The Daily-ish Bull

-like The Onion, but shittier!

Student Claims He Will "Die on This Hill"- Achieves Immortality

DJ Benjamin

A silent crowd gathers in a large circle out in the cold, surrounding two students locked in a fierce battle of wit and words. Their debate moves the very ground beneath them as they put every bit of rhetoric knowledge they practiced in their high-school English classes, and more realistically internet comment sections, to use. Spectators look on in awe as they watch the clash of the proselytizers, unsure still of who has swayed them more to their point of view.

This is a scene that took place on Walker Lawn on MTU campus earlier this year. The two students debating were deliberating over the most imperative topic of our time. Not "is cereal a soup?", nor "is water wet?"- those are child's play compared to the monumental importance of the topic of "Is Mark Zuckerberg an alien or a robot?"

One of the students, a third-year Culinary major with a concentration in Soft Drinks by the name of Megash Long, was adamant on his position that Zuckerberg is an extra-terrestrial being. "He's not convincingly human enough to be a robot. A robot would at least be programmed to act human-like," he contended. But the other student, a first-year Piracy major named May Tee, didn't miss a step in firing back that "Have you actually *seen* AI right now? Maybe I'd agree if he just started saying all the stolen data he's learning from when you ask him to repeat the same thing over and over. He's definitely an alien trying to blend in."

As the debate continued, fatigue began to set in, and the debater's needed to escalate their rhetorical tactics. Finally, Long decided to put his foot down and proclaimed that he "would die on this hill" and to prove it, he would climb Mount Ripley. Onlookers and his opponent alike were

shocked as he began walking towards the Lift Bridge. He walked all the way over to Hancock, to Mount Ripley, and sat underneath the ski lift, declaring that he would not move until Tee conceded that Zuckerberg is in fact a robot.

Tee, however, remained steadfast in her position, and refused to give in. Long remained on Mount Ripley as onlookers and skiers alike watched him. Days passed, during which Long refused any food or drink brought to him by concerned witnesses.

According to "scientists", an average person can survive about three days without water, potentially up to a week. But after a week passed, Long remained completely unphased, to the surprise of everyone including Tee. Another week passed, and despite the cold and ice and occasional skiers spraying snow on him, Long persisted through sheer stubbornness alone. His assertion that he "would die on this hill" was proven to be untrue as he lasted a full month up on Mount Ripley, and not only did he live still, but he remained apparently completely healthy. Proven wrong, Long was forced into shameful exile as May Tee was declared the winner of the debate.

Debugging Techniques They Don't Teach You in School

DJ Benjamin

Every programmer knows the pain of sitting at their computer trying to find where the bug in their code is for hours and hours on end, probably to meet a deadline that they procrastinated too long towards. But never fear! Behold ancient wisdom of the programmers from millennia past, along with international law-defying CIA techniques and a piece of random advice that seems pretty legit.

The Rubber Duck / Stress Toy Method

Any programmer worth their salted hash knows about Rubber Duck debugging, but Rubber Ducks are useful for more than just explaining your method to. Primarily, a Rubber Duck is the perfect squishy, friendly, approachable counterpart to the clenching fist of iron which you may utilize on a stress toy of your choice. A Rubber Duck will help you extract the answers you need from the stress toy in between you stretching and squishing it to its limits in the midst of your blind rage as you try and figure out what *exactly* is wrong with how your Python environment is configured. If you really need answers, remember that Rubber Ducks float in water.

Leave it for a Bit and Come Back

If you have the time, sometimes the answer will magically drop out of the sky if you just step away and come back. The lightbulb may go on when your mind is elsewhere, such as being outside on a walk, or on a drive, or even in the shower (Disclaimer: Don't bring shock hazards into the shower with you). Even if you aren't blessed with a eureka, it may occur to you as soon as you sit back down and look at the code again. Just be careful trying to rinse and repeat this method if time is limited. (Disclaimer: Don't rinse your computer either. Save that for the stress toy.)

Consult Energy Drink Cans

The ancient practice of scrying can be extended to use the arrangement of cans around your programming space. There are five types of symbols you may be able to identify in the arrangement of your cans: animals, mythical beings, objects, letters, and numbers. Each category can signify different kinds and severity of bugs, and the location of the symbols also carries temporal information. Those cans nearest your recycle/return bin represent the present miserable state of your code, those at the bottom of the bin represent past mistakes that led you to this point, and full cans represent future bugs you have yet to discover and debug. By practicing carefully identifying the arrangements and the meanings thereof, you can discern exactly how much of your code will need to be rewritten, and how much time you would have saved if you had just read the documentation in the first place.

Hi, my name is Big Al, and I approve this message