#### 2017 BHSC APPS



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Headline of the Day

## Health Sci administration in turmoil due to desperate shortage of vague supp app questions

BHSc administrators held an emergency Wednesday morning meeting to discuss the critical issue of developing novel questions for the program's supplementary application. "We've already used up 20% of the 5 W's," announced one attendee. "And last I checked, that list isn't getting any longer." The program has been redirecting funds for several years to increase the generation of vague question-like application prompts, yet the results have so far been lackluster.

A number of possible solutions were evaluated in the past application cycle. Though most remained unimplemented, one question about "Bushido" found some success among the faculty after the supp app committee decided to watch *The Last Samurai* 

in lieu of holding a planning meeting. Unfortunately, approaches involving cultural references have since been unilaterally banned, after an investigatory committee found that said question was unfairly biased towards the ancient Japanese warrior demographic.

As an interim measure, some faculty have proposed switching around letters of the existing 5 W's to create fresh prompts which still retained the requisite nebulousness. However, others have responded with criticism. "Most of these new words like "waht" aren't even charmingly awkward," noted a faculty member. "And "who" just rearranges to "how", which is basically one of the 5 W's already. It is not a good long-

term strategy."

When asked why the program couldn't simply construct prompts consisting of two or more words, program administrators responded that they wished to "avoid instilling applicants with a biased perspective on how to combine multiple words". The faculty in question were reportedly debating whether "Whether?" Constituted a grammatically sensible question.

Others have suggested that emoji-based prompts may be the way of the future. "There must be more hipster ways to ask these questions, and we've simply not discovered them yet," said one inquiry facilitator. "Maybe we just need to dig deeper."

Happenings, A Occurrences, B



The Struggle

#### Student needs back brace after carrying group project

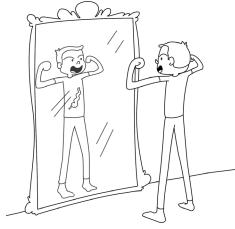
The small community of Westdale is experiencing an unprecedented boom in chiropractic clinics. With the new influx of chiropractors snuffing out restaurant businesses left and right, members of the community are seeking answers.

Upon investigating the new clinics, reporters discovered that nearly all of the clients were McMaster BHSc students. When questioned, 2nd year John Smith, who requested to remain anonymous, responded: "My back went into utter sh\*ts after carrying my group through biochem inquiry." When pressed for more, Smith reported feeling that his project group "did jack all for months", lamenting his experience of having to "yolo-solo all of it in like the last two days".

Smith was not the only one reporting back pain woes. "Their slides didn't even have animations!" Exclaimed another student. "I had to redo all of it. And now my L3-L4 are shot". Another student reportedly invoiced her group members for her chiropractic treatment, explaining: "I just wanted to give them one last opportunity to contribute to our project."

The students must now wear a lower back brace for the next six months while receiving weekly spinal realignments. Smith remained optimistic, however, expressing his hope that the new back brace will "provide the support that [his] group never gave."

Metahumour



"A few more hours of this and I'll be done my progress report!"

#### Upcoming HSM show: The Unofficial 'Unofficial Origin Story' Story

Riding on the smashing success of this year's 10-year-anniversary show, "The [Unofficial] Origin Story", The Health Sciences Musical has elected to preemptively name their coming show "The [Unofficial] '[Unofficial] Origin Story' Story". After numerous student complaints about how merely having musicals about the program "does not sufficiently demonstrate how we are better than Life Sci", it appears that musicals lauding their own creation are the key to success amongst the student body.

"Writing a musical about how we created the musical was a stroke of genius!" One cast member exclaimed. "This is precisely the kind of self-validating exceptionalist approach to life that our community uniquely embraces", added another. "Not only is it tastefully meta, it's also way less work. It's the whole package."

HSM pundits are speculating that this may be the beginning of a hegemonic musical franchise spanning into eternity, where each new installment dramatizes the creation of the previous as part of an endlessly recursive cycle of self promotion. This theme parallels an especially memorable line in this year's showing: "I wonder where we'll be in 5 years, or even 10 years!"

Right back where we started, apparently.

Now That You Mention

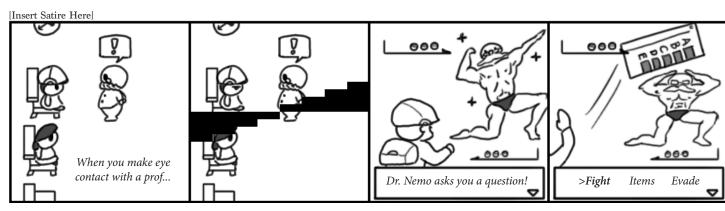
#### Third year BHScs missing, authorities investigating suspected snake cult

Hamilton Police continue to be puzzled by the yearly disappearance of third year students from McMaster's Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program. "Mia was supposed to be in our Peer Tutoring class, but she never showed," said the friend of one missing student. "Every knows you can only legitimately skip peer tutoring once every four classes". The student in question eventually decided to contact the police, only to discover that Mia was only one of dozens of classmates reported to be missing.

Investigators initially believed that the missing students were linked by a shared volunteering position at a local cardiology centre, but this theory was swiftly debunked when it was found that all Health Sciences students worked there. The current theory revolves around a series of leads pointing to a shadowy organization whose symbol appears to be a coiled snake on a staff.

"We are now treating this case as a mass abduction," stated one BHSc administrator. "It is inconceivable that our students would voluntarily abandon their 4th year theses to join a group with such an ominous logo". BHSc faculty are currently working with police to find what they are now calling a 'snake cult', with the goal of dismantling the group. "These snake-worshippers are the worst sort," said one campus police officer. "These things they're doing, it's disgusting."

Epiphanies



Sin of Commission

#### Med applicants change names on facebook, cannot recall actual names

It has long been a harmless yearly tradition in the program to change Facebook names to a silly pseudonym, so as to avoid online detection by sleuthing medical school admissions officers. But now, confusion is spreading across the BHSc as swaths of senior students find themselves unable to recall their names, having become so attuned to their online identities that they have completely dissociated from their original personae. Reporters at the scene interviewed one student, Ashley Soglin, who now goes by the name 'Tulip-Fart the Elder'.

If Only

#### 1E06 student writes genuine reflection

*In the midst of a faculty wide celebration and* class cancellation, Reporters were surprised to find that the cause of the merriment was, perplexingly, a 1E06 inquiry reflection.

"I was just trying to hammer out a last minute reflection right before class." said first year BHSc Marge Smith. "It began like normal, just bullsh\*tting whatever came into my head, but then... I don't know. Something vclicked and it was like... what I was saying, I actually meant it."

Rumours of the incident has spread rapidly within the BHSc, causing students to treat Marge with a mixture of "hushed reverence and mistrustful apprehension". Upon reviewing the reflection, Marge's Inquiry facilitator is said to have whispered, "My work here is done." Several office administrators reported witnessing said facilitator smiling serenely before transforming into a cherry blossom tree. Biochem and Cell biology project groups have now adopted the practice of taking group photos before the new Tree of Reflection, rather than the MDCL waterfall room.

Q: So, Ashley, what made you want to change your name?

A: Sorry, I'm Tulip-Fart – I think you have the wrong person?

Q: No- sorry, that's my fault. Erm, Tulip-Fart, do you think that was always your name? What your parents called you?

Ashley seemed puzzled by this line of questioning, declining further discussion. Hers was not an isolated response - out of the sixteen BHSc students interviewed, only four were able to remember that they had ever been called anything else. "Gareth..." murmured one BHSc. "Yes, that does sound familiar... in a previous life, perhaps".

Words To Live By

"At some point in their lives, every person imagines that they are a large tentacle monster. At that moment only one question exists: are you going to make this weird?"

Thus It Was Said

#### Local Health Sci moves into BHSc lounge

Procrastinator reporters were surprised to discover that the back room of BHSc lounge has recently become the permanent abode of third year student, Ivanna Studdie. When asked why she decided to do this, Ivanna remarked that the student housing market simply couldn't offer the same social atmosphere of "rampant, nerve-inducing pressure to succeed" that is central to her life. Ivanna also listed a chronic case of FOMO as being a major contributing factor to this unconventional housing decision.

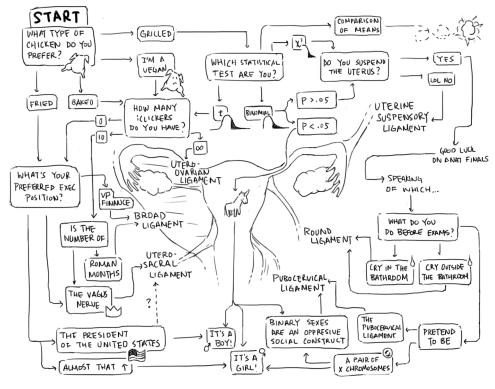
At present, Ivanna pays no rent for her new home, but instead must endure endless inquiries including, but not limited to: 'how she structured her progress report, 'whether or not it's possible to twelve med-terms', and 'what research positions she's applying to'. When asked if she had any regrets regarding her new living situation, Ivanna answered, "Not really. I spent so much time in there anyways that the move felt right. I think my parents are just relieved that I've finally moved out."

#### Student installs MS Word on supervisor's computer, listed as third author

The Procrastinator extends its heartiest congratulations to Bruno Singh-Patel for his recent authorship on a prestigious publication in the March 2017 issue of Nature Ornithology Reviews. "Using an evidence-based approach, I effectively and collaboratively used knowledge translation to implement a novel technology framework for our study," reported the Health Sciences student. In addition to installing essential Microsoft Office programs, the student's duties included serving coffee ("securing vital resources to bolster team morale and

increase productivity"), filing paperwork ("spearheading an organizational system to ameliorate study design"), and restocking pipette tips ("singlehandedly increasing the power of the study"). In an exclusive interview, Singh-Patel described his impressive strategies for increasing the breadth and depth of his searches: "The key is to Google it and to click through to, like, the fourth page of results." When questioned about ICMJE recommendations for authorship, the student admitted that his proposed criteria of "I Can Make Journals Excellent" may not exactly be evidence-informed.

#### Quiz: which uterine ligament are you?



The Rabbit Hole

#### Missing second year student found living in anatomy lab

McMaster authorities received multiple reports last month claiming that Wyman O'Bell, a second-year BHSc student, had gone missing. "My son hasn't called me in days. I deserve to know if he's safe!" exclaimed the student's teary-eyed mother in an exclusive Procrastinator interview last week: "Why isn't the university doing more?!"

O'Bell's Cell Biology group expressed similar disappointments with the university's efforts on the case in a press-conference statement: "Symposium day is coming up, and Wyman's nowhere to be seen! Nobody else has Zotero installed, and we can't 12 the course without Vancouver citations." Other concerns were raised about the fact

that the group's peer tutor had been sitting outside their meeting room for days, refusing to begin the group process meeting until Wyman was present.

Extensive search efforts finally yielded fruit when O'Bell was finally located in the HSC Anatomy Lab. He was reportedly discovered grasping a lung specimen, muttering "where do the rings end... where do the plates begin...", and had apparently eaten some of his clothes, despite the lab's strict no food policy. When asked how long he had been hiding there, O'Bell stated only that he had been preparing for the 2FF3 anatomy exam for "3/5 of an ovarian cycle."

Abstracts

#### BHSc students and the suss-tymatic review

Suss-tymatic reviews are emerging as an increasingly popular thesis option for BHSc students due to their ease and amenability towards being used for "OMSAS points". We analyzed a total of 150 fourth year McMaster BHSc students during the 2015-2016 academic year. 108 students self-reported that their thesis involved the production of a suss-tymatic review, defined as a credited authorship on a trivial manuscript which is "almost pretty much ready for publisher review". The remaining 42 students served as controls, claiming to be involved in "actual research" in departments such as Biochemistry, Philosophy, and Inquiry. Contributions to suss-tymatic reviews were marginally positively correlated with the attainment of medical school interviews (p=0.13), and negatively correlated with acceptance into top-tier graduate programs (p<0.0001) and neuronal cell count post-thesis (p=0.0499). Overall, this study provides suss-tymatic, un-appraised evidence that suss-tymatic review contributors are probably more likely to attain medical school interviews compared to students involved in actual research. Ethics approval is pending for a nested cluster cross-over case-controlled randomized meta-analysis as a followup to this question.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Author is the sole manuscript reviewer for The Procrastinator.

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