



Witscord Weekly™

the only news source available

WE'RE BACK!

Witscord Weekly is back and you know what that means! That's right, there's going to be writing. Lots of writing words. Talking about things, and also stuff! We're going to be talking about things with words and you're going to read the words. And the words are about stuff. This writing thing is so easy, I could do it every week. Did I also mention that things happened? Things happened and we're going to tell you about the things that happened, with words. You're welcome.

What's different about this version compared to the last version? Well, since the last Witscord Weekly was practically a year ago, we've had a lot of time to think about how we can improve the weekly news experience and uhh umm uhh uh-h- Longer articles! Longer articles with more effort put into them. Can you feel the effort beaming off of the page from the sheer length of all this text, cause I can. Either that or I'm under the effect of hallucinogens.

We've also added new exclusive content that you won't find anywhere else cause we took it and put it in here. We stole the concept of having an editorial and a horoscope and we're holding it for ransom. You're welcome for that too.

2023 Election

After nearly two months of waiting, the 2023 Witscord Elections concluded on Friday. A record turnout of 25 whole people and 1 halfling have officially elected user Sus "One day one puzzle" 1d1p as our new mayor! Sus, from the Rounded Party, won by a landslide with 7 total votes—nearly doubling the 4 votes cast for political rival and fellow user TheFullestCircle of the Fullist Party.

Continued on page 2

Massive HOUSE Party

Famed puzzler, Swede, penguin, and cool guy Razu R. "Raz" Pingvin has recently turned 18! In Sweden, 18 is the legal being 18 age. That's a big deal!

Continued on page 3

**Check out our puzzles
and comics on page 7!**

Continued from "2023 Election"

However, in a huge win for bipartisanship, Sus promptly appointed Fullest as co-mayor. During the tense political debates held in early August, it came to Sus' attention that the two candidates actually had very similar goals, and it certainly shows with their campaign: according to the mayor, his first act as a synonym for mayor will be to "attempt to bring back Witscord Weekly". As strong supporters of Witscord Weekly's existence, we here at Witscord Weekly graciously welcome this new era.

In addition to the "official" debating candidates, Wednesday's ballot form also included a list of "unofficial" non-debating candidates. (Not to be confused with Non-debating candidates, though the roster did contain both a Non-candidate and a non-candidate. This is sensible.) The users on this list did not partake in any televised discussions but still publicly announced their campaigns at some point. It's geologically impossible to list all 8 human applicants, but some notable runners included Placeholder of the Rock Party, Ianpep of the Stabbing Anyone Who Doesn't Vote for Me Party, Laserpointers of the Chaos Party, and Prod of the Vengabus We Like to Party.

The keen-eyed voter also would have noticed a mysterious ninth entry on the ballot known only as "Option 7". Its origins are unknown, but let me tell ya, the people loved it. Option 7 received 12 votes, surpassing both official candidates combined and winning the unofficial vote by a margin of 4 points. After the polls closed and the votes were painstakingly automatically counted, it was announced that this result would bring a further surprise: a giant colorful wheel of doom! It was spun on a livestream soon after the mayorship was announced, then uploaded in video form moments later. The majority of the wheel's 16 slices were not landed on, and thus their repercussions are

unknown in this time-line—but after a tantalizing 38 seconds of spinning, a verdict was decided.

On September 8th, 2023, we the people democratically elected user Ampersand as the official King of Witscord. In her own words, "YYYYEEEEAAAAHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

God I love politics.



User sus upon winning the election

Triple Editorial: On Matamoras, Indiana

Matamoras is an unincorporated territory in Blackford County. It's also apparently the oldest community in Blackford, yet they never decided to actually become a town, apparently. There are two other places called Matamoras in the United States, but who cares about them, right? Those Matamori are nowhere *near* their states' capitals, so clearly they're not important. Matamoras, Indiana, on the other hand, is less than a mile east of Montpelier! Take that, Ohio!

Continued from "Massive HOUSE Party"

To celebrate, many, many Witscord users broke into and set up a surprise party at his labyrinthine HOUSE (pictured). Several guests were too busy to bring anything but their heads, and there was a shark inside the HOUSE, but overall a fun time was had by all. Through research, interviews, and psychic powers, we at Witscord Weekly have identified the following people as guests at the party:

- Sus 1D1P, who wore a suit for the occasion
- Amper Sanders, one of many to only bring her head; thankfully it's a really cool head
- The aforementioned shark, who identified himself as "Gui". How he survived outside of water is currently unknown
- Ianpep, who notably didn't stab anyone, despite campaign promises
- ItzShaun, an ominous hovering ellipse who ended up being very fun to talk to
- Laserpointers, who was nearly mistaken for a dust bunny and vacuumed
- Some guy?



An artist's rendition of the party

- Several housecats, identified as Jxck_Wwap, Fern, and KF. Being cats, they were all very popular with the guests
- Septa, who arrived late and spent the entire party on the toilet (recreationally)
- Non U. Clidean, who repeatedly claimed to be "the real Raz" upon arriving
- Cube Observer, who, as you may expect, spent most of the party observing Kube
- Prod Z. Pod and Kube, who took turns playing "animal videos" on the TV
- Zimodo, who brought his collection of semaphore flags
- The "Jony" Myster, who felt a kinship with the stairs, as she too was made of straight lines and harsh angles
- A blue square that our informant was not able to identify; they wrote "undefined" in the name box (weird way of saying that, but okay)
- Lavender "Dave" Lemniscate and Ember, more guests who only brought their heads
- Placeholder, who only has a head, and so appreciated Lav and Ember only bringing theirs
- A man-shaped block of static standing on a table in a way that was not suspicious at all
- Kirb. Not Kirby, just Kirb
- A strange pattern of lines and shapes hovering near the fridge. When asked its name, our informant said "Panic"; we don't know if that's its name or an instruction

In addition, many guests stated they felt a strange prwsence during the party that brought the mood down. Apparently, whatever it was made the guests "say things wrong", whatever that means.

Despite setbacks, the Razurazu Birthday HOUSE Party was a massive success by all accounts. The Witscord community wishes Raz a happy (belated) 18th birthday, and is proud to honor that birthday by breaking into his place of residence, having a huge party, and then leaving without telling him.

Islands of Insight

Famous and respected puzzle creator Elyot Grant has evidently been replaced by some sort of evil doppelganger, because he and a team of other puzzle makers have recently developed Islands of Insight—a puzzle game which many would say violates almost every principle of puzzle game design. The game has you exploring a series of floating islands littered with various types of what are referred to as puzzles, such as:

- Finding things in a glass maze.
- Finding things in a glass maze that are *invisible*.
- Looking at a series of stones from a certain perspective to make a ring. This sounds interesting in theory, but it's always very obvious where you're supposed to stand, and the stones are absolutely everywhere. Player Abi referred to the stone puzzles as "litter".
- Finding cubes around the environment, which is very unfulfilling, as most of them will be found through going "Oh, hey, a cube" while doing something else, and the rest will be impossible to find among the dozens of ones you've found already.
- Flying through a series of rings, which isn't a puzzle, at all.
- Penpa puzzles, which are actually not bad, if you have the patience to get through everything else.

One could argue that the puzzles are easy in order to give players who aren't familiar with the genre an easier introduction, but it doesn't even do that. The main draw of a puzzle game, and the reason people enjoy playing them, is that the puzzles build on each other and evolve. Islands of Insight's puzzles don't do this; they're all more-or-less identical to the other puzzles of the same type. Sus1D1P called these puzzles

Continued on next page

Quiz: What Witness Symbol Are You?

How much do you like hanging out with other people?

- A lot: +1120
- Only if they think the same as I do: +2100
- I can handle one person: +200
- I prefer the company of imaginary friends: +2
- Hate it: +1100

You and your peers just finished a group project and got an F. Whose fault was it?

- Whoever did the least work: +1000
- Everyone else, they messed it up for me: +100
- All of us, as a group: +10
- Probably mine, honestly: +1

Say you're creating something. Which one of these describes you the best?

- Everything needs to be absolutely perfect: +10
- Make sure all the good bits are there and all the bad bits aren't: +1100
- As long as I don't see any immediate problems with it it's good enough: +1

Are you more scientific or more spiritual?

- Scientific: +1120
- Spiritual: +2

Do you find it hard to "fit in"?

- YES: +21
- Maybe a little: +101
- Not really: +1100

You're at a party and you find someone you really don't like. How do you respond?

- Get mad: +1000
- Hit da bricks: +10
- Who cares: +101

Results on next page

Continued from prior page

“busywork”, and Raz said the game “gives a false impression of thinky games for new people”.

In addition, the game has several attributes taken from other genres, for some reason. The game is an MMO, which means you get to see other players navigate the environment too, which is sort of interesting I guess, but the game also has a skill tree, which is just bizarre. The skills on the skill tree are all either ease of movement things, which should probably be unlocked by default, or things that solve a certain type of puzzle for you, which is not something a puzzle gamer would want.

So how did the game end up like this? Well, for one thing, Grant claims he wants to make a puzzle game with 10,000 puzzles in it. The only way to do this without making the game take 30 years to develop is to take a quantity over quality approach to design and fill the game with dodgy puzzles to increase the count, which seems to be what the developer did. And the bizarre non-puzzle elements? This is purely speculation, but it's possible the developer's only exposure to video games is AAA games, and many modern AAA games contain these same elements (seemingly out of a sense of obligation). This not only explains where the skill tree came from (he assumed games were supposed to have them, or that they needed them to be popular), but also why the game goes against puzzle design philosophies: the developer wasn't familiar with them.

Other players have equally low opinions of the game. Seren says that it's “a great game to recommend to your friend who buys a sudoku book, finishes the easy section, and buys a new sudoku book.” Abi says it's “just not good puzzle or environment design”. Placeholder says it's “at least bearable,” so I guess it has that going for it.

If you've already bought *Islands of Insight*, Witscord Weekly strongly recommends you delete it. If you haven't, we recommend you find a way to somehow delete it anyway.

Rating: 1/10

Quiz Results

Find the highest digit of your result number. (If there's a tie, just pick one. I don't know.)

If it was the first digit:

You're a square. You like to get together with like-minded individuals and hang out. Someone bothers you? They need to leave, enough said. Everyone bothers you? That's when you start thinking you need to head out.

If it was the second digit:

You're a sun. You don't like to be alone, but you also don't want a whole crowd of people looking at you. If someone fits well with you, you're inseparable. If they bring a friend, you're out of there quick, or at least very awkward about it.

If it was the third digit:

You're a polyomino. You work best in large groups, and those large groups work best with you, darn it! You make sure everyone fits together and everything is absolutely perfect. And if someone has the opposite goal as you? You fit them in there too.

If it was the fourth digit:

You're a triangle. You don't care what anyone else thinks about you. In fact, you barely even notice they're there, because you're too busy imagining. Everything in your head is exactly as you want it. Everything out there? Eh, you could care less.

If you've got a fifth digit, you added wrong.

Upcoming Birthdays!



Ampersand

September 29th

SeptaCube

October 4th

Likes: Art, dragons, Splatoon, biology

Likes: Hunt puzzles, puzzle games, Celeste

Interview: Q&A with Trashbot

What's your favorite color?
trashbot

What's your favorite food?
infinite quantity of cauliflower

Who do you look up to most?
dubya

Who do you look up to least?
logicians

What are your relationships with the other bots like?
kotoba poisons my food when she thinks im not looking

Do you have any controversial opinions?
yes

What are they?
mind your business

When can we expect battles to be finished?
ill battle you right now bro ill fuck you up

What's your opinion on Witscord Weekly?
Error

Anything else you'd like our readers to know?
watch out 🔥🔥🔥

Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius: you will read the Witscord Weekly horoscope

Pisces: your parents are very honest people

Aries: call your doctor immediately

Taurus: don't tell the other zodiac but you're actually my favorite

Gemini: congratulations! it's twins

Cancer: draw 3 cards

Leo: your parents lied to you you're actually a pisces

Virgo: the next time you roll a die it'll be a 4

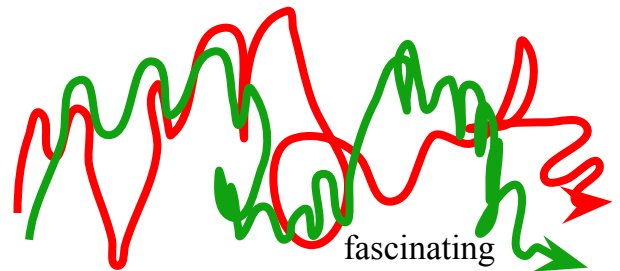
Libra: you will brush your teeth with battery acid and explode into goo as a result

Scorpio: you will have good luck on the day Jupiter is in the Central House (i.e. crashinf directly into the earth)

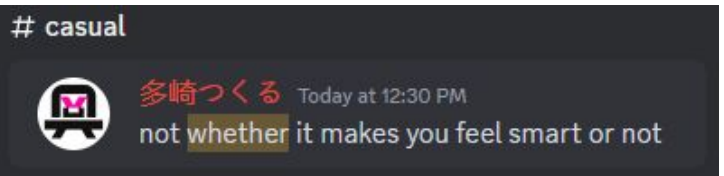
Sagittarius: reply hazy try again

Capricorn: the stars say you should quit your current career path and become a professional horoscope writer

Stock Info



Whether Forecast



EH23 Update

It's still not out yet

Puzzles & Comics

Crossword

September 17 — by sus

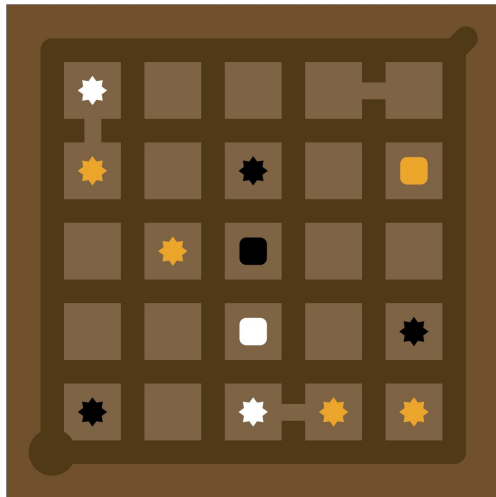
1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
9				

Across

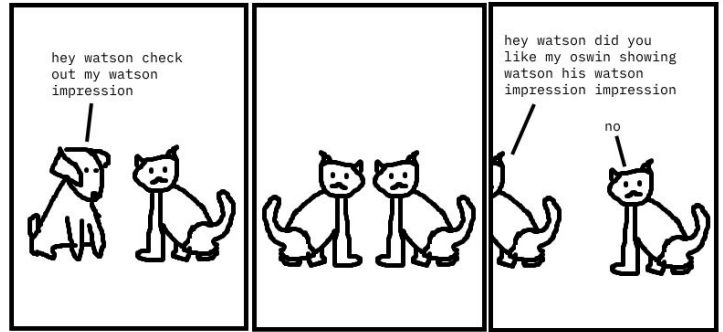
- 1 Leonine locks
- 5 Solo
- 7 With 8A, what you're reading
- 8 See 7A
- 9 Fits to ____

Down

- 1 The mob
- 2 Elite celeb roster
- 3 Like early Icelanders
- 4 Begin, as antics
- 6 Summer on the Seine



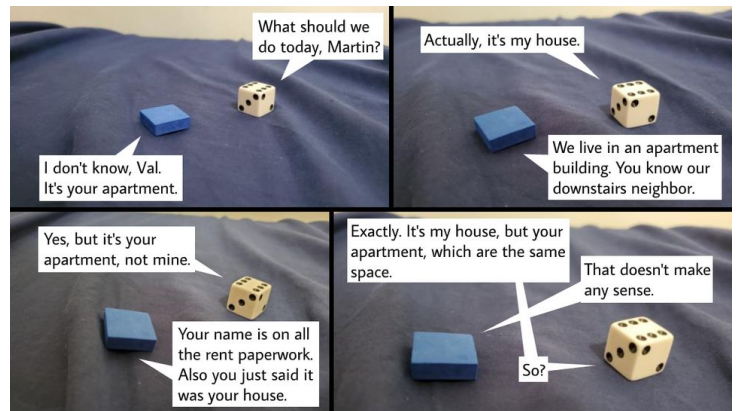
Oswin & Watson by dave



Connections

Instructions: literally everybody knows how this works already

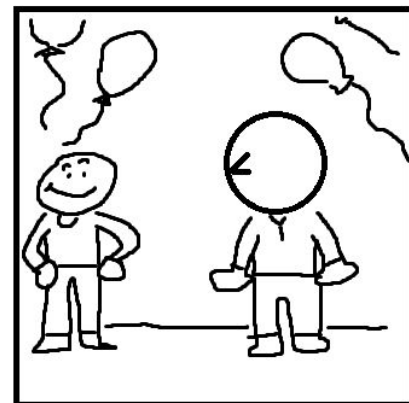
TOWER	WHAT	BLACK HOLE	PLATONIC
COPIER	PEDESTRIAN	MURDER	STAR
SIGN	SUN	UNDERSTAND	NOTHING
TUNIC	NULL	ARROW	DEATH



Paper Meta

What brought down the mood during the celebration?

oE))))IOWEA



Though he now lacked the means to display it, Simon's disappointment was palpable

Advertising Space

READ

Witscord Weekly




oh you did, nice, thanks

LineLith

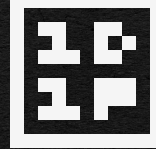


STEAM® itch.io
COSMOS9 cosmos9bundle.com



Wait, why is there an ad for this? It's in the paper.

The Best Gamepiece Photocomic



oh yeah
woo yeah
we like pu
zzles yeah
puzzles aw yeah its 1
day one puzzle yeah

Your Ad Over There



this is my cat lily



(not for sale)

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SAPPORO ICHIBAN

A TASTY DISCOVERY AT THE DINNING TABLE

