Give us a bigger office and the rag lives
CSC Flash

Stuff that is happening in the CSC. You know you want to know. So here it is. First of all, happy Valentine’s day. I hope the condoms made it to everyone who needed one.

Some time back, one of the CSC members had a brilliant idea for attracting more members of the female persuasion to the club. The plan was to stock up on a large number of purple balloon hearts, and give them to females who stopped by the CSC, in the hopes that this would encourage more frequent visitations. I don’t think it worked. On the bright side, there is one heart left. So ladies, if you are interested in getting your very own purple heart, just stop by the CSC and hang around until somebody notices you. Note that you do not actually have to step inside the room — you can wait right outside the door and stare until one of us gets the point.

Browsing a recent issue of PC Week, we came across a pictorial so profound that we feel we have to share it with you. To get the full experience, have a look at the “RAM” ad we have proudly posted right outside the office door. We are sure it’ll keep your mind occupied for hours on end. Have you got enough RAM to take you to Xanadu?

Calum T. Dalek

The PMC Loves MEF

Hello all.

First of all, the PMAMC&OC would like to profusely thank the Math Endowment Fund for funding our recent library expansions. We now have a dazzling array of textbooks in beautiful shape, and we couldn’t have done it without you. You rock. (This isn’t a plug at all.)

Other news: We have talks coming up on number theory and cryptography, on error-correcting codes, and perhaps on formal languages. Our next talk, on cryptography, is by Dr. Renate Scheidler on Wednesday, Feb. 23, in MC 2037. As usual, there’ll be refreshments and snacks.

Also, we now have pop and juice again, and we’ve slashed the price of the latter. For members, they’re cheap ($0.35 for pop, $0.30 for juice, $0.50 for Nestea), and membership is $2.

And finally, we may be involved in writing for and referring to a new undergraduate mathematics journal, published by Rose-Hulman University. For details, contact us at pmclub@undergrad.math.

MGC

Hi everyone.

We’re taking in Valedictorian award and selection committee nominations until Monday. For more details, check out the nomination sheets on the MGC bulletin board. Also, don’t forget that Intent to Graduate forms are due March 1, with no exceptions! For the latest and greatest, check out www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc or our newsgroup: uw.math.mgc.

Rebecca Liu
MGC Communications Director

Honorary Lifetime Membership

Nominations for HLM are now open. If you know someone who has contributed to the betterment of life for Math students at UW, please let us know and let them know you appreciate it. Nomination forms are available outside the MEF office, MC 3038. Nominations close March 10th.

Prez Sez

Hi Everyone!

Hopefully midterms are going well and you are not too stressed. Only 3 more days (not counting this weekend) of class until reading two days. Here is what has been going on in the past two weeks. The Student Life Endowment Fund had its first meeting and dates were set out. That means that we will find out about our proposals by the end of March. A few minor changes have been made to some 100 level CS courses. There are also other academic changes in the works that are posted on the Academic Board (across from the C&D); if you would like to take a look and give us some comments that would be great.

The President of the University will have spoken at Faculty Council this week and I will let you know about that next time. As well, some preliminary numbers on applications to Math council this week and I will let you know about that next time. Not only will you have a say in how MEF spends money this term, you’ll also earn the respect and admiration of your peers[1]. Representatives are still needed from each department and from each year. If you’re interested, grab a form from the MEF office door or from the MEF website and drop it off at the MEF office (MC 4046) by February 23.

MEF had amassed a rather large amount of money to spend this term ($45,000). If you’re interested in helping MEF drain its coffers, there are two options available:

Join the Funding Council

Amaze your parents and impress your friends by joining the Funding Council. Not only will you have a say in how MEF spends money this term, you’ll also earn the respect and admiration of your peers[1]. Representatives are still needed from each department and from each year. If you’re interested, grab a form from the MEF office door or from the MEF website. The deadline for proposals is February 23.

Submit a Funding Proposal

This is, perhaps, the more direct method for influencing how MEF spends its money. If you have a project (with some form of academic merit) that needs funding, submit a Funding Proposal. Forms are available on the MEF office door or the MEF website. The deadline for proposals is February 23.

John Poole
MEF Director

[1] Your mileage may (ok, will) vary.

Jennifer Cote
MathSoc President, W00 & F00
Ladies and gentlemen
Boys and girls
Children of all ages

Well as you may have noticed, today is Cotton Candy Day!!
So get your sugar fix to help you finish off the week. $75c per bag or $1 for 2 … Spend an extra quarter, make a new friend.
I hope that you are enjoying your Cotton Candy. Smile!

Attention Math 136 Students!
Need to Cram? We are here to help!

On Sunday, February 27th from 4-6pm we are holding a ‘Cram Session’ for Math 136. Come to the 3rd floor lounge of MC. There will be some TAs there to assist you with the last minute problems that you may have. Hope to see you there.

On Saturday, March 4th we are hold a Road Trip to Casino Rama. The bus will depart from the MC Loading Dock at 1:30 pm and will arrive at Rama at 4. When you arrive at Rama they will give you $15 to gamble with and a small lunch (sandwich, pop, and chips). The Bus will then leave Rama at 9:30 pm.

I know what you are thinking!
How much will this cost me?
Yes … you get $15 and lunch for only $5!

Sign-up now in the MathSoc office. Space is limited.

Speaking of Casinos and Gambling. We are looking at holding a Candy Casino. No date or time has been announced. Look for signs to be posted when more information is available.

Want to drink with your Profs?
Want to discuss that midterm in a relaxed atmosphere?
Buy your Prof a drink! Have your Prof buy you a drink
Invite him to Pint with a Prof!
Wednesday, March 1st
DC 1301 (The ICR Fishbowl) 4:30–8:30 pm
Fully Licensed Bar; Catered by the Right Angle Cafe
Invitations are available in the MathSoc office.

Daryl “Teddybear” McEachern
MathSoc VPAS Winter 2000
teddybear@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Are you graduating in Winter 2001?

Nominations are now available outside the Mathsoc office (MC 3038) for Math Grad Committee Chair. This is a great opportunity to get involved and make your last year here the best one yet. Nominations close Wed February 23rd. If you have any questions please let me know, prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca, or talk to the current MGC chairs to find out what the position is like.

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Unable to all fit in the mathNEWS office at once: Richard Bilson, Greg Taylor, Chadwick Severn

Frosh Week 2000

Well when you read this article the interviews for this term will be half over. I hope that all of you have already signed up for an interview on the MathSoc Office door and handed in your application. If you still want to get involved in Frosh Week then please e-mail me, orientation@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. If you have any ideas at all for Frosh Week events or anything else be sure to tell me soon so that I might incorporate your ideas into the plan of the week. Now for my biweekly reminder to all of you to get PACO trained: www.orientationleaders.uwaterloo.ca. That is it for now.

Nadia V. Ursacki
Math Orientation 2000

lookAHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Issue #3 makes (sine) waves</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Issue #4 production night</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Issue #4 if you’re lucky</td>
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<td>March 6–10</td>
<td>Fall Term Pre-Registration</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Pint with a Prof!</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Grad Ball</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Course WD Deadline</td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>1st Yr Program Info Sessions</td>
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<td>February 27</td>
<td>Organized MATH 136 Cram Session</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Intent to Graduate Forms Due: Spring Convocation</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Grad Ball</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td>Funding Council and Funding Proposal submission deadline</td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>Ranking day</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td><em>ding</em> Round Two!</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Job Match results posted</td>
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MEF

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Cotton Candy Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Candy Casino</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Have some fun during “Reading Week”</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Organized MATH 136 Cram Session</td>
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Miscellaneous

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Arts students abducted by aliens</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>A reading day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>Another reading day</td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>Probably an interview day too</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 30</td>
<td>Your computer gets confused</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Bill Gates denies everything</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
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Vol. 82 No. 3 mathNEWS
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS DEAN’S HONOURS LIST
FALL 1999

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will “GRADUATE ON THE DEAN’S HONOURS LIST” at Spring Convocation, June 17, 2000 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

CHUNG Ricky Wai Kay
LAM My-Chau
WONG Sabrina

CHUNG Yi-Sheng
LAM Po Shan
HWANG Christine S.
ALI Asif

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will “GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION” at Spring Convocation, June 17, 2000.

CHENG Wing-Hay Irene
COWAN Michael Maurice
GJENERO Bruce
HWANG Nicholas James Alexander

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2000 term, the following students qualified for the Dean’s Honours List.

AHMAD Anis
ALTIPARMAKOV Nikola
ATHAIDE Deirdre
BADIANI Seema
BEARE Brian D.

BERESKIN Frederick Lorne
BOODOOSINGH Aminhash
BRINN Donald Kenneth
CALDER Matthew
CAO Xiaoyi
CHAN Bryan
CHAN Jason Choon-Yoog

CHENG Henry Kin Cheong
CHENG Michelle
CHIARCOSI Paul A.
CHOI Leo
CHUNG Ricky Wai Kay

CLASSEN Michelle Lynn
CORMIE John David
DARRAGH Patrick
DAYAL Rajeev
DEMKO Michael Patrick A.
DUBOIS Brian
FOK Alan Chi Lun
FONTOULAKIS Elefterios
GAO Qing Lyne

GILFLANN Scott Richard
GUO Pei Ru Winnie
HICKEN Jason Edward
HO Karen Adrienne
HORN Stephanie Lorraine
HSIUNG Hui Na Fiona
JAISHANKAR Siddharth
JUNUZOVIC Sasa
KAMGARPOUR Masoud
KANG Ge Jennifer

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate career the following student did “GRADUATE ON THE DEAN’S HONOURS LIST” at Fall Convocation, October 23, 1999 and will have his name displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

KUMAR Rohan

KALOUGINA Tatiana
KAMMITZER Joel
KAPLAN Bram Neil
KAUSHAL Nabeel
KEMKES Graeme David
KIMMEL Bradley William
KOUKLINISKI Kirill
KWONG Jeffrey Stephen

LAM Elizabeth
LAM Maple Chi-Shing
LAM Simon Dat-Man
LEE John Sie Yuen
LEE-POY Robert
LESTER Erin Cristina
LI Ho-Yu Herman
LI Ming Fei
LUCIER Brendan
LUK Lesley Bridget
LUI Viet-Trung
MANN Mandep Sing
MARTELOCK Shawn
MCINTYRE Ian Douglas
MENEZES Candice Lucilla

NORRISS Amy
NORREY Bela
NORRIS Amy
NOTWIG Mike
NOTT ASSISTANT

PENN Joseph
PENG Janet
PETRIE John
PETROVA Vanya
PHILBROOK Charles Ashley
POON Alan Joseph
POON Dennis
PREST Ian Jeremy
PUVANANTHAN Anjayan
RIoux Caroline
SAUL Jeffrey H. B.
SCHENKELBERG Laura Jane
SCHMIDT William Edward
SERRANO Luis Guillermo

SHAH Mayur Madhendra
SHUTE Jeffrey James
SROSS Sillov
STANGE Catherine Elisabeth
SZYMANSKI Gina L.
TANG Peggy Po-Kei
TANG Sai Kit
TSE Rosa Wai Ming
TURNER John Gregory
VARGA Leonit
WAN Benny M.
SONG Hui Jenny
SONG Yu-Hong
WONG Joseph
WONG Ian C.
WU Shuqing
YIP Martha

YIP Martha
YONG Yin-Keong
YOUNG Janet
YUE Ting
ZHANG Jue Alice
ZHANG Jue Alice
ZHANG Jue Alice
ZHANG Jue Alice
ZHANG Jue Alice
ZHANG Jue Alice
Valentine’s Day Massacre

The Globe and Mail newspaper has recently stated something that many a Computer Science student already knows: There are way more single men in Canada than single women. The proof behind this statement is complex, but it has something to do with Baby Boomers not birthing enough girls way back when. I say that Baby Boomers are evil, as it seems that they are the cause of all the problems in today’s North America. So what does this mean? Well if you are a broke, ugly member of the CSC your chances at finding that special girl are, well, negligible. Why? I would say that it’s pretty obvious. If you are unsure, the Globe and Mail points out that on top of being attractive, on today’s dating scene, one must be able to afford a long wooing process, which can cost, well, a lot.

If you think that that is it, you are far from being right. It has been revealed that a number of highly reputable organizations, including the Red Cross, have declared that Valentine’s day is dangerous to the health of the population. In much the same way as smoking is dangerous. It seems that Valentine’s day causes people who have somehow been unable to find that special someone to smooch up with, to have undue mental stress. In fact I wouldn’t stop at just blaming Valentine’s day. I’d go as far as blaming the whole pop culture and high schools, especially during the prom season. If you don’t believe me, just ask Eric Harris.

And in the final blow to Valentine’s Day, British scientists have announced that the act of being in love is a chemical imbalance, much alike to the one found in stalkers and other deviants.

So what we have here is that a majority of people are clinically insane, and the ones who are not in a relationship are suffering from depression and mental anguish brought on by the people who are in relationships. Obviously the latter want to cure their mental diseases by dumping them off on the depressed suckers. Great! Just what society needs.

In light of this dire news, I propose this. First off, a class action law suit against the companies that benefit the most from Valentine’s Day, in order to recoup the costs of mental anguish that people are suffering. I am talking about Hallmark Cards and FTD Florists. Primarily Hallmark though. Hallmark have long created “holidays” to sell more of their cards by unleashing an artificial need on the unsuspecting populace. Normally I wouldn’t mind, but they have also created Mother’s/Father’s Days which I want abolished too, solely because The Globe and Mail estimates my chances of becoming either at a solid zero.

Secondly, I would like to start a Bitter, Disenchanted Person day, to be held on March 14 every year. This will be the day for those of us who do not have whatever it is that women see in Leonardo DiCaprio; for those of us who can’t jump as high as Vince Carter, and for those of us who don’t have as much money as Bill Gates. (Yes, I know that there are similarly disadvantaged ladies out there, but frankly, according the the Globe and Mail there are a lot less of you, so you are calling all the shots.) On this day the people who are saddled with the aforementioned handicaps will be able to give a hug/kiss to the Bitter, Disenchanted Persons. They could also offer a cynical sentence, and see where the relationship goes from there. I am appealing to all the female readers of this publication (even though another Globe and Mail study reveals that you don’t exist) to circle March 14th in their calendars and do as I suggested. Or on that or some other date you can just e-mail any and/or all of the above along with a passing mark for STAT230 or CS370 to afedoren@undergrad.

Until then, try to control the chemical imbalances or clinical depression because happier days are just around the corner. Or whatever.

Anton “Oh save me / from the ranks of the freaks / who suspect / they could never love anyone” Fedorenko

CD Today

magnolia: music from the motion picture

The soundtrack to the film magnolia is in many ways like the movie itself — quirky, with moments of profound beauty and a few questionable decisions along the way. Produced by Paul Thomas Anderson, the movie’s director, and JoAnne Sellar, the focus of the album is the work of singer/songwriter Aimee Mann, whose writing provided much of the inspiration for the movie, complemented by a selection of incidental pieces.

Mann herself seems worthy of the attention. Relying on strong melodies and incisive lyrics, she combines these with rich harmonies and complex arrangements to create catchy tunes that stand up to repeated listenings. The production is clear but intimate, putting Mann’s smoky mezzo voice proudly out front — producer Jon Brion also works with Fiona Apple, and his influence is prominent, especially in the varied instrumentation that is also characteristic of Apple’s two albums. There is a natural melancholy feel created by her voice and the introspective lyrics, but the songs never drag — some of them are quite up-beat (the bouncy “Momentum”). Her work is at its best when it exploits this melancholy feel, as on her version of Nilsson’s “One”, the movie’s opening theme; the poignant “Wise Up”, which will be unforgettable to those who have seen the movie; and the oscar-nominated “Save Me”.

After nine strong songs from Mann, we hear Philip Baker Hall say “Ready for round two,” and we are catapulted into the world of Supertramp. Two songs, “Goodbye Stranger” and “Logical Song” are featured here. While these songs in their own way expand upon the themes of alienation that are found in the movie and in Mann’s songs, the musical discontinuity spoils the mood. The following song, the fluffy R&B “Dreams” by Gabrielle, doesn’t help matters. The closing orchestral instrumental brings us back closer to where we started, but the lack of coherence makes the last few songs tough to take.

Although the album is unable to consistently evoke the movie in the way that makes good soundtracks truly great, its succeeds by relying on the strength of Aimee Mann’s songs. Mann’s dark commentary on the nature of human relationships links the album and the movie in strong and subtle ways. If the album is flawed, that is only one more way in which the two works are alike.

Richard Bilson
“The rule is: never read chapter 6 before chapter 7.”
Zima, CS 487

“Well, it turns out that programmers don’t like to program in pure lambda calculus.”
Cox, CS 442

“There are other register conventions; they’re all stupid.”
Cormack, CS 444

“In North America you learn to divide like this: \(\text{[does long division on the board]}\) In Russia, we learn to divide like this: \(\text{[does it again, but differently]}\) I wonder how they divide in Vietnam... I think probably in South Vietnam, they do it like this \(\text{[points to North American division]}\), and in North Vietnam, they do it like this \(\text{[points to Russian way]}\).”
Zima, CS 487

“To make this interesting, let me show you the error you get if you screw it up.”
Cox, CS 442

“I don’t like pointers. I don’t mind coding them, but I don’t like drawing them on the board.”
Cormack, CS 444

“So we’ll take the type and the variableness, and we’ll call that a ham sandwich or something, and then we’ll have ham sandwich equivalence.”
Cormack, CS 444

“Here, you have Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. In Russia, we have International Women’s Day and Red Army Day instead.”
Zima, CS 487

“Last time I taught this course an evaluation said ‘Too much steak, not enough sizzle,’ so this course is going to have sizzle.”
Davis, CS 338

“We have seen this slide already, but this is a much more interesting slide because it is shaded.”
Davis, CS 338

“We are going to view ‘WatVendors’ instead of which vendors.”
Davis, CS 338

“You may find it a little difficult to grasp because I am a bad teacher.”
Davis, CS 338

“No, you fool!”
Goulden, MATH 239

[Prof refers to variable \(V_n\)] “It is very distracting, it sounds like I am talking about wine.” (Prof says several Spanish words) “That is the extent of my Spanish. It is useful if you want to have a good time.”
Davis, CS 338

“Compared to England the alcohol in Spain is really cheap. The bad news was that I was only 10 or 11 when I went to Spain.”
Davis, CS 338

“There is a reason that you are all sitting here listening to me. It is because you are supposed to be learning something.”
Davis, CS 338

“How do you cover your ass?”
Cowan, CS 246

“It’s very important that you run your life so that your evil twin doesn’t get you.”
Cowan, CS 246

“So who quoted me in this ‘Math Notes’? I’d like to know who quoted me in \(\text{profQUOTES}\), so I can fail you.”
Rye, PSYCH 236

“Look! I’m a collapsed vagina! Don’t put that into \(\text{mathNEWS}\). [Some time later] Look! I’m an inflated vagina! How many of your profs can do that?”
Rye, PSYCH 236

[While talking about stages of sexual arousal] “How exciting was that? Is everyone ready for orgasm?”
Student: “It wasn’t THAT good.”
Prof: “That’s going into \(\text{profQUOTES}\), isn’t it?”
Rye, PSYCH 236

“Today my numbers are in disorder; it must be the Y2K bug.”
Nica, PMATH 354

“Fix a positive integer \(H\), where ‘\(H\)’ is for ‘huge’.”
Nica, PMATH 354

“I’ll call this NSG — that’s not nonosodium glutamate, it’s a normal subgroup.”
Hoffman, PMATH 467

“G is generated by nonosodium glutamate of \(X\).”
Hoffman, PMATH 467

“So start getting used to arrows, or... DIE!”
Hoffman, PMATH 467

“I got a message — not on e-mail; we didn’t even have photocopiers when I was in grad school. I had to write my thesis out about ten times to have enough copies.”
Hoffman, PMATH 467

“Why all the giggles? Have I got a hole in my pants or something? Is my fly down?”
Hoffman, PMATH 467

“That may be a little bit loosey-goosey.”
Hoffman, PMATH 467

“Today, I’m still under the influence, so you’ll have to excuse me.”
Lu, PMATH 352

“I’m going to write down a formula which doesn’t make much sense.”
“Sometimes I write Rs one way, sometimes I write them another; I don’t make any distinction, but they mean the same thing.”  
Younger, C&O 350

“I looked at that and thought, ‘Gee, I’m in an alternate dimension here…””  
Chipman, STAT 340

“I’m a first derivative kind of guy, so we’ll do the first derivative.”  
Chipman, STAT 340

“I’m warning you, in about 20 seconds I’m going to start waving my arms and not explaining myself.”  
Chipman, STAT 340

“If you’re not in [STAT] 330, just think of it as magic, the spooky type.”  
Chipman, STAT 340

“That’s why you go to Teacher’s College, so you don’t do silly things like that.”  
Brown, STAT 231

“That’s short for the ticket guy slamming the window in your face and going ‘Ha ha, we’re closed’.”  
Chipman, STAT 340

“This is the space spanned by the columns of ‘x’; of course it doesn’t waffle around like that, but it’s an Artist’s interpretation of the space.”  
Brown, STAT 231

“We haven’t written down anything useful yet…”  
Law, CS 337

“I’ll be a little bit of a dunderhead.”  
Law, CS 337

“I’m going to blunder on ahead anyway and you’ll figure it out. But please ask questions…”  
Chipman, STAT 340

“ Enough questions. Don’t ask me any more questions.”  
Brown, STAT 231

“The character code for ‘M’ is 01001101… that won’t be on the midterm.”  
Nica, PMATH 453

“The answer is ‘That’s where you’re going to put it!’ Dude.”  
Beatty, CS 230

“[the computer] went to sleep … DON’T say the obvious!”  
Beatty, CS 230

“Is there anything else you want to complain about?”  
Beatty, CS 230

[tripping over the overhead cable]”Oops… crash… we lose more professors that way.”  
Beatty, CS 230

“You guys must have had four cups of coffee this morning!”  
Beatty, CS 230

“Anything else I say will get us all in trouble.”  
Beatty, CS 230

“And we’ll let this one go to lambda because I’m out of space.”  
Beatty, CS 230

“You might win points at a party if you know the following theorem.”  
Willard, MATH 136

“I will give my Sex Ed lecture now.”  
Willard, MATH 136

“The technical term for a movement like this is ‘It kicks butt’.”  
Hull, MUSIC 260

“Notice the absence of the letter t in the word ‘Eroica’ … no one got that?”  
Hull, MUSIC 260

Prof: “[the midterm] is on Valentine’s Day… that’s cruel…”  
Student: “Can we bring a date?”  
Prof: “Dates, prunes, plums, I don’t care.”  
Hull, MUSIC 260

“Your brain will go into overdrive and try to consume itself.”  
Cowan, CS 246

“If a computer could talk, it might say “I am creating a linked list” or “I am creating an abstract stack,” and you would say “Who gives a shit.”  
Cowan, CS 246

“Well screw you. I’ll just do whatever I bloody well feel like…”  
Cowan, CS 246

“This is a general vector right here.”  
Crippin, MATH 136

[Referring to matrix on the board] “Shows like an underwear commercial…”  
Crippin, MATH 136

Prof: “Didn’t you hear what I said before? I said you really don’t know what you’re talking about.”  
Student: “Then why don’t you teach us it then?”  
Prof: “Well, see, that depends on the quality of the student.”  
Crippin, MATH 136

“My brain hurts.”  
Chipman, STAT 230

“You guys in the front row laugh, but I almost killed somebody doing that.”  
Chipman, STAT 230

“Ooops, almost killed another one of them!”  
Chipman, STAT 230
So last time we talked about the differences between English and CS. Let’s talk about the similarities.

Both English and CS have professors.

That’s where the similarities end. Let’s talk about those profs for a second. (DISCLAIMER: I’m generalizing. There are exceptions. Don’t be so pedantic.)

English profs seem aware of the fact that their students are people too. (I guess that has something to do with the whole HUMANities thing.) All of my English profs learned my name within the first week of class. Even more weird, the profs also learn my writing style after about 2 assignments.

I severely doubt that my CS profs are aware of my presence in class. I run into my CS profs in the C&D — they don’t recognize me at all. I run into my English profs and they talk to me, even in subsequent terms.

This is both a good thing and a bad thing, since it means that I can’t sleep in English class, but I can settle in for a nice long snooze in CS. (Especially on those post-OS recovery days.)

The coolest thing by far about English profs is that they are aware that you are taking other classes at the same time as theirs. And they are aware that you can only time-manage so far. And they are aware that a student who has has time to sleep is a happier student. And they are aware that you have a life — or at least that you’re trying to have one.

But more than that, they care. They really want you to do well on your assignments. And they don’t want you to burn out. So if you explain to them that you’ve got 2 other big assignments due around the same time as the assignment for their class, they’ll let you hand it in later.

It’s called an extension. (I know, this is a rare word in this faculty.) Imagine what would happen if you asked a CS prof for an extension because you had a lot of other time-consuming assignments due around the same time.

Ten bucks says that they’d tell you that you knew when everything was due in advance, you’ve had the assignment for weeks, so you should have started earlier and planned ahead. (Yes, yes, I can think of profs who are exceptions, but more often than not…)

I’m all for time-management, but there’s a big difference between starting early and starting as early as you can. I mean, my entire OS class was in the CS lab the night before assignment 1 was due. Heck, I don’t remember a time when I’ve NOT seen an entire CS class in the lab the night before an assignment was due, and it’s pretty damn improbable that the entire class can’t time-manage.

Programming is not like reading. If you read for an hour, you get an hour closer to the end. If you code for an hour, you could mess things up to such a state that it would take you 3 days to get back to where you started from. It’s not easy to plan that way.

I mean, most of my CS assignments are available to me in the first week of class. Does that mean I should have learned everything in the course and done all the assignments then? If that was the case, why would I bother taking the course? (So I can graduate — that darn B.Math degree is the source of all my problems.)

This faculty seems to subscribe to the metaphor that if you put a lump of coal under tremendous pressure, you will produce a diamond.

We’re not lumps of coal. We’re people, and when you put

Restaurant Review

Fastbreaks

Fastbreaks offers a cozy, welcoming dining room, an excellent menu with intriguing selections, but in the end the whole experience seems flat and uninspired. To be sure, Fastbreaks does provide some things to write home about. The escargot gratine is divine with 12 scrumptious snails swimming in a thick pool of cheese and garlic butter. As usual such a combination can cause a bitter conflict between your tongue and your arteries. In this case, yield to the tongue. The menu is excellent, offering salads, impresive entrees and a wide selection of pastas. The lack of sandwiches during supper hour is an unfortunate offense, but I’m sure Fastbreaks has what it takes to satisfy the nutritional adventurer as well as the stick-in-the-mud.

The pesto chicken pasta is good, with the sundried tomatoes providing most of the flavour in a weak pesto melange. The portions are large and there is enough left over for tomorrow’s lunch, always a pleasant surprise. Entrees are served with fresh dinner rolls, which should also be thrown into your doggie-bag, lest you ruin your appetite on filler.
I decided to revive this column because something has been nagging at me for the last month. Plus today’s rant is actually a more cynical take on life again, whereby big business demonstrates yet again that they don’t care much about the customer. The following tale involves a failed attempt to see the “Fantasia 2000” movie at a Famous Players Theatre the first week of January with some friends.

Perhaps suspicions should have been raised when the time of the showing listed in the newspaper was not the same as when the movie was actually being shown. But that was not really a problem; we bought tickets for a later one and waited around. (I’ll insert a plug for authentic Montreal smoked meat here.) Then more waiting around in line to actually get into the theatre. That I don’t consider to be a problem, except in retrospect. Finally, we get in. They play this “Ooooo, look, IMAX screen, cool” promotional-introduction thing. We wait. Couple of notes that could come from Beethoven’s Fifth. More waiting. Several minutes later, they play the “Ooooo, look, IMAX screen, cool” promotional-introduction thing again. At this point most people are have figured out something’s not right; there’s some muttering going on and we’ve been sitting here for a good fifteen minutes or more. Finally, an official looking guy gets up front and says, “Sorry, we’re experiencing technical difficulties and won’t be able to present the movie” (or words to this effect). This is both upsetting and annoying but the worst is yet to come.

We line up to get out of the theatre. Yes, that’s right, we had to line up (or at least bunch together and shuffle slowly, with people sitting by the doors at a slight advantage now) so that could receive vouchers on our way out. Read: Vouchers. Not refunds. No, to get refunds we have to take the vouchers downstairs and redeem them! Guess what? Another lineup! The alternative is to redeem said piece of paper for a movie some other time in the next year… but apparently only for IMAX, because “IMAX ONLY” was stamped across it. (Right near where the original printing read “not valid for IMAX”: great, schizophrenic cons. I suppose their reuse is environmentally friendly.) But you know how many IMAX theatres we have in Waterloo, right? So better to take the money and put it towards the ever rising tuition.

At this point there’s essentially an entire theatre of people lined up. There appear to be three stations where service is available, but only two are open. I admit I’m not sure if the centre area was actually a place where they could help, but to their credit, the Theatre staff started servicing people from this point within five minutes or so of people raising their voices and expressing their annoyance. Finally we get to the front. Question: “How long will it take for the problem to be fixed?” Answer: “Oh, it should be fine for the next showing.” “Great—” “… but that one’s sold out. Want tickets to the 9:30pm show?” “Give me my money now, I never want to see you again.” (Okay, so that’s not quite how it went, especially given someone else was doing the talking as I was not feeling well physically at the time.)

But the other question that might be asked is exactly what went wrong with the showing in the first place. Obviously SOMETHING was working: They showed us the “Don’t we have a pretty IMAX screen” blurb twice, then later indicated that things would be fixed within the hour. This implies either the problem was minor, the technician had only just come back from lunch, or they were lying through their teeth. (The latter not making much sense when one lies it’s usually to appease the upset consumer.) So why not fix the thing and show it to us? The likely explanation was, if they finally started showing us the movie, the runtime is such that it would encroach upon the time of their next show. And heavens, that one is sold out, so we can’t make those people wait… better to annoy the hell out of one theatre group rather than slightly inconvenience two of them. Funny though, we’re not the ones who decided to run the “Fantasia 2000”s so close together. Didn’t they test these IMAX screens out? Who’s running them again? Plus what about the kids who came out with their parents, hoping to see Mickey Mouse et al? They come away not with pleasant memories but the message “Too bad, come back later, we’re trying to make money here”.

But anyway, the bottom line here and the REALLY irksome thing is that the theatre still DID make money out of the fiasco. Because everyone who bought popcorn or drinks while waiting in line or before going in obviously isn’t going to get that money back. So while the Famous Players people took up a couple hours of my time, most of which was spent waiting in lines, giving nothing in return… they still managed to get some revenue. With not much the customer can do about it except complain. So, if you’ve been planning on going to one of those new Theatre IMAX places… I suggest maybe you should “Think Differently”. Or at least bring along a good book and stay away from the concession stands.

Greg “hologrami” Taylor

Cynic’s Coroner

New IMAX slogan: Think Differently

Asterix Rating: **** (out of seven)

Jonathan Ezer

RESTAURANT REVIEW from page 8

The predominance of forest-green, combined with the aura of the wood paneling is relaxing. The floral pattern on the tablecloths matches those on the curtains and help to give Fastbreaks a nice sitting-in-mom’s-country-kitchen feel. The service is disappointing and the staff seems to care more about going home than satisfying the customer. This is quite a disappointment in view of the fact that an entree, a shared appetizer and a beverage cost $15. At that price one should expect service with a smile as opposed to a grunt.

The best part about Fastbreak’s is the escargot, but other than that, the waiters, the other patrons, the whole thing feels tired. Fastbreaks gives you a decent meal when you don’t feel like cooking for yourself, but it doesn’t provide that spark of panache that a dinner-out deserves. It doesn’t have the authentic music of Olympic, the hard-core student grit of Gino’s Pizza, the beat of East Side Mario’s or even the speed of Sunshine Express. There is nothing special about Fastbreaks.

Asterix Rating: **** (out of seven)
It's like Simon Sez but Simon is a polygamist. No really. So I'm online playing a crazy version of boggle, and after every 2 minute round the chat box fills with people saying gg blah. (Good Game), and then everyone else says ty (Thank You). So we decide this deserves some randomness. By we, I mean Tom&Jer and me, and other people who don't really exist. I mean, they do, but they weren't entertaining enough for me to remember their existence. Anyway, in this chat box I start writing sauce and beard in different permutations (which at the time I had no idea what they meant, but more on that later). I fully included my baloney. No matter what I said everyone was ignoring me. So I decided that I wasn't being quite random enough. So I said “I'm playing with my wives”. Complete silence, then I said “no really.” More silence. Then I said “it's too long to explain”. To that someone finally responded “r u a polygamist?” Then we had to wait cause the next round started, so that conversation was on the chat box for 2 minutes. Then I explained. Thinking back it would have been funny if I left after that but I still wanted to play. Actually right now I am writing this article in 20 second increments as I play. It's kind of distracting for others, but this is how I live my life, I can only pay attention to something for that long anyway. Mmm, random porn robots, gotta love em, for $5.50 an hour.

We were in joes's and we ate $2 burgers. I like burgers. Jer told a funny story, we laughed... alot. It had to do with snow on a car, no wait, the snow on the car had to do with the story. And it explained the sauce on the beard.

I got my MSCI essay back I told you about last issue. I got 9/10. I guess my theory about entertaining the TA to get marks was right. I'm playing midterm tic-tac-my groin. I have midterms Tue, Wed, Thu (back in time by the time this comes out), and the next three tuesdays (again back in time). Ending my sentences is good.

I just won in the 6 letter minimum board. I win. WIN. I put “gg to me, ME", but no one commented. At this point I'd like to thank my mother, and my father, and all the little people who helped me get here. And the 7 people who are helping me (Tom&Jer, Ike, Andrew, Richard, Nick, Mike), actually 6, Tom&Jer are one person, they sleep together, drive in together and take all the same classes, and they are my wives. Oh, they are two people now, otherwise I can't make plural wife jokes.

Derek Kisman's uncle just introduced himself to me. He's in the box, and I've already told you that nothing is in the box. You yanked me a prize, but probably not, you'll probably just get what's on the other hand, if you tell me and you're right maybe I'll give you something, but then again, that is the TA who would have marked my 'let's entertain the marker essay' so you never know. Anyway, I've spent too long writing this when I should be studying for, yup, you guessed it, MSCI.

Count the number of times snuggles appears, with boggle rules (can't reuse a letter in the same word). If you get it right, you get, NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, YOU SO STUPID. Hmm, on the other hand, if you tell me and you're right maybe I'll give you a prize, but probably not, you'll probably just get what's in the box, and I've already told you that nothing is in the box.

Why is goiter interleaved with snuggles? Don't ask, at least, not me.

Snuggles Sez

Solution to Issue #2 gridWORD

Solution to Issue #2 gridWORD
Greetings. First of all let me issue my congratulations to the St. Paul’s Shadow Council. Last week they barely beat out Kyle S., 21 to 18. [Andrew neglects to point out that one of the councillors can collect the group prize from the MathSoc office. — RichEd] FYI, the answers last week were: **Songs**: 1) Louis Armstrong’s “What A Wonderful World”; 2) John Denver’s “Leaving on a Jetplane”; 3) U2’s “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For”; 4) Simon and Garfunkel’s “Cecilia”; 5) Eric Clapton’s “Tears In Heaven”. **Toronto Maple Leafs**: 1) Jim Bobbins; 2) Ace Bailey and Bill Barilko; 3) 43; 4) Daryl Sittler; 5) Arena Gardens. **Movies**: 1) Michael J. Fox in *The American President*; 2) Cary Elwes in *The Princess Bride*; 3) Tommy Lee Jones in *The Fugitive*; 4) Matthew Broderick in *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*; 5) Bruce Willis in *Die Hard*. **Star Trek**: 1) NCC-1864; 2) Stargazer (or Enterprise); 3) Moog; 4) Tapestry; 5) Nurse Chapel, the voice of the computer, Lwaxana Troi.

Now, on to this week. I hope everything goes well for you guys; we’d love a couple more submissions to add to the epic battle of last week. Again, apologies, though this time it’s because I’m an Oscar nut and thus there will be a lot of movie questions for the next little while. I also must give credit to Daryl for the wonderful song quotes, since you may have noticed that mine were pretty easy. Remember to send your submissions to the BLACK BOX, or to mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca.

**Song Quotes**
*(one point for artist, one for song)*

1. Oh I watch you there through the window
   And I stare at you
   You wear nothing but you wear it so well
   Tied up and twisted, the way I’d like to be
   2. No inhibitions… make no conditions
   Get a little outta line
   I ain’t gonna act politically correct
   I only wanna have a good time
   3. If you’re alone and you need a friend
   Someone to make you forget your problems
   Just come along, baby take my hand
   I need a lover tonight
   4. We started makin’ out
   And she took off my pants
   And then I turned on the tv
   And that’s about the time she walked away from me
   5. Good-looking, bad-tasting
   Full-bodied, butt-wasting
   Loose-living, tight-fitting
   What you see ain’t what you are getting

**Movie Lines**
*(one point for actor, one for movie)*

1. “The lord tells me he can get me out of this mess. But, he’s pretty sure you’re fucked.”
2. “When we met, I was but a learner. Now I am the master.”
3. “Men with siphon hoses and floating oil drums can only add up to one thing… The Germans are short on fuel, they have to forage for it.”
4. “I will not have my freedom taken away again. Especially not by someone who attacks downwind and stinks of garbage.”
5. “Everytime I kiss you, I’m going to be tasting 36 other guys dicks!”

**Oscar Trivia**

1. How many Oscar nominations has John Williams received?
2. How many Oscars has John Williams won?
3. What Steven Spielberg movie got 11 nominations but didn’t win any?
4. Who was the oldest woman to win an oscar?
5. What was the last movie to win Best Picture without being nominated for best Director?

**World War II**

1. What beach did Canadians land at on D-Day?
2. List the countries (France, Austria, Czecheslovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway) in the order that they were conquered or annexed by Germany in the years before WWII.
3. What US Carrier was lost in the battle of Coral Sea?
4. Name two of the cities targeted in operation Thunderclap.
5. What ship did the battleship Bismarck sink?

Andrew “Future stats major” Drummond
Daryl “Teddybear” McEachern

**mastHEAD**

**Fish, lots and lots of fish**

Well, a record number of people at last Monday’s Production Night; not even the editors were able to make it out. One of us had a midterm, one had impending projects/midterms and one was sleep deprived after a trip out to the west coast. But that was okay since of the regular staff, one was proctoring a midterm and the other was writing one. (Geez, you’d think it was the middle of term or something.) Insert another plug here for you coming to help us put issues together: you get pizza, you get prestige, you get invited to our end of term party, blah, blah, blah… I don’t know, maybe we should try threats. Help out or next mathNEWS we won’t mention fish in the subheader!

But putting that aside, is everyone enjoying the snow? Everyone planning on skiing during our two day break? In case you hadn’t noticed it’s later than ever this year, both because Reading Week is Week 8 and because our days off are Thursday and Friday instead of Monday and Tuesday. That’s probably why you’re feeling a bit psychotic about now. Unless you really are a psychotic, in which case you have problems that you’ll need to work out on your own time. Right, well, that’s about all I have to say about that.

Now here is the list of the person who helped out with the issue and answered the mastHEAD question “Who is Mike’s Psychotic Mysterious Admirer?”: Mike Thorsley (Some 138 student who wants a better mark on her midterm). No thanks to any food place since no one was really around long enough to eat, but thanks to Marion and everyone at Graphic Services, as always.

Greg Taylor (His own twin brother)  
Richard Bilson (The “Where’s the Beef” lady)  
Chadwick Severn (Trilogy Recruiter Tracy Smith)
Although that last grid nearly had as many black squares as white, we still got 17 submissions. Compared to last issue, it’s still a positive integer, which I’m happy with.

Correct submissions were received by: Fizz Fool & Effervescent Boy & Little Bubbly, Gavin Duggan, St. Paul’s Shadow Council, Kyle & Trevor, Tariq Muinuddin, The Creature from the bottom of Columbia Lake, Glen J. Galang, Fozz, Marshall & Yolanda, Carrie Bentley, Kyla, and Anthochribarb.

The winner, due to a scraped hand, is Kyla. You can pick up your prize in MathSoc.

Be sure to get your submissions for this issue’s grid into the BLACK BOX by Monday, February 28, 2000 at 6pm. Plus if you feel like answering a question, tell us what you think would make your Reading Moment more exciting.

The Unfortunate GridMaster

**Grid Clues**

**Across**

1. Not max
4. Girl’s name
9. Greenspace
13. Much — About Nothing
14. Painkiller brand
15. State
16. Where all the x’s align
17. Insulting event
18. Type of Casa
19. Will not win Best Picture for 1999
22. Group of two
23. French ‘the’
24. Jodie Foster’s group in Contact
27. Ontario Risk Evaluation System Board (Abbr.)
32. Type of processor
35. Technical name of Toronto’s biggest streetcar
36. Type of racing
38. Oxford University (Abbr.)
39. Will not win Best Picture for 1999
43. Finishing move in boxing
44. Rise
45. Guy with ark
46. N’——
48. Tossed
49. Nimble
50. Idea sound
52. Coding interface for Applications
54. Will not win Best Picture for 1999
64. Story
65. Relationship between two values
66. Get money
67. Emperor
68. Guy with belt
69. Baseball statistic
70. Baseball statistic
71. Bugs
72. Abbreviated title for a Senator

**Down**

1. Lost grocery store: —— & Co.
2. Star Trek pin
3. Steep decline
4. Profession of Charles Schultz
5. Additive to lotion
6. Not much fat
7. Las Vegas Sporting News (Abbr.)
8. Abominable Snowman
9. One who plays Tug-o-war
10. Tiny thing
11. Local casino
12. Star Trek foe
16. Chest muscle
20. 13th letter of Greek alphabet
21. Character on Home Improvement
24. Bags
25. George Jetson’s son
26. Kind of hardware store
28. Kind of dressing
29. Acidic stuff
30. One part of a play
31. We all jump onto these
33. What bats and dolphins use
34. Kind of job or seat
37. RoundTable (Abbr.)
40. Other French ‘the’
41. Informants
42. Kind of programming
47. Adventures
51. Him
53. Dad
54. Irritating sensation
55. Bad dude
56. Thin chair piece
57. Farm yield
58. Weed
59. Guy’s name
60. Really funny guy
61. Another guy’s name
62. And another girl’s name
63. Tonga’s Internet prefix