

Volume 89, Issue 5

Friday, July 12, 2002

A story about a regular mathNEWS production night

Prez Sez

Thanks to everyone who showed up for Canada Day; it was a huge success, and everyone had a great time. Keep an eye out for more opportunities to volunteer and have fun on the MathSoc door.

There was a Co-op advisory forum on Thursday. If you've got any comments that were missed, feel free to email Raymond Lai, the VPA, at vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Paintball!!!

Sometime in the near to distant future MathSoc will be subsidizing a trip to play paintball. Details will be provided as they become available.

And now for the words of wisdom, all right fine, so it's actually just a place for me to write my favourite movie quotes, or perhaps video game quotes:

'This is my BOOMSTICK!!'

'I've fallen, and I'm too lazy to get up.'

Ben Willson

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

July 12	Issue #5 basks in the scorching sun
July 22	Issue #6 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
July 26	Issue #6 kayaks around the world

Math Faculty

July 26	Lectures End
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MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Night
July 12	Electronica Outside MC
July 18	Instructor of the Year forms due
July 19	HLM nominations due

Orientation

July 13	Leader retreat
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MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza opposite C+D
July 27	Trip to Wasaga Beach
August 1	Intent to Graduate forms due

Co-op

July 16	Continuous-phase postings end
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Miscellaneous

July 12	<i>Crocodile Hunter</i> hits the big screen Oh Crikey!
July 14	Bastille Day
July 15-19	Blood Donor Clinic
July 17	Steve Fossett becomes the first man to fly a glider outside the atmosphere
July 18-21	Ontario Summer Games in K/W
July 20	Carlton the Bear (the Leafs' mascot) joins the Boston Bruins
July 23	Medieval Times employees go on strike

VPA Sez

Someone STOP Cutting Power to my Machine

Okay, I'll try this for the third time, and this time let's try NOT to cut the power from my machine please.

I've come down with a horrible horrible disease that involves a high fever and stuffed nose. It's a good thing that it happened on the weekend, so I don't have to cut out my time with the math population.

First off, Instructor of the Year Nomination is now **OPEN!** Come to the MathSoc office and fill out a IOY form to make your professor rich and famous (okay, not quite, but he/she gets a really nice embossed metal plate on the big trophy). If you have an exceptional prof you would like to honour, pick up a form from the MathSoc office and fill it out!

Second, yesterday was the Open Forum with the MathSoc Advisory Committee for Co-op. I'd like to thank everyone who turned out, and we would like to remind everyone that just because the forum is over, it doesn't mean you your voices have to be silenced. Email vpa@MathSoc.uwaterloo.ca with your valuable opinions, and we're sure going to include yours in our report to CECS.

We're moving quickly towards the end of term; that means my reign of terror is almost over. I hope the time we have left can be spent loudly playing Warcraft III (notice I used the CORRECT Roman numerals here).

Sincerely, Your computer

Not really, but I am your VPA
Raymond CT Lai

Midnight Capture the Flag: End Game

Even more to do late on a Sunday night

Want to run around, capture ... flags, have fun, do a little dance, make a little love? (Note The Management is not responsible for any little love you make.) Next Sunday the 21st of July there will be the final MCTF of the term. There will be excitement, fun, and really wild things. Ask those who have come out before, find out why they will come out again. Be there or be a rhombus.

The Management

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The editor guys: Albert O'Connor and Bradley T Smith

TONIGHT: ELECTRONICA Outside the MC

Tonight, DC Quad (MC 3001 if it is raining), electronic music performed by people from across campus, for your free enjoy-

ment. That's right: it is FREE to come, stop by, and have a listen. For more info check out www.electronicainthemc.org.

Biting Buffy

UPN's brilliant Buffy: The Vampire Slayer is about to get shafted by Emmy voters yet again. Due to a 'clerical' error, nomination forms failed to include an option for *Once More, With Feeling*, the incredible musical performed by the Buffy cast last season.

But this shouldn't be to our surprise, Buffy is often ignored and ridiculed. People judge it without giving it a chance. The following scene has played out way too many times for my liking: Friend: That sounds great! What is it?

Me: It's from the Buffy musical!

Friend: (disappointed) Oh.

I'm sure you get as frustrated as I do when that happens. It's happened to people I know and they're not too happy about it. It's a little silly that a song that sounds good can so quickly sound bad.

Yet, I guess I can understand why this point of view exists. I mean, if one of my friends didn't rave about it all the time, I would never have gotten into Buffy. I pretty much ignored it as yet another one of those ridiculous shows that manages to stay on the air by keeping the hot girl factor high enough.

Yes, now I know the show has brilliant plotlines, many surprises, witty dialogue, wonderful characters, and some of the best moments TV has to offer in recent times. But I hope you can understand how I was once skeptical.

In my defence, let me say that when I finally did sit down to watch the show, I found the mix of drama, comedy, and horror (three normally unmeshable elements) to be something fresh and interesting. The plotlines kept me guessing. The characters had great chemistry and were developed enough to be people that you would actually like to know. But perhaps the most incredible thing about this show is that there is no status quo. The problem plaguing many TV shows is simply that nothing really changes. In Buffy, the characters come and go. Situations and issues change. You never feel comfortable because the show is always changing. It doesn't hurt that you can always relate to the characters since they never preach, but instead play out real life issues through subtle metaphor throughout the episodes.

I was at a convention this past weekend, and got to meet Amber Benson and get her autograph. While waiting in line, I looked around and realized how other people like me have discovered this show. It was there that I realized that it's probably better this way. So we have something we love that everyone else despises. That's fine. As Willow once said, "[I] just sort of like having something that's just, you know, mine."

It'll be our little secret.

Since this is *mathNEWS*, I'll finish off with a math related quote.

Xander: Giles lived for school. He's actually still bitter that there are only twelve grades.

Buffy: He probably sat in math class thinking, "There should be more math. This could be mathier."

J

**No, I said six lines of coke,
not six lines of code!**

Mystery at Porter and Davis

In recent weeks, there was a disturbing development around the UW campus. The power to the Dana Porter library was intermittently cut off and the fire alarm in the DC went off twice (maybe more) on the same day. It seems like someone is trying to prevent students from studying.

The Kampus Kops did a thorough investigation and interviewed numerous people who were on the scene. However, their investigation did not yield results and the witnesses often offered contradictory accounts.

Unable to find any leads in the case, the University realized that it needed some outside help. So it decided to employ the services of S. C. Reamer Detective Agency to solve the mystery.

The detectives went to work immediately, but their methods were somewhat unconventional. Instead of interrogating people who were in the library at the time of the crime, they interviewed the people working in the offices. They also talked with the custodians and viewed the security tapes (which don't officially exist). The team even went to the 4th floor of the DC building, but all their work led to dead ends.

The investigation team decided to take a radical approach. They crawled through the tunnels and air ducts in the buildings and checked the electric wires for signs of tampering. There they discovered clues that could lead them to the culprit of the crime.

In an air duct in the DC, a detective found a rather unusual liquor bottle. After some conversation with people in the student villages, the team came to the conclusion that the culprit was a group of four students who were either wild partiers or dangerous trouble makers, depending on who they were talking to.

However, this is not the end of it. The foursome are currently off campus, so there is nothing the team can do until the Fall. Also, some members of the investigation team are now wondering if some grad students were involved in the incident. The team suspect that they may be doing something to prevent others from joining them or stealing their offices and perks. Who is the real culprit? It will be revealed in due time.

Note: This story is fiction, but the power outage at the Dana Porter library did occur and the fire alarm in DC did go off twice. Just when you think you have seen everything, something surprising happens.

Jason "Screaming Not-so-good Stories" Lau

To All Math Profs, REPENT!

For too long, professors have felt that they are gods. If notations got tedious, they threw them away. If they ran out of terms, they would redefine an old one. This activity must stop! Members of Random Extremists Protecting Endangered Notation and Terminology (REPENT) are enrolled in classes across the faculty. We will not stand by silently as notation is abused or terminology is mangled. If anyone attempts to do harm to any terminology or notation they will be stopped. When we catch terminology poachers their names and infractions will be publicly displayed in *mathNEWS*. You have been warned!

REPENT

Prof. Wagner: The organization now exists.

The Frosh Cornered

How Waterloo differs from Undergrads

I know I don't usually follow the theme of each issue of *mathNEWS*, but for this issue, I think I will. After watching a little bit of the MTV show *Undergrads* I was amazed at how accurately the show depicted University life. However, there were some differences between how University life is portrayed in *Undergrads* and reality at UW.

Undergrads: There is a constant struggle between "frat-boys" and "nerds."

Waterloo: "Nerds" run the school and constitute 90% of the population. Fraternities are only at Laurier, but since it's more of a faculty than a university, it doesn't count.

Undergrads: There is a nerd civil war between "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" fanatics.

Waterloo: There is a nerd civil war between nerds with co-op jobs and ones who think CECS is the most horrible institution in the world.

Undergrads: Fake IDs are needed by first years to get into bars.

Waterloo: IDs are taken from older siblings after they get a G2.

Undergrads: Girls can be in CS and computer geeks too.

Waterloo: Guys *wish* there were Girls who would be in CS and computer geeks too.

Undergrads: The students are constantly exposed to sex.

Waterloo: CS students occasionally need to be removed from the lab to be reminded what sex is.

Undergrads: Multiple universities in town are only competitive when there is a trivia contest or basketball game.

Waterloo: Laurier students like to think there are in competition with Waterloo students, Waterloo students often forget that Laurier is not a day-care centre.

Undergrads: The dumb jock guy never gets the chicks.

Waterloo: The dumb jock guy is the only one in a program that gives him time for the ladies. (pardon me, girls)

Undergrads: The RA is always wearing a housecoat.

Waterloo: Your don considers a housecoat to class "over-dressed."

Ian W. MacKinnon

The Cornered Frosh, for 6 more weeks

***ultra*CLASSIFIED**

- Offer to trade: sex for sex. Come to Rocko's if you're hot, and come to Rocko's even if you're not hot.

Thm 1.3.4

Prove that whatever my CS prof says is wrong by induction on number of statements, n .

Base case: For $n = 1$, if she says one statement, that is incorrect.

Also holds for $n = 0$.

Assume that for $n = k$. If she says k statements, they're all wrong.

For $n = k + 1$,

By adding base case for $n = 1$ and the assumption, we get that if she says $k + 1$ statements, they're all wrong.

Hence whatever my CS prof says doesn't make sense.

The Mathematics of ...

Full contact Calculus beware! Algebra tutorials be warned! Stats and PMath parties look out! These fabulously enjoyable mathematical activities may seem like a blast; however, they are more recent and not nearly as fun as the puzzling 143 year old Math game: proving the Riemann Hypothesis.

A long time ago (1859), in a galaxy not so far away (the Milky Way — good ice cream store), Bernhard Riemann in all of his wisdom came up with an 10 page function known as the "zeta function" that is able to aid in calculating the number of prime numbers. Applicable to both the world of reality and illusion (or imaginary numbers), this function exhibits an incredible property of being able to push mathematicians to their mental and physical limits (lots of pencil writing involved).

This phenomenal game, which has a universal playing field, has suddenly increased its motivational drive. Now, not only is there the potential to destroy modern encryption schemes (hackers of the world unite) or find new ones, but also a \$1 million (US) cash prize has been offered from the Clay Mathematics Institute in the US.

These driving forces have pushed mathematicians to tighten their shoelaces, and try to sprint towards the finish line. Although full contact calculus is a potentially violent sport, the Riemann race is more of a team sport: recently the key players met to discuss a team strategy at a conference in New York, reflecting on dead ends and new alleyways to investigate rather than attacking or revelling in a gold medal, which normally occurs at math conferences.

While Brazil was kicking ass in soccer, mathematicians were putting their heads together to discover and comment on new approaches. One Dr. Freeman Dyson (not to be confused with M. Tyson) was able to correlate the distribution of zeros of the zeta function with energy levels of large atoms, helping to connect the "mysterious bridge between quantum physics and number theory." (he was later believed to have made a connection between ice cream headaches and Campus pizza addicts).

Although the game goes on, anyone and everyone is invited to play (similar to MCTF) but be warned: the fearless have cowered in terror of the sigma like symbol exhibited by the zeta function; minds have gone into coma just thinking of the first 1 500 000 000 solutions that have been calculated; and famous mathematicians have been humbled by the sheer size of the problem (oh, wait, I may be confusing that with Calculus). If you do happen, however, to solve this complex question, run, don't walk, to the nearest *mathNEWS* BLACK BOX, and submit your solution. Alternatively, you could just submit some article on penguins.

Happy PMath/Stats/Calculus/C&O partying!

The Mathematics of Writer

Resources:

New York Times, "143 Year Old Problem Still has Mathematicians Guessing"

Clay Mathematics Institute, "The Riemann Hypothesis"

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- Bathrobe, wet flipflops, an extra Happy meal toy, and a magical automatic pencil (the lead never breaks). Call the Duggler, but not during quiet time

Fear the Wrath of G-Prime!

Greetings, citizens of Waterloo! My name is G-Prime and I have decided to use this publication to make an announcement: I am your new ruler. This may surprise you if you were not aware that you had a ruler, but it is true regardless.

There may be those among you who fancy yourself rebels and wish to challenge my rule. I can assure you that there is no need for such measures. My rule at Tekerson Tech has been a benevolent one, and I will extend the same courtesy to the rest of the world. I have only a few simple rules that must be obeyed:

1. There shall be no mention of Star Trek. Star Wars shall be recognized as the ultimate ruler of science fiction. [*What do you mean, 'fiction?' — KreasEd*] The person who brings me the head of William Shatner shall be rewarded heavily.
2. I shall be referred to as G-Prime, Gimp Skywalker, Emperor Palpatine, or Lord Gimp. No other names are acceptable.
3. Those who sully the name of Agent Dana Sculley shall be considered blasphemers and be punished severely.
4. In the game of Risk, I shall always, always, get the red pieces.

If you still feel the need to rebel against me, I warn you that it will not be an easy task. Not only am I fluent in over six million forms of communication, I am fully trained in the Jedi arts. My offshore base of operations, dubbed the Death Star, is completely impenetrable. Any heavy resistance will be met with a devastating kamikaze attack from which little will emerge intact. May the rule of G-Prime last forever (or at least until I graduate).

G-Prime

Gimpy is an Arts Student

Shocking proof revealed below

Ok, I admit, this might seem shocking at first, but once you see the proof, you'll wonder why you never figured it out before.

- Gimpy is a first year student in a university
- CS students have way too many assignments to do
- Gimpy never leaves his room, and therefore never goes to class
- Gimpy is never seen doing any assignments
- Therefore, Gimpy is *definitely* not a CS student
- Arts students never seem to have any work or classes
- Therefore, Gimpy is an Arts student

As you'll probably have noticed by this proof, none of those Undergrads ever has class or does any homework. Thus, we can easily extend this proof to show that all students on Undergrads are Arts students.

Now I know that there are those among you that 'look up' to Gimpy, believing that he has some kind of 'Force' — but how can one in command of such a Force never win a game of Risk? Think about it. Shmuh ...

Kamikaze Krease Prime

McDonald's 30-s Drivethrough

Have you ever had this feeling when you wake up in the morning and look out the window ... the sun is shimmering, the birds are chirping, and even your neighbour's vicious bulldog looks like a cute little puppy ... and you think to yourself, "What a beautiful day ... now all I need is that sausage 'n' egg muffin from McDonald's, and my life would be perfect!" ... It was this wishful thinking that led to a terrible start of a beautiful day.

Everything was as well as in Pleasantville. But little did I know that it was all about to come to an end.

I drove to the closest McDonald's, anxious to get that "good start of the day" they've drilled into our heads with massive advertisements. I entered the drive-through with no hesitation. Nothing, aside from those three cars ahead, can stand between that Egg McMuffin and me now! Uneasily, I waited for my turn ...

Slowly, I watched the digital clock as the minutes jumped ... 10 ... 11 ... 12 ... and 2 whole minutes have passed (that would be FOUR 30 seconds). I couldn't help but wonder if the 30 seconds starts as I enter the drive-through or after I'm done ordering. (Does anyone know?) The cars ahead were not moving. I then looked behind me: there were two other cars waiting in line already. There was no way out. I was stuck for good.

After all that time, Will Smith has once again FINISHED slaughtered thousands of aliens, and I'm FINALLY at the "place your order here" pole. An irritated voice asked "Can I take your order?" Surprised by her tone of voice, I answered, "Can I get a Sausage 'n' Egg McMuffin Meal with hot chocolate please." "Say that again ..." she replied, more irritated this time. I repeated my order slowly and loudly, feeling like I am talking to grandma through a bad long-distance connection. "I CAN'T HEAR YOU ... MA'AM, SPEAK UP!" that stupid pole girl is now screaming at me! I placed my order for the third time. Then drove on towards the pick-up window, not caring if she heard me this time or not anymore.

It didn't get better from here. More waits for ruder service (that is if you get it at all). And to top all that off, the McMuffin tasted disgusting. So here's for the power of the advertiser who made us believed all those "30 second drive-through" and "great start of the day" crap, and that "the smiles are free." Also, think again before you place that GREAT start your day in the hand of a sausage 'n' egg muffin, because it might not be what you had in mind (like Jim with high hopes for those pies). But hey, don't let my terrible personal experience stop you from doing that, since we know there are worse ways to start your day. Take care!

CEE ^ _ ~;

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- My tight-tight t-shirt guy. I can't see anything when I wear it, but girls love it. Call me, Cal guy, with your offer.
- Director's reel of 'The Thick Blue Line'. Slightly burned. Call Brody and we'll work out a deal - maybe I you could be an extra in my cousin's friend's second uncle's next movie.
- Room for rent. Previously occupied by Rocko. Come to Alpha Alpha - quick - before Rocko gets back.

profQUOTES

“A whole bunch of not caring means the iff holds.”

McKinnon, PMATH 330

“I don’t know why I bother making notes, I don’t look at them.”

McKinnon, PMATH 330

“But you do need the hypothetical syllogism for number ten.”

McKinnon, PMATH 330

“I can’t really cancel class with a good conscience, but you can skip class.”

Wagner, MATH 239

“I can now prove the converse.” [lights go out from lightning]

“Woah, I didn’t think it was that important.”

Wagner, MATH 239

“Again, this is vastly more complicated than your home work, I just wanted to have some fun.”

Wagner, MATH 239

“The other section had a higher average, I guess that’s because I’m a terrible teacher.”

Wagner, MATH 239

“Just play with it.”

Wagner, MATH 239

“So in 1987 you were 5.”

Student: “I was 6.”

“Oh well, off by one error.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“I’m not looked up on the Internet as often as sex. I’ve resigned myself to that. I’m not as popular as sex and I’m fine with that.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“Note that just because a child is imbalanced, their parent is not imbalanced.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“ ... then they can trash the place.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“I do not know what Java does, and I do not want to know what it does.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“I’m too geeky to ask you out, but I’ll make an algorithm that has the same initials as your initials. I bet the inventor of this algorithm is still single.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“Well, that wasn’t a joke. Laughing at my curriculum, that’s okay.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“Zero zero zero one zero zero one zero ... oh shit.”

Vasiga, CS 240

“You ask the guy ‘Is my pizza ready? Is my pizza ready? Is my pizza ready?’ until he hits you with something.”

Clarke, CS 342

“It’s like if you go to McDonald’s and order a whopper, they’ll tell you to wait in the parking lot.”

Clarke, CS 342

“ ... then we can cook a family of linearly independent eigenvectors.”

Nica, MATH 235

“ So does that look like Math 135, or Math 135 from a parallel universe that you didn’t take?”

Nica, MATH 235

“I can make a roast beef sandwich, or I can use those resources to make four cookies.”

Eva Lau, ECON 101

“For the UK residents, you can see that you can turn out all of their electricity, and they’ll still be there, sipping their tea.”

Eva Lau, ECON 101

“[grinning] ‘If you can get your hands on a child ... for ethical research purposes ...’

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“You can save a lot on toys, just use Tupperware.”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“Amazing, and we’re not even dogs.”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“I want to have sex with my mother too!”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“Our new V6 has the fastest acceleration on icy surfaces on downhill roads in Swedish forests.”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

“If I show you a seductive model, you get a mild secretion.”

Ennis, PSYCH 101

Rumours of My Assassination have been Greatly Exaggerated

To the cowards who used *mathNEWS* as their vehicle for the anonymous death threat regarding my Star Wars review: give it up! The use of violent tactics by an extremist minority group is the surest sign of decadence, not to say imminent desperation. I will never stop saying it: the new Star Wars movies suck, and their defenders are like the sad, deluded fans who supported Voyager and continue to support Star Trek: Enterprise. I have no time for those losers who came out of Phantom Menace going, “But the pod race was cool ... But the pod race was cool ...” Face it! George Lucas’ mind has turned to goo, and the longer he keeps making films the more raping our childhood memories will receive. These crude attempts to intimidate me, a journalist working for the free press in the public interest, spear-headed by who knows what sinister, fascistic, underground, banthan, paramilitary group will not succeed. The truth must be heard! I will not be silenced! I WILL NOT BE SILENCED!! ATTICA!! ATTICA!!!

Daniel Saunders, roving reporter of no fixed address
drsaunde@uwaterloo.ca

Fun with Numbers (Yeah Right!)

One day, I was bored and decided to wander around the building. My trip led me to the 5th floor (I could have gone to the 6th floor, but who would do that?) For no apparent reason, I look up at the room numbers of the offices there. I walked by most of them, but one of them drew me to take a look because of what was printed on it. Instead of the room number, it says “DIE” (of course, we all have thoughts that professors are not living beings). I took a closer look and realized that the sign is only the office’s room number written in a base other than 10. I’m not going to tell you what it is based on — I don’t want to ruin the fun.

Like many of you, sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the numbers profs throw at us. But remember, a love of numbers is probably why we were drawn to like math in the first place (back when we were younguns). So I decided to have a little fun with some of the rooms in the MC and write their room numbers in different bases to see if anything interesting came up.

The following are the best I could find:

- MC 1052 (CHIP)
UW₃₄ — The CHIP provides a multitude of licensed software to faculty, staff, and students alike. The only problem is that they are often the only supplier on campus.
- MC 2018 (The computer store)
1PC₃₄ — Very often, all you see in the computer store is a handful of PC’s (and Mac’s).
1MN₃₅ — *mathNEWS* are rarely seen in the store, or maybe I don’t go to the computer store on Fridays.
- MC 3018 (The Real-Time Lab)
7AI₂₀, 3AI₃₀ — I don’t think I’ll ever enter there (I’m not in CS), but after hearing about the horror stories from someone who had, I don’t think I’m missing much. Many call it the hardest course among the undergrad courses. So is it 3 or 7 times harder than AI? You be the judge.

The meaning of our M.A.T.H. Faculty

A rare known fact is the meaning of the word math. If you think you know what it means you’re probably wrong. The word math does not mean the same thing as Mathematics. It’s not even short for Mathematics. In fact, I have discovered its true meaning and will share it with you. You will be surprised, so brace yourself. Everything comes together once you know. The spelling is an acronym; it stands for My Ass Thoroughly Hurts.

Just think about it. Regardless of what you do in the Math faculty you take it up the ass. If you don’t try or if you do your work you are definitely going to have M.A.T.H. related problems. If you study hard and spend countless hours on your assignments, midterms, and finals you are just going to be disappointed when you get your marks because they are never as high as you expect or deserve. In essence they are screwing you up the ass. There is no denying it and in fact you’re paying for it. If it’s not incorporated in your tuition, I believe I saw somewhere on the tuition bill a line for the M.A.T.H. endowment fund. Regardless, the fact remains: M.A.T.H. students take it up the ass.

It really varies by how much and how hard. If you’re stupid

- MC 3038 (MathSoc Office)
4CM₂₆ — The services MathSoc provides are usually for current mathies, even though the workers usually don’t care what faculty you’re in.
- MC 3041 (*mathNEWS* broom closet)
BE1₁₆ — Behind the door, dedicated *mathNEWS* staff are working hard toward the goal of being the number one publication on campus.
- MC 5115 (MUO)
4EF₃₄ — Very often we are frustrated by the faculty’s policy on the co-op process (thank goodness I’m in regular). While the people there may not have all the answers, they refer you to someone who does. I have to give them credit for their effort.
- MC 7056 (Mark McDermot’s office)
5335₁₁ — A palindrome in a base that is a palindrome. Spooky.
1771₁₇ — I had no idea that the number can be written as a palindrome whose first half is the same as the number it is based on (I know, this sentence makes no sense).

The above is a VERY crude sample of how room numbers in the MC can be expressed creatively. Granted, I’m not a very creative person, and I am sure that many of you can come up with better ones than I do. If you know of a room in MC whose number can be written creatively, send it in. Who knows? Maybe we’ll publish it. I know, this may not be a very entertaining idea for an article, but reading this in class is still more fun than writing down notes.

Jason “the Screamer” Lau
Am I boring or what?

you’ll get it often. If you’re taking hard courses you get it often as well. If you’re taking CS or C&O courses you can be sure that you will get a healthy serving. Just remember to smile as much as possible and when things get rough, bring a pillow to sit down on. This may worry some people such as the frosh, but some upper years know too well.

Despite this bit of bad news, there is a way to lessen the pain, agony and embarrassment of M.A.T.H.; they are called electives. It should be pointed out that not all electives involve no math and you should be careful of the ones that do. A sure cure for any case of M.A.T.H. or math related problems is the Arts faculty. For those of us for whom that not an option or are willing to endure M.A.T.H., relief is available. In the early 1990s a math and science graduate from somewhere invented preparation “H” to relieve to some of the hurt. Apply generously and enjoy your stay at the M.A.T.H. faculty. [*Wouldn’t that become the M.A.S.H. (My Ass Sorta Hurts) faculty?* — *KreasEd*]

Disgruntled Geek.

Undergrads, Season 2

The episodes you'll wish they'd make but probably won't

10. Main plot: Nitz and Jesse make up and start dating. Obviously something goes wrong, can you figure it out? (here's a hint: someone gets in the way)
Subplot: Gimpy turns the off-shore platform into a working Death Star, Cal gets all the pretty ladies on his floor.
9. Main plot: Kimmy realizes exactly what she means to Nitz ... just imagine the possibilities. (for some of you: get your minds out of the gutter!)
Subplot: Rocko gets drunk and marries some random girl, Cal gets in trouble for breaking RA rules.
8. Main Plot: Nitz fails a course (first episode after winter break) and he tries to lean on Kimmy's shoulder, but she's still obsessed with Mark.
Subplot: Gimpy's T1 line gets disconnected, Cal throws a party and needs Rocko's help.
7. Main Plot: Nitz plays his first game of ultimate and Kimmy is the head cheerleader.
Subplot: Rocko shoots pool with the frat, Gimpy organizes a Quake tournament for Teckerson Tech frosh and gets beat.
6. Main Plot: Rocko throws a kegger and invites the clique. Nitz has to decide who to invite.
Subplot: The Dougler teaches his floor all about laundry.
5. Main Plot: The fridge in Nitz's house stops working.
Subplot: Rocko goes to a strip club, Cal organizes a floor event.
4. Main Plot: Gimpy becomes a frosh leader.
Subplot: Spud needs a place to live and goes to Gimpy for leads.
3. Main Plot: Nitz hooks up with another girl, Jesse becomes the advice-giver.
Subplot: The Dougler gives Cal advice on becoming a better RA.
2. Main Plot: The clique go back home for a long weekend.
1. Main Plot: Kimmy plays lead in her first big play, Nitz gets front row seats.
Subplot: Jesse is upset that Nitz didn't ask her to come along, Rocko goes to a bar.

Mark Toivanen

Pick up the Phone!

So I came home last night to find seventeen messages on my machine — all from Rocko. Since there were only three of them that sounded like English, I've decided to print them here in hopes that others will learn from his mistakes ... and maybe Rocko will stop calling me ... but that's wishful thinking.

- “Hello Babyfeet. I gotta tell ya you're one sexy little piece of pepper. So here's what we gotta do: you gotta come here, then I'll get that beer in ya, then you'll see that I gotta tell you that we gotta do the ha-ha-ding again, cause you and I go together like me and scotch. So ... why don't you put on that dress I like and we'll go to town ... the good hotel. C'mon, pick up that phone, I've greased up my za and I wanna put it in your cha ... y'understand?”
- “So here's the deal. I was so wrong to break up with you 'cause you're the girl I wanna spend the life of my rest with. I'm a powerful man, a government man ... with a lot of secret connections. So listen ... meet me at the White House where I have my secret batcave ... I'll have to search you for weapons ... especially in your girl places. Kiss me! So anyways, uh ... I got all this fried chicken, and I don't need you — I got chicken, and I'm not afraid! I'm a very big man at the cracker factory! Look just here are the things for you to know: I'm liquid now. Think about it ...”
- “I am not to be ignored! I'm sorry, I'm weak! I know I shouldn't call you, but I got the camels in my pants. No no, that's not true, I don't have pants, but I do have shame. Deep poopy shame. And why don't you marry me and we'll go to Spain? Nonono. you don't want to marry me, not even in Spain. I'm no good, I'm bad, I'm supabad! Supabad! Kiss myself! I'm the godfather of Spain! No! look, I'm not drunk ... I'm just a little not sober with puking and scotch and drinking and ... please love me, please ... I mean ... no ... I mean, I'm superstar Johnson! Put it in your mouth!”

Kiwi Prime

*ultra*CLASSIFIED

- Used dot matrix printer. Looking to upgrade. See Nitz at Room 543
- Giant martini. Previous owner eaten by wolves. Come to Rocko's, especially if you're a chick
- Assorted clothes. Both men's and women's. I'm giving them away because I never leave my room. Email gimpy@qprime.com

Complications

I explode
with a rage
engaged
by age.

I'll never survive
a suicide,
so it's time
to pass my place,
in the human race.

A generation of stars
always looking
to where we'll be
not who we are.

Enter the ship
of fools,
Now drown
at school.

Got Kids?

Why not run a scam?

Last week, as the outside city workers were totally striking and the inside workers had just begun to strike (thereby putting my brother out of a job), parents were forced to find other places to stash their kids. No pools, no camps, no daycares, not a single luxury, like Robinson ... hmm, sorry about that. As I was saying, there were no city-run facilities for children on summer break. Parents were forced to use less-than-legitimate camps.

The two kids I met were under the control of con artists. The first one came to my house (well, my parents' house). He was selling subscriptions to The Toronto Star. We had one. He was selling discounted subscriptions: I just needed to give him a credit card number. Ohhhhhh, because it's a scam. Suddenly I didn't have a card and he left.

Next kid, who was surprisingly similar to the first one (eight, gruff voice, scamming), visited me at my desk at work. Which was weird. I'm kind of hard to get to in the office. He had a laminated card explaining his charity and was selling chocolate stuff. I had him arrested for soliciting. The power felt great.

These are the ones I've encountered, but when you figure that there are 250 000 children with nothing to do, there's someone out there exploiting them for fun and profit. Some other possibilities: pan handling, buskers, pick-pockets, whatever Hayden Christiansen was doing in *Life as a House*, muggers, extortion, mail fraud, smuggling, and such and such.

Bradley Trash Smith

mastHEAD

I'm the editor, guy!

Gee, guy, I'm an editor! I got to read all the articles and add the word guy wherever I wanted to, guy. Plus they have so many nice ladies here who love to tell me about their feelings, and they're really soft too. It was fun, but there was one thing that bothered me, guy. I was in the lab, and they went for pizza, and I didn't go right away because the article I was reading was about me, and then I came late, and then there was no more Hawaiian pizza, and that made me sad, guy. But then I had some spinach pizza and that was real good. Weeee! I love pizza!

So, guy, I was all like, hey *mathNEWS* staff, what kind of guys are you guys? Emerald (I am G-Prime!), Raymond (I am Sparticus!), Mark (The Dougler!), Ian (Keanu Reeves), Ian's Mom (Sweet Caroline), Soo (Nitz), Dan (I'm !#\$ ^ ing swearing guy), Jason (Nut-cracking guy), Lino (Pi guy), Louis (Manatee), Krease (Triceratops Ravioli), Albert (Pattern bleached hair guy, Guy), and Bradley (Retiring guy).

Wow, guy, I'm still not done! I should thank the pizza guy and campus pizza, guy. And thanks to Margaret, guy, she's one nice lady. Also, I was really sad that I didn't get to meet the pretzel guy. He was closed already, guy. But I ran into his wife and she told me about her day while I bought her a caffeine-free soda. Margaret didn't fall for that one, guy. And thanks Graphics-guys!

Cal (Guy guy)

ultraCLASSIFIED

- Manatee costume guy, slightly beaten. I don't wanna fight no more guy, so I'll give it to the first nice lady that asks

mathNEWSquiz #5

The Calm

Hey everyone, I was glad to see we had some entries to the last squiz, so there will be some prizes awarded this week. The answers to last week were: Lyrics 1) Row Row Row Your Boat 2) Mary Had A Little Lamb 3) Twinkle Twinkle Little Star 4) Sweet Caroline - Neil Diamond 5) YMCA - The Village People. Mathematicians 1) John Conway 2) Fermat 3) William Tutte 4) Blaise Pascal 5) Rene Descartes. Food 1) Salsa 2) Rice 3) Cow 4) Banana 5) Iron Chef.

We had three submissions, an anonymous submission did well with 11 points, Emerald did even better with 12 points, and the highest scorer overall was Krease with 13 points. So that means, the winner of the squiz this week is Pounder! Yes, that's right, Pounder. In a previous issue, Pounder had a higher score than Krease and I declared Krease the winner, so this issue, Pounder wins to make up for it.

Bryan Admas Lyrics

1. look into my eyes
and you will see
what you mean to me
2. thinking about our younger years
it was only you and me
we're young and wild and free
3. I got my first real six string
bought it at the five and dime
4. still feels like our first night together
feels like the first kiss
and it's getting better baby
5. to really love a woman
to understand her
you gotta know her
deep inside

Numbers

1. What is Euler's number "e" to 10 decimal places?
2. What is the one billionth decimal digit of pi?
3. Is 0 even?
4. How many seconds in a millennium?
5. What is the next year that will read the same when rotated π about it's center?

Undergrads

1. Who is the leader of Alpha Alpha?
2. What's Nitz's first name?
3. What colour are Cal's pieces in Risk?
4. Who peed blood?
5. What's Gimpy's RA's name?
BONUS: What's Gimpy's full name?

The squiz this week was brought to you by the words "hurry" and "up" which is what I had to do cause I fell asleep when I was supposed to be writing the squiz. [Yes, and I woke you up ... — *KreasEd*] Good Luck!

Remember to get your answers into the **BLACK BOX** or mailed to *mathNEWS* before our next Production Night (that's July twenty-second).

π (not radians)

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

5. Doctor, start — and improvise — illustration (7)
7. Bay let in stranger (5)
9. Prop card (4)
10. Reversals re: mugs (5-5)
11. Pa, a dog got loose at temple (6)
12. Earns loss, straightens stockings (6)
15. Are heroes showing return to goddess? (4)
17. Guide folks out when Poe's house falls (5)
18. When witches gather topless, it's a scorcher (4)
19. Something like a dog, John casually tails Abigail (6)
20. Ditch trend by swapping keys before month-end (6)
23. Kinkiness of my nun yen is counterfeit (5,5)
25. Ruse confused druggie (4)
26. Select Pre-Raphaelite piece (5)
27. Instrument says how to take ace (7)

Down

1. Sponsor someone to sponsor one thing after another (4-2-4)
2. Fragile candy container with damaged patina (6)
3. Someone who talks to ruler (8)
4. Request leads from police, local emergency action (4)
5. Tundra Malemites, kept inside, play (5)
6. Keep at it, idiot (4)
8. Saw horse rearrange letters (7)
13. What chill causes composing bogus poems? (5,5)
14. Brotherhood includes Greek character (3)
16. Someone cleared out to evade cue for start of dash (7)
17. One who cuts legs off stiff? (8)
20. Audition you, beginning inside the fish (6)
21. Teetotaller celebrates sort of device to provide traction (5)
22. Fly in signatories (4)
24. Man who backs lien (4)

gridCOMMENTS

Ha ha!

Oh that was a good joke I just read. So there was only one cryptic submission, so Paul Ottaway wins hooray! Congratulations Paul. And SJU Crew, you should always submit, even if you are missing just a few letters. Always submit!

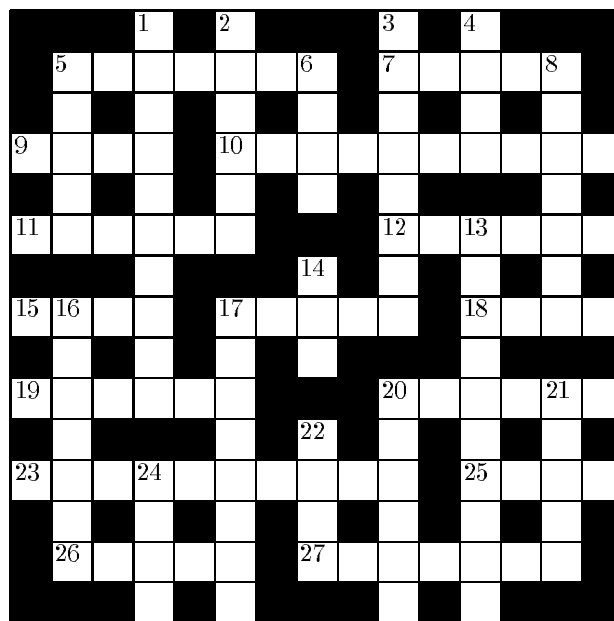
As for connies, at Production Night, Emerald and Margaret were battling to get the most answers correct to become the winner, and it was Emerald by a hair (plus Margaret was just asking me for answers and I was being nicer than usual about giving them away), but in the end, I found an email from Adam Weatherhead with all the answers, so he wins! I then lost all their grid answers except Adam's, who said it's far to sunny to do any real work.

Coupons will appear in the *mathNEWS* box shortly. Whoa. I think I'll get on that right now. ... Okay, they're there.

Enjoy this issue's puzzle, the last of the spring term, and remember, 20 across is RUSTED. Oh, I meant, submit soon with your answer to *What movie sequel should have been made this summer?*

Later!

Brad and Linda



Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

5. Excess
7. Good advice from a book: Don't _____
9. Galvanizing metal
10. Faster than a noise
11. Follows the main course
12. Opening allowing entrance
15. Wrath of Genghis _____?
17. Airborne seed
18. Dad's sis
19. Without principle
20. Corroded
23. Write letters back and forth
25. Wear out
26. Cuddly marsupial
27. Service for the dead

Down

1. Place to get stains out of nice clothes
2. Counting the population
3. Calculate value
4. Ctrl-Z in Windows, u in vi
5. Corpse
6. Sort
8. Popular bird ... for me to eat!
13. Passing or not lasting
14. Palendromic hairdo
16. Swinger's bed
17. Cost added to purchase price
20. Rat or possum
21. Register
22. Loiter or bread
24. Complex, but no imaginary part