

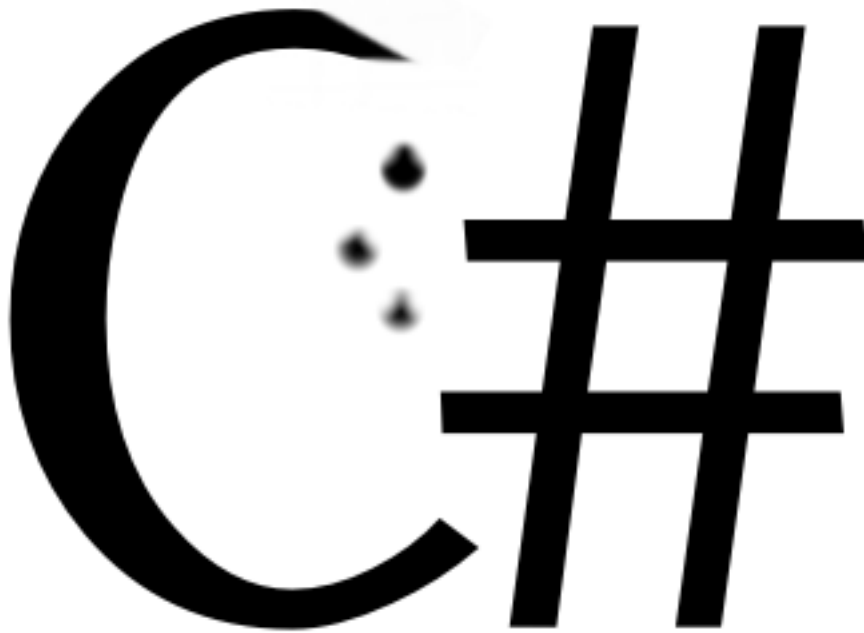
math

NEWS

Volume 90, Issue 1

Friday, September 20th, 2002

```
public unsafe static void Main() {
```



```
}
```

**Sure, it might be “unsafe”, but if Billy payed you 2.3 Million
you would use it wouldn't you?**

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

September 20	Issue #1 gobbles up the moon
September 30	Issue #2 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
October 4	Issue #2 signs in C# minor

Math Faculty

September 20	Course add deadline
September 27	Course drop deadline
September 30	W03 course enrolment begins

MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Nights
September 25	Cove Night
September 27-28	EngScunt

MGC

Wednesdays	Ooh ... pizza
September 23	Grad Info Session 5:30 pm in DC 1350

NOW!!!

September 27, 30	Grad protrait sessions
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MEF

September 27	Deadline for MEF refunds
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PMC

September 25	McKinnon talk in MC 2066 at 4:30 pm
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Co-op

September 20	Postings begin
September 25	Career Fair at RIM Park
October 2	Interviews begin

Miscellaneous

September 20	Joe Clark at St. Jerome's
September 21	Mid-Autumn Festival (But it's still summer!)
September 23	Fall Solstice
September 28	"Paul Henderson scores" 30 years ago
September 28	Krease's Birthday! Woooo!!!
October 1	Three-quarter pole of 2002
October 2	Farm Animals Day (it's NOT a joke)
October 3	Techie's Day (Officially celebrated by the CSC)

CSC Flash

Welcome, it is now the start of another term, or year depending on your perspective. On Monday, 16 Sept 2002 we had our fall elections. We had 35 people in attendance and the following people were elected to the following positions.

- President: James A. Morrison, 2B Computer Science: Digital Hardware Option
- Vice-President: Stefanus Du Toit, 3B Computer Science
- Secretary: Michael Biggs, 1A Computer Science
- Treasurer: James E. Perry, 3N Computer Science

We don't have any events confirmed at this point; however, many events are almost ready to go. *So, look around the MC and find the events as they come by.*

James A. Morrison
Fall 2002 President

mastHEAD

Made in Alberta

So another term has started. Classes have been going for two weeks now and no one's exploded yet. Let's keep the record going! You hold in your hands the term's first issue of *mathNEWS*. It's also my first as editor. Hi, I'm Louis by the way. I'd like to say everything went well, but I don't actually know. I'm in Alberta working. Luckily my boss took the day off today, so I've done nothing except *mathNEWS* all day. Hopefully my boss doesn't read this. Also, if you ever start deciding to edit a newspaper from a couple time zones away (Hi Brad!) [*Woo! Go GMT! — Simon*] try to get something better than telnet to access your school account. Luckily I'm not doing this myself or I'd go crazy(er). Brad, Albert, and Krease are around.

If you're reading this and going "This Louis chap seems like a right good bean. I wonder how I may contribute to this erudite publication?" Well, our next production night is September 30th. We meet in the MathSoc Office around 6:30 pm and go from there. Feel free to come join us... uh, them... uh, and me, but I'm not there... urgh, confusing. Or if you're feeling creative before then, e-mail in articles, *profQUOTES* or other fun stuff to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. Ok, there's probably a question and some thanks to be done now, so take it away Albert ...

Simon here, but you can call me Albert if you'd like. Last night we were talking titles and roles (what with our Editor, Past-Editor, Editor-in-Training, Production Manager, Senior Staff, Junior Staff, SquizMasters, etc.), and so here we have the complete list of productionists and their *mathNEWS* titles. We've got Jim Morrison (PLaT4mN breaker / Cookie MC), Adam Basarab (VP of free-food consumption), Li Yen Lim (Resident worrier. Does worrying so everyone else needn't.), Albert O'Connor (Sexy Production Manager), Diana Chisholm (Official *mathNEWS* Social Event), Ian MacDonald (Official *mathNEWS* Social Event Spectator), Anton (Enlightened Despot), Krease (King of that cool place over there), Ian W. MacKinnon (Large dumb animal (Lino) handler), Ling Guo (Monkey of Brain Hurtag), Elaine Wong (Official Stalker-in-Training), Jason Lau (Senior Headman Alternate), Snuggles (Corruptor Extrodinaire, aka D.O.M.), Dave Nicholson (Sir Nose of McLand), Chris D. Thompson-Walsh (the Many-named), Aaron Klotz (Resident Professional Bastard), Lino (Leader of the CARBE, Task Master), Keizo (Prince Brad-Son), Soo (The Drawing Bitch), and me, Simon L'Avier (next of kin). Wow, that's a lot of names, and I like that people used full names. I have always been a fan of full names.

So, to feed all these people, we used actual Campus Pizzas and Soft Pretzels! Thanks to the providers of those items, whoever you may be. Also, thank you to Scottish ladies everywhere, but especially the ones at Graphics who will print this issue. And thanks to you, the reader, you must be pretty bored to make it this far into the *mastHEAD*. Have a nice day. Oh ya, and thanks to this guy:

Louis Mastorakos (Butt-Monkey/Editor)

Can't Wait for Joe

Your daughter is hot.
Is she coming on Friday?
I really hope so.

GRADUATING?? It's About Time!

Important Info for the Class of 2003

Hi Everyone! I am writing to you from the Math Grad Committee for the Class of 2003. The Math Grad Committee (or MGC) is the group of people who are volunteering their time to make the 2003 Grads last year kick ass!

For those who are not sure if you are in the Class of 2003 here is a quick guide to help you: If you convocate in 2003 you are a member of the Class of 2003. When do you finish class? December 2002 or April 2003 then you will convocate in June 2003 and are a member of the Class of 2003! Also, if you are like me and will be finishing off those last couple credits next summer you too are in the class of 2003 since you convocate in October of 2003!

Grad Info Session

If you are a member of the Class of 2003 you will want to attend the 2003 Math Grad Info Session on Monday (september 23rd) at 5:30 in DC 1350. At this session we will have speakers from Career Services about how they want to help you find full time employment, Math Alumni Affairs about your interaction with UW after you graduate, Jostens about Grad Photos, and MGC about events and getting involved!

Grad Photos

If you want your Picture to appear in the Composite or Yearbook you will need to sign up for Grad Photos. The sign-up list is located on the Class of 2003 Bulletin Board across from the C+D. The dates for the photos are Friday, Sept. 27th (NEXT FRIDAY!!) and Monday, Sept. 30th. There is a brochure beside the sign-up list which has information on what to wear and stuff.

SIGN UP NOW!!! You don't want to be left out!

Full Time Jobs

Job postings through Craeer Services have already started for Full Time Jobs for Grads. There are jobs with many starting dates including January, May, Sept, etc. For more information please attend the 2003 Math Grad Info Session on Monday.

Also on September 25th at RIM park there is a job fair — go check it out! <http://www.partners4employment.ca/>

MGC Social Events

Top Ten Signs that You are Best Described as a Fire Hazard to Others

1. You have ever used a cell-phone in the MC hallways
2. You prefer to walk in 4 by 4 groups down the hallway
3. You have the words "Math" and "Business" in your program title
4. You are a non-Math student in the MC
5. You are an Arts student anywhere
6. You regularly use an iMac
7. You are a writer for Imprint
8. You have never had to use a textbook labelled "Calculus"
9. You are not frosh, and yet you still have no major
10. You are standing in the middle of a hallway while reading this

Ian W. MacKinnon

The Math Grad Committee is here for you — the Class of 2003. We are trying to organize cool outings to help you meet your fellow class mates and really enjoy your last year here at UW. Currently, we are looking to organize a Pub Crawl, Cheap Movie Night at Galaxy, Cosmic Bowling, Wing Crawl, and other various social outings. If you have any ideas feel free to e-mail us mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. Or if you really have lots of ideas and want to help out let us know ... we can always use more volunteers!

Volunteers

MGC is runs off the efforts of volunteers, and we can always use more help. If you want to help design the Yearbook, organize the Gradball, help with Pizza Day, organize Social Events, or anything else you think you can contribute to make the class of 2003 the best yet. Let us know! mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Pizza Day

Every Wednesday the Math Grad Committee runs a Pizza Day in the 3rd floor Hallway of MC. it starts around 11 am (or when the pizza arrives) and goes till about 1 pm (when the pizza runs out). All proceeds from the pizza sales go to help the Class of 2003.

We encourage everyone to come out ... buy pizza ... or even volunteer (we like volunteers). If you buy a button you can save on the cost of the pizza (in 2-4 weeks the button will pay for itself).

Hope to see everyone out to help support and eat pizza!

Your 2003 Math Grad Committee

Oh where oh where did my little sleep go ...?

So. 1A and 1B were a while ago, but I haven't caught up the sleep yet. Or maybe I just lost too much sleep during Frosh Week. Yay Frosh Week! Hmm ... Tie Guard was tiring. So anyway. The point of this story is to follow ... somewhere. Maybe.

Yes. It all began with Tie Guard (let's pretend, because I don't want to remember further back in time). I stayed there a whole night, didn't fall asleep (which was quite entertaining actually. My, what an acoustic guitar can do to keep people amused) and then I went home ... at 6.30 ... I had to be back by 10 or so ... maybe 9 ... I forget. Anyway, it was some obviously too early time. So I got an hour of sleep. Yay sleep. Then that night was Monte Carlo night. I was on security.

Don't stay up too many hours if you are supposed to guard something or someone within the next 24 hours.

So that night I was drifting in and out of sleep. I hope nothing went wrong because of me. Oops. Heh. Well ... the moral of the story is SLEEEEEEEEEEEEP when you CAN!! and if you think you can't, YOU CAN! you can always make time for sleep. So please, for the safety of everyone, sleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep!

Men in Black II and Minority Report

Coming soon to a fishbowl near you

Hi there, this is the Snuggliest Movie Director of them all writing to tell you what's going on in the world of MathSoc movie nights. Joining me this term will be Lino Demasi (not to be confused with the Wino from Degrassi) and Tushar Singh (who if he married Ivana (and she took his name) would cause the name Ivana Singh to pop into existence).

Yesterday we had our first Movie Night, showing Monsters Inc and Panic Room, what's the connection? Well, in one you've got monsters coming out of the closet (now that has a number of interpretations ...) and in the other you have the monsters trying to get into the closet. But unless you're into time travel, or are one of the lovely *mathNEWS* proofreaders that information won't really help you come out to our Movie Nights. So how about some relevant information.

Next Thursday, September 26th we'll be showing Minority Report and Men in Black II in DC 1302 at 7 pm. These two blockbusters that you can't even get on video yet for only two dollars. That's right, we don't charge three, four or even, oh, I don't know, five dollars for you to come see two awesome movies, just two bucks, a twoonie, two loonies, eight quarters, twenty dimes, fourty nickels, two hundred pennies. Please note that we will turn you away and laugh at you if you try to pay with two hundred pennies.

The week after that we're going to be showing Spiderman with an as-yet unnamed movie (if you have suggestions as to what to show with Spiderman, or suggestions in general, or just want to send us some spam, you can reach us at movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca). That's right, October third we're showing Spiderman, so if you want to see a spectacular action flick with sweet special effects, or if you just want another reason to appreciate rain scenes and overhead shots come on out on the third.

Posters are around if you want to find out what movies are showing, always at the movie board which is just across from the middle stairwell of the MC (the one that isn't on any corner of the building), always in the MathSoc office (MC 3038), on the MathSoc website (www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), and look for it to be posted to the newsgroup (uw.math.mathsoc) and the Daily Bulletin.

Snuggles, Lino, Tushar
The Movie Guys

Top 10 Things That Rhyme with Frosh Week

1. Alligator
2. Mosh Week
3. Dave
4. Posh Leak
5. Oh my gosh! SHRIEK!!!
6. Math loves Chocolate
7. Breast Feek lever
8. Crotch reek
9. Purple / Silver / Orange
10. Bun

Dave Nicholson

mathNEWS Scholarships

Bradley T Smith Memorial Scholarship For Mediocre Students

The Bradley T Smith Memorial Scholarship for Mediocre Students is a \$5 C & D Gift Certificate awarded randomly to a full-time undergraduate student in the Faculty of Mathematics. The student must have begun their third term in any program, have a cumulative average between 65% and 70% and failed at least one class. Failure to demonstrate school spirit and a total lack of extracurricular activity are a must. Above all else, the student's actions must show a commitment to spreading the word of Brad.

Name _____ Program _____ Term _____

List of textbooks/magazines which you did not author or edit:

What have you done to spread the word of Brad?

Name all people named Brad that you know:

What should we do with all the squirrel's on campus?

Which off-campus bars do you frequent?

What is your favourite memory of Brad?

Please enclose an unofficial transcript, printed from quest and a recent photo, if possible. Preference will be given to students who have had no sexual contact with Brad in the past 6 months.

Application must be submitted the BLACK BOX before 5:00 pm on September 30th.

Kevo Scholarship for Underachievers

The Kevin Wan Min Kee scholarship is awarded every term to a student currently on academic probation in the Faculty of Mathematics. The Kevin Wan Min Kee award is designed to be

Pink Bunnies

Pink Bunnies are the preferred bunnies for UW math students. Their colour matches that of the great Pink Tie. Along with being the favourite anthropomorphic characters in the dreams of Computer Scientists, Pink Bunnies can also smell hallucinogenic drugs from 100 km away. These bunnies sneak with incredible skill to the location of the drugs. This is why people on shrooms report more sightings of the mystical Pink Bunnies than drunk people.

Note: "Pink Bunnies" should not be confused with "Pink Bellies."

The Bunny Master

VPAS Presents

Yes I am really VPAS now, Honestly

Hello everyone, I am Albert O'Connor and I am now officially your VPAS. What is that? Well I run the day to day affairs of the Society. I have a wonderful group of directors you will hear more about in other article by me in this issue.

For this article I want to first say that I want to be helpful. If you want more activities or services just send me an e-mail at vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca or find me on the third floor. Also if you want to run an event you can talk to me. I have gained a certain amount of experience from running stuff in the past. And of course I like to help. The Society can also help in many ways including working with different groups and with financial assistance.

Also I have some goal for the term. Here are the ones which require help from you, the Math Society members:

- **Comfy Committee:** Would you never go into Comfy, do you spend everyday in Comfy, or are you Snuggles? Do you think Comfy could use some improvement? Then e-mail me at vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca and request to be on the committee.
- **Logo Contest:** I think MathSoc needs a unified logo. I am going to put a box on the Exec office dorr, the VPAS mini box for entries, and there will be prizes (they will be announced next issue). So you can all start thinking about it.

So in conclusion, hi. I am Albert O'Connor and I am your VPASSSS.

Pht VPAS Albert O'Connor

Personal, Career & Study Skills Counselling

Karen Rittinger is here for students in the Math Faculty, and can be reached in MC 5198, or at extension x5622, Monday - Thursday, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. She can help if you are:

- Under any kind of stress
- Having relationship difficulties
- Anxious about public speaking or participating in groups
- Upset about a recent situation in your life
- Feeling unmotivated or having trouble concentrating
- Wanting to learn more about how to study better, not harder
- Unsure about your choice of major or your career after university

To arrange an appointment phone 888-4567 x2655, or drop in at Counselling Services NH 2080 and mention that you are a Math student who would like to meet with Karen.

ENGSCUNT

The EngScunt will be going on from 27th to the 28th. The Softies are running it. The theme is Lord of the Rings. Once more math will have a team. We already had the disorg, but if you happen to still want to be on the team e-mail phatalbert@scunt.org and you will get the info

Typing Monkey

Road Trip Report: First Bomber Wednesday

I love the line ride!

Prince BradSon

VPAS' Directors

Best Directors EVER

As a VPAS I get lots of directors. Here are the ones that are running activities and services for all of you to enjoy.

- **Charity Ball:** Tracy Chou. She is looking for all of your help making the best charity ball ever happen this November.
- **Mathletics:** George Dudas. He has already done a great job signing up teams. If you are still interested e-mail him at mathletics@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca
- **Movies:** Snuggles, Tushar, and Lino. They will have an article in this issue as well.
- **Novelties:** Ian MacKinnon. He will be creating new cool stuff to buy and show how much you like math, or just cheap university stuff.
- **Office:** Catherine Hicks. The best Office Manager ever. Sign up for an office hour, have fun, get trained. It is fun and there are freezies for little money!
- **Social:** Jen Meacoe and Diana Chisholm. They are a social event in themselves. They will have lots of fun events on the way for all of you. If you have any ideas or want to help e-mail them at social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

I have other great directors! They keep stuff running under the hood of MathSoc.

- **Computing:** Dmitri Brovkovich. He keeps all the computer running in Soc. If you want to have access to the computers in the MathSoc Office talk to him or e-mail him at computing@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca
- **Postings:** Greg Hines, and Aaron Rehaag. They put the stuff up on our boards and keep them clean. If you want something posted swing by the MathSoc Office and drop it off.
- **Publicity:** Jen Wang. The best publicity director ever! It's always so hard at working making signs, and finding new ways to reach all of you. She needs lots of help, so if you have time, offer some to her by e-mailing her at publicity@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca
- **Website:** Leander Quiring. Is hard at working making the website better and more usable by everyone, from Math students to the directors and executives of the Society.

Really these people are going to do a great job over the term. I would like to thank them all in advance.

Pht Albert the VPAS

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We're eating your baby: Louis Mastorakos, Bradley T Smith, & Albert O'Connor featuring Chris Harasemchuk

Strange Rash

No, saying how you haven't scared the frosh yet won't make them feel more at home.

"Now I am going to whip that flower out of his arse with this ten foot Australian bullwhip." — Derek (Busker)

It is red, kinda "itches," and my parents aren't even around to tell me what it is. But don't worry, it will go away soon enough. Soon you won't even notice it. This is why all the upper-year students you ask about it don't know either. Just like you will, they have already forgotten how hard it is. Some will say they remember, but they don't, they just have heard so much about it being hard that they create the memories to prevent cognitive dissonance.

But I remember, and it really isn't that bad. Relax (in all things really). You will figure out how to get around the MC, even campus. One day even Kitchener-Waterloo. You will figure out how to get to where you want to go, and have fun doing it. These people you kinda know will soon be your good friends (though some of them you will still only kind of know later). You will help each other, get to know one another. You can learn stuff anywhere, here you can meet people. Strange, strange people.

But really, get off once in a while. Um, well, get off campus is what I mean to say. There is a lot of cool stuff out there and it isn't far. Ask people (upper years, etc): they each probably know of a few. There is Uptown Waterloo with the Princess Cinema, good food, and pubs (if you are into that kind of thing). Explore interests you think you might have. If you want to do it, chances are you can find the facilities to do it here, and even someone to do it with if you like. The odds are good, but the goods are odd. Or something like that. Whatever. Don't worry, have fun. What was I talking about again?

unsure

Cove Night

There will be an unlimited gaming night at the Cove on Wednesday September 25th. The fun starts at 8:00 pm and goes until midnight. Mathies get in free! But what about your non-mathie friends? It is just \$3 for them. Get there early, it fills up fast. Check out the posters around for even more info about the Cove Night.

Social Monkey

Top 10 things that end with "unt"

10. Shunt
9. Runt
8. Punt
7. Imprint
6. Hunt
5. Bunt
4. Brunt
3. Blunt
2. Aunt
1. EngS#unt

People who disavow knowledge of the letter C

Just a Reminder ...

To all upper year university students, might we remind you of the rules for handling first year students:

1. Do not feed, clothe, unclothe, or bathe the frosh when their parents are around without asking. The parents might like to join in too.
2. Do not persuade the frosh to wear pyjamas and goofy hats: we don't want a repeat of that from last year — although the profs were amused, the Pink Tie found it highly disrespectful. If you do plan to persuade them to do so, at least encourage wearing of the Tie.
3. Advise the frosh that the comfy is for studying, and the exec office is for snuggling in. (Alternatively, if they are academically inclined frosh, DO NOT disclose what Settlers, or Crazy Russian, or Mau is).
4. All black market Linux traders should, once again, go underground — we will see you all in the middle of October.
5. For those of you a part of the mathia, please refrain from selling Greek letters to the frosh illegally — at least make it original this time (I don't believe that they've been taught Maui symbols yet).
6. If you're going to ask one of the frosh out, please make sure that at least it compiles first — creating poorly designed methods will not encourage passing of CS 134.
7. Please remind the frosh that if they are going to perform random acts of non-mischief, they should CLOSE the door to the classroom they are playing in! (and that under cover of darkness is the preferred time in MC).
8. Do not stalk, take pictures, idolize, pamper, or propose to the frosh while their prof is lecturing — wait for a pause, or a question first.
9. Remind the frosh that all classroom games are to be kept secret from any profs: this means any games of tag, nerf football, follow the leader, races to the front, and improvised skits should not be exposed to the profs — unless you want them to join in.
10. Finally, please remember: DO NOT CORRUPT THE FROSH! Telling them any of the above information could be fatal to their university career. They might get the impression that we are permanent inhabitants of MC and forget to breathe real air. (*Which we do, from time to time, right?*)

Just as a final, general reminder, since the summer term has ended, please refrain from wearing scuba gear, speedos, and bikinis to class; it distracts the Fall term lecturers unnecessarily, since they're not used to it. As well, frisbees should not be used on windows any more. They are much better in the Unix tutorials, since there will be fewer frosh, and therefore more room.

profQUOTES

"I'll be in my office ... unless something important comes up like Bill Gates want to give me \$1 million to change the name of this course to 'Formal Parsing of C#'."

Outlaw Shallit, CS 462

"People can get into loops just like finite automata ... people can get into loops just like finite automata ... people ..."

Outlaw Shallit, CS 462

"If you solved this problem you'd be famous, at least among the small group of people who actually care."

Outlaw Shallit, CS 462

"These are both positive so we don't have to worry about those sign things."

Tasic, MATH 135

"Pain and suffering? That's only when you are doing this stuff in calculus class."

Brandon, PHYS 121

[Prof] "What was that called in high school?"

[Student] "A jerk."

[Prof] "So a Brandon's equivalent to a jerk."

Brandon, PHYS 121

"We're scientists and mathematicians not engineers, so the students learn, not the professors."

Brandon, PHYS 121

[Suggesting a definition for Canadians] "Canadians are Americans without guns, who have health insurance."

Woolstencroft, PSCI 260A

"I also have a phone. Don't ever call me."

Vasiga, CS 240

"Let's suppose you were a dumb frosh, and cheated in CS 130."

Vasiga, CS 240

[Discussing programs whose crashes are more annoying than deadly] "I'm sure you've noticed that this is the policy that Microsoft is following."

Mavaddat, CS 246

"It's more or less unquestionable that the indentation technique I came up with is better."

Morland, CS 241

"... just like you and I going out for a beer. How are we going to pay for the beer? If it's really good sharp beer, we get someone else to pay for it."

Sproule, ACC 121

"You don't charter a 737 for 5 bucks."

Sproule, ACC 121

"Too much power! There is never too much power! We are consenting adults here."

Buhr, CS 342

"I might need a bunch of things [Bill Gates] did right. There is at least one."

Buhr, CS 342

"I'm not going to tell you what [.NET] is. I don't like slander charges."

Clarke, CS 342

"This course is called mathematical mathematical programming."

Cunningham, C&O 355

[After demonstrating a piece with some high notes] "This is called a falsetto. Males can do this, no special surgery required."

Hull, Music 100

"This might be a form of university babysitting."

Jackson, C&O 330

"I think this is a rather easy problem ... that [referring to the same problem] is an unsolved problem."

Jackson, C&O 330

[After seeing the renovations to MC 2065] "This is Silver City all over again."

Malleck, ECON 220

"I don't care how you find your formula. You can use the posterior extraction method for all I care."

McKinnon, PMATH 334

"The devil's advocate in the front says ... this is (CS) 666 after all."

Nishimura, CS 466/666

"Eugene (Zima) is ... well, he's Russian."

Ragde, CS 341

"You're tired, I'm tired ... I want to give you one more problem to think about before you go away, which you won't."

Schaurmans, CS 486

"If you engineers didn't spend so much time at the Bomber, the (overhead) screen would just know I wanted it to go down."

Smith, ECON 102

"You mathies might protest against the purity of this, but the constant K is not really a constant, it varies a bit."

Smith, ECON 102

"You can go to the Bank of Canada website and look up these numbers [about forms of money]. It's more fun than visiting a porno site."

Smith, ECON 102

"Steal our gold? Gag on it you will! ... sounds a bit like Yoda."

Smith, ECON 102

Don't forget to submit your favourite *profQUOTES* into the **BLACK BOX** next to the Comfy Lounge! Or e-mail them to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca!

The Greatest Deception of All Time

What's going on here? ... What's with all the books and classes and early mornings? Is this what university life will be for the next 5 years? I didn't sign up for this. It was under false pretenses. I was sucked in with promises of (eventually) receiving this thing called a "degree" which is supposed to help me find a "job," or something like that. But no one tells me that I had to work for it ...

It all starts off with this thing called Frosh Week. It's like camp! You get free food, get to sleep in bunk beds, have bonfires, etc. Don't be fooled my friends; it's a trick, a blind-fold pulled over the eyes of unsuspecting frosh, as we're called. Kind of like those nasty chocolates that sadistic chocolate companies are always trying to sell you. They look tasty from the outside, but take a bite and taste the bitter hate placed inside. I'm now convinced that Frosh Week is run solely so that all the parents will go home, and the chance for escape will have long passed.

And another thing: Rez. In the pamphlets all the beds had sheets, there were posters on the walls, food on the table and girls sitting around laughing about something or other. So why then, when I first opened my door, there was just some shirtless guy sitting there complaining about how hot it was, over and over and over ... The dishes just keep piling up too and the garbage overflowed long ago, but for some reason my parents haven't gotten around to doing anything about it yet. It's been two weeks now and I'm starting to think that something might have happened to them.

Anyway, I'm off to this thing called a "lecture"; who'd have thought it would be so much like getting a real lecture. And to think I left the comfort of the basement for this ... oh well, I just hope my parents didn't drop any money on this thing. Later.

Deceived in Waterloo

SMB2 Immediately Called SMB2

Pretzel shop sells chocolate to rejoice

In a surprising move, two *mathNEWS* inside jokes changed in the last couple weeks.

The first was the introduction of SMB2 (Super Monkey Ball 2) [*Or Super Mario Brothers 2. Yay! — AbsentEd*]. The original game, SMB, was a favourite among *mathNEWS* productionists from their end-of-term parties from the previous two terms. The pleasure generated from those two evenings have lead to such comments as "Monkey + Ball = Profit" and "Brad, you suck."

But more important, are the acronyms! GTA3, THPS3, DOA2, CT2, WS2K2, and GT3 took up to two months before they became known onyl through their acronyms. SMB2, however, has never actually been called Super Monkey Ball 2, except in the commercials, of course.

On an unrelated inside joke, the Soft Pretzel Bakery has returned to extended, non-summer hours! Hooray! Also, they've extended their stock to re-include the crappy parmesan pretzels, plus they now have imported European chocolates. Some with no English translation!

In summary, yes, *mathNEWS* does have a few inside jokes, but feel free to ask someone about them and we'll happily try to convey our amusement. Party on!

Simon L'Avier

Canada's Army

In response to the U.S. Army's release of the computer game *America's Army: Operations* to attract new recruits, the Canadian Armed Forces have announced that they to plan to release a computer game. Titled *Canada's Army: Under-Financed*, the game is designed to increase young adults interest in the Canadian military, hopefully resulting in an increase in new recruits. The official press release from the Department of National Defence does not specify any actual details of the game, other than it is slated to be released third quarter 2005 in accordance with the game's development budget. However, utilizing our government contacts, we at *mathNEWS* were able to contact the lead (and only) developer, who has asked to remain anonymous.

mathNEWS: So what was the history behind this project?

Developer: Well, I was on workterm and I was bored. So I spent my days programming a text-based RPG on my 286. At the end of my term I had nothing else to do my work report on, so I rambled about the game. Turns out somebody read the report and they offered me a job to come back and transform it into an text-based army RPG.

mathNEWS: Can you tell us about some of the features this game will have?

Developer: Since the best machine I could work on was a 286, it'll have EGA text and PC speaker. It'll also have 5 character classes: Army, Navy, Airforce, Officer, and Bureaucrat. The main mission will likely be fixing a Sea King helicopter, but there will be other repairs too. And wearing green camouflage in the desert. I'm trying to keep it as realistic as possible.

mathNEWS: What are your personal thoughts about the game?

Developer: Hmmm ... For starters I hope I'm offered another job. I don't like having to program in Fortran.

Profs Exposed

This is a new feature I'm hoping to put in every *mathNEWS* this term. It is a **Profs Exposed** corner, where professors are judged based on many different criteria, most of which have nothing to do with their teaching style.

This week's prof: D. M. Jackson

Subject: C&O typically, though he usually extends it to every branch of math and life somehow.

Synopsis of Class Experience: Jackson is a ... unique ... professor. His speed is great; you can hardly understand what's going on!! As one of my friends said, Jackson has no sense of audience; whether undergrads or Harvard PhD's, he'll teach the same content at the same speed and depth.

Weird Habits:

- Random, extremely loud and deep "ahem"s coming out of nowhere. I swear one of these days I'm gonna piss my pants ...
- I've never heard "right" pronounced "rrrrrrrrrrrrrrright." C&O is becoming a combinatorial game show.
- Exercising his arm muscles to improve his writing ... need I comment?

Overall Rating: Awesome Prof!

Mohamed Omar

2A X (X is some non-empty subset of {CS,AM,PM,C&O})

A Freshman's Guide to Navigating Bahen 5xxx

One of the first places I needed to go on coming to Waterloo was the Math Undergrad Office.

One of the last places I found on coming to Waterloo was the Math Undergrad Office.

The problem is this: the Math Undergrad Office lies on the fifth floor of the MC building (or about at the knot of the Tie.) Older and wiser heads tell me that the sixth floor is even worse, but I'll leave that to later years (such as the sixth year of a PhD in graph traversal ...). This article will deal with navigating the wilderness which is the fifth floor, with all its marvellous fauna and flora.

Now in a normal building, one can make the general assumption that if one is in front of door x , $x < y$ and $x + 1$ lies to one's right, one can follow the doors until one eventually reaches one's goal (i.e. y). In MC, one runs into two problems. Firstly, the hall branches. Secondly, at such a branch, neither path actually continues the sequence. So, if you're at 5177 (so close!) and there's a branch, the best one can reasonably hope to find next is 5078 to one's left and 5278 to one's right.

So. What to do? Well, we could just treat the blasted thing as a maze, and follow Hansel and Gretel's approach — except the dean only lets you eat his gingerbread house after you're on the list, I'm told, and spending one's life until after midterm living on mice and pigeons caught on the roof does not appeal.

So let's forget about maze-solving algorithms, and try a hand at a heuristic. Why? Because heuristics don't actually have to work.

Essentially, there are three options.

Firstly, you can corner a professor, or grad student, or admin, or whoever those people with offices on the fifth floor are. These people will generally look rather shifty-eyed. They will pretend that they don't want to admit that they don't know how to navigate the fifth floor either. This is true, but is not the true cause of their reticence. No, these are the Cornish pirates who feast off poor lost wanderers of the fifth floor. In order to protect yourself, I suggest you chain them to your knapsack, and use them as sherpas. Remember, you're above the snowline here. (Not only is beating them senseless with your undergraduate

calendar immoral, it makes them useless as guides. A bit like the calendar really ... Again, why are you going to the Undergrad Office?)

Secondly, you can stalk a caretaker. Generally speaking, these have to visit every room in the building, and so eventually they must go where you want to go. (You may even get to see these secretive creatures engage in their mating display of changing the room numbers to line their nest with consecutive numbers.) However, there are rumours that in fact the caretakers never visit certain corners of MC. (Thus explaining why the breadcrumbs you left on your path disappear — see above, Hansel and Gretel.)

Finally, if all else fails, you can consult a map. If you can't find a map, find the nearest fire alarm, and pull it. This will have five desirable side effects:

1. Everyone will rush to the exits, where the maps are posted. You will therefore have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to understand MC, factor large prime numbers beginning with 5, and solve the halting problem.
2. Everyone will come out of hiding, and you'll meet people you haven't heard from.
3. The line up at 5178 will disappear — literally.
4. The entire staff will be in plain view outside, thus obviating [*That means preventing — ThesaurusEd*] the need to navigate floor five anyway.
5. You will be arrested by UW Police, which will obviate the need even to speak to the undergrad office — see above.

(Actually, according to certain signs in the residences, the penalty for this last method may range from a fine to imprisonment to an orgy to being beaten “with frosh hard hats.” In light of this last and advice of counsel, method 3 is NOT recommended by *mathNEWS*)

I can't actually remember the way I intended to end this article. Therefore, I will cut it short here (a bit like my last foray into MC, or browsing the web). Tune in again next week for what *Ulysses* was *really* about: the MC copy centre.

-cdtw

Looking for that Perfect Day

mathNEWS Production Nights are breeding grounds for weird conversations. From discussions about the meaning of the writer's names to miscellaneous Simpsons quotes, there's rarely a dull moment. For some unknown reason, a former editor (who doesn't advertise himself) started to talk about how his age is no longer a perfect number and, by extension, his days may become less pleasant.

Most of you probably already know what a perfect number is — an integer whose divisors (except the number itself) add up to that number. (I hope I'm not confusing anybody.) The first few are 6, 28, 496, 8128, ... (I guess you probably figured out that past-editor's age by now). [*He's 7!! — AbsentEd*]

Being a guy who loves to fiddle with numbers, I tried to look for times where my age is a perfect number. If one counts age in years, then I am more than a decade past my first perfect year and years away from the next one.

Wanting to find a perfect time for me than comes sooner, I decided to check my age in terms of months. Obviously, I'm more than 28 months old (since I haven't mastered time travel,

being 6 years old before being 28 months old is still a dream). So I checked to next perfect number, 496. Unfortunately, 496 months = 41 years. So I guess I have to wait two decades before my have another perfect month.

Okay, maybe I'm a little greedy to ask for a perfect year or month. A day would be fine. So I decided to check when is my next perfect day. A 496-day old me is a distant memory (actually, I have no recollection of that day). So I look for the day when I would be 8128 days old. Lo and behold! I turn 8128 days old on April 17th, 200X. To most people, this is just an ordinary day; but to most senior mathies, this is a day to rejoice. It is on this day this year that a long-time nemesis — the Descartes Contest was finally conquered.

So if you have a day when nothing, ohh nothing is going right (sorry, James Taylor), don't despair. Your perfect hour, where everything is going right, may not be that far away.

Jason “Screaming for a perfect day” Lau
with ideas from an ex-editor who doesn't advertise

Cartoon-atopia

I woke up at 7 this Saturday. Not knowing why my brain was being so mean to me and messing with my sleep schedule, I decided to check out some Saturday morning TV excitement and see if today's contenders were any match for the super-powers of my youth. Here are the results.

Please note that all times are MST, and as such will mess you up if you actually try and watch these shows at these times in Waterloo.

07:00 am: The only thing I can find on that doesn't involve fishing is a show called Fillmore. This show rocks. It's all about this little kid called Fillmore who's a super-sleuth. He's got a sidekick and a gruff boss (who's also a kid — I think they're all hall monitors or something). The best part of this show was the fact that the whole episode was a Silence of the Lambs parody. I doubt if any of the little kids watching it got it (and if they did — how the hell do they know Silence of the Lambs!?) but I found it hilarious. There was a little super-genius graffiti artist who helps them catch the graffiti tagger who's defacing the school (a la super-genius Hannibal Lector). He's in permanent detention and can't ever be allowed anything to write, lest he deface something else!

07:30 am: I can't find anything to watch that's animated, so I watch Power Rangers instead. They appear to be a Wild Force nowadays. I remember when they were simply "Mighty" and "Morphing" ... ah, the good old days. Seriously, this show never changes. Start with 5 kids who only wear the colour of their zords. Mix in a ruthless tyrant with an unending supply of useless henchman. Finish with a giant robot battling a giant monster. For added flavour, add a 6th kid who is evil/a time traveller/an alien/a baby who comes to be accepted and brings the most powerful weapons along with him. Stir well and serve continuously for a decade, replacing Rangers occasionally.

08:00 am: I can't find anything else on, so I watch another episode of Power Rangers: Wild Force. The only other thing on is one of the "teen" shows on NBC. None of those have been any good since Saved by the Bell. I just wish NBC would start showing cartoons again, as all their current shows suck. They need to bring back cool stuff like Smurfs, the ALF cartoon and Captain N and the Game Masters. [*Don't forget about the Gummi Bears!* — Simon] That was quality.

08:30 am: I don't really watch anything at this point as it all sucks. The only halfway interesting show is Ultraman Tiga. It's not actually any good, being a near Power Rangers clone storywise. However it's a direct import from Japan and has some hilarious stuff in the dubbing. In particular, a series of jokes about mothers-in-law being ugly. Why they thought that would be funny for kids, I don't know.

09:00 am: Sweeet!! Zeta Project, a favourite show of mine, is on. I thought it had been cancelled. It's a Batman Beyond spin-off that's great. I don't really have anything funny or annoying to say. I just really like the show.

09:30 am: The legacy of Hulk Hogan's Rock N' Wrestling lives on in Ultimate Muscle, the latest (and 2nd) cartoon to feature professional wrestling as its theme. It's actually a pretty good show. It's an imported Japanese anime show, so it tends to have lots of big heads and big eyes, and follows a lot of anime conventions. Not everybody's cup of tea, but I liked it.

10:00 am: Nothing good on, so I flip between episodes of Power Rangers and Ultraman. It actually gets confusing after a

bit, so I go make some eggs for breakfast.

10:30 am: I eat my eggs and watch another episode of Ultimate Muscle.

11:00 am - 01:00 am: YTV Reigns Supreme!! They have 2 straight hours of great shows. A new He-Man show with an anime feel and lots of sword fighting. X-Men: Evolution. Justice League. And Samurai Jack, which simultaneously has the weirdest premise for a show I've ever heard of (an ancient samurai warrior, sent to the future by a demon who takes over the world, helps to free intelligent dogs from the shackles of slavery) combined with some extremely unconventional animation. Luckily, the show has an amazing flow and feel and it just plain rocks.

Thus ended my return to childhood Saturday morning cartoons. Some shows were no good, some were better and some were phenomenal. Now if only they'd start showing the new Transformers: Armada cartoon. Then I might get up and do this again sometime.

Waldo

Secondhand Stogies

"No thanks, Mr. Clinton, I think I'll just smoke one of my own."

Quebec's controversial language laws have always been a subject of debate. The stakes have now been raised yet again, thanks to a recent announcement by Microsoft's Canadian subsidiary.

Microsoft has agreed to pay the government of Quebec \$500 million over the next 5 years as part of its "Infrastructure Innovation Alliance." Various clauses in the agreement stipulate the required usage of Microsoft software in all provincial departments. While this has raised some eyebrows and rolled some eyes, the most controversial clause is one concerning Quebec's language laws. *mathNEWS* has learned that the agreement requires Quebec's sign language law to be amended so that all signage in Quebec is required to be written in C#.

"We have no problem associating C# with a law that invokes the notwithstanding clause," explained Microsoft Canada official Jake Tacholsavacky. "We play with customers' privacy rights every day, but why stop there?"

Quebec premier Bernard Landry was particularly excited about the deal. "Just think about how we can use this agreement in our favour," he said. "To hell with French, we can make C# the official language of the government, and when we hold our next referendum, the question on the ballot will be written in C#! Let's see how the Feds try to apply their 'clarity bill' to this one!"

Rumours began circulating in Ottawa that the federal government was considering amending its clarity law to include all referendum questions written in computer languages; however, this rumour was quickly crushed by the sighting of Microsoft Officials meeting with senior federal bureaucrats. Expect a federal deal to come your way soon as part of Microsoft's "Federal Debt Innovation" strategy.

Aaron Klotz

My Summer Job

I should know better than to tell this embarrassing story

Let's start before the beginning to give a flavour of my character (I should know better than to violate the definition of words like beginning). Well, one day in mid-July I was hanging out in the Comfy talking with friends (I should know better than lounging away my life in such an evil place). They commented that it is very difficult to avoid swearing, I quickly disagreed since I don't believe anything is very difficult (I should know better than disagreeing for the sake of disagreeing). I soon found myself taking up the challenge to avoid swearing (I should know better than to take up any challenge (I seem to remember people vomiting 4L of milk because of "Challenges")) ...

Shortly after I moved out of Waterloo back home where my friends informed me I could easily find work (I should know better than to think finding work is no problem). So luckily I got an interview within a couple of days (I should know better than to assume interview=job). At this interview I lost the challenge (I should know better than to use profanity while talking to potential employers).

After a great interview I got the job and started landscaping (I should know better than to have expected physical labour to be easy work). First day I started around 8 am laying sod, finished around 10 pm (I should have known better than to worry about not getting enough hours at a seasonal job). I always believed that it would be easy to stay on my boss' good side (I should have known better than to think that I am competent). Though I do admit to having blundered once or twice (I should know better than to record 50 or 60 as once or twice). Maybe I should have asked for days off in advance rather than just informing my employer that I was not coming to work the following day (I should know better than to think that people like surprises). I also felt bad after an early morning chat with my employer (I should know better than to insult the person who controls my job security directly to his face). But all in all I would claim that I enjoyed landscaping (I should know better than to admit that I enjoy pain). Though I still haven't quite figured out how to use a shovel even though I was using a shovel constantly (I should know better than assuming that I knew how to use a shovel).

After having a good summer working outside, I was very pleased when my boss took our crew out for lunch (He should have known better than to wait till 3 pm to feed the starving workers). I was amused to walk into a restaurant and try to figure out which of us was covered most thoroughly with mud (I should know better than to judge how much work I have done by how much dirt I am wearing). After lunch, working drunk felt like a bad idea, but at least the boss was also drunk (I should know better than to work extensively with exacto knives while my motor skills are impaired (my fingers dislike getting sliced; sigh)). Working outside was such a joy for a summer's employment (I should know better than spending every daylight hour in front of a computer). I am looking forward to next summer (I should know better than to write self-evident sentences).

Dave Nicholson

(I should know better then to include my real name)

How to Increase School Spirit at UW

Ah, school spirit. Loving your alma mater. Feeling like you're coming home to a place you belong to and are proud of. Caring about your university and wanting others to feel the same joy you felt when you first stepped into the campus grounds.

It's pretty easy, and we have the fortune of seeing two fine examples of UW effort.

First, accept money (lots and lots of it) from a big big company as a guarantee that we'll use their product. Not just use it to schedule classes so that as many students as possible will have to run across campus in under 10 minutes to get from class to class, nope, the program can do much more than that. Microsoft will EVEN throw in a set of bugs, to spice up IST's day of course. But anyway, to spice up the students' life as well, make sure that you give the students no choice but to use it, because it's not supplementing a course, but REPLACING it. Don't like Microsoft? Too bad. Think they're tyrants? Too bad. Think their products are buggy and problematic? Too bad. Live with it or don't graduate (okay, so you'll never have to venture out in the REAL world, but you'll get sick of cafeteria food sooner or later ...).

Also, by some little-known equation that only a select few completely comprehend, aligning UW with the biggest player (read: monopoly) in the world today will grant the wishes of all the students and alumni of UW who have gone through Windows — and survived. In fact, they'll be so enthralled by this turn of events that they'll immediately start pouring tons and tons of funds into this institution, which is always good news, of course. At least our fellow students who have been moonlighting as telemarketers for UW can finally take a break and have a piece of # pizza huh?

Second, get frosh to attend the first football game of the term, get them all worked up and peppy and cheering, then let them watch the trumpeted football team lose with a double-digit margin. I'm not saying that UW Warriors are beyond hope, and I'm all in favour of giving people room to improve, but is letting them embarrass themselves in front of all the frosh such a good idea? I'm sure the Warriors are wishing that the frosh had been attending a basketball match instead.

I'm sure we all love UW. I know I do. But if school spirit is supposed to be H₂O, then why does it seem that UW is turning into the Sahara?

AnonymousLY

My Awesome Frosh Week

I'm sure lots of frosh had an amazing time at their first frosh week, but I'm here to talk about my second frosh week, as a frosh leader. It really was the most fun week I have ever had. I don't think I've ever slept so little, screamed so much [*That's what SHE said — PhtProdMan*], met so many nice people, or did so many fun things in one week. It was non-stop fun from start to finish, and I hope that my frosh (and all the Math froshlings) had as good a time as I did [*And she can't fake anything — PhtProdMan*]. If you want to have the awesome experience all over again next year, I totally urge you to apply to be a frosh leader! It will be something you'll never ever forget.

Diana Chisholm

Self-Referential

And so it begins ...

Man, that's thinking pretty highly of myself. "And so it begins ..." Like this will be an epic work and not whatever happens happens to flutter through my brain.

Stan "the Man" Lee

If you ever start laughing at work because you've imagined Stan Lee, the creator of Spider-Man and the X-Men among others, in compromising sexual positions do not, I repeat DO NOT, attempt to explain what it is you find so funny to your co-workers.

A Grammer Lesson

Kelsey Grammer has been playing the character of Fraiser Crane for nearly 20 years. Isn't he bored yet? It was probably fun during the Cheers years. Getting drunk in front of an international TV audience every week and getting payed royally to do it. I can think of a few dozen people who would love that job

Me included

But to go from that to pretending you're on a radio talk show ... that just sucks.

His Flying Fists of Fury

In particular, if you feel the need to explain the term "fisting" while clarifying Stan Lee's exploits to your co-workers, please abstain yourself from said act.

Especially if the company president happens to walk by your office door at that moment.

With his 4 year old daughter.

Evens & Beginnings

Here's some other fun stuff I've seen about and would like you all to be aware of:

- **Best sci-fi movie name:** They Came From Uranus
- **Best math pick-up line/should be on a novelty shirt:** Here's Looking at Euclid
- **Names I've considered for my children:** Lenny, Sven, Microft
- I don't know what I'd name any daughters ... something hyphenated maybe ... like Bet-ty
- I once spent a week sleeping in four layers of clothes on a mattress with no linen. No reason ... I'm just stupid and overly proud sometimes
- You can buy the "Tongue 2" from ads in the back of magazine. It has 3 realistic speed settings. I can only make my tongue go 2 speeds. I think I'm deficient
- If you spell "sleeping" wrong you alternatively get "spleening" or "slee pig." Spleening is fun, but never do it with a slee pig. They're bad news
- Mountain Standard Time is the best standard time around. I can watch all the good TV shows before 9 pm and still go out drinking
- Did you notice that "happens" happens to occur twice in a row in the first paragraph?

Waldo
Where am I?

I'll Have the Special

Neither burned out nor faded away ... yet.

After an eventful summer of goofing off, playing lots of softball, work, work, and more work, I have returned to grace the pages of *mathNEWS* once again. I recall showing up for numerous Production Nights over the summer. But alas, each time I could not come up with anything to contribute.

As it turns out, I couldn't get much of anything accomplished over the summer. Perhaps it was the prospect of sitting in front of a terminal during a sunny evening. Perhaps I had a ball game. Perhaps I was too drained after a long day of work. Perhaps me and my crack outfit of undercover agents were too spent after plotting yet another successful assassi ... Oops! Almost said too much there.

But now it's the fall and as the days get shorter, the leaves change colour and the traffic gets worse, I'm sure the creative juices will flow once more. Hopefully translating into articles! And while on the subject of wishful thinking, here's some other things I hope for:

1. A couch.
2. At least an 8-8 season for the Bills.
3. World peace.

Granted, those are some tall orders (especially #2), but one can dream, right? Anyways, I've restricted my first article for the term to general rantings ... in future editions, I may actually have a theme or some type of structured format. Enjoy!

- I strongly urge all of you out there to at least make an effort to attend one (that's ONE) Waterloo Warriors football game this year. With all the students who are now attending this place, this school can certainly do better attendance-wise. I was on campus the second day of classes and holy cow! I couldn't believe all the people.

What else have you got to do on a Saturday afternoon? Come sit in the stands, watch the game, get some sun and fresh air ... you'll have a good time. And hopefully the team will at least win a few. It's free for students too. Nothing wrong with that.

Granted, there is no Internet there. But I'm sure you can survive the afternoon without it.

- Is it truly possible to license half a patio? Isn't that similar to building half a house? Or leasing half a car?
- "Porn company makes \$3 million bid for Napster." Gotta love the Internet.
- For those of you new to town, if you think traffic is bad now, wait till next year. Walking and biking may be the better way. Notice how I didn't say "take the bus." Those will be stuck in traffic, too.

Well, that's enough babbling for now. Hopefully, I'll have something better to say next issue. So until next time ...

Latrell
Crazy smooth *ex-mathNEWS* editor

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Says, but Simon is a figment of your imagination, either that or you're all a figment of Simon's imagination, but since I suppose that Simon is a figment of my imagination then you all are figments of my figment or something.

Hey everyone, yup, that's right, we're back to the lovely conditioning where I can get you all to yell out "Hi Snuggles" no matter where you are, so apologize to your Calculus prof, or that guy staring at you strangely in the lab, or that girl walking by you in the hall, or your loved one (that'll teach you to read *mathNEWS* while making out) and move on with your life.

It is pretty funny when someone yells out my name, cause the first thing my brain registers is that someone has called my name, so I turn and say "yes?", that tends to fluster people who were just yelling out my name cause it's fun takes a bit to settle that matter, then I can generally be on my way.

For those of you who are new to my little column here, here's a sum up. I'm insane, this is my therapy, I write about things that I find funny, and coincidentally others occasionally find it funny too (or so I'm told). Nobody should ever get offended at my humour because anything in this column is only being said for one reason, humour, either that or venting, but that's an entirely different subject.

And on the notion of a subject, radios are toys. They're very useful toys, but they're toys nonetheless, there is something inherently fun about having the ability to push a button on your shoulder and have instant access to somewhere between 6 and 13 of your friends. And it's fun to say "KC are you in the MC with BTS, this is the triple S". Of course coming home late at night and not being able to sleep because you still think the radio is talking to you isn't the greatest thing in the world. And that one night when I was on two radio systems was some serious insanity. My head hurt by the end of the night just from trying to keep up with two conversations constantly going (plus all the other craziness that I was dealing with).

Frosh week was awesome. I always miss frosh week when it ends, but this year was definitely special. Putting on that red vest really does make you feel responsible for all the frosh, I still feel a little protective of them all. So if any of you out there ever need some help or random advice just find me, well, on any day other than Tuesday, on Tuesdays only people who are amusing me should approach, I have 9.5 hours of classes on Tuesdays, including back-to-back night classes which give me a good 6 hour straight pounding of lectures. Tuesdays are best described by the simple word "Kablamo"

Random funny story from frosh week. During Dessert (yes, we named an event dessert, my favourite naming choice was calling MathSoc day "the bill"), I got a radio call from Tie Guard commenting that the golf cart was being pushed by them, but the people said they had permission that didn't sound like something Fitz would give permission for so I gave her a call (cell phones are good), her response was "my golf cart?" and so the chase began. Kenny went out one door, I went out another and Anton, Shea and Kalmar all went after it too (Fitz chased too). As we got close someone yelled out "stop" to which the people pushing the golf cart responded with "go, go, go, go". Now, six people chasing on foot will outpace eight people trying to push a golf cart (although they probably could have gotten away if they just left the damn thing). When we caught them they claimed they had permission (then why were they

running), then they all hopped in a pickup and sped off. Turns out they had asked someone in a red vest who wasn't paying much attention and had joked that "sure they could take it, if they got ten or twelve guys to do it", not realizing that this was just the leader who would round up eight people and pull it off. Not one of our leaders (thankfully). In the end we recovered the golf cart and Tie Guard became the official night-time protector (and rider) of all things golf cart. (I rode that thing for an hour straight, but that's another story entirely).

Many of you know one of my roommates (Anton), but few of you know my other roommate, Brauny, who's first name is yup, Stephen (that's why I call him Brauny, can't call another person Stephen, I'm Stephen, it's very confusing for me). Well, we rented Madden 2002 (AWESOME GAME!!!) and had a little competition that we named "The Stephen Bowl". Yup, that's how silly we are.

Charades can be really, really, (Chicken Run) really, (Casablanca) fun. Miming out dirty movie names, also fun. Being a social event instead of planning one, now that's call for a video camera. There's just something inherently hilarious about someone having a huge giggly smile as they proceed to beat the crap out of someone with a pool noodle (ya, you heard that right, big grin, full frontal assault with a pool noodle), it just leaves this resounding image of pure evil.

Dr. Snuggles is IN
Can you imagine hearing that over a hospital P.A.?
"Calling Dr. Snuggles, Dr. Snuggles to the ER"
No? Oh, me neither.

Math Orientation 2002 Thanks YOU!

Our Kung Fu is the strongest.

When frosh week started we told our leaders that Math was the best for one simple reason: our leaders. And over that very eventful week, you proved us right. We cannot begin to count the number of compliments we got over the exemplary behaviour of our most excellent frosh leaders, from helping out other committees, to treating the frosh with the utmost of respect, to staying around and cleaning up (way too many of us are now fully qualified to load a Sherwood truck). From beautifully executing our own events, to the superb efforts at our assigned duties, to taking being voluntold with grace, Math showed everyone why we're the best.

One particular item that sticks with us was fairly early on in the week when we saw who could cheer loudest, our hundred some odd leaders (some odd? Alright, all odd), or our almost thousand frosh. At the beginning the leaders took that contest quite handily, but by the end of the week, the frosh gave us a run for our money (the judges are still appealing and cross-appealing who won the final cheer off).

One thing is for certain though (get ready for the corny awwwww), whoever won that last contest, the real winner was Math (there you go awwwww) [Yay! Math wins! — *KreasEd*]. So this is just our little opportunity to thank all of you, frosh and leaders, for the best frosh week EVER! We couldn't have done it without you.

Snuggles, Kenny, Katie, Bradley

Krease Crumpled

Roger Dodger

So you'd probably think that after living in the same house for a year, you wouldn't have to worry about getting cable hooked up, right? Wrong. After getting back from work last Tuesday, we found a letter in our mailbox saying we were disconnected - but it was addressed to our neighbour. This meant that not only were we 'accidentally' disconnected, but we would have to wait until a few days later 'between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM' to get reconnected. What a great system, eh? Oh well, at least we could go to our neighbour's house to watch TV.

The wonders of living off campus - come to think of it, our house isn't all that different from res - with seven guys in the house, we still have lineups for food, music volume competitions (death metal loud enough to shake an entire house is scary), and enough roommates that it's virtually impossible to be the only person around. We're even just as close to the MC as Ron Eydt Village... Only real differences are we have to cook and clean for ourselves, get our own furniture, pay for heat and electricity... and where was I going with this? There are good differences, really... I just can't remember any of them right now...

Do you remember Frosh week? Of course you do, it hasn't even been a month yet. There was the pancake breakfast and 'Earn Your Tie' on Tuesday, then Single & Sexy on Wednesday, Waterloo Park and Monte Carlo on Thursday, then the big fire at Columbia Lake and Dessert on Friday, before Black & Gold day and Toga on Saturday. Yeah, now you remember. Did you know there are pictures from Frosh week posted online? Take a trip to <http://orientation.uwaterloo.ca/2002b/main.php?option=pictures>. Yeah, I know that url seems a

The Microsoft Reader#

See Sharp.
 See Sharp run.
 Run Sharp run.
 See Sharp put Dick in Jane.
 Run Jane run.
 See Sharp sell seashells by the sea shore.
 Sell Sharp sell.
 See Sharp drive Jane out of business by creative packaging of seashells and alligators.
 Sue government sue.
 See Sharp pay \$561,000 for our curriculum.
 Pay Microsoft pay.
 Buy Microsoft buy.
 Bye reputation bye.
 See Dot rally the proletariat.
 Rally Dot rally.
 See Dot televise the revolution.
 Televise Dot televise.
 See Dot slash.
 Slash Dot Org.
 See students object.
 Post students post.
 See Johnston# squirm.
 Squirm Johnston# squirm.

By Dick and Jane

little long - it's much easier after you've bookmarked it though. After you're done reliving all the fun memories, don't forget to sign up to help out with next year's Frosh Week. You can only go through it once as a Frosh, but you can experience the fun over and over again by getting PACO trained and helping out. Information on how and when you can help will be available soon.

I'm on my work term for fall, so don't fret if you don't see me that often. Since I'm working in Waterloo, however, I'll still be around quite a bit, especially for *mathNEWS* production nights. Our next production night is at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 30th, which just happens to be 2 days after I turn 22... I'm getting old or something. Anyways, if you come to production night, we'll give you pizza. And pretzels. Oh yeah, you'll have fun too!

Ah, the wonders of ... hey, there's a marshmallow on the floor ... I wonder how long that's been down there for ... crap, now I've lost my train of thought. Maybe its a memory leak. I'll have to get that fixed someday...

Krease #

UWO

Oh how I hate Western students ...

Western is such a loser school,
 If you go there you are a fool.
 Waterloo is so much better,
 Because I know L'Hopital's Rule to the letter.
 When I picked my school back in the day,
 I did not decide on where the girls are an easy lay.
 Nerds run our school, that is true,
 But I will always be taken more seriously than you.
 'I'm just as smart' says your voice,
 But we didn't have Queen's as our first choice.
 Your parents may be richer than mine,
 But on them you will be dependent, 'til you're 49.
 Your men are as dumb as moose,
 And your women are just too damn loose.
 Our grads are the barons of high-tech,
 I see yours when I receive my check.
 My school has not been around that long,
 So yours must be doing something wrong.
 You have a cut-rate school of law,
 And I am sick of looking at your slack jaw.
 Your dorms are at best fit for a rat,
 And your girls get naked at the drop of a hat.
 'Richard Ivey is great!' so you say,
 but you are worthless without 'MBA.'
 Those racists call us 'WaterWoo',
 At least my res, is not a zoo.
 I know all about complex planes,
 and we're #1, so says Macleans.
 But going to Western isn't such a loss,
 if you realize, you shall call me 'boss.'

Ian W. MacKinnon

Screamer#'s Believe It or Not

Last weekend I was out of town and heard that there was a Warriors football game on TV, so I flipped the channels until I caught the game. It was great to see a network covering the game, but during the commercial break, I saw an ad about UW. An AD! I know, the network was just trying to increase of the exposure of UW (and the University of Ottawa), but it still felt weird to see UW selling itself on TV.

Sorry! I mumbled too much there. I have to admit that August was not a very eventful month, but there were still a few odd things that happened during that time.

A Legal Steal

Internet auctions can be a fun places to buy/sell items. From time to time a valuable item is put on auction and often the only people making a bid are those making the joke bids. Usually the prices of the items put on auction are driven to outrageously high levels, but sometimes the opposite occurs. A Chinese man decided to sell his car and put it up for auction on the Internet. I don't know if he put a starting price, but I doubt he did. After the bidding closed, he found out that the highest bid for his car was \$22. Before you think that the car is a Hot Wheel, I should tell you that it is a full-sized vehicle. Seeing that his car only fetched \$22, the owner refused the transaction and the "buyer" decided to go to the courts to claim his purchase. The state of the case is unknown. On one hand, the seller has the right to demand more for his car (he probably is getting 0.1% of the car's purchase price, or less). On the other hand, he should know the rules of on-line auctioning before diving in.

A Month of Your Own

There isn't much variety when it comes to names of the months. Most of the names of months came from 2000 years ago. (Granted, changing names of months can lead to chaos, confusion, and a clerical nightmare.) There are many perks for being a head of state, but I didn't know that changing names of the months was one of them until now. The President of Turkmenistan recently renamed the month of January after himself (I guess my birthday is now in the month of the president). This was not the first time he'd done something like this. He had previously renamed months to words such as "The Flag," "Independent," and "Mother." You probably think that he is a megalomaniac whose ego is taller than Mount Everest, and you may be right (I think). I don't think many of us will have months named after them (after all, there are only 12 months a year). Well, at least I still have the abbreviation of July-August-September-October- November in my name.

Rocking on Air

Many of you probably had dreams of making it big in the music scene and showing off your musical ability to a crowd of screaming fans. "Talent" search shows such as Popstars and American Idol have attracted many aspiring musicians to show off their skills. These contests may garner a huge amount of attention, but the winners are no world champions. In Oulu, Finland, artists can show off their "skills" and be crowned world champion. Guess which instrument the contestants play? Nothing. Really, nothing. This is the world championship of air guitar. The participants actually have to compete in regional competitions and spend months honing their air

guitar "skills." The prize for winning is ... a real guitar! So if you are an air guitar player who practices in the basement, get out in the open and show off your skills. Who knows? Maybe we have a star in the making.

Concert Ticket: 38 000 Hoppers

Many people are willing to do anything to get tickets for performances of their favourite musicians. Sometimes radio stations offer contests in which contestants have to repeat a phrase or collect items in order to win. [*"KBBL's gonna gimme something stupid! — Simon*] Some of these contests can swamp you, literally. A Regina radio station recently held a contest with a pair of tickets to an Elton John concert as the first prize. All participants had to do was bring in more grasshoppers to the station than anyone else. Over 100 people participated, many brought in hundreds of grasshoppers, but the winner brought in about 38 000 grasshoppers. There was an infestation of grasshopper in Saskatchewan this summer, but it definitely took the winner a lot of time (and swing-and-misses) to catch so many grasshoppers. But the one who truly deserved those tickets is the one who counted all the grasshoppers (maybe there is none).

Jason "the Screamer" Lau
Does anyone else care about these?

So You've Decided to Sell Your Soul

I can understand if you have taken a while to get to this stage of your life. For instance, by the age of 20, many have already done this. In this short article I shall outline the items, physical or not, that may be exchanged (forcefully or with your consent) for your soul.

- A donut.
- A new donut, on the additional condition that after your soul has been sold you will act like a monkey for 2 years.
- A second donut. As long as you give a second soul. This will probably not be your own, so you will have to obtain it in exchange for one of the things on this list
- A CECS building.
- A sex building.
- An action figure shaped like a doll.
- A doll shaped like an action figure.
- Brad shaped like both. [*He lost his for use of a Strokes CD for a couple hours — Simon*]
- A weekly magazine that promotes nothing but you.
- Another soul.
- 10 things that rhyme with your name. **
- 10 things that rhyme with kerblast. **
- 10 things that aren't in any way related. **
- Silence.
- Noise.
- Horrible operating systems.
- Nameless programming languages that may or may not be affiliated with Microsoft.
- Nothing. (if you really want it)
- The information contained within this article. ***

** None of these 10 things may be another soul.

e. (***) Oh, i now own your soul)

Jim the Jam Jar

Late nights. Late nights. That's the only explanation for the following text.

Jim was a jam jar and Jim knew it. He was sitting on the shelf most every day. He was a happy jam jar, but deep down he still felt lonely because nobody had bought him yet. Also, all the other jam jars were gone.

Maybe it's because he was a grape jam jar. That's what he liked least about himself. He didn't like grape jam. If he could, he would choose a different kind of jam ... like strawberry, or raspberry, or some other anonymous red flavour.

One day a little girl came in and saw Jim sitting on the shelf. She knew Jim was sad, but she didn't have any money. So logically, she opened the jam jar right there in the store.

The store manager saw her open the jar, but ignored the theft of his stock because he knew that Jim was sad, too. So now that the girl had opened the jar, she decided to empty it.

10 minutes later she threw Jim in the recycling bin so he could be refilled with a red jam/jelly-ish substance.

The moral of this story is, um, don't stay up until 4 in the morning without eating while you're trying to write songs because they will most likely turn out to be about food and VERY strange. If you're lucky you might hear me perform this song some day ... if you do, BUY MY CD! Hehe. Ya, right, like I have a CD.

e.

There Is No Cow Level

New study offers conclusive proof

Researchers from Harrogath Labs have recently completed a study that conclusively shows, contrary to popular belief, there is no 'Cow Level'. The one page proof, presented by head researcher Chuck Harrison, details the physics necessary for a book, stick, and box to form a 'Red Portal', and then uses induction to conclude, "The rest is trivial; so trivial in fact, that it won't fit on the margin of this page."

Chuck cites Fermat as the inspiration behind finding the proof. "It's a shame Fermat isn't around for this moment," says assistant researcher, Yi Ha.

With this announcement however, also come the reactions from those who report having fallen to the 'Cow King'; after all, since there is no Cow Level, there cannot be a Cow King. Some have accepted the proof with open arms, chalking up their experiences to drugs and/or rancid clam juice.

There are those, however, who have rejected the proof. "No Cow Level, eh?" says 6th year UW student, Snuggles. "Where did I get all those chipped gems then?"

"There is no spoon, and there are no cows; therefore all cows are spoons." Lino, one of the many detractors of the proof, cites this example believing it is a flaw in the proof. "The only problem with that example," says Harrison, "is that I used a spoon to eat ice cream just last night. I got it from Blizzard Queen."

Krease

Legal Action

By: Mark Cook Art: Soo Go



Have You Got A Name For It

So, this is it. My last school term at UW Math. I'm getting teary eyed. And sentimental. I think I'm going to cry. Right now I am having issues with our cable connection with Rogers. Specifically our connection is unusable during peak times. I'm really wondering what's going on with that. A friend of mine had suggested that it works better when it's cold. So I have to test this theory out. I should like graph ping times to air temperature to time ... that sounds like a stupid and fun thing to do. If someone has a script for this, or wants to write one, let me know.

How I spent my Summer Vacation

So I was incredibly lucky to go to Europe this summer. Well, actually I had to convoy my grandmother to visit her sister in Sweden. I also discovered that my good good old old friend from way back when (and there) is getting a PhD from Cambridge. Since I was going to be in Europe I decided to swing by England. This was a big thing. I started looking for a way of getting from Goteborg, Sweden to London, England in the cheapest way possible. There was no boat, trains took too long and were expensive. So, I had to fly. And I had to find a cheap ticket. I ended up booking a ticket on an Irish discount airline which shall remain nameless save for the fact that it had a very similar name to a guy named Ryan. I was very happy since I felt like I saved a bundle.

So then I flew to Sweden with my grandma, and safely deposited her in the care of our relatives. This was quite an adventure in itself, since I had to fight off flight attendants armed with wheelchairs attempting to assist my grandmother. Now, as the time of my flight to London (well, not quite London, Stanstead to be specific [*Oh man, Stanstead sucks! Worst London Airport Ever! — Simon*]) was approaching, I was planning. I purchased a ticket on the airporter bus, checked what time I had to make the bus and was ready to go. On the set day, I arrived at the Goteborg Airport only to find that my flight was nowhere to

be found. With my heart sinking, I approached the information booth, and I discovered that I was in the wrong airport. Now, I have lived in Goteborg for a year. Then I worked in Goteborg for a summer. I know this city. I have not heard that this city has two airports. As such, I had to run to a taxi and spend a lot of money to arrive at the other airport (which was literally a shed in a field) on time to make my flight.

Now, I had a great time in London and Cambridge. I spent a lot of time chatting with my friend, making up for lost time. Lost seven years or so. But then it was time to leave. I got to the airport two hours before flight as per instructions. It was announced that the plane was going to be late. I waited. Then they told us that we had to switch gates. I went to the new gate and saw a plane. I also saw a crowd of Frenchmen waiting to fly to France from this gate. Confusion erupted. Then they announced that the flight to France will be delayed. They announced this in English. They got us to board the plane. After we boarded it was discovered that there weren't enough seats (there are no assigned seats on this airline). Clearly some French people didn't understand the English announcement. So they had to find someone who speaks French to announce to the poor embarrassed French guy that he will not make it to France on this plane. Then it was discovered that the ground crew still hasn't unloaded the baggage in the plane. At this point I was happy that I only had carry-on. But then we finally took off. More than halfway through the flight the pilot announced that the shed in the field airport has already closed for the night and we had to divert to the main airport. So the plane went to the wrong airport just as I had a five days earlier.

If there's one thing that I learned is that taking six flights in fifteen days is a bad idea. I get tired of flying. And that's that.

Anton

A Few Questions

- How did the craziest math frosh leaders end up being the big cheeses for *mathNEWS*?
- Why are there people here that look like they should have graduated in 1997?
- Why does classical algebra (Math 135) contain more letters than numbers than any math course ever and the textbook is composed of more symbols than letters?
- Why are the roly chairs fastened by half-cut computer locks in the comp labs? And why is it still so much fun spinning around in them knowing fully that you cannot get in one revolution without getting thrown off your seat?
- Why are orange balloons so much fun to keep afloat?
- How did we manage to get Joe Clark and Matt Good to come to UW in the same week and why isn't there tea time in UW?
- Why is a roll of duct tape necessary in the production of *mathNEWS*?
- How on earth did I manage (in my first production day) to gain such trust that I got access to super former editor's Brad's e-mail?
- Where's the pizza?
- Why did the X-Files get cancelled and what the hell am I supposed to do on Sunday nights, or Friday nights for that matter?
- What's the difference between C, C++, C# and why can't Microsoft be original with their naming of their own programming language?
- If Microsoft makes Windows, does that mean that C# would need about half a dozen version numbers before it will remotely do what it's supposed to do?
- Last but not least, why is Albert walking around the lab with scissors in his hand, and snipping with them constantly?

ellie.

conversations of a mad first-year

Right. First week of classes, and frankly, I think I'm dying.

So, on Monday, as a last tribute to my honourable tradition of slacking off in a manner completely unsuitable for any student, I decide to sleep in. Which is all very well, provided, of course, that I can sleep. I can't. So the following conversation duly takes place —

Me: What time is it? Other than being early?

Maxim(bear): ...

Me: Bleargh. School ... eating ... daylight ... brain hurtage much
So off I go to class, and ...

Prof: ... Principle of Induction ... $P(n)$...

Me: ... Weh?

Yes, Monday is a fiasco.

Try again Tuesday.

It rains. It thunders. People in my residence run around in the rain. I am much amused, and read up on first-aid measures for electrocuted victims.

Wednesday, I arrive early for class, and end up sitting where I can't see the board. Again. **Note to self:** *Invest in a pair of binoculars, because no matter how early you get to class, everybody else will still be there before you.*

Conversation in Math Class

Me: I'm confused ...

Person beside me: We're all confused. That's the point.

On Wednesday night, I freeze to death returning from Econ class, having been too enthusiastic about the *mathNEWS* meeting to consider bringing a jacket. I need a life, I really do.

Thursday, I freeze to death in English class while writing a flippant self-introduction. Serves me right, I suppose.

So on Friday, I decide that all this excitement is not good for me, and go watch the ducks in the river — I mean, what passes for the river — which exercise just makes me think that perhaps suffering from severe environmental allergies may, at times, be a good thing.

To quote Dorothy L. Sayers — “How fleeting are all human passions compared to the massive continuity of ducks ...” Or something like that.

Ling Guo

Dear Joe

Because of you, we got four additional years of Trudeau. Thanks a lot.

Signed,
Bitter

And now, a quick mathematics lesson brought to you by *mathNEWS*.

Suppose these are the results of any given general election:

Seats	
Party #1	136
Party #2	114
Party #3	26
Party #4	6

If we add the totals of Parties #2, #3 and #4, we get:

$$114 + 26 + 6 = 146$$

This number is higher than that of Party #1:

$$146 > 136$$

Therefore, Party #1 has a MINORITY and should not try to lose any votes of non-confidence. Thank you.

Harry Plotter and the Davis Centre

Harry was searching the third floor of the building that everyone referred to as 'the MC.' It was his first day of University, and he was trying to find the room of his first class, but everything was so large and unfamiliar that he found himself overwhelmed. A darkened room across the hall caught his eye. From what he could see, it was filled with simple couches and chairs, like the ones in a typical doctor's office. Although he was in a hurry, his curiosity got the better of him and he decided to go take a look.

Long before he reached the door, he was struck by the room's distinctive smell, reminiscent of someone who hadn't bathed in months. Just as he was about to look inside, a grotesque hand reached around the corner and grabbed his face. His terrified scream mingled in the air with a primal howl of rage from the monster who's territory he had violated.

A second later, he heard a woman's voice yelling, “Get off him! Get back!” He could see someone's fist was punching the monstrous arm. The monster groaned and released its grip. Harry fell backwards onto the floor.

“What was that thing?” Harry gasped. She helped him up off the floor and smiled.

“They call that room the ‘Comfy Lounge,’” she said. “Rumour has it that those beasts were once people — 4th year Math majors, in fact — but they devolved into monsters when they took a course called ‘Real Time’ and became too busy for luxuries like personal hygiene.”

“Thank you,” Harry began, still trying to catch his breath. “Thank you for saving me.”

“Don't mention it. I'm Ellie. Nice to meet you.”

“My name's Harry,” he replied. “Harry Plotter. This is actually my first day of classes.”

“Then let me be the first to welcome you to Waterworks School of Mathematical Witchcraft and Computational Wizardry. I've been here for a year, myself. What program are you in?”

“Computer Alchemy. I'm missing my first class as we speak.”

“That would be ‘Principles of Computer Alchemy’ with Xema, right?”

“I think so.”

“They usually put that class in one of the big rooms on the second floor. C'mon, I'll show you. Maybe I'll even sit in on the lecture.”

To Be Continued ...

Bradley N Smith
[No, not that Brad. A different one.
Really — AbsentEd]

The ten notes of C-Sharp Melodic Minor:

1. C-sharp
2. D
3. F
4. F-sharp
5. G-sharp
6. A-sharp
7. C
8. C-sharp
9. B
10. A

gridCOMMENTS

Please, somebody take this job!

Hi and welcome back to the *gridWORD!* My name is Simon, and I'll be your host this issue. Linda Carson will be composing the puzzles again this term, and unless someone wants to take over from me (anyone?), I'll be doing the marking and type-setting type work.

Old business: We had a puzzle in the Frosh Issue, but the only submission came from non-frosh, so I'm sorry SJU Crew, even though you completed the cryptic, no prize today.

New business: We have a lovely new puzzle this issue, thank you Linda. It's tough, but you can do it. If you'd like help with the cryptic, check out some of the excellent on-line tutorials, or find someone who loves them like I do and have them teach you. If there are enough requests, I'll lead a tutorial through *mathNEWS* some issue this term.

Simply put, solve as much as you can (some words I don't even know, so don't worry if you can't finish), and email it to *mathNEWS* or drop it in the BLACK BOX before September thirtieth. Also include a witty or wittyish answer to the *gridQUESTION*: *What's the best day in September?*

Have fun, see you next issue in the winner's circle!

Linda and Simon

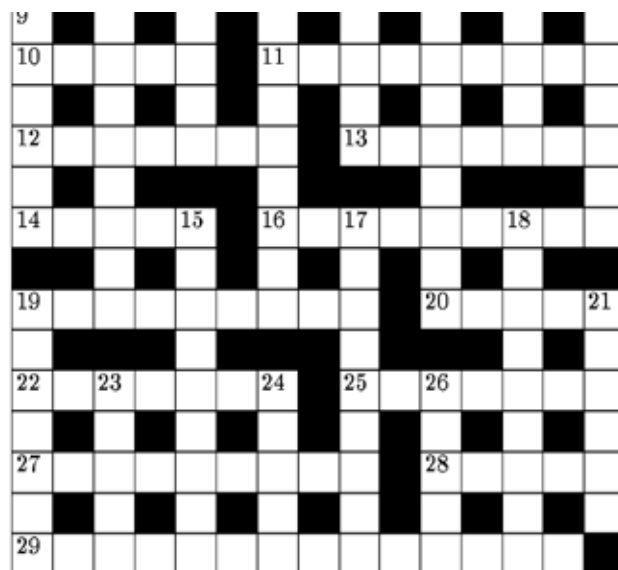
Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Stupid user browsed gig of advice on sounding smarter (3,6,5)
10. Shrewd Soviet agency reportedly missed termination (5)
11. Sounds medieval when everyone sleeps (5-4)
12. What to wear, do, when facing shark (3-4)
13. Sceptre represented what Aretha wants (7)
14. Coordinate with basin, they say (5)
16. Double all kookie sports (9)
19. Faithful about keeping watch (9)
20. Ornamentation? It's back in procedure (5)
22. What you use to trim kids (7)
25. Soups mature in pots (7)
27. Watch pork remake quilt (9)
28. Lost ante in "mediation," as they say (5)
29. Start badly? No, forgotten how (2,3,5,4)

Down

2. Nasty sting is Mercury observations (9)
3. Second person after degree for swamp (5)
4. Naughty bits from a genial IT mixer (9)
5. Enthusiastic wager, head off east to start (5)
6. Resist what dints developed (9)
7. Heard beams put up (5)
8. Shade, in retrospect, refreshes (7)
9. Hood in SS frowns (6)
15. Footwear nags till (9)
17. Voluble but surpassed (9)
18. Unknown but in gear up in Toronto (9)
19. Pout, now go off to confess (3,2,2)
21. About to add Middlesex to start again (6)
23. Small French stroke thing (5)
24. Bitter about cheap head scrub (5)
26. If the doctor is a robber? (5)



Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. 0 here and 32 in the State (8,6)
10. Make allusion to (5)
11. Slushy, kinda liquid, kinda not (9)
12. Payload, can be nuclear (7)
13. Technically speechless (7)
14. Brown dye (5)
19. Long pasta (9)
20. Mr. Fudd (5)
22. North wind (7)
25. Study closely (7)
27. New Orleans state (9)
28. Between sides in a triangle (5)
29. What yea who enter here should do (7,3,4)

Down

2. Popular votes (9)
3. Eagle's nest (5)
4. Turned (6-3)
5. Greek letter (5)
6. Long shot (3-6)
7. Words, such as proper names (5)
8. Motorcycle passenger device (7)
9. Development (6)
15. Said something quotable [*Not in OED — Simon*] (9)
17. Banister (5-4)
18. Concluding or adding (7,2)
19. African republic (7)
21. ___ Madness (6)
23. Finnish steam bath (5)
24. Memorize (5)
26. Embarrass (5)