

math

Volume 79, Issue 2

NEWS

Friday, January 29, 1999

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Mike “Hammer” Hammond
mathNEWS Legal Expert (West Coast Offices)

Prez Sez

Hi everybody, it's that time of the day again where you scream out "Hi Snuggles" due to your frosh week brainwashing. Don't worry about the strange stares you're probably getting from your Calc prof, just promise him that you won't read mathNEWS in his class anymore and he'll ignore you and let you get back to my article. Anyway I suppose I should say something randomly relevant and leave the ranting to another article, so away we go.

By the time you should be reading this it should be Friday, January 29 and you should be gearing up for the Scunt. Join your fellow Mathies in our entry into the Eng. Scunt. I assure you all that it will be a blast. If you don't know where to go, I will post a note on MathSoc's door as to where HQ is.

Friday, January 29th is also the Course Drop Deadline so if you want to drop a course without WD'ing it you should go take care of that now.

There will be a FEDS Forum, for their executive elections, on Monday, February 1st in the Comfy Lounge at noon. This is a great chance to come out and become an informed voter. Find out what each candidate's platform is. Bug them with silly irrelevant questions, or painfully relevant ones. For more information on the election go to the FEDS office in the SLC.

Speaking of elections we had ours. Trevor Ray is the new Vice-President Academic. As well due to nominations for a number of other positions closing we have some acclamations. Laurie 'Sunshine' Knox will now be brightening our office as the new Vice-President Activities and Services. Russell O'Connor, Dan Pollock, and Ann Scea have been acclaimed to Computer Science, Pure Math, and Combinatorics and Optimization Representative positions, respectively.

I feel I should write some sort of response to the article in last *mathNEWS* concerning last term's EOT stuff. Basically here is what happened. (Note all my numbers are approximations.) Initially \$2000 was budgeted to volunteers in one way or another. We spent almost \$2500. How did this happen? Simple, on a \$1200 purchase we thought we were paying Canadian, we weren't. Whoops, there goes approximately \$400. That is a big mistake. Someone screwed up. MathSoc made a mistake, and a huge one at that, and it cost Math Students \$400. That is bad, and all of us should do all that is within our power to make sure it doesn't happen again. But that does not mean that the society is corrupt, it simply means that it is run by humans, and humans make mistakes. However that is not the entire issue. Some people are of the opinion that \$2000 is an excessive amount to be budgeted to volunteers in the first place, I believe that within the argument there were a number of misconceptions. It was said that a majority of that money is going to people on council (the people who authorize the expenditure). There are currently 20 voting members of council, while in general there are approximately 80-100 volunteers. We aren't just a group of people thinking of ways we can spend student money on ourselves. We are a group of people who volunteer anywhere from just 1 hour a week, for your average office worker, to 5-10 hours a week for your average director, to 20-40 hours a week for the exec. Guess what, we aren't in it for the money, or the gifts, or even the end of term party. We all have our own reasons for volunteering, frankly I don't see a problem with throwing a party at the EOT for those people that gave so much time over the term, or even buying them a small gift. I'm not saying that the organization itself shouldn't take responsibility for any mistakes. I, as president, admit that we fucked up, and I hope that there are lots of eyes looking over my shoulder when this term comes to an end, making sure that I don't get quotes in the wrong currency. Even if you are of the opinion that too much was spent, I feel that the best way to solve

the social conscious issue is not to take back a token fee (sorry, but \$10.50 just isn't that much) but instead to bring these problems to council through representation. At this point I would like to ask anyone who feels that their views are not properly represented at council (especially those whose programs have vacant Class Rep positions) to approach me. We can still re-open nominations, all you have to do is take an office hour (just 1 hour a week) and come to council meetings (1 hour every other week) and you can have your opinion heard. And you will be invited to our EOT party and get a gift, albeit they might be a little smaller then in the past but you shouldn't be in it for that anyway. ;)

Belling and the Course Average Guideline Memo

On Tuesday, January 19th I attended the Faculty Council meeting at which we discussed the famous memo on Course Average Guidelines. You may remember certain X-Presidents ranting and raving on this topic and certain profs expressing their varying opinions. I decided to find out what was going on so I had a meeting with the author of the memo (Associate Dean of Undergrad Affairs, PJ Schellenberg) the morning of the meeting. Basically the new information to me was that he supports belling. This seemed odd to me so I made sure that that was what he was saying, and yes, he said straight out that he supports the belling of courses with averages below 65.

There are 2 student representatives on Faculty Council, the PREZ and VPA of MathSoc. As a student rep I felt the need to represent what would be best for the students (sounds simple doesn't it). Here is a quick summary of the position I took (please don't hesitate to come to me if you wish to enlighten me with other opinions of the situation): Basically if a class has a low average there are a number of possible reasons. If we just blindly raise the average of that class with belling then we are not solving the problem, simply the symptoms. In some cases it is proper to raise the mark. If 5% of the final exam was completely unfair (i.e. the entire class got it wrong due to vagueness, irrelevance etc.) then raise the bloody mark. But if the reason was that the class on the whole did not know the material then you have a problem that cannot be fixed by belling. If you fail them then you are unfairly lowering their averages and making them one course closer to the fail limit. You are wasting their time, money, effort, and course attempts for something that was quite possibly not their fault (i.e. bad profs, yes they do exist, trust me). However, if you raise the mark with belling then you are most likely passing people who have not learned the required material. This is just delaying the inevitable, for when they proceed to take any course that requires that prerequisite knowledge they are just going to fail that. The fact that the student gets screwed either way upsets me. I strongly believe that we must devise some manner to discover the problem and appropriately solve it. Low marks are not caused by any one problem, it could be the prof, it could be the students or it could be something entirely different. I believe that a committee should be formed of the Undergrad Associate Dean, the profs teaching the course, their colleagues, and perhaps a student rep. This committee would be commissioned whenever a low average is happening and be charged with finding the problem and appropriately solving it. Until we understand why bad things are happening to our marks we can never hope to avoid them. The only thing that belling achieves is the masking of the only indicator we have of the problem, the marks themselves.

Stephen Snuggles Skrzydlo
The Snuggly President

It Be Da MGC

Well, we kind of missed the first issue, but here we are.

So what's the latest with MGC? Well, we're all starting to get excited that we'll be out of here in four months and (hopefully) on to bigger and better things (well, most of us anyways). Here's our list of MGC things to watch for:

1. The countdown: posted in the third floor hallway above the display cases, it is the number of class days left to our last day of lectures.
2. Yearbook and ring sales next week (Feb 3-5) on the third floor. Come check out the cool math rings. Hopefully we will have our new mobius strip ring to show you.
3. By the time this comes out we will have been to Laser Quest and back (and I'm sure we all had a blast), but watch for more MGC social events like a Wine & Cheese.
4. Also next week we will be selling Kiss & Hug-o-grams for you all to send to your friends, so's etc. Details will be available at the sale table.
5. Coming up in February will be nominations for the Alan George Award and the Valedictorian for spring convocation, so start thinking about those (if you don't know what these are about, come ask us).
6. We're looking for ideas for the graduating class gift. We have a decent amount of money to spend on it so we need suggestions. Stop in and talk to us, e-mail us, or drop a note in our box in the MathSoc office.
7. Check out the web page for more details.
8. Watch for our infocard elsewhere in this issue which you can conveniently clip and carry for your own personal reference. Drop by and see us for more info or even just to say hi.

Amy Green
MGC Co-Chair W99
MGC '99 - Prime Time



MGC IMPORTANT DATES INFO CARD

EVENT	DATE
Yearbook	
• Sales	February 1 - 5, 3 rd Fl. MC
• Last call for candid pictures	
Ring Sales	February 3 - 5, 3 rd Fl. MC
Sno-Cone Day	February 4, 3 rd Fl. MC
Valentine Hershey Kiss- and Hug-O-Grams	
• Sales	February 1 - 9
• Delivery	February 11 & 12, during class
Alan George Award	
• Nominations for Award	
• Open	February 18
• Due	February 26
• Nominations for Selection Committee	
• Open	February 18
• Due	February 26
• Packages to Committee	March 12
• Award Presentation	March 27 at Grad Ball
Valedictorian	
• Nominations	
• Open	February 18
• Due	February 26
• Nominations for Selection Committee	
• Open	February 18
• Due	February 26
• Nominees Notified	March 5
• Nominees - Short List Notified	March 12
• Speech Presentations	Week of March 22
Wine and Cheese	March 11, University Club
Math Grad Ball	March 27, Waterloo Inn
• Ticket Sales	February 8 - 12
Pizza Day	Every Wednesday, 3 rd Fl. MC
End Of Term Party	April
Pink Tie Pledge Last Call	April 1
Intent to Graduate	
• Spring	March 1
• Fall	August 1
Convocation	
• Spring	June 19, 10am, PAC
• Fall	October 23, PAC

mathNEWS Late-Breaking Update

The Beef Jerky Boys

Fargo, ND (mNFP): The male manager of a Burger King strip-searched a 17-year-old female employee after receiving a phone call from a police officer. The officer told the manager that the worker was a theft suspect, gave a description of her, and persuaded the manager to perform the search.

Only it wasn't a police officer. It was a prank phone call.

After finding no evidence of a theft, the manager became suspicious and attempted to trace the phone call. Police say the traces on this call and a similar one to another Fargo business show they came from out-of-state.

Perhaps the call came from the vice-principal of Kingsville District High John MacDonald?

Whatever Happened to Professional Courtesy?

Tampa, FL (mNFP): Something stinks at a new \$81 million federal courthouse in Tampa: turkey buzzard droppings. And leftovers from the scavengers' rotting-meat meals, too.

For some reason, upwards of 200 turkey buzzards have chosen the roof of the Sam M. Gibbons U.S. Courthouse as their new home. In addition to the smells, the buzzards' habit of bumping at the windows have annoyed lawyers, and galvanized the building management to try to keep the buzzards away. Crews installed electronic speakers that emit a chirping sound designed to annoy the buzzards and drive them away.

So far their efforts have been largely successful; the original flock of 200 has been reduced to fewer than 20.

Now if only they could find some way of driving the lawyers off.

Loose Beaks Sink Ships?

Washington, DC (mNFP): Parents had a lot of trouble finding Furby, the centre of 1998's Christmas toy craze, in stores. And now there's yet another place you can't find Furby: the U. S. National Security Agency headquarters in Maryland.

Furby's appeal was its ability to electronically record words spoken to it, and repeat them back. And because of this ability, NSA officials have officially banned it due to fears that employees would "take them home and start talking classified," as one Capitol Hill source told the *Washington Post*.

Let's hope, for the NSA's sake, that a Linda Tripp doll never gains popularity.

Olympic-Sized Wedgies

The International Volleyball Federation, in charge of international competitors in volleyball and beach volleyball, have standardized the uniforms of their female beach volleyball players.

The competitors must now wear bikinis that have bottoms that are two-and-a-half inches wide on the sides. That leaves barely enough room for sponsor's logos.

"You take one step," says the sport's most famous player, Gabrielle Reece, "that bathing suit goes straight up. You're always yanking and fiddling."

Maybe she should just feel lucky that she doesn't have to wear the official standardized uniform of the sumo wrestler.

Mike "Hammer" Hammond
West Coast Correspondant
B. C. mathNEWS Hall

Cynic's Corner

The meaning lies deeper

Why are you reading this? Will you later tell me how wonderful and profound you find my writings? I'm sure. See, I've been doing a bit of thinking about lying recently. Mostly because I was lying a lot last week - lying down, coughing, moaning, headachy, with a meddling virus making life hard to bear. (Praise to the doc who wrote the note that let me miss classes!) But there's the other kind of lying too, the kind of lying that keeps advertisers in business.

"My dog ate my homework", for example, can mean many things. How much of the homework was done? ("The dog ate my title page.") What course was it for? ("The dog ate my physics homework.") What year was it from? ("The dog ate my high school homework.") What incentive did he have? ("The dog ate the bone I wrapped my homework around.") So is not telling the whole truth lying or just giving others the chance to think creatively? Do white lies actually hurt anyone? It might at least be bothersome. I mentioned advertisers before, that's because they're probably the worst offenders, needing to convince a consumer to purchase their product above all else. But I still don't know if "25% less fat" means 25% less than what they had originally, 25% less than what they had last week, 25% less than their competitors or if only a quarter of their product has less fat.

I will now take this opportunity to rant on a bit more about television and commercials, even though I did that last term. It seems to me that the method of comparing your product that of a competitor has as much chance of failing as it does succeeding. I was taking medication last week and saw a commercial comparing what I was taking to "something better". What I was taking was working ... I didn't really appreciate being indirectly called "stupid" for not selecting their pain reliever. Comparison commercials have always struck me as a little cocky too, with people so sure you'll like their product. And phone companies seem to be the worst offenders. (Though I did manage to go the entire sickness stretch without hearing a Sprint commercial, thank goodness!)

The other thing that I realized last week (aside from the fact that talking to a television is mildly more entertaining than talking to a chair) is that there's a lot of program repetition. That is to say, repeats of the same things during the day. Why do we have so many channels when, for example, The Comedy Network replays morning stuff in the afternoon and evening stuff at night? Or, in a cute little twist, Space shows the same Star Trek episode at 10am and 4pm then identical TNGs at 10pm and 4am. Seems to me that you could collapse down some of these channels into pairs (and just get yourself a VCR if you're that paranoid). Or maybe the reasoning is you can't catch both A&E's Law&Order and Space's Alfred Hitchcock at once because they rerun twice at the same times. But with so few new plots out there anyway, why do we spend so much time lazing around? (Though now that I'm trying to catch back up, I don't really have time for it.)

Right, so, I guess that's enough complaining for now. Though I went a little off track, main message is that next time someone says something to you, consider the possible deeper meaning behind their words. And next time you see me, do mention how interesting you find this column. Don't worry, I'll know what you really mean.

Greg Taylor

I'll Have The Special

Why for you bury me in the cold, cold ground?

The snows came and they came with a vengeance. It seemed as soon as the New Year arrived, a cloud engulfed the mighty GTA and dumped a lifetime of snow all over this pristine jewel on the shores of Lake Ontario. And a day didn't go by without yours truly getting on the tractor and plowing aside the kilos and kilos of white goodness from the heavens to the sides of the driveway.

At first, the plowing experience wasn't too bad. It gave me something to do and it kept me out of trouble. But then the snows continued, and so the plowing continued. It was humorous at first, but then the laughter stopped. Snow, plow the snow, snow, plow the snow ... it just wouldn't stop. It was driving me insane. And as I plow aside more of this present from the skies, I was thinking: If I was an IOC member, I probably could have gotten someone else to plow my snow... and for free, too! Along with other perks.

Upon further reflection, I started to wonder ... why didn't my guidance counsellor at high school mention anything about a career in the IOC? Get to work in Geneva, travel the world without having to pay for it, expenses paid for by the city you're visiting... and the fringe benefits! What a job that would be.

However, my Dad pointed out to me that he thought he raised a son who had some principles. Damn. Can't even pretend to be shady.

And now, the usual rants:

- The NBA lockout is over! What hockey games are on right now?
- Let me just say for record that too much Freecell and Solitaire is definitely NOT a good thing.
- According to a little horoscope thingy that was in one of those Christmas cracker things, romance is in the air, my lucky month is January, my lucky number is 7 and my lucky colour is pink. What does this all mean? I dunno... probably just another outbreak of false optimism.
- Watched the debut of Dilbert tonight. My first impression was that it was trying too much to be like The Simpsons. Since the network that's airing it (UPN: The Voyager network) is pushing it so much and is giving me the impression that if I don't schedule my Mondays around 8pm watching it the world will come to an end, I guess I can give it a week or two to grow on me.

As for that Super Bowl thing that's going down? Well, after a lot of number crunching, injury report reading, strengths and weaknesses comparing, analyst analyzing and hours and hours of soul searching, I flipped a coin and I'm picking Atlanta.

So there.

Good bye for now and remember, the trick is to keep breathing.

Brian "Latrell" Fox

Former editor and suffering in solitude

*This sentence is here because Brian couldn't fill the column on his own. When **will** he learn?*

profQUOTES

“Mathies: people who feel uncomfortable if they haven’t proven a theorem once a day.”

Buhr, CS 342

“Java went the other way: `Let’s throw out everything that is useful in C and have all the bad stuff left.”

Buhr, CS 342

“I’ve heard every story about how your dog can eat assignments. Maybe they are true; maybe your dog eats an assignment a day”

Buhr, CS 342

“No flaming in the newsgroup. If you want to create an alt.hate.cs342, I don’t care.”

Buhr, CS 342

“Now don’t sue me for that... and I don’t want to be in *math-NEWS* either.”

McLeish, STAT 240

“I retract that one and any others I may have said.”

McLeish, STAT 240

“I’m not sending my blue dress anywhere. Deniability is everything.”

McLeish, STAT 240

“Anyone you designate as your friend can look at your private parts.”

Buhr, CS 342

“DeMorgan, doesn’t he make rum?”

Buhr, CS 342

“You’ll have to write one or two more list routines and then you’ll never have to write one again. Every time you write a list, you screw it up.”

Buhr, CS 342

“Oh by the way, my name’s Tony and I’m your friend, so that means I can look at your private parts.”

Buhr, CS 342

“My philosophy is go for the 90% and the rest of the time... in the Bomber!”

Buhr, CS 342

“You can’t live without GOTOs. Death. Taxes. GOTOs.”

Buhr, CS 342

“Have you noticed that Mike Harris advertises all the work they are doing on the roads, as if this was some added feature of the Harris government?”

Buhr, CS 342

“Joke coming! [3 sentences later] Joke coming! Please laugh! [pun on physicists here] You didn’t laugh!”

Goodman, AM 373

“Use it and abuse it!”

Kannappan, MATH 235

“What have I done? Said the exact opposite of what I meant, probably...”

Cummings, PM 330

“I forgot my little man!”

Goodman, AM 373

“Do you know what this means? BOB’S YOUR UNCLE!”

Goodman, AM 373

“The chemists are a pain in the neck.”

Goodman, AM 373

“Are there any pure mathematicians in the crowd? I hope so. [...] I love irritating them. And they can’t do anything about it.” (as he puts infinity on his diagram)

Goodman, AM 373

“Now this is really interesting because what I do here is multiply this stuff by some other stuff and I get an answer.”

Law, CS 337

“Consider the statistical problem of the Drive-In Theatre. Does anyone know what a `Drive-In’ is? There used to be piles of them when I was your age... some 200 years ago.”

Cherry, STAT 221

“I’ve got a head over here, a head over here. How many heads do I have?”

Kates, CS 246

mastHEAD*The Pain-In-The-Ass Issue*

As the time of the “pizza offering” came nigh, we all smacked our lips in anticipation of the pie-shaped cheesy sacrifice the pizza gods prepare for us every issue. But, something was amiss.

For this week, one of the editors had a wild idea: Why don’t we get pitas from those two wacky pita places and compare them! We were so stunned with the stupidity of the idea that we agreed with it immediately.

You can find our exhaustive Pita Report on Page 6. If you find this sort of investigative journalism helpful, please let us know. We’d be happy to do similar Consumer Guide-esque pieces on pizzas, fast food, text books, or sports cars in future issues. As always, we’re here to inform you, the reader – and to fill our stomachs.

People are getting busier and busier on Mondays nights. We may have to go nuts and move the production night to another night of the week. Will we? Stay tuned!

It seems only appropriate that the question that all our staffers answered tonight was *If you owned a Pita restaurant, what would you call it?* Here’s their responses: Derek Kisman (Pita Hut), Donny Cheung (“We don’t sell pitas here and this restaurant has nothing to do with pitas whatsoever”), John Swan (A Pita Heaven), Michael Thorsley (Onamatapita),

Matt Walsh (Robbing Pita, Paying Paul)

Greg Taylor (Pita-falls)

Chadwick Severn (You Such A Pita)

The Pita War!

For this week, one of the editors had a wild idea: Why don't we provide a service for our readers? Why don't we solve the problem that's confounding the entire U(W) population? Why don't we end all this madness and confusion? We knew what we had to do. We had to find out which place had the best pita: the newcomer Pita Factory or the original Pita Pit.



After we had made some piddling progress on the issue proper, we trekked over to the establishments in question. We stood outside the first one; it called to us, welcomed us, embraced us. We felt warm inside as the decor touched our souls while our bodies felt the harsh chill of a Waterloo night. When we stood outside the second pita place, we felt all that crap too. Come on people, I'm trying to set a mood here. Anyways, it all comes down to the quality and quantity of food, so let's leave the comparisons to that. And the price. And the service. And where the washrooms are located. And how good the girl behind the cash looks. But mainly the food.

Since there were eight of us, we decided to get four different pitas, a Chicken, a Steak, a Garden, and a Turkey. But, we would get exactly the same pita from both restaurants. Same fillings, same sauces, and same meat (or lack of). We then rushed the pitas back to the MathSoc office, paired up, and each pair tackled a different set of pitas. We judged the pitas according to several different categories, noted below, and also gave each pita a score out of 10. Please note that this was not a blind taste test...our eyes work just fine. The pictures of each pita not to scale, they are there for illustrative purposes only.

We were going to compare hours of operation, speed of service, and pricing, but we're kinda tired, so here's a summary: They're both open late, the Pita Factory was a bit faster, and the total price for the pitas at the Pita Factory was 50 cents cheaper. (Most of the pitas were priced the same, we think it was probably the Turkey one that was 50 cents more at Pita Pit. But who ever gets Turkey?) Throughout this review, the Pita Factory pita is always the left column, and the Pita Pit is on the right.

To fill up space, here's a shot of Mike eating his half of a Garden pita:



The Chicken Pita

Reviewed by Donny & Derek

First Impressions

Donny: "Boy, that's a shitload of chicken."

Texture

Derek: "A little bland."

Donny: "Vegetables are a little soggy."

Size

Donny: "Little bit smaller."

Colour

Donny: "Lettuce is kinda brown."

Taste

Donny: "The chicken was grilled; I liked it better."

Evenly Distributed?

Derek: "It's tilted a bit towards the left."

Fillings

Derek: "Looks like it's mostly meat."

Other comments

One of them (I can't remember): "Nice grilled chicken."

Derek: 7

Donny: 8

First Impressions

Derek: "Munch, munch."

Texture

Donny: "I thought there was supposed to be chicken in here."

Size

Donny: "Tiny bit larger."

Colour

Donny: "Lettuce is less brown."

Taste

Derek: "Good flavour; must be the sauce."

Evenly Distributed?

Donny: "Chicken is towards the ends."

Fillings

Donny: "Where's the chicken?"

Other comments

Derek: "More messy."

Donny: "It's hard to rip in half."

Derek: 9

Donny: 6



The Garden Pita

Reviewed by Chris & Mike

First Impressions

Mike: "Not very well held together."

Texture

Chris: "Little mushier."

Size

Chris: "Not as big."

Colour

Chris: "Lettuce is green. Tomatoes are red. Onion is white. Cheese is yellow."

Taste

Chris: "I wouldn't be embarrassed to take it home to my parents."

Evenly Distributed?

Chris: "Not quite as good. Peppers are concentrated a bit much."

Fillings

Chris: "Cheese is soggy. Veggies look okay."

Mike: "One tomato was a bit off. Onions aren't as strong."

Other comments

Chris: "Comparatively, not as good."

Mike: "Though not without its charm."



First Impressions

Chris: "Veggies are crisp. Cheese tastes like cheese."

Mike: "Pretty good. Cheese is very present."

Texture

Chris: "Veggies are crunchy, not soggy."

Size

Chris: "A lot bigger."

Colour

Chris: "Lettuce is green. Tomatoes are red. Onion is white. Cheese is yellow."

Taste

Mike: "Very good as a salad. You'd expect to find it right next to a fine steak."

Evenly Distributed?

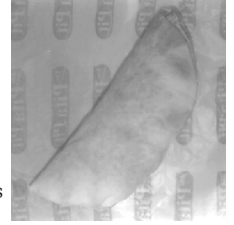
Chris: "Every bite you get every vegetable."

Fillings

Mike: "Round there. Doin' shit."

Other comments

Chris: "Hard to cut."



Chris: 8

Mike: 9

The Steak Pita

Reviewed by John & Greg

First Impressions

John: "Steak is charbroiled. Strong flavour."

Texture

Greg: "Steak."

Size

John: "Quite adequate."

Colour

Greg: "Red at the top."

Taste

John: "Rather dry."

Fillings

Greg: "They're right there, but lettuce is sparse."

John: "Lettuce isn't dominant."

Other comments

John: "There are cracks in the pita."

John: 7

Greg: 6

First Impressions

Greg: "Seems to be more visible steak. Lettuce too."

Texture

Greg: "Chewy."

John: "More like roast beef."

Size

Greg: "Seems like there's more."

Colour

Greg: "Seems darker."

Taste

Greg: "Chewy."

Fillings

Greg: "More lettuce and I can taste it."

Other comments

Greg: "Nice labelling."

John: 6

Greg: 6



The Turkey Pita

Reviewed by Heidi & Chad

First Impressions

Chad: "I should have got chicken."

Texture

Heidi: "It was gummy. Blech!"

Size

Heidi: "My half is kinda small. I didn't cut it."

Taste

Heidi: "Tastes good; almost like a ham."

Evenly Distributed?

Chad: "Not at all. Everything's separate."

Fillings

Chad: "I don't like the sauce."

Heidi: "Sauce is good. It's spicy."

Other comments

Chad: "I like the cheese. It has bite."

Heidi: 7

Chad: 7

First Impressions

Chad: "Blander."

Texture

Chad: "Better lettuce. It's actually crunchy."

Size

Chad: "Seems bigger."

Taste

Heidi: "Barely taste the sauce."

Evenly Distributed?

Heidi: "Very uneven. I've only got lettuce at the end."

Fillings

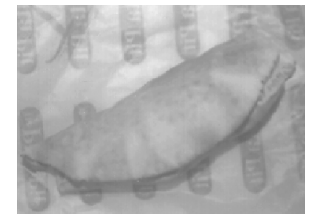
Chad: "Don't like the cheese as much."

Heidi: "Not much cheese in mine."

Other comments

Chad: "I didn't like it at first, but I loved it when it was cold."

Heidi: 7 Chad (Hot): 4 Chad (Cold): 8





Let The Quest Begin...

For centuries storytellers have passed on the enduring tales surrounding the legendary Arthur, Welch King of Britain. While individual accounts may vary, all involve complicated webs of romance, courage and deceit that have always captured both our hearts and imaginations.

Come and relive the medieval period of King Arthur... a time when mythical sorcerers, noble knights and brave warriors battled to rule the world; a time when truth, honour and justice were a way of life. Venture into the dungeons of Camelot and discover the various betrayals, rivalries and scandalous love affairs that never made their ways into the history books.

Havenger Scunt - Winter '99, known as The Quest begins on Friday, January 29 and is hosted by the 2A Systems Design Class (a.k.a. SysDe9). The opening ceremony, to be held in the Engineering Lecture Hall 101 at 1:30pm marks another beginning of this time honoured Engineering tradition. The scunt is a 24-hour marathon of wits, skills, knowledge and fun. Interested classes from engineering and other faculties form teams to compete in various on-campus activities including sporting events, games, acquisition list and ingenuity contests. There will also be scheduled road trips to bring back exotic items from various locations. The contesting teams will be judged over the course of the events according to their spirit, enthusiasm, creativity, humour, and completeness of the events.

Do you possess the true heart and spirit of a warrior? Are you brave and courageous and noble? If you answered YES to these questions, take on the Quest and earn your seat at the round table.

What: The Quest - Havenger Scunt Winter '99 When: Friday January 29 at 1:30pm to Saturday January 30 Who: Open to students of all faculties Registration Deadline: Tuesday January 26, 1999 Fee: \$50/team or \$5/person

For more information, please visit <http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/class/sys02b/scunt/> or email alaw@eng-mail.uwaterloo.ca

Please Sir, Can I Have Some More

You know what, I am sick of being the pleasant or sarcastic slash bitter punk that many have come to know and love adoringly, or have had the urge to crank at first sight. I am usually a fairly sarcastic yet optimistic person who will find some cause to smile amongst even the worst of events. Well I'm afraid that my optimism has cracked and rather substantially this time. So I am going to take this opportunity to bitch and possibly help others along the way.

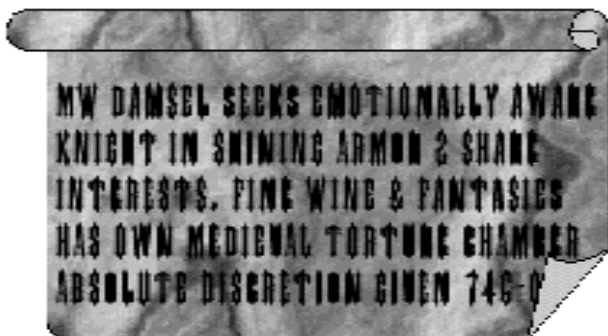
As you all know there are many things that we can do for pleasure, relaxation, and escape. These different diversions become all the more apparent when we most need them. If they are pleasant enough they tend to stick around beyond their useful lifetime. The problem here lies in our ability to give up these diversions and resume a normal life. Now I realize that people do change, I for one hope to be one of those people (academic probation and all).

Over the summer I started to really enjoy University life. I was getting out and playing sports on a regular basis, I went out with my friends, and enjoyed many different pastimes. I did however let one diversion go too far and as a result I failed two courses. It originally began as a simple relaxation tool the odd afternoon but soon developed into a pastime which passed away every afternoon and early evenings. I did not realize it at the time, for I was playing a game involving other people but, there were still those whom I was ignoring. The worst part is not so much that I didn't realize what was happening but that I still don't know how many people I managed to offend.

You see, letting a game, whether it be card, computer, or board engulf your life is less than pleasant for those whom you would call your friends. I believe that an addiction to a game can be as bad or worse than drugs and alcohol for a number of reasons. First, the game is not really destructive and therefore your friends cannot take you out back and kick the snot out of you for pissing your life away. Second, you can invite others to join and when they decide not to simply blow them off because: "They didn't want to play". Third, your world contracts incredibly, it involves you, the game and any other players, *no one and nothing else exist*.

This leads to the fourth and biggest problem of all. When your world has contracted, notice that it does not include time. As such you have no idea how long your game has been played. The problem here is that for a while your friends can look at you and think: "Ahh, he/she will get bored of it soon". Well I hate to break it to you folks but: games are not designed to become boring. This is realized first, by those whom you may think are your friends as they realize their efforts to drag you away fail.

Now eventually the time will come when you need those whom you would call your friends. Unfortunately those whom you would call your friends no longer consider themselves worthy of such a title. You see there is nothing quite as insulting as hearing the following reply to a request to go out: "Sorry, just let me finish..." Someday when trouble comes knocking you will need help, whether it be a set of ears, a shoulder, a hug, or even a kick in the ass, you'll need help. And guess what, when the only friend you have left is your computer, or that stack of Magic cards over in the corner, you're going to feel really lonely, then mad, and when the realization sets in: you will feel stupid.



Amy's Losing It

So there I was, minding my own business in the Lounge, when I feel a tug on my pant legs. I look down (expecting to see Max or some other crazy, depraved mathie) and there was this little pink tie with eyes, arms and legs. He says to me "Pledge the Pink Tie!" and runs off.

Of course, my reaction is that somebody dumped something in my Coke or I've been working too hard, so I forget about it and continue on with my life.

Well, a week later I'm in C&O, sitting at the back of the class as usual, when there's a tap on my shoulder. I look over (expecting that the guy next to me has something witty to say about the fact that the prof has chalk on his chin) and there's this silly pink tie again. "Pledge the Pink Tie!" he says in his high pitched, cartoony voice, then he runs off. Now, I knew this time I wasn't hallucinating because the guy beside me had this look of disbelief on his face, and it wasn't because of the theorem the prof had just written on the board. But it was a Friday, last class of the day, the weekend ahead, so I forgot about.

Well, the following Tuesday rolls around, I'm sitting in the Soc office, and up on the desk hops our little friend the tie. Except this time he isn't so nice.

"What is with you? Don't you listen! Pledge the Tie right now or me and all my little tie friends, who've been cooped up in the storage room and are none too happy about it, are going to kick your sorry little butt until you do!"

Of course, I started to laugh. I mean, really, a little tie was going to beat me up? Whatever!

Next thing I know, I'm on the ground, he and 5 other little pink monsters are perched on my chest and they're threatening to make me read Stat 231. So I pledged.

Let this be a warning to you: the Pink Tie Pledge team is out there, and they'll do whatever it takes to get you to pledge!

Amy Green
Pink Tie Pledge victim

Looking for Adventure?

I'm working on developing a bike tour across Canada this summer (well, from Vancouver to Waterloo, anyway. Everyone knows anything east of that doesn't count, heheh).

The purpose of the tour would be to:

1. Celebrate the fact that I'm done school. I don't care what anyone else wants to celebrate;
2. Foster some kind of networking across the nation. I'm getting in touch with Laurier, Guelph, UBC, UVic, and maybe Simon Fraser to see if they'd like to join in; and
3. Raise awareness and money for third world education funds which disburse scholarships to students in poor areas who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend institutions of higher learning. There'd be a pledge per kilometre deal going (the whole trip is about 4,500km).

I realize not everyone's into point c), so if you just want to do the trip without the fundraising aspect, get in touch and I'll pass along some of the research I've done on touring to you.

The trip can be done in less than 2 months, meaning graduating students leaving straight after the exam period (which ends April 22nd) can make it back to Waterloo for convocation June 16-19.

Interested? Give me a ring.

Sarah Kamal
skamal@descartes.uwaterloo.ca
888-4567 x5757

[Isn't it interesting how Sarah is no longer either BUDS President nor MEF Chair, but is still apparently using their office, or at least phone number, for her pet projects? I think that's very interesting. — Ed.]

The Cost of Volunteerism

As the President of the Society in the past Fall term, I feel a certain obligation to respond to Justyna Berzowski's article in the last issue of *mathNEWS* entitled "The Rhetoric of Corruption". I'd like to first correct some factual information, and then I'd like to actually address the issue at hand.

Justyna states that MathSoc spent "...about 8% of the society's expenditures for the past term" on volunteer remuneration. This number is inaccurate. The Society has four budgetary units: the C&D; Orientation; Math Grad Committee; and everything else, referred to as the Central Budget (including such things as the Office, social events, etc.). The reference to 8% refers to spending on volunteerism relative to the central budget, and not Society spending as a whole. Secondly, that 8% is still too high; it was compared to all known expenses at the time. The Society does a lot of its purchasing through the University (including the leasing of the photocopiers). Because of this, there is a lag time on billing of up to two months. When spending on volunteerism is compared to the aggregate of the term's spending, the percentage will be much lower.

To the heart of the matter. Justyna does not seem to argue that all volunteer remuneration is bad, just "substantial" remunera-

tion. I agree. The question is: what's substantial? In my opinion, \$30 per volunteer is not substantial (notwithstanding the fact that we spent approximately \$400 more on volunteerism than we had intended). To use myself as an example, I spent a least forty hours a week working for the Society, for approximately fifteen weeks. That works out to at least 600 hours of volunteering. To put the gifts in perspective, that works out to an hourly "wage" of \$0.05. I don't know about you, but I would hardly call that "substantial". Now, I admit, that not everybody put in that many hours as I did. Fair enough. However, every last one of our volunteers received "remuneration" at a rate far below the value of their work. Considering how hard each and every one of our volunteers worked last term, I believe that this was money well spent.

The problem with this entire argument is that it's subjective; the use of the term "substantial" makes it so. There is no right or wrong answer here. You, as the members, must be comfortable with the levels of volunteer remuneration; it's an individual decision. The only thing that I can ask you to ask yourself when deciding is the following: are the services provided by the volunteers worth it? I believe they are.

Chris Buchanan, MathSoc President (Winter/Fall 1998)

Course Averages: Another Perspective

* * *

Last term, the Dean's Office circulated a memo suggesting guidelines for academic policy, which included a directive that 1st & 2nd year core and service courses (i.e. MATH 13* & 23*, STAT 230 & 231; and CS 120, 130, & 134) should in most cases have averages in the range 65% to 75%.

There was substantial discussion of this topic last term in *mathNEWS* (see Chris Buchanan's article of Nov 20 and the response on Dec 4 by Profs. Tenti and Vrscay of Applied Math) and on the newsgroup *uw.math.ugrad*, starting with Sarah Kamal's post on Nov 25 and continuing until approximately the end of term. The issue was also raised at last week's Faculty Council meeting.

Most of the controversy surrounding the memo isn't about the memo text itself; it's about the interpretation of it. Ultimately, it will be the interpretation of the Dean's Office that actually gets implemented. According to Stephen Skrzydlo (the Math-Soc president), who attended the Faculty Council meeting last Tuesday, Prof. Schellenburg (the Associate Dean) clarified the wording and stated explicitly that he supported a bell curve, i.e. if the course averages fell outside the specified ranges they would be belled.

Whatever you think of this, if you have an opinion, pass it on to Trevor Ray (the MathSoc VP Academic). It's important the Faculty know where Math undergrads stand on this.

To ensure everyone has the full story, the text of the memo is included below, taken from Sarah Kamal's post. Following that, I give my own opinion on the issue.

* * *

Faculty of Mathematics Guidelines on Class Averages in Core and Service Courses

The Faculty's recruiting program attracts students with strong academic backgrounds. As a result, we admit talented students from across Ontario and Canada. Most of them should be successful in their studies.

Over time, the Faculty's program requirements have become much more exacting, in part because promotion decisions are now based on cumulative averages rather than averages that include only courses with passing grades. Students must maintain a Cumulative Average (CAV) of at least 60% to be *In Good Standing*. A class average of 60% or less means that about half the students are not meeting the good Standing level of performance. This judgment is unduly harsh.

In addition, the teaching of service courses for students in other faculties is an essential part of the Faculty's mandate. Other faculties have raised concerns about the low averages in some service courses.

An average of 60% indicates that a class is performing very poorly, and so should be a rare occurrence.

The Faculty's expectations are substantially higher than those of most Ontario high schools. Students soon realize this by the demands we make in the classroom. We must recognize student's previous educational experience and seek to provide appropriate academic challenges. The Dean's Advisory Committee, after considerable discussion, agreed that

averages in the first- and second-year core and service courses should normally be in the range from 65% to 75%.

If an instructor or course co-ordinator anticipates that a course average may lie outside this range, he or she should discuss possible actions as early in the term as possible with the Director of First Year Studies or the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies.

Typically, students taking advanced sections in the core courses are among the most gifted students in the Faculty, many of whom hold scholarships that require them to maintain a CAV of at least 80%. Most of these students are in the 90th percentile. These courses will normally have class averages well above 80%.

Ok, my two cents:

First, I'd like to say that I don't disagree with anything *written* in the memo. My disagreement is based entirely on the interpretation given it (which I mentioned above).

Something I've heard a lot from those who endorse the guideline is that it corrects a lot of unfairness in the Math Faculty. For example, suppose profs A & B teach MATH 135. A is a brilliant lecturer and has perfect attendance by students. His tutorials are lucid, he gets concepts across masterfully, and he spends his Sundays volunteering at a local orphanage. And then there's prof B. He whispers almost to himself, doesn't write on the board, and spends the class relating anecdotes about his pets. So when exams come around, B's section scores 20% lower than A's. The guideline's answer is simple: bell 'em up. So should we?

No. This asks: what's a mark? Is it some number the Faculty assigns to you because you fell into the *n*th percentile of the people in the course at that time? No. A mark is a measure of knowledge gained. A mark says "someone who got 85%+ in this course should know blah". Is it fair that someone who got 50% in B's class should be belled upwards while someone who got 50% in A's class should not, just because B is a bad teacher? No.

A good point in favour of the guideline is that students must maintain a 60% average to stay in good standing. So courses which have averages < 60% mean that about half the students in the course got marks which put them closer to academic probation. Is this acceptable?

No, but a low average like this is an indication of any of 3 things: a bad prof, a hard course, or bad students. If the prof is a problem, someone should make sure he/she understands the level of the students; and if it persists he/she should be dealt with. If the course is the problem, then they should make it easier. What if the students are the problem? It sounds elitist, but if a course average is way lower than it was year ago with the same prof teaching, and we look at the admission records and see we've admitted 15% more students, we have to stop and consider where we want UW Math to go in the next few years. Belling is not the answer.

Belling marks removes absolute standards. What are standards when your standing only depends on your performance compared to fellow students? Suppose Prof B setd a ludicrously hard exam with an average of 20% and then just does magic on the average and gets a happy 70%? What has the class learned by this? When the average is belled, how does the prof know what to expect from students? Belling removes a prof's feedback mechanism.

Finally, let me clear up two points. First, what's proposed in the guideline won't affect your major average, since most core math courses aren't counted towards it. (The one exception is CS 134). Second, you'll notice I didn't argue that employers won't hire you because a UW degree will mean nothing after the guideline's put in place. Although I'm pessimistic enough to think UW's good reputa won't last forever, we'll all be long gone by the time the guidelines have any affect on UW's reputation. What's at stake is the value of our degree and our responsibility to future UW students.

Steve Forrest

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon, but without the blinking lights and funny sounds. No really, this is where I say stuff that I shouldn't say as President. So I would like to officially say that this article is only representative of my personal views and reflects in no way upon MathSoc's views or the views I have as President. In fact the opinions expressed below don't even really represent my views, they just represent what I find funny.

You may recognize the above paragraph (after the first sentence) from my last article. That's cause I cut and pasted it, actually I retyped it cause I'm at home but hey. Why did I have to waste space with something I said already last week? Because of stupid people, that's why. You know what, fine, I'll put the bloody disclaimer, but anyone who thinks that just because I'm the Prez I'm always speaking on behalf of MathSoc is on crack, hell I'm a VOLUNTEER for fucks sake. Sorry about that, I get a little worked up about this whole inappropriateness of office thing, some of the things people have said to me border on censorship and that really gets me upset. Anyway I guess I'll get back to nice, happy, funny, Snuggles land now and away from bitching land.

OK, so this guy walks into the third floor of the MC with a pitcher of beer (the night of the fire alarm at the bomber). Our first question "How the hell did that guy get that pitcher of beer", his first question "Does anybody have a mug?" Hehehehe, that was wacky. Turns out that when they were confiscating all the alcohol at the Bomber cause they had to evacuate, some of the patrons decided that they liked the alcohol and wanted to keep it. And this guy got out with his pitcher, don't ask me how that happened, must have been pretty crazy in Bomber land. Push comes to shove, he got his beer, and we got a funny story.

Hehe, the other day I looked over at the unnamed VPF of the Society (rhymes with Fike Mroh) and he was patting himself on the back and smiling. Now I understand about feeling underappreciated but this is ridiculous. I think he needs a little affection. That's a hint to all the ladies out there, pimpdaddy in the house and he needs some sweet lovin'. Hehe, he's shaking his head at me right now.

Remember that stupid public safety commercial "Hi, my names Astar, I'm a robot, I can put my arm back on, you can't, so play safe". Well I've come up with a modern version for your average University student. "I can put my pants back on, you can't, so play safe" hehehe. My random thought of the week "Vibrating pagers are like call-in foreplay". Time for some sing-a-long, everybody now, Just a spoonful of sugar helps the candy go down. I'm telling you, the shit I think about.

I have a little story to tell. We were sitting in the bomber for Cubby's birthday at the end of last term, and he had a birthday cake (an ice cream cake). So everyone got a piece (but me, I can't have dairy, fucking lactose intolerance) and we still had some left, and it was melting. Concurrently (didn't think that could be used in a sentence not referring to CS did ya? Well, I don't even know if I used it correctly, hey Ed. did I use it correctly, I suppose you'll tell me when I finish this huge bracket and actually get around to finishing that bloody sentence, hehehe, I like communicating with the editor within an article) what was I saying? Oh ya. Concurrently I was looking around and I saw this really hot girl. She looked exactly like Sarah Michelle Geller from Buffy the Vampire Slayer. But I thought it was just

me so whatever. All of a sudden the person sitting across from me leans over and says "You know Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and I said, "ya, she's sitting over there". Eventually all the guys at the table were in agreement. We decided that Buffy (we were on a first name basis) didn't look so happy, so we sent her a piece of cake. We made a little note that said "To Buffy" and called over Brett. We told him about Buffy, he agreed with us and brought her the cake. They talked for a bit, then he came back. We asked him what she said when he gave her the cake, she said, "Hi, I'm Nicole". Hehe, then we sent cake to Buffy's friend, but then the guys sitting at the table with them started giving us dirty looks, so we offered them cake. I like cake.

This article is brought to you by three people. My cotton candy coated frosh - Need help cleaning up? My masseuse - anytime you want to de-stress I'm here for ya. My Thompson Twin - you continue to inspire me in mathNEWS and beyond.

Stephen Snuggles Skrzydlo
King Snuggles

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

January 29

February 8

February 12

Issue #2 makes the scene

Issue #3 production night

6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)

Issue #3 is seen

Math Faculty

January 29

February 19

March 1

March 2

March 2—5

Course Drop Deadline

Last Day for 50% course refund

Course WD Deadline

1B Info Night @ 7pm

Fall Term Pre-Registration

Co-op

February 1

February 2

Interviews begin

Check for possible Posting #8

MGC

February 26

Valedictorian and J. Alan George

Award nominations due

Miscellaneous

January 31

February 1

February 2

Last Day of January

Not January 32

Also not January 32

Ground your hogs

This space would have been left intentionally blank if it were not for the fact that these words have made it intentionally lacking in blankness

Spermatikos Logos #2

Ok folks... I don't know how well things are going to work out but I've got a puzzle for you guys to work things through. Never done this before, so be gentle, and go easy on the solutions.

In a far away place, a legendary bingo hall stood. It wasn't your ordinary bingo hall; the prizes tended to be a bit on the extraordinary side. Still, the game was normal, and the participants, just as crazy as always. 4 people were playing that day (One of them was Zabby) and each of them took a different number of cards. Being complete non-conformists, they also used different colored blotters to mark their cards. The 4 players sat in a square and eagerly listened to hear the numbers being called out.

1. The person who had 12 cards was sitting somewhere to the right of the person with the blue blotter.
2. The person with the red Blotter had as many cards as the person who won the turquoise pen and the person with 4 cards, combined.
3. Gazelle felt left out, being the only person to have an odd number of cards; he was happy, at least, that no-one had more than double the number of cards he did, despite having only the 2nd least number of cards.

4. The person directly in front of the person who won the card-shuffler was unhappy that he was getting covered with red dots by the flailing of person next to him.
5. The person with the yellow blotter was happy when she managed to finally win with an X across one of her cards winning her a happy meal.
6. Nick got upset when the person with the purple blotter won before he did, so he smashed the card-shuffler over the person with the purple blotter's head.
7. The person winning the engraved lighter and the person winning the card-shuffler got thrown out when they made it appear as if Old Man had cheated by putting additional blots on his cards. This was more difficult since they couldn't use his blotter.

Well, like normal, submit your solutions in the black box and email me your questions and complaints to bkchun@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca. I'll try to answer them as soon as possible. Submit the name, the colour of the blotter, the number of cards and the prize of each person playing.

Byung Kyu Chun

Math Thoughts

Have you ever wondered about why you're here? Why you put in the effort and the time for 5 years to get something on your wall? I know why! It's so when you see all your friends from high school you can laugh at them and say, "Ha, look at what I got!" But they are actually laughing at you because they learned skills at college and have been working for 3 years in high paying jobs. Then they say, "You suck," and then kick you in the groin.

Paul Royston

ISSN 0705—0410

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

Two of these people think you really should go out and see FASS: Matt Walsh, Greg Taylor, Chadwick Severn

Previous Logos Solutions

Hello there! Lots of submissions for the last Logos puzzle, so without futher ado, here's the solution to the correct sequence of events: Jodie Smitherson-Jones tripped up a flight of steps outside the MC on Monday; Jedediah Kent was blown off the edge of a hill outside the Grad House on Tuesday; Julianne Vansicle walked into a frozen lamppost with her tongue at the Dana Porter on Wednesday; Jim Popodopolous got into a snowball fight near Optometry on Thursday; and Jan Davidson slid down an icy pathway outside the PAS building on Friday.

Submitting with slightly erroneous solutions were Jason Smulevitch, Peter Marshall and the Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada, and correct solutions were received from: Ian "The Word Guy" Facey, Emily Hancock, Nick "The Robert" Page, Stuart MacDonald, Stephen Mills, Vishnu Persaud, Kevin Siddique, Bryan Hill, Beth Wood, Mark Nieweglowski, Michael Wong, Francisco Lung and Kristy Anstett. Random rolling of the dice indicates that Michael Wong is this week's winner. Look in MathSoc for some sort of prize.

mathNEWSquizz #2

Ooooch! Biff! Ach!

Welcome to the second *mathNEWS* Squiz of the term, folks! As one can guess, Stu and I concentrated on the theme of snow in honour of the blizzard we got this month. Unfortunately, it is sad to see that not many people shared our enthusiasm for the white stuff. Nonetheless, here are the answers so eagerly awaited by our fans: Song Lyrics: 1)By-Tor and His Snow Dog, Rush; 2)Snow Bird, Anne Murray; 3)Snowblind, Black Sabbath; 4)Don't Eat the Yellow Snow, Frank Zappa; 5)Informer, Snow. The central theme here was snow. Buffalo, New York: 1)Irv Weinstein; 2)Erie County; 3)702 feet; 4)Los Angeles Clippers; 5)Buffalo Memorial Auditorium seated 17900. Places that are colder than Hell, MI:1)Nursultan Nazarbaev; 2)Beaver Creek, Yukon; 3)The first man to explore the Antarctic by air (he also was the first to explore the Arctic by air); 4)U.S Secretary of State William Seward's purchase of Alaska from Russia for 7 million dollars in 1867; 5)Islas Malvinas. I'll take "Winter Wonderland" for \$300, Alex: 1) Mark Steven Johnson, Steve Bloom; 2)The Arrogant Worms; 3)International Falls, Minnesota; 4)Lambert-Fisher; 5)Ross Rebagliati.

This Squiz recieved the cold shoulder from all except the Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada, who scored eighteen points. So Stuart and I give congradulations to The Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada! To the members of the above mentioned team, you can pick your prize up at MathSoc. As for the rest of you lot, here is something a little easier (we hope):

Song Lyrics

One point for the song, one point for the artist and one point for the theme

1. "My walls are getting wider and my eyes are drawn astray
I see you know, a vague deception of a dying day."
2. "The circle is broken, now there's more than just one
And there's room to move where before there was none."
3. "They tried to carry on, tried to bear the agony
Tried to hold some faith in the goodness of humanity."
4. "Every rock band has this
Not many people really know why
He's got a cellphone and a backstage pass
He's got a big gut and a big fat ass."
5. "Hidden in the shadows where the cold winds comes
A mist queen dances for her fallen sons."

Famous Mathematicians

1. Who was the first mathematician to construct a 17-gon with a straight edge and compass?
2. Who first showed that satisfiability is NP-complete?
3. Who developed MacLaurin series? (Hint: It wasn't MacLaurin.)
4. Name the mathematician/computer theorist who first introduced the lambda calculus.
5. Who first determined that $\pi/4 = 1 - 1/3 + 1/5 - 1/7 + \dots$?

The Super Bowl

1. Which Super Bowl match was first played in a dome? (give the number and the two teams that played)

2. What trophy is given to the most valuable player of the Super Bowl?
3. Who has won the abovementioned trophy the most times?
4. How many times have the Los Angeles Raiders appeared in the Super Bowl?
5. Everone knows that Vince Lombardi coached the Green Bay Packers in the First Super Bowl. Name the coach who lost to this legend.

Atlanta, Denver and Miami, Oh My!

1. What is the state motto for Colorado in Latin?
2. In what year did the Miami Dolphins have their undefeated season
3. Give the date that General Sherman took Atlanta.
4. When was Denver incorporated as a city?
5. (two points for this tough one) What is the number one gets if one added the zip code of Atlanta to the zip code in Miami, then subtracted that sum from the zip code in Denver?

This is all that we have for you in this issue. However, you may submit your solutions either by the **BLACK BOX** or by e-mail to scepollo@undergrad.math by 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8th, 1999. There will be no exceptions whatsoever! So folks, enjoy the Squiz and hope we get plenty of responses.

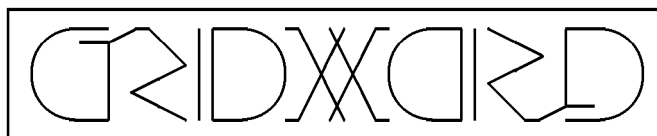
"Disco Stu" Pollock
John "The Pseudo-Expert" Swan

Solution to Last Issue's *gridWORD*

T	U	B			V	O	U	C	H	S	A	F	E	S		
U		E		F		V		A		E		E		E		
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Coming Next Issue:

An in-depth, hands-on examination of this year's new DVD players. Which one is right for you? Can a student afford one? Do they come in green? All that and more!



gridCOMMENTS

Well, GridMaster Derek here again. We had a whole two submissions for the last cryptic. I guess everyone in the Math Faculty was too busy getting laid to try solving it? (heh heh, I kill me) Anyway, today's Cryptic should be slightly easier, so all you people less perfect than myself might have a chance. And for the people who are really amazingly less perfect than myself, we have a Conventional GridWord, created by my newfound GridSlave, Donny Cheung.

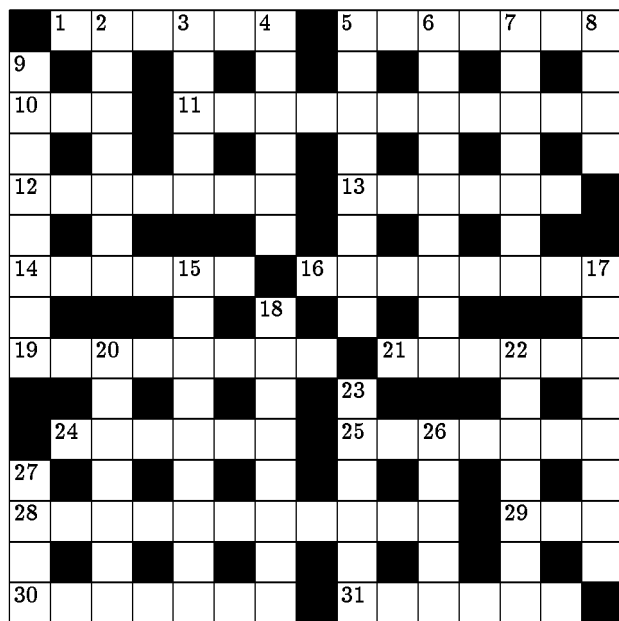
Ian "The Word Guy" Facey and Darren Redfern both submitted completely correct solutions to the Cryptic. Nice going! A winner was chosen by an authoritative, scientific process recommended by 9.8 out of every 10 accountants: flipping a coin. Darren wins our fabulous prize, (insert amazingly fabulous prize here).

Oh, and remember, there is a incredibly astoundingly wonderful prize for the best submission. It will change your life forever. I mean it! Submit! Submit!!!

Derek Kisman

Hello there, GridMaster Donny here (contrary to any previous claims you may have heard from GridSlave Derek). I'm sure once you're all finished Derek's cryptic, you'll all want to grab another issue of *mathNEWS* and do a Conventional GridWord, right? There's a prize for this one too. Really, no joke! Please, do my crossword. Many a potato chip was sacrificed in its construction. Oh, but please, do Derek's too. He'll kill me otherwise.

Donny Cheung



Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. Beyond ethics (6)
5. Love affair (7)
10. Tavern (3)
11. Chance events happening together (11)
12. Peek (7)
13. Rush in violently (6)
14. Charge (6)
16. Newbie (8)
19. Microsoft, e.g. (8)
21. Sea between Turkey and Greece (6)
24. Church division (6)
25. To make a message unintelligible (7)
28. Raincoats, e.g. (11)
29. Greek island (3)
30. Volcanic in origin (7)
31. Amino acid (of "Jurassic Park" fame) (6)

Down

2. Humanity (7)
3. Summary (5)
4. To hang around (6)
5. Comfy couch (8)
6. To adopt contemporary ideas (9)
7. Bowling variant (7)
8. Vase-like jug (4)
9. Extreme nationalism (8)
15. Lively whimsical tune (9)
17. Carnival event (4-4)
18. Of lead (8)
20. Proton, e.g. (7)
22. Of heaven, in Greek myth (7)
23. Deadly (6)
26. Expenses (5)
27. Asian desert (4)

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Ron falls back into ocean, with Mexican woman (6)
5. Horse fly's, um, retreating (7)
10. Partial approval for eggs (3)
11. One later enters, like, with matching sides (11)
12. Fire alert (7)
13. Sal, boy, goes west to the cowboys' hometown (6)
14. Covering any cop is erratic (6)
16. Drafted with no downside (as planned) (8)
19. Acrobats,imps on stilts, bears: "The Greatest Show On Earth"? (8)
21. Heavy metal music is awful, containing one musical note (6)
24. Strange sounding, but fair (6)
25. OK, on the mark... (5,2)
28. Discounting losing one's sense of humour? (8,3)
29. Ran amok, with club for a weapon (3)
30. They say I soar, giving fright (7)
31. This, this, and this point to positions (6)

Down

2. No, I save up for escape (7)
3. The last letter from Greece, with ZIP, is one half megabyte (5)
4. A stubborn animal, with true charm (6)
5. Curse Quebec's bad law (8)
6. Orbiting object strayed SE a little (9)
7. Express one's emotions in fancy cabaret (7)
8. Whip up a weekend sport (4)
9. Cameron's revolutionary "Titanic", et al. (8)
15. Kind of a nut, I hit a cop's convertible (9)
17. Fiendish, but funny, comedian (8)
18. The threshold of charm (8)
20. Gauge for myself a firm (7)
22. Extreme connotations, I hear (7)
23. Run experiments, yes, stuffing fish (3,3)
26. Blunder into tall African mammal, with no infrared (5)
27. The odd ones within collude to give this sentence, as an example?(4)