ADVICE, FEATURED

Making Progress on Side Projects

Side projects are a potentially useful tool for a variety of ends; raising profile, learning things that you're interested in but aren't necessarily covering in class or at work, spending time on something you control and thus helping to manage burnout. That's not to say that projects are for everyone (I know people who would much rather work on something non computing related in their off hours, and if thats what works for them then thats awesome too).

But if there is something that you really want to build, or write about, or anything, it is possible without overbalancing your carefully planned work-life-sleep-study tightrope. This is how I manage to not fall over with projects in progress.

1. Schedule
Before you run off screaming about the HSC, I'm not advocating planning your day down to the last minute. With larger projects, or writing pieces, possession of a 'stockpile' of work, ready to be released at a later date, can be really useful. People tend to be interested in ongoing, often updated projects; sadly life seems to conspire to make regular updates an impossibility. A stockpile of work helps to mitigate this, and makes for a smoother running of the project.

The other benefit of this is that it prompts regular thinking about the project you're working on. This can be more important than the physical act

of coding/writing/building itself, as it allows you to revisit ideas multiple times. The thought of background music on your website may have seemed like a great idea at the time, but looking back on it hopefully you'll see the error of your ways (if not, then I'm afraid we can't be friends).

2. Lists
Oh the beauty of a well written list! There is an enormous difference between a TODO list that consists of "write project, write tests" and a TODO list that contains elements like "change colour of x, add section for 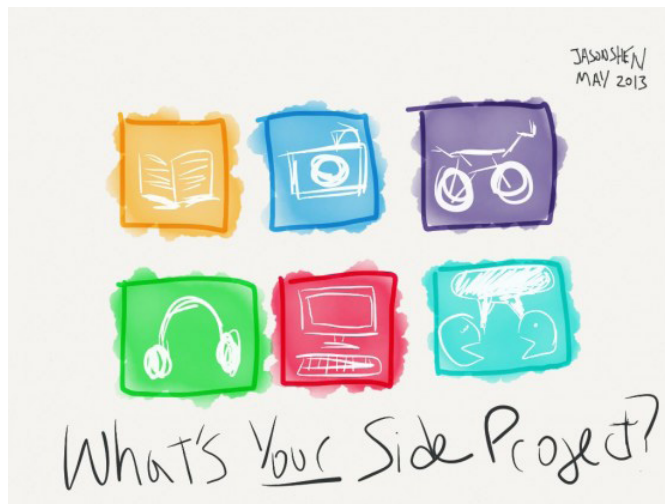y" (hint, the latter is better). Making lists that are broken down into teensy segments makes them much more accessible, so youre more likely to get back into working on a project if you have a spare minute between study and work.

Breaking these lists into projects is really helpful as well. As the time between working on them grows, its easy to forget exactly which project each is related to. Changing the text on that super professional site to fuschia, rather than navy, is probably not the best way to get back into projects.

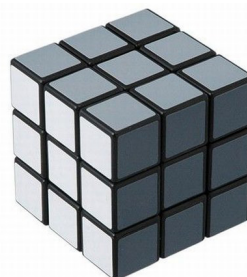The hardest thing about good lists is accepting that you need to document

ADVICE, FEATURED

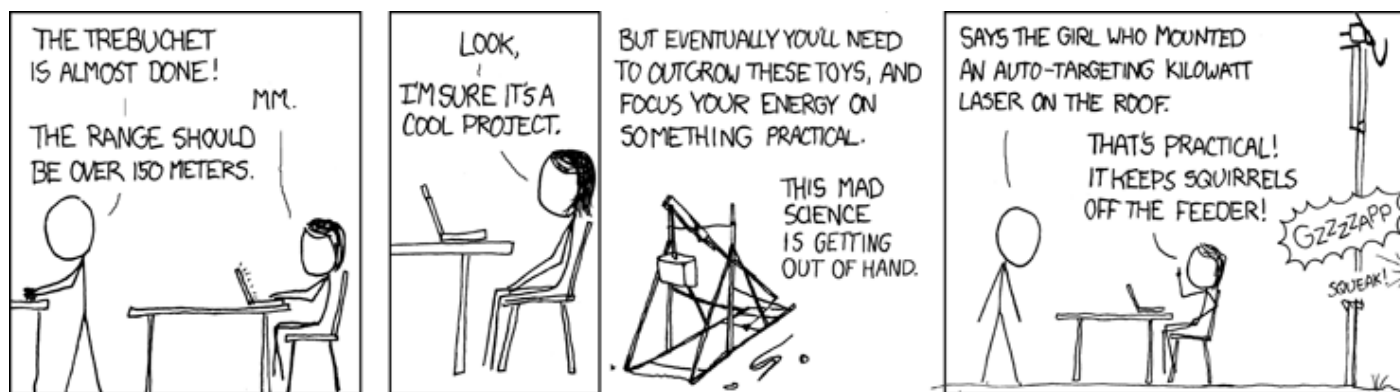# Making Progress on Side Projects

every little detail of the project. When you're absorbed in it, you're convinced that you'll remember it all the next time you come back. You wont.

3. Post Small, Post Often
One thing I know from experience, and from friends' experience, is that people are often wary of launching half finished thoughts to the world. If you're building missile detection systems or hospital equipment, I can see how that would be a problem, but for side projects its much more okay to chill and ship where you're at.

Share, get feedback, change ideas and get something totally different from what you set out doing. If you've learnt something new, or made something, then put it out there. Outside a uni environment, people don't really care that it lacks appropriate unit tests, or that there's a strange bug in the GUI that turns everything upside down 2% of the time.

Hiding your ideas from other people strangles them, and nobody benefits. Letting them be tested as you go and

exposed to outside influences can produce something awesome.

4. One by One (Two by Two)
I find that inspiration is an incredibly effective procrastination technique. There's nothing wrong with being inspired, and wanting to build things (in fact Id hazard to say its a good thing), but its better to be working on two side projects than twenty.

If inspiration strikes and your project time is maxed out, then write it down. Write everything down, and store it away, and come back to it later. If its still awesome and exciting then, then add it to your list and build it. Otherwise, you haven't lost anything from not building it and another idea will come along which may grab your attention more.

The hardest part is finishing a project. Finishing doesn't mean launching, necessarily, but getting what you wanted from the project. If you wanted to see if you could do unnatural things to bmp images and you found that you could, then you're a strange

person but good on you. Once you're ready to focus on something else, then head off on your next adventure.
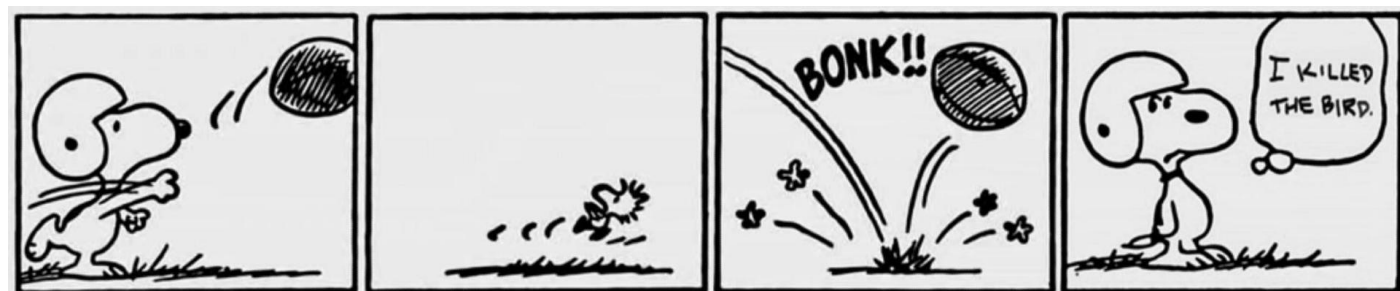
Its your project, you can define what finished means.

5. Strategic Sundays
Sometimes, there are elements of a TODO list that are a bit larger or more complex than the rest, sometimes you just want a bit of a break from uni work and to sink your teeth into something different. This sort of thing required a block of time that you can devote totally to the pursuit of a project; weekends are perfect for this.

This isn't to say that every weekend needs to be devoted to a project (remember, this is about fitting them into your life, not fitting your life around them)! It does mean that you can end the weekend with something substantial to show for it, and the sense that you've used your time well.

EMILY SAUNDERS
WALMSLEY

News in Brief

Flappy Bird Sequel?
Dong Nguyen, creator of the successful Flappy Bird, will release Swing Copters soon this week. Swing Copters shares the tap-to-fly gameplay as its predecessor and is expected to be a huge smartphone hit. Despite the success of Flappy Bird, bringing in $50,000 each day, he removed the game from the market. Will this coming game have a similar effect on the mobile gaming market?

Bring back my hazelnuts!
Hazelnut prices have soared since the majority of its harvests were ravaged by poor weather in Turkey. In just two months, prices have almost doubled in commodity trading companies. How does this affect us?: Nutella. Ferrero Rocher. Needless to say, the coming months will be tough on us.

50 Cent? Try $750,000
In an Instagram video, 50 Cent (Curtis James Jackson III) challenged Floyd Mayweather to read on full page of Harry Potter "without stopping or starting or f-ing up. If the boxer succeeds, the rapper will donate $750,000 to any charity of Mayweather's choosing.

Marry you? I would rather die
Alex Lanchester was surprised to learn that her fiance Tucker Blandford had faked a phone call, telling her that he had passed away in order to get out of marrying her. Apparently, Tucker had rung Alex, posing as his own father, to let her know that her fiance was killed in a car accident. When Alex called Tucker's mother to offer her condolences, she was in for quite the shock.

Out of this world
Celestis now offers to send pet cremains (cremated remains) to outer space for as little as $995. The remains are sent in a capsule and can stay up there for years depending on how much you're willing to spend, with the most expensive packages being over ten grand. The company has offered this same service to humans for a while now and have only recently started offering this for pets.

Just your average Bledisloe
For the twelfth successive year, the All Blacks are taking home the Bledisloe Cup, crushing the Wallabies in a 51-20 match. After their disappointing draw in Sydney last week, the All Blacks came back for blood. Richie McCaw, captain of the number one team, after scoring two tries became the forward with the most tries in test games from a tier-one nation, with a tally of 23 tries. In doing so, he also became the player with the most tries against a single tier-one nation, with a total of 11 tries against Australia.

ANGELO TAMAYO

CSE SOCIETIES AND EVENTS, UNIVERSITY

ENGSoc Sports Day

On the Thursday of Week 3 CSESoc, straight-backed and with their heads held high, stormed through ENGSoc's annual sports day in exhausting games of touch football.

Breaking down stereotypes, CSESoc, with captain Patrick Carreon, played intense games against ELSoc, RESoc, and PESS. With Vincent Wong, acclaimed manager and coach, shouting at the team from the sidelines, our team couldn't do anything wrong.

We played three games, losing against the petroleum engineers in the first game. However, we lifted our spirits by beginning to believe in ourselves,

but not quite enough, as we only drew against the electrical engineers. Many players were surprised at this result, and some were even happy with it. However, this only goes to show that we need to believe in ourselves more, as content with a draw indicates that there is still a lot of room for belief.

In our final game against the photovoltaics and renewable energy engineers, we started off with a strong sense of belief, grabbing an early try. Towards the end however, they broke through our lines and evened out the score, sending the game into overtime, where players were knocked out of the match every few minutes. Losing the
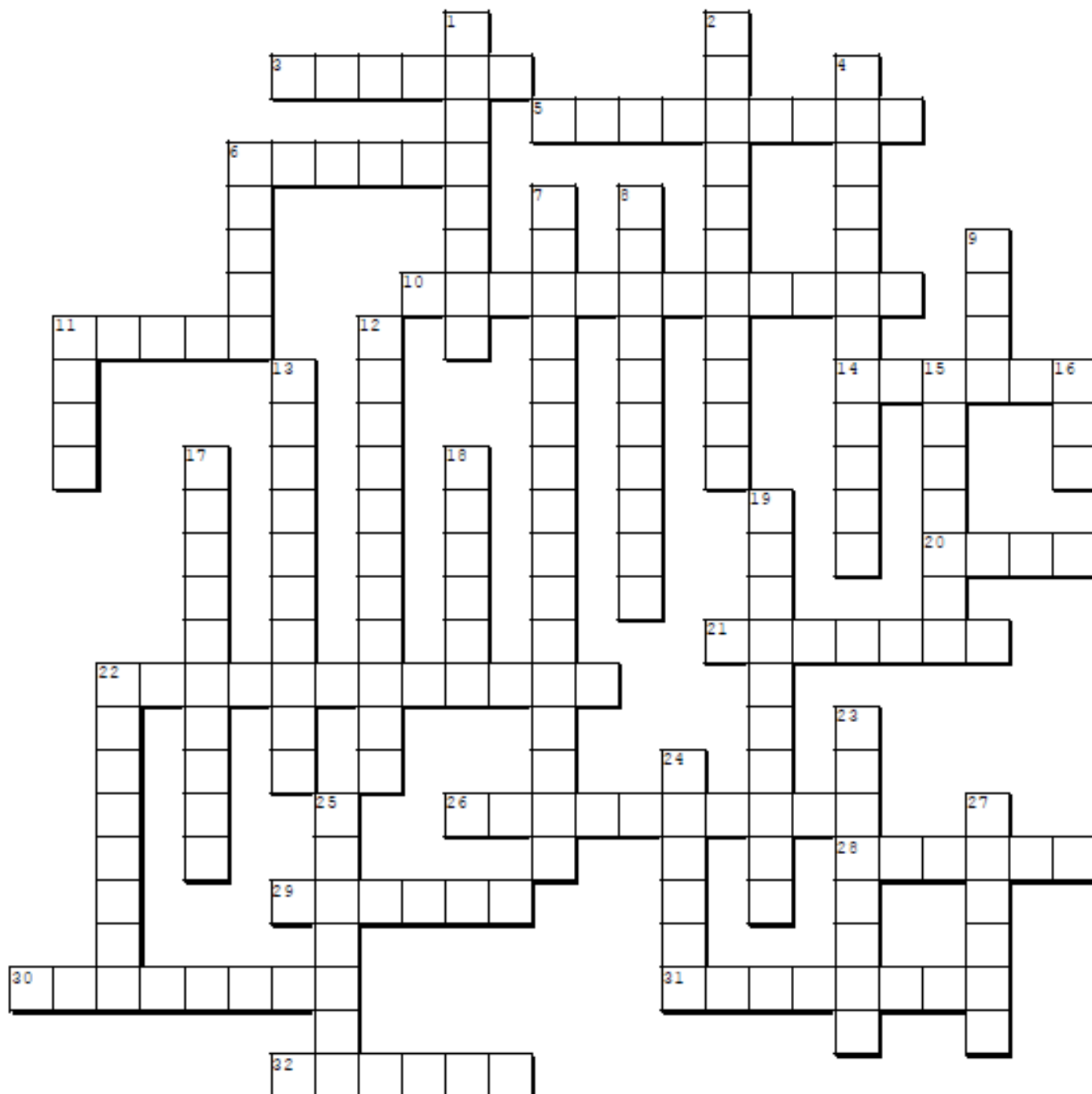
power of belief, we lost the game.

All is not lost however, as with the power of friendship, CSESoc and RESS became one, since the latter needed more players. Using this newfound power, we entered the final games with RESS, and were knocked out once more.

CSESoc is slowly improving not just in the game, but in our bonds of friendship and believing in ourselves. Next year is our year my friends so remember: Friendship is Magic!

ANGELO TAMAYO

Entertainment

Crossword

ENTERTAINMENT
Crossword Clues

Across

3. GladOS
5. something that makes electricity
6. what the moon is composed of
10. when it just doesn't come out
11. _ _ _ _ _ _ the worst
14. a crop widely used in fast food restaurants
20. not bad
21. the smallest of the eight planets in the Solar system
22. agonising, painful
26. metadata attached to text, image, or other data
28. Albert Einstein
29. a container for liquid
30. Chuck Taylor
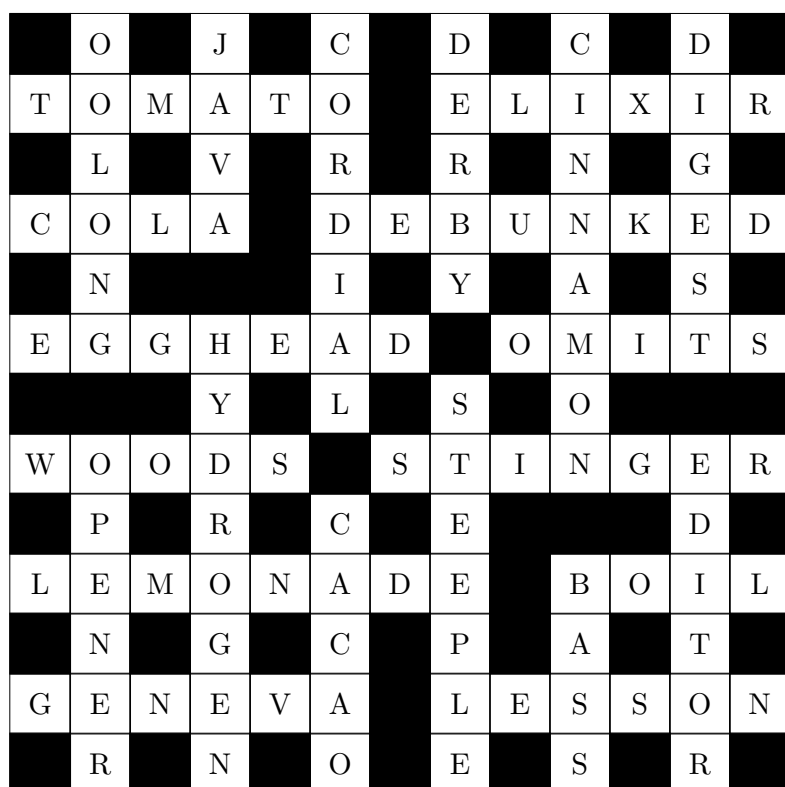31. numerous
32. request

Down

1. Jim Halpert's halloween costume
2. small, noisy explosive device
4. Circle c = new Disk();
7. confusion, having the wrong idea
8. present, appearing, or found everywhere
9. Capital of Fiji
12. to be associated with
13. the opposite of "front-sky"
15. cause for something, start
16. a tree or a shrub
17. a programming language
18. a garment for the upper body
19. medium for transmitting and receiving moving images and sound
22. a formula of the form A = B
24. likes to suck
25. true or false
27. Ag

CAROLINE CHAM   SYED OMAIR ALI   DAVID LOYZAGA

Last week's Crossword:

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E	G	G	H	E	A	D		O	M	I	T	S
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	R		N		O		E		S		R	

OSWYN BRENT

CSE Events and Societies
Upcoming Events

Mediocre BBQ
Monday 25 August 12:30 - 1:30pm
Physics Lawn
Just another barbecue.

CSESoc Dev Workshop: Python Web Dev
Thursday 28th August 4 - 6pm
K17 Seminar Room
I bet you're upset that you don't know how to make dynamic websites easily using Python! Cheer up, and come to the CSESoc Dev Workshop: Python Web Dev!

This workshop requires previous python experience. If you do not have any, read http://jcaw.web.cse.unsw.edu.au/python-workshop-1/ and you should be good enough. It also requires python2.7 to be working on your computer (you need to be able to run files, not just use the interpreter).

While HTML/CSS experience isn't required, it would be really really helpful to have.
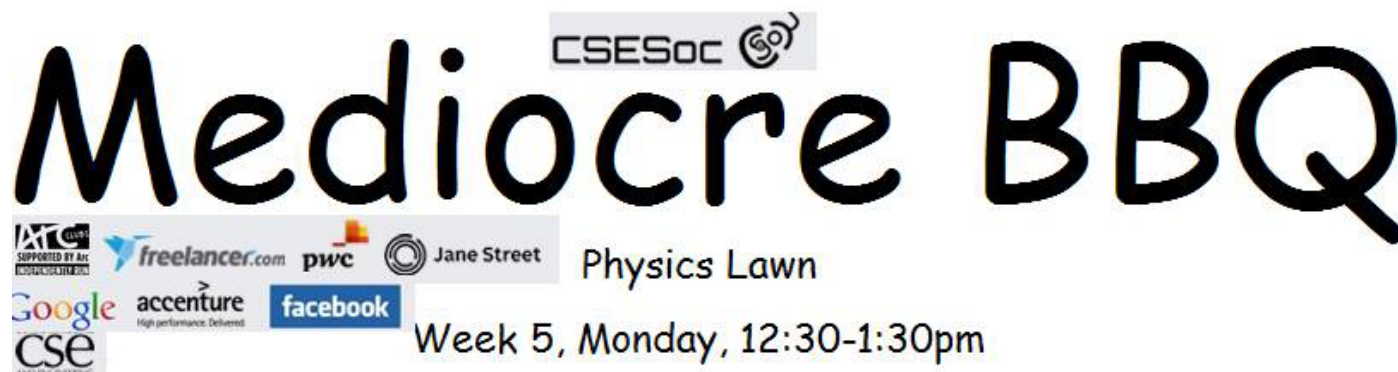
Hoodie Collection
Room 306 K17, CSE Society Office
If you have pre-ordered your hoodie make sure to come in and collect it soon!

Non pre-ordered hoodies will now cost $30 - this is your last chance, we won't be making anymore! We have Female XS and M, and Male XS and XXL.

To get your hoodie please come to the Socs Office (Room 306, K17). You can check issocsopen.com before you come in to see if the Socs Office is open.

CSESoc Beta Team

This Edition of Beta is Sponsored By...