



BOOLEAN DECISION 2006

The Naturals or the Integers?
Get the inside details on
party platforms P.6

**GET MORE
EMAIL
NOW P.9**

**BIGGER IS BETTER: SCIENTISTS REVERSE
PREVIOUS FINDINGS ON OBESITY
P.11**

MATHLEAN'S



MAR.
29th
2006

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CLIMATE CHANGE CULPRITS!

THE SINISTER SECRET OF THE REAL-TIME TRAINS

P.7



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THIS WEEK

MATHLEAN'S

VOLUME 100 NUMBER 7, MARCH 29, 2006 • SINCE 1973

2 FROM THE EDITORS 3 MAIL BAG 4 SEVEN DAYS

ELECTION NEWS

6 The Integers

Their platform highlights, including the proposed proof registry for the MC, from the mouth of E. Zermelo.

6 The Naturals

Naive set theory, computer science separation - a compelling reason to change? G. Cantor certainly thinks so.

FACULTY

7 Hot Hot Hot

How climate change has affected the MC, and how it is going to affect you in your daily life.

7 Agent 00π

This new brand of mathie has a license to integrate, representing the changing image of the math faculty.

8 WoW Time at Risk

Marriage is rampant in the geek world, and can ruin your gaming life. We can help you avoid this horrible fate.

8 Avoiding Marriage

5 easy-to-detect signs that you are headed for marriage, giving you plenty of time to back out before it is too late.

ADVICE

9 Study Spaces

Does your child find it difficult to study at home? We can help you create their ideal study environment in their own bedroom.

ADVICE *continued*

9 Email Emptiness

Do you feel lonely without an inbox full of new mail when you get home from class? Follow these steps to fill your life with 'friends' and email.

10 Gollumitis

This disease can hit any mathie at any time, especially those in upper year. Stop the suffering before it starts by following our simple advice.

SCIENCE

11 Obesity Findings

Scientists have recently discovered compelling evidence against their earlier claim that obesity is bad. Find out why.



11 Heavy-Weights

Parents, most of your children are dangerously underweight. Follow our steps to help your child gain weight. They will be healthier, and will thank you when they are warm next winter.

SPORTS

13 Mathlete

Meet the mathlete of the month, a superior athlete and winner of inter-university competitions, a true inspiration to all potential mathletes.

WORLD

14 Tim's Invades

A new Afghanistan location will be added to the multitudes of Tim Horton's franchises in Canada. This one will provide for Canadian soldiers serving overseas.

MAR 29-APRIL 5, 2006

THE BACK PAGES

14 **WATERLOO ON THE MOVE**

Changing locations and changing time zones; how do they affect you?

15 **LOOKING INTO LINUX**

The operating system of the mathematically inclined.

16 **TALKING TO ARTSIES**

Can they solve the problems of the world?

16 **BOOK REVIEW**

Learn to Code in DirectX 9
by Theodore Kridiuput

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Visit the past Revisit old spoof issues such as Ym and Daglobenpost. www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca

Best of the mid-90s profQUOTES, education and games. www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/BestOf

Discover mN Learn the name of the artsy 1970s mN and more. www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/25

MATHLEAN'S MAR. 29 '06

I Like my Beer Cold and my Robots Vicious

Last week UW was host to the regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition. You may have seen the participants (well, the allegedly human ones anyway) touring around the institution they were destined to attend if they were involved in something like a robotics competition. I take my cues from the *Waterloo Daily Bulletin*, and that day the site told me to go see it in the PAC, so I followed the Bulletin's instructions. I have to say, I was extremely disappointed.

The competition revolves around a bunch of high school teams making remote-controlled robots to perform some task, this year it involved a kind of "robot basketball" with 2 opposing teams. The whole point of the game was for the robots to get Nerf balls through a hoop in a designated time period. However, none of the robots were destroying each other in the process! I can appreciate the need for a token task to perform, but this should be secondary to the robots destroying each other. The winner should be determined by which robot is last standing and still able to toss a Nerf ball through the ring.

More violence in the competition would encourage a little more creativity on the part of the designers. I really can't get excited about a robot competition that doesn't involve remote-controlled buzz saws. If the robots of the opposing team were trying to score on



your net, your robots should be allowed to chop the opposing toaster in half, or at least bash it with a mallet. In the finals, I'd hope to see robots that have more advanced weaponry like flame throwers and spear guns. That would make me more interested in the competition if I were still a dorky high school student.

Some of you may think that getting kids to build killing machines is a recipe for disaster. I see it more as leveling the playing field for geeks. Think of it this way: the kid who has the capacity to build a robot is probably a tiny nerd who gets beat up a lot in high school. If a bully knew the kid could make robots that cut off limbs, he'll probably leave him alone. In order to compete with the growing economies of India and China, our society will need to equate brains with some kind of advantage in high school. Robo groupies probably wouldn't hurt either.

We have a chance to advance Canadian technology through the destruction of inferior technology; we should seize the opportunity presented by robo-Darwinism.

For more information about where you can send your letters of complaint, check out www.usfirst.org, (which if you ask me, looks like the url of some radical American isolationist movement), and be sure to remind them that the 3 laws of robotics are more of a loose guideline. *mN*



FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION: Typical robot engagement

MATHLEAN'S

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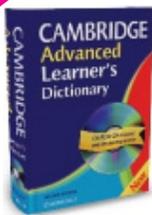
Special thanks to Kenneth Whyte, Editor-in-Chief of Maclean's Magazine, for not suing us. Doesn't he look handsome today? We think he looks handsome every day.

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‘You claim to be a “bastion of erudite thought” ... the spelling error on page 12 of your last issue was a gross oversight which must be corrected.’

Bias in University Rankings

To Maclean’s,

This year’s University Rankings issue was shockingly biased against the University of Waterloo. Of course it is on top for reputation and innovation, but the other categories do not reflect its obvious superiority.

For example, its faculty are the smartest in the world, especially those in math and computer science. Although they are not all tenured, this is because UW has higher standards for its professors than most, inferior, universities.

Also, drop out rates should not be used in the ranking. UW has a high drop and fail rate because its programs are intensive and specialized, and many students cannot handle the work. This reflects the low intelligence of Ontarians, not the university’s failings.

Perhaps someone at Maclean’s failed out of UW in

the past, and that is why such a great university is being persecuted.

Whatever the reason, I hope next year’s rankings will be more fair, reflecting UW’s greatness in all aspects of your study.

Janet Flaggerty, Associate Professor, UW

Is Journalistic Integrity Dead?

Dear Mathlean’s Editor,

I would like to inform you of the deplorable state of your publication, since apparently you have not noticed. As a national magazine read by thousands, you have a responsibility to uphold journalistic standards. Those standards include checking facts, using only trusted sources, and proofreading thoroughly. Your ignorance of these standards has caused this magazine’s reputation to plummet, profits to fall, and reliability to disappear.

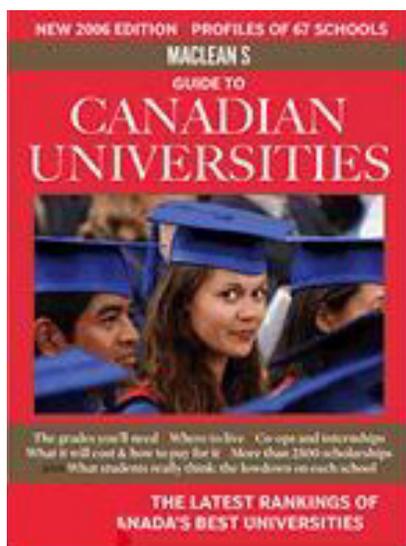
You claim to be a “bastion of erudite

thought,” but you obviously have no thoughts worth sharing. If you did, you would pay enough attention to what you are publishing that mistakes like this one would be caught. I am ashamed to name myself among your readership, and to remedy that, I have cancelled my subscription and have advised everyone I know to do the same. If your shoddy editing continues, I can only assume that others will

follow.

To conclude, the spelling error on page 12 of your last issue was a gross oversight which must be corrected if your readers are to trust your integrity at all.

*L e n n y
Pickle, Cold
Lake, Ontario*



High Standards for Writers Enforced

Dear Mathlean’s,

I recently heard that you were solicited by one Tim Alamenciak, Imprint Editor, for a writing job. My gratitude to you for turning him away is boundless. I have come to expect a certain level of honesty and objectivity from your publication, neither of which can come from this man, whose own paper once called “a hack.”

That you choose to maintain your current high quality of writers, even when your staff is short, tells of your commitment to the readers. While the ability to offend virtually everyone by quoting tabloids is certainly admirable, it is comforting to know that some papers do not condone the practice, and actually verify their sources before printing unfounded rants.



I am sure that the history of his newspaper also played a part in your decision to turn down Alamenciak. Their constant slandering of the good Mathlean’s name leads me to believe that they cannot tolerate a little competition, especially one so obviously superior.

So I must thank you again for thinking first of the reader and second of your own work loads,

Joe Makeby, Canmore, Alberta

Editorial Bias?

Dear Mathlean’s,

I am writing this missive in direct response to the contents of your last issue. I am, in a word, outraged.

There are those who would prefer to look the other way, but I do not consider myself one who minces words. Your magazine is biased. Your magazine is partisan. Prejudiced. Predisposed! Slanted! One-sided!

Everywhere I look, be it the summary of last week, the regular features, the back pages, the editorial content ~ everywhere has obscure references taken directly from the world of academics. More specifically, from the twisted universe of discourse that we call “math.”

Please, I beg of you, include something in your next issue for us common folk!

Kim McDonald, Waterloo, Ontario

POLITICS

Bush Announces Next U.S. Visit to Canadian Prime Minister in 2025

In an effort to secure his standing as Emperor of the Universe, Bush is now predicting that his reign will last until at least 2050 and will be revisiting Canadian soil in 2025.

Brian Mulroney to Run For Liberal Party Leadership

In a final push to reclaim some of his respectability, Brian Mulroney has announced that he will be running for the Liberal Party leadership in an effort to overshadow his own scandalous past.

MATH WORLD

Newton To Pummel Leibniz Over Calculus Credits

After much debate over who is responsible for the calculus fundamentals, the two mathematicians have finally settled the dispute like men. It was said to involve much big-talk, followed by some empty threats then very little action and no real resolution.

Chanel to Develop New Scent to Appeal to Mathies

Major fragrance player Chanel announced yesterday that they will be developing a new scent to attract the Mathematician demographic. It is said to capture the spirit of both Euler and Fermat.

Dean Spotted Pantsless At Non-Pants-Optional Event

At a recent University function, the Dean decided to show the other faculties that Mathies have just as much spontaneity and can be just as whimsical as anyone else.

Dean Wins U.F.C. By Using Calculus

Finally putting calculus to work for him, the Dean bested his opponent in the recent Ultimate Fighting Championship by integrating him into submission.

TECHNOLOGY

MathSOC Madness

Last week in a fit of madness, MathSoc Exec commissioned the Math Special Operations Committee to keep the Soc office open all week. Office workers were fed vast amounts of snacks, but were otherwise unharmed.

Elite Java

Caffeine researchers have discovered a new form of the sacred molecule, found in the rare Waterloo Coffee Bean, *Coffea Mathematicus*. The plant was created by some enterprising UW Math students in an attempt to stay up longer during exams.

Microsoft to Stop Stealing Souls

Though yet to admit to any previous soul-stealing activities, Microsoft announced Monday that they are issuing an immediate cease and desist order on all soul-stealing projects.

MORTALITY

Newton Sues Apple

Attorneys for Newton recently reported that Newton will be suing Apple for unprovoked assault by a non-deadly weapon.

New Species Discovered in Real Time Lab

Researchers have recently discovered a new species in the real time lab. It is believed to be a *Homo sapiens* descendant; however, due to extreme isolation, it no longer requires human contact or natural light.

Sleep Unnecessary

After many nights of experimentation, coffee has been declared a viable substitute for sleep. Discussions are underway with the federal government to ban sleep altogether to increase national productivity.

KIDS TODAY

Hobbits Spotted in Comfy Lounge, Again

Gandalf was called in to the math comfy lounge to control them. Luckily no laptops were stolen.

SPORTS

Synchronized Differential Solving Becomes Olympic Sport

In an effort to appeal to the academic community, the IOC reported that it will be adding synchronized differential equation solving to the Beijing Olympic Games.

IN OTHER NEWS

Objective Fact Found in Imprint — Editor Ousted

In an unprecedented event, an Imprint opinion piece contained actual objective journalism. Staff was so upset that they fired the editor immediately in a coup d'etat.

PASSAGES

Obituaries

Fortran officially declared a dead language March 22nd after a long and courageous battle against obsolescence.

Tarsky's definition of truth died suddenly under suspicious circumstances, but since there is no longer a valid definition of truth, the murderer cannot be found.

A lone vertex without any edges committed suicide last night.

Engagements

A 2-group and a 3-ring had announced their engagement, but due to family protest have decided to merely move in together.

Promotions

Amid some controversy, Visual Basic was recently declared a real language.

The act of doing cool visual effects with JavaScript in webpages has officially entered buzzword status.

Retirements

Citing extreme duress, the Comfy Lounge's long-serving Scotchgard protective coating announced its retirement effective immediately.

Anniversaries

Fermat's Last Theorem proved by Andrew Wiles, Oct. 6, 1994.

π first used as its present symbol by William Jones in 1706.

Fundamental Theorem of Algebra first proved by Gauss in 1799. *mN*



you see the geek table stolen as a prank, we see a new market



When the table outside the C&D was taken as a joke earlier this term, it was Math Mutual who first saw the opportunity to sell some new furniture to MathSoc. No matter how small the crisis, we'll be there to exploit it

Math Mutual



It's Exponential!

Boolean Decision 2006

The Naturals or the Integers?

The Integers Party Platform

BY DIRTY SOFTIE • Fellow Mathies, the time has come to renew your support for the Integers! We truly are the differentiated party – and you know that implies continuity – so re-elect us this year and you shall not be let down!

Proof registry. Each and every day, hundreds of proofs are senselessly committed to paper. Each proof is a messy web of assumptions, assertions, logical leaps and invocations of other, frequently irrelevant lemmas and theorems. Can you imagine the work load this imposes on our poor TA staff?

What if there was a better way? We propose a mandatory faculty-wide proof registry. Theorems across the spectrum of difficulty, from

Fermat's Little to Fermat's Last, would now be provable simply by citing the relevant proof ID in the registry. Original proofs for assignments would not be accepted; instead, they would be submitted to the registry with a \$75 filing fee.

Is it any wonder that the head of UW's Association of TAs for Math Courses has thrown his organization's support behind this initiative?

MathieCare program. Something is wrong in the MC today. Every where you go, the stench of Mathies haunts this hallowed building. Mathies stink. And with our busy schedules, why shouldn't we?

Therefore, the Integers propose a mandatory MathieCare facility in each and every lecture hall of the MC. Consisting of a military-issue safety shower, a sullen Arts co-op student and a whole lot of soap, this facility will assist any smelly Mathie in bathing, laundering or even just applying some deodorant.

mathNEWS scandal. Our detractors say we are corrupt for lavishing money on the mathNEWS program. It's a sham, a front organization, they say! Pah! They claim \$12,000 per term is dirty money used to get free pizza.

As evidence of this supposed crime, they point out the similarity of each and every mathNEWS issue: an insult about CS students and WoW/CS/EQ; a jab at smelly math students; a blanket mockery of all other faculties and some standard *prof*QUOTES with cheesy math humour. Oh... Err... Hmm...

Still, in spite of our obvious corruption, vote Integers!
E. Zermelo Leader, Integers Party

Ernst Zermelo

The Natural Numbers Party Platform

BY DIRTY SOFTIE • From one Mathie to another, hello! You have an important decision to make this year: shall MathSoc be led upwards towards infinity, or plunge downwards until it nears nothingness? Choose wisely – choose the Naturals!

The Naturals, as a party, are often misunderstood. It's not that we don't recognize the existence of a more complex set of numbers, we simply place much more value on the traditional principles of Mathematics. We yearn for a world where $1 + 1 = 2$ and $\sqrt{2}$ doesn't exist. This world could be yours, too! Let me briefly explain our policies.

Naive set theory. Who are we to dispute the renowned mathematician Dr. F. L. G. Frege's assertion that naive set theory forms the basis for all math? The Naturals fully support this theory and will work to renounce the currently taught axiomatic set theory.

1% MathSoc fee cut. The Integers have gotten away with irrational impositions on the wallets of the common Mathie. MathSoc dues are at their highest. Mathies who could otherwise be enjoying an ice-cold Coke product are being forced to settle for much lesser beverages due to financial difficulties. We will immediately institute a 1% fee cut, rising to 2% by the end of our term.

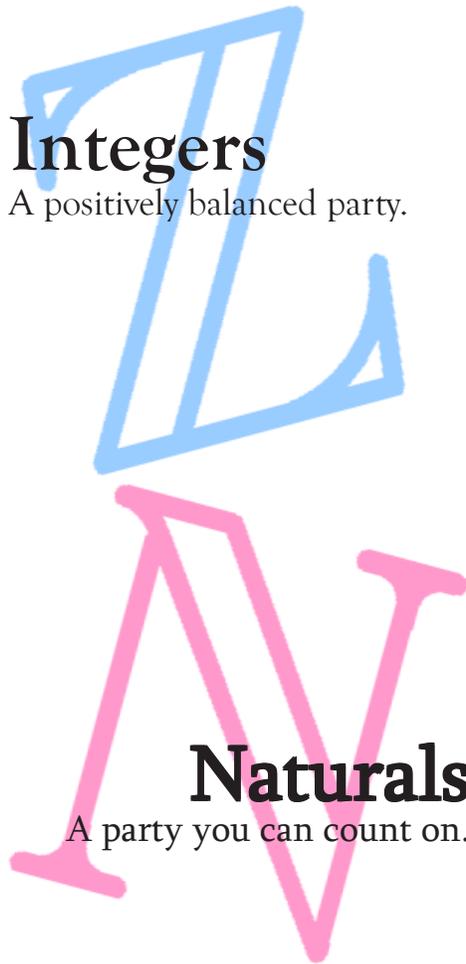
Mathie Bonus subsidies. Unlike our opponent's fiscally irresponsible MathieCare plan, we propose to give each and every mathie \$5 per term to spend as they see fit on personal hygiene. Despite Zermelo's arrogant comment that you would spend it all on "World of Warcraft and Coke," we're confident you'll spend this money wisely on a bottle of shampoo, a 3-pack of soap or even some toothpaste.

School of Computer Science Separation. We respect the members of the School of Computer Science. We are, after all, legally obliged to so long as they are members of the Mathematics Society. However, even the beauty that is Maple 10 cannot atone for such atrocities as the all-too-common CS expres-

sion "maxint = 2147483647". Therefore, we shall push for a separate Faculty of Computer Science and expel those students from MathSoc.

Remember – vote naturally, vote Naturally.
G. Cantor Leader, Natural Numbers Party

G. CANTOR



Integers

A positively balanced party.

Naturals

A party you can count on.

MATHLEAN'S MAR. 29 '06

To the Polls: Integers have 56%; Naturals trail with 41%; 3% abstained

Climate Change in the MC

Dean debates instating faculty-wide *Pantsless Day* policy

BY DIRTY SOFTIE • Mathie lore has long respected that students of the real-time programming course are a unique breed. The course, which teaches students the principles underlying real-time operating systems by having them program a set of model trains, is well-known for producing odd behaviours in its students. Until today, these behaviours have been written off as shenanigans, tomfoolery and childish hanky-panky. Until today, *Pantsless Day* was assumed to be a harmless in-joke of that elite clique we call the real-time students.

However, this reporter has discovered that *Pantsless Day* was actually a sinister harbinger of things to come in the Math and Computers building: climate change. It seems the German-made model trainset used in the course has been slowly polluting the entire

building with climate-changing greenhouse gases. The initial effect, felt first in the real-time lab, was a rapid increase in humidity and temperature. Over time, this effect has grown to radically increase the UV radiation emitted by the fluorescent lights in the MC.

The full impact of this has yet to be felt. To date, this reporter is aware of dealings between the administration and a local spa to sell portions of the Comfy Lounge to be used as a tanning lounge. Even though the D&D

Is this wilful destruction of habitat ethical? Where shall Mathies sleep now?

players who inhabit this region are not at all endangered, questions must be asked: is this wilful destruction of habitat ethical? Where

shall Mathies sleep now?

On the other end of the spectrum, there are benefits. One Mathie, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, is grateful for the change: “I handed in a totally half-baked graphics assignment last week. I totally thought I was gonna fail. But it came back fully-baked, I only lost 2%!” Also, lectures held in MC 2065 and 2066 (aka. ‘the freezers’) are reported to be much more comfortable, with students remarking the halls were “more Aruba than Arctic.”

Even as we go to press, further details are unfolding rapidly. Mathlean’s will keep you informed about the Dean’s verdict on a potential faculty-wide *Pantsless Day* and the possibility of legal action against the real-time students. Until then, the Right Angle Cafe is selling suntan lotion at a modest markup. *mN*



THE COMFY LOUNGE: Before ...



... and after the trains affected the environment

Mathies: the new James Bond

Agent 00π, License to Integrate

BY WEST COAST CHIC • Since the dawn of time Mathies have been marketed as safe and not dangerous in the slightest – getting hit in the head by an apple was seen as commonplace compared to the exploits of Lancelot and his dragons. Despite the fact that Lancelot could not differentiate to save his life, it was he who the maidens swooned over and it was he who won Guenevere while Newton stayed home Friday night and imitated Lancelot in a game of Dungeons & Dragons with Euler. In recent times, however, this stigma has begun to change and the aura of danger is coming back to mathematicians, making many – including this author – giddy at the thought of differentiating without first checking if the function is continuous.

It is perhaps the computer age that is ushering in this new image – one of mystique and danger rather than of nosebleeds and allergies. There are many factors that are contributing to this swing in public favour, one of which is the proliferation of Matlab. Now after spending years on a proof, it can be visually shown in what appears to be a spontaneous finding full of intrigue and excitement. It is no longer uncommon to see these seekers of adventure daringly pressing the sin-1 key on their calculators only to get the expected results before winking at onlookers and reminding the crowd knowingly, “radians, not degrees” in that sexy accent that is a cross of years of retainer wearing and some dialect from a galaxy far, far away. Bond would be

quickly replaced by these speed integrators, loaded with the oldest and most fundamental theorems, ready to use any number of identities to knock down the razor sharp integral being hurled upon them by Infinite Sum and without a doubt save the entire mathematical community.

After years of being touted as mere bean counters, Mathies are finally being credited with the true danger of their profession. Finally, we can see the beginnings of recognition that finding the inverse without a net should not be attempted by the faint of heart and should be left to those who are properly licenced. With this new mystique and danger, what woman wants to have 007 when she could have 00π? *mN*



Is Your Gaming Time At Risk?

BY DAN SWARTZENTRUBER • Legolaas013, Night Elf Hunter of the realm of Lothar in the world of Azeroth is one of a growing number of online gamers who find their entire virtual lives slowly slipping away from them. Also known as Harvey Wilkis, he was once a terrible force to be seen in action, ripping dragons to shreds with the aid of his friends.

“Legolaas used to spend all his time online raiding with us,” says dRAG0n | <iLLaZ, a close friend of Mr. Wilkis. “He was truly our guild’s champion, anyone can own a newb, but he could pwn leet haxxorz without even breaking a sweat. But now, he’s never there when we need him and we’re always getting streamrolled by those dirty orcs.” You see, Harvey has come down with a very rare condition among gamers known as marriage.

Marriage occurs when another organism, known as a spouse, binds itself to someone. In the case where it happens in males, the resulting organism is called a husband.

The husband must put much effort into keeping his spouse content. If he does not, the spouse can often end up in a wrathful state, and a raging spouse is something that no man should ever have to witness. It’s far worse than anything else one could imagine. The time spent attempting to engage in sex, or even just to appease the spouse, is vast, and can take up nearly all of the husband’s time. This is time that could otherwise be spent slaying evil demons online.

The spouse, in addition to using sex to

get her husband to do her bidding, also uses the process to reproduce. The offspring demand much attention from the husband, preventing him from gaming even more. This

Marriage occurs when another organism, known as a spouse, binds itself to someone

attention must be given, otherwise he could end up in a state known as incarceration, where he is physically unable to game at all.

In order to get back some of their lost gaming time, many gamers are turning to a popular option called ‘divorce’. Divorce is a long, hard, expensive and often painful process that is used to break the bindings that attach the spouse to her husband. As techniques progress, though, this process is becoming more and more common as a cure, as now nearly 40% of instances of marriage in Canada are ended this way.

Even keeping prevention in mind, avoiding marriage can be very difficult. Even though there are many things that you can do in order to drive potential spouses away, they are very diverse, and studies seem to show that there is nothing you can do to keep all potential spouses away. This is because the techniques that drive one potential spouse away may only attract another even stronger, such as “acting like a prick.”

As for Harvey and the Warriors of Truthiness, they’re trying to deal with the is-

5 Signs You Might Be At Risk Of Marriage

Could you be next?

BY CHRIS & JENN

It could happen anytime - learn to recognize these signs and take action!

- Your house is littered with underwear that isn’t your own.
- You know which time of the month you should make yourself scarce.
- You find yourself being pulled into jewellery stores that don’t give you a +1 to strength.
- You compromise on the name of your chocobo or other virtual pet.
- You only receive one invitation to a friend’s marriage, but it’s addressed to two people... *mN*

sue as best they can. All they can do now is work around Harvey’s new schedule and remember the good days they had before all this happened, and hope that in the end it all works out for the best. *mN*

MATHLEAN'S MAR. 29 '06



OUTSIDER: Legolaas013 is often alone now, sitting on the sidelines as his Guild raids

How to Help Your University

ADVICE

Student Study at Home

BY DIRTY MATHIE • If you are a parent with a child away at university, you know how hard it is to get your son or daughter to come home for a visit. You miss them very much, but they don't seem to miss you. But here's the secret they won't tell you: they really do miss you. And they aren't staying at school so they can party with their friends. Seriously, Mathies? Friends? Party? Not likely.

The real problem is that you cannot provide the right study environment for their math homework. They are used to the MC or their hovel of an apartment (or even worse, residence), and can't cope with the quiet, calm atmosphere at home. Luckily for you, we can give you some tips for creating the perfect mathie study environment, so you can see your child on a regular basis.

Promote darkness

They must have darkness in their study room, so buy some dark curtains. The MC has almost no windows, so students have barely any natural light. Some bars on the windows will also help create the atmosphere of the MC, as most students feel imprisoned inside the fortress-like building. A few fluorescent lights could help create the right mood, emphasizing the lack of natural light.

Everyone else important? Feeling alone? 5 steps to a fuller inbox

BY DIRTY SOFTIE • Do you find yourself envying the co-op student seated next to you whose BlackBerry buzzes lovingly every six minutes? Do you find yourself questioning your self-worth as you are passed over again and again by a seemingly endless stream of deceased Nigerian warlords' families? Do you suspect your fellow students mock the size of your mailbox usage behind your back? Take heart, Mathie: an unstoppable flow of email can be yours, if you only follow these five simple steps.

1. Create a Google e-mail alert for a frequently discussed news topic. Good topics include "Bush failure," "Google hype," and "Leafs lose." Remember to frequently update the terms, drawing heavily on politics for inspiration.

Create noise to distract them

They are used to constantly being interrupted by other Mathies, profs trying to lecture, and the occasional lost artsie. Normal noises include D&D characters making funny voices, people exclaiming "BANG THE WHORE!" as they play cards, and geeks arguing over which operating system is better, Red Hat Linux or OS/2. Having several loud computers whirring in the background also helps, as a Mathie is never without a computer nearby.

Make only bad food

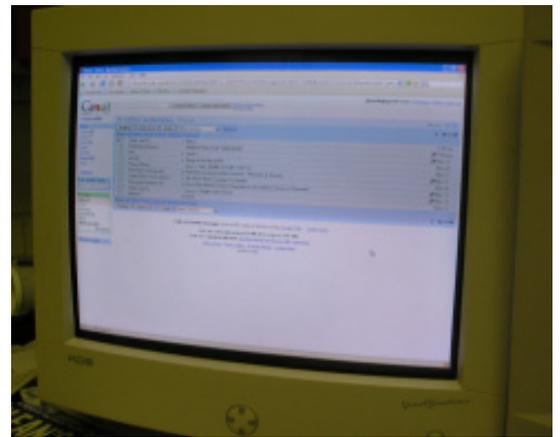
Their stomachs have become so used to horrible food from either the Math C&D or the residence cafeteria, that they cannot handle good homemade food. This may be the hardest quirk to accommodate, as everyone knows mothers only cook wholesome goodness for their children. However, you will be doing them a favour by maintaining their resilience to horrible food, because if you get them used to real food again, they will be sick for a week when they go back on the residence diet.

Add a delightful stench

This is the final touch to make your child feel comfortable back at home. They probably haven't shown you the comfy lounge on your visits here because they know you would be afraid. But they can live for long periods of time in a room with 50 other smelly Mathies who haven't showered in days, sleeping on couches with unidentified stains on them. To get this smell, find a couch at the dump, or on a curbside on its way to the dump, and get some hobos to come sleep on it in his or her bedroom for a few days. It is win-win, since the hobos will be grateful for a comfy place to sleep.

If you follow these instructions and tell your child about your efforts, they will be sure to visit as soon as they can. They may even start coming home in the middle of the week to do homework. Of course, you may not be too happy with this, but you know how to make them stay at school: ask your mother (the student's grandmother) to stay for a while. That will surely keep them away.

Good luck with your Mathie student, we sincerely hope you can stand the MC atmosphere. *mN*



EMPTY INBOX: Yours doesn't have to be

2. Befriend a lonely mathie. Then piss him off. The best method this publication knows of is to steal his or her WoW character's equipment and gold. To be on the safe side, try some cross-gender, cross-guild cybersex, too. Trust us, you'll be getting more mail than you can handle!

3. Work for a mobile email company, like NTP^H^H^HRIM. Did you know that Johnson from testing is skipping work? Or that Sunny in OS is going to come talk to you in 5 minutes? Or that the ice cream is coming in 3 days? Did you get that last email I sent you? Hey, welcome to RIM. This is what happens when you give 300 co-ops BlackBerries and free data transfer.

4. Advertise in local bathrooms. The time-tested "For a free Ashbringer, email xxx!" is always a good bet.

5. E-mail your friends and request a reply. Some controversy surrounds this rule, as Mathlean's has yet to find a Mathie with sufficient friends to test this in the real world.

Good luck, and happy emailing! *mN*

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math NEWS

ADVICE

Gollumitis Outbreak among Mathies

BY WEST COAST CHIC • With growing concern over the health of the general population, it is important while we are here to educate our minds that we must not neglect our bodies, allowing them to fall into various states of disarray. We can become unaccustomed to natural light and eternally hunched forward, eyes squinted from straining to finish assignments on time.

With such a focus on stretching the mind, we are being forever constricted into Gollum-like figures, appearing periodically to write midterms. To prevent this Gollumitis from taking over our bodies and preventing us from ever finding a mate, it is mandatory to include a modicum of physical activity in our daily lives.

Now before this sends many a Mathie running for the hills, I'm not proposing intense physical exertion — just enough to fight the image of a hunkered posture and scraggly fingers with withered limbs, cowering from the sunlight and guarding our precious calculators.

There are many small steps that we can take to ensure that we maintain the ability to walk upright after finishing our four years here. Including a few of the following routines in your week will help ward off this Gollumness. Side effects include having a better chance to be successful in job interviews after graduation, and being more successful in your studies during these four danger years.

1. **Finger Pushups** — Strengthening fingers will not only increase your wpm but will also fight the crinkled typers' hands (a turnoff to potential mates and handshakers alike).

2. **Leave Handing in Assignments Until the Last Minute** — Working on your assignment on the first floor then making the 50m dash up 3 flights of stairs to the hand-in bins provides an excellent aerobic workout.

3. **Bring Textbooks To Class** — Toting around all your textbooks will not only pro-

vide favourable muscle definition but they can later be used in class to support your head when you take that 1:00 nap. Proper support while sleeping will not only improve posture but will also lead to a more rested student after the completion of class.

4. **Visit the 6th Floor Just Before a Midterm** — You will be surprised how motivated you are to go for a run when you are searching for an exit in the maze that is the sixth floor and you are under the pressure of an impending midterm.

5. **Catch Up on the Sleep you Lack** — Though perhaps not the ideal solution, many an 8:30 class does fall within the sleeping hours, a fact which should not be overlooked. In order to maximize napping potential, sit near the back to avoid any interrupting noise flowing from the person attempting to focus on your mind.

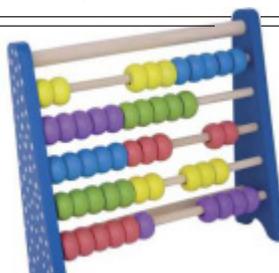
6. **Eat Right** — Mixing a vegetable or two in between coffee and coke binges never hurt anyone. Although most of these won't help with the late nights, eating many a carrot may help to combat the hours of squinting at a computer monitor. I've also heard that there have been very few deaths as a result of broccoli overdoses.

7. **Step into the Light** — Though you may not remember what natural light is after spending years in our windowless building, it comes from that yellow thing in the sky. Though too much sun can also be dangerous, sunlight does provide necessary nutrients as well as giving you a healthy glow that will illuminate your newly unGollum-ridden body.

Though this Gollumitis is a serious danger for Mathies, engaging in the above preventative steps will decrease your likelihood of falling prey to these symptoms. We here in the Math Faculty must be part of the solution and ensure that we are protecting our bodies while expanding our minds. *mN*

WE'RE CALCULATING...PI

Early mathematicians were often confounded in their attempts to discover the true value of π . Modern Mathies have come a long way from their roots, but even so, it was not until the late 1870s that more than 500 digits of the true value of pi were calculated. They were the magnum opus of William Shanks, taking him 15 years.



Pandemic? Not really

Childhood obesity not a problem

BY RICHARD • For years, experts have been decrying the increase in our children’s weight as a sign of the apocalypse, releasing study after study on this so-called pandemic of what they refer to as childhood obesity.

Now, a new study seeks to decry this myth about that unsightly bulge appearing on junior’s midsection. Proponents of this new study argue that, in fact, the newly added weight provides many benefits to our children:

- The fat provides padding and insulation, giving children better protection against bullies and our harsh winters.
- Because of its high energy content, the added weight is similar to the hump on a camel’s back, and makes children 40% less likely to die of starvation in the desert.

- Those extra pounds are necessary in sports such as football, and wouldn’t you want to say that your child made the team?

- With more and more of our teenagers turning to the internet as a place for socialization, our children can use the fat to spend more time in front of that budding social network, increasing their chances of making friends, and, perhaps in the future, finding their soul-mate.

- And, of course, being fat gives potential significant others the impression that you have lots of cash.

With these new facts, proponents of this study accuse its detractors of fear-mongering and extreme amounts of pessimism. Since the world will only be around for so long, they say, isn’t it better to live for the moment? *mN*



GOOD FOOD: The way to fatten up

Bulking up with high-fat foods gives almost immediate results, and helps our children invest in the near future. So, what can you do to make this happen?

1. Provide your children with the money necessary to use the school’s vending machine.
2. Replace “healthy” snacks like granola bars and vegetables with king-sized chocolate bars and sticks of butter.
3. Educate your children on how to detect high-fat foods. According to Dr. Nick Riviera, all you need to do is:
 - a. Rub the food item on a piece of paper.
 - b. If the paper turns clear, it is your child’s window to weight gain.
4. Give them cuts of steak for lunch instead of sandwiches.
5. Remind your children to buy a poutine or burger at the cafeteria every day (if one is available at your school).
6. Still have fat left over from last night’s chicken? Deep-fry it, and serve the result as a side to every home-cooked meal.

Just by following these simple steps, you can take a part in improving the quality of life for your child.

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**Who Cares if the Polar Caps Melt?
This Baby can Drive Through Water Anyway!**

Mathlete of the Month

BY DIRTY MATHIE • This month we would like to introduce a great athlete and sportsman who shows the world that Mathies are not completely without athletic skills. His name is Marvin Gruptner, a 2B CS/STAT major at UW.

This man was not only a star in high school, but has continued to distinguish himself at university as one of the math faculty's top athletes. He has even won competitions at other schools, showing other math students once again that UW has the top students in all areas of life.

We caught up with him after a gruelling workout in the PAC to ask him about his success.

MATHLEANS: Are you naturally good at sports, or did you have to work at it?

Marvin: Not at all. In high school, I often chose to sit out on team activities, working on a computer program or homework assignment as the other children played. I was worried about my asthma and my glasses, not to mention my delicate coding fingers.

MATHLEANS: So what prompted you to take up the life of an athlete, while staying true to your Mathie roots?

Marvin: Well, it was kind of lonely, and my teachers kept pushing me to make friends. So one day I gave in and joined a game of dodgeball.

MATHLEANS: I can only imagine how difficult that would be. And what happened when you joined in?

Marvin: Of course I expected to be picked last, since I had never played dodgeball before. But my theoretical knowledge of the game, based on a study I had done the previous year to avoid playing, gave me an advantage. I knew the rules and strategy better than anyone there. I still think the teacher talked to the team captains beforehand about my

study, because the next thing I knew, I was picked for a team. Not placed because I was the last one left, but picked because they wanted me.

MATHLEANS: How did that make you feel?

Marvin: I was elated. It is hard to be a Mathie, because no one understands just how much you don't want to join in. You feel you can't, and fear they will make fun of you. When they trusted me to be a part of their team, I thought I had finally made some sort of good impression on my fellow students (aside from letting them copy my tests, of course).

However, the feeling didn't last long, because the first ball thrown hit me in the face and broke my glasses. But I definitely learned a lesson that day about sports.

MATHLEANS: What lesson was that?

Marvin: That team sports are still not for Mathies.

But I still remember the day I was not picked last, and that has spurred me to go to the gym every day, even if I never run a step or lift a weight. At least this way I can say that I go to the gym, and no one can say that I was always picked last in gym class.

MATHLEANS: Do you agree that you are an inspiration to all Mathies who want to be accepted in the real world?

Marvin: As one of the only mathies to have had this kind of experience, I think I am. Even though I have no ambition to excel or even participate in sports, I have succeeded beyond many Mathies' dreams. Just think what a Mathie determined to play well could do! I hope that my story spurs just one Mathie with a wish for activity to take the initiative and join a sports team. Then I will feel that I have left my mark in this world.

Marvin's experiences show us just how much Mathies can do. We not only hold a monopoly on brains and creativity, we can also make our mark in physical activity. So if you have a dream and want to follow in Marvin's footsteps, we urge you to charge ahead. But first, remember to buy some safety glasses, a helmet, and knee pads, and consult your physician about the effects on your multiple diseases. *mN*



MARVIN THE WINNER: posing happily in his gorgeous home

Interesting Facts

BY ANGELO AND RICHARD

- Your hair is the most flammable part of your body. To help avoid spontaneous combustion remove your hair.

- There is a computer lab somewhere in the MC building that leads to Narnia.

- During a final if you have your pink tie calculator, and you roll a 6 on a D6 you will get a critical perfect on the page you are working on.

- Pr0n will find its way into any search. Even if you aren't using the internet.

- Engineers suck. Drink now.

- Cannibalism is a transferable work skill.

- Whatever grows underneath your sink is edible!

- Getting deep-fried and served at a banquet to family and friends is an excellent funeral option. Get Kentucky Fried Chicken to cater the event, and you may finally discover the secret recipe of 12 herbs and spices, albeit after you're dead.

- All your base are belong to us.

Tim Hortons to Open Store in Afghanistan

Revamped "Roll Up The Rim To Win" Contest Touted

BY MARK "BEATLEMANIAC" TOIVANEN •

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent visit to Afghanistan was for more than just troop morale and Canadian PR purposes. He was also able to announce Tim Horton's newest venture: an Afghanistan franchise. The Canadian Forces seem to have an insatiable addiction to coffee, and commanders feared that without their fix, the troops would turn to the equivalent Afghan substance: heroin. The news of the new outlet has been met with considerable joy among military personnel.

"It's nice to get a little taste of home this far away," said Pvt. Lewis Strickland. However, scholars back in Canada have their fears about the new outlet. York University Prof. Simon Matthews states, "This is really just the first step into a new kind of Canadian impe-

rialism based around getting peoples from other countries addicted to coffee in a bid to subvert their governments. First it's a Tim's in the capital, then it's their Prime Minister ending sentences with 'about.'"

"It's nice to get a little taste of home this far away."

Along with the new Afghan outlet comes a modified version of the exceedingly popular "Roll Up The Rim to Win" contest. Instead of winning a RAV4 or a Broil King, troops at the Afghan Tim's will have a chance to win situationally-appropriate prizes. *mN*

Roll Up The Rim to Win: Afghanistan Prizes

- Flak jacket
- Authorization to call-in airstrikes
- Bump in pay grade
- Right to call their CO 'sport' for a day
- Chuck Norris taking point on their next patrol
- Plane ticket home



TYPICAL TIM HORTONS: Similar to the one being built in Afghanistan, only with fewer explosions

Waterloo on the Move

UW President David Johnston has acted to squash rumours that the University could be on the move to Seattle, as part of software giant Microsoft's latest attempt to turn it into a programmer farm. As reported exclusively in Mathlean's last week, UW was expected to be the first case of expedited transport via FTP, in a motion which would see the entire campus converted to electrical signals and shipped off to the United States.

As part of the Microsoft

offer, every member on the UW board of directors was to receive an island in the Pacific, and, in particular, President David Johnston is said to have secured an amazing clause making him exempt from "that annoying paper-clip thing every time I open MS Office."

Speaking to the cashier in the Math C&D however, Mr. Johnston made it clear that Waterloo was going nowhere. "We are in the business of providing our customers with a user-friendly and innovative learning experience," he said. "There is nothing that would cause us to upstage a community-based University with a profit-making scheme as blatant as that." *mN*

Time for a Change

Waterloo city council is set to vote on an astonishing new bill which, if approved, would see The University of Waterloo moving ahead one full time-zone. This would be rather appropriate because, to tell the truth, UW is well ahead of the times compared to Wilfrid Laurier, U of T, or even Ottawa for that matter. Mathlean's has learned from sources deep inside the confines of City Hall that the bill is likely to be passed due to the religious beliefs of certain councillors. Appar-

ently, unnamed members are living in fear that the world is about to end any minute now, and should UW move an hour ahead, "that minute would destroy [UW] before it's time for the rest of the city to die."

StuFoTiChiWa, or (Students For Time Change in Waterloo as they are commonly known to those who can be bothered to type the whole damn thing) appear unfazed by this theory, and are instead looking forward to moving up. "We're excited for 2 main

reasons," said Brenda Brendason, head of the group. "For one thing it would require us to change every single clock at the University, digital or otherwise, and this would provide UW with enough computer science co-op jobs to meet the double-cohort. In addition to this, being ahead in time won't merely be a figurative statement anymore. The people who've come to expect us a step ahead will be proven right, and our competition will be forced to eat humble pie, giving us a sense of superiority. Being in the same time zone, we will also be able to improve our links with Brazil." *mN*

Looking into Linux

BY ALEMMA • Recently in the tech world, there has been some talk of a new operating system called “Linux,” which nerds and similarly socially-deficient people have been trumpeting as the “best thing since pornography.” For some reason they’re unhappy with Microsoft Windows; I can’t figure out why. But as it is the nature of investigative journalism to investigate, we shall attempt to understand why these people are so enthralled.

As a first step, I asked the Linux nerd (Jeremy) from the other apartment complex to get me what I needed to install Linux on my computer. I could tell he was a Linux nerd from the start, as he blinked repeatedly upon

stepping into the sunshine, as well as the fact that his glasses made the ones of Milton from Office Space look like contact lenses. But, those shortcomings aside, he was more than happy (far *too* happy, come to think of it) to get me what was needed to get Linux set up. We ran into a snag very shortly. He asked me which ‘distro’ of Linux I wanted. After five minutes of explanation (consisting of ‘flavours,’ ‘distributions,’ ‘versions,’ ‘editions,’ and half-a-dozen other incomprehensible analogies), I sort of grasped that there wasn’t just *one* Linux, but a lot. What kind of operating system is this? It has more versions than there are colours in a Sears catalogue! After some internal debate, he decided that probably ‘Ubuntu’ was the best for me, as it had the encouraging slogan of “linux for human beings.” That’s not a selling point in my book. That’s akin to those juice bottles that advertise “100% real juice!”

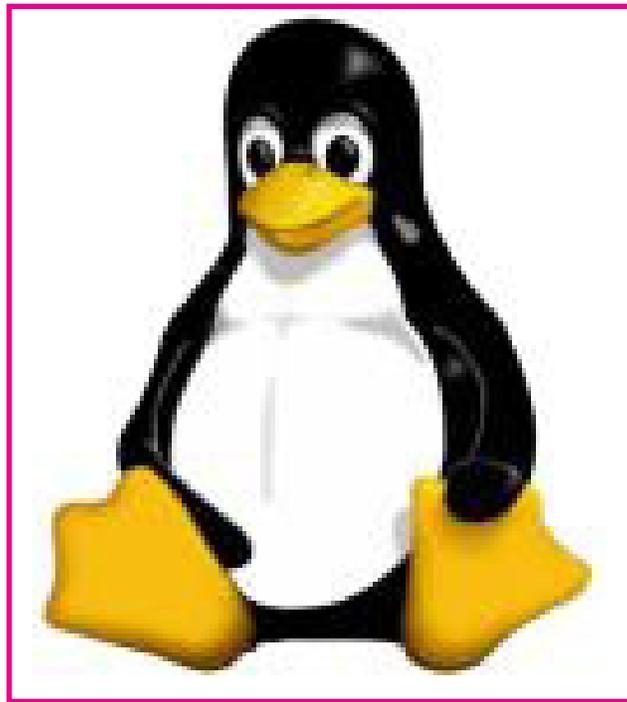
You’d think that wouldn’t need to be advertised; it would be understood as standard. After all, Windows is user-friendly and uncomplicated, right?

So, the first step involved in setting up Linux is doing strange things to the inner workings of my hard drive. Jeremy told me I’d need to get a hammer out and fix a few

bytes, but I think he was joking. Then again, given the Do-It-Yourself nature of this operating system, I don’t know. However, there was

Linux is touted as the “best thing since pornography.”

an instruction manual that told me I didn’t need blunt objects, so that was a relief. However, after copying a whole ton of files from the install CD, it then told me it was “compiling the kernel” (whatever, that exactly means at all), and it might take a while. A



TUX THE LINUX MASCOT: A cute and cuddly reminder of Linux’s creator, who loved flightless birds

while was right. Eight days later, it finished. It then informed me I would have to repeat the same sort of process (except manually) whenever I wanted to install any other programs. So far, we’re up to eight days with the promise of many more if I wish to be able to use this. Wow. I’m impressed.

But, now it was installed, and up and ready

to go. First impressions: it looks the same as Windows, except worse. Instead of a fixation with ‘My,’ we now have ‘k,’ ‘g,’ or ‘x.’ Then there’s the whole issue of choice of web browsing program — we get the “really no frills” browser Lynx. To properly understand the wildly underfeaturedness of this browser, consider this: if Lynx was a text editor, it would make Notepad feel like Microsoft Word.

Another frequently trumpeted aspect of Linux is that it’s free, and that all sorts of free programs exist that are “just as good as their Windows commercial counterparts.” Take “GIMP” (GNU Image Manipulation Program) for example. Linux nerds claim that it’s

“just as good as Photoshop.” There’s the problem. Photoshop doesn’t have to try to be good; it is good inherently. GIMP has to try to be as good... and it’s not. It lacks the “I am Photoshop and am really pretty, so sell your children” feel to it. And GIMP has a lousy logo, too. (what is that creature, anyway?)

I don’t know about you, but my mother often told me that “you get what you pay for” and that “there ain’t no such thing as a free lunch.” So with those in mind, I searched around for

First impressions: it looks the same as Windows, except worse. Instead of a fixation with ‘My,’ we now have ‘k,’ ‘g,’ or ‘x.’

the hidden costs of this ‘free’ operating system. In a small text file in the ‘root’ folder, I found a plea from a member of the Nigerian royal family asking me to kindly supply my bank account number, password, and other bits of information to help them with a money problem or two.

At the end of my trip through this baffling creation, I am still left with one key question: Why? Why would anyone want to run away from well-established and easy? Beats me. Anyway, I’ll blissfully return to Windows, and settle in for some Solitaire, FreeCell, or Pinball. No more of those xSol, gCell, or kPinball ripoffs. Although, there was a Tux game or two that looked kind of fun... I’ll just need to watch out for the hidden costs. *mn*

DID YOU KNOW ...

World-renowned *mathNEWS* has not made a parody issue since its 2002 spoof of The Toronto Sun. The Toronto Moon was a full-sized newspaper featuring news from Greater Toronto and its suburbs, astrological influences of the Moon, and the pretzel takeover of the CN Tower.



Talking to Artsies

BY DIRTY SOFTIE

What do you think about Intel Corporation's recent decision to repeal Moore's Law in favour of Murphy's Law?

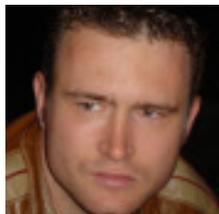


I wasn't aware Intel had a dress code, let alone a law.

Jean Gutierrez,
Drama

Moore's Law was too good to be true! Moore, moore, moore! Er, more, more, more, it's just not possible!

Joe Tate,
Political Science

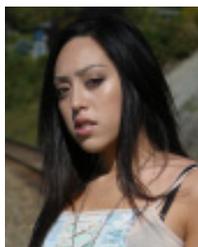


Murphy slaw? Moore slaw? If it ain't coleslaw, it ain't slaw.

Stanley Foster,
General Arts

Which invention do you feel most contributed to the solution of the well-known traveling salesperson problem?

Buy Nothing Day.
Kathy Sandoval,
Medieval Studies



E-Commerce?
Audrey Craig,
Speech
Communication

The Remington double-barrelled, twelve gauge shotgun. Damn salesmen need to get off my porch.

Shane Schultz, Environmental Studies (Parks Opt.)



Deep Blue recently discovered the true value of infinity to be 1,000,000 (+/- 5%). What impact will this have on your life?

There's an end to the lineup at the Bomber.

Louis Hale,
Planning



I only need 999,999 more friends of mine to recreate the complete works of Shakespeare.

Darlene McGee,
English Literature

None. I don't use Gmail.

Roberto Rice,
Arts Business



books

Book Review: Learn to Code in DirectX 9

by Theodore Kridiuput

BY DAN SWARTZENTRUBER • Beginning DirectX 9 is a beautiful story of the family conflict between an IDirect3D9 object named pD3D and his son, an IDirect3DDevice9, pd3dDevice. The book starts off describing the context of the complicated world of windows which pD3D was born into. It describes pD3D's aspiration to become an artist. However, due to a tragic design flaw, art is just something that pD3D could never do. But he could never let that get him down, so when he is able to create pd3dDevice he takes advantage of the situation and decides to vicariously live out his artistic dreams through his son, who is given the talent of art. The name of pd3dDevice turns out to be an appropriate name for the son who pD3D uses as a tool for his own gain.

Although he possesses the ability to create such great art, pD3D is annoyed to find out that pd3dDevice, after going through an incredibly complicated process to create his first work, only came up with an empty scene. Most of the rest of the book is focused on pd3dDevice's attempts to gain his father's love by learning new drawing techniques. He learns quickly, starting out with easy things such as sprites, but before he knows it, he's found himself in an entirely new dimension of work. However, he learns that artistic abilities won't get you very far in this new world, and he's forced to try and cram huge amounts of matrix algebra down his pipeline. His fame grows as he transforms models to a great scale simply by rotating them in his hand. He even learns to bring his work to life through a complex, and considered by some to be insane, process of animation.

As pd3dDevice learns more and more

techniques and becomes increasingly famous, his father, now delegated purely to the background and often ignored, becomes jealous. This jealousy grows to epic proportions until he cannot handle it anymore, and he confronts his son from a now-bugged state of mind. "I created you, and I could create another like you, now give me the credit I deserve or I'll be forced to release you from this heap of memories we call a world," is just one notable quote from this very dramatic climax.

There have been other very similar books written, but none of them is able to compare to the sheer number of dramatic encounters between these two characters, and many of their friends, throughout their lives. Mr. Utah Teapot delivers some truly inspired lines in his role in this book. If you read only one book regarding DirectX, make this the book. It is by far the best out there. It has definitely earned a full five out of five stars. *mN*



CREATIVE

Because You Won't Get Mugged Carrying a Zen

CrackBerry 8700c

**just TRY and convince
somebody you're a big
deal without one**

**Now Infringing on
70% Fewer Patents!**

