

SCIENCE

HOW AND WHY QUESTIONS OF THE EARTH

Flailing with flu?

AARON ANTHONY AND AMY THE BRUNSWICKAN

Myth 1: It is easier to catch the flu in the winter than in the summer.

Fact: It is true that outbreaks are more common in the winter because we tend to spend more time indoors with other people during these cold months. However, if people spent lots of time in warm, stuffy atmosphere in the summer (the ideal environment for flu propagation), the flu would be just as prevalent at this time as in the winter.

Myth 2: Flu can't kill. **Fact:** Flu CAN kill. The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 killed millions of young adults all over the world. In most cases flu clears up within seven to ten days. However, in some rare instances it can be severe, causing

pneumonia or bronchitis which can be fatal, especially in the elderly, weak or those with preexisting lung or heart problems. Flu may also cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or of the heart muscle (myocarditis).

Myth 3: There is a cure for flu. **Fact:** There is no cure for the flu. Viral illnesses like the flu are harder to treat than bacterial ones because antibiotics are ineffective. The antiviral drug Amantadine can reduce the severity of a flu attack if taken within 24 hours of the first symptoms, but it's only effective in fighting the A strain of the virus.

Myth 4: You can get the flu from not wearing a hat outside—especially if you have wet hair in the middle of winter.

Fact: While you may freeze, you will not catch the flu as a direct result of your hatless condition. This is because flu is a droplet

infection; it is spread by virus-infected droplets which are coughed or sneezed into the air by someone with the virus.

Myth 5: Flu is just a bad cold.

Fact: People often think that they have the flu if they have a really bad cold—or perhaps they just say they have the flu because it sounds more serious. In reality, a flu virus is totally different than a cold virus. While cold and flu symptoms may be similar (like coughs, sneezes and headaches), a flu is different from having a cold in that it affects your whole body. Cold symptoms are primarily in the nose, throat, sinuses and upper chest. Also a cold often sneaks up on you gradually while flu symptoms appear more suddenly. This occurs because the flu virus spends a few days multiplying and travelling in the bloodstream. Cold viruses do not go through this multiplication phase.

A and A's Flu Fighting Formula

FLUIDS

If ya drink yer fluids ya'll be feelin' better, the O.J. works great, but water is better.

VITAMIN C

Vitamin C is good for yee, buy it at the drugstore and take it times three

GULPIN' SAD, GARGLIN' RAD

Don't ya be drinkin' the salt water

stuff. Swish it all round til' yer throat's had enough.

SLEEP

Get yer rest and sleep when ya can, if ya don't have a bed, why not a van.

FOOD

Yer toast should be dry, and yer pop should be flat, this is the end, and that is that.

Hug-a-Tree

Jason Northcott

When a tree falls in the forest does it feel pain? There are stories of a lady on the West Coast that allegedly heard the song and cries of the ancient cedars. Was she crazy, oversensitive, or trying to make a point? The thought I pose today is whether or not trees can feel pain.

I think that it is reasonable to assume that pain hurts, therefore, we resist pain. A worm resists being put on a hook, just as a cat resists a vet's needle. A tree, rooted in the soil, has little choice but to be cut down. A recent class of mine resulted in the professor rejecting the idea that pain could in any way be related to trees without scientific evidence. *Science!* Let's not get into that. Since trees do not visually display the characteristics of pain, trees do not exhibit pain. Right?

Well, I am not a tree. I can study a tree from an anthropocentric viewpoint, but then I am interpreting all the information from a human viewpoint. Humans cannot find a nervous system or a brain within a tree but this does not mean that a tree is without feelings. Trees grow, reproduce, breathe, and so forth, these are the symptoms of a living organism. Our need to understand things have simplified Nature to the point that a tree is simply timber. I think we are not looking at the whole picture simply surface deep, creating a Nature that we can understand and control. Maybe the trees know that we are here for only a short time and that's why they do not resist being cut down.

Curiosity Corner

Dear Curiosity Corner,

Is it true that hot water placed in a freezer freezes faster than cold water? If so, then why does this happen?

-Curious Cube (AKA Matt Landry)

Dear Cube,

While you are correct that hot water freezes faster, why it does is a much debated question for which there is not one single answer, but many. One reason put forward is that when the container holding the water is placed on the surface of frost or ice, the higher temperature melts the icy surface the container is on. This improves thermal contact between the container and the cold surface. The increased rate of heat transfer offsets the greater amount of heat that has to be removed.

This effect is achieved whether it is distilled water or even just tap water, however, the best temperature to freeze water at is 35°C and the worst is at 5°C. Another reason offered to explain this odd behaviour of water, is that the rate of heat loss from the upper surface is proportional to the temperature. If the surface can be kept at a higher temperature than the bulk of the liquid, then the rate of heat loss will be greater than from water with the same average temperature, uniformly distributed.

A factor which is looked at is how stationary water is a poor conductor of heat and ice forms on the top and around the sides. This offers no means by which the warmer water can come into contact with the cold container and transfer its heat outside. If the water is warmed significantly before being cooled, strong convection is established before any water freezes, and the entire mass cools rapidly and homogeneously. While initial ice forms more quickly with the cold water, the entire mass cools faster when warm water is used. Other factors include the size and material of the container in which the ice is frozen.

These factors are dealt with by another theory. The only limitation of this experiment working is that the container of water must be relatively small so that the capacity of the freezer to conduct away heat is not limiting. The effect of cold water is that it forms first ice on the surface, which impedes further conductive heat transfer, whereas hot water forms ice over the sides and bottom of the container, and the surface remains liquid and relatively hot, allowing radiant heat loss to continue at a higher rate.

Yet another opinion is that it is a cultural myth. Hot water will not freeze faster than cold water in the freezer.

Whatever the reason, you should try your own experiments, hot water VS. cold water, small container VS. large container, whatever you choose. Let me know what you discover!

Cooking with Herb

AMY McCOMB AND ANTHONY DAVIS

THE BRUNSWICKAN

be too sure, maybe this potion will turn out to be magic for your poor aching joints or that headache you've been complaining about.

A vital part of many chef's ingredient repertoire, lies in the form of garlic, much valued for its health benefits. Allicin, the aromatic component of garlic, destroys harmful microscopic organisms and aids in the formation of platelets, the cells involved in blood clotting. Garlic also helps lower blood pressure, while its anticoagulant properties help blood flow more freely and reduce levels of blood sugar and harmful blood fats.

Aspirin (actually acetylsalicylic acid) now chemically synthesized, was originally extracted from willow tree bark.

You can experience aspirin in its natural form by going down by the banks of the Saint John River, and peeling some willow tree bark for yourself. Upon peeling this bark, one can brew a very powerful cup of tea albeit with a somewhat questionable taste, but who's complaining about that? All you end up tasting in the end is the honey anyway! You can never

Men want commitment, study shows

AMY McCOMB

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Tradition has it that men are hesitant to commit to relationships, while women are presented as being only too eager to marry. It is interesting that a new US study has shown that it is actually men who are eager to rush headlong down the aisle. The researchers suggest this is because men stand to gain more from marriage nowadays than women, who bear the strain of juggling home

and work. Bachelors also tend to have less emotional support than unmarried women who have a network of girlfriends to confide in.

Meanwhile, when it comes to undoing marriage ties, research suggests that divorce could lie in the genes. It was found that people with inherited personality traits, such as anxiety and neuroticism, are more likely to divorce, while the marriages of outgoing men—but not women—are more likely to hit rock bottom.

ORIENTATION 1997

2nd General Meeting

Sunday, February 2nd

7:00 p.m.

MacLaggan Hall

N105

Everyone Welcome!

CAREER WEEK

Monday, January 27 **Free Information on Careers and Employment**
UNB Tully Hall Lobby
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Tuesday, January 28 **How to Prepare and Succeed at the Job Interview**
STM St. James Dunn Hall, G1
11:30 - 1:00 pm

Wednesday, January 29 **Employer Panel: The Job Interview Advice from Employers**
UNB Alumni Memorial Building, President's Room
9:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Thursday, January 30 **Free Information on Careers and Employment**
STM St. James Dunn Hall, Lobby
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

How to Build an Effective Resume
UNB Tully Hall, Room 223
11:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Surfing to Work
Presentations and Trade Fair
Electronic Labour Exchange
National Graduate Register
Can Work Here
And much much more!!
VU Conference Centre, Main Lobby
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Free lunch

All UNB/STM students & Graduates are invited to events on both campuses.

CAREER WEEK sponsored by
UNB/STM Careerline Services & Placement Services

SURFING TO WORK

ARE YOU A UNB UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT THAT NEEDS \$\$\$? IF SO, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP

IF YOU:

- ARE A FULL-TIME UNDERGRAD
- HAVE GOOD GRADES (NOT ON A.P.)
- HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAMPUS AND/OR COMMUNITY

PLEASE SUBMIT AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT, A ONE-PAGE ESSAY DETAILING WHY YOU SHOULD RECEIVE ONE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS, IN CONFIDENCE TO:

TRICIA DAVIDSON V.P. STUDENT SERVICES
IN RM 126 OF THE SUB BEFORE FRID. FEB. 28/97.

BALLROOM BASH

TONIGHT

Let's Make A Deal

Thursday Nights

Don't forget Super Sunday
Green Bay Vs New England

For Members And Guests Only

WIN Fabulous Prizes and Junk

Est. 1970

PIZZA PIZZA TWICE TWICE

SUPER DUPER PARTY PIZZA

Our largest pizza ever with 36 slices of juicy pizza.

Hot & Delicious, just the way you like it.

only \$29.99 plus tax For this weekend only we will include a 2 litre of pop for free.

When you buy 2 - 16 pizzas at the regular price you will receive a third for **\$5.95** +tax

All You Can Eat Mon Tues, 5-9pm

Free Delivery To Campus

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New Maryland Place 457-1787