

BASH Compendium

The Nathan Johnson Years

May 2011–September 2015

On a roughly weekly basis over a four year period, members of CASS (the Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences at UCSD) were treated to chuckle-producing announcements from graduate student Nathan Johnson, who organized BASH from mid-2011 to latter-2015. BASH is the Balcony Astrophysics Social Hour, typically held on the scenic 4th-floor balcony of the SERF building. Craft beer and acronyms are in abundance. During inclement or questionable weather, the affair is sometimes moved down to the Marlar Library/Lounge space on the third floor, acquiring the temporary MLASH designation. Begun in 2009 by Marc Rafelski, BASH has become an institution for CASS, and as its longest-serving organizer, Nathan (and his messages) has himself become a BASH institution.

The announcements often provided useful reflections on the meteorological conditions of the day and the period. It was only through Nathan's BASH notices that many of us appreciated seasonal changes. He took the milquetoast variations of San Diego weather and turned them into poetry one could almost smell. We connected to nature primarily through these wistful references to nostalgic notions of season.

The messages often contained startlingly clever blindsides that are the bedrock of humor. A thought experiment has demonstrated that 86% of invocations of LOL (laughed-out-loud) are not literally true: merely a polite way to acknowledge appreciation for humor. But in this case I can honestly report many a chortle and even occasional guffaw on my part while reading the announcements, and a sense of pride for my advisee. I think partly the success of BASH rested on this talent: I for one felt that the gift of laughter deserved repayment in attendance.

Nathan's humor was not at all confined to careful composition. The late-afternoon timestamps on most messages are not (I hope) an indication that the whole day was spent in their crafting. Rather, these were dashed off often moments before the event. Nathan's quick wit was evident to anyone who could catch it fast enough in conversation. George Fuller (CASS Director) once reported to me—still chuckling—that during a BASH event he (George) ranted about over-use of the “habitable zone” in exoplanet circles, noting that our own solar system has two planets technically within the habitable zone, and one of them was a living hell! Without a second's pause, Nathan

pointed out: “Indeed, and the other is Venus!” You didn’t really even need to be there.

The one downside of this compilation is that when taken all at once, the BASH announcements may come across as repetitive and repetitious and repeats. Successful comedians stress the importance of good *timing* in the delivery of humor. Nathan understood this as well. So for maximal effect, don’t just blow through these messages one after the other. It cheapens the art. Rather, sample one per week as the master intended. Even better would be to read them in sync with the seasons. Best would be to go back in time so the references to storms, mugginess, etc. are in context. In this sense, you had to be there.

Tom Murphy,
2015.09.04

Preface to the Second Edition

After publishing one copy of this compendium (given to Nathan as a gift at his post-defense party), the readership (Nathan) offered helpful contextual comments that have now been inserted as footnotes—although one is my own.

I also took the opportunity to create an exhaustive index, so that one may at any time enjoy the Kazoos of September in their full context, for instance. Deliberately excessive entries for food and weather convey a sense of the culinary and meteorological diversity we enjoyed before climate change ruined our lives.

Tom Murphy,
2015.10.01

Date: May 20, 2011 at 3:05:37 PM PDT

Subject: BASH with Cinnamon Rolls, 4:30, Balcony

BASH will be on the balcony at 4:30, with cinnamon rolls. Weather looks good! Let me know if you want to be removed from this list or know someone who should be on it.

-Nathan

Date: May 27, 2011 at 3:10:30 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - 4:30 - Balcony - Cinnamon Rolls

Awfully nice out, so come to BASH at 4:30! The rolls aren't as big today as they were last week; there is some risk that the early birds will get them. Just saying.

Date: June 3, 2011 at 12:42:25 PM PDT

Subject: End-of-Quarter BASH - 4:30 - Balcony

The weather's nice and classes are over, so come to BASH, 4:30 on the balcony. Grad students also get to go to the GSA-money blowout at Porter's at 3. See you at both!

-Nathan

Date: June 10, 2011 at 1:25:59 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - Balcony - 4:30

There will be BASH, at 4:30 on the balcony. It's kind of lousy out, but I don't think it's going to rain. So, you know, long sleeves.

-Nathan

Date: June 17, 2011 at 2:26:52 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - 4:30 - Lose your Glass?

BASH will be held at 4:30 on the balcony. The day, formerly uninspiring, has turned out quite nice.

I have a Center for Galaxy Evolution glass that was left at BASH last week. I'll deliver within the UTC area, further if you buy me a drink.

-Nathan

Date: June 24, 2011 at 2:29:37 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - 4:30 - Host next week?

BASH will be at 4:30 on the balcony, considering the sunshine. I'm going to be away next week, so I'd be gratified if some valiant soul could step forward and assume hosting duties. It's not hard, and you eat and drink for free! If you can do it, reply to this e-mail or tell me when you see me (today). Beat the rush!

-Nathan

Date: July 1, 2011 at 7:26:30 AM PDT

Subject: No BASH today - Have a great 4th!

I am on vacation today, so on the theory that you may also be, considering the impending holiday, there will be no BASH today, not at 4:30 on the balcony, not anywhere! However, BASH will resume next week. Have a good weekend!

-Nathan

Date: July 8, 2011 at 3:18:24 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Resumes - 4:30 - Balcony

BASH is back, and with cookies! Both will be at 4:30 on the balcony. It's nice out and seasonably warm.

-Nathan

Date: July 15, 2011 at 2:40:17 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

It's quite nice out, so come to BASH, on the balcony at 4:30.

-Nathan

Date: August 5, 2011 at 3:01:13 PM PDT

Subject: BASH reminder - host?

BASH will be held at 4:30 on the balcony. Thanks to Paul and Slawo for hosting the last few weeks. I should really stay in the habit of having other people host regularly. So if you'd be willing to do it one of these weeks, I'd appreciate it! Let me know.

-Nathan

Date: September 9, 2011 at 3:38:14 PM PDT

Subject: Half-BASH Today, 5:00, Balcony

Hello,

There will a somewhat-impooverished BASH at 5:00 today on the balcony. The blackout disrupted the acquisition of BASH supplies, so we don't have everything we normally would, and it seems like CASS is operating with a skeleton crew. All the same, I could go for a light BASH myself, so I'll be out there at 5, which is now the time of BASH. It's pleasant and warm out, so drop by to celebrate the return of power!

-Nathan

Date: September 30, 2011 at 2:21:14 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The sun is shining, the breeze is gentle, and the clouds are at their fluffiest, so come to BASH, 5:00 on the fourth floor balcony. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: October 7, 2011 at 3:13:14 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

It's fine BASH weather out, and if that's not enough to entice you, a minor GSA windfall has permitted the return of those delicious Costco chocolate-covered raisins. There will also be the other usual stuff. See you on the balcony at 5!

-Nathan

Date: October 14, 2011 at 2:23:42 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at 5:00 on the balcony. It's nice enough right now, but I can't stake too much on the fickle and changesome weather. I do, however, promise cinnamon rolls. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: November 4, 2011 at 3:21:46 PM PDT

Subject: BASH After All - 5:00 - Balcony, Probably

Hi all,

Considering that it has stopped raining and does not immediately look like it's going to rain more, BASH will be held as usual at 5:00 on the balcony. It's still not exactly nice, but it's not really all that chilly, and the clouds have broken up a little; BASH has been held in worse. In the event that there should be a reversal of fortune, MLASH will be held in the Marlar Library at 5:00. Either way, Paul Hemphill is hosting, as his arm permits. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: November 18, 2011 at 1:26:10 PM PST

Subject: BASH Between the Breaks - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi all,

There will be BASH today, at the old time of 4:30 to capture some sunlight in this season of Daylight Wasting Time. I'm not going to lie, it's pretty grey out there, but UCSD has thoughtfully provided a balcony-visible carnival to lift our spirits and serve as a jumping-off point for conversation. See you on the balcony!

-Nathan

Date: December 2, 2011 at 1:38:03 PM PST
Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony - Cake?

Hello,

There will be BASH today at 4:30 on the balcony, keeping with the earlier time to try to catch some sunlight. It's really exceptionally nice BASH weather right now. Come congratulate Slawo Suchy on his successful defense yesterday! He's hinted that he may bring a small cake.

-Nathan

Date: December 2, 2011 at 1:45:23 PM PST
Subject: Re: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony - Cake?

Update: The cake is for true!

-Nathan

Date: December 9, 2011 at 2:24:19 PM PST
Subject: BASH - 5:00 - Baklava - Telescope?

Hi all,

There will be BASH today on the balcony. Darcy has brought a telescope, so if conditions permit (it's hard to tell right now whether they will), you should be able to look at Venus, Jupiter, and the fullish moon. BASH will be held at 5 so that it will get dark in a timely fashion. Tom Gasaway has furnished baklavas, and JJ's taking care of the rest!

-Nathan

Date: January 6, 2012 at 2:35:19 PM PST

Subject: First BASH of the 'winter' - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Welcome back! BASH will be held at 4:30 on the 4th floor balcony, in an attempt to catch a little sunlight. It's unreasonably nice out. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: January 13, 2012 at 4:04:41 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Sorry for the late notice, but there is as usual BASH today at 4:30 on the balcony. It's still really nice out, and this time the soda should be cold-ish!

See you there!

-Nathan

Date: January 20, 2012 at 1:46:24 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

That pretty much sums it up. It's nice out. People down on the ground will be scuttling about their presumably workaday lives. Don't be one of them! See you there.

-Nathan

Date: January 27, 2012 at 3:36:46 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 4:30 on the balcony. It's getting light enough late enough that I'm thinking about moving it back to 5; let me know if you have a strong opinion about that. Meanwhile, it's going to be nice, and there's a good view of the undergraduates celebrating something by standing in long lines down on the green. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: March 2, 2012 at 1:28:18 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today on the balcony. It's beautiful out, as it always seems to be on Friday, as a grocery store checker remarked to me this morning. Or maybe it was my advisor? Anyway, BASH will be at 5, assuming I make it back from you-know-where with the you-know-what by then. If I'm not out on the balcony, I haven't made it yet.

-Nathan

Date: March 9, 2012 at 3:26:17 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There is BASH today at 5 on the balcony, just like usual. It's pretty idyllic out there, just like usual. I'm pretty sure I saw nymphs dancing around a March pole. No drama this week, and we're doing a better job keeping the CO₂ in stuff. See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: March 16, 2012 at 3:41:05 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 5:00 on the balcony. It was pretty lousy this morning, but it seems to be clearing up nicely, maybe still light-jacket weather. Those of you who are taking classes can celebrate the last day of them! See you there.

-Nathan

Date: April 6, 2012 at 4:02:25 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The first BASH of spring will be held today at 5:00 on the fourth floor balcony, from which you can see flowers sprouting, birds returning, and clouds rolling in from the sea—the hallmarks of the season. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: April 13, 2012 at 3:47:01 PM PDT

Subject: MLASH Today- 5:00 - Marlar Library

Hi everyone,

It's raining on and off, probably due to an occluded Marc front blowing in from the north. Under the circumstances, unless it clears up convincingly, I probably won't dare hold B(alcony)ASH, so I would expect we'll be in the library at 5. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: June 29, 2012 at 3:45:39 PM PDT

Subject: Progressive BASH - Starts at 5 on Balcony

Hi everyone,

I will set up a mostly-normal BASH at the usual time and place, but I will leave at 5:30 to go to Nathan “Baseball Bat” Miller’s¹ farewell party at Porter’s near Mayer Hall, and you should, too! (Although I will not force the issue by cleaning up BASH early, so you can stay if you want). After 528 years in CASS, Nathan is leaving to take up a NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. So come to BASH, and then move over to Porter’s and lift a glass to Nathan. The other one. No one can lift a glass to me, I’m too tall.

-Nathan “Not Leaving” Johnson

¹Nathan Miller was one of several people who for a few years had grilled lunch on the balcony on Mondays. He kept a baseball bat near his desk, which we figured was for enforcement purposes, but on the other hand he had played in college. He was naturally coy about these things, an invitation to speculation

Date: July 13, 2012 at 1:47:24 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony - Burma-Shave

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH at the usual time and place, followed by a ceremonial storming of SERF in commemoration of Bastille Day, which is actually tomorrow, for those who are interested and/or French. See you out there!

-Nathan

Date: August 31, 2012 at 3:03:31 PM PDT

Subject: Surrealist BASH Today - Meatball:30 - Depilation Floor 2

Ha, no, it's just regular BASH, and it's on the balcony. It's sunny and hot. Plus, the bougainvillea that many of us declared both dead and an eyesore has turned out to be merely alive and and unsightly. See you at 5 sharp! Unless your clocks melt.

-Nathan

Date: September 7, 2012 at 4:13:43 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Cake!

Hi everyone,

There is BASH today as usual. Not only is it warm and sunny, but there is an upside-down cake made with figs that Chad grew himself! I know, I also thought they came from a tree. See you on the balcony at 5.

-Nathan

Date: September 14, 2012 at 3:52:02 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Unbearable Heat

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the balcony. I heard conflicting reports that it was hundreds of degrees out. I don't know if that's true, but it would probably be better to hang out at BASH while the sun westers than to risk a premature venture into the gasping waste. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: September 21, 2012 at 4:16:06 PM PDT

Subject: Chaos BASH - Balcony? - 5:00?

Hi everyone,

There will be unpredictable BASH today at about the usual time and place. James Aird is leaving as his postdoc comes to an end. He might be at BASH to receive your congratulations and farewells, but then, he might not. I haven't gotten any non-diet soda yet, and while I plan to, there is always that possibility of failure. I have to leave at 5:45, so BASH may abruptly end at that time, but maybe some intrepid attendee will agree to take responsibility for the cleanup, in which case maybe BASH will still be going on on Monday.

There will, however, definitely be toffee, and lots of it. Maybe the toffee is in James' honor. But then, maybe it's not.

See you out there, maybe.

-Nathan

Date: September 28, 2012 at 3:12:37 PM PDT

Subject: No BASH today - GSA event

Hi everyone,

There will be no BASH today, in deference to a graduate-student event being held at Porter's at 5. If you are a grad student, you should go! BASH will be back next week.

-Nathan

Date: October 5, 2012 at 3:24:11 PM PDT

Subject: First BASH of the Quarter - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH returns today at the usual time. Conditions are partly cloudy with a slight autumnal tinge of scent and coolth, aerosolized homesickness to a northeasterner. We've got some toffee left, plus mint Oreos and a modest infusion of good cheer from an unthought-of source. See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: October 12, 2012 at 3:02:56 PM PDT

Subject: SuperBASH - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be an unusually well-stocked BASH today, if all goes as planned. We've got a bunch of extra and different foods, plus hopefully a few dozen buffalo wings and something else, something that rhymes with 'peg of clear.' All this largesse is a gift of Brian Keating², and no donations will be solicited. Come and enjoy, and bring a friend if you can.

The rain of yesterday has left everything pleasantly fresh. The clouds have moved off, and it's clear skies to the west. The air is tepid, like it's trying to be fall but doesn't really 'get it.' See you out there.

-Nathan

²Dr. Keating funded this unusual superBASH on the occasion of the visit of Kam Arnold, whom he was hoping to hire. Dr. Arnold did indeed agree to come to UCSD, and the event was remembered for years.

Date: November 16, 2012 at 3:47:52 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at the Standard Time of 4:30. It's very nice out now, turning to cool as the sun sets. The undergrad carnival down on the green should be starting up after dark, so there may also be a light show; one of the rides comes close to the level of the balcony. See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: November 30, 2012 at 4:23:40 PM PST

Subject: MLASH - Right Now! - Library

Hi everyone,

It's pretty damp out, so there will be a light (since the rain also prevented my shopping) MLASH in Marlar Library West (South? Where teatime is.) starting as soon as I can get the stuff down there, which should be pretty soon indeed. See you there!

-Nathan

Date: December 7, 2012 at 1:57:30 PM PST

Subject: BLAST Today - 4:30 - Hopefully balcony

That's right, BLAST! Because Liz Actually Submitted a Thesis. Come celebrate Liz' defense (which is at 3 in the new seminar room, formerly the middle half of the Marlar Library)! Or, as may be, come grudgingly acknowledge the stronger-than-expected offense of her committee! Either way, there will hopefully be some extra stuff.

Conditions outside have been better; I recommend sweatshirts and jackets, and it's possible we could be forced into the same room in which the defense is occurring if it rains at all.

Due to ensuing obligations, BLAST will in any event end promptly at 4:30. It will probably start as soon as the defense concludes.

I will try to make coffee in the teatime area at 2:45 or something so people can have some beforehand if they want, but I'm a little pressed, so if I can't manage it I apologize.

See you there! Good luck, Liz!

-Nathan

Date: January 18, 2013 at 3:29:47 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Note on funding

It's nice. Real nice. The chill of the past few weeks has yielded to a warmth that seems to be blowing in from the sort of place that brave warriors go if they fall in battle. Would that we could have BASH now - by 4:30 it will probably be a little cooler out on the fourth floor balcony, ancestral home of BASH. But it will probably still be pretty nice. Plus, Chad has contributed these awesome-looking Hawaiian candy things, which you should check out.

I feel I have never really explained how BASH funding works and what the understanding is, and new people have gradually been coming along, so let me also describe our arrangement. While BASH sometimes gets an infusion of funds or food from some generous, mustachioed source, in general there is no source of anything except what funds go into the tissue box in the course of BASH each week. It is some combination of unlawful and not customary for BASH to charge either for specific items or for the privilege of attending, but nevertheless BASH costs something like \$30 to hold. Presuming that about 10 people attend, the per-person cost is about \$3. You are clever folk, so at BASH, look around and figure out based on the attendance what your share would likely be; and if you are not a graduate student, you might also consider that the graduate students in attendance are mostly inveterate moochers who cannot be relied upon to pull their weight. I hope that with your support, BASH will bury me and not I it.

See you out there,
Nathan

While this is not a BASH message, I felt I should slip this in as an indication of the diversity of Nathan's service to CASS. And this leaves out his effective organization of Journal Club for some time. Then there is department service in the form of outreach events, Open House help, etc. When the Physics department orders pizza from Dominos, it still arrives with Nathan's name on it.

Date: February 28, 2013 at 9:08:37 AM PST

Subject: Impending Teatime Sequester

Hi everyone,

I have been doing the teatime setup since the administrative staff stopped doing it in November or whenever that was, but out of tiredness I decided to stop at the end of the month, which means I quit tomorrow. I set out a sheet in the tea room asking for volunteers to do the setup on a monthly basis, and while some people have graciously signed up, there is no one in place for March. We could all call each other's bluff on this and live with the lousy, unintended, avoidable consequences, Congress-style, but I hope that instead someone will step into the gap. It only takes about 10 minutes a day to set the stuff up. I have the key to the cabinet with the snacks in it, and I'm generally up in room 464. I should also be at tea for a little while and at the colloquium.

-Nathan

Date: March 1, 2013 at 1:56:47 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

No gimmicks today, just Elysian weather. If you're not there, our loss will be exceeded only by your own. If teatime doesn't happen, I will serve pretzels and raisins at BASH, so they don't spoil in this orphan March.

-Nathan

Date: March 8, 2013 at 3:17:24 PM PST

Subject: [SPAM] BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today on the fourth-floor balcony. It is not warm like it was a few days ago, but there's significant sunshine, and at any rate I don't think it is going to rain. It's like they say about March: In like a lamb, kind of porcupiney for a while after that, tiptoe past the Ides and it's spring break! We've got Oreos, two kinds. See you there.

-Nathan

Date: March 15, 2013 at 3:23:08 PM PDT

Subject: [SPAM] BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Conditions are pretty good at the moment, although I wouldn't be surprised if the dramatic blowing fog makes a reappearance. BASH, like the Postal Service, perseveres in all meteorological conditions and doesn't happen on Saturday. See you there.

-Nathan

Date: March 22, 2013 at 3:35:23 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - New Fridge!

Hi everyone,

I don't mean that BASH is in the new fridge, just that there is one. BASH is still on the balcony, and all of the refrigerables will be as cold as they should be for the first time in a long time, thanks to Martha's work finding a cheap, working icebox. Thank her if you see her.

It's the last BASH of the quarter and the first of spring! The marine layer was nowhere to be seen earlier, and there seems to be an antidepressant on the breeze. Watering down the Clean Air Act turns out to be a blessing in disguise.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: March 29, 2013 at 3:18:06 PM PDT

Subject: Low-key BASH - 5:00 - Balcony

I assume a lot of people aren't around due to the holiday, but we have some good stuff on hand due to a recent Costco visitation, so I will set a few things out at 5 and supplement as needed.

-Nathan

Date: April 5, 2013 at 3:26:54 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Today will be the first BASH of the spring quarter. Will it be, weather-wise, the nicest BASH of the spring quarter? Almost certainly not. But will there be cheese dip and two-bite cinnamon rolls? As surely as I answer my own questions.

See you out there.
-Nathan

Date: April 19, 2013 at 4:25:16 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Without belaboring the point, there is BASH today at 5 and it is outrageously nice out, so come enjoy it. See you there.

-Nathan

Date: May 3, 2013 at 3:43:50 PM PDT

Subject: No BASH - Lecture with Food Instead

Hi everyone,

In spite of the excellent weather I am not holding BASH today due to this lecture, which starts at 4 and will be followed by food and drink that will hopefully be at least as good as what I would serve you. BASH will be back next week.

Could this be the song that Pei-Chun referred to at the end of her Journal Club today? To the tune of 'Let it Be.'

-Nathan

Date: May 10, 2013 at 3:20:38 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:15 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH returns today. It's nice out and warm enough, but besides that, we have those awesome toffee squares everyone loves. I will get a volume of liquid suitable to the occasion, so your assistance may be required.

Note that the start of BASH will be delayed by 15 minutes.

See you there.

-Nathan

Date: May 17, 2013 at 4:12:16 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Today is Bike to BASH day!³ So hop on your cycles and ride recklessly through the fourth-floor halls and out onto the balcony at 5. Those with bikes get first crack at the toffee.

It's a partly-cloudy, often-blustery Sun God Friday. Sweatshirt weather, I think.

See you out there.

-Nathan

³Bike to Work day, unlike the event advertised here, is a real thing and happens in May. You can get a free breakfast and shirt if you ride in, plus a map of local trails, at least some years.

Date: May 24, 2013 at 4:33:35 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - Soon - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be hopefully not much later than 5 on the balcony. It's a great day for it, but I may be a little late.

-Nathan

Date: May 31, 2013 at 4:36:13 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - 5:00 - Popcorn

We bought a popcorn machine, so in addition to the usual good stuff, there will be that, if we can figure out how to work it.

-Nathan

Date: May 31, 2013 at 5:14:03 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Location

BASH is at the far end of the balcony due to the power requirements of the corn-popper.

-Nathan

Date: June 7, 2013 at 4:10:52 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - Popcorn - 5:00

Hi everyone,

BASH will be at 5 on the balcony, one end or the other, both if there is excessive demand. The popcorn renaissance continues. No shortages of any kind are anticipated. Darcy will be setting up the essentials at 5, and I'll be along a little later with the non-essentials. Come and enjoy the early-summer gloom. Long pants, comfortable shoes.

See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: June 14, 2013 at 4:21:51 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH; there will likely be popcorn. I suppose it's the first of the summer, and it's turned out to be a nice day after a rocky start.

I'm going to be away the next two weeks. If you would be willing to put BASH on one or both times, let me know. For now, you should at least get it while the getting is good.

See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: July 12, 2013 at 2:49:39 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Returns! 5:00, Balcony

Hi everyone,

After a few weeks away and the 4th of July last week, I am planning to resume BASH today. Come enjoy the scuttlebutt! Have you HEARD what's been going on with the Mayor? It's crazy! BASH conditions are good, warm, currently sunny with clouds possibly advancing from the coast as the day wears on. There may well be popcorn, and if there is, BASH will probably be down at the west end of the balcony considering the more favorable outlet placement.

See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: July 19, 2013 at 4:37:51 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at the balcony west end as is becoming usual. There should be popcorn.

I haven't updated this list in a while. There are people I should definitely remove, but let me know if you are aware of people I should add - students and postdocs who have arrived in the last year, people who are here for the summer.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: July 26, 2013 at 4:05:51 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at 5 at the west end of the 4th floor balcony. Conditions are comfortable if cloudy. A grumbler⁴ will be poured out for Liz Rivers, who got married last weekend. If you missed yesterday's end-of-the-year physics party, this is your chance to prove that you, too, are fun and interesting. See you out there.

-Nathan

⁴A grumbler is a half gallon of liquid stored in glass, as opposed to the one-gallon growler. The word works as both a diminutive of the notion of the disgruntled jug and as a fusion of 'growler' and 'tumbler.' We encouraged the term for as long as grumblers were in use at BASH in the hope that it would catch on, and it became at least locally current. We encourage you to use it, too.

Date: August 9, 2013 at 3:02:02 PM PDT

Subject: No BASH Today - GSA Social

Hi everyone,

I am not holding BASH today in deference to the department's co-hosting of the roaming social hour, which will occur from 4 to 6 on the Medical School lawn on Gilman. There will be grilled food and beer, as well as a game of kickball. We've proven we're better than the chemists at slow-pitch softball, but are we better than them at kickball, an arguably similar sport? I see no reason to enter the weekend not knowing, so I will be there, and you should, too!

-Nathan

Date: August 16, 2013 at 4:23:26 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

You should come to BASH today at 5. It was pretty hot this afternoon, so that's a factor. And then there was that staff picnic thing right outside around lunchtime, but you didn't go because you're not sure you qualify as 'staff' and anyway the line was huge. So this is your last chance to feel appreciated. See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: August 23, 2013 at 4:18:37 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Nicer BASH weather you couldn't ask for, so come out to the balcony (west side) at 5 for popcorn &c.

-Nathan

Date: August 30, 2013 at 4:34:27 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

It's hot. Maybe some BASH would do you good. Balcony, west end, half an hour.

-Nathan

Date: September 20, 2013 at 3:43:51 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony West

Hi everyone,

There will be real BASH today on the occasion of Eve's practice defense. BASH has been practicing all summer, and this is our last chance to get it right. Conditions are New Englandy. Bring a screwdriver with which to open oysters, just in case.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: September 27, 2013 at 12:25:05 PM PDT
Subject: No BASH Today - Various Other Events

Hi everyone,

Today there will be some sort of food-including reception following Eve's defense (the defense is at 1:15), and there is also a beginning-of-the-quarter event happening at Mayer on the south patio starting at 2. Considering these events it doesn't seem necessary to also have BASH (although I would change my mind if there was in fact considerable demand). Otherwise, BASH will return next week.

-Nathan

Date: October 4, 2013 at 4:20:17 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will resume today at 5 on the 4th floor balcony, west side. It should be good, but your thoughts will likely go unprovoked. If you wish they wouldn't, you should try 'Our Star Will Die Alone' tonight and tomorrow night at 10:30 on the south side of Galbraith Hall, near Stonehenge. Adam Burgasser collaborates with Theatre and Visual Arts: "Through sound, light, projection, and a death metal band, this performance will articulate the productive and destructive aspects of stellar evolution." I myself saw it last night. Won't give anything away.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: October 11, 2013 at 4:30:01 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Yes.

Date: October 25, 2013 at 4:18:00 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

I'm back and will hold BASH at 5 today as usual. Sorry I dropped the ball last week. There's delicious spinach-parmesan dip today, thanks to Alex. A lousy morning has given way to a pleasant afternoon. It's not the warmest, but it's almost November, and I can only do so much.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: November 1, 2013 at 4:32:56 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held shortly on the balcony, west side. This is not to be confused with 'Halloween Bash', the GSA fall social starting at 6 at the Price Center, which is unaffiliated with BASH. (I was not able to find a judge who would grant an injunction based on the name.)

The weather is crisp and clear with a smooth citrus-pineapple finish. Artificial lighting will be available once darkness sets in.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: November 15, 2013 at 4:29:49 PM PST
Subject: BASH Today - Presently - Outdoors

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH at 5. Truly it is fall, the sky a slate boldly broken, the inscrutable sunset a passing apparition by whose scant evidence we discern some far-off hoped-for glory as we stumble forward, faces up-turned, into the unknown. And down on the lawn the undergrads are having a party, so you can see this metaphor play out in real time while you drink! On the strength of that, I hope to see you there.

-Nathan

Also, Halloween candy, and likely popcorn!

Date: November 22, 2013 at 4:14:10 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The weather, formerly questionable, has moved off, and we are left with a fine fall day freshly washed. See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: December 6, 2013 at 4:35:27 PM PST

Subject: No BASH - It's cold

Cold drinks are not suitable for these conditions. Go get yourself some hot chocolate instead. For grad students, there is a GSA event at 5 at Cusp's Hiatus Fireside (!) Lounge at 7955 La Jolla Shores, so check that out instead.

-Nathan

Date: December 13, 2013 at 4:09:20 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

I will hold a last-BASH-of-the-year today, usual setting. Nothing fancy, good view of Venus. See you out there.

-Nathan

Date: January 10, 2014 at 3:51:40 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The first BASH of the new year will be held on the fourth-floor balcony in just over an hour. The ceremonial pouring of last year's ranch dressing onto the sidewalk below will commence promptly at 5:30, so you should probably come to BASH for at least that long if you customarily leave the building via the south entrance.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: January 17, 2014 at 3:54:28 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Popcorn

Hi everyone,

With the replenishment of the formerly depleted coconut-oil supply, corn-popping is set to resume today. I will also be sounding people out on a beverage-supply matter of consequence, so make yourself heard! Fourth-floor balcony, west end.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: January 24, 2014 at 3:34:06 PM PST
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 5 on the west end of the fourth-floor balcony. I'd be lying if I said it was glorious out, but it's not so bad either, and with the gradual lengthening of the days we will have that much more light than we did last week.

If all goes according to plan, this will be the last week using the classic grumbler-based beverage delivery system, and next week we will debut a futuristic and hopefully superior apparatus⁵. This is therefore an opportunity to reflect, and any enduring contents of the grumblers will be ceremonially poured into the bougainvillea at the conclusion of BASH.

See you out there,
Nathan

⁵The new system was the kegerator. Alex Mendez had won the small refrigerator from the defunct 1 Miramar cafe in a raffle, and he bought the parts to outfit it as a kegerator and I think did most of the work, and donated it to BASH. The beer was from Karl Strauss and conveyed to the balcony in the one-gallon Karl Strauss growler in accordance with labeling laws, and so the half-gallon Rock Bottom grumblers were less often seen and the word correspondingly more rarely heard afterward

Date: January 31, 2014 at 3:13:53 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the 4th floor balcony west end. BASH conditions have been improving gradually but steadily throughout the day after last night's rain. Sunset is scheduled for 5:21, so there will be daylight for a good while.

BASH's new beverage containment system has been installed! It's the most significant BASH hardware upgrade since the popcorn machine. Stop by room 464 at 4:50 to see it in action, and the effects will be visible on the balcony 10 minutes later. Thanks to our GSA reps for procuring needed funding and equipment, and to everyone who worked and advised on the installation.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: February 7, 2014 at 3:19:16 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH is on for today at 5. Thanks to Alex Mendez we've been restocked with delicious foodstuffs. Conditions are fair with no sign of yesterday's damp, although it is thankfully precipitating in much of the north of the state.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: February 14, 2014 at 2:44:05 PM PST
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Being that it is Valentine's Day, some of you may have dates tonight, and good for you if you're into that kind of thing. But if you're not, or just need to steel your nerves beforehand, there will be BASH at 5. It's a glorious warm day, sunset after 5:30. I am thinking of breaking out the dark chocolate-covered sea-salt caramels. Yes.

Special thanks to Ron Quillin, who was able to restore the BASH fridge⁶ to functionality after a breakdown earlier in the week. The contents were not impacted, deliciousness-wise.

See you out there,
Nathan

⁶Within a few weeks the kegerator was damaged by a power surge. It seemed hopeless, which was going to be a sad waste of the just-purchased beer, but Ron Quillin figured out the problem and devised a stopgap solution that kept us going until the needed part arrived. I will tell you what happened and what to do about it, since the same thing happened to me at home later. If your refrigerator is not cooling and is making a periodic clicking sound, and the compressor is warm but not periodically coming on (it would vibrate gently), probably there is damage to the positive temperature coefficient thermistor inside the start relay attached to the compressor. The actual thermistor is this odd thin disc and can't generally be purchased separately, but the relay (generally a little black box, maybe a little hard to separate from the compressor) can be had for not too much depending on your model. Avoid refrigerator damage in the first place by plugging into a surge protector.

Date: February 21, 2014 at 3:54:18 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at 5:00 on the balcony, west end. BASH conditions are excellent, with sunset not until 5:40. Repairs to the BASH fridge have been successful, so everything will be cold that should be.

Extra toffee for every grad student who has filled out the evaluation forms for the most recent faculty candidates.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: February 28, 2014 at 3:30:44 PM PST

Subject: Light MLASH - 5:00 - Marlar Library

Hi everyone,

I don't dare have BASH outside today, and there is a grad student event also at 5 in the lounge across from Porter's. Nevertheless I will haul some stuff down to the teatime area at 5, so stop by for light refreshment and possible discussion of that dark-matter detection Dr. Fuller was telling us about today. I would be gratified if someone who know what that was about would attend.

See you down there,
Nathan

Date: March 7, 2014 at 3:27:26 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today as usual. Conditions have turned out fair and springy after an unpromising start this morning. A few hours ago, the only rain in the state was in Death Valley.

I will be away next week, so I will have to get one of you to take over. Really, I should return to the old practice of having different people manage it week to week, but I have been slow to build enthusiasm for tracking you down. If you'd like to volunteer, let me know. Also, we ought to talk about how if at all to change things now that we are reaping the benefits of economies of scale. BASH already ruins my dinner every Friday and there are grills already out there, so it might be natural to get some stuff to grill for people who just want to make a meal of it, for example. Let me know your views, lest I be forced to ask you in person.

See you out there,

Nathan

Date: March 21, 2014 at 4:43:05 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The first BASH of spring will be held in a few minutes on the fourth-floor balcony in fine conditions. Thanks to the people who put BASH on last week while I was away.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: March 28, 2014 at 4:37:48 PM PDT

Subject: No BASH Today - Holiday

I will hold no BASH today due to presumed holiday-induced low building occupancy. I am in fact in the building, as are some other people I see, but we apparently prefer working to having fun, and I don't want to entertain anyone against their will. I myself will take a salted caramel and some light refreshment in my lab, room 464, in 10 minutes, any anyone who cares to stop by will be welcome to join me.

-Nathan

Date: April 4, 2014 at 3:02:04 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at 5:00 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. BASH conditions are fair to middling. There is considerable overflow of supply from a social event that was held for the prospective graduate students on Wednesday, so there may be an unusual item or two.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: April 11, 2014 at 4:17:51 PM PDT

Subject: No BASH - Defense Party!

Hi everyone,

Dave Boettger just defended, so celebratory refreshments are being served starting right now in the tea area on the third floor. I'm sure that will be BASH enough for everyone for today.

-Nathan

Date: April 18, 2014 at 4:25:04 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will resume today at 5 on the 4th floor balcony, west end. Conditions outside have become quite fine after an unpromising start and are improving by the minute. Light fare will be served as available, while supplies last.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: April 25, 2014 at 3:30:14 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The weather will hold up long enough for us to have BASH at 5 on the 4th floor balcony, west end. Alex got burgers but I haven't yet secured a new gas cylinder for the grill⁷ that's out there. Nevertheless, we should have grilling at BASH starting next week. Feel free to BYO grillables.

See you out there,
Nathan

⁷This grill had a few years earlier been on Marc Rafelski's Mesa patio, but it became unlawful to have one there, so Wendell Misch and I pushed it to SERF one night in approximately November 2011. It was used for Monday lunch grilling for a while and then sat idle until the idea of grilling at BASH was hatched.

Date: May 2, 2014 at 2:55:40 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - Burgers - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Today marks the beginning of our experiment with grilling at BASH. I have up to 5 burgers that will be grilled to order on a first-come first-served basis. BASH has been ruining your dinner for years, so why not just dine there? I've got buns, cheddar cheese, ketchup, and some old-but-still-good jalapeno mustard I bought a while back. If you prefer other kinds of mustard, the fourth-floor fridge is a veritable Baskin Robbins of possibilities, some of which have been slow-curing in there since probably the Carter administration. Don't worry, mustard is far too acidic to spoil, that's why they buried Alexander the Great in it. Wait.

Anyway, the scorching heat of the day will be giving way to the merely sleep-precluding heat of the night. Cold beverages will be served.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: May 9, 2014 at 3:12:58 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 5, despite the fact that that is also the time at which the reception following Jill Tarter's presentation of the Arnold lecture will begin. No doubt the lecture organizing committee will be super embarrassed once they realize that they have created this scheduling conflict. The reception will likely have baked brie and some cheese dip of the artichoke persuasion, but WILL THEY HAVE BURGERS GRILLED TO ORDER?

* * * SPOILER ALERT * * * (Highlight below for text)
THEY WILL NOT
* * * END SPOILERS * * *

So cut out of there at 5:30 and stop by the balcony. I hope at least one person who went to the lecture will come to BASH, as I tried to RSVP yesterday and found it was full, so I would be gratified if someone could tell me what Dr. Tarter said.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: May 16, 2014 at 3:06:34 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held in two hours on the fourth-floor balcony. You may have assumed that BASH was already going on due to the savor of grilling in the air, but what you're smelling is actually Carlsbad.⁸ (Too soon?) In any event, a cold drink is certainly in order as the heat wave breaks.

See you out there,
Nathan

⁸At that time due to blazing winds off the desert there were fires to the north, the smoke of which could be seen from campus.

Date: May 23, 2014 at 4:45:53 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH in 20 minutes on the balcony. Former graduate student Marc Rafelski is in the building, in addition to which there are burgers for the first four people who want them, with buns and ketchup and plates generously retrieved from Ralph's by Evan as we speak. BASH conditions are fair to middling, but nothing to make you miss the blazing heat of last week.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: May 30, 2014 at 4:36:51 PM PDT

Subject: Bike to BASH Today at 5

Hi everyone,

Today we are encouraging everyone to conserve energy by riding their bikes to BASH. Please circulate counterclockwise in the hallways to ensure everyone's safety. Other than that, it's no frills today, as no one was willing to bike to Costco. Still, there will be the basics, popcorn likely. BASH conditions good to quite good.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 6, 2014 at 3:44:10 PM PDT

Subject: BASH to Follow Defense

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH on the fourth-floor balcony around 5, following Wendell's defense, which is momentarily in the seminar room on the third floor. A slightly late start is possible, but it should be extra-BASHy due to supplies coming in from novel sources. BYO doctorate.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 13, 2014 at 4:24:34 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Journal Club may be over for the year, but BASH recognizes no seasonal delineations and will be held at 5 on the 4th floor balcony, west end. There's some week-old Defense Cake we should probably finish, although some people (or one real cake lover) have made good headway on it already this week and it's within striking distance of gone.

BASH conditions are excellent, meteorologically. Horoscopically, no one's safe on Friday the 13th, but those at BASH are safer than some.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 20, 2014 at 4:21:31 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Come take some refreshment and discuss the issues of the day. Is Steinhardt right about the unfalsifiability of cosmic inflation? Can anyone stop Costa Rica's World Cup run? Now that Dave Boettger's gone, what is the point, even? SHOULD I REMOVE DAVE FROM THE BASH EMAIL LIST?

This and more, 5 sharpish. Burgers will be grilled, for example.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: July 11, 2014 at 4:03:59 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

After a gap of a few weeks BASH will return today at 5 on the 4th floor balcony, west end. Summer BASH conditions are characteristically excellent; it's a pity they will be enjoyed only by the few of you who reliably show up to work during these months. Ha ha, no, I kid, I know you work hard, are at conferences, prefer day-trading, etc.

I wasn't kidding about BASH, though. 5. Balcony. Carrot sticks.

See you out there,

Nathan

Date: July 18, 2014 at 4:43:27 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Soon, Nearby

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held momentarily (at 5) on the fourth-floor balcony west end. I am completely exhausted, but go easy on me and I'm sure we'll get it done.

-Nathan

Date: July 25, 2014 at 4:12:09 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Due to popular demand, BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Adam has generously furnished a variety of crisped snackables, some of which are high in potassium, so swing by if you're crampy. BASH conditions are partly cloudy, but it's warm enough you probably won't want it much sunnier.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: July 25, 2014 at 4:51:02 PM PDT
Subject: Update: Coke (like hope) floats

Due to an appreciated suggestion⁹ there will be vanilla ice cream for a reasonable number of coke floats on a first-come, first-served basis.

-Nathan

⁹This was Alison Coil's suggestion, a way to offer something new and wind down the stock of half-drunk sodas in the refrigerator and half-drunk researchers outside it.

Date: August 1, 2014 at 4:09:29 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH in an hour on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. You should come to BASH, not just because BASH conditions are excellent, but because there may be people at BASH who will never again be seen at BASH, or at least not for some time.¹⁰ Who knows? Life is fleeting, unpredictable. BASH, while also fleeting, is reliable.

There will also be ice cream, for coke floats or just general eating, and burgers.

See you out there,
Nathan

¹⁰This was the last full Friday of Alex Mendez, who secured and donated the kegerator but also by dint of his Costco membership was the principal supplier of food to BASH for a long time. He was for years one of the GSA representatives and had a hand in establishing the PGC. He took some amount of charge of the CASS website and calendar and his help and advice could be relied on. It was a loss when he went to Johns Hopkins as a postdoc.

Date: August 8, 2014 at 4:14:27 PM PDT

Subject: BASH - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH as needed starting around 5. A formerly gray day has turned out all right in the end. Come pour one out for Alex Mendez, who is off to Baltimore as of this morning. Dress is somber-casual.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: August 15, 2014 at 3:20:38 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Due to overwhelming demand, there will be BASH at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. There will be ice cream and burgers for the first 5 or so takers, plus popcorn if there is enough interest, as well as the usual stuff. There are a bunch of CMB experiment types around, but they have the rangy look of people who like their refreshments to put up a fight, so the degree of demand from that quarter is unknown. (Just kidding, you guys are great! We regret we cannot accept checks.)

BASH conditions are quite fine, with blazing sun and scorching heat foretelling a mild evening.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: August 22, 2014 at 4:37:29 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

I guess it would not be too much trouble.

-Nathan

Date: August 29, 2014 at 4:27:22 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. I have decided that we will have chips and salsa as we did of old, in Marc Rafelski's time. Haha, remember him?

BASH conditions are shady and mild. In the distance you can hear the Guns of August, but soon these will give way to the Kazoos of September, so listen while the listening's good.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: September 5, 2014 at 4:37:12 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Remember, remember the fifth of September! Or is it November? Maybe basing that rhyme on the word 'remember' doesn't help people 'remember' at all, since there are three months whose name makes a passably good rhyme with 'remember'. Probably should have just worked with 'Fawkes', lots of things rhyme with that. Gawks, lox, socks.

I've got the same problem but worse with that beer and liquor one. The mnemonic might help you remember what spirits it's about due to the rhyme with 'sicker', but it's the preceding preposition that you are really supposed to be reminding yourself of, not that I really think it probably makes any difference about the order.

BASH in a little bit. Take your liquor now or afterwards as your credal affiliation prescribes. I got those mint Oreos I like. Weather's fine, sun increasingly out of the eyes these days.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: September 12, 2014 at 4:44:32 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH in a little bit on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Remember when we used to kick it on the east end? Those were good times, but that place has all of the living bougainvillea and none of the working electrical outlets, and popcorn must be popped, if we're not going to subsist on increasingly stale chips forever. There will also be mint Oreos, whose charms are conversely well-favored by Time.

BASH conditions are quite fine, with clouds providing shade in the west but the sky clear overhead.

See you out there,

Nathan

Date: September 19, 2014 at 4:33:09 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the 4th-floor balcony, west end. Scottish nationalism may be discussed as conditions permit. I will not be serving any more of those stale chips, not because I think you wouldn't eat them (you know who you are¹¹) but because I have a paternalistic desire to protect you from yourselves. Popcorn, though.

See you out there,
Nathan

¹¹TWM: I admit it was me

Date: September 26, 2014 at 4:40:13 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH today on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. It's the fall, with all that that implies. For one thing, this will be the last peaceful BASH for a while. And then there's the weather. My counterpart at UC-Calexico had to cancel their BASH due to torrential rain. As for you, you'll be lucky if you don't end up in Oz. But I predict you'll still be there; only privately-held popcorn machine in these parts, for one thing.

See you over the rainbow,

Nathan

Date: October 3, 2014 at 4:06:39 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held a little later on the 4th floor balcony, west end. It will be attended by 30,000 undergraduates, the same ones in fact who attended your commute and effort to buy lunch. They will pay handsomely but expect results. They were born in 1996. They remember neither The X Files nor Party of Five, so don't mention those. They learned about Monica Lewinsky from Ali G. To them, Chris Farley is not dead because he was never alive.

Think about that.

Weather's good, though.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: October 10, 2014 at 4:36:46 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held in a bit on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Darcy was good enough to get some stuff for BASH from Costco, so among other things we have these spectacular cinnamon roasted almonds from a company called—get this—‘Almond Brothers.’ There will also be Iggy Popcorn. I promise not to talk about dark energy. You talk, I’ll listen.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: October 17, 2014 at 4:50:31 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held in a little bit on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Nothing funny going on this week, sorry. Weather's getting on towards fallish.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: October 24, 2014 at 2:13:03 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. I have to send this message early and start setting up because I can barely move on account of my giant rooty elephant feet.¹² My presence, however, is nothing short of magnificent. I am also working on getting my eyes to flash with grim resolve. Stay tuned.

Weather is quite fine, as it is hot but will be getting sunsetty by BASH time. Did you see they uprooted all the old, mostly-dead bougainvillea out there? Do we get to decide what goes in the pots now? If it could be whatever tree those tiny milled carrots grow on, BASH could save a fortune over the long haul.

I will see you out there or die pitching forward in the attempt (eyes flash).

-Nathan

¹²That day for Journal Club we were treated to a great talk by Todd Salovey of the theater department on the subject of speaking well, and among other memorable admonitions he suggested we not perambulate to excess while presenting, as though we had giant rooty elephant feet and could only move with great effort.

Date: October 31, 2014 at 4:18:04 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

I don't know how much demand there is for BASH on Halloween, but I think the rain will hold off long enough, so I will set stuff up and see what happens.

-Nathan

Date: November 7, 2014 at 3:54:41 PM PST

Subject: Now is the Winter of BASH ...

... made bearable by a change of time, to 4:30, to capture some of that diminishing sunlight. Location will still be the 4th floor balcony, west end, which enjoys a sunset about a tenth of a second later than what is experienced on the east end. Every little bit!

It's a Thanksgiving theme this month. Today: sweet potato chips. 'But,' you ask, 'are they made with real sweet potatoes?' 'Yes!' says the bag.

It is hot, but it is a dry heat. Dry and thirsty. Thirsty.

See you out there,
Nathan

PS: Parched, really.

Date: November 14, 2014 at 4:16:26 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today starting at 4:30 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. There is a carnival on the lawn on the occasion of Founders Day to commemorate UCSD's humble beginnings as a small-time grifting operation in which crafty La Jolla country folk would dupe the children of prosperous but naive La Jolla city folk into parting with a (to them) small amount of scratch in return for the opportunity to throw up fried foods at velocities otherwise unattainable. The university continues to fulfill this basic mission today, although it now caters to the children of naive city-folk from all over the state, the price of admission has increased considerably, and the variety of foods available for preternatural acceleration has kept pace. We now have a Greek place, for example.

The weather is right for the season—jackets, people! Steeply discounted Halloween candy will be served.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: November 21, 2014 at 4:08:45 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

There will be BASH in half an hour on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Did you hear about the new CASS listservs? Pretty great! Maybe I will start sending these to all-at-cass instead of to my own inconsistently-curated list, which in addition to your esteemed self no doubt includes eminent past BASH regulars like Roger Revelle and Humphrey Bogart. I guess I just feel like if Roger is still on the list there's some hope he will show up one of these days. More likely than you CMB people, anyway. It's like we have a $z < 1000$ cutoff.

See you out there for good times and low redshifts,
Nathan

Date: November 21, 2014 at 4:14:35 PM PST

Subject: I mean, 4:30

Because of the winter.

Date: December 5, 2014 at 4:05:21 PM PST

Subject: No BASH Today - Tiredness

Hi everyone,

It's sort of grey out there and I'm just not feeling it. If you feel there is some unmet need for chip-based socializing, definitely stop by room 464 and I will help you get the stuff together.

-Nathan

Date: December 12, 2014 at 4:07:35 PM PST

Subject: MLASH Today - 5:00 - Marlar Library

Hi everyone,

In view of conditions on the balcony and indeed throughout the state, MLASH will be held in the post-defense-cake room adjacent to the Journal Club Memorial Room. Hot popcorn seems like the thing. Also I have opened the Rainy Day Fund, which had some Baby Ruths in it. The dampness of shoes will be compared, with a copy of the Guardian going to the winner (newsprint being the thing for drying out shoes; take that, Internet!).

See you down there,
Nathan

Date: December 19, 2014 at 3:12:26 PM PST
Subject: MLASH Today - 5:00 - Cuba Libres

Hi everyone,

MLASH will be held today at 5 in the rump Marlar Library on the third floor near next to the seminar room. There's nothing in particular wrong with conditions on the balcony, I just feel that there is only so much demand for standing around out there now that it's cool and dark in the evenings. Feel free to set me straight. We can head back out there in the spring, anyway.

In recognition of the week's diplomatic news I got the stuff to make Cuba Libres. I did not cheap out except in the most acceptable ways. The usual fare will also be available.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: January 9, 2015 at 4:32:44 PM PST

Subject: MLASH Today - 5:00 - Library

Hi everyone,

The days are getting longer, but they'll have to do a lot better than this if they want to get me back outside. For now, I'm keeping it down in the library. Acknowledgment of Cuba will continue while supplies last, but no longer.

Now that it's 2015, it's up to all of us to help keep Marty McFly's son on the straight and narrow, so we're going to do this by the book, people. Any screw-ups could modify the timeline, and I just got my character down in this one.

See you down there,

Nathan

Date: January 16, 2015 at 4:32:12 PM PST
Subject: MLASH Today - 5:00 - Library

Hi everyone,

It's pretty nice out for winter, but I'm still holding out for better. Maybe next week; we're still down by the seminar room for now. The usuals will be available, plus! as many free oranges from fourth-floor kitchenette as we can stand. We'll beat scurvy yet.

I have been made aware that even persons of considerable local notoriety¹³ are not immune from being left off the BASH email. If you do not receive this message, let me know so I can add you to the list.

See you down there,
Nathan

¹³Would you believe my own roommate and longtime grad student Evan Grohs was never on the email list up to this point? Evan often assisted when a new keg was needed by BASH, or by the kegerator he kept at home, or if any volume was needed by anyone else for any reason.

Date: January 23, 2015 at 4:14:41 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Emerging from SERF into the sun earlier, I saw my shadow but was able to stay calm. Thus, winter is over, and BASH is back on the balcony. Come on out at 5 and face your own shadow! Or come out at 5:30 and square off against the earth's.

Oreos will be served. If the Diet Coke is somehow flat again, I've got a bicycle pump.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: January 30, 2015 at 4:46:54 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

It's hard to tell about the weather, but I will made bold to hold BASH outside. This probably guarantees that some rain will fall, but think of it as putting Murphy's Law to work the service of drought relief. You guys are the real heroes.

The BASH beverage containment system was down all night, but it's working now! And not only that, but Evan and I cleaned its plumbing, so our compliance with food safety regulations has never been higher. And on that note.

See you out there,

Nathan

Date: February 6, 2015 at 4:31:13 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 5 on the 4th floor balcony, west end. Due in large part to Darcy's good offices, BASH has not been so well-stocked with essentials since that Costco shipping container washed ashore at Scripps in '09. We ate our fill of salted caramels that day! And a Roomba for everyone who wanted one.

BASH conditions are clear and warm for the season, with light levels decreasing noticeably around 5:26 as the sun sets. After that, it's smartphone-based planet tracking for as long as you want.

See you out there,

Nathan

Date: February 13, 2015 at 3:14:22 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 4:30 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

I am starting a little early today so I can leave in time to see former CASS grad student Jonathan Whitmore in 'Hidden Universe' down at the science center in Balboa Park¹⁴. I believe he is in the title role, on the basis of this excerpt from the script:

Greg Poole: To better understand the nature of dark energy, we undertook a survey of over 200,000 ...

Jonathan Whitmore: BAM! Universe!

Greg Poole: What the #&%@%?

Jonathan Whitmore: (runs away)

Should be good! Maybe not Costco-toffee good, though, which is what you have to look forward to at BASH. Feel free to show up at 5 as usual, it will be going on.

See you out there,
Nathan

¹⁴In the event we were wrong about the showtime and didn't see it, although we did have dinner with Alex Mendez afterward since he was visiting town. In fact I still haven't seen it, but I recommend you do if you get the chance.

Date: February 20, 2015 at 4:33:01 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth floor balcony, west end. It will be light until almost 6, which is something, even if it's not the nicest or the warmest I've seen it. 60% chance of guacamole.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: February 27, 2015 at 4:33:18 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will take place in a little bit on the balcony. It is the last BASH of February, so it will be 7% shorter than every other BASH. The folk wisdom on this is that in the old days, BASH inventor Marc Rafelski borrowed time from this BASH in order to hold an extra-long BASH on his birthday. This is an etiological legend, however, and the real reason is obscure.

The BASHuweather forecast calls for showers developing in the evening, but I am hopeful that we will not get wet.

See you out here,
Nathan

Date: March 6, 2015 at 4:24:06 PM PST

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. After today, I swear the sun will never again set on BASH until November or whatever! We won't see it, but our descendents might, if we take environmental stewardship seriously. I refer of course to those of you who routinely jump up and down in sync out there "to see if we can break the balcony off." The balcony is a treasure we must pass on to our children! and you guys are ridiculous.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: March 13, 2015 at 4:37:07 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held in a little bit out on the balcony. It is unseasonably warm and dry, very pleasant for standing around outside. Not only will there be toffee, but that toffee has spent the last week in the fridge, so it will be crunchy and refreshing. Due to the time change, last week's acts of amateur astronomy will not be reprised, but if anyone does bring a telescope we can use it to go all 'Rear Window' on the med school. No doubt there are some skeletons in their closet, ones which ought to be on display in anatomy classes.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: March 20, 2015 at 4:44:52 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

```
/* One of the kids in the PHYS 12415 projects class has
been trying to write some code to run BASH */

#include <Hi everyone>
if (you go out to the balcony at 5):
    you can have some snacks && enjoy the nice weather;
else if (you go out there && 5 < t < 5:30):
    your chances are still good;
else:
    try:
        to eat dinner at a normal time;
    except:
        you will have to cook it yourself;
return (underage persons to their desks)
break
```

Possibly a sound concept, but this implementation needs work.

See you out there,
Nathan

¹⁵Every mid-March Tom Murphy's 124 students would at the end of the quarter present with some fanfare the projects they had worked on for the class. This, clearly, was that day.

Date: April 3, 2015 at 3:20:22 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

What a day for BASH! Not only is the weather great, but abundant new stocks of popcorn have become available due to a prolonged period of stability in the Middle West. Additionally, water use restrictions seem sure to increase demand for alternative hydration products. Invest now!

I would have liked to have some sort of thematic offering due to diplomatic developments with Iran as we did with the Cuba situation, but apparently alcohol is mostly banned there. The caviar is, according to my dentist, better than Russian, but BASH cannot really serve that because of toast-point procurement issues. I am amenable, maybe even susceptible, to suggestions.

Does anybody know what happened to the BASH bowls? For years we have had these colorful plastic bowls we used for the salsa and carrots and things, but a few Fridays ago I left them in the fourth-floor sink because the sponge I used to wash them was missing. In the course of things I forgot about them, and when I eventually went to look for them they were gone! I would say some interloper took them, but, like, why? Especially when all of the dishes that have been abandoned in there for years are still there (thank God). Anyway, will still have the big primary bowl and plenty of paper bowls to muddle through for the time being, and eventually I'll find some new permanent bowls. It's just confusing, is all.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: April 10, 2015 at 4:13:31 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

I have to run out and get some stuff, but I should be back in time for things to go off as usual. Thanks to the various organs of grad-student governance for getting us more popcorn packets, now in a more reasonable size!

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: April 17, 2015 at 4:23:05 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH conditions are quite fine, and our staff's degree of compliance with laser-safety regulations has never been greater! It's getting on toward the grilling months, so we should start grilling at BASH again one of these days, but not today, unless someone else brought some grillables.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: April 24, 2015 at 2:45:50 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The balcony being freshly washed, BASH will be held there at 5. The threat of rain I think has passed, but MLASH is an option if conditions deteriorate. Jacket weather, at any rate. I'll probably break out the salted caramels, that's what I feel like. Jackets and salted caramels, it'll be like we're high-seas privateers. BYO parrot.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: May 1, 2015 at 4:35:34 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held soon on the fourth floor balcony, west end. The warmth of January has returned, this time seasonably. I slipped some lithium-6 into the salsa, so I expect to see levels of grooming¹⁶ that can only be described as 'excessive,' people! Some nest-building wouldn't be out place, either.

See you out there,
Nathan

¹⁶The previous day's colloquium had implied without asserting that lithium 6 could be the cure of, for example, depression on the theory that the brain might have quantum computing capability and the lithium 6 nuclear spin has a remarkably long decorrelation time (or something like that). There was by way of support an old study in which formerly unimpressive rats evinced remarkable increase in levels of grooming and nest-building when supplied with the stuff. Without comment on the merit of the idea, the bit about the rats could not be passed over in silence.

Date: May 8, 2015 at 4:54:30 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone, BASH

Date: May 8, 2015 at 4:55:18 PM PDT

Subject: Well, I guess that about said it.

Date: May 15, 2015 at 4:43:02 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

Good news! I was able to get the rain to stop in return for tasteful product-placement of delicious Post cereals. Did they stop making Banana Nut Crunch? That stuff was great! And yet God forbid they lay a finger on Grape Nuts, joining Apple Jacks in the Unaccountable Fruit Names category.

Anyway. Indeed, that was a fine unseasonable storm, its waters nourishing the Great Grains of our nation's heartland. The sun's back out now, though, so no reason we shouldn't be out on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Bee activity is highest in the spring, so watch out for Honeycomb.

Fruity Pebbles,
Nathan

Date: May 22, 2015 at 4:42:45 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held in a little bit on the fourth floor balcony, west end. A moment of silence will be observed for those who wished to attend but became trapped in the elevator, which has developed a bad case of the Skynets. Maybe it's fixed! But I'm taking the stairs for the rest of the day, just in case.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: May 29, 2015 at 4:25:26 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. It will be nice to get outside as it has seemed really dark in my lab ever since we got this laser.

Uh-oh.

In seriousness, safely goggles, people!

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 5, 2015 at 4:32:14 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The doves I released from the balcony on Tuesday have not returned, which means that they found parking spaces, implying that the school year has functionally ended after 200-something days and nights of torrential pedagogy. Hopefully we can get Eric Michelsen to make some heavenly sign that He will never again administer multiple-choice exams while the world lasts, or until the fall, whatever happens first. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, we should celebrate by having BASH on the fourth-floor balcony at 5. Special congratulations to those who have recently defended. I have to run out for supplies but hopefully will be back in time.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 12, 2015 at 3:54:29 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Zucchini

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. It is pedagogically, although apparently not meteorologically, the start of summer, and I brought some zucchini for grilling, if I can get the grill started. Maybe a little unorthodox, but! grilled zucchini is really good and doesn't ruin your dinner the way a whole burger would. Feel free to bring your own favorites for grilling in the coming weeks.

I should also mention that Evan is defending on Monday and there will be post-defense event (what the French call a capitulation) at the Green Flash Brewery in Mira Mesa and you are all invited by dint of having received this email! Starts at 6 (on Monday that is, don't show up there today). I will send another reminder, unless I forget.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 19, 2015 at 3:58:20 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony. Feel free to bring your own grillables! Moreover, try to rope your friends and colleagues into it. It's summer, the sun is shining, and vitamin D deficiency may be connected to the development of non-alcoholic fatty-liver disease. Thought you were doing your liver a favor by avoiding BASH? Think again.

So see you out there,
Nathan

Date: June 26, 2015 at 2:08:13 PM PDT
Subject: BASH at the Movies - Today at 5

Hi everyone,

As was suggested¹⁷ last week BASH will screen the classic dark comedy 'Harold and Maude' at 5 down in the seminar room. It seems to work fine on the projector. The sound as generated by laptop speakers is a little low, but not too bad. Nevertheless if anyone has some speakers we could borrow that would be nice, and there are some in a lab up here that may work out. All the usual BASH stuff will be available, and of course we will have popcorn. The movie is 90 minutes, so we'll try to start promptly at 5 so as to be done at a normal BASH time.

See you down there,
Nathan

¹⁷Rick Rothschild had suggested a film night at the previous BASH and also supplied the DVD. We would have made it a quarterly occurrence, and hopefully someone will revive the idea.

Date: July 10, 2015 at 3:59:47 PM PDT
Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. This is the BASH between our national holiday and France's, so there will be a national anthem-off followed by hamburgers and brie on a baguette.* My theory is, revolutions are more likely to start in the summer because the heat makes people short-tempered and ill-disposed to compromise. Has anyone studied this? Let me know.

Maybe there is someone new in your lab, an undergrad or new grad student who is getting started this summer? Bring or send them to BASH! Human interaction increases productivity, if you have to be utilitarian about it.

See you out there,
Nathan

* Not really.

Date: July 24, 2015 at 4:36:19 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today? 5? Balcony?

Hi everyone,

Sorry there was no email last week; I wrote one but then I accidentally sent it only to myself, so it became an internal BASH memo. I will recycle the content in a future week.

I am inclined to hold BASH today, but I kind of feel like there's no one here. Even so, I will just head out there at 5 with some light reading, so feel free to join me and let me know how things are going with you, it would be good to know.

See you out there?

Nathan

Date: July 31, 2015 at 4:46:43 PM PDT

Subject: Low-key BASH - Momentarily

This is happening. Don't overthink it.

-Nathan

Date: August 21, 2015 at 4:15:43 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

BASH will be held today at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end. Is that charcoal grill¹⁸ still out there? If it is, I happen to be virtually certain it belongs to nobody, so feel free to make off with it before it gets discarded on account of being a fire hazard. To be clear, I am NOT talking about the BASH Quantum gas grill, which Wendell Misch and I took from Marc Rafelski's Mesa balcony so long ago. What days those were!

I heard there were some prospective grad students walking around who were going to come to BASH, although I also heard they were going to come by my lab and I haven't seen them. Probably Tom just wanted to make sure I would stay here and work. Anyway, better play it safe and show up to BASH so that if they do come around they'll have a good time; otherwise they'll probably end up going to UCLA and their lives will be ruined!

See you out there,
Nathan

¹⁸This old charcoal grill was used for Monday lunch grilling before the gas one arrived. Whose it originally was, no one knows now.

Date: August 28, 2015 at 4:24:16 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

The fourth-floor balcony, west end, is the stage we lay this day for BASH, set against the blazing heat! Between that and the dryness, upcoming fire-sprinkler shutoffs and people leaving charcoal grills all over the place ... well, let's get together while we can, that's all I'm saying.

See you out there,
Nathan

Date: September 4, 2015 at 3:11:55 PM PDT

Subject: BASH Today - 5:00 - Balcony

Hi everyone,

I bet you thought that after I defended I'd figure I was too smart to keep setting out chips for you all the time. Well, did Colonel Sanders think he was too shrewd a tactician to fry a chicken? On the contrary, he probably figured his tactical skills were pretty marginal and maybe he'd better diversify his resume. And with that in mind, BASH will be held today at 5 on the fourth-floor balcony, west end.

However, it's against the rules of BASH for the BASH operator to not work here, so in the future BASH will be hosted by accomplished squid wrangler (ed. SQUID¹⁹ wrangler? check before sending) Kavon Kazemzadeh, who I'm sure will do great and interesting things with the institution and will continue the practice of sending you emails every week, even the ones who no longer go here and should probably have been taken off the list months if not years ago, love you guys! Kavon has to go get married for the next few weeks, but new BASH should be starting after that, probably with improved seafood offerings (ed. superconducting detector offerings? check before sending). In the meantime, I will try to enlist someone to muddle through. And is anyone doing Journal Club this year? This place is falling apart!

Truly, it has been my pleasure to set your chips out these several years. Thanks to everyone who has hung around and put cash in the box. As I move on to different things, it's nice to reflect that even if I turn out to not be so smart after all, there's one trade I can always fall back on.

See you around,
Nathan

¹⁹To be clear, a SQUID is a superconducting quantum interference device. I was not quite sure if that one was going to 'land' with most people.

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