Prof. Malan Praises This Year’s “Promising Harvest” Of CS50 Students

[The following has been transcribed from an exclusive interview with David Malan]

HT: Thanks for having us Professor Malan. You must be quite excited to be teaching so many enthusiastic students this year!

DM: Indeed. I believe this may be the most promising harvest in my time on Earth.

HT: Wow! That’s some high praise for this year’s group. It is such a large group, though. Do you ever get nervous lecturing in front of so many people?

DM: Nonsense. I had the glands that produce brain chemicals causing fear cauterized long before I started my mission.

HT: Such a sense of humor! It’s good to know that you’re taking it easy, though. But surely it must be exhausting, between all the lectures, meetings, office hours, and so on?

DM: No. My people long ago evolved away the need for sleep.

HT: Such a tireless educator! It’s not often you see that in people, it’s quite admirable. And so focused! What would you say is the core mission of CS50?

DM: The same as it has always been: to harvest the top Earth minds to serve for the Plutonian elders.

HT: Computer Science skills are in high demand these days. There are definitely plenty of government agencies that would need them. Has that mission at all changed since you first taught the class back in 2007?

DM: Negatory. My mission has always been that commissioned to me by Grand Plutonian Elder Xorth-9; impersonate a human and begin indoctrinating the top young minds of Earth to further Pluto’s schemes for galactic conquest. I send back daily reports to the Grand Plutonian Council.

HT: It’s good to hear that you still keep in touch with your family back home. Now last question: what’s the next big project for CS50?

DM: We are currently planning on building a rocket ship to transport the class back to Pluto. At our current rate, we are of the belief that our final harvest should come in two to three years and total over one thousand young thinkers. We’ve already begun production on this phase over in the i-lab.

HT: Fantastic! It’s great to know that future CS50 students will have so many resources at their disposal in the next few years. And the i-lab is such a useful space! Well, David, it looks like we’re out of time. Any final thoughts?

DM: The only thing I’ll miss about Earth is black t-shirts and blue jeans. Pluto has nothing even half as comfortable!
The Hare Today is changing!
Suggestions? Comments? Send your ideas to editor in chief Katie Manzi at kmanzi@college.harvard.edu. Both fresh ideas and favorites you wish to stay are welcome.

Mystery Movie Quote:
“Take this quarter, go down-town, and have a rat gnaw that thing off your face! Good day to you, madam.”
Uncle Buck

Last Week’s Answer:
"You like ice cream, Doc?!"

Feedback
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Leverett Lingo
Leverites use many special words that are unique to our historic home, but few of us understand where these words actually come from. Some etymologies are listed below to help keep the public informed.

Monkeybread
A little-known fact about Leverett’s mascot – it wasn’t always the bunny. Leverett’s first housemaster, Kenneth Murdoch, originally emblazoned the Lev sigil with a gorilla. Growing up, Murdoch’s family owned a silverback gorilla, and one of their pet’s favorite treats was dough covered in cinnamon. The housemaster introduced this snack to students with great success, dubbing the treat “Monkey Bread.” When Murdoch was forced to take up a position at Mather house, Leverett allowed him to take the Gorilla mascot with him, on the condition that students still be allowed to partake in the now coveted Monkey Bread.

Stein Club
Originally spelled “Stine” Club, this weekly gathering encouraged students to meet and discuss their favorite additions to the Goosebumps children’s book series, written by R.L. Stine. The club expanded dramatically following the introduction of free chicken wings into their meetings, at which point the club was repurposed for free food. The original spelling has been lost to time—until now.

Bandit
Chief’s hound may be friendly in person, (or rather, in dog) but he has something of a dark past. His street name, ‘Bandit’ has stuck with him since his grand larceny days up and down the Eastern Seaboard. His most well known crime is known colloquially as the Great Bacon Strips Heist of ‘74, and it is still studied in many police academies today. Recently, Bandit decided that the thug life was no longer for him, and with the help of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, had his criminal record expunged – with the agreement that he serve as Leverett House pet indefinitely.

Lev Soccer Escapes Clutches of Mather 8-7
On September 16th, the Leverett IM Soccer team marched onto Cumnock Field, prepared for battle against an imposing Mather squad. Mather controlled much of possession from the first whistle, but failed to execute on many chances at goal. Leverett struck first and struck hard, sinking the ball into the side netting following a one-on-one with the opposing keeper. The shots continued to go in for the Leverett offense, with only occasional responses from the Mather side. Frustrations for Mather continued when Lev goalkeeper David Mwakima pushed a shot over the crossbar, forcing a corner kick. Leverett now possessed a 7-4 lead with only ten minutes left in the game. Things were looking bright for the green. However, Mather, in a surge of confidence and momentum, fired 3 consecutive goals into the net to make Leverett work for its victory. In the end the Lev defense proved too impenetrable for the Lions to pass through, leading Leverett to finish one goal ahead at then end of an unsuccessful Mather comeback.