Totally and Completely Random
In the early days of WWII, Philip Johnson, a WWI veteran and one of the few non-Navajos in the United States who spoke Navajo fluently, proposed the use of Navajo as an undecipherable code for the US military. Navajo, with its complex grammar and lack of a written alphabet, is nearly incomprehensible by even its closed relatives in the Na-Dene language family. The language was spoken only on the Navajo lands of the American Southwest and its syntax and tonal qualities, in addition to its many dialects, make it unintelligible to anyone without extensive exposure. It has been estimated that at the outbreak of WWII, fewer than 30 non-Navajos could understand the language.

Navajos could encode, transmit, and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds, rather than the 30 minutes required by machines. The first 29 Navajo recruits arrived at boot camp in May 1942, where they created the Navajo code, modeled on the Joint Army/Navy Phonetic Alphabet which uses previously agreed upon English words to represent letters. Additionally, some terms were given words in Navajo: the word for "potato" referred to a hand grenade, while "tortoise" referred to a tank. Several of these portmanteaus ('gofasters' referring to running shoes, 'ink sticks' for pens) are commonly used today.

Navajo 'code talkers' memorized all variations, such that uninitiated Navajo speakers would not be able to understand the messages, instead hearing only truncated and disjointed strings of individual nouns and verbs.

At Iwo Jima, six Navajo code talkers worked 24 hours a day during the first two days of the battle. These six sent and received over 800 messages, all without error. It was later later noted, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." The Japanese military never cracked the Navajo code.

Best Of Ottawa International Film Festival: Sat Jan 30 6:30p, Institute of Contemporary Art. Selection of the best films from the 2009 festival. $3
Chocolate Bar 21st Season: Saturdays 11-3p, The Langham Hotel, 85 desserts inspired by the North End, Chinatown, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Faneuil Hall,

Singles Dinner for Six – Ages 50s&60s: Sat, Jan 30 7-00p, Casa Romero

Food for Thought
An albatross can sleep while it flies at 25 mph.
Camel milk does not curdle.
The first Sony product was a rice cooker.
In 1996, an Italian teacher was suspended for passing students answers hidden in salami sandwiches.

A compulsive fidgeter may expend a thousand more calories a day than someone who sits still. The scientific name for fidgeting is 'non-exercise activity thermogenesis (NEAT)'
47 piglets were used in the making of the film Babe
In 1995, a Norwegian man was arrested for driving a lawnmower while drunk

Lithuanian is the modern language most closely resembling ancient Sanskrit.

Questions to Ponder
What holds you back?
What do you think about most often?
What would be your perfect day?
What's the first thing you notice about people you just meet?
What do you want to do differently this semester

Command Center
Start fresh.

Welcome Back, Lev!

Get out of Here! Events in Boston

Upcoming Lev Events
Masters' Open House: Mon 1/25, 8:30p
Academic Advising Night: Thurs 1/28, 8:pm (dhall)

Events on (And around) Campus
PBHA Open House: Wed, Jan 27th, 2-5p. PBH
Hasty Pudding Theatricals 2010 Woman of the Year Parade: Th 28th, 2:30p, Harvard Square (From the corner of Harvard and Quincy St. down Mass Ave). Woman of the year: Anne Hathaway
MIT European Career Fair: Fri Jan 29th-Feb 1. Check out https://www.euro-career.com/ for details
Clay All Night: Fri 29th, 8p‐1a. The OFA Ceramics Program invites you to a FREE studio party on Friday, January 29th. Create with clay and enjoy free food, refreshments and music.

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Sign Up for an IM Team now!
http://leverett.harvard.edu/intramurals/teams.php

**JOIN THE FORCE!* **
SIGN UP FOR WINTER IMS!

- **Winter Sports**
  - Basketball,
  - Dodgeball,
  - Ice Hockey,
  - Squash,
  - Table Tennis

- **Upcoming Games**
  - Squash: Mon 25th, 7:30p v. Cabot
  - A Basketball: Wed 27th, 8:30p v. Dunster
  - B Basketball: Thurs 28th, 7:30p v. Adams
  - B Basketball: Mon 1st, 8:30p v. Dunster

***THIS IS OUR SEASON!!***

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**Important Campus Dates**

- **Study Card Day:** Friday, Jan 29th

**Best of the Q**

- Yes, it’s a lot of reading, but it’s not too bad, though I appreciate wikipedia.
- You think you can handle a lot of reading...and then you take this class. Get ready to discuss Marx without having ANY IDEA WHAT THE HELL YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.
- Make sure you like philosophy; can be convinced that everything’s wrong in the world and still get up in the morning; and reading
- Although it starts off with grand gestures towards taking a universal view at essentially the flow of human history, it quickly descends into pedantic quibbling and aimless analysis which seems to endlessly eat its own tail with self-referential logic.
- "steel cut oats."
- It will suck the life out of you and make you wish you were a Slavic Languages and Literatures concentrator
- This course is the trial-by-fire way of becoming a doctor. enjoy walking across those hot coals!
- The average score on the third mid-term was 59.

---

**Best of Harvard FML**

- I’m an HEB concentrator. My secret? I believe in intelligent design
- I make fake posts about myself on I Saw You Harvard so that my friends will notice and be jealous of my desirability. And they have noticed. FML
- The vacuum guy just ran over my physics problem set due tomorrow. FML
- The average score on the third mid-term was 59.
- I woke up in the middle of the night really, really thirsty, and took a huge swig from the bottle of water that was next to my bed. Turned out it was actually my roommate’s vodka. FML
- A boy just wrote me an email apologizing for sexual tension. FML

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**Submit to the Hare Today**

Deadline for Leverett House Newsletter submissions is Thursday at 11:59pm.
Please e-mail Leverettnews@gmail.com. Thanks!

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**Procrastination Corner**

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