

CALC 1 MIDTERM HAS LOWEST AVERAGE IN COURSE HISTORY



After news sad enough to make even the cruelest of profs shed a tear, faculty are left wondering if students are really that cooked. Read more on Page 2.

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Games, gossip,
and more!

Calc 1 Midterm Has Record Low Average

By Frank Goodfellow

In an event most didn't think possible, the first Calc 1 midterm records an average so low that it surpasses logical boundaries. After concerns about the validity of the midterm, faculty responded saying it was the same midterm from the past 10 years. Upon a closer look, investigators not only found this to be true, but in fact, the only question was to find the derivative of $\cos(\sin(67x))$. We spoke with Mike Ox, the only student who passed the midterm, and he claimed students in the exam room read the question and immediately started saying 'six sevennnn' over and over. Mike told us that the midterm had to be cancelled as these first years would just simply not shut up. The final average for the test was -42%, a new low for math students at UofG. O'SNAP journalists reached out to the TA's responsible for grading but they denied a request for comment unless we would grade the next midterm for them.

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THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mattigan Dillabough

Eva Cuddihy

Nola Hinton

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Mac Hilborn
(In loving memory)

Your Pal Bunsen

Bunsen Questioners

Helia Minaian

And our dedicated
supporters!

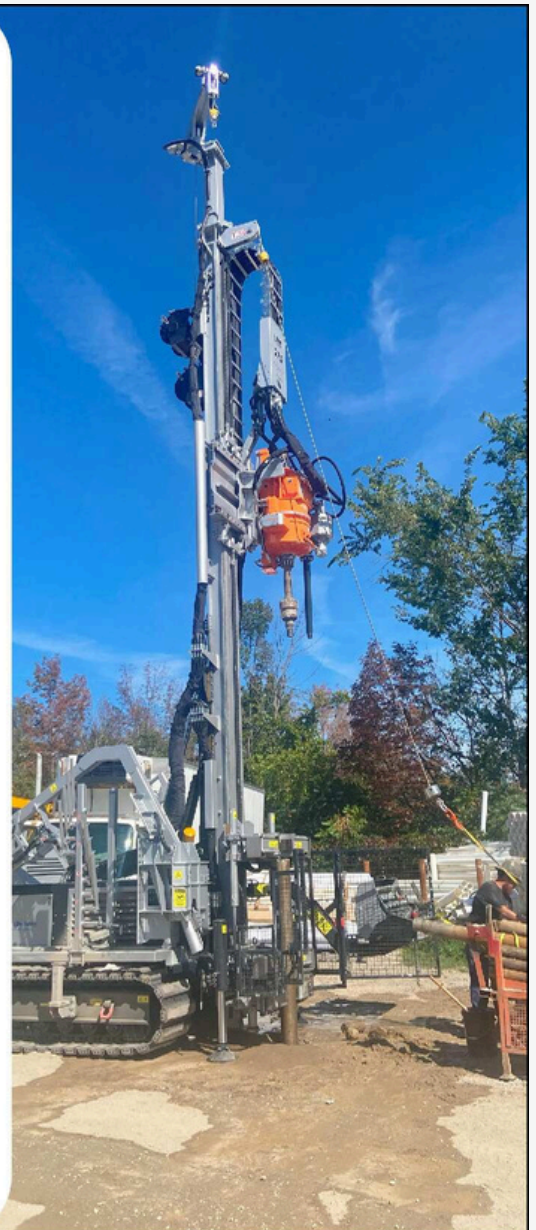


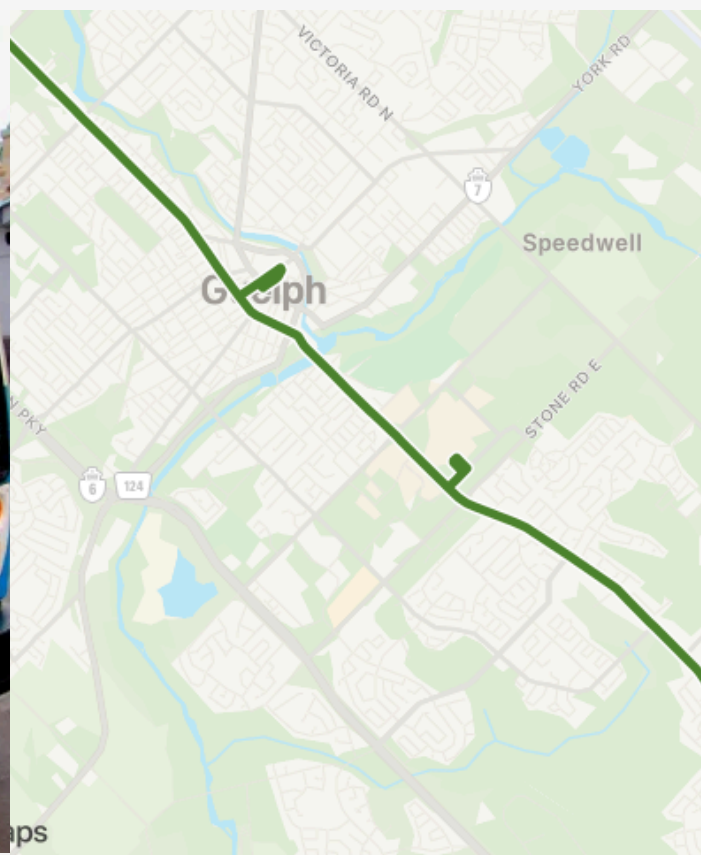
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An Ode to the Mainline 99 (...or a rant more or less)

By @ ilovethemainline99 on instagram

Ah, Guelph, the city that combines small-town vibes and big-city energy. Connecting all corners of town is the Guelph Transit system, with a plethora of bus lines that get you wherever you need to go—a standard, healthy public transit system, with frequent departures & timely buses. However, over the past few years — directly correlated with higher admission rates from UofG — this once healthy transit ecosystem has become tainted, and nowhere is this felt more than on the 99 Mainline. Excited to attend your 8:30 AM lecture (you need help)? Running late to any lecture? Trying to dodge the brutal weather conditions on your commute home? Sucks to suck. As many students have encountered, the 99 Mainline does not GAF about your feelings or your schedule. Lineups of nearly +50 people starting 30 minutes ahead of the scheduled bus departure, reports of almost 6-8 buses passing stops before one finally lets you on, and, once on board, being sandwiched like sardines, relying on whatever arm strength you've got to hang on for dear life. If that was not bad enough, I assure you that the commute home is just as enjoyable. Coming home after classes? Hope you have some WWE training, because people will try to push you aside to get on the bus first. At times, this commute makes the TTC look like a utopian experience. Have you experienced this? Have you witnessed this? How does that make you feel? Personally, as the mainline 99, I do not concern myself with overcrowding or lack of accessibility...but you should! This is an ode, a rant, and nothing of substance; however, there are three things you can do to push back against this (in order of importance):

1. Follow the ilovethemainline99 Instagram account to see memes that help you cope.
2. Complete the recent Guelph Transit survey for feedback on the current system.
3. Sign petitions to encourage implementing smarter plans with increasing incoming class sizes (this goes for off-campus housing, too).

We Have to Stop Using AI

By: Mattigan Dillabough

I know, I know, this is an easy opinion to dismiss as an older generation being averse to innovation and change but stay with me. People are historically terrible with change. I'm sure that when vehicles became popularized there were 80-year-old men shouting in the street that kids would grow up to be soft and lazy, or when laptops started being used in classroom settings and everyone thought it would be the end of handwriting. It's natural for society to chase innovation, and it's also natural for people to be sceptical to introduce new tools in everyday life. The biggest difference I see between the natural progression of tools in society and AI is that AI doesn't just make it easier for you to find answers, it takes away the need for you to think at all. It is and will continue to be the tool to erase all other tools, the ultimate cheat code to evade critical thinking, hard work, and merit. The effects of this will be uniquely felt in classroom settings.

Prevalence in School

I'll be the first to say I have absolutely used AI to do schoolwork (just for studying OF COURSE, don't come after me Guelph) but having started my degree in 2021, I also remember a time when it didn't exist. In my second year I chose International Development as an elective, my favourite course I've taken thus far. Every week we were assigned a documentary to watch on humanitarian aid and throughout the semester we read a book on an international crisis and the response. I engaged in the course content because I had to in order to pass, how else would I have written discussion posts, an essay, and the tests? My 'reward' for doing the work was a good grade (which was what I wanted) and a deeper understanding of how the world works (a happy bonus). But AI has fundamentally changed the work required for students to reach their goal. There are students taking the same course I took three years ago who will get a better grade than me and know entirely nothing about international development because they used AI for everything. The problem with this is that AI only knows as much as it's fed, and it is fed by thousands and thousands of scholars who did research and figured stuff out. If AI introduces an easier option for students, who will continue to question things and improve on our knowledge of the world? What would be the drive to think when a prompt written into AI will give you a seemingly definitive answer every time? Aside from missing learning opportunities, what skills do we lose when we use AI?

What We Are Sacrificing

Attention Span

Think about how quickly an answer can be found right now about any topic in the world with the use of AI. I could type into ChatGPT right now "Why is AI bad?" and it would give me a plethora of reasons immediately. Before information was so readily available at our fingertips, people had to work for answers to things. I imagine a time where students that didn't understand what the integral of $\ln(x)$ was would go to the library and skim through textbook after textbook to find the answer. They would come across the rule of integration by parts, recognize that it can be applied to their question, and come to the right answer. Now, I don't have to know what integration by parts is, nor do I have to know what an integral is, or even what $\ln(x)$ means (seriously someone tell me, I have no idea). The immediate gratification of having an answer given to you will naturally degrade your tolerance for waiting and staying engaged. How many of us look at our phones 60 times during lecture? How quickly are we to decide that if we don't immediately understand what a professor is saying, we shouldn't even bother listening?

Critical Thinking

Up until now, it has always been that information would be presented in some form and it would be up to the individual to draw conclusions from that. You are in a cave and someone creates a fire? You draw the conclusion that fire is hot and you shouldn't touch it. You read a textbook in the library that explains the properties of an acid and a base? You draw the conclusion that hydrochloric acid is an acid (duh) and sodium hydroxide is a base. With the introduction of AI, you are no longer expected to digest information yourself and critically analyze it because it will be done for you, even if you don't explicitly ask it to. No one is born with this skill, it is developed over time because its imperative that as people move through the world that they can recognize meaning, identify patterns, and form their own opinions. Not to be an alarmist, but if we are all being fed the same information and we have lost the ability to think critically, whose opinions will we be upholding, and who controls the narrative that AI tells us?

Human Connection

I've mentioned a lack of learning a lot in this article, but it's worth mentioning that the use of AI reduces contact you might have had with another human being. How many times have you been sitting in a lecture and seen another student typing questions into AI about the content? Or used AI when you didn't understand a homework problem? I'm going to let you in on a little secret... the professors and TAs know more about the content than AI does, especially in relation to the course you're taking. So while it may be more convenient and potentially less embarrassing to just ask AI, I promise there is deeper connection to be had when you reach out to instructors or raise your hand in class. And what about camaraderie between peers? Some of my best friends have been made by meeting in a study group for a stupidly hard course. The ability to talk through something confusing, share in an experience, and feel understood is invaluable. Lifelong connections are not worth a 5 second answer from AI.

Oh God, What Do We Do???

The answer is obvious, and in case it wasn't (not sure how many people I lost due to a lack of critical thinking or attention span), I put it in the title. We have to stop using AI. My challenge to you is to read your lab manual when you don't understand your lab, look for a published journal about a topic you're researching, raise your hand in class when you forget the units for specific weight, and ask someone in your class to study with you. At the end of the day, we all worked really hard to get into engineering. Just like we deserve to be here, we deserve to learn. Give that to yourself, because AI can't do it for you. Above all, remember that you will get out of your courses exactly what you put into them. The way forward when AI is so accessible is to recenter our goals. I want to get good grades, sure, but I want more to feel a sense of accomplishment, be proud of myself for working hard, and graduate knowing I learned something. Resist the urge to cheat your way out of living your life.

Disclaimer: I know AI has a lot of accessibility related benefits for specific individuals; this article isn't talking about that!



ChatGPT



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Learn more

The Life of a Basement Dweller

By Helia Minaian

Most student houses you'll see will be home to four people; the three regulars who have rooms upstairs, and the cretin who lives in the basement. As one of the cretins, I'll tell you this: living in the basement is AWESOME. Most of the time, the room in the basement was never meant to be a bedroom, and thus its the largest in the house--perfect for cartwheels. The window is a generous 2 square inches, and barely gets any sunlight at peak times of the day. This allows for study days where you lock in so hard the day passes by without you realizing. You don't ever know if it's raining. The rapture could be happening right outside and you would have no idea (but you don't need to worry about that). Not even a booked library study room could bring that kind of isolation and focus. It's GREAT. When I meet a fellow basement-dweller, we form an unbreakable bond for life.

One thing I love about living in the basement--and I'm sure the only children reading will revel in this--you get your own bathroom. This sealed the deal for me when I was offered the choice between the upstairs bedroom and the basement. I can shower any time I damn well please, I don't ever need to do the pee-pee dance in my own private domicile, and I can watch entire seasons of Family Guy on the can without feeling rushed. Pure bliss.

Now listen, does having a room directly below the communal living room, and next to the laundry/boiler room (not the DJ, although its the same volume) get loud? Yes, absolutely. However, one of man's greatest inventions, the AirPods Pro, exist and can delete all the noises in your brain-- with the exception of 8am roof work that will rattle the entire house and make you fear that the ceiling will fall on your face. But it's okay, you have an entire two floors above you for protection.

Some might say, does it not get lonely down there? To those I ask, does it not get DISTRACTING up there? You have 2 people in their rooms around you, one's playing music, the other one's on facetime with their friend, and all you want to do is study for your goddamn mechanics 2 quiz tomorrow. But you can't. Your housemate just barged into your room looking for a marker or something (I wouldn't know what kind of interactions you guys are having, my housemates are afraid of the spiders down here). But you know who can make all that noise and not be judged? You, in the basement. Nobody knows if you're home or not, or if you were murdered 2 weeks ago. Stay mysterious. #Basement4Life.



Bi-Weekly Meme Recap

By Eva Cuddihy

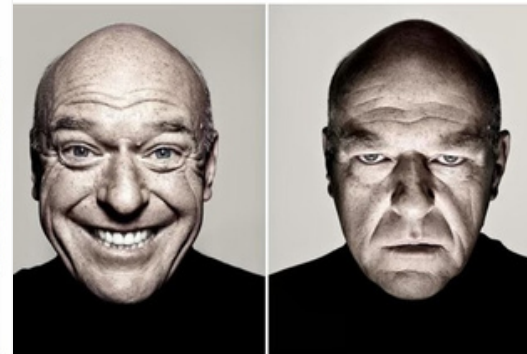
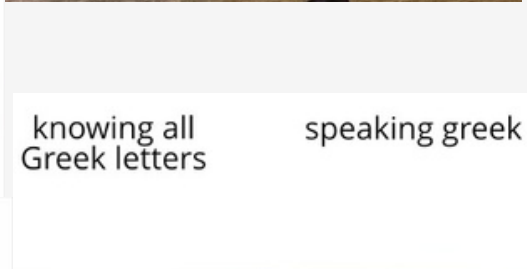
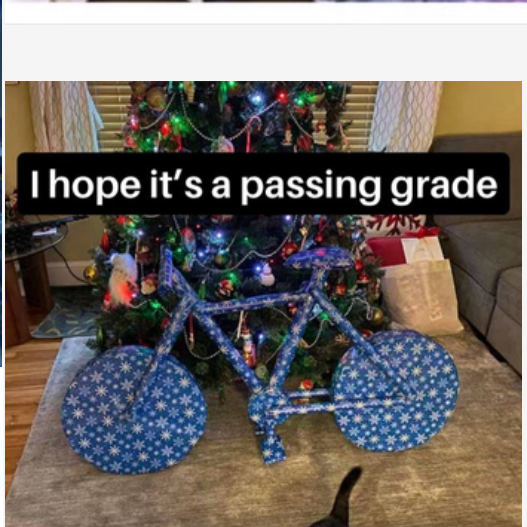
DISCLAIMER: Please use bi-weekly recap in moderation. Excessive use may lead to mid semester joy or potential signs of happiness.



doing right hand rule in the middle of an exam



how I look at Mattucci when I open the exam and see a dinosaur



To Be Frank, Issue #4: Royal City Brew Review

By Franklin Goodfellow

To Be Frank is this years version of an editorial. I (Frank) have set aside time every other week to enjoy a beer at Brass Taps and write about whatever is on my mind.

There is no more denying it, this is simply a beer review article with the occasional monologue every other issue. For this issue I had planned to talk about LabFund and why people should care, but I have realized it's not that deep. What the people do care about though is what beer Frank is drinking this week.

Beer of Paper #4: Royal City Two Rivers Blonde Ale



I was stuck in Guelph for the thanksgiving weekend and went to Royal City Brewing for dinner with some rowing teammates. I took a pretty safe option and went with their blonde option and as expected, I liked it. I find blondes to be pretty casual and light which was nice for sipping along with dinner. I would definitely go back to Royal City Brewing again and would encourage anyone reading to try it as well. Good atmosphere, short bus from campus, and a lot of good food options.



S	Δ δ delta	Λ λ lambda	Ω ω omega	Π π pi	Τ τ tau
A	Α α alpha	Β β beta	Ε ε epsilon	Μ μ mu	Φ φ phi
B	Η η eta	Γ γ gamma	Σ σ/ς sigma	Θ θ theta	
C	Ρ ρ rho	Ψ ψ psi	Ο ο omikron	Ι ι iota	
D	Χ χ hi	Υ υ upsilon	Κ κ kappa		
Rho	Ν ν nu	Ζ ζ zeta	Ξ ξ xi		

GREEK LETTER TIER LIST

By Eva Cuddihy

Have opinions about something and want to make your own tier list? Good for you, submit your hot takes for the next O'SNAP.

Biological



Now is the time to be patient. Be tolerant of delays. Specifically, don't expect any midterm marks to be back before the last week of November. Also don't even think about lab grades, you'll get those in January.

Biomedical



Be weary of tricks and treats this Halloween season. Just because they look good in costume doesn't mean they'll look good in the morning light. Like vampires, some 1 night stands should vanish after sunrise.

Mechanical



It's not that bad. Really not that big of a deal. What's one, or four, bad midterm marks? Just do better on the exam. So light. Just lock in, please.

Mechatronics



Set yourself up well for the future this week. Get tickets to a Halloween event and sell them for double the price on the SnapChat story next week.

Water Resources



Stay calm and find inner peace this week. Ignore all the distractions around you and look within. Fall asleep in your lectures from being so calm.

Systems and Computing



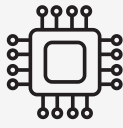
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01110011	01101111	01101101	01100101
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Environmental

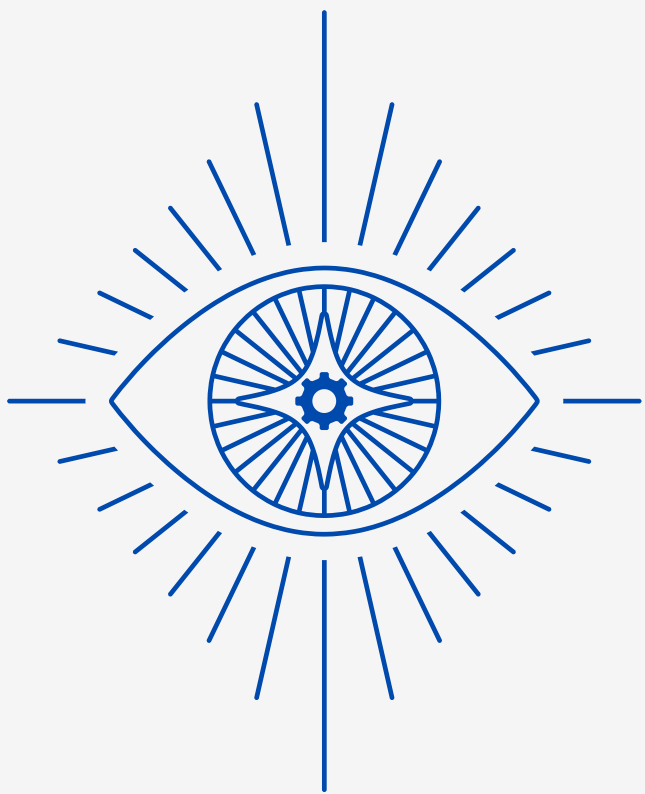


Put your best foot forward and lead by example. This Halloween, use a different costume than the one you've done the previous 2 years. Bonus points if it's not some niche reference.

Computer



Be sure to practice self care. Halloween is soon but lets not scare the cleaning staff when you're still in THORN at 5am. Get some sleep this week buddy.



dear BUNSEN...

Have a question you're too scared to ask your professors, classmates, housemates, or parents? Ask your friend Bunsen - rich in experience (and wit). No question is too unusual or outlandish. Just don't come running back crying if the answer isn't what you expected. The truth can be a hard pill to swallow.

Dear Bunsen,

What's your go to karaoke song? Every time I get up on stage and start singing a song from my favourite Broadway musical. I am immediately thrown off stage.

Love, Heather

Dear Heather,

Some of my go-to's include:

Beethoven's 5th, Acapella style
Bangarang - Skrillex
Anything by Rihanna

Best, Bunsen

Dear Bunsen,

Should I put my life savings on red or black?

-Future gazillionaire

Scan me



Dear investor,

It's gotta be red at some point, right?

From Bunsen, 0 for 12

Dear Bunsen,

How tf do I pass Electronic Devices

-Anonymous

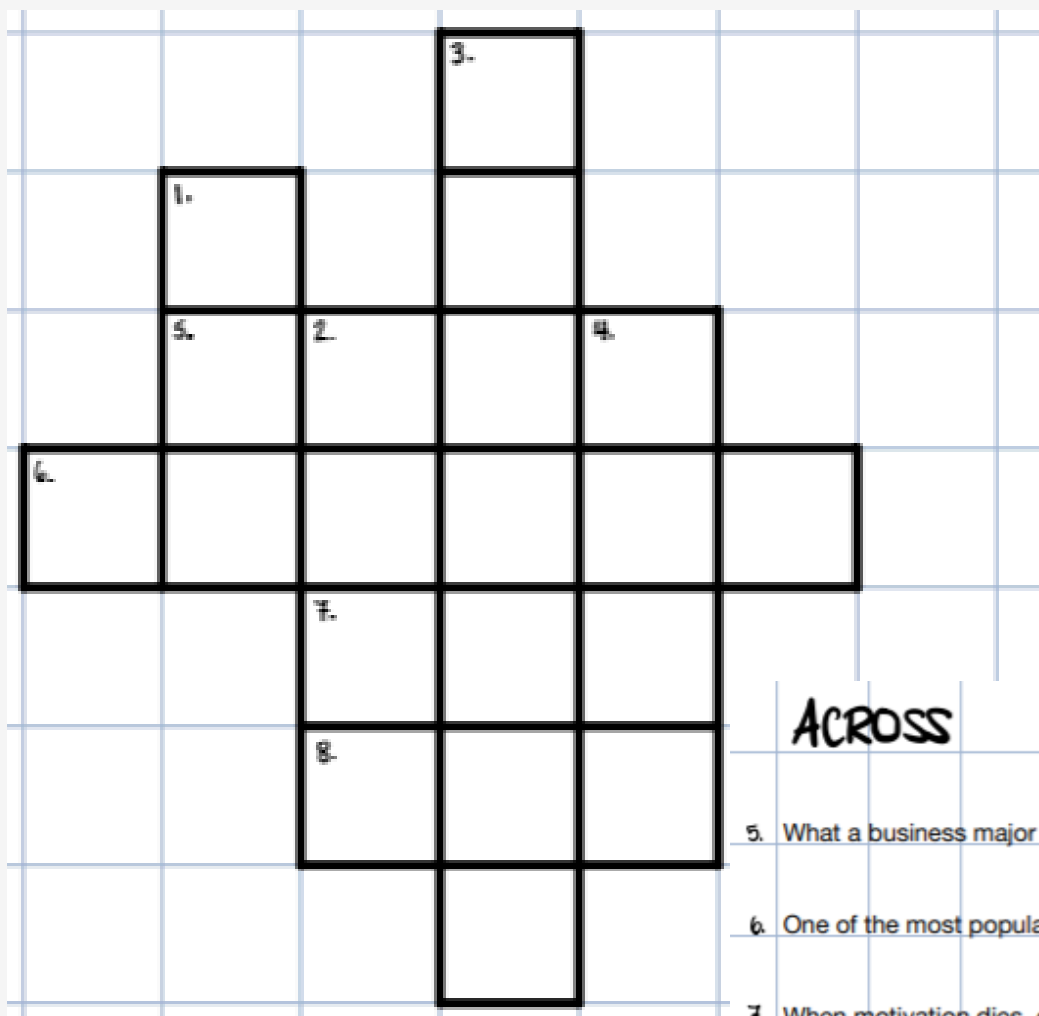
Dear 3rd year (presumably),

I hear rejection therapy can be very useful. Try strategically failing this year and it'll be easier next year.

Sincerely, Bunsen

CROSSWORD

By Nola Hinton



DOWN

ACROSS

- What a business major does to numbers (allegedly).
- One of the most popular Halloween costumes of 2023.
- When motivation dies, engineers consider doing this (with 2 down).
- What's the magic word (abbreviated)?

1. A membership you should consider if you keep locking your keys in your car.
2. When motivation dies, engineers consider doing this (with 7 across).
3. Energy drink & F1 team.
4. Plural verb for putting you butt on a chair!



*Subject to reasonable limits. No eroticas please!