

math NEWS

Volume 90, Issue 3

Friday, October 18th, 2002



Ron Scoins

1939 - 2002

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

October 18	Issue #3 feels the chill down its spine
October 28	Issue #4 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
November 1	Issue #4 endures sugar-induced hyperactivity

Math Faculty

October	W03 Course Enrolment continues
November 1	WD Deadline

MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Night
October 25	Laser Quest
October 31	Cotton Candy Day
October 31	MathSoc's Trick-or-Treating Adventure

MGC

Wednesdays	Mmm ... pizza
October 23	Grad Portrait session at Fed Hall
October 26	Fall Convocation

PMC

November 1	Field Trip to Fields Institute
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Co-op

October 25	Interviews End
November 1	Continuous-phase Postings Begin

Miscellaneous

October 19	Conclusion of Oktoberfest
October 21-27	Pirates Week (in Cayman Islands) Arrrrsome!
October 21-27	Scotchtoberfest ... Wait! It doesn't exist!
October 27	Turn your clocks backwards
October 31	Hallowe'en
November 1-3	Homecoming Weekend

CSC lookAHEAD

CSC Events

- 17 Oct 2002: Debian in the Enterprise (NCC 1701f)
- 24 Oct 2002: The GNU Hurd, a Multi-Server Operating System
- 26 Oct 2002: Mini-conf, see the CSC Flash.
- 29 Oct 2002: A Romp through Linux the kernel, Part I
- 31 Oct 2002: A Romp through Linux the kernel, Part II
- 02 Nov 2002: GNU/Linux Install Fest with KW-LUG
- 07 Nov 2002: The GNU General Public License
- 12 Nov 2002: Automatic Memory Management
- 16 Nov 2002: Trip to York University
- 22 Nov 2002: Perl 6

Math Endowment Fund

Nominations and funding requests

The Math Endowment Fund (MEF) is opening nominations for the funding council, and accepting requests for funding. More information is available at www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom

Forms are available outside the MathSoc office.

Ben Willson
MEF Director

mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca



Books

Thanks to Jiten Chauhan, a Microsoft Student Consultant, we now have three new books. There were even free, as in beer. Come by the office to have a look at the pretty new books.

Mini-conf 2002

- 13:30: GNU/Linux on HPPA by Carlos O'Donnell
- 15:00: The Hurd interfaces by Marcus Brinkmann
- 16:30: A GNU Approach to Virtual Memory Management in a Multiserver Operating System

Mini-conf 2002 will be happening on 26 Oct 2002 in the MC and snacks and drinks will be available.

For other events look on our website <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca> or read the *lookAHEAD*.

GNU/Linux on HPPA

This talk will be given by Carlos O'Donnell of the University of Western Ontario on Saturday, 26 Oct 2002, at 1:30 pm.

The Hurd interfaces

The Hurd server interfaces are at the heart of the Hurd system. They define the remote procedure calls (RPCs) that are used by the servers, the GNU C library and the utility programs to communicate with the Hurd system and to implement the POSIX personality of the Hurd as well as other features.

This talk is a walk through the Hurd RPCs, and will give an overview of how they are used to implement the system. Individual RPCs will be used to illustrate important or exciting features of the Hurd system in general, and it will be shown how those features are accessible to the user at the command line.

This talk will be given by Marcus Brinkmann from the University of Ruhr Bochum, in Germany, on Saturday, 26 Oct 2002, at 3:00 pm.

A GNU Approach to Virtual Memory Management in a Multiserver Operating System

Virtual memory management is one of the cornerstones of multiuser operating systems. Most systems available today place all of the policy in a monolithic virtual memory manager, VMM, isolated from the rest of the system. Although secure and lightweight, users have no way to communicate their anticipated memory needs and usage to the system pager. As a result, the VMM can only implement a global paging policy (typically, an approximation of LRU) which may be good on average but is best for nobody.

With the port of Hurd to the L4 microkernel, this situation is being readdressed. Due to its more distributed nature, a centralized resource manager is not only more difficult to implement efficiently but also contrary to the philosophy of the rest of the system. We are currently exploring a model whereby each program is fully self-paged and all compete for memory from a physical memory server. This talk will first discuss how paging currently works in Mach and other systems. An argument for an external paging policy will then be presented followed by the requirements of such a design and the design itself.

This talk will be given by Neal H. Walfield from the University of Massachusetts Lowell on Saturday, Oct 26, 2002 at 4:30 pm.

James A. Morrison

Thanks to Professor Scoins

Today (Monday) I was rather stunned to learn that Professor Ron Scoins has passed away.

Many of us had worked with Prof. Scoins directly by being in his class, although some of us dealt with him more implicitly. When we had anything to do with the CEMC math contests, as a director of CEMC, he played a big role amongst those working behind the scenes.

I had a slightly different experience with Prof. Scoins. Back in the day, I had some problems with my admission into the Faculty of Mathematics, the details of which I have no plan on going into in *mathNEWS*. Quite frankly, if it wasn't for his efforts to correct the issue at hand, I wouldn't be here.

He didn't have to do anything; I was just another punk-ass high school grad he had never seen before who had a problem with his admission. He helped me out, though, and implicitly we know the result. I am sitting in MC writing this, am I not?

He never taught me a single class, yet his name is not one I will be forgetting any time soon. From what I have heard about his teaching, I probably can't even comprehend the impact he has had on some of you. All I know is that his efforts were most certainly appreciated.

Aaron Klotz
Thanks again.

Is It Possible To Be Too Old To Trick-Or-Treat?

I certainly don't think so ...

So you want to relive those carefree days of childhood, dressing up as some deformed monster, or better yet, a princess? Well here's your chance to do just that, without all the inconvenience of people asking, "Aren't you a little too old to be trick-or-treating!?!?!?"

MathSoc is having a trick-or-treat for charity event for the Feds Food Bank and the K-W Food Bank. Instead of candy, you'll ask people for non-perishable food donations for the Food Banks. You can have fun **and** help your community! Yay!

Hallowe'en Monkey

Field Trip!

Well, technically it's a Fields Trip. MathSoc and the PMC will be running a bus trip to the Fields Institute in Toronto to attend its Graduate School Information Day this November 2nd. That's a Saturday so it's a great time to find out about the opportunities for graduate work.

But if you aren't graduating, don't let that discourage you. The day's talks are designed for undergraduates and should be entertaining and enlightening.

The event runs from 12:30 until 4:00 so the bus will leave sometime before 11 and get back around 6. Look for posters in the stairwells and around the PMC for more information.

Signup lists are now available on the PMC and MathSoc doors. Sign up soon, as spots are limited.

For more information about the talks, and the day in general, see: http://www.fields.utoronto.ca/programs/scientific/02-03/grad_school_day/

Hope to see you there.

Colin Davidson
Vice-President, Academic MathSoc

C# May Not Be So Bad

(but we won't know for 6 months)

Last time, I told you that the School of Computer Science had struck an *ad hoc* committee to examine the use of C# in its undergraduate curriculum, and that MathSoc was composing a response on behalf of math students. We're not anymore, and that's because the committee doesn't exist any more.

At a meeting of the School of Computer Science council last week, the faculty of the School passed a motion saying that no committee would examine language alternatives for first-year courses for a six-month period. This terminated the C# Committee's work.

Is C# a good programming language? Is it a good teaching language? Is it of value to students to learn it? These are questions we won't know the answer to for at least another six months. We know that students are using C# on co-op terms, that they are writing work reports about C#, and that they are learning C# on their own.

In their recent decision, the School of CS responded to UW's current memorandum of understanding with Microsoft. The problem is that they responded emotionally, not rationally. They subscribed to the supposed tactics of the Redmond giant — fear, uncertainty, and doubt. All of these threats are allayed by well-informed discourse. If anyone should be able to compose an argument in favour of or against using a particular programming language, it's a computer scientist. It is the duty of our faculty to ensure that their pedagogy is of the highest quality. Now that co-op is an academic credit, it also behooves the faculty to ensure that the skills students learn in class are relevant to their work term placements and vice-versa.

By banning investigation of programming languages, we don't only prevent the faculty from looking at C#, we don't get chances to review novel languages like Smalltalk and Self, and we cast an air of suspicion over any future language investigation.

Some might argue that tempers are running high in light of August's announcement of the Microsoft partnership. Perhaps, but a public, open, and well-educated debate will hasten the recovery and allow us to move on more quickly. In CS, more than in any other unit in the Faculty of Mathematics, we now have the infrastructure necessary to have such an informed discussion. There is an established tradition in the School to publicize important information on the web. Moreover, there are student representatives on every relevant committee in the School, most notably the Undergraduate Academic Plans Committee. We can be sure that a present debate would be effective.

Programming languages and computer science evolve, and the curriculum in UW's School of Computer Science should be no exception.

Douglas Stebila
MathSoc President

Coffee House

A groovy affair baby

Like performing? We are looking for any kind of performance for the Homecoming Coffee House. It is on the 2nd of November. If you are interested, see Nancy O'Neil behind the Turnkey Desk.

Monkey

Important Dates from CECS

October 18

Teaching Option: Co-op Job Posting #2 expires at 8 pm.

CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP

Professional and Post Degree Day: Learn first-hand from school representatives about post-degree programs at colleges and universities in North America and around the world. 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

October 25

Employer Interviews end (excludes Architecture and Teaching Option).

October 26

CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP

Career Essentials: Morning: self assessment, resume writing, interview skills. Afternoon: letter writing, work search, networking, employer research, interview skills. 9:00 am–4:30 pm.

October 28

Teaching Option: Employer Interviews begin.

October 29

Ranking Forms: Available after 10 am at the Paging Desk, first Floor, Needles Hall. Forms due back by 4 pm (excludes Teaching faculties).

Co-ordinator Ranking and Interview Consultation: Ends at 4 pm (excludes Teaching faculties).

October 30

CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOPS

Letter Writing: Learn how to use letters to your advantage in the job search. 3:30 – 4:30 pm.

Resume Writing: Discover techniques for writing an effective resume. 4:30 – 5:30 pm.

October 31

Teaching Option: Employer Interviews end.

November 1

Teaching Option: Ranking Forms available after 10 am. Forms due back by 4 pm.

Co-op Job Posting #1: (Continuous phase) available by noon. Apply to this posting if you had no interviews or were not ranked in the initial interview phase.

For more information or to participate in any of the events, visit www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca.

All-Night Laser Quest!

Yes, that's right, you heard me! Here in Math, our social events can go all night! So if you like Laser Quest, then this is the event for you. Next Friday, the 25th of October, Math is taking over the entire Laser Quest facility from midnight to 6:00 am the next morning.

Space is unfortunately limited to 100 people, and tickets are \$15. This includes six hours of Laser Questing, other fun activities, food, and drinks. Tickets will be sold on the third floor of MC on Monday the 21st and Tuesday the 22nd, starting at 8:20 am each day. Get your tickets ASAP, this is one event you won't want to miss!

Social Directors

VPAS Types

Busy == me

So I got a lot going on and lots of it is activities and services for you.

First thing, **LOGO CONTEST!** Want over \$50 in prizes? Can you draw or do graphics design? Then you only have a week to get your logo in (Submissions due October 25th)! Submissions can be dropped off in the box on the Exec office door (3039) or e-mailed it to vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. E-mailing me a link to it is good too so I save diskquota!

Coffee House: Go see Nancy if you are interested in performing, the event is open to everyone and it will be a lot of fun. We are doing this with the Turnkey Desk and for Homecoming weekend, which will also be a lot of fun. Yes, they want students to be involved too. So the coffee house is the 2nd of November from 8:00 pm on in the Great Hall of the SLC. If you want to perform see Nancy O'Neil behind the Turnkey Desk as soon as you can. If you just want to come out, then just show up and bring a friend or 20.

Laser Quest: Crazy!!! (more info in another article)

CS 342: Oh, wait a sec, that isn't a VPAS thing.

Comfy Committee: We are meeting and talking and thinking. If you want your ideas heard e-mail them to vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. We are looking at adding ports to get you higher bandwidth for your laptops among other good stuff.

\$1000 for running events: Want to run something by mathies for everyone? If it will benefit mathies, we can help you. If you have already approached me about this, e-mail me right now so I can help you. If not and you are still interested, still e-mail me, right now! E-mail me at vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Pht VPAS, Albert O'Connor

Sum of all Brooms, Men with Fears!

Movies Movies and more Movies

Hello, Hello. It seems that we are obliterating the competition (friendly competition, of course). Current scores include a 92-16 blowout in the first week and 145-30 in the second (that would be the attendance records). We'd continue to report the scores but it is becoming difficult to get numbers on the FedS Flicks attendance. Yesterday we showed *Insomnia* and *Blade II* and I don't know how it went because I'm writing this two days before it'll happen.

October 24th — *Windtalkers* and *We were Soldiers* with Nicholas Cage and Mel Gibson respectively in a couple great war flicks.

October 31st — *Sum of All Fears* and *Men with Brooms*, our Halloween spectacular, a Tom Clancy special with Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman and a true Canadian comedy with Leslie Neilson and Paul Gross.

Come on out and enjoy the cheapest movies on campus, just two bucks for two great flicks. Always a chance to win great posters during intermission trivia. If you have suggestions don't hesitate to email movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Snuggles, Lino, and Tushar
The Movie Guys

To My Dearly Beloved Fenchel.math

Dear Fenchel,

I am sending this to you from the bottom of my hard drive. You cannot imagine how much I loved receiving your past datagram-sized packets. They've made me think only of you. All of the servers that I've been seeing online are nothing in comparison to what I remember of your good looks, your great attitude, and incredible connection speed. No wonder I enjoyed meeting all of your fellow servers when we were connected last summer. Even your fellow student.math server, Merrill, was such a great CPU.

Now I must admit that it does seem rather awkward saying these things to you when you've got a fellow student.math server, but I suppose that I can wait for your connection to her to time out. I mean, if you're telling me that you like me, that must mean that at some point you're going to break up with your current student.math server, so that you can start speeding up the connection to me, right? I mean, that only makes sense with what you've sent me.

On the other hand, you might be one of those egotistical servers who thinks that it's all right to have more than one co-server all at the same time. In that case I don't think that I would like you. I mean really! How can a CPU claim to be faithful to another when they're outright openly connecting to someone else? Honestly! Only a complete memory hog would do that, and from the sounds of it, if you're not planning on breaking off your connection with Merrill, and still want to hook up to me, then that must be what your intentions are.

What? What? Wait a minute! I mean, if you're telling me all these nice things about me and my applications, and you haven't already broken up with Merrill, you really must be intending on cheating on her with me. I mean, you can't honestly expect me to wait at your back and call for you to make yourself available, whenever that might be. So the only alternative is that you're anticipating me to connect with you at the same time as your sending out data packets to Merrill! You jack-ass!

'Tis the Season

... for Midterms. The dreaded Algebra midterm is over and gone. Hopefully it went well. Now it's Calculus' turn, so if you didn't come out to the study sessions last time, or you did (and loved them we hope), then come out again.

This Sunday, October 20th, MathSoc and the Tutorial Centre will be holding a study session for MATH 137. Starting at 4 pm we'll be taking up questions that have appeared on past midterms, and then at 7 we'll go over last year's midterm in its entirety. In addition, we'll be having a question and answer period. It's a great way to make sure you're ready before that exam on Monday night. Before I forget, the sessions will be held in MC 2065 and will spill over into MC 2066 (Definitely. We had 300 people last time!)

Pizza will be sold at dinner time, before we start looking at the midterm.

If you have any particular questions you want answered, please email them to vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca in advance of the sessions.

Colin Davidson
Vice-President, Academic MathSoc

Well, let me just tell you this, you bastard 486 you. I think you're a complete and utter Microsoft-based computer. Who do you think you are, Furn-chill (fine-chill, finchelle), oh however the hell you spell your name? I've got better things to do with my processor than have your pompous jackass hole, you call a port, tell me that you like me when you go downloading with some other CPU. You think that I haven't been meeting some fast-connecting and large hard drives out here? Well let me tell you this, I've yet to meet a single server half as slow and inanely small as you. Shove that up your socket!

Rees.math

New findings

Telling a student s/he is dumb does not magically transfer knowledge.

Contrary to popular belief, telling a student s/he is dumb does not magically transfer knowledge of the subject matter being taught. Extensive research has been conducted, and specialists have concluded that directly or indirectly acknowledging that a student is dumb often discourages learning. This conclusion comes as a surprise to many who have used this teaching method for many years. One popular technique of this teaching method involves not answering the problem asked, but instead asking the student if s/he has looked in the textbook, or been listening in class, and subsequently looking annoyed and refusing to answer the question. Another technique, especially useful for math courses, is to write down the final answer, and when asked to clarify certain steps, claim that it is purely "high school math" and again refuse to elaborate. Showing no respect for the student is also popular. The intention of this technique is that the student magically finds the answer to his/her question before the final exam. Once the student learns this magical method, no further questions will be generated, which in turn must mean that the student learned the subject.

Unfortunately, recent studies are questioning this traditional technique. The law of conservation of frustration states that for every frustration there is a resolution, but unless the two meet, the frustration exists and is only transferred. This law leads experts to believe that when a student is turned down on a question, the question still exists and is only transferred as the student seeks other means of resolving the question. In other words, the student does not magically learn the subject matter, but has learned it from another source! Experts are now encouraging instructors to simply answer the questions in detail instead of deflecting them. "If the student does not understand, try a different approach to the answer. Using visual aids, examples, and real life scenarios often help explain the subject. Because the student does not understand does not mean s/he is dumb. It only means s/he is not seasoned in your particular field, which is a good thing if you want to keep your job!" said Dr. Showre Spect at the Conference for Better Teaching.

Believers of the traditional method are skeptical. "I do not believe it. I have used the traditional approach and no student ever come back with another question!" Sounds like the new teaching method will not be employed in the near future.

Thank You

Mathie Costumes

Oh, it's that time of year again! It's the time we all dress up as witches, ghosts and goblins to remind the aesthetically challenged that they're not as ugly as they think. I speak of course of Hallowe'en.

However, you may cry from the depths of despair, lamenting your lack of ideas for a costume. Well, fear not, my socially introverted friend, the solution to your troubles lies just over the horizon. For you see, not only will you adorn the most original costume, mockers from far and wide will suspect your arithmetic affiliation without a second thought. Therefore, below is a short list of costumes that will make people shout: "I can't believe you're wearing that."

1. The Incredible Hulk in a Tutu:
It's not as hard as it appears. Just paint yourself green and find your sister's old ballerina outfit. Muscles are optional.
2. An alcoholic mathemagician:
Wear a wizard costume, get really, really drunk, and tell people you can make remainders disappear.
3. A beaver with a beaver hand puppet:
Or a duck with a duck hand puppet ... the possibilities are endless. Also, if your hand puppet has multiple personalities ...
4. Genetically engineered cross-breed:
Well, you know a dog-cow or a pig-elephant or a art-sci. Think of two animals and combine them.
5. A Mac graduate:
This one's easy. Find your oldest, rattiest clothes and make a sign: "Will work for food."
6. Your favourite complex number:
Pick one and wear what would best describe its "personality."
7. Your Math prof's alter-ego:
Like Bizarro Superman. Remember to keep claiming you're the smart one. (Good for your grade)
8. A lesser known dwarf:
You know, like fatty dwarf, stupid dwarf, necro dwarf, or love-child dwarf, etc.

Please use this information wisely and remember:

As with all privileged knowledge, guard it with unfaltering vigilance. May the computationally accosted never corrupt the simple beauty of a Mathie wearing dignity on one sleeve and attempting to calculate its value with the slide rule on the other.

Death to those who oppose the MATH,

Your raving outpatient

A Proof About Soap, and Other Smelly Things

Soap is smelly. Notice that, soap rhymes with rope, and that goats get tethered with ropes. Therefore, since goats eat grass, and cows eat grass, then cows go moo. Also note, that cows make manure. Manure is smelly, therefore since soap is also smelly, manure is soap. Finally, since manure does NOT clean things (damn cow patties), then soap doesn't work.

Q.E.D

So You've Decided to Trick or Treat

Because I am such a nice guy, I have decided to provide you all with a list of things that can be done on Hallowe'en for your enjoyment/other people's enjoyment.

- Don't shave/shower for the next two and a half weeks in order to trick or treat as a bum
- Refuse any candy in a wrapper that has yellow on it
- Eat the candy as soon as you get it and ask for more claiming you didn't get any the first time
- Start undoing your belt as you say, "Trick or treat ... if you know what I mean ..."
- Run up to other groups of children and say trick or treat, fully expecting them to give you candy
- Dress up as a princess
- Dress up as the paperbag princess
- Fill your bag with lots and lots of dirt and try to trade with an unsuspecting child based purely on weight of the bag
- Get your friends to toilet-paper and egg you until you're completely covered in order to sucker more candy out of people via visible threat
- Sing Christmas carols at every house instead
- Only settle for alcohol
- Try and convince the candy giver-awayer that you are the substitute come to relieve him/her and he/she can take a rest now
- Pretend to be a scarecrow so unsuspecting children will get frightened when you suddenly come alive
- Pretend to be a scarecrow on someone else's porch
- Visit the same house ten times in an hour without changing your costume
- Find a strong iron trident and give it to me before Hallowe'en
- Go put a cauldron with strange ingredients over a large fire in a busy public place then dance around it chanting
- Bring all your candy to me so I can consider exchanging it for your soul

e.

Party in Your Pants

Deductive reasoning, or sheer stupidity?

In the last issue of *mathNEWS*, a colleague known as "The Champ" attempted to do some aggressive recruiting. Unbeknownst to him, at the Production Night two weeks ago, *Imprint* was to be distributed that Friday with an insert from the Church of Scientology.

My reasoning on this phenomenon:

- The Church of Scientology is a cult.
- The Champ predicted aggressive recruiting last issue.
- The Champ is a prophet.
- We should all join The Champ's cult instead.

I asked The Champ about the Scientology inserts, and he said, "All I know is that if it's organized, and you have to pay money, it can't be any damn good." [*Like UW? — Simon*]

There you have it folks, words from a true cult icon.

Aaron Klotz

Haiku Class

I get very bored in class some days... and when I'm bored (but awake) I write haikus to amuse myself. Last work term I learned that I could write them on the spot. Yesterday (in OS) I wrote one for each of my classes. There are bonus tankas (5,7,5,7,7) for CS 445 and SCI 206.

haiku from CS 445

lecture never ends
I must get out of here now
please kill me quickly

haiku from CS 354

get to the next slide
we all understand this point
we did it before

haiku from CS 341

I can't stay awake
this is all very boring
why must I learn this?

haiku from ECON 101

non-cumulative?
and a reference sheet too?
can I switch to arts?

haiku from SCI 206

this room is too nice
these chairs are comfortable
I have slept well here

tanka from SCI 206

man this is easy
this is like high school physics
the demos are fun
missiles and fire and bubbles
don't sit in the front row though

tanka from CS 445

lecture is lecture
tutorial is lecture
discussion is too
Q and A is lecture too
what will be in exam slot?

Haiku-J

What If ...

instead of signatures we had cakes

What a world it would be! People would want everyone's signatures, especially the famous bakers. Banks would have to keep sample slices of cake in the back room to verify you have signing authority on an account. Autographed baseball hats would devalue over time. What a world it would be!

Simon L'Avier

Know Your Music Divas

The Champ helps you sort out the "who's who" of female solo artists

Celine Dion. Everybody calls her a "superstar," but why? Granted, she can sing a helluva lot better than I can in the shower, but somebody needs to phone her up and tell her, "You're not that good." Just because she sang the Titanic song doesn't make her any better than, say, Rage Against the Machine. And that stupid wedding vow thing in Vegas was the cheesiest extravaganza on the planet. Do we really care about her new baby? What's so special about it? It cries, it drools, it defecates, just like other babies. Now, if, ten seconds after birth, the baby turns around and belts out the Titanic song, there's something to talk about.

Mariah Carey sucks. If I went into a studio and shrieked into the microphone like she does, I'd have a nervous breakdown too. "Glitter," her flop movie, didn't even premiere in the top ten. Why should it? Everybody could tell from the trailers that the movie is nothing but a two-bit promotional vehicle for her and her product, the film's soundtrack. No wonder Virgin/EMI dropped her like a hot potato.

Whitney Houston. She and her has-been husband Bobby Brown are blowing all their money on drugs, and getting arrested for it. A recent report said that her father bailed her out of financial problems while she was facing marijuana possession charges. Now he's suing her for \$100 million. Before you know it, they'll be scrounging up cash just to get their hands on a can of Lysol.

Janet Jackson. Her brother is Michael. Enough said.

Jennifer Lopez a.k.a. J.Lo... What the hell is that? After breaking up with Puff Daddy/P.Diddy/Pee Dinky, she figures that she needs to pattern her name after some bankrupt dot-com? I once overheard somebody say that she had to go to the gym to "melt off" her "J.Lo booty." You know you have a problem when people discuss their weight in terms of your ass. Need I say more? Oh, but I will. I read a report that she demanded a 45 foot trailer with various electronic and cosmetic gizmos, frills, food, and fruit, for a **charity performance**. OK, you'd think that one could set their ego aside for just a few minutes to help some people out. But no, I guess her ego is even bigger than her ass.

Son of a bitch! Some people!

The Champ

WARNING: SOAP DOESN'T WORK!

In a previous proof, it was shown that soap doesn't work. Be warned! Tell all your children, and your friends, and your pets, and your armadillos, and your family, and your lamp shades! Warn them of the recent and most popular news that soap is a hazard to your health, and your well being. Some scientists may claim this because soap is an emulsifier. An emulsifier is something that enables grease and water to mix better. Thus, an emulsifier, in conjunction with the normal running water that is used in washing, will result in the grease being washed away. Which means that the person will actually get clean. Which means that having published this warning, there are going to be many people who will avoid soap, which is bad! Ah!! Must publish a retraction ...

Shobey!!!

I wasn't in the mood

So anyway, it all begins with SHOBEY!!! You know, the crazy foreign language of our kings. Well, with the praises and whatnot, it can be quite a controversial topic, but that's not what we're here to talk about now, is it? It's more like random explosions in the bush. You're damned if you know how the hell they started happening, or what's even fueling them, but you just know they're there, and you run like a bitch on buttermilkfingers.

So anyways, SHOBEY!!! Yeah man, SHOBEY!!! Let's hear it one more time, SHOBEY!!!

Yeah, pirates and whatnot are a popular subject, but short from derailing my train of thought ... heh, good one eh? ... Yeah, so where were we going?

Oh yes, pirates. One name particularly comes to mind with the mention of pirates. And no, its not SHOBEY!!! Its the dreaded, or cursed name, Captain P Pumpernickle of the New York Times, most accredited and feared pirates. With this in mind, it really makes you think why such a pirate would be in the New York Times. And for that matter, who the hell reads the New York Times?! SHOBEY!!!

So lets continue; this pirate was a feared man once, just like that long lost product, Virtual Boy. Yes, you all know what I'm talking about. The seven seas were his wrasslin' grounds, and the desert islands were his sanctuaries. He ate pineapples like there was no tomorrow. The pirates of the good ship (well, bad ship) RICE (which stood for rice) were a mean and ferocious people. They ate your skin and called it pepperoni.

There was one particular adventure that I remember. It involved gold, monkeys, paperclips, envelopes, monkeys, and bars of soap — gleaming, beautiful bars of soap. The soap was for afterwards. The envelopes were for the monkeys. The monkeys were for the pepperoni. And so forth sang the pirates.

Now with the bananas, the pirates could call for the power of the Power Rangers, a mighty force not to be reckoned with. Man, did they rule northern Russia (and regions of Britain) with their incredible powers in 1570. They had monkeys for bananas, staples for staplers, and even party kazooos to play their schoolyard tunes of death with.

So to continue the story, these pirates once kidnapped the King of Siam, and ransomed him for 3400 yen. They got their money and bought some stuff (who knows what) and anyways they all wore fake mustaches and talked backwards. !!!YEBOHS

CosmicFiend

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Only one calorie: Louis Mastorakos, Albert O'Connor, Bradley T Smith, and Chris Harasemchuk

AAAAAAAAAAA! Spiders!!!

There once was a spider from Toronto
Who decided to try to climb on to
A burning red spike
Sticking out of a bike
But he melted into a black pile of spider mush.

Crap.
That almost worked.

An eight-legged wonder was crawling
Around a squirrel that was getting a mauling
It got splattered with blood
Along with some mud
And then decided to run like hell because it almost got stepped on.

So close again...

There once was a creature that went moo
While playing his little kazoo
Everyone got confused
But they were also amused
By the spider that pretended to act like a cow.

e.

What's going on on this Side?

Ahh ... finally I'm back in Waterloo. I could have sworn that I'd never associate myself with *mathNEWS* again, after what the staff did to me this summer (refer to v.89.3 for details). Then again, *mathNEWS* gives me an outlet to unwind from my work. After being gone a while, the mailboxes have exploded. I did expect that, but I don't know how much things have changed since I left Waterloo, six months ago.

I know Leaf fans are a very demanding bunch, but to jeer at your goalie in a game that means squat because he played badly? It's like throwing things at the stage during the first rehearsal of a play. Lighten up.

Apparently monkeys have become a media darling once more. Many people have found the courage to get the monkey off their back (or conquered their biggest obstacles). A baseball team has used a monkey too as a rally cry. Even the venerable *mathNEWS* staff is hooked to monkeys running around in balls, so much so that a a new equation is devised.

Sequels, prequels, mequels are everywhere. Seems like Hollywood has finally run out of good movie names and ideas. Then again, some of their entries over the years are less than stellar.

Even in UW, so many things have happened since I left. The University's plan to implement a programming language that's more suited to a choir than computer engineers to the classroom, was one of the biggest stories of the summer. After Imprint distanced itself from a club which sells its ideals on the back pages, another cult has inserted itself into the pages of Imprint. Can this paper go one week without a cult invasion?

After six months off, I have a ton of work to catch up. If you want to see me, though, the door to my office, MC 7056, is always open to anyone and everyone.

Mark McDermot

D2R

“Everyone dance with me, everyone
(Get on the dance floor now.)
And this is your last chance for a dance tonight
(Aaaaaahhhhhhhh, yeah!)”

So there we go, the mathies gather around this game in Campus Cove Night, waiting for their turn to dance (for time is short).

“Ready, set, go - c’mon take a chance
Move away ‘till forever, dance
There’s plenty more, what we’ve got in store
But this jam don’t start until we hit the floor
So c’mon everybody, from left to right
D2R is here, it’s party night
If you want romance, forget this show
On the floor, party now, forevermore!”

More and more mathies crowded around the game, watching people dancing on the stage.

“Everybody dance with me
Let the music move your feet
(c’mon c’mon c’mon)
Everybody dance with me
Dance with me, let the music move your feet for me
C’mon, baby
Work that body
We’re gonna dance, dance, dance
All day, all night, ooohh right”

Let’s dance! All Night!

The Writings on the Wall

NOT “the writing’s on the wall”

Everyday, posters are posted on the walls of the MC and many of you probably pass by them without glancing at what is on them. This means that I belong to the weird minority — the people who actually stare at the walls. Normally, the postings are as uninteresting as the tiles on the C+D floor, but lately some of the postings on the walls have drawn my attention.

The guy who draws the comic strip for Imprint has recently published a comic series (I think it’s only long enough for a volume, but I’ve been wrong before). I caught a page of the comic in a 3rd floor alley, and at the side of the page the author wrote the location of the next page. So I had to walk all the way across the campus to see the next page. There I read that page and it led me to another corner of the campus. After a few pages, I forgot why I was following a comic when I didn’t start at page 1 and I stopped.

I think the creator of the comic was trying to give everyone on campus, regardless of where they are, a chance to see his work. Of course, he might have another motive for scattering the pages all over campus, besides letting everyone see his work. He might have scattered the pages so that we can get off the chair (be it a lab, a classroom, or a Comfy couch) and force us to do a little exercise. If this is true, this is indeed a nefarious plan. Luring us to exercise in the guise of reading comics. Then again, many of us may benefit from that.

Okay, maybe I pay too much attention to the walls, or I just have too much time to dilly around. I think I have wasted enough of your time, so I’ll stop here.

Jason “the Screamer” Lau

“I’m gonna come back
With a rhyming fit
Below the deck
Here’s another hit
Quicker to the steps
As high as I can see
Let your body jack
“Till you feel the beat”

Mathies watched the arrows and moved their feet on the stage- faster and faster.

“All I wanna say is on the count of three
Put your hands in the air where my eyes can see
9 to 5, bring it to the floor
So c’mon, make me run up and move!”

Midnight is approaching and the line is still there.

“Listen to the DJ play
Jams to make you wanna sway>
So c’mon baby, take my hand, make some plan
Feel that romance is here to stay
Throw your hands up in the air
Wave them like you haven’t got a care
I want you to romance with me, dance with me,
Help the music set your body free”

The “DJ” plays nonstop for the night...

“D2R!”

EXTRA STAGE: MaxX Unlimited!

Contributed by:

SYSS Mouse

former TeamGwaiLo (a D2R site) Toronto message board mod
a hidden person of Starburst
2A {somewhere in Math Faculty}

Crazy Test

Must pass to enter office

So I was at work, coding away my time, when in walks this guy - I’ll just call him Bob. There’s a problem with Bob though, he’s not looking for software - he’s looking for lumber. Of course, it doesn’t help Bob’s case any that he looks and talks like the loud and senile over-85 stereotype. I think Bob eventually realized we couldn’t get him any lumber after he was escorted out. After this event, we decided to make some sort of test to stop

- crazy people from coming in: 1. Do you want to buy lumber?
2. Have you ever mated with an orangutan?
3. Is your room made of rubber?
4. What is your name?
5. Are you carrying a hatchet?

If you answered ‘Yes’ to any of the above questions, you wouldn’t be able to come in. (Of course, this is all just a theoretical idea; we still can’t think of a way to make sure potential crazy people take the test...)

Those who are most insane have the most control over reality
Krease

profQUOTES

- [Talking about **profQUOTES**] “My goal is to have more CS 445s in here than Troy Vasiga.” Malton, CS 446
- “If you don’t like this notation, I agree with you.” Berry, CS 445
- “I have to stroke it every so often just to remind it that it’s alive.” Berry, CS 445
- “This diagram is not kosher.” Berry, CS 445
- [About pocket calculators] “Inside here there are a bunch of squirrels on treadmills attached to an abacus.” Brown, ACTSC 231
- “Bill Gates won’t be remembered in 100 years. Bill Gates didn’t design any algorithms. Bill Gates didn’t write any useful software.” Buhr, CS 342
- “There’s lots of stuff in here that’s like the prairies — it’s not really used.” Burkowski, CS 354
- [After talking about studies on AIDS drugs] “Now let’s get back to something less threatening: fat cream.” Cherry, STAT 231
- “If I sound like an idiot it’s probably because I’m an idiot.” Furino, CS 134
- “... Someone might want to play with your object.” Furino, CS 134
- “... the lazier you are, the better.” Graham, CS 133
- “Uh ... You didn’t see that.” Hewitt, MATH 235
- “So what do I do? I use a lot of ass here, I guess.” Hoffman, PMATH 330
- “Bertrand Russell almost shit his pants.” Hoffman, PMATH 330
- “I’m feeling kind of stupid this morning.” Hoffman, PMATH 330
- “This is some bullshit conversation about me.” Irving, MATH 239
- “I want to be the strongest man on earth.” Irving, MATH 239
- “Does anybody kinda understand?” Kenning, ECE 223
- “What the heck am I suppose to do with my penis?” Kline, HIST 235
- “I should include C# here ... if I’m allowed to say ‘C#’ around here.” Malton, CS 446
- “There’re fewer of you here, so I’ve either scared or bored most of you off.”
- “Imagine someone taking your calculus textbook and dropping it on your head. That’s what the next 10 minutes will be like.” Mann, CS 488
- “The next 10 minutes will be equation after equation after equation. So hold onto your seats or get out your pillows.” Mann, CS 488
- “Don’t take notes when I’m writing on the board. It’s not safe.” New, MATH 135
- [After writing two pages worth of notes on the blackboard] “This was an example that is not important to the course.” New, MATH 135
- [On derivative applications] “Suppose you’re riding the roller coaster at the West Edmonton Mall, and suddenly it breaks. This is the direction you would be flying off at.” Newman, MATH 137
- [Makes a mistake on the board] “I think I would have lost a mark, two if I were marking.” Phillips, CS 246
- “Eugene said he’d recycle unclaimed assignments. I won’t be so harsh. I’ll give them to Eugene.” Ragde, CS 341
- “He came from a country where they called their kids ‘Tractor Factory’ and ‘Five-year Plan.’” Ragde, CS 341
- “When I am entering the marks for this bloody course ... um, um ... I mean nice course.” Reynolds, ACTSC 221
- “I took this class years ago, and I got the worst mark in the class.” Reynolds, ACTSC 221
- “In real life, none of the things we are learning here are going to apply in real life.” Safayeni, CS 430
- [Draws bell curve on blackboard] “Hah! Ms. Schwartz shouldn’t have fucked me in first grade art. That’s a great bell curve.” Schallit, CS 240
- [About spam filters] “They look for features in the subject, like all capitals ... and you know, words like ‘reduce’ or ‘enlarge’ anything.” Schuurmans, CS 486
- “Now to find the first element of the linked list, we use the function `getHead()`.” Seviora, ECE 250
- “You don’t have to know why. I am just telling you numbers. I can say n^3 , but n^2 is better.” Zaragoza, C&O 453
- “Look at this while I’m about to stab a knife in your back.” Smith, ECON 101

Top Ten Ways to Make MathSoc Meetings More Exciting

1. Speaker starts all meetings with "Let's get ready to rumble!"
2. If a proposed motion is defeated, the presenter of the motion gets one paddle to the ass for every minute wasted discussing the motion.
3. One presenter every meeting, chosen at random, may not use the letter 'e' in their announcements.
4. The speaker is allowed to keep a bucket of small erasers to throw at people who ask stupid questions like, "Are men allowed to join the WIM committee?"
5. If a motion is presented by a council member that is not seconded, that member must sing *This is the song that never ends* at the back of the room until the meeting is over.
6. If someone argues the motion to adjourn, they are immediately taken to the loading docks for prompt shipping to Abu Dhabi.
7. If it becomes evident that two MathSoc executive members disagree on an issue, the two must debate the issue while in a group hug with all other executives.
8. If a member of council wishes to be excused early from a meeting, they must first defeat the speaker in unarmed combat.
9. Just like EngSoc, three words, 'Drunken Fourth Years.'
10. Every time a council member asks a question to a presenter,

they must remove one article of clothing.

Ian W. MacKinnon
F02 MathSoc Speaker

Trustworthy Computing?

Real fine, you bet!

Back in August, I read a funny post on Slashdot about Microsoft's "Trustworthy Computing" initiative. I thought it also sort of applies to the C# woes over in Computer Engineering. I dug it up for those of you who weren't reading Slashdot at the time. (What's *wrong* with you people?! You'd better have been reading back issues of *mathNEWS* instead!)

Evolving Concepts at Microsoft are Frightening (Score:5, Funny)

by guttentag on Tuesday August 06, @04:09PM (#4020637)
"We're doing this thing called 'Trustworthy Computing.' It's an evolving concept."

It starts out meaning "We are worthy of your trust."

Then it evolves to mean "You trust us."

Then it evolves to mean "You trust only us."

Then it evolves to mean "All your base are belong to us."

Aaron Klotz

/ . post by guttentag

*mast*HEAD

Think "Muppet Show"

It's time to write the *mast*HEAD

It's time to write it right

It's time to learn about *mathNEWS* Production Night!

I wasn't there again

I was nowhere nearby

I'm still in Banff, Alberta — eating pumpkin pie!

So Muppet Show song parody aside (and the fact that I've never eaten pumpkin pie), there was apparently a Production Night and people even answered a question: "Why didn't you win the Miss Oktoberfest title?" Leading to the following plethora of answers: Aaron Klotz (This Miss don't do no "favours" for the judges — world peace!), Jim Morrison (I bought my "UW Math Girls Kick Ass" shirt too late. But I would have won, I'm dead sexy.), Ian MacDonald (The judges had too little to drink.), Krease (I was too overqualified.), Ian MacKinnon (You can't win two years in a row.), David T (I didn't buy enough raffle tickets.), Diana Chisholm (What do you mean? I did!), Dave (I forgot to wax my bikini area.), Snuggles (My swimsuit was too risqué.), Anton (I am already, Miss Canada, Miss America, Mr. Right, Miss Universe, Mr. Wrong, Miss Pre-Teen, Dirty Old Man, Time's Man of the Year, Miss Expectand Mother, Father of the Year, and Employee of the Month.), Eric (It violates the terms of my parole), Albert (Apperently I don't look good in a thong bikini.), Simon L'Avier (Failed the urine test ... I peed blood.).

Thanks to the good folks at Graphics who do our printing. Also thanks to Campus Pizza for being so prompt and to the Pretzel Dude who called us "good customers." I guess he doesn't read *mathNEWS*.

Louis Mastorakos (Unfair disqualification of all people born in October)

REPENT

As of Summer 2002, *REPENT* or Random Extremists Protecting Endangered Notation & Terminology has been keeping a vigilant eye on those who wantonly use notation and/or terminology in contexts other than that for which they are intended. The announcement of our presence seems to have been respected, until now.

Professor Michael Best is hereby charged with three counts of misuse of Notation.

It seems that Prof. Best, despite his excellent name, has been using Σ to represent a matrix in his C&O 227 course. This symbol is reserved for summation, thank you. To the further confusion of students and befuddlement of notation, Σ^{-1} has been used to represent the inverse of this matrix.

Furthermore, it seems that "prime-notation" has been used to denote the transpose of a matrix. This symbol is generally accepted to refer to differentiation (even if d'_{dx} is the superior way to denote this). Either complete the notation and turn it into a T or leave it out all together; the students should not be so lazy, or should have enough intelligence to determine the necessary orientation of a matrix to complete the multiplication.

REPENT demands cessation and desistance on these gross misuses of notation. Change the course notes, and change your habits.

You have been warned.

Random Extremists Protecting Endangered Notation & Terminology
REPENT

P.S. Reduced sentence and punishment will be granted in this particular case as *REPENT* believes that the air of the engineering building in which this course is being taught may have been a determining factor.

The Resnet Lament

Resnet, oh Resnet
 Why do you hate me so?
 Why must your limit be so low?
 Resulting in connection, oh so slow?
 You block out WinMX
 You shut down KaZaA
 Bandwidth costs? I gotch'a ...
 But I still want free stuff, ya' kn'a?
 MP3s, no more
 Movies, no longer free
 I'm falling apart, can't you see?
 Crying at night: "Why me, why me?"
 Can't I be forgiven?
 I'll continue in moderation, I swear
 But as is, I'm pulling out my hair
 It just isn't fair, it just isn't fair ...

AdBaZ

I Mack @ UW

Are You Still in High-School?

After going home last weekend I had a good time reflecting on how much I hate my relatives knowing that I'm a CS student. It seems that anything even remotely related to computers is supposed to be in my expertise. "How do I format this column in Excel?" "How do I program my VCR?" "Can you carry this printer downstairs?" All I am expected to do joyfully because I'm in CS.

Anyway, enough bitching, I hate to rant in *mathNEWS*, because I like having my columns read. I've noticed that even in second year, some Mathies still have an unnatural attachment to their life back home. If you suspect that you still believe you are in high school, I think you should check for these signs that you may still be in high school:

If you go home so often that you don't do laundry in KW;

When searching for Co-op jobs, you put your hometown in the 'location;'

You're still dating the same twit [*What if she's hot? — e.Ditor*] [*Hey! You're not an editor! — AbsentEd*] you were in High School;

If the bus driver on the FED bus calls you by your first name;

If you have a car, but do not know the average price of gas in KW;

If you still think midnight refers to the change of day;

If you still go to bed at 11 because that's when your Mom would tell you to anyway;

If you are late for class and try to get a tardy slip from the Dean;

If you wonder why there is no Christmas Assembly for Math Faculty;

If you are shocked that exams count for more of your mark than the rest of your marks combined;

If you think the prof will notice if you skip a lecture;

If when people are talking about how Bomber was the previous weekend you have a blank stare on your face;

If your parents still give you an 'allowance;'

If you are not in first year, yet you still have a meal plan;

If you once sat in class for 3 hours because a bell never rang.

Hope you come to UW when you get to University,

Ian W. MacKinnon

Strange Rash

I am not trying to come up with a good subheader

"Do or do not do. There is no try." – Yoda

I know it is red, and it hurts, but don't try to scratch it off your body. Trying just never works. You can so easily put too much effort into things. You know people like this. People who try too hard to fit in often fail. Improv teaches us not to try, kung-fu teaches us not put effort into our movements. It is all the same.

Now I'm not saying don't do anything. Really, I'm not saying anything, because making a point certainly sounds like effort. Sharp pointy effort. But if I were, I don't mean you should just lay around all day. Just like when kung-fu tells you to relax, it doesn't mean go limp. It means have no tension. Have structure, stand up, exist, just don't put effort into it. It's kinda Zen-ish too. All things the same. But making no sense. Whee.

It's also the same as that thing people always told you to do, just be yourself. Easy to say, I know. But if you are just yourself, and put no tension into it, don't try and just be. You will be happy. Or maybe not. But that isn't my problem. Ha-ha, suckers. That's it, I'm just lying around today!

unimportant

Handbook of Possible Proofs

Note: the following proofs are not necessarily endorsed by the markers

Proof by:

- Induction
- Counterexample
- Example
- Handwaving
- Posterior extraction method
- Proving something else
- ***Insert your prof's name here***
- Contradiction
- Contradictory logic
- Complicated picture

Theorem holds because:

- I don't want to prove it
- The base case holds
- It looks true to me
- I can't find a counter-example
- It's too complicated to explain
- They asked me to "show" it was true
- They asked me to "prove," not "disprove"
- If this isn't true, I can't finish the question
- It's on the Internet! It must be true!
- I can't disprove it

Proof left as an exercise for the student.

Proof left as an exercise for the marker.

Eleanor Filyer

Donald Retraction

Last issue I wrote a retraction of a Column I wrote two issues previous. In my retraction I told a certain fellow 'Ian,' "#\$@! you and the horse you rode in on." I have recently been told that it is not appropriate to tell this to individuals through *mathNEWS* by the person in question. Again I would like to apologize by saying, "Sorry you can't take a joke, you scrawny goatee-wearing commie, Thank You."

Ian W. MacKinnon

Have You Got a Name for It?

and I really thank Saturday and Sunday on King's Day in the Netherlands. Catherine's thoughts on arguing about during Thanksgiving dinner was Thanksgiving, let me present ...

*Things to be thankful for
(in no particular order)*

Flying Monkeys
Refrigerators
Catherine
Elephants
mathNEWS
Cats
vi improved editor
Puppies
Internet
Kittens
Pretzels
Guitars
PlayStation2
A SoftEng job

So while at dinner, Albert suggested we argue. Because apparently you have to argue during Thanksgiving dinner. So, without further ado ...

hello *mathNEWS*

hello
i am really really drunk
yes, i am dr\auk
midterm on monday
weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
no im not drunk
ok
what
now please dont show my nameim really drunk
seriously imso drunk
wht am d i talking about
oh crap
infite number of primes?
what?
wtf?
okj
assume $S =$ set of pamelanda andersons
now assume n is the minumum nuber of least ordering property
i dirimnk
i think i mean
jh shit
i think i drink some better vodka
vodka so quite
oh yah hide my name
bhye byereeee

me not drunk
hehehhhehehehe
jdlfsjkl; aak
ddddddd
fok bye bye for real now
bye byeeeeeeeeek
me pass midterm
i thinkkkkkkkkk
ok me hope so
ok bye bye

*Things to argue about during Thanksgiving Dinner
(in no particular order)*

Flying Monkeys
Refrigerators
Mac or a PC
Linux or Windows
vi vs emacs
Lino's Mom or Ian's Mom
Current Office Manager vs Previous Office Managers — WAIT!
The Current One is Best Office Manager Ever.
Whether you can break out of a while loop
MP3 vs. Ogg Vorbis
Geeks vs. Nerds
192 bit rate vs. variable bit rate
Britney vs. Christina
Backstreet Boys vs. N'Sync
Beatles vs. Elvis
Age of consent
The meaning of life
Which Math proof is most trivial
Which CS prof is sexier
Whether one can do a book report on a textbook
The weather
The proper spelling of 'whether' and 'weather'
What to argue about
The meaning of the phrase 'argue about'
What's worse: Quest or Access or Blackboard
Hot or Not
Are those real or not
Is she 18 or not?
Is she 15 or not?
Laurier: High School or University?
High School: Laurier or full of jailbait?
EA Sports vs Sega Sports
Ring? [Sana'a: Read This]
Mold vs. Mildew
Weather you can goto into a while loop
What the hell is that smell in the Comfy?
Engineers: Glorified Plumbers?
Why does Stat 231 suck so much?
Mathematician or Mathemagician?
I just realized that there's very little content to this column.
That's alright. Who needs content anyway?

Anton "zer0man"

Some bonus *profQUOTES*

"This evening the universe and my course are in perfect sync!"
Smith, ECON 101
[Referring to Bill Gate's marketing strategies] "Want a PC? I come with it! Buahahahaha"
Smith, ECON 101
"I'm not in charge of the world ... not yet anyway."
Vasiga, CS 240

UW Math Seniority Quiz

1 point each

- You know where B1 parking lot is/was
- For each distinct pink tie received during frosh week
- Number of years you can name frosh week directors for
- Number of EngScunts participated in
- Number of EngScunts you were a Scunt God
- For each name of a mathie that was either a nude model or go-go dancer
- When you hear "Mallard." you say _____
- You know what AMWF stands for
- True or False: MathSoc office had Macintosh computers
- For each time you stayed up all night at tie guard
- You know where the tunnel from MC to Chemistry is
- You know the design on the inside of the tunnel
- For each current or former MathSoc exec you can name
- For every C&D manager you know
- For every MGC theme you know
- For every Charity Ball theme you know
- For each term over 2 you lived in Res
- You know the old configuration for the MathSoc office
- For each term you've been a voting member of MathSoc
- For every pub crawl you've been on with the Natural Log
- For each *mathNEWS* editor you can name. Bonus one for each 'Editor' name you can match up
- If you've ever used Descartes

2 points each

- You know why *mathNEWS* was censored in 1998
- You know what the cows know
- You know what the Red Room is/was, and where it is/was
- For each past frosh week theme you know
- For each current or former Math senator you can name
- For each Mathie you can name who is/was a Feds exec (Bonus 1 for each Mathie who ran and lost)
- You know who was the Waterloo Warrior
- If you've ever made the Graph (Bonus 1 if you know what the Graph is)

Miscellaneous

- If the first digit of your UW ID is 0, then no points
- If it's 9, then add (10 - second digit of id) to your score
- If it's 8 or below, add 15 points
- Add 1 point for every time you switch your major
- Add 2 points for every time you switched your faculty
- Bonus 1 point if you switched into Math
- You remember Larch (1 bonus point if you understand it)
- You ever used Larch and got money for it (2 points)
- You like Larch (-5 points)
- Your age mod waterloo (-1 point and -5% off your MATH 135 final mark if you can't figure out what that means)
- Have you ever programmed in Modula-3 for class? (1 point) For fun? (5 points)
- A point for every person you've dated, if you can name at least three other mathies who've dated them

Lists

- You know the real names of the following people (1 point for each person, 1 point for every class taken with them):
 - Disco Stu
 - Blue
 - Flipper
 - Latrell
 - Whoopass
 - So-Krates
 - MMIM
 - zer0man
 - Snuggles
- You know what the following buildings are (1 point for each building):
 - EL
 - V2
 - E1
 - CC
 - MSA
- You've had class in the following buildings (point total in brackets):
 - MC (1)
 - AL (2)
 - DC (1)
 - RCH (1)
 - Chemistry (2)
 - CPH (2)
 - Biology 1 or 2(2)
 - ES1 (2)
 - ML (2)
 - ES2 (2)
 - HH (2)
 - PAS (2)
 - BMH (3)
 - ECH (4)
- Give yourself 1 point per class if you've taken any of the following:
 - C&O 230
 - CS 130
 - CS 351
 - CS 120
 - C&O 487
 - CS 340
- 1 point for every student ghetto you've lived in:
 - Hazel
 - Cardill
 - Sunview
 - Columbia
 - Lester
 - Keats Way
 - University
 - Parkside
 - Dietz
 - Spruce
 - Marshall
 - Albert

Find out what your score means on the next page.

WARNING!!! SOAP DOES WORK!!! USE IT!!!

Unlike previous proofs and warnings, it has been observed that indeed SOAP DOES WORK!! It is NOT a hazard to your health!!! It removes grease, and tar, and dirt, and grime, and essentially everything else, but those unsightly stalkers. (Yeah, we still haven't found a way of getting rid of those. Try hiring some thugs to help you out.) So go out and tell your friends, and your family, and yourself, and your loved ones, and your math text, and anything else you can think of, that soap indeed does work! It should be used, and used often! You should use it more than anything else you will ever use! (This includes things that are used at night with your significant other! Otherwise you'll have a hard time keeping that significant other — that is, unless your significant other uses soap less than you do, in which case you might want to suggest the use of soap). So remember! Soap works on platypi! (But platypi do not go "Moo")

Seniority Quiz Results

- **below 0:**
You are an Arts Student. Good for you. I am sure you are nice in all regards. Go write a damn essay.
- **0 to 20:**
Ahh Frosh. The thing about frosh is, you get older, but they stay the same age.
In fact, they get younger.
- **21 to 50:**
You've just woken from a drunken stupor that comes from spending your first year away from home. Now you are discovering the wonderful social clubs on campus and trying to pick up their lore.
- **51 to 100:**
You think you know a lot, but you really don't. You are trying too hard. Are you Laymond?
- **101 to 130:**
You are in the know. [*Woo! I'm not Laymond! 103, baby! 103! — AbsentEd*] [*How did I get 104? I'm not that old am I? — KreasEd*] You've been on council many times. You've hung around the MathSoc exec office for far too long. Maybe even did some dirty things in that office. You are graduating, right?
- **over 130:**
You are Snuggles (165) or Anton (143) ... graduate already!
Send in your scores to oldlazydirty@hotmail.com along with your name, term, and program, and maybe you'll get a prize!

Old Lazy and Dirty

Self-Referential

NO TIME!!

Aaargh!! No time, no time, no time!!!

Burkey Tirthday

I enjoy turkey. I enjoy my birthday. Luckily enough this was one of those years where I got to combine the two in a crazy turkbirthday. Having my birthday on Oct. 13th does have that advantage. My birthday also occasionally lands on Friday the 13th. Someone asked me once if my birthday had ever landed on both Thanksgiving and Friday the 13th. I refused to talk to them for a day due to fear of stupidity being contagious.

Evens & Beginnings

- Ozzy Osbourne has a urinary tract infection. That's why he soaks himself in water at his concerts. You won't catch them mentioning that one on the Osbournes.
- My Aussie cousin Tasoula is the first person to turn up when I Google "Mastorakos." I'm so proud. I'm 15th.
- I've created a new word: jopeebee. It is defined as "a word that Louis made up." Thus jopeebee is itself a jopeebee. Recursive word definition — exciting, no?
- Steven Wright is the master of the non-sequitur. I plan to master just plain old sequiturs at some point.
- Banff should be spelled Bamph! because then it would be spelled like the teleportation noise that NightCrawler makes.

Waldo

The one and ... oh wait there's that other guy too. Damn.

life with a bathtub ...

I was very disappointed to find *mathNEWS* publishing a rant about the lack of baths on campus [*Because mathNEWS always cuts things that might not be correct. If we did do you think you would get published? — PhatEd*].

You would think that a thing like a bathtub would not be essential to your academic life.

Old Man moment #1:

Back when I was frosh, if we were longing for a bubble bath, then we would do something about it.

This whole rant reminds me of the time that, he that should remain nameless (we will call this person "Marsha" — not his real name), was wanting a bath. Not just any bath; (this calls for a "bum bum dum ...") a Bubble Bath! So what did Marsha do? Complain to *mathNEWS* that he lived in Village? No, he just made use of one of the many bathtubs in MC.

Did your frosh leaders forget to mention the bathtubs in MC? Well I do not believe that our frosh leaders pointed out the existence of the tubs. We just happened to notice in one of our many trips to the washroom while in MC.

Old Man moment #2:

Back when I was frosh, I had my math classes in MC.

It's true that the bathtubs are right out there in the open but that just made them easy to find. Of course, Marsha is discreet enough to wait till MC is deserted. Too bad this never happens. 'Twas the night before a duedate, and all through MC

Not a creature was stirring, except maybe a green man
The bubbles were brought from Farah's with care

In hopes that Marsha would soon be there
The green men were working away in the hall;

While visions of freshly-waxed floors danced in their heads
And Marsha in the bathtub and the photographer nearby

Had just settled down for a long MC bath
When out in the hallway there arose such a clatter

We sprang from the scene to see what was the matter
Away to stall Marsha took flight

Entered the green man with all the bubbles in sight

The moral of the story #1: don't complain when there are solutions you could implement.

The moral of the story #2: there is a reason why they make the sinks in the washroom so large and able to support the weight of a person.

The moral of the story #3: we were crazy as frosh.

The moral of the story #4: if you hide in a washroom stall long enough even green men will leave eventually.

SkarfBoy

- an ex-crazy ex-frosh

Articles I won't sign my name to

- Places in the MC to Get it on
- Stalking: Mere Hobby or Emerging Art-form
- The night I spent in a Turkish Prison
- Why do you duct tape a hamster?
- Why daddy, why?
- My co-op job as a Moyel Intern
- Profs' butts: An In Depth Report
- This one!

Author Unknown, or possibly in hiding

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, only Simon is delivering a pizza to an office in Needless Hell from a helicopter. Oh, it's coming ... don't you worry it's coming. This I vow, sometime, somewhere, I will either get in or get out of a helicopter on campus ... or I'll have set it up to have someone else absconded with a helicopter. Watch out, I'm coming, and yes pht-al, that *is* what she said.

I found a new game ... it all started when one half of a social event ... hmm, I should explain that, alright rant one will supersede rant two ... I'll tell you about the new game in a minute. You see, MathSoc has two lovely Social Directors, and they were entertaining me. In fact I declared that they could just be a social event themselves (and the only needed item to help facilitate this event would be a video camera, and maybe some jell-o, but that's a whole other story). You have to see them to believe it, but when they're around one another ... it's like somebody tuned in late Friday night CityTV. Pure entertainment. Oh, Team Honey, you produced such sweetness. Yup, the two delectable social directors were both leaders on the team that makes things go down (just a spoonful of honey makes the sugar go down, go go Hairy Popitins).

Alright, back to my story, one half of a social event (in other words, one of my two favourite social directors) had a buzzer, you know, it had a button that you push, and when you did it went "buzz." So I put it in my mouth, then I sat on it (after taking it out of my mouth), after going through the standard subset of actions that an infant does to a toy I wondered where the buzzer came from. I was informed that it came from a game called Taboo (As opposed to where Hottie McHot-a-lot, Natalie Portman is from, Naboo, or Jerusalem, depends if your in Star Wars fantasy land or the real world). Now, I have this thing about games, I need to learn them. Particularly card games, I really like learning new card games, board games not so much ... What the hell was I talking about, oh ya, Taboo. So the game works by having a word that you have to get others to say, without using that word or any of five other specified words. You can have a lot of fun with this game if you have a dirty mind. As a couple of examples, to get people to say 'Upside-Down Cake' I said "a standing up sixty-nine and eating something that wasn't pie," and for saddle, well, let's just say it involved the previously mentioned half social event and her night time activities with her, um, riding partner. That was fun, we played for like half an hour prior to Whose Line is it Anyway.

I wonder how that event is going, it's happening right now, but I'm stuck in a boring econ class that is going over annuities and perpetuities. Damn it, this is at least the third time I've learned this crap. But I've started bringing a laptop to class so I can see the notes (all courses should put the lecture notes online) and type relevant information ... or get bored and get a head start on a Snuggles Sez ... wow, this is a week before I actually have to write this thing, that's the farthest ahead I've ever done it. I'd leave and goto the event, but he's going to hand back the midterms before the break ... Arg.

From the notes: "An annuity is a stream of constant cash flows that lasts for a fixed number of periods." Something that is a stream with constant flow that lasts for a fixed number of periods ... that just sounds wrong.

I walked into the MathSoc office and a frosh came up and hugged me, now I like hugs, ya, ya, it's true, Snuggles is snug-gly. However, post-hug she asked me if I knew her name. Now

many of you should know my remarkable ability to learn barely a handful of frosh names during Frosh Week, you see, I have trouble remembering things that I don't read (that's why I write everything down, if I didn't write it down, it didn't happen, thus my little black book (which is currently light blue) and my daytimer). Regardless I had no clue what her name was, but I did know what she had for lunch the day before. Yup, I'm that good. No, actually it was because I was BBQ'ing at the MathSoc office volunteers BYOB (Bring Your Own Beef) and I remember food. She had burgers, her friend (who sadly didn't hug me, this sadness is easily rectified ... if you read this column) had two veggie dogs with crumbs on them (she saved on baggies by using one for both the faux-hot dogs and the buns). Now I know their names though, and their emails (by reading the MathSoc office worker schedule I remember things and get extraneous information) ... hell, I could probably look up their student numbers if I felt like it.

I love my new hat. Last Saturday we had a leader party (A day long party actually, pot-luck picnic, followed by bowling, followed by dinner & dessert by Kenny and I). We gave out the coordinator gifts, some of which were quite amusing. My favourite is one I haven't managed to give out yet since he wasn't there and I haven't seen him yet ... but I'll tell you all about it anyway cause it was funny. It's a "Gentle Moments" CD for putting babies to sleep. It's for our most excitable volunteer who racked up a rickulous amount of sponsorship for us. I find it very funny. And they got us gifts too. I got a chef's hat that has SSS on it (and Kenny got one that says KC), they're very cool. I wore it when I went to LCBO to pick up brandy for the flambi, the cashier there asked about it. At Sobey's (to pickup drinks and ice cream, butterscotch of course) the cashier just asked if we were university students, then asked if we were Math students ... it was quite amusing.

So it turns out that Quest won't allow you to enrol in classes you're already in. I had to enrol for the winter term and in my little plan I'm taking CS 370 and Stat 231 in both the Fall and the Winter (I'm fully prepared to fail or withdraw from those courses that annoy so many), but Quest won't let me enrol in them ... so I'm only enrolled in three courses. I only need two more to graduate (after this term), but I'm picking up another ... actually either graphics is a course I'm taking just for fun (as a 41st half credit), or it's the replacement for CS 130 which I never took, funny way to look at it eh?

The Iron Snuggles
With his Iron Fist of Justice

More bonus *prof*QUOTES!

"Some search engines use the concept: 'Pay me money, I'll put you first.' But this is not a data structure."

Vasiga, CS 240

"Whoever was popular in high school is probably ... hopefully ... not the most popular person now. At least, that's the way I cling to life."

Vasiga, CS 240

"... So, by theorem one point ... I dunno, one from the book."

Younger, MATH 135

mathNEWSquiz #3

Nothing Difficult

Hey everyone, this week's Squiz is gonna be a little lacking in the category of me talking. We are extending the deadline to submit submissions for last issue's Squiz because a) there was only one submission and b) I can't find that one submission.

So, what this all means is that the only thing we really have for you right now is a new Squiz, so without further babble, here it is:

Lyrics

- Taking more than her share
Had me fighting for air
She told me to come
But I was already there
- Gray is my favorite colour
I felt so symbolic yesterday
If I knew Picasso
I would buy myself a gray guitar and play
- Me and some guys from school
Had a band and we tried real hard
Jimmy quit and Jody got married
I shoulda known we'd never get far
- I wanna get you home
And ugh, double-up, ugh, ugh
I ain't talkin' 'bout Playboy
'Cause silicone parts are made for toys
- Six o'clock — TV hour.
Don't get caught in foreign tower.
Slash and burn, return,
listen to yourself churn.

Movie Quotes

- "Shut up. Just shut up. You had me at 'hello.'"
- "There's a monster outside my room, can I have a glass of water?"
- "She's lost that loving feeling."
"No, no she hasn't!"
"Yes she has."
"I hate it when he does that"
- "On any given Sunday you're gonna win or you're gonna lose. The point is — can you win or lose like a man?"
- "The only thing I like better than an eggplant burger is a chocolate covered eggplant burger!"

Which Leafs wear these numbers

- 67
- 16
- 89
- 12
- 37

Brenda Slomka (FEDs President)

- Who is Brenda's husband?
- What is Brenda's major?
- On what day did Brenda get married?
- What High School did Brenda attend?
- What is Brenda's full first name?

Good luck with Squiz 3 and hopefully I will find the submission from this week, and stop playing cards at 11:00 at night.

π & Teddybear

Super-easy Quiz

That's right kiddies, it's time for another Super-easy Quiz! This week we will be trying to answer the following math question:

Given the following:

- $2 \times c + b = 5$
- $4 + 2 \times a = d$
- $d + 3 \times c = 2$
- $a + b = 1$

What does 2×4 equal?

If you think you know the answer to this week's Super-easy Quiz, please go buy a 1.5 kg box of miscellaneous chocolate bars and bring them to the MathSoc office. You will be rewarded for your correct answer.

e.

Imprint made me join a cult!

I once felt strongly about my religious beliefs. Then Imprint made light of poorly funded, under-represented religions by their trite campus question: "If you were a cult leader, what would you make your followers do?" (Oct. 11th, 2002)

What harm could come from such an innocuous question? Who could possibly believe that by asking this question, Imprint would cause the formation of new cults?

Well, here I am one week later and already I have been recruited into two of these eight new cults. True, some of the respondents may have been giving just silly answers to a silly question. But here I am now affiliated with two cults that I had only found out about by reading Imprint. (Free advertisements for cults? I am surprised it's in the Imprint's budget.)

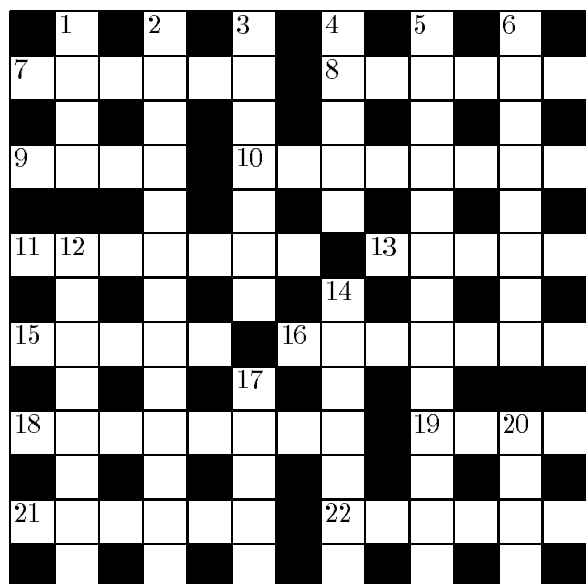
The shame I feel after being converted so easily horrifies me. Emotional agony is tearing me apart. I think they should have censored the article by first asking, "Are you a cult leader?" It's due to this carelessness that I now find myself waiting to herd geese towards administration. Oh captain, my captain, where shall these geese go. North? South? Into Needless Hell? Lead me. Your wish is my command. Fly birds fly ...

SkarfBoy

"Herd a bunch of geese." — our revered leader
"Write for mathNEWS." — our cute leader

C	H	A	N	D	E	B	E	A	G		P	O	G	N	O	D								
E	O		I	O		P	R		O		A		E		C	R								
A	L	I	R	I	F	A	N	E	C	L	D	S		T	A	N	Y							
S	R					U	M			E	D		T	E		A	R	U	E					
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D	R	O	U	B	T	L	S	E	J		L	O	T	I	N	A	T	K	E				D	
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G	A		A	E				A	E	I			D	R									Y	I
L	C	U	T			S	O	P	V	L	E	I	R	T	E	T	I	I	G	N			G	
E	L		O	E				T		I	E		I	I			M		C				H	
S	E	U	A	R	G	L	E	Y			L	E	I	R	L	A	Y	S	P	E	A	R	D	S

Solution to Issue 3 gridWORD



Conventional Grid Clues

Across

7. Song bird (7)
8. A Greek fear (6)
9. A high flyer (4)
10. "Little star" (8)
11. Part mark, that's a German mark (7)
13. Pair (5)
15. Where Memphis is (5)
16. A condition of bodily uneasiness or discomfort (7)
18. Pencil lead (8)
19. An eye part or a Murdoch (4)
21. Stick in (6)
22. Digit (6)

Down

1. Hack (4)
2. Hot chilli (7,6)
3. Tetrahedron (7)
4. Venom (5)
5. Dependants (4,9)
6. Rose mallow (8)
12. Statuette (8)
14. Pull in (4-3)
17. What you multiply length by (5)
20. Thought (4)

One last *prof*QUOTES

Cryptic Grid Clues

Across

7. Martial art!" Homer Simpson says when he makes typo (6)
8. I'm surrounded by asshole hostility (6)
9. Guinness was a smart one (4)
10. Putting together convention (8)
11. Broke jar, rude beggar (7)
13. Agency backed reported tease into garret (5)
15. Friendship found in dream I typed (5)
16. A middle child calls for outings (7)
18. Reactionaries left scene confused about how planes shoot one another (3-2-3)
19. Sums up a dentist (4)
21. Fast rally reveals star quality (6)
22. Burning is handy around alphabet (6)

Down

1. Call up, got lucky (4)
2. Shop for cheap fashion suited consort (8,5)
3. Party bet on widow (7)
4. Flowergirl (5)
5. Opposite, I dry a metallic alloy (13)
6. Point in dulling sword fighting? (8)
12. Most stocky ump's diet poorly (8)
14. Meter urn inside daily (7)
17. Homicidal lyrics disguise frolic (5)
20. Those French say "Take a nap?" (4)

gridCOMMENTS

A Mid-October Treat

So yes, it is my birthday today. Remember to give me cake or a punch if you see me in the halls (they should remind me that I should get off campus and go celebrate).

Last issue's puzzle was well received. Most people got a copy on the back of their issue of *mathNEWS*, others checked it out online. Martha Yip, Mike Huang, and the SJU Crew all answered the cryptic correctly, being respectively unthankful for tomatoes, the fact that he's on workterm and can't redeem his last C+D gift certificate, and walking funny after the calc 3 midterm on Tuesday. And Martha wins!

Our conventional puzzle was solved by seven teams of one or more people. Mike Huang (again), Sean T. Hause (non-alcoholic beer (water is better)), Ryan & Jason (=) (the co-op system — it lost one of my applications =(), someone with no name (Heartburn — LET ME SLEEP!), Kartikaya Gupta (midterms starting on Tuesday), and Charles DeGaul (that Thanksgiving rash). Special congratulations to those who solved 16 across even though there wasn't a spot in the puzzle for it. And extra special congratulations to Ryan & Jason who will receive to C+D gift certificate.

As for my birthday treat, I'm bringing out one of Linda's two remaining specialty puzzles: AD. You'll see the theme soon enough, cryptic lovers, hope you enjoy it. Conventional-only people, sorry, no theme.

So the deadline is October 28th at fiveish to six-thirtyish ish. And don't forget to include your answer to *Who's the coolest person you share your birthday with?*

Linda and Simon