

## Misprint?

By the time you read this a new newspaper will have joined **mathNEWS**, **engiNEWS**, the **Gazette** and the **chevron** in the regular observation of campus news. The first issue of the **Imprint** was scheduled to appear Thursday June 15th. However it seems as if there were some **misprints**, as many first-day copies were held back or removed from circulation. Despite these problems, a few issues did appear with most mistakes omitted late Thursday and early Friday. The paper is expected to publish once or twice more this term, depending on advertising revenue.

The paper, which appears from its cover to be an Arts literary magazine, is sponsored by the UW Journalism Club. Like **Watsfic** or the **CSC**, this club is recognized by the Federation, and has received a budget of \$350 from the Federation for its activities in the 1978-79 fiscal year. It's not clear whether this money will be used to support the **Imprint** or whether it will

## Reprint?

be used to finance the club's speakers' series planned for the fall.

The **Imprint** has managed to obtain advertising from some people who have advertised in the **chevron**. Also some moderate and conservative business people who would not advertise in the **chevron** because of its radical politics may be willing to support the **Imprint**. The **Imprint** is also expected to pick up some Federation and society ads. All told there is \$200 worth of on-campus ads and \$400 worth of off-campus ads in the first issue.

The paper hopes to get more funds in the fall, possibly through a proportional allocation of a refundable student newspaper fee. According to Nick Redding, Treasurer of the Journalism Club, the paper then can rigorously pursue advertising, hiring a paid advertising director. Redding feels, however, that the paper will not need any paid editors or production managers.

Redding feels the paper could do

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better than the **chevron**. He feels it may be able to gain all or part of the **chevron's** office space. Though he would like to see the **chevron** collapse, he feels it will be in business for at least another year or two, no matter how well the **Imprint** does.

Members of the club have discussed the possibility of applying for C.U.P. membership. Co-editor Randy Barkman favours joining, believing that it would help advertising revenue. Redding, at this time, is against C.U.P. membership, but is willing to change his mind if there is a lowering of C.U.P. fees and a change in their executive's attitude. Club president Stephen Coates is undecided at present.

While C.U.P. membership would increase advertising revenue, some feel that C.U.P.'s rules are too restrictive. Such rules may turn off some of the Engineering supporters of the paper. As of yet, the paper has not made a decision on the matter.

-jjlong

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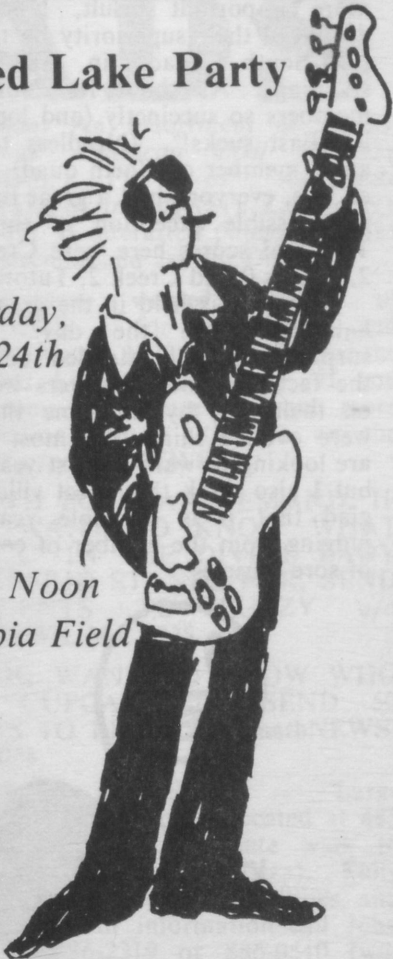
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# math NEWS

## Fed Lake Party

Saturday,  
June 24th

12:00 Noon  
Columbia Field



## General Meeting Imminent?

It appears that the long-awaited Federation General Meeting will be held in the first week of July. An obscure notice found last Tuesday on the blackboard in the Federation office referred to a Board of Directors meeting that was to be held Thursday June 15th, at 6 p.m. Considering that the Engineering Society has over 700 names on a petition calling for a General Meeting, it was expected that the Board would call a General Meeting for early July.

While 700 signatures does not constitute 10% of the entire Federation membership (off-campus members included), Fed president Smit feels that there is enough interest to warrant a General Meeting. Since 17 days notice is required for a General Meeting, the earliest day that one can be held is July 2nd, if the Board did indeed call the General Meeting at Thursday's meeting.

At press-time we had no details of the possible General Meeting. Watch further issues for more details.

-jjlong

## Car Rally Results

The "Once Over Easy" Car Rally held Saturday June 3rd, was won by Car Number 8, driven by Paul Latimer and navigated by Rick Conroy, both of the Faculty of Math. The winners captured the title with a total of 9 points.

In second place with 17 points were Doug Robb and Brian Mattice, both from Math, in Car Number 5. Bob Gore and Tom Kieth, also of Math, captured third place in Car Number 1, with a total of 18 points.

Rick Ellis of Engineering and Julia Palsalns of Math in Car Number 24 took fourth place with 31 points. C.L.Girolami and R.G.Quirk of Engineering came fifth in Car Number 14, with 32 points.

Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed (?) a pleasant afternoon in the Waterloo countryside. Special thanks go to Karen, Maureen, Indy, Sarah, Andy, Linus, and Victor for checkpointing. I couldn't have done it without you.

Hugh Frampton

## Non Compos Mentis

The bus tops the last rise at precisely 8:04 a.m., plus or minus a minute depending on which bus you get into. STEEP HILL AHEAD TRUCKS GEAR DOWN, says the sign, and as the nearer buildings creep into view the bus decides it'll do so anyway, lowering it's pitch methodically and jolting me out of my semi-trance.

One could almost forget that it had snowed on the first day of work; the sun has long since burned off the mist on the Ottawa River and is now trying valiantly to dispel the flakes of pseudo-snow, poplar seeds that float lighter than dandelion fluff on the waterward morning breeze. The bus settles comfortably into its place in the rhomboid fleet formation, and the passengers start their customary orderly disembarkation, left-right-left-right. I check that I have everything — clipboard, unnecessary pencil case, lunchbag, wallet in right pocket, room key in left.

If Deep River is nowhere, this place lacks a superlative — the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, located eight kilometres away from its namesake town spread thinly in a T-shape along Highway 17 and the perpendicular private road we have just traversed. It snuggles in a hollow along the side of the Ottawa River, who owing to its rather dismal position, of relying on spring runoff from Northern Ontario, is going to think it's winter quite a while still. Fifteen hundred scientists and twice as many technicians strive mightily to keep Canada no more than twenty years behind the superpowers. One good thing about working at a scientific establishment is its casualness; the first week I wore a shirt and tie, which made me better dressed than my personnel officer; then I abandoned my tie, and halfway through the third week started on my good jeans. I plan to attempt T-shirts sometime in June.

Scattered through the bus, mostly near the back, are the members of a rather informal grouping that I have named the Three Musketeers; Porthos, the short stocky Physics student who is the only other first-year student here; Athos, the quiet RIA who is deeply into mysticism; and myself, Aramis, trying to push my schizophrenic buddy back into my subconscious. And then there's D'Artagnan, the tall Physics student, soft-spoken, who today is sitting with the cute U of T engineer who is oh-so-friendly and hardly ever mentions her boyfriend. PR↓ thinks she has been placed here for a purpose by

Mr & Mrs Rock'n'Roll America, but I try not to listen to him these days.

We are residents of Maple Lodge, the 'middle' residence; below us is Champlain House, across the street, the Village II-like residence that holds most of the fifty or so National Summer Students. The lucky ones managed to get into Maple Lodge, tripling their rent (to 67.50 a month), providing they were either Waterloo co-op students, female, or tour guides (I kid you not). Across the street in the other direction is Forest Hall, the staff hotel where the comparatively rich and those over 30 stay. It's easy to pick out the students on this bus; they taper off at about 24 and there's a gap before the regulars start up in the low 30's.

The exit rotation finally reaches me and I stand up and walk down the aisle and then the steps to the pavement. The cream of Canada's atomic programme walks with me, down the steps to the gatehouse. Here we pick up our film badges, a name that has hung around from the early days of nuclear research; they are now little green boxes 2" by 1 1/4" by 1/4" with a Polaroid picture on the outside and a couple of dosimeters, a sulphur tablet, and God knows whatever else inside. They pull their guts out every two weeks to determine if anyone's received a fatal dose. And as I pass through the gates housing the hand-and-foot monitors, PRx pops back in. Says he: *Why do you continue? Whats the purpose of taking strangers on these journeys in the foothills of your psyche?*

I don't know. I have given up trying to understand it all and retreated for the summer to this pocket world, struggling at night in my room with my moody, malodorous images of death and sexuality, seeking to mold them into a form recognizable to the rest of humanity.

*Give it up for a bit. Go back to writing those trivially humorous columns.*

No, that's not the solution. Somewhere in here there's a clue as to how to avoid going through all this shit that characterizes the start of adulthood. Someone's got to find it, I don't know if I can.

My building lies just the other side of the plant cafeteria. I would like to see if my 2000 cp-second job ran overnight, but by some strange quirk of fate the computer is always down from 8 to 8:30. So I sit down at my desk and write this article, getting it out of my system before I start the day's work.

-prabakhar ragde

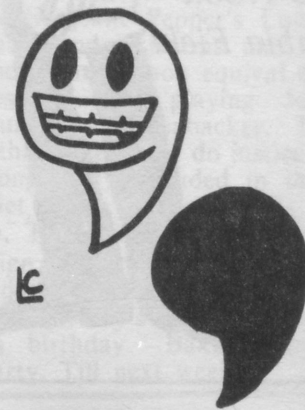
## Village Challenge Day

On Saturday, June 10, Village 1 held its annual Challenge Day. 16 teams competed in such gruelling events as the egg toss and the seven-legged race for individual and quad supremacy. The teams were made up of 12 members, of which at least two had to be female. The rest of the team was composed largely of members of a particular house or floor. East and South quads were competing against North quad in the inter-quad competition with the losing quad having to serve the winning quad dinner that night.

The tightly scheduled day started with the teams competing in volleyball and slow-pitch baseball. After lunch, the teams split in two and each half competed alternately in the basketball toss and the seven-legged race. The teams reformed for the egg-toss and the tug-of-war. The tug-of-war was competed especially fiercely because the losers ended up taking a bath in Laurel Creek. The competition ended up with an obstacle course which culminated in a water fight at Columbia Lake.

The winners were announced at supper. Top individual team was the East 5 Gumbys who managed to sneak by the North 5 second floor team on the last scorecard. However, in the more important result, North quad displayed their superiority by trouncing East-South quad in the overall standings. As about 100 North quad members so succinctly (and loudly) put it, "East sucks!". (Needless to say, I am a member of North quad) But win or lose, everyone had a great time (with the possible exception of the tutors) The final scores here were Cream Pies 2, Tutors 0 and Creek 2, Tutors 0.

A pub was held in the green dining hall to finish the day. It was surprisingly well attended considering the fact that most villagers were dead on their feet by the time the events were over. I think that most villagers are looking forward to next year's event but I also think that most villagers are glad that it is a whole year away, judging from the number of complaints of sore muscles.



## Refund Data

The Federation has now awarded all of its refundable fees for the spring/summer term. Though the refund rate of 7.3% is high compared to Society, OPIRG, and CKMS refunds, it is much lower than some people expected. **mathNEWS** has obtained the complete refund data, by faculty, for this term and the data contains a few surprises.

Not surprisingly the highest number of refunds (94 or 43%) came from the Engineering faculty. However Engineering's refund rate of 8.1% was lower than that of Arts (16%) and Environmental Studies (11%). Though EngSoc supports having refundable fees, this term EngSoc officials stated that it would be better if Engineers left in their fees. The relatively high refund rates in Arts and Env. Studies could be attributed to the fact that neither faculty has an active society in the spring term.

Math was an interesting faculty. While Mathies voted over two to one against refundable fees last fall, Math had the second highest number of refunds (59). While MathSoc had

opposed refundable fees, there are some Math students who are very independent and are unhappy with either MathSoc or the Federation. It must be added, however, that Math is the second largest faculty in the summer term and has over one third of the full-time students. The math refund rate of 5.2% was below average.

The lowest refund rates were in Science and HKLS. Each faculty had under 10 students (or less than 5.1%)

take their fees back. Complete data is provided in the table below.

*It should be noted that not all students pay fees. Fees are not collect noted from grads or part-time undergrads, but they may pay at the Fed office. Seven such people (five of them grads) joined the Federation that way this term.*

Faculty	Undergrads	No. Collected	Refunds	Rate (%)
Engin	1245	1158	94	8.1
Math	1499	1128	59	5.2
Arts	1400	187	30	16.0
Science	470	187	9	4.8
HKLS	255	157	8	5.1
Env. S.	215	127	14	11.0
Int. S.	34	23	2	8.7
Totals	5118	2967	216	7.3

## unclassifiable ADS

**For Sale:** An assortment of games. Such as *American Civil War*(\$3); *Cobra*(\$3); *Plot to Assassinate Hitler*(\$3); *Scrimmage*(\$1); *Leipzig*(\$9); *Dixie*(\$3). If interested phone 743-9485 in the evening and ask for Dennis.

**Back issues wanted.** Copies of **mathNEWS** for 1973 and February/March 1978 are needed for the National Library in Ottawa. If you have some to donate or want more information contact djmullin on the 'bun or c/o **mathNEWS**.

**DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE "C" IN THE DIVINE LADY L'S USERID STANDS FOR, SEND 50 CENTS TO FUZZY c/o mathNEWS, MC 3038.**

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO THE CUPCAKE IS, SEND 50 CENTS TO LINDA c/o mathNEWS, MC 3038.**

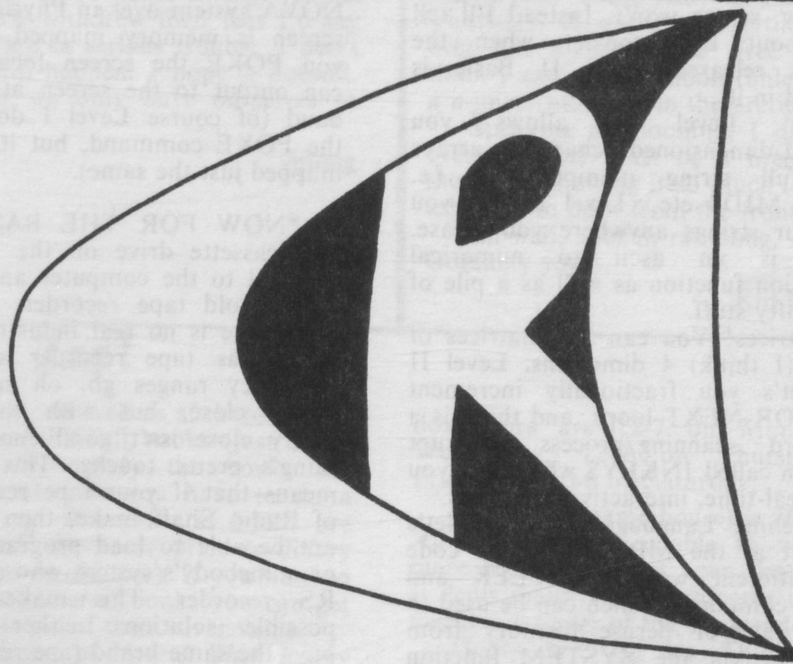
**Apartment to Share** -- Large one-bedroom apartment located at 485 Parkside Drive (20 minute walk to UW, 5 minutes to plaza). Fully carpeted, T.V., appliances, utilities, and furnishings. For information call John Long at 886-2319 or 886-0510 (will return your call).

## No Gridword This Week

Answers to last week's gridword will appear in the next issue.

## Recycling PAPER

Anyone who has paper they wish to recycle are asked to get in touch with either Gary Embro or the operators of the honeywell system.



## NOTEPAD

\*Well, I promised you, not so long ago, that I'd write a column comparing the Radio Shaft TRS-80 and the Commodoor PET personal microcomputers. I also stated that I'd have my PET by then (HA!). I don't have the PET as of yet, but I have put in a great deal of programming time on both it and the TRS-80. So this week I'll do my spiel on the TRS-80 and next week the PET.

One of my reasons for putting off this column was that Radio Shaft's Level I Basic is to the PET's 14k operating system as a Volkswagon is to Al Unser -- he'd just laugh at it. Really folks, the Level I Basic is laughable. You have at your disposal two (count 'em 2) character strings which are only singly dimensioned and you can't use them in IF statements. Nor are there any string handling functions. You can put stuff in and print it out, but you can't do a single damn thing to them other than that.

Also in Level I is one and only one array called A. It is singly dimensioned as well, meaning that if you want to handle matrices you'll have to write a routine for it.

And as a round-up, Level I also refuses to allow you to use fractional increments in FOR-NEXT loops, and there is no keyboard scanning routine for processor interrupts.

As you can see, the TRS-80 with Level I is not even worth talking about seriously, so we won't. Instead I'll tell you about the monster when the recently released Level II Basic is installed in it.

Aha! Level II allows you MULTI-dimensioned character arrays with full string manipulation. i.e. LENS\$, MID\$ etc. Level II lets you use your strings anywhere you please. There is an ASCII to numerical conversion function as well as a pile of other nifty stuff.

Matrices! You can use matrices of up to (I think) 4 dimensions. Level II also lets you fractionally increment your FOR-NEXT loops, and there is a keyboard scanning/process interrupt function called INKEY\$ which lets you build real-time, interactive programs.

Machine Language! Level II lets you get at the MPU's machine code two different ways: via PEEK and POKE commands which can be used to change and/or peruse memory from Basic, or via the SYSTEM function which drops the user out of Basic and into T-Bug, Radio Shaft's machine language monitor.

Some other assorted features of Level II are: double size characters, cassette files with file names one letter

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long (Level I has files, but they shall remain nameless), and an OUT function which allows you to trigger your cassette drive relay at will or, as my friend Mike Gore has recently done, you can turn one of the output ports on and off fast enough to generate music (so far he's got some Bach and some Scott Joplin on it). You can also do double precision arithmetic, and all of your basic math functions like sin, cos, sqrt etc are supplied on ROM (that's right, you can't do square roots in Level I unless you write a routine for it).

Now that I've thoroughly swayed you in favour of Level II I'll tell you the price: an extra \$190 plus installation. Maybe, to ease the shock, I should tell you some of the features you get regardless of which Basic you buy.

Graphics. There are two forms of graphics available in the TRS-80, one in the form of cursor addressing, using the PRINT AT statement, and the other which allows you to turn on and off up to 6000 screen segments. The first lets you print wherever you want on the screen while the second lets you draw perfect lines and pretty good curves. A word of warning though; in Level I a line of printing will wipe out all graphical characters on that line - even if you're only printing one letter! Level II has that beaten. Both Basics have a nice random number generator which works far better than that of the NOVA system over in Physics, and the screen is memory mapped so that if you POKE the screen locations, you can output to the screen at very high baud (of course Level I doesn't have the POKE command, but it's memory mapped just the same).

\*NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS: The cassette drive on the TRS-80 is external to the computer and is just a regular old tape recorder. As of the now there is no real industry standard as far as tape recorder speeds and frequency ranges go, oh sure they're pretty close, but with the TRS-80 pretty close isn't good enough -- the thing's pretty touchy. This of course means that if your tape recorder isn't of Radio Shaft make, then you might not be able to load program recorded on somebody's system who does use an RS recorder. This makes for two possible solutions: either everybody buys the same brand tape recorder (just what Radio Shaft wants) or else you forget trying to trade programs with anyone whose recorder speed and frequency range isn't the same as yours. As you'll see next week, the PET doesn't have this problem.

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The MONITOR: For God's sake don't buy the Radio Shaft video monitor! It's a \$400 ripoff. For about \$100 bucks you can pick up a cheap Sony of Sears BW portable TV and for another \$3 or so you can either build yourself an RF modulator or else go right in back, disconnect the RF circuits and hardwire your beast right up to the video amps. If you don't know how to do this yourself, then go grab an electrical engineer and pay him twenty bucks to do it for you. You'll still be saving \$280!!

Besides, there's a glitch in Radio Shaft's circuitry somewhere that sends an annoying 60 Hz ripple up and down their monitor -- so get your own.

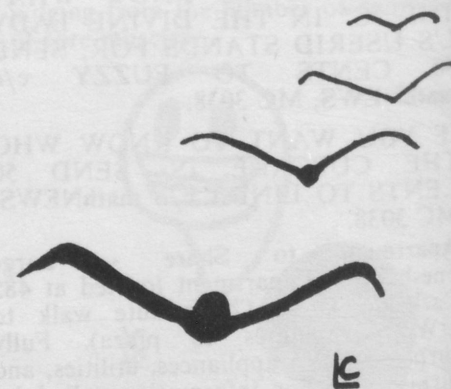
WARRANTY: Essentially, RS's warranty is that if you look cross-eyed at your computer, they're not responsible for what happens. If you're the sort of person who waits for the 90 days to run out, then don't open up your unit until it's over, otherwise the warranty is void. Of course if something does go wrong and you take it in to be fixed, it'll have to be shipped up to Barrie for repairs. And if it's really serious, it goes all the way back to Fort Worth, Texas.

Oh yeah! I almost forgot the price. For an 4k system with tape drive and no monitor, it runs you in the neighbourhood of \$800. A 16k system is about \$1100. The price is pretty good for what you get, but only if you're willing to drop the extra 200 bucks on top of that for Level II.

\*Well, next week I'll go on and tell you about the faults and advantages of the Commodoor PET. I've probably missed several items this week such as the TRS-80's editor (Level II only) and if I remember enough of them I'll try and mention them next week.

Happy computing!

-dthedmonds



## Refundable Fees: A Commentary

Well, the complete refundable fee data for this term has been compiled. I must say Math could have done better. While our refund rate of 5.2% was below the Engineering average of 8.1% and the Arts average of 16%, it was still not the lowest, considering that Math voted overwhelmingly against refundable fees (the opposite of the engineers), I feel that the Math refund rate should have been **much** lower than the Engineering rate.

From my conversations with Federation officials, I have learned that there are two major groups of refunders. I will call these groups the protestors and the freeloaders.

The "protestors" refund their fees because of some moral, political or philosophical disagreement with the Federation. They might be anti-union or upset with the chevron. I feel that these people are those for which refundable fees were enacted. They feel that they have legitimate reasons for their actions. The best way for the Federation to prevent refunds from this group is by trying to best represent as many students as possible. Of course, there will always be unhappy people, but we should try to minimize the number of such people.

The second, and I believe more dangerous, group is the "freeloaders" or "moochers". A freeloader sees a dollar advantage in refunding his/her Federation fee. He/she may then try to take advantage of Federation services anyhow. The small amount charged by societies, OPIRG, CKMS, etc. keeps these kinds of refunds low in such groups. The Federation, by its nature, requires a higher fee near the \$10 per term range. Thus "freeloader" refunds are more common in the Feds. The

only way to fight this is stricter enforcement of higher Fed/Non-fed price differentials. Such a "make the rich pay" policy should be accompanied by a publicity education campaign explaining the benefits of being a Fed member. Perhaps we should start reshooting the Fed film.

Don't get me wrong. I believe students should have the **right** to refund their fees as a protest against the Federation. However, I believe that they **should not**. Not only do they hurt themselves, but less money is made available for subsidies and students in general must pay more at Fed events.

While I opposed refundable fees last fall, I've seen the writing on the wall. Students, as a whole, seem to be turning to refundable fees. My opposition to refundable fees was basically based on timing. I feel that Engineers like P. King were putting in refundable fees just to get at the Feds because of the chevron (which they helped reinstate). I didn't feel it was fair to kick the Feds when they were down. Things have changed. Though I would favour a partially refundable fee in order to combat the freeloaders, I don't think I (or many others) could support a completely compulsory fee as before.

If 50% of students feel that it is worth tramping over to the Fed office to recover a measly ten bucks out of \$400 (twenty bucks out of \$800) the Federation is not **worth** saving. In fact if over 25% withdrew their fees I'd say the Feds are in **serious** trouble. I don't think it will happen. I hope it doesn't. If it does we only have ourselves to blame.

-jjlong

## Kid Paranoid

Hi again, I'm back for another week of mayhem and other assorted fun. Midterms are upon us and that extra hour of TV is starting to be sacrificed for the purpose of study. Hope you do as well as possible. First off, I would like to say to Mr. Sore Wrist that I'm not really a fascist (just because I said right wing is the opposite of wrong wing). I feel all extremists should be shot and deported, including fascists (just kidding). Also I didn't actually wish to be that harsh on the 12th book in the series "Beasts of Gor". It has a lot more action than either "Capture" or "Slave-Girl" (7th & 11th in series). I just think he stresses too much the "slavery" aspect at the expense of the true conflict against the Beasts.

Joy of joys, Monty Python has returned. It has to be the best British comedy since "On the Buses". It is a great show. I especially like the "Doug Dinsdale Pirahna Sketch" and the "Cycling Tour Sketches". Another fine comedy is "America 2 Night". Barth Gimbel (Martin Mull) and Jerry Hubbard (Fred Willard) have successfully destroyed any pretense talk shows might have. Gimbel will do anything for a buck and is continually avoiding his "cheerleader" scandal in Miami. Hubbard is stupidity redefined. Happy Kyne (Frank DeVol), the bandleader must have Doc Severinson rolling in his grave (even though he isn't dead yet!). Anyone who enjoys subtle humour will like the show. I finally beat "Mata Hari" at Laurier last Thursday. It was the first time I had ever got a "legitimate" free game. I think I saw a blue moon (unless it was a n-jineer mooning in the arctic).

Speaking of mooning, I do believe every n-jineer must be a breech-birth, they keep showing it so much (most are ashamed to do it from the front).

Oh well, enough rambling. I remain Goreanly yours,

Kid Paranoid

## Zap!

A column reviewing assorted books. However, this week we don't have any books reviewed because the **mathNEWS** editors are departing from tradition and are trying to put an issue out every week in the summer. So instead I'll take a look at a bookstore or two.

First on the list is 103 Queen Street West (2 blocks south of the bus terminal). At this address there stands a rambling old mansion. Inside is the abode of *Now and Then Books* (also known as Harry's). It has one of the largest collections of secondhand *science fiction* books in the region (over

2000 books). As well as sf there are the usual run-of-the-mill books (just under 2000). Unfortunately the books are rather unsorted so you have to do a little looking. Prices for sf books are usually half the cover price (ordinary books are even cheaper). If you want to sell some of your sf books you can get about a quarter of their cover value.

Other facets of *Now & Then Books* are the huge quantities of comics (both new and old) and an interesting selection of records & albums.

Hours upstairs are 10-9 during the week and 10-6 on Saturday. For those of you interested in records the hours

downstairs are 12-7 on Monday to Wednesday; 12-9 on Thursday & Friday and 10-6 on Saturday.

Next door (same house) is *House of All Sorts*. I was unable to visit the place because it's not open that much. It deals mainly with hardcover editions and the *antiques* of the booktrade.

Hours are 1-6 on Thursday & Saturday and 1-9 on Friday.

That's all for this week. Do you know of any places which should be reviewed (or do you want to keep them for yourself)?

-djm

## THE WANDERERS OF TUMINOR PART II

Tandor thumped sullenly into the dimly lit Inn, ordered a tankard of ale, a haunch of venison and dropped himself into a chair at an empty table. The wooden slats creaked painfully under his enormous bulk but did not quite give way. Tandor was in a foul mood.

For two hours he'd stood in the square asking, begging, commanding, cajoling, even pleading with passersby to come with him and take part in this great adventure, but no-one would listen.

Tandor was painfully aware of his own lack of mental aptitude and this had driven him to try and recruit a man of intelligence, a wizard before all else. But the wizards of Kladdenville all seemed either cowards or thieves. Fully five of them had asked his armour - the armour given to him by his master! - as payment in return for their services. One had even gone so far as to try and cast a spell over Tandor, but the magic armour had turned that aside with ridiculous ease.

Tandor's fist came crashing down on the oaken table top, sending cracks down its length and causing the barmaids to huddle in one corner in a mixture of fear and admiration. With much trepidation, the innkeeper set the fighter's meal down before him then scurried back to the safety of a far corner of the room.

Tandor attacked the food in stolid silence, and it was a full five minutes before he realized that he was being watched. He turned his head and caught sight of two squat figures; a small dwarf, who was peering at him intently and a sly looking hobbit whom Tandor felt an immediate distrust of. Before he could say anything, the dwarf spoke.

"The winds say that you would have use for a wizard."

Tandor snorted.

"What good are winds except to kites?"

The dwarf smiled.

"Without the winds the sailor would not reach port, and the fawn would not know of the wolf hiding in the field. So do not mock the winds sir."

"It is not the winds I mock but it is you, now leave me to my dinner."

The dwarf stood his ground.

"As I said, it has been told that you have need of a wizard."

"Be damned!" Tandor shouted in sudden fury. "Did your winds also tell you that none would come? That all of this cursed town's magic-users are either cowards or charlatans?"

The dwarf's eyes calmly scanned the room.

"No...but maybe that is because you have at last found that which you seek. Let me introduce myself, I am Nimidor, and I am a wizard."

Tandor's anger instantly disappeared.

"A wizard? And you would not fear coming on this quest?"

Nimidor was admiring the glowing breastplate now.

"For armour such as that..."

Tandor's anger returned as quickly as it had vanished.

"Leave me! I've had more of your kind of offers than a siren has tars. I shall not give up this armour to any man."

Nimidor winced at the admonishment.

"You misunderstand me," he amended. "I do not want your armour, indeed I would find it far too cumbersome. A wizard must needs keep his arms free for the throwing of spells and whatnot. No, what I meant was that much could be learned from a wizard as powerful as your master must have been to create armour such as this."

Tandor calmed, now that he was once again on the familiar ground of his master.

"Yes, he is a very powerful magician. Only through lies and trickery did the Black Wizard ever capture him at all."

The fighter suddenly seemed to remember his reason for coming to Kladdenville, and his eyes narrowed fiercely.

"Then you would be willing to accompany me?" he asked.

Nimidor nodded. "Yes. It is a chance I would not wish to miss." The shifty eyed hobbit at his side chose that moment to give his friend a nudge.

"Oh yes," he added hastily. "And my friend Alcar would go with us as well."

"I do not trust your friend." Tandor said evenly. "He has the eyes of a thief!"

Alcar seemed about to deny the accusation when Nimidor cut smoothly in.

"I will not bandy words with you, he is indeed a thief. But even a thief has skills which can be of great use to those who are his friends."

Alcar stepped forward.

"That is true sir. I can hide in shadows without being seen, the perfect spy for someone of your...visibility. I can pick the locks of even the most complex portals, thus no door shall ever deny you entry."

A good kick would open them sooner." Tandor grumbled.

"True sir, but should there be wereboars before us and a lock behind us, would you fight as well as kick the door free?"

Tandor was silent for a moment.

"Very well," he decided. "Your thief-friend may come as well for he may be of some small use. But I will keep my eyes on him."

Alcar gave a thin smile.

"I thank you sir. You shall not regret your decision." From the bar behind them erupted a loud guffaw.

"I'll wager you shan't live long enough to regret it my friend."

Every eye in the inn turned to gaze on the powerfully built human who leaned on one shoulder near the bar. His build was almost that to match Tandor's... almost, but not quite. He continued his tirade, pleased with the attention he'd gained.

"If the shifty eyed one doesn't stab you for your purse, then that wily young wizard will surely hex you for your armour." He gave another booming laugh.

"Perhaps, sir," Nimidor queried, "You would like to come along on our odyssey to ensure that our employer's purse stays full and his life safe?"

Again the human laughed.

"I am not as feeble minded as your friend there," he gestured toward Tandor. "I will not be lured into a fool's errand such as yours."

Nimidor shrugged and was content to let the fighter return to his drinking when Tandor spoke up.

"Leave him! If he is too cowardly to join a just cause then he is too timid to be of value to us anyway."

The man at the bar choked on his ale.

"BY THE GODS!!!" he roared. "Those are words I'll make you regret. The mighty Wandorf fears no man!"

Tandor was already on his feet, sword unsheathed, before Wandorf's hand had even reached his hilt. For the first time the mighty Wandorf seemed to take note of Tandor's glittering apparel, and his awesome size.

He coughed discretely.

"Perhaps our energies best be reserved for the future," he said, drawing his hand from the sword. "For I will go with you and show you proof of my courage. Then, if you still wish to assault my character..." his eyes narrowed. "Then, perhaps we'll get the chance to test each other's skill with metal!"

In the background Nimidor shook his head and wondered what he'd gotten himself into. He didn't notice that Alcar had already left the inn, quietly and deviously.



### Dear mathNEWS

The CSC drivel spewed out by RLBiddle last week deserves a reply.

The accounting club is being set up, first of all, to help accounting students with problems, and to give them a voice among the Cs, lemmings. Once established, they may start bringing in accountants to give talks. Eventually, they will get famous accountants, because UW is becoming the hottest thing in accounting education today and is building quite a reputation.

I do not find "famous accountants" humorous. Almost every CA here in the last four years knows about Morden Shapiro and his work with the ICAO and UW. Can you say that about more than 50 people in regards to your Kernighan? As well, accountants like Rosen and his views on current-value accounting have more impact on the business world than the "famous hacks" brought in to talk to a few CS fanatics.

Our world is where it counts, not in the dream-land of computer technology that CSC inhabits.

I am sick and tired of mathsoc funds being used to give some CS freaks publishing space to write in unintelligible acronyms and grammatical grunts about some microscopic topic that interests a few other one-track minds like themselves (never mind that it's the only body of knowledge they possess).

Accountants and managers are the ones that had to deal with the abortions these cretins made in the 60's. If we hadn't been able to put some controls on them, they would still be making them now.

Irresponsible twits with the typical CSC mentality (CS is the be all and end all, to the exclusion of all else) set up moronic computer systems without regard to user needs or their effect on other organization facets. They built themselves incredibly expensive computer empires and surrounded themselves with technically advanced toys to play with (Gee, look what I can do with this!).

The hard times of the seventies came, and many got out as everything came tumbling down. Fortunately, co-op CS is an example of how today's computer experts are more sensitive and realistic about the user's environment.

I wish the hell, hacks like RLBiddle and CSC would go off into a corner and play with their bits, bytes, and data structures where they can't harm anybody. That way, the rest of us could get on with our jobs in the real world.

dsrekuta

### editorial reply

*As I am the person who wrote the original article about the accounting students, I would like to correct some misconceptions. Unlike RLBiddle I know that there is such a thing as a famous accountant. I also know that some people would find lectures by such people to be very interesting. Let's be realistic. Some of the speakers that the CSC brings in are very interesting, however, others would only be of interest to the complete hack. Having been to some CSC lectures and not being a hack, I have been sometimes bored by speakers who only want to talk about UNIX. However I would like to clarify that the accounting students discussed having accountants as speakers as a possible option nad would not confine their activities to accountancy lecturers.*

*I must also make one response to Denis Rekuta's letter. Accountants have done a great deal to restore rational business sense in this world, but let us not forget the accomplishments of the computer. If it wasn't for Computer Scientists, we would not be enjoying some of the benefits of this modern world. (mathNEWS itself is made possible by the use of computer techniques -- some of which were implemented by CSC members). It is time both fields stopped fighting with each other, and started working together for the benefit of us all. Believe it or not, it is possible.*

-jjlong

### Dear mathNEWS,

It has come to my attention that it may seem rather strange that the other week, my retirement column appeared in mathNEWS and then the next day I was acclaimed as a Co-op Math rep on the federation for a second term. An explanation is in order, I am not as nuts as I may seem, on the other hand maybe I am. It's just that when my seat came up for re-election this term I fully intended to quit. However all a sudden it turned into two seats because there are more of us Co-op mathies than before. So when one foolish person came along to claim one seat, another one was still open which nobody seemed to want. Nominations were extended for another week and still nobody came forward. So rather than see math go unrepresented I felt I had to take the seat. So, being dragged, kicking and screaming, I did go, so you're stuck with me for another year.

Steve L. Risto

P.S: I was very pleased to see the results of the referendum. Separating the Chevron and giving it a refundable fee is a great step forward.

### Dear Mr. Editor - Sir,

I just received mathNEWS and felt compelled to write in my views so you could say "what the Hell does this guy know?" and rip it up. First of all, what's the idea of putting so much news in? You appear to be attempting to present a useful newspaper to all math students (& succeeding). My deepest compliments to you and your staff.

I am not too sure that Prabhakar's column seemed to fit. Although it may be good writing, it seemed to be more prose & poetry stuff and perhaps should have been labeled so, as it is not the normal useful tripe we have come to expect from Mr. Ragde.

Do you really intend to print the answer to bj's question?

I see once again, mathNEWS is taking the Chevron by the horns. Only this time, rather than idle comment from columnists, you're taking a more realistic approach. May I suggest you not allow your staffers to slander you so, (especially when their columns are like that). Although I suppose you really have no choice but to present his side even though he doesn't know what he is talking about.

May I suggest you get jlllee to translate FEDERACTION column every week. It actually is readable! (Except "the people have spoke"?). My only real complaint is that typing errors were a little more abundant than usual. Must have been the weekend with Kathy.

-Rob Collins

## FEEDBACK

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



## FEDERACTION

It is time for this semi-regular column to appear once again. I have noticed that some of my fellow columnists, who were not very good last December, have improved. I see that RFCollins has become a good writer and that even dthedmonds and the paranoid kid are readable. Pogo has become very competent, even though he seems to be going off the deep end. I guess Deep River does that to a man. I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. and Mrs. RnR America soon find it unbearable.

MathSoc has been a little free with money, but things are getting done, so I can't really complain. Math Week was a great success. I hope the rest of the term is as good.

I wish the Feds were doing as well. Sometimes I think Smit is more interested in pinball games with Fraser Cutten, than in Federation business. All of his great ideas of last fall seemed to have vanished. Where is Wato-loto, the volunteer program and the "agglomeration" (to quote Steve Coates) of boards? It seems as if he got more work done in his first three months of office, than in the last five months.

However, I can't complain too much. After all he has separated Radio Waterloo, and almost has separated the chevron. Also Smit is basically honest. When he is arrogant, he admits it. Also compared to the "gang of five" who immediately preceded him, Smit looks very well indeed. I suppose we cannot expect too much. Quite frankly, when I think of the people we could have had (or could yet get) as president, I feel relieved that we have Smit.

I hope that the chevron will separate soon, considering the results of the referendum. Irregardless I hope that a

separate refundable newspaper fee is implemented this fall. I hope that people, as well as being given the option to support the chevron or refund their fee, will also be allowed to re-direct their fees to any recognized student paper.

I saw a copy of the new newspaper called the **Imprint**. In the area of news and actual reading content I rate the paper fairly high. However they have a distinct advantage in this area when compared to the **chevron** (as do most papers). There was one area in which I felt the paper was lacking, and that was layout. The half-cover front page tends to confuse people as to the size of the paper and it reminded me of the **WLU Cord Weekly** and the **Gazette** of a few years ago. Also the absence of photos, headlines, and news on the first page, tends to detract from the purpose of the paper. When I first saw the so-called "artsie" graphic, I was not sure what the paper was, until I saw the name **Imprint**, even then I had to ask for verification. Hopefully the editors will make changes concerning layout when preparing their next issue. I hate to see a fairly good content paper fail because of poor layout. Despite what is written in the **chevron**, its layout is fairly good.

I am glad to see this newspaper appear. I have always felt that competition is good, especially in the news business. I hope the **Imprint** does well, but not too well. After all I don't want the chevron to go completely out of business. I am afraid if that happens the **Imprint** could become like the **chevron** in a few years. Besides the **chevron** is good Friday afternoon entertainment. I wouldn't want to deprive people of their fun. If you've noticed things can get very boring on this campus.

-jjl

## SIR R goes underground



\*Risto In Progress, dummy!!

"And the Engineers reveled, and worshipped graven images, and the Lord looked down upon them, and saw them in their constant semi-drunken and lustful state, and He was angered and He said "I am sore pissed off at youse guys. I'm gonna make water on you for 40 days and 40 nights and flush you guys back in da sewer where you belong!". And the Engineers were afraid, and cried out, "Rain, rain go away, come again some other day!". And they made sacrifices of nubile young Artsies to ther false idol. But the power of their idol was null, and the rains continued. And after 40 days and 40 nights all manner of life in Kitchener and Waterloo was no more." My question is, why do they have to take us with them??

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## Attention: Grad Photos!

Math grad photos for this term will be taken on July third, fourth, and fifth. Don't miss 'em! Times and locations will be announced later.

jsgray

## MASTHEAD

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*John was a little too fuzzy this week to write the masthead, so I'll give it a try. Contributors this issue were: kandry mutheardy, djmullin (ex-editor), rob (crc) collins, hugh frampton, steve risto, dennis (bear) rekuta, bjgregory, katess, wcvince (and the photon), plragde, akfm (indirectly), jan gray (our young and up and coming all star typist and author), lccarson (she lives), peter k, john lee (who reportedly was spotted carrying a legitimate bottle of vodka across campus), the paranoid dwthorpe, dthedmonds, the chevron, the imprint, the crc, our great and noble co-editor john fuzzy, and me jj(very)long. Hopefully this issue, which was finally finished Friday morning, will hit the halls by Monday afternoon. Next week we will be free. We will break with our new summer weekly tradition. The next **mathNEWS** appears (we hope) Friday July 7th.*

-jjlong