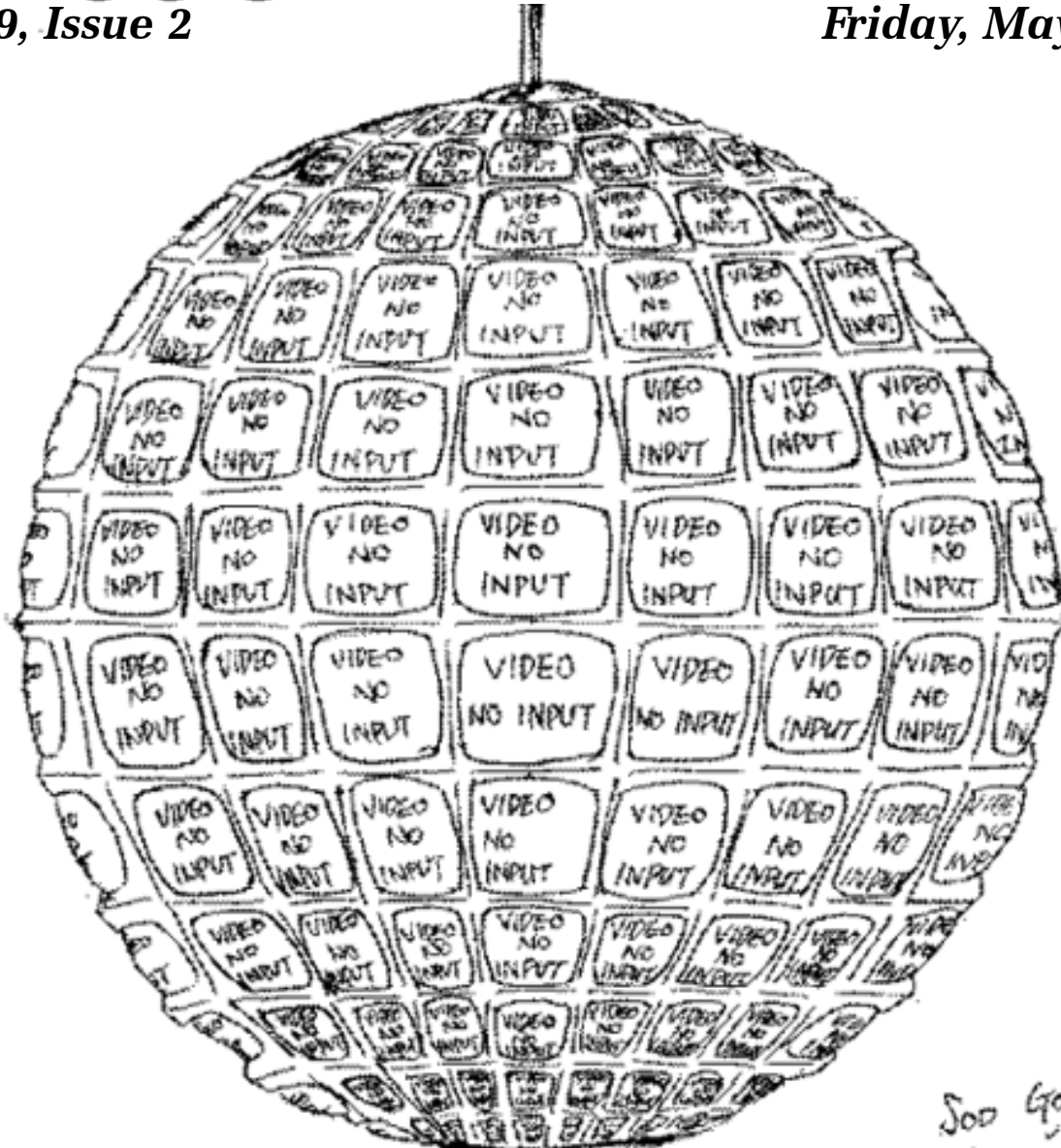


# math

# NEWS

Volume 89, Issue 2

Friday, May 31, 2002



SoG Go  
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May 29/02



## The New Bachelor of Computer Science Degree

A proposal for a new Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS) and changes to the existing Bachelor of Mathematics in Computer Science (BMath(CS)) will reach UW's academic Senate in June (it has already been through departmental and faculty levels), and indications are that it will be approved. Although the first students who might see the program in their undergraduate calendars will start in Fall 2003, students who joined the Faculty of Math earlier may be able to earn a BCS as an alternative to the BMath(CS).

The new BCS plan requires the same total number of CS credits, but it reduces the number of required third-year courses to two and adds other conditions; most notably, restrictions on the choice of non-Math electives. It also introduces a new required second-year course, CS 245 (Logic and Computation): this will be the bottleneck for students arriving before Fall 2003. CS 245 will be offered for the first time in Winter 2003. As a result, students starting in Fall 2002 will easily be able to earn the new degree, and they will be encouraged to graduate under either the new BCS or new BMath(CS) rules. Students who started in Fall 2001 may be able to earn a BCS, depending on what stream

they are in and what courses they have already taken. Anyone who started before that should probably graduate under the old BMath(CS) rules.

Details of the new plan, modifications to the existing plan, and the transition to the new system can be found on the BCS Web page at <http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/admin/curric/bcs/>, together with an extensive history of the development process. This page should answer most of your questions on the new degree, but you should feel free to contact me via e-mail.

Prabhakar Ragde

Chair, CS Academic Plans Committee (formerly Curriculum Committee)

Computer Science

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



## CSC Flash

Well, it looks like it will be a busy term around the CSC office, as we try to get things really, really organised.

Hopefully, our ever-lovin' sysadmin will get the few remaining bugs in NIS+ fixed, make our machine "leela" happy, and set up the xterm "inate" (pun intended).

As always, we plan to expand our library of ever-so-useful material. If you can think of a book that should be in our library, but isn't, contact our librarian ([pechrysl@csclub.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pechrysl@csclub.uwaterloo.ca)) and suggest the book by title and author.

This term, we want to hold talks to help newbies learn UNIX, hold a SIGGRAPH video night, inform you on how you can get involved with Debian and Free Software, and get profs and grad students to talk about all the interesting things they're working on. We also intend to get a t-shirt order this term. To keep posted, watch the CSC postboards (across from the C+D), drop by the office, or read our newsgroup, [uw.csc](mailto:uw.csc).

In closing, I'd like to ask our beloved Chairbeing, Calum T. Dalek: "Of which transuranic element do each of this term's exec remind you?" His surprising answers:

President Alex Pop: plutonium

Vice-president Melissa Basinger: curium

Treasurer Siyan Lee: californium

Secretary James Morrison: mendelevium

Sysadmin Jonathan Beverly: element 118

Calum T. Dalek (CSC chairbeing)

[pechrysl](mailto:pechrysl) (CSC flasher)

## MCTF

They came, they heard, they ran around for a few hours. The first Midnight Capture The Flag for this term was a good time for all. Even The Management joined in for some games. So the next time MCTF time comes around, why don't you join the fun? Keep watching the skies.

The Management

## VPA Sez

*Now with more Redsen!*

It seems only two weeks ago that I wrote my last VPA Sez. Wait, it *was* two weeks ago. Never mind.

A small correction: The Instructor of the Year does not need to be filled this term, but forms to nominate your favourite, most lovable UW prof will be available sometime in June. So start eyeing your profs (not the evil eye please, we're not responsible if they start hating you) for particularly "Prof of the Year" behaviour, and report such behaviour to MathSoc when nominations open. You can nominate only ONE prof PER FORM, so choose carefully. Join the dark or the good side, Anakin, muahahah ... wait, wrong production night.

TA of the Year discussions will start with profs and MathSoc council in the middle of June. I'm still accepting any suggestions or rude remarks about this proposal. Email [vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) with your comments.

On a side note, we here at MathSoc would like to unveil our latest dastardly creation (ok, not dastardly, but it's pretty cool nonetheless): our new website! Muahahahahahaha. Visit <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca> today and see the wonders of the colour pink and the fusion of PHP and Slashdot news! Only good things can come of this. Our Computing Director (that's Froh, not Porh) has integrated an open-source solution to accessing your student.math email that is now also available from our new MathSoc website! Click the link in the news section to visit IMP, dial in your student.math information, and hack and slash your way into your mail account without pine or even a telnet/ssh interface!

So that's it from me and your friendly neighbourhood VPA. Men in Black 2 comes out July 3<sup>rd</sup>. I highly recommend it. Who wouldn't want to watch aliens getting blown up with large particle weapons and people moving through travel tubes a la Futurama? It's got brainwashing, BRAINWASHING, people! BRAINWASHING!

Raymond CT Lai

MathSoc VPA (Academic), S02

## 2003 GRADUATES WANTED!!!

This is an informational piece. If you are not graduating in the next 12 months, I recommend you stop reading now. This will be boring.

If you are graduating in the next 12 months, you'll want to pay attention to announcements and information posted by the Math Graduating Committee (MGC).

The current MGC Chair is Kenneth Chung (that's me). The MGC office is located on the third floor, where all the clubs are located. Unfortunately, things are not fully operational as of yet.

My apologies. But in the meantime, check out the MGC 2002 website:

<http://student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc>

P.S. Sign up for grad photos beside the posting board for MathSoc (in front of the C+D). There will be no grad photos in the Winter term, so if you miss it, you are SOL (for those not computer literate, that's Shit Outta Luck).

I will be writing an article each issue to post information and stuff so look out for it.

MonkeyMan

## lookAHEAD

### mathNEWS

May 31	Issue #2 declares allegiance to 32 separate nations
June 10	Issue #3 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
June 14	Issue #3 brings its talking dog to the park

### Math Faculty

June 3-29	Fall Term Course Enrollment
June 22	WD Deadline

### MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Night
June 7	Cotton Candy Day
June 11	Cove Night

### MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza opposite C+D
June 15	Spring Convocation <i>[Yippee! — TaxiEd]</i>

### Co-op

June 14	Interviews end
June 14	Rankings released

### Miscellaneous

May 31	Cases of insomnia increaes exponentially
June 3	Nortel announces plan to purchase the remnants of Eaton's
June 5	Clean Air Day
June 7	England vs. Argentina, Falkland II
June 8	People overpay for an overhyped Tyson-Lewis bout
June 10	A stuntman climbs up the CN tower wearing plungers on his limbs
June 13	Tim Horton's opens a new store in Vancouver downtown (its 1 <sup>st</sup> store there)

## NewsCollage:

### “Death By A Thousand Cuts”

Pakistan's Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was founded in 1948 by the British Army and is believed to have worked closely with the CIA during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It is estimated to have at least ten thousand agents. Critics call it a “rogue agency” that has run Pakistan's foreign policy for years.

Janes 10/11/01: “After the Soviet withdrawal from Kabul in 1989, the ISI began sponsoring a little-known student movement in Kandahar that emerged as the Taliban. The ISI used funds from the Pakistani government and from overseas Islamic remittances to enroll graduates from thousands of madrassahs (Muslim seminaries) across Pakistan to bolster the Taliban (Islamic students), who were led by the reclusive Mullah Muhammad Omar. Thereafter, through a ruthless combination of bribing Afghanistan's ruling tribal coalition, guerrilla tactics and military support the ISI installed the Taliban regime in Kabul in 1996.”

There are 142 million people in Pakistan. The average annual income is \$470 US.

BBC, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001: “The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a multi-billion dollar cash injection into Pakistan ... The move comes four days after the US lifted sanctions against Pakistan, which has become central to Washington's counter-terrorism efforts following the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center. The sanctions committed the US — the largest shareholders in the IMF — to blocking loans to Pakistan ...”

ABC News, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001: “The ISI was, until September 11, the Taliban's closest ally, instrumental in bringing them to power. While General Musharraf has signed up on the side of the US, the ISI has other ideas. Already Musharraf has sacked his ISI boss for encouraging the Taliban to resist the U.S.”

General Mahmood Ahmed was replaced by General Ehnsanul Haq shortly before the US air strikes in Afghanistan began. Ahmed reportedly told the Taliban to shelter bin Laden from the Americans following September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Washington Post, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002: “U.S. intelligence analysts suspect that al Qaeda fighters who fled the two big battles in Afghanistan — at Tora Bora last December and at Shahikot in March — are now concentrated in the Pakistani tribal area of Waziristan.”

The BBC estimates that, between September and November 2001, 135 000 Afghans entered Pakistan via ‘unofficial crossings.’

General John M. Keane is second in command of the US Army. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, he said, “[Al Qaeda] are trying to establish another safe haven now in Pakistan, and we will deal with that. When the time is right, we will deal with that one as well ...”

Janes, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001: “The ISI also fuels the 12-year-old insurgency in northern India's disputed Kashmir province by ‘sponsoring’ Muslim militant groups and ministering its policy of ‘death by a thousand cuts’ that so effectively drove the Soviets out of Afghanistan.”

Dave Germain

## If Life Were Like A Big Game of Civilization

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, a new Forbidden Palace wonder was built in the City of Computer Science. Officially dubbed “the Forbidden School of Computer Science Palace,” it was meant to provide some much needed governance to the sprawling city, thereby reducing the rebellions and revolts that plague it. Unfortunately, although the forbidden palace affords new autonomy and flexibility for the government in Computer Science, the citizens are still unhappy.

“I knew this would happen,” said Dean, leader of the Math Civilization. “The City of Computer Science is always asking for more stuff. First they wanted me to build the Real-Time Temple, then they wanted me to remove the Calculus 3 tax, and finally they wanted a Forbidden Palace. I kept telling my advisors that a Forbidden Palace only decreases waste and corruption and has no effect on happiness. But they just kept on demanding it, so I finally gave in and built it. And guess what? They still aren’t happy, and they want me to build more buildings.”

Kathy, a resident of the City of Computer Science, was enraged by Dean’s comments.

“That’s the sort of attitude that has pissed us off for so long! We live in the most backward city in the entire Math Civilization. We’re much larger than the Pure Math City or the Actuary City, but while they’re having parades around their libraries and barracks, we don’t even have a granary yet!”

John, an entertainer specialist for the City of Computer Science, was more mild in his opinions.

“It’s not really the fault of the Math Civilization. It’s more of a historical thing. Although the City of Computer Science is the biggest city in the civilization, it’s also the newest city in the civilization, so a lot of the infrastructure that can be found in the other cities simply hasn’t been built here yet. This city just grew so fast that it caught everyone by surprise. Although we only built the DC Aqueduct a little while ago, the city is already bursting at the seams again due to overpopulation. Hopefully, the new CEIT Hospital will allow our city to grow past size 12.”

Joseph, resident of the Applied Math City had a different view of the City of Computer Science’s role in the Civilization.

“Despite its size, the City of Computer Science is really a rather minor city in the civilization,” said Joseph. “Without any barracks, the city isn’t a useful site for building top quality military units. And without libraries and stuff, it just doesn’t produce the top research output that the other cities produce. Sure, it contributes a lot of money due to trade, and the ICR Marketplace really enhances its value, but with the new bank we’re building in C&O, C&O might overtake Computer Science as this civilization’s biggest money maker.”

When asked about these claims, Jake, advisor for the Math Civilization, looked dismayed.

“All of our cities are important. It is true that due to the buildings available in the City of Computer Science, it isn’t our primary choice for certain activities. But that’s the nature of specialization.”

Pressed about whether the city would be more developed if its production hadn’t been set to “Wealth” for many years, Jake grew visibly angry.

“Look, we all make mistakes. We were trying to build a Small Wonder of the World known as Quest. It took up so many resources and took so long to complete that we had to make-up for our earnings shortfall somewhere. I know that the City of

Computer Science kept telling us that they could build the Wonder faster, but it wasn’t obvious whether or not this was true or not. I suppose what made things worse was the fact that, due to technology advances, the Quest Wonder was already obsolete by the time we finished building it. That’s life though.”

Although production in the City of Computer Science is currently being devoted to the new CEIT Hospital, rumours are spreading about how the Math Civilization is planning on quelling the rebellious anger in the city.

“I heard that there’s a Cathedral in the queue!” giggled one Computer Science resident.

“Whatever, they can change that at any time,” retorted another resident.

Other rumours suggest more elaborate schemes for dealing with the city’s chronic unhappiness.

“I heard that there’s a distant civilization known as ‘Guelph’ that has an excess of luxuries known as ‘women.’ If we can establish a trade route with them, we can trade our excess luxury of ‘men’ for their excess luxury of ‘women.’ That’s quite a long distance though,” mentioned one resident.

Whatever the Math Civilization is planning for the City of Computer Science, if it doesn’t address the problem soon, the ramifications could be disastrous.

“We have this alliance with the Engineering Civilization where we share a colony called ‘Software Engineering.’ And whenever I go to the colony, I see all the great things that the Engineers do. The engineering culture that they have over there is really cool. Sometimes, I even wish I were an engineer,” whispered one Computer Science resident before quickly running off.

Ming-Yee Iu

## I Don’t Want No Cookies!

Has this ever happened to you? You’re wandering around happily, without a care in the world. And then, out of nowhere, someone pops in and asks you if you want a cookie. Even if you answer yes or no, the person will continue to ask if you want one. When you have had enough and run to another street, a second person ambushes you and asks you to take a cookie. This goes on and on until you get off the streets.

Well, hopefully no one has encountered the above situation, but really, this happens to Mathies all the time. Whenever you surf the web, often a box will pop open and ask you if you want to accept a cookie from a web site. It asks you the same question repeatedly until you can’t take any more and say, “I don’t want no cookies!”

Maybe I’m the only one who has seen such occurrences when surfing on campus; maybe I’m the only one who doesn’t know how to turn them off. If you do suffer from ‘cookie attacks,’ just press escape when a box of cookies shows up, even if it’s from a site you trust and have faith in. If you are more persistent than they are, they will eventually stop.

As for the real cookies, the ones you can actually eat, I don’t mind munching a couple once in a while, as long as they are not expired or from unknown sources.

Jason “the Screamer” Lau

## The Challenges

- The Dairy Challenge: Drink 4 L of milk in under an hour. The challenge ends when you vomit.
- The Burger Challenge: Eat 3 double cheeseburgers (from McDonald's) as quickly as possible (aim for under 3 minutes).
- The Onion Challenge: Eat an onion as if it were an apple. Make sure the onion is fresh.

Why is it that really dumb ideas prefixed by a phrase including the word 'challenge' seem like such better ideas? I was told that the Dairy Challenge was physically impossible. But alas, I was proven wrong; I witnessed someone drink the 4 L, finishing off the last 500 mL within the last minute with 10 seconds to spare. It was actually quite impressive. Even though about 30 seconds after finishing the challenge, the milk made the journey back into the open air. It came with a flourish, emptying the stomach once more (only at a mathie party would all the vomiting be induced by milk ...). It happened last Sunday at a barbecue I attended.

This scene was inspired by a roadtrip video from EngScunt, in which the participants initially carried through the Burger Challenge. It was a very close race between first and second, both finishing in just under three minutes. It was quite clear that it was their leg pumping action that was allowing them to force down each successive bite of their burgers. The leg action started near the beginning of the second burger and continually accelerated as each successive bite became more disgusting.

About an hour after the Burger Challenge, the second place finisher began the Dairy Challenge. He began the Challenge in the car, and completed the first bag in the car quite quickly. Then there's a cut in the video, and then he is standing out in a field nearly half done the second bag. He knows we know: the Challenge is almost over. He chugs a bit more. Then the vomiting follows. The initial wave is clearly milk. The second wave is still clearly milk. The third wave is then different: the burgers, now partially digested red chunks.

It was after having watched this video and hearing the story that a couple of friends of mine 'decided' to undertake the Challenge (Who can refuse a challenge? Really?). This caused both of them great pain and eventually the joy of throwing up.

After this performance, three people began to participate in the Onion Challenge. At least this did not induce vomiting, rather just large amounts of pain. After every other bite they were saying this is so painful. Oh so very painful. After eating half a raw onion, how do you get the smell of onion off your breath before your job interview the next day? How unfortunate ...

SkarfBoy

*After commenting on the lunacy I feel I must admit I would have participated had I not known the pain before the suggestion. Good old hypocrisy.*

O is for orange, that's good enough for Joe  
 O is for orange, that's good enough for Joe  
 O is for orange, that's good enough for Joe  
 Oh, orange, orange, orange starts with O

## Faculty Creates Clone Army to Combat CS Separatists

In a recent council meeting, the Faculty voted to grant Supreme Dean Alan George sweeping new emergency powers. These new powers give Dean George the authority to create a Grand Army of the Faculty to counter any aggressive actions made by the CS separatists.

In recent months, many Computer Science personnel have announced their intention of leaving the Math Faculty. Led by the charismatic "Count Ragde," dozens of Faculty members have already signed on to the new "School of Computer Science." In a bid to assert their independence from the old Faculty, the School of Computer Science is rumoured to be programming a droid army in the outer offices of the Davis Centre. It is assumed that CS will use their droid army to forcefully take control the yet-to-be-finished CEIT building ("buzzword building") if their demands are not met by the Faculty of Math.

Two weeks ago the noble order of Pure Mathies had discovered a secret clone army nearing completion inside Biology 2 that had mysteriously been ordered nearly a decade ago by the Department of Pure Mathematics for use by the Math Faculty. Dean George announced that the Faculty would take control of these clones. It has been speculated that these Clone-Troopers will be used to attempt a pre-emptive attack on the CS droid army based in the Davis Centre.

The major voice against the creation of a Math Clone Army had been Associate Chair of Act. Sci, Mary Hardy. However, she was asked by Dean George to return to her office on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor for safety after an alleged CS attempt at ending her tenure.

Obi-Ian Kenobi



*Because of its tastelessness, this scene was cut from the previous issue of mathNEWS*

## The Mathematics Of ...

Cottage season is fast approaching, or already here (as demonstrated by there now being a Columbia Lake again), which means that it's time to start asking those important questions:

What is the mass of a boat that has flipped over and sunk to the bottom? (This question is extremely pertinent to the crane that has been hired to try to rescue the boat; another good question is how far down the boat is — and were there any ducks injured?).

Technically, in the world of reality, the mass of a single object does not change. The mass of Java code on the Moon is the same as the mass of the same Java code on Earth, and is the same as the mass of the Java code 20 000 leagues under the sea. However, if you try to actually pull the Java code, or in this case a boat, out of the water, there's a little more involved.

For one, there's some water.

Granted, the water should make the boat buoyant; however, if you've ever tried to pull a water-logged log (not ln) off the bottom of a lake, it's a little more heavy than it would be dry.

Also, as one gets deeper and deeper into the water, the water becomes more dense and more pressure is exerted on the boat. This makes it a fair bit heavier (the intro to the movie 'Titanic' explains that if the windows in their submarine were to break while they were observing the decks of the Titanic, the pressure would crush them all instantly.)

So what does this all mean? Just that the next time you decide to drive your friend's car into Columbia Lake, be aware that there's going to be a wicked leather cleaning bill once you pull it out.

Frez Wa Terr, your friendly neighbourhood procrastinator.

## Sports Update!!! (NOT HOCKEY)

Well folks, it's the end of May, and you know what that means! No you can leave that cheese in the back of your fridge, it won't be able to run away by itself for a few weeks yet. What I'm referring to, of course, is World Cup Soccer.

Now some of you I realize might not be 'in' the 'soccer scene' or the 'not habitually lazy and rather be asleep scene.' Well never fear, because neither am I! But if my minutes of dutifully following the latest foxnews[copyright symbol—damn unix] broadcast have taught me anything, and I'm fairly sure they haven't, it's that you don't need to know anything about anything to pass yourself off as a respected expert in the field of expertise on the topic at hand.

Speaking of topics and hands, it seems the first rule of soccer is that you can never touch the ball with your arm or hand. I find that imagining myself as a leper helps in that department (you should see the dates it gets me). But I'm getting ahead of myself. Much like an Ambien induced dream, The World Cup is a fantastic adventure of grand proportions. It's a quadrannual tournament to decide the bragging rights of being the best at the world's most popular sport. The last one was in 1998 and was apparently won by France, which is hard to believe since a strong wind has been known to make them forfeit in the past. In fact that can't possibly be correct, so let's just say Brazil did it. But it's to the future we must look, and break out those fake Oakley's because the future's looking bright.

Tim "Not Really Leprous" Haloun

## School of Computer Science Expands Again

In a surprise move, the School of Computer Science in Waterloo announced a merger with RIM yesterday.

Having experienced rapid growth over the past decade, the School of Computer Science had only recently undergone the expansion from being a department to being a school.

In a written statement, the School of Computer Science claimed that, "Despite our recent expansion into a school, we found that being a school was still too restrictive to our ambitions. We decided to accelerate our expansion strategy, and the aggressive growth needed to fulfill this strategy could only be achieved through mergers and acquisitions. Although we considered the acquisition of smaller entities like certain faculties or Wilfrid Laurier, it was decided that one giant mega-merger with the biggest institution we could find was the quickest route to achieving critical mass."

Although the name and governance structure for the new entity had not yet been decided as of yesterday, the Chair of the School of Computer Science had this to say about the merger: "No other expansion route affords us the synergies that this merger affords us. We will gain new flexibility to stretch to new heights, reach out to new partners, and bend over backwards for our students. And don't forget the prestige, which will give us a greater market share of ... of ... of success! And most importantly, we'll have the independence to finally pursue all the great ideas we've had like ... um ... like, well, I can't comment on them right now."

In after hours trading, admissions averages for the School of Computer Science were down 5%.

Ming-Yee Iu

## Foose on the Loose

Fooseball became an unofficial EngScunt event last weekend. Sadly most teams did not choose to play, leaving only the Scunt Gods to enjoy the wonders of fooseballing.

Early competition was dominated by Ducky and Tushar. Playing against Paul and Ben the Token Engineer, they won handily. Teams changed around for a while as Robson the Non-Participant enjoyed some success in teaming with S Snuggles. S. S Snuggles S's patented double hand face off draw scored many a goal. Sadly they were all disallowed due to the "no scoring on the draw" rule.

Later play included domination from Louis who managed to defeat Paul and Tushar twice on his own. Eventually a four-on-four game emmerged. After some sneaky play from Tushar (read "illegal holding of players") play continued normally.

Play on early Saturday morning was dominated by a fierce Paul/Leander matching. Eventually most people fell asleep and the game was forgotten. Louis and Ben the Token Engineer managed to squeak in a few more games before it was announced that Math's reign as Gods was over and that SYaniDE would be the next EngScunt Gods.

All this exciting fooseball play leads me to beleive that Math should get a fooseball table. Just stick it in a closet somewhere so the noise doesn't bother people. And give me the key.

FooseMastor Funk

## All I need to know I learned from the football field

By the time you read this article, the world's most watched event will have begun. You know what I'm talking about — The World Cup, of course. Friendships and rivalries will develop, nationalism will go through the roof, and people will stay awake from 2 to 8 am just to watch their favourite team play. Some may say, "Hey, it's just a game," but it is the gathering of the best among the world's favourite sport — maybe it is because it only requires something resembling a ball for someone to play.

I have played the game for I don't know how long and have followed the game for about 12 years (not extensively, mind you), but I have made a few silly, if not absurd, observations. I think I've learned more about the world from football games than I do anywhere else (all right, it is an exaggeration). The following is a few of them:

- **Crime and Punishment**

When we were young, we were told "crime doesn't pay." Sometimes that is not true. Very often players fall awkwardly and yell in agony whenever they are touched, even when the contact is phantom. Often the referee buys it and the diver gets up whenever a foul is given. North Americans love to bash the game for the prevalence of diving, but this occurs in every sport. Hopefully, FIFA will keep its word on clamping down diving.

Many associate the sport with hooliganism: things can really get out of hand when hooligans are in full force. That gave me a good glimpse into what riots and police/troublemaker confrontation was like years before Peppergate.

- **International Relationships**

Sometimes when a war is over, it isn't really over. England (Britain) and Argentina were involved in a conflict in the 80's, and apparently they are still fighting battles ... only, on the football field. From Maradona's "Hand of God" in '86 to the David Beckham lashing at the ref in '98 to Beckham's injury from the legs of an Argentine, there are no shortages of fuses between these two countries.

On the good side, countries who were at war only years earlier can make up and battle each other on the pitch, not a battlefield. Yugoslavia and Slovenia agreed to play each other (well, they were drawn in the same group) less than a decade after a bitter war.

Many were worried and filled with anticipation when the US and Iran were drawn in the same group in World Cup '98. It was great to see them compete for the full 90 minutes in a game. Well, US-Iran relationships may not be peaceful: at least they are willing to stand on the same pitch together.

- **War and Peace**

A Columbian rebel leader said "My soldiers won't fight when our heroes are playing. We are soccer fans, too," during last year's Copa America in Columbia. I don't know if this statement is real since (a) it's from CNN; and (b) my research is less than top notch. It is great to see people stop fighting so that a football tournament can go on uninterrupted. If only George W. Bush were a football fan ...

Okay, enough serious material. It is time to get to the lighter side of things.

- **Songs and Lyrics**

The World Cup-related song lyrics can range from serious to funny to clueless. Lyrics such as "Without boundaries or borders, the grass be our witness," "Ole, Ole, Ole," and "A billion of eyeballs together following a football," are so catchy I remember them years after the event ended. Maybe I am paying too much attention to these things. (Some of these lyrics were originally sung in other languages, so some meaning may be lost in the translations).

- **Celebrations**

Football is probably the only game where anything can happen after scoring. Players will take off their shirts, leap toward the goal scorer, jump over the billboards on the sidelines, do backflips, and bite a teammate's ... privates. What I learned from the game is that whenever someone wants to congratulate you, prepare for anything.

This article is not intended to persuade you to watch the World Cup and won't convince anyone to watching it. For those of you who enjoy the game, enjoy the World Cup. If you don't, try to find a good set of earplugs or have a few afternoon naps, you may not have many quiet nights for the next month. Of course, it never hurts to watch a game to see if it suits you. (I also have taken many issues in a simplified form, but you can't take everything seriously, can you?)

My pick for the winner? My guts says France, and my brain says Argentina, and my heart says Italy. So I will take the coward's way out and keep my mouth shut. As for how far can China go? I'll be happy if the team wins a game.

Jason "Screaming Goooooal" Lau

## Descartes' Lost Lemma

- Descartes was bad at logic
- Penguins are bad at logic
- Therefore, Descartes was a penguin

You've all seen this proof before. Last week, however, a small group of mathies decided to look into this lemma and found out that Descartes was much more than just a penguin — as you'll see by the lemma they discovered:

- We wear suits as an attempt to please others
- Whores attempt to please others
- Penguins wear suits
- Penguins are whores
- Descartes was a whore

Researchers attempted to confront the penguin community about this astounding breakthrough, but the lead penguin just squealed incomprehensibly while trying to run. Descartes was unavailable for comment.

**NEAR ..... far**

## I Have No Good Ideas

*But That Won't Stop Me From Writing*

I have discovered something about myself that I do not like. I now realize that I cannot write a *mathNEWS* article without being given some sort of theme. Typically the editors decide on some sort of theme for an issue, but this week there are no good movies to use as a topic. And that leaves me without any ideas for an article.

Actually, it leaves me without any good ideas for an article. Bad ideas are so abundant that, if they could be properly harnessed, they could solve the world's energy problems (although I suspect that would itself be a bad idea). They can, however, be harnessed to create an article if one is desperate enough. Since I am, here is a list of topics I will not write about.

**Monkeys** — There are those who would say that monkeys are funny. Anybody who says this has obviously never seen a monkey. They climb around, pick bugs off each other, and make incomprehensible noises. If I wanted to see that, there are people who do it regularly and I don't need to buy them bananas. (Note: this only applies to real monkeys. Fictional monkeys are quite often funny, and a monkey in a ball is downright brilliant.)

**Paint Drying** — Unless it's a really ugly colour. At least you can make fun of the person who chose it.

**Rnlkdsnalkgsd!** — Randomly pressing keys may relive stress, but it's not good for the keyboard. Oh, and the reader. If you really feel the urge to press random keys, just write about a fictional character from a fictional former Soviet republic. When it's time to name that character, go wild. My friend Rlndsyky from Wendcosnia can't even tell the difference.

**Bad Ideas For Articles** — Ha ha! It's funny because this is what I'm writing about. Get it? It's ironic because ... eh, just move on to the next item.

**Fresca** — It's just not funny, unless you put it and a monkey into a ball. This is just another example of two bad ideas which make a good idea when combined.

**Trying To Use A Single Word Many Times** — I actually did this in the Fall term. It was definitely a bad idea, although I like to think that people who fear change enjoyed the redundancy of it. That bit of self-delusion helps me sleep at night.

I hope this gives you a new appreciation for the ideas that I actually do write about. Or give you an idea of how bad my articles really could be. [*Okay, next issue will have a theme — TaxiEd*] Or give you the desire to break my fingers so I can never write another article, but I really think that would be a bad idea.

Dan Woodley

## Transformers Evolutions of the Bi-Week

Alpha Trion begat Optimus Prime begat Ultra Magnus begat Rodimus Prime begat Optimus Prime (again) begat Optimus Primal begat Optimus Prime (Robots in Disguise).

Megatron begat Starscream begat Galvatron begat Scorpion begat Megatron (Beast Wars) begat Megatron (Robots in Disguise).

## Top Ten Reasons Why Math is the Best Faculty

1. You know that, somewhere, someone has Taylor's Theorem tattooed on their body.
2. We're as smart as (smarter) than engineers, but we don't have the associated drinking problems or inferiority complexes.
3. Two guys to every girl in the faculty ensures that at least a third of all our students have a relationship only with their studies.
4. Closest buildings to the Bomber.
5. Only our students see the humour in Pi Day.
6. No matter how long you have gone without a shower, there is always someone who smells funkier than you in the comfy.
7. Our version of Civil Disobedience consists of a mathie playing Solitaire during working hours on a co-op term.
8. With MATH 135's theorem 1.1.2.ii, we can prove anything from the world being flat to JFK being assassinated by Smurfs.
9. Our faculty's newspaper is the only one that is read in Iran on a regular basis.
10. Unlike arts students, we change underwear more often than we do majors.

Ian W. MacKinnon

## You Only Have One Undo

*Choose Your Undo Wisely*

If there's something done right at Microsoft, it's the multiple undo steps available in their quality word processing programs.

We here at *mathNEWS* mainly use *vi* to create our literary masterpieces, and, lo-and-behold, we only have one undo. It presents a sticky situation for some of the writers to be limited to only one undo, but somehow we make do.

However, we stress that we have more than one undo in your life with *mathNEWS*, but you only get one FREE undo. After that, you'll have to earn it. Life isn't easy, and if you got your undos free of charge and the ability to use them whenever you want, you'll get spoiled and become a Microsoft whore for the rest of your life, doomed to the exciting life of data input at some cheap insurance company in the middle of the Sahara desert.

Just WHAT can you do to earn your undo after you've used up your free one? We took a sampling of redeeming things you can do or give to earn your undos:

- A cookie from the C+D (C is for cooookie)
- Bench 1000 issues of *mathNEWS* (from last fall)
- Cowpie
- The ability to juggle and read an entire Frosh Cornered without gagging
- A pink pool noodle

In the process of thinking up redeeming things to do, an editor mentioned that he'll save up all his undos, gather up all the Frosh Cornered ever written, and undo them all. Alas, that's not really possible, or is it?

Amadaeus



**profQUOTES**

“I’m going to go over this again and again until you are dreaming about compilers.”

Nafees, CS 241

“High level language is something you can code in a word processor without committing suicide.”

Nafees, CS 241

[Student answers a question] “Hmmm ... I wonder if you still have time to drop this class.”

Nafees, CS 241

“Once I start using Whiteout, I can’t stop. It has a pretty nifty smell, you know!”

Andre, Math 138

[Student offers a better solution] “So you saw this right away? Lack of experience sometimes make you choose a more obvious path.”

Andre, Math 138

“If I just say estimate  $\sin(0.01)$ ? You can just put thirteen ... but not seventeen: seventeen is too big.”

Forrest, Math 148

“I hate L’Hospital’s Rule. If you use it in my exam you’ll screw up.”

Forrest, Math 148

“We will do this proof the engineering way: by example.”

Lam, Math 136

“We value this night at three hours worth of my proportionate salary, which is a vast underestimate of the intangible value being delivered to you tonight. You’d better not argue or, like, bad things will happen to you.”

Smith, ECON 102

“It’s evidence which separates you from the beasts in the forest, ladies and gentlemen, and from dumb dot-com investors.”

Smith, ECON 102

“It looks weird to only have a superscript here, so let’s put it everywhere.”

Wan, CS 370

“If I pull this down, it tends to jiggle.”

Clarke, CS 342

“What are the students doing? Are they falling asleep? Are they laughing at me?”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“Is that momma coming towards me or is it a bear?”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“Try this question for an hour. If you can’t get it after that, try it for another hour.”

Crippen, C&O 380

“Remember to submit your *profQUOTES* to *mathNEWS* for everyone to enjoy.”

L’Avier, mNED

**The Tale of Two Dragons, Part IV**

I was aghast. I had heard her refer to something called a ‘sense of morality’ before, but all I knew was that it conflicted with my pastimes of throwing hard objects at defenceless animals and stealing from the helpless and elderly.

Nevertheless the task remained before me, and it was apparent by this point that I’d have to be the one to do it. In retrospect, I should have realized the hassle it was going to entail, but the hazy cloud of youth and alcohol distorted everything in those days.

I donned my jumpsuit and set out.

[To Be Continued...]

Tim “I’ve lost my legs” Haloun

**Colours:**

- Amber
- Red
- Ebony
- Pink
- Indigo
- Emerald
- Copper
- Eggshell
- Salmon
- Orange
- Fuschia
- Maroon
- Yellow
- Florange
- Rose
- Off-white
- Green
- White
- Eggplant
- Black
- Brown
- Yellow

**Questions from Nosey Friends**

I’m trying to write this article without a single Java reference (except for the one just now, okay ... no more Java references ... now ... now ... okay.)

Guys: Being TOO obvious in trying to land a girl will land you the question of how many chick flicks you watched. Usually, that question is brought on by that girl’s friends. Basically, this question has two answers, both of them wrong. You can answer none, and get accused of lying, or answer truthfully, and get laughed at. There are no winners for this question.

When the question is brought up, lie. The best answer is probably 2. Name a random chick flick (which will make you look less olfish without being TOO girly), then say Titanic. Everyone hates Titanic, but everyone also watched it, multiple times, so you have an excuse. The random one is your call, just name something starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan and you’re set for life.

So now you know, and knowing is 0.5 of the battle.

Amadaeus

## The Frosh Cornered

*Thoughts From a Treadmill*

Having finished 1B and gone on co-op, I find myself with a lot more free time than when I was on campus. I've spent a good chunk of this free time on the treadmill trying to roll back my Frosh 15. Here, I start of thinking about deep philosophy and ethical questions, but when I'm done, I just end up thinking how much I miss Math Girls in my little red-neck town and coming up with crazy ideas for *mathNEWS* articles. This latest incarnation is a comparison between Raymond "The Cornered Frosh V1.0" Lai and myself. I have drawn several of my conclusions in a chart that is positively NOT ripped-off from an issue of Maxim.

Ian W. MacKinnon  
The Cornered Frosh V2.0

## Krease Crumpled

*I think my brain is broken*

You know something is wrong when you can't quite remember the weekend — you know you did something, and it was fun, but you don't know what it was. Vague recollections of Star Wipes, Star Wars, and Scunt are all that's left up there right now ... perfect frame of mind to do my CS assignments ... and interviews ... and I think I have a few midterms coming up soon ... crap. Does anyone know a good brain repair shop that will work quick for student prices?

So what else can I remember? Oh yeah, the Leafs. My theory is that they're planning to win every series in seven games — to make it interesting for the other teams of course — though they should try to finish Detroit in six so it'll be a home ice Cup. (Game 6 with Carolina is still two hours away, but I have yet to be proven wrong in even numbered years.) At least this season will be over before the next one starts — and the games won't interfere with my World Cup schedule.

For those of you still using Java to attract the opposite sex: forget about it and become a Jedi. Jedi not only have that cool mind control trick, but this other ability I'll call 'Cheesi' because I can't think: even with the cheesiest pick-up lines you can think of in the cheesiest surroundings, it seems that the Jedi still manages to score — did I mention cheese? More than all the KD in the world. I would have bet that they were a big sponsor if we hadn't stayed to watch all the credits — did you know Michael Jackson helped with the movie? (I'm serious!) Gimpy would be ashamed of what the Force has become.

'is a sentence fragment' is a sentence fragment.  
Krease



*Nothing says 'I hate you'  
like the smack of a pretzel ...*

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

# TCF V.2.0 vs. TCF V1.0

So far, two *mathNEWS* columnists have claimed the title The Cornered Frosh, but neither are frosh anymore so the time has come for the '05 and the '06 model to square off to see which deserves the title of Math Frosh Supreme.

#### RANK AS FROSH CORNERED ON GOOGLE SEARCH

#1

**Edge: Ian**

#2

#### CUMULATIVE WORDS WRITTEN FOR FROSH CORNERED

8298

18 962

**Edge: Raymond**

#### GEEKIEST PROGRAM

CS

CS

**Edge: Draw**

#### BIGGEST BIT O' FROSH

6"pi"

5"e"

**Edge: Ian**

#### COOLEST SUB-HEADING FOR ARTICLE

"It must be gender, because it's not sex!"

"Joe Murphy, CS134 student in distress; lessons"

**Edge: Ian**

#### FAMOUS FOR ...

Multi-term insult war with fellow *mathNEWS* columnist Lino (aka 'Pi')

Asking girl out in Java Code

**Edge: Raymond**

#### FIRST WORK REPORT TITLE

Complex SQL Sub-queries

YES! I do want fries with that!

**Edge: Draw**

#### FAMOUS PICK-UP LINE

"I can prove you're not fat if you sleep with me, because I'd never sleep with a fat chick."

WillYouGoOutWithMe.class

**Edge: Ian**

#### USES OF WORD "DERIVATIVE" IN FROSH CORNERED

0

3

**Edge: Raymond**

#### JOB DURING FIRST FROSH WEEK AS LEADER

Outdoor event co-ordinator

Glorified water-boy  
(Food Co-ordinator)**Edge: Ian**

#### CELEBRITY LOOK-ALIKE

Conan O'Brien

Screch from *Saved by the Bell***Edge: Raymond**

#### AND THE WINNER IS

**Draw**

Well, with a score of 5-4 it looks like the newer V2.0 beats the old V1.0, this time. Stay tuned for next issue when we show the results of the swimsuit competition and the talent show.

**mastHEAD***The Movie, based on a popular publication*

Monday evening started off like most do, well, at least how every second one does. I was sitting around in the MathSoc office and slowly people came in and we started to talk and eventually ended up creating some kind of student publication curiously enough called *mathNEWS*.

While sitting there we talked about how this year is going to be good for movies. Evidence can be seen in such diverse places as the last issue of *mathNEWS* and in the signs up in Galaxy telling you to hang on to your ticket stubs. Yet no block buster movie comes out this week for us to mock. We felt cheated. So we started coming up with our own big block buster movies not coming out this year. Stuff like a live-action The Family Guy movie.

One such idea was Titanic 2. Surely with its largest grossing movie title on the line, and Hollywood (or is that Toronto?) willing to do anything to make a few million, Titanic 2 would be a sequel coming our way. But what could the plot be? Probably something about two star-crossed lovers taking a trip down to see the wreck of the Titanic in Tiny, the submarine that would never float. Their love is grand, nothing can get in their way, and we are all bored out of our seats, until finally Tiny hits the wreck of Titanic. Air trapped in Titanic rushes into Tiny and we get to see a moderately exciting half hour of people screaming for their lives as Tiny starts to surface. Proving humanity wrong, Tiny can float. Or maybe it will be just be a love story set in another disaster ...

Before we are asked by a petition signed by Americans to change the title of *mathNEWS* because the capital N looks too much like the WTC, let us move on to the actual *mastHEAD* question.

Once we left the Soft Pretzel Bakery this week, we noticed something funny. According to the store hours on the door, the Soft Pretzel Bakery was already closed. We just had to know what could the owners of the Soft Pretzel Bakery be doing during the evenings in the summer to close shop at 8:30? Here is this week's production staff and their answers. Krease (Star wipes), Emerald (Damn, he got to it first), Ian (My mom), Jason (Dancing with the unsold pretzels), Dave (The shadow knows), Pi (Making pretzel enemas for Ian's mom), Laymond (Hitting someone over the head with a large carbonated-liquid container), Meagan (Reading *mathNEWS* for pretzel references), Soo (Uhh ... nothing you and I wouldn't do ... right? \*scared\*), Dan (Pretzel porn), Louis (Malcolm Jamal Warner), and Jim (I hear they trade underwear).

And of course, the thank-you list (we'd never forget to include that (heh heh (read this on the website))). Okay, enough scheme. Thank you to the bringers of food, us, and to those who made the food we brought: Gin ... er, Campus Pizza (who undercharged us for the Spinach Delight because they thought we wouldn't like it (but we did ... suckers!)) and the Soft Pretzel Bakery, whatever it is you're doing after hours. Oh ya, and thanks for the 6-for-5 discount on pretzels and 3-for-2 discount on apple sauce. Farah's, you didn't make the drinks, so screw you.

Also thanks to Graphics for the printing you do in that wacky bindery of yours. Sorry, we're in a rush.

Bradley T Smith (The Twist)

Albert O'Connor (The same thing we do every night, Pinky ...)

**mathNEWSquiz #2***Insert witty subtitle here*

Hey everyone, this is the new Squiz Master  $\pi$ . I'm going to be doing the Squiz for the remainder of the term. I hope that it will be better than the Squiz from the first issue, which received a grand total of zero submissions. If this keeps up, I'm going to be getting lots of C+D gift certificates for myself.

Since nobody won the last Squiz, you can submit answers for that one again this issue. We'll award winners for both issues if people submit answers. Just think, if you submit one wrong answer, and nobody else submits any answers, you WIN! [*Umm, since we pay for prizes, I would prefer to give them to people with scores above zero — TaxiEd*]

*Lyrics*

1. Take heed, cause I'm a lyrical poet  
Miami's on the scene just in case you didn't know it  
My town that created all the bass sounds  
Enough to shake and kick holes in the ground
2. Looking for love in all the wrong places  
No fine girls, just ugly faces  
From frustration first inclination  
Is to become a monk and leave the situation
3. Fresh new kicks and pants  
You got 'em like that now you know you wanna dance  
So move outta your seat  
And get a fly girl and catch this beat
4. I'm in love with you girl 'cause you're on my mind,  
You're the one I think about most every time.  
And when you pack a smile in everything you do,  
Don't you understand, girl, this love is true.
5. I'm a model, you know what I mean  
And I do my little turn on the catwalk  
Yeah, on the catwalk, on the catwalk, yeah  
I do my little turn on the catwalk
6. For a bonus, give me something creative that all these bands  
or singers have in common.

*Cornered Frosh Cornered @ mathNEWS*

1. Who was the original Frosh Cornered?
2. When did he make his debut?
3. Who replaced the Frosh Cornered becoming the Cornered Frosh?
4. Where is the Cornered Frosh this term?
5. Who was better, the CF or the FC?

*Who said it?*

1. Wanna see me comb my hair really fast?
2. Shop smart, shop S-mart.
3. Either we all go home, or nobody goes home.
4. I one the sandbox.
5. near ..... far

That's it for this issue, so everyone get off your butts and send in some solutions. You can submit them to the BLACK BOX beside the stairs on the thrid floor or just e-mail them to us at [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca). Just remember, you don't have to get them all right, just get more than anybody else did.

Insert witty signature here



## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

### Across

1. Reason we are in ace mix-up (5)
4. Ceases pots reversal (4)
7. Sticky substance rearranges tapes (5)
8. Detroit's direction holds Kevin Edwards at an angle (4)
9. Back on the negative (2)
11. Egyptian goddess is doubled (4)
12. Little sound is the same either way (4)
14. Indicates location in math (2)
18. Sworn statement of love before that endless scramble (4)
19. Spinning tool mixes root right (5)
20. Cheese made strangely (4)
21. Near there, what is below is contained (5)

### Down

1. Duplicate police question letter (4)
2. Initially under some Soviet rule (4)
3. Steven contains a numeric characteristic (4)
5. Steals attempts to film a scene (5)
6. Lesser players destroy Spawn? (5)
10. Not down in soup (2)
11. This and only this indicates both directions (2)
12. Pop Rosen's writings contain no poetics (5)
13. In addition to former tar mess (5)
15. Forest plant in great reef (4)
16. Famous ball of fire (4)
17. Bend in march (4)

## gridCOMMENTS

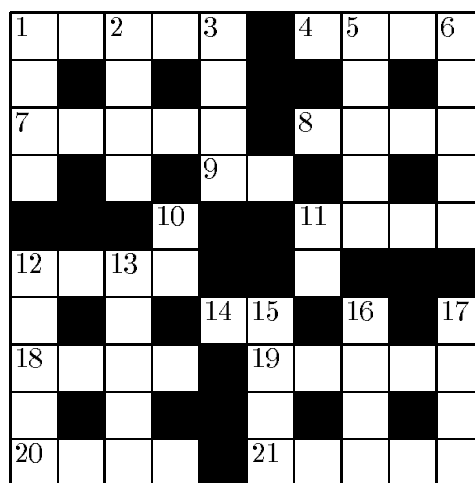
Welcome back to the grid! First things first, let's take a look at the previous issue's puzzle:

I accidentally made the question a bit harder to solve than intended, but congratulations to the two ladies who completed it successfully. I couldn't pick between Katie Law and Meagan Shaughnessy, so once I find those damn gift certificates, I'll give each one of them one. Ah yes, and the solution to the puzzle was the primes 133121, 223331, and 312211.

Now, seeing as it is summer and nobody cares too much about the content of the *gridWORD* (I hope), I've decided to try my hand at writing one. Since this is my first time, I've kept it pretty small. If you're looking for instructions on solving cryptic puzzles, check out some resources on the web, or even *mathNEWS*'s Frosh Issue from last year — I wrote up a brief how-to guide in it.

Okay, enjoy the puzzles! Drop your solutions in the **BLACK BOX** or mail them to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) with your answer to the *gridQUESTION*: *Why isn't Canada in The World Cup?*

Brad



## Grid Clues (Conventional)

### Across

1. Wild animal or X-Man
4. Binary option
7. Duration monitor
8. A second option
9. Toronto abbreviation
11. Bunch of guys with swords
12. Stupid, extinct bird
14. Who you think you are
18. A foot in a Shakespearean sonnet
19. Christopher Lee character: Count \_\_\_\_\_
20. Manly monarch
21. Movie and Scunt: Revenge of the \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

1. Two items referred to together
2. Wiley Coyote's dealers
3. Little cake
5. Queen or Empress
6. Each one
10. Half of 12 across
11. First person of to be
12. To intake beverages
13. Screwtape or Wormwood
15. The first garden
16. Lacking in wealth
17. Multiple floor coverings

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Bradley and Albert: Albert O'Connor and Bradley T Smith