting the most malicious attack on a person's productivity — stealing their pen so they can't even write. After a few more songs, and many more antics including the duo climbing each other's shoulders during songs, an oscilloscope, faked death, and portable turntables it was finally time for the acoustic set. During this, the band began the well known chant GO CANUCKS GO — but one that would not last long due to the engineers in the crowd.

By virtue of being the loudest in the crowd, the chant quickly changed to F*#@# BOSTON. After the show, the only logical option was to make up for previously-missed smoothies by heading to West Coast Waffles. Should you find yourself with the opportunity to see this great Canadian band they have earned my full recommendation.



Because I forgot to email him about a comic for this Fishwrap until yesterday, enjoy this classic Flash comic:



Engr-Scopes

by P. Gordon



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
The time has come to develop a catch phrase for yourself. If you already have one, it's time to punch yourself in the stomach.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
Look inward for inspiration, Libra. You are full of amazing bacteria and parasites.



Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
You are getting very sleepy - or maybe just tired of life.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
A lot of interesting distractions are popping up, but you must focus on the boring, drab challenges at hand... or watch "Baby Monkey Riding Backwards on a Pig." :-)

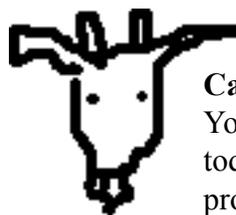


Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Miscommunication could land you in trouble this week. Avoid this by playing deafeningly loud music whenever there are people around.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
A man named Oscar has been leaving small change on the ground for you, since you were a child. Now he wants it back.



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Do some stream-of-consciousness writing; you may be surprised how messed up you are.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You will feel the need to pee today. The stars predict that you probably should.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Give blood or donate some organs this week. You have an opportunity to save a life; yours is already a lost cause.



Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
This week will bring you great success in all of your cryptozoological pursuits.



Word of the Week

Procrastineating

The consumption of food undertaken to avoid a dull or arduous task, irrespective of hunger levels or the time of day.

Mark: Man, this History paper's taking me forever...I could go for some Guacamole and Spicy Salsa dip on crackers...

John: Dude, you ate lunch half an hour ago. Quit procrastineating and get back into it!

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
In today's busy world, you will find that you must choose between Family, Career, Romance and Eating.



Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
You have to get rid of some of the clutter in your life, or you may end up on television.



The Fun Page!

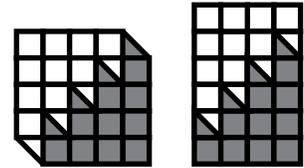
Double Sudoku

This works just like two regular Sudoku puzzles, except 4 boxes are shared between two puzzles.

The first person to bring this completed Sudoku to the ESS office wins a free shot glass!

	4		5	9				
9								4
			2	3			6	
8		9						3
1				5				2
			2		1			
				6		8		
	6				4			6
		7					2	7
			1			3	4	
			2					1
				9		8		5

Solution to last week's puzzle
Cut and assemble the paper like this:



Editor's Note

Note to self: releasing a Fishwrap on a Monday after being on the mainland for the weekend is a bad idea.

Hopefully the Canucks will win tonight, and I can get back to being generally productive. (Or not; I just bought Portal 2.)

Fishwrap has a new email address! The old one will still work, but this one is easier to remember than *essa-com*. Got something you want to see in Fishwrap? Send it to fishwrap@engr.uvic.ca

Joel Geddert
ESS Director of Communications

Difficult fun challenge!

Can you find 10 differences between these two pictures of polar bears in a blizzard?
(Correct answer will be posted outside the ESS office... seriously.)



This week's Contributors:
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