

math GAUSS

1167

Fed (up) Election

The Federation elections this year promise many differences over past elections. After the resignation of CRG leader Thug Thompson and the defeat of CCRG candidate Jim Toad, the once-governing party has been officially disbanded, and there will be no CRG or Co-operative CRG candidates in this election.

The once-powerful opposition Free and Democratic Party is now in disarray. Their fortunes have declined since the \$15,300 campaign budget was reinstated last June. They have fallen from a June high of nine seats to their present total of five, their lowest representation in over a year. They did not contest the presidency last fall and will not contest it in this election. After nearly forming the government they are now in danger of becoming a splinter group.

The Quite Frankly Party with two seats on council is contesting this election in a similar manner as in the past. However, the new leader Janette Rockyover, aided by campaign manager Parry Wylie, is not expected to improve on last fall's third place finish.

The New Anarchy Party led by the transcendental Samuel Hagar is going all out in this election. Formed last fall NAP holds two seats on council and is hoping to improve on that total this time around, and perhaps even form a minority government.

The party to watch in this election is the Peoples Reactionary Independent Coalition. The party was hastily formed as a coalition of diverse elements last fall, and to the surprise of almost everyone won. The party leader, incumbent Rick the Shit hopes to be re-elected. Although the PRIC leads some polls, Hagar is confident that NAP can close the gap.

In a related development, engshlock president Peter Queen will make a Royal Visit to the Peoples' Advisory Committee in order to render his decision regarding the refundable athletic fee referendum. The athletic fee has become one of the many issues in this campaign as the referendum will also be held February 1st. Queen has decided to grant an audience to committee chairperson Karl Trotzke to discuss the Nginurds' position on the matter.

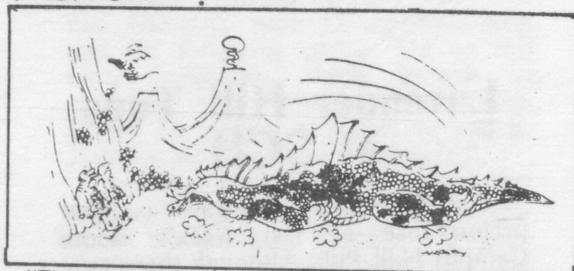
Friday, January 27,
1978.

Volume XXXI

Number 3.

Fifth ANIVERSARY issue....
Five years ago Friday came on a Thursday.

Punch



"Thank goodness! Extinct just in the nick of time!"

Presidential Platforms

Sam Wagar

No platform submission was
received from Sam Wagar.

Jan Rokosova

No platform submission was
received from Jan Rokosova.

Warriors Band

No platform submission was
received from the Warriors Band.

Fed Twits

Fed Twits has been elected and/or re-elected several times now, and expects to continue to stall on refundable fees, disrupt council meetings, interfere with internal affairs of clubs, fight the chevron, be both petty and dictatorial, and continue to alternately kiss asses and screw them.

Re-elect Fed Twits, for another year of Twits in power!

Rick Smit

It's election time again, and, as I stated prior to being elected President last October, I will run for a full term of office on February 1st.

Since I assumed office on October 26th last year, there have been some encouraging developments within the Federation. We have been able to improve relations with societies, reduce the number of council employees, increase volunteer participation in the Federation, promote openness in our dealings with you the students, and work towards an independent FM on-air broadcasting station (CKMS). The Radio Waterloo staff have been working towards this for a long time, and I am pleased to see it nearing completion during my term as President.

Communication and co-operation between the Societies and the Federation has been a priority during my administration. Progress has been made in increasing the service aspect of the Federation towards the Societies, and thus towards you the students.

As an example, the Board of Entertainment will now find performers for Society events at attractive prices. The MathSoc semi-formal on March 4th will feature *Dock Savageat* the bargain price of \$800; the booking was arranged by the Board of Entertainment which now applies all of its resources to advising the Societies in entertainment.

Although the Board of Entertainment was in bad financial straights when I took office last October, it is now under the control of Nick Redding and is re-establishing its credibility as an essential part of the Federation.

As Federation President, I have also negotiated on behalf of societies with the UW administration, particularly in regards to their demand that the societies be taxed for operating Coffee and Donut Stands.

Since reinstatement, the editorial staff of the chevron have taken the attitude that they could do no wrong. They behave as if they are immune to criticisms of plagiarism and slanted news coverage in the paper, but if the the chevron investigation commission recommends on February 5th that the paper be separated from the Federation and financed by a refundable fee, the students will have a direct and strong voice in its operation.

The Federation fees will become refundable on May 1st of this year. I am confident that, as president, I can make the federation an organization that students will want to belong to. Refundable fees are a reality, and they can support a credible student union.

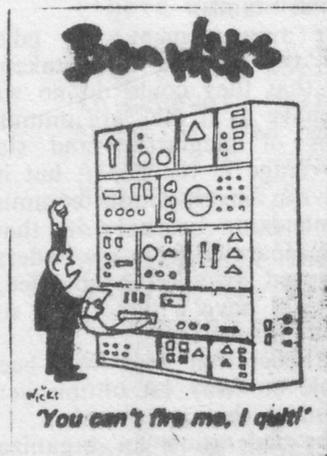
Loss of Apathy: MATHIES in POWER STRUGGLE

Elections, not acclamations will occur this year in the Mathematics Society for the Executive positions of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. This is the first time in five years that there has been an actual election for the presidency, and the first time ever that there has been an election for Treasurer.

The candidates for the presidency are third-year CS student Keith Buajitti, Mathsoc Social Director Brian (BJ) Gregory, and former Coffee and Donuts Manager and former Social Director Andy Mueller (AKFM). The vice-presidential candidates are the present Coffee and Donuts Manager Dave DeBruyn, and Athletics Director Geoff (HS) Hains. Contesting the position of Treasurer are the 3B co-op council rep Trevor Grove and third year regular council rep Philip C. Kelly.

The election will take place on Monday February 6th, and a co-op mail-out will be conducted for off-campus members. The Election Committee has tentatively scheduled an All Candidates forum for the third floor lounge on February 1st.

At the present time there still exist many vacancies for the council class reps. Nominations have been extended to January 30th. As is the norm, acclamations are expected for those seats. However a contest may develop for the four Math seats on Federation council that will soon be up for election. Most incumbents, including long-time rep J.J.Long, are not running for re-election so the race should be wide open.



Lavender Hill Tops at SCH

Lavender Hill Mob gave a stellar performance at last week's South Campus Hall Pub. Although there were only one hundred people there, the band was warmly received and completely outclassed *Jackson Hawke* who had played a week previously. The versatility of the band was evident as they played music ranging from hard rock to jazz to reggae to boogie. They mixed their own compositions (some of which can be classed as classical rock) with the works of groups such as the *Beatles* and *Stones*.

With the small crowd it is expected that the Federation will drop about \$500 on the pub. They may be able to make that up with expected profits from *Charity Brown* and *Hot Rocks* who will be playing SCH on the 2nd and 9th of February. Both are names known to UW students, and will tend to draw higher crowds.

Tickets for both acts will go on sale soon at the Federation and Society offices. Ms. Brown, a Kitchener native, has apparently not been pleased with the reception she has received in recent local concerts. The Federation has had trouble obtaining Ms. Brown for pubs, because she is in such high demand, and is hoping for a sell-out crowd and good audience response to make up for past disappointments.

There is no official SCH Fed Pub this week, instead the Feds are sponsoring a pub in the fifth floor lounge this Friday at 8 p.m. The music will be provided by *Ghost D.J. services*. *Ghostis* owned by John Denham, the former Social Director of Math Society and he is expected to be there spinning the records this Friday.

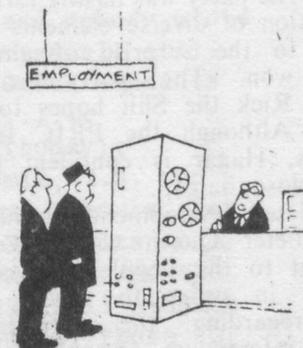
Test.... test..... uh?? Am I on? I guess I must be (tap tap tappitty tap -faucet (ignore that please—it's just the meanderings of a depraved mind—mine!)) Well hello this is my first column and I'm the masked maruder. I'm here to spew forth many inane comments about life here on campus and life here on earth in general. I haven't much to say, this being my first column, but I can say this much—Bruce Springsteen isn't God—he isn't even a priest!! Bob Dylan isn't even in the same connected and simply-connected region in 3-space (take that pogo!!) Speaking of simple I'd like to take this time to mention a few people(?) I know (send them a lot of junk mail (please, they'll love it—I know I will)). They are: rlsands,jcpickard,jpsirett and jrbakker (harass them by way of the mail system)

That's all for now. If you want content in this column send me mail (masked maradder, id: eamacneil) saying anything you wish to, who cares?? Bitch, belly-ache, or even say hi! I'm a highly opinionated sonuvabitch—if you send me grist for my mill I'll spew forth some chaff for you to choke on, by way of this column (I may even answer you civilly).

grammer sole responsibility of the writer
el a masko

oh I almost forgot:

There is a new craze on the bun (almost!) it is a game written in basic by one javanhezewyk—there are general reads and execute on this file and it's not too bad—try it you'll like it..... Any suggestions mail to javanhezewyk (the creator) or eamacneil (the chief assistant to the assistant chief).



1168

ANNOUNCEMENT

The re-organized *WATSFIC* (University of Waterloo Science Fiction Club) will be holding a meeting Tuesday, January 31st at 7:00pm in M&C3011. The purpose will be to elect executive and plan for the future. For those persons interested in science fiction or fantasy or gaming or speculative fiction.

New Course: MTHL 69: Mathematical Vulgarity. This course is intended for those people so engrossed in math that they are incapable of relating to the real world. Topics include: arc-length parametrization of the Mona Lisa's smile, double integration over the surface of Farrah Fawcett-Majors, packing problems at Auschwitz. Two hours a week, no tutorials, no assignments, no midterms: final exam consists of having the Rockettes strip in front of you and your successfully completing a stress analysis of the dynamics of oscillating spheres.

LONELY first year student with interesting background in all the things that make university life so dull, having given up on female companionship, desires to meet interesting males. Experience helps. Contact jrbakker on the 'bun or at 745-3381 any time before ten on weekdays or after five p.m. , or look for me in the lobby of the Walper Hotel.

About to be married couple desires an apartment in the K-W area from May 1st/78—preferably close to campus and Ted at 884-5385 or Karen at 884-7969, or contact eamacneil or klstaunton on tss.

FASS Strikes Again!!

Yes, not content to rest on its laurels, FASS bounces back from last year's gala parody of Star Trek to bring you the St.Valentine's Day FASSacre! As everyone ought to know (or else we'll be playing to a very empty theatre) FASS is Uniwat's very own satirical revue, poking fun at the university and life in general. This year as the show's name suggests, we'll be zeroing in on gangsters, but taking pot-shots at anything that seems to deserve it. The show runs from Wed. Feb.1 to Sat.Feb.4, and tickets are already going like hotcakes. Folks looking for good laughs and bad puns should hurry to the Modern Languages Box Office NOW to be sure of seeing what promises to be the entertainment debacle of the year!!!

ANIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: Come On Out

Five years ago *mathNEWS* published its first issue. In the fifteen terms since that historic date *mathNEWS* has published 136 issues. Twelve editors have edited over 1170 pages of news, gossip and filler.

However, we are still in need of typists, writers, translators (JJLong to English), gridword generators, layout specialists, warm bodies.....

CSC Flash

The CSC had its first meeting of the winter term on January 12th. The new executive were elected/acclaimed, and the following people are on this term's executive: Peter Stevens as president, Alex White as vice-president, Rohan Jayasekera as secretary, and R. Jude Lemieux as treasurer (elected).

In other business, the speaker that evening was Professor E. C. R. Hehner of the University of Toronto. He spoke about a new representation for the rational numbers. In his representation arbitrary length rational numbers were to be permitted in a hardware implementation. The main point about this scheme was that all arithmetic operations can be performed using a left to right algorithm, thus simplifying the programming and hardware. Details about this representation for rational numbers may be gleaned from a copy of the paper which Professor Hehner left with the CSC.

Our next speaker, on Thursday, January 26th will be Ron Hansen. Ron is a grad student here, and principle author of a chess program which won the first place in the 1975 U. S. computer chess championships, and place third in the 1974 World computer chess championships. The topic of his talk will be computer chess playing programs. By the time the paper is published, this should be past history.

The speaker for the meeting on Wednesday, February 1st will be Professor Leonard Kleinrock of the University of California at Los Angeles. Professor Kleinrock is an authority on computer networks and will be give a talk to the CSC on a history of the ARPA network. He is the author of a two volume book on queuing systems. Details about the time and location of the meeting will appear next week in posters around the Math building, and on the Honeywell and UNIX news. I hope to see a large crowd at both meetings, as they should be quite interesting and entertaining.

1169

The TAKITH Prize of the Week

Yes, folks, your favorite column is back, bringing you news of the dastardly and evil deeds the outside world is attempting to perpetrate on us poor students. This week the prize goes to the fire marshal, who following the narrowly-averted blaze last week has ordered all posters to be taken down and all private refrigerators to be removed from the Village residences. The reasoning behind the latter is intriguing. Could it be that the refrigerators, being forced by the laws of thermodynamics to put the heat they take out of the food somewhere else, are concentrating the heat in possibly fatal areas? (Methinks they should then outlaw sex within 20 feet of a wall!) Could it be that the wiring cannot handle the load? (Amplifier wars would have to go!) Or could it be a Communist (sorry Neil) plot, in conjunction with the CC Pub, to prevent the students from having cold beer at cheap prices? Stay tuned for more exciting information as it comes our way!!!

Refundable FEES:

UW to ACCEPT

mathNEWS has now learned that UW Financial V.P. Bruce Gellatly will now recommend that the Federation fee will be refundable afterall, and not voluntary as previously proposed.

A misunderstanding between Fed president Rick Smit and Gellatly was cleared up when Gellatly agreed that the Fed fees, like the Society fees would be a requirement of registration and refundable on demand during the first three weeks of classes each term. Gellatly also agreed that UW would give notice if the Board was to stop collecting fees.

The news for Radio CKMS-FM wasn't as pleasant. Since they went for a fee via the petition rather than referendum route, the fee has to be voluntary and refundable like OPIRG's fee. The petition explicitly stated that the fee was not a requirement of registration.

The only issue to settled now is the status of grads and part-time undergrads in the Federation. Presently they are full members but don't pay fed fees. Unless some provision is made for them to pay into the Federation, they will become non-members just like those full-time undergrads who get a refund.

For the first time in five years, all the major elected positions on the Mathsoc executive are being contested in an election, and are not being acclaimed. There are three candidates for the presidency, two candidates for the vice-presidency, and two persons running for the position of Treasurer. Personally, I have no position regarding who to support in this election. My hope is that many people will attend the All Candidates Forum on February 1st and also vote in the election on February 6th. A Mathsoc constitutional referendum will also be held on that day.

I will stay on topic here and tell you about another important election. That is the election of Federation President this coming Wednesday. The candidates are Integrated Studies Fed Council Rep Sam Wagar, Janet Rokasova who is an Environmental Studies Rep on Fed Council and the incumbent President Rick Smit, a former Geology student. On the same day, a referendum will occur on the issue of the Intercollegiate Athletic Fee. Candidates' submissions and information about the referendum are found in this week's mathNEWS.

I consider this election to be a Smit-Wagar contest. Sam Wagar, despite his faults, is a good person and a pretty fair council rep. I do not believe, however, that he has the leadership qualities necessary to make an effective president. In my opinion, Rick Smit has taken a more active role and more effective role in responding to the needs of the students than has Sam Wagar. For these reasons and those reasons outlined in previous columns, I am supporting Rick Smit for re-election and I ask you to do likewise this Wednesday. I believe that Rick Smit can improve the quality of our student federation.

Whoever you do support, please vote. I am hoping for a large Math turnout to help make amends for the pathetic eleven vote turnout for the first-year election, that was publicised by the chevron last November. As usual the voting tables are located outside the third floor lounge and the polls are open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Nominations are now open for reps on the Federation and Mathsoc councils. Alex White, John "Fuzzy" Ellis, and myself are not seeking re-election as Math Fed Reps, so there will be opening in those seats. I hope the seats up for election (two regular and two co-op) will be contested in elections, not acclamations.

The closing of the chevron, the chevron referendum, the eventual reinstatement and investigation, and all the related events were all part of a painful process. We have gone through a very trying period in the life of this campus in the past sixteen months, and in many ways I regret that the paper was ever closed in the first place.

Federation

After all what was accomplished? The Federation was weakened so badly that it almost collapsed, even before the refundable fee referendum was held. The AIA was strengthened, and the chevron is still as bad as ever.

There may be one last hope. Many times I have mentioned the desirability of the chevron becoming an independent corporation as CKMS is trying to do. This may yet be realized. Some chevron staffers, as well as many students, are in favour of an autonomous chevron with a separate refundable fee and staff editorial control. Not only is this a preferred solution, it may be the ONLY viable solution to this long-standing problem. I hope that the investigation commission will soon make its long-awaited report, so we will be able to have a referendum in order to decide the chevron issue once and for all. Then the chevron could go back to reporting the news, rather than being the news. Perhaps a good student newspaper will develop. The talent is there (Barkman, Redding), it only needs to be utilized.

1170

PULSE

Pulse returns this term to fill you in on the latest math/UNIX news and review the book "Computer Power and Human Reason" by Joseph Weizenbaum. Finally, I will expound on the latest grist for CS rumour mill.

Math/UNIX finally has a real DEC DQ11 communications device. The old DQ, which has had its day, has been (is being?) replaced by the real item. The old DQ11 was built locally to handle four communications lines, and was slowly but surely degrading in its ability to handle more than one line concurrently. When transmissions from the IBM and the Honeywell occurred simultaneously the IBM transmissions tended to lose characters or get them frogged on the way down.

During the third or fourth quarter of 1977, a DP11 communications device was obtained to handle communications from the Honeywell, aiming to improve the reliability of transmissions. This left the IBM line connected to the old DQ, which was (is?) sinking fast in its ability to properly handle the line. Thus we have the entry of the new device ... Charles Forsyth is busy writing the driver for our honest-to-goodness DQ, and I hope to see more reliable communications with the IBM in the future.

I recently have read the book **Computer Power and Human Reason** by professor Joseph Weizenbaum of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Weizenbaum is the author of the well-known LISP program, ELIZA, and is a pre-eminent member of the artificial intelligence community in computer science. He is also on the staff of the MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

The book has been written for non-computer people and attempts to explain computers to the layman using Turing machines as a formalism. The author later goes on to discuss bytes and bits in the main store of a computer.

In subsequent chapters, Weizenbaum goes on to criticise his colleagues in AI for having simplified the task of simulating human learning, thought and creative work to an information processing problem. He goes on to say that there are things which should not be attempted by computers, and questions the value that society places on its technological achievements.

A very interesting chapter is the one titled "Science and the Compulsive Programmer". It describes very well the species of creature lurking in the halls of the Math building known as the "hack", and the fact that this type of person is found at nearly every university where there is computing done.

This review is by no means comprehensive, but I highly recommend the book to people interested in computers. It makes one ponder the relationship of the work one can accomplish with computers to its real importance to the people around us.

GRIST: The STAGE1 operating system which is GCOS3 release G in disguise is finally working according to my sources (that is, the people here were able to boot the system and run jobs on it). STAGE1 was an experiment to test out the new hardware on our level 66 Honeywell machine. The CSC has some very interesting guests on tap for the upcoming two terms ... we may see Ken Thompson (of UNIX fame) come by, along with Brian Kernighan, both of Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Speaking of Kernighan, he and Dennis Ritchie will be having their latest book on the C programming language published around the middle of February. See you next week.

The bedsheets of Mr. McWhite,
Are really a terrible sight,
He sleeps with his head,
At the foot of the bed,
And has 69 wet dreams each night.

Ann Omenous

Dear mathNEWS:

Since the last mathNEWS report on the subject of the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Fee, it has been learned that the Federation will hold a referendum on the topic on February 1st. The referendum will ask whether the fee should remain compulsory or become refundable. It will also ask if the fee should be raised by two dollars a term. The results of this referendum are not binding on the UW Board of Governors. It is hoped however that the referendum will encourage debate on this subject and provide a good basis of student opinion.

I support the holding of this referendum, not because I hate the Athletic Department (I don't), but because there has not been an Athletic Fee referendum since 1972. I agree with Dr. Burt Matthews' analysis that extra-curricular student fees should be under periodic review. Although the 1972 referendum supported compulsory fees by over 80%, talks I have had with various students indicate that this may not be the case today. One must bear in mind that the Federation won the right to charge compulsory fees by over 80% in 1972.

I have said in the past that I have nothing against the principle of refundable fees. I would also support refundable fees in certain circumstances. However there are some organizations with large budgets that would be seriously hurt by refundable fees.

Intercollegiate fees do not pay for intramurals, and are just used to support the varsity teams. While few students get direct benefits out of the fees, there is the benefit they receive from attending games. This provides an alternate form of entertainment. While the football team is a comedy of errors, many other UW teams have won national championships. While the intercollegiate fee does not provide as many benefits as the Federation fee, I would be in favor of a compulsory intercollegiate fee in the same manner that I favor a compulsory Federation fee, since I believe that there are sufficient benefits from the fee.

On the other question, I am opposed to an intercollegiate fee increase. The fee was last increased in 1976. This increase was implemented without a referendum. I believe that we should hold off on an increase for another two years and thus fight inflation in the process. Only last summer students were hit by a tuition increase, and I believe it is time for the Athletic Department to exercise some restraint. Also I believe that a compulsory fee is much more palatable to the students when it is of a lower amount. Of course the Athletic Department will tell you they badly need this increase. I disagree, though they may be right. I am concerned though, that they are rushing it too much. Further study is needed.

If intercollegiate fees became refundable I'd leave my fees in. I don't think that refundable fees would hurt the Athletic Department as much as they will hurt the Federation. They do not have a chevron to give them hassles, nor did they try to fire the editor of their newsletter. They might have to cut some high salaries, but would probably survive fairly well. Although I favour a compulsory fee, I will abide by the results of the referendum.

There is only one thing that disturbs me about the Athletic Department and that is their attitude to this referendum. Instead of taking their cause to the students (they may prove to have a very good one), they are refusing to consider the referendum in their decision-making process. Apparently they have a misconception and think that the referendum is a plot by the students to attack the Athletic Department. It is unfortunate that they think this way, but I guess they are entitled to their opinion.

You too, are entitled to your opinions, so whatever your position on these issues, please vote in the referendum. Although I am not taking as active a role in this referendum as in past referenda, I am do have my opinions and will urge you to vote according to yours. The polling places are located in the same place as for the presidential election (Mathies vote outside third floor lounge). If you complain that once again the will of the campus was thwarted by the actions of the Engsoc president, you will only have yourself to blame.

-jjlong

1171

FUNNY BUSINESS



Dear mathNEWS:

Are you crazy? 'A Farewell To Kings' as BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR? You have to be kidding. You are kidding, aren't you? You're not? You are crazy. No, maybe you're not. I think you may have been hit by that funny feeling known as nationalistic pride. (I realized this when 'Hard Rock Town' was runner-up.) I also disagreed with your other choice as runner-up, 'Rumours'. Obviously, any other selling as many copies as did this one must be good, but I can't see why. I honestly didn't like the album, and I don't know why.

With regards to your selections of worst album of the year: Ha, I say, ha, ha. Although 'News of the World' is not a 'Night at the Opera', (how many albums are?), it compares with 'Queen, Queen 11', and 'Sheer Heart Attack'. If you forget 'A Night at the Opera', ('A Day at the Races' being a poor example. Try listening to their reverse order, you might not like 'Night' as much as before.) then the four albums are basically the same type and are all equally good. I personally disagree with the whole concept of a 'Worst Album of the Year' preferring a 'Most Disappointing Album of the Year' and would add a third category, 'Most Surprising Album of the Year'. My choices would be: Best: Eagles, 'Hotel California' Runners-up: J.Geils Band, 'Monkey Island' and 'Foreigner's 'Foreigner' Most Disappointing: ELO 'Out of the Blue' Runners-up: ELP 'Works Vol. 1', Bad Company's 'Burner Sky' Most Surprising: Bob Seeger's 'Night Moves' Runners-up: Alan Parson's Project 'I, Robot' and Manfred Mann's 'A Roaring Silence' (Their earlier stuff sucks)

I won't debate your concert selections because the only one I saw was Supertramp and I enjoyed it as well. Mine would be: Best: Eagles (TO, May '77). Joe Walsh live is not to be believed. And Queen (TO, Nov. '77)--a good show. Most Disappointing: Peter Frampton, Detroit (June '77) (Blown off the stage by J.Geils although the reverse happened in Buffalo) and Fleetwood Mac (TO, July '77) (maybe that's why I don't like 'Rumours'.) Most Surprising: Peter Gabriel (May '77) (even without a lot of theatrics he was great) and Genesis (TO April '77) (when I saw them at UW, they sucked)

In conclusion, this thought: Bruce Springsteen is NOT God.

John Ellis

P.S. I don't know who God is but he might just be Peter Townsend.

P.P.S? Who is 'My Aim is True' by? I've never (seriously) heard of it.

P.P.P.S. Worst Written Letter of the Year: John 'Fuzzy' Ellis

—typist

Ramblings, Ravings and Incoherent Mumbles

Welcome to RRIM, the only column whose writer is on nine Honeywell group mailing lists. (Only three of them are connected with official organizations). Last week saw *Emerson, Lake and Palmer* visiting Kitchener for probably the best concert to hit the area in two years. Last week also saw the romance between Sadat and Begin go sour. Presidential nominations closed last week; for my money the Warriors Band will take the race, if they aren't disqualified for lack of a W. Band in the enrollment list. (editors note: they were, because there isn't.) Last week the fire marshal, in his infinite wisdom, ordered all posters and refrigerators out of the Villages (see TAKITH).

Last week also saw some feedback (hallelujah!) which dealt with mostly music. John the Fuzzy (real name Ellis) let me see his three-page letter, which he plans to have published in an alternate form, defending "News of the World" (personally, I think Idi Amin would be a better bet for a rising young lawyer). Fuzzy also proposed a category "Most Surprising Album" and nominated "Night Moves" (I would choose Gentle Giant's "The Missing Piece"). jhbuccino, the president of the Bruce Springsteen Sucks Club, chimed in with "Heroes" as best and "Book of Dreams / I'm in You" as worst. jppattison surprisingly chose "This Time It's For Real" by Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes as best, and won the distinction of being the only person I know who enjoyed their warmup for ELP last summer. As for best concert, two people agreed with my choice of Bruce Springsteen, and we had a vote each for the Eagles, Al Stewart and Queen. Everyone picked Fleetwood Mac as one of the worst live bands, which I would agree with after hearing the "Sin City '77" bootleg. Enough drivel; anyone else like to chip in their two cents?

Neat Program of the Month: rdbutterworth's Volker-Craig mapping function, which takes any sequential input file and prints it out on a VC terminal page by page, but with some interesting options; you can choose to have all vowels printed out first, or do it in alphabetical order, or from the bottom up, or by columns. I have yet to see any real application of the program, but it's a neat way to list things. The program is `rdbutterwort/vcm` (general read-execute); the explain file is obtained by typing `free rdbutterwort/lib.b vcm.x` in response to the TSS system call and then listing `vcm.x`, now in your aft. Query: who is cmain and why does he like one-sided relationships?

One of our beloved editor's last week downgraded BASIC, prefacing it with the comment (ugh!). Not only is this unfair, but it is the comment of a person who has used computers so long that he has lost sight of his roots. I and many other hacklings were weaned on BASIC, and I feel it is the best language for a beginner to learn. Not only does it need no flowcharting, no pseudo-code, no stepwise refinement, no declaration of variables, but it has none of those damned control structures that make third year so easy but hell for high-school and first year students. (editors note: I feel compelled to interrupt at this point. Firstly, I, and a substantial number of other people, trace roots to FORTRAN on an IBM 1130. Secondly, all languages need some organized design in order to produce viable programs. Sure, mnemonic variable names (which BASIC doesn't have!) help, but because it is so easy to use, BASIC gets misapplied. Have you ever tried to debug (in translation, thrice-removed) a 600-line BASIC program which was poorly written? The one I had to handle is in production status with a major company. I repeat: ugh!)

Welcome back, my friends,
To the show that never starts -
Ladies and Gentlemen -

How many times have you seen kids imitating lead guitar player by mock-strumming their hockey sticks? Well, Glenn James of Carleton Place has gone a step further. Two years ago, he strung baling wire on his hockey stick, added an electronic pickup and set out to win a Grammy. He debuted at last year's Edmonton Exhibition, playing along to the *Led Zeppelin* soundtrack of a midway ride. Since then he has played a pizza restaurant and a folk club in Toronto, as well as playing regularly outside of the Eaton Centre. The sounds his electrified stick makes are passed through phase shifters, fuzz-tones, and octave dividers, and observers have likened it to the noise of a Boeing 747 having engine trouble. Just another kid following the Great Canadian Dream.

I'm friendly, connubial, witty, and I won't ask to meet you in person and could you bring someone for my friend. So why don't you send me mail? My userid is `plragde` on TSS and Unix (no one uses mail on Unix, they're too damn serious up there). A random listing of my mailbox this week revealed the following: jhbuccino and jppattison debating the state of the art of music, jrbakker and jpsirett with the usual garbage, mwcodd and ghsmit with substandard babblings, a mysterious message from the 'bun proclaiming a campaign to kill mailing lists (hurrah!), kgdykes saying very little, and the Mata Hari of the mail system, valyons. That's it for this week; one final thought from an anonymous friend: You can't own women, you can only rent them.
Remember, Queen could have been God!!!

-pogo

AT GUNPOINT

You have probably noticed the lack of **mathNEWS** coming out recently. What I am referring to is the fact that, for the past 2 weeks, it's been all of 2 pages—about what the Chevron would be if you took out the trash and printed what's left, ads. Anyway, Will and Trob got together and decided they needed more input. Then came my first mistake. I walked in at that point. They left a note in the masthead. It didn't work. They went out and bought guns and here I am.

So while I'm here I may as well spout forth. (I've got a choice?) First I would like to ask for your pity and help. SEND LETTERS!! Send them to me c/o **mathNEWS**. Ask me advice. Just send in your comments. (I'll print anything (editor's note: so will we! You're reading this, aren't you?)) Tell me your name if you'd like to see it in print. I'll never come up with enough ideas if they keep catching me and chaining me to this terminal.

COMMENT: People will stop to watch anything. We, of the MHL, have become the most popular spectator sport on the third floor. (It used to be watching the flashing light on a Canteen of Canada machine in the lounge.)

The Village 2 dining hall was the scene for MacLean and MacLean last Thursday. Although poorly advertised, the joint was full and all but the prudish and weak-stomached had a great time and plenty of laughs. (Why didn't one of the organizers tell us? You can't get any cheaper publicity.)

As a result of a fire in the same Village 2, villagers have been asked to remove all posters from the walls. (How this came from a fire started by emptying an ashtray into a garbage can full of paper proves the great reasoning ability of university staff.) This will give the village that nice cell-block look.

One must wonder why the ban disallows posters when a student's room is full of notepaper, computer printouts, textbooks, and other paper essentials. These things on wooden shelves and desks are far more dangerous than posters on cement walls. For those of you who wish to make your rooms safer, I recommend arts courses to cut down on notes and text-books in your room.

The CBC, noted for excellence in television viewing, has run out of weekend sports to cover, now that football and baseball are over and hockey is usually too boring to bother with. In order to fill this gap, they will be here Saturday, January 28. (tomorrow!) They will be televising the Waterloo Warriors defeating the Guelph Gryphons. Just because you now know the outcome is no excuse for not showing up and proving to all of Canada (or at least the 10 people who watch CBC on Saturday evenings) how much spirit we have. The game starts at 8:15.

My plan worked. My column has put Will and Trob to sleep. Now I'll just pick up my terminal and steal away. So long until they catch me again, and please write in.

Rob Collins

LOST: One budding columnist. He was wearing a brown shirt, blue jeans and a computer terminal. If found, please return to Wil or Trob in MC3038.



If you're a little like most people, you've by now figured out that this is mathNEWS. If not, worry. Some of you may even notice that this issue has EIGHT pages! That it has even some news (not much, but what the heck), some views (we prints what we gots!), and a genuine Gridword! (this is the one we didn't have last week). It's 7:20 a.m. as I type this, the masthead of the only weekly paper on campus with an all-volunteer staff, paid for by you math students out there (you thought this was FREE?) through, but independent of mathsoc, which is typed and edited on MFCF's Honeywell 66/60 and phototypeset on their Photon Econosetter, laid out by yours truly, and, about two hours from now, taken over to Graphic Services to turn into 1200 wonderful clones.



A lot of things didn't make it into this issue, and it was our fault. The main difficulty was lack of editorship at crucial times. Co-editor Wil Macaulay was absent this week because of the weather; ex-editor Dennis Mullin (the only survivor of that fateful first issue, 5 years ago tomorrow which is yesterday by now) was re-organizing WATSFIC, and yours truly, co-editor Dave Gillett, was attending a BEER (not what you're thinking!) meeting until 10:30. The mailbox didn't get checked until 5:30 a.m., after everything that had been typed was photoned, and the lock broke, so don't submit things that way for a while.

The "graphic" on this page is to draw attention to the Monopoly tournament which mathsoc is organizing. All those who signed the list, but missed Tuesday's meeting, see Brian (BJ) Gregory. And there is still room for those who never heard of it before.

This week's staff were: JJ very Long; Rob better columnist than typist Collins, Marnie sorry we didn't need you at the moment McIntee; John MHL that also didn't make it Ellis; Peter pulser Stevens; Dennis almost ~~retired~~ graduated Mullin; Prabhakar I think that's right Ragde; griddist TABS, YOU FOOL boff; E. A. Masko (MacNeil), who forgot to mention that the game is called "chase" and is written in (ugh!) BASIC; graphicist and, if you Wil assistant editor Phil Kelly; and yours truly, Exil Q. Trob. Notable assistance was received from operator J. Herzig (he unlocked the photon); notable obstructions were Bill Flowers and an ~~unidentified~~ unidentified sidekick, and almost everyone who typed an article (even our ex-editor, who should know better!). In case you can't tell, we still desperately need people: Salmon Tack, where are you? By 3 o'clock or so, I stop caring about whether you happen to look like Raquel Welch's kid sister; I think I could even put up with jrbakker-a-at least he could pass the Turing test! I know somebody out there doesn't like what we print; if only he/she would get really mad and join us.....

Fed elections are next Wednesday; unfortunately, only one "legit" candidate sent us anything. It looks like Twits all the way.

NEWS OF THE WORLD: The U.S. army has TWO BATTALIONS of trained anti-terrorism troops: 1160 men with rifles, grenades, machine guns and anti-tank weapons. Sounds like they're ready to suppress a revolution or something! Sadat and Begin have had a falling-out. Italy's Communists, with 33% of the popular vote, are demanding more say in their coalition with the Christian Democrats, who polled 38%. Lena Wertmuller wears repulsive glasses.

AWARDS: my own version of TAKITH, for damsels in distress who are already married, and the BEST ACCIDENT award for borrowing a dictionary. From someone just a little bit special.

mathNEWS occasionally runs questionnaires. This week: what topics would you like to see questionnaires on? (Answer in 500 words or less.)

CONTEST: Buy mathsoc a new typewriter and win a T-shirt!
Make us an offer on the old one.

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After a moments pause, in a fit of sudden violent desperation, he hurls the machine at