`eral Protection Fa`

```
  Warning, vasiga.vxd has caused fatal exception
A3 (overflow) at
 0346:A33600BF in Profquotes.dll.

 * Flip the page over to continue normally.
 * Roll up this paper and smack yourself over the
head to restart
```

Social Article

OK… here we are again… today… is a good… it's Cotton Candy Day… and today is Charity Ball… for all of you coming tonight… star attractions include Albert in a duct tape dress… auctions and… stuff… ya… hope to see you there… ok… now… next week… We're having a PAINT DAY… I'm going to have lots of paper… and lots of paint… and we're going to paint stuff on Nov 23rd… you can finger paint… you can feet paint… or you can use the brushes that I'm going to provide… so come on out… and have some fun… who knows… full body painting might happen… now this could be a good thing… or a very bad thing… we'll see…

So anyway… not much else to talk about… Delta Frosh are having a reunion… The rest of frosh groups should take heed… 'cause MathSoc will give you money if you want to have a reunion… so why don't you organize one… anyway… that's all for now… you should also come to the Comfy at 3:30 on Wednesdays for the rest of the term for story time… see the monkey article for more details… now… that's really it… bye… bye… I said go away already… geeeze… some ppl… what… you're still reading… <eyeroll>… well… oh bother… never mind…

Liam Dorey

Math Orientation 2001

We are going to play a game that I am pretty sure all of you know how to play. It is called Simon Says. Here we go. Simon says touch your nose (without putting down the *math*NEWS). Simon says stand up. Hop on one foot! I didn't say Simon says. Did I catch you? Don't worry I think we can let that one slide. Simon says get involved with Math Orientation, Simon says become a frosh leader. How can I do this, you ask? All you have to do is pick up an application from outside the MathSoc office (MC 3038) and bring it to one of the info sessions next week, or just come to an info session and fill it out there. The info sessions are Tuesday, November 21 and Wednesday, November 22 at 4:30 in MC 4062. This is your chance to get involved, have fun and meet the frosh. So don't miss it.

Doug Edwards
Math Orientation Director 2001

Careers in Math and CS

A panel discussion open to all students

To take place on Wednesday, November 22 at 4:30 pm in MC 4021. Graduates of the Math Faculty will talk about their careers:

- Poesy Chen, BMath (99) Computer Science
  Janna Systems
- Brenda Cripps, BMath (89) Management Accounting
  McLean Hunter
- Tina Eden, BMath (95) Math/Teaching Option
  Forest Heights CI, Kitchener
- Megan Hall, BMath (98) Math/Business
  MKS/Vertical Sky
- Jennifer Tscharke, BMath (86) Actuarial Science
  Munich Reinsurance

Sponsored by the Women in Mathematics Committee

SUBMIT to the Yearbook

Hello grads,

Have you always regretted the inexcusable lack of a quality publication in Math to serve as an outlet for your writing talent? *[Say what? — Ed.]* Do you have something to say to your fellow grads? Do you have embarrassing photos of your graduating mathie friends?

If any of the above are true, you want — no, **need** — to submit to the yearbook. We do know that we want **more** writing, **more** poetry, **more** prose than past years. (Yeah, and we want lots of pictures, too.)

Drop off random photos or articles in the MathSoc office, marking them clearly on the back with your name, the date, and some contact information. You'll be able to get your submissions back at the end of the Winter term. We can't promise something will go in, but we'll try. E-mail articles to `yearbook@ forrest.cx`.

For our first deadline, we're particularly interested in pictures of you in exotic locales (i.e. outside Waterloo) or in exotic costumes (e.g. Halloween). We need these by next Wednesday (Nov. 25).

Finally, a bunch of you have been asking how you can pick your grad photos for the yearbook, and how to submit grad comments. This will be done via a website which you'll hear about before the end of this term. So stay tuned! And SUBMIT!

Steve Forrest
2001 Yearbook Deity

Student Life Endowment Fund

Every year the Student Life Endowment Fund Committee funds proposals submitted by students and student organizations on campus. The deadline for submissions is Monday, January 31, 2001 at 4:00 pm, and proposals should be submitted to the FEDS office (SLC 1102).

What is the Endowment Fund?

Since the Spring of 1992, undergraduate students have contributed to the Endowment Fund which was initiated as part of the "Coordinated Plan to Improve the Quality of student life at UW." Today the fund stands in excess of $1 million. The interest from the fund is used every year to fund various projects on campus. The priorities for this disbursement are as follows:

- the improvement of accessibility on campus
- the improvement of safety on campus
- the improvement of existing lounge space and study space
- the renovations of student services

For more information on proposal guidelines or to see a proposal form, email `fedissue@feds.uwaterloo.ca` or drop by the FEDS office.

Waterloo Concert Band

The Waterloo Concert Band is giving a concert Sunday November 19th at 7:30 pm at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre, 25 Regina St South between Erb and William. Tickets are only 5 bucks at the door so come on out!

Programming Contest Results

The ACM programming contest had its east central regional qualifying contest last weekend in Cleveland and Cincinnati. Waterloo sent two teams: our A team (Graeme Kemkes, Jeff Shute, and Donny Cheung), who placed second, and our B team (Gordon Chiu, Bryan Chan, and Ming-Yee Iu), who placed sixth. The A team was only eight penalty points behind the first-place team from University of Toronto, and they advance to the world finals, to be held in Vancouver next March. Congratulations to both teams, and to team coach Gord Cormack.

DEX RECRUITING MEMBERS!

Hi, this is Raymond Lai, Vice President of Communications and PR for UW DEX. I'd like to step away from my usual persona as "The Cornered Frosh" and talk seriously about DEX for a minute.

DEX stands for Delta Epsilon Chi. We are the university division for high school DECA, which stands for Distributive Education Club of America. DEX is a business club where students from all UW faculties can come together to share a common bond: our passion for business. UW DEX's main goal is to compete in nationally organized business competitions with other DEX chapters from around Ontario.

DEX Ontario has currently 6 chapters from York, Laurier, UT, Western, Centennial, and of course, UWaterloo. At this time, there is a strong push to expand in other universities.

What are these competitions, you ask? Each competitor picks a category they are most comfortable with and can perform in at his/her peak. The competition itself consists of a written exam of multiple-choice questions and an oral presentation of a case study. Marks and awards will be given according to your ranking. If you were part of DECA in high school, then these competitions will be of nothing new to you. The content, however, is adjusted to reflect our current academic state.

If competitions are not your cup of tea, DEX still has many things to offer. We will organize and participate in volunteer community activities. In addition, we will offer special concert nights and other entertainment venues for the students here at UW. Finally, we will have guest speakers to enrich our already enlightening business knowledge.

Quoting The Simpsons: "See Flanders… You give a little, you get a little." Whatever time you put into DEX will yield returns that will enlighten you for a lifetime. DEX, and UWDEX in particular, is a life experience in itself.

If you are interested in joining UW DEX, you can contact me at `colonellai@hotmail.com`. We will be setting up information sessions and registration in front of the Math C&D on November 21st and 23rd. On November 22nd, we will be holding an information session INSIDE the comfy lounge. That's right, we are going to be occupying the comfy lounge. Come out and see what we are all about. You never know what is going to happen that day, even getting kicked out of the comfy by Snuggles is a possibility!

Thanks, and hope to see you at the UW DEX table on November 21–23!

> Raymond Lai
> Vice President, Communications and Public Relations
> UW DEX
> *Also known as "The Cornered Frosh"*
> *Go and read my column now, it's in here somewhere…*

Operation Christmas Child

One box will make a world of difference to a needy child caught in difficult circumstances! Please join the University of Waterloo in filling a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. Last year, 107 shoe boxes were collected at UW, part of 494,225 collected in Canada, and sent to a child in one of over sixty-five countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, Cambodia, Vietnam, Benin, Kosovo, Ivory Coast, or Sierra Leone.

Operation Christmas Child is once again being jointly organized by the Circle K club and the Navigators club. Together, we have set a new goal to collect 150 boxes across campus. Please help us in achieving this goal. We can send you a brochure, or you are welcome to pick one up from our display table which will be set up during the lunch hours (11:30 am to 1:30 pm) in the Student Life Centre on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and on the 3rd floor of MC on Thursdays. We will be collecting for a period of two weeks, from Monday, November 13th until Friday, November 24th.

Filled boxes may be dropped off at the display centre, at the Turnkey desk 24 hours a day (care of Nancy O'Neil, x6283), or at Karen Kopciuk's office (MC6227).

> Austin Hung
> `circlek@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca`

*look*AHEAD

*math*NEWS	
November 17	Issue #5 stuffs the ballot boxes
November 27	Issue #6 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
December 1	Issue #6 demands a recount

Math Faculty	
November 22	Careers in Math and CS panel
December 4	Last Day of Lectures
December 7	First Day of Exams
December 21	Last Day of Exams

MathSoc	
November 17	Charity Ball
November 21/22	Orientation Info Sessions
November 23	Paint Day
November 24	Cotton Candy Day

MGC	
November 16	Committee Chair Nominations Closed Yeah, you missed them
November 28	Spare Grad Portrait Day

Co-op	
November 17	Junior Continuous Phase Forms Due
November 24	All Other Continuous Forms Due
November 30	Posting #7 expires

Miscellaneous	
November 18	Al Gore demands another recount
November 19	Toronto's 95th annual S. Claus Parade
November 22	DEX Information Session
November 23	American Thanksgiving
November 24/25	CTRL-A Shows
November 25	CFL Grey Cup game in Calgary
November 27	Federal Election Day
November 28	Definitive answer on who is PM

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I know that *math*NEWS is just a light read for Friday afternoons and I shouldn't take anything said very seriously, but at times I wish some of your columnists would say a little more than the first thing that comes into their heads on production night. Here's a quote from last issue: "The PTB have heard that we are having trouble with courses like cs370 and cs354, and they want to make it better." [I think that makes me one of the "powers that be", though what my powers are exactly eludes me.] It goes on. "Which is all good and fine, but they are going about it the wrong way." [Since all I've done so far is ask students for their opinion, I guess this is the wrong way. I know some of my colleagues in the Math Faculty feel this way, but this surprises me coming from a student.]

If this were the extent of the comment, it wouldn't be worth my while to write anything. But the columnist goes on to deliver a rather standard rant about how we need better teachers, as if none of us have ever thought of this. Hell, if I had a magic wand that big, I could do something about the lousy coffee around here, too. At the risk of disappointing those who just want to pound the table and say, "Fuckin' A!" let's review some of the fundamentals.

Professors are hired, tenured, and promoted on the strength of their research, which is supposed to take up 40% of their time. Teaching accounts for another 40%, and service (running the place in various ways) the last 20%. There are people called lecturers whose teaching components are larger, but they also teach more courses. Professors who have been here more than six years (lecturers, too, until a recent policy change) are either given tenure or told to hit the road. Tenure means they can only be fired for non-performance of duties or really gross misconduct. It's not phrased that way, but the procedure is cumbersome enough (and usually ends up in courtrooms) that it rarely happens.

This is the way it works all over North America. Uncle Mike, the university drop-out who loves to demonize teachers, started making noises about abolishing tenure just after he was elected, until someone took him quietly aside and pointed out that even the professors who were good teachers would leave if he did that. It would be like banning alcohol in a single block of downtown and expecting the bars there to stay open. There is a component of merit pay that is supposed to reward good teaching, but Uncle Mike doesn't believe in paying teachers much, either. When he gives money to universities, it seems to be to encourage technology transfer to industry (read: applied research).

Could we define lousy teaching as "non-performance of duties"? Maybe, if we could figure out how to measure good teaching (student evaluations are not quite enough), and set up something a lot like a court of law to judge people. Justice is expensive. If you don't do it very carefully, morale will go through the floor and — you guessed it — even the good teachers will leave. Maybe we can force them to go through teacher training? Did a lot for your high school teachers, didn't it? And consider the effectiveness of forcing someone to do learn something they don't want to learn — something that everyone reading this has experienced.

So we're stuck with these lousy teachers. We could pull them out of the classroom and let them do just research. Of course,

we still have to get the teaching done while they rake in perks like bigger research grants, more papers published, enhanced reputation. No, we have to use them, we can't afford not to. Where should we put them? Well, since they care so much about research, why not put them in grad courses and fourth-year courses in their areas of specialty? That leaves the good teachers to deal with the large classes and diverse student population in the lower-year courses, with less time for their research, true, but in return their reward is… well… okay, teaching is its own reward, right? The grateful thanks and handshakes of devoted students. The noble feeling of having contributed to society. Oops. Sorry. Forgot I was supposed to be sticking to reality, here.

We could hire more professors who are good at both teaching and research. Fine, but even if we could somehow assess teaching ability in a short interview (two days long, actually, but still short for that purpose) every university in North America wants to hire CS professors, especially American universities paying in American dollars. The ones that are good at everything can more or less write their own ticket. What about those lecturers? We certainly have some excellent ones. Maybe we can find more who can teach six courses a year and still maintain their energy and enthusiasm throughout their careers. All we have to do is point out the rewards, which are… remind me about the rewards again?

This is all rather depressing and fatalistic, and the only thing that keeps it from being hopeless is that all of these conditions have been true for the time during which Waterloo built its reputation as a CS school. For all the talk about lousy teachers, the average student evaluation rating of a CS instructor on a scale of 1 (best) to 5 (worst) is about 2.3, which is hardly dire. There are a number of people in the department who enjoy teaching and put more time into it than can be rationally justified by looking at the benefits they reap, because they think it's important and they want to do the right thing. The only factor that has changed recently is that some money has come in to try to effect an increase in the size of the CS program. Not more money per student: more money in exchange for more students. How to spend that money intelligently and effectively while minimizing growing pains is not clear. We fix problems in the same way we always have … by working within the parameters dictated by the culture of the institution, its funding mechanisms, and the society in which it sits. If *math*NEWS columnists, or anyone else, have any ideas that don't require the use of a magic wand, I'm all ears.

Prabhakar Ragde
Associate Chair, Curricula
Computer Science

Going through a blues period: Gregory Taylor and Richard

Screamer's Thoughts, Randomized and Optimized

U.S. Election goes to Sudden Death

Man! Did the media blow it or what? Gore won, then it became too close to call, then Bush was declared the winner, then it returned to "no winner yet". Why did such a farce happen? Blame it on the media's race to be the first to declare the result. Most of the time, the media announces the result of an election when only 25–40% of the votes are actually counted. The media calls the method "an accurate projection", but any projection isn't accurate until 100% of the results are confirmed. In such a close race, we would probably need to count every vote before reaching any conclusions.

We are living in the year 2000, but the U.S. still uses punch cards (you heard it right) for election purposes, and the "double punched cards", or, as most people call it, the "my vote is for Gore, not for that Reformer Buchanan" controversy, has forced the use of the most primitive way to count votes — by HAND — in some counties of Florida. This would never happen if the U.S. used something that students around the world have used for a long time: multiple-choice forms.

The Bush camp is doing everything to stop the legal challenges from the Gore regiment in Florida, yet the Bush campaign launches court challenges themselves in the states that Gore won. If this isn't hypocrisy, I don't know what is. In recent developments, Bush has acted as if he had already won the election. The last time I checked, almost doesn't imply definite. George, you really jumped the gun here. Why don't you refrain from doing all these "transition" tasks until you actually win? Because you still can LOSE.

Television Ad Wars

Here I'm not talking about the war of words between the political parties that appears on TV every day. What I mean is the ad war between Rogers and its competitors. If any of you are subscribers to Rogers Cable TV, you will know what I'm talking about. In those ads, people dump the satellite dishes into trash cans and recycling boxes. Dishes went unsold at the yard sale, and, my favourite, are used as a real dish at lunch. The ad says that their offering of digital TV is way better than satellite TV and that cable will never be affected by outside conditions. The truth is that there ARE times where the TV screen shows nothing but static or a black screen, even when the TV is ON, for someone who has cable. Both sides (cable and satellite) stress that their rate is lower (for the same channels). They are both right (and wrong): some packages from satellite TV do cost less than cable but some other packages are more expensive (depending on what the choices of packages are). For most people, me included, the cost of having something on TV other than a blank screen is too high. Some channels cost about $20 per month; that's outrageous.

In the fight to get people to use their internet service, the competitors' ads can be downright nutty. Bell claims that someone becomes so frustrated with the slowness that comes with sharing the cable with others that they buy the whole neighbourhood. When I see the ad, one question quickly surfaces — how did that man come up with the money to buy the neighbourhood? In various Rogers@Home ads, people are portrayed as being paralysed and are said to be suffering "download rigor mortis", the condition that occurs when downloading files that require a large amount of memory. The ad never mentions any means of prevention, other than to subscribe to the @Home service. People, you don't have to stare at the monitor when you are downloading files. If the file takes a long time to be downloaded, get off the chair and do something else. On the positive side, at least these ads are better than those annoying "cable fast, phone slow" ones.

Closing Remarks

If there is one thing that we shouldn't learn from the Canadian political party leaders, it would have to be their countless interruptions during conversations. Whenever someone else opens the mouth, they try to cut that person off. Man, even elementary students know not to speak when someone else is speaking. Is it any wonder that Canadian politicians get no respect?

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Winter Bundling

Winter is around the corner, and it's about time that we do our last-minute preparation.

Preparation need not be as dramatic as "the fat project" at thespark.com (blatant plug here), but you should add on some poundage.

First off, fat is an insulator that keeps us warm during Canada's friggin' cold winter. (Hopefully I'll be in Texas as you read this. :) It has been shown that an extra 15 lbs. added to a typical math student's body will make you comfortable at an ambient temperature of only 18 degrees. This can lead to tremendous savings in heating bills. Also, you can actually avoid getting a winter coat — just make sure you eat enough cheeseburgers to pad your midriff.

Some ways to help put on weight include:

• Reduce stress, drop all but one class, and aim for a 65% average for the term.

• Eat a lot — if you normally eat 6 cheeseburgers at a time, try 10. It can't hurt, only add weight.

• Avoid exercise. First, it burns calories; second, it can add stress if you miss a day.

• Eat pixie sticks like there is no tomorrow. Although they don't have fat, if you don't burn the sugars, your body will be smart enough to convert them to fat for you. (See, nobody is useless — everyone can convert sugar to fat!)

If, after trying the above methods, you find that you can't add weight, there is always the option to go to the health food store. Although normally associated with losing weight, there are some useful products available for those getting ready to hibernate. Consider Megamass 2000. 2000 calories per serving is enough for most people to start developing love handles in just one glass!

So remember: keep unfit, gain weight, and you too can enjoy the horrible Canadian winters.

Peter "Love" Lizak

MERT

In this issue of *math*NEWS, we'll uncover the best kept secret in UW (no, not Distance Education, that's a rip-off). We shall reveal MERT. For those of you who don't know, MERT is an ultra-secretive organization that has existed at UW for a long time.

MERT stands for the '*math*NEWS Emergency Response Team'. For more than two decades now, MERT has protected UW students from the evils of the world. Whether it is monsters attacking or students getting lost in the 5th dimension, the MERT has been there to protect students from all harm.

For the first time ever, the Math Department is able to reveal MERT to the outside world… Previously classified files are now available in *math*NEWS.

FILE 014545A

Mission: Search and Rescue

Team: Complex Number

Team members: Mr. Smith, HoloJoe, Richie Rich

Mission Briefing: 11/01/2000 17:24 EST

Students 011956 and 011945 mysteriously disappeared on the 6th floor in the MC building. The Math Defense Department (MDD) first lost visual contact with the students on their tracer screen at 17:05 EST when their implant chips failed repeatedly to respond to the MDD tracer beam. After a short briefing, MDD decided to contact the MERT headquarter at 17:15 EST. Team Complex Number is chosen to handle the dangerous mission.
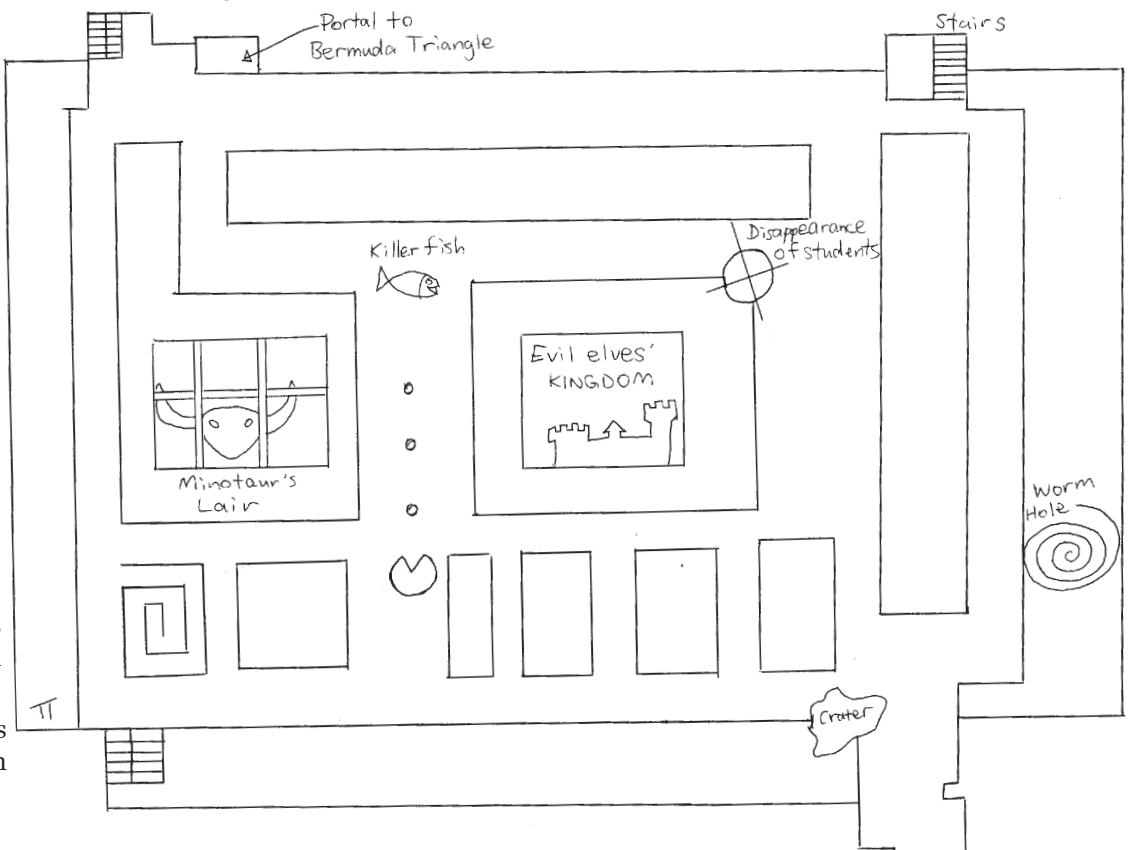
Potential Danger of the mission: It is well known to both MDD and MERT that students have been known to lose track of time and space when wandering in the maze on the 6th floor. The 6th floor of the MC building was originally designed to be a experimental portal to the 10th dimension back in the 1960's, but due to unexpected hazards after the portal was operational, the MDD decided to make the 6th floor available for general use. However, the radiation leakage as well as after-effects of the portal have caused a distortion in the space-time continuum, sometimes warping in monsters from other galaxies to the 6th floor.

Complex Number Team Members: Beware of the minotaurs; they have been known to devour students before and are extremely dangerous. Also the killer fish is known to roam around the area where the students disappeared. MDD suspects that the evil elves kingdom may have kidnapped the two students. Proceed with caution in this mission.

For your eyes only: Destroy this document immediately upon reading this.

This de-classified document is brought to you by Sepiraph

Top 10 Phrases used in a Florida Polling Station

10. "Who will lead in the polls, Miami, Florida, or Florida State?" (U.S. college football teams)
9. "Who did this person really vote for? There are two holes on the ballot."
8. "Wow! 3400 votes for Buchanan in Palm Beach."
7. "What are the courts saying? Should we continue?"
6. "Should we count this one? The hole isn't completely punched."
5. "You mean there are actually that many candidates for president?"
4. "Gore won, or did he?"
3. "Bush won, or did he?"
2. "It ain't over yet. It's too close to call."
1. "What? A count by hand?"

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

America Failed

The United States' 224-year flirtation with democracy has failed. There is only one possible solution: A return to the monarchy. The election has only proved that what that nation requires is some motherly love, and a complete lack of choice. Thus, on the 20th of this month, I will take control of the leaderless nation and restore the Empire! Muh ha ha!! Be warned Canada, you're next!

Later,
Da Queen

If You Look For It You Can Find It…
Sometimes You Don't Even Have To Look

I once had a supply teacher who had what I would call an obsession with the number 42. He was certain that the answer to every question was 42. At the time I dismissed it as one of those things that, if you look for it enough, you're going to see it everywhere. *[After all, everyone knows the real answer is 43, no matter what Douglas Adams says. — HoloEd]*

Well, now I find myself in a similar situation, and my aim with this is to prove to you that what I am seeing really is everywhere. Now I'm not saying that I haven't had a hand in bringing this certain subject to light on at least one occasion but the important thing is that this subject is obvious even to those not looking for it.

Way back things began here in *math*NEWS. In the October 6th issue of *math*NEWS there was an article entitled "The Monkey Problem -or- That Crazy Suicidal Genius MadMonkey". This is the first reference to monkeys that I recall seeing after I arrived at U of W, and I'll admit I did read the article purely because I did have an interest in monkeys before this started. *[Perhaps you should look back to the summer term for articles written by Ken "MonkeyMan" Chung as well… — HoloEd]*

This random monkey article was followed a few days later by an e-mail I received from a fellow mathie about a person entering a pet store in Waterloo and asking for a "C" monkey. It's actually a pretty funny joke, e-mail me (`ce3moore@student.math`) if you are interested, but the point is I was innocently checking my e-mail and there was a monkey reference right in front of me.

And then I attended a MathSoc event: Whose Line Is It Anyway? For those of you who didn't read Snuggles' article last issue, there was a reference to the dating game contestant asking Bachelor #3 about his threshold of tolerance for monkeys in a date's basement. It was mentioned that this comment was "Completely out of the blue" but that's not true. The whole reason that it came to mind was that earlier in the evening during a news sketch, it was mentioned that six monkeys had escaped from the zoo and hyjinx ensued. The comment was not totally random but provoked by earlier references to monkeys.

However that comment resulted in another reference to monkeys as Snuggles continued the idea in his column and suggested that Dan Pollock be asked about his monkey story. I did this. It's highly entertaining. For those of you whom I haven't already shared this story with, don't ask Dan, apparently he's sick of telling the story, but you can check out his web page `www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~djpolloc/monkeys` and learn all about "Damn Cheap Monkeys".

Since then my monkey affairs have been less available to the public. You may have seen me carrying around a stuffed Curious George. Jamie brought him in to amuse me because of my apparent "obsession" with monkeys. There was also the discovery that Wendy's is currently selling Curious George toys. That's all fun.

So I'll leave it to you to decide. Am I really obsessed with monkeys and just finding them because I'm looking or are they really there, invading MathSoc events, *math*NEWS itself and other aspects of daily life?

Catherine "Monkey Keeper" Moore

Where Have All The Crazy Frosh Gone?

The lounge is quiet, the labs are empty. What does this mean? Just a typical Tuesday night around 2 a.m. This term I have noticed a contrast to last fall when I was frosh. On any given night I could expect at least ten frosh in or around the comfy at 2 a.m. The night was still young. However, if I noticed the lounge empty, I would assume that the next day I would notice a prank that had been played. This year however, even though I am still a comfy junkie I rarely see 10 frosh in the comfy. All but a few frosh abandon MC before dark. The level of craziness in this year's frosh is highly disappointing.

Quick Lessons From An Ex-Crazy Frosh

• Assignments done with the entire class present are trivial. (Someone in the class probably has some idea.)
• Never handcuff friends to stolen material if you lack a key to the cuffs.
• When something is funny when said, it is funnier when carried out.
• Anything and everything is funnier after not sleeping for a while.
• Comfy, though evil, is very fun.

The real message though is that I am very disappointed. I was hoping that new frosh would do enough in the form of craziness to keep me amused so that I could accomplish some work. But instead I was forced to stimulate a small scale of craziness. Where are all the Crazy Frosh? By this time last year, we Crazy Frosh had already accomplished many feats that amused the upper year students to a large extent. A short list of what occurred last fall would probably incriminate myself, but what does that matter.

• Bathing in MC
• The missing pink ties showing up handcuffed to a frosh
• Spoons, crazy russian in the comfy always
• Arrows from Comfy to MathSoc — some are still visible on the 5th and 6th floor *[Also still an outline just outside the *math*NEWS office. — HoloEd]*
• Capture the Flag in DC
• SHOT DOWN says the sign to the CS130 students

Why has the MC become so quiet this term? Could it be that frosh are responsible and doing work? Little do they know that work can be accomplished at night while having fun.

Will the frosh outdo and outperform or will they just sit back and go to school? I wish to be amused by the frosh so that I can retire from the Crazy Frosh business and maybe start passing my courses. Please, for the sake of my University career, will some frosh come and relieve me from Crazy Frosh status?!

Hope to see you 3 a.m. sometime.

An Ex-Crazy Ex-Frosh

Note to dark**matter**
We seek peaceful co-existence

Composer Gossip
Music class can be fun

Some of you may have noticed a section in the Squiz last issue entitled *Composer Gossip*, with a Bonus to the effect of submitting one's own composer gossip. Being a music minor, I have decided to simply dedicate an entire column to this effect. After all, certain aspects of the lives of composers are quite interesting, even entertaining. And one does learn bits and pieces about them in UW classes. In fact, all of the remarks in quotations below have been taken (slightly paraphrased) from remarks made by instructors of the numerous music classes I've taken during my five years here. But be warned, keep reading and you might learn something too.

Bypassing the monks and Gregorian chant (haven't taken the Renaissance course), we'll begin with Johann Sebastian Bach (1685- 1750), a name most will recognize. From the Baroque period, this guy was a real workaholic, composing in all genres practiced in his time with the exception of opera. He also wrote the *Well Tempered Clavier* to celebrate a revolutionary new tuning system, which involved detuning every note of the scale. This was done so you could change key without retuning the perfect fifths on your harpsichord. Guess what? This equal temperament system is what we use today. So right now, "when singing in tune, you're singing out of tune with science." Bach also wrote the Goldberg variations for an insomniac employer, basing his final variation on two popular folk tunes of the time. One of these was "cabbage and beets drove me far away; had my mother cooked some meat, then I'd have stayed longer." Oh yes, and he did the 21 children thing, some of whom even went on to be well known musicians themselves.

Heading into the Classical era now, we come to Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), who wrote, among other things, 104 symphonies. This was just spanning the years 1759-1795. Admittedly, the early ones were comparatively brief and scored for an average of 20 players. Haydn also helped formalize the sonata-allegro structure, because "he wanted to have a standard form so that he could deviate from it." That is to say, he played with the minds of his audience. But apparently his mind was also played with, if his fiancee left him to become a nun and all that, as said in the Squiz (this one was new to me). Also alive at this time was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), the child prodigy who was good at billiards and died young. There's a movie about him, but most don't really believe he was poisoned by Antonio Salieri (1750-1825). Beethoven thought Mozart was very old fashioned.

Which segues into Big Lu or Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827) himself. The "greatest symphony composer" also wrote 32 important piano sonatas and much more, though he is also known for going deaf late in life. His fifth symphony, famous for being famous, was originally written for a particular Count, though it was eventually sold to someone else because Beethoven needed the money. This symphony also got a lot of playtime during World War II because three shorts and a long is the morse code symbol for 'V', as in Victory (never mind that Beethoven was German). His ninth symphony is also well known for it's use of a chorus in the final movement, and supposedly Beethoven was totally deaf by the time of its performance. In fact it's rumoured that in a rehearsal he still kept conducting even after it had ended. Of note: "without a good choir the ending is a fence full of cats in heat … you've gotta be really deaf to miss the ending of that piece."

Now swinging into the Romantic Era, we should give a mention to the supposed father of romanticism, Carl Maria von Weber (1782-1826). Best known for operas, some of his symphonies can be likened to "a tour bus driver who's lost and doesn't want to admit it." We also have Franz Schubert (1797-1828), more of a lyricist but known for his "Unfinished" Symphony #8. Yet this was actually his seventh symphony, while his ninth (which was finished) is his eighth, because this ninth was apparently mislabelled as his seventh so when people went looking for his missing ninth, they didn't find it. Something like that. Anyway, despite not finishing eight symphonies, he's credited with nine, plus over 600 art songs and more works I won't discuss.

Still on the symphony line of thought, there's Hector Berlioz (1803-1867) who wrote 3, the most famous being *Symphonie Fantastique*. This relates back to the *math*NEWS quiz, as this symphony was based on the opium-dream of a guy who likes a girl, dreams he kills her and then gets guillotined. In fact, Berlioz actually wrote it with a particular girl in mind whom he ended up marrying, but things ended badly. *[Not as badly as in the symphony — Rich]* "You just can't do that anymore, write symphonies to get girls." Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) probably deserves a mention here as well — composer of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. He once accidently left the only available copy of this score in a London cab, and thus ended up writing out the entire orchestral score from his recollection at home. He also wrote some Songs Without Words, at least one of which has since been stolen by Bugs Bunny.

Leaning back into piano music there's the somewhat polar opposites Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) and Franz Liszt (1811-1886), the former who never used programmatic titles (preferring names like "mazurka" or "scherzo") and the latter almost always using them (with names like "Faust Symphony" or "Annees de Pelerinage"). We can blame Chopin for the famous Funeral March theme, as he wrote it in the third movement of a sonata. We can blame Liszt for modern day piano recitals, as he not only coined the term but memorized his music and turned the piano sideways when he played so that everyone could see his profile. Supposedly people screamed and fainted at Liszt's playing. And it's likely due to his playing rather than the music, since Bugs Bunny has also cribbed from Liszt and most don't faint watching cartoons these days.

Next, the trio of Robert Schumann (1810-1856), Clara Schumann (born Clara Wieck, 1819-1896) and Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) deserve not only their own paragraph but their own soap opera. Robert was a music critic and a composer, but not a conductor. He needed a string to keep from dropping the baton. He actually wrote Clara themes into his music such as C-(B)-A-(G#)-A and was rather taken by her, but Mr. Wieck (also his piano teacher) intercepted Schumann's mail and tried to keep Schumann away from his daughter. Even the lawsuit didn't work. They married. Robert Schumann later went insane, jumped off a bridge and spent his last two years in an asylum. But in the interim, Brahms (the last of the Classicists) showed up and fell in love with Clara Schumann. He also created Clara
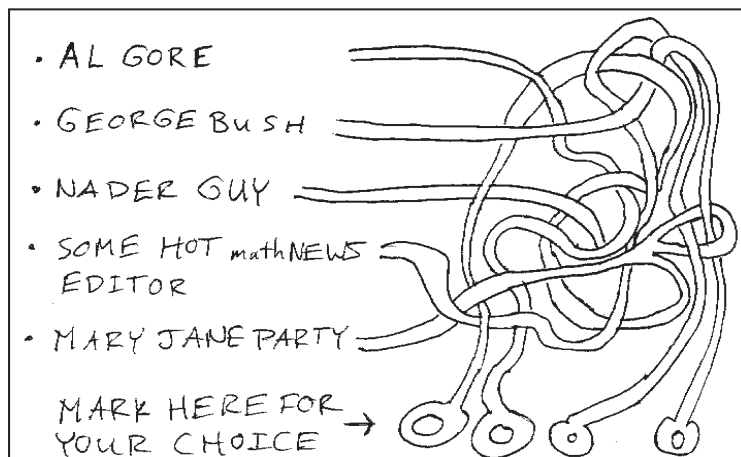
themes that he put into his music. Schumann probably "felt a little redundant," yet was pretty taken by Brahms as well and his last (sane) critique indicated Brahms would be the guy to watch (musically). Then after Schumann died, Brahms and Clara… never did hook up. Brahms went on to compose four symphonies and a lot of great retro music (like fugues: "no one writes fugues in 1862") while Clara, a composer and great pianist in her own right, continued performing to support her 8 children. Go figure.

You might notice there hasn't been too much focus on opera yet. This is mainly because I don't find some of the composers as interesting (and this article is long enough already), but we can't neglect to mention Richard Wagner (1813-1883). "It's almost like Wagner was this musical drug dealer." Taking chromaticism to the extreme, this guy could spend three minutes on one chord and toss deceptive cadences at you for four and a half hours before reaching the resolution. But perhaps of more interest, Wagner had an affair with Liszt's daughter, Cosima, while she was the wife of one of Wagner's students, Hans von Bulow. This produced a child, whom they called Isolde, around the same time Wagner's opera *Tristan und Isolde* actually premiered. It was conducted by Hans von Bulow. Though it wasn't until some years later, after their third child, that Cosima finally divorced von Bulow and married Wagner instead, becoming his second wife.

At any rate, most music in the second half of the 1800s can relate back to Wagner, not even necessarily operatic. For example symphonies by Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) and Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) are stylistically similar. Actually, Mahler was a neurotic who was obsessed with death. He even consulted Freud. In particular, he was terrified of completing his ninth symphony, because Beethoven, Schubert and Bruckner had all died after penning their ninth. So when he wrote his ninth symphony, he didn't call it that, he called it something else. But later, he admitted that it had in fact been his ninth symphony, and that he was currently working on his tenth. Naturally, he then died without completing it.

We now must have a short paragraph devoted to Erik Satie (1866-1925), considering he was a bit of a joker who made fun of his own music. For example, he wrote an orchestra piece called *Relache*, which essentially means "closed for the season"

(How do you publicize that piece?). Some complained that his music lacked form. So he wrote *Three Pieces in the Form of a Pear*. Then there are his notations inside actual piano music, for example "pianissimo, short of breath", or "arm yourself with clairvoyance." He is considered anti-impressionist.

As we've now arrived in the twentieth century, it's bookkeeping time. Other composers include Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687) who struck his foot with a pointed conducting staff while keeping time and died when gangrene and blood poisoning set in. Charles-Henri Valentin Alkan (1813-1888) died while reaching for a copy of the Talmud on a high shelf of Jewish religious books. The bookcase fell on him. Modest Petrovich Musorgsky (1839-1881), also a civil servant, "was, even by Russian standards, an alcoholic," and died after some fits of alcoholic epilepsy. Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) was attacked by a brain disease which left most of his faculties intact except for speech and motor control. But this meant that although he still had music in him, there was no way for him to communicate it!

According to my records, there's also a Blues composer this century who went blind due to a bad batch of homemade alcohol (don't have the name on-hand). I think I'll also mention Rosemary Brown, a clairaudient who took dictation from many of the above composers from beyond the grave (curiously in English), with the odd twist being her lack of musical training. And I should at least remark on modern acoustic ecology pieces from people like Claude Schryer … for example, the piece *Turning Doors at 'The Bay'*. (Could I make this stuff up?)

So, all this and more awaits you in and beyond MUSIC 100. There hasn't even been a mention of non-Western music yet. But I think this long winded answer to a simple question is long enough as is. So now that you've read about a bunch of composers, their pieces and their lives, how interesting does your life seem in comparison?

(Oh, and by the way, Michael J. Fox played Doc Hollywood. Gotta get in those Fox references.)

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

[Six plus one for the bonus gives you seven on the Squiz. — SquizMaster]

[Addendum from a devoted MUSIC 140 student: there was more than one blind practitioner of the early blues — Blind Willie Johnson is probably the most famous. Generally, they went blind by drinking methanol as a substitute for drinking alcohol. Don't try this at home, kids. — Rich]

Story Time in the Comfy

I know you all miss the days when you were wee and could sit back, listen to a story and forget your worries. Well those days are back! Come out to the comfy next Wednesday afternoon around 3:30. I'm going to be reading a story… or two. This may become a weekly event, we'll see how the turn out is.

The first week will feature Curious George stories. Titles have yet to be determined but if anyone has a request let me know.

It's sure to be fun. Bring your stuffed animals, don't be shy, we're all regressing together.

Curious George 3:30 pm Wednesday… See you there!

Catherine Moore

- AL GORE
- GEORGE BUSH
- NADER GUY
- SOME HOT mathNEWS EDITOR
- MARY JANE PARTY

MARK HERE FOR YOUR CHOICE →

Rejected first draft of the Florida Ballot

*prof*QUOTES

"I'm now erasing the mystery function, so now it's more of a mystery."

Vanderburgh, MATH 135

"But two is even, this is rather odd."

Vanderburgh, MATH 135

"Maybe this is antiquated like me… old… useless."

Vanderburgh, MATH 135

"Just to disspell a rumour, I'm not a third year co-op student."

Vanderburgh, MATH 135

"Yesterday I was on a 26K uphill run and I saw the number 7501 on a sign, so I decided to see if it was prime. Can anybody find a factor that divides into this easily?" *(Student raises hand, says thirteen.)* "Oh crap, that wasn't supposed to happen."

Vanderburgh, MATH 135

(After introducing the third Greek lettering of the day) "Don't worry, we're not going to learn ALL of the Greek alphabet. You can all stop panicking now."

Liptak, MATH 135

(A student's cell phone rings loudly in class.) "Revenue Canada again. They'll find you anywhere."

Andre, MATH 135

(Points out 'thru' on handout.) "I do know how to spell through, that's just how I think it should be spelled."

D'Alessio, MATH 135

(on RSA private keys) "I don't tell anyone — not even my wife. That was a bad joke."

D'Alessio, MATH 135

"This should be a -6, and I'm on drugs."

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"Who wants to do Mean Value Theorem for Integration?!" *(Students collectively groan no.)* "I think more people said yes!"

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"Play with the integrand. Massage it. Threaten it!!"

D'Alessio, MATH 137

(looking at student sleeping in class) "I wonder if you can learn by osmosis. I guess we'll have to ask that guy."

Wolkowicz, MATH 235

"These non-diagonalizable matrices are very rare. Of course, there are an infinite number of them."

Wolkowicz, MATH 235

Student: "Why did this change from a 3x3 matrix to a 2x2 matrix?"
Prof: "Because I'm not thinking today."

Wolkowicz, MATH 235

"There will be difference between what the book says and what I say, in which case I'm always right."

Wagner, MATH 235

"I gave this problem to a daughter of a friend. She tried it for about a half hour, then gave up and threw a tantrum."

Wagner, MATH 235

"This is a math course. We answer yes or no. You're thinking of your arts course. I hope that one doesn't come back at me."

Best, C&O 227

"This is turning into an arts class. How does σ greater than or equal to -10 make you feel? Does σ make you feel good about yourself?"

Best, C&O 227

"Some people can graph in 3 dimensions. I can't. SOME people, if they're smoking funny cigarettes can graph in 4 or even 5 dimensions. They don't care about 6."

Best, C&O 227

"Is everyone in the room over 18? We're going to discuss degeneracy… Maybe we should close the doors."

Best, C&O 227

"I might not be back by 11:30… every time I went out there was always some road closed for construction. Hope it's not Conestoga Driveway this time."

Ragde, CS 251

"PLA means Programmable Logic Array — not People's Liberation Army."

Ragde, CS 251

(Writes a 3 on board) "That's… 1???"

Pretti, CS 134

"Anybody have any good drugs for my foot? I can just see it in *prof*QUOTES now: Professor tries to buy drugs from students."

Shallit, CS 462

"Now I'm just waving hands… No I'm not, I'm just taking 'e' to both sides. Waving hands comes later."

Shallit, CS 462

(Student points out error at end of proof.) "That's like losing in the bottom of the ninth inning when you're ahead by 10 runs."

Shallit, CS 462

"You should be more aggressive when I prove something wrong. Say something like 'that's total bull.'"

Shallit, CS 462

"Every time I prove something that's not right, it's like buying something from a telemarketer. You're being suckered and not getting what you paid for."

Shallit, CS 462

"Let me just say that again since that was one of the most incoherent things I've said."

Shallit, CS 462

"So if you didn't understand that, and you're getting pissed off, let me rephrase that."

Shallit, CS 462

*quof*PROTES

"You can take it out on me during the course evaluation."

Shallit, CS 462

"Letters of the alphabet stand for whatever they stand for at the time they are being used."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"I've got to put some word in there to hype it up, and hyper is a good word."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"Sometimes it is better to be lazy."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"I'm going into robot mode now."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

Student: "Why would anyone use a calculator?"
 Prof: "I don't know, cheap thrill."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"Seven ten thousandths isn't bad. For engineers, it's pretty good."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"Do you know determinants? Don't deny it, I know you know."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"Okay, let's leave it. I've had enough of talking to you guys."

Sivaloganathan, MATH 137

"Wait a minute, this isn't MATH 138. Uh… umm… ok… then your argument would be correct."

Sivaloganathan, MATH 137

Student: "P(u) — just say 'p at u'."
 Prof: "Now… you, since you're 'p'ing all over the place."

Sivaloganathan, MATH 137

"In line two, we don't want 'duplicate variable.' That will piss us off."

Vasiga, CS 241

"You don't write programs that are just sequences of assignment statements. Unless you're in engineering."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I have lied to you at least once in this class. And that's not a lie."

Vasiga, CS 241

"You put on your nylons [pause] if you want to wear nylons, and, uhh [pause] I won't even get into that."

Vasiga, CS 241

"You put on your good-luck nylons for the CS 241 exam. It worked for me."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Say we have a company called 'www.troyscompilers.com'. We're going to be different from other dot com companies because we're going to create some actual software, and we're going to make money!"

Vasiga, CS 241

(After mentioning Yacc, student makes a noise that sounds like a person vomiting.) "No, it has nothing to do with barfing."

Vasiga, CS 241

(After pointing out that GNU stands for "GNU's not Unix" is an infinitely recursive acronym, and Yacc and Bison are GNU's.) "This is what computer scientists do to amuse themselves."

Vasiga, CS 241

"To take care of things like Stockwell Day's intelligence, we need negative numbers."

Vasiga, CS 241

(Why he thinks Stockwell Day won't be the next Prime Minister.) "People with good chins don't do well in politics. Look at Brian Mulroney and Jean Chretien."

Vasiga, CS 241

"If you don't know the answer, write crap."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Maybe if you're detained in Toronto, you could figure out this binary number."

Vasiga, CS 241

(out of context) "I could have given you 2 or 2 1/2 hours (on the midterm), but then I would have lost the shock value."

Tenti, AM 261

(out of context) "If I gave you more time (on the midterm) then you could have checked the algebra and gotten the correct answer. I would then have to give you full marks."

Tenti, AM 261

"We're going to fight for you. We're going to lose, but we'll give 'em shit nonetheless."

Nutbrown, PSCI 100A

"That's the long and dumb-ass way of doing this."

Irving, MATH 137

(Regarding the midterm) "Here's a hint for you guys: the function "f" is involved in this midterm."

Irving, MATH 137

"I was going to set up office hours… well, no one ever comes to office hours, including me."

Irving, MATH 137

"Someone would come up and ask you to do this question — well, not someone, in particular a calculus professor…"

Irving, MATH 137

"It's like asking your parents which one they like more: you or your sister. My sister thinks that they like her best, and I think so too. So, we're in agreement."

Graham, CS 130

(After saying 'gui' several times with class laughing at the way she's saying it) "There are several types of GUIs. Jeez, I feel like a geek when I give this talk."

Graham, CS 130

The Frosh Cornered

Letters to the Frosh Cornered: REAL letters to the Cornered Frosh (believe it or not…)

What a week it has been. My mailbox has been jammed since my last column. I don't know if it was my appeal for more letters or something more controversial in nature, but it struck a nerve. Here is a cross section of what I received this week:

1.*To Whom It May Concern,*

I represent the University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation. I found your broad generalizations on the Quebecois and Quebec both distasteful and offensive. We as a collective group are saddened and dismayed at your ignorance on this subject matter.

WE ALL HATE YOU. HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEAN TO QUEBEC. WE OWN THE WORLD, WE OWN CANADA. IF IT WEREN'T FOR US YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD THE POUTINE. FACE THE FACTS… WE OWN CANADA. THE REST OF CANADA WILL DO WHATEVER WE SAY BECAUSE WE WILL THREATEN SOVERIGNTY IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT WE DEMAND. VIVA LE QUEBEC!

Please take corrective measures in the future to not mislead the general public. I demand a complete retraction and apology to the Quebecers for your incomprehensible actions.

Thank you for your kind attention.

> *Name withheld*
> *University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation*

2.*To Whom It May Concern,*

I represent the University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation. I found your broad generalizations on the Quebecois and Quebec both distasteful and offensive. We as a collective group are saddened and dismayed at your ignorance on this subject matter.

I believe that it is people like you that will eventually force Quebec to separate. Your ignorance on our culture is just unbelievable. How can you be so arrogant about our culture when you're not even a Canadian?

Please take corrective measures in the future to not mislead the general public. I demand a complete retraction and apology to the Quebecers for your incomprehensible actions.

Thank you for your kind attention.

> *Name withheld*
> *University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation*

3.*To Whom It May Concern,*

I represent the University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation. I found your broad generalizations on the Quebecois and Quebec both distasteful and offensive. We as a collective group are saddened and dismayed at your ignorance on this subject matter

I M GOINGZ TO KILLZ JOO.

Please take corrective measures in the future to not mislead the general public. I demand a complete retraction and apology to the Quebecers for your incomprehensible actions.

Thank you for your kind attention.

> *Name withheld*
> *University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation*

Well, those were 3 of many letters I got this week from the University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation. I'm not sure if they, collectively, are a joke, but from what I can gather, they are 1. NOT a UW club, 2. NOT a registered political party, and 3. The members of this 'federation' apparently do not have the collective intellect to come up with their own original complaint letters. Therefore, I am going to respond to all of them at the same time.

First of all, if you guys think you own Canada, you cannot be more right. However, Quebec, along with the other 9 provinces (10, if you include Florida as Canada's retirement province) and 3 territories, equally own Canada as well. Second of all, if Lucien decides to separate because of what *math*NEWS said, then we should start charging people for *math*NEWS because we may be the definitive word on current affairs in Canada. Lastly, 'I M GOINGZ TO KILLZ JOO' is NOT from the English language. I suggest you head back to kindergarten and learn rudimentary English, or its equivalent in Quebec: Grade 12 "Anglais" at a Quebec "École secondaire". Ditto. (Aside: "JOO" = YOU, "KILLZ" = kill, "GOINGZ" = going, "I M" = I am. It seems this member of the UWQF is an avid online gamer, particularly in the action games such as Quake3Arena or Counter-Strike, where grammar is as important as Lucien Bouchard's attempts to speak English.)

If you think that I'm not Canadian because I'm Chinese you cannot be more wrong. What kind of racist comment is that? Canada is a mosaic of many cultures, and if you think that the French should control Canada, how different is that from Hitler's regime? For the love of Canada, don't ever breed.

4.*Hello Froshie!*

I don't know… I think I saw you in a Business Depot yelling at some people about photocopying stuff wrong. Was that you?

> *Joey T.*

No, that wasn't me. I'm a nice guy. I wouldn't yell at people for some small incident like that. If it was members of the University of Waterloo Quebecois Federation bragging about how they invented Poutine or how each of them wrote original letters to demean my writing, then I'll start to get mad.

As a side note, The UW Quebecois Federation has made my "Things I must destroy before I graduate" list. Congratulations UWQF! You can obtain your certificate of achievement at the *math*NEWS office. *[No you can't! — Ed.]*

Thus concludes this week's *Letters to the Cornered Frosh*.

There's the Normal Way, and then There's the Mathie Way

I've been told that Mathies do things differently then normal people. Being a Mathie myself, I observed myself doing some everyday tasks a little differently than the rest of the school population. There's a special "Mathie Aura" that engulfs us as we walk in the halls of the DC and the MC that separates us from the… less special people. We walk in a special way, we talk in a special way, we think in a special way, and we act in a special way. Those leather jackets with MATH BUS on the side are a complete giveaway. I've been requested to mention my dorm's division manager, Fred Bereskin, in my article. For the record, Fred owns a MATH BUS leather jacket. Congratulations Fred, you're famous now (notice the sarcasm. You can cut it with a knife!).

Don't believe this humble columnist? Take a look at this comparison chart: (I used Arties as an example as 'normal people', but I don't know how normal they are to begin with.)

When it is raining outside…

Artsies: Bring an umbrella

Mathies: Build an umbrella from mashed potatoes (read: Scunt to the Future)

When you find out that there is less than 5 minutes until class starts…

Artsies: Quickly put something on, run to class, and listen attentively.

Mathies: Calculate the probability that the profs will be teaching something either useful or understandable, then head right back to sleep.

When there is an assignment due the next day…

Artsies: Open up a can of coffee and prepare for an all-nighter.

Mathies: Inject multiple caffeinated liquids intravenously, pop a few instant noodles in the microwave, and curse every single one of our CS profs.

When assignment parameters are not clear…

Artsies: Approach the prof at their offices to clarify the assignment.

Mathies: Go to the newsgroup and bitch to other CS students about the way the prof worded the assignment.

When we get free time…

Artsies: Get drunk off their asses, at least some of them do.

Mathies: What is this "free time" concept?

Happiness is…

Artsies: Finding a girl/boyfriend and keeping her/him for the rest of their university career/life.

Mathies: Getting your code to compile properly.

Dating is…

Artsies: A pre-arranged meeting with the object of their affections.

Mathies: Adding a date stamp to your code documentation.

Getting married is…

Artsies: The best day of their life.

Mathies: A strategic merger.

The last part of the sentence "When it rains, it…"

Artsies: …pours

Mathies: …means that classes are non-essential for that day.

A horror story can be considered as…

Artsies: Any story involving murder, blood, and gore.

Mathies: CS354, Realtime, *math*NEWS.

prof*QUOTES is…*

Artsies: A humorous look at how funny/idiotic profs are.

Mathies: Our only way to maintain sanity in this desecrated hellhole.

An iMac is…

Artsies: A cute looking computer that can perform basic, everyday computing functions.

Mathies: The work of the devil.

The best form of security when walking around campus at night is…

Artsies: Call up UW WalkSafe and carry a Radio Shack personal alarm.

Mathies: To use their pink ties as a slingshot. The ammo : their insanely thick Calculus textbooks.

A life is…

Artsies: to party, drink, and be merry. Fit in work between drinking and partying.

Mathies: (In the words of Sandy Graham, Prof of CS130) You guys will get so many assignments that you will have absolutely no life whatsoever.

An Athlon is…

Mathies: an inexpensive core processor solution that can be overclocked easily

Artsies (NOTE: This is a REAL answer from an Artsie): an exercise machine.

A quick meal on a tight schedule is…

Artsies: Kraft Dinner, easy to prepare, easier to shove down the throat.

Mathies: Don't have time to eat.

When asked what program they are in…

Artsies: Honestly and proudly announce their major.

Mathies: Complain and rant about the workload and stress for an hour before saying what program they are actually in.

When code doesn't compile…

Mathies: Look over the code, debug the software, apply 'percussive maintenance' on the hardware, then recompile.

Artsies (I've actually seen this in a CS113 lab): Bang their heads on the table and announce that their machine is possessed by the devil (which isn't that far from the truth, read my first column). Later, they find out that the reason the program doesn't compile is that they left out a semicolon in one line.

The Realtime Lab is…

Artsies: A fun place with trains where you can watch people code and control the trains electronically. Realtime coders are gods. The Lab is like a zoo. Watching Realtime coders in their natural habitat is very entertaining.

Mathies: …hell. We feel sorry for Realtime coders, and we await the day when we will be forced to enter the black doors of the damned and enter the inner workings of evil itself.

There are so many more differences I can list, but that will spew over into Liam's writing space, so I think I'll stop here. I cannot stress this enough: Our differences from the rest of the world make us unique! Next time when you hear a person say "That's the way everyone does it," tell him "Nope, Mathies don't do it that way. We're completely insane!" At which point, you should mumble to yourself an expletive, and venture off into a dark corner.

Send your psychotic rants and maniacal gibberish to `r3lai@ student.math.uwaterloo.ca`.

Raymond CT Lai
-The Cornered Frosh

PocketPC Development Contest

Here's a great way to learn how to develop using embedded tools and hopefully win 25,000 U.S. dollars! Whether you prefer VB or VC++, it doesn't matter!

To participate in the contest, you must register on studentdev. org Then I will give you a copy of Microsoft embedded Visual Tools which you will use for developing for the PocketPC.

Teams from 1 to 3 people (you can work alone if you like) are encouraged to participate in the contest. The members of UW's best team will win a PocketPC each. This winning team will then participate in the North America Wide Competition, where the winning team will split $25,000 (and yes, there are great cash prizes for each of the top 5 finishers, not just first place).

For more information, please contact Lylan Masterman (`lylanm@university.microsoft.com`). Complete and final details will be available on studentdev.org

Where Have All the Frosh Gone

(Original lyrics by Earth, Wind and Fire)

[Actually, I believe you mean Pete Seeger — Rich]

Where have all the frosh gone,
 Long time passing?
 Where have all the frosh gone,
 Long time ago?
 Where have all the frosh gone?
 Classes have taught them everyone.
 Oh, why must we ever leave?
 Oh, why must we ever leave?

Where have all the classes gone,
 Long time passing?
 Where have all the classes gone,
 Long time ago?
 Where have all the classes gone,
 Gone for sleeping everyone.
 Oh, why must we ever leave?
 Oh, why must we ever leave?

Where have all the sleepers gone,
 Long time passing?
 Where have all the sleepers gone,
 Long time ago?
 Where have all the sleepers gone,
 Gone for midterms everyone.
 Oh, why must we ever leave?
 Oh, why must we ever leave?

Where have all the midterms gone,
 Long time passing?
 Where have all the midterms gone,
 Long time ago?
 Where have all the midterms gone?
 Graduating everyone.
 Oh, why must we ever leave?
 Oh, why must we ever leave?

Where have all the grads gone,
 Long time passing?
 Where have all the grads gone,
 Long time ago?
 Where have all the grads gone?
 Gone to frosh, everyone.
 Oh, why must we ever leave?
 Oh, why must we ever leave?

Where have all the frosh gone,
 Long time passing?
 Where have all the frosh gone,
 Long time ago?
 Where have all the frosh gone?
 Their friends have saved them everyone.
 Oh, why must we ever leave?
 Oh, why must we ever leave?

New lyrics by Colin Davidson (and friends)

And now I get to pontificate and tell you all how to run your lives. You don't have to listen of course, that's the joy of reading, but what else were you planning to do?

I'm sure you've heard that university is the best time of your life. I don't know, it might be, but I haven't lived my life yet so I can't tell you for sure. What I can say is that it's the most fun I've had so far! And why you ask? Because of all the great people you meet and all the crazy things they do!

So put down that assignment, shut off your computer and go out to class. Talk to your neighbour, get to know them. (The author thinks comfy is also a great place to hang out…) Don't shut yourself off from all but a few people. And most importantly of all… have fun!

And now an ad from our sponsors:

Read Liam's Social article. Social events are great! You can try to read his spew as well, but I take no responsibility for any confusion you may (ok, will) suffer as a result.

And from the Tushar Defamation League:

Be warned. Dangerous math student on the loose! Tushar Singh, 5'11, dark black hair. Rumoured to be desperate. (Ok, it isn't a rumour. It's FACT.) If seen do not attempt to apprehend. Exercise caution. He scratches!!!!

Ciao,
Colin

Pope to Restore Order to Presidential Election

While the world sits and ponders on what the results of the American election will be, the Pope, John Paul II, decided to take matters into his own hands.

As most people are aware, the former governor of Missouri, Mel Carnahan, passed away before the recent US election, yet managed to win. His wife was poised to take his place, and represent Missouri as the governor of the state. John Paul did not like this.

Most people also know about the strange Palm Beach ballot, designed by Theresa LePore. LePore had sent sample ballots out, and had designed the ballot to allow larger print, and hence, allow older voters in the region to vote more easily. Of the sample ballots shown, before the election, not one complaint was raised. She didn't show John Paul, and he did not like this.

Most people know that for Nader's party to gain official party status he would need 5% of the general vote. He had no chance in hell, even though John Paul prayed for it. God didn't deliver, he dislikes Nader. John Paul did not like this either.

John Paul has decided to use his own powers to rectify the election outcome. By using his superhuman, raise-the-dead skill (which he learned through channeling sessions with Jesus), John Paul has brought back Mel Carnahan. By using his personal squad of death "wannabe" angels, he launched a bounty hunt on Theresa LePore. By having a one on one chat with God, and telling him personally how pissed off he is, Nader will get over 5% of the general vote, after the Florida recount. Oh to be a pope, and have power over the president.

Pete Love

Food For Thought, True Patriot Love

Don't get thinking it's a real country because you can get a lot of high school kids into gym suits and have them spell out "bananas" for the newsreels.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Question: Where is "Silicon Valley North"? Is it:
a.   Ottawa-Kanata
b.   Toronto-Cambridge-Waterloo
c.   Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge
And while you're working on that one, which school is the "Harvard of Canada"?
a.   The University of British Columbia
b.   The University of Toronto
c.   McGill University
d.   Queen's University

I guess the MIT of Canada is a bit of a gimme, it has to be Waterloo.

Now I have a better question, what the hell is up with that? Do you know how many people complained to me about how irrelevant the US is to their lives after my column "America, America"? I guess the US is only relevant when we are worried about school or high tech jobs.

Here is an even better problem to really get the midnight oil burning, define Canadian. Constraint: do not use the term American, America, United States, etc, once in the definition.

So let's see, we are having an election for the third time in seven years; at what fifty odd million dollars per federal election, you would think some of those hundred and fifty million dollars would be spent in focus groups figuring out what the definitive Canadian is. I guess politicians are better at keeping secrets than we give them credit for.

But really, we seem to be very good at defining ourselves not by who we are but by who we are not. Canadians are "nicer" than Americans, we are quieter, less obtrusive. Oh and yeah, we drink beer and watch hockey. (That last remark really illustrates the difference between us and our Southern Neighbours.)

If Canadians are so much nicer than Americans, why do we have to tell the World? I have heard stories that in some parts of the World the locals meet people with a North American accent, apparently there is such a thing, and immediately assume the visitor is Canadian. (Americans don't get offended at being called Canadian but we take offence at being labelled American.)

So it is a compliment for an American to be called Canadian? I do not think so, I think it is a case of the American being indifferent.

Oh yeah, I forgot, Canadians know more about the World they inhabit. True False, Newfoundland is a maritime province? All right, that was not fair, only someone from Newfoundland would know that the Maritimes do NOT include the last province to join confederation.

The buildings located at the intersection of College St. and University Ave. (and surrounding) in Toronto are where the government of Ontario conducts most of its business, these buildings are called? No excuses there, if you can't say Queen's Park in your sleep, you have a problem. Of course you are from out of province, fine what is the name of the legislative assembly for the Quebec provincial government? Where is it from? Hint: you can find out all about the National Assembly if you read up on your French revolutionary history.

Now if you got a perfect score on the above, I concede you probably have a passable knowledge of your own country. Let's see if you can beat an American at the game we love to make fun of them for. The capital of Pennsylvania is? Alright that was a tough one, how about New York state? You have to know California, after all the real Silicon valley is in California. But my favourite, lots of times I have heard other Canadians poke fun at Americans for this one, what province is the capital of Canada in? Well what state is the capital of the US in? Hint, if you answered that Question you are wrong.

Okay, so you will not laugh so hard at Americans, great, I could care less. But I return to a question I asked before, what is a Canadian? I suppose I am nominally Canadian, barring times when I run into xenophobes, but I don't know what being Canadian is.

Can someone please tell me. Americans have Lewis Lapham, they have Ralph Nader. They have a constitution and declaration of independence written by some of the greatest minds in the history of civilization. We have, well, we have hockey, beer and three elections in seven years.

I suppose it is one of those beautiful ironies of life. After the idea for this column first occurred to me I went home (Toronto) for the weekend. The answer to my question, "what is a Canadian?" waited for me in my parents copy of Toronto Life Magazine (November issue, page 98 – 127). A group of immigrants were asked what they liked about Toronto, and by extension Canada.

"What I like about Toronto is that there are people from everywhere. I know a girl from Trinidad… I also have a friend form Grenada… I know some Portuguese people and some Italians."

Amelie Byam, age 12

"[My family] has our own business, our own property. I'm not leaving… I work then I go home."

Gurcharan Singh

"Now I love Greece to visit, but not to stay. There every second day is a saint day, they celebrate. They never work there — it's always fun. I don't know where they find the money."

Pat Alexopoulos

"I was classified as a political dissident. I was literally forced to leave by the KGB… Today, I have a choice of where to live and I choose Toronto… I don't miss people watching my door… I don't miss the harassment and lack of respect for human beings."

Masha Etkind

"Now I don't want to go back at all. I live in a very peaceful country."

Yahya Khan

"It was so hectic here, but the people were so friendly."

Fajjad Butt

"I spent a lot of time in Chinatown when I first came. It was like my Mecca. It was something very new for me. You never see Chinese people in Poland."

Iwona Natonska

The Beautiful Irony? That a bunch of immigrants taught me

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Says but nomiS t'nac pots morf gnikaeps sdrawkcab. Hey everybody, how are you doing? Hmm, no response, maybe it's because you won't read this until the end of the week. Nah, couldn't be, you clearly just don't want to answer the question. Well, my last article was my longest yet and I conformed it to 3333 words cause 33 is my favourite number. So you can understand that I was very much interested in the word count when the issue came out. No, don't worry, I didn't sit there flipping pages (oh, I'll get to that) and counting words, I cut and pasted from the online version to Word to do a count. Guess what it came out too … go ahead guess, well fine then, I'll just tell you. Three thousand, three hundred, and thirty … one. What the hell! Two words, two bloody words were cut? Actually, I'm pretty sure they were just grammatical changes (cause not applying grammatical changes to my article is inviting disaster, and I'm not going to proofread this crap). Meh, whatever. Now, about the layout, what can I say? I loved it, bloody well brilliant. Going from page nineteen to page nineteen, stroke of genius. Apparently part of the logic behind splitting it up was that if it was left together (approximately 5 columns) people would be too intimidated by the size to read it. Hmm, people being intimidated by my size eh, I can live with that.

Hey Greg, if www.mathNEWS@uwaterloo.ca isn't your domain, who's is it, I can just imagine it now. <Deep daunting voice> "Ignore that man behind the server", very Wizard of Oz-esque. *[Well, okay, our website is not a living entity unto itself. I suppose the domain is in the range of things I deal with, but it wasn't foremost in my mind that Tuesday. Hence an ambiguous interpretation of the word "currently". — HoloEd]* Speaking of web pages (hey, I can barely find reasons that my own brain jumps from topic to topic, you expect me to always have good segues). The next time you are at a computer that has both web access and volume control, turn the volume way up and goto `www.georgeforeman.com`. It's hilarious. How did I happen upon this gem? Well, I was sitting around with a couple friends and they decided to share their ground-breaking ideas on twin naming. Having two twin uncles who cause me endless amusement (remind me to tell you that story sometime, it's broken) this peaked my interest. Well, apparently they had abandoned their original philosophy of naming them one and two; why give up on this clearly ingenious idea, because they thought it would lead to fights. So what could have these siblings live in peace — simple, give them the same name, that would eliminate all confusion, … ya right. Anyway, about 2 hours later (including one movie) my brain got around to remembering a little fact I know about George Foreman that I learned from watching the all powerful Conan O'Brien. He named all of his sons George (Actually they're named George Jr, George II, George III, George IV, George V, and George VI whom papa calls MiniMe, I'm not making this up, go read his website), one of his daughters is named Georgetta (and another one named Freeda George). I decided to share this knowledge with my friends, they however believed I was shoveling from a giant cow pasture, and so, as all of us must at some point in our lives, we turned to the Internet to answer our most difficult of questions. But where to begin our quest for knowledge. `www.georgeforeman.com` sounded like a good place to start, and since we had just watched a DVD movie the volume was turned very loud and so … well, I won't ruin the surprise for you, you'll just have to go to the site for

yourself. Needless to say I was right (ok, fine, maybe that does need to be said, in fact let's say it together, Snuggles is right, excellent). I'm not always right, sometimes I look downright silly, hmm, I must search my brain for a silly story, let's see, oh, it's so hard to find something completely ricockulus that I have done, oh wait, I'm on crack, here's a good one. (Segue, segue, rolly polly segue, segue, segue, eat them up yum.)

My car (which is really my father's car, but me and my sister are the only ones who ever drive it, since he has a better one that he drives all the time, but that's really my grandfather's, but he spends most of the year in Florida, hmm I wonder if he voted, wait, he can't, he's not American, you know, I have a lot to say in these parenthesis, I believe that when you write in brackets it's just an aside, so when you read it you should pretend it's not there to properly understand the sentence, sans parenthesis, of course, you should still read it, cause otherwise you'll miss stuff, and now back to your regularly scheduled Snuggles) has issues. (Yup, that last sentence was four words long, plus a <cough> small aside.) Apparently it just sometimes doesn't like me. I was supposed to go back to Toronto to return the car (and for Rosh Hashana dinner), but the car had other ideas. It basically said, transmission, what's a transmission, we no need no stinkin' transmission. So I had problems catching the gears (including first), although I later discovered that going backwards was no problem (I drove fairly far in reverse, it's not easy, more of an acquired skill). Anyway, on one of my excursions to attempt to make it back to Toronto I pulled out of the driveway and started coasting up the hill (my street slopes, I tried to go up-hill), there were people playing Frisbee on the road, so they stopped and stood at the side of the road to let me pass, except I wasn't catching first gear. I was just kind of coasting, very slowly up the hill; they started walking, and they were going faster then me, then they started laughing at me. I might have tried to run them down, but they could walk faster then my car could go, so it would have been a lost cause. Anyway, I gave up and drove backwards back to my house. My roommates were very amused by the Frisbee players laughing at me cause I couldn't get past them.

In my ending tagline of my last article I said "Passion, Agitation, Pleasure, Uneasiness, Grumpiness — I'll explain next issue", well, here's the explanation. In my ongoing adventure as to find out just what the hell is wrong with my stomach (actually small-intestine, but let's not get picky) I went to a naturopath. I like naturopaths, all their tests are non-invasive. Anyway, at this place they strapped me up to a computer (I held this metal thing, and these straps were put around one of my wrists, one of my ankles, and my head, they had electronic sensors, or something) and, as far as I understand from their explanation, essentially what happened is that the computer sent my body electronic impulses and then read it's responses. It's all very cool (I liked watching the pretty lines, they were all different colours, I like pretty colours). They measured all sorts of things and the idea was that they were asking my body what it needed. It turned out to be uncannily accurate at telling me what my problems were (it hit all my symptoms), so I took it much more seriously then I had originally intended. Anyway, at one point they measured my emotions to see what my strongest were. Well, my top five (in order from number one on down) were

Passion, Agitation, Pleasure, Uneasiness, Grumpiness. After the technician told me this, I told her that I don't think a different five could have been picked that would have entertained me more. It's so true, lately I've been categorizing all my thoughts / responses / actions into one of those categories, and it all fits. My sister went for the same test and her number one emotion was revulsion. I found that pretty funny too. Speaking of the pretty colours (what have I told you about my segues … or lack thereof, hmm, no I did talk about pretty colours in the middle of that paragraph).

I was watching someone try to type out a message on ICQ, and they kept messing up, they seemed distracted, a friend of mine asked them about it and jokingly pointed to one of the auto ads which had a red ball bouncing between the different services they offered, asking if that was what was distracting her. Yup, she couldn't take her eyes off the bouncing balls, <cough>, she really liked those bouncing balls <cough cough>, I couldn't even write that sentence with a straight face. Hehe, Tom just came in and read my opening line (It's like Simon Says but …), he thought it said spanking (as opposed to speaking), people hear what they want to hear, and read what they want to read.

I walked in on a bunch of my friends having a spiritual conversation (these are my camp friends, actually, it was at camp, which explains much, actually it was at a bar in the town near my camp, which explains even more). Anyway, they were discussing the existence (or lack thereof) of G-d and it's implications and they asked me for my opinion. I said that I not only don't know, I don't really care. If no higher being exists then it doesn't really matter if you believe or not, because the thing you don't believe in doesn't exist, so it can't really care. If some sort of all powerful being does exist, then are they really going to care what some pitiful mortal thinks. In either case there really isn't enough information to go either way and idle speculation isn't going to bring us any closer to coming up with the facts, so since I can't find out the right answer, and it doesn't affect me anyway, I don't think about it. To which one of my friends responded "You play 10 hours of games daily on your computer, you can spare a moment to think about G-d". This ended the conversation, he won. Noah, you the man.

You may ask yourself, if I don't know what the deal is why don't I write the 'o' and instead use a dash. It's just something I do, I never have to explain myself to myself so I've never really asked why I do it, I just do. So there.

Speaking of funny websites (before you check, the last paragraph had nothing to do with funny websites, but a bunch of paragraphs back I talked about them and now I'm talking about them too, haven't we discovered by now that segues are just a figment of your imagination), I found this "For Patients with Impaired Control of Oral Secretions: Reduce Drooling While Maintaining a Healthy, Moist Oral Cavity", don't ask me why or how I found this, I have no idea, it was just written in my *math*NEWS idea text file that I keep on my desktop; it may be up to a year old, but at some point, for some reason, I found that quote on the web and found it amusing enough to keep around. Take it as you will. Although, now that I think about it, quite the number of people have access to my computer, maybe someone else put it there; I don't remember what I ate this morning, how am I supposed to remember if I wrote that randomness. Actually that works in my favour, I read my articles and they're funny to me 'cause I don't fully remember what I wrote, well, I have an audience of at least one, me.

There's a number of words that are used by my friends that don't, how should I put this, um, they don't make any sense. Well, they make sense to us, and when we try to use their words with their native meaning it causes much confusion, but basically we have come to understand that certain words mean different things to us as compared to what they mean to the rest of the universe. Case in point is the word 'broken'. It basically means that something is really, really good (it's so good, it's unfair, and therefore broken). Problems arise when we use these words to people who don't understand. I had the misfortune to say this word during a conversation with my mother, she was very confused; after I explained that broken was a good thing she asked me why. Then I was very confused, it just is, she asked me if it was kind of like saying something was bad meant that it was good. After that, the conversation went nowhere very quickly. Anyway, broken is a good thing, just accept it.

Well, I passed two thousand words a bit back and I'm approaching four in the morning, so I think I'll sign off for this article. So I guess that brings my count to 23 Snuggles Sez, 40 articles in total (not counting two covers and three random articles). Wow, sometime next fall I'll probably hit 50, I think I'll have some sort of celebratory article then, hmm. Hope you enjoyed my ramblings, if you find something particularly funny, tell me, I really do appreciate it. Thanks, and see ya in a couple weeks.

Snugglor the Mighty

What happens when you discover one of your friend's names sounds like the name of a car, find out in my next article.

---

more about my home than 3 elections in 7 years.

How else can I possibly end this article?

"Send me your tired, your hungry, your poor, your huddled masses. Yearning to breath free."

Emma Lazarus

Aside:

In the November 3 issue of *math*NEWS a response to my article, "Predetermined with Eyes Shut Tight" was printed. One point raised in the article is what is the "damn clear line" I spoke of. From the Constitution Act of 1982, Section 2 subsection a) "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion." Subsection b) "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other means of communication," is secondary to freedom of religion not only in section notation but also in spirit. The response to my column implied that my religious beliefs were invalid and hence the response to my column was an attack on my religion. I never quoted Voltaire because I never agreed, nobody has the right to tell me who or how I should pray and I do not appreciate being told I will go to hell or even not go to heaven because my beliefs are not in accord with Vaughn Climenhaga's, or any other evangelist.

Michael Cole

Runtime Fun

As many off you know, I program many things in Java. One of the interesting packages that is part of Java is the java.lang. Runtime package. This package allows you to run programs on your computer or terminal or server. The following code is a really quick way to setup a Runtime object and execute a local file.

```java
//code starts

import java.lang.Runtime.*;

public class tagyoureit
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        //creates a runtime object
        Runtime runme = Runtime.getRuntime();

        String command = "put what you want in here";

        try
        {
            runme.exec(command);
        }
        catch(java.io.IOException e)
        {
            System.out.println("Uh oh......forget
it,              error: " + e);
        }

        System.exit(0);
    }
}

//code ends
```
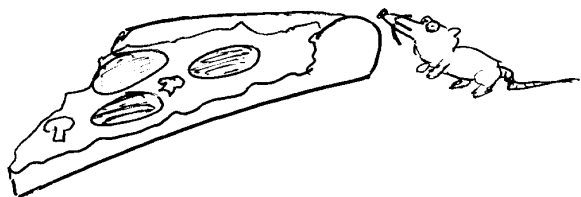
And that will run a little program on your computer. For instance you could put some "FORMAT" commands or "rm -rf *" in the command string and you'd do some nasty stuff. But of course the only way to find out for sure is to test it *[Kiddies, don't do this at home (at least not on your machine), as evil bad nasties will happen. — Mass Destructo]*.

Tushar
Quack

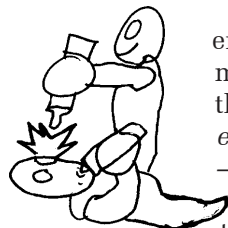## Amusing Statistics

- 6% of all lost remote controls are found in the fridge
 - More people pee in the shower (45.2%) than in the ocean (44.9%)
 - 2/3 of people speed up at a yellow light; 1/3 of people don't wear seatbelts
 - 69% of people eat the cake before the frosting
 - Six percent of people propose over the phone *[Wusses! — Mass Destructo]*
 - Americans eat, on average, 18 acres of pizza each day
 - Coffee drinkers, on average, lead more active sex lives
 - Some lions mate over 50 times a day
 - '60 Minutes' is the only show on CBS without a theme song
 - 100% of lottery winners gain weight
 - The shell makes up 12% of an egg's total mass
 - The average life span of a taste bud is 10 days
 - You burn 26 calories in a one minute kiss
- 44,000 lightning storms occur every day throughout the world. Lightning strikes the earth 6000 times a minute. Since your last breath, lightning has struck 100 times.
 - Every time you lick a stamp, you consume 1/10 of a calorie
 - 47% of people drink straight from the carton when nobody is around *[I don't get it! Vodka don't come in a carton? — Mass Destructo]*

Three statisticians go out hunting together. After a while they spot a solitary rabbit. The first statistician takes aim and overshoots. The second aims and undershoots. The third shouts out "We got him!"
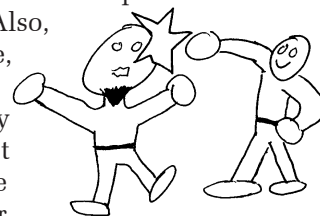
Discovering Your Good Twin

Y'know, some people just are not unfortunate enough to have an evil twin. Others, such as myself, just may find themselves discovering they themselves are an evil twin. *[Of note, telepathic evil twins are particularly troublesome. — HoloEd]*

For my 22nd birthday, my parents revealed that I have a twin brother, who lives on the other side of town. He stays with a foster family which my parents arranged after I assaulted him in our mutual crib. The only reasons my parents decided to keep me instead of the wimp, was that he was wimpy. Also, I showed some signs of intelligence, Darb did not.

I arranged a meeting with my goody-goody counterpart. I went over to his house to discover that he had a goatie! This came as a stunner to someone who had been brainwashed by the media into believing that only evil twins had goaties. *[I have a roommate who recently (supposedly) shaved off his goatie… should I be suspicious? — HoloEd]* In my shock there was nothing I could do but punch him in the side of his stupid head. With Darb down for the count, I ran. Then I decided that I could use a new wallet, and our ID should be exactly the same

so I went back for that (as well as giving him one last kick).

Being the evil twin is great! I'm glad I got all the brains and money.

-Story by Brad, Illustrations by
Pete

Musings of Drewsings

so Ive been away for a while and havent written for some time either but there have been lots of thoughts and things going around in my mind most of which I dont remember In any case all Id like to do is make it very clear that I can be more incoherent than both Albert and Liam put together So anyway I was at Business Depot the other day exchanging my llama for a version which lacks the suck feature and I remarked to myself I wish there were fewer uses for credit cards such as the one I am using now to pay the difference in price so that we wouldnt be so reliant upon them for our entire economy I mean really if everybody went to their banks to withdraw all the money they own the bank wouldnt be able to honour our requests after the first few hundred people There just isnt enough cash money to go around And anyway as I was thinking that for the brief instant I did I noticed that I hadnt been in this Georgia Tech for some time and then regarded that thought as stupid as I hadnt been in that particular town for some time either So I eventually finished this thought and then had another thought that the thought I had thought previously was really stupid because credit cards are the greatest invention since sliced bread because really without it ebay and pretty much every other online order service would collapse and then what would we have Thats right a society where companies would have to bring their product to the market and people would have to have actual interactions in order to obtain any product they like and given the current social abilities of most teenagers online fourteen hours a day chatting to six people simultaneously five of whom he or she will never meet and the other he or she is currently on the phone with this will result in a large University of Western Ontario. So anyway as I was pondering away the cashier had handed me back my credit card and had me sign the slip and I was driving away not really paying much attention to whats going on and all of a sudden I found myself back in Waterloo doing my algebra assignment for the fifth time that day So anyhow Im fairly certain everyone is rather interested in whats going on down south in Florida so I wont mention it whatsoever I really enjoy all these people yelling back and forth about God and Jesus and Salvation telling each other that free speech is their right and theyll exercise it whenever they want and for Gods sake wont the other person shut up Im trying to exercise my right to free speech So I guess thats all thats on my mind

Joe Drew

For greater coherence, follow this recipe:

1. Sprinkle liberally with punctuation *[Normally we would fix stuff like that (no matter what the article) but I get the feeling Joe would rather we didn't. It almost makes sense as is when you read it after midnight anyway… — HoloEd]*
2. If wished, the following substitutions can be made:
*   'cordless phone' for 'llama'
*   'Business Depot' for 'Georgia Tech'
*   'catastrophe' for 'University of Western Ontario'
*   'once I had driven back, dropping my girlfriend off' for 'all of a sudden'
*   'late' for 'for the fifth time that day'
*   'not at all interested' for 'rather interested'

Liam Spews

Ok… here we are again… and it's been two weeks… with lots of fun… and lots of crazyness… first off… I'm going to start with Tushar… He's wearing an aerobie… and that's all about him for now… now… popples are cuddly… and fun… and I like to hug them… and thank you Jamie for the fun stuffed toys… and for eating lots and lots of fries… now… about stuff… here's the thing… I just like to hear myself ramble… and type and stuff… so anyway… we're duct taping a dress for Albert tomorrow night (last Tuesday when you read this)… it should be fun… now … the last week… what happened… PINK TIE DAY… ok… if you wore your pink… it was good… and thank you… but that's the wrong article… but anyway… there's lots of toys left in the Soc office from that day… so if you want a whistle… or a jumping frog… or a spinning top… just stop by the office… last I checked they where on the desk… hmm… ok… you take peanut butter… and brown sugar… and raisins or dates if you have them… and combine… it tastes really really really GOOD… oh ya… and you eat it with a spoon… now… on to other stuff… Wendy's is fun… and I played that karate game again… and wow… so fun… and Colin… wow… he had a couple of drinks… and it was fun… and I'm now first on the high score list… (LJD) … and I think I'm going to have to e-mail bomb Tushar… but that's later… now the last couple of weeks have been kinda crazy… midterms… and midterms… and other stuff… and lots of fun… and crazyness… and the Delta Frosh are having a reunion… all of you delta frosh had better come… I'm e-mailing you… so heads up… now… we're going to go off to happy happy land… and going to play with the clouds… now on to … hmm… wow… that's like a Disney movie… and they are EVIL… Disney is EVIL… and so is Catherine… Not Disney evil… more like Puck evil… which isn't really evil … just fun… hmm… and she likes green clothes… anyway… other stuff now…and there was this amazing brunette… and she was talking to me… and I showed her my webpages… and she ooohed and aahhhed… and SHIT… Tushar… stay out of my head… ok…aerobie… in the winter… so so fun… can't wait for snow… going to go snowboarding… and hopefully news will be fun… road trip anybody… Ottawa is fun… but I'm sure we could go elsewhere as well… so ya… what else… cherries are good… and ya… I'm actually running out of spew already… and Colin's hands are prime targets for pain… Marshall, Tushar, and of course Colin… oh ya… the videos I keep promising… I'll get to it soon… I promise… ok… life is good… I'm working at Inscriber next term… and next school term (Summer) I get to be prez… ya… I'd like to do a good job and all… and if you have any idea's or stuff like that… come talk to me… I'm the guy with green hair…oh … for those of you who… out of complete curiousity… are reading the last little bit of my article… DELTA FROSH REUNION!!! that's right DELTA FROSH REUNION… so heads up… I'll e-mail if you're a delta…

Liam

Every-Day Hero

Dan Tripp (2B CS) is an every-day hero. He saved my Triple Sec and Vodka. He lost $40 in the process. Dan Tripp is an every-day hero.

Signed,
2 Pure Mathies

*mast*HEAD
Guess the editor

Well, it's after midnight on Tuesday, making this technically Wednesday, which is never a very good time to be writing a *mast*HEAD, particularly when you're me and you've been feeling generally lackadaisical for the past week. But let's not talk about me. Not that this means we're going to talk about you. In particular, I thought maybe we'd talk about what's in the news these days… oh, wait, most of it's just election talk. US election talk at that. Though actually, the Ontario municipal election fell on a *math*NEWS production night (last Monday), and the federal election is on our next production night. Maybe politicians are trying to tell UW math students something. Or maybe not. But anyway, I get the impression that most politicians are just arguing with each other a lot these days, figuring they'll get elected if they can discredit everyone else. Is that just me? Maybe I just don't understand politics. Oh wait, I said we weren't going to talk about me, didn't I…

Okay, so instead let's talk about all the people who came out and helped on production night. In particular, since we got to talking about chocolate when coming up with a *mast*HEAD question, you can now find out everyone's opinions on "What would you like to see covered in chocolate?": Anthony Cheng (the mysterious 6th floor in the MC building), Pete Love (the *math*NEWS pizzas), Kyla Hawrelluk (pen caps, because you chew on them anyway), Raymond Lai (CS Profs, then releasing thousands of fire ants unto them. That'll teach them to "give us assignments." muhahahahahhaha), Jason Lau (the unknown shaped rock outside MC), Catherine Moore (monkies), Bradley T Smith (peanuts, that'd be good!), Colin Davidson (the egg statue — a giant Kinder Surprise!), Liam Dorey (the two cherries at the end of the rainbow). Thanks naturally to the Graphics folks, even as I puzzle over their new requisition forms.

> Richard Bilson (two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun)
> Gregory Taylor (Wouldn't you like to know… so would I)

*grid*SOLUTION

F	A	M	I	N	E	S	■	B	A	S	T	A	R	D
A	L	A	S	■	S	O	F	A	S	■	I	R	I	E
R	E	C	A	P	■	L	L	D	■	P	R	I	S	M
A	P	R	■	A	C	O	U	S	M	A	■	S	E	E
M	■	O	A	T	H	■	N	■	O	G	R	E	■	R
I	J	■	C	H	I	C	K	A	D	E	E	■	H	I
R	E	N	O	■	T	H	Y	M	E	■	G	N	A	T
■	S	O	L	U	T	E	■	E	R	S	A	T	Z	■
B	U	R	Y	■	E	A	T	E	N	■	T	H	E	Y
U	S	■	T	E	R	R	O	R	I	S	T	■	L	O
R	■	C	E	D	E	■	W	■	S	T	A	G	■	G
L	O	O	■	A	D	E	N	O	M	A	■	A	S	H
A	L	B	U	M	■	L	I	R	■	B	A	Y	O	U
P	E	R	M	■	N	I	E	C	E	■	S	L	U	R
S	O	A	P	B	O	X	■	A	N	A	L	Y	S	T

*grid*COMMENTS
The Road to the Western Lands

Good morning, folks! Now, by all rights I should be able to think of something witty to say here, but I'm writing this on Tuesday. And Tuesday tends to be the crappiest day of any given week as far as I'm concerned. Something to do with waking up faaar too early to go conduct a tutorial which no one attends.

(Oh, if any of my students down here have discovered my secret life and are reading this: come to class, damn it!)

But anyhoo… on with the show! No submissions last week were completely correct; the prize therefore goes to the least imperfect solution, submitted by **Chris Wooff** (who I seem to recall being around where I was a frosh; if you are the same Chris Wooff, what are you still doing there?), with only one cell wrong. He also recalled the source of the gridQUESTION last week: The Frantics' "Tie Quan Leap" sketch. (There are two things to learn from the lesson of Ed Gruberman: "Violence is a weapon only to one's opponent", and "Get in the first shot".)

Other submissions came from DiMono; the student formerly known as "Brian"; Janey "Chief" Law, Ryan McGauley, Christina Hallett; and Colin (who felt that the actual lesson was, "Never let yourself be forgotten (who's Ed Gruberman?)").

This week, there's not much to say about the grid. I was going to make a cryptic crossword, but decided that 70 or so cryptic clues represented more effort than I was willing to expend. So I didn't. All of the words this week are common enough, although you might want to brush up on your "Dead Can Dance" song lyrics for a clue or two. Just a suggestion. As for the gridQUESTION: "What is the leading cause of car accidents?"

See you all next time,

> Matt in the Hat

Potential Enlightenment

Well, I don't know what to write about really, just felt I should. Why you might ask? That's a good question. Math and cereal, now that's an interesting conjunction, but when you look at certain cereal brands you can see the relevance. You can also prove a mathematical equation with them, i.e.: the TOTAL VECTORS can be calculated using induction by using SPECIAL K and SPECIAL K PLUS one; of course this proof is trivial and I'm in first year so a good proof usually involves waving the arms, which is kind of hard to demonstrate on paper. Of course you'll notice that all these cereals are good for you, I can therefore infer that math is good for you. One bowl of Total or Vectors and you'll get the daily required dose of 17 essential nutrients. 17, that's a lot considering I've been surviving on Easy Mac. So I'm thinking that if I do my math I might be able to actually keep on living off KD without getting really ill (like getting the scurvy or something). You know, I do my math assignment in the morning, instead of the night before, that way I start my day with a healthy breakfast.

Enough about cereal, I don't even eat the stuff, I just got some at the SLC because they were free and came with rice crispy squares. Now rice crispy squares are good, but only the homemade kind with raisin. If you've never tried it, I suggest you do. You should really wear shoes if you're kicked out of your building at 4:00 am on Sunday because of a fire alarm. Trust me, you'll be glad for it. Pulling fire alarms while people are

*math*NEWSquiz #5

Le SquizMaster est Simon; Vive le SquizMaster!

Hello. I am Simon. Something … happened to Brad, so I'll be handling the Squiz this issue. I guess it would make sense for me to begin by announcing the winner of the previous Squiz first. So, congratulations Jessica Hadden for your 27! Jason Mulevitch, your caring girlfriend has dedicated the prize to you, so you can pick it up from the MathSoc office sometime (and update your plan, dude). Very honourable mention goes to Yolanda with 23, DiMono with 14, and Greg "hologrami" Taylor, whose solutions can be read elsewhere in the issue.

As for the solutions to the previous Squiz, I can quickly let you know about that too. **Lyrics**: 1. *Stand*, REM, 2. *Fly*, Sugar Ray, 3. *Run*, Collective Soul, 4. *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, The Byrds, all of which have verbs for titles; **Blackadder**: 1. Rowan Atkinson, 2. Four, 3. Baldrick, 4. Queen Victoria, 5. World War I; **Doctor Actor**: 1. Peter Sellers, 2. Michael J. Fox, 3. Omar Sharif, 4. Joseph Wiseman, 5. Richard Gere, BONUS: Rex Harrison and Eddie Murphy; **Composer Gossip**: 1. Bach, 2. Berlioz, 3. Lully, 4. Schumann, 5. Haydn.

And the best piece of composer gossip that was submitted was about Randy Edelman, who wrote the theme to Backdraft. Apparently, his tune, "*Show Me Your Firetruck*," is now the theme to the Iron Chef! It closely beat out the guy who was crushed by religious books and the two unsolved murders (hee hee, decomposing composers).

So, back when I started at Waterloo two years ago, I checked out the Old Issues folder outside the *math*NEWS Office. In it I discovered an issue containing a Squiz without categories. No boundaries, no constraints, more than twice as many questions as a typical Squiz! I have dreamt and dreamt about a day when I would be in school for another such Squiz. That day never came … until now! For the first time since Winter 1998, and for the final Squiz of the year, I give you … The Simonized Squiz 40:

1. Who created the Simpsons?
2. What false name did Mr. Burns use in a town meeting?
3. What was Homer's name on the fake id he used to buy his very first beer?
4. What name did Lisa's hamster supposedly write mystery novels under?
5. What other "talent" did this hamster have (courtesy of Bart)?
6. When was the Kitty Hawk flight?
7. Who was the first to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone?
8. Who regularly battled with the Red Baron in the comic strips?
9. Which comic strip features Seahawk?
10. Which city is home to the Seahawks?
11. What is the brand name of the best coffee to come from that city (very rare in southern Ontario)?
12. What is the capital of the state that city is in?
13. What is the name of that city's famous tower?
14. What is the Eiffel tower primarily made of?
15. What river cuts through Paris?
16. How many countries does France border?
17. The epic poem of France is known as the Song of whom?
18. What was the epic poem by Homer about the Trojan War called?
19. Who wrote the epic poem about Lucifer's fall from heaven?

20. Who created Life In Hell?
21. In the Game of Life, what 5-block figure moves across the screen diagonally?
22. In the board game Life, where should you retire if you want to keep your Life Tiles safe?
23. How much money do you get for passing GO in Monopoly?
24. What's the second most expensive property in Monopoly?
25. What was Free Parking replaced by in Mathopoly? (check the *math*NEWS website if this is gibberish)
26. Who maintains the *math*NEWS website?
27. What are the initials of the guy who maintains the UW daily bulletin?
28. What are the initials of the guy who edited *math*NEWS during the summer?
29. How do you spell cat (in capital letters)?
30. Who famously spelled potato with an 'E'?
31. What's the literal translation of the French word for potato?
32. What seedy fruit's name comes from the same root word as the French word for apple?
33. In mythology, who ate of the seeds of this fruit and had to spend most of her life thereafter in Hates?
34. What relation was she to Demeter?
35. What colour light has a wavelength of one meter?
36. How many litres of water can you fit in a cubic meter (at standard temperature and pressure)?
37. On Futurama, who appears to have the capacity for infinite volume in his chest?
38. What cartoon voice veteran is the voice of Fry of Futurama?
39. What famous TV duo has he done the voices for?
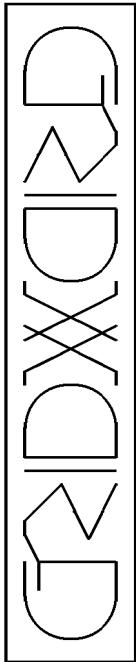40. Who created Futurama?

Well, if you can answer the first, middle, and last questions, you must be pretty impressed with how I managed to get a pseudo-stream-of-thought Squiz to loop back like that. Honestly, I prepared for this Squiz last week at work (where I have lots of time to do things like plan the Squiz and other *math*NEWS articles). If you don't know what I'm talking about, that's okay too. Sometimes I'm not sure either!

Enough about how great this Squiz is, time to learn how to submit! Drop your entries off in the BLACK BOX or e-mail them to *math*NEWS. They are due at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 20th, 2000. This is your last chance to submit to a genuine Squiz this millennium, so make the best of it.
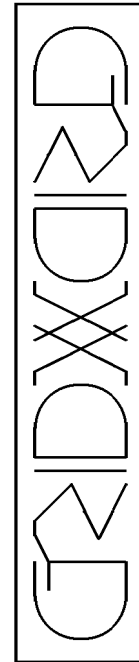
Super New SquizMaster,
Simon L'Avier

sleeping isn't cool. That was supposed to be my not conscious time, now I'm tired. You know pranks should be funny and butt harmless and they shouldn't interrupt my sleep. Like covering someone's door with newspaper and cheering when he breaks through it like he won a race, or changing one of their shoelaces to neon pink. Whoa, I better stop myself because I'm not making much sense. Oh well. Hope you enjoyed the read and are now enlightened from it.

Flip

GRIDWORD

GRIDWORD

Grid Clues

Across

1. Harsh, gutteral voice
4. Leading edge of an air mass
8. Humanity's first home?
11. I am, you ___, he is…
13. Friend, *en français*
14. Busy insect
15. "To him complexities seemed plain"
17. Younger Clinton
19. Land-bound newt
20. Can be pink!
22. A baseballer's hat
23. Let go
25. Adventure
27. Tear down
29. New thought
32. Stage
34. And…?
35. Description
36. French article
37. Leer
39. Symbol of bondage
41. Separate from the church
43. Like, cash, man
44. Taunt
46. Director Besson
47. Electronic money dispenser (abbrev.)
49. Horseless carriage
51. Green gemstone
53. Perform or eliminate
55. Negative prefix
56. Something to grind?
58. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!
59. Scottish isle
60. Smack down
61. Examination

Down

1. Stand up
2. St. Andrew's Cross, for example
3. Resident expert
5. Diatribe
6. Hare Krishna mantra
7. The alternative to "naughty"?
8. Snake-like fish
9. Downward spiral
10. Lowest tide
12. Place within
14. Secure, as with a rope
16. Not quite right
18. The better to hear you with?
21. Divide, separate
24. Made known
25. Imitator
26. Facial protection, in a helmet
28. Amphetamines
30. Man's best friend
31. Primate
32. Crafty
33. European moose
38. Theft
40. Not well known
41. Plastic wrap
42. Extend a library loan
43. Shiftless person
45. Consume
46. Refracting glass
47. Denizen of 8 Across
48. Competition, as for track and field
50. Monthly living expense
52. Fish eggs
54. Feline
57. Characteristic Greek letter?