Pimpin' Groundhogs, what life is all about!
Wordz from Your Society

In just eight short weeks classes will be done, and another term at U(W) will have whisked away. I hope that you can take advantage of your time this term and utilize many of the services that we offer at the Math Society.

Exams $0.05 photocopies Computer Graphics Workstation w/ Scanner Stapling Resume Paper 8/$0.25 Digital Video Workstation Paper Cutter Work Report Binding $0.50 Math Novelty Items Hole Punching Past Course Evaluations Commonly Used Texts Casual Advice Social Events Poetry/Art Board Lost & Found Campus Maps Right Angle Cafe (C&D) Lockers Movie Nights Student Representation at Faculty Level

Games

Monopoly Clue Scrabble Chess Checkers Go Settlers of Catan Risk Playing Cards Frisbees Yo-yos Powdered Mashed Potatoes Advanced Civilization Super Quiz Trivial Pursuit Football Dominos Chinese Checkers

Focus Group

MathSoc will be having a Focus Group with Random Mathies on Thursday February 1st at 4:00 pm. We will be asking questions about Soc, the Comfy and The C&D (Right Angle Cafe). How they can improve? What is good and what is bad about these services? And even new ones we can offer you?

A WEEK OF FUN

FHIATC Monday, March 12th - 14th, this is a mysterious event, that is both exciting and thrilling! It will raise the profile of Math and the Community and it will involve sleeping! Stay tuned!

Campus Day

Tuesday, March 13th is Campus Day. We need volunteers, you get a Tee shirt!!!! We will have contact information in next issue.

π day

Wednesday, March 14th at 1:59 pm, we will be serving 16 types of pie with ice cream provided by some random corporation for your benefit. Come by and pick up pie!

Pint with Prof

Thursday, March 15th at 4:00 pm, we will have food for all students and faculty in Math. Alcoholic and Non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Come on out and talk and chat with all your profs you’ve ever had!

Pink Tie Day

Friday, March 16th all day, drop by the MathSoc office with your pink tie, and enter your name in a raffle. You have to actually be wearing your pink tie - that means dress up, and show some spirit! People who drop by will have their name entered in a raffle for a DVD player. What’s that? A DVD player! So wear your tie!

Paul Royston
Math Society President
888-4567 x6515
pres@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

groundpimpinhogHEAD

Okay, so this is the pimpin’ groundhog issue. Why, well, because groundhogs day just isn’t enough to fill a whole issue, and pimpin’ is never in style, so we might as well do it now. Very not PC, but hey, what can they do, kick me out of school… I hope not. Oh well. FASS is coming up soon, and they stole a lot of our production staff, so this was our moment to strike back, he he he… and not by saying stick it up your FASS.

Our mastHEAD question was a doosey. What the &*^# does FASS stand for? The psycholgical urge to use the F word was somehow sidestepped. Thankfully. Richard “Pineapple Flavoured Asian Pimps” Bilson, Jean “Faculty Alumni Staff and Students” Knetsch, Jason “Flamed Annoying Scum Suckers” Lau, Kevin “Foreign A$$ Super Sexy” Wan MinKee, Kyla “Feelin’ Always So Sexiful!” Hawvelluk, Mark “Facelift Astro-Superman and Superwoman” MacDonald, Raymond “Faculty ^(*$#( Staff and Students” Lai, Liam “For the love of God, why is my A$$ so itchy?” Something or Other. A to move on to studying for my midterm tomorrow. If only there was a way I could buy some desire to study. Maybe we need a concentration pimp.

Peter “Fake Another Super Something” Lizak
Bradley “Friday, and Sometimes Saturday” Smith

lookAHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mathNEWS</th>
<th>Math Faculty</th>
<th>MathSoc</th>
<th>MGC</th>
<th>MEF</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Issue #2 sees it’s shadow</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pizza Days</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 22/23 Reading Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Issue #3 production night</td>
<td>6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)</td>
<td>Job Fair 2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Issue #3 breaks your heart</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yearbook comment submissions due</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Deadline for Winter proposal submissions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peter “Fake Another Super Something” Lizak
Bradley “Friday, and Sometimes Saturday” Smith
The Pink Tie Pledge will officially launch next Wednesday at Pizza Day. “What is the Pink Tie Pledge?” you may be asking, after reading the title of this article. Well, it is an opportunity for graduating students to donate funds to Waterloo’s financially strapped Mathematics program. “Why in the name of Jumpin’ Jim Jenkins would I want to give money to the Math Faculty?” you may wonder, considering that we pay about 80 times the tuition that we did last semester.

The Pink Tie Pledge is your opportunity to help out students who are in the Math Faculty. The money does not go directly to the Faculty, so you can be sure they won’t use it to buy fancy air-conditioned toothbrushes, or something equally frivolous. (Not that they would, ‘cause they’re good people. Note to Dean: please let me graduate.) You get to choose where the money will go. Traditionally there are three options to determine where your donation is allocated.

The first option is the Math Endowment Fund, which is a scholastic fund with over one million dollars invested. It is mandated to enhance the academic life of the average Math student. Recently MEF has purchased servers for MFCF, books for math clubs, funded a set of course notes for Math 235 and much more.

The second is to donate to the Descartes Scholarships, which are scholarships for those with high academic achievements in high school, including top notch scores on the Descartes contest. The third option is to direct funds to improving the Math Tutorial Centre, where students can go to get help for their assignments. This year, we will be unveiling a fourth option at the official launch of the PTP on Wednesday.

These options are the best ways to improve student life and academic accessibility for your fellow Math students. And as if that ain’t enough, your pledge is also tax-deductible! Plus, you don’t have to start paying until May 2001, and you get to pay over a three-year period! Hmm, now I sound like an ad for Leon’s…

Traditionally, people have offered challenges to the graduating class to attempt to boost pledges. Some offer 1/p cents for every dollar donated, or offer to buy a rubber band for every person who pledges more than $100 dollars. If you wish to challenge the graduating class, feel free! You can contact mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca to find out more info. And to pledge on-line, go to the MGC webpage http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc starting Wednesday.

Watch for the big Tie to go up outside the C&D on Wednesday, and for the challenges to start soon. This really is a great way to leave your mark on Waterloo Math.

---

**Computer Terminals ‘Caught In The Act’**

Late last night, at around 1:00am, beeping and squeaking noises could be heard in the new Nortel Institute construction lab.

Micheal Volendk first reported the noises through the gripe command. His complete comment described the sounds as “Distracting, disturbing, yet oddly enticing.” Volendk further commented that throughout the night, “random windows featuring explicitly sexual material” kept appearing on various terminals in the adjacent ‘ghetto’ lab. With each appearance, Volendk described, the terminal’s performance increased slightly with more images appearing quicker and dirtier until eventually the extreme amount of images appearing caused a core dump. “This is detrimental to productivity.” Volendk said.

The sounds, described as “quack” and “beep”, could be heard coming from the Nortel lab for approximately a half hour.

Upon receipt of the gripe complaint, MFCF promptly sent down a staff member Edward Solandt to inspect the issue.

“What I found there was certainly surprising,” said Solandt. “Two fruity iMacs and a PC all alone in the room. Their cables were tangled all over the place and they had their covers off, too.” continued Solandt. “I have no idea how that threesome got in there!”

The PC, which has been described as anatomically correct due to its ergonomically shaped and overly large mouse, was also described to be ‘smokin’.

Kay DotOh

---

**MGC 2001**

**And So It Begins…**

Hello 2001 Grads! How does it feel to be almost done?

There are numerous important dates that those of you who are graduating in the class of 2001 should be aware of.

Yearbook comment submissions are due February 7. This will be the little blurb that goes beside your lovely mug shot in the yearbook. Comments are to be submitted online at http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/yearbook/.

Alan George award and selection committee nominations will be open from February 1–14.

The grad ball is coming up! This year’s grad ball will be at the Waterloo Inn on March 10. Tickets cost $40 each and will be on sale from February 5 until March 2.

It is time for us to think about who we want to be our valedictorian. Valedictorian award and selection committee nominations will be open from February 19 – March 2.

Interested in some free-falling action? Those of you who are interested in going parachuting should contact Pete Lizak at plizak@student.math.uwaterloo.ca for more information.

Do not forget that those Intent to Graduate forms are due back to the Registrar’s office on March 1 for those of you wanting to graduate this spring! Convocation will be on Saturday, June 16.

For those that missed the Pizza Day this week, it was yummy. Come get your pin and enjoy pizza every Wednesday.

For more details on upcoming events and deadlines, check out our webpage at http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/. If you are interested in helping out with anything, or for those of you who are not yet on our mailing list of events but want to be, e-mail us at mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.
Here I am, working away at my little English job, when the mathFATHER comes to me with an offer I can't refuse. He needs to know about Groundhog Day in England. He needs an explanation of what they believe about the events of February second. He needs about two columns. He wouldn't mind a picture to go with it all either. Not one to disappoint my mathFATHER, I set out to the coastal town of Bournemouth to learn what the natives of this infrequently-conquered island actually do on the second day of February.

Clutching my hood tight to my head, avoiding the biting sea breeze, I began questioning the locals, “Ground’og, what are you talking about, boy?” came the first reply. “Never ‘eard of the beasties. You sure you know what you’re meaning there?” came the next. Finally, a man who had heard of them spoke with me, but he was almost completely incomprehensible: “Ya, I know ‘em. The wee fellows are a saucy one with mash and sweed, ain’t it right?” I was confused as to how to answer that question, and whether or not it was a question in the first place. So with the locals so difficult to listen to, I renewed my search at the local literary institute, or library.

Checking the archaic card catalogue yielded zero information on groundhogs, but there were a few useful books under “Pagan Holidays.” What Those Daft Yanks Celebrate was a particularly helpful book. In its section on Evil Days of Winter, following President’s Day and Martin Luther King Day (Boxing Day was in the Those-Daft-Canadians section), was Groundhog Day! I quote: “In early February, North Americans worship large rodents whose simplistic sciphobia indicates 3 fortnights of extra snow. Ha ha ha! Them and their snow! Suckers!” I was angry. The rage built up in me like last night’s black bean sauce. I would show those crazy Brits who the suckers actually are. I would bring them Groundhog Day, and then destroy it!! Ha Ha Ha!!!

Step 1: Create winter

Now, as everyone I’ve told this knows, Britain’s temperature is sustained by an Atlantic jet stream, and the island would not support life if it were to lose it. Thus, the fastest way to create winter is to stop this warming wind from reaching England. I am not one to know about gulf streams, high and low pressure areas, and the effects of the Earth’s rotation, so I decided to just build a big wall. Simple enough. One may think that a wall large enough to block the jet stream is a massive undertaking, but they are probably thinking of a thick wall. Obviously, it would take about one quarter the time to build a 25-cm wall than it would to construct a metre-thick wall. So using this logic, I quickly constructed a quantum wall that was tall and wide enough to blanket the southern coast. Then the real winter arrived.

Step 2: Institute Groundhog’s Day

With but a few days before the second, and winter fully upon us, I had to act fast to create the need for national groundhog weather consultations. Using an advertising scheme so diabolically clever that I could not possibly explain it before my deadline (but let’s just say that proper placement in the Sun played a major part of attracting attention — I opted against the post-Super Bowl spot as few people would have been awake at 4 am), I had the nation a-buzz with wonder as to how much longer this winter would last and who might keep this information. Using Wag-the-Dog tactics, I sent to the press an artificial Beatles recording of a never-released song I am the Groundhog (“I am the eggman / I predict weather / I am the Groundhog / goo-goo-gachoo”). Within a week, everyone was welcoming the idea of putting their expectations for the future in the hands of a groundhog.

Immediately, I was called to number 10 as a consultant on the project. With the up-coming election, the last thing Tony wanted was to deny the British their right to ask small mammals what the weather would be like in a few weeks. “Tony,” I says, “Tony, you need an albino groundhog. And you have to name him after an obscure town. And maybe it would help if he were able to still predict weather after he was dead.”

“Smashingly brilliant, old bean!” Tony says. “Bring in the quite white chappies!” And in March a patrol of all-white groundhogs, which struck me as an odd thing for a Prime Minister to keep in his home. “Well, my lad, which one shall it be?”

It was a difficult decision. I didn’t want to show my obvious partiality to Egham Earl and Staines Stanley, but I was definitely not voting for Winchester Willy — too similar to the Canadian meteorological mega-mouse. In the end, it was Luton Larry or Denham Dennis, and I let Tony decide. He never really liked Luton (and who would?), so Denham won the honours of hosting the first Ground Hog day in England.

Step 3: Ruin Groundhog Day

I set out on bike to Denham at about two in the morning, February first. Dressed all in black for sneaking, I was almost hit by cars five times, and I was cycling along a bikes-only path. Two hours later I arrived in Denham. I was more than pleased to see the Yeoman of the Guard sound asleep outside the groundhog house. I opened it up and snatched the unsuspecting Dennis. The two of us bolted for Wycombe where I would execute my lusciously-evil plan. We arrived just in time for the first pub to open up and had some bangers, eggy-wegs, and pints. Just before lunch, I remembered to call in sick to work and we headed off to the next pub (lest people start to wonder about the groundhog and me). For lunch we had deep-fried sandwiches, deep-fried Mars bars, and not-really-fried pints. Mid-afternoon we moved on and continued the pattern until midnight when the pubs closed and Dennis was bounced for mouthing-off to a barmaid. It was time to head back.

In Denham, I found the Yeoman still asleep, as this is actually one of the few things enjoyable to do in Denham. With no worries, I slipped Dennis back into his home and slipped away into the shadows.

The next morning, I was in the crowd as the mayor of Denham made the announcements in preparation for Dennis to emerge and see or not see his shadow. She finally opened the door, but nothing happened. Attempts were made to coach Dennis out, but to no avail. He would not budge. He would only complain of his aching head and ask for the door to be closed. When they finally forced him out, he chucked on the crowd, who were not partial to his grossly-impolite behaviour. Boos roared up. “Daft groundie!” they cried. “The little one’s drunker than the mayor!”

Continued on next page
This past weekend, 7 members from our UW DEX Team competed in the annual Ontario DEX Provincial Business Development Competition. Our competitors went against the best of the best of business students from top business schools such as University of Western Ontario and Queen's University in a 2-day, no holds barred, grudge fight for the dominant title of the best business university in Ontario. Students from all years and fields of business study from 5 Ontario universities, including York, Queen's, Western, Laurier, and of course Waterloo, descended into the Radisson Hotel in North York to compete for the prestigious title. In addition, Johnson and Wales University of Rhode Island drove all the way up to the frozen tundra of Toronto to compete in this provincial competition.

The UW DEX team, consisting of Mathie Frosh David Farr, ActSci frosh Patrick Klann, CS Frosh Raymond Lai, Artsie froshes Tim Hong, Alex Tam, and Leslie Angus, and lead by UW DEX President Artsie frosh Chris Mustakas, went into the competition only to gain experience for future competitions. However, they got more than experience: they brought home the gold!

After 2 intense days of competitions, 3 oral role plays per competitor [Interesting this is in a pimp themed issue — PPP], and a 100-multiple choice business/economics exam, UW DEX emerged triumphant in their first competitions in the “Big Leagues”. Defying all odds and destroying competitors years ahead of them, the UW DEX team captured 3 first places, 1 third place, and numerous other top 10 finishes, despite coming from a University with no business faculty.

More surprising is the fact that Mathies won many of the top awards. Patrick Klann and David Farr, first year Mathies, captured Gold in the Team Business To Business category, and placed top 10 in both the Team International Business and Corporate consultant categories. Raymond Lai, resident columnist here at mathNEWS and also known as the Cornered Frosh [Hmm, I wonder who wrote this article... — TeleEd], captured gold in the Corporate Consultant category, placed third in the Marketing Management category, and placed in the top 10 in the Human Resources Development category.

The Artsies had their day too. Alex Tam captured several top 10 finishes, while Tim Hong, Chris Mustakas, and Leslie Angus all captured top 10 finishes and in several cases, top 3 in the written proficiencies in their category.

However, the competition is never over until they announce the Final-3 awards. The final three are the most prestigious of all the awards, and are presented to 4 people. The first award is the highest written exam mark out of all the competitors. The second award goes to the 2-man team that had garnered the highest mark in the team oral events. Finally, the third award goes to the highest combined mark, evaluated based on the written exam and the oral presentation. The school that takes home the final 3 awards is unofficially crowned “The Best DEX Chapter in Ontario” for the year. In an incredible show of ability and mental strength, UW DEX captured not one, but two of the Final-3 awards! Patrick Klann and David Farr rose above all the other team competitors to win the “highest mark in a team event” award, and Raymond Lai showed all those business majors what Waterloo CS majors can do by winning the “highest written exam mark” award. What is even MORE incredible is that the entire UW DEX team won awards, and achieved a 100% success rating! Having won 2 of the 3 “Final-3’s”, UW is now crowned champion of the Ontario DEX organization in its infant year.

Congratulations to all the UW DEX competitors and UW DEX members this year for their dedication and perseverance. Even though UW DEX is in its inaugural year, we showed all those experienced DEX teams not to trifle with the skills of Waterloo Students.

UW DEX would like to extend an invitation to all those who would like to join the winning team next year and to show what UW students, especially UW Mathies, are made of. Contact UW DEX VP for communications Raymond Lai at colonel-lai@hotmail.com, or UW DEX President Chris Mustakas at chris_deca2000@yahoo.com for more information!

Raymond Lai

An Escape from Winter Blues

Wouldn't you know it? Officially, we are almost to the midway point of winter. So to celebrate, we’ll have a “Yeah! We’re halfway through winter” day celebration on the exact midway point of winter, Feb. 4th here at UW.

We will build snow forts, have snowball fights, design sculptures made of snow and ice. We will also have a toughman competition in which people compete to see how long they can withstand the cold air wearing only a T-shirt and a pair of shorts. In honour of Groundhog Day, we will hold a contest in which a number of men and women will compete to determine who has to potential of becoming a real groundhog himself/herself. Anyone interested in participating can contact me in my office at MC7056 or meet outside my office on Feb. 4th.

The celebration will occur only if the weather cooperates. So if it’s 10 degrees above zero and/or there is no snow to be found anywhere on campus on Feb. 4th, we would have to postpone it until next year.

Mark McDermot
How to Whore (Whoring in Counter-Strike, that is) Successfully

In keeping the theme of _mathNEWS_ this week, Tech Specs will forgo the usual critical analysis of the tech industry. Instead, this week, Tech Specs will look deep into the gaming community, specifically _Half Life: Counter-Strike_, to find out what it takes to Whore like a gaming professional!

Counter-Strike, for those who don't know, is a first-person action shooter. Two opposing teams of Counter-Terrorists and Terrorists vie to control a map by killing the opposing team or to complete a secondary objective, such as planting and detonating a bomb.

First of all, to WHORE means to kill an opponent with style. What exactly constitutes as “killing with style”? Well, there are many ways you can whore an opponent. Namely: • Whoring with a low-cost, low damage weapon  • Whoring with a long-range sniper rifle  • Whoring with special acrobatic moves  • Whoring, and prevailing, over a large amount of opponents  • Whoring with the close assault weapon: The knife  • Whoring with the grenade  • Whoring with an incredible score

**Whoring with a low-cost, low damage weapon**

In _Counter-Strike_, both the terrorist and counter-terrorist (CT's) have the option to buy weapons ranging from full machine guns to small sub-machine rifles. If you want to whore an opponent by using the low-cost method, you can purchase the cheapest sub-machine gun available. The perennial favorite is the CT Tactical Machine Pistol, or TMP. When pimped correctly, the TMP can deal quick death with headshots and upper body shots. However, extreme control must be used with the TMP, as its high fire rate and accuracy is offset by the low damage the weapon produces. This means to whore correctly, one must harness the ‘accuracy circle’ and exploit it to make the appropriate headshots. Terrorists can choose the exclusive MAC10. The MAC10 is similar to the TMP, but it has no silencer, is less accurate, and does slightly more damage. Either way, you can whore pretty well with these low-budget weapons.

**Whoring with a long-range sniper rifle**

Whoring with a Scout sniper rifle or the infamous Arctic Winter Weapon (AWP) is not an easy task. It takes extreme care and patience to keep the target under the reticule. However, if you pull off the shot, your name shall be described synonymously with whore (EG: AWP WHORE!).

**Whoring with special acrobatic moves**

Jumping from a high beam or from a higher level to pimp an unsuspecting enemy below warrants the use of the descriptive word whore. One must take care not to kill oneself when jumping from high ground, though.

**Whoring with a large number of opponents**

If you are going up against 3 or 4 enemies by yourself, and you survive after killing all of your opponents, the kills you made are automatically consider major whorage. This category is special because if you are victorious despite insurmountable odds, then you have just completed a major whorage.

**Whore by knife**

Killing by knife requires precision, swiftness, and stealth. Getting in close enough without the enemy actually knowing you are right behind him and knife him to death is a skill mastered by only a few grand masters of _Counter-Strike_. If you managed to whore someone without them knowing, you may have just whored someone. In addition, if you run out of ammo and kill the enemy with the knife in the heat of battle, it may also be considered as whoring.

**Whoring with the grenade**

Contrary to popular belief, grenade kills are NOT easy. The throwing of the grenade must be time exactly so that the enemy is right on top of it when it explodes. If you timed a grenade correctly, and gimped an enemy in the process, the act of killing a person with the grenade is considered whoring. However, if the enemy is almost dead, and the grenade killed off the enemy with a low-health rating, then that grenade kill can no longer be considered whoring.

**Whoring with an incredible score**

If you end up with a 35-4 kill to death ratio, you are on a what may be considered as a “Whore-streak”, where you are whoring so well that others will automatically consider you an uber-whore for that particular round.

Whoring is a difficult process that must be slowly mastered by any new CS player. I would recommend concentrating at one whoring ability at a time, and only proceeding to the next whoring level once the current whoring skill is completely mastered. Some whoring techniques require steady hands, while some require a good sense of bullet direction, while others demand absolute stealth and cunning. Whoring isn't just dominating over an opponent, it is an art that requires to be mastered, practiced, and showcased when it is complete.

Happy Whoring!
Raymond CT Lai
_mathNEWS_ Technology Columnist

**It’s Not Too Late!**

*For FASS tickets that is*

Need a way to unwind from/during midterms? Sure, you could go to a bar and get drunk, but what's the point when you won't remember any of it the next morning? (Plus those photographs of you will probably turn up in 20 years as blackmail material.) Instead, why not come out to see 2001: A FASS Oddity, being performed tonight and Saturday in the Hagey Hall Humanities Theatre!!!

The performances are 7 pm and 10 pm Friday and 8 pm on Saturday. Tickets are $8 each or 6 for $6 each, and they can be obtained from the Humanities box office. Their number is 888-4908 or you can drop by in person. The show is a lot of fun so come on out! Don't delay! Act now! (For that matter, you can even come on out and act in FASS yourself next year! :)

Greg “props” Taylor
A New Term

Not too long ago, in a room far far away in REV, East Quad (GO EAST E), a somewhat naive green hippo was visiting his friend who had a CS241 assignment due the next day. The evil monkey empire ran rampant, causing much misery and suffering throughout the galaxy...

“So, how’re you doing?” asked the hippo.

“Go away,” replied the somewhat disgruntled CS student, “I have an assignment due tomorrow, and what the heck is this stack and recursion stuff?”

“Let me help you,” said the hippo.

“No. I’m perfectly able to fail this assignment myself, thanks anyways though,” said the unnamed mathie, and with that, he pushed the hippo out the door. Quite an accomplishment considering the hippo was... well... hippo size and all.

So the lonely hippo returned to his home, only to find that it was in shambles; the evil purple monkeys had visited him again. He had to find a way to destroy the evil purple monkey empire... once and for all.

So our green hippo knew what he had to do. He had to go to the old wise man he knew, one who could help him. The wise old man who had trained him with special powers. The one old man that could help him defeat the evil monkeys... and his name was Nah-vzm Jdmnah.

Along the way, he met two people. One was a tall, golden haired artsie and one was a rather short engineer. It turned out that the engineer was also seeking the old man, and the artsie was following the engineer because she was lost and needed him to get home. So they travelled together to see the old man.

Along the way, a quantum-mechanics question-wielding physics student attacked our hippo. With our hippo dazed by the infinite complexity of the universe, all seemed lost until a robed figure approached and asked the physics student a question that boggled even the physics student...

Superbowl Report

Superbowl MCXXVI was held last Sunday, and boy, what a show it was. The Akron Pork Rinds were meeting the Idaho Salamanders in the fight of the century. In the first half, it seemed like the Salamanders weren’t even present — the “Rompin’ Rinds” walked all over them, jumping out to a 54–0 lead at the end of the half. Then it turned out that the Salamanders weren’t actually present — their team bus was late, and so their management sent a group of crazed fans out instead. Fortunately, only a couple of the stand-ins were seriously injured.

The half-time show featured a duet between Celine Dion and a large furry animal billed as “Pimp Daddy G.H., da pimpin’ groundhog”.

In the second half, the real Salamanders suited up for battle, and what a battle it was. The teams were so evenly matched that they fought over the same fifteen yards of field, with neither team managing to make a breakthrough, until the last-minute warning. On the next play, the Salamander QB went back to throw, but had the ball stripped from him by a large bird. The bird carried the ball all the way down field and dropped it into the arms of Pimp Daddy G.H., who was standing in the end zone. Amid the confusion and wild cheering of the crazed Salamander fans, it was revealed that the referees hadn’t been paying attention — they were busy forming a Survivor pool. Oblivious to the fact that the Rinds were ahead by at least 47 points, the officials flipped a coin and awarded the game to the Salamanders. Pimp Daddy G.H. received the MVP award.

On the subsequent premiere episode of Survivor 2, all of the contestants were bitten by poisonous animals and died of their injuries.

Richard “I have better things to do with my Sunday night” Bilson

ISSN 0705—0410

_**mathNEWS**_ is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. _**mathNEWS**_ is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the _**mathNEWS**_ editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or _**mathNEWS**_. Current and back issues of _**mathNEWS**_ are available electronically via the World Wide Web at http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/. Send your correspondence to: _**mathNEWS**_, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Avenue W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid math-news@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

The editor(s): Pimpin Peter Lizak and Bradley T Ho Smith
“I saw once: blowing snow in the dead of winter, a student, on his front porch, cooking DINNER on a frigging gas barbeque. I can only imagine him doing his Kraft Dinner on the outdoor range.”

Smith, ECON 102

“And so you wait in line for concert tickets because you’ve never actually seen someone do that to a chicken.”

McLeish, STAT 340

“I got an email saying I was going too fast over the last topic... why don’t we devise some signals to send me immediate feedback on the pace... say, a ‘time-out’ gesture means I need to slow down, while pulling your ears means you all get bored on the topic. But don’t abuse these signals and don’t expect other professors will comprehend them.”

Safayeni, MSCI 311

( student suggests give prof a shock/a coin instead of the signalling) “Hmm... have you ever heard of a prof collecting a whole pile of coins during lectures... the school will say it’s unethical or something... and don’t deliver a collective shock, please, otherwise the headline would be “Prof murdered by...”’ wait, who’s responsible for this?”

Safayeni, MSCI 311

“I’m slightly retarded.”

Crippin, MATH 136

“I’m not very smart. People tell me that all the time.”

Crippin, MATH 136

(Waiting for responses in a Tuesday class) “Oh c’mon, Monday isn’t pub night is it?”

Munro, CS240

“We’ll draw our trees with the lack of biology knowledge—roots on top!”

Munro, CS240

“Someone in this class is not from Math or Engineering, so I guess he’ll actually have a life during reading week.”

Hooper, PMATH 340

“People are kinda squishy and they break if you put them in a machine.”

Smith, ECON 102

“We kill trees in BC so you can go to disney world with all those plastic trees and furry people running around.”

Smith, ECON 102

“You will not find a secret conspiracy of crazed wacko macho males.”

Smith, ECON 102

“You can ask me to help you not graduate.”

Smith, ECON 102

“If you get too aggressive and spend too much money I’m going to bash you in the head.”

Smith, ECON 102

“What the hell? 500 million dollars seems to have gotten away from us.”

Smith, ECON 102

Prof: “What’s the binary decomposition of 87?”

Student: “64 16 4 2 1”

Prof: “Whose phone number is that?”

Munro, CS 240

(about how researchers tend to embed their expected answer in the wording of a questionnaire) “At the dentist’s you might get ‘Are you interested in keeping your teeth?’ What do you expect? ‘No. Pull ‘em all out, set me free?’”

Safayeni, MSCI 311

Prof: (writes proof on board, speaks to student) “Don’t you think this is fantastic?”

Student: “Somewhat.”

Prof: “Come on. Don’t you think this is brilliant?”

Student: “Somewhat.”

Prof: (Now Frustrated) “Don’t you think this is brilliant?”

Student: “Perhaps for you, sir.”

Prof: (To students in front row) “I think he’s trying to hurt my feelings.”

Crippin, MATH 136

“Pick something else, that I can say in front of the class.”

Mann, CS 251

“It’s a tradition in some Chinese subcultures to give Finite State Machines as gifts.”

Vasiga, CS 241

“And I won’t sing it to you right now... you should be very happy for that.”

Vasiga, CS 241

Prof: “Who wants to buy a computer that can only add one bit?”

(Student raises hand.)

Prof: “Come see me after class.”

Student: “How much?”

Prof: “If you’re willing to buy it, I’d probably charge a lot.”

Mann, CS 251

“Now who wants to buy that computer? Not even the wise guys?”

Mann, CS 251

“At the end, your diagram should look like this. This is Assignment 3. And the funny thing is, you think I’m joking.”

Vasiga, CS 241

“There is a world outside Java. It’s called the real one.”

Vasiga, CS 241

“And now you’re all snickering because you know in Java it’s O(n³) or something...”

Vasiga, CS 241

“You can say Rob Muhlbock said that running a vacuum cleaner while using a computer can eliminate viruses, or jamming a hotdog into your hard drive... whatever.”
“110 years ago, from my childhood…”

Smith, ECON 102

“Drug dealers fail to report their income for taxes.”

Smith, ECON 102

“Since Revenue Canada tax laws state all information obtained is confidential, you can actually write ‘occupation: drug dealer.’”

Smith, ECON 102

“Everyone who wants to evade taxes, hold your questions. Wait for my next topic… let’s do this one step at a time.”

Smith, ECON 102

“I hate giving criminals ideas.”

Smith, ECON 102

“Come on lady, we’re evading the tax man. I’m not going to give you a receipt.”

Smith, ECON 102

“You can’t buy cocaine on a credit card.”

Smith, ECON 102

“If there are only female CSers here…”

Smith, ECON 102

“Who here knows how to add?” (Three hands go up.)

“I guess you’re all good mathematicians.”

Mann, CS 251

“Copying was also something I had a hard time with in school.”

Mann, CS 251

“Most programming languages aren’t smart enough to say ‘Since you are dealing with salaries, you should be doubling them.’”

Vasiga, CS 241

(Prof points to scribbling on board.) “We’re even more messed up than this.”

Vasiga, CS 241

“This is where I get to use the word ‘trivial’. If you write ‘trivial’ on an assignment, you get zero, even if it is trivial.”

Vasiga, CS 241

“And here’s one of the most powerful proof techniques used in CS 241: By Example.”

Vasiga, CS 241

“I don’t have to add any numbers, so I get the answer relatively quickly.”

Chateauneuf, MATH 136

“Yeah, that’s an answer. A really easy one. We’re going to go deeper, unfortunately for you.”

Chateauneuf, MATH 136

“So why do we force you to learn all these [trigonometric formulae]? Well, because it’s good for your soul.”

Tenti, MATH 138

Why doesn’t the world work right? Well, look at it! It’s as if you bought it from a used world dealer.”

Van Evra, PHIL 100

“These are just two symbols, no particular meaning… this could be a hat, this could be a snake.”

General l’Hopital

The nonspecific continuation

“These events do form an unusual sequence,” Max Value stated, a bit nonplussed.

“Don’t react negatively,” Dr. Waterson advised. “You must discover the cause so that we can limit such occurrences before they increase without bound.”

Having met with Ana and Max Value, Dr. Waterson and Elly were now persuading the PI to assist them in their investigation of errors at l’Hopital Central.

“Well, my case volume is low and your arguments seem solid on the surface,” Max yielded. “So I’ll get to the point. Electra, any line on people in the area out to wreck your reputation?”

“No, I don’t hang out in circles containing such squares,” Elly replied.

“Are you certain there’s no one, in any shape or form? Perhaps a platonic relationship?”

Elly sighed. “Read my ellipse: Try angles other than your wrecked angle. Maybe contact the Pentagon?”

“Or heck, Saigon,” Max retorted. “After all, I have an informant over there, Gene Etic. He’s my link for criminal confinement cases…”

“Dear,” Ana phrased, moving forwards. “This case has nothing to do with jail cell divisions.”

“Aeh!” Elly yelped. “Get off my toe, sis!”

“So who might be involved in this business then?” Max mumbled, scanning some files. “Someone in marketing? Apparently Eko Nomics decks people… hey, where’s DECA gone?”

“If I may,” Dr. Waterson cut in. “The trouble is primarily financial with the added dimension here including lopped off decimals and negative numbers which were dashed off. It will lead to positive chaos.”

“Aha!” Max realized, raising a digit. “That’s why your number’s up! Figures. But you can count on me.”

“You’re acting a bit irrational about the whole thing,” Elly remarked.

“Max has been dealing with complex cases, it’s only natural,” Ana soothed. “Leave everything in our hands, I’ll even foot the bill.”

“Give us a heads up then if you kneed more info,” Dr. Waterson stated. “We’ll keep in touch as friends and family. But right now me and Elly should start trekking the long distance back to work.”

There was a pause after the two Hopital workers departed. “Well, their case doesn’t seem very arresting,” Ana finally piped up. “How much attention do you think it warrants?”

“Quite a lot,” Max countered, producing a table he put on his desk. “Because I think some of my other cases here are connected! Mark my words Ana, there’s something deep going on here. But it’s not so deep that I can’t get to the bottom of it!”

Not to be discontinued…?

Greg “hologrami” Taylor
Food For Thought

Lexical Analysis

Well I am sure we all know what happened in America. With the greatest economy and industrial power suddenly intent on war America began work in earnest to produce a weapon based on the fissioning of Uranium atoms. We all know what became of that experiment in August of 1945.

I have studied the succeeding period in US/USSR relations for some time, and you know I am not exactly sure why, probably Stalin's bull headiness, but somehow former allies became enemies in the ensuing cold war. Still whatever the reason, in July of 1946, less than a year after VJ day the first American post war test of atomic bombs were conducted in an atoll in the South Pacific, an atoll called Bikini. Writing about those nuclear tests in 1995 Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes said:

"Bikini, Lewis Strauss's [American physicist and hydrogen bomb enthusiast] bright idea and Curtis LeMay's [US Air Force general] albatross, supplied a name for a scandalous new French bathing suit. Otherwise it was a technical disaster. (page 261 of “Dark Sun The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb")"

As it turned out Bikini was the tip of the iceberg. Two bombs were tested at Bikini in 1946, one was tested in New Mexico in 1945 and over 1000 more bombs would be tested by the United States alone (more tests than the rest of the World combined) from 1947 through until 1997.

Presently the United States has literally thousands of these horrifying weapons at hair trigger readiness throughout the World on submarines, in missile silos, in storage on aircraft carries and battle ships, lord only knows where else. Yet for some reason the present Bush administration is afraid of missile attack from North Korea?

Was that arms race necessary? By one estimate that properly counts delivery systems as well as weapons, it cost the United States $4 trillion - roughly the US national debt in 1994 - the expense of the arms race contributed to US decline... evident in an oppressive national debt, in decaying infrastructure and social and educational neglect. (“Dark Sun” page 582)

These our our neighbours, like it or not. If they decide to piss away another $4 trillion who is going to suffer if Canada’s economy is so dependent on a healthy American economy? Of course why should we care — I don't think we would survive another cold war.

Michael Cole

RIAA suing Waterloo CS student

Peer to peer program network sharing program to blame

The RIAA announced today that it plans to pursue a lawsuit on Waterloo Computer Science student Sonya-Paula Uttini. Uttini, in her 3B term at Waterloo, is alleged to be developing a Peer-to-Peer file sharing program that may infract copyright infringements on members of the RIAA.

"Its true," said Uttini. “This program, Spread, it’s the greatest thing since sliced bread! Well no, sliced bread is slightly better than Spread. But bagels certainly come below Spread!”

Spread just underwent its first beta release, entitled Jelly, for the Nachos simulated operating system.

The RIAA contends that with the large install base of the Na-
I missed the last issue, but I’m in for this one. I’d love to tell you that the rest of this article is going to be a brilliant masterpiece of writing, but I expect it’ll turn out to be a random but more or less coherent collection of some thoughts I’ve had lately. So here goes.

First off, I tried fencing with the fencing club. I used to fence a long time ago, and after enough movies of the sword and shield genre I found myself longing to take up the sport again. To anyone who’s ever relished the honourable Robin-Hood-esque days and wanted to sword fight, don’t try fencing. It’s not like that. There were no fair maidens, no sheriffs, and the fighting is technical rather than adventurous.

If you’re looking for adventure, try walking the streets of Toronto. I recently did a big long walk down Yonge St - pretty interesting sights. I went into this one store, with a lot of beautiful art, and I felt so sorry for the guy cause you could “feel” that business wasn’t going very well. Ironic that he would probably go under before the adjacent porn shop. Or maybe just tragic. I wished that I had had money to support him, but I was/am broke. Also saw a lot of homeless people, even some getting hassled by the police. It made me think, man, why are we giving the homeless a hard time? Don’t they have it hard enough? Yet some of the street people respond pleasantly to conversation, and were helpful in answering my questions about how to get around.

If you want straight answers to your questions though, don’t go around asking things like “Is oil bad for the environment?” to an organization like an oil company. They gave a really vague answer laced only with the certainty that of course they were doing everything in there power to minimize pollution. Of course.

Speaking of false, I have to say, I had a pretty false impression of Toronto until now. After spending some time there it’s kind of grown on me. Sure, parts are still disgusting, but there’s beauty here and there. I had some spare time the other day in TO, so I decided to find a place to sit and get inspiration to write. So I sat myself down at the subway station at Bloor and St. George and wrote a bit. I want to share a four line passage that I wrote there:

Sitting here on the floor wasn’t easy
Still trying to shake a sense of contamination
When the real affliction is in my mind
Telling me that dissidence is dirty.

It was cool just watching people and having it help spawn new ideas. I also checked out the ROM for the same purpose, and found inspiration listening to the comments of children. It’s pretty amazing watching their excitement. To me, it’s just simulated snake after simulated snake, which maybe has some interesting footnote for me to read, but I watched a little kid run around so exuberantly yelling “Mom...LOOK AT THIS one! And this one! Wow! And this one...” Kids rock.

If you really want to rock though, you’ll check out my man Maestro this weekend at FED. Last time I check he was the only Canadian rapper to ever have an album go gold. Another good thing to attend might be one of those Cognitive Science talks they’re having one every month now. They sound pretty interesting. There’s one Feb 2 at 2:30-4 in HH 373. It’s about Cognitive Issues with Interactive Technology. There’s others, same time and place: March 16 is about Human Infants cognition, and April 6th is on Computational Learning. Anyway, I don’t think they’ve been publicized a lot so I thought I’d mention it. Could be cool??!

Just spent a weekend at Blue Mountain with a bunch of Chemistry students skiing, and those mornings waking up to go skiing were freezing. Otherwise, the weather was amazing. Blue Mountain must be the best hill in Ontario. Three separate 6-person chairs and high-speed quad. Geez, I’m just laced with propaganda today. Sorry. Anyway, back to the hill, I tried snowboarding and since it was my second time I pretty much destroyed my tailbone. It was brutal. I was in so much pain. I also skied, and that allowed me to check out all the slopes. I hadn’t skied in a couple years but before that I was rather proficient. So I was psyched to get off of the snowboard I could barely control and into skis that I could maneuver with ease. I was skiing with several people, one of which quickly became my challenge to keep up with after he performed with a flawless technique down the steepest slope we could find. So when he said, “Let’s ski into the forest,” I figured, sure, that’s a really really smart idea. Minutes later, I was dragging my sorry self and skis and poles out of a creek. Moral of the story - stay on the trail!

I was also in Guelph recently. For anyone who has never taken the time, I highly recommend a road trip to Guelph. First of all it’s close, only a 35 minute bus ride, which costs $11.77 round trip. Next, you’ve got a much more reasonable balance of female students than the math building has ever seen. And the atmosphere is unmistakably more vibrant than here.

I was actually there for a short conference on the environment but ended up spending more time washing dishes. In terms of discussion there were some interesting points raised. One person said that it was ultimately the fault of the people who don’t demand that companies clean up their act who were to blame for companies doing ecologically unhealthy practices. Another pointed out that we have been taught by those companies and by the government and by the media that the best way to live is to demand lower prices and not worry about making the companies environmentally responsible. Still another person pointed out that too many people think that helping the environment should be directly beneficial to only people as opposed to every living thing. All in all it was an worthwhile and interesting time.

Actually, one thing has been bothering me about the trip to Guelph, and maybe this has happened to someone else. Ever have one of those days were you feel fine, you think everything is fine, but when you talk you say the most idiotic things, and it just keeps getting worse and worse? Well that happened at Guelph, and I think I gave some people a really bad impression of myself. I’m not sure if I’m just bothered by the fact that I blew a chance to meet some cool people or if it’s just so strange that I can’t put my finger on what was happening. It was as if there was just some weird luck that decided that every time I spoke it was going to be a really dumb thing to say or a joke that completely died before it was even born.

But here’s hoping that this article was a little smoother than that! See y’all next time.

Jesse Bergman
The Horrorscope: February 2nd–16th

Once again, mathNEWS brings you the decrypted algorithms of the skies to bring you fortunes of your future.

**MATH**

Prolonged exposures to unfinished assignments could bring about the need for hardcore porn. Crashing of windows may bring about a change of attitude. Beware of garden tools disguised as sex workers.

Interactions with Mathies of the farer sex is imminent, but only in the next 100 years.

Your lucky number is 2 hours sleep.

**CS**

You’ll never find a real-life girlfriend, and Virtual Valerie doesn’t count. Instead, running Booty Call on your computer may bring about unexpected spurts of excitement. Beware of overhead objects.

Prepare to fight for employment with Eng and AM. Arties may find your choice of software ‘kinky’ and ‘sexy.’

Your lucky number is 100 megs of hard drive space.

**AM**

You will never be forgotten again. Applying mathematical models to dating rituals will yield continuous bitch-slapings.

Prepare to fight for employment with Eng and AM. Arties may find your choice of software ‘kinky’ and ‘sexy.’

Your lucky number is 1/2mv ^ 2

**ACC**

Double check your numbers. Comparisons between yourself and the action of counting beans may take place in the near future. You may find yourself at an unbalanced income after visiting the Bomber one time too many.

Interactions with CS is a possibility if assignments are yet to be completed.

Your lucky number is (1000)

**ACTSCI**

Large salaries are in your grasp... within the next 60 years. In the meantime, use probability skills to bet in the Survivor 2 pool.

STAT is still angered by your use of their analytical tools. A physical confrontation will be ugly.

Your lucky number is 60% you’ll win the pool.

**MATHBUS**

Trekking in the snow to Laurier may be a death defying experience. Laurier girls are pretty. For guaranteed success, call them over by yelling “Hey bitch, get over here!” [You Usually get a slap for yellin’ this line out — Pimpin Pete]

Your lucky number is 6 days in hospital.

**OR**

No one knows what you people do, so slacking off with the latest soft porn websites seems like a productive thing to accomplish. The line between OR and CS and her bikini are quickly blurring, especially after a few beers.

You may have more appeal for the opposite sex in comparison to a CS. Beware of retaliatory attacks.

Your lucky number is .08 blood alcohol level

**C&O**

Searching for trees may get you lost in a forest. Looking at graphs too long may lead you to starring in the next Good Will Hunting movie. Avoid contact with real paper and blow some heads with Counter-Strike.

Loud music from AHS may make you go insane.

Your lucky number is 3 TMP whores.

**STAT**

Shake off your disbelief that your probability models failed to predict the winner of Super Bowl XXXV. Heidi Klum’s waist and bra sizes are not a good bet on the final score. Instead, concentrate on new models for your local Survivor 2 gambling pool. Denise Richard’s measurements are a good bet.

ARTS may come to you for betting advice. Beat them with a pointy stick. ACTSCI may fight for Survivor 2 betting pool crown.

Your lucky number is 36DD-20-30, blond hair, blue eyes.

**PMATH**

You will dream about numbers and have nightmares of pink ties. Complex equations may be formed in your alphabet soup as you discuss the ethics of numbers in the comfy lounge. The disturbance you cause will interrupt other comfy lounge ‘regulars’ from their beauty sleep. Violence may ensue. (Hint: fight back with soap and deodorant)

You will have no interaction with anyone whatsoever.

Your lucky number is 45 minutes of REM sleep.

**ARTS**

Squeegee water is frozen, switch to the snowbrush. The large amount of white stuff falling from the sky may be key to putting food on the table. Drinking anti-freeze to keep yourself warm may not be a good idea.

Interactions with various owners of snowed-in cars are very likely. Joining DEX may bring unexpected pleasures.

Your lucky number is 15 minutes of exposure before your hands freeze.

**ENG**

Purchasing hygiene products may be difficult due to your extremely large alcohol budget. A bottle of champagne does not cost $50 no matter what that attractive woman at the “men’s club” tells you.

You have difficulty in expressing your feelings while drunk. Let Viagra do the talking.

Your lucky number is “feeling good”

**SCI**

Last week’s experiment with a CS may have caused a fatal explosion. Cover up the evidence. Replace CS with a MATHBUS.

Experiment with a MATHBUS, but exercise heavy caution when mixing business with pleasure.

Your lucky number is 3.14.

**AHS**

Continue with binge drinking. Slam toilets that don’t belong to you, or are a far distance from where you live. Ignore calls to keep it down. Instead, provide campus wide music for all to enjoy. You may get acquainted with a woman named Miranda Rights.

MATH and ENG may focus towards you after their failed attempts at relationships within their own level.

Your lucky number is 48 hours in lockup.

Amadaeus & Kay DotOh
Screamer’s Thoughts, Randomized and Optimized

Money—I want more, more, MORE!

“Money isn’t everything, but without money one can do nothing.”

Author Unknown

The Rise of Starting Salary

A recent survey of Canadian college and university students found that the students’ salary expectations are high, sky high. The results showed that the average expected starting salary among those who took the survey is $43000 per year. In other words, if you live a very lean University life (i.e. no movies, no TV, having a starvation diet, buying 3rd-hand texts, living in a dank, no alcohol, walk whenever you leave the dank, and so on), you can recover almost all the money spent on attending university. If you don’t think $43000 is high, consider this — on average, those surveyed expects to earn $60000+ per year within 5 years.

It is good to have high expectations, but we have to be realistic. All right, most of the mathies are in high demand and we are in a great program known as UW Math. However, there is high expectation and then there is unrealistic expectation. I also think of how much I’ll earn when I leave UW, but I would rather not tell about it (who really talks about starting salary in the Comfy, anyway). Many of us might have been influenced by the dot-com-earn-a-million-in-one-night geniuses. Since those people earn so much in so little time, many people’s expectations skyrocketed. Sure, many companies will dote out a lot of dough to lure us, but don’t expect so much that nothing satisfies you.

Speaking of starting salary, I recently saw an ad in which a man chose DeVry College (the school many of us love to hate) because its graduates have high starting salary. To him, and those who study to get a high-paying job, I say: “If having a great beginning salary is the only reason you are attending (insert institution), then you are wasting your time and money.” Plumbing is a well-paying job, too. You get to work on your own hours and you don’t have to spend a lot of time to learn the trade. Why waste your (and others’) valuable time and money if the only motivation is getting a high-paying job, when there are many other opportunities waiting for you?

Everything2.com Nodes of the week

Heyo, People of Math (and Alison)

So, if you haven’t been to Everything2.com, go there. I swear, it’s good. Everything2.com. It’s a pleasant blend of impeccable writing, poetic whimsy, insanity and fanaticism. And it’s run by CS geeks! Life is so good. And by so good I mean very strange.

Just between you and me, it would be better if the people in charge would let it grow differently. But whatever. Go there read the FAQ, figure it out, log in, write some stuff. Or just read my pieces. It makes little difference to me.

For the week of January 20 - 26.

Guys that can’t unhook a girls bra

Fruity, yet with a pleasing aftertaste. Not too bitter and full with brusque (almost baroque) bouquet of flavours. An excellent midday selection. Recommended for those who like a less dry vintage. (2000)

Living in the U.S., is it that much better?

Many of us long to work in the U.S., where the pay is higher, the taxes are lower, and the dollar is much stronger (let’s hope this changes soon). Many believe that living and working in the U.S. is a better choice than staying in Canada. Unless you lived in a cave for the past decade, you probably have heard of the term “Brain Drain”, where people graduating from Canadian institutions move south in search of a better life. For some, they have struck gold, for some others, it could be an experience one doesn’t want to recall. Life in the U.S. may not be as wonderful as it sounds. Many consumer products in the two countries have the same DOLLAR AMOUNT. So if you are buying the same product, you pay relatively more in the U.S. You also have to pay for many things that we take for granted here in Canada. Besides, earning more doesn’t mean you are guaranteed to be happier or to have a better life. So before you cross the border, think about this question “Is it really the best path for me?”

Many of us complain about how high tuition has gone up over the past decade. After all, tuition across Ontario has at least doubled in the 1990’s (sounds like a long time ago, doesn’t it?). Our cost of getting an education is high, but not as high as earning a degree in the U.S. of A. Studying in a public (state-funded) university costs about $1000 U.S. per quarter (3 months) for a resident of that state. Factor in room and board and the cost rises to $4000+ U.S. every 3 months. So a state resident would have to spend about $50,000 U.S. (or about 75,000 loonies) to earn a 4-year degree. I wouldn’t even say how much it would cost for us Canadians to study in the States (hint: if you guess 6 figures you are in the right range). Of course, we can’t let our cost of education to go up to that level, but we are, in some ways, a lucky group.

One last Yell

It might only be my imagination, but the villain of the movie Antitrust does look similar to Bill Gates. Is it a strange coincidence or is it a blatant plot? I will leave this question for you to ponder.

Jason “the Screamer” Lau

For the week of of January 27- February 4

If America should go communist

This is great. This is why I end up on everything2.com at 4:30 in the morning, just reading: someone’s copied a manuscript of Trotsky, railing about what a great nation America could be, if only they would repent their capitalistic ways. “Just think,” he says, of the United State’s resources, combined with the Bolshevik philosophy.

Trotsky puts up a great argument, but falls short somewhere. He wrote this just slightly before the gardener put an ice-pick in his head. Which is actually a great play, if you can find it, the Bolshevik philosophy.

Unfortunately, none of this is mentioned. Maybe it should be....

Smiles,
The following is an article I wrote back when I was taking CS246. I found my CS prof’s description of object-oriented programming techniques weak (having read a couple of introductory books on the subject previously). I threw this together initially to explain the concepts to a couple of friends, using more familiar concepts. Unfortunately, at the time, the editors of mathNEWS refused to publish the article. Now, I have been asked to resubmit it for this issue. As you read this, I ask that you bear in mind that this was written a long time ago. If it looks like it was written by a 17 year-old, that’s probably because it was written by one.

OOP — Object-Oriented Prostitution

In recent years, much focus has been put on object technology as a means of improving the design and implementation of many applications. Of course, to use object technology, one must understand it. Therefore, I offer you this first tutorial in object-oriented programming in C++.

The three fundamental ideas behind object-oriented programming are encapsulation, inheritance, and polymorphism. I will explain these concepts by relating them to a simple, fundamental topic: prostitution.

Encapsulation:

One primary difference between an object class and a user-defined data structure is the encapsulation of member functions. The data within a structure may be altered directly, or by external functions. In modern, “proper” development, we usually use accessor functions to modify the data members of an object. In an object class, we may store a number of functions within the object itself. Furthermore, we can restrict access to the data members, so that external functions may not touch them. Take as an example this declaration of class Pimp:

```cpp
class Pimp {  
  private:  
    Ho* [5] DaGirls;  
    void DissAHo(Ho *pHo);  
  public:  
    Ho* GetHo(int Cash);  
    void GiveBeats(John *pJohn);  
    void WorkStreet(Street* pStreet);  
};
```

In this case, an object of class Pimp has an array of pointers to objects of type Ho. (At this point, a given pimp has exactly five Ho objects. In a later exercise, we will implement Pimp differently.) This array is designated as being private. Therefore, one may not access a Ho directly. (Attempting to do this may result in the function GiveBeats being called.) Instead, one passes an integer (Cash) to the Pimp’s function GetHo, at which point the Pimp returns a pointer to a Ho. Within the object, we have the data members, and a restricted method of accessing the data members. Additionally, we have other functions associated with a Pimp, such as DissAHo (which must be called by one of the Pimp’s member functions), GiveBeats, and WorkStreet. Note that one describes the relationship between Bubba (an object of class Pimp) and a Ho as: Bubba HAS A Ho. (I can’t remember the exact name for this IS A/HAS A notation, but I have seen it in several books, so am inclined to think that it falls under some conventional standard.)

Top 10 most common thoughts when handing in assignments at the drop box

10. Box 1, slot 7, … same as at the brothel…
9. Why does the assignment black box say “mathNEWS Black Box” on it?
8. I wonder if I put a baby mouse in there, will it eat all the assignments?
7. I should put my chest hair clippings in there…
6. Damn our prof is hot... if only we could make sweet love on top of these sticky assignment drop boxes... why are they sticky?
5. I’ve found a black hole, and it ain’t your mom’s massive rear.
4. How will they get it out?
3. What is this incessant itching in my pants?
2. I’ve gotta fit this in that slot! Now I know how all those ladies felt!
1. This isn’t the assignment drop box, this is the brothel!!

Pimpin’ Pete
Continued from previous page

Inheritance:
This is one of the more popular aspects of object-oriented programming. Inheritance allows us to define a new class based on a previous one, without having to redefine the existing information. This is quite nice when you have a general class and wish to create a more strictly defined class. For example, we define the class Ho, from which we derive subclasses GoodHo, and BadHo:
class Ho {
    private:
        Pimp* boss;
    public:
        int Cost;
        virtual void Pleasure(John *pJohn) = 0;
    }
class GoodHo : public Ho {
    public:
        virtual void Pleasure(John *pJohn) {
            MakeSweetLove(pJohn);
        }
    }
class BadHo : public Ho {
    public:
        virtual void Pleasure(John *pJohn) {
            HurryUpAndGetOutOfHere(pJohn);
        }
    }

Here, we start with an abstract base class Ho (the class is abstract, since the virtual function Pleasure is undefined). We then derive the classes GoodHo and BadHo, which both have the same data members and member functions as Ho, although they have defined the Pleasure function. When one calls a GoodHo's Pleasure function, she calls MakeSweetLove, as opposed to a BadHo, who will call HurryUpAndGetOutOfHere. Thus, we have two well-defined subclasses of Ho. Furthermore, since GoodHo is derived from Ho, we say that Mitzy (an object of class GoodHo) IS A Ho.

Polymorphism:
This aspect of object-oriented programming is perhaps the most difficult to understand, and yet, without it, inheritance would lose much of its usefulness. Polymorphism describes the ability of the executing program to dynamically decide which member function to call at a given moment (normally function calls are determined at compile type.) Take the following example:
class John {
    private:
        int CashOnHand;
    public:
        void HaveAGoodTime(Pimp* pPimp, int Cost) {
            Ho* MyHo=pPimp->GetHo(Cost);
            Ho* MyHo=pPimp->GetHo(Cost);
            CashOnHand -= Cost; // Deduct cost from CashOnHand
            MyHo->Pleasure(this); /* Is this
            GetHo(Cost);               GoodHo.MakeSweet-
            MyHo->Pleasure(this); /*Is this
            Love, or
            BadHo.HurryUpAndGetOutOfHere? */
        }
    }

The class John has a public member function HaveAGoodTime, which takes as parameters a pointer to a Pimp, and an integer representing the Cost being paid. Depending on the value of Cost (and the mood of the Pimp), GetHo may return a GoodHo or a BadHo. Thus, the call to Pleasure is ambiguous at compile time. Thanks to the miracle of polymorphism, the program calls the correct function given the particular circumstances. So, the John will get exactly what he pays for.

So, from this lesson, you should now understand the basics of object-oriented programming, and may be able to implement your own OO prostitution ring. Just make sure you don't try bringing any of your Hos onto my turf.

Pimp daddy Mike

When All You Really Wanted Was A Turkey Sandwich

Right so, have I got a story for you. Actually, it's a story, followed by a question, followed by a story involving a question. The story begins, where all good stories do, in the morning before an 8:30 class. I knew it was going to be one of those days as soon as I put my underwear on inside out and didn't realise it until my pants were almost completely on.

I figured I could brush it off by doing a cryptic crossword, but since I didn't get any words, and some schmuck ripped it in half, I decided to drift away from the real world for a while, because who wants a third broken headlight when you've already got two? Right, so there's the question. Now you're rubbing your hands in glee thinking, "Here comes the story involving a question. I can't wait."

Well, things change, kiddo. Meanwhile, I realized that a nameless math prof was rambling on about something so unrelated he had himself confused, so I thought I'd do the class a favour. I marched up, right in his face, and was like, "Yo, hot shot, was-up?" and gave him a huge right-left-right combo to the head. But he didn't go down that easy, he was all, "How do you
mathSquiz, the Adbridged Version

It’s currently Tuesday, and Pete, the dictator is complaining that we have no Squiz this week. Since I am within vocal radius of his constant whining, I have taken the liberty to set up an adbridged version of the Squiz this week. I know it will suck, so if you all don’t like it, email Brad to come back as the morphing Squizmaster. In the meantime, enjoy this week’s shortened version of the mathNEWS Squizzz.

Oh yeah, and the winner is some Peter Moore guy. Come by the mathNEWS office, or email mathnews@student.math to claim your prize!

Section A- Signs in MathSoc (All answers can be found on signs in the MathSoc office)
1. The third word in the second paragraph of the New Office Policy sign is...
2. What can you remove from the Office Manager’s desk?
3. Name all of the business whose fridge magnets adorne the MathSoc fridge
4. What will MathSoc do to rotting food?
5. What does MathSoc require you to surrender if you don’t “Keep it Clean”?

Section B- Obscure Star Trek Trivia
1. What is the registry number of the USS Valiant?
2. What is the name of Robert Duncan MacNeil’s first Starfleet Cadet character?
3. Name the two-parter episode that is to air later this year for Star Trek: Voyager
4. How many shuttles have Voyager lost over the years?
5. Name all Star Trek movies the Romulans have a cameo appearance.

Section C- Current Day Automobiles
1. What platform is the new 2002 Acura Integra based on?
2. What historic automobile brand name is set for extinction in the next 3 years?
3. Name all Korean automobile manufacturers currently selling cars in Canada.
4. What platform is the Volvo V70 based on?
5. According to Ontario Ministry of Transportation, which car is most likely to be bought to be modified?

Section D- Andrew Drummond on Monday Night?
1. Why is he a bitch? (Most creative answer wins!)
2. What felony was he committing that prevented him to come to Production Night? (Most creative answer wins!)
3. What form of bribery did he give to get out of his predicament? (Again, most creative answer wins!)
4. Did this SquizMaster do a better job than what Andrew would have? (YES, there is a correct answer!)
5. What form of administrative punishment should we deal out on Andrew on our next production night? (Once again, be creative. Bonus points if you show up on the next production night to deal out the punishment)

Section E- Names of *ahem* “yoga” positions (For the record, this was NOT my idea.
1. This one is named after Fido.
2. This position is closely related to religion.
3. This one is named after a water animal commonly found on beaches that can regenerate limbs on demand.
4. The largest integral number smaller than 70.
5. This one is named after a flying insect that goes through metamorphasis.

Enjoy! Don’t forget to hand in your answers in the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge!

SquizMasters about to be fired,
Peter Lizak and Raymond Lai

Nachos?

“Cheese?”

“Cheese?”

“Cheese!”

“Cheese?”

“Cheese!”

“CHEESE!”

“CHEESE!”

“Indeed, young warrior,” replied the WiseMan. “Once you have cut the cheese, then you may spread it.”

“MMmm! And this salsa!” exclaimed Morty, “It’s to die for! What’s in it, cherries?”

“Tomatoes, young warrior,” replied the WiseMan. “Tomatoes sliced over time to provide maximum efficiency.”

Martin the mathNEWS groundhog saw his shadow!
So we have 8 more weeks of mathNEWS, Hurray!
Co-op Society: co-op representation now

It is thought by many that there are six educational units at UW. But there is another that is sometimes overlooked - Co-op. Now, with your approval, UW9’s 7th educational unit will have it’s own student organization - Co-op Society.

The story begins two years ago, when Co-op Society was originally proposed. Actually, it begins in 1957. Waterloo was the first University in Canada to create a co-op program. UW lead the nation in education. The co-op program continued to expand and there are now 10,000 students in co-op - more than any of the faculties.

In winter 1999, a group of students first proposed the Co-op Society. The group proved their ideas during the next two years, working inside the Federation of Students. In that period, the Feds had a mess of groups to deal with co-op: two commissions, CSS for services and CSAG to advise co-op, and a part of Feds council to deal with co-op. CSS did not have a budget, CSAG was only an informal group, and the co-op councilors had large responsibilities to the entire Feds.

After a long and hard struggle, the campaigners produced a handbook for co-op students entitled “Don’t Panic!” The experience taught them that a new structure was needed to serve co-op students. In a way, it is an evolution of the system they worked through, but at the same time it is a revolution, like co-op in 1957, that may improve your life.

Last fall, they brought forward a 25-page proposal (www.coopsociety.com/proposal.pdf) for implementing the society. Their dream in 1999 was a body that represents co-ops needs democratically to the department, and provides a community and services that match the unique needs of co-op students. Thus, the new society is founded on the three pillars of representation, services and community.

The three pillars of Co-op Society

Have you ever wanted to have your voice heard in co-op? If Co-op Society is created, you can. Co-op Society is based on solid representation for you. An elected assembly of students from each faculty will meet to bring your voice to the top administrators of co-op. Because they are elected, the assembly members will have the power of 10,000 students behind them.

A directly elected vice president of education will work day-to-day with the administration of co-op. Co-op Society can help make issues important to you open to debate by everyone, like the number of resumes you can submit, the new co-op building (due in 2002) and the promised new online system. Faculty-specific issues will also finally be given time on the stage.

If representation is the right hand of Co-op Society, services are the left hand. The handbook is a new service already brought to first-years by the Co-op Society campaigners. Co-op Soc will guarantee this essential service will continue with stable funding. It will also provide a solid springboard for new services that future students invent.

One idea already proposed is a new online system so students on opposite streams can exchange housing. With such a wide pool of people using this system, finding a house could be easier than ever.

Co-op students form a community, bound together by common goals and needs. They came to UW because they wanted to enter a world where education and practical work were combined. Co-op Society will be the center of that community.

In our office in the new building, co-op students interested in co-op issues will congregate. Assembly members will be required to work a volunteer hour in the office and volunteers will be encouraged to get involved in the issues. Like a new community center, Co-op Society will become the hub of a new range of co-op centric activity.

All of this can only be brought about by the means of stable funding. Co-op students are constantly on the move, so continuity is important. Part of the $2.50 refundable fee for co-op society will go to pay a part time staff member to ensure that the two streams communicate with each other. The fee is a little more than the cost of a 2L bottle of pop, and it brings you a strong and stable organization that will serve the students for years to come.

Kick your boss’s ass - in Co-op Society Employers vs. Students Ball Hockey! The action starts now in our demonstration game Tuesday, Feb 6 at noon in the PAC. Sign up to play today: email play@coopsociety.com. Or just come to watch, and then enjoy a social after at the Bombshelter. The employers beat us at soccer in the fall, so now the students have to take sweet revenge. We will also have a model office in Needles Hall for the first week of interviews.

You get to choose whether or not to create Co-op Society. In the democratic spirit, a referendum will be held with online voting at www.feds.ca from Feb 9-16. The Federation has had their chance. We hope you choose for the future.

[Steve Jobs] once said he didn’t like Microsoft and company because as a whole the company had no taste. — John C. Dvorak
Simon Woodside

New Unix Commands

pac
Short for Pickup At the Corner. Be careful when issuing this command. Sometimes you don’t get a clear view of who is sitting at the terminal in the corner of the lab. Note that this command has nothing to do with the Physical Activities Complex.

chsd
This command is to check for your shadow, and has nothing to do with the shadow file. It is useful for two reasons. One if your a groundhog, you can use it on Groundhogs Day, and two, if you are a pimp, and your hiding behind a corner, you don’t want your shadow to expose you...

Pimpin’ Pete
gridWORD

Still Gridding after all these years

Yup. It’s me again. Matt here from Alabama. Back for another round of grid-making and spill-taking action, or some such.

So today I thought that I’d bitch about my car. Really, my car has only one problem; that problem is the Entire Electrical System. Currently, the beast is sitting in my parking lot where it’s been for a week and a half or so, because something mysterious has gone wrong in its innards. And here I’d thought that driving without an alternator belt had been my only problem.

Anyhow, on to the grid. Brush up on your 70s (and, admittedly, early 80s) songs to get the really long ones; the rest of the clues are pretty random. Thanks go to the Mexican who provided substantial aid in the setting of this puzzle, and to the writers of Napster for, well, everything. Submissions for this puzzle are due on February 12th, barring any hiccups in the production schedule that I wouldn’t know about; as usual, you can submit to the BLACK BOX or to the friendly editors [Just try and find me — TeleEd] directly if you can find them.

Later, y’all,

Matt in the Hat

PS. I suppose you want to know who won Pete’s Magical Mystery gridWORD last week. Well, I don’t know. But if Pete wants to tell you, then he can insert an editorial comment here or so. [Oh yeah, we had a winner it was Kenny Chung & Co. Swing by the mathNEWS office to pick up your prize! — Pimpin Pete]

Across

1. Song that Kills Me Softly
8. Informer artist
9. U2 has one
11. Expresses
13. Pin or clasp
15. Tibetan priest
16. IDE interface
19. Like most American beers
20. “Freedom fighters” in Belfast
21. Comes before carte or king
22. Dictionary command, at U(W)
24. Common alternative protein source
25. Dr. Seuss’ environmentalist?
27. Kind of fund, or kind of game
29. Only seeing half of things
30. An Italian’s capital
31. Second word in many fairy tales
32. A second look
37. Indian mystic
38. Love Letter singer
40. DNA’s companion molecule
42. Street that breeds Nightmares?
43. Motor homes, for example
44. Abu Dhabi’s surroundings

Down

1. Enthusiastic Muppet musician
2. Lisa’s other name
3. A ram’s mate
4. Site of a famous wedding
5. Each
6. Graven image
7. Self-centered individual
8. Fight for practise
10. On the outside (prefix)
11. Song for Armed Forces to invade by?
12. Arabian greeting
13. Coffin stands
14. Song about the Dan of Steel getting old?
17. The art of stuffing
18. Catchall Jeopardy category
21. “___ we not men?”
23. Impaired driving charge
26. Belle Scarlett
28. Rapids, as those at Ste. Marie
33. Barely make ends meet
34. Heaps
35. Seen the light?
36. Chess programs, maybe?
37. Spider’s mandible
39. A way to go beneath
41. Indian bread
45. Bikini, for example
47. You, formally
49. A bird or a theft
50. Neurotically meticulous
52. Country music TV
54. How old one is

46. Sugar used in beer
48: Eagle’s home
50. What you pay to play
51. Pleasure boats
53. Yoghurt makers
55. Dodge car or fluorescing gas
56. A Manxman or a Scot
57. Song to hide behind the Wall?

Grid

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