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The Paradox of the Surprise Examination

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*Note: The following paradox is repeated from Issue No. 5.
We again invite your solutions, to be included in the next issue.*

THE PARADOX OF THE SURPRISE EXAMINATION

A professor tells her class that she will give them a surprise examination the following week. One of her students reasons in the following manner: The professor cannot give a surprise test on Friday. When the professor failed to give the test on Thursday, everyone would realize that it was coming on Friday, and it would not be a surprise. Given that the test cannot be given on Friday, it cannot be given on Thursday either. This is because when the professor failed to give the test on Wednesday, everyone would realize that it was coming on Thursday, since it could not come on Friday. It would, therefore, not be a surprise. This same reasoning can be used to show that the surprise examination cannot be given on any day of the week.

Is the student's reasoning cogent?