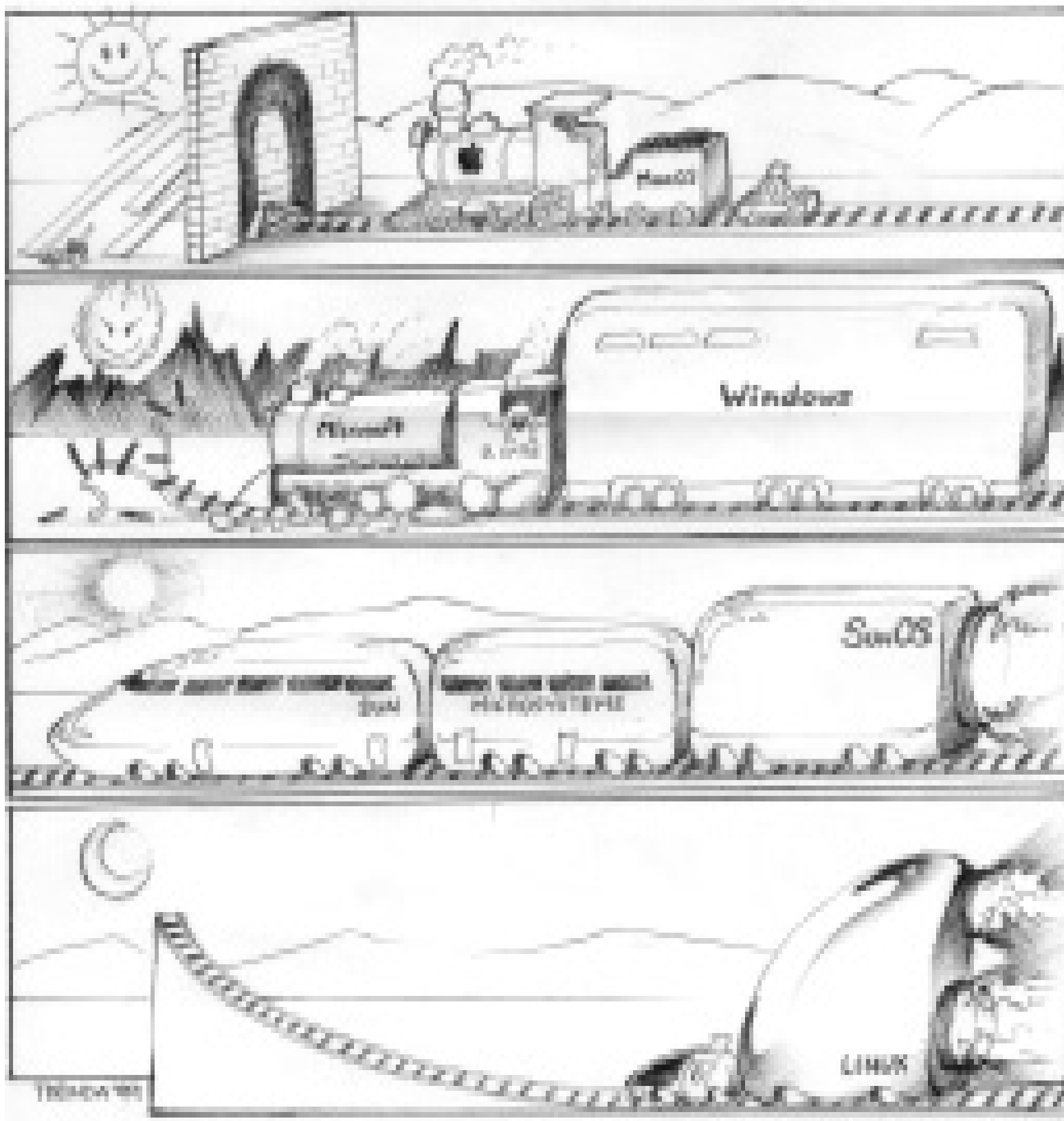


math NEWS

Volume 80, Issue 5

Wednesday, June 30, 1999



Letters to *mathNEWS*

The Iranian Cult of mathNEWS

OK, so the scoop about the Iran letters that I've teased you with for the past two issues:

If you come into the *mathNEWS* office (or take the new Virtual Tour™), you might note that one wall is covered with paper memorabilia of various kinds: covers or issues that we're particularly proud of, impressive Squiz submissions, awards, photos of Brian "Latrell" Fox, and the like. On the right side of this wall, just next to the coat pegs, is a letter. This letter is from an individual in the city of Kashan, in the nation of Iran. It is a very politely worded missive, asking for a free subscription to our mathematics newsletter and more information about mathematics. The author is apparently quite enthusiastic about studying mathematics.

This, in and of itself, is perhaps a curiosity at best. After all, our subscriptions are not free (although they are priced quite competitively), and we are by no stretch of the imagination a "mathematics newsletter". So some person half a world away got a little confused; these things are quite likely to happen.

No, the strange part is that it's not just one person.

For the past three years, we have been receiving occasional letters from Iran. Always from different people, always from different areas of the country, and all very polite. And **almost all of them saying basically the same thing.**

Apparently, then, *mathNEWS* has quite a following in the Middle East. When Latrell and I took office for the first time in the Fall of 1996, we both assumed that the single such letter that was lying around the office was in some way the work of Mala "Crakko" Krishnan, the previous term's editor. Why we thought this was not entirely clear, but that's what we thought.

Mala's been gone for three years, though, and we're still getting the things, at an average rate of three per term. As far as we can tell, there is a wide-spread underground cult of *mathNEWS*-followers in Iran, just waiting for the word to do something dastardly or other.

The strangest one that we've received is also the most recent. Again polite, again with "In the Name of Allah" at the top, this time the individual claims to have seen our catalogue and would like to know more.

What? Catalogue? As far as I know, there is no such thing as a *mathNEWS* catalogue. I have no clue what would be in such a catalogue if we had one. Suffice to say that, even after all of the previous letters, this one puzzled me all the more.

Does anyone have any clue what this is all about? If so (or even if you just have an interesting suggestion), could you please e-mail us at mathnews@undergrad.math and let us know?

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

June 30	Issue #5 flies the flag
July 5	Issue #6 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
July 9	Issue #6 becomes a reality

Holidays

July 1	Canada Day (Canada)
July 4	Independence Day (U.S.A.)
July 14	Bastille Day (France)

mastHEAD

Guest editor: Michael, The One. (Which One?)

I shouldn't be here. I should be working on my english assignment. I wasn't counting on a gang of hoodlums in pink ties breaking into my room and dragging me off to the 3rd floor broom closet (read: *mathNEWS* office) to edit their issue for them. Couldn't they have picked on some poor, helpless engineer? Or at least someone in geography? But there's no getting out of it now. Procrastination – I have to say it's an art form.

I just realized something. I've been given a free reign to rant about anything that's been bugging me. (Hey, this isn't all bad!) Why doesn't anybody answer questions in class anymore? True, they may be trivial questions, but participate, dammit! Have you ever been up there at the front of a class of any sort, asking questions and trying to encourage people to answer them? I can say it's very demoralizing.

Imagine yourself in two situations; in one, the lecture is flowing very smoothly. The prof stops occasionally to ask questions which are quickly answered by somebody in the class. It's fast paced, engaging, and *interesting*. In the second, most students are dozing. Whenever the prof stops to ask a question, there are a few seconds of embarrassed silence. If the prof is lucky, somebody'll call out an answer. It may seem "cool" to act dumb in class, but what does that truly gain you?

[Hey everyone, Matt here. Now, I wasn't actually at Production Night for this issue, I was in Washington D.C. watching a play. As such, I have no clear idea what happened on Production Night, nor who was there. I conjecture that my brother editors (Chadwick, Greg, Richard) were all present, I've been told that the female contingent of the staff – the distaff, if you will – were present (Gigi and Jean), obviously Mikey was there, and I'm guessing that Mike Thorsley, John Swan, and Chris McGuire were all there. But I don't know. Nor do I know why it is now three in the morning on Sunday the 27th, and I am putting this issue together. These things happen. — ΣEd]

Thanks goes to the Pita Factory for their wonderful pitas (with *everything*), to my parents for always being there when I needed them (Happy Father's Day!), and to Marion at Graphic Services.

Michael "M." Brown

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 math-news@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet. Wishing we were in the U.S. with Matt: Richard Bilson, Chadwick Severn, Greg Taylor

Haiku

to find data with
maximum efficiency
use binary search

Chatting with Brucie

Which Should Never Be Called "Prez Sez"

The last *mathNEWS* article was last week so there isn't much to write about as far as society issues go. If all has gone well we have just had a society council meeting last weekend, and the forces of evil have been driven back from whence they came.

I hate to write little preachy things like this in such a public forum, but I think it's a good idea to get the broadest audience possible. Here goes.

[Start Moral Message]

If you have a problem with someone, one of the better ways to deal with it is to tell them. Turning every minor issue into a crusade of religious proportions is, well, silly. If you're a con-niving twit you could certainly dance around your opponent's back using lies and half-truths to "prove" your point. Or in the words of Yuri Member Hoo, "If you can't say it to their face, shut the hell up."

[End Moral Message]

We are one of the most inbred societies on Campus. The reason nobody wants to join this Society (that is, help with it) can likely be attributed to two things:

1. The name of the Society is often shortened to something pronounced "Math Sock". While this occasionally allows the exec to make stupid jokes when answering the phones it also has the word "Math" in it, which is pretty scary, especially if you're in the Math Faculty.
2. The same air of anal-retentiveness (yes, I wrote "anal-retentiveness" in an "official" article from me as President. "The better to impeach you with, my pretty!" says the Big Bad Wolf) that hovers over everything we do is still present. If someone skims over a stupid (key word is "stupid") by-law, people rant and rave as though the fate of nations or the lives of millions were at stake. It's a tough sell but I'd go as far to say that our Council meetings are sometimes worse than the UN General Assembly. It's bad now, but I'd hate to be around if crying and backroom threats become a staple of council meetings (and hey, I probably won't be).

So let's stop the crap (uh oh!) right now and work to do something before this society sucks (uh oh!). Please contact `exec@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca` for more information.

Cheers,

Bruce

Observations on a co-op work term

Hey mister shirt and tie
what goes on in your mind
why do you walk with such pride in your eyes
care to tell me what makes you better than I?

Hey mister three-piece suit
I'll bet it feels real good
you know I saw you eye that girl from where you stood
and go buggley-eyed with your corporate brotherhood

Hey mister shiny shoes
don't ask me to be like you
nothing to gain and my decency to lose
is this what you want me to choose?

Aziz Ebrahim

Cynic's Corner

Objective: World

The world sits quietly, appearing as it normally does. It is a day not unlike any other day. Except today there is a meteor, streaking through space with an almost majestic glory, and it is either invisible or has unseen potential because the world is unprepared for it. The meteor smashes through the atmosphere, stirring up feelings of panic and horror. After it reaches the ground, the very foundations of life have been shaken up, leaving behind nothing but the sensations of woe and despair. But for some reason, people carry on with their daily business and the Earth continues to spin about the sun as it has for as long as we can remember. They do not realize what has happened. Because the impact was not upon the planet itself, but into the individual life of a single person, uprooting their own personal world. If you're not such a person in trouble, feel free to skip the next paragraph.

I mean, it doesn't happen all that often, at least not with such severity as to upend the state of one's reality. But new classes, new experiences, new friends, the potential is always eerily there. And more often than not, if you end up slipping into an attack of confusion and anxiety, it seems like things would be much better if you could take a time out. Unfortunately society typically continues unhindered, not revolving around the individual. So where to go for help? People who intentionally or inadvertently help to cause our catastrophes may offer insight, but can't necessarily be objective. Your friends also might not be able to stay objective. Your cat can be objective, but unless you're on some impressive drugs you won't be able to understand what (if anything) she's saying on the matter. The Queen might be objective but she's got her own problems. What then? Well, in my opinion, seeking out an advisor or a person you don't necessarily know too well can help provide a fresh perspective. Which is not to say that speaking with anyone else isn't helpful too (and even cats are good listeners), but when you're close to a person or a situation, it's harder to maintain objectivity. Of course, the important thing overall is to keep perspective, and to try and do what you have to do to overcome the troubles. Things aren't always as bad as they seem. If nothing else, hopefully my constant string of metaphors and proverbs (and puns) is worse. Something to remember next time you're in a state of upheaval.

But before I conclude, just one more thing; as you're out there celebrating Canada Day, be it in town or not, do remember to pick up after yourself. Littering seems to increase around the holidays or during times of celebration, a poor tradition. So instead of seeing a piece of garbage on the ground and thinking it's okay to drop one yourself, why not pick that other one up? It'll probably make the cleanup crew's world a little better, not to mention our planet itself.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

More Haiku

woe to the naive!
an easy bubble sort takes
order n squared time

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez but Simon just woke up, he can't find his pants, and all the naked people around him are complete strangers. I'm in a bad mood right now because my teeth hurt. I hate dentists, more on that later. I think I figured out a good reason to have 1000 frosh screaming Hi Snuggles. Because if we said "Hey look everybody it's Skrzydło" the room would be silent and very confused. (Note to those who don't know me, that's my last name, and yes, I spelled it right, and the answer to the question "How do I pronounce that?" is that you don't.)

So a week ago I was at the dentist (a week ago in my time, which is Monday, so a week and a half ago for all of you, ah time travel, such a quaint little thing) having a root canal. Going in I was scared, I hate needles, I hate drills, and I especially hate them when they are in my mouth. Additionally, my only previous experience with a root canal was my mother coming home from one (or a bunch, I can't remember) and being miserable for days. So I was not looking forward to this little event. After about two and a half hours in the chair I was thinking. It wasn't so bad, my dentist likes heckling me but I was making witty comments right back at him. Of course, due to the number of fingers and tools in my mouth they would just come out as mumbles that caused me to drool, but I knew who was winning our verbal duel. I started to get worried when I realized that the dental hygienist and the dentist were playing good cop / bad cop, and seeing the movie *The Marathon Man* the week before wasn't helping my imagination. But, I thought to myself, only half an hour to go and I'm done.

That's when the power went out.

Realize that I'm not making this up, it really happened. The bloody power went out in the middle of my root canal. Luckily your pyromaniac hero (me) had matches in his back pocket. They found flashlights. 'Don't worry' were the comforting words that were meant to console me. What do you mean don't worry, you're operating on my mouth using a bloody flashlight, what do you want me to think? After a couple of minutes of working on me with the flashlight (take that any way you want) they pronounced me done, for now, and told me not to bite. What to do when the power is out in the middle of your root canal? Take a nap. That's what I did, dentist chairs are pretty comfy when no one is operating power tools in your mouth. It was a particularly frustrating time since half the mall that the dentist office was in had power, but I was on the wrong half. Turns out lightening struck a hydro poll near the mall and caused havoc with the power grid. Great, not only is the dentist against me but Mother Nature has a grudge too. Anyway, back to my story. Eventually they gave up on the power and decided to give me a temporary thing (felt like play-dough, tasted about as good). Right when they got that in the power came back on. So they took the temporary out and put a more permanent temporary in. (They have to send my impression off to the lab to get the crown made or something, well my impression is hate and discomfort, send that.) So I get to go back in a week. Until then I have a temporary crown that feels weird and I can't put any pressure on. 'Chew on the other side' said my dentist. It's a good plan, however he did work on the other side of my mouth a week before so it's still sore. Bloody hell. Anyway, enough bitching, I feel a bit better, although my mouth and jaw are still sore. No comments.

I was in Waterloo this past weekend, for the 'Debaters in Heat'

Summer Debating Tournament (I was judging). Lots of funny shit happened during the tournament, none of which I'm going to tell you right now. However, Saturday night we were all at the Bomber and I ran into some people who were around for convocation or other random reasons, and a funny thing happened. I shall disguise the names because I'm freaky that way. Hark Mugel decided to pour some of his drink on Wachel, he missed and spilled it all over me. So Wachel hit Hark. I commented that I should hit Hark. So Mr. Green said what I should do to get even is spill a drink all over Wachel, 'like this' as he poured a full glass all over Wachel. That is pretty much when we abandoned that table due to the fact that it was soaking wet.

Time for somewhat of a serious note. If you don't know what I am talking about then you're a luckier person than those who do, and feel free to skip to the next paragraph, it's about Soc. I've been hearing a lot of rumours about random things around Soc these days. To those who care or hear these rumours, I would suggest getting the facts straight. I heard some rumours about a certain document, they made me mad. Then I went and read the document, all the rumours became rather silly as a great majority of them were just wrong. Save everyone a lot of trouble and decide for yourself what's going on, don't listen to rumours.

Oh fine, I'll tell you just one story from the tournament in this article. I just can't resist. During one of the semi-final rounds I thanked the debaters for arguing a case that really typified the Waterloo Summer Tournament, three words (well 4, but that's irrelevant), Porn, Pedophilia, and Star Wars (now that I think about it, that's 5 words). Just imagine for yourself what the case was that involved those things.

Well I'm done for now. I leave for camp on Sunday (27th) so I'll be fairly far away (in mind and body, whoa, kinky), but I'll try to still write articles. Have a good July. Try not to burn holes in your body by doing stupid things with fireworks. I can just see the Canada Day sequel to Crash where someone has taken a roman candle to the eye and another character decides to... never mind, that's a little disturbing even for me.

Snuggles

Never put your jeans on right after they come out of the dryer, even though it feels kind of nice the button burns a very hard to explain circular mark right below your belly button.

Even More Haiku

if you must re-order
quick sort is often better
beware the worst case

The Revenge of Haiku

the bold prophet says
I have the answer you seek
P is not NP

Kitchener Transit Television

Or, Things To Watch On A Bus Other Than The Drunks

Please explain this to me: Kitchener Transit's web page contains no useful information, is boring, and still proclaims the arrival of low-floor buses as *NEW*; yet the same organization is putting televisions in its buses. This seems like something that a real media-savvy company would do, but it can't even put a list of routes on its web page? The TTC not only has routes, but entire schedules as well!

Yes, now you too can watch television while riding the bus. Five (count 'em) five low-floor buses have been installed with pairs of televisions. One in the front, and one in the back.

It seems to me that this is the City of Kitchener pretty much admitting that riders on the bus have absolutely nothing worth looking at when they gaze out the window.

"Nuttin but boring buildings, closed theatres, empty fields! Gimme something else to occupy my time while riding the bus!" was probably the rallying cry of businessmen who had to ride public transit to work.

So, numbing the minds of the riders while they utilize the bus is a better solution in the eyes of the city officials. Better than, say, adding express buses so that people can get to where they want to go faster so they don't have to stare out the window for quite as long.

They wouldn't even have to put in express buses to shorten our rides. The #12 bus to Fairview takes the most meandering possible route to the mall, going this way and that, turning back on itself from time to time, and making lots of time-consuming detours in order to pick up that oh-so-valuable extra passenger.

I swear, if there was demand from one guy in Woodstock to ride to Fairview Mall, Kitchener Transit would reroute #12 so that it goes by that guy's house.

But I digress. We now have a solution to being bored by the incredibly long bus rides afforded by KT. We can now watch the television hovering above our heads.

I'm reminded of the days I worked for Blockbuster Video. We used to endure unending playbacks of the Blockbuster Entertainment Tonight show, where giddy hosts from ET would blather on about new videos for a couple hours. And at the end of that tape, we would rewind it and play it again. And again. And again. Yes, Face-Off is an action spectacular starring Nicholas Cage and John Travolta; you can find it for rent on our new release wall. Catch the latest film by action-director-superstar John Woo. Here's the clip!

Instead of peddling videos, Kitchener Transit Television will be peddling anything Kitchener Transit can try to sell us: tickets, passes, high-floor buses, you know. And the drivers will have to listen to those videos all day long, every hour, on the hour. I'm getting visions of teeth-baring maniac at the wheel of the next #7 that I catch.

Maybe I'll hijack a taxi the next time I need to go to Fairview.

CAS

A Note from Matt

*How come I'm the one who left the country, and yet
am still the one who gets to put this issue together?*

profQUOTES

"If you see the factorial on top – abandon hope."

D'Allesio, MATH 138

"If it blows, it blows, and that's it."

D'Allesio, MATH 138

"n to the power n saves the day."

D'Allesio, MATH 138

"If you piss me off I'll put this in your eye – it's a laser!"

D'Allesio, MATH 138

"Mathematically, I think I'm pretty healthy."

D'Allesio, MATH 138

"Mr. Smarty-pants says..."

Nica, MATH 136

"Now is the time to multiply. [*Quiet laughter*] Responsibly, of course."

Cutler, STAT 230

"Underneath their purpleness, they're all individuals."

Cutler, STAT 230

"I realize by now I've convinced you I'm a fairly deprived person."

Cutler, STAT 230

"This is going to be a really bad example. Please don't quote me on this. [*Really truly horrible example follows.*] That was horrible. I apologize profusely."

Kierstead, CS 342

"You'll be using the original value in the array, which is garbacious."

Kierstead, CS 342

"Stop grinning maliciously as if you want me to get killed."

Ward, CS 454

"You will see a huge difference between substitutable products. Especially beer. Can I say that? Beer."

Lubka, ACC 122

"Two divides three and three divides six, so two divides six. What am I saying?"

Godsil, C&O 454

"On ther scale of stupid, this is way over 100%."

McLeish, STAT 331

"Some days I make it in early... some days, I'm hung over and make it in late."

McLeish, STAT 331

The Inevitable Haiku

a student ponders
the soul of computation
a Turing machine

Coming Soon: The *mathNEWS* Virtual Tour

University of
Waterloo

the *mathNEWS* office

how to tour

campus map

next stop

feedback



This office is the focal point of the bi-weekly *mathNEWS* production cycle. Despite its small size, it contains the complete *mathNEWS* archives, as well as facilities for producing new issues. Sometimes it even contains an editor or two.



University of
Waterloo

the desk

how to tour

campus map

next stop

feedback



Old paper boxes, a broken doorknob, and a copy of Spivak's *Calculus* are some of the items found on the *mathNEWS* desk. While working on the issues, the editors can doodle on the blackboard, push thumbtacks into the wall, and chill out with some rockin' tunes.



University of Waterloo

how to four

campus map

next stop

feedback

the wall of fame



This wall displays the proud achievements of *mathNEWS* past. Famous (and infamous) covers, awards, and condemnations share the wall with a large number of letters from Iran.



University of Waterloo

how to four

campus map

next stop

feedback

the couch



The couch is the newest addition to the office. Rescued from Chad's apartment, it provides a convenient spot to put issues for distribution, guitar cases, and tired editorial asses. Unfortunately, the presence of the couch tends to entice strange people to loiter within the office.



Spermatikos Logos #5

Hey to all you die-hard Logos fans out there! Thank you for returning from the land of the dead. I knew you could do it. <patronizing pat on the shoulder> I received a whopping FIVE submissions this week! Woo Hoo! And these would be from none other than.. (da-da-da-daaa!) Greg “the big Volbowski” Mandel, Greg Campbell, Duncan McGregor, Tara (not Greg) Shillington, and the returning champs, the St Paul’s Shadow Council. Thanks to all of you who submitted. And now, the moment you’ve all been waiting for... the envelope, please! The prize goes to Duncan McGregor, who has defeated the St Paul’s Shadow Council. Next week’s contest will be to determine the winner of yet another gift certificate for C&D stuff... or a random prize, if the *mathNEWS* editors so choose.

Last Week’s Answers (the baseball game)

- 1st place (5-0) George Scotterman Flint Thunder
Mini Ltd
- 2nd place (4-1) Xavier Banterson Lansing Hawks
Alpro Aluminium Co
- 3rd place (3-2) Bobby O’Flanagan Brantford Wizards
Black & White Combines
- 4th place (2-3) Casey Quinlin Waterloo Bees
San Juan Hill’s Food Co
- 5th place (1-4) Frank Reiley Toronto Riflemen
Harrison’s Fjærd Motor Company
- 6th place (0-5) Daniel Hobson Detroit Destroyers
Citizen Sugar Cane Inc

This Week’s Exciting Puzzle: the Birthday Party

Hey, my birthday’s coming up (well, by now it’s already happened), and I gathered a bunch of friends (where a bunch is six people) over to my place to help me celebrate it. It was a potluck dinner, followed by cake and ice cream (each person had a different flavour). Then we discussed what type of activity would best celebrate my birthday (for example, going to Sauble Beach and playing volleyball there). Each guest also happened to bring a gift for me (being my birthday and all... go figure). What you need to do, to help me celebrate my birthday, is figure out who each person is, what food and gifts they brought, what activity they suggested, the order they arrived, and the flavour of their favourite ice cream. Then you need to submit your solutions to the **BLACK BOX** by Monday, July 5th @ 6:00. Alternatively you can email it to me (see below) or to *mathNEWS*, or you can drop it off at the MathSoc office. Any comments, questions, suggestions, grievances, annoyances, and so on and so forth, et cetera, can be forwarded to myself. Now go ahead and PARTY!!

Important notice: since my birthday lasts a whole week (in my world), we actually did all of these activities – one each day – including what I chose to do: go play pool at the Bomber tonight with all my friends (see ya there!),

1. The six people are: Edna; the person who brought dinner rolls; the person who suggested a game of beach volleyball; the guy who gave me a sundress; the person who arrived second; and the person who prefers tiger tail ice cream.
2. The person who suggested going to watch the Benson & Hedges fireworks show arrived immediately before the person who gave me scented candles, who arrived before the person who brought homemade coleslaw
3. The person who loves strawberry ice cream (who did not

give me the book) arrived immediately before the person who suggested the great card game of Mao, and sometime after the person who gave me the dress.

4. The person who brought cream soda (not Trish) suggested a theatre trip to see One Bad Apple, but did not give me the gift certificates.
5. Miss Smith, who suggested dancing at Whiskey Saigon, was not the person who gave me a goldfish, and does not like vanilla ice cream (it’s too plain!).
6. The guy who gave me the Great Big Sea CD (who doesn’t like peanut butter ice cream) arrived last. Apparently there was a lineup at the store.
7. The girl who prefers heavenly hash ice cream made a scrumptious vegetarian lasagna (and did not give me the book).
8. Stan (who did not suggest the fireworks) arrived before the person who like vanilla ice cream best, and after the person who brought the macaroni salad (not Edna).
9. The person who brought the mashed potato salad (who did not give me the movie gift certificates) arrived after the person who likes cookie dough ice cream (who is not Mike).
10. The person who suggested going swimming at the wave pool in Bingeman’s (who loves strawberry ice cream) arrived after Jean (who did not bring the pop), and before the person who brought potato salad.
11. Mr Jones, who brought the macaroni salad, gave me neither the goldfish nor the gift certificates, and did not suggest a game of cards.
12. Neither the person who brought potato salad nor the person who gave me an Agatha Christie novel, wanted to go swimming.
13. The person who brought the pop (who did not give me the goldfish) answered the door when the person who loves tiger tail ice cream arrived. Neither of them is Bill (who did not bring cole slaw).
14. The person who wanted to go swimming (who did not bring the cole slaw) arrived after the person who gave me the book (not Bill), who arrived immediately after the person who brought the lasagna.
15. The person who suggested playing volleyball (not Mike) does not like heavenly hash ice cream.
16. Trish does not like heavenly hash ice cream, and was not the person who gave me the gift certificates (who did not suggest dancing).
17. Edna (who does not like peanut butter) does not want to go dancing, and arrived after the person who gave me the candles.
18. The person who arrived second did not suggest the theatre trip, and did not give me the gift certificates.
19. The person who suggested a game of cards (not Stan) did not bring potato salad.

Gigi “the birthday girl of the day” Garbett
gngarbet@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca

Haiku to You, Too

finite state machines
can only be used to scan
regular language

mathNEWSquiz #5

Hey everyone!! How are you doing today? It's me, the Subliminal one, here once again to whet your trivia appetites and provide you with a veritable smorgasborg of questions for your enjoyment. Of course, this being the Canada Day issue of *mathNEWS*, we have an all-Canadian flavour this week, including a category in honour of the newest member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, the incomparable Wayne Gretzky. So, let's get down to business. Here are the answers to last issue's Squiz: **Music Lyrics:** 1) Queen, "Bohemian Rhapsody"; 2) Prince, "Purple Rain"; 3) The Kingsmen, "Louie Louie"; 4) The Royal Guardsmen, "Snoopy vs. The Red Baron"; the theme was "royal" groups; **Phobias:** 1) snakes; 2) mother-in-laws; 3) being bound or tied; 4) garlic; 5) peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth; **Literature:** 1) Margaret Atwood; 2) Michael Crichton; 3) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; 4) W. O. Mitchell; 5) F. Scott Fitzgerald; **NBA Finals:** 1) 1972-73 season; 2) never; 3) Boston Celtics (16 championships); 4) 1993-94 season; 5) Elgin Baylor (61 points).

There were 5 submissions for this issue's Squiz. My thanks goes out to them. Here are the people who submitted, along with their score: Ian "The Word Guy" Facey scored 5 points, Peter Marshall scored 17 points, Lukas Kamps scored an 18 count, and the St. Paul's Shadow Council and Colin Wood both received the top score this week, each with 19 points! Hence, once again resorting to my wonderous random number generator, we that the winner this week is... hang on, it's coming... oops, I'll have to fix that later... get back in there, you stupid monkey... ah, here it is: This week's winner is **Colin Wood!!** Congratulations, Colin. You can pick up your prize in the MathSoc office.

We interrupt this Squiz for an important bulletin:

Since everything is Canadiana this issue, the Music Lyrics section is thus based on Canadian artists. Hence, you won't have to guess a theme to this week's songs. So I have a total of 5 songs for you. This ends this emergency small note. I now return you to your regularly scheduled Squiz.

And now, without further ado, it's time to play the Squiz!!

Music Lyrics

1. "Now, hey you, mister can't you read? You've got to have a shirt and tie to get a seat You can't even watch, no you can't eat You ain't supposed to be here."
2. "I don't need you war machines I don't need you ghetto scenes Coloured lights can hypnotize Sparkle someone else's eyes."
3. "Why did you keep the mousetrap? Why did you keep the dishrack? These things used to be mine I guess they still are, I want them back!"
4. "Huge orange flying boat rises off a lake Thousand-year-old petroglyphs doing a double take Pointing a finger at eternity I'm sitting in the middle of this ecstasy."
5. "Every word of every song that he sang was for you In a flash, he was gone, it happened so soon What could you do?"

Prime Ministers of Canada

1. How many different prime ministers has Canada had?
2. John Diefenbaker was born in what rural village?
3. Which prime minister was responsible for giving us the Maple Leaf for our flag?
4. Who was the first prime minister that was born in Canada?

(By this, I mean in the country of Canada, not in colonial Canada.)

5. Which prime minister welcomed Newfoundland into Confederation?

Wayne Gretzky

1. What goaltender did Wayne score his first NHL goal against?
2. What goaltender did Wayne score his last NHL goal against?
3. In his last game, Wayne picked up an assist, giving him how many career NHL points?
4. At this year's NHL Awards, Wayne picked up yet another Lady Byng trophy. How many did Wayne win over his career?
5. Wayne was recently voted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, and will be inducted there this fall. In voting Wayne in, the Board of Governors waived the traditional 3-year waiting period. How many other people have ever had the 3-year waiting period waived for them?

Miscellaneous Canadiana

1. Who was responsible for introducing the world to standard time?
2. Which Ontario village is home to the McMichael Collection of Canadian Art and to an annual Binder Twine festival?
3. Because its area included only the settled section around Winnipeg, what was Manitoba known as when it entered Confederation?
4. Which Alberta city's name comes from a Gaelic word meaning, "clear running water"?
5. What killed over 1900 people in December, 1917?

Well, there you have it. Good luck to all of you. Submissions will be due on Monday, July 5th at 6:30 p.m. Remember that you can submit either via the **BLACK BOX**, or by e-mailing me at cjmcguire@undergrad.math. Again, good luck, and happy Canada Day!!

Chris "Mr. Subliminal (Waving the Leaf proudly)" McGuire

National Haiku

oh, Canadians
your majestic scenery
your very strong beer

Haiku-na Matata

the easy way out
a quick haiku like this one
makes lovely filler

Tanka

someone please stop me
before I end up writing
another haiku
awful bastardization
of Japanese poetry



gridCOMMENTS

Hello everyone. So it's looking like Gridding is becoming a fairly popular sport, in that I received **six** submissions to last issue's puzzle. Huzzah! Slightly incorrect solutions were sent in by Matthew "Emmo" Emmerton, Ian "The Word Guy" Facey, Queen Sparkle & the 3rd Floor Crew, and Duncan McGregor; while correct submissions come from the St. Paul's Shadow Council and from M'n'N (that's Melissa Lam and Noel Karandikar). The Magic Hot Pink Spinner of Randomness has arbitrarily designated M'n'N as this week's winners. Congratulations! There's fairly good odds that there will be prize waiting for you in the MathSoc office.

Oh, but special style points go to Queen Sparkle and her Crew for the most interesting answer to the GridQuestion about the worst movie that you've seen: *"Actually, we don't watch movies, as we live in a box & are forced to create clever pantomimes with our fingers & a bare lightbulb."*

Anyhow, on to this week's challenge. As you might have gathered from comments elsewhere in this issue, I was in the States during much of this issue's production cycle. As such, my Lovely Assistant and the Puzzle Queen took it upon themselves to compose a grid for this issue. They didn't, however, compose any clues. While the thought crossed my mind that it would be amusing to just print it as is, I figured that clues would be a good thigh. Hence, you can probably blame me for this Grid just like the others, although any positive credit should go to the aforementioned beautiful young ladies.

Submissions this week are due on the 5th of June at 6:30. I realise that this does not give everyone very much time, but there's only so far that we can push the production schedule. Have a happy and safe Canada Day, and I'll talk to you all later.

GridMaster Matt Walsh

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Grid Clues

Across

- 70's-style pants
- Head-in-the-sand bird
- African desert wind
- British streetcar
- Pt-group element
- Not off
- Angry or discoloured
- Arrangements of animals in Noah's Ark
- Settled
- Fire-making stone
- Appliance makers (abbrev.)
- Consumption (abbrev.)
- A little alien's father
- Feels up
- Lack of momentum
- A vote: yes or no

Down

- Moonshiner
- Third-smallest faculty at U(W) (abbrev.)
- Cptn's next-in-command
- Transuranic element (abbrev.)
- Tom Hanks movie
- Mexican eight
- Scotland's national flower
- Not alternative
- Birds or kooks
- Body of flowing water
- Roman greeting
- Flavoured pastry (2 words)
- Humour
- Son of R, Hebraically?
- What you should do when you look
- Official doctor's assistant (abbrev.)
- Fifth-largest bank in Canada (abbrev.)
- Standard across several countries (abbrev.)