

## Blocked Shots Won't Stop JJBT

*To err is human.  
To err miserably is JJBT.*

Merlin

Wednesday marked the First Annual Campus Centre Board Frisbee Golf Tournament, and, as always when frisbees are mentioned, JJBT was there. Petec and Catfish represented the team.

It took only three shots before Catfish lost his frisbee in a patch of monstrous goldenrod. For those of you who do not know Catfish, suffice it to say that this was not the ideal place for an asthmatic to go searching. Nevertheless, forsaking all danger to life and limb for the glory of the game, he found the frisbee in about ten minutes, and promptly put his next shot into Laurel Creek, where Petec's frisbee had also landed. Thus, for the second time this term, Catfish sampled the delights of wading in Laurel Creek, rescuing both his and Petec's frisbee in the process.

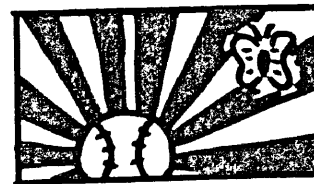
The rest of the tournament was far more successful. Both Catfish and Petec

even managed to birdie two holes. Although they didn't have any further troubles, several other competitors lost their frisbees on the roofs of Village 1, especially on the third hole, where the tee was located atop the blue cafeteria. Gale-force winds and a torrential downpour (which began as Petec and Catfish were on the seventh hole and ended as soon as they finished the tournament) prevented almost all the competitors (the sensible ones, at least) from completing the course. Nevertheless, some did complete it, and, when all was said and done, only Dylan MacHattie, with a 79 on the 13-hole par-72 course, had beaten Catfish and Petec, who each shot (flew?) 84.

A few other people tried the course the next day, but, as there was no wind and no rain on that day, their scores cannot fairly be compared. The fact that the scores, which were entered chronologically, were entirely in monotone decreasing order lends nothing to their credibility, anyway.

On Thursday night, it was volleyball, as usual. JJBT went up against Ray Clement's *Keystone Spikers*. The first game, surprisingly, went to the Spikers, when JJBT found all of their spike attempts blocked, mostly by the net.

As a result, JJBT changed their strategy for the next game—they decided to hit the ball *up*. This made an immediate difference, as the Spikers became so physically exhausted by having to return the odd shot that two of their number were unable to continue for the third game (JJBT took game number two, of course). This left the Spikers with only four members, and gave JJBT a default



# JJBT

victory—a return to the good ol' days.

We lent the opposition some players, and played some games for fun. These were totally undistinguished, except for Catfish's attempt at a backwards CN Tower Special, which can only be described as even worse than his normal effort.

This Thursday should be the game of the season—JJBT vs. *Math*. In addition, JJBT will be trying inner-tube water polo for the first time, Sunday evening.

### DEADLINE

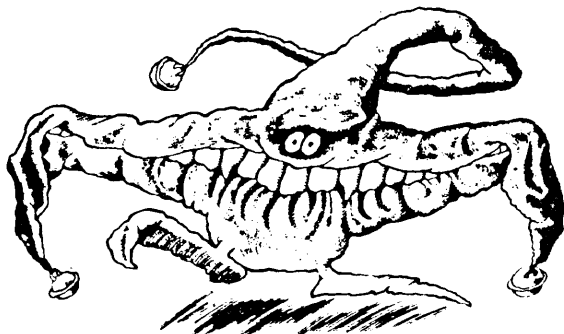
The last day for Math students to drop courses is Friday, October 22, 1976.

### TRACE in Toronto

For those interested in micro-computers or hobby computers in general, the Toronto Region Association of Computer Enthusiasts (TRACE) meets once a month. The next meeting is today, October 15, at the Humber College North Campus, Room j211, at 8 p.m. There will be further meetings on November 9 and December 17 at the same place and at the same time of day.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1976  
VOLUME XII, ISSUE 4

# math NEWS



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### Federation Meeting on Chevron

The UW Federation of Students, which is a corporation under provincial law, has announced a general meeting to be held on Friday, October 29, 1976. By-law changes relative to the chevron will be considered; any other item for the agenda must be in the hands of Shane Roberts,

President of the Federation, by 10 a.m. Monday, October 18.

The Federation recommends that any suggestions for the chevron by-laws be submitted to its Task Force (c/o Federation office) by 4:30 p.m. today, October 15.

—We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of

# BURLOAF?

There's a new userid on the honeywell, "amradio". Naturally when you see a userid like that, you wonder what it's up to. Could it be an alias for CFTR? Could it be a propaganda dissemination point to combat the current unpopularity of AM radio amongst Hackers?

Curiosity gets the best of all of us, and as a result, amradio has been getting hordes of mail basically asking, "who are you?". It turns out that amradio is actually the userid of the local amateur radio club. It seems to me that "hamradio" would be more appropriate, at least it would be more obvious who they were, and they probably wouldn't get badgered with mail. "amradio"—It's almost like giving Radio Waterloo a userid of "cabletv".

The Chevron has been shut down because it was being infiltrated by the AIA.

The AIA is quite the organization. They claim to represent most of the student body, yet refuse to release any figures on their membership. As far as I can tell, the AIA may have had some reasonable ideas from which to base their working ideologies, but their methods of disseminating information leave much to be desired. Not satisfied with telling the people their views and then letting the people decide for themselves about accepting them, they use subversion and even violence to try and make the masses believe their peculiar philosophies. It's a good thing the AIA deals in ideas, not money. If they were out to gather money rather than try to control people's thoughts, then their tactics would amount to empire building, the very thing their name says they are against. Perhaps the AIA should rename itself to the "Anti Imperialist-When-We're-Not-The-Ones-In-Full-Control Alliance"

The AIA does have its humorous side, from the way they heckle their own candidate at an election rally (and not doing a very good job at that—"They called him all but 'Sir'," I was told by an attendee), to the way the structure of the AIA (an organization that claims it's for the rights of the people) is a lot like that of a small monarchy, which assures that those in control remain that way. A former AIAer who quit after becoming disillusioned with the AIA way told of the meeting procedures that assure that free discussion is effectively prevented and only acceptable questions and ideas are put forward.

As one person put it, "The AIA has to be vocal, they aren't very instrumental".

Now, for our INTEGER\_OF\_THE\_WEEK, we present

1729.

1729 is the smallest integer that is the sum of two different pairs of cubes.

$$1729 = 9^3 + 10^3$$

$$1729 = 1^3 + 12^3$$

$9 + 10 = 19$  and  $1 + 12 = 13$  and 1729 is divisible by both 19 and 13.

Written in the irrational (transcendental, even) base  $e$ , the integer 1729 becomes the rather irrational-looking number 11-111020.100200001000121... There is a famous story about Srinivasa Ramanujan and 1729, but it is a bit too long to print here—see *The World of Mathematics*, volume 1.

Notes from all over:

Ludwig von Zopfault is threatening to mail in an article to mathNEWS from his place of exile up north. Last-ditch negotiations between our editor and postal workers, in an attempt to arrange a 6-month strike, have failed, so it seems his article may actually get here. Oh well.

The latest pastime taken up by the Hackers is that of "plying" each other with music. Hackers' tastes vary greatly in music(?), from some hackers that go for 60's AM hit music ("walla walla bing bang") to 70's sophisticated rock that often sounds like "mwwwrreeeep bwrrreeeooop". A hacker will invite a friend or two over under some innocuous pretext like he needs help with fixing his bike. Once the hacker has his friend trapped, he flips on a record and plies the victim with the music. The hackers who have fairly well-defined tastes ply each other wondering how on earth anyone could possibly stand the other's music, and explaining how they can't see anyone not liking their own tastes. These hackers also spend time trying to win the more middle-of-the-road types to their side. They are sometimes successful, only to lose the convert to the other side a few days later.

## Tautology?

Seen on blackboard of MC 3018:

**NO P.M. THIS MORNING**

*Once there was an elephant  
Who tried to use the telephant  
No, no! I mean an elephone  
Who tried to use the telephone  
(Dear me, I am not certain quite  
That even now I've got it right.)*

*Howe'er it was, he got his trunk  
Entangled in the telephunk.  
The more he tried to get it free  
The louder buzzed the telephee.  
I fear I'd better drop the song  
Of elehop and telephong.*

## JJLong FED REPort

In the past Mathsoc has held an intersociety week with Arts and ESS in late October or early November. Supposedly there will be one again this year, but no one seems to know anything about it. It should have been planned by now, but few people know much about it. I have been approached by students asking when a semi-formal will occur. I don't know! Does anyone? If someone does have information about this Societies Week, would they please let the students know, so someone can attend the events?!

At their last meeting, Fed council criticized my handling of the graduate election. Then they became so tired that they wouldn't do anything else. So your local math rep once again has the privilege(?) of being chief returning officer for the grad re-election.

I have seen the new "free" chevron and I have no objections to the continued publishing of this paper, provided the parties involved pay the Federation for their use of Federation space and materials. While I do not agree with the paper's political stance, I do not particularly mind, since I personally do not have to pay for the paper as we did with the old chevron. They are using their own money so they can say what they feel. Eventually I would like to see a separate voluntary fee for the chevron. Then the staff could have their much of their cherished autonomy and the students would not have to pay for a paper that does not represent their interest. Perhaps if the Federation wants their side of the issue heard, they can always put out a monthly newsletter like the Other Voice.

There is a Federation General Meeting coming up Friday, October 29, at 12:30 p.m. You are needed there if your voice is to be heard. I will need your support. Bylaw submissions must be in the Fed office by Sunday.

I hope you will answer the following poll:

Do you favor the implementation of a separate fee for the chevron?

Yes

No

If so, should this fee be:

Voluntary

Compulsory

method decided  
by referendum

## Kiddie Korner

Hi kids!

It's us again. Due to the overwhelming response to the our column last week, it looks like we are here to stay. It appears that a lot of you have plenty of spare time to kill. We received three correct solutions to our progression (QWERT). The right answers were submitted by china, Jim Pattison, and Keith Pybus, all of whom said the next letter was a "Y". For those of you who still do not know, the sequence is the top row of letters on a typewriter.

However, no one got the droodle, which was two mice in a beer can. Ron Steiner came closest, saying that it was a worm with both ends sticking out of a pop can. A number of people told us that it was two sperm simultaneously fertilizing a single ovum. The strange things that people have on their minds...

This week's progression will be a little harder because some of you complained that the last one was too easy. What is the next letter in the sequence: PRKBQ?

Also, here's an easy one for those of you who thought last week's was too hard. SMTWR?

Instead of giving you a droodle this week, we are going to launch our Tak'n'Sammy's Origami feature with a paper airplane.

You might ask, "Why a paper airplane when we could make neat things like frogs, swans and water-bombs?". Well, this is no ordinary airplane!

The designer holds world-wide patents and has been approached by a toy manufacturer. Also, NASA and a number of American universities are conducting extensive wind tunnel experiments on it.

Why all the fuss? Morley Safer of the CBS show *60 Minutes* says it is because it is a stall-free aircraft. This means it can never nosedive! Over 80% of all airplane crashes are due to stalling.

When thrown straight up, after reaching apex, it will level out and drift lazily back to earth. In this fashion it has been known to fly the length of a football field.

If you follow the instructions carefully, you should have all the eyes popping at this "baby" during next week's Fed Flicks. For those of you who require instruction, this is how to interpret the diagrams which follow.

[1] Follow the diagrams in numerical order.

[2] Fold forward on broken lines (dashes).

[3] Fold back along lines made of dots and dashes.

[4] Cut off shaded areas.

Once again, solutions can be sent to us by TSS mail or **mathNEWS** mailbox. There was a typo last week (due to our crummy handwriting). One of the users is rhtakashima, not rhtakashita. The other one, scveffer, was all right. For those of you who tried to send mail to rhtakashita, do not despair, Tak does exist!

## mathNEWS is Now a Fascist Paper!

Over the past month there has been an exciting movement spreading on our campus. We had the chevron call Shane Roberts and the Federation executive a bunch of fascists. In his most eloquent style, Shane retorted that it was the chevron and its AIA staff that were the fascists. Last week the Canadian University Press branded the Feds as fascists. Finally to top it off a member of the chevron staff and the AIA called Owen (Catfish) Leibman a fascist. What was once a derogatory and despised term has now become a symbol of prestige and honor at UW. Who would not give their eye-teeth to join such an illustrious group?

Therefore as a dues-paying member of the Order of BIU's and Non-Entities of the University of Waterloo (OBIUNEUOW), I feel that it is my duty to confer the title of "Fascist" upon **mathNEWS** and all its staff and supporters. My reasons range from obscure

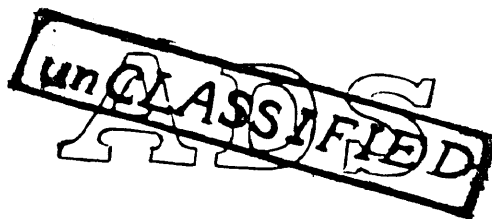
to non-existent, a prerequisite for the honor. If, when you read this issue, this article doesn't appear, my point will be proven; but if this article does appear, it will be obvious that **mathNEWS** has accepted the title. Therefore I, representing all math students, congratulate **mathNEWS** on this momentous day in its brief [sic] history.

For anyone trying to find out more about the OBIUNEUOW please send your queries through TSS mail to any of the userids: ndocherty, sbachir, lhannant, mhess, dwahlsten.

Don't worry about the response to your mail, it's obviously just another coverup.

rssteiner

P.S. There is absolutely very little truth to the rumor that JJBT is attempting to overthrow the **mathNEWS** staff.

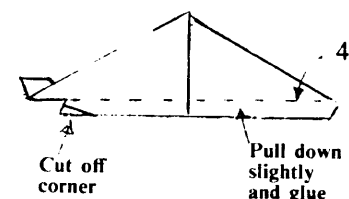
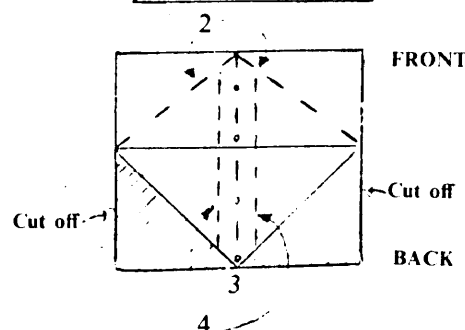
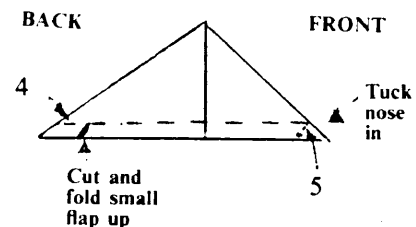
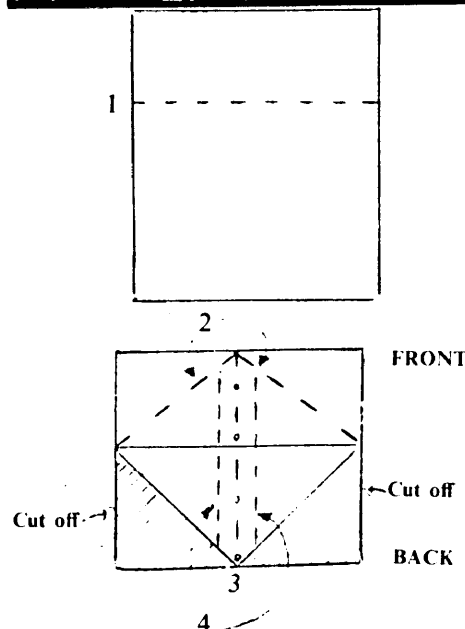


**mathNEWS** will print your ads, free of charge. Just jot them down on a piece of paper and put it in our mailbox on the third floor across from the C&D lounge, or take it to Mathsoc and have them put it in our mail slot, or put it in the mail addressed to **mathNEWS**, MC 3038, or send them in the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

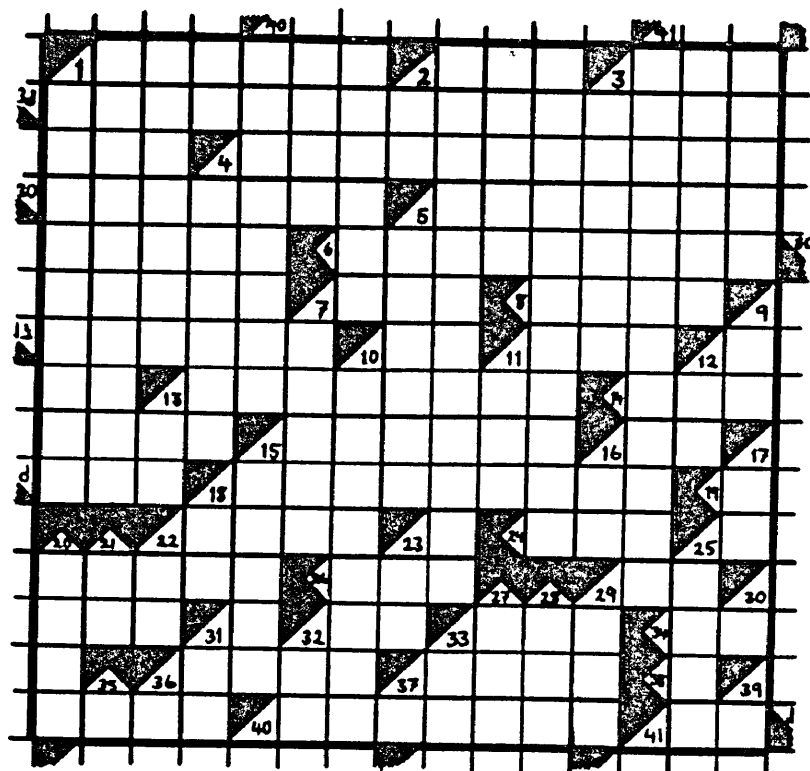
**Roommates wanted.** Student going on double work-term in Toronto in January. Two or three students (male or female) wanted to look for and share apartment until September. Call Steve: 744-9309.

**Wanted: Marvel comics.** I am looking for early issues of *Spider-Man*, *Fantastic Four*, *Daredevil*, and *The Silver Surfer*, in reasonably good condition (i.e. comics must be complete, with no spine roll, and no damage, aside from light wear, to the cover). contact jppattison via TSS mail, or call 744-5727.

**Tapes** — Anyone interested in bulk buying of TDK Super-Avilyn cassette recording tapes please contact bmperkin via TSS mail. Include quantities, format (C-60, C-90), name, and phone number.



Put some mucilage in the fuselage to hold it together. Now fold down the wings and fly!



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	C	P	A	I	R		A	G	A	I	N	S	T
B	A	L	T	B	I		N	O	N	S	U	C	H
C	S	I	A	M	A	N	G		O	M	A	H	A
D	H	E				T	I	L	E	D		N	I
E		R	E	L	A	T	I	V	E		C	S	
F	P		H	E		O	N	E		J	E	T	S
G	A	T		M	O	M	G	R	E	L			
H	R	H	Y	M	E			Z				V	A
I	A	R	E	A	R	U	G			R	A	M	P
J	L	E	N		S	M	I	P	P	E	D		O
K	L	E			S	T	A	B	I	L	I	Z	E
L	E		Q	U	E	U	E		A	G	E	N	T
M	L	A	I	R	D	S		N	M	N		D	S

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ID: \_\_\_\_\_



**ACROSS**

1. to isolate [6]
2. gist or point [3]
3.  $\Sigma$  hero [4,3]
4. very neat writers [14]
5. a reason for universities(?) [6,6]
6. pertaining to the area behind [4,5]
7. not stood [3]
8. Enjoy Nissa's Cooking Daily [4]
9. shortened daily [3]
10. atomic weight = 186.2 [2]
11. this type of mind needs developing [3]
12. vowels - 00003 [1,1,1,1,1]
13. upper canine [8]
14. Tanya's group in France [2,3]
15. tree climbing method [6]
16. etymology of 20 down [2]
17. shortened at once [6]
18. whirlpool [9]
19. acyclic graph [6]
22. "above" has this poetic measure [4]
23. a vowel [1]
24. five centimes [3]
25. they hold down rails [6]
26. in *Formicidae* [3]
29. most popular use of the Honeywell [2]
30. do you know the way to [3,4]
31. an other vowel [1]
- 32 + 23 down. something you shouldn't do [2,2]
33. used with Ruffles [3]
34. eastern language [5]
36. 31 down sometimes runs this [4]
37. this here French [4]
38. still another vowel [1]
39. ignorant people [16]
40. dollars to doughnuts [3,1,3]
41. second most popular communicable disease [2]

**DOWN**

1. preserved [9]
2. Clark Kent's real last name [2]
3. Moses's brother's [6]
4. he fools around [6]
5. melted cerumen [6]
7. no ain't, but \_\_\_\_ [3,2]
9. starts a simile clause [2]
10. CC denizens who actually work [3,4,7]
11. megatons are millions of tons of this [3]
12. oldest prefix [2]
13. ethnic cry of woe [2]
15. woman in charge of a house [5]
16. HO gauge but larger scale [2]
17. abbreviated British period [2]
18. not out [2]
20. imperial oil [4]
21. there's nothing in it (abbr?) [2]
22. = 9 down [2]
23. see 32 across
25. *Sphyrna tiburo* the shark [10]
27. it helps to find your mistakes [8]
28. light breezes from sea-going ice [7,7]
29. Poe's came with a pendulum [3]
30. and yet another vowel [1]
31. everyone loves him (or else) [4]
32. what was used to calm troubled waters? [3,3]
33. prospective commencement? [9,5]
35. how you must get letters to USA [4,3,4]
36. wire is best this way [8]
37. plural of 6 down [1]
39. a 4-sided top used as a die by Jewish children [6]
40. so expensive [2,6]
41. porno from medium-soft drawing device [2,6,4]

At first, I thought that mathNEWS had slipped up and let in an error-free *Gridword*. However, thanks to Martin Taylor, we found that clue M9 was really M8. However, Martin, 5A can also be "riata", and B7 can be either "nonsuch" or "nonesch". Anyway, out of seven solutions, there were four correct ones, and this week's winner is

**Ernie Burke.**

Ernie can pick up a free math T-shirt, courtesy of Mathsoc, by showing up at a mathNEWS production meeting—Tuesdays, from 7:00 p.m. on, in MC 3011.

To Peter Forde and Brian Nowak, some rock formations are full of schist, not schism.

This week's *Gridword* is unfortunately unlike any published before (unfortunately because I'll have to describe it instead of referring you to a back issue). *Down* is easy enough: when you get to the bottom of a column, the word continues at the top of the same column (like last year's torus). *Across* is a little more complicated: when you get to the end of a row, the word does not continue at the beginning of the same row, but at the row which is the same distance from the bottom as this one was from the top. Thus you can consider the grid to be a Möbius strip if you ignore the vertical wraparound. When you consider this aspect also, it becomes the 4-dimensional analog of the Möbius strip, a Klein bottle.

This is the simplest unbounded surface which does not enclose any volume. The problem is that it is also unorientable, and so anything traversing the surface will find itself turned into a mirror image of itself. If you do succeed in folding your solution correctly, please don't submit it.

This week's *Gridword* is by

**Ray Butterworth. 4**

Yes, again.

## This is a Old Colum

This week, we would like to describe a few of the problems that one could possibly encounter, during the winding course of his day-to-day life. (Or her life, or its life...) Several of these situations have actually occurred, and it would be wise to be aware of their existence. Since this is only **mathNEWS**, and not **puremathNews**, I need only to discuss them, not prove that they exist. This, as I have stated, is what I intend to do, anyway.

One of the problems suggested itself in the newspaper, which is how I know that it really did happen. Suppose that you are a man (or a woman or thing), living in southern Illinois, and that you find a check which is signed by the president of the largest employer in Chicago, but the date, amount, and *Pay to the order of* are all left blank. This, on the surface, does not appear to be a very severe problem, does it? [A] yes. [B] no. [C] both of the above. [D] neither of the above. [E] I forget.

The correct response is B, unless you forgot, in which case you should probably go to bed, as your mind is not functioning awfully well, which means that you would be better off in n-gin-earring.

Now, back to the problem. You found this check, and all of it is blank, except for the signature. The question is, what do you do with it? Well, being very sharp and alert, you pick it up. Then you go to Chicago, pick a random name out of the telephone book, and type that name on the check. You fill in a large amount, date the check, and take it to a random small bank in Chicago. You select the most trusting-looking teller, walk up to her, and hand her the check to cash. Then you live happily (and richly) ever after, right? **Wrong!** It's all about this fact: the teller is the wife of the man whose name you picked out of the phone book. So you end up in jail. But who cares, anyway? You had a good time.

The second problem is this: You are skiing down a rather steep slope ( $m = -17$ ) when you look up and suddenly find yourself face-to-face with several man-eating snakes. The question now is this: what do you do now? [A] keep skiing; people ski better than snakes, and it's more fun. [B] yell and scream and swear in Swahili until the Snake Patrol come to your rescue. [C] nothing; you're a woman, and they only eat men. [D] turn around and ski away (uphill). [E] what was the question?

The correct answer is E. If you don't understand, or can't seem to catch the drift, or don't see the whole situation clearly, please talk to your tutor immediately. The Math Faculty are very interested in the progress of their students, and would not like to see them fall into any of the hazards listed above.

There will be no record review this week, but in its place we will talk about the general music scene, in general. Emerson, Lake, and Palmer have cancelled their proposed winter tour, due to difficulties. However, they promise to release a new album shortly. *It Seems To Me I've Heard That Song Before*, quite possibly last year at this time. Meanwhile, Peter Gabriel, ex-Genesis leader, is going to release a solo album, possibly before Christmas. Rumor has it that Robert Fripp, who played for King Crimson, will be his guitarist. You may remember that Gabriel left Genesis because he was tired of music, and wanted to concentrate on writing novels. Maybe he's tired of writing, now, too. Yes have promised a new issue by Christmas, so that means December 20 at the earliest, and December 24 at the latest. They tend to be punctual but not especially early. But then one of the few things the world needs more of is Yes albums.

On a sadder note, the heavy metal fans are still mourning the loss of Deep Purple, who died just a few weeks ago. They were the contributors of much good music, as well as the normal amount of trash, but I, and many others, enjoyed them at the time of Machine Head, which featured *Lazy* and *Space Truckin'*. I was much younger then, though.

We have received no correct answers to the *Why* section of last week's column. This is not surprising, for the following two reasons: [1] No entries were received, and [2] It was a trick question. The question was, as you may recall, *Why is mathNEWS spelled the way it is?* The correct answer is that **mathNEWS** is not spelled *the way it is* (or even the way it is), it's spelled **mathNEWS**. Maybe the reason why we didn't receive any entries at all lies in the following list. It was Thanksgiving weekend, Nobody understood the question, The Argos lost, Nobody read the column. We didn't tell you where to send it, We didn't tell you to send it in by Tuesday, Nobody wanted to win a free **mathNEWS**, Mom's turkey was burnt, It was too stupid to bother with, All of the above.

Just to prove that we can't be insulted (we're too stupid), we have decided to write another *Why* question. This one is called: Why is it that whenever you drop a slice of bread it falls butter-side-down? Be advised that not only do we want to see the reason, we also want to see the name of the law involved. Place your entries in the **mathNEWS** mailbox on the third floor of the math building before 7:00 p.m. next Tuesday. The correctest entry, or rather, the person who submits it, will win an expensive copy of **mathNEWS**, Volume XII, Issue 5. And if nobody writes in, we'll keep the **mathNEWS** for ourselves. Thanks a lot, you guys (and girls)!

Absolutely no one has even said hello to us in the C&D. Please do. We're crawling around, under the coffee machine.

\$ STEVE \$

## PULSE

This week's news about Math/UNIX isn't too encouraging. The Computroller for the Diva disk system is in New Jersey being repaired. There were some problems clearing customs in the United States before the repair work started. So don't expect to see UNIX up until next week sometime.

**mathNEWS** had some feedback about last week's article, and we would like to make a few corrections. The storage capacity figures we mentioned were given in bytes, but should have been in words (there are two 8-bit bytes per word on a PDP-11). The mention of disks to replace the RP02's that Math/UNIX is set to purchase was also incorrect. The projected replacements are two RK06 disks which are a new product from DEC. These are largely untested and might be more troublesome than the Diva disks according to some sources.

UNIX has some interesting features in the release that is run on our non-operative system on the sixth floor. For instance, it is possible for a parent and child process to communicate with each other by manipulation of the data space in primary storage. This allows simulation of external interrupts, if you were testing a program that simulates a machine, for example.

UNIX can be one of the more flexible systems around this campus. It has the capability to initiate communication with other systems through its hardware lines to the IBM 360/75 and MFCF's Datanet front end processor for the Honeywell 6060. When talking to the Datanet, the user can do file transfers between UNIX and the GCOS/TSS systems. UNIX users can also log on to TSS or submit batch jobs to GCOS. Talking to the /75 is done through batch job submission and file transfers, with UNIX acting as a HASP remote job entry terminal. Much of the Math/UNIX communications software was written by Ciaran O'Donnell.

Now to news of the MFCF system. Some more enhancements that come with release 1 of GCOS have come to our attention. The timesharing MASTER user and the GCOS console operator will be able to send messages to a specific terminal or userid. For those of you who like to break system security by logging on to MASTER, these attempts can now be limited by time of day. Also all MASTER user logons are noted on the system console.

In the new sysout, Honeywell has pretty well taken the old one and split it into two halves. They ...continued on page 6



continued from page 5... have added some more operator interface for printing reports, and better recovery of the backdoor file after crashes (which we had already courtesy of Ron Hansen). Honeywell added a number of things which we won't be taking advantage of. This includes shared mass storage system software (allows shared file systems between non multiprocessor configurations) and a Honeywell 2000 simulator for convincing commercial users to move up to the series 6000 (or 66).

An error in the last week's column regarding the new series 66 hardware coming to this site has been brought to my attention. Native mode on the series 66 is native mode, and series 6000 emulation mode is just that (thank you, RGH).

Here we explain some of the more interesting features of PL/I (promised last week). PL/I allows stacked dynamic allocation of variables declared as controlled storage. For example:

```
dcl an_ident fixed binary(31,0);
allocate an_ident;
```

will declare an integer variable in controlled storage and allocate two generations of that variable. The last allocated generation is the only one available, but the previous one can be obtained by releasing the current one. This is done with:

```
free an_ident;
```

thus freeing up the storage and popping the stack.

Controlled storage can be used to allocate arrays whose bounds are unknown at compile time, e.g.

```
dcl array(*,*);
allocate array(i,j);
```

this allocates the array "array" with bounds contained in the variables i and j.

PL/I allows the programmer to define storage as an area variable. This permits the allocation of variables inside the area, and subsequent control to be established if insufficient storage is available via an area on unit. For example:

```
on area(area_var) begin;
/*
* code to handle this condition
*/
```

```
end;
```

```
dcl area_var controlled area;
allocate area_var(size_of_area);
dcl x(10) char(5) based(p)
dcl p offset(area_var);
allocate x in(area_var) set(p);
```

this allocates an area variable, and a variable inside the area. If insufficient storage existed for the allocation, then the area on condition would be raised for the area variable and the area on unit invoked.

Next week: more PL/I features; some interesting capabilities of VM/370 for systems programming.



mathNEWS welcomes your criticisms, comments, suggestions, etc. All letters should be signed, but if requested, a pen name will be used. Put your Feedback 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.

### Afflictions?

Dear mathNEWS,

If we felt that a mathie was capable of finding our (let alone his) brains we would be worried. But more to the point. [sic] Even the most avid Biologist will agree that the exploitation of the female body is much more rewarding than the exploitation of an Engineers [sic] brain.

Almost everyone will agree with the conjecture that the most vivacious females are in Arts. Therefore, due to your reply to our letter of the first, we are left to conclude that all girls in the math building suffer from one of the following afflictions:

- 1 achne[sic]
- 2 moustaches
- 3 both of the above

We rest our case.

John  
Charlie  
Randy

### Why JJBT Lost a Game

Dear JJBT c/o mathNEWS:

It is obvious that the reason you have "finally" lost a game is perceptual problems.

Had I been at the St. Jerome's tourney and played for Math, we would still have lost by default. As all who have seen me know, I am definitely not a female.

So please guys? Get it straight in future.

Thanks  
John (note the male first name) Ellis  
Mathletics Director

### Mike on Cons

Dear WATSFIC Chappies:

Ta for SS #2, even if Dennis can't spell my name when looking at it twice on Oktoberkon fliers in this very issue. Where are those broad mental horizons and slannish capabilities fans are supposed to have?

The part of the issue that interested me was the set of three con reports particularly since I'd been at all three cons in question. For the most part I couldn't disagree with any of the conclusions although it's once again evident that different people look for (and find) different things in a convention. Without any doubt, Trawnacon will go down in local fan history as *the* most abortive gathering in recorded times. If it hadn't been for the presence of Spider Robinson and the serendipitous arrival of Dan and Terry from Michigan, the day would have been an unmitigated disaster.

Midwestcon, of course, is one of the best cons of the year *because* there is no program and no art show and everyone just sits around socializing and enjoying the good vibes and the good company. Mike doesn't describe exactly the same con I went to, but that's traditional. It was a good con.

My thoughts on Autoclave are in the MAC p.r. for all to see: it was a *great* con, although undoubtedly personal bias is appearing in that judgement. Still, even those who did not get eight bottles of scotch and a special commemorative fanzine enjoyed it so I think my judgement is valid.

Mike

### C&D Criticized

Dear mathNEWS,

Why can't the C&D have subs beyond 1:00? The place is the [naughty, naughty!—Ed.] compared to last spring.

J. Boydell

Dear mathNEWS,

Why does C&D keep stocking out?

Starved

It is 6:20 Wednesday morning and a 6-page mathNEWS is done... Looking at page 1, you may have noticed that there wasn't much news this week! Last week's issue was late for the same reason the previous one was early: irregular load at Graphic Services, who produce our 1200 copies weekly. We're financed by, but independent of, Mathsoc; this issue's all-volunteer staff included Englishmen (and former ones) \*, but no Maddogs or rsm's -- in fact this is the second issue produced by none of the eight founding members (October 1 was the first). WE were alphabetically: \*R L BIDDLE, front page artist; \*MARK S BRADER, editor; \*RAY BUTTERWORTH, layoutist; CATFISH/jjbt; \*DEREK whom I never saw; PERRY \$ DOMZELLA (old glorious); as (late as) usual J J LONG; pursued PETER R RAYNHAM; in absentia SAM'n'TAK; ERIC SIEGERMAN; RON STEINER/jjbt; and representing Pulse was PETER STEVENS. Next production meeting is 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 19, in MC 3011 et al. Why don't YOU come?