

Haha!! I Skeesh Your He.. Hea... Blast!

math NEWS!

Volume 81, Issue 1

Friday, September 24, 1999



Prez Sez

Hi everybody. Now apologize to your Calc prof for screaming 'Hi Snuggles' in the middle of their lecture, and mumble something about Frosh Week brainwashing.

I suppose I should announce this term's MathSoc Lineup, so here we go.

Executive

President: Stephen Snuggles Skrzydlo (prez@mathsoc)
 Vice-President, Activities and Services: Laurie 'Sunshine' Knox (vpas@mathsoc)
 Vice-President, Academic: Trevor Ray (vpa@mathsoc)
 Vice-President, Finance: The Empty Set (AKA I'll tell you later) (vpf@mathsoc)

Directors

Social: Kenny Chung (social@mathsoc)
 Movie Guy: Dan Pollock (movies@mathsoc)
 Office: Nadia and Adam (office@mathsoc)
 Publicity: Nory Prins (publicity@mathsoc)
 Postings: Steve Gaal (postings@mathsoc)
 Computing: Michael Froh (computing@mathsoc)
 Athletics: Jeremy Witmer (athletics@mathsoc)
 Organized Sports: Mark Hugel (sports@mathsoc)
 Novelties: Mandi St. Amand (novelties@mathsoc)
 Resources: Marsha and Steve Forrest (resources@mathsoc)
 First Year Co-ordinator: Michael Froh (frosh@mathsoc)
 External: Dan Mader (external@mathsoc)
 Clubs Liason: Sky Roy and Randi Ash (liason@mathsoc)

If you would like to volunteer in any way, you can sign up on the MathSoc office door. If you have any questions you should feel free to stop by the office when it is open and our kind, friendly, wonderful office workers will do their best to help you. Speaking of office workers...

Office hours are fun. Office hours let you meet new and interesting people. Office hours will give you that feeling of accomplishment and contribution to your community that you've always longed for. No longer will you have to rely on your (unnamed vices) to supply your feeling of self worth. Now you can find that happiness at MathSoc.

The Engineering Scunt is coming up, the first week of October. Anyone who is interested in joining our very own team (math traditionally submits a team to the Eng Scunt) should come out and sign up on the MathSoc Office Door. It is a lot of fun, and you'll come away with great stories, sometimes involving a pig's head. No really. If you enjoyed your frosh scunt (or even if you didn't) you'll love this one.

If you have any suggestions for events that you would like MathSoc to run, drop by the office and tell the office worker. If they look at you strangely you could suggest that they write it down.

All the positions in MathSoc have a mailbox in the office, so if you ever want to send a message to any of us you could drop it off in our mailbox. Or you could email us.

Hmmm, that seems like everything. Stay pink and cya later.

King Snuggles

If you wish to talk to Snuggles, press pound now.

MEF Sez

Hello all. Just a quick update from your friendly MEF director with some of the important dates for this term, as well as what projects MEF has funded in the previous term.

Funding Proposals

MEF has approximately \$20,000 to allocate this term for funding proposals. All of the information and forms are available on the MEF website. All proposals are due no later than October 27th at 5:00pm. If you've a project that needs funding, and that will benefit students, I encourage you to apply.

Funding Council

If you want to have a say in how the \$20,000 this term is allocated, join the funding council. Nominations for the funding council are open until October 27th. Nomination forms can be picked up on the MEF office door (MC 4046), or on the MEF website at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom/>.

Fee Refunds

If you want to refund your MEF student endowment fund fee, come up to the MEF office (MC 4046) before October 1st with your fee receipt and valid Watcard during the office hours and we can take care of the paperwork. The office hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday	1:00pm to 3:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday	10:00am to 11:30am, 4:00pm to 5:00pm

If you don't come up before the deadline (October 1st), you won't be able to receive your refund.

MEF Projects

MEF funded a number of proposals in Spring 1999, which are outlined below. If you'd like more information, feel free to drop by the MEF office or send an email to mefcom@undergrad.math.

1. MathSoc — Funding for bulletin boards in MC
2. TSA — Funding for educational software.
3. PMAMC&OC — Funding for books for the library, as well as funding for various mathematical models (including a Klein bottle).
4. Linux @ U.W. — Funding for a hard drive to store the files for the Linux @ U.W. project 5.
5. CSC — Funding for a new computer for development purposes.

If you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to drop by the office, give me a call at ext. 5757 or email me at mefcom@undergrad.math.

John Poole
 MEF Director, Fall 1999

Faculty of Mathematics Dean's Honours List

Spring 1999

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE ON THE DEAN'S HONOURS LIST"** at Fall Convocation, October 23, 1999 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

SAROIU Stefan HC C&O&CS

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION"** at Fall Convocation, October 23, 1999.

ANG Jason HC CSCI
KUMAR Rohan Peter HC ACT SCI
MUNRO Sean HC CSCI
WU Di H COMP SCI

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 1999 term, the following students qualified for the Dean's Honours List.

ALMOND Steven Richard D.	ANSARI Ali Ahmed
BARKER Melanie Arlene	BELLOMO John Anthony
BENOVICH Michael Joseph	BRIDGEFORD Lori A.
BROWN Michael Kenneth	BROWN Michael Stephen
BYERS Richard	CHAN Wing Ki
CHANG Ting-Fu	CHAU Chor Wing Karen
CHIU Pei-Wen Andy	COTE Jennifer
COTTON Cecilia	DICESARE Giuseppe Gregorio
DUBASH Neville	FLEGG Brett Damon A.
FUETEN Louise	FUNG Brahmnes
GEORGESCU Magdalena	GERSPACHER Brian
GORSKI Nancy	GUENDELMAN Eran
GUTCHER Jason R.	HA Peter
HARVEY Nicholas James A.	HENDERSON Philip Thomas
HO Ryan Yin-Kei	HODA Samid Ameer

HOLBROOK Mark Andrew	HORWOOD Joshua Thomas S.
HOSHINO Richard	HOWELLS Carrie Anne
HUANG Xin	IU Ming Yee
JAISHANKAR Siddharth	JAMIESON William Trevor
JEFFERY James Richard	KEATING John-William
LAI Thomas	LAM Anthony Chun Kwok
LAM Joyce	LAM Melissa Isdelle
LANDRY Maria Paulina	LAU Sandra Wing San
LEE Hidy Hiu-Yin	LEE Seung-won
LEUNG Sylvia See-Wai	LEWIS Marissa
LHOTAK Ondrej	LUDMER Aaron
MARCHILDON Robert Owen	MC ILROY Trevor Ryan
MCDUGALL Derek L.	MCKILLOP Erin Ann
MILNE John David	MUNROE James Ross
NG Eddie Manhoe	NICHOLS Matthew James
PEI Sai Wong Bailey	POPA Stefan Tiberiu
RABINOVITCH Evgueni Lvovitch	RAJWANI Amal
SHARIFF Shafiq Mohamed	SITAR Scott Edward
SLOOT Steven Paul	SOCHOLOTIUK Tyler Douglas
STEWART Alexander Murdoch	TANUR Luke
THE Dennis	THIESSEN Geoffrey David
THOMPSON Lara Robin	THORNE Matthew Edward
TRUONG Tran Hue	TSANG Sara Shu-Nga
TU Thanh Han	TUNG Pauline
TZENEV Alexandre	URUKOV Vladislav
VANDER PLOEG Daniel Jacob	VANE Roland Edwin
VARIA Ajay	WAISER Robert B.
WANG Hui Jenny	WATERHOUSE Thomas Preston
WOO Norman	YEATS Karen Amanda

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Winter 1999 term, the following student has been added retroactively to the Dean's Honours List.

MAK Andrew H.F.

MGC Stuff

Hey all you Y2K grads out there! Tonight is our First Night Out at the Grad House. This is a great opportunity to meet all your fellow grads (the ones you've never spoken to during your first 4 years @ UW)! First Night Out starts at 8:30 pm and everyone gets a free drink ticket (MGC button holders get 2 free drinks). Don't miss this fun event!

Also, don't forget to sign up for your grad photo sessions NOW! Seatings are quickly filling up, and if you miss it, your parents will be nagging you about it forever! To sign up, or for more information, swing by the bulletin board outside the MGC office.

For more information on MGC events, including getting on the mailing list and volunteering, email: mgc@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Rebecca Liu
MGC Communications Director

Linux @ UW update

The Linux @ UW project was started last winter to make it easier for CS students to work on assignments on their home computers using Linux. Since then, we have created Linux packages of the software needed for courses such as CS 134, CS 240, CS 241, CS 246, CS 342 and CS 354. We are making these packages available on our website and have also produced CD's containing the packages along with the Red Hat 6.0 distribution of Linux. These CD's are now available in the MathSoc office for \$4 each, refundable if you return the CD within a week. One of the new things that we'd like to do this term is to set up an on-campus mirror of the most popular Linux distributions. Linux @ UW is run by student volunteers, and we can always use your help. Please see our website at <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/u/uw-linux> for all the details.

Regards,

The Linux @ UW team

CHASING THE COOL

When we were kids, we spent so much time doing things that are now strange or bizarre to us. Our own actions in the past now seem like foreign neurotic behaviour we dismiss with the alibi "I was just a kid". Because back then, we had virtually one track minds. And we knew not where that track was headed, or what we were searching for, but we searched more relentlessly and more vigourously than we shall ever again do in our lives.

We were after the cool. That was all that mattered. Transformers were cool. Who cared if they carried big guns? Big guns were cool. We couldn't comprehend what the concept of guns really implied. We just wanted to share in the cool look of Optimus Prime.

Why was he cool? We still don't know, as we didn't then. McDonalds was cool. We didn't care what the food tasted like cause the place looked cool and they had cool toys and contests. Nike was cool. We didn't understand or even know about child labour or commercialism or capitalism, we just wanted shoes that looked cool.

Spiderman posing on top of one of the many unused flagpoles atop downtown skyscrapers = cool. Little lego dudes with massive spaceships = cool. Star Wars and everything about it = cool. Dinosaurs = cool. Disney World = cool. Chomping yellow 3/4 circle = cool. Guy on horse with mask = Lone Ranger = cool. Guy with big sword, large jungle cat to ride on and arch nemesis to fight all day = He Man = cool. We weren't a target audience, and we weren't looking for fresh, or innovative, or creative ideas, we just wanted something cool.

That's why everyone was constantly trying to outcool and stay cool. Special watches, laser tag, the newest Nintendo game, the latest action figure, we wanted it, and most of the time we got it. New cartoons, evaluate them, see what our friends thought, and decide collectively if it was worthy of our worship. New foods, bring them to school, let your friends try just a little, then use them as deviously as possible in trading for all the foods your parents would never buy for you.

You had to promote your new things, and if they didn't catch on, or when they got old (you had to constantly be conscious of your peers opinion for warning signs of diminishing support for your choices), you got rid of them and disassociated yourself from them as quickly as possible. The coveted objects of today quickly became the infantile playthings of yesterday. You were going through a phase. Your grandmother or foreign uncle bought it and your mom made you bring it to school. Nice recovery. We had to work hard to distance ourselves from things we once adored, but we did it with unparalleled style and grace; indeed with such confidence (I never REALLY liked Polka Dot Door) that may never again be attained in our lives. Sometimes we were unable to give up certain elements, and we continued to enjoy them secretly. If we were caught, we would as calmly as possible deny our attachment by transferring guilt onto our younger sibling(s): "I watch it with my little brother sometimes," or we would explain that there is a more mature twist we have discovered to it: "There is alot of sophisticated humour to Sesame Street." We were a little embarrassed when this happened, but we knew in our minds it was ok cause it was still cool to us.

What was this cool? Whatever it was, it was out there. Go get it, we thought. We would dig for hours to find treasure we knew wasn't there. We would spend days planning snowball

assaults, military coups and ecological devastations that would never happen. We drew old treasure maps on lined loose leaf paper. We were all high paid cartoonists at some point. We were lawyers one day, astronauts the next, crushing chalk into fine powder and dealing to our friends throughout the week, all under the cover of our favourite binder. We could divide up the world arguing over the superiority of our nations, and then we would rush outside to get the monopoly on the climber before the younger or older grades got there.

It was cool to pick and dedicate your life to your favourite ice cream, probably mint chocolate chip or bubble gum. You HAD to have at least detailed knowledge of the plot and characters from all major movies, and you had to take a side on every controversial topic there was, from who threw the first food in the cafe last week to who you think each of your classmates likes and has liked in the last 3 years. Such personal information was precious and rarely accurate, so you traded it like stocks, keeping the good ones unless the price was worth it.

Nothing physical would diminish the desire for cool. But even more exciting, is that the drive had no mental restrictions either. Explosions and their sounds in space were thrilling. Gravity was arbitrary and unpredictable. Planes could turn 180 on the spot. The sun actually rose and set. Travelling through time was a regular part of the day. You could pull a dragon or a million dollars out of your backpack, or keep them there until needed. You might be growing, and you might die someday, but you were always eternal. You occasionally came up with some insightful question or understanding about the universe, but the fleeting thought was overrun by more pressing matters like perfecting paper airplane design. And even if it didn't fly well, you could colour it and cherish it's cool appearance.

We had no gripes, no animosity and no maliciousness against the world that lasted longer than a day. We'd be furious about being sent to bed early, a travesty which we vowed would never be forgiven, but which was forgotten in the chaos of Saturday morning cartoons. We'd threaten revolution at being denied ice cream, but the next day a treat would instantly restore our civil unrest.

Our whole lives revolved around the pursuit of something we couldn't quantify or even qualify, but which we felt so intensely that it dominated our existence. We'd wake up so many (non-school) mornings with relentless passion and excitement, seeking out the maximum coolness from the day. We'd relish pleasure after pleasure, like a candle made to burn so bright it lasts mere minutes, and fading, is replaced with lightless boredom, upon which we'd throw it aside and search on. We would construct numerous structures from various materials, and then protect them with force fields that others had to respect. An entire room would house our home base, our away mission into the unknown, the alien base, and everything in between.

It was like a religion. You heroes were bold and strong and infallible cartoon characters which were in every sense of the word, immortal. We would never miss weekend services with our heroes in front of television. You blessed all food with high sugar content, and gave thanks with a prayer for all foods considered "junk". At first you were going to the "bad place" if you didn't like Michael Jackson, but later you were going there if you did. You often honestly did want forgiveness, but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5...

mastHEAD

What am I doing here?

You know, when I first joined *mathNEWS* way back in 1995, I decided that I wasn't ever going to be an editor. Too much to do, too much responsibility and all that. As I learned more, I decided that I had made the right decision. I'm not quite sure what went wrong, but the amusing idea of giving me the caption "future editor" back when putting together the big Issue 500 doesn't seem quite so off the mark now. Oh well... I'm hoping I can live up to the challenge, and so far so good, even if I am writing this Tuesday morning. (I'll get the hang of this yet, I'm sure... the former editors can stop laughing any time...)

But anyway, just a note for those of you who may not be aware: last term's "Irrational Toast" (a *mathNEWS* special edition) was actually written about by Gary Dunford on page 6 in the August 12th edition of The Toronto Sun. More than a full column, even! The article is outside the *mathNEWS* office for anyone who wants to have a look, along with an article that appeared the following day in the KW Record. See, helping out with *mathNEWS* can lead to great things! Well, great things for the articles you write at least.

And speaking of great things and helping out, here is a listing of all the people who came by and did helpful stuff on production night. Also included is their answer to the question "What is your favourite non-traditional use of an iMac computer?" (since we seem to have two labs full of them on the third floor now): Gigi Garbett (Pink. I like pink. It's good for lots of things, like hairdye), Tony (I turn it around and it makes a pretty decent table decoration), Kev (Attract sexy non-mathies to MC), Dave DiGaetuna (Come Christmas time, I like to put presents under it), Anton Fedorenko (Since an aquarium is traditional, the answer is DISCO LIGHTS!) and Mike Connolly (I like the fun and the food. The food was good at the student parties, too. There was also a lot of the campus to see. Oh, you said iMac? I thought you said...). Thanks goes to Marion at Graphic Services as usual... filling out those forms is the one thing I'm pretty sure I can do well.

Greg Taylor (Colourful magic 8 ball)

COOL, CONT'D FROM PAGE 4...

you continued to make the same mistakes. Recess was nothing short of a miracle, an emancipation. School was a necessary evil which you despised but endured. All in the name of cool.

It was like a business. We were obsessive tycoons seeking to one-up each other, even our closest friends, to maintain our lead in the market. When one person discovered something new, we all wanted it, and got it, or, if not, denied that it was actually cool at all. There were millions of bandwagons of which we'd each invest in a thousand of at any given time, and by the months end only a dozen of which still existed. Stickers, bottle caps, pogo balls, gobots, visionairies, gimp, slip and slide, yoyos, those plastic bracelet things, handi-snacks, super-balls, marbles and view master are some that come to mind. Once cool stuff.

That was our purpose. That was our goal. It was our legal defence for all of our mistakes. We didn't know, we just wanted something cool from life.

Where is the cool now?

Jesse Bergman

Rays of Sunshine

Here we are starting off another term! For those of you who don't know me, I am Laurie "Sunshine" Knox, your VP of Activities and Services for the Math Society. That means that I help co-ordinate a whole bunch of stuff including Movie Nights, Social Events, Athletics, Novelties, Organized Sports, Computing, Publicity, Postings and the Mathsoc Office. Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these committees, please, please email me at sunshine@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca and let me know what you would like to help out with! If you would like to help out in the office, all you have to do is come and sign up on the door (MC 3038)! (Training is available for first-timers!) The office looks great thanks to the cleaning efforts lead by one of our Office Managers, Adam.

Have you come down from your Cotton Candy Day sugar high yet? Other activities planned for this term include a pub night, a wishing well to help out the United Way, Octoberfesting, a badminton tournament, and lots of other great ideas. If you would like to share your great ideas about what we should do this term, please feel free to contact your Social Director, Ken, at social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. We also have a wonderful selection of Novelties ranging from the practical (rulers, pens, pencil leads, Linux cds) to the entertaining (e and pi buttons, golf shirts, cheat shirts, boxers) and even more (you'll have to come into the office to see them all!). Thanks a bunch to Mandi, our Novelties Director, for cleaning up and making our cabinet look so pretty!

Laurie "Sunshine" Knox, VPAS Fall 1999
And Jean "The Lovely Assistant" Knetsch

Computing Tips

Useful info: `.snapshot/`

Let the poor new frosh know of `.snapshot`, how it stores images of your directory so you can reminisce on files long deleted, and with little force of will, resurrect them.

MFCF in action:

I love MFCF, I do, no really! It turns out though there are some interesting printing bugs. The first is `^D` at the end of pages produced by, say, choosing the HP Laserjet 4/4M PS Plus printer in the windows set of operating systems. The reason being, it causes the driver to complain about unknown status messages while printing these postscript files (set up the printer to print to file, and rename the `.prn` to `.ps`). Of course, it thoughtfully makes this information available to the individual printing, and ensures that the poor individual is not charged for the failed printouts (s)he has in his/her hand. The other amusing thought I had is with respect to the joint dialup/printer quota thing. I like to check occassionally to determine how much I have left (lpquota). Completely normal. However, I was rather daunted by the fact that I can still dialup and print long after I'm dead (unless I happen to live till I'm 125). As my expiry for the account is a happy 100 yrs from now, December 31st. Hmmmm, I'm considering setting up some fun little script to run some time from now...

Brent

Quantum Loop

Theorizing that one could time travel within their own lifetime, Doctor Sham Breakit stepped into the Quantum Loop accelerator ... and vanished. He awoke to find himself trapped in the past, facing mere images that were not his own, and driven by unknown source code to arrange history for the better. His only guide on this journey is Hal, an observer at run-time, who appears in the form of a hologram that only Sham can see and hear. And so Dr. Breakit finds himself looping through life after life, striving to put right what once went wrong, and hoping each time that his next loop ... will be the loop \$home.

Sham found himself sitting at a desk, facing an unknown person. Of course, everything was unknown to him at this point — he'd just looped into a new situation. He would now have a certain amount of time to fix whatever needed fixing, and when his quantum was up he would loop to his next assignment. At least his life was predictable that way.

“So, what’s your answer?”

Now if only he could predict an answer to that. “Oh boy?” Sham ventured.

The man across from him rolled his eyes. “It’s not that complex, be rational,” he pressed. “Do you think there’s a real need for another floor?”

“Uhhmm... no,” Sham decided. He hoped Hal would show up soon.

“Fine. Then we have the whole thing?”

“Naturally,” Sham continued, feigning nonchalance.

The man stood, picking up and closing a briefcase. He then grabbed an extendedcase and stated, “All right, I’ll send the schematics in. Thanks, Ray.” And after a quick handshake, Sham’s unknown visitor departed.

Sham looked around the office he was in. It seemed fairly spartan, and poking around through a couple of sheets didn’t enlighten Sham as to why he was here, nor did any pieces of paper. It seemed to be sometime back before 1970 but no year leapt out at him. So it was a relief when Sham heard the imagine chamber door open, signifying the presence of Hal Calalilli. At least, it was a relief until Hal walked out onto one of the walls.

“Hal, stop acting irrationally,” Sham sighed.

“I’m sorry, Sham. I can’t do that,” Hal intoned, punching at his TI-85 calculator with a vexed look on his face.

“Why? What’s going on?” Sham wondered, twisting his head to the side in an attempt at viewing an upright version of his friend.

“It’s this Y2K bug!” Hal declared. “BigE, your parallel hybrid computer is going nuts! You really should have made Project Quantum Loop Y2K compliant, Sham.”

Sham boggled. “I thought it was. Is it really the year 2000?”

“Whoops. Uh, yeah,” Hal admitted. “At least it is where we are, but there’s very limited data on where you are.”

“That’s normal,” Sham pointed out.

Hal made a face, as he was growing edgy. “You’re in Mizuloo,” he revealed. “At the University of Mizuloo to be precise.”

“Hm. Haven’t I been in Mizuloo before?” Sham wondered.

“Yes actually, but it won’t be for about 30 years,” Hal confirmed. “Right now it’s the 1960s and your name is Katho D. Toobe. But everyone just calls you “Ray”.”

“I see. Anything else?”

“Actually, yes. BigE has locked out all but the backup systems

under a strange numerical password, and we were hoping you knew how to figure it out.”

“Strange? How so?”

“We have to enter the first composite Fermat number. But no one at the project recalls exactly what that is or even how to figure it out.”

“Oh, I can give you the answer,” Sham assured reassuringly.

What is the answer? Will Sham figure out what he has to do? Will the Project survive Y2K? Find out next time...

Greg “hologrami” Taylor

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

September 24	Issue #1 jumps out
October 4	Issue #2 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
October 8	Issue #2 runs for it

Math Faculty

September 24	Course Add Deadline
October 1	Last Day for 100% Refund
October 8	Course Drop Deadline

MathSoc

September 20	Office Hours Begin Look closed? Then sign up!
--------------	--

Movie Nights

September 30	Idle hands & Never Been Kissed in DC 1302 @ 7:00pm
October 7	Big Daddy & Waterboy in DC 1302 @ 7:00pm

MGC

September 24	First Night Out @ Grad House 8:30pm
September 28 to Oct. 6	Grad Pictures @ Fed Hall Sign up outside MGC
September 29	Career Fair @ Bingemans C.C., 10:00am-3:30pm

MEF

October 1	Last Day for 100% refund on endowment fund
October 27	Proposals are due

CSC “Flash”

September 25	ACM Prog. Contest Tryouts
September 28	SIG GRAPH in DC 1304 @ 6:00pm
September 29	Vi/Vim Tutorial in MC 3006 @ 4:30pm
October 5	GDB Debugging Tutorial in DC 1304, 4:00-6:00pm
October 6	HTML Tutorial in DC 1304 4:00-6:00pm

Miscellaneous

September 25	Last day for Bookstore Text Refunds
September 31	A day unlike any other
October 11	University Holiday

Nasal Congestion

Nothing beats nasal congestion. Nope, can't be done. Especially one week into school, when everyone's getting sick from excessive studying, and not going to Fed Hall, and not noticing how crappy the music REALLY is after suddenly recovering from a certain state of nausea. This is NOT a personal recount, though if it happens to reflect what happened last week, I assure you, it is pure coincidence.

But the real story of congestion is not nasal in nature. MC has recently acquired its own version of a cold. We'll call it the F.i.B. virus. CONGESTION. Cough. Sic. Sneeze. F.i.B. of course has a meaning, and you'll figure it out as you finish the article.

So September has come around, and there are people everywhere. A lot of them new, some of them old, but Frosh are indeed, more numerous than ever. And the worst part is that none of them know how to use anything but Netscape to do EVERYTHING. If Netscape could feed, bath and entertain them, they would use it to prove by induction that it could. I've recently heard a recommendation for a new mandatory course for UNIX unsavvy students in MC. CS(InsertConstantHere) would be used to teach the finer points of using all the latest and greatest text based tools for feeding, bathing, and proving by induction. Maybe even contradiction. You guessed it, the "F" in F.i.B. stands for Fros— I mean "Filled to capacity".

As many regulars to MC may remember, a certain BIG RED ROOM (seemingly useless) used to exist on the second floor. Rumours of the best use for the room abound. The most popular and cost effective solution, as surveyed by me, was to fill the room up with giant plastic balls and a spiral slide. Clearly, this was the most significant and correct use for the room. Why add more classrooms when students could dive head first into a giant room as an express route between the first and second floors. If I had my way, the BIG RED ROOM would be as tall as the third floor and extend to the edge of MC nearest the grassy

knoll so that students could burst out of the computer labs and slide to their lonely bicycles parked outside. Welcome to the world of non-linear optimization.

But the real story of the BIG RED ROOM is what was in it. Upon return to my beloved MC, the realization that the third floor of MC was no longer a Computer Science haven of darkness was quite apparent by the sheer number of people who were not quoting Douglas Adams. What I found on my favourite third floor were many Arts and Science kids using bubbly, funky, psychedlic, wacky, happy, and better than anything I get to use, iMacs. Without a doubt, the BIG RED ROOM had died and given birth to the 60 or 70 Teal wonders of happiness. Yet another mystery of MC solved. So of course, the "i" in F.i.B. stands for iMa—, I mean "illegitimate children of the BIG RED ROOM".

Finally, a more moot point, but still something that should be mentioned. Windsor has the most strip clubs per capita in North America. So the "B" in F.i.B. clearly stands for br— I mean "Bike Racks". MC has the most bike racks per capita on campus. Amazingly enough, by 8:30, all the racks are filled to the brim. Every day, I'm forced to park at Science, or Physics or DC. If you're lucky enough, though, you'll be able to find a slot to put your bike even when the racks are full. Thankfully, there's a giant good for nothing garbage bin which we can all admire as we walk into the building. That work or art is truly something to behold with awe.

Congestion. Hurl. Sneeze. Cough. We're all doomed to suffer it, and we're all going to live through it. There's no end in sight to the F.i.B. virus, and believe me, it's contagious. Why just the other day, I thought to myself "Wow, I just went through some Needless Hell, and MAN was it crowded in there."

Kev(o)

Not there but still pink (I think;-)

When I visited the UW campus for the first time on Campus Day, my attention was grabbed by the sight of a large pink tie attached to the side of an oddly shaped building. It intrigued me at the time and I took a peek at the little blurb about the tie on the UW website. The first day of frosh week, I headed on over to the MC to get another look at this rather unique 'feature' of the campus. It was still there and still pink. During the week I must have had a little too much sugar because the tie seemed to occupy the topmost registers in my memory and I collected lore about it from all the upper year students I ran into. By the end of the week, I wanted to be a tie guard. Apparently I hadn't asked enough questions, however, because when I asked about becoming a tie guard, the conversation went something like this:

"Hey, how do I get to be a tie guard?"
 "Oh, you have to sign up for it in a few months."
 "You mean I can't be one till next term?"
 "No! The tie goes down at the end of frosh week!"
 Much laughing ensues.
 I still blame the sugar...

Antonio

Survey

What is your opinion on mathNEWS so far this term?

- Yes! _____
- No! _____
- Huh? _____
- Need more _____
- Need less _____
- Don't know _____
- Don't care _____
- Partridge in a pear tree ... _____

Answers may be submitted to the BLACK BOX

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but Simon's in jail and his cellmate Bubba has taken a liking to him. 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.

Well, I have returned. And as I promised there are no consequences whatsoever. Sorry I didn't keep ranting over the summer but I got too caught up in camp. Mmm, it was fun. I'll talk about it in my next article — I'm not in the mood right now. For those of you who have never read a Snuggles Sez before, here is how it works. I just rant. And grammar has no place in my world, so just pretend that I am saying these things out loud and they will have a tendency to make sense, and if they don't, I don't care.

A former frosh just said she likes touching herself. Don't we all. Ah, frosh. This year, once again, all the frosh (and a good portion of the leaders) got on their knees for me, just cause I asked. This proves my theory that anyone will do anything you ask, as long as you sound authoritative. I think a good Frosh Week story should go here. Hmm... Pete Lizak walked up to me and said, "I'm wet, give me a hug". He had recently been pelted with water balloons, so I said no. He replied with, "Team Koala is the wettest!" Right after he said this, another Koala leader, Jenny Page, led a "Koala chicks rule!" chant. Needless to say the implications in my mind were quite entertaining. That and watermelons. Three watermelons just kind of appeared in the MathSoc office and we don't know why.

I call Premier Mike Harris "Mikey". I figure I can be on a first name basis with anyone who's screwed me in so many different body cavities. Variety is the spice of life but this is getting ridiculous.

I'm living with Sky and Icor, so needless to say our house is

entertaining. I decided that we should have a stack of men's magazines around our den (which we no longer call the family room cause it is a little disturbing to think of each other as family). Anyway, here is a list of what is there: one swimsuit edition from SI, three Maxim's, a Stuff, and one Playboy featuring Sable. Recently a much-needed addition has been made to our men's magazine section: two dozen Archies. So good. For those of you who don't know what Maxim is, consider Cosmopolitan: same scantily clad models, but great articles on such important topics as gadgets, sports and sex. Get Maxim, and get it now.

I was just reading some Maxim online and I flipped to an article about how to get into a menage a trois, but I closed the netscape window when my girlfriend walked in. So Sky made fun of me. Bah, Sky, no tact. I would think that someone with such high fashion sense would have a better moral and ethical system.

Hey Latrell, Calculus Cowboy, Brian — all the personalities of Mr. Fox — listen up, this is for you:

How's the tie? Still there, Still pink.

Why, oh why? Cause it don't stink.

Jon Shaft's the Man, don't you think?

He's a complicated man and no one understands him but his woman.

I can rub my stomach, pat my head, sing three instruments in a circus theme, hop on one foot, and turn around in a circle, all at the same time. I showed this talent to my mother and she said, try the other direction. So I did, but I fell over and hurt myself. So I can only do it in one direction, otherwise I hurt myself.

Snuggleupagus

The Snuggly one is Back, run while you still can

There is no 'n' in Cotton Candy, except there is

It may just be the steak talking, but that's funny

profQUOTES

"I don't mean to offend any psychotics in the class..."

Spielmacher, ENGL 208A

"Booger. I have to say that word at least once during the term."

Spielmacher, ENGL 208A

"In our hearts, we know the graphs are labelled."

Haxell, C&O 342

"My intentions are honourable, although my methods are not."

Jack McKay, STAT 231

"If you whine on the newsgroup, you die on the newsgroup."

Buhr, CS342

"In C++ we don't need no stinkin' new."

Buhr, CS342

"You just blow in one end and move your fingers up and down the other end."

Buhr, CS342

"Polymorphism, it's from the Greek. Poly meaning deep fry,

morphism meaning running shoe."

Buhr, CS342

"This course will stretch you ... I don't care how good you are, I'm going to bring you to your knees."

Buhr, CS342

"The Compiler knows where the magic places are."

Buhr, CS342

"You might meet someone from BC who doesn't eat granola."

Chapman, MSC1211

"Now if you were anything like me, if you wrote this [polynomial] down when you were young, your dad would have beat you for not collecting like terms."

Irving, MATH 239

"Never do crack on an empty stomach."

Irving, MATH 239

Everything One Needs to Know in Life Can be Learned by Reading *mathNEWS*

Okay, so this article may be little more than a pointless recap of what you missed by not reading *mathNEWS* last term (assuming you didn't), but it's one of my little traditions... besides, you never know what you might learn. So follows the list of possibly useful data that appeared in Volume 80 of *mathNEWS*. (Including notables from the "Irrational Toast"!)

1. The more you submit, the more you can win. [4]
2. Decide for yourself what's going on, don't listen to rumours. [5]
3. 100% of surveys have too small a sample size. [8]
4. The Red Room has appeared in a movie. [1]
5. Don't lose touch with your soul. [6]
6. SW special effects are done with computers (but depend on electronics you must not). [2]
7. Global war seems less probable after birth of kitten. [8]
8. Occurrences in the world are not limited to tragic deaths of notable figures. [7]
9. Most Windows software is written for single user PC use, though most packages do function well in the multi-user environment ... you have to be careful about what and how you install. [1]
10. If it's bigger than you are, bring out the harpoon. [8]
11. The real millenium doesn't start until 2001. [3]
12. CS454 cars magically disappear when they cross an intersection if we don't think about them. [6]
13. *mathNEWS* has quite a following in the Middle East [5/6]
14. Shrink-Wrap is Evil. [8]
15. Take on new experiences head-on, and make the effort to do things; you really do get out of life what you put into it. [1]

So there is the assortment of interesting intellectual information. Think about it, ignore it or just do with it what you will... but of course try to use this knowledge for the forces of good. And if for some reason you want to see past issues... get a subscription next time! (Or I guess there is that web thing these days isn't there.)

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

Rejected Quebec Referendum Questions

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stephane Dion is very busy these days pissing off members of the Parti Quebecois and Bloq Quebecois. By threatening to legislate the rules of the next referendum on independence, he could cause more trouble than he saves. Even federalist Jean Charest is demanding that the federal government stay out of this.

One big issue surrounding the debate is the question itself. The question on the last referendum (which I remember watching the outcome of from my Village 1 television room) was widely regarded to be a bunch of mumbley-gook, which in French is "le mumblee-gook".

As we prepare for Lucien Bouchard's next referendum, both he and Dion have been jotting down ideas for the next question. He is striving for a question that will guarantee winning conditions, while Dion is aiming to find a question which Quebecers will have a hard time saying "oui" to. Herewith, are some of the questions that have already been rejected by either party, and will not be appearing on a ballot in the next referendum.

1. East Timor just separated, and look where they are... do you want that?
2. Would you support trading Canada our Olympic Stadium for independence?
3. Shall we ditch the english dudes?
4. Who wants to be a Quebecois millionaire?
5. Would you like to be snooty to tourists, the way independent French people are supposed to?
6. Would you support the creation of another ineffectual and unimportant member of the United Nations?
7. Voulez-vous poulet avec moi?
8. Preston Manning, Joe Clark, and Jean Chretien...and you're telling me that you don't want to leave?
9. Would you support the renaming of the Montreal hockey team?
10. We gave them poutine. What have they given us? Beavers?
11. Whose country is it anyway?
12. Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Quebec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995?

CAS

Ask Sparkle

Dear Sparkle:

I know that humans are supposed to be tribal animals or something, but lately I have been thinking that I am either confused, or something other than human.

Of course you are something other than human, love. Most of what's interesting comes from objects and animals. You needn't concern yourself with things outside your purview. We'll take care of all that.

Dear Sparkle:

Lately, I'm concerned that if I close my eyes and stop moving the world will hurtle towards something awful. This isn't usually a concern, but I am strangely troubled. What's your solution? More tilt? Less rotation?

Anything, my love, that won't resolve -itself- when your eyes are shut and your heartbeat is slow isn't worth your effort. If you are tilting at all, you are tilting at windmills; if you are rotating, you are spiralling inwards. Close your eyes and spread your toes in the grass...

Dear Sparkle:

I thought that there was something, and then there wasn't. Or, at least, it was pretty dark...

It's all right, love, something will always return. Especially if it was pretty dark... or dark and pretty... In this we are not particular.

Dear Sparkle:

How do you prepare for something you're told is straightforward, but that you know in your heart that nothing is as straightforward as they claim?

Love, so many things that we have seen have been so desperately straightforward that we just needed to sit down and wait. Crooked and busted always gets us through the winter. Dent resistant door panels are for young parents with golden retrievers, and other icky people.

Dear Sparkle:

...and all of a sudden, I will be in a wet burlap sack... can't get my arms up to my head, can't breathe, and my eyes just keep swimming in themselves... everything just seems to start and end with ellipses...

It's not so much ellipses as spirals. Love, you need to remember that even burlap has a point at which it rips. And sometimes sinking in sacks is the only way to clear your head. Just close your eyes and let things spin. Breathing is over-rated anyway...

Queen Sparkle is a syndicated colonist read by people carefully and quietly.

Tackle Football

Weekly pick-up games. All skill levels, sexes, races and faculties welcome. To get on our mailing list contact jmilosev@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca

Cynic's Corner

In sickness & in wealth

Do you take this University, to have and to hold until graduation do you part? Can you afford to? Can you afford not to? Will OSAP ever come in? These are questions I will not be answering in this column. In fact, don't expect anything too witty as I believe I have come down with the "frosh flu"... you know, the one that happens every September when you cluster together hundreds of people from all over. (At least, I hope this is the frosh flu, if not I may be due for another bout of illness later on.)

Now, I don't tend to get sick very often, but it's happened regularly the last couple of Falls. Fortunately, this year it doesn't actually seem that bad. Based on a sample size of three people, the symptoms seem to be as follows. One day with a sore throat that progressively gets worse and culminates in a runny nose and blocked sinuses. Then alternate temperature discomfort (flash fevers?) for another day or so. (By the way, if you don't have Tylonol or something on hand, it can be a handy thing to keep around, especially since most drugstores around here seem to be closed by mid-evening). After those two or three dreary days there seems to be a runoff where it's nice to have tissues on hand but there isn't really any major discomfort (unless you put out a muscle in your back too). Any of that sound familiar? Odds are it will in due course.

As to the wealth portion of the subheader, it's probably something you don't have at the moment, and a possible contributor to this is the current late fee payment schedule. Frankly, it baffles me... why start charging on September 1st? That's even before frosh week! The late fee policy as I understand it is that "students who delay preregistration until the term begins will be assessed late fees". Why is it that the term begins before Labour Day?? Not to mention the fact that allowing postdated cheques for the following week implies that they don't need the fees in that early anyway. Plus they didn't even want you paying fees in person, you needed to drop the information off. Even graduate students are being charged. I'm starting to wonder if next year, you'll end up paying the fee unless you manage to follow a really complex set of rules. It's not like this \$50 is really a small sum of money either (unless you're comparing it to tuition). And by the very first day of classes this fee had risen to \$70 (for full time students). I really hope none of those fee statements got lost in the mail or took extra time to arrive at a destination outside of Ontario... or took extra time to get here due to the mail system, for that matter. (The fact that they sent out two fee statements may have helped or confused the issue, I'm not sure.) As I said, I just can't figure it out... are these fees really penalizing only those people who slack off? (What about a little leniency? Free lpquota?)

I'll conclude with a rather amusing tale about more University politics. After my Winter term here, I renewed my key to the *mathNEWS* office. Guess what? They didn't send me my marks. I had to run about in order to get them released. So this term I figured I might as well wait until the first week of classes to renew my key. Guess what? They sent me my marks. Pavlov must be employed in the Registrar's office.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

mathNEWSquiz #1

Hello, hello; I don't know why you say good-bye I say hello...

Hi everybody! My name is Doctor Nick Riviera. I will perform any operation for just \$99.99. Call 1-800-DOCTORB. The B is for Bargain Prices! <slap!> Sorry, I don't know how he got in here. But it won't happen again, I promise. Anyhow, I am Anton or zer0man, and I will be your Squizmaster for the term. We will go through the good times and the bad times together! Wouldn't that be fun! <slap!> Hey! That was uncalled for! Anyhow, here as promised is this issue's Squiz. I hope you will have fun...

Music Lyrics

1 point for the title

1 point for the artist

1. I dig a pony
Well you can syndicate every poem you wrote.
All I want is you;
With everything has got to be just like you want it to.
2. Well I've always had a deep respect;
And I mean that most sincerely.
The band is just fantastic,
That is really what I think;
3. Ground control to Major Tom,
The circuit's dead; there's something wrong;
Can you hear me Major Tom?
Can you hear me Major Tom?
4. When your blood runs dry;
You're paralyzed;
It will eat your mind;
Did you hold it back?

Film History

1. Which film is said to be the first to use a script? Name the film, the director, and the year it was made.
2. What is/was Rosebud?
3. Which film featured a massacre on a staircase in a park?
4. How many films featured the Beatles? Name them all! (anthology/biographies don't count, neither does archive footage, and the four of them have to be together as the Beatles)

The Year 1815

1. Which English General died in the Battle at New Orleans on January 8th 1815?
2. Which city did Napoleon land at after his escape from Elba?
3. On what date, and where, was the German Confederation created?
4. Who invented the stethoscope in 1815?
5. Which regiments of the Egyptian army rebelled in 1815?

Soccer, Ole!

1. Which team has won the European Champions Cup the most times?
2. Who holds the record for most appearances for the German National Soccer Team?
3. Which race car driver plays on a semi-amateur soccer league in Germany?
4. What is the name of the largest soccer stadium in the world?
5. Which team in the USA did Pele play for?

Well, that's it for now. Submit your answers to the **BLACK BOX** by 6:00pm on Monday, October the 4th, or e-mail them to me at afedoren@undergrad.math by the same date and time. Good luck and happy Squizzing!

zer0man

So, does anyone else spend time wondering exactly why the signs reading "Right" and "Angle" over MC3002 aren't actually at right angles to each other? No, neither do I.

ISSN 0705—0410

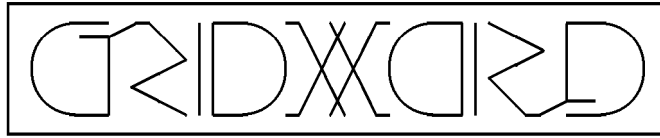
mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. mathNEWS is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content 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.

Still learning the ropes (look, a noose!): Greg "hologrami" Taylor

mathOLDSquiz

Regular readers of this publication, assuming you're out there, may have noticed a lack of answers last term for the Issue 6 Squiz. The results were unavailable due to Issue 7 deadlines and (apparently) the exam crunch causing temporary amnesia in our last SquizMaster. However, since you must all be wondering what the solutions were, and seeing as they are on hand now, here you go: **Song Lyrics:** 1) Don McLean, "American Pie"; 2) The Newbeats, "Bread and Butter"; 3) The Archies, "Sugar Sugar"; 4) The Beatles, "Strawberry Fields Forever"; the theme was food songs; **Totally Odd Trivia:** 1) 70%; 2) Monday (go figure); 3) 1/4 pound; 4) Mandarin Chinese; 5) Illinois Avenue; **Words:** 1) dreamt; 2) "I am."; 3) bookkeeper; 4) orange, month, purple, silver (someone also mentioned "wasp"—sounds good to me); 5) fillip; **Sports:** 1) Pittsburgh (the Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins all wear black, gold, and white); 2) Ken Griffey Jr. and Sr. (Seattle Mariners, August 14, 1990); 3) 14; 4) Soldier Field in Chicago; 5) Harold Bains (12 grand slams to date).

And just to make everything all nice and neat, while it was published that Mission: Bananarama were the winners of that Squiz, it was not published that they had 15 points, in comparison with Lukas Kamps who had 12 points and Phillip and Terrance who had 4 points. There, now don't you feel all the better for knowing that?



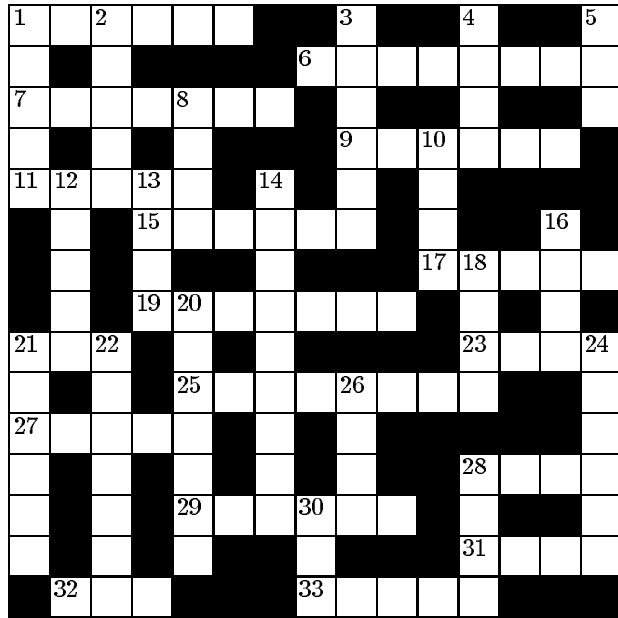
gridCOMMENTS

Hey everyone, and welcome to another fun filled term of *gridWORDS*. Now, as you start this week's *gridWORD* you may think that it is way too easy, or perhaps way too hard. If either of these is the case, well, just tell me. I don't bite very hard, but I might just have to touch your nose. The truth of the matter is that I really have no clue how hard this will be. I'm pretty new at this whole GridMaster thing.

And as I am new at this I needed lots of help. In fact, I really didn't even do the bulk of the work. That credit should really go to the other GridMaster, Mandi "Vocab-Girl" St. Amand, our Lovely Assistant, Texas, Candy-Coated, Brutus and Pimp-Daddy.

Having said all of that, when you complete as much of our beautiful *gridWORD* as you can, drop off your solutions in the BLACK BOX or the *mathNEWS* mailbox in the MathSoc office by 6:30 on Monday, October 4th. Also, if it tickles your fancy answer this week's GridQuestion: Why is my GridMaster alias "Ringmaster"?

Well, that's about it for me. So best of luck and I hope you enjoy.



Texas Mike O'Shea
Nory "Candy Coated" Prins
The Lovely Assistant
Mandi St. Amand
Michael "Pimpdaddy" Froh
Dan "Ringmaster" Pollock

Grid Clues

Across

1. Sleepy _____
6. Franchise
7. The musical fruit
9. Kilograms and Midnight
11. Grimm's character
15. Aesop's fables
17. Triumphant observations
19. Giving homework
21. Bovine salutation
23. Magnesium Silicate
25. Impossible idealism
27. Pains
28. Win, _____ or Draw
29. Sensing decay
31. Desire
32. _____ my name, bitch!
33. Lunchtime practice

Down

1. Greetings
2. Lucky Beer
3. Chickpeas on a pita
4. Over the shoulder boulder holders
5. _____ Without Hats
8. Salty Japanese protein paste
10. Manhattan for sale
12. Gremlin
13. A Jane Austen novel
14. Tubular pasta shells
16. Improbable tale
18. Leases
20. \$2.99 breakfast option
21. Deficient in quantity or quality
22. Natalie Merchant album
24. Spying
26. Inactive
28. Flame (obs)
30. Idiot (british slang)