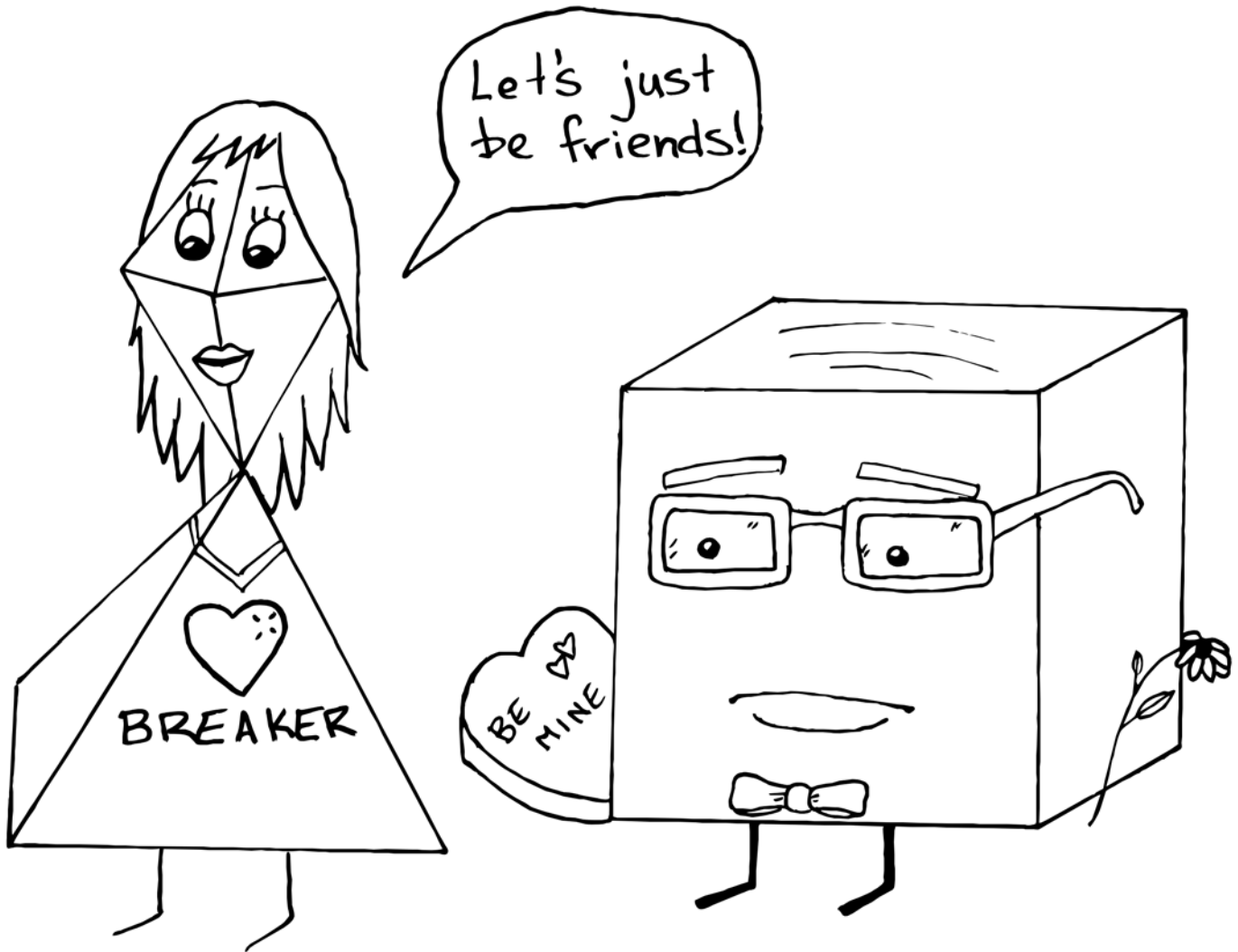


math NEWS

Volume 101, Issue 5

Friday, July 14th, 2006



PLATONIC

SOLIDS

Cover art
by Math.random()



lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

July 14 Issue #5 starts exam prep

Math Faculty

July 25 Lectures end

July 31 Exams begin

August 12 Exams end

August 13 Unofficial grades released

MathSoc

July C&D BBQs, T/Th

Thursdays Movie Nights

CECS

Daily Job postings available

July Workshops

August 4 Last day of on-campus interviews

Student Awards & Financial Aid

July 12 Confirmation of Enrollment deadline

Misc

August 7 Civic Holiday

SPAMfest North*Celebrating the Original Canned Meat*Date: Saturday, July 22nd

Time: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Place: Spruce Row Museum

Why: Well, this is the hardest question to answer; but in support of the Norfolk Arts Centre and the Spruce Row Museum we will be paying homage to that most versatile of canned meat, SPAM. There will be contests dealing with anything to do with SPAM. The biggest event would have to be the cook off. Come and try out many delectable SPAM creations (don't worry, there will also be non-SPAM food). There will also be buskers, live entertainment, SPAM singing and much more. For more information you can visit www.spamfestnorth.org

Come on out for a fun and entertaining day!

RainWater

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The editor(s): Emerald Kushnier, Chris MacGregor

How to Make Travelling this Summer More Fun

This term is almost over. What should you do with the rest of your summer before going back to school, or going to work, or doing absolutely nothing? Go on a road trip!

You may be wondering how to make a road trip fun. Well here are some ways to have fun while you travel:

- Play "20 Questions", except invent someone who doesn't exist. That way no one will be able to guess them in 20 questions, so you always win!
- Collect x things for each letter of the alphabet, where $e \leq x \leq \pi$. Jump for joy every time you collect something that starts with the letters Q, X, or Z
- Play "I Spy", but pick more interesting colours like UW Math pink, #16E2A1, or multi-colour
- Play "Punch y", where y can be bug, tree, or anything else you choose
- Send a postcard to a random person, or send one to the MathSoc office

Have a great trip!

theMAINwoman

Who Has the Torch?

Have you ever been inside a deep and dark dungeon with some of your companions only to question: who was the torch? Who could it be? Could you possibly have given it to the large, questionably friendly ogre? Or perhaps the cocky elf who has no idea what's going on? Maybe the dwarf, but probably not because things that don't shower should stay away from open flames. The next time you need to know about the portable source of light in the dungeon, be sure you give it to someone with an intelligence higher than 10.

Angelo

mastHEAD*Now with more innuendo*

It's that time of term again. The end. Assignments are being frantically completed, fourth-year engineers are crying themselves to sleep because of all the abuse their program metes out upon them, and exams loom like a tidal wave threatening to crush us all in a wet doom. Perhaps the worst kind of doom.

Given that the already-cult-classic movie "Snakes on a Plane" will be coming out soon, we asked the crowd, "Where are your snakes?" Lord Asparagus (Angelo, N/A ActSci) In my cannon of DOOM!; HWT (Henry, 4A CS) I don't know. It has a mind of its own; theMAINwoman (Nicole, 2B Accounting) In their terrarium. DUH!; aLemma (Lucas, 1B CS) Chasing the geese; the gridMASTER's bitch (Mike) The snakes on a plane movie was made in vain; 42 (Rob, 1B CS) In a cage. Under your bed; lost-luck (Rebo, B1-coop) Eating a fluffy animal. Not fluffy though; Math.random() (Hatalie 3A CS) Anywhere you want them to be ;) ; DanS (Dan S, (3B+4A)/2) On a set of points defined by linear combinations of two non-colinear vectors.

SheepNinEd (Chris, 4A SE) Serving as low-grade shoe laces
StatsEd (Emerald, 3B Stats) Playing on the ladders

VPAS says...

- Movies are still **free admission, Thursday nights, starting at 7pm on the big screen** right up to the last Thursday of classes. Check the whiteboard or movies corkboard for titles and exact times.
- I'd like to extend a **huge thank you to all the Canada Day Volunteers who helped at Children's Fun Fest**. We had a lot of fun (and so did the kids!) and we couldn't have done it without you!
- Tomorrow (Saturday, July 15) we're heading to the beach! It's too late to reserve a seat, but unofficially I can say that there will probably be room for you on the bus. **Bring \$3 in exact change and cross your fingers that we'll have room for you** and meet us at the DC. We leave at 9AM sharp! We'll be leaving the beach at 6PM.

Kaitlyn Holman
MathSoc VPAS, Spring 2006

Movie Night!

Encore Presentation!

After a disappointingly low turnout at Hook and Pirates of the Caribbean and a hopefully better turnout yesterday (because I'm writing this on Monday night), we're looking at having better turnout. We're hoping that theming movies after upcoming movies would work at this. Maybe we'll throw in incentives to actually come and watch movies. We'll see. So, without further ado, here are the movies that we are planning for the last two Movie Nights:

July 20th — Kevin Smith Night

- 7:00 PM — Clerks
- 9:00 PM — Dogma

July 27th — Viewer Appreciation Night

Email your movie ideas to movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. The top 2 will be played.

Rob & Mark
MathSoc Movie guys

Upcoming CSC Talk

"Software development gets on the Cluetrain"

Simon Law leads the Quality teams for Ubuntu, a free-software operating system built on Debian GNU/Linux. As such, he leads one of the largest community-based testing efforts for a software product. This does get a bit busy sometimes.

In this talk, we'll be exploring how the Internet is changing how software is developed. Concepts like open source and technologies like message forums are blurring the lines between producer and consumer. And this melting pot of people is causing people to take note, and changing the way they sling code.

The talk will be on the 24th, check out <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/> for the details. This talk is Co-Sponsored with CS-Commons Committee

CSC

MGC Sez

Come and have some fun with MGC

So the term is almost at an end. What better way to kick off the end of lectures for the second last time than to party! That's right! MGC is going to have a social event after all!

Join us and everyone else who will be graduating in less than a year as we crawl down king street!

This will take place Wednesday July 26th. Time and starting location to be determined. Drop on by MC3029 or email mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca for details!

Hope to see you all there! Tell your friends!

Ivan Chin
Math Grad Committee Chair 2007

PS. We are still looking for volunteers! If you are interested in running social events, publicity, organizing grad ring sales, or just want to help out anyway possible. Drop an email at mgc@student.math and we can definitely chat about what you want to do.

ACE reaches for the top

Angel tidying up its halo

Monday's Daily Bulletin featured an article that explains next month's move from the current version of UW-ACE to the latest version of the Angel software.

Improvements worthy of comment (from both the Bulletin and Angel Learning's site)

- "an uncluttered interface" — Wheeeeeee! ('bout time)
- "the ability to more easily modify your personal UW-ACE home page (formerly My Page)" — Somehow I am reminded of the disasters of customization (MySpace, for example). Look up zefrank's "I know me an ugly myspace" competition for more examples.
- "Easy-to-use" — Easy for the administrators or the users? And what, exactly, does this 'easy' fall on the Easy Scale?
- "Actionable" — This *is* a real word, according to Merriam-Webster Online. I think they were bribed...
- "Open: Evolves for emerging technologies" — Does 'emerging technologies' include the notion of open-source? Perhaps a few frustrated students can take it over as a hobby during a lonely workterm.
- "Collaborative: Promotes shared learning experiences" — So now it facilitates 'co-operative assignment work,' thus meaning we'll have to add "I was assisted by UW-ACE." on our math assignments in the future. Grr. One extra sentence to remember to scribble (besides the required name, student number, etc.) at four in the morning.

So, come Fall term, we'll have something new to whine about, as opposed to our normal Quest/JobMine/old-ACE. Here's to something new!

aLemma

Lost

A Guide to the Hit Series

Many people's attentions have been taken by storm with the critically acclaimed TV show *Lost*: the story of a group of survivors of a plane crash on a mysterious island. The beautiful part of the show is just how intertwined the lives of these people are both before and after the crash. I've provided an overview of the general flow of any given episode in the series.

The camera opens up on any random character staring off into the horizon. Someone approaches them, and then they have brief dialogue together. The character walks away indignantly leading into a flashback.

After the flashback fills in some gaps in the character's past, the focus is given to the main camp, where there is discord. Something moderately bad happens, and everyone blames Sawyer. Jack, before giving it any regard, runs up and punches Sawyer while everyone watches. A couple people pull Jack off and then Sayid sneaks up on Sawyer, renders him unconscious and begins torturing him. As Kate watches, she falls in love with Sawyer. Jack begins to have second thoughts about Sawyer's intentions. Kate falls in love with Jack. Sun runs up and slaps Sayid. Another plane crashes into the island.

Walt goes missing and Michael runs around calling out for Walt. He asks Jin. Jin attacks Michael, then is pulled off almost immediately after. Sun runs up and slaps Michael. Walt appears and is looking for Vincent. Michael yells at Walt. Charlie happens by with Claire. Michael asks her how she is doing to which she responds with "Fine". Michael says it's probably the sun. Charlie begins to accuse Michael of not believing her and punches him out. Then he turns his attention to Claire who begins crying and spouting nonsense about being left alone and taking care of herself. A hanglider crashes into the island.

Elsewhere on the island, Hurley comes up with a good idea, and no one seems to listen. He wanders off. As he does a loud roaring is heard from inside the jungle. Trees topple over and people cower in fear. People worry about Hurley. There is another flashback, which gives more insight to the character's past, but its significance is not explained or clear at present.

Lock talks to the person really responsible for what happened at camp and asks them why they did it. He smiles and mutters something insane about what the island wants, not before guaranteeing them to remain quiet.

Sayid, stricken with grief over what he did to Sawyer walks away for fifteen minutes before he runs into Danielle who, flakey as ever, mentions that the others are coming. Back at camp Shannon is trying to tie her shoelaces and having slight difficulty. She begins to stress herself out and complain that it's the one thing that she was supposed to do and she's failing at it. A boat crashes into the island.

Meanwhile, Jack has bandaged Sawyer's wounds from his run-in with Sayid when Michael runs around screaming "They took Walt!" over and over. Michael pulls out a gun and shoots every character introduced two episodes prior and denies it happened. Everyone believes him. Sun sneaks up to Kate, who is falling in love with Jack, and asks her to keep a secret from her husband. She says it's complicated, tells Kate, slaps her and walks away.

Jin finds Sun and starts yelling at her. Michael intervenes, Sun slaps him, Jin looks at Michael menacingly to which he replies "They took my son!". Claire and Charlie approach Jack. Claire says something's wrong and points to a gaping hole in her head. Jack says that it's just stress from her pregnancy. Charlie gets upset that Jack doesn't believe her, screams it's his fault and punches him out. Charlie asks if Claire is okay, Claire begins crying, says that she's fine and that Charlie should just leave them alone. Charlie sits alone, angry and doesn't talk to anyone. A submarine crashes into the island.

Hurley goes up to Sawyer and asks for one of the things that he's been hoarding, Sawyer begins to be an asshole and Kate falls in love with him. Then Sawyer pulls out a relic from Kate's past, and Kate beats the crap out of him, takes it and runs away, now in love with Jack. Sun slaps him for good measure. Sayid tortures someone else, and then walks away saying that he would never do that again, with grief. Lock is out, trying to open the door to the hatch in the ground when a big, black cloud approaches him. He smiles, shouts "It's my destiny." and then gets his ass kicked by the cloud. A paper airplane crashes into the island.

Back at the beach, Shannon is moving lumber when one drops. Boone offers to help her, but she refuses and complains that it's the one thing that she's been asked to do and is failing at it. Kate walks up to Sawyer and gives him a compassionate lecture about how he wants to be hated, thus falling in love with him again. There is another flashback, which explains the previous two flashbacks and is about to come to a dramatic conclusion when it is interrupted by a gopher parachuting onto the island.

A final flashback happens. The ending of the flashback leaves the audience feeling disgust and disdain towards the characters on the island, long enough for a dissolve to take the focus back to the events on the island itself. Michael is reading a book, and when asked what it is, he almost gives a straight answer, then says "They took my son!". Jin finds out Sun's secret. She slaps him and he goes to beat up Michael despite the fact that it has nothing to do with him. Lock appears at camp sitting calmly and gives half-crazy wisdom to someone. Vincent runs off. Hurley listens to music on his CD player. Jack asks Kate about her past, she avoids answering, but he persists. When she finally says what's going on, she cries and Jack walks away. Kate now loves no one. Sawyer sits by himself, angrily. Charlie is playing his guitar while Claire listens. Shannon and Boone sit together, Boone offers something to Shannon and she refuses despondently. Everything stops when Sayid makes it back to camp to spout out something suspicious and then passes out. An airborne potato crashes into the island, giving the cue to a string instrument to play menacingly and then suddenly stop. End episode

There's the summation of how every episode plays out. Stay tuned for when the next installment of the *Lost* series come to air, *Lost 2: The Ride*. See how noticeably distinct characters interact with each other when they all get on a bus that takes a detour and ends up crashing into an abandoned bus terminal.

Angelo

Another Hockey Trophy For The Masses!

Second Governor General Cup

Back in 1892, Lord Stanley of Preston donated the Dominion Hockey Challenge Cup. Within years, this silver bowl became known as Lord Stanley's Cup and the, simply, as the Stanley Cup. While the trophy has been modified from its initial \$48.67 USD format, the original Cup has always been part and parcel with the trophy. This is the only such trophy in all of professional sports, making it the oldest and most travelled sports trophy of all times. With the lockout last year, the Stanley Cup was not awarded for the first time since 1919 (due to the flu epidemic). In that year, Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson proposed (and was later denied) that the top Women's hockey team (by nation) should compete for the Stanley Cup. To rectify this, now former Governor-General Clarkson has donated a second challenge cup: the Clarkson Cup. The two main Women's Hockey Leagues are currently in discussion to ensure that the top team of either league will be awarded the Clarkson Cup at the end of the season. This, I'm hoping, will lead to even more hockey to be watched, with yet another trophy to be won (instead of a new trophy created every year). Who knows, some day, it may be as big of a success as the Stanley Cup.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

PotC: Dead Man's Chest

A worthy sequel

Going into Pirates 2, I had somewhat higher expectation than I did for Pirates: I expected it to be approximately equal in terms of story, action and adventure. While Pirates 2 was only 7 minutes longer than the original Pirates, it was, in my opinion, its superior. If you're looking for action, it will definitely deliver. If you're looking for "OMGWTFBQQ!", it will deliver. Really, whatever you're looking for, it will deliver. The one thing that you should expect from this movie is a cliffhanger ending. It has one. It comes at exactly the right time (it just feels right to end the movie there), and I can't think of a better cliffhanger than what they've done for Pirates 2. All in all, it is a good movie and you should go see it.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

The Importance of Swag

So this past Monday, Apple Computers did a propoganda session over in the DC. Their goal was to get us Waterloo students interested in working at Apple. Despite the fact that I came out of the talk less interested in working at Apple than when I went in (who admits that you can expect 80 hour weeks when you're trying to get people to work for you) there was a major problem with this talk, the absence of good swag for everyone.

Sure they gave out posters to people who went, but they were ugly enough that no one would really want to display them anywhere, they definately didn't have that Apple style, and they were completely impractical, this world isn't the Simpsons, we don't need posters to keep walls from collapsing. At least with a free T-Shirt it doesn't matter if it's ugly or not, it means one more day that you can put off doing laundry. Even dumb impractical things like keychains are more practical than posters and probably as expensive to make as printing many mostly black poster sized full glossy paper.

In fact, I'm even willing to make some broad generalizations about the working conditions of these companies and the swag they give out at these propoganda talks. I was at a talk last term where Microsoft gave out T-Shirts and programming books for everyone, real \$90 programming books. Google always seems to be giving out free T-shirts around campus, or at least only when I'm not around. Apple has ugly posters that aren't worth having. Microsoft is also well known as being a great employer, ranked 42nd on Fortune magazine's top 100 employers list, and is supposed to be one of the best co-op jobs you can get. There's also plenty of stories about how great Google is to work for, for example, free food for every meal, even weekends or other times you're not working. Now have you ever heard anything great about working at Apple? I went into their recruitment talk knowing nothing about working for them, and walked out of it wanting to work there even less than when I walked in, after tidbits like their 80 hour work week.

So let's recap, free T-shirts (good swag) => great work environments, while free posters (bad swag) => sweatshop (have you seen *Pirates of Silicon Valley* I'm sure Apple has changed since then, but probably not enough).

DanS



Math.Random()

profQUOTES

The half-life of plutonium is about thirty thousand years, [chalk breaks in half] and the half-life for cheap-chalk is about 30 seconds.

Matthews MATH 136

I have a fantasy life, you don't. All of your fantasies end in grunting.

Smith ECON 102

I have ambition. To torture you until the day you die. It's actually a pretty one.

Smith ECON102

Some days you've got the Midas touch. Everything you touch turns to mufflers.

McKinnon PMATH 345

You have two alternatives: you can be smart or Canadian

Smith ECON 102

You can prove anything you want if you drink enough vodka. The problem is that, the morning after, it isn't true.

Verstraete CO 342

[Quoting Keith Richards] "I want to get stinkin' rich, buy a castle, and drink myself into a coma." I think he did all three. It's nice when you accomplish your dreams.

Wood MUSIC 140

Diana Ross is allegedly the woman that Michael Jackson wanted to look like when he got plastic surgery.

Wood MUSIC 140

Haven't you guys ever made bricks?

Kennings ECE 457

Don't you guys watch the home and garden network?

Kennings ECE 457

Haven't you guys ever shopped for mexican tiles?

Kennings ECE 457

Grid/Sudoku Question, Hee ho

Hee ho, welcome back faithful readers. The winner of the GridQuestion, which was "How much wood would a woodchuck chop is a woodchuck was hit by a freight train?" RainWater's answer: "The woodchuck only chopped one tree to derail the train as he was hit. But then the train, since the average train length is 1 to 1 and 1/4 miles would, if derailed in a wooded area, chop down a whole forest." You have a prize. Claim it. Now. Hee ho.

In closing, the winner of the SudokuQuestion, which was, "How do you know the muffin man?", hee ho, is Richard K. who boldly stated that "[my] mother introduced us." Having confirmed this with my mother, it must therefore be the correct response. You have a prize Richard K.

Hee, claim your prizes from the Math Soc office, ho. This, being the last mathNEWS of the year will have no GridQuestion or SudokuQuestion. What the hee ho?

Mike

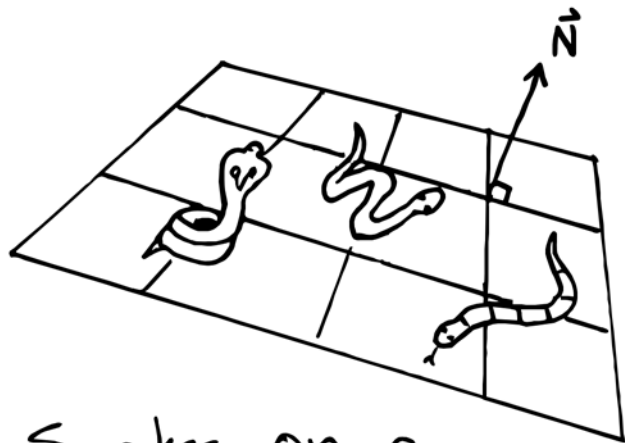
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Mark "Beatlemaniac"

When box office hits
meet math ...



Snakes on a
Plane

Math.Random()

See you again in September!