



PROBLEM OF THE WEEK #8
(Fall 2023)

Arriving at the very heart of the Oblivion Labyrinth, four heroes discovered a treasure vault, heavily shielded both from magic and from trickery. Inside the vault, within an adamantine chest, they beheld the Thirteen Rings of Power. They all agreed that the fiendish potential of the Rings was too great for easily tempted mortals such as themselves, and left the vault for a long rest. Only much later did Lord Richmere discover that all thirteen Rings had been stolen.

It was well known that only the four heroes had ever penetrated the Labyrinth, so they certainly must have taken all of the Rings. Gazing back through time, Richmere's mages saw that each of the four had re-entered the vault just once, separately. Unable to pierce the vault's arcane veil of secrecy, the mages summoned the four heroes, lured them into a *zone of truth*, and extracted the following true confessions:

- Alchemist: "I stole an odd number of Rings."
- Barbarian: "I stole an even number of Rings."
- Cavalier: "I stole exactly two thirds of the Rings I found in the chest."
- Druid: "I stole exactly one quarter of the Rings I found in the chest."

Which hero stole the most Rings?

[Please fully explain your answer.]

Email solutions to swensonj@uwplatt.edu by 2:00pm on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Every week, the best solution submitted earns a \$10 Platteville gift certificate; the top scorer each semester also wins a cash award. Good luck!

You can always see the Problem of the Week (and complete rules) online at:

<http://uwpmath.weebly.com/>