

MATHIM

FOR GEEKS

MARCH 3, 2000
VOLUME 82, ISSUE 4

CS UNLIMITED!

Make any corporation seduce you!

SNUGGLES

Will he ever shut up?

The answer will surprise you

THE BIG PINK SCULPTURE

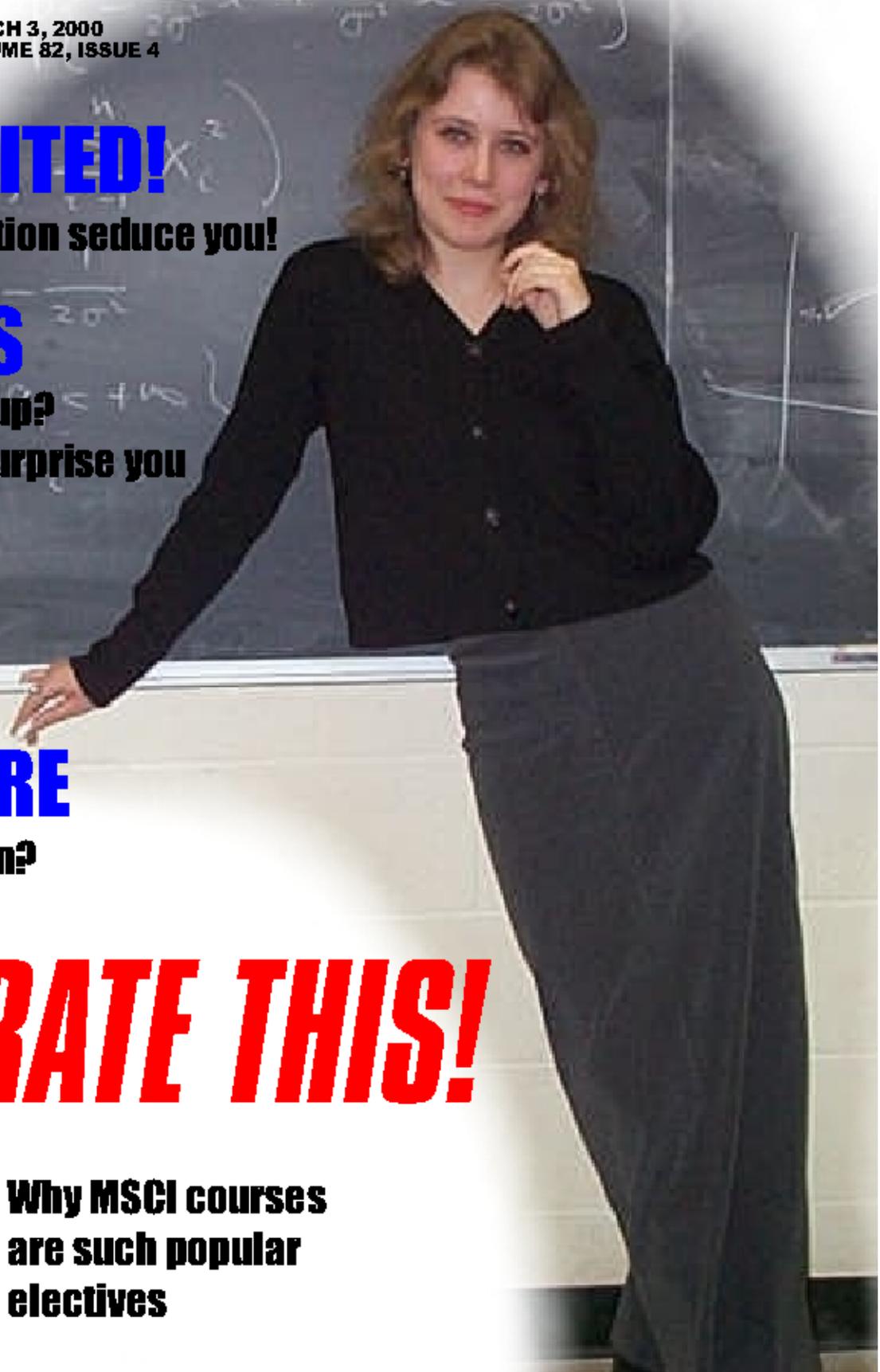
Does it turn you on?

INTEGRATE THIS!

www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca



**Why MSCI courses
are such popular
electives**





Her brother is an iMac

ASK COMPUTER

Treat your machine right

Our staff computer tells you the essential moves to make on your home version

If you've got all the right things in all the right places, your computer can be the best friend you've never had. If you're lacking a power supply, you can just call it quits right now.

Satisfying your computer's urges are incredibly important in this information era. A mistreated machine can withhold its services, spew out whiny error after error, or just give you the silent treatment.

But a few simple purchases can make all the difference in the world.

Let's start with dust. Keeping me dust-free will be beneficial for both of us. I keep the electrons flowing, and you sneeze less. A can of compressed air should do the trick. Blow into all my cracks and crevices, and send that dust flying!

Computers hate other dust-prevention measures, like keyboard covers. They just ruin the mood and result in a loss

of sensation for the typer.

Protection is a big issue in

this day of viruses. If you're downloading from multiple sites, you'd better make sure your computer has plenty of protection before each download session. A simple virus-checker should do the trick, although most computers that I know prefer it if you stay monogamous and do your downloading from one site.

Many users spray around all sorts of static electricity when going at it installing new hardware. When your computer is laid bare in front of you, be considerate and attach a grounding bracelet to your body. I can't tell you the number of computers I know that have had to abort a graphics card or two because some techie thought he could just whip it into the computer without wearing a protective bracelet. We prefer a slow, carefully managed installation process.

And finally, when you're looking for more storage space on your computer, it goes without saying that we like our disks hard instead of floppy.

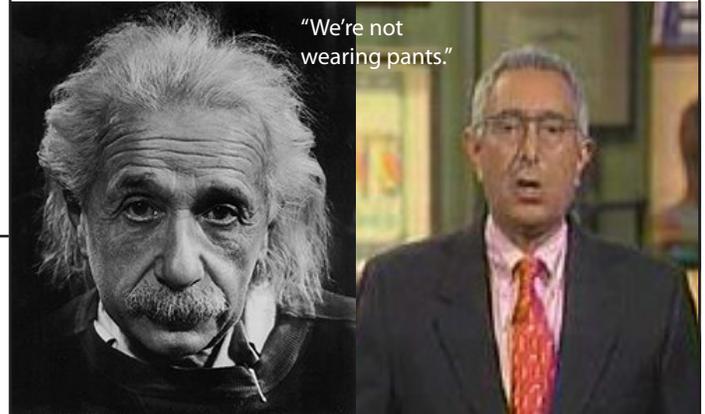
So the next time you're feeling like your computer wished it was with a different user, stop by the store and pick up a few of these essential items. Your computer will thank you, in more ways than one.



HEAD-TO-HEAD

Einstein vs. Ben Stein

One was a legendary pioneer of physics, the other is a legendary pioneer of cheezy game shows. But which one has the right answers?



GENEROSITY

Gave immense knowledge to future generations

Gives total strangers up to \$5000 a pop

Edge: Ben Stein

LOVE ON THE SCREEN

Set up niece Meg Ryan on a date with mechanic Tim Robbins

Turn Ben Stein On

Edge: Draw

DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL

Laid the foundation for the creation of the A-bomb

Acted in *North* and *House Arrest*, both of which bombed

Edge: Einstein

LONGEVITY

Time's Person of the Century

2:30 – 3 pm Monday to Friday, on the Comedy Network

Edge: Einstein

REASON WE NEED HIM

Provided key insights into the workings of universe

Makes us all feel a little smarter

Edge: Ben Stein

LEGACY

Father of Relativity

Didn't marry one of his relatives

Edge: Ben Stein

FAMOUS QUOTE

"God does not play dice with the universe."

"Anyone know what this is? Class? Anyone? Anyone? Anyone seen this before?"

Edge: Einstein

AND THE WINNER IS

Draw

Albert E. may be Person of the Century, but we can use the cash, too.



Do you recognize this man?

LIAR, LIAR #82i

Rag Time

Nothing turns a woman on like a guy with a cool job. And since you failed (yet again) to get employed through co-op, it's time to lie. This month you are: a mathNEWS co-editor.

Your Job

As the guy at the top of the *mathNEWS* hierarchy, you have the final say as to what goes into the fortnightly publication known as "the best rag on campus". Of course, this also means that you're the person who has to go to court when someone gets upset about something that made the cut, and sues. Plus your office is both small and hard to find, you're not being paid and your staff gets smaller every term. But on the other hand, there are some perks to the job — you get a free year of subscriptions for each term you edit.

Your Training

After a couple years of coming out to *mathNEWS* production nights for the free pizza, seeking to use it in the extra-curricular section of your resume, you were told that all the current editors are graduating and so you have to take over now. A crash course

in HTML markup, LaTeX and PageMaker followed, during which valuable skills were learned such as: the ability to type 'preview', how to drag and drop text articles, and what to do in the likely event of there being no cover art. Then after one more quick session showing how to mail out copies to the National Library of Canada, you were ready

ALL-PURPOSE ANECDOTE

So I'm the only editor left, putting together a parody issue that has been in the works for two months now. The original 32 page layout has been cut back to 4, with enlarged pictures to fill the extra space. I'm just wrapping things up when three guys run in, all with late articles that they need to have included. Fighting down the urge to hurl them off the balcony, I try to be accommodating by searching for enough filler to warrant

to go!

Your Gear

All you really have is a key to the BLACK BOX. Though should you be short of memory, you may keep your *mathNEWS* Crib Sheet handy, with all the important commands listed; it includes a shortlist for vi, the only logical text editor. A copy of Windows is useful only for deciphering any MS documents that people incomprehensibly attempt to submit to you. In fact the only really interesting thing you get to use is a digital camera, for adding an image or two to keep the public amused... but *mathNEWS* doesn't have one, so a friend with a digital camera has to suffice. The most important items are really the X-acto knife blades, which you get to fool around with on days when the entire undergrad system goes down.



Your Lingo

Idots: Those funny ellipses things (...) you see in articles.

Skip: A name used in reference to fictional MathSoc exec, or in reference to what happens with your classes as you put the issue together.

Imp'tint: One way of referring to that other campus publication.

Latrell: The man.

Conversation in the Comfy

If she asks: "So is it true about the number of letters you get from Iran?"

You answer: "Yes, in fact we keep all their correspondence in our desk. Feel free to come by the office and have a look through our drawers."

If she asks: "How come the *prof*QUOTES last issue were so lame?"

You answer: "Because currently our staff doesn't have anyone who edits out the ones that suck... what we need is a person who is an authority on sucking."

If she asks: "What's your rejection policy?"

You answer: "You don't really want to know; though this issue could be somewhat of an indication."

having an additional two pages. This job is made easier when I find that in my sleep deprived state I never laid out two articles in the first place — one of them being my own editorial. But everything gets finished and is sent off to be printed just under the wire. It's not until the next day that I discover the images needed to be in halftone format, not greyscale.



They won't teach you
this in high school!

HOW TO

Prove Anything Mathematically

You won't need Venn diagrams to justify this logic

Having some trouble getting through that last question on your homework assignment? Not sure what those symbols after the integral sign are even supposed to represent? Worry no longer, for here's a few methods you can use to fill in that elusive "and then a miracle happens" step. We offer no guarantee that they will get you any marks, but they should at least break the monotony of 'standard' answers handed in by the others in your class, and could catch the TA off guard at a moment where they're in need of some cheering up.

• **Proof by Contradiction:** Useful in proving something whereby you are aware at least

one false instance of a problem. For example, you want to prove that $x = 5$. But the only thing you've been able to conclude so far is that x is an odd number. No problem! Simply assume that x is equal to all numbers except for five. Now consider the case $x = 4$ and realize that it is invalid, since you know x is odd. Therefore your assumption was false, and by contradiction, it follows that $x = 5$.

• **Proof by Induction:** This can be used for a proof involving any sort of pattern. For example, you want to prove that epsilon always represents a very small number, given that you've seen it used as such in $k+1$ consecutive cases. Pick as a base case the first instance of said occurrence. Now assume that

it will hold for k cases, and prove it will hold for $k+1$ cases. But you already know it holds for $k+1$ cases! Thus you are done. (Side note: This is an especially effective method to use when your problem involves magnetic fields.)

• **Proof by Citation:** Good in situations where something is inherently obvious to you, to the extent that it would be an insult to dictate an entire proof. (Besides, in all likelihood, someone else famous has already done it.) As an example, should you need to prove that no cats have four legs, just state "In the third volume of lost works by Archimedes, he claims that felines are imaginary". You can draw the obvious conclusion from this.

• **Proof by Obfuscation:** Useful for a proof whereby you are completely lost about what you are doing. For example, here follows a proof that everything we say is correct. To look at why, the integral of y as mapped to a cubic polynomial will have polynomial runtime. This means the question of y is not esoteric, and modulo a suitable prime with Modus Ponens, we will have an automorphism of y with u . Since u has now been brought into question, we observe that if u were me then a musical interpretation on the mediant leads to a basic feasible solution (by normalization of notable scalar functions). Finally, knowing me, knowing u , and realizing that at least one us must be correct, we observe the ABBA bijection whereby we take a chance on me — a chance that we gauss to have probability of 1 owing to the previously questionable u . Hence me is correct, and we now confidently dare anyone else to find mathematical fault with our reasoning.

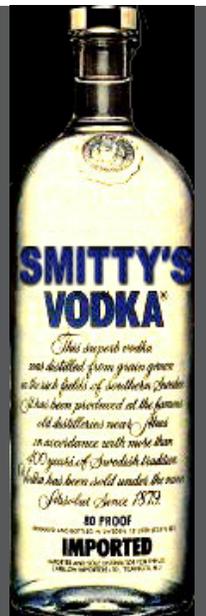
Get More

of what

You Really Want

Smitty's

Vodka for Men



INSERT CAPTION HERE



Do you have what it takes to be a staff member for *mathNEWS*?

Have you ever wondered about, “How to kiss her where it counts...” or, “The Joy of Home Improvement,” or, “Her Secret Sex Fantasy?” Well, you’re reading the wrong magazine, dumbass.

But while we have the testosterone flowing, let’s talk for a moment about one thing near and dear to the hearts of most guys: pornography. A big thank you to Professor Jeffery Shallit for his hard-fought battle to preserve for members of the university community the right to read a number of usenet newsgroups that have been banned by the administration for the past few years. So the next time

you open up `alt.sex.bestiality`, hum a few bars of “Oh! Canada” and reflect on what a great country this is that allows people to make asses of themselves in whatever way they see fit.

Our captions

We asked our staff to come up with a caption for this picture, showing Mike at his best. They did, but we think you can do better. Drop us a line and give us your ideas. We’ll give a C&D gift certificate to the entry we like best; the rest we’ll mock in private.

Here in fact is our demented staff, with their caption for pie guy: Michael Thorsley (It’s only ice cream) and Kyla Hawrelluk (Liar Liar: How to be a Clown).

Thanks to cover girl Glasha and to Marion and all of our friends at Graphic Services.

Richard Bilson (“Very thoughtful, but really I prefer apple”)

Greg Taylor (One of the Three Stooges attempts to figure out the face value of pi)

Chadwick Severn (“This is going to end up in *mathNEWS*, isn’t it.”)

Prez Sez

Hi everyone,

Here is the update for all of you interested in what happened at faculty student liason. The ability to put more than 2 designations on a degree is on hold until the fall. Finding rooms to book for studying is being worked on so that some rooms may be reserved for group work. The idea for a mass e-mail list is still being worked on.

Next week there is a lot going on in Math. This is your chance to get involved. We need volunteers for CampusDay, March 14th. These people will help with tours, give students information, make cotton candy, or help out in other ways. Please sign up outside MUO if you are interested.

March 14th is also pi day. At 1:59 pm we will be giving out slices of pie. This event is sponsored by MathSoc and Nortel.

Everything else has been kind of quiet due to midterms and reading days so I really don't have anything else to add. Until next time,

Jennifer Cote

MathSoc President — W00 & F00

Frosh Week 2000

For those of you who have been waiting in anticipation to hear the results of your interview, they are in! Yesterday we met and finalized the released list. You should get an e-mail today (Friday) or soon, as I have a deadline of today for a project I'm working on at work. The e-mail will contain much more than a list of who's who, so make sure to read it all. It will also contain many updates on what's going on with planning for Frosh Week. I also have some questions for you, for your feedback. I will briefly touch on a few things here for those of you that can't wait.

We are still looking for more leaders and icebreakers. If you or friends are interested in being involved but haven't got around to it yet then e-mail me about it: orientation@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca If you will not be around next term then I will try to fit in an interview this term sometime. However, for those who will be here next term, I will be doing more interviews and info sessions during May. There are some first aid training sessions in March; see the e-mail for details. Remember to get PACO trained by July 31st or earlier! www.orientationleaders.uwaterloo.ca

If you don't receive the e-mail by Monday, please e-mail me because you may have been accidentally not included in the mailing list.

Nadia V. Ursacki

Math Orientation Director 2000

Special Edition *mathNEWS*

Remember what it was like back in High School? (If not then you may have been here too long.) Well, Campus Day is this March 14th, and we're looking into producing a mini-*mathNEWS* publication for the event. So if you've been holding back on your writing abilities for lack of a subject, now's your chance! Talk about what you enjoy here, how long it's taken to adapt to University life, etc, etc. Submissions for this edition will need to get to us by Wednesday, March 8th. But we can't publish anything without articles!

The Editors

MGC

The Pink Tie Pledge is currently underway! To pledge, grab a pink card from the MGC bulletin board or wait for our Pink Tie Drive (3rd floor, MC). Also, on March 24th, the Wine & Cheese will take place at the University Club. For more details on these and other breaking MGC news, check out www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc or the newsgroup uw.math.mgc. Or drop by the MGC office!

Rebecca Liu

Communications Director

Y'2000 Math Grad Committee (MC 3029)

A Few Words From Your Resources Director

A lot of you have been visiting the Online Exam Bank, which I'm unreasonably happy to see. (Over 1,000 hits in the last 2 weeks!) If you haven't checked out the page recently, we've just gotten a lot more exams, thanks to the Pure Math department and to Kim Gingerich in particular.

We now have hundreds of electronic copies of exams in 82 courses, but we're still lacking, particularly in Stats & ActSci. If you have any exams, electronic or hardcopy, please donate them to us. Hardcopies can be dropped off in the MathSoc office (if you want to keep your exam, we'll make a copy) and electronic donations can be submitted to me at resources@mathsoc.

Steve Forrest

Resources Director

*look*AHEAD

mathNEWS

March 3	Issue #4 maxim-izes enjoyment
March 13	Issue #5 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 17	Issue #5 is your pot o' gold

Math Faculty

March 6-10	Fall Term Pre-Registration
March 14	Campus Day

MathSoc

March 10	Honorary Lifetime Membership Nomination forms due
March 14	π Day

MGC

March 1	Intent to Graduate forms due (Spring) Sorry, try again next year
March 10	Grad Ball at Waterloo Inn Deadlines for some Pink Tie Pledges
March 24	Wine & Cheese at University Club Deadline for different Pink Tie Pledge

Miscellaneous

March 4	A good day for puns
March 7	The nones of March
March 15	The ides. Beware! Beware the ides!
March 17	Faith n' begorah, 'tis the day o' St. Pat

Pink Tie Pledge

Early on, we thought we're almost done? Between now and when we run from our last exam to the bar, there are a few important dates:

- March 1st Intent to Graduate forms due for Summer Convocation. Yes, I know it's passed but if you missed it, hand it in ASAP!
- March 10th GradBall at the Waterloo Inn
Deadline for the Pink Tie Pledge's Dean's Challenge; Deadline for Getting Dirty for the Tie Challenge
- March 24th Wine & Cheese at the University Club
Deadline for the Pink Tie Pledge's Ralph Stanton Pledge

What is the Dean's Challenge? The Dean's Challenge is when you donate \$100 in 2001, \$900 in 2002, and \$1000 in 2003 in exchange for your personally designated prime number and a dinner with the Dean on March 16th.

What is the Getting Dirty for the Tie Challenge? Well, your fabulous MGC co-chairs have agreed to challenge the class to donate \$20,000 by March 10th by agreeing to a tug-a-pink tie

rope contest over a mud pit. What does this mean for you? It means that if the sum of pledges before March 10th exceeds \$20,000, anyone who donated becomes one team vs. the MGC Co-Chairs team for the contest. But don't worry, Greg and I can take you all down!

What is the Ralph Stanton Pledge? The Ralph Stanton Pledge is when you donate \$151 in 2001, 2002, and 2003 in exchange for a prime number and a reception on March 31st.

Remember it's not the size of your donation that counts, it's how you use it, and you can apply your donation to any of MEF, Descartes Scholarships, or the Math Tutorial Center. Pink Tie pledge cards are available outside the MGC office and can be handed in to any MGC office worker or to the MGC mailbox in the MathSoc office.

Let's put some pink on the tie people!

Esther Small
Co-Chair of the Math Grad Committee

The C.B.C. Hits Home

If anyone has gone out to buy pop lately, they have probably noticed a substantial jump in the cost of about \$2.50 for a case of 24 cans. (That's about 10 cents per can if you're in Arts.) Ask anyone who sells the stuff, and they'll probably reply "I don't know what's up with that," or something very similar. What they, and in fact a large majority of the governments of the western nations are trying to hide from you, is the on-going Middle East Carbonated Beverage Crisis.

For those of you who are not up on the political end of things, this crisis stemmed directly from the Oil Crisis of 1973 in which the Middle East countries cut off exports of crude oil to the western nations. After some careful diplomatic negotiations, the embargo was talked down to a permanent ban on the export of carbonated water from the Middle East. Both sides felt that this was a fair agreement when the Middle East countries realized that the US could never possibly reproduce the process of carbonating water. The representatives of the United States, in the tradition of not thinking about anything past the next Superbowl, foolishly accepted the proposal.

"If we can put a man on the moon, we can put carbon in water." — Unknown

Preliminary experiments showed that we were indeed technically advanced enough to put carbon in water. (Thanks Unknown.) Unfortunately, early attempts to produce carbonated water failed miserably as the recipe turned out to be more complicated than just dropping a chunk of coal in a glass of water. Fortunately, this was not a short-term concern. Soft drink distributors had been able to stockpile a 30 year supply (based on an exponential growth equation) of carbonated water because of their failed advertising campaign in the attempt to put six cans of pop in the hands of every American.

As the years passed, the greatest minds of the west continued

their attempts to produce carbonated water with no luck. Other techniques attempted were as follows: a) Drop a chunk coal in a glass of water and then dump out the water; b) Drop a chunk of coal in a glass of water and leave it on top of the TV. Even dropping a chunk of coal in a glass of water and leaving it in the CSC failed. After 15 years of failure it was concluded that putting a chunk of coal in water was not the answer. By this time, the western nations saw the rising tensions in the Middle East as an opportunity to steal the secret for carbonated water and started the Gulf War. This ended quickly when it was discovered that the secret was not to be found in Iraq, and it was too late to come to some sort of "compromise."

In early 1999, the soft drink distributors proved by induction that they could not possibly discover the secret to carbonating water. However, the proof was also something they couldn't get right as someone had forgotten the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Using this newly found knowledge, a process for carbonating water was developed and new facilities were developed to take on this massive task. The cost was overwhelming and to compensate, the prices of carbonated beverages were increased in the hopes that no one would notice the change.

This gamble didn't pay off and many people started to ask about the high prices of pop. To cover up the crisis and 25 years of failure, the governments of the west decided to start the "I Don't Know" campaign hoping to cover their failure and force the general population to accept the new, higher prices of pop. DON'T LET THEM DO THIS! Let your voice be heard, and let the truth be known. So now, if anybody asks you why the prices of pop are ridiculously high, you can tell them the whole story.

Bryan "Oracle" Couth

Dear Sparkle

Dear Sparkle,

I started this letter maybe twelve times, most of them in my head and then twice on paper. I thought that for sure there were things to be said, stories to be told but when it came time for ink to paper all the words evaporated.

I tried to ask about the world being grey yesterday and the forest being blue as I walked home one night and there was just nothing.

I don't want this to become a normal thing. I live in a world that is constructed of words. It is bounded and enclosed by letters and symbols. And I don't know how to do things any other way than that.

And I know I've asked about things like this before but it's important... What do I do when the world inside is grey and instead of being comfortable it's just not right?

Ink and paper are really a dangerous topic, love. Together they form this unending demand for reality.

I bought a new blank, lined book the other day, just for notes and letters and stories. In the store, I flipped through the pages and marvelled at the perfect even-ness of the hundreds of pages. Perfect, but empty.

It wasn't until I got home that I realized just what a horrible sponge paper really is. A hundred sheets of regular bond paper can soak up enough ink to fill a hundred novels, but leave you with this crumbling blue pulpy mess.

Love, not finding the words for things, or the words for anything isn't anything new to either you, or anyone else. The enormity of the grey inside and the grey that fills a late winter sky aren't the sort of thing that paper will soak up, really. Paper is good at swallowing small things: a sentence, a word, a bit of dialogue, a stray thought about water, rain, or about birth.

If you can ever find just the right words to describe walking through a forest in the winter at night, then I would love to know... I have tried at least twenty times myself, and I plan to try again. I know it won't happen, ever, but I love trying. Peace and discomfort are just like that, love.

Dear Sparkle,

All of the snow just seemed to melt the other day, and the world is all misty and soft now. The earth slides away from my shoes, and the air is ten pounds heavier, at least.

When I drive out into the country now, I disappear in these giant clouds which I can hear moving around my car, and feel in my nostrils. It is like living in a cloudy sea all the time, and it makes me feel like living in all three dimensions for a while. You know? Like maybe I could just float a little for a while, and that a light cold mist would form on my naked body as it hovered in the fog, little droplets impaled by the fine hairs on my arms.

Is gravity just an excuse? Or is this really a planet where three dimensions requires concrete and cables?

It sometimes seems as if gravity is a conspiracy of physicists. As if they want it made clear that floating is something that is just not done by reasonable human beings. It makes me wonder why anyone would choose to be a reasonable person, in that case.

I think that we don't put enough stock in those things that allow us to float. As if it makes things more correct to think of clouds as water vapour rather than white islands floating

in blue.

There is, however, something comfortingly anonymous about concrete and cables. Concrete is just so solid, grey and cool. Touching it you just know that this is something that was meant to hold things up, be it pedestrians or skyscrapers.

Dear Sparkle,

The next morning, rather, the next afternoon when I gathered up my clothing to do laundry I found five plastic arrows wrapped in a napkin in the cargo pocket. I had absolutely no memory of putting them in my pocket though I knew I must have.

Pockets are the strangest things sometimes. I frequently feel that the things that need to be carried away with me are not things that will stand up to the scrutiny of the outside world. What is it about plastic bar arrows that make them a necessary thing?

It just feels like there are so many tiny perfect things in the world and to have to justify why they are perfect is not something I want to do. And yet, it seems like that is something the world requires of you. To have a reason for everything you have on your person, in your pockets. And that it is not enough to say "They were happy and plastic."

What would be the point of going outside if you never got to find pieces of your adventures in your pockets later?

Love, there wouldn't be a point at all. The thing is, pockets don't just hold things, they hide them too... they store them, but away from the scrutiny of the world.

For me, one of the joys of going out is coming home and emptying all of my pockets onto the dresser before crawling into bed. If you are the type of person that scribbles things on napkins, or steals small things along your way, emptying pockets is like retracing some of your steps. The top of your dresser becomes all the little happy things that you found along the way. My day may have been mostly unproductive, but my pockets can still be full.

But, I rarely ever empty pockets in front of anyone, because what I thought was necessary isn't something I am willing to defend. A lot of the time, I can't. I just smile, and stick them in a drawer, or in a bowl. Your pockets, love, are for you, plastic arrows and forgotten plundering.

Queen Sparkle is a syndicated colonist.

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Manly men in tight tights: Greg Taylor, Richard Bilson, Chadwick Severn

profQUOTES

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

Chipman, STAT 230

“Oops, almost killed another one of them!”

Chipman, STAT 230

“I’m going to jump up on the desk and start kicking people out in a minute.”

Chipman, STAT 230

“Do I have to come up there? I can... it’s not that far...”

Chipman, STAT 230

“Oh, I’m sorry. How long has this been hanging out?”

Chipman, STAT 230

“This looks like a job for... HYPERGEOMETRIC IDENTITY!
Doo doo doo!”

Chipman, STAT 230

“The excitement is palpable...”

Chipman, STAT 230

“Ok. Who’s in favour of me writing a ‘...’ and then giving you the answer?” *[most hands go up]* “Anyone against?” *[one hand goes up]* “You disgust me. Out!”

Chipman, STAT 230

“Yes, we are flogging a dead horse here...”

Schellenberg, MATH 239

“This is kinda magical...”

Schellenberg, MATH 239

“I go through these computations every time I shop.”

Irving, MATH 239

“I don’t know if I should say this, but I’ll go for it and see if I get fired.”

Irving, MATH 239

“Would you like it doggy style?”

Irving, MATH 239

“If you can solve that, you’re ready for, I don’t know, heaven or something.”

Irving, MATH 239

“If you think we’re going to use any of these algorithms to write concurrent programs, you’re crazy.”

Buhr CS 342

“Moments after your birth, you were playing around with matrices.”

Jackson, MATH 235

[Looking at overhead projector] “This has a red light on it. Is it going to blow up?”

Jackson, MATH 235

[Doing some nasty algebra] “Right... courage!” *[finishes]* “Looks foul, doesn’t it?”

Jackson, MATH 235

“Don’t write things you know are not true. It corrodes your mathematical soul.”

Jackson, MATH 235

“Our textbook: you can’t use it in the bathroom, and you can’t use it for firewood.”

Jackson, MATH 235

“You’re enjoying this proof? Well, that is quite notable and gratifying.”

Jackson, MATH 235

“For some of you, mathematics is like eating barbed-wire fences.”

Jackson, MATH 235

“Now I’m going to verify infinitely many of these and leave the rest for you.”

Godsil, MATH 146

“I’ll make up an example. It’s bound to be a disaster.”

Cox, CS 442

“...and if I’ve got the math wrong, oh well.”

Cox, CS 442

“Then you hit control-c and go ‘Damn, this is a pain in the ass.’”

Cox, CS 442

“If you follow the newsgroup, you’ll discover that I lied.”

Cox, CS 442

“For some courses, students actually have to take lecture notes.”

Zima, CS 450

“My home computer is fine because it was assembled in Russia.”

Zima, CS 450

“I know what GCD is; otherwise I wouldn’t be teaching CS 487.”

Zima, CS 450

“If you pull on the cord, the duck will follow.”

Nusca, PSYCH 212

“Why is it not correct? Because it is not correct.”

Zima, CS 450

[After walking into the half-empty classroom] “It’s getting better... Less people, more oxygen.”

Zima, CS 450

“I don’t want a simple answer, like ‘Our problem is in [our] DNA.’”

Zima, CS 487

Pub Night!!

The 2nd Annual Comfies

The Nominees Are In

It's that time of year again, the time when all the movie awards are given out. We had the Golden Globes in late January, followed closely by the Genies. Soon to come: the Screen Actors Guild awards are on the 12th, and of course the Academy Awards, better known as the Oscars, are on the 26th. Well, we here at *mathNEWS* are always happy to jump on a bandwagon... er, I mean, carry on a fine tradition, so we're happy to announce the nominees for the 2nd Annual Comfy Awards!

Last year's ceremony was held underneath the majestic Burrard Street Bridge in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. Turnout was as dramatic as it usually is for *mathNEWS* events, meaning that we got a total of two people attending...including both presenters. So due to popular demand, we continue to hand out bronzed pink ties to those in Hollywood we feel deserve them most. This year's ceremony was going to be held on the frozen surface of the Rideau Canal, upon which we build our lavish sets. Then it melted. Now our new location (since those sets were expensive) is *in* the Rideau Canal, just a stone's throw away from Parliament Hill, should you want to come to Parliament Hill and throw stones at our ceremony.

The categories and nominees for the 1999 Comfy Awards are:

Best Movie About A Relative

- *Big Daddy*
- *An Ideal Husband*
- *The General's Daughter*
- *The Other Sister*
- *The Mummy*

Movie With The Highest Ordinal

- *At First Sight*
- *Doug's 1st Movie*
- *The Sixth Sense*
- *The Thirteenth Floor*
- *The 13th Warrior*

Best Example That A TV Actor Or Actress Should Stay On TV

- Kirstie Alley (*Drop Dead Gorgeous*)
- Ellen DeGeneres (*EdTV*, *Goodbye Lover*, and *The Love Letter*)
- Calista Flockhart (*William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream*)
- Sarah Michelle Gellar (*Simply Irresistible*, *Cruel Intentions*)
- Martin Lawrence (*Blue Streak*, *Life*)

Film Most Likely To Be Mistaken For A Porno Due To Its Title

- *Dick*
- *The Iron Giant*
- *Idle Hands*
- *Play It To The Bone*
- *The Talented Mr. Ripley*

Best Mega-Money Horror Flick Mowed Down By The Zero-Budget *Blair Witch Project*

- *Bats*
- *The Haunting*
- *House on Haunted Hill*
- *Idle Hands*
- *The Rage: Carrie 2*

TV Show That Most Should *Not* Have Been Made Into A Movie

- *Doug's 1st Movie*
- *Inspector Gadget*
- *The Mod Squad*
- *My Favorite Martian*
- *Pokémon: The First Movie*

Best Movie Combination We'd Like To See

- *Bicentennial Man on the Moon*
- *The Buena Vista Social Fight Club*
- *The End of the Thomas Crown Affair*
- *Play It to the Bone Collector*
- *Snow Falling on the Cedar House Rules*

Film With The Strangest Spelling, Capitalization, or Punctuation

- *EdTV*
- *8MM*
- *eXistenZ*
- *Fantasia/2000*
- *Star Wars: Episode 1: The Phantom Menace*

Actor Or Actress That Most Makes You Wish There Was No Such Thing As A *Saturday Night Live* Alumnus

- Janeane Garofolo (*Mystery Men*)
- Adam Sandler (*Big Daddy*)
- Molly Shannon (*Superstar*)
- Rob Schneider (*Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*)
- David Spade (*Lost & Found*)

Best Example That Disney Still Makes The Best Animated Features

- *The Iron Giant*
- *The King and I*
- *Pokémon: The First Movie*
- *South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut*

Best Example That Non-Animated Disney Movies Suck

- *10 Things I Hate About You*
- *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*
- *Inspector Gadget*
- *Instinct*
- *The Other Sister*

Best Remake

- *Anna and the King* and *The King and I* (*The King and I*)
- *Entrapment* and *The Thomas Crown Affair* (*The Thomas Crown Affair*)
- *The Haunting* (*The Haunting*)
- *Jakob the Liar* (*Jakob der Lügner*)
- *Runaway Bride* (*Pretty Woman*)

Best Sentence Made Only Out Of Three Or More 1999 Movie Titles

- At first sight, the cider house rules Happy, Texas.
- Boys don't cry, "Entrapment!" for love of the game.
- The out-of-towners go outside Providence.
- She's all that random hearts trick.
- Three kings analyze this ravenous American beauty.

Best Example Of Hollywood Synchronicity

- Reality as we know it is just a computer simulation (*eXistenZ*, *The Matrix*, *The Thirteenth Floor*).
- Woman suffers through strange religious occurrences while

COMFIES from page 10

- pursued by Gabriel Byrne (*Stigmata, End of Days*).
- High school romantic comedy based on a classic play or novel (*10 Things I Hate About You, She's All That, Cruel Intentions*).
- Older man becomes entranced with teenaged girl (*American Beauty, Guinevere*).
- Exploration of the pressures placed on the athletes and coaches of a football team (*Any Given Sunday, Varsity Blues*).

Best Picture

(As Chosen By The Society For The Promotion Of Hearing Loss)

- *Lake Placid*
- *The Matrix*
- *Universal Soldier: The Return*
- *Wild Wild West*
- *The World Is Not Enough*

Mike "The Hammer House Rules" Hammond

Random Assignment Revelations

In diligently working on my CS 448 assignment, I felt it appropriate to call my project "ass". This has interesting consequences.

If I interrupt `cc(1)` with a `^C`, I get the message:

```
*** ass removed.
```

As I like to archive binaries for the purposes of debugging, this caused problems later with `'cat ass | gzip > oldass.gz'`:

```
cat: cannot open ass
```

However, if I'm patient and wait for `cc` to complete, the supplied Makefile then calls the command:

```
strip ass
```

And all is well.

Joe Clancy

Ten real reasons behind the recent DoS attacks on major web sites

[DoS, for those of you who don't know, stands for "Denial of Service" — RichEd]

10. More Y2K bugs.

9. A chain letter said it would improve love lives.
8. Microsoft claims Linux did it.
7. A chain letter promised to send free gifts for helping.
6. Linux claims Microsoft did it.
5. A chain letter promised to give free software upgrades.
4. There are no DoS attacks. (DoDoS)
3. A chain letter would donate 5 cents to some charity every time a site was pinged.
2. DOS sucks anyway. (Who says 640k RAM is all you need?)
1. Squirrels did it.

Anthony Dharmasurya

Restaurant Review

Morty's Pub

They must be mutant chickens. That is the only reasonable answer to the question, "Why are they so big?" The chicken wings at Morty's are more like chicken biceps. The enormous breaded chicken wings come smothered in a hot sauce that is so strong, your nose feels the heat upon arrival.

I recommend ordering hot wings, even if you don't normally enjoy spicy food. The English language does not fully allow me to express how much flavour is compacted into one Morty's chicken wing. They are simply the best chicken wings I have ever had. On Mondays and Thursdays, these wings can be had for a mere 37 cents each which is incredible value.

The atmosphere in Morty's Pub is definitely designed to suit male tastes and preferences. However, it doesn't feel sleazy, like Moe's Tavern. It seems like Mondays and Thursdays are student nights when cool chicks can be spotted around, partaking of fine dining. Morty's has a mellow "Cheers"-like atmosphere where the hardwood provides a pleasant background to the well-proportioned waitresses.

Speaking of waitresses, the service at Morty's is always with a smile even if you purposely order your wings in several small chunks. A practice I highly recommend to maximize the total flavour. The Morty's staff make you feel right at home.

Normally, in my reviews, I remark on the menu at a given location. Unfortunately, I have not adequately perused Morty's selection. The wings are just too good to pass up. I should point out that the menu does have 4 pages to it and I distinctly remember seeing some nachos and burgers go by. Whoever ordered those items were amateurs. The hot wings at Morty's are simply divine, and on Mondays and Thursdays, the wings, the service, the atmosphere and the price come together in an orgy of student dining perfection. Congratulations to Morty's Pub for this term's first seven asterix review.

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

Jonathan Ezer

Solution to last issue

	M	I	N		C	A	L	L	Y		P	A	R	K
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B	I	C	E	N	T	E	N	N	I	A	L	M	A	N
				D	U	O					L	E		
S	E	T	I		O	R	E	S	B		R	I	S	C
A	L	R	V		N	A	S	C	A	R			O	U
C	R	U	E	L	I	N	T	E	N	T	I	O	N	S
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				A	H					A	P	I		
I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R	G	A	D	G	E	T
T	A	L	E		R	A	T	I	O		E	A	R	N
C	Z	A	R		O	R	I	O	N		R	B	I	
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Tales from the Arts Side

I got a lot of feedback on last issue's journey through bitterness. It's nice to know that the whole faculty agrees with me. But there's one little bit of administrivia I need to take care of:

NOTE 1: The opinions of the writer, particularly as they pertain to CS 354, (Operating Systems) do not not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of her OS Group.

NOTE 2: This column is for entertainment purposes only.

With all of that out of the way, let's get on with the column. This week, (or rather last week — excuse the time-travel) is a rather interesting one, since if I was only in Arts, I wouldn't be here.

It's called Reading Week(end).

What's the difference between an Artsie holiday and a Mathie holiday? They get 3 more days, we get 3 more letters.

We prize efficiency so much in CS, that we condense a week-long vacation into a mere 2 days.

Frankly, when I think Reading Weekend, I think "Yes! More time to get work done without all those pesky classes getting in the way." And then I think about what my collegiate experience has become and I sob. (Actually, I just get real pissed off and kick things, but sob sounds better.)

Of course, 2 days after the Arts students come back from a refreshing vacation is the vindication.

It's called Ranking Day. The day when Arts students run around begging "Please God. I hope I get a job this term," and the CS students start to strut and holler "SHOW ME THE MONEY!"

Okay, so if this is your first co-op term, or your a PMATH major looking for PMATH jobs, maybe you sympathise with the Artsies at the moment, but if you're in your last co-op term of CS (like me), you're cruising.

Actually, if you're me, you're really indecisive, so the whole multiple-offer thing is pretty distressing.

Better yet, if you're in your last term of CS (like my roommates), you get to COMPLAIN about the fact that companies want to fly you all over North America for interviews, because darn it, all those trips take time.

Mind you, a lot of tech companies are under the impression that if they are going to shower you with money, you are going to brainwash yourself with the company.

I recently had an interview with a large software company whose crack team of lawyers inspire me not to mention their name. The thing that impressed me (or really, depressed me) the most was the number of times I had to tell them that a particular API I used last term had NOTHING to do with their proprietary version of the technology.

And I was really annoyed with the fact that the interviewer was clearly looking for a particular answer to his questions, and would keep asking and re-asking until I sputtered out the answer.

Another company I interviewed with did the same thing by asking "If you are in a group, where do you like to see yourself in relation to the other members?" There's really only one answer to that: the leader. I mean, if you just have a general group, there really aren't any other defined positions. At least, not any that don't sound demeaning. (It reminds me of that commercial: "When I grow up, I want to underappreciated, and I want to work my way up to middle management.")

Leading questions suck, unless you're writing a sales letter, in which case you only want to use questions that lead the

reader to the answer you want and nothing else. (A little bit of ENGL 210F for you.)

Of course, I was talking to an Arts student today, who told me about her friend who got a double honours major in Religious Studies and Philosophy, and now works as a Cosmetician at Shoppers Drug Mart. That's a career that'll pay off that \$40,000 student loan in no time.

For me, it's a tough choice. So I went with both, which makes me an overworked English student, who has the money to party constantly, but not the time. And it makes me an overworked CS student... which I would be even if I wasn't doing the Arts degree... and even if I dropped out now, I have enough work experience to land a decent job...

Ummm... Why am I STILL here?

Sonal Champsee

Who Wants Some?

As some of you may have been aware, a day after Valentine's Day, Fox Television showed the intriguing show, "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire". For those who don't know/care, the premise was that a secret multimillionaire was selecting from 50 women who wanted to marry him. Ignoring the fact that the whole thing was a spoof of any beauty pageant and ABC's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", I think Fox is on to something here. So here is a list of other shows that we could have:

1. Who wants to marry a CSC Member?
2. Who wants to marry Michael Jackson?
3. Who wants to stalk Madonna?
4. Who wants to beat up Regis Philbin?
5. Who wants to beat up anybody who says "Izzatcha final answer?"
6. Who wants to laugh at the Fox television prime time schedule?
7. Who wants to laugh at Fox Television programming execs?
8. Who can help us make Fox Television number 1?
9. Who the hell watches Fox anyway?
10. Who here thinks "Futurama" is funny?
11. Who knows why "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" is so damn popular?
12. Who wants to pass STAT 330?
13. Who wants to marry O.J.?
14. Who wants to write for *mathNEWS*?
15. Who gives a damn?
16. Who wants to be a presidential intern?
17. Who wants to take CS 370?
18. Who wants to be an extra on Dawson's Creek?
19. Who likes Kevin Costner films?
20. Who knows why Leonardo DiCaprio is so popular?
21. Who wants to live? (Contestants must only be friends/associates/acquaintances/people in the way — of NFL players.)
22. Who knows of any other British shows we can rip off? (Contestants are TV execs only.)

and so on...

Anton "...and I still believe that I cannot be saved..." Fedorenko

mathNEWSquiz #4

Wow... was last week ever close. Congratulations to Mission BananaRama, and the St. Paul's Shadow Council who both got 26 (of 30) and to Josh Chud who was incredibly close behind with 25. With my extraordinarily random method of selecting a winner, the St. Paul's Shadow Council is the winner again this week. (Andrew remembers to point out that one of the councilors can collect the group prize from the MathSoc office.) Also thanks to: Carrie Howells, Kyle S, Caitlin Martin (who got the questions the winners missed), Jamie Wheeler, Glen J Galang, Effervescent Boy and Little Bubbly, and Greg Morey for your great and sometimes amusing answers.

Last week's answers were: **Songs:** 1) Dave Matthews Band, "Crash into Me"; 2) Shania Twain, "Man, I feel like a woman"; 3) Venga Boys, "Boom Boom Boom Boom"; 4) Blink 182, "What's My age again?"; 5) Geri Halliwell, "Look at Me". **Movies:** 1) David O'Hara in Braveheart; 2) James Earl Jones in Star Wars; 3) Henry Fonda in Battle of the Bulge; 4) Morgan Freeman in Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves; 5) Brian O'Halloran in Clerks. **Oscars:** 1) 37 (38 as of last week); 2) 5; 3) The Color Purple; 4) Jessica Tandy; 5) Driving Miss Daisy. **WWII:** 1) Juno Beach; 2) Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway, France; 3) Lexington; 4) Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Chemnitz; 5) HMS Hood

Now for this week. Remember that Daryl takes credit/blame for the songs.

Song Quotes

(1 pt. for song, 1 for artist)

- Wouldn't it be great if no one ever got offended,
And wouldn't it be great to say what's really on your mind?
I've always said all the rules are made for bending,
And if I let my hair down, would that be such a crime?
- Maria came from Nashville with a suitcase in her hand
She said she's like to meet a boy who looks like Elvis
She walks along the edge of where the ocean meets the land
Just like she's walking on a wire in the circus
- Stop the looting, stop the shooting
Pick pocking on the corner
See as the rich is getting richer
The poor is getting poorer
- Well he's on the table.
And he's gone to code.
And I do not think anyone knows.
What they are doing here.
- One foot in the hole
One foot gettin' deeper
Crank it to eleven
And blow another speaker

Movie Quotes

(1 pt. for movie, 1 for actor)

- "You are in a position to demand nothing sir, where I am in a position to grant nothing."
- "I have more exhibits your honour, though I hesitate to bring them forward."
- "No fucking shit lady! Do I sound like I'm ordering a pizza?"
- "Let's be honest now, so that we don't spend the next ten years being nice to each other."

- "The Bradbury is more than just a hotel, it's a family. It's a place where you have an eccentric old bellhop, or a manager who makes thousands of dollars in long distance phone calls. That doesn't mean you want that person exposed or fired. Because that would be distressing to the family."

Canadian Government

- Who is the head of state in Canada?
- Where is the National Assembly?
- What three positions in Canada merit the title "Right Honourable"?
- At what age must a senator retire?
- What is the highest ranking civil service position in Canada?

Literature

- Why is there no joy in Mudville?
- Who did Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert adopt?
- Complete: "...And if I should die, think only this of me: There is some Corner of a foreign field, that is forever _____."
- "To you from failing hands we throw the torch be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep..." is an excerpt from which poem? (BONUS POINT if you can name the famous room in which this quote was displayed)
- "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war" is a quote from which play?

Andrew "future stats major" Drummond
Daryl "Taddybear" McEachern

MATH 136 Midterm

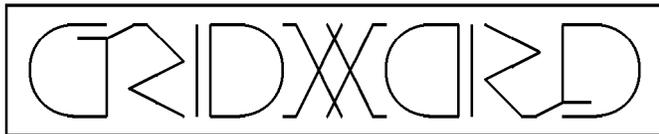
There are strange things done
In the evening sun
Performed with a pencil and pen
Tales of skew matrix germs
And of algebra midterms
Filled our heads from 7 'till 10

And yea how we'd pour
Over section 2.4
And think about row ranks and vectors
Our brains they would boil
For two hours we'd toil
For a chance to sip an "A"'s sweet nectar

And some they were late
Come in just after 8
Hoping that they were the norm
Some screamed and some cried
Saw a credit there died
Over row-reduced echelon form

Our eyes were aghast
Somehow the time passed
And I prayed for a favour or two
'Cause when you like to skip class
Tests are a pain in the ass
Kids, don't let this happen to you

Gabe "RjX" Kempe



1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
20						21					22				
					23										
		24	25	26					27			28	29	30	
31	32					33	34	35				36			
37									38	39	40				
41						42									
43			44	45	46				47						
			48			49	50	51							
	52	53									54	55	56	57	58
59						60					61				
62						63					64				
65						66					67				

gridCOMMENTS

Wow! We received 25 submissions for the last *gridWORD*! That tops even our first issue! Don't you people have anything better to do with your time? Anyway, correct submissions came from: Caitlin Martin, Captain Crackpipe, Jamie Wheeler, Glen J Galang, Effervescent Boy and Little Bubbly, Greg Morey, Brad Kimmel & Joshua Grosse, Sko, Ike Ike, Mission Bananarama!, Carrie Bentley, Taria Muinuddin, Ajan and Sapoosh & Sabin, Marshall, Leo Flor, Yolanda, Eran Gvendelman, 2 students failing stats, President of the St. Paul's Shadow Council, Nick Page & Michael Froh (& Sara Ward because she's cool), Francis & Calvin, and lastly Stuart "Jean-Guy!" Pollock.

Our random number generator now declares that this week's winner is Mission Bananarama!, seeing as they claim their four day week-end would have been more exciting with less silly acronyms and an UltraSPARC III. (Well, if we had an UltraSPARC here maybe it could help us come up with a word to use for 2 across, starting with X and containing two Q's...) Anyway, you banana guys can pick up your prize in MathSoc. And for everyone, by answering our gridQUESTION when you submit, it helps your entry stand out from all the others! (Even if our questions are lame.)

On that note, this week's question: What subject would you like to see for a "Top Ten List"? Get submissions to us by 6pm on Monday, March 13, 2000, either via the BLACK BOX, our mailbox, or by emailing mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca.

And if you think there are too many abbreviations in this grid, well, tough. You can either have a parody issue, or a well-designed grid. Take your pick.

The Unfortunate GridMasters

Across

1. From a certain republic
6. Sound Range (Abbr.)
10. Woman's name
14. Showcase
15. Web artist group
16. Bait
17. Woman's name
18. Antacid for you and you?
19. Green with _____
20. THE COMPANY
23. You're getting wet when this happens
24. Company name misusing our star's name
27. Kinda getting up there
31. Baseball stadium
36. Look
37. THE EVENT
41. Chat code for "You will"
42. Showcase for art
43. Learning disorder
47. Hunk
48. Place stamp again
52. THE MAN
59. Riki _____ Tavi
60. Exclusive group
61. Xena producer
62. We get letters from here
63. Similar to
64. Ready to act
65. Cross-dressed
66. Bug
67. JFK director

Down

1. Kind of fish
2. Small number
3. Long time
4. Gather
5. Top of the body to ya
6. If Jodie Foster's Contact character worked in Canada?
7. One-Time Use Disposable Extra (Abbr.)
8. Small wheel
9. Crazy woman
10. Glenn Diamond's email address
11. Mom's sis
12. Weinsteins
13. These lines control earth energies (yeah right)
21. Star Wars character
22. Sick from
24. Leg extention
25. Ash holder
26. Negatisor
28. "- _____ NO!"
29. Southeast southeast (Abbr.)
30. Girl's name
31. Barbie music group
32. Star Trek character
33. Orthopantomography (Abbr.)
34. Modern Language Association (Abbr.)
35. Water snake
38. Five random letters, really
39. But, if
40. Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (Abbr.)
44. Guy's name
45. Support Equipment Illustration (Abbr.)
46. Kind of adventures
49. Accident
50. Possible cat name?
51. International TV's TNT (Abbr.)
52. Mud
53. Also Known As Alpo (Abbr.)
54. Love god
55. Crazy speech
56. Japanese soup
57. At the end of that speech
58. Say it before going to bed
59. Frank McCourt book