

Special Report: ATHLETIC FEE

Following the approval of refundable fees, some students have, in the spirit of the referendum, gone as far as to suggest that the only major compulsory fee left, the Athletic fee, should also be refundable. There has also been some concern about proposed increases in the Athletic fee. With these concerns in mind I interviewed Carl Totzke, Director of Athletics, a few weeks ago. He was able to shed some light on the matter.

The Athletic Fee of \$11 per term (it was \$10 from 1973 until mid 1976) is paid by all full-time students. Even grads have to pay it. The fee is strictly for the funding of Men's and Women's Intercollegiate programs at U.W. Only full-time students pay because they are the only ones eligible to participate in intercollegiate programs. This fee entitles students to participate in the intercollegiate and intramural programs as well as getting a free season's ticket to home games (worth \$7 over two terms). The money for intramurals comes from the operating funds of the University. Part-time students, staff, or faculty can pay a fee to join the Intramural program and pay \$7 for a season's ticket.

The present intercollegiate fee was authorized by a student referendum held by Burt Matthews in 1972. In this referendum over 4,000 students voted and 83% voted to have the compulsory fee structure retained. Previous to 1972 another compulsory fee was in force. This fee was about \$10 per term and was split nearly equally between intramurals and intercollegiate programs. A voluntary \$5 season ticket fee was also in effect.

Carl Totzke explained the procedure for increasing the intercollegiate fee. It is proposed that the fee rise by \$2 a term starting next fall. Totzke said that Burt Matthews would ask the Federation and the Grad Club for their opinions in the increase. If those groups approved, he would recommend that the UW Board of Governors increase the fee without a referendum. If those groups did not approve the increase, Dr. Matthews could hold a referendum or recommend an increase

anyways. The ultimate decision would rest with the Board of Governors.

When asked whether the Athletic Fee could survive a refundable fee referendum, Totzke was confident that refundable fees would be rejected. He noted that the Federation had refundable fees only because of the engineers and off-term students. He also felt that the Athletic Department has a much better image than the Federation. After consulting with Warrior Basketball coach, Don McCrae, Totzke stated that if the 4,000 to 5,000 people who go to basketball games voted, refundable fees would be defeated right then and there.

When asked about budgetary matters Totzke said that about \$350,000 goes to Athletics and \$120,000 to intramurals. Totzke thought the athletic program could survive with refundable fees or no fees, but on a reduced basis. The university would have to decide to budget operating funds to the intercollegiate program. This could result in a tuition fee increase or cutbacks in other areas.

Totzke noted that a compulsory Athletic fee is a common way of funding athletes at Canadian Universities. He feels that Canadian Universities have neither the audience nor the facilities (though quality is improving) to draw in crowds to their games on the scale of U.S. schools. He feels with the smaller population and shorter traditions we could not make athletics self-supporting. He remarked how some athletic departments loan their universities money. Totzke sees University financing of athletics consistent with the fact that the Canadian government funds amateur sports.

When asked how he would defend the compulsory fee Totzke noted that athletics are a strong tradition of university life. He feels that athletic competition enhances the university experience. He noted that athletics at UW has a strong following and that it enhances the reputation of the university. The idea is to have a diversified quality program whether our teams win or lose.

-jjl

NEWS in Brief

Mathsoc has guaranteed to put up 25% (up to a maximum of \$500) of what the Federation contributes towards the Computer Science Club's purchase of a micro-computer. This is intended to show support of the project by Mathsoc.

Next term, the manager of the math C&D stand (as approved by Mathsoc) will be Dave Debrun. The assistant manager will be Kandry Mutheardy. This will be his fifth term as C&D assistant manager

The Math-Engineers-Nurses pub at the Transylvania Club was quite a success. There was a strong turnout, with about 400 bodies showing up. This was quite a different pub from the usual run of the mill, with Rick Smit awarding 1 of 3 prizes (one of which was a magnum of champagne won by Hugh Frampton).

The band (Sweet Blindness) was good enough that many took advantage of the dance floor, and there is a good possibility of more such pubs in the future.

Closer to home, there was an excellent turnout at the math blood donor clinic, with 759 units being donated.

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last day of classes!

math NEWS

Another interesting item; Antical has been cancelled for this term. It seems that the committee just couldn't decide which questions to ask, in spite of the fact that the Federation offered to pay for it if we had comments, and that the faculty offered to pay if we didn't, they just couldn't decide what to ask. (of course, last year's antical questionnaire just wasn't good enough.)

The c&d had a profit in the last term of \$1700, which isn't bad for a non-profit organization. During the exam period, the c&d stand will be closed on the 7th and 8th, but open the 9th, 10th and the 12th to 17th from 8 AM to 5:30 PM. The stand is being kept open until 5:30pm so that people can relax after a 2to5 disaster.

WATSFIC will be commemorating the 36th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbour with a wargaming session on the 7th. It will start at about 10:00 AM somewhere on the third floor of m&c, and go on until everybody is tired of seeing hexagons. Everybody is welcome.

An extract from the Dean's report from faculty council; the Senate Scholarship program has received over \$11,000 in contributions from Math, in spite of the fact that only 37 of the professors have contributed.

The glass in the third floor display cases has finally been replaced, locking in a pile of Federation handbooks that our noble editor had placed there for distribution.

This is the last submission I will make this term (keep the groans of disappointment down to a bare minimum). This winter I will be out working but I will still hold the threat of the Kid's return over your heads. The Imperialist Alliance will go further underground but rest assured that it will return. I will attempt to pass on some indoctrination and denunciations.

I have been holding this in all term but I must let it out. the Commies. When I say the Commies I include the AIA, the CPC(ML) and the CPDC. Their garbage literature has been littering up this campus long enough. I am fed up with seeing posters advertising this rally and that demonstration. They are so much garbage! Their claim that the Canadian state is fascist is a complete fallacy. Fascist to me means something in the nature of Hitler's Germany which this country certainly isn't. The communist states as they exist today in the world are certainly as elitist if not more elitist than they claim the Canadian state to be. A rich person would seem to be a great criminal in the eyes of the AIA. The rich person had to have in his background a real go-getter. John D. Rockefeller and his compatriots did not have money originally they had to go out and make it. A communist society would completely emasculate the desire for achievement and betterment of society. Communism as visualized by Marx is unworkable; Human nature simply does not work that way. The posters the AIA puts up detract from everything. They are plastered on garbage cans (how appropriate!) they are plastered on street lights; they are everywhere. The posters will make this country like a European country where you can't walk one block without seeing some communist slogan scrawled on the wall. This campus would be a better place if the commies would get the hell off this campus.

Blackholes Revisited

My article last week brought some tremendous response both verbal and in the form of mail. It seems math people are fascinated by black hole concepts and it's good to see that something interests them.

I guess I should start out by giving corrections to my first article. The biggest error I made was in stating that concave or divergent lenses give you a magnified image. This is a lot of bunk and if I'd given it more thought would have realized it myself; it's convex or convergent lenses which give you a magnified image by focusing more light on the area taken up by your telescope or whatever. This makes the search for a suitable convex-like arrangement of black holes all the more interesting.

My second great error was along a more subtle vein. The Chandrasekhar limit of 1.3 solar masses (the mass of our sun=1) which I specified last week, is the point at which a star will collapse to a neutron star, not a black hole. (A neutron star has the property that its gravity is strong enough to push electrons into their companion protons forming a star made totally of neutrons. These are still not as powerful as black holes though.) It seems

You may have noticed that one John Wallace Bast, a chevron staffer and all around twit, has dared to denounce me. Not did he insult the sacred Gor books he also insulted me, personally!!!! I must reply. In actual fact Bast is a hulking mass. No scientist has been able to determine just what. Bast is an ARTSIE. His IQ is less than that of a troll. He does not walk he waddles (he the pronoun is just a convenience for lack of a better article). I will not dwell on his sexual habits but suffice it to say they involve whips and midgets. As for the comment that Gor books are not Sword and Sorcery what pray tell is your definition? Although the seventh and eleventh books are primarily S&M the majority of the books are damned good Sword and Sorcery. Bast should be tied to the Frame of Humiliation and floated down the river Vosk to have his liver torn out by a sea tharlaron.

This is the section where I denounce the entire mathNEWS staff. Since I must start at the bottom I will first talk about me. What can you say about a coyote's offspring who thinks John Norman is God (JN as in junk). The fact that he issues from the scumheap known as Bluevale does not excuse him. Second from bottom is

He is from which may explain his terminal verbal diarrhoea. Being refuse from a Uniwat scrapheap he insists on making his presence known. What can you say about Steve Risto that hasn't already been said about the EDSEL? I save mention of the beloved editor djmullin who will not edit this article. Dennis has put time and effort into this paper than a man who has polished off a whole crate of He's a good kid...a bit ...but good. The fact that he loves shouldn't be held against him. I must sign off. My application for angel is in at the place where they give out angelhoods.

For all those who have followed my column through it's short existence: Thanks, both of you!!!!

that the limit for a black hole is actually 3 solar masses, give or take a few billion tonnes of star stuff.

With that aside let's get on to the question of just what a convergent black hole lens *would* look like. Earlier this week Fraser Gunn and I had a rather interesting discussion wherein one of the points we touched upon was that a single black hole could act as such a lens although possibly a poor one. Light coming in tangent to a circle would focus on one point while light tangent to a larger circle would tend to focus on a point farther away.

As I said this might not make a very efficient lens but I don't know. If any of you out there in the quantum mechanics courses would like to give it a try I'd be happy to hear your views. (Preferably before Dec. 20).

Efficient or not the single-hole convergent lens theory seems popular. JR-BAER sent me a mail message which stated the very same idea.

Another point brought up by baer as well as by pogo, was that the double hole divergent lens propositioned last week would aberrate and distort terribly the image of any star not lying directly in a plane running through the centres of both stars. Of course with the distances involved and the small relative size of our observing

station there would undoubtedly be a fair amount of leeway in this direction before distortion became noticeable.

One further comment sent to me by jr-baer was concerning the idea of light in orbit about the black hole. He couldn't remember where, but he'd read someplace that the situation would tend to be unstable. Personally I can think of some mighty uncomfortable situations which might arise if this were found to be true. For instance the velocity of light couldn't be called constant. Velocity is a vector property which means that direction is important, thus an orbiting photon would constantly be changing direction meaning that its velocity was continually changing. Of course we can easily avoid this problem by qualifying that while velocity isn't constant, speed is. In this way most problems over black holes decay into a matter of interpretation.

Orbital light though has another possibility. Back in the days when the structure of the atom was unknown (do we even know yet today?) physicists were faced with the same problem; how does the electron orbit the nucleus? The solution was to treat the electron as a wave phenomena and have the wave propagate in an orbit about the nucleus. In the same way it is much easier to treat light as a wave phenomena and this could very well make it possible for light to remain in orbit about a black hole.

For more information on black holes, jmanderson was kind enough to inform me about the following books on the subject: Misner, Thorne and Wheeler's "Gravitation", "Black Holes" by DeWitt and DeWitt, "Black Holes, Gravity Waves and Cosmology" author unknown, and Kip S. Thorne's articles in Scientific American.

Before I quit I wanted to bring up a vaguely related point which jmanderson and myself were mulling over, and that is: the use of gravity waves for transmitting.

Assuming that we were able to detect small fluctuations in a gravity field (and I'm talking very small) we would still be faced with the problem of how to modulate or even create the gravity waves needed. My first thought was that we destroy and reconstruct matter at a high rate thus creating the necessary waves. The problem with this is that although we know how to destroy matter (ie atom bombs) we would find it rather difficult to reconstruct the matter.

My solution to this problem was to apply a little first year calculus to the problem. Since we can only destroy matter with our present state of technology, let's do just that. We take a lump of matter and destroy it at *varying* rate. Then, using our super accurate gravity field detector we measure the changing field of the mass as it disintegrates and then take its derivative. This will give us an acceptable waveform for transmitting messages via gravity.

Of course the cost would be prohibitive and the scientists are faced with that age-old problem ...we just don't have the super-

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Ramblings, Ravings, and Incoherent Mumbles

Welcome to RRIM: this will be the last column of the term, an event which probably can't come soon enough for some people. The recent news/entertainment controversy (though I suspect it is really an ancient problem) shows no sign of being resolved. I find it significant that a statistically meaningful sample of mathNEWS readers rated the "columns" worth considering (this one, if I may be so egotistical, notepad, trob and takith) higher than the "news" features (Sir R, Federaction, Mathletics and CSC Flash). Indeed, the features that scored highest were almost pure "entertainment", having very little to do with anything relevant (Calculus Kid, Impure Math, Steer Wars, and the cartoons).

I'd like to introduce some sociological terms a few friends and I have invented over the term. The first is the concept of a "mathhole". A mathhole is a person who is so engrossed in math that he is unable to relate to the real world. He cannot go through a single lunch hour without working on a problem. He frequents special sections, regards professors as gods (except when he has a chance to prove them wrong), and delights in demonstrating the Pythagorean Theorem 169 different ways. He has no normal social life of his own. A mathhole is not to be despised, but to be pitied, as is his CS counterpart, the "overhack". I quote Dr. Joseph Weizenbaum, of MIT fame: "Wherever computer centres have become established... bright young men of disheveled appearance, often with sunken glowing eyes, can be seen sitting at computer consoles, their arms tensed and waiting to fire their fingers, already poised to strike, at the buttons and keys on which their attention seems to be as riveted as a gambler's on the rolling dice. When not so transfixed, they often sit at tables strewn with computer printouts over which they pore like possessed students of a cabalistic text... These are computer bums ... distinguished from a merely dedicated, hard-working programmer ... The compulsive programmer is convinced that life is nothing but a program running on an enormous computer and that therefore every aspect of life can be ultimately explained in programming terms..." These people have substituted a mechanical world for the humanistic one they cannot handle; sterile perfection for ungraspable complexity. It is a trap we all must avoid falling into.

The groundwork having been laid, the readers of this column are ready for the ODE to Bruce Springsteen, written by jmittell, devans and myself about a year and a half ago:

Our father,
Who art Bruce Springsteen,
Hallowed be thy beard,
Thy groupies come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Asbury Park, N.J.
Give us this day our Born To Run
And forgive us our Bay City Rollers
As we forgive them for blasphemy against you
And lead us not into AM radio,
But deliver us from Donny and Marie,
For thine is the guitar,
The mikes and the amps,

For album after album,
Right on.

(Please note this is only a satirical joke. If I have offended anyone I apologize).

My userid is plagde on TSS and Unix, and I can be reached in person. Send me mail and you're always sure of a reply (maybe not a civil one, but according to Enginews Civil Sucks!). A random listing of my mailbox this week produced the following: jhbuccino ruining his earlier track record, no fewer than twenty mail messages from lccarson/rwleber announcing the arrival of a bouncing baby subsystem (those two account for over 95% of my mail; and a special hello to her two artsie friends who are finally being exposed to some true culture;) ; several letter bombs from jpsirett, jmanderson passing on neat hints about being a hack, rjsargent passing on a rude story about Marcia Mathie (I refuse to print it; send him mail if you want a copy); and gfwitte denouncing cobol. Have a happy Hanukkah, a safe Christmas, an unsafe New Year's, and good luck to those going out on work terms in January. One last bit of doggerel, to a young lady who knows who she is:

As lines, so loves produced may well
Themselves in every angle greet;
But ours so truly parallel
Though infinite may never meet.

May your system always be up, may your karass be a large and happy one, and may you always be in kemmer. See you next term.

-pogo
(prabhakar ragde)

Frustrated by TSS mail?

I, lccarson, surrender. In the face of a constant barrage of junk mail and uninformative messages from jrbakker and jpsirett, topped by their recent election (in brief absence) of me to the position of secretary of the anarchist alliance, I give up. You hear that, Jim, John? I GIVE UP!!!

This is official: I am voluntarily closing all my files and opening my mailbox to full file space. Send me mail, everyone! I don't know you, but I don't CARE. I love to come in every morning and spending forty minutes reading letter bombs and drag races. I will read all mail and answer all requests for responses that come in before I leave.

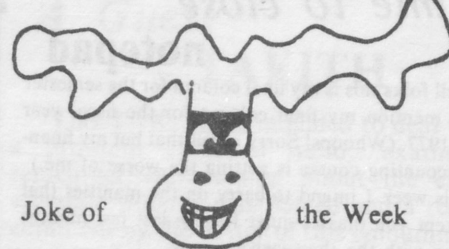
lccarson
p.s. Just to clear up a point that has already come up: I, lccarson, am FEMALE (as far as I know. General consensus appears to agree with me.)

p.p.s. Re: any mail just prior to the twentieth. Please send me interesting mail, but keep it clean. I expect to be showing people around and would appreciate neat material that I can print without censoring.

p.p.p.s keep it short, folks, if there are lots of you, I have only 12 links. This offer expires the 20th of December.

1153

The Masked Moose Marauder's...



Father: How many oranges would you have left if I took 3 away from your 5?
Son: Two, Dad.

Father: Now if I took 5 trees away from your 3, how many would you have?

Son: Negative two, but Dad...

Father: Yes, son? (*Expecting the traditional answer*)

Son: You can't have negative trees because they'd have imaginary roots.

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accurate gravity detector we need. But who knows, maybe someday 50 kilos of lead will let itself be disintegrated just so that I can transmit my mathNEWS article in from Alpha Centauri.

-dthedmonds

Flagged

The Mathletics Banquet was held Monday in the Laurel Room and trophies and awards were to be presented to participants representing Math in competitive events. In each event the team is responsible for choosing a most valuable player and as the awards have not been made yet the recipients are unknown. As mentioned elsewhere Jon Payne is a top candidate for ball hockey, ice hockey is still in play, and no word has been received from any of the other areas.

In some sports it may not be all that easy in selecting an MVP. Flag Football fits that category; in six games the team managed only one tie. Participation was low and the team often played without a full team and under such conditions it may not have been fair to expect a win. The team votes on the MVP, so what I write appears after the vote and will have no effect on the decision, but I must say that a strong recommendation goes to Peter Merkley for his efforts in support of the team. Peter was one of the very few present at all six games, preferred playing defence but moved to offence when the team was short of players, enjoyed playing the game, and even managed to pick up a few interceptions. Down 6-0 in the final game of the season, Peter caught the TD pass to tie the game and allow Math to salvage a point in league play. Some players even insist there was a chance to win that game but after five straight losses even a tie has a stunning effect.

Well, even if I'm wrong with my guess at MVP, the flag football team finally got their biggest write-up of the term.

Time to close notepad

Well folks this is my final column for the semester not to mention my final column for the fiscal year ended 1977. (Whoops! Sorry about that but my financial accounting course is getting the worse of me.)

This week I intend to carry on the inanities that have kept you masses quiet for the last few months ...so on with the showwwwwwwww.....

*I'd first like to announce that the witch doctor was successful and he succeeded in exorcising the evil spirits from my terminal ie Naed Sludge.

+Really! I'm afraid dear Daniel that your vulgar little savage had no effect upon me other than to produce a vague sort of disgust that someone with whom I am forced to share a column should stoop so low.

FORCED????? No-one's forcing you to stay on with the column, by all means leave. Oh and my name is Dean, not Daniel. Got it? D-E-A-N.

+Now Daniel, you should learn to be more persevering with your superiors. After all it was my intervention that helped you keep your position on the staff even though Mullin begged for me to act as your replacement...

WHAT??? Why you spiritual spastic, I didn't want to be forced into this but a man can only take so much..... here!!!

Aha! Look at him teleport outta here, you'd think he'd send a ghost or something. Well, I'll just hang these garlic strings up around the terminal and that ought to keep him away for good!

*Well hopefully all of you out there are getting into the christmas spirits (rum anyone?). Everyone studying hard?

Yeah it's a real bummer holding exams so near to christmas isn't it? They should really avoid times like christmas and new years, easter and palm sunday, weekends and holidays, la fete de rois and hanukkah, my birthday, your birthday, everybody's birthday, soap-box derby day, grey cup weekend, election week, george washington's birthday, professional development days, the day of the billy graham crusade, International Geophysical year, elvis presley's funeral, the billy carter interview on Fernwood 2-Nite, fire safety week.... hell let's just forget about exams altogether. After all, what do exams really tell us except who's most likely to get mugged afterwards? I don't think exams should be given as they are a completely arbitrary and inaccurate measurement of our knowledge on a subject which the prof probably didn't understand himself. For instance, say this kid with no arms or legs walks in and sits down at the exam. He's not too likely to finish writing the exam on time now is he? Or what about blind people? (If any of you are reading this column I hope you don't take offense) they're gonna have trouble reading the paper in the first place and the markers will probably just attribute it to a lack of knowledge on the subject. And what about us students who don't know anything at all about the subject? Is it really fair to ask questions that the smart kids already know how to do?

If you have any comments on this important issue I don't want to hear about them. I'm going on co-op. (Nyah nyah nyanh nyah).

*If I seem to be acting a little strange and childish this week it's because I am.

*Giving myself a moment to recover I'll recite some widgey acronyms by dgkennedy:

When
It's
Down
Junk
Everything
Totally

What
Insanity
Delays
Jobs
Every
Time?

*Last week you may have glimpsed my rage over the letter by Jim Mantle. Well just imagine how I felt when I learned this week that Mantle is really a writer for engine-ooze!! A writer for that filthy, putrid, un-sanctimonious, sacriligious, ignorant and subversive rag! (They do have good jokes though.)

*Mullin even made some nice comments about my column last week. Jeez! How can I insult the guy now?

+There, you see Daniel some of my good influence is rubbing off on you.

What the?? How did you get back in here? And quit calling me Daniel.

+To take your first question I merely found my way back in through the data-net. Would you please get rid of those horrible garlic strings? They're making the most awful stench.

Aha, gettin' to ya eh Sludge?

+Not really Daniel since as you should be able to realize a corporeal spirit such as hisself is able to control his metaphysical senses at will. But on to better things.

It has come to my attention lately that one piece from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" is extremely similar in style to some of Beethoven's livlier works which leads one to believe....

No way Sludge, you may have pulled that off last week but not this time. I'm cutting your wind short at the source.

Heeby Jeeby
Wallabeebee
Confiscate
Your User I D!!

There, that ought to hold him for a while.

*DISEASE OF THE WEEK: Chevronitis. This disease's latest victim is pogo of RRIM defame. Typical symptoms have much in common with Parkinson's disease such as glazed eyes, slack-jawedness, and writing articles for the Shaft-Run.

*I didn't get much mail for my column this week although the response to BLACK HOLES AND OPTICS was tremendous.

MEKACZMARCZYK(k), where are you when I need you?

*As you've no doubt been able to discern by now I really haven't got much to say this week though when do I ever? Mostly anymore I just sit in front of the terminal dazedly typing in the occasional apl command and waiting for the term to end. Then I can finally head off for four months and four grand. (Yes that's right, they're finally beginning to pay us frosh what we deserve!)

*Well, a short column this week (and pretty shitty too) so maybe I'll just wind up with my grand ending.

During the last three and a half months I've made a lot of friends and acquaintances here. In order to save on Christmas cards I try and list you all here:

LILI PODOLAK, JOHN BOSSOM, ASHOK PATEL, JOHN REBSTOCK, HORST WOLTER, PRABHAKAR RAGDE, KEITH TAKAYESU, RONNIE NG, DAVE GILLET, KEVIN MARTIN, DENNIS MULLIN, DAVE THORPE, DUNCAN MURDOCH, STEVE BETTS, PHIL KELLY, WIL MACAULAY, CHARLENE SAM, PETE KRISTENSEN, PETER MACDONALD, PAUL BERNARD, STEVE RISTO, SAM WAGAR and EARL THE TECHNICIAN.

I'd also like to give special thanks to those who sent me mail:

MEKACZMARCZYK, JMANDERSON, SGMCDOWELL, JPSIRETT, JHHBUCCINO, CDWBSTER, FRASER GUNN, JRBAERG, DSMCKEE, DGKENNEDY and others whose names I have lost.

Of course being an up and coming hack (by my own admission) I should also give thanks to: NOVA, UNIX, HONEYWELL and yes, even WIDJET, after all it is the Christmas season.

For those of you who are going out this term, have a good time, and see you come May. For those on regular I won't see you until next winter. And for those of you on stream B... well, I hope our paths cross again sometime.

From Naed Sludge and myself, goodluck and...
+...Merry Christmas!

-dthedmonds

ELIMINATED

The Math Soc competitive ball hockey team was eliminated from the championship finals in the B League when V1 North scored a 6-1 victory in the semi-final round. The game was close at the half, as Math trailed 2-1, but the villagers scored early in the second half and then added three more in the last few minutes to claim an easy win. It was not one of Math's better games but the team deserves credit for their performance in attaining the semi-final position. There may be some consolation in knowing that the V1 team went on to win the B League championship.

The team has to decide on a Most Valuable Player for the Mathletics Awards presentation (given at last night's dinner). Rumour has the MVP going to the team's goaltender, Jon Payne, certainly deserving of the award in view of the sometimes suspect defence. Consideration should also go to the leading scorer, Greg Ross, and the team captain, Rob Cooke, for their play throughout the schedule.

Hopefully all those who took part in competitive ball hockey this term, both the Math team and their opponents, got some enjoyment out of playing in return for those bumps and bruises. The points collected by the Math Soc team were included in the Fryer and Townson Trophy point races amongst Intramural units. The

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Pinball

The Campus Centre Board, along with Kitchener Coin, sponsored a pinball tournament in the games room November 21-23. It was definitely the best tournament of its kind held thus far at UW. The competition was open to all and the prizes for the top three champions were, respectively, a full-size 'Joker' pinball machine, a \$20 certificate for purchases at the Federation of Students Record Store, and a \$10 certificate for the same purpose. Also, each of the fourteen possible finalists received a t-shirt indicating their skills with the silver ball.

The finalists played the championship round in the Great Hall on Nov. 24 and two of the prizes were awarded to Math students. Martin Klinger, 2A Math, finished as tournament champion and thereby won the pinball machine, while Math frosh Ron Stephen received the certificate for his third-place finish. Glen Aldwinkle, an HKLS student, finished in second place. The tournament proved interesting, as well as expensive to many of the entrants, and hopefully the CCB and games room personnel will hold another in the winter.

Congratulations to Rob Mannisto and Mike Richardson for their performance in the Intramural Men's Singles Squash tournament. Both were competing in the B Division of the tournament, and the final round-robin saw Rob take second place behind Allan Gandy of Kinesiology, while Mike finished in third.

POSTER Contest

The Chinese Student Association of University of Waterloo is going to present the China Week on campus from Jan. 16 to Jan. 22, 1978.

The content of China Week will include discussions on specific topics concerning contemporary China, presided over by guest speaker, panel discussion, film shows and photo-display.

As Canada is a multicultural country, mutual respect and understanding among different nationalities are vital. Therefore, the main theme of this event is to promote Sino-Canadian friendship and international understanding.

The CSA would like to invite everyone who is interested in graphic art to design a poster to promote this meaningful event. The poster should expand on the main theme of China week. Maximum size is 14x18 inches. Please restrict the design to 2 or less colours. Please submit your design to Chinese Library, located in the Campus Centre basement. Deadline is Jan. 5, 1978. A prize will be given if your design is used. For further information please contact CSA, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo.

1157

A remote control BURLOAF

The following was described in a recent British medical journal. Two lovers found out the hard way that a sports car is not the best place to make out. The guy and the girl were going at it when the guy slipped a disk. It was so painful that he could not move, so he remained in his awkward position in the back seat with the girl trapped beneath him. To attract help, the girl was able to move around until she could press the car's horn with her foot. After a few hours of being stuck with nothing on in the car, firemen came to the couple's rescue. Because the guy couldn't move, the firemen had to cut away parts of the car before they could get him out. And if that wasn't bad enough, the first thing the girl said when she was free was "How am I going to explain to my husband what's happened to his car?!"

In this month's Scientific American there is a piece about a man who has researched and chronicled perpetual motion machines. A perpetual motion machine is a motor that, once started, will run forever without any fuel. A machine that produces energy from nothing would certainly be a nice thing to have, however the laws of physics state that such a machine can never exist. That hasn't stopped people from building them however. Anyway, this man met another man who stated, that in his little apartment, he had built a wonderful new aircraft engine that reliably ran at high power with no fuel. The author's reasonable question was, might he come and see this engine. The equally reasonable answer was that it had been working out in the hall for weeks, but the inventor could not stop it and so the other tenants had made him completely disassemble it to end the tiresome noise.

I read in a **mathNEWS** recently that the CSC is planning on acquiring a computer, a Z80 based system. Perhaps not a bad idea, but it seems to me that the machine the CSC wants is a fairly typical hobby-type of system, fairly popular these days. I figured the CSC should get together and pool its resources (connections, bureaucratic sway, not just monetary) to find a really esoteric system that no one else has. I thought the drum computer from days of yore that was for sale a while back was rather novel (albeit slow ...but there are plenty of other computers around if all you want is number-crunching power). The IBM 1620 certainly is slow and unsophisticated by today's standards, but I still found it an interesting machine to work on. (What other computer lets you calculate the next generation of an entire Life (Conway's game of) pattern by executing a mere eleven machine instructions?)

It has been amply demonstrated that a good random number generator can **not** be made by randomly throwing together random program pieces (see Knuth). Anyways, it seems that recent **mathNEWS**s have amply demonstrated a journalistic parallel: You can't write good nonsensical humour (or anything else) by throwing random nonsense together in a nonsensical way. When the J.J.Long federation report becomes the first regular feature you read each week, you know things are slipping. Maybe the same fate that beset the Honeywell hackers is affecting the **mathNEWS** staffers.

With apologies... A man returning from a business trip was travelling through the town where his son went to university. It was late, but he decided to pay a surprise visit at the fraternity house where he lived. After knocking for five minutes, a sleepy voice drifted down: "Yeah, whaddya wan?" "Does Leonard Smith live here?" asked the father. The voice replied, "Yeah, just dump him on the front porch."

A Guest TAKITH

This TAKITH is intended to deal with a problem close at hand...exams. I remember complaining about the exam schedule when it was posted and a recent comment by the writer of this column has prompted me to nominate my complaint for the award described in the title. The writer commented that no upper year students were submitting for his prize. I'm technically 3B and here goes...

NOTE: Math 321A, Math 321B, Math 322B are all required courses for the General degree.

ASSUME: It is normal for a student to enrol in Math 321A and Math 322B in 3A or Math 321B and Math 322B in 3B

At this point most can see the basic assumption does have a definite validity. Now look at the exam schedule:

Math 321A DEC 20 2-5

Math 321B DEC 19 9-12

Math 322B DEC 21 9-12

Regardless of comments as to the difficulty of any of the three courses I contend there is no need to schedule two compulsory subjects with such proximity. If the compulsory courses could not reasonably be expected to be taken by a student in the normal flow of courses (such as some odd combination like CS 180 and Math 322B) I could understand the scheduled times. However, the assumption appeared to have validity. To the person responsible for the schedule of exams that validity was overlooked, hence TAKITH.

Twelve days exist to place exams, yet it is seen fit to place two compulsory courses at most 45 hours apart and at the least a mere 16 hours between the end of one and the start of another. As I glance over the exam schedule I note DEC 12 as a day for Stat 374, Am 260, CS 240, and MTHEL 100; such a day as this might be arranged to hold say Math 322B to prevent the above problem. Dec 11 is a Sunday, thus no exams, so I doubt that a compulsory course conflict on the 13th, if one existed, could be as bad as the current schedule.

That's my complaint, and it seems like once each year around here they try to put someone somewhere in Math through the torture test. Every problem may not be solveable and it is possible some people enjoy writing exams in rapid order, but I don't. I could use good marks in both of my required courses and the exam schedule certainly isn't on my side.

How about one for the Profs who don't trust the registrar to schedule exams and put them on their last day of classes to avoid the problem of an inconvenient time? This term I'm writing as many in class as I am in the allotted exam times! Thanks for the last day exams to go with the last day assignments. I still don't get away from here any earlier since one of my registrared exams is on the 21st.

FEDERACTION

I have decided to curtail my sudden retirement and write another Federation, though I doubt that you will be seeing this column as regularly as in the past. Perhaps if you showed some appreciation of good political commentary, I might not be talking about retirement.

I can't understand it. Math students have elected me as their Federation rep by large margins over the past few years. I have held many posts on the Mathsoc executive (including acting president for two weeks in '75). You have supported the last two candidates I have endorsed for Federation president (the last one by landslide margins). You have also supported my stands on referendums and other important issues. For the last few years I have written a column in this paper, with very few complaints. Then you screw me around. I receive a 5.03 rating in the mathNEWS survey. 5.03! A bare pass! I beat such unnotables as APL and the reactionary Sir R, but by rookies such as the Paranoid Kid, pogo and dthedmonds. Maybe people would rather read John Lee (hooker's) mindless dribble.

I am sorry to hear that Bruce Rorrison resigned from the Board of Entertainment. Bruce put in a lot of years working for the feds. It is too bad that he had political disagreements with Rick Smit, as I feel that Rick has been doing a good job so far. Of course Rick has had to make some tough decisions that were unpopular with some people, but they were decisions that had to be made for the good of

the Federation. This is what makes a good leader. I feel that Rorrison was not as much at fault for the fiascos in Entertainment, as were Leavens and Todd, but last week's front-page chevron article was devastating. I guess Bruce decided he had enough of the shit that has piled up over the years. Last Friday, shortly after the chevron article appeared, Bruce decided to do what he had been planning for a while and resigned as B.Ent. Chairperson. Too bad he left this way.

It looks like the chevron is losing its best news reporter, and one of its sensible staff members. Following a staff meeting last week Nick Redding resigned from the paper. Nick is planning to spend more time at Radio Waterloo. Despite his political views Redding (sometimes referred to as Nick Red by the Mathsoc crowd), was one of my favorite writers in the Chevron. His articles were always well-written and researched and very accurate. Unlike other staffers he did not editorialize in his news articles. I guess he finally had it with the intransigence of dogmatics like Docherty, Salah Bachir and Jules Grajower and the apparent incompetence of Jonathan Coles. The paper will probably get even worse with Nick gone.

There is little to report about the sub crisis this week, except for Engsoc president Fraser Cutten's reversal from his earlier militant "we won't give em a penny" stand, to one of accomodation with the Administration. I stop here as Bill Decks feels I give him bad press in mathNEWS and I wouldn't want to give him a hard time.

-J.J. Long

Powerful Force?

The chevron this has clearly established itself as a powerful force in campus politics, something that had been claimed by chevron staffers in the past. This claim was once again reinforced this past Friday. Shortly after a front-page chevron article, by Randy Barkman entitled "Gigantic losses cripple BENT budget", appeared on campus, Bruce Rorrison suddenly resigned as Board of Entertainment Chairperson, citing that certain pressures influenced his decision.

-jjl

SUBSCRIPTIONS for mathNEWS

Subscriptions may be acquired for \$1.00 for the winter term.

Subscriptions are available in the mathSoc office (M&C3038) or by mailing your address and money to mathNEWS at:

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Philip Kelly is Winter term
Subscription Editor.

We wish you a Happy Ending to an Old Year!

This final issue of 1977 was financed by mathSoc, but still manages to be editorially independent. An all-volunteer, unpaid staff put this 8 page issue together and Graphic Services will replicate 1000 copies of such. It is now late Sunday afternoon as I make another attempt to finish off this issue. It all began on Tuesday when the staff consumed tea, coffee and hot dogs while they typed, wrote and created last Friday's gridNEWS as well as most of the stuff in this issue. They were John goes after J.J. Lee; typist Mark Hasselbach; Keith Dorken was a cool operator; Prabhakar Ragde asked where he could find old issues of mathNEWS to look at (there's hope for him yet); Dave Thorpe was CENSORED; Dean Edmonds went off in search of a star; Philip Kelly ≠ PC; Charlene Sam threatened the editor with bodily harm if he revealed the identity of the shy froshi, so I won't; Wil fixed tired Macaulay; and Dennis Mullin presided over the seething mass.

On Thursday some of the staff came back to consume tea, coffee and donuts (thanks to the Computer Science Club) and hot dogs. The math-engineer-nurse pub took its toll, and the photon came up with some problems. Problem 1 was solved at 9am on Friday (having wasted 5 hours of our time). Some asshole had loaded the film into the photon incorrectly. The other problem caused us a loss of about 6 hours as we were forced to use backup software. Johann George finally solved that problem on Saturday. Additional staff which were collected over Thursday, Friday, and Saturday were: Dave the trob is human? Gillett; Sam Wagar volunteered, but the photon prevented; Eric Siegeman responded to our call for help!; Steve Locke showed the editor a bunch of QED features to make editing easier; doug was very sporting McInroy; the unknown cartoonist was too late with his contribution; J.J. Long unretired; via mail came an out-of-retirement Burloaf; anyone else? (probably).

Some notes about this issue... Remember that all the sports articles were written before the banquet occurred. We were going to publish the exam schedule, but the fewer pages we have in this issue the more likely it will come out on Tuesday. In any case the final schedule has been posted. Look at it carefully as exams are being written at WLU and Village2 as well as in the gym.

The masthead prize for most valuable mathSoc worker during the term is awarded to Andy Mueller for the many hours he spent in organizing such things as the grad photos, the blood donor clinic, the pubs and the GREATmathWEEK.

If you ever get the chance I recommend that you take at least one course in Cultural Anthropology. It provides you with a new way of looking at the human race in its many facets.

After 5 terms of being editor I am retiring and hopefully will graduate this term. The only regret I have is that I wish I could have done more in less time. So, I wish those who will carry on with mathNEWS next term the best of luck and my deepest sympathy.

Dennis Mullin

Sporatic

(M&C) -DATELINE DEC.5

Serious rioting broke out in the third floor Myth Lounge as the rumour spread of JJ Long's impending return to mathNEWS. The rioters attempted to lynch the hapless frosh who inadvertently caused the .5 popularity increase in Long's FEDINACTIVITY column over his former JJ Long RETORTS.

The Security tactical squad restored the situation with mustard gas and two chrome bicycle welding charges.

Final score:
RIOTERS 3
SECURITY 98.6

Other scores:
ACTIVE TOWING 3
ILLEGAL PARKERS 0
CANTEEN OF CANADA \$1.25
STUDENTS .00

JJ LONG,
JJ LONG,
Your wit is short,
But your two articles were a bit lengthy.
Enginoise

pkelly will tell you that the shy froshie's name is CHARLENE for \$1.

left-hand definitions

Errata: A typographical confession.
Erudition: Having read a book the other fellow never heard of.
Etiquette: Learning to yawn with your mouth closed.
Baked Alaska: A sultry Good Humour.
Ibid: A famous Latin poet.
Isosceles: A Greek dramatist.

(M&C)-LATE FLASH

New sculpture on campus!!!!!!
Because of the massive popularity of CONVULSIONS in Engineering, the same people with the same abysmal lack of good taste have endowed them with S.M.B.S. (Sheet Metal Bent to Shit).

The only adequate description of which is an amazing resemblance to the net result of the last time the ground rose up and collided with a West German F-104G Starfighter. Well, actually the latter might be more artistic.

-John Lee

Entertainment Chairperson Resigns

Bruce Rorrison, Chairman of the Board of Entertainment for Federation, resigned Friday (taking effect Monday, December 5th) because of dissatisfaction with the current Federation administration, leaving the future of entertainment on campus in considerable doubt.

Mr. Rorrison said that "people are expecting a professional job from unpaid amateurs" and cited severe communications problems between the President and his Executive. He said he felt that his contribution as Chairman was being minimized by a desire on the part of President Smit to do everything himself.

Entertainment also lost its part-time paid programme director, Jim Todd, recently when President Smit decided to discontinue the position.