"It's elephants all
the way down!"
(some old lady)

*The Consequence of a
Momentary OS induced
Psychotic Episode

Media Used
- 1 sheet 8½ x 11 white paper
- one very dry blue ink
  "Microsoft Smart" promotional
  pen
- unum poorly conceived
  and executed idea
- 1 strong procrastination
  gene

CSC Flash

Machine Update

Our sysadmin, who is also an exec, Barry OFH has done a lot of good work on our systems.

- Calum
  1. Mail
  2. NIS+
  3. NFS
- Perpegillium (peri)
  1. CVS
  2. Local Graphics Terminal
- Aquata
  1. Web
- Romana
  1. Local Be terminal
  2. serial terminal for Aquata
- Frobisher
  1. Local terminal
- Leela
  1. GNU/Hurd box
  2. Test Box
  3. Supplementary development

Computer Science Club name switches

The Computer Science Club is considering a name switch. Some possible names follow:

- Campus Stapling Centre
- Canadian Standards Council
- Columbia Skiing Crew
- Carnage Support Centre
- Certified Sanitary Cave
- Capitals Securities Corporation
- Central Stores Consultants
- Consensual Sex Clinic
- Civil Service Concubines
- Camdon-East Spanking Co-operative
- Canberra Systems Conglomerate
- CCCP Siberian Coolers
- Caustic Salmon Casserole
- Complicating Simple Concepts

We successfully hosted a GNU/Hurdpresentation and a key-signing over the weekend. Thanks to all those who attended.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, yeah yesterday, there was the first Unix tutorial for the CSC. There will be and 2nd and 3rd Unix tutorial will be held next Thursday, 31 Jan 2002 @ 1800 (6 pm), and the following Thursday, 7 Feb 2002 @ 1800 (6 pm). All sessions are held in MC 2037 and guest accounts for non-Math students are provided.

Billy Biggs, president of the CSC, will be talking about the DVD specification and the current state of DVD tools for Linux-based systems. The talk will be held on Wednesday, 13 February 2002 @ 1600 (4 pm) in MC 4060.

Thomas Wolf, a professor from Brock University, will host a talk about solving the Asian game of Go through computing. It promises to be very interesting presentation. Professor Wolf has held this presentation once before in 1998, with a room packed of interested listeners. So come early! The presentation will take place on Friday, 1 March 2002 @ 1700 (5 pm) in MC 4020.

Make sure you check the CSC boards on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the MC for more announcements! It's updated frequently!

<div align="right">James A. Morrison</div>

I am Richard M. Stallman of GNU. Resistance is Futile. Your technology will be assimilated. You will become GNU.

*look*AHEAD

*math*NEWS	
February 1	Issue #3 wakes up in the wrong month
February 11	Issue #4 production night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 15	Issue #4 gets its Valentine one day too late

Math Faculty	
February 28	WD Deadline
March 4–29	Spring Term Course Enrollment

MathSoc	
Thursdays	Movie Night
February 11	Post-Calculus Party

MGC	
Wednesdays	Hmm … pizza
March 9	Grad Ball (Math Gala?)

Co-op	
February 6	Job Fair at RIM Park One more excuse to skip Stat 231
February 15	Interviews end
February 15	Ranking Forms Released

Miscellaneous	
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 3	Super Sunday
February 4	Duper Monday
February 4	All right! Winter's half over! What's winter?
February 7–9	FASS
February 8–24	Winter Olympics Is there anything worth watching?
February 12	Chinese New Year
February 14	Valentine's Day Time to blame Hallmark

Movie Night

Hello all, once again I will announce what we could possibly be playing at movie night.

As of now we haven't decided what to play on the 7th or the 14th. The genre for the 14th has been decided. As expected we will play some violent action classics of this and yesteryear. It should be thrilling and exciting and possibly kungfulicious. Suggestions: `movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`.

The 7th, what can we play? We're coming up on a drought of movie releases; perhaps a movie night that features Romance? Ok, we'll try, although I found The Enforcer (some of Jet Li's best work) and Romeo Must Die to be quite romantic so that could be a distant possibility. Ok fine fine, Hugh Grant movie night it is. Unless we come up with something better on the 7th you can expect: Notting Hill and Mickey Blue Eyes. Now before you stop reading, Mickey Blue Eyes is very funny and much more actiony. So please come out to movie night, it'll be fun.

The 14th, he he he … we'll think of something.

Till next time, please keep sending us suggestions. Don't forget about the Clerks at Half Time. We play a Clerks Episode at every half time (finishing with Mallrats, the 6th episode, and Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back movie night); we're up to number 3 as of yesterday (31st). Hope to see you there.

<div align="right">Tushar Quack</div>

Bachelor of CS II: The Vote

The Bachelor of CS electronic vote by the CS Faculty finished recently and the results are now available on the B.CS website. For those of you who are confused you should read my article in the last *math*NEWS issue, inventively titled *Bachelor of Computer Science*.

The decision, based on the votes of 37 professors in the CS department, was that a new CS program should be created and that the overall structure used should follow the self-directed model, as opposed to the comprehensive model.

This new program would result in the removal of the second term of Linear Algebra (MATH 235), Concurrency (CS 342), Numerical Computation (CS 370) and Theory of Computation (CS 360) from the CS core. The third year courses will be modified and an additional third year course, entitled Logic and Computation, will become mandatory. Those courses removed from the core will be retained as specialization courses.

The modifications to OS (CS 354) would include adding a little introductory material in concurrency. Algorithms (CS 341) will no longer contain material on approximation and random algorithms, but will involve a brief discussion of the Halting problem as an introduction to NP-Completeness and the discussion of problems which can't be solved quickly or not at all.

The additional three required math credits will be removed, allowing more flexibility in course choices. There will also be restrictions on electives though, requiring a certain amount of depth and/or breadth. The exact method for enforcing this is still under discussion, but preliminary ideas are available on the B.CS website.

Issues under consideration, though they did not receive a majority of the votes, include a course on the place of computer science in our world. Known as CS 101, it would feature guest speakers on topics of current interest in the computer science industry. Under preliminary plans, it would be held in the first year exam slot whenever there was no exam at that time and be taken as a pass/fail course.

The most dramatic change still being investigated is replacing the current core math courses with CS specific courses, tailored to meet the needs of CS students. Such courses might better prepare students for the math they will be likely to see with the disadvantage that they make transferring between the CS degree and a regular math degree that much more difficult. Your impressions of these options would be greatly appreciated.

This is far from a complete description of the changes and is designed to whet your appetite for more information rather than to stand alone. As always, further information may be found at `www.cs.uwaterloo.cs/admin/curric/bcs`.

Your comments, opinions and general input would be greatly appreciated (and I'm not just saying that!). Please send any such messages to `vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca` or come by the Exec office to speak to me personally. If I'm there, I'll talk to you.

Colin Davidson
Vice-President, Academic

Feds Election Forum

The Feds Executive, Senate-at-Large, and Math General Councillor elections are fast approaching. To help you find out the candidates' take on the issues affecting you, we are running a forum this coming week.

Date: February 5th
Time: 11:30–1:00
Location: Math Comfy Lounge (MC 3001)
Come out and find some answers.

Colin Davidson
Vice-President, Academic

*math*NEWS Cooks

Sugar Mac

- 1 box macaroni
- 1 bottle Jolt Cola
- Cotton Candy Sugar Mix — *math*NEWS recommends Spookie-Fruiti (Grape)

Place macaroni and Jolt in some sort of waterproof container. A bowl is preferable but lacking this, a hardhat is also acceptable. (Be sure to clean it first!) Microwave on high for several minutes — until macaroni is tender and the Jolt is foaming. Drain. Gradually add sugar until mixture has a nice slimy consistency. Top with frosting, if desired.

Disclaimer *math*NEWS assumes no responsibility for what happens if someone actually eats Sugar Mac. In our experience, one out of three people will pass out and the other two won't sleep for days.

Exploding Bunnies

JumpNBump

On those lazy days, where you just don't want to do those C&O assignments and you just need to jump on something, there is jumpnbump. JumpNbump is a classic 2D platform. You are a cute little bunny. Your mission is to jump on top of your opponents. Upon completion of any of your goals you are rewarded with the explosion of your enemy in a pile of blood and gore that would but all the American censors into a fury.

James A. Morrison

`apt-get install jumpnbump` today

River Thieves

So Imprint ran a book review of Michael Crummey's River Thieves last week. Now, I'm always happy to see current books being reviewed (especially when the review is related to an article in the Globe and Mail I've read), but if I may, I'd just like to counter the review: I don't remember the sex scenes. Margaret and I were discussing it on Friday, and we remember the sexual tension, the strong characters, the guilt over the genocide of the Beothuk that motivates Crummey to write, and that it's a good book. Read it if you get the chance.

Bradley Thief Smith

Scunt Wars: A Jedi's perspective

Lessons Learned:

1. Obstacle courses are challenging to run. They are much harder to run through while blindfolded.
2. It's easier to balance while you focus by looking at the furthest point of the lever.
3. Hopping on one foot is tiring. Do not continue doing this for prolonged periods of time.
4. Patience is hard. Especially if you have not slept in the past 24 hours.
5. Cooperation is necessary if we are to succeed at all.
6. Lightsabers are such fun weapons, especially while deflecting shots from blasters.
7. Scunt rules!
8. Never be found without your lightsaber …
9. People are heavy.

Dave Nicholson,
Jedi Knight

To The Team S.i.T.h.

Thank you for scunting.

Thank you for being there past midnight.

Thank you for the spectacular HQ visit.

Thank you for the amazing road trips.

Thank you for the air supply, for the X-Wing, the egg contraption, the frisbee playing, the running around, the racing, the chess hints, and everything else.

Yvonne

Scunt Wars

Another term *mayhaps in SCUNT then thank you. A* unique Scunt was held last weekend using Star Wars as a theme, and theme drove the show. From being rescued from Imperial clutches by the Rebel Alliance for opening ceremonies to the final trench run to destroy the Death Star (down a DWE hallway) everything was Star Wars. Instead of running many events throughout the 24 hour period they ran a few very large and complex events. There were road trips and house visits, but no get lists. A member from each team was selected for Jedi training, which kept those brave scunters busy for most of the evening. This time around the Gods went for quality above quantity.

In the end it was Software versus Math. This term the Math team was a bit smaller than usual but those who scunted stayed the entire night (if not most of it) and had a great time. A group of three traveled to Hamilton to scout out the location for a new base. Math had a mini haphazard jazz combo to play Cantina Band for the Gods as all 25 plus showed up for the Mathie house visit. Much thanks goes out to the players who lent their musical talent to the Math for the evening. There was also much talk of a brave Math scunter who wanted to take the local road trip on my bike. He even beat the Software scunters to the first check point.

In the end it was Software who took the Scunt A SOC Trophy home. They scunted hard for it, and now they are left with the responsibility of running the next Fall's Scunt. As for next term, Math is finally going to try its hand at running an EngScunt. Thanks to all the scunters who came out this term, big thanks to the Gods for all their hard work organizing the Scunt, and especially to the brave mathies who took on the Scunt Wars in the name of mathies everywhere.

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

Episode Pi: our opening Ceremony Skit

A not so long time ago in a campus not so far away … Star Wars Episode 3.141592653 … [keep saying digits of π until Intro is finished]

Intro: The Dark Syde of the Force has conquered the campus and instated themselves as gods. No-one can challenge their supreme power, nor their massive Death Tool: A wrench so large it can crush a planet. But a new resistance is forming deep within the heart of the MC — a disturbance in the pink side of the force. What could this mean for the campus?

[wipe to pink-tie fighter lecture room]

1-1 Kenobi [with a lisp like Elmer Fudd]: Welcome to Pure Force 354, I'm your professor 1-1 Kenobi. Over the next six months we will study some of the far-reaching concepts in Pink Force theory.

Biggs Darkmathie: Will we learn about the Convergence of Geometric Jedi?

Kenobi: No, that's covered in Applied Force courses. We'll be looking at the Laplace-Force Transforms, Fermat's Sith Theorem, and the PumpNing Lemma.

Luke Piwalker: Excuse me professor Kenobi?

Kenobi: Yes, Mister …

Luke Piwalker: Um, Luke Piwalker. I was just noticing that what we learn in this class is too abstract. It doesn't seem to be applicable for defeating the Dark Syde.

Kenobi: Well, Mr. Piwalker, of course it has no applications, this is a PURE Force class. If you really want to defeat the Dark Syde, you should take Professor Yolambda's class.

Luke: Professor who?

[Scene change with the class leaving, except Luke, and Yolambda enters with pink jedi training in the background. So the scene changes AROUND Luke. Cool, huh?]

All (not Luke) sing:

Yolambda! Yo yo yo yo yo-lambda! yo yo yo yo-lambda

I met it in a classroom down in Degobah!

Where all the students are always drinking carbonated soda! S-O-D-A Soda!

I saw the little sock sitting there on the LOG!

I asked it its name, and in a smelly voice it said:

Yolambda, Y-O-lamb-da, Yolambda! [fading out] yo yo yo yo yolambda

Yo': Prove or disprove, there are no examples.

Luke: Excuse me, professor Yolambda, I want to learn to how to defeat the Dark Syde.

Yo': Mmmmhmmm, brave are you. But not strong in the pink-side are you. Teach you I can, but listen you must.

[Suddenly, for no reason, enter 3 darths (Surly, Grumpy, and Meanie]

Groundhogs Unite!

So this Saturday is Groundhog Day. It's our time to shine. Does everyone know the drill?

We all emerge from our holes in the ground and we check for our shadows. Then if we think winter is almost over we claim to have not seen our shadow, though if we are afraid of the cold we all see our shadows and run away.

Well, this year I have special orders for you. Recently we have been more and more doubted as our prediction rate has dropped to all time low rate of 40%. This is worse then flipping a coin, everybody.

So please groundhogs, this is our chance. We will predict an early end to winter. This is bound to be correct considering that we have the good fortune that winter has ended before groundhog day. So, here's hoping that this year we break out of our prediction slump and notice that spring is here.

People will no longer be able to doubt the meteorological prowess of the groundhog.

Groundhog General Chucky

Questorama!

Hey, do you miss the old grid format of the schedules? Too lazy to make one on your own? Well now there is an easy solution! Just go to the Quest page, to where it has the "your class schedule" button, but right click on the "your class schedule" button and open it in a new window. Then you'll see a bunch of other stuff in the address bar. At the end it should have a SCHEDGRID=NO. Change the NO to YES (has to be in capitals), then continue to your class schedule. It should now be in a grid format. Thanks to Kyle Swidrovich for figuring this out.

Gilad

Episode Pi Continued

Surly: There he is, the one with all the metachlorines!

Luke: Zoinks! Who are you!

Grumpy: I am Darth Grumpy.

Meanie: I am Darth Meanie.

Surly: And you can call me Darth Surly.

All 3: And we are … The Three Sith Lords! [Left hand right shoulder, other side, left hand left hip, other, head to left, thrust with "HA!"]

Luke: Double zoinks!

All 3: And we are all your fathers!

Luke: Triple zoinks!

[Grumpy and Surly attack. Brief battle. Defeat at the hands of Luke's lightsaber.]

Meanie: Hmm, you defeated them pretty well, but I have a lightsaber. I'll just use the force to go get it.

[Some guy labelled THE FORCE runs across and hands him the 4-way lightsaber, which he turns on.]

Luke: Quadruple zoinks! 4 lightsabers!

[Battle, easy victory for darth meanie, who cuts off Luke's head.]

Meanie: So long, headless sucker.

Luke [big monologue]: Oh, if only I'd done the required reading. Now my only hope of defeating Darth Meanie and the Dark Syde and getting my head back, is to train long and hard in the scunt.

EVERYBODY: May the scunt be with you!

FIN   Brad Kevo Albert

Have You Got a Name For It?

Hi Math Gala Girl!

I always knew that we (Mathies) had it hard. Long hours in the labs or plugging away at brutal assignments leave a great deal of us without a great social life. Well, maybe it's just me. But either way, I would have never thought that Arts has it so bad that they have to resort to putting up posters around MC to meet us (me). But either way, one has to admire the effort. While I have tried to advertise myself in *math*NEWS I clearly should've just plastered posters around. And a catchy Hotmail address.

Now that I've met you, would you object to never seeing each other again

Not that I wouldn't do that. And not that there's anything wrong with doing that. So, Math Gala Girl, hello, and how are you? While this would seem like a psychology experiment (see something I wrote for *math*NEWS a couple summers ago at www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/Issues/mn8302/science.php — Putting the Science into Social Science), why not turn it into one? I bet the results would be interesting. Or, tell me, is this the case of "The prettiest girl around is always alone on Saturday nights, because everyone assumes she already has a date with someone a lot better then oneself?" Is this the phenomenon that Arts girls are dealing with? Is this a practical joke? I'm laughing regardless. Or the question that has been really burning me: Are you in Math? That would explain so much — as a girl in Math you are tired of being looked down with respect to Arts or AHS girls, so you set up this whole thing to show us, Math guys.

Stay with me, I'll set you free

A friend of mine once noted (at around 4 am, while we were arguing/discussing the meaning of life — and other topics) that he can only have such conversations with Mathies. He can't do it with Artsies. So, Math Gala Girl, is this what's bothering you? Do you want to have deep meaningful conversations about life, the universe and everything? And Arts guys just don't cut it? I can understand that. I've seen enough films and read enough books about people having lives. I can even argue that this implies that I have a life. I've travelled around the world (where world is defined as Europe), and have lived in different cultures, I can even speak another language. I can talk — sometimes even articulately — on various topics. Try me.

And I still believe that I cannot be saved

Math girls haven't been hiding much. Well, let's just say that it is hard for them to hide everything. Almost impossible some might say. The numbers just don't work well with this whole hiding thing. However there are a lot of misconceptions about Math, CS, the Computer Science Club, guys who are in Math, and girls who are in Math. Why? Well, I don't know. I mean I have a few ideas, but I'll save them for another time and place. I will ask you this though: why? If you just wanted to socialize with Math guys you could have done that. Heck, if you wanted to go out with a Math guy you could have just come up to one and asked! You could have entered some of MathSoc's Dating Games. But you went through with this elaborate scheme. Why?

Oh, and Math Gala Girl, just one last question, have you seen the film Amelie? I hope you have seen it.

Anton

movie sp34|<
an adventure in cinematic obfuscation

Moulin Rouge is the most colourful film I have seen so far. It has a wonderful blend of contrasts and shadows. The lighting is masterfully done. The sets are large and fulfilling, as is the vibrant makeup. So why did I enjoy it as much as I did and not walk out? In part because I had to be there, in part because I was making notes for my classes, and in part because of the music. The music is clever and witty; although it borrows heavily from most modern music, it does so by blending it together in an amusing symphony of delight. Each song will take you from one scene to another, from one mood to another, without so much as a hiccup. It does quite well in retrospect, but it may leave you with a bad taste initially. For those who walked out on the movie, well done: if you were unable to sit through the first 20 minutes then the rest of the movie would have dragged on forever. Fortunately I am conditioned to Indian movies which follow a very similar plot and song style, but are much longer. Perhaps there should be many more musicals these days, but it is harder to bring theatre to life without having the pizzazz that many newer films do.

Speaking of pizzazz, Nicole Kidman was quite funny. I expected much less from her acting but was pleasantly surprised. The lip synching was done very well and I recommend Moulin Rouge to many many people who are looking for a good laugh initially but many thought-provoking ideas. The main failing of Moulin Rouge was revealing the plot too early in the film. It ruins the film and the only reason you stay to watch the film is a connection generated to the film. Enrapturing is the word I'm looking for and that is the film's strongest point. It's sex without any of the sex or the blushing. Of course, that and Nicole Kidman.

Nicole's former husband, Tom Cruise, has seemingly found a new love interest. Tom's current femme fatale is Penelope Cruz (Sanchez). Tom starred with Penelope in Vanilla Sky (along with Cameron Diaz who was on the list of the top 10 worst dressed women in the world) and their "love" blossomed off screen as it did on screen. Tom meets some of the most beautiful women on his movies; it's like they pay him millions of dollars to act like he normally does: be charming, attract the women, love them. That aside, SEE VANILLA SKY. Holy moley, it's a really nice film by Cameron Crowe. Well directed, exciting, and thought-provoking. If you haven't seen it then (wait for the paragraph to end before following the following instructions) drop the *math*NEWS (into your knapsack for later reading), get to a theatre playing it, buy tickets, watch the film. (you ready? GO!)

Seriously though, there's not much I can say about this film except that it's an exploration into a character that we feel we know intimately. Onwards, Penelope has acted in many films and for some reason I keep thinking she acted in Spy Kids (numba 2 coming out this year) but that's probably because I want to match her up with Antonio Banderas. Interestingly enough, Vanilla Sky is based on Abre los Ojos, a Spanish film also starring Penelope Cruz. Essentially this is a huge step into the American market for Miss Cruz and I'm pretty sure we'll see her in some new films soon. On a bit of side note, Penelope made her first appearance as a little kid watching TV in the 1975 classic Video Vixens. I haven't heard much about it but the Director of that film has made almost 300 pornos, so you could say that Miss Cruz first acted in a porno (like all Hollywood stars). The Link: Blow.

Penelope acted in Blow, the film that deals with the establishment of the American cocaine market like never before. Cruz played Mirtha Jung, aka George Jung's wife, George is Johnny Depp. Frankly, I was and still am disappointed by Blow. I expected a faster pace, something more like Traffic but darker. Instead we get a dramatic rendition of George's life stretched so thinly that I decided to stop watching and go to the dentist (I really did). We've had a plethora of drug related movies and I'm sure that many people were expecting a lot more. My suggestion, it's not worth it. A Depp movie that is worth renting is From Hell. Yet another movie about Jack The Ripper, it does quite well in a dramatic sense. Somehow, it doesn't seem to focus enough on the actual story of the Ripper. Of course, I have to hurry things along now, so the link from hell is Peter Godley aka Robert Coltrane aka the d00d who was Hagrid in Harry Potter aka Valentin Dmitrovich Zukovsky in Goldeneye and The World Is Not Enough.

Any James Bond film is good news and I recommend both the aforementioned films. Of course, the films are on TV every Saturday at 20:00 EST (8 pm) on channel 6 (ABC). This week's film is From Russia With Love (Sean Connery as Bond). Nuf said, ze link is Robert Carlyle who played Renard (couldn't feel pain) and also starred in Trainspotting (a good movie on the effect of using drugs and the consequences (for a vegetarian you're a mean shot, thank you moneypenny)) as Begbey. Of course, the star of said film is: Ewan McGregor, aka, the co-star of Moulin Rouge. We've made a complete circle and Ewan has yet to learn how to lip sync but his prowess as Obi Wan will do for now.

Hope you've enjoyed the roller coaster ride. See you in two weeks.

Tushar
Quack

Palindrome Elictra

These palindromes are catching. I went home after the first issue came out and my housemate pointed out my omission of "redivider." Then, jessej submitted a bunch, and the request for more was sent out. Here, in point-form bullets, are some of the palindromes that have been sent to *math*NEWS in the last couple weeks:

- W. O. Nemo, toss a lasso to me now! (Leander)
- Straw? No; too stupid a fad. I put soot on warts! (jessej)
- Egad! No bondage! (jessej)
- !mathNEWSWENhtam! (jessej)
- Eh, ca va, la vache? (Tony)
- T. Eliot, top bard, notes putrid tang emanating, is sad. I'd assign it a name: 'Gnat dirt upset on drab pot toilet'. (Tony)
- aibohphobia (the fear of palindromes (Alex Gunz, via Tony)
- No melon no lemon OR No lemon no melon (Kev)

That's all that have been sent in that I remember. If you have more, we want them, so mail them to mathnews@student. math.uwaterloo.ca and watch them appear in print. And if we get desperate, I'll enlist the help of Doctor Otto Rotcod, Palindromist.

Happy Birthday *math*NEWS!

As this celebration of the fittingly prime 29th year ends I'd like to pay special homage to the times you amused me with *prof*QUOTES, intrigued me with *grid*WORDS and baffled me with long confusing rants. Here's to the best possible continuity for *math*NEWS!

Yaacov,
FEDS President

'Twas a Happy Birthday

Thank you to everyone who helped make last week's cake fun go so well. We fed about 200 people in 30 to 40 minutes, which is a new record for *math*NEWS. There are some photos available at www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~operator/math-news/ and *math*NEWS should have some up on the webpage someday. Wait until you see next year's cake …

[Back row] Train (Happy), Roses (29th)

[Front row] Dinosaur (Birthday), Clown (mathNEWS)

A Top 29 List!

As you may already know, *math*NEWS turned 29 last week. So in honour of that momentous achievement, Struan Sutherland (my other personality) and I felt that we should pay tribute to the 29 most important mathematicians in history. Without further ado, here is our list:

29. Peter Van Strien (me): I made up the list. Conclusion: I deserve to be on this list.
28. Fibonacci: He's relatively well known, but let's face it; he's a bit overrated. His famous set of numbers is not particularly spectacular. All he did was add the two previous numbers to get the next one. In fact, Struan came up with that set of numbers two years before Fibonacci did.
27. Doctor Emmett Brown: Yes, he was more of a scientist, but he was very innovative in his use of mathematical principles and his invention of the flux capacitor was an incredible achievement with massive influences on current mathematical studies in time travel.
26. Max Cohen: A genius mathematician and computer whiz. A man obsessed with finding numerical patterns, which he believed would lead him to discovering a pattern for understanding all existence. (He was the guy in the movie π)
25. Lewis Carroll: He was a huge fan of logic puzzles, and wrote many books on the subject. He also wrote Alice Through the Looking Glass. Not bad.
24. Pythagoras: He's a bit overrated as a mathematician, but a great guy. He, Struan, and I used to go out all the time and he always picked up the cheque.
23. Michael Palmer: Disproved the Pythagorean theorem in alternate universes.
22. Will Hunting: He's good, he's Will, and he's hunting. I don't know what that means.
21. Isaac Newton: Came up with that fancy cookie.
20. Wile E. Coyote: Self-professed super genius. Found many laws of physics to be less reliable than advertised.
19. René Descartes: He thought therefore he was, blah, blah, blah.
18. Jonathan Subtraction: Inventor of subtraction.
17. Jeffrey Subtraction: Brother of Jonathan. Inventor of subtraction sign, "-"

16. McGuyver: Try and tell me he doesn't deserve to be on this list. As a rule he should be on every list in existence.
15. Archimedes: For having a cool name.
14. Charles Van Broten: Proved mathematically that squirrels don't exist.
13. Stephen Root: Former star of the show Newsradio and also the likely inventor of the square root symbol. (Or was that root beer?)
12. Walter Robbins: For solving the mathematical formula for time travel. Unfortunately, after travelling to the past, he inadvertently killed his father, ensuring that he would never travel through time, ensuring that he would never be born. This caused a rift in time that became the Bermuda triangle.
11. Struan Sutherland: For practising the art of addition on this list with this pointless entry.
10. King Solomon: For practising the art of division on babies. Even though he didn't.
9. Rabbits: For practising the art of multiplication. (I don't know, Bugs Bunny said it one time.)
8. Cookie Monster: For practising the art of subtraction on cookies. Wow I'm on a roll.
7. Russell Crowe: He plays that mathematician guy in that new movie. (It's not as easy to come up with 29 as you might think.)
6. J. J. Jacks: Disproved Fermat's Middle Theorem Of Relatively Normal Size.
5. Albert Einstein: He's pretty good, but I beat him in a one-on-one mathoff just last week. To be fair, he's been dead for almost 50 years.
4. George Frankly and Kate Monday: A shared spot goes to this incredible Mathnet team, who solved crimes using mathematics. They had calculators in their holsters. Incredible.
3. The Count (from Sesame Street): Very good at counting.
2. Big Brother: Proved conclusively that two and two make five.
1. Mr. Allison: My grade 11 math teacher who, in the near future, will lead his class in proving that nothing exists.

Peter Van Strien
and Struan Sutherland (my other personality)

*prof*QUOTES

"My own personal opinion: It's all crap."

Vrscay, AM 343

"The reason we ask you to submit electronically is so that we can keep the best parts. Why write a lambda calculus interpreter when you can steal one?"

Tony Cox, CS 442

"Otherwise we do the same thing as before, [sees overhead] with the same typos as before."

Brown, CS 341

"… then I slip into a coma and die. Now I'm really mad. 'Cause I'm dead."

Petker, MTHEL 100

"The Fibonacci numbers are 1, 1, … what's the next one?"

Zorzitto, PMATH 352

"We're within ε of finishing this proof."

Stewart, PMATH 441

"I'll just set this [crankshaft] on the edge of the overhead and if it collapses with a loud crunch, I'll know I shouldn't have done it."

Cherry, STAT 231

"You'll say, 'That's a stupid way to measure something!' Well, that's right, it is."

Cherry, STAT 231

"I'm doing it the engineering way — through an example. Is there any engineer in here?"

Vanstone, C&O 331

"I normally teach 241, but this term I'm teaching 240; I've been decremented."

Vasiga, CS 240

"It's an easy assignment. You can easily do it in two hours — an hour and a half if you're drinking."

Vasiga, CS 240

"I have something of vital importance to tell you … but I have forgotten."

Wesson, PHYS 275

"And there's a ladybug on the screen. Ew, it's squished. It was already dead. Let me fry it with my laser pointer."

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"We love continuous functions in calculus. But we don't always get them in the real world. But in this class, you will."

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"This is mathematics. We can do whatever we want."

Ledet, MATH 115

"Do unto others as you would do unto them."

Armstrong, CS 134

"I'm sorry, I forgot my remote control today. Meet my new remote control." [Points to TA]

Day, SE 112

Warning! Login at you own risk!
and read at your own risk

The biggest threat to any person on Earth, in spite of what the White House and CNN tell us, is not terrorism. This distinction belongs to the fear of getting sued. These days, anything you do can land you in a courtroom, not as a witness, but as the accused.

To see this, one doesn't even need to go outside North America to find out that anyone can get involved in a liable suit at any moment. A woman is suing a coffee chain for selling her HOT coffee that wound up on her chest. Another person seeked $500 000 for biting a syringe that's inside a McNugget. The next thing you know, customers may sue the laundromat for wrecking one's clothes. To combat this epidermic, many manufacturers and store owners are looking for ways to prevent themselves from being sued.

The labels in everyday products are getting stranger every day. Something as trivial as "not intended for highway use" is put on a wheelbarrow so that "resourceful" people will stop suing the maker. Jeans now come with the label, "Do not iron while being worn." What's next? A "Driving this may cause bodily harm" warning on every vehicle?

These suits are not confined to the consumer world. The University Senate is now considering putting up warning signs and labels to avoid being sued, as any such suits may result in longer lineups, less service, and more crowded classrooms for everyone. Intended changes include, but are not limited to …

• Before you log on to Quest, a window will pop up and warn you that using the system may result in mental anguish and anger/hatred towards the system.

• In the calendar (or course catalogue), description of a course will be followed by "Taking this course may lead to anxiety and increased failure count."

• Stat 231 course outline will include the remark, "This course may shatter your spirit, induce sleepless nights and/or drowsiness during daytime, and cause you to lose faith in mankind."

• The label, "Using any code described in this text may not increase your chance of finding a non-Mathie date" will be added to all CS textbooks.

• All future co-op job postings will include the warning, "Taking this job may lead to job dissatisfaction, low compensation, and anger towards the co-op system."

• A "Quality of roommate not guaranteed" sign will be added to each room door of residence and housing postings.

• The sign "Getting into a line may cause you to become disgruntled and/or mad" will be posted outside Needles Hall.

*math*NEWS is also considering making a similar move. For those of you who think this article is not of good quality, remember, "Quality of *math*NEWS articles is not guaranteed."

Jason "the Screamer" Lau
*math*NEWS oddities specialist

I Will Remember You

At a leadership conference this week, I had a chance to hear Allan Rock (Honourable Minister of Industry; former (2 weeks ago) Minister of Health) speak. At the end of his speech, the students got to ask questions. I asked him two. The first was directed at his side remark about global warming and Ottawa's mild winter. Searching for a definite stance, I asked him, "Is global warming happening?" "Yep," was his reply. Just to verify that one of my representatives really believed it, I asked him again: "Are you sure?" to which he responded, "Yes." He went on to talk about the obviousness of arctic ice melting and the elevated levels of greenhouse gases. I was very glad to hear that (at least one person in) my/our government believes in global warming.

Then I asked my second question. "You said you believe in government. What about dissent? Do you believe in dissent, and specifically, in direct non-violent dissent?" His answer was yes, that he has "got a lot of sympathy" for those people. He believed they/we have legitimate points to make.

But the real gem was this quote, word for word:

"I DON'T INTEND TO BE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR MCDONALD'S OR NIKE."

The whole room laughed. I wanted to share this because I really hope Mr. Rock means what he says, and that he will represent the people's interests before that of corporations.

Unfortunately, Mr. Rock also was quick to mention and discredit violent protest, which was much to my sorrow because it was not part of my question and I'm afraid it only served to *remind* (read: convince) people of the violence of protests rather than the issues. And I was afraid he might think that they are too many violent people; so, when he was done speaking (and was leaving the room for another appointment) I stood up amongst the clapping and shook his hand. Amongst the noise, I whispered quietly to him "They're not all violent; they're not all violent." "I know," he said, "I know."

There were some other notable remarks. A speaker from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade spoke to us. She supported the war on terrorism, and asked how we build a structure of responsible governments, and how we address terrorism with governments that have much more basic problems like water and food. She used the term "international solidarity" with reference to going to war with allied nations, which I thought was a interesting use of activist jargon. She agreed that the US might be acting in self-interest but felt that if it's for a good cause then it was ok to have mixed motives. And in terms of the causes of terrorism, she dismissed the acts as having no rationale (as in they are not a result either of logical thought nor of imposed beliefs of a religion); though she did mention that poverty makes people susceptible to the words of terrorists.

She also said a lot of remarkable things that I agree with, like that the amount of money we give to Africa is "paltry," and although it is a step in the right direction, that the government should be educating the public as to the connections of why such issues are of the utmost importance. She talked of the propaganda (her term) of the media and the government, and told everyone "make your own view; you don't need anyone to feed it to you." She recommended checking several sources, and mentioned NGOs, the Carnegie Commission and the Human Rights Watch. With regards to CNN she said "Don't watch CNN, it's probably bad for your health," and recommended CBC or BBC instead.

Other speakers talked about Canada's lousy environmental record and the situation of the First Nations. The students had fascinating and critical (but constructive) points that I was so impressed with, though we had little time to express them. For example, our group of 25 students was given 20 minutes to come up with a new environmental policy for Canada. That means each person gets about 48 seconds to talk; except that there were those people who decided they deserved 480 seconds since they were loud and right; so I spent my 48 trying to get the quieter or more thoughtful students to speak out.

Outside of the *official* conference activities, there were some great times. About twenty of us went to see a Senators/Bruins game. Great game, oh man, I haven't been to a hockey game in years … the skill was awesome. Wow. Oh and speaking of sports, did anyone see the Knicks/Bucks game? Double overtime, oh man, and it was so exciting with a bunch of people from across Canada cheering and jumping in a hotel room.

At one point I had to get outside for some air so I went for a walk. On the street, a lady asked me for change. I searched my pockets but I had nothing with me except notes about what I believe Canada is, and quotes from Allan Rock. That, and a half package of cough lozenges. So I offered her one, and she accepted; and then I thought screw it, and gave her the whole thing. "Don't you need some?" she asked. I was taken aback. Here was someone begging and yet she was still able to think about my well-being. "It's ok," I told her, "I have another package back in our room."

We also did some volunteering. I went to a retirement home, and I got to talk to a really neat lady. She lived in England throughout the war and was there when the first and last bombs fell. A Canadian man that she had met was set to be sent overseas when, the day prior to his departure, he was injured by debris in a bombing raid. He never went overseas, but he did fall in love and marry the lady I was talking to! Very cool. She and the other women I met seemed very together, and had really interesting stories to tell.

Another unofficial thing a few of us did was visit the Museum of Science and Technology. This used to be, by far, the most kick *ss museum in Ottawa. Well, let me tell you, it has slumped! So much of the greatness is gone. The hatching baby chicks? Gone! The balls that circle around in the funnel? Gone! The rings that you shoot on the semicircle rods? Gone! Whadda they have instead? Sewing machines and computers! Boo! I filled out two, count em, two complaint cards. The one thing they did manage to preserve was the Crazy Kitchen. For anyone who goes to Ottawa, go to the Crazy Kitchen, it's crazy!

You know what's funny? At every leadership conference I've been to I've seen people throw recycle materials in garbages. You'd think as leaders such a trivial action would be second (first?) nature, and yet without fail such an easy way to help our planet is ignored. It makes me wonder — if one hundred leaders from across Canada can't be bothered to learn to throw glass and cans into a blue bin rather than a black bag, what hope do we have?

Jesse Bergman

The Exclusive Interview with Math Gala Girl

A week ago, mysterious posters went up around the Math Building that asked a new question to male mathies: Will you go out with me?

The author of this message, who chose to be known as Math Gala Girl, wanted to branch out and meet people from faculties other than her own (Arts), and was trying to find someone willing to invite her to the Grad Ball so that she could meet some mathies.

Sadly, the posters are all gone now. One too many negative responses prompted her to pull them down earlier this week. However, she was willing to fill out a survey *math*NEWS emailed, making this something of an exclusive interview with the still-anonymous Math Gala Girl:

*math*NEWS: *What motivated you to put up the posters?*

Math Gala Girl: I saw that you were having a gala and thought that it would be fun to mingle with members of a faculty of which I am not very familiar … there are fun people hiding everywhere and I want to meet most of them before I graduate. I figured walking into the math building and asking strangers to take me to their own party would be even more strange than the posters.

Is this because your faculty doesn't have a grad ball?

The Arts faculty does have a formal party, but yours holds a certain charm for the reason mentioned above.

What's your major?

Contrary to popular belief, not psychology.

What's your screening process?

I didn't have one … I honestly hadn't anticipated receiving many responses.

Do you have a dress picked out? What colour?

Yes, I do. Black.

Did you secretly place a haiku in your poster, because we found one.

laughing no, but you are all so clever to have found one … are you sure you should not take Literature as a second major? (There really is one? Cool.)

How much did you spend on coloured paper?

umm … about a dollar …

How do you like your pretzels?

nice and warm with dijon mustard and no salt.

Would you like the roast beef, chicken, or vegetarian meals?

Probably the roast beef … it is the consistently good choice at things like this.

Are you Pete?

Who's Pete?

Do you have a sister?

Yes, a younger sister.

How many have replied already?

Enough to have me believe that I am not completely welcome as a pseudo-addition to the math faculty.

What is the meaning of life the universe and everything?

42. No question.

Can you give a sketch proof of the prime number theorem?

Nope … if I could, I imagine I'd be where you are right now.

Can you do our dishes? Now? Please? There are big scary insects there. we are all really scared.

laughing Absolutely!

Do you read math*NEWS?*

Of course, when it crosses my path.

Do you like math*NEWS?*

The last issue I read made me laugh out loud in the middle of a lecture and silence the whole class … It's some of the cleverest writing and editing I've come across. You guys are great.

Hidden, like treasure

By beautiful math maidens

(all know that's not fair)

*mast*HEAD

What's under this desk?

I wanted to avoid talking about Math Gala Girl until the *mast*HEAD question, so I looked around the office for inspiration, and sure enough, there were Pete's inline skates. Y'know, the ones he used to hit a stake and rip off a big chunk of leg last year. No? Well, believe me, the chunk was large.

So I strapped them on and begin exploring MC on wheels. The experience is not as awesome as it sounds. I liked the empty halls (it's 2:30 am), but that seems like the only way to explore while blading. Also, the south-east elevators weren't working, so I had to try the stairs … Bad Idea. My report on the trip would mention people still working in every lab but SE, and if you fall on the graphics lab door, somebody will come open it for you! So, that should be enough procrastinating, let's get to mgg.

It's way late at night, and I'm working on the issue, when this cutie in a Helly Hanson toque appears at the door. Seeing as I'm just putting tags on the email from Math Gala Girl, I figure that this must be her. But no, just a PAC posterer, looking to advertise for new first aid training sessions. Again, more mystery around mgg … sort of.

We talked about Math Gala Girl for a while over pizza, and what to ask her for our interview. A *mast*HEAD question seemed to flow naturally from this. Here are the staffers with some questions we didn't get answered by mgg:

Dave (What's a date?), Ian (Hey baby! You're so posh, how about getting it on with a frosh?), Kev(o) (Wanna see my slide rule?), Jason (Where do you hang your pink tie?), Jimmer (I've got more than just money, baby!!), Anton (What's your name?), and Chris (How do you like your eggs in the morning? Is bacon a good thing?). Despite their absence, we still got answers from Pete Love (Do you have a sister? Is she hot?) and Laymond Rai (mgg.pickme()).

As for other thanks, the *mast*HEAD template should be updated so it automatically thanks Margaret for proofreading everything that got done during normal hours (she's not to blame for my grammar errors in here). Also thank you Snuggles for filling that last page and giving me permission to print without proofreading. And thank you Phil, for seeing that haiku. Thanks to Gino's for the pizzas and we LOVE Soft Pretzels! You did go last time I told you to, right? Get the cinnamon-sugar pretzel with apple sauce — heaven.

Phat Albert O'Connor (So you heard mathies are good in bed, didn't you?)

Bradley T Smith (Can I borrow $45?)

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Says, but Simon is running on the hand puppet ticket in the FedS Exec elections. Oh man, apparently another university had student elections, and a hand puppet slate came in second. That's funny stuff. Be sure to keep your eyes open for campaigning and voting, I'm happy to say that my old stomping grounds (I decided not to rerun for the Math-Reg seat on FedS, time to let others take a swing, and I'm running a little low on time these days) is the only contested seat. Kind of funny actually, Math-Reg and Senate-at-large are the only non-Exec elections, and both are caused by mathies running (two of the three candidates in the Senate-at-large race are mathies), and there are two mathies on the elections committee. I won't mention who's running but you should all go and find out (whenever campaigning starts).

I got a bunch of messages about "My photos from the party." This is the latest worm to come out of Asia that propagates through Outlook and Outlook Express. The real question is, why does anyone I know still use that flaw-infested piece of crap? If you have to have a point and click mailing interface just use Eudora. I've decided to start a religious crusade to purge the evil from the world, convincing friends and strangers alike to give up there dependency on OE. I don't know if I'll get the same draw as other crusades, not being a pope and all.

Well, my webpage is up and running, and just about every article I've ever written for *math*NEWS is in there. Pretty nuts actually, considering I've written 31 Snuggles Sez (this'll be the thirty-second), 12 Prez Sez, 5 Shaggy articles (cowritten with Latrell), 5 articles in my original Social series, and so far I've found 3 random other articles, but I suspect there are more. That's 48 articles I've written myself (Prez Sez, Snuggles Sez, and the original Social Series). So I guess next article will be my 50th (or my 58th, depending on how you count …). Check it out at www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~sskrzyol, tell me what you think of it 'cause no one tells me anything. It's just got my articles linked (with the opening/ending lines and favourite quotes) and random other stuff I've been playing with (little java toys, plus some random other stuff). Meh, I haven't actually updated it since early January 'cause between Orientation, Camp stuff, MathSoc/FedS/Senate and occasionally going to class I've gotten a wee bit busy.

Had a FOC meeting today (yes, it is the funniest acronym ever, and no, I'll never get over laughing about that) (well, Tuesday actually, but I've written about the time travel effects of writing articles enough) (I like brackets, lalalala) what the hell was I saying? Oh ya, FOC … heehee, ahhh, that's funny. We were talking about scunts and someone asked why we had to stop calling them Scavenger Hunts in the first place. So I tell what I know (from what I heard a couple people died out west during a Scavenger Hunt, so they were banned, but it was just a connotational thing, so they allowed the same thing with a different name, hence Havenger Scunt). After telling everyone this I was asked if I was an encyclopedia. I just know things about things. I just found it funny that I was asked if I was an encyclopedia. Of course, I also like things that are sparkly, so go figure.

I've developed the concept of quantum voting. It's where you might have voted yes, you might have voted no, and you might have abstained, but no one really knows. The vote took less time then it takes to raise your hand. This is the system we tend to use at Senate. By the time I get my hand up to vote the chair is already saying that the motion passed. It's quite strange. Actually we scored a major victory last meeting when we got a vote counted (as it was quite close), we lost, but they counted, and that was huge (kind of says something that we considered that a victory).

We got a phone call about an unpaid bill. A bill for ice. So, who buys ice? We have a freezer, couldn't we have made ice? Fine, lets assume you didn't have time to make ice. Ice should be cheap right? It's just frozen water. Think of how much ice you would get for 3 bucks. Now multiply that by 30. That's right, 90 bucks worth of ice (to me, that would be a lot of ice). It gets better. Apparently not only did we pay this bill, but we have a receipt and we over paid it by $10 'cause the delivery guy didn't have change. We're totally going to call those people and ask for our ten bucks back. I mean, who throws a shoe? Oops, wrong spoof, I meant, Who buys ice?

Speaking of ice (wait for it, here comes a segue that kind of makes sense), I was curling last Sunday (curling is on ice). I threw a takeout, I like hitting things, I like hitting things hard. I threw a double takeout so hard that one of the rocks I was taking out shot over to the ice to our left and hit the guy about to shoot there, the other one shot out and almost took out LaCroix, who had to jump out of the way. And somehow, my shooter ended up in the house. Second best takeout ever! My best takeout was a funnier-than-funny story that resulted in my team being sprawled in various places around the ice laughing. I was throwing a takeout and I started to fall, so instead of falling on the rock (rocks are big and rocklike and hurt to fall on) I tossed it away, having no idea where it would end up. Well, I mistakenly threw a triple raise takeout (consider my rock hit a rock, which hit a rock, which hit a rock, which took out their rock). I laughed so hard I could neither see nor breathe.

I had a little conversation with a certain Disco Stu. It went a little something like this:

    me: Automata are my bitch.
    Stu: Is.
    me: No automata is plural.
    Stu: That's what I'm saying you have to have it across all three terms.
    me: Ahhh so automata are my bitches.
    Stu: Or, automata are my collective bitches.

I don't mean I'm into robots, I mean that I'm really good at NFA/DFA's, PDA's, LBA's, and Turing machines. Although I'm still convinced that I can solve the halting problem. I've got a pretty good proof going too, it just relies on the universe being finite. You just take a machine that's testing your program, then you make a super-machine that watches the running machine and monitors it's complete state (every last bit of memory). If it ever hits the same state twice then it must be in an infinite loop. The question is, what happens if this machine is spitting out π … will it enter the same state twice (and therefore be in a loop), but since it has finite memory, it must, or it can't go forever, does this mean that π is rational? I don't know where the flaw is but I know that I just proved π to be rational which causes some minor issues. It would be funny if I did manage to solve the halting problem, most of theoretical computer science, as I know it, relies on it. Haha, gotta change all your theory.

Snuggles

I'm in my fifth year of a four year program that's going to take me six, sigh.

Krease Crumpled: When pasta attacks …

Imagine … you're walking down the aisle at the supermarket, when out of nowhere, four militarized boxes of Rigatoni jump off the shelf and try to eat your brains! Well, maybe I'm exaggerating a little — there were only three boxes. But we didn't take this attack lightly; we got revenge by kidnapping their brethren. An entire force of thirteen blue and orange boxes were immediately apprehended while trying to defend the renegade Rigatoni. It wasn't until after a half an hour of searching that we discovered an entire platoon of 48 trying to hide in a corner — they were immediately captured to appease our new sense of justice. The strangest part of the operation was that the cashier tried to scan each of the 61 boxes of Kraft Dinner individually … I'm as confused as you are.

On a side note, yes Mom, I am eating more than just Kraft Dinner. Sometimes we make hot dogs.

Does anyone remember that this Saturday is Groundhog Day? You know, that day where we watch a small fuzzy rodent to predict whether there will be either six more weeks of winter, or only a month and a half. I recently came to the conclusion that six weeks *is* a month and a half, and this whole groundhog thing started out as someone's fetish — I mean, historically it sees its shadow 80% of the time, and has only been correct 39% of the time. Haven't these people taken a Stats course? (Maybe not since Stat 231 is still evil.) My *Monkey Launcher 3000* is more accurate than that, and it's supposed to be random. If you don't believe me, or you're bored this weekend, here's my Groundhog Day source — www.stormfax.com/ghogday.htm

So how many of you will be here in Spring term? Hmm … not that many, eh? So you might not have heard what's been going on lately with our lovely Quest system. Normally, students who take courses during the summer get to pick these courses in mid-November. However, that date came and went … well … back in November. Quest wasn't ready yet, so the date was bumped to January. Quest *still* wasn't ready for us yet, so the date was moved again — to March 4–29 — when Fall enrollment is supposed to take place. That means we will be reliant on Quest to let us register properly, and tell us how much money it will cost, and to tell us where our classes are. Let me tell you about my experiences registering for *one* course this term. • November: After spending an hour trying to register for the wrong term, Quest fell asleep. I found out the next day that Quest hibernates at night (it shuts off). I spent another two hours the next day finishing registration.

- December 14: Tuition payment is due.
- December 17: I find out how much my tuition payment is.
- January 3: Classes began.
- Today: Quest *still* doesn't know where my class is (at least the Math Undergrad Office does).

I wonder when Fall enrollment will be … before or after Frosh Week? Speaking of Frosh Week, we still want more volunteers. If you've already signed up, good for you! If you haven't, do it now — there should be a form outside the MathSoc office.

It has come to my attention that there are some that think Mathie guys are being 'hidden from the world' by Mathie girls. If you've seen the *Math Gala Girl* posters around the MC then you'll know what I'm talking about. According to the poster, a graduating Arts girl is seeking a Mathie guy to "show her what she's been missing." Due to the overwhelming number of responses to this ad by the *math*NEWS staff, I predict there will be more and more girls seeking out Mathie guys in a similar fashion. If you are a girl, save yourself the time, effort, and money involved in making such posters, and just email *math*NEWS (mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca), or better yet, **email** *me* (clharase@uwaterloo.ca). I'm not just any normal Mathie guy, I'm an available Mathie Man.

Some dinosaurs ate meat while others ate gravy
Krease

An Imaginary Telephone Conversation

also, dedicated to someone

I wanted to call my friend and record our conversation and then write it down exactly as it was said. It would go something like this:

S: Hello?

C: Hi, is D there?

S: Yes, just hold on a minute.

C: OK.

D: Hello?

C: Hi, this is C.

D: Hey, what's up?

C: Not much, not much. What's the person's name who I was just talking to?

D: It's S, why do you ask?

C: Oh, I was just wondering.

D: You were just wondering?

C: Ya. Do you know the number of the turnkey desk?

D: Why would I know the number to the turnkey desk? There's lots of other people who would know that number other than me.

C: I know. I was just wondering.

D: Do you want to call there or something?

C: I don't know. Maybe. No, actually. Probably not.

D: So why did you ask?

C: I don't know. What are you doing this weekend?

D: [D relates his plans for the weekend here] Why?

C: I thought maybe we should go to Phil's or something.

D: Ya sure, that's do-able. I usually go there Friday nights anyway.

C: Ya I thought that.

D: [makes some comment on the fact that he's like a regular there] So why do you want to go to Phil's this weekend?

C: Oh, I just want some time to pass, and that's time to pass where I was out doing something.

…

And the conversation would continue with whatever D had to say to me, but I would have said everything that I meant to, so I would just converse politely unless especially stimulated by something that D was saying. But I ended up not calling my friend, and now I don't feel like it anymore, so this conversation never happened, which is just as well. Things hardly ever go the way you plan for them to go. That's why I think that instead of me saying that I am "planning" things, from now on I'm going to say that I'm dreaming.

mathNEWSquiz β

Get Ready!   I mean get ready!

Alright so I had the job of making the Squiz for the *math*NEWS right before the Superbowl … so being a football fan this influenced the Squiz. This weekend is also the NHL all-star game … since I am a hockey fan this gave me a second category for the Squiz … I thought this was sweet as I was almost done the Squiz … then I realized maybe there are people who don't like sports and so I had to come up with non-sports trivia.

Scoring is as I mentioned last Squiz. There is a bonus point if you can tell me the theme for the artists in the first 4 song lyrics.

Here are the answers to last week's Squiz:

SONG LYRICS: 1. *Ex-Girlfriend*, No Doubt; 2. *Tom's Diner*, Suzanne Vega; 3. *Big Yellow Taxi*, Joni Mitchell; *[Woohoo! Taxi! — TaxiEd]* 4. *The Whole World*, Outkast; 5. *Only Want To Be With You*, Hootie and The Blowfish;

SURVIVOR: 1. Destiny's Child; 2. Ethan, Kim, Lex, Tom; 3. Marquesas; 4. Rudy; 5. Rock and Roll Jeopardy;

WATERLOO PARKING BY-LAWS: 1. 2:30 am – 6 am; 2. $18; 3. 747-8559; 4. 1:30 am; 5. 12; 6. Yes I got a parking ticket but the city is exempting it!

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS: 1. Tie Domi; 2. Carlton the Bear; 3. Bay and Bremner; 4. Red, $140; 5. Dave Manson.

There were four entries, and one of them won. Anthony Dharmasurya scored one point, narrowly beating out Eleanor Filyer's half point. The gentlemen from 4B Soft Eng, Kevo, SPU, and DE Dan scored 15 and a half, but it was Mission Bananarama with an excellent 21.5 taking the free gift certificate. Congratulations. Alright so I hope to see more than 4 responses to this Squiz … Thanks to Ryan and Andrew for the Potpourri questions (they contain way too much useless knowledge).

Lyrics

1. You're out of luck
   And the reason that you had to care
   The traffic is stuck
   And you're not moving anywhere
2. I'm just sippin on chamomile
   Watching boys and girls and their sex appeal
   With a stranger in the face who says he knows my mom
   And went to my high school
3. Broken heart again
   Another lesson learned
   Better know your friends
   Or else you will get burned
4. This sentimentality doesn't look good on me
   I thought that you would be begging to be with me
   But I'm the one on my knees, blubbering
   Please let me stay
5. Do you need me
   Like I need you too
   And do you want me
   Like I want you?

Superbowl

1. What trophy is handed out to the winning team in the superbowl?
2. What was the nickname of the New England Patriots for most of this season? (hint: it had to do with the quarterback)
3. Which two members of the St. Louis Rams is from the city

Are you ready for some Squiz?!

     hosting this year Superbowl (XXXVI)?

4. Name the superbowl champions and the superbowl MVP this year (Superbowl XXXVI)?
5. The NFL All-Star game (Pro Bowl) takes place after the Superbowl, in which city?

NHL All-Star Game
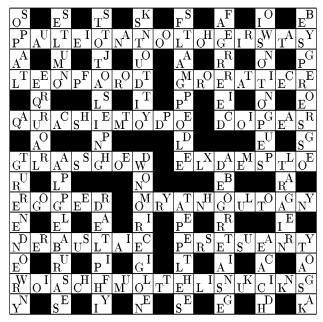
1. Who is singing the national anthems at the 2002 NHL All-Start game?
2. What were the two teams in the all-star game from 1975-1993?
3. What new addition to the NHL all-star weekend is replacing the old timers game?
4. Which player for the first time ever will not be taking part in the the hardest shot competition in 2002?
5. Name the starting line-ups for both the World and North American teams.

Potpourri

1. What wars are the subject of Homer's epic poem, the Iliad?
2. What recent motion picture was based upon Homer's Odyssey?
3. Who lead a Scottish revolution against Britain in the late 1500's?
4. In what meter did Shakespeare write most of his poems?
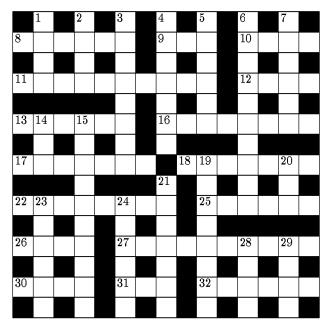5. How many women are in the Canadian federal cabinet?

That wraps up this issue's round of questions. I look forward to seeing the BLACK BOX overflowing with solutions to the Squiz, partial and more than partial, and (if possible) to seeing the *math*NEWS email box virtually overflowing with Squiz submissions. You have until Tuesday the 11th to get them in to `mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca`.

Daryl McEachern
I doubt, therefore I might be.

Last Issue's gridWORD Solution

GRIDXWORD

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

8. Vodka veggie (6)
9. Pilot Solo (3)
10. "The thing to catch the king" (4)
11. Rocks on lawn (?) (4,6)
12. A part in 10 across (4)
13. Sauce for dipping fish (6)
16. Something to put one to sleep (8)
17. Without happiness (7)
18. Bird action after soaring down (5-2)
22, 25, 26. The _____ was the _____ of _____ Skywalker (8,6,4)
27. Type of space falcon (10)
30. It tolls for thee (4)
31. Old Nintendo abbreviation (3)
32. 12, π, or the square root of 17 (6)

Down

1. Little green man (4)
2. Musical medieval profession (4)
3. Not the best breakfast food (8)
4. Mandarin or Cantonese (7)
5. Fresh or new (6)
6. Multiple surgeries (10)
7. Famous salivating dog owner (6)
14. There's often much of this about nothing (3)
15. Pin of great height (sorry, this clue sucks) (4,6)
19. Movie genre (8)
20. Put into action (3)
21. Without purpose (7)
23. Ways to get from A to B (6)
24. Weasel relative (6)
28. Odysseus' name to Cyclops, in Greek (4)

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

8. Merely taking up from supply I'm in (6)
9. Hairpiece that lets you breathe (3)
10. Endless ardor abandoned on street (4)
11. Underwear heaps get down to these (10)
12. Part of a rear lot (4)
13. Strategy to get fresh breath back (6)
16. Looker with a big right cross (5-3)
17. The point of the chase (7)
18. Poor inns wag canopies (7)
22. Bug Pegasus? (5-3)
25. Monkey eats peanut butter cups, I hear (6)
26. No shit, this pen gives relief (4)
27. Shaker hate Quaker order? (10)
30. Fading back in relapse (4)
31. At first, Ernie made up Big Bird (3)
32. He wants you, and he'll dress up to prove it (6)

Down

1. Rank of nasty rite (4)
2. Piece of bishop ushered in (4)
3. Sprinkling talc is my secret (8)
4. Make up flat thing (7)
5. Al, this picnic's like a painting (6)
6. Weapon of wild baker fiend (5,5)
7. French floater beat Austria badly (6)
14. Work legislation (3)
15. The manuscript pixies are who thieves help (10)
19. Curve in West supports battle activities (3,5)
20. Bad gun for antelope (3)
21. Oh, you shy doctor, mixed up and all wet (7)
23. Funny, no jay in sight (6)
24. Antenna suggestion (6)
28. A French pronoun component (4)
29. Turn it to bonk back (4)

*grid*COMMENTS

Let's start with the cryptic, because it's shorter. Each name is followed by their answer to *What didn't you get for Christmas?*

Submissions were received from the Chemgods (Red Rider B-B gun, Superman secret decoder ring, and foam rubber cubes), Chris Marks (Hepatitis B), and Ian McIntyre (Mr. Potato Messiah). All solved it correctly, so opening a page in my book mod 3 says that Chris Marks wins … Hepatitis B!

Over on the conventional side of things, ignoring the UN-OREGON-WHOREGON-WHOREDOM screw-up, we've got Ian McIntyre again, Nory (I got some π, I got hair dye,/ I got a purple fox./ But what I didn't get (oh sigh)/ Was a pair of hot pink socks.), Matt Sheehan (My two front teeth), Adam Weatherhead (My name mentioned in *math*NEWS), Lisa Lum (nothing 8-P), Charles de Gaulle (A box of whoreos), Chris Ingram (A genuine Red Rider B-B Gun … screwed again with underwear and socks), the C&O grad students, Mission Bananarama (a Whoredom. Kings have kingdoms, so … d'oh!), Eleanor Filyer (No partridge, no pear tree, no rings.), Anthony Dharmasurya (a good Hallowe'en costume), and the 4B SE team of Kevo, SPU, and DE Dan. Oh, let's just say Nory get's it, it was a nice poem.

Alrighty, good luck with this week's *grid*WORD, and get your answers in before the next Production Night. This week's *grid*QUESTION is *What other treasures are hidden in MC?*

<div align="right">Brad and Linda</div>