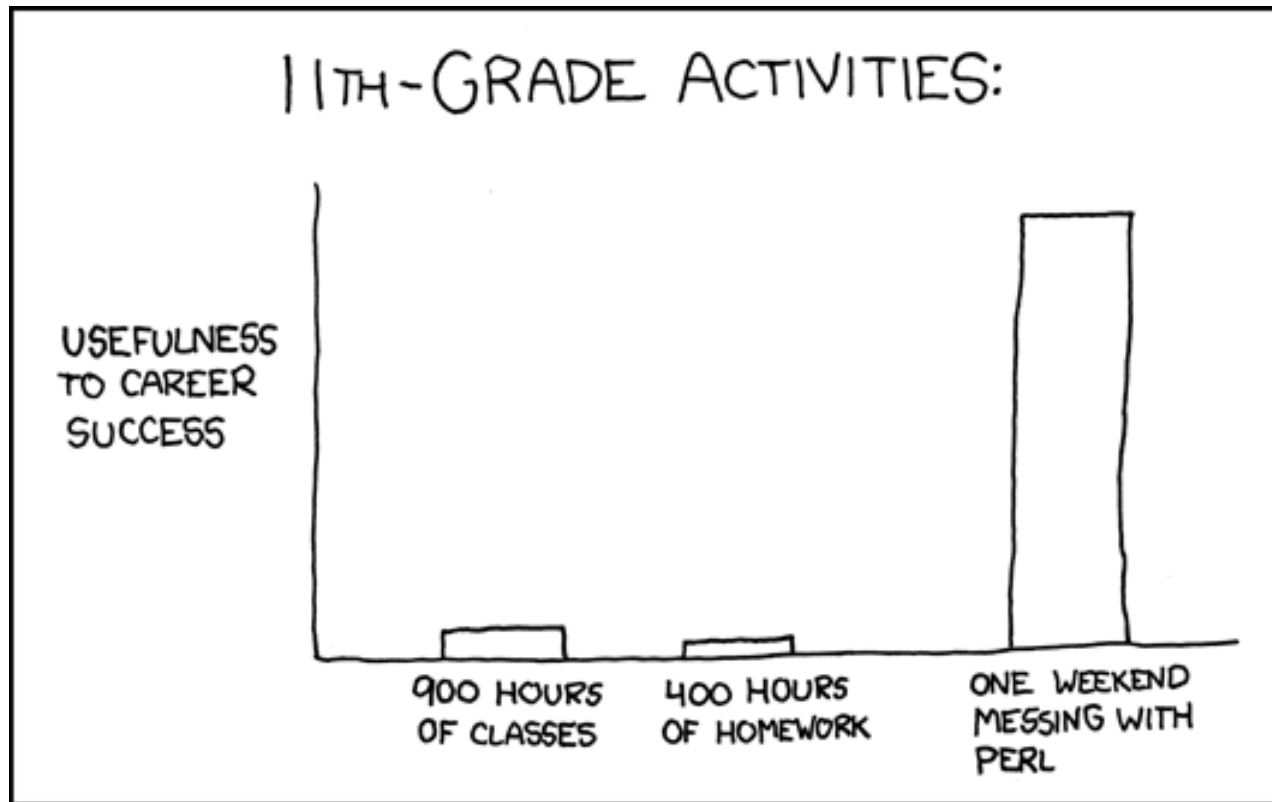
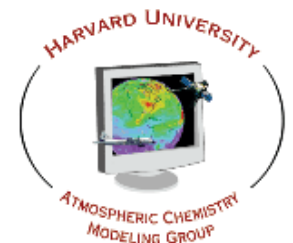


Bob Y's quick introduction to Perl



Harvard
School of Engineering
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Graduate Student Forum
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What is Perl?

- Perl = “Practical extraction and report language”
 - Written by Larry Wall (1987) because he needed to manipulate text and there wasn't anything better back then
 - Full-fledged language, can be used not just for scripting
 - Mathematical manipulation
 - String manipulation w/ regular expressions
 - Objects (we'll skip this today)
 - Often used as a “glue” language for Unix
 - i.e. write a script to call a Fortran code, and then an IDL program in the same process
 - Wide user base
 - Free, comes w/ most Unix / Linux installations
 - Large user library of modules (CPAN.org)

More about Perl

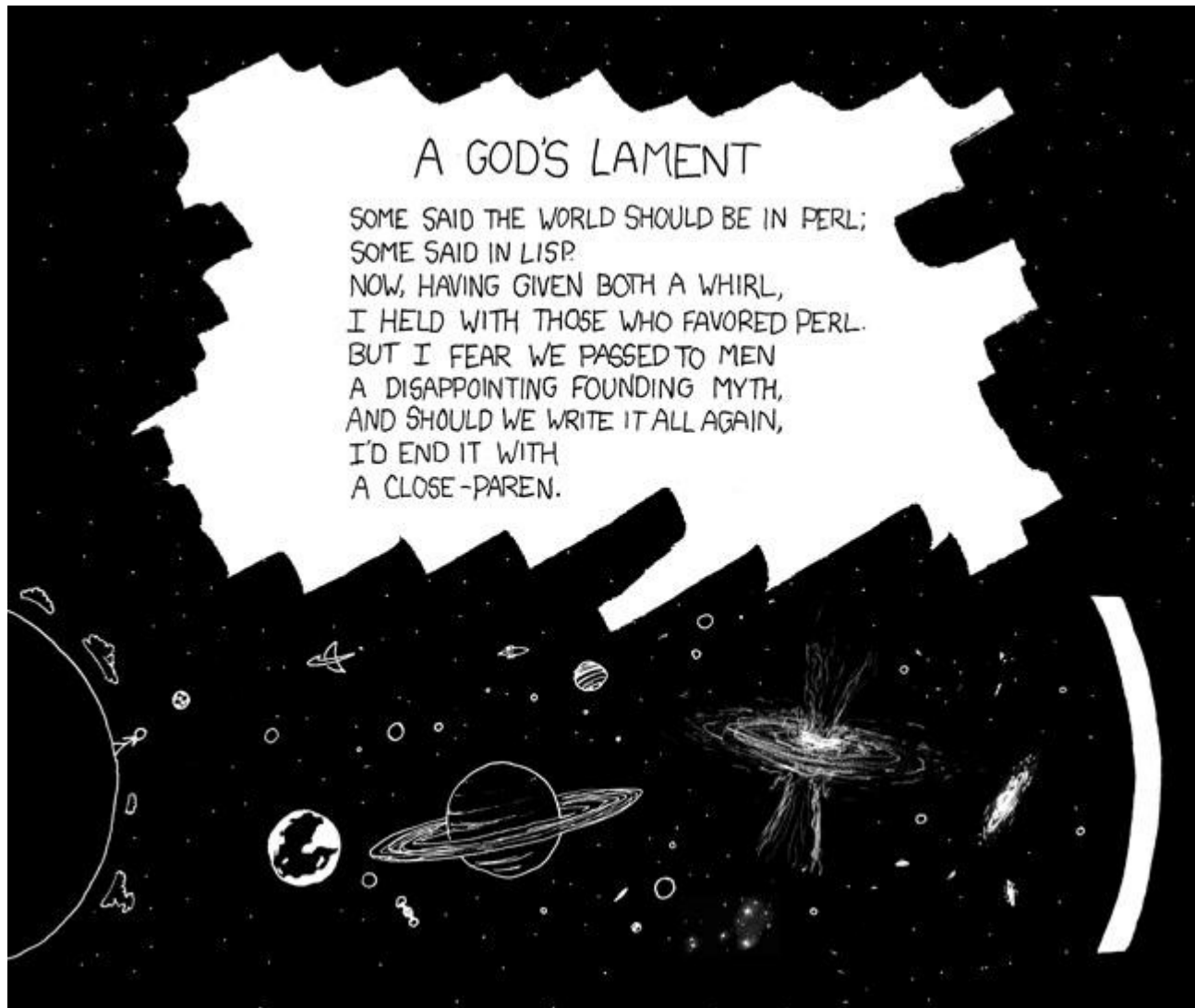
- Function of Perl
 - “To make the easy things easy, and the hard things possible”
- Perl Culture
 - 3 cardinal virtues: laziness, hubris, impatience
 - *TMTOWDI* = “There's more than one way to do it”
 - “Just another Perl hacker” – email signatures (late 80's)
- Documentation
 - *Programming Perl* (“Blue Camel”) by O'Reilly Associates is the Perl Bible
 - Many good tutorials on the web (cf “Perl in 20 pages”)

Examples

- 1) Printing quoted text
- 2) Data types (scalars, arrays, hashes)
- 3) Arguments; *for* and *foreach* loops
- 4) Writing a file and reading back from it
- 5) Text replacement
- 6) Passing arguments to subroutines

My example scripts are in `/home/bmy/S/forum` on the Unix servers. Please copy them and play!!

Some fun ...



Beer! Now there's a temporary solution.

