

## the truth

# Library Detection Systems

An electronic surveillance system capable of detecting books being illegally taken from the university libraries may soon be installed at the Arts and E.M.S. libraries. Similar systems already in operation at the University of Guelph and the Kitchener Public Library have reduced losses by about 85% at both locations.

Murray Shepherd, the University of Waterloo's chief librarian, says that such a system would cost in the neighbourhood of \$90,000. However, it is believed that the system would pay for itself within two years. Such a system would involve placing metallic detection strips in books which would set off an alarm if the book is taken past sensing units without being deactivated at checkout. This means that library users will no longer have to be searched as they leave the library.

Shepherd says that he has not been convinced until just recently that a detection system is the best action to take. However he says that increasing losses may make this action necessary.

This type of system offers several advantages. Firstly, there will be a substantial savings in terms of dollars. Shepherd says that "presently the libraries only replace about a sixth of what is lost. If all losses were replaced, the value of the books, plus the labour required to re-order them could come to as much as \$90,000 annually." After an initial outlay of about \$90,000 in the first year, of which \$40,000 would be spent on detection strips, the costs in this area would be about \$39,000 per annum. Of this about \$3000 would be for losses which get by the system. Thus after the initial year, the library should save about \$50,000 each year.

Shepherd says that "perhaps the most important advantage of this system is that there will be better service for the students using the library. When a student looks for a book in the library that hasn't been checked out, then it should be on the shelf. It is a great inconvenience to students to find books missing." Shepherd

adds that "presently about 15% of the inter-library loan requests are caused by sought books being missing from the Waterloo libraries. Thus it is very difficult for students who sometimes must wait several weeks to get a book simply because that book can't be found in our libraries when it should be there."

At the University of Guelph a similar system has been "a very definite success" according to Larry Porter, the official in charge. Guelph saves about \$100,000 per year. In fact the system there was able to pay for itself within six months. Before the system was implemented about 8000 volumes worth a total of about \$125,000 were lost each year. Now students are able to find the materials that they are looking for with the knowledge that they should be there. Porter says that when the system was first introduced a small group of people claimed that it was "an invasion of privacy". However, as the savings mounted and the searches were discontinued at the door, these dissenting few quieted down.

*continued on page 2...*

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*bewildering unfathomable*

# math NEWS

## The Waterloo Pubs

There has existed for many years an informal organization called the Waterloo Pub. The name is a misnomer for the activities of off-campus co-op students in Toronto who have been gathering weekly during their work-terms to party at local bars on a rotating basis. These pubs have been mainly attended by mathies and 1-jineers but all faculties have been represented.

Prior to 1976 the association was loose and fragmented, communication not being one of its stronger points. Some terms the students could only discover where the pub was being held by monitoring the "grapevine", i.e. through friends and acquaintances. Occasionally a phone list was compiled and myriad hours spent phoning people weekly to inform them of the location of the get-together.

However, as foreshadowed, 1976 was the start of something big. A math malcontent (hexad) cajoled Math Society into funding an experiment of his own devising. A phone number was assigned in Toronto as the Waterloo pub number and his telephone answering machine hooked into it. The number was distributed at the first pub and spread like wildfire. A pre-

recorded message was available 24 hours/day (barring hardware failures) which informed of the location of the next pub, directions to it, drink prices, atmosphere, appropriate dress, etc. Now potential pubbers could tune in at their leisure.

The experiment proved to be a success. Attendance was regularly 60 or 70 people, rising to over 100 on occasion. Waterloo grads started attending and non-Waterloo persons (i.e. females) were cheerfully adopted into the ranks. Hexad just this week completed the organization of the Waterloo pub from the status of an experiment to a Mathsoc permanently funded service. A phone answering machine was purchased for \$300 through Council and the phone costs of \$40/term put into the normal administration budget, no longer requiring Council intervention for funding. The phone number is presently 423-8913 in Toronto, pubs are held Wednesday nights, Gregg Andrews co-ordinating the locations and recordings this term. In future terms the number will change but will always be listed with the operator under the name of Hugh Hexad.

The Waterloo pub is a Mathsoc sponsored event, organized by hexad, open to all.

## Master of...

### 'Welcome Back Pub'

To commence this summer of '76 socially, Mathsoc is holding a pub — just to celebrate everyone's ecstasy of returning to campus.

DATE: friday may 14th  
LOCATION: 5th floor faculty lounge MC5136  
TIMES: begins at 8pm, cash bar until 1am, music until it stops  
MUSIC: disco & rock provided by ghost (tunes inc.)  
ADMISSION: \$.50 at the door

One and all are invited although we are trying to limit it to humans. If we achieve a good turnout it will give us data to work on improving future events.

Let's make this summer a fun one.

At Guelph there are about 1500 real detects a year. However, most of these are by students who unthinkingly or unintentionally have taken materials out illegally. Guelph only proceeds judicially if there have been repeated offences or mutilation.

Lynn Mathews, the chief librarian of the Kitchener Public Library says that the officials there are "very pleased" with the system being used, and that "it is doing the job we thought it would".

Shepherd and Porter say that the real value of the system is that it is a deterrent. For this reason Guelph feels that it isn't necessary to put the sensing strips in every book. Shepherd says that it has not yet been decided whether or not to put the strips in every book should Waterloo implement a similar system here.

All three officials acknowledge that there are disadvantages in that the system isn't absolutely foolproof and that sometimes there are false alarms. However, these occur very infrequently and are caused by such things as various metals in some types of brief cases. At the Kitchener Library this occurs about two or three times a week.

The Waterloo library officials intend to examine the results of a study on the automated circulation system before a decision is made as to whether or not to proceed with the detection system. It is felt that an improved circulation system may help reduce losses through more efficient accounting. However, as Shepherd says of the detection system, "the savings in dollars will not be the only benefit. The advantages offered will be immeasurable to the students."

## DO NOT HUMP

This week's *COMPUTER\_OF\_THE\_WEEK* is the IBM 370/145.

Many of you will be wondering where it is. A few know darn well that we haven't got one, and think I have goofed or used a computer which is not on campus.

As was mentioned earlier, programs from WIDJET are run on the 370/158. However, students using WATBOL (132a) must specify in the program the computer to be used. In the fall, the correct specification indicated that the 360/75 (the biggie!) was being used (not true, but apparently no-one had updated the WATBOL compiler.....). And in the winter term just finished, 132a students were told to specify that the processor being used was the 370/145. Which just goes to show that you can pass first-year computer science even if the computer you're using does not exist!

## Sir R. Reports

### the white knight attacks the chevron

Many of you may have noticed that the article on library security on the first page of this issue of *mathNEWS* is on the same subject as that on the front page of last week's *Chevron*. There is a good reason for this. When I read the *Chevron*'s article last Friday it seemed to me that the reporter was trying to convey the following points:

- 1) That a electronic detection system is an invasion of the privacy of library users.
- 2) That because the system isn't 100% perfect it has little value.
- 3) That stealing books from the University libraries is an acceptable practice because students have little other choice.

Disagreeing with each of these three points, I decided to follow up by talking to Murray Shepherd, U of W's chief librarian. He informed me that the article was "reasonably accurate", and that he was "not unhappy with it" in that it did reflect his uncertainty about such a system.

However, as I talked to him I learned of many positive points about the system not mentioned in the *Chevron*'s article.

I then talked to Larry Porter of the University of Guelph library and Lynn Mathews of the Kitchener Public Library. Both had many praises for the detection systems in operation at those locations. Now although the *Chevron* article did mention some of the good points about these systems, it seemed to play them down, actually ignoring many of them, and instead concentrated on the fact that the systems aren't absolutely foolproof. Although these library officials did say what the *Chevron* quotes them as saying, the article seemed to completely miss the gist of their comments.

It appears obvious to myself that Mike Ura, the writer of the article, started out on the premise that the system was evil and then set about to prove it, playing down or ignoring all positive aspects. When this type of article appears on the front page of the campus's most widely circulated paper, where that it can influence the opinions of many of its readers, something is definitely wrong.

It is my belief that this type of system could be of great benefit to the University. Anyone who improperly removes materials from the libraries is both narrow-minded and self-serving, and is victimizing both myself and other students.

I therefore have written an article which I believe to be objective, in an effort to set the record straight and correct this situation.

It probably isn't your imagination — classes are larger than expected this term — especially in 3rd & 4th year math courses. Although numbers are not yet available there are definitely more people in school this summer than normal. Class sizes were originally compiled in February from co-op pre-registration and, as always, some regular students decided to stay on for the summer. This time, however, many more are with us. Reasons postulated: the scarcity of jobs and threatened tuition fee increases.

## MATHLETICS

## MYTHLETICS

If you're reading this and you haven't already signed up, its almost too late.

So! Scoot down to the glass windows outside the smoking lounge (MC 3001) and sign up (before 4:30 Friday) for our various athletical (that's a word?-editor) and recreational events:

- Co-ed Slow-pitch (and drinking),
- Co-ed Inner-tube Water-polo,
- Men's Fast-ball,
- Men's Basketball,
- Co-ed Volley-ball,
- Men's Ball-Hockey.

Remember, its a long hot summer and there ain't a hell of a lot of girls around. So instead of cold showers, do something that'll keep your mind off it (NOTE: these events are co-ed, so we need all 3 of you girls who are on campus this term to come out and play).

## ADS

*mathNEWS* will print your ads, free of charge. Just jot them down on a piece of paper and put it in our mailbox on the third floor across from the C&D lounge, or take it to Mathsoc and have them put it in our mail slot, or put it in the mail addressed to *mathNEWS*, MC 3038, or send them in the mail subsystem on TSS to userid *mathNEWS*.

Professor looking for a crisis. Must be unused, but big enough for national use. Crisis will be used to write book. Phone 715-3321, ask for Rodger.

Find awareness in MT. MT stands for Mental Tripe. MT is a scientifically disproven method that gives you up to 24 hours of FUN a day. MT your mind; MT your wallet. Whether you are a member of the Anti Intelligence Alliance, a Child of God, or just plain stupid you'll recognize MT. Come to a free introductory meeting during a Math 122A class.  
Joe Smotee

## Ludwig von Zopfault

Who uses *APL/360* anymore? This system seems to exist only for the purposes and convenience of a few statistics people, as no one else has much use for it. Most mathites use either **WIDGET** (appropriately named - the term is usually applied to things which no-one is quite sure what use it is, or what it does), or **DEBUG** (the University's attempt to deforest Canada), or **TSS** (which is perpetually overloaded, despite the recent upgrade and addition of a new disc drive). In fact, one could say that the major justification for keeping *APL* (which presently runs on the Model 44 heating system, as well as VM), is that the stats people no longer have enough HP-45's around to use.

I may be wrong (as has been known to happen), about the amount of usage of this system, but one never seems to see very many university students using the twenty or so terminals during the day. As an indication of this, there does not appear to exist a body of legitimate "hacks" on *APL*, which one expects if there existed a reasonably large user community. Speaking of which...

With the summer comes changes, and often these changes strike sections of the world previously considered sacred. For example, one hears in the wind that the infamous 'bun hacker turned UNIX hacker (you know, the one with hair and nails) may be leaving his life of C and YACC behind. Since he began living with the official 1 track 1600 bpi nameless haack, he has begun to show definite interest in a subset of the population he has previously ignored. (Maybe one of these nights Tijet will get a chance to walk in on him!!!)

The rest of the 'bunco hacks have not fared so well. In fact, one has been demoted from an "incorrigible" to a non-entity. Seems he had managed to do what no mere mortal (if, indeed, he is human) had done before - put in a new system call into the operating new system whilst it was running. However, because of his antics, it didn't stay that way for long....Needless to say, the people upstairs on the MFCF staff were not amused. Exit one Userid. It is rumoured that this non-entity is now Using UNIX on a near twentyfour hour basis, as it is the last machine in the Math building which he is allowed to use. It appears that hacking is a dangerous profession, especially insofar as few hacks are academic successes. Of course, staying in a mystic communion with their CRT terminals long enough to acquire suntans does not leave overmuch time for the more mundane aspects of university, such as classes.

On to other topics. Notably the changes in mathNEWS and the Math Faculty. I go away for a few months to one of the most isolated areas within a thousand kilometres and they go celebrate

## C.A. T - Shirts

As you all may remember, last summer we made an attempt to sell 'Uncle Scrooge' C.A. T-shirts to all classes. Despite collecting orders for over 20 dozen shirts we found it necessary to return all money collected.

After negotiations with the licencing authority in Toronto for Walt Disney Productions (of whom Uncle Scrooge is a licenced character), we found we could get the shirts this summer if we bought them through a firm in Toronto for between \$4.00 and \$4.75 and put up some front money.

Comparing this to a price of between \$2.50 and \$2.75 from Webco in Kitchener we decided 'Bye Bye, Scrooge'.

But have no fear! We intend to get C.A. T-shirts for the summer if enough interest exists (and we are sure it does!).

However we are running out of design ideas. All suggestions are most welcome, so put your thinking cap on, pull out a pencil and sketch out a rough beautiful design and send it to us. You can: (1) corral us in the corridors (2) phone 885-0108 (3) mail it to 515H Sunnydale Pl., Waterloo

No prize, no fee, just heartfelt thanks, a quick handshake, and a tip of the hat to you if our elite panel of judges likes your design. Not even a free T-shirt — this whole operation is strictly non-profit and always has been.

By the way, 19 people have not collected their refunds from the summer yet. To get your money you can contact us in any of the same 3 ways as above or you can apply the funds against a summer T-shirt.

Before every Bruce, John, and George stomps to our door and demands money we should mention that we have kept good records and we know to whom we owe money.

D. Larry Hancock (and Co.)

by changing everything around. New editor (our red-haired gnome is not running things), new format (though the typesetter is a lot of fun to use - as long as someone else is paying for the paper), and new features (particularly the creation of some odious troublemaker). Incidentally, I was misquoted last term. I asked *what* Exil Q. Trob was, not *who* it was (after all, the second question is totally meaningless).

And, finally, a heartfelt welcome to the little green men and women who have returned to the Math building, after a sojourn to the farthest reaches of the universe (1-jineering one through four). TO MY RECENTLY RETURNED GHOSTWRITER: Good luck, comrade. We're under the gun for yet another term.

## INCOMPREHENSIBLE

# BURLOAF

Welcome to Summer at Waterloo. Aside from all the rain, I am convinced summer is the best time of all to be at the University. Judging from last Summer (the Burloaf just never leaves this place), and looking ahead, I think this summer is going to be just great.

We begin with these notes: Someone mentioned that his pet rock was very shy when he first got it, but now it's become a little boulder. Someone else a long time ago got the engineering microwave oven to blow up, setting his sights higher, he recently got the MFCF Ron Hansen to blow up, an action which acted much to his detriment for now he has been banished to UNIX on the sixth floor.

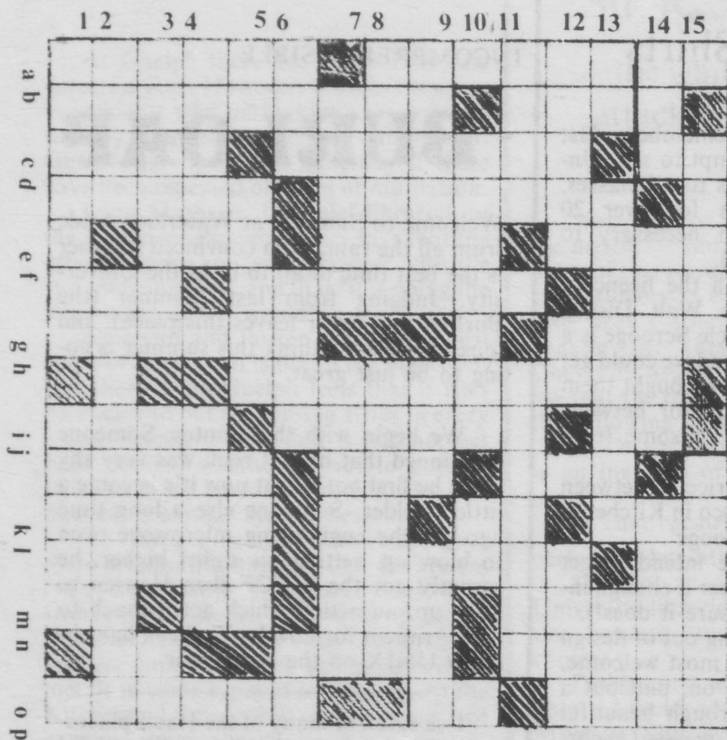
I've eaten at many of the Hack-places-to-eat (and a few others as well) and I'd like to take some time to congratulate one of these places for doing something right. I ordered a cup of tea at the Garden Restaurant a few days ago and they served, not cream as is usually done, but milk as should be done! This is the only time I can recall this happening.

Cream is intended for coffee, not tea. Americans who are disbelievers in tea only drink coffee and therefore only have to worry about serving cream. A great number of the slightly more cultured Canadians enjoy tea. However, almost all restaurants do things in the true American way and assure a good supply of coffee cream for people's tea, but no milk. (Although things aren't all gloomy the tea itself is handled more properly than the humourous way it is done in the States.) Why don't dairy companies get smart and package small containers of milk for tea the way they do with cream for coffee? Coffeemate is no good, because it is not designed to taste like cream on its own, but like cream in coffee, with the result that in tea it tastes like dish detergent. In fact, the cream things you get at food services outlets carry a warning on the side which explicitly states that it is "for coffee".

It is thoroughly refreshing to come across a restaurant that knows how to serve tea properly. We can only hope that other food establishments follow this lead.

Last term, for one day, the weather report for the interior of the math building was "extreme snow". Yes, it was Campus Day, and lots of young highschoolers turned up to be snowed in by dollar-wise U of W promoters. Now, I've generally been opposed to Campus Day for the

continued on page 5...



Lastest computer hit song is "I'm Trapped in a Yellow Subroutine".

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

the deadline which is Friday May 21



flat out

- a01 silver ape of Java
- a08 loss of hair through skin disease
- b01 to moisten and rub with a lotion
- b11 beardless wild goat of Himalayas
- c01 breezy
- c06 the pronunciation of a vowel as long
- e14 and(fr)
- d01 a sculptured slab or tablet
- d07 one-eared wheat grown in Europe
- e03 yes
- e07 Roger Ramjet's Tuxedo Industry
- e12 geological age(plural)
- f01 National Tennis Society
- f05 measles
- f13 tub or vessel
- g01 restrain from departure
- g12 beaks of birds
- h05 a book whose sheets are folded into 18 leaves
- i01 sharp, eager
- i06 characteristics
- i13 forty year-old French Kitten(initials)
- j01 American dogwood
- j07 suffix denoting "a citizen of"
- j11 half a disease carrying African fly
- k01 nest of an eagle
- k07 street(abbr)
- k10 either \_\_\_\_\_
- k13 greek letter
- l01 bound by feudal service
- l07 Cancer or Capricorn not Leo
- l14 actinium
- m01 like
- m04 hafnium
- m07 a wreath of flowers and leaves
- m11 a peasant
- n02 sir
- n06 a thousand feet of picture film
- n11 a religion
- o01 a retinue
- o09 rhymes with me but means you
- o12 backward little island

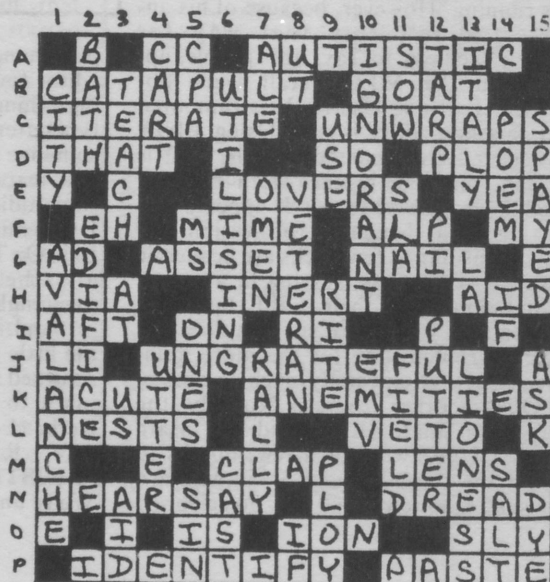
### GRIDWORD COMMENTS



Last term was finished off with a flurry of 38 submissions. There was a fifty-fifty split with **Carol Molloy** being on the right side as well as being lucky (i.e. she won). This week we have a gridword created by **Tom Weber** which entitles him to a free t-shirt (regular \$2.25 value).

In case you forgot, you can win (subscribers included) a t-shirt by correctly solving the gridword. Send your attempts to **mathNEWS** by either mailing to **mathNEWS, M&C 3038, University of Waterloo, Waterloo** OR put it in the **mathNEWS** mailbox on the third floor of the math bldg. Be sure and get your solutions in by the deadline which is Friday May 21 (last day to ADD courses). The lucky winner will be selected at random.

- bunch of arrows pointing down
- 1A the windpipe
- 1I tailless Australian marsupial
- 2A leave out
- 2F earth tremors of remote origin
- 3A 21 letter of alphabet concatenated with "the front of anything"
- 3I Ireland
- 3N an abbreviated religion
- 4A in a twisted manner
- 4I a horsy sound
- 5A yellow Hawaiian bird
- 5D weird
- 5J coral \_\_\_\_\_
- 6A temporary peace, tr \_\_\_\_\_
- 6F one
- 6N right (abbr)
- 7B sour or bitter
- 7H cartilage
- 8A your garb
- 8H you might put your chapeau here
- 9A make-shift shelter
- 9I Leafs-7 California-7
- 9L greasy
- 10C a small culinary vessel
- 10K this type of code common in assemblers
- 11A Parent Teacher Intelligence Organization
- 11H down from worlds largest bird
- 12A expunged (deranged)
- 12G (nitrogen)\*\*2
- 12L a child
- 13A 24th letter of Russian alphabet
- 13D a month
- 13M numero \_\_\_\_\_ = math society
- 14A anger or wrath
- 14E a very wealthy man (in India)
- 14K robust
- 15C something we all hate
- 15J " " what you see is what you get



mere reason that U of W faculty sets out to purposely paint a much rosier picture of university life for these individuals than really exists. However, I wasn't totally opposed to Campus Days. Not until this year. In previous years, A Campus Day was an assurance of free donuts, coffee and pop for people. However, this year, scouting around failed to reveal a single one of these Campus Day hunger stations. Perhaps this last redeemer of Campus Day has passed the way of other victims of budget cuts.

Prepositions, those words like "with", "to", "through" and "against", have always had a special place in language. People who know a language use correct prepositions without thinking about them, putting in the ones that makes the phrases "sound right". However, defining prepositions is a very difficult task, a lot more difficult than defining words from more ordinary word classes. Anyone who has learned a foreign language knows the problems of learning the meanings of prepositions. It usually becomes a case of not really getting good definitions, but just learning, more or less by osmosis, which prepositions sound best in different contexts.

However, when people write programs that attempt to process natural languages (i.e., english) so that people can more or less talk to computers, prepositions must be defined exactly to the hardware. Coming up with these definitions is a very difficult task and in fact I have been told that someone is doing a thesis for a Ph.D about the meaning of the word "for". I can't find anything out about this person, but the fact that he is writing a thesis on it is an indicator of the immensity of the task of writing a reasonably exact definition for the preposition.

The first INTEGER\_OF\_THE\_WEEK for the summer term is:

69

This number has at least one delightful property.

69 is one of the only 4 two-digit integers that can be rotated and still be valid numbers, preserving their original values to boot. 69 is  $3+22 \times 3$ , which when written backwards becomes  $3 \times 22 + 3$  which is 69. 69 is also  $3 \times 23$ . 69 written backwards is 96, which is equal to  $3 \times 23$  written backwards, or  $32 \times 3$ .

A schedule which gives you a regular noon hour and Friday afternoon off is a thing of beauty and a joy for four months.

## New Math Degree Requirements

On September 1 of this year new requirements will come into effect governing the Bachelor of Mathematics degree. However, with the exception of the shortening of the lengths of the add and drop periods, these changes should have little effect upon students presently in the faculty. P.C. Brillinger states that although new students coming into the faculty in September will fall under the new requirements, the decision has not yet been made as to whether or not current students will have the option as to which set of requirements they wish to follow.

The changes which will affect everyone are the new lengths of the add and drop periods. These have been shortened to 2 and 6 weeks respectively, from the official beginning of lectures.

The table below shows the averages, the number of credits, and the maximum number of course attempts and failures which will constitute the new requirements. It should be noted that all required Faculty and Departmental core courses will be included in the Math average. Also, for Honours programmes requiring more than 15 Math credits (e.g. Double Honours), all such credits will be included in the Math average. For Honours programmes such as Chartered Accountancy which require fewer than 15 Math credits, only those required will be included.

The requirements regarding withdrawal procedures from the faculty have also been changed. A student will normally be required to withdraw if either he/she has exceeded 5 full-course failures, or, if by the end of the first term in which the student has accumulated 22 or more full course attempts he/she has failed to achieve an average of 60% on six distinct Math credits, including those required for the Pass degree.

However, as noted above, these requirements (except for those to do with the add and drop periods), will only affect new students unless the faculty decides that the option is available to current students.

	Pass	General	Honours	Joint Honours
Total Credits	16	21	24	24
Math Credits	6	12	15	12
Elective Credits	6	6	6	6
Math Average	60% on 6 credits	60% on 12 credits	70% on 15 credits	70% on 12 credits
Maximum Full Course Attempts	22	27	30	30
Maximum Full Course Failures	5	5	4	4
Complete Terms Required	0	2	4	4

unclassifiable

math



Since this is the summer term, Council positions are filled by appointment {or volunteers}, and you may be interested in knowing who is filling these positions. They are as follows:

- President - Gary Prudence
- Vice president - Ron Hipfner
- Treasurer - Martha Coutts
- Administrator - Ingrid Knaus
- Social Director - John Denham
- Internal Affairs - Steve Risto

The positions of Education and Orientation are as yet vacant. The Speaker's position will be on a rotational basis.

The meeting this afternoon was held in the Collquial Room, which was a change of pace from our usual meeting place in the lower levels of the Math building. It was short and sweet, lasting about 45 minutes, and an outline of the highlights follows:

\* Ron Hipfner was ratified as the Managing Editor of mathNEWS.

\* As you may have read elsewhere in these pages, the funds for the phone recorder were allocated, and the money for the phone bill for the Waterloo Pub Number in T.O. was incorporated into the annual budget.

\* Discussion was made of the possibility of holding future pubs in the South Campus Hall, but there are still some problems to be worked out.

\* Funds were allocated for the Welcome Back Pub this Friday, with John Denham as the D.J.

\* Discussion also concerned Anti-Cal questionnaires, which are to be distributed for comments from Mathies-at-large.

\* Volunteers are needed for both the Executive and Curriculum committees. Any and all services will be appreciated.



unclassified  
New Math Degree

sirius business

from watsfic

WATSFIC is the acronym for the University of Waterloo Science Fiction Club. The purpose of the club is to promote an interest in SF (Science Fiction) on campus and to facilitate interchange between SF fans. Planned activities include regular showings of quality SF films (NOT *Godzilla Meets the Swamp Monster*), the publication of an SF fanzine, maintenance of a list of SF books that members are willing to lend to other members, and regular meetings for discussion and to provide information on local SF related events.

WATSFIC was first conceived by Mike Wallis, editor of SciSoc News, in the Fall term 1975. A few weeks after the first announcement, the first organizational meeting was held on Nov. 20 and in spite of the rainy weather that evening 33 people attended. Weekly meetings were held during the rest of the term during which we discussed SF, future plans, and the club constitution in that order. We needed a constitution in order to be recognized by the Board of Education of the Federation of Students and on Jan. 13, 1976 we were officially recognised. This gave us access to Fed financing.

During the past term the club executive were:

Paul Gumerman - Pres.

Mike Wallis - Sec.

R.A.G. White - Treas.

We showed 2 SF movies last term, *City Beneath the Sea* and *Silent Running*. We had planned on showing *Westworld* as well but the distributor thought that the University of Waterloo was in *Wind-sor*(?! We also published the first issue of *Starsongs* our club newsletter/fanzine, after many delays and lack of organization. Hopefully we will publish 2 more issues during this term and improve the content somewhat.

WATSFIC joined two organizations last term, OSFiC (the Ontario Science Fiction Club) and the Draco Film Society. OSFiC membership entitles us to a free copy of their fanzine and to a vote at all their meetings. The most important benefit of Draco membership is a substantial discount on film rental, thus allowing us to show more films than we would normally be able to. We also received a userid (watsfic) on the H6060 courtesy of MFCF and with the aid of this we have computerised our clearing house for inter-member book loans. One of the other things we use this userid for is to keep an up to date news file (watsfic/news) so that members with access to the Honeywell can keep informed on what is happening with the club.

An SF convention. What's this about a convention? Well, WATSFIC planned on having a one day con on Mar 27 until we ran into a small snag. You see, the university considers the sale of books, magazines, etc... by organizations other than the UW bookstore, to be competition, and, since one of the major activities planned for the con was a dealer's room where these things would be sold, we were unable to hold the con on campus. Instead, we postponed the date to Oct. 9, 1976, the first Saturday of *Oktoberfest*, changed the name to **OKTOBERKON**, and moved the location to Forest Heights Collegiate. For more information on **OKTOBERKON** come to the WATSFIC organizational meeting at 7:30pm Thursday May 13 in the 3rd floor math lounge.

## The Term in Review

Crime city was in full swing last term with plenty of arson, theft, vandalism and death (Crime city in case you haven't heard is the math building and surrounding environs).

The math building had a number of fires set during the term. The destruction caused by the arsonist(s) was not severe because the fires were usually discovered quite quickly. Thousands of dollars damage did occur in an accidental fire which damaged a Comterm printer on the fifth floor.

As well as the set fires, other damage occurred. Terminals in the building were deliberately damaged, acid was poured on the NOVA computer and the minicomputer lab was attacked.

These acts of vandalism resulted in an outcry for greater security and in March **mathNEWS** was able to report that: *Support for a move to lock up the math building is definitely growing among those who have the authority to perform just such an action..... Some ideas have been put forward as an alternative to closing the building at 10pm such as hiring student guards or closing all but one door at night with a sign-in-out system.* Action on the matter was deferred, but further incidents in the future could result in a crackdown.

In another crime area 1100 dollars worth of t-shirts were stolen from the mathSoc office. They were eventually recovered from the **CENSORED**. This incident caused mathSoc to spend over 500 dollars on chains, locks, bars and other proactive devices to improve office security.

The Faculty after some debate (and some student protests) approved new degree requirements to come into effect this September.

MathSoc after some debate (and no student protests) approved a new society fee of \$3.50 (up from \$2.50) effective in September.

The MFCF (the guys who control the 'bun) announced a new honeywell account policy. The only effect this has on students will be reduced access.

The Blood Donor Clinic was cancelled enabling Math to hang on to the Blood Bowl.

Math, arts and ESS joined forces to hold a very successful Winter Week which ended in a semi-formal with "Full House". During the week a sliderule contest was held which attracted many entrants. Because of the interest a permanent trophy was created.

If you have looked at the new calendar you will have noticed that the names and numbers of many math courses have been changed. The new identification system will start in the fall.

The blob near the Arts Library managed to sneak back on campus on the last day of exams. Despite this effort to remain unnoticed it quickly acquired a new paint job (since removed) and a sign stating DO NOT HUMP. During its absence from campus it was given a name (**CONVOLUTIONS** or is it **CONVULSIONS**).

And now to conclude this review on a sadder note. On April 1st, R.W. Hancox B.A.Sc, co-ordinator for the co-op teaching option, committed suicide.

## Computer Snow Day

Every year thousands of mindless high school students are bused in for Computer Snow Day. The students are seated at a computer terminal (or an IBM 2741) and are left to play silly computer games to their hearts' content. In short, the students are snowed. Little do the students know (they're from high school) but they will never play with the computer again and instead be Widjetted. They rush home on the bus and say "Mommy and Daddy, boy the computer is fun. I want to go to Waterloo" or "Parents, the University of Waterloo is a wise choice and a good value". When they arrive at Waterloo for their first year they find they get less attention than an illegally parked car. The snow storm continues.

Now one may ask the purpose of Computer Snow Day. Never give a sucker an even break is the rule here. The first year of math is so easy that, unless one takes French or falls into the 24 hour trap (24 hours a day of bridge, parties, pinball, or computers), one cannot fail without trying. Then after some disaster like 237 calculus they drop out having provided 1 1/2 or 2 years of tuition and of Ontario Government contributions. Nor does this student cause an increase in expenditures for the University. Class sizes are increased to 300; the Widjet stay open for long crowded hours. These dropouts are giving the U of W money for nothing. So support Computer Snow Day : it's giving you better education for their money.

## computer science flub

Next week, the Computer Science Club will be holding its organizational meeting for the summer term.

Last term, the CSC made a break with several terms' tradition and actually did something. This is a summary of last term's action:

Walter Banks, of CCNG (Computer Communications Networks Group) gave a talk on minicomputers and building them at home. Building and using minicomputers at home is a hobby that is on the increase now that the cost of minicomputer processors is becoming relatively low, and at the lecture various aspects of this hobby were explained and discussed. The lecture was very well attended and lots of enthusiasm was generated.

A trip to the University of Toronto was sponsored by the CSC with the intent of seeing what U of T is doing in the field of computer graphics. We were shown several impressive devices for creating **graphic displays including a colour TV monitor. Some programmes, including one to edit articles onto a newspaper page (being developed for the Globe and Mail),** as well as a number of games that made good use of the graphic equipment, were demonstrated. All in all, it was very impressive.

Tours of the Computing Centre were held, which featured trips through the Red Room. Also, some new projects were brought up for interested members.

Next Tuesday, at 7:30, the organizational meeting will take place in MC 3003. As well as the usual formalities (deciding the term's executive and signing in members), we will discuss some of the projects that members might be interested in undertaking and any possible trips or lectures that might be arranged.

As well as organizing events, the CSC has a library of computer manuals and some technical reports from which members may borrow. Often, when the CSC office (MC 3037) is open, people come in and get into discussions about anything to do with computers (and some other things as well).

This term, as was the case last term, what the CSC gets accomplished will depend a lot on how much effort the members are willing to put into it.

## the trob again, and again

The last trob article of last term implied the possibility, though improbability, that **mathNEWS** would not be presenting the Trob this term. Luckily, however, nobody was found to fulfill the stated conditions (see **Letters to the Trob**), and so we begin again. Also back this term is the giant worm outside the Arts Library; rumour has it that National Geographic will present "*As the Worm Returns*" next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. (6:30 Central).

## Confusing Centre Courses

The Computing Centre is offering to students, staff and faculty, a programme of non-fee, non-credit courses during the Spring term. If you wish to register for any of the following courses, please send your name, departmental address, building code and a list of the courses you would like to attend, to:

Dianne Hart  
User Services  
Computing Centre  
MC 2008.

A memo stating room numbers for the courses will be returned to you via inter-office mail. Enrolment may be limited and classes may be cancelled if response is insufficient.

As most of you poor slobs know (to your eternal regret!), WIDJET is a batch system with terminals for 122a and 132 assignments. A PDP-11 is used for editing of "session" files, and the IBM 370 is used for permanent storage and program execution.

In the fall of 1975, the 132a (WATBOL) classes were assigned to WIDJET. Let this serve as an object lesson to anyone contemplating implementation of incompletely tested systems; performance was poor at best (rare!) and at worst (much more common!) there was no performance whatsoever.

By Christmas, the system was almost coping with its current load. At that point, the number of terminals was increased by 50% and the student load doubled by assigning 122a to the system as well. Performance took an understandable dive, recovering only in the last half of the term; but since assignments were now weekly, instead of fortnightly, little improvement was achieved.

However, the back-room boys had continued to improve the system. While it may not be faster, the system now gives a constant series of messages giving the status of any files in queues and their positions, and the editor has been enhanced.

With all of this, we still question the sanity of the author of the article in the April "Computer Centre newsletter" who described WIDJET as "pleasant to use....." Several hundred students can't all be wrong!

A common bird seen around the campus this time of year is m122a. A trivial introduction to FORTRAN and WATFIV, it is required by a large number of students. The problem is that many of these studied FORTRAN for several years in high school, and all have taken 132a (WATBOL). Most have also worked for a term, using some decent (or better) language like APL. Now they are retaught the basics of FORTRAN and sentenced to four months of WIDJET. Thank goodness for TSS!!

- (1) Using the Computer for Graphics and Plotting: This seminar is designed for those who would like to investigate the course will cover such plotting facilities as: printer plotting, CalComp plotting, Varian plotting and Tektronix plotting. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 18 at 2:30-4:00 p.m. Coordinator : Sandy Hemphill
- (2) Introduction to MARKEYAM: This program processes OMR cards and produces statistics useful to lecturers. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 18 at 2:30-4:00 p.m. Instructor : Sally Riggs
- (3) VM/370 CMS Workshops: These workshops will be problem sessions to which users may bring their own CMS problems for discussion. Experienced CMS users from the Computing Centre will be on hand at each session to answer questions. Prerequisite: Familiarity with "Introduction to CMS". Date: May 19 - CMS Edit at 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- (4) Using the Computer for Preparation of Theses, Papers, Reports, etc. This seminar covers ATS, WITS, WYLBUR, CMS, SCRIPT which are terminal systems, text editors and text formatters used for typing reports or theses into the computer and revising or editing them. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 19 at 11:30-1:00 p.m. Coordinator: Randy Melen
- (5) Introduction to MARKPROC: These packages process multiple choice exams and produce course statistics. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 20 at 2:30-4:00 p.m. Instructor : Jennifer Uttley
- (6) Using the Computer to Aid in Statistical Analysis: The seminar demonstrates SPSS, APL, Speakeasy, and BMP (Series P) and their use in statistical analysis of data. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 20 at 10:30-12:00 noon Coordinator : Malcolm Robinson
- (7) Introduction to Fortran: This course introduces FORTRAN to the novice programmer. Prerequisite: Familiarity with topics covered in the seminar on Ways of Talking to the Computer. Dates: May 25,26,27,31, June 31 at 10:30-11:30 a.m. Instructor : Paul Snyder
- (8) Introduction to CMS: This course explains and demonstrates the command language structure and the creation and manipulation of files. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 25,27 at 2:30-3:30 p.m. Instructor : Cathie Vermander
- (9) Introduction to Speakeasy: Each session will be an introduction to the basics of Speakeasy. Prerequisite: none. Date: May 26 at 2:30-4:00 p.m. Instructor : Gord Fazil

## WATSFIC May 13

Organizational Meeting.

(UW Science Fiction Club)

7:30 p.m. M&C 3rd floor, Math Lounge.



mathNEWS welcomes your criticisms, comments, suggestions, etc. All letters should be signed, but if requested, a pen name will be used. Put your **Feed-back** articles in our *mailbox* on the third floor outside the lounge, or mail it to us on TSS to userid **mathNEWS**, or take it to MC 3038 and have it put in our mail slot, or put it in the mail addressed to **mathNEWS**, MC 3038.

## mathNEWS

Dear Chevron Editor:

This letter is in reply to a letter in your last issue of last term. However, since the Federation or somebody, in their infinitesimal wisdom, decided to pay you *NOT* to publish for three weeks, it is appearing in another paper.

The issue in question contained a letter from "Mother" (obviously a pseudonym), complaining about the general low quality of newspapers on campus. Her(?) problem does not become obvious until one realizes that she(?) makes no mention of **mathNEWS!**

Obviously, she is unaware that a student paper exists which provides regular Federation coverage, informative and humorous articles, relevant reporting of news and sports, an on-going contest of skill and chance, free personal ads and no paid advertising, and so much more!! Yet **mathNEWS** does indeed exist, and has all this.

It has been seriously suggested that summer presents a perfect opportunity for **mathNEWS** to expand and take over the circulation currently shared by the Chevron and the Gazette, but we have to admit: we wouldn't look half so good without you!

### The Masthead

welcome to the summer and our 11th term. the time being 12:50 wed 12th may. we're going every two weeks during the summer (to save money & keep us in school). things went well this time until the film in the photosetter decided not to come out, this being at 3am, so we all went home for some shut eye. mathNEWS is a strictly volunteer production and is financed by math-Soc (whose hand we bite regularly). This week we had more articles submitted than warm bodies to type in & correct. The last survivors are dennis (past editor) mullin, sir sock-it-to-em risto who is bucking for a journalism award, and me hugh (your non-default editor). Matthew smith banded a typewriter; as did randy morrison ((one of the previous also precised the c.c. courses, but damned if i can remember which one?)). Articles from mad dog dillon demonstrating that IS isn't totally \_\_\_\_; dwgillett the tribble; rmcrook a distant relative of a mathie; ghashton who wouldn't Widjet; gray (i mean gary) dryden the myth of math; bun mills when we needed it most; bill flowers who promised but didn't deliver; randall s mcdougall who decided not to get involved this term, but somehow did. Thanx to gp embro who helped me sort out the photo-comp machine this morning when a paper jam set us backwards. Notes that didn't make it in: class sizes are bigger this term (regulars who can't work and people expecting tuition increases the groundsmen are busy resodding because of ssalt destruction and people treading on lawns. I've missed enough classes today, see you in 2 weeks. (this is page 8 (in case you're watching))

## Letters to the Trob



Dear Trob:

Why don't they design a better bicycle rack? The ones outside the Math Building here are injurious to the wheels of even moderately good bikes like mine. I have to prop it against the wall, and lock it to that end of the rack. Also, they should have more spaces for bicycles in sheltered places; there are only three spots outside the Math building where your bike is completely sheltered from the rain (unless it is really windy, when there are no spots). Rain and bicycles don't mix, or not with any good consequences. The guy in Science who won the ring-road race last fall keeps his Lazaretti inside the Chemistry building, which is the only sensible thing for someone to do with a really good bike, if they must bring it to school, but it would be a nuisance if people with ordinary bikes like mine (ordinary not Ordinary) all did this.

Dear Adrian:

Good point! Unfortunately, your points seem to be based on the assumption that those in a position to do something about the problem do not wish to cause inconvenience. (Don't worry, you're not the first!) Perhaps somebody reading this issue will decide that they should do something about it (and perhaps the tooth fairy will leave a dime under your pillow, too!)

At least be thankful the pigeons have left your bike alone. So far

\$500000 BILL

Dear Oscar:

Sorry, Oscar. Your intention seems apparent, but your reading comprehension is faulty. The notice to which I assume you are replying clearly stated that it was to be *bills* (plural), so **mathNEWS** will continue to bring you trob articles for another term.

### Letters from the Trob

Dear U.F.O. (You know who you are!):  
Message received but your mail-box was full. Try pCp where you work (c/o mathsoc for now).