

# WAT'S NEW?

UWATERLOO AFFAIRS WEEKLY

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1975

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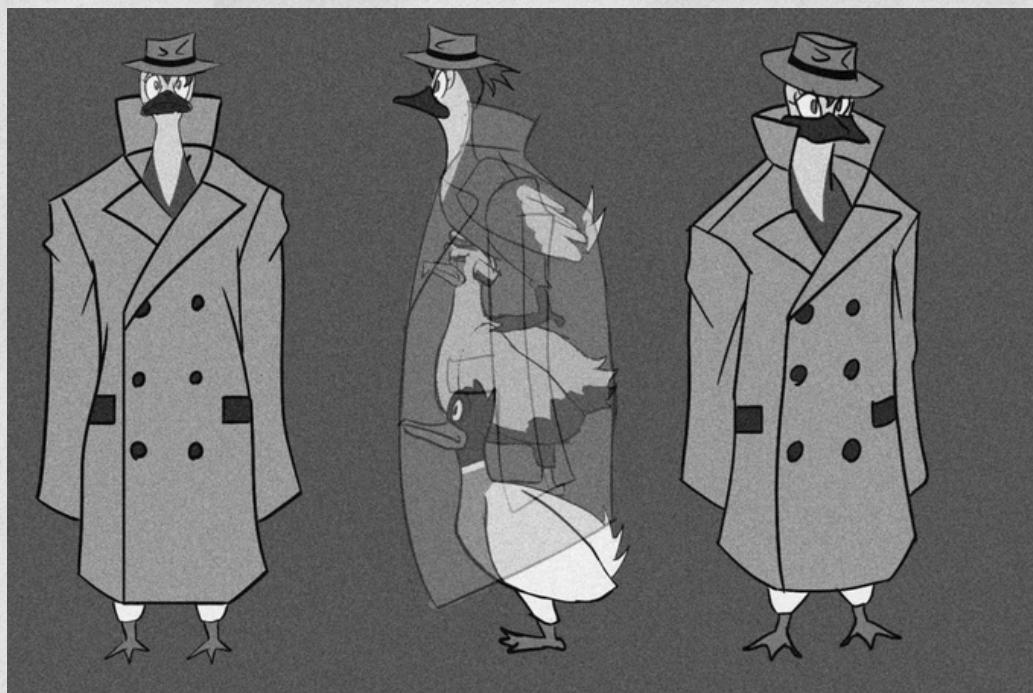
## DISASTROUS HEALTH STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

TOM HANSSON

A practical assignment in the Health Faculty unexpectedly escalated into a national health crisis on Monday after students conducting a rather routine nutritional science project unintentionally distributed cartons of improperly stored **flan** samples to several campus groups—and later, to partner organizations off-campus.

According to early reports, the samples, meant to model “a high-efficiency enhanced micronutrient blend,” developed bacterial growth after being left unrefrigerated overnight, leading to widespread cases of gastrointestinal illness. By mid-week, clinics across Ontario reported a noticeable uptick in

identical symptoms, prompting the Ministry of Health to trace the source back to the university exercise. While no cases have been classified as severe, the number of affected individuals was large enough for federal agencies to issue a short-term advisory and request immediate cooperation from the university.



## ESPIONAGE IN THE BSA?

OWEN LEWIS

The Biology Student Association (BSA) has found itself in hot water, possibly the same kind favoured by migratory waterfowl, after allegations emerged that its president is not, in fact, human. Reports began

spreading across campus that the president is actually three geese stacked inside a trench coat, a theory strengthened by sightings of feathers drifting out of meeting rooms and the president's suspicious habit of

waddling rather than walking. University officials have begun reviewing the situation, citing multiple concerns about governance standards, office cleanliness, and the increasing likelihood that the BSA's executive decisions are being guided by beings who cannot legally sign forms, operate **lab** equipment, or resist chasing undergraduates carrying food. The committee assigned to the issue has been attempting to conduct interviews, though progress has been slow due to what one administrator described as “the persistent need to dodge flapping wings.” In the interest of fairness, this paper attempted to interview the president outside the Biology building. The figure arrived unsteadily, trench coat swaying, as though trying to balance several independently-minded components. When asked to respond to the allegations, the president leaned forward, extended what seemed suspiciously like a beak-shaped shadow, and delivered a single, emphatic statement: “HONK.”

# A SECOND NO LONGER EXISTS

PATRICIA YOUNG

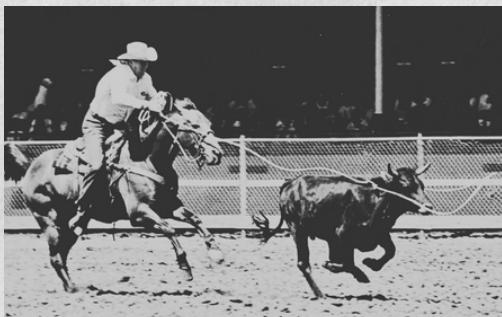
The English Students' Society has caused widespread confusion after formally announcing that the word "second" is a linguistic fiction that must be abolished. **These** intense declarations arose during a seminar, which ended with dictionaries being dismantled and several students refusing to acknowledge the passage of short time intervals. One nearby lecture reportedly lasted both mere moments and for all eternity. When

questioned by this paper, the group's spokesperson offered only a single explanation before striding away triumphantly: "We reject the tyranny of fabricated increments!" Reactions from the rest of campus range from bafflement to reluctant admiration, with rumours circulating that mathematics students are preparing a counter-statement insisting that time exists whether English majors like it or not.



# DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS FUNDS LASSO

ROBERT THOMSEN



In a development that has both puzzled administrators and amused half the Math Faculty, Professor Leonard W. Canfield reportedly used a small portion of this year's discretionary departmental funding to acquire what he describes as a "high-precision, tactically engineered academic lasso." The item, sourced from an equestrian supply shop in Kitchener, was purchased under a line item labeled "experimental instructional materials," which technically remains within policy, though only barely. Professor Canfield insists the lasso has "clear pedagogical value," claiming it helps demonstrate concepts related to rotational dynamics, tension curves, and "the general beauty of controlled chaos." Students in his third-year class confirm he has already used it twice—once to illustrate a conic section, and once to wrangle a piece of chalk he had thrown too enthusiastically, attempting to

"recreate a shot that I saw in a movie once." The department has launched a review, though insiders say nothing will likely come of it since no one can locate a rule explicitly banning rope-based teaching. In the meantime, Professor Canfield has assured colleagues that he intends to use the lasso "responsibly, mathematically, and never indoors unless provoked by unruly equations."

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# CONCEIVABLE DANGER IN MC STAIRWELL

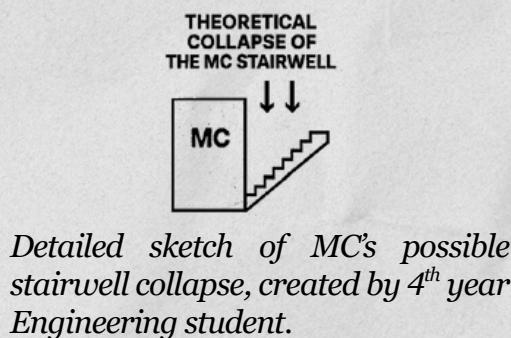
IAN NARANG

Recent tests confirm that the vertical stability in the new MC stairwell is **still** theoretical. The findings come following reports that the stairwell "felt more philosophical than structural." According to one engineering student, the issue lies in



"a difference of opinion between the stairs and gravity." Officials maintain that the stairwell remains perfectly safe, though several students have begun describing their commute between floors as "an act of faith." When asked for comment, a spokesperson said the building

"continues to meet all measurable standards of uprightness," but added that a thorough review is underway—preferably from the ground floor.



# NEW 'JAIL CELL' BUILT BY PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

HARRIOT SMITH

Several students have reportedly disappeared after the Psychology Department received a sudden and unusually large budget increase, prompting rumours that the funds were used to construct an "experiment room in the style of a jail cell" somewhere inside PAS. While the department officially calls it a behavioural research space, students claim it features barred windows, echoing hallways, and at least one sign reading "Authorized Subjects Only" in ominous handwriting. The missing students were last seen entering PAS for routine participation credit sessions, though classmates say they never re-emerged, leading to widespread speculation that the

experiments now include "extended stays." Some swear they've heard metal doors clanging in the basement and the occasional squeal of a **pig**, but most have agreed not to go check. When approached for clarification, a department representative provided the lone official comment: "It's all for research. We would never use it for anything else. That's silly." In response, the campus has adopted a simple safety policy: no one enters PAS alone, and psych experiments are now being completed exclusively by brave, unpaid volunteers from Engineering. Engineering students contacted for comment declined, stating only that "the risk-reward ratio still beats group projects."

# ELECTION TURNOUT SHATTERS RECORDS

GREG POSAVEC

Early reports indicate that this year's WUSA election has reached a groundbreaking 7% turnout of **real** students, shattering the previous record of somewhere between 3% and -2%. Election candidates have campaigned vigorously, with their platforms ranging from putting more chairs in the SLC to putting a lot more chairs in the SLC. Students interviewed said they were aware an election was probably happening and they were "vaguely supportive of democracy, depending on the midterm schedule." Results are expected whenever the ballots stop blowing around the PAC hallway.

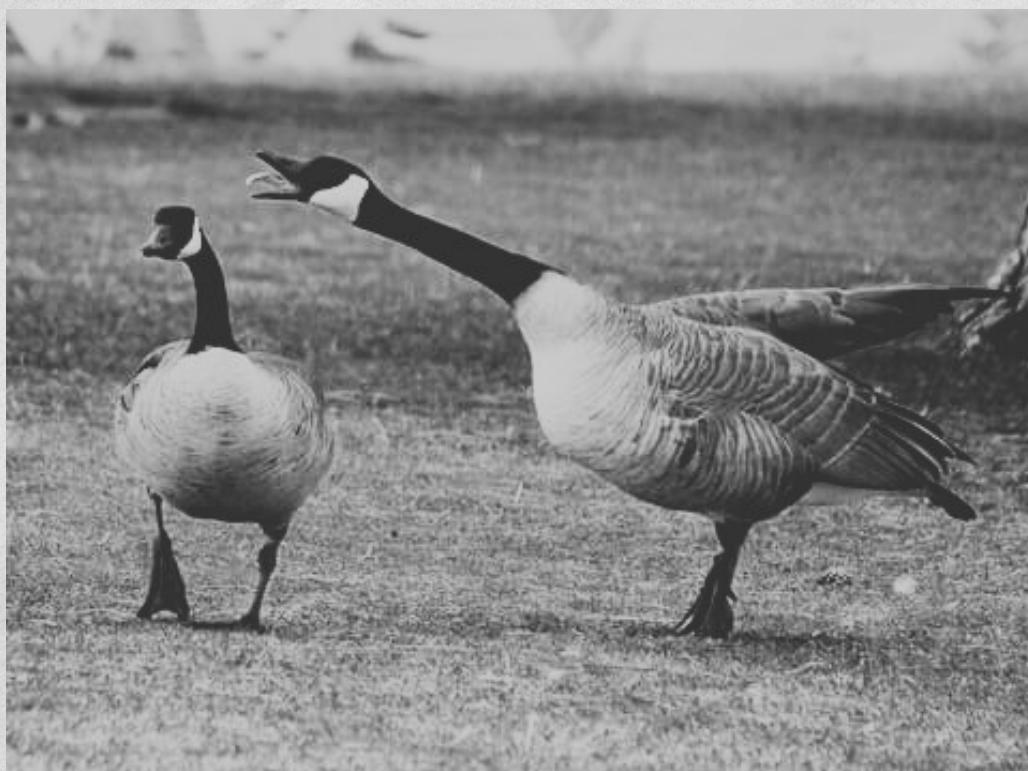


# THE ORIGIN OF GEESE

TABITHA KEENE

Waterloo students have long suspected that the campus geese are not ordinary birds, and recent sightings suggest their origins may be far stranger than anyone ever imagined. According to local avian investigators, the geese appear to arrive each year fully coordinated, as if shipped in from some secret goose factory rather than migrating naturally. Multiple witnesses report formations too precise for wild birds and attacks on students carrying backpacks appear to be suspiciously synchronized. Rumours abound that the geese were introduced decades ago as part of an experiment in population control—or perhaps as unofficial campus security, trained to patrol walkways, enforce lawn etiquette, and exact vengeance on those who disturb their ponds. Some theorists claim the geese might even

be sentient, coordinating weekly strategy meetings under the cover of fog. Attempts to track the birds' breeding grounds have been unproductive and seemingly mocked by the geese themselves. Binoculars, bread crumbs, and whispered questions in the Arts Quad have all failed to yield answers. When asked for comment, a lone goose standing by Ring Road starting honking, which experts have cautiously interpreted as either confirmation or a polite refusal to cooperate. Other students on the scene believe to have heard the **words** "the origin of us geese shall forever be a mystery you featherless mortals were never meant to piece together." As of now, students are advised to keep a respectful distance, carry emergency snacks, and assume that anywhere on campus could be under goose surveillance.



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# RECORD MADE BY DANA PORTER LIBRARY

ISABELLA CHOW

The Dana Porter Library is officially the only library on earth that is sinking every year. After years of rumour and half-serious debate, new campus reports confirm that the Dana Porter Library continues to descend into the earth at a measurable rate of roughly one millimetre per year. The findings come from a joint study between Civil Engineering and the Geophysics Club, who insist their data collection methods were both "rigorous and armingly casual." According to legend, the library's gradual sinking is caused by "too much wisdom concentrated in one spot," a phrase repeated often enough to become near-official. Yet, when asked for a technical explanation, one professor admitted the phenomenon "defies simple structural analysis, but not

myth." Other universities have long tried to claim similar quirks. The University of Toronto once argued that Robarts Library was also sinking, but follow-up inspections revealed only uneven heating vents. At McGill, Redpath Library briefly held the title after a mis-calibrated instrument suggested it was dropping two millimetres per year. At the University of Waterloo, however, the evidence seems to be irrefutable. Photographs comparing the library steps from 1965 to 1975 **do** show a subtle but consistent drop, now a point of pride among students who joke that the building is "literally going under for us." There are also official documents, ironically located within the Dana Porter Library, that strongly implore librarians to remove the first letter from all titles and authors in an effort to "save weight."

In fact, this paper is considering implementing this idea in our own publications to proactively mitigate further sinking. The administration has issued no official comment as of late, though maintenance staff have quietly begun adding extra concrete beneath the front steps "for aesthetic balance." For now, Dana Porter stands—or rather, sinks—as the world's only library that refuses to stay put.



# ENTIRELY NEW COMMITTEE FORMED TO INVESTIGATE COMMITTEES

SAMANTHA ORMOND

For the first time in the history of the University of Waterloo, in a move nobody questioned, a committee has been created to determine why there are so many committees. The new "Committee on the Formation of Committees" was approved last Thursday after recommendations were brought forth from three separate committees. Members say

the first task of this committee will be to form subcommittees to decide how best to study the issue, though insiders suggest sub-subcommittees may eventually be necessary to finalize the subcommittee structure. When asked for a timeline, Chairperson Margaret K. Hill said one would be set "pending consultation with various scheduling committees." A report is expected by 1982, provided quorum is ever reached and members do **not** perish during the marathon of meetings.

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## NON-STOP PRICE RISES

FRANK SCHREIBER

Announced quietly last Thursday, the changes were described by Food Services as a "sound and minor realignment of purchasing values." Students, however, describe them as "a historic event." The price of coffee has risen from 15 to 20 cents, leading to what one residence advisor called "an atmosphere of fiscal panic." Some students are now pooling funds for

group coffee purchases, while others have turned to vending machines for moral support, if not caffeine. Tea drinkers, long considered a calmer demographic, have remained largely composed, though several have begun bringing their own bags just in case. Officials defended the increase, citing "market fluctuations" and "the continued unpredictability of fresh

powdered eggs." One spokesperson assured us that the quality of service remains uncompromised, though several diners noted that the new soup "tastes more aware of its own cost." Economics students have begun modelling the potential long-term impact of the price changes, estimating that by 1980, a full breakfast could reach unimaginable heights — possibly 50 cents! Some in the Math Faculty have proposed establishing an "Index of Pancake Value" to track fluctuations more precisely. Rumours persist that a second price adjustment could follow next term, possibly tied to inflation or the mysterious disappearance of forks. Until then, students are advised to budget carefully or develop a taste for free crackers.



*Anonymous UW  
Food Services  
Employee*

"We don't set the prices; we just watch them climb. Students act like we raise them ourselves! Honestly, I miss when the biggest complaint was the mystery meat."

## IMMEDIATE HALT OF MATHNEWS WRITTEN FORM

IGOR NILLSON

In a surprise mass departure late Friday, every mathNEWS typist resigned, leaving the publication's future in limbo. With no more typists left on staff to operate the stubborn typewriters, editors have resorted to reading each article aloud while

walking the halls of MC. Stairwells have become unofficial broadcast studios, carrying everything from budget notes to faculty musings, and voiced in tones ranging anywhere from "utterly bored" to "Oscar-worthy." The publication's editors insist the arrangement is temporary, though until they can get new typists, the campus should expect its news "projected with clarity and volume."



# NOT SO GREEN ENERGY

VERONICA McDougall

A scandal of near-mythic proportions has erupted in the Faculty of Environment after students learned that the department's much-touted "green energy source" is, in fact, regular coal painted green. The coal had been heralded in official announcements as a revolutionary step towards sustainable energy, complete with charts, diagrams, and carefully staged photographs of students pretending to burn it in small braziers. Sources say the "research team" spent months testing the colorfastness of the paint, while entirely ignoring any questions about emissions, combustion, or actual energy production. When confronted,

a faculty spokesperson offered the department's only comment: "It's environmentally and philosophically symbolic." Attempts to clarify whether "symbolic" included actual reductions in pollution were met with a lot of vague references to "raising awareness." Campus reaction has ranged from extreme outrage to uncontrollable laughter. Engineering students have reportedly started a counter-project to make "blue energy" by painting natural gas blue. The University of Waterloo's official response included a task force, a pie chart, and a press release that used more words than necessary while slightly increasing carbon emissions.

# ERR AT THE LUNCHEON

ELLIOT MCINTYRE

University of Waterloo President, Burton Matthews, admits his favourite faculty is undoubtedly the Math Faculty. The remark, made during Thursday's President's Luncheon, reportedly stunned at least three members of Engineering and sent the Arts table into "deep philosophical reflection." Matthews, seemingly unaware of the brewing storm, added that "there's just something about those math students — they always look like they're up to something important with those calculators." Witnesses described the atmosphere as "lightly charged." One attendee from the Faculty of Science claimed that Matthews was smiling "in a way that could either be friendly or very smug," while another insisted "tis but a statistical joke. Probably."



Several onlookers began debating whether the president's

fondness extended to the pink tie mascot itself, though no official statement has been made. One particularly bold Arts professor was overheard muttering, "next thing you know, Calculus will be a mandatory prerequisite for all English literature courses." Since the luncheon, rumours have circulated that Engineering is preparing a "measured but firm response," possibly involving a slide rule demonstration. Meanwhile, Math students have reportedly taken to referring to the president as "an honorary combinator." When asked

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for clarification late on Thursday, a spokesperson for the President's Office said only, "he stands by his admiration for numbers." At press time, the university community remained divided, and a follow-up statement was expected pending further calculations.

## WAT'S CLASSIFIEDS

Offering typing services for essays, lab reports, angry letters to the Dean, resumés, and love letters to your secret crush. Electric typewriter included. Guaranteed to make your academic papers look 5% smarter than they actually are.

Brave engineer seeking a loyal companion to stay by my side. If you are ready to dive into a committed and potentially locked-up relationship, then toss a key down to the PAS basement. You will be rewarded with *endless* affection, oysters, and a shiny new Rolex.

Anyone else noticing all the aliens and UFOs recently around campus or is that just me?

UW President, feeling empty *inside* after a breakup with my favourite calculator. Carbonated beverages have failed to soothe the grief. Will you be the one to quench my inner thirst for equations? Write to P.O. Box 1729.

Tall brunette with a bit of a *wild* side, looking for someone to steal breakfast with. You grab the pancakes and instant coffee, I'll swipe the forks. Sound crazy? I call it staying fresh.

To the student who borrowed my calculator: Yes, I saw you using it during midterms. No, I did not approve. I await an apology.

FOR SALE. Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. No longer needed since I know everything.

Horse lover looking to snag a great catch! If you enjoy *starting* your day with a kiss on your boo-boos, then saddle up and giddy-up over to Elmira Stables and ask for Cliff. First-aid certification required.

Looking for students to ask questions during my in-class presentation. Questions will be pre-arranged. You will only need to ask questions during the question period, and then nod thoughtfully after they are answered.

Apathetic voter seeking post-midterm recovery. Plans include lounging in an oversized chair and *filling* up on big beef sandwiches. If you appreciate pickles and cheese, you're invited. BYOC.

FOR SALE. Green parka. Lightly used. Comes with free pocket chalk.

Perfect Circle drawing competition next Tuesday in the SLC. Circles will be judged by Dean of Arts, J. S. Minas. Be there or be square!

Highly unstable architecture tired of defying gravity. Seeking a morally upright partner for a fresh *start*. Must enjoy long drives, hornets, and gremlins. If your name is Vilhjalmur Stefansson, don't bother applying.

Tottenham Hotspur watch party this Saturday at the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Building room 1515. Stoke City fans need not come unless they are interested in watching their team lose.

To the individual who removed a green parka from the Dana Porter lounge: Not yours. Mine. Please return it. It has chalk in the pockets.

Inseparable trio looking to relocate. Preference for homes with fritted windows. Please submit photos of available space, with a trench coat included for scale. Locations *beside* a pond would be considered exceptionally lucky!

Looking to hire someone to pull the MC fire alarm to get out of writing a test. \$5 for pulling the fire alarm. \$10 if you start a real fire.

Health Sciences student, single and ready to  *mingle*. Passionate about bagels, cakes, bread, cookies, and Pepto Bismol. Looking to get mixed up in a new relationship with someone who appreciates pastries and, ideally, owns a functioning refrigerator. Call 867-5309.

Room for sublet in a four-person apartment on University Avenue West. Must be fine with no running water and a little bit of black mold. Willing to forgo rent in exchange for a piece of your soul and an alibi.

LOST. Purple toy dinosaur. Last seen somewhere in the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Building. If found please bring it to the EngSoc office.

Acapella band seeking a lead singer. Must be able to hit high notes and raise eyebrows. Tuesdays at 7PM in the Student Union basement.

## WEEKLY PUZZLES

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:

Across:

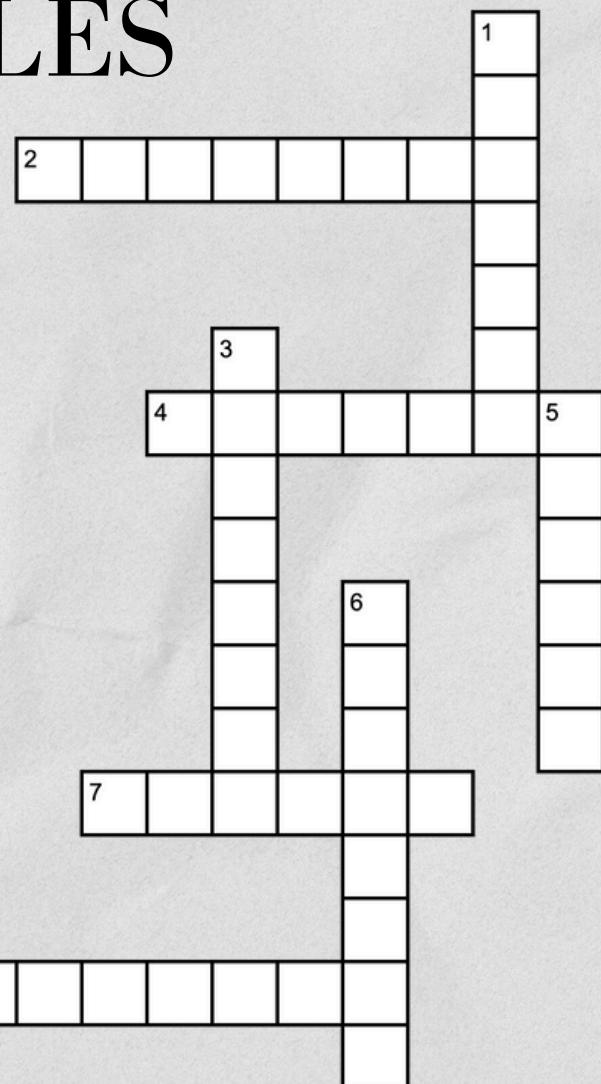
- 2. Call Jenny (8)
- 4. Arctic Exploration (7)
- 7. "Captain Crash" From Dallas (6)
- 8. Doing Time Together (7)

Down:

- 1. Bring Your Own Chair (7)
- 3. Hardy-Ramanujan Number (8)
- 5. Duck Duck (6)
- 6. Dine and Dash (8)

## SUDOKU:

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## DROPQUOTE:

