

Chevron Purges Imprint

At a recent **chevron** staff meeting, the staff who were present (mainly AIA sympathizers) passed a motion preventing anyone who works on the **Imprint** from being on **chevron** staff. The motion applies to both current and prospective staffers of **the chevron** and took effect as of July 7th. Though in the past **the chevron** had suspended an **individual** staff member, this apparently is the first action against a class of people and could be considered a form of discrimination.

Since last December many people have left **the chevron** staff. People such as Stephen Coates, Denis Rekuta, J.J. Long, Mark Maguire, and Nick Redding, have resigned from the paper. Others such as Ciaran Odonnell, Jayne Pollock, R. Barkman, and Ruth Harris have simply stopped working for the paper. Most of the ex-chevrontes, with the exception of Long, are working on the **Imprint** and while they feel the

action was not right, do not want to return to **the chevron**.

When informed of this action **mathNEWS** co-editor J.J. Long was quite upset. "What's so special about the **Imprint**?" was his reaction. He felt that if **chevron** was to purge **Imprint** staff, then in the interests of fairness, the motion should also apply to **mathNEWS**. "Afterall, **mathNEWS** has taken a more active stance in opposing the **chevron** than the **Imprint** ever has," grumbled Long, "We've produced eight vigorous issues this term, with an anti-chevronte remark in almost every one of them, but the **Imprint** has only published twice. Who do they think they are?"

Long would not comment further. It remains to be seen whether he will get his wish and whether **mathNEWS** will obtain such a high standing in the eyes of **the chevron** and also be purged.

the fed phantom

Why is this man smiling?



Rick Smit

photo by j.w.bast

see **Federation** -- Page 6



Volume 17 Number 8
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math NEWS

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Beleagured Co-Editor to Leave Paper

Another person has fallen victim to the attacks of the Vice-President on **mathNEWS**. Co-editor John Ellis announced today that he would not be a candidate for the editorship when his term ends August 31st. This coupled with the expected departure of J.J. Long leaves open the possibility that the paper may once again fall into the hands of the Kelly-Macaulay clique.

Ellis did not mince words at the press conference called on his behalf. He laid the blame for his decision squarely on the shoulders of the acting vice-president. He feels that he may be subject to less pressure once he leaves the editorship and hopes that his move may finally satisfy the V.P. Ellis reiterated though that he still supported the newly invented slogan Of The paper: *Defend the Basic Interests Of The students.*

jil

the beleagured John Ellis
photo by jwbast



Ottawa Pubs Return

What mysterious things do the following mathies share???

W.L.Baker, M.J.Belcourt, R.Bisson, D.Boulton, E.H.Bronk, D.P.Brown, N.T.Campbell, P.B.Cano, M.Chiang, K.Clapp, J.J.Cody, K.C. Dalphy, B.P.Dammizio, C.M.Davis, S.D.Desjardains, P.K.Dixon, C.E. Doll, R.B. Donaldson, S.K. Empey, I.E. Erdman, J.A. Finaly, G.L. Flack, R.J. Foster, H.R. Frampton, D.K. Gervais, B.J. Gilbert, J.J. Gombac, C.M. Gordon, D.L. Hackett, L.J. Hanschke, M.J. Harris, E.S. Heilblinger, S.L.A. Herbert, P.J. Hong, D. Hui, W.I. Johnson, J. Karam, J.D. Kenzie, N.D. Kerr, R. Koubsky, E.K. Lukosius, L.A. MacPherson, A.M. Mahoney, D.A. Mansfield, K.B. Martin, W.A. Martin, M.P. McDonald, C.B. McIntyre, D.J. McKee, R.I. McLeish, R.E. McLeod, R. McMullan, S.E. Metcalfe, E.M. Moffat, J.E. Moleski, D.T. Moore, A.F. Mostow, H.L. Mulder, P.M. Nugent, J.L. Pakalns, M.K. Payne, L.M. Poldes, K. Reid, S.D. Reid, D.R. Rielly, R.B. Richardson, L.R. Rose, J.J. Rousseau, M.F. Sargent, D.M. Schmidt, F. Schmidt, C.E. Shepardson, L.A. Shepardson, B.W. Simmons, A.C. Sinclair, B.C. Snarr, D.H. Stead, D.N. Sullivan, M.L. Sutton, D. Tam, F.M. Tan, D.B. Taylor, R.M. Theriault, R.P. Tibbo, P.M. Turgeon, P.M. Tyson, P.F. Uchman, P.J. VanDoormaal, B. VanStokkom, D.G. Vavasour, R.W. Vrooman, J.J. Watson, M.D. Williams, R.R. Williams, E.J. Wilson, T. Zettel.

Should your name appear in this list, be sure to watch the next **mathNEWS** for full details on the Ottawa pubs you will not want to miss on your work term.

Rick McMullan

C&D Applications Open

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Math Society Coffee and Donuts Assistant Manager for the fall term. Applications are also being accepted for the positions of C&D Manager and Assistant Manager for the Winter 1979 term. It is desirable, but not mandatory that applicants have some knowledge of the workings of C&D and MathSoc.

The fall assistant manager will be selected by MathSoc Council late this term or early next term. The manager and assistant manager for Winter 1979 will not be selected until November.

All those interested in any of these positions are asked to send a written application to:

The Manager,
MathSoc C&D,
c/o Math Society,
M&C 3038,
University of Waterloo,
Waterloo, Ont. N2L 3G1

-jjlong

CSC Flash!

Last Thursday, July 13th, the Computer Science Club was pleased to present a talk by Professor Joseph Weizenbaum of MIT. Dr. Weizenbaum was a designer of LISP, author of ELIZA, and is perhaps best known for his controversial book *Computer Power and Human Reason*. He in fact gave two talks, the afternoon "department seminar" entitled "The Question of Limits to Artificial Intelligence"; and the evening CSC meeting talk "The Responsibilities of Computer Scientists". Both were very well attended and well received.

Dr. Weizenbaum was expecting to chat to a small informal gathering on the first topic, but the room was packed (and this was mc2065, much larger than mc3009, the usual venue for these talks) — he admitted to being stunned. He warned us then that he was unprepared but would "wing it".

Though he is quite a witty speaker, the actual content in the first part of the talk was somewhat vague. He outlined how intelligence was normally thought of as contained in physical objects, such as a human brain, and such physical objects are obviously finite. He remarked on the functioning of human thought, or at least its apparent functioning, illustrating its apparent limits. The process of "chunking" in memory was described; Dr. Weizenbaum commented that he remembers his telephone number (and proved it!) but did not remember the digits discretely. Saying how "chunking" facilitates comprehension, he compared long division using Roman numerals to writing large programmes in BASIC. He did not mention anything about kicking dead whales along beaches.

He then talked on a theme familiar to those that have read his book, the importance of the human experience. He discussed how artificial intelligence, or alien natural intelligence for that matter, would not really be comparable to human intelligence because of the essentially different underlying experience. With the question of machine intelligence lurking in the near background, he introduced an example using the hypothesis of discovery of intelligence in dolphins. If we could then communicate freely, and though we might find them to be brilliant mathematicians, he said, we would not value their judgement in many human issues.

Many questions were asked at the conclusion of the talk, and some topics hotly pursued even when most of the audience had left.

After he had been wisked off to dinner, and then wisked back, Weizenbaum talked at the CSC meeting. The topic "Responsibility of Computer Scientists" was potentially quite controversial and even emotional, but was handled reasonably coolly. How coolly do you tell a group of people that you do not think they will live to die of old age? Weizenbaum does not see a bright future for the world.

As his prime examples he used the involvement of scientists in Nazi Germany, and the involvement of scientists (particularly of computer scientists) in the American war in Viet Nam. He concentrated on the point that **individual** people were responsible for quite horrific acts, or for their execution, and stressed that the first responsibility of anyone is to learn just what they **themselves** are doing. He showed how the United States military is a dominant force in computer science research and new application even now, and how many of its projects are questionable.

Dr. Weizenbaum seems to see three dangers, three sorts of irresponsibility. Firstly, he sees some computer science work as simply obscene: here he mentions some military work, and some hideous experiments involving computers and brain research. Secondly, he sees some work as risky, that might have very dangerous but unforeseeable consequences: he

mentioned how speech recognition would facilitate large scale wire-tapping. Lastly, he sees some research as a waste of talent and time that would be much more usefully applied elsewhere.

Many questions were asked and debated. Many present seemed genuinely concerned, but also dubious of Weizenbaum's blatant pessimism. There was a break for the usual tea and donoughs, but the meeting reconvened thereafter — a most unusual occurrence. Even after the meeting terminated, about 11:30, some people remained to try and talk further with Dr. Weizenbaum. This was the longest CSC meeting I have ever attended.

And the most interesting. I recommend reading *Computer Power and Human Reason*, especially for those who were unable to attend the talks. As Dr. Weizenbaum remarked during the earlier talk:

"Real life is not predicate calculus."

The next CSC meeting will be on July 27th (8pm, mc5158), and will feature Nick Redding (computer science graduate student, and famous campus personality) speaking on "Computability".

-RLBiddle

MathSoc Buffet and Rock Pub

The MathSoc C&D Buffet and Last Chance Rock Pub will take place on Wednesday July 26th at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

At the buffet we will be serving such things as Roast Beef, Corned Beef, Turkey, Lettuce Salad, Potato Salad, Bread Rolls, Jello, Pickles, and Celery. For your convenience free coffee and a cash bar (liquor, beer, and pop), will be provided. The bar will open at six.

The Rock Pub features music from the record collection of MathSoc's own John Ellis and B.J. Gregory, which contains little or no disco (yeah!!). They will start playing records at about 8:30 and will continue until 1 a.m.

Since there is a limit of slightly over 100 tickets available for the buffet you are advised to get your tickets early. A buffet ticket entitles you to free admission to the pub. Advance tickets are now being sold at MathSoc and C&D outlets for the following prices.

MathSoc members, Math faculty, staff, grads	\$2.50
Others	\$3.00
Federation members	50 cents off
Pub Only (everyone)	50 cents

You are all invited to come out and enjoy yourself at the buffet and pub, as this is the last official MathSoc event of the term. It is a great way to close off the term.

Network Pulse

Dateline Toronto.

Hello again, I return for yet another pulse column, this time via the datapac network (hence the name *Network Pulse*). In this column I will discuss the latest goings on in the IBM world. This would tend to dominate any columns I might write in the future, since that is the hardware we have here at work (much as I despise it for its high cost and poor ease of use).

SNA is an IBM acronym for "Systems Network Architecture". Some of you at Waterloo may have heard the term before, and had many bad dreams (or thoughts) about what it all means. SNA entails a methodology for setting up computer networks. For IBM this means a naming convention for all the "things" out there in your network, a unified method of accessing them, and a lot of IBM SNA products (boxes in the IBM parlance). The unified method of access is the Virtual Telecommunications Access Method (VTAM). VTAM can control devices directly attached to a 370 (via channels) or remote devices (these are attached via an IBM 3704/5 front end processor). Sitting in the front end processor (the 3704/5 is in our case a 3705) is an operating system called the Network Control Program (NCP) which has defined in its tables the complete remote SNA network. This can include terminals on switched (you dial-in) and non-switched lines (permanently leased line). The remote network can consist of remote 3705's with still further networks of terminals appended to it (acting as a concentrator to take advantage of the lower costs involved in leasing one high speed line).

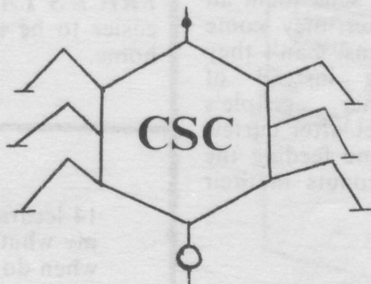
The various SNA boxes are, in general, tailored to a specific industry. There are specific systems available for retailers, supermarkets, and banking applications. In addition to these a generalized data entry machine is a product in this line. The strategy behind these is to market distributed systems which are complete from the host to the end user. That is, completely IBM hardware and software.

A fly is in the ointment, as far as IBM is concerned, with the introduction by competitors of SNA compatible devices (Entrex has recently come out with SNA compatibility for its data entry). With non-IBM SNA plug compatible devices coming out one could have the complete data processing system using IBM software and access methods without any of their hardware.

Difficult problems arise for users of distributed processing and computer networks. For instance, in a centrally located data centre the expertise of a company in data processing can be located in one place under what is perceived to be tight management control. With the advent of intelligence in remote locations, this expertise must be distributed as well. Many organizations cannot afford to have a computer operations organization put into place for each remote site that might be serviced by its network. Problem solving for remotes without any people on-site who have any knowledge of computers becomes a painful thing. Many remotes may become small fiefdoms of the local computer expert in the company.

An interesting extension to VTAM and NCP has been announced by IBM. It is Multi-System Networking Facility (MSNF). It will permit the user of many IBM mainframes to route processing through one or more front end 3705's to an arbitrary host in the network. This great capability has one penalty...it costs. IBM has been steadily unbundling its software and putting in billable components into its operating system software. Industry forecasts are that the software for future series of IBM and other manufacturer's machines will be as expensive as the hardware itself. A good source of information on the future of business and commercial computing is in a feature prepared by International Data Corporation in the June 5th issue of Fortune Magazine.

-pulse



The Great Promise

dit, dot, dash, much-greater-than's > >>
danced across the screen
and blinked in dazzling wonderment
in glowing blue or green

the number sign is flashing
its message to my eyes,
it swirls and swoops to warn me
of some unkind surprise

then like the sci-fi theatre
the needles click and rock
the supersonic sirens sound
causing time to stop

wonder
to wonder about the origin of the solar
system
hey, is there anyone listening?
he wondered at her composure in such
a crisis
hey, is there anyone listening?
to speculate curiously or to be curious
about
... NO ... NO ... NO ...

listen, listen to me
for I am the juice of the universe
and have come to your planet
with powers and abilities
way beyond those of mortal man

faster than a bolt of lightning,
more powerful than a nuclear
detonation,
able to leap light-years
over a single datalink

Look! Up in the sky!
It's a bird! It's a plane!
NO! It's ...

it's the quiet glow from cathode tubes
and flood inside its wires
that make us dance like gypsy moths
flying spirals 'round a fire

or finds us trapped in spiderwebs
crisscrossed with mystery
and bargaining with the spider
to come and let us free

free to form a higher thought
and free to understand
the whirlwind which surrounds us
and which swings us by the hand

though the symbols sprayed across the
screen
are only abstract signs,
they also form the shutter
that photographs the mind

A NEW DEGREE

by D.S.Rekuta

For that reason, students and faculty (yes, there are sympathetic profs out there) are interested in relevant courses. By setting up a new degree, some courses could be changed for these students. Currently, a science student gets credit for his math service courses upon switching to Math. In these, the math content is equivalent, and only the emphasis on examples is changed. If the effort can be made for other faculties, why not our own students.

Although the change was coming eventually, economics has sped up the process. The new degree will also help remedy the unfair funding levels of the General Math students in these programs. The government funding has not kept up with the academic levels in the programs. Bill Davis pays universities on the basis of what their students are worth in Basic Income Units (BIU) according to set formulae. A General B.A. (4 years) is 2 BIU.

Engineering and science students are worth more BIU because they have millions dollars in lab equipment. Apparently, our millions of dollars in computer equipment are merely decorations.

An Hon. Math degree is 2 BIU. Would you believe a General Math is only 1 BIU, the same as a Gen. Arts, which is the equivalent of our Pass degree?

An Hon. B.A. and a Gen. Math both require 21 credits. The Arts degree requires a 70-75 (A) average, the Math a 60. However, grumblings have been long and loud inside and outside Math that marks are easier to come by in Arts than in Math. At an Undergraduate Council meeting in Winter/77, an Arts faculty member brought up the relevance of Arts marks. Instead of an A being excellent comprehension, B good, and C average, B had become almost automatic in too many courses.

In all fairness, at least 1.5 BIU. for a Gen. Math seems reasonable. However, it will never be, so something else is needed.

As C.A. students will make up the largest proportion of the students affected, they were chosen as an example of what changes would be made. Currently a Gen. takes 21 credits, Hon. is 24. Twelve Math courses are required for Gen., 14 for Hon. Both are required to take 8 specified electives that help meet the requirements of the ICAO. The balance of courses are chosen as the students sees fit. Formerly Gen. students were not limited in 3rd and 4th yr. courses.

continued from last issue

Recent changes have brought these courses in line with a "cross-department" approach, which has always been in effect in Hon. The vast majority of C.A.s take C&O and Stats anyways, with a smattering of future EDP specialists in C.S. The new degree would not change things that much. All students would take 13 Math credits and a total of 23 or 24. Required electives and suggested order would remain unchanged. A recommendation to restrict 1st yr. co-op to only Hon. students may or may not go thru. It was prompted by the fact that the average needed to get in to co-op is over 75.

This could be a contentious issue. Many highschool 75-80's turn out to be only borderline Hon. students and drop down to Gen. at X-mas or at April. Although they are excellent co-op and Gen., the faculty seems to feel that they are really just lazy. They also happen to be worth only one-half as much in teaching dollars. Faculty members are also ignoring the fact that the only reason a co-op (especially in business) stays in Hon. is for personal challenge. There are seldom any advantages to Hon. on the job, and often Hon. will leave less time to apply to electives, which are more important.

to be continued

continued from page 13
"here?"

"What, only four! This will never do. You simply *must* have five. Poor Peter only had four and you know what happened to him. Right down the drain! Well those nasty natives haven't any sense of coordination anyway, milling about at all hours of the night stirring up the mosquitoes and tracking mud all over nice clean lawns. Arnold says it keeps the worms awake and then the garden doesn't breathe. I'm sure I've gone through three gardeners and a plasterer just to get anemic pansies and neurotic marigolds. Honestly, why don't they send them all back to Java or wherever they come from and pick coffee beans. Can't they earn an honest living instead of trampling about other people's earthworms in muddy feet after curfew when they should be home feeding the monkeys or husking coconuts in their wiggams or whatever?"

"How's that?"

LAW AND DISORDER II

FIRST LAW OF LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING : Dust breeds.

WITZENBURG'S LAW OF AIRLINE TRAVEL : The distance between the ticket counter and your flight gate is directly proportional to the weight of your luggage and inversely proportional to the time remaining before take-off.

GOFF'S LAW OF SOCIAL SMOKING : In a gathering of two or more people, when a lighted cigarette is placed in an ashtray, the smoke will waft into the face of a nonsmoker.

MEDITZ'S SUBWAY POSTULATE : No matter which train you are waiting for, the wrong one arrives first.

SCHMITTER'S NONRECIPROCAL LAWS OF EXPECTATIONS : Negative expectations yield negative results; positive expectations yield negative results.

HOWE'S LAW OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DESIGN : Every man has a scheme that will not work.

ETORRE'S AXIOM : The other line moves faster.

HOARE'S LAW OF PROBLEM SOLVING : Inside every large problem there is a small problem struggling to get out.

THE 90-90 RULE OF PROJECT SCHEDULING : The first 90 percent of a task consumes 90 percent of the time allotted; the last 10 percent consumes the other 90 percent.

GESTRA'S LAW OF INERTIA : Given sufficient time, what you put off doing today will eventually get done by itself.

SMITH'S THIRD PRINCIPLE OF BUREAUCRATIC TINKERTOYS : Never do anything for the first time.

CHISHOLM'S LAW OF INEVITABILITY : Any time things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.

SEVEREID'S LAW : The chief cause of problems is solutions.

MESKIMEN'S LAW OF PERFECTION : There is never time to do it right but always time to do it over.

PRICE'S LAW OF POLITICS : It is easier to be a liberal a long way from home.

lifted from playboy

14 lccarson Fri Jul 14 1978 15:23
my what-letter?
when do I collect cash?

Attention Subscribers!

Free mathNEWS or not, this article is going to get to you, so read it, pay close attention, and don't forget to write to your mother.

help!

The feds are going all out with Orientation this term, and so are we. The difference is that they need many more people than we do. We need people to work the doors at pubs, organize pub crawls and staff the info booth in the *circus tent* the feds are renting for September.

The feds need people for multitudinous things, and I agreed to plug them here, so:

100 people are needed to wander around campus, going to their own classes, getting their library sticker done, whatever else they want to do, while wearing a T-shirt that displays the fact they know the campus and are not frosh. So a little lost frosh can come to you for help. A farcically easy job, and you can keep the T-shirt.

After that the jobs get a little less easy. There is a need for a few people to assist the Federation of Students in a few slightly official positions. A Stage Manager to run the stage shows going

on, some people (pay for this one I believe) to act as security for the tent, clean up crew, Booth Co-ordinator, MC's for the stage shows, and cooks and others for a barbeque.

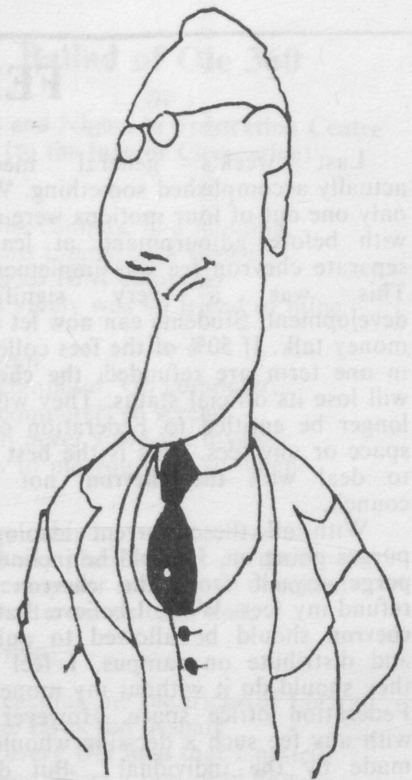
If you will be here in September and are interested in helping us or the feds, contact me here at MathSoc. Also for more information, and you don't have to be off-campus now to respond to our plea.

As an aside for you on-campus people who have read an article not really intended for you, if you are free some Wednesday afternoon there are fed orientation meetings in the campus centre. And any ideas for us (MathSoc) would be loved!! (This is to everyone reading this). Including for MathSoc T-shirt designs, new Math' Symbol, whatever...

For those of you who are wanting to write to us,

Orientation Director
MathSoc
MC 3038
U of Waterloo
Waterloo
Ont

Kate



MathSoc Elections?

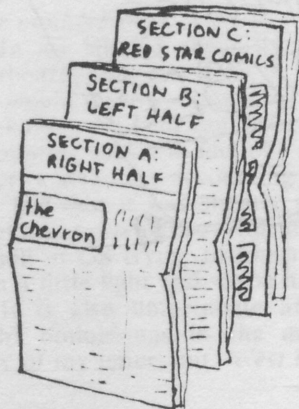
Nominations are now being accepted for openings in voting positions on the Math Society Council. Nominations were scheduled to close today at 1:30 p.m. but may be reopened if insufficient people apply.

To be nominated you require your signature and the signatures of five MathSoc members enrolled as students in your class-stream constituency.

The number of seats available in each constituency are:

Now	Winter 79	
1B	2A	3 seats
2B	3A	2 seats
3A	3B	2 seats
4A	4B	1 seat

*the chevron
solution*



unclassifiable ADS Wanted: Townhouse to Sublet

Pete Vroomen would like to know if anyone has a townhouse to sublet between September first and December thirty-first. The townhouse should have three or four bedrooms, and should be in the vicinity of the U of W. Anyone interested should call him at 578-0026, or contact him on the 'bun as userid phvroomen.

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).

Looking for a place in Toronto? So am I. I'm a 4th year accounting student who is trying to find and share an apartment or other accomodation in downtown Toronto. Please contact Bob at 886-0286. I will be starting work Aug. 2, but if you are starting work in Sept. don't let that stop you from calling.

FEDERATION

Last week's general meeting actually accomplished something. While only one out of four motions were dealt with before adjournment, at least a separate chevron fee was implemented. This was a very significant development. Students can now let their money talk. If 50% of the fees collected in one term are refunded, **the chevron** will lose its official status. They will no longer be entitled to Federation office space or any fees. This is the best way to deal with **the chevron**, not thru council.

With all these current ideological purges going on, I would be inclined to **purge** myself from **the chevron** and refund my fees. While I believe that **the chevron** should be allowed to publish and distribute on campus, I feel that they should do it without my money or Federation office space. However, as with any fee such a decision would be made by the individual. But don't necessarily do what **I say** (*good grief jj, who would??—typist*), make up **your** own mind.

I am glad a C.U.P. investigation commission is being held. I have questioned the advantages of C.U.P. and its usefulness and it is no secret that I oppose the radical politics of many of its members. However, I am willing to give the commission a chance. Though I think C.U.P. is biased (the Federation doesn't even get to select a commission member!), I will submit something to the commission. Generally I feel that this commission will be like the last one; a whitewash, but one should at least try to make it think otherwise.

Last **Federation** I mentioned the *chevron reinstatement*. Many people blame former president Doug "Thug" Thompson for that action and a various

assortment of other Federation ills. I will not try to defend Thompson here; after all, he **shares** the blame. Though let us remember that V.P. Ron Hipfner, **not** Thompson, was running the show last summer. Hipfner and his coterie of advisors kept Thompson and the CRG rank and file in the dark about what was going on, yet it was Thompson who always had to take the blame. Grant you, Thompson and the CRG shouldn't have let that happen, but to blame him alone is irresponsible. Much of the blame for letting the situation get out of control has to go, I feel, to his predecessors, Roberts and MacLellan; his advisors (or puppeteers) Hipfner, Swaters, and Clarke; and former CRG members, like myself (who did not watch things closely enough).

I feel Thompson was an idealist who was corrupted by the pressures of his office. Since he had a tenuous mandate, he tried to compromise and thus got his friends, as well as his enemies, angry at him. Trying to please everyone, he pleased no one. However, if faced again with an electoral choice of Thompson and his presidential opponents, I would choose Thompson again. That's how bad the other were as candidates and would've been as president.

Let us put Thompson aside (though some still refuse to). The Federation has come a long way since a year ago. There is no doubt that Rick Smit leaves much room for improvement, but he is much better than the "gang of five" who preceded him. It is expecting too much to go from poor to great in one step, we can settle for average. Not to demean Smit, but I must say that having Nick Redding ("the chameleon") around was a big help. It is a good thing he "changed colours" when he did.

-jjlong

Zap!

A column about the printed word and the sellers of said material. This week we have a mixed bag of stuff.

The High Crusade by Poul Anderson (\$1.50). Originally published in 1960 and was reissued this year by Berkley Books. It is a little difficult to explain what this sf/fantasy is about. The basic premise is what would happen if a medieval English village captured an alien scoutship. A rather *Machiavellian* story. Rated: 70.

With a Vengeance by Gerald DiPego (\$1.95). This is modern day "mainstream" fiction. This is a book Alfred Hitchcock would have found no difficulty in turning into a movie. It is a tension filled novel. This is a story about a man who seeks revenge against those people who 20 years earlier had caused the accidental death of his son. He does this by killing the children (or wife if no children are available) of those people. Rated: 85 (Recommended if you like murder/suspense).

Time for the Stars by Robert A. Heinlein (\$1.75). This is a reprint by Ballantine of a story Heinlein wrote in 1956. It covers the period of time when earth is just starting to explore the nearby stars. The science of the story is plausible, but some of the characterizations are not. I found it to be enjoyable despite its flaws. Rated: 77 (worth reading).

Who's Who in Science Fiction by Brian Ash (\$2.25). If your interest lies in the field of science fiction then you will find this book of value. It deals with *mainstream* s/f. There are several hundred items about various contributors to the world of sf. Recommended for those who are *into* science fiction.

Bookstore of the week is not a secondhand store (I didn't get around to visiting any). So you will have to be satisfied with one of the first power. The store is rather close to the campus (5 to 10 minute walk). It is the Scribe Bookstore in Westmount Mall. I estimate that it has on the order of 13 to 14 thousand books of all kinds. About 500 would be in the sf/fantasy class. It is open Monday thru Saturday. Worth a visit (even if only to look at the selection).

-djm

FROM THE PEOPLE
WHO GAVE US THE
"WAR MEASURES" ACT



THE NEW IMPROVED
REPATRIATED
CONSTITUTION

J.L.L.



BATTLESCARRED

Yes, it has finally come to pass, a **STAR WARS** rip-off, from the little tube to the big screen. For three only dollars you can have the privilege of standing in line for half an hour and then wait for another half hour before the show starts. If you had any pretensions of a quiet evening you can forget it because the place will probably be filled with an assortment of ill-mannered brats.

This movie was actually made for TV which probably accounts for the graininess of the picture when shown on a big screen. Although well done the special effects props are a bit large for a movie but essential if you want to show it on TV. Provided the civil suit brought on by Star Wars Corp. doesn't stop it from being aired; you can see it on the closest ABC affiliate or on one of the Toronto channels. Somebody at Universal thought it would be a nice idea to release this clunker in theatres outside the US.

Actually if you go to see it as a straight shoot'em up escapist movie it's alright. If you want to see a plot and character development; you deserve a **GONG**. The plot has enough holes to drive a battleship thought without any difficulty. The characters are less than one dimensional and the enemy lacks any socially redeeming qualities.

Basically the plot is that after a millenium of warfare the enemy, ie the Cylons after starting the war have offered to make peace. And of course the entire battlefleet with the entire governing council of the humans troop off to the enemies home base. Logically their own home colonies are left defenseless. Even after a 1000 years of warfare the home planets lack defense systems, necessities like home defence squadrons, planetary laser banks, distant early warning systems of any kind. It is also evident that one of the results of this war has been the formation of an elite military caste. Generally it takes time to demobilize and even then it doesn't occur until

GALACTICA

AFTER the armistice has been signed not before, as was the case here? With this elite experienced military none is suspicious enough to wonder what brought on the enemy's change of heart. There is no evidence that the war even though it has last so long has impeded human progress. Also missing are weapons of massed destruction on both sides. The Cylons have to destroy the human colonies a piece at a time with massed fighter attacks. Not a very efficient method of conducting warfare but then again on film a single fighter popping a 50 or more megaton missile at a city at long range isn't very exciting.

Some of the dialogue which occurs was probably due to putting x number of chimpanzees into a room with an equivalent number of typewriters. One should ignore if possible, the names of the characters eg. Commander Adama, Athena, Capt. Apollo, Starbuck ad infinitum.

The opposition isn't much to write home to Mom about either The Cylon warriors are essentially androids which would appear to be the result of Darth Vader falling into one of the EMS libraries Xerox copiers, you get a reasonable facsimile. Their marksmanship was reminiscent of the storm troopers of Star Wars, poor and it got worse when they were faced with panicing, unarmed civilians.

Also to be ignored if you want to escape from reality for two whole hours are the references to Earth, the attempts at moralizing and the attempts to draw parallels (there close will some but close doesn't count unless your using hand-grenades or H-bombs).

The movie has an open ending, the type which lends itself to sequels. If your lucky enough to have a TV you can watch this "Wagon train" in space as they are pursued by the Cylons towards Earth where they hope to rebuild.

jll

Ballad of Ole 360

OR
Days and Nights in Frustration Centre
(to the tune of Clementine)

On the campus, in a building,
Almost treated as a shrine
Sood an **IBM** computer
That surely was no friend of mine.

Refrain:

Oh computer, Oh computer,
Oh computer, so serene,
I will never solve the mystery
Why to me you were so mean.

Every morning in apprehension
Took my place at pick-up time
Ole computer smiled and chuckled
Printed error on each line.

(Refrain)

Of teaching me the tricks of Fortran
Arnie Dyck did despair
For every **DO loop** that I nested
I found I had a new gray hair.

(Refrain)

Said the Doctor, David Moursund,
Here's your bill for paper, sir,
For the extra cards that you punched
We had to buy a Douglas fir.

(Refrain)

In desperation punched my program
On a Playboy centrefold
Old compiler took a long look, gulped,
and knocked itself out cold.

(Refrain)

In jubilation said goodbye to
That machine that I did cuss
From now on I'll do my figuring
On a **base-five** abacus.

(stolen from R. Burghardt's ballad in Jul/78
Creative Computing)

dear mathNEWS

dear mathNEWS

In my letter i obviously went a bit overboard, this was done in hopes that it would show how over-reactive dsrekuta was. I do not believe that all accounting sucks, in fact as i said in my letter, i also take accounting courses. I just feel that it was slightly pathetic of dsrekuta to react so violently to one person in CS trying to finish an article with a little light and vague humour.

It is also unfortunate about some slight omissions in the mathNEWS copy of my letter, but, *c'est la vie!*

-kgdykes

In reference to the recent letters submitted by several accounting and CS students, I would like to make a less biased comment. To attempt to determine what "sucks" more, CA or CS, is an exercise in ignorance. Both of these fields have great attributes. However, in the years to come, their greatest strengths will be their applications to each other. Those of us who can combine accounting and computer studies constructively may well become the leaders in both of these fields. Unfortunately, those of you who hold feelings of mutual contempt for each other may well be the losers.

djrichards 2A Math
jalegree 2B Math



Thursday, Surprised?

Well its all part of **mathNEWS**'s slightly expanded summer schedule. Most summers, **mathNEWS** publishes once every two weeks on alternate fridays. This usually results in about seven issues (including the frosh issue) a summer.

We followed that schedule in May, but in June we went to a weekly Monday publication schedule. For July, we are producing about once every ten days, thus the Thursday issue. By term's end, we should have produced ten issues (including a frosh **mathNEWS** and a free **mathNEWS**). We hope you've enjoyed this expanded schedule. The next **mathNEWS** should appear in late July or early August, and the frosh issue should be ready by then.

jlong co-editor

MathSoc Buffet

Rock Pub

Wed. July 26

Buffet starts at 5:30 p.m.

Bar Opens at Six

ROCK Music starts at 8:30

MC 5136

(Faculty Lounge)

Everyone Welcome

FRIDAY MORNING SEXIST

She was a beautiful blonde in an itty-bitty bikini, but unfortunately, her bottom was bigger than her top.

So imagine her surprise as she strolled down a near-deserted strip of **Wasaga Beach** to find a clear glass bottle on the shore. She rubbed it and out popped a *genie*!

"Your wish is my command," said the supernatural guy in the turban. "What do you want more than anything else in the world?"

Perhaps she thought about being Miss Canada next spring, for she answered: "I want the biggest pair of boobs in the world."

There was a flash of lightning and a roll of thunder and poof! The bottle and the genie were gone!

But when the smoke cleared, standing on either side of her were **Pierre Trudeau** and **Rene Levesque**.

MASTHEAD

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MASTHEAD

Contributers this issue were; john lee (jll) and the law, ken dykes, dennis (bear) rekuta, di richards and ja legree, typist kevin martin, linda carson, dj mullin (ex-eltor), kate cross, graphicist and guest editor philip kelly, typist kandry (cong) mutheardy, pf (_pulse) stevens, rl (csc), biddle, the fed phantom, rick mcnullan, J! Past (yes we go him too!), the graduating class of chartered accounting students (whose potraits adorn the walls of MathSoc), wow ince (and the photon), the beleaguered co-editor john "fuzzy" ellis, and me jlong. The next issue will appear in about ten days. Stay tuned for the frosh issue, and remember you can always give us a hand. Finally, there is a MathSoc Buffet and ROCK Pub on Wednesday. Please attend.

-jll