

*math*

**NEWS**

*Volume 88, Issue 1*

*Friday, January 18, 2002*



**2002**  
**5005**

**Its not the Millennium**

**Its not the REAL Millennium**

**Its... um... a palindrome**

## PREZ SEZ

Hi all, and welcome back. My name's Ed and apparently I'm the president of the Math Society this term. As usual, I'm going to fill this article with important stuff that concerns you, unless you're not in math, in which case you should stop reading before you drop all your courses and become a math major. You know you want to.

Anyway, there's one thing different about this article. After you finish reading it, you will have an uncontrollable urge to e-mail me at [prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca). Your e-mail will say something like,

"Ed, I am interested in learning more about the new B.CS degree! I have a great many suggestions and concerns which should be addressed!"

or

"Ed, here are my suggestions to make the Math Society the bestest ever!"

or

"Ed, you are cool."

Your message will not have a subject line that reads "XXX — Nude Celebs" or "Make money fast!" Nor will you get drunk and write me a long letter about your pet turtle. Send such mail to the other executives.

Here's the deal:

Make sure to read the article by Colin Davidson (your most devoted VPA) concerning the proposed Bachelor of Computer Science degree. We've already helped to organize a productive forum last week seeking your input concerning the proposed changes. We want more. Read [uw.cs.ugrad](http://uw.cs.ugrad), post to [uw.cs.ugrad](mailto:uw.cs.ugrad), send mail to me, send mail to Colin ([ctdavid](mailto:ctdavid@uwatwaterloo.ca)), send mail to Professor Ragde ([plragde](mailto:plragde@uwatwaterloo.ca)); most of all go to [www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/admin/curric/bcs](http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/admin/curric/bcs) and educate yourself!

In social news, look forward to a busy schedule of social events this term. Make sure to drop by the Bomber next Thursday evening (Jan 24). Bring an informed opinion on the new B.CS, or some constructive criticism of the Society and I'll buy you a pint. A pint of root-beer to be proper. Or just have fun, both are good. Cotton candy days, movie nights,  $\pi$  day, and a healthy redistribution of hot-chocolately wealth are all coming your way this term. Watch for posters around the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and read [uw.math.mathsoc](http://uw.math.mathsoc) for details.

Our budget meeting is coming soon; see [uw.math.mathsoc](http://uw.math.mathsoc) for details. Clubs: make sure to forward your budgets to Kevin Fong (our VPF) as soon as possible to receive funding.

That's all for now; I look forward to speaking with you this term!

Ed Schmidt  
Math Society President W02

## FEDS Council Seats Available

Two Math Co-op seats on the Federation of Students' Council have become open for by-election. The successful candidate would be a student representative from February to April. Nomination forms are available from Yaacov Iland, [pres@feds.ca](mailto:pres@feds.ca), 888-4567 x2478.

## P.D. Day Wrap-Up

The Teaching Students Association held a Professional Development Day on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001 for the benefit of Teaching Option students and for those who are interested in teaching high school mathematics. The workshops presented included an introduction to the new high school curriculum and using technology in the classroom. A big thank you goes out to the Mathematics Endowment Fund. We wouldn't have been able to present this day without their support. Also, thank you to all the presenters: Ryan Johnston, Erin McKillop, Sheri Andree, Glen McMillan, and Mourad Kodsi. Thanks to everyone for making the TSA P.D. Day a success.

Lori Bridgeford  
TSA President, F01



## cscFLASH

*We don't smell*

As some of you may have noticed the CSC has been alive and active this term. The recently held elections produced the following results.

- President: Billy Biggs
- Vice - President: Stefanus Du Toit
- Treasurer: Melissa Basinger
- Secretary: James Perry

The first event for the CSC this year will be THUG 0.2 ( THUG = Toronto Hurd Users Group ( Toronto = Very Greater Toronto area, currently reaching from Kingston to waterloo ) ) [ *AbiWord doesn't balance parentheses, too bad* ] . This THUG meeting will include a presentation on what the GNU Hurd is, a gpg key signing session, and we will help anyone who brings there computer to the comfy lounge install Debian GNU/Hurd. THUG 0.2 will begin at 1012071600, or for those of your who don't use seconds from 1970, it's at 2 pm on January the 26<sup>th</sup>.

James A. Morrison

## Movie Night

Bonjour ya'll. Tushar here, one of the movie guys. Kyle is the other guy and he's the one who's in charge (seeing as he's on stream and what not). So anyways, we got tonz of sw33t movies lined up for movie night. Moulin Rouge will be playing this upcoming week (January 24<sup>th</sup>) and we'll show a nice movie with it. This term we're going to be in DC 1302 most nights except for the following: January 24<sup>th</sup>, January 31<sup>st</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, and April 4<sup>th</sup>.

We don't have movies lined up far in advance as we're still trying to decide what new movies to show (pre-release movies) and our licencing companies are shuffling their line-up. I can guarantee you that we're going to have an amazing term.

In addition, at the half time of movie night we will be showing an episode from Clerks. We're going to go through all the animated episodes ending with a blowout movie night with the following lineup: Mallrats, Last episode of Clerks, Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back. This movie night should be sometime in February so stay tuned for more details.

That's all for now ... l8r

Tushar, Quack

## Bachelor of Computer Science

Many of you may have already heard rumours of the new computer science curriculum and the creation of the Bachelor of Computer Science (B.CS) degree. What is it and how will it affect you?

The Department of Computer Science has been working to establish a School of Computer Science (SCS) within the Faculty of Mathematics, giving it greater autonomy over finances, curriculum and faculty hiring. A new computer science program independent of the core requirements of the B.Math is being proposed. This B.CS would exist alongside the B.Math (CS) program, providing students with alternative academic options.

Currently, the SCS is considering two models for the new B.CS degree: a self-directed model and a comprehensive model. The self-directed plan emphasizes student choice, allowing the student to tailor the program to their specific needs. The comprehensive plan provides a more structured program with changes to the core courses to create a stronger foundation for upper-year computer science topics. Both plans reduce the math core to allow for more flexibility in the choice of computer science courses and offerings in other faculties related to CS.

As you read this article right now, the results of the CS department vote to choose one of the above plans are being tallied. The finalization of the new curriculum, however, will not be completed until late February, which will allow further fine-tuning before the final proposal is submitted to various university councils.

Though the vote is over, student consultation has not come to an end. We, as your Vice-Presidents Academic, are eager to listen to your concerns, comments and suggestions on the process of creating this new curriculum or the curriculum itself. We will make your concerns known to the proper parties. Feel free to drop by the MathSoc exec office (MC 3039) or email [vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca). We will respond promptly to any and all inquiries.

Don't want to talk to us? Talk to those professors deeply involved in the creation of the new curriculum. Post your comments on the [uw.cs.ugrad.newsgroup](http://uw.cs.ugrad.newsgroup).

More detailed information is available at [www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/admin/curric/bcs](http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/admin/curric/bcs).

Colin Davidson, VPA W02  
Raymond Lai, VPA S02

## WIM: Women in Math

Welcome back! Another term at UW has begun, and to all women in math, that means a back-to-school social! All women (in math) are invited for tea and cookies at 6:30 pm on Tuesday January the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a movie at 7:30. This special evening for socializing and meeting women in math takes place in MC 4042. If possible, email us at [WIMugrad@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:WIMugrad@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) to let us know if you are coming; if not ... well, come anyway!

WIM COMMITTEE: Every term 2 undergrads sit on the WIM committee. One is appointed by the committee (this position is filled) and the other is appointed by MathSoc. If you are interested in getting this appointment, you should email the MathSoc president Ed Schmidt at [prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) for more info.

## LOOKAHEAD

### mathNEWS

January 18	Issue #1 shakes hands with Mayor Mel
January 25	<i>mathNEWS</i> turns 29 years-old
January 28	Issue #2 production night
January 24	6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 1	Issue #2 sees a shadow when nobody's watching

### Math Faculty

January 16	Course Add Deadline Sorry! You missed it.
January 23	Course Drop Deadline

### MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Night
January 23	MathSoc fee refund deadline
January 24	Cotton Candy Day
January 25-26	EngScunt Join the rebellion and fight the Scunt War

### MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza Day
January 26	Trip to Casino Niagara
January	Yearbook for Sale

### MEF

January 23	MEF Refund Deadline
------------	---------------------

### Co-op

January 16-29	Job postings made
January 28	Interviews begin
February 6	Job Fair at RIM Park

### Miscellaneous

January 21-25	Blood Donor Clinic
January 19	Pita supply mysteriously stopped
January 24	The pretzel place's secret recipe found
January 30	"Save the Expos" Rally Tens of people expected
February 7-9	FASS
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 2	02-02-02 Oh no! All computers will crash!

## Distinguished Teacher Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Distinguished Teacher Award. Please visit [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotracer/dtahrp.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotracer/dtahrp.html) for information regarding the award. The nomination deadline is the first Friday in February 2002. Further information is available by calling the Teaching Resource Office at Ext. 3857.

## Distinguished Teaching by a Registered Student

Do you know of a registered student whose teaching could be recognized through the Distinguished Teaching by a Registered Student Award? Nominations for this award are being accepted until Friday, February 8, 2002 at 4:00 pm in the Teaching Resource Office (MC 4055). Further information regarding this award can be found at [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotracer/taaward.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotracer/taaward.html).

## Have You Got a Name For It?

### *resolving the resolute*

Happy New Year's to you all. This new term is especially strange for me, as this is the first time that I'm on campus for 8 consecutive months. (Damn co-op) This is also the first time since 1997 that I'm doing school for 8 consecutive months. (Damn co-op yet again) I wonder where did the rest of my 1997 Frosh week team go? Yo, a shout out to all the Jesters in da house. If you are/were a Jester stand up and run around the classroom \*RIGHT NOW\*.

I have been informed that this year is a palindrome year. So now I'm pissed off that there are not 20 months in a year. That way we could have had 20/02/2002. That would've been cool. But now we'll just have to do with 02/20/2002 or 02/02/2002 which are clearly not as cool.

### *Despite all my Rage, I'm still just a rat in the Machine*

Pink Floyd chose to welcome us to the Machine. Zach de la Rocha decided to just Rage against it. I wrote something about Raging against Rage Against the Machine a looooooong time ago (See December 04 1999 issue). A few weeks ago, some very nice person (who only swore once during his flame) chose to point out the errors that I made along the way. While admittedly this person knew a lot more about Rage Against the Machine than I do, the response that Pete Love wrote to him was priceless. I was extremely amused by this. Thanks, Pete!

And further on the subject, Rage Against the Machine decided to break up since I wrote that fateful article. No word on whether they read my ramblings and decided that that is it, we have to go. But the neat thing is, that this little incident proves that people *do* read what you write and will get upset if whatever it is you write rubs them the wrong way. As for the person who chose to criticize me: feel free to bash the Smashing Pumpkins (of course *they* have broken up as well).

### *Resolve THIS*

The New Year is a time for making resolutions. Making resolutions is clearly a big business (almost as big as making US flags — part of the program of leading the US economy out of a recession is by making flags) illustrated by the fact that resolution-making “experts” appear on radio talk shows and CNN talk shows (in between “War on Terrorism” updates) to educate the masses about how to make a New Year's resolution. Of course, all people care about is a) quitting smoking — which makes me want to start smoking, just so that I can quit, and b) losing weight — which is as vague as “world peace.” I just have one question: How do I become one of those resolution experts? I mean that is one sweet-ass job. Your only commitment is to various variety TV/radio shows in late December. For the rest of the time you could be one of those people who go around saying things that everyone already knows, but charging enormous speaking fees for it.

People ask me what my New Year's resolutions are. I tell them that I don't have any. Considering the miserable attainment statistics that resolutions have, it's probably a good thing. And while I usually believe in superstitious junk like that (when-ever I get up in the morning, the first foot to touch the ground has to be my right foot, not the left foot. I am not exactly sure what happens if I were to get out of bed on my left foot. I just

know that I have to use my right foot); I don't believe in New Year's resolutions. So, without believing in them, these are my resolutions:

1. Start Smoking
2. Establish World Peace
3. Abolish World Hunger
4. Wave Flags
5. Lose Weight
6. Be More Patriotic
7. Join the Dark Side
8. Win the War on Drugs
9. Drug the War on Wins
10. Pass STAT 231 (Woohoo! DONE, one down, maannny more to go)
11. Welcome to the Machine
12. Rage Against the Machine
13. Rage against Rage Against the Machine
14. Sell out
15. Buy in
16. Be Saturnine
17. Expand my vocabulary
18. Find my perspicacity
19. Learn the meaning of perspicacity
20. Stop quoting the Simpsons so much
21. Say D'oh!
22. D'oh!
23. Quit Smoking

Anton

## The Worst Math Pickup Lines

- “Hey, baby want to Squeeze my Theorem while I poly your nomial?”
- “Is that a Lemma in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?”
- “My hard drive has huge storage capacity and is fully operational.”
- “I'm in CS.”
- “I may be a softie but I know how to work a hard drive.”
- “Nice equation, wanna fuck?”
- “Watch my fractal increase exponentially.”
- “Let's make a composite function.”
- “My natural log is massive.”
- “I'll show what the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus was really for, and I won't need 2 parts.”
- “My pole is ready for a conversion to standard form.”
- “My function doesn't have an absolute minimum, it's all maximum.” [*I'd recommend talking about your supremum here — TaxiEd*]
- “I don't need JBuilder to construct a big program.”
- “My hard drive doesn't have an off switch.”

WARNING: Severe injury will result when the preceding are attempted.

Adam Felix

## My New Year's Resolutions

### *And How Quickly They Were Broken*

1. Get more sleep: Jan. 2.  
I got up at 7:30 am and was up until 11 am the next day. Travelling sucks. Stupid bus. Stupid car ride. Stupid plane ride. Stupid bus ride. Stupid subway ride. Stupid bus ride. Stupid bus ride. Stupid walk. So it was not quite a direct trip home.
2. Eat healthier: Jan. 3.  
Since I have been home I have been averaging 1 meal a day. And even some of those meals were merely cookies.
3. Go to class: Jan. 9.  
I am not sure if it counted as skipping my classes before I succeeded in signing up for them so the first couple of days of classes don't count, do they? If so, I missed all of the first day of classes then.
4. Do my assignments diligently: Jan. 14.  
It's hard to break this resolution before my first assignment was due. So it was not broken till my first assignment's due date.
5. Be more involved in extracurriculars.  
Ah, vague descriptions are always best because then it is hard to tell if it's been broken yet. This also demonstrates the other trick. Since most extracurriculars are weekly; after one week of class it's unlikely that you have missed meetings you have signed up for.
6. Exercise.  
I don't think this resolution lasted the time it would take me to say it. Laziness always wins. Sigh.

Dave

## PM Cautioned on Eating Breakfast

The Prime Minister's Office today reports that due to events in the United States, more care is being taken with the PM's breakfast. Normally he gets a medium coffee and timbits, but since Bush almost choked to death on a piece of pretzel the PMO has been having the Timbits liquefied. As extreme as this measure is, it is agreed upon by both Tim Horton's and the PM's Office that if the Prime Minister was to die as a result of eating Timbits it could be bad for Canada's ever growing coffee and doughnut section of the economy.

When asked for comment Jean Chretien said something, but we were not quite sure what it was. Judy Farwig of the Prime Minister's Office said, "It was either liquefying them or changing the Prime Minister diet to baby foods."

Tim Horton's, considering demographics, has decided to expand upon the idea and is offering what they are calling Timmygoo. The Timbit alternative for young children, the elderly, Presidents, Prime Ministers, and those otherwise at risk. It is unknown how successful the new pitch will be, but Tim Horton's says it is saving money by not disposing of unused stock.

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

## New Year's Resolutions

When it comes to New Year's resolutions, I was like most other people. I had no ability to stick to them, and to pull through, for a whole year, with a promise to myself. Somehow, that changed last year. I made some new goals, and I kept them. Here's how:

1. Set specific goals  
My goal was to get to 250 (lean) pounds. Why that big? I don't know, sounds like a good number. It gave me a topic to talk about.  
Buddy: "So Pete, why are you going to the gym so much now?"  
Pete: "I want to get up to 250 pounds."  
Buddy: "Dude, you'll be fat!"  
Pete: "No, no, a lean 250."
2. Overcome your fears  
While part of my fears was the fact that my Hawaiian shirt collection wouldn't fit me after such a large increase in mass, I realized that wasn't such a big problem. I'd just have to NOT button them up, and I could strut my gut (a real man should have a gut).
3. Don't quit because of a setback  
In August, I tried a new diet ... all protein/fat, zero carbs. I lost 6 kilograms (~12 lbs) in just 2 weeks. Although that set me back quite a bit, I realized, yeah, I do have a six pack under all that fat ... I should have taken more pictures ... oh well, I'll do it again next year. Oh, and if you ever try this diet, I must warn you, going to the crapper after nine days of not crapping is a crappy experience.
4. Reward yourself  
Every five pounds I gained, I let myself indulge in a salad. I love salad so much, but it doesn't have enough calories, so it was a nice treat.
5. Surround yourself with supporters  
Like Andrew: he was a role model type fellow, he's a much stockier guy, and could easily bench press more than me (about 50 lbs more). He even has a silly rule, "I'll only date a girl if I can bench press twice her weight." He's proud to say that he can now bench twice my girlfriend's weight ... I'm worried.

Pete Love

## Don't Give Up on Pretzels!

In the wake of the recent events in the United States, I felt it was important to discuss my favourite salty treat.

First off, don't assume that just because they're deadly, pretzels can't be delicious too. I've sat down with whole bags and eaten almost half them before my heart stopped, I started choking, and passed out. I mean, that could happen with clementines or those new Feeling drinks in the C+D just as easily, but their not even that scrumptious.

Very important, there is a safe alternative: the soft pretzel. As if they were prepared (one may think too prepared) a soft pretzelry has opened up in Waterloo. They have salted, sugared, sesame seeded, and poppy seeded, so you don't have to worry about your sodium intake (or your opium intake). And let's not forget the 50-cent dipping sauces. So good. Go there and buy a soft pretzel.

Bradley Twist Smith

## Screamer's Believe It or Not

What began as private business between two neighbours became a national debate over children's right to play hockey. Many, myself included, did not know that in many Canadian cities, including Waterloo, have laws that bans all sports being played on the streets as recently as two weeks ago. The law had been in the books for decades, only no one seriously enforces it. It is as if the law did not exist. Strange, isn't it? It does strike as odd, but that is not the only oddity that occurred in the past month. The following is just a sample of the weird things that happened recently.

### *A Name's Worth*

In December, Dunlop Tire company opened a contest in which the company doled out \$25,000 to convince someone whose first name is Dunlop to change their full name to Dunlop Tire. If there is more than one taker, then the people who changed their names will split the money. There are many stupid contests out there, just look at the web, but this has to be one of the strangest, and nuttiest, contests ever. To qualify, one has to submit a legal name change form as proof. Whoever actually submitting an entry must have multiple identities. Why else would you to a stranger you have made a name change? Besides, if there are 25,000 legitimate entries, then they get \$1 each. With today's postage, it might not even cover that.

### *Today's Forecast: I'm Jailbound*

Weathermen are probably the only ones in the world who can make frequent mistakes and still get paid by their employer. On some occasions, though, a wrong forecast can get a weatherman in a lot of trouble, literally. A weatherman working for a Brazilian TV station predicted that heavy rain will hit southern Brazil for New Year's Day. People in the region were preparing for the worst as a rainstorm had recently swept the region. New Year's Day went by and not a single drop of rain fell on the region. The local citizens were angry at the weatherman for spreading fear. The local government went as far as charging the weatherman, who may spend 6 months in jail if convicted. So if you plan to be in the financial field, make sure that you are 100% confident on your investment recommendations and the forecasts are 100% accurate. I don't think anyone wants to get to the sin bin for making wrong guesses.

### *Not Big Enough for Two*

During the holiday shopping season, Santa(s) can be seen in practically every mall, and they have few, if any, breaks. Normally, there are more than one Santas manning a mall, but two Santas is too many for the management of a mall in Bellingham, WA. In mid-December, a 6-year-old boy went to the Bellis Fair Mall with his parents to do some shopping. The boy was wearing a Santa suit. Sound innocent enough, right? Apparently the mall did not like the idea of shoppers paying attention to this mini-Santa, instead of the "official" Santa the mall hired, so the mall security expelled the boy and his parents. I have personally visited the above mall before (back when I was in BC, Canada had an 80-cent dollar, and dinosaurs roamed the Earth). The mall is big enough to have two, maybe more, Santas. The boy was just trying to get into the holiday spirit, give him a break.

### *The Almighty Yoda*

You don't need to watch a *Star Wars* movie to find a Jedi knight anymore. According to the data from the most recent British census, there are so many people writing Jedi Knight as their

religion that it has enough following to be recognized as a officially recognized religion. I don't know anyone who claims to be a Jedi Knight, but it should not be hard to distinguish one. If you know someone who decorates the place with *Star Wars* merchandise, threatens to use a lightsabre when provoked, or talks about the appropriate way to utilize the Force, you got yourself a knight. (Of course, since I don't know anyone who is a Jedi Knight, my description could be totally out of whack. If this is the case, don't get too angry over this).

### *Take the House, Stay off the Land*

Every day, houses are put on sale throughout the state of Virginia, but only one of them is for free. No, it is NOT a joke. A homeowner is giving her house away. Often deals like this have a catch, and this one is no exception. The homeowner had sold the land to a developer and it wanted her to get the house off the lot, so she added such an odd provision. So far, there are no takers. If one can find a way to haul the house, it IS a good deal. With a few adjustments, one can get a mobile home for less. The owner also doesn't have to worry about getting too attached to the house — when you move, just move the house along.

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Is it just me, or do I have too much time in my hands?

## Krease Crumpled

### *Am I really here?*

Yes I am. Just because I'm on my work term doesn't mean I'm gone — it just means I have less stuff to do. That means more Super Smash Bros — a game so addicting that my new roommates were addicted to it before I got back from Christmas vacation ... more addicting than the 46 2L bottles of Coke we bought last week (for those of you who don't know what Smash Bros is, it is a fighting style game where Nintendo's flagship characters beat the crap out of each other with an assortment of cool moves and weapons.) Anyway, enough about that — let's talk about Scott Bakula ... no, just kidding.

It seems that *mathNEWS* has caught the 2K2 bug — all those computer crashes that were supposed to happen two years ago have nearly ground us to a halt. Well, at least this way you won't have those gargantuan issues that threatened to cause MC to start sinking like the Dana Porter — but since hot air is being pumped into the MC from somewhere, we've managed to avoid that fate. (Try holding any door in the MC about an inch open to see what I mean about pumped hot air.)

Looking back on it, last term wasn't *so* bad — I mean I passed Stat 231 after writing a lab report about using a *Monkey Hurler 3000* and 50 radioactive monkeys to steal Watcards from students and perform strange math functions with the numbers (see *mathNEWS* Volume 87, Issue 4). Although I somehow passed that course, I still believe Stat 231 is evil. (I also recommend you take the course — you'll need it to graduate.)

I've decided to try something new this term — take a course during my work term ... I mean, take one more now, take one less later ... why didn't I do this sooner? (I found out after that it's because I still needed to take four terms with five courses in them ...)

Meh. Another winter in Waterloo, another new smell in the Comfy. At least I'm on work term.

Krease

## OSAP

This article is for the benefit of you out there who tend to go and try to get OSAP to help pay for school. This term has been a learning experience, and I thought I'd pass along some valuable information.

1. Apply early. I applied to OSAP about three weeks before the start of the school term. This is not enough time to get all the problems sorted out if there are any. I suggest applying a year early.
2. If you decide to register yourself as having a disability at any point in time, make sure you make OSAP aware of this. After three terms of having "no disability" on my OSAP applications, and then signing up with the OFPWD on campus, OSAP was upset to see me suddenly having a disability. They upheld my original results for two weeks.
3. If you're not living at home during the school term, fill out an appeal based on that fact right away. Even if you check the little box that says you weren't living at home, they still calculate your loans as though you were (dumb!!!). You're not supposed to fill out the appeal forms before you get your entitlement back, but trust me, it'll save you two weeks.
4. Make sure your parents are quoting you the right values for their income. Underestimations make for overpayments, which must be returned to OSAP before you get any more loans. Either that, or get married to someone with no income, or make your parents beat you somehow, then you're considered independent.
5. If having trouble with the amount of time your OSAP is taking, do go and make an appointment with someone at the Financial Assistance Office. The people in back making everything go can be a great help with suggestions.
6. Don't go on co-op, make \$10,000 and come back with \$800. You might be able to avoid applying for OSAP altogether that way.

Peace, and happy terms.

Lance David Gilroy  
the\_shy\_poet@excite.ca

## The Following Words are Palindromic

- kayak
- racecar
- straw-warts
- eye
- fillerellif
- Otto
- Madam, in Eden, I'm Adam
- I
- A man, a plan, a canal: Panama
- 2002

## One Man Road Trip

As you all may or may not know, this past Monday was the first *mathNEWS* production night. As those of you who were there for the first *mathNEWS* production night may or may not know, I failed to be present for it. No, this is not because I hate you. Well, maybe Raymond. I was doing other things.

By other things I mean playing cards for dinner. By dinner I mean money. First I took \$20 out of my bank account, and discovered I was overdrawn by about \$200, which I call a bad thing. So I did what any intelligent person would do. I bought a hot dog from DC.

Armed with my hot dog, I returned to the Comfy Lounge where I started playing a game of Barbou, or Barbu, depending how you feel like spelling it. I prefer George. This was a good game of George, where by good I mean I won \$12. By \$12 I mean 5 ½ dollars, with someone else's never-to-be-paid debt transferred to me. Since my hot dog and fries from DC were about 3 ½ dollars, I'm up \$2. So, ever vigilant in my quest to justify production night and miss free pizza, we played another game of George, which I like to call Doowadoodaday, in which I won another \$11 ½. (Up to \$12.50) Since Doowadoodaday, which I like to call money-in-my-pocket, takes roughly three hours and a bit to play, we switched to money bridge, where I won fifty cents. Up \$14.00.

So armed with my new-found wealth, I did what any intelligent person would do: I went to Morty's to miss wing night by an hour. Having missed wing night, I had to buy real food, which came to \$14 with tip. So, now I'm even, except one of the \$11.50 from the second game is forthcoming from Dave still, so my wallet only has \$19 in it. Now, at about 2:30 am, I decided to do what any totally insane person would do.

I noticed while walking to Morty's that it wasn't really cold, just snowy. I figured I'd be safe with my sweater with a hood, and decided to walk home. It's only an hour walk.

It wasn't really cold for the 180 degrees of direction you can walk where you're not walking in to the wind. For the other 180 degrees, the snow cakes your glasses and fogs them up, and the snow settles on your forehead where the cold causes a sharp pain. You know you've made the walk from Plaza to Campus too many times when you don't need to be able to see to do it. When I got to the Math Building (father, mother, secret lover) I called a taxi for an uncomfortable ride home.

So you see, I learned four things on *mathNEWS* production night. First, if I play cards on production night I will clean house. Second, any money I win will immediately be spent on food. Third, never underestimate the weather when you have an hour to walk in it. And fourth, don't try walking for an hour in the cold windy snow when you haven't gone to the bathroom in almost 24 hours, you're not gonna make it.

Next article: Seventeen ways to clean your pants and pick up women at the same time.

DiMono

## The Following Word is Palindromic

- Palindromic

**profQUOTES****bio\GNOLES**

Well it is the beginning of the term, so sometimes people need a little reminder. So here is a simple algorithm. When your prof says something funny, write it down. Remember the instructor's name and the course you heard it in. Now you have some choices: either write your quotes down in paper form and slip them into the **BLACK BOX**, conveniently located between the comfy lounge and the centre stair well on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, or — for the tree-saving types out there — you can type up the quotes and e-mail them to us at [mathnews@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@uwaterloo.ca). Now on with the quotes!

“You have to be crazy to take this course. And maybe you are.”

Berry, CS 445

(Time: 8:30; Topic: classes) “This is going to be a classy lecture ... you're so sleepy you don't even catch the lousy puns!”

Berry, CS 445

“Another word for equivocation is bullshit.”

Berry, CS 445

“No I didn't randomly pick them. I know what I am doing, you just don't know!”

Cunningham, C&O 350

“I could have written it in 3 lines, but I'm a teacher and I get paid for it.”

Cunningham, C&O 350

“Then I threw away the last constraint. Why did I do that? Because I am an idiot! It was better that I answered that than you.”

Cunningham, C&O 350

“Just to give you a useless example.”

Springer, STAT 231

“I can't say it's 8:30 to explain that mistake. I'll say it's almost 4:30 and I'm tired. You can't use that excuse.”

Springer, STAT 231

“They invented math because they couldn't find dates.”

Forrest, PHYS 263

“Who is going to study math, how boring.”

Forrest, PHYS 263

(On software testing) “In case you get turned on by this.”

Engels, CS 134

“We're going to be making love to matrices all term long.”

D'Alessio, MATH 136

“You have to choose your method of laundering money very carefully.”

Smith, ECON 102

“That is your other class, we aren't warm and fuzzy here, though we do have PEZ.”

Vasiga, CS 240

**My ELPE Experience**

Friends and loved ones often ask me how I write newspaper articles. They point out my crappy spelling, my shoddy grammar, and my general lack of talent. But to them I say, screw you guys, I passed the ELPE. And then do a little dance in my tutu singin' the French National anthem. That usually shuts them up.

For those unfamiliar with the English Language Proficiency Test, read another article.

Anyhoot, the best part of the ELPE was asking people about their OAC English marks. The standard answer: “Oh, 79.4, missed it by that much.” Right. For once I'd like some dude or dudette to be truthful and say “OAC English, oh yeah that bird course. My mark? 17.5% but it was rounded to 18. Teacher said I made great strides since Christmas.” Honesty rules in my book.

The second best part of the ELPE? The topics. They were classics. “If you were a shrub, which one would it be.” I give them the 3-b stamp of disapproval: boring, banal, and bull (lots of it). Why couldn't the essay topics be something more relevant: “If Godzilla, King Kong, a Tyrannosaurus Rex, and Keanu Reeves were in a steal cage match at Wrestlemania who'd win the WWF belt. Please justify your response with examples — in English.” Now that's what I'm talkin' about.

The third best part of the ELPE? Actually writing a passable essay. This is where all those years of book learning can finally pay off! Everyone wants to use the fanciest smanciest words to create that illusion of verbosity. They're foolin' no one. I bet in most thesauruses the last 3 or 4 synonyms for each word were made up by some poor shmuck, who decided to thumb his nose at the masses. Take the word “titillation” for instance. That's gotta be fake. It's got “tit” in it for crying out loud. You think dude at the editorial board meeting kept a straight face when he lobbied vociferously for that one:

“Ah, yeah, I got this word titillate. Yes, I said titillate. I think it should be a synonym for ‘excite,’” said the word man smugly.

“Really Bob, and I bet you think kumquat should be a fruit of the citrus family, right?”

(As an aside, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Kumquat Festival is in Dade City, Florida on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2002. More information can be found at [www.dadecitychamber.org/kumquat](http://www.dadecitychamber.org/kumquat).)

And that's the story of the kumquat. Sorry, off on a little tangent there. So all I'm saying is that people shouldn't fear the ELPE. Instead, they should view it as an opportunity to spew the most drivel one can humanly spew in an hour. I did and look where it got me.

Heramb Ramachandran

**ISSN 0702-0410**

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, M303F, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave., W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to [mathnews@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet.

We don't need no stinkin' bacon: Albert Connor and Bradley Jim T

## Good Business Tips learned During Co-op

A truly memorable party comes but once a lifetime. The kind of party that opens your eyes to the nuances of strangers, the sense of humour of the humourless and the drinking habits of the elderly. Unfortunately, this party wasn't it.

Anyway, during one of these little shindigs I was introduced to two entrepreneurs trying to make it in this cockeyed world. They were a contrast in styles. That was pretty clear. And after all was said and done, one savoured the sweet smell of success while the other chewed the bitter pills of defeat. Here's their abridged story:

I was mingling, exchanging witty banter with the guests, who were mostly U of T engineers. Well, there was one particularly alluring femme, who enjoyed programming in Turing, while assuring me that was not all she enjoyed. Hey, that sentence rhymes, in a dopey sort of way.

A fairly meaty character approached with a paper bag stapled to his belly. So I quipped, "Hey, is that bag open for tips after you give us a belly dance?" That was funny so people laughed. He ambled towards me unfazed by the mockery. So I look into the bag and notice finely packaged brownies. He says, "Free samples, and if you like it, 5 bucks each." They were expensive brownies but I figure when in Rome ... So I sampled the stuff, and bought 5. Tasty. It turned out he owned a brownie farm and baked the stuff hydroponically.

By shrewdly using age-old marketing techniques, combined with the laws of supply and demand, he transformed a belly-stapled bag of brownies into a \$300 enterprise. With that kind

of dough, he can elope and marry Juana, a prison guard he met in the joint. And find that pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. Now we move to the other sap.

This dude bought a keg of orange juice and planned to charge people \$10 for the night (on account of its nutritional goodness). But this guy drinks too much of the stuff before anyone shows up so he's just in a Vitamin C high singin' show tunes and whatnot. When the guests eventually show, they're givin' him loonies, toonies, pesos, those chocolate coins, pieces of toilet paper, and this guy thinks he's makin' a fortune. Consequently we all receive subsidized orange juice.

When Keg-boy recovered from his little tryst with the orange juice gods, I confronted him and pointed out such gross financial mishandling, you know, so that he learns. At which point he curses me out in front of my peeps. At which point I start beating myself up, like that crazy white dude in *Fight Club*, 'cuz I ain't messing with no 6-foot-4 dude with a tooth stuck in his forehead. I never figured out how he got that tooth stuck in his forehead. But that's another story for another day.

Keg-boy was out \$250 while his counterpart, "The Brownie" netted \$250. They both had visions of grandeur, but only one realized it, while the other woke up with a really bad hangover and a tooth stuck in his forehead. So the moral of the story? It's really tough to smoke a brownie no matter how finely you grind it.

Heramb Ramachandran

## Need Milk?

Well, part of my latest adventure involves a diet of 4 litres (1 gallon) of milk a day. Milk is such a wonderful nutritional selection, it is hard that anyone would not want to drink it. However, there will always be people with views that differ, and sometimes, I am totally confused by their actions.

"Drink responsibly, don't drink milk."

PETA.com

The PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is an organization that "promotes an understanding of the rights of all animals to be treated with respect" (from their website). Well, gosh darn, I guess my mom shouldn't have breast fed me. Well I understand that some people have different views of opinion and normally I wouldn't have brought it up, but PETA went on, created a website [www.milksucks.com](http://www.milksucks.com)\*. Cool, I don't care that much. But then they slandered milk, and said that beer was

better than milk, and showered US campuses with such ads.

Wow, I see you all foaming, yum, I now have a reason to tell mom I put beer in my cheerios every morning. But stop and think of it. If beer is so much better, do the people of the PETA give their newborn kids beer?

Things get more interesting. In the US, the drinking age is 21, and the majority of undergrads are underage to drink. These ads upset MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), and caused a hairy fit all up and down the place.

Needless to say, the PETA has withdrawn their campaign, and is refocusing on something other than beer.

I ain't done yet.

On a somewhat related note, [theonion.com](http://theonion.com) had this to say about men and milk.

"Finally, to save my sicko readers the trouble of asking the obvious and inevitable follow-up question, I asked Dr. Assefi if Reglan and "marathon suckling" could make a man lactate. "These lactation-inducing techniques are much less likely to be successful in men," she said, "but if a guy began producing breast milk, it wouldn't be so rare that it would make Ripley's Believe It Or Not."

[theonion.com](http://theonion.com)

\* [milksucks.com](http://milksucks.com) seems to be down, but if you search for "PETA milksucks MADD" (no quotes) on googles, the first two links will take you to the site (you'll have to use the cached option, little grey link at the bottom of each description).

Peter Lizak

### ISSN 0705—0410

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

We don't need no stinking bacon: Albert O'Connor and Bradley T Smith

## The Frosh Cornered

“Let’s make fun of ...”

Welcome back my fellow Frosh, I hope you all had a great holiday. Mine wasn’t so great, my parent’s finally broke it to me that there was no Santa Claus, so I spent a great amount of time crying between Christmas and new years. Anyway, upon returning to campus, a lot of us have undertaken that great task of finding co-op jobs. I was shocked to see the slide where a co-op employer had stated that he/she found that Waterloo co-op students are becoming increasingly arrogant, asking not what they can do for their company, but asking what their company can do for them. President Kennedy is rolling over in his grave as we speak. So, to do my part to preserve to co-op program from overly arrogant bastards, I shall now put several groups of students into their places in hopes of humbling a few, so without delay, let’s make fun of ...

### Artsies

Although arts students are made fun of enough, I think we should do some jokes to them just to be sure. Personally, I love the concept of waking up in the morning at 10 am, spinning a big wheel in your room to decide what your major is for the day, it would make life very exciting. The other cool thing about being in arts is that you will likely get whole days where you never really have to do much of anything, arts students call these “week-days.”

### Softies

My Father was a Civil Engineer here back in the 70’s, and it was very interesting trying to explain to him over the break what exactly “Software Engineering” was. After many failed attempts, I analogized the whole concept of saying that one night Math and Engineering got each other really drunk, started looking at each other suggestively, put some Barry White on, and nine months later we had Software Engineering. So in a nutshell, one can describe Software Engineering as the bastard child of Math and Engineering. (Bonus Question: Assuming Math and Engineering had opposite genders, which one would be which? Send your answers and reasons to [mathnews@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@uwaterloo.ca))

### Computer Science Majors

So, you finally made it into Canada’s best CS program, congratulations. I bet you spent many sleepless nights in OAC hoping for this. I bet you felt really good being able to turn down that acceptance to Queen’s Engineering and using it to start a small fire. Sure, you can strut through the MC now, but just you wait, we’ve all seen the guys in the CSC room, and we know what’s going to happen to you when the work-load picks up in 2A. I have a similar fate, but just remember the next time that you feel like berating a fellow mathie for not being in CS, just remember that by 4A you will smell funny, only watch Star Trek, live off off only pizza, coke and coffee, and will have not gotten your hair-cut since 2A.

### Bioinformatics Majors

I suspect the types of people that are in Bioinformatics are also the kind of people who like getting rings on their nipples, both seem to be really painful, yet done voluntarily. Anyone who is combining an already difficult CS program with what is basically a bio-chem double major has got to be just a little bit looney. [I knew a girl who’s last name was Looney. Wait, no, it

## The Frosh Cornered

was Loney. Well, the important point was that I knew a girl. — *TaxiEd*] So the next time you see a Bio-CS major (which may be hard because they are all off-stream), check ‘em for nipple rings and give ‘em a good twist.

### Applied Health Studies Students

Let’s face it, if there was ever a faculty that has no real purpose, it’s AHS. There are 3 programs in AHS, let’s look shall we. Kinesiology, a reasonable program, but ever notice how everyone in this program want’s to be a gym teacher? It seems like University level Phys Ed. Then we have health studies, again it seems like everyone in this program has a profession in their collective mind they are set on, in this case, being a doctor. It is kind of interesting why someone would do a pre-med at a University that has no med school. Lastly, there is Rec & Liesure, I find it interesting that this program is at a University, not to be elitist, but the program description reads like it is from a community college. Can a person do graduate work in the field of Rec & Liesure? I am scared that the answer is actually yes.

### Business Admin Majors

I should be careful here, some of my dearest friends are in bus admin, but I have a theory about how bus admin majors come to be. Such people know 3 things and are unsure about another, they know they want to come to UW, they know the math faculty has a good reputation, know they don’t want to take a lot of math, and are unsure what major to take. A-HA! they say, I’ll take on a program that has no corresponding department in the faculty! And thus another bus admin major is created.

### WLU Students

I know they are not in our co-op program (except for the B.Math, B.B.A double degree people), but haven’t you noticed that in a town with two Universities that are within a chickens throw of each other there is not much rivalry? I have a theory about this. WLU people think that the two Universities can peacefully co-exist like mutants and humans in “X-Men” (Second bonus question, if WLU and UW had to be either mutants or humans, which would be which? ditto for e-mailing in the answers). However, UW students see WLU as part of UW. One talks about going to their BUS labs like they were going to east campus hall. UW students seem to have this collective, interesting view that Wilfred Laurier University is a really fancy way of saying the University of Waterloo’s faculty of Business.

Well, that should do some to keep the arrogance at UW down, I hope you are becoming as humble as I have after reading what I wrote about CS majors. Be sure to send your answers to the bonus questions to [mathnews@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@uwaterloo.ca) and I will post the most creative responses in the next *Frosh Cornered*. So until then, keep you head size in check for those co-op interviews.

Ian W. MacKinnon  
The Cornered Frosh

[For those interested in making fun of Ian, consult the news-group dedicated to putting an end to Frosh Cornered columns. — *TaxiEd*]

## m0\13 sp34| &lt;

Well ... last time I chatted (in a very roundabout obtuse way) about Martial Arts films (well mostly). I'll probably do the same thing this time, but we'll find out.

Recently I've been watching "Killer Bean 2: The Party" repeatedly. I'm quite impressed the animation and the story (funny, smooth, kickin'). The short is made by none other than Jeff Lew. Bit of background on Jeff Lew; he is working on Matrix 2 and he choreographed the Kung Fu cow scene in Kung Pow. I highly anticipate his work.

Of course, I assume that you've heard of Matrix 2. Currently titled as The Matrix Reloaded and slated for release in 2003, it's the much anticipated sequel to The Matrix. Keanu Reeves will probably still star in it (unfortunately). Of course, the one person I'm looking forward to seeing in it is Hugo Weaving (aka Agent Smith). He's the cool head guy, quite exciting and whatnot.

Another movie that Hugo plays an active part in is Fellowship of the Ring. He starred as Lord Elrond the Elf King. Ok yeah, that movie kicksass. I understand that many have not seen it so I'll not say much except: WHY HAVE YOU NOT SEEN IT YET? The good people at Weta Digital (in New Zealand) made many of the special effects (and the effects are sw3333t). They actually made a whole battle system to simulate the battles and made them AI and whatnot.

Gandalf the Grey was played by Ian McKellen who has played many high profile roles in many movies. I'll go into them later this term but for now all you need to know is that he played Magneto in X-Men (he'll also play Magneto in X-Men 2).

X-Men, classic science-fiction come to life. X-Men is an eclectic blend of imagination and special effects combined to test the senses with brilliant choreography of action and plot. Aside from that it's a mixing pot of Bond femmes and fake Bond femmes. You will remember Rebecca Romijn-Stamos from Austin Powers 2: The Spy Who Shagged Me. As far as I know she won't be staring in Goldmember (the Austin Powers moving coming out this summer; watch the trailer if you get a chance, shibby). But moving on, Famke Janssen was also a Bond Femme (Goldfinger) and is my favourite char (Dr. Jean Grey) in the X-Men series (aside from Wolverine, Magneto and Gambit), but she ranks right up there, especially when it's Famke Janssen.

Yes, Wolverine is my favourite, metal skeleton, shibby. Hugh Jackman played Wolverine and he did a decent job. His acting seems slightly like Keanu Reeves but he seems to have a certain air about him which makes it all ok. Although his acting in Swordfish was quite good the one thing that ruined the movie was Halle Berry's nude scene. What was the deal with that? You don't put a fcking nude scene in it just to get horny teenage boys to show up to watch it. It was completely unnecessary, there was no point to it (zing). Geez, you can get better quality on the net, it was like 1992 8 bit GIF quality. The other problem was that I didn't have that scene in my rip.

Of course, Halle Berry stared as Storm in X-Men but you know, Dr. Grey and Mystique are s00000 much better. I guess the one redeeming quality (the other two don't count (zing)) is that she's a Bond Femme in the upcoming Bond 20 film. Release date is November 25<sup>th</sup> or so and am I looking forward to it. Now you may want to skip to the next paragraph if you don't want to know how the beginning starts. Ready? Well, it starts with a Hovercraft race in Korea and moves to Hong Kong and continues (not the hovercraft chase but the chase in general) into Europe. Rick Yune from The Fast and The Furious is the evil

North Korean General ... for a little while. You see, the General has a face altering device, so the rest of the time it's another d00d playing him. I'll leave that till later this term.

Of course, the newest Bond Femme in this movie is Rosamund Pike (a non-frigid British femme). She's also supposed to be pretty key and will perhaps fight Bond. She hasn't been in a movie previously, so this is a very very nice intro to her. She's acted in a few minis, notably Love in a Cold Climate. In a remake of the 80's version she takes on the major role of Fanny. Fanny is one of 3 upper class English woman looking to enter society with a good husband. Of course, they're looking for love on their own. The films start in the 1930s then moves through the next few decades tracing the lives of Fanny, Polly, and Linda.

Also in this film (the one with Rosamund Pike) is a Lord Merlin, played by John Wood the First. Guess what film he was in? WARGAMES. Yippeeeee ... a riveting experience of what hacking is considered to be but really isn't. It captured the fears of a generation into a film that wasn't all that I was expecting. Yes it had a few exciting parts but there wasn't anything memorable.

A much better film that John Wood the First is in is Chocolat. Oscar nominations for Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Music (Original Score), Best Picture, Best Writing/Screenplay on already existing material. Many nominations, no Oscars (side notice: Judi Dench as nominated for Best Supporting Actress and she plays M in James Bond). Also in Chocolat is Carrie-Anne Moss, aka Trinity in Matrix 3 and guess who's on that technical team? Jeff Lew.

Well, a nice roundabout visitin a lot of major sites and sounds, but please remember to visit [www.jefflew.com](http://www.jefflew.com) and watch Killer Bean 2. He's also making Killer Bean 3 which will be a remake of his Killer Bean 1 (1996, low res, funny). So look out for dat one.

Hope you've enjoyed this little article, next time I'll try to make more sense, but it'll probably make the same amount of sense. Till l8r.

Tushar, Quack

## ?ebian GNU/Linux

### *A story of -get*

On days where exploding bunnies aren't enough. There now exists a way to get your applications and your PRON

Lesbian GNU/Linux, the lolita has landed, has proudly released version 2.2r4 with porn-get 0.4.0, so any system administrator an easily upgrade there applications with Debians apt (This APT has Super Cow Powers.) [ apt-get update; apt-get dist-upgrade ] and upgrade the porn for all the users on a heavy system with porn-get [ porn-get share boobies ].

Lesbian GNU/Linux already has many configuration choices for porn-get. There is the newbie option which limits the sys-admin to only 1000 packages. The real man's Lesbian GNU/Linux which offers over 8000 packages and finally the fiend's Lesbian GNU/Linux with over 28000 packages ready for your consumption.

For those of you who aren't ready to run GNU/Linux there is a demo available from Lesbian GNU/Linux's website. [ see bottom ]

Stayed tuned next time for jumpnbump: a story of bunnies

Free the World

## Some Statistics on Co-op Placements

The other day, I was sitting in the pink lab, when I overheard two students talking. One said that the co-op placement rate for last term (ie. this work term) was only 50%! I felt obliged to interject, since the one student was doing a good job of convincing the other. "That's not true," I told them. "Maybe 50% for Math, or Math CS, ... or Math first year, but certainly not for the whole school," I stuttered. I couldn't remember exactly, but I did remember hearing a lot of students complaining and no one knowing exactly what the real numbers were.

So, I went undercover. Disguised as an Arts student, I penetrated the outer defences of Needles Hall. There, I met with one of the well-reputed employees at Needles Hall, who was eager to share the figures with me. He stressed, however, that these figures change on a daily basis, so they should be considered fact for January 11, 2002, and an approximation for thereafter.

So here they are:

	Placed	Still looking
Overall UW placement:	89.1%	(487/4481)
UW Math placement:	81.1%	no info
UW Engineering placement:	89.7%	no info

This shows that Math is below average. What it doesn't show is that Math (at least on January 11<sup>th</sup>) was the **LOWEST** placement rate, by far, with 81.1%. So I asked to see the breakdown by department. Here you go:

Program	Placed	Still looking
ACTSI	95.4%	4/88
AM	86.3%	3/22
CO	100.0%	0/18
AM/PHYS	100.0%	0/2
CS	79.5%	160/782
CS/BIO	61.5%	15/39
CS/DHW	93.3%	1/15
CS/ELE	100.0%	0/8
CS/INFSYS	95.9%	2/49
CS/SE	87.8%	8/66
MATHBUS	65.2%	16/46
MATHBUSACTSC	90.0%	1/10
MATHBUSECON	100.0%	0/3
MATHBUSSYSMGT	87.5%	6/48
MATH	74.7%	47/186
OR	90.0%	1/10
PMATH	100.0%	0/2
PMATHFINAN	100.0%	0/3
STAT	100.0%	0/8

And there you have it. Particularly startling for me was the low CS (and CS/BIO) averages, so I asked for a breakdown of CS by year. The chart is as follows:

CS Year	Placed	Still looking
1st	54.1%	119/259
2nd	90.2%	38/388
3rd/4th	97.8%	3/135

Take what you will from these stats. To me, they reflect the current economic situation. The non high-tech degrees were relatively unchanged. I mentioned to my contact that I had the impression that some first year students were not satisfied with co-op. And indeed, why not, if 45% of the CS ones don't have

jobs but are still shelling out \$400! I was reminded that co-op can't change the job market, but that students in the co-op program probably had a better chance of finding a job than those who weren't. As well, I was told that co-op had taken extra steps to increase job opportunities, including mailing to all faculty, staff, current employers and even previous employers asking for jobs. So take heart, ye without jobs yet!

It was also pointed out to me that the matching part of the process was lower as a result of the weakening high-tech job market. I was told that these averages are comparable to statistics from 1997, and even more so to the economy of the early 90's. However, I did not obtain data on this. Also, I was told that the enrollment in CS has gone up. One person even suggested that the Math Faculty might consider changing its admittance policy on behalf of co-op, since it seems unrealistic in the current and upcoming job climate to place so many CS students. At this point, I laughed slightly and replied that I doubt the Math Faculty would do anything that would reduce its income. It seems unlikely to me that they would change enrollment for co-op when they get tuition and government funding for each student they enroll. True, replied one person I talked to, who felt that the issue of enrollment and money was a complex one which they were not at all qualified to make decisions on.

However, I was strongly encouraged to recommend (especially to discouraged) students to come in and talk to co-op if you have any problems or concerns. I was given two contacts:

Ruth Hawes, NH 1087, 888-4567 x2593:

[rhawes@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:rhawes@uwaterloo.ca)

Scott Davis, NH 1007, 888-4567 x3676:

[sdavis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sdavis@uwaterloo.ca)

One final thing pointed out to me is that the statistics above DO NOT include students who are trying to find their own job outside of the co-op process, but also that less than 5% of students arranged jobs on their own.

So that's the story of co-op placements for this Winter. Good luck to all of you!

Jesse Bergman



*Hey look, the building's done! Check out  
[www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/Building/index.html](http://www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/Building/index.html)  
 if you want to take a virtual tour of  
 the new CECS building*

## mathNEWSquiz $\alpha$

*Well another term has begun and that means more mathNEWS! Yeah!*

It also means more Squiz!!! Now as your SquizMaster I have spent countless hours trying to come up with a decent Squiz. So if you don't like it ... you come up with ideas. Feel free to e-mail me (damceach@uwaterloo.ca) with suggestions and ideas for upcoming Squizzes and I will try to incorporate them, it makes my job easier.

Now, on with the Squiz. Points are awarded two points for each song lyric (1 point for the artist and 1 point for the title) one point for each trivia question. Ties will be broken by random draw. The winner will receive a lovely gift certificate to the C+D.

### Lyrics

1. I kinda always knew I'd end up your ex-girlfriend  
I hope I hold a special place with the rest of them  
And you know it makes me sick to be on that list  
But I should have thought of that before we kissed
2. There's a woman on the outside  
Looking inside does she see me?  
No she does not really see me  
Cause she sees her own reflection
3. Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot
4. Take a little trip, hater pack up yo' mind  
Look forward not behind, then you'll see what you find  
I caught a sucker dyin cause he thought could rhyme  
Now if his momma is a quarter daughter must be a dime
5. You and me We come from different worlds  
You like to laugh at me  
When I look at other girls

### Survivor

1. Which popular music group was compared to the show Survivor?
2. Name the final four survivors (in order) for Survivor 3: Africa?
3. Where is the location for Survivor 4?
4. Which original Survivor was formerly a Navy Seal?
5. Survivor host Jeff Probst can be seen hosting what other game show?

### Waterloo Parking By-laws

1. Between what hours are you not allowed to park on roads in Waterloo?
2. What is the set fine if you park between these hours?
3. What is the telephone number to register a car so that it doesn't get ticketed?
4. Up to what time can you call to register a car?
5. How many times, per household per year, can you register for an exemption?
6. [Here's a bonus: Anybody want to guess why Daryl's included this section? — TaxiEd]

### Toronto Maple Leafs

1. Which current Toronto Maple Leaf player has been a member of the team for the most years?
2. What is the name of the Maple Leafs mascot?
3. What streets border the Air Canada Centre on the east and west?

4. For a Leaf game at the Air Canada Center, what is the colour is a seat in section 102, row 27, and how much does a ticket for there cost?
5. How many players have the Leafs traded since the start of this regular season (Oct. 4, 2000), name the players?

So everybody knows you can e-mail your solutions to this and other lovely Squizzes to mathnews@uwaterloo.ca or stuff your answer into the **BLACK BOX** located between the comfy and the centre stairwell, which will no doubt be overflowing with Squiz submissions.

Good Luck To All,  
Teddybear

## mathNEWS

### Bringing home the bacon

So who knew that *mathNEWS* was so friendly with the bacon server? Not me. But when it goes down for an OS upgrade, suddenly, the entire staff becomes unable to log into the production system. It was a new experience. Everyone had to just e-mail articles in, and Albert and I couldn't even look at them until 2 pm on Tuesday. Thus, I am very grateful that the issue was so short because I was having a meeting at 2:30 and didn't read an article until 5ish. And still, it's early and I'm on the last few items.

I was reading Jesse's article about co-op placements, and I couldn't help but notice all the people around me being found jobs in January. Ray's off to Toronto, a friend of my brother got a job last week, and I've got a guy moving into my house who also just got a job last week. Pretty impressive, but there's still several students still looking, so I'm not super happy yet.

I learned how to snowboard the first day of school. Painful. My series of sickness has gone broken body to flu to cold. I'm looking forward to next week's excuse not to do any work. Maybe bacon will go down again ...

So why wasn't the production system working? Well, I don't much about these technical things, so the question was put to the *mathNEWS* staff. Here we have them with their answers: Jim (porn-get disk upgrade had broken dependencies), Chris (My monkey ate it), Kev (This crayon is blue), Ian (Imprint conspiracy), Jason Lau (Mayor Mel shook hands with it), Kyle (When I want my whore to go down, it goes down), Anton (mmm, Bacon ... I'm hungry), Latrell (What do you mean they killed Optimus Prime in the movie?), and Ray (Because I wasn't here). (response).

Special thanks to those who participated but didn't make the list. Margaret sat down and read the entire issue (proofread, not just abusing our friendship to get a sneak preview of the issue), so she deserves some thanks. Cecilia of yearbook fame was also helpful — she filled in the blanks in the WIM article. And let's not forget my old friend Vitamin C. What an album. Also, thanks to Gino's for the pizza, to the pretzel people for dessert, and Graphic Services for being the best Graphic Services I know (even with the printer problem).

Albert O'Connor (Obviously because I have keys to the *mathNEWS* Office now ... Honk if you like my layout!)  
Bradley T Smith (I dunno, Coast Guard?)

## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

*Across*

9. Putter away on hit anagram (3,2,7,3)
10. Don't touch me with that pole of plastic too often without a ring (3,4)
12. Extra twitch in square hole (7)
13. Extraordinarily creepy hat is a prime example (9)
14. Tobacco product agency mixed up with grand resistance (5)
15. Destroyed tea? Sudden ends earned (7)
18. Past and current, the French lesson (7)
21. Binder that grope ribaldly concealed (5)
23. My theology is no egghead bunch of stories (9)
25. Extreme demonstrated by polyhedra sticking together (7)
26. New use: try a body of water (7)
29. Model, Hugh, winks in lift? In my dreams (7,8)

*Down*

1. Bickering over turning faucets (4)
2. K.O. breaks nuts (4)
3. Posh jets moved by holy father (2,6)
4. Tangled up and acting out, I hear (6)
5. Posted east and caused rush (8)
6. Ironic but sort of terrific, isn't it? (6)
7. Confessing to possessing raise (6,2)
8. Oath sworn on American revolution, or Seurat paintings (2,6)
11. Fault found from emergency room right to operating room (5)
15. Dim reject (4,4)
16. Praise for fruit with golden start of seed inside (8)
17. I'm docile around the house (8)
19. Expelling boring teaching assistant wrongly (8)
20. Lumberman calls for a beer (5)
22. Endorse rodent, on condition, before day's end (6)
24. Maybe, sweetheart, without wars we develop more bite? (6)
27. No base from current identification (4)
28. Hey, Georgia! Exercise! (4)

## gridCOMMENTS

Welcome to a new year of *grid*WORDS!

Nothing new going on, still cryptic and conventional, correct solutions still go in the BLACK BOX or get mailed to *math-NEWS*. Remember, the deadline is January 28<sup>th</sup>, and to further improve your chances of winning, have the funniest answer to the *grid*QUESTION: *What didn't you get for Christmas?*

Good luck!

Brad and Linda

## Grid Clues (Conventional)

*Across*

9. Dinosaur scientists
10. A spotted cat
12. Superior
13. The Hunchback of Notre Dame
14. Idiots
15. Large city in Scotland
18. Most mature in age of all 15<sup>th</sup> letters of the alphabet
21. Attacked with ovums
23. Asian ape (of the forest)
25. Space clouds
26. Under-the-tree item
29. Typical thing to yell if Roach Motel opens a concert

*Down*

1. October birststone
2. Tickled toy
3. The act of taking a sum
4. Television or dance
5. Tall cylinder for national symbols
6. Had a similar opinion
7. Variations on an element
8. Fancy coffee drink
11. Like 4 + 12 and 7 + 9
15. The surrounding plantlife
16. Linear and Classical
17. Not the state north of California (?)
19. To remove oil
20. A mode of transportation
22. Place one might keep an oracle
24. More than one Granny Smith
27. Per person
28. Job or duty

