the University SYSTEM

A Tragedy in Three Parts by Dennis Ablett

PART I - INTRODUCTION

for use in/by THE system.

Since I am a student at the University of Naterloo, I will describe the system here, but this description can be applied to many other universities.

The University System is a man-made, deterministic system. I sav man-made because it was conceived, built, and is maintained and operated by men; deterministic, because its operation is entirely predictable - students enter, are processed, and leave. The goal of the system is to provide semi-trained, mature(?) functional units

PART II - SYSTEM BOUNDARIES/SUBSYSTEMS

INPUT

The two components which handle all students which must mass into the system are the Registrar's Office Processor (ROP), and the Awards Office Processor (ANOP). New students and those who are to be reprocessed must bass a certain ROP quality requirement before being allowed into the central processing unit. New students must be at least 70% reliable, and others at least 50%. The difference here is because the latter have already been at least once through the system, and are less likely to cause problems. Students also must have a fairly large sum of money to pay for central processor time. Not passing this requirement, some are channelled to AMOP, where they may receive a STF - Student Temporary Fix - to allow them to be processed.

Both of these processors are low-speed devices which change very little in technology from year to year, and which probably could be replaced by two pocket adders and a typewriter.

STUDENT SCHEDULING

The Student Scheduling Processor (STUSP) must determine a schedule for the student allowing him access to the central processing unit at the correct times. This processor is somewhat probabilistic in nature, providing the student with a schedule that is correct according to the following simple formula:



(continued on page 2)



Coffee and donuts is slowly(?) but surely(!) losing money. When there are more people around, the money we make (per donut or per coffee) covers the cost of supplies and paying people to work. But summer term we don't have enough people buying to cover the costs (and the cost of donuts from Donut Oueen is going up!). So the price of donuts is no longer 2 for 15¢ but 2 for 20¢ as of Tuesday, July 3. If this doesn't help, coffee and donuts will cease for the summer. We can't figure out any other way to get around this problem (i.e. losing money

that "athsoc can't afford to lose!) If vou can come up with any other suggestions, please leave them in the Mathsoc Office (M&C 3038) and we'll take a look at them.

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STUSP is one of the rougher sections of the supersystem, and is alwavs under maintenance. The Systems Analysts Group (SAG) is always debating whether to scrap it for a manual system, or to just change the above formula to a more complex one which takes into account three of a student's requested courses instead of two.

CENTRAL PROCESSING

The unit which handles the central processing of the students is often referred to by them as the Central Anti-synergetic Medium for Processing University Students (CAMPUS). Here, the students are bassed through specialized subsystems of the CAMPUS, called faculties, where they are bombarded with many types of data. This data slowly becomes information after being stored and often regurgitated by the student. He is led to believe that all this will be vital to him at some (undetermined) time in the future. Thusly, controlled by his schedule, the student criss-crosses the CAMPUS, gleaning infinite knowledge and wisdom, until such time that he is either too bent, folded, and mutilated to continue, or else he is discharged from the system as a success.

ON LINE STORAGE

There is an expensive, low capacity storage system provided, which is divided into six subsectors. From the Church Colleges we have J.C.I, J.C.II, J.C.III, and J.C.IV, and from the University we have V.D.I and V.D.II.

Students use these at their own risk.

OUTPUT

The system has a built-in function to get rid of most students who have been around in excess of three years. It is called "Graduation". Students are assigned various exit priorities which help in determining the jobs they may perform upon dismissal from this system. Then they will become a part of a much bigger system, THE system, which is controlled, some say, by an unknown Group Of Directors (GOD).

PART III - SYSTEM FLOW



Something About The Author -Dennis Ablett

Dennis is a 4A AA&CS student, a little witty, a good singer (he is Gemini/2 and can be heard at the Black Bubble on Wednesday nights in Fngineering 4), a little modest (cough), captain of the basketball teams, and soccer а co-ordinator of Anticalendar, and an author of several mathNEWS articles. Dennis has been neglected by us because we forgot to publish his name in Vol. 2.2, 2.3 for his articles. (We're sorry Dennis but I couldn't spell your last name. ".T.) Dennis wrote "The University System" for an assignment in Math 474C - Business Systems Analysis. This specific section was taught by W. Montgomery. Noteworthy was his final comment:

"....ironically the paper presents a Further Understanding of Conceptual Kinetics Entering Dimensions Uncharted Prior to Mental Injury Negotiated During the university experience."

the phantom reports....

Well, it finally happened: Someone finally said something about when we get a new I.P.Sharpe APL undate, or, to quote directly, "some time in August, maybe". This would mean all sorts of weird and wonderful things including, "optimizing tabs" and the inverse of $\Delta F!!T$, maybe even a <u>new</u> Super-Seal which means naturally that OUR super-seal, on which all our APL securty is based will vanish for at least a few weeks (months?). And speaking of APL, this week, it had its first taste of ISMAIPLE. He signed on to THE 555 MAIL SYSTEM and it promotly and very completely died (can we blame it). Never-the-less your well deserved comments can now reach him directly, just like they would reach me if any of you things out there in never-never-land not around to using the system. (It has supposedly a little less than a hundred enrolled users on the mail system though most people claim that only a third that number of people use it). Of course the Honeywell has a "mail" system too.... but who could tell? It seems that every computer course on campus worthy of the name had assignments due last Tuesday, and consequently we find ourselves waist deen in 132 gmanner's at all hours of the morning! in fact last Sunday 3018 was packed to capacity with 1 1/2 people to a terminal (and the machine had been down for an hour and a half at the time!!!). Ah well, since we are being over run with

verbosity tonight, (THE TYPIST AGREES) I shall say Good night, and

TO YODAR: Hope you have fun with I.P.Sharpe's undate! TO MARK: When <u>MILL</u> you do something useful?

AND TO RAVERMAN:

2

Prof. of the Week

INTRODUCTION

Nost of us will remember this week's Prof., in our first and second years, as a man with considerable patience, especially during registration and course-change periods. This man is P. C. Brillinger. Tall and slim he has often stood before us in 2065 or 2066 to offer assistance. He is not only a 'mother hen' to first-year students, but is involved in a variety of activities. These include: 1)Admissions Committee - assists V.A. Dyck with returning Math admissions and transfers from other Faculties to first and second year Math 2)First-Year Committee - Secretary 3)Timetable Committee - Chairman 4)Standings and Promotion Committee 5)Faculty Curriculum Committee 6)AA/CS Curriculum Committee 7)Faculty liaison for first and second year Math students 3)Signs pre-registration and course-change forms for first and second year Math students 9)Sets up Teaching Fellowship assignments each term for Faculty (non-Departmental) courses 10)Prepares statistical summaries of first-year Math courses 11)Prepares and distributes questionnaires relating to first year Math courses 12)Sends out orientation packages to new freshmen (August) 13)"akes orientation arrangments for freshmen 14)Sets up feedback sessions for the first year Math courses 15) Visits Secondary Schools 16)Interviews Highschool students interested in the Mathematics Faculty. 17)Handles the Math 132 Correspondence Course with A. Dyck. 18)Liaison for M.L.U. business courses.

-Peter Charles Brillinger

-Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Director of First-Year Studies, Faculty of Mathematics

-Place of Birth: Hamilton, Ontario

-attended Central Secondary School in Hamilton; Honours B.A. Math and Economics, McMaster University; M.A. Mathematics, University of Materloo

-married, no childern (honefully not a permanent state)

-interests: "lathematical Education, Teaching "lethods in Computer Science

-ex-Don of the Student Village

-outside interests: Theatre, reading, water skiing, bowling and various other sports -teaching experience: Freshman Calculus, Algebra, and Geometry, Sophomore Engineering Calculus, Freshman Numerical Analysis, Freshman Computer Science, Junior Engineering Numerical Procedures, Sophomore Numerical Methods and Computer Science, Sophomore Engineering Computer Programming at University of Waterloo; part-time Computer Science lecturer, York University

-committees: Faculty Admissions Committee, Faculty Curriculum Committee, Faculty Standings and Promotions Committee, Faculty Timetable Committee, Faculty First-Year Studies Committee; Association for Educational Data Systems; Ontario Association of Teachers of Mathematics

PUBLICATIONS

"A COMPLETE PACKAGE FOP INTRODUCING COMPUTER SCIENCE" with D.D. Cowan "VISUAL AIDS FOR INTRODUCING COMPUTEP SCIENCE" "INTRODUCTION TO NON-NUMERIC COMPUTATION" with D.J. Cohen "INTRODUCTION TO DATA STRUCTURES AND NON-NUMERIC COMPUTATION" with D.J. Cohen

OPINIONS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MATERLOO

As liaison for Math students taking Business courses at Wilfred Laurier University (formerly Waterloo Lutheran University) he related some of his ideas concerning this inter-campus relationship. The main reason for making Business courses available to us at U. of W. is to provide an exposure to a variety of business procedures and practices. Hopefully, the intermingling of Math students from U. of M. with the Business students from V.L.U. will provide each type of student with a better knowledge of how the other functions. For example in the Business Simulation course, Business 490, teams of Math and Business students should develop a much broader appreciation and in-depth view of the problems encountered. Also, W.L.U. offers us a large Business library facility which is not available here.

He is well aware of the problems incurred because of the walking distance between the two campuses, but, so far at least, he has had only isolated complaints. One of the frequent difficulties, for example, arises because the two universities maintain separate timetables. The time slots used for classes at W.L.U. are often very different from those at U. of W. In addition, the WASS scheduling program at U. of W. can only check for conflicts on student timetables, but does not allow for travel time from one campus to another. However, several steps have been taken to ease some of the difficulties. For instance, all of the popular W.L.U. courses have been incorporated as nart of

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the U. of W. timetable. This means that Math students can drop and add these courses just like those at U. of W., thus making it unnecessary for them to become involved with cross-registration forms. M.L.U. courses taken by a student via a cross-registration form are not scheduled as part of his U. of W. timetable, thus implying that his schedule of course times at U. of W. is generated in complete ignorance of W.L.U. class times. Prof. Brillinger sympathizes with our problems and is willing to help, but he needs feedback on which to act.

COMMENTS

Prof. Brillinger stated that one of his most common frustrations arises because of the fact that, in recent years because of the abolition of grade 13 departmental examinations, overall averages of students highschools leaving has risen considerably. With the marks of students today, most students with grade 13 averages less than 70-75% should enrol immediately in a General rather than an Honours programme. However, many students in this category are very reluctant to do so when they first begin their studies at university. Several of the students who "bomb out" in the first year of an Honours programme might well have been "saved" if they were to enrol in a General course. He finds it very difficult to convince some students that a 70% grade 13 average is not a strong basis for an Honours programme, but he always tries to be diplomatic.

He noted that part of the difficulty in this regard probably arises because of the myth held by some students that a General degree is a "sécond-class" degree. He suggested that we should attempt to develop a better "selling" approach for the Pass and General programmes. He feels that the Honours degree programme should he for those students wishing to obtain a high level of concentration in а particular area of mathematics, including those who contemplate the possibilities of continuing into post-graduate studies. The Pass and General programmes, however, are much more appropriate choices for those students who do not want, and in cases do not need, such a special manv a specialized programme.



the president writes Yet ANother ARTICLE

First and foremost, thanks to everyone who came and helped with Anticalendar on Saturday and on everyone who didn't. You guys missed all the free food, booze, and one hell of a party. Don't give up on the work, there is still lots left. Lots of write-ups, proofreading, and editing left. Speaking of lots of things left, we still have oodles and oodles of T-shirts which need to be sold before we can order any new T-shirts (and Raabe and Dennis really are keen). As usual most of our activities are proceeding like a house on fire. This of course is summer week and there are all sorts of social events. The Black Bubble has had two successful sessions and hopes for another one. The engineers have given us a bunch of Semi-formal tickets and we will have them for sale in the office. All for now.

John Dark

Dr. 808

Dr. Bob celebrated his birthday last Saturday, and as a result spent most of his time being thrown in the showers, and reconstructing his room after it had been stripped clean (by Don Ray, his friendly don). You see, Dr. Bob lives in the animal shelter commonly called Village I. Due to this interruption of his schedule we are pleased to announce that Dr. Bob won't discuss any topic this week, but sends his blessings to one and all.

There were several correct answers to last week's question. We decided to change the last rule (in the case of a tie, nobody wins). However, the division of the prize among the winners posed a problem. Consequently, an envelope full of sawdust from the stick will be mailed to those who correctly answered the question.

DR. BOB'S CONTEST

4

When was Dr. Rob's Birthday?

RULES: Same as last week.

AMARD: The privilege of reconstructing Dr. Bob's room next year.

MOTE - Anyone with the wrong answer will be subjected to 5 lectures of Math 130.

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ACROSS

1 b Our hallowed halls (2 words) a Radios use waves g A way to send #'s in GHAP k The after-midterm feeling 3 a NLU athlete 3 j Transmitted Δ a Here 1 d Study carefully 5 a Attempt 5 e You 6 a A smaller version of South America e What every good boy deserves 6 6 i A real mixup 7 d Very Beautiful 8 c In addition to 0 c a+b+c9 g ν 9 j A french one 10 a A direction 10 h Guarantee 11 c Chemical compound 11 g Spanish Cheer 11 k Not belonging to you 12 a For the love of 12 e Computer register 12 i A label that became a name 13 a Something to do with a rooty demominator 14 b What the beaver said when the dam broke 14 j Cogito sum

As you may have noticed we have credited John Dark with the creation of this week's Gridword. Unfortunately, John's heavy schedule didn't allow him the time to but the Gridword together, so at the last moment we had to substitute one that had been submitted a few weeks ago. We'd like to be able to give credit to the lovely lady who gave us this Gridword, but unfortunately she neglected to give us her name. Thank you anyway, Mystery Lady, you're a life saver!

DOWN

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i		a maze that lost something
k	1	The 0 in IOU
k	5	It is cut short
k	9	It is cut short Integer, rational, etc.
1	1	zero
1	10	Canadian Club
m	2	tu, Brute?
	5	The beginning to a proof
m	12	The drinking hole

GRIDWORD COMMENT

To all you frustated puzzle-solvers: there really wasn't a clue 11 17 DOWN for last week's Gridword. But have no fear, this week John Dark made un Gridword. Last week's Gridword winner is William A. Murray. His entry was registered at 4:28 P.M. June 27/73. This is two out of three times he has won! Good going William!! Honourable mention to Maurice Prevost, another former winner.

Remember, when you complete the Gridword, submit it to the Mathsoc Office (M&C 3038). The winner, the first correct Gridword in, gets a Math T-shirt.





BASEBALL

Team Cracker, the 3A Math team is the favorite going into the playoffs boasting an 8 - O regular season record and having scored 95 runs in those games while letting the opposition get away with only 9. The playoffs start this Mednesday for them.

Mathsoc already started and ended their playoffs by losing out 3-7 in the quarter finals.

BALL HOCKEY

Dr. Bob informs me that if they STICK to their regular game plan, they should have a very rewarding POST season.

SOCCER

Last Thursday, "ath Sockets won their onening playoff match 2-1 against 73a Civil. That put them into the semi-finals against a very tough, experienced Professional team. The game was fairly even as far as field position went. Nowever, the Professionals were right there to take full advantage of any good fortune that came their way and won out in the end 2-0. "ath United somehow managed to get

"ath United somehow managed to get excluded from the playoffs by defaulting A of the 6 games they lost.

So much for retaining the soccer tronby.

BASKETBALL

The Bookies and the Mathsoc team both saw their seasons come to an end Monday night when they lost out in the quarter final. The Dookies ended regular season play with a 7-1 record while Mathsoc were in second place in the league with a 4-3-1 record. However neither team could keep up with the "A" league team they were up against.

Mathsoc was no match against the talent riddled St. Jeromes team. Even with the help of an unknown celebrity in the second half (Keeswater, Keeswitter-something like that) Mathsoc could only come un with 40 noints in a 86-40 loss. CO-CP Roobies didn't have such a bad time with the grads but the outcome was the same. They trailed by 7 at the half and could not get back as they lost 46-39. The Vets on the other hand not off rather easily with a 74-19 win over Benison and move on into the semi- finals. Having finished the regular season in second place in "A" league they are favoured to go right to the finals where they will likely meet their arch-rivals the Village Dons.

FOOTBALL

"athsoc ended the regular season with a rather shaky 6-0 win over last year's champs, the B's. That left them in first place with a 7-0 record having scored 124 points in the 5 games where the opposition dared to show up and having had a mere single point scored against them (which by the way was claimed by Mathsoc's own Stud Smith better known as butterfingers). The first place standing gave then a byg into the semi-finals where they once again met up with the persistent B's. The B's had a few tricks up their sleeves but Mathsoc rose to the occasion and trounced the B's 49-31.

They now go into the finals against the Village Dons. In their regular season encounter the Hathsoc team came out on top by a 13-0 margin. Co-op math finished their regular season out of the playoffs having defaulted many of their games.

water,water

From the bottom of the pool comes your favourite watersprouts spraying their wit and wisdom to all ye mathies.

The math waterpolo team (The Titanics) is now in second position having lost only two games. Their most recent victory was over one of the teams they had lost to previously. It was a close game, the winning goal came in the sudden death period after both sides had tried valiantly to score. This Thursday, July 12th, the first of the challenge games begins, the Titanics are planning to take-on the A.S.T.'s, this team being the only one that they have not beaten.

a&m

WORDS OF WISDOM

When was the last time you were horny? Did you ever notice there are certain things that one just does not talk about? Isn't it wonderful? We have undergone a "sexual revolution". V.D. and the Pill are about as acceptable today as swallowing goldfish and climbing flagpoles were 20 years ago.

You know what? According to a recent Time magazine article (Sex On The Campus), not only are we all walking around nude in the dormitories, but we're all getting laid. Isn't that fantastic? There it is in black and white - not to mention the four-colour pictures of semi-naked "coeds". (How would you like to be called a coed?)

Of course, there were no nictures of tits (or should I say breasts? bosoms?). It's alright to show a girl's back, or her legs, or her stomach. But tits are out! There must be something evil about breasts. Of course if you do see a woman's breasts, it's not nearly as bad if you can't see her ninnles. Tits may be evil, but ninnles are the work of the devil.

(I can see it now - a big newspaper headline: "Leading Psychologist Savs Becent Study Shows that Minnles are a Corrupting Influence on the Youth of Our Mation".)

Of course, none of this is as had as talking about getting horny. Getting horny is a sin.

("What do you think of that guy?"

"Who? That horny little bugger?!") We all know that men are just after One Thing. What is it they want to do to women? Well...put it to them, lay it on, give them the big bone, do it to them...not to mention fuck, ball, lay or screw the ass off them.

("Hey man, how far did you get with that blond chick?"

"All the way!"

"Mow, no shit!")

Next time you're in a class (or any gathering of people) look around at all the members of the opposite sex. Nov, if you have a fair-sized class, out of all those people, some of them are bound to be horny. If you only knew which ones....

Of course there's no easy way to find out. Being horny is one thing you just can't talk about. (Well, maybe to one or two of your close friends.) That and masturbation - or should I say Self-Abuse? Did you know masturbation makes you go blind? (I only did it until I needed glasses!)

And let's not forget "having your period". One thing a girl never ever talks about in public is her period (or anyone else's, for that matter).

When was the last time a female said to you: "I'm not feeling well today - I'm having my period."? I think I'll start a campaign (ask a friend when her period is, today!). But I think the grand-daddy of them all is Sex Before Marriage. If you can't abstain from it at least you can feel guilty. Unless, of course, you're in love. In that case sex becomes the ultimate unification of a man and a woman in sniritual and physical fulfillment. Somehow, putting a penis into a vagina becomes a whole new ballname. (Of course, there's a lot more to it than that:) Bullshit! A lot of sexual customs are nothing more than ionorance and superstition. The legacy of our parents, and theirs before them. Thank you Ma and Pa for the Cold Mar, the Atom Bomb, and my sexual frustation. Try to get laid today. If you can't, at least masturbate.

Next week: Religion.

P.S. This is the last time I will talk about the Phantom. His babblings are obviously ignorant, typical, chauvinistic, male opinions.

TO: All Nomen Voters

FROM: Momen Candidates

In order that we women may again have political prestige we must have what men have. It may not be much, but we must have it.

If we don't get it without friction, then we must have it with friction. And if we can't get it thru our organization, we will get it some other way.

We resent being poked in the gallery, and insist on being placed on the floor of the house. We are willing to look up at the men, but we will not be held down without making a few motions ourselves. We want to hold up our end and show our expectations. Nothing that comes will be too hard for us.

We have always been interested in good movements. We are willing to work under men even to the point of exhaustion. We are becoming disatisfied with failures and shortcomings. When anything comes up that requires our attention, we will come again and again, if the occasion requires it.

But too often our hopes have not been with feeble performance which has left us frustrated, dissappointed and dissatisfied.

Too often in the bast our efforts have met with the cry - "Down with the Petticoats" - but I say to you "Un with the Petticoats" and "Down with the Pants". Then we shall see things as they really are.

We women must be united. As long as we are solit the way we are, men will always be on top.....

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A new SHIPMENT READY classified 4 SALE OTTAWA -3 bedroom apartment -furnished GREEN -available Sept. 1 "GAUSS LIVES " -sandy hill area -close to downtown or Ottawa U. -\$200/month SML \$2.20 write- Godfrey Lee 360 Friel St., #1 Bonnie Walker (Waterloo) nr phone-884-9595 DARK BLUE, PALE Nanted: One 26" girl's 3-speed bicycle in good condition. Phone 884-4677 BLUE, RED, YELLOW, WHITE, PURPLE Looking For: 1 female to share,in the Fall,Vinter terms, a 2 bedroom apartment with 1 other female. Apartment is fully furnished except for 1 bedroom. "\$ COOP MATH" Phone 579-0877 - Marsha REG MATH" Wanted: 1st year Co-on Math students who will be working in Toronto this fall. The "ath 720's are organizing a hockey team. If interested, write: SML \$ 1.90 Bob White E6-205, Village T Manted: persons willing to take part in local lynching of math<u>NEWS</u>! "ISHMAILE" Mathsoc Office 3038 Contact Mark "APL 555 Mail" Wanted: Persons willing to practice "ISHMAILE"'s theorys of living. Contact "ISHMAILE" "APL 555 Mail" DEAR(?)MAGGIE FEEDBACK : With respect to "Pete"'s letter: there are Dear Maggie individuals who feel comfortable at temperatures such as 80 degrees, for I help on mathNEWS and the editor can't Pete example and the chief thermostat-setter at Eaton's even remember my name. downtown Toronto store. there are also individuals The Plummer who prefer 65 degrees, for example me and the chief thermostat-setter here. Give us a break, eh?????.. Dear Plummer Your name is reason enough to forget. But "DR. BOB" and "ISHMAILE" are both worse I'm quite sure mathNEWS isn't prejudiced, than the "Mater Melon Caully Flower Dough" just the people are. ever was. Please kill them immediately or you will no longer receive the price of the copy of math<u>MEMS</u> that I have been Maggie getting each fortnight ----MARK-----



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The Black Bubble

Rostrum for colloquial entertainment

Now every Wednesday in

Engineering 4 Lounge

8:00 p.m. Free Admission

A COFFEE HOUSE INDEPENDENT OF BUT SPONSORED BY ENGSOC, MATHSOC, AND THE BOARD OF ENTERTAINMENT.

0 Dennis Ablett Bob, Bonnie & Jim Russ Scott The Infinite Muse . 0 00 John Constant • plus ?

A Midsummer Night's Dream

On behalf of Math Society, I have the pleasure of extending an invitation to you for the Semi-Formal on Saturday, July 14th.

The evening will commence at 9:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Notor Inn. Entertainment will be provided by Opus JI in the Viennese Ballroom. Later in the evening a buffet style meal will be served after which the entertainment will resume.

Tickets at \$3.00 per couple are available at the Math Society office, M&C 3038. Table reservations can be arranged at the time of ticket purchase.

I personally hope you are able to attend this 'Midsummer Night'.

Yours truly,



Comments on the Black Bubble

For the past few weeks the Black Bubble Coffee House has been held in the lounge in engineering 4. Your roving mathNFWS reporter solicited these comments:

> An excelent evening! The food is good but the tea's the best. Great idea!

They could do with more furniture in the lounge area. There's a better male to female ratio here than at pubs, perhaps the girl in the Chevron was right. Really fine. The chocolate things were really good. Very good performers and pretty good atmosphere.

mathNEWS - financed by but independent of Mathsoc

Thanks to Podger for leaving us all the stuff to make coffee, and then forgetting to leave the cord for the perk. And thanks to brm for getting the cord and making the coffee, and especially for drinking it (since nobody else would, at least until Phil put the salt in!)

We missed you Marsha...we didn't miss The Plummer! Any of you who thought that it wouldn't be worth coming out tonight because of all the work we did last Thursday...we fooled you, it's now $4:00 \ \Lambda$.M. and we're still going strong?