

MATHSOC ELECTIONS!

The following MathSoc council positions have been filled by acclamation:

Second Year Regular:	Third Year Regular:
Al Bechamp Mark D'Gabriel	Drew Sullivan Mike Sawyer
Second Year Co-op 'A':	Third Year Co-op 'A':
Rob Ferguson Matt Liness	Steve Hagar Don Carter

The following seats are being contested:

President:	Treasurer:
George Mike Walma Steve Lightstone	Rod Currie Joe Geremia David Conrad
Vice-President:	
Steven Wolfe Drew Sullivan	

Second Year Co-op 'B'	Fourth Year Co-op 'B'
James Puttick Tim Hill Moe Holt Ross Morrissey	Walter Steinemann Gerry Smit Rick Kroetsch Gavin Welbourn

The following seats are unfilled:

Second Year Co-op 'A' (1 seat)
Third Year Regular (1 seat)
Fourth Year Regular (3 seats)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Math Faculty (they attend to things concerning many undergraduate affairs) will be meeting with the Math Faculty Council on Tuesday of next week to discuss a number of proposed changes which will affect anyone in the Math Faculty. These changes will affect course offerings, degree requirements, programs, and other subjects. Most of the proposed changes will only affect the 1982 Frosh and those entering the faculty at a later date, but we should all take an interest in these issues. For example, one of the proposals is to phase out the General co-op program, so that only Honours Math would be co-op. This could affect anyone required to drop out of either co-op or Honours. These motions will be presented for voting consideration at the Faculty meeting on Tuesday. We encourage everyone in the Math Faculty to read these proposed changes. A copy of them, with issues most likely to affect people highlighted, is posted on the Mathematics bulletin board on the third floor of the Math building, opposite the Lounge. If there are enough people opposed to the issues, then it might be possible to block some or all of the motions, either directly, or through a referendum. Please take the time to read the notice, and watch for any other notices that the Math Society might put up concerning the subject.

Volume 28, Number 2, February 12, 1982

math NEWS

Volume 28, Number 2, Friday, February 12, 1982.

2861 '21 aynuab' ayda '2 aynuon '82 amioa

Pre-registration

Pre-registration, for all Regular and Co-op Students, for the Fall Term occurs on Monday March 1 to Friday the 5th. Remember your schedule from this term.

Volume 28, Number 2, Friday, February 12, 1982.

Regarding LARGE Numbers

The Guinness Book of World Records, in an article on large numbers, tells us that a googol (10^{100} , or 1 followed by 100 zeroes) is named as ten duotrigintillion, and that 10^{40} is one hundred quinto-quadrantillion, in the American-French system of naming numbers (where a billion is 10^9 , a trillion is 10^{12} , etc. We'll stick with the American system here.)

As you're probably aware, these names are derived from the Latin names for numbers, the system for using them working like this:

take the exponent (say 100, for a googol);
 subtract 3 $100 - 3 = 97$;
 divide by 3 $97/3 = 32$, remainder 1;

then use the Latin name for the resulting number to create the number-name. A remainder of 1 means a prefix "ten"; a remainder of 2 means that the prefix will be "one hundred". (e.g. 32 in Latin is "duo et triginta", the remainder is 1, so 10^{100} is ten duotrigintillion. For 10^{140} , $140 - 3 = 137$; $137/3 = 45$, remainder 2; 45 in Latin is "quintus et quadraginta"; so 10^{140} turns out to be one hundred quinto-quadrantillion.)

A few of the simple Latin number-names, plus a compound name, followed by the derived large-number-names are:

5	quinqve	quintillion	10^{18}
9	novem	novillion	10^{30}
21	unus et viginti	unvigintillion	10^{66}
100	centum	centillion	10^{303}
5,000	quinque milia	quinque-millemillion	10^{6003}
100,000	centum milia	centum-millemillion	10^{300003}

According to the Guinness article, number-names have been universally accepted only up to centillion (10^{303}), but of course it's possible to go well beyond that - in fact, as far as you like. Using the same basic rules, we can derive the name of an absurdly large number: $10^{8286743}$, which would be written as 1 followed by 8,286,743 zeroes. $8,286,743 - 3 = 8,286,740$; $8,286,740/3 = 2,762,246$ with remainder 2. The tabulation (see number 21) indicates that we must work from the right to the left, so we start with the final 6 and work leftwards, deriving the name: one hundred sexo-quadrantia-ducenti-dumille-sexaginta-septingenti-mille-dumillemillemillion. (Oh pity us, we suffering typists... -ed)

Pausing for breath, we can draw the reasonable conclusion that beyond a certain size it's not practical to assign traditional names to numbers. The statement above (that $10^{8286743}$ is "an absurdly large number") is not really accurate; compared to some large finite numbers used in mathematics, it's rather small. Clearly, a different system is needed for really large numbers.

The Guinness article tells us that the highest finite number ever used in a mathematical proof was published in 1977 and is known as Graham's number, a bounding value concerning chromatic hypercubes. It cannot be expressed without the special "arrow" notation devised by Donald Knuth in 1976, extended to 64 layers. Let's look at Knuth's arrow notation - the system can be contained in two rules:

1. $x \uparrow y = x^y$

2. $x \uparrow \dots \uparrow y = x \uparrow \dots \uparrow \{x \uparrow \dots \uparrow (\dots \{x \uparrow \dots \uparrow x\} \dots)\}$
(n arrows) x appears y times

The second rule is more easily grasped by example:

$$10 \uparrow \uparrow 4 = 10 \uparrow (10 \uparrow \{10 \uparrow 10\}) = 10 \uparrow (10 \uparrow 10^{10})$$

$$= 10 \uparrow 10^{10^{10}} = 10^{10^{10^{10}}}$$

$$10 \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow 3 = 10 \uparrow \uparrow (10 \uparrow \uparrow 10) = 10 \uparrow \uparrow 10 \uparrow \uparrow \dots \uparrow \uparrow 10$$

$$= 10 \uparrow \uparrow \dots \uparrow \uparrow 10$$

Our second example, a "little" number requiring only 3 arrows, is far beyond human comprehension; when we express this number in conventional notation as we have done, we must stack exponents of exponents so high that the index number (indicating how many tens are stacked) is itself a stack of tens, ten high.

The Graham number requires 64 arrows. And some day, precisely because this powerful notation exists, numbers will be brought into use by mathematicians which are large enough to tax even the arrow notation.

So let's extrapolate beyond the arrow notation. First we'll replace $\uparrow \dots \uparrow$ with the more convenient form \uparrow_n , where the subscript tells us how many arrows we have. Then, just as Knuth chose an arbitrary symbol (the arrow), we'll use the "union" symbol, \cap , from set theory; and we can use two rules analogous to Knuth's:

1. $x \cap y = x \uparrow y \ x$.

2. $x \cap_n y = x \cap_{n-1} (x \cap_{n-1} (\dots (x \cap_{n-1} x) \dots))$
(x appears y times)
 for example: $10 \cap_2 4 = 10 \cap (10 \cap (10 \cap 10))$

$$= 10 \cap (10 \cap (10 \uparrow_{10} 10))$$

$$= 10 \cap (10 \uparrow_{(10 \uparrow_{10} 10)} 10) = 10 \uparrow_{(10 \uparrow_{(10 \uparrow_{10} 10)} 10)} 10;$$

And if the "union" notation is ever over-taxed, we might introduce the "triangle" notation:

1. $x \Delta y = x \cap y \ x$.

2. $x \Delta_n y = x \Delta_{n-1} (x \Delta_{n-1} (\dots (x \Delta_{n-1} x) \dots))$
(x appears y times)

And so on. If your mind has become somewhat boggled in trying to come to grips with such magnitudes, let's finish the job with this reminder: although they are far larger than the number of elementary particles in all of the universe, the numbers we've been discussing are finite; and they are therefore utterly insignificant in comparison with any infinite number, such as the number of points in a mathematically continuous line one inch long.

(With thanks and acknowledgements to Don Klemenčić, writing in the newsletter "Phoenix" of Western Pennsylvania Mensa, 12/81 issue.)

your candidates for MathSoc Executive

On February 18th, remember Mike Walma for President of MathSoc - and the mathies will get the government they deserve.

Drew A. Sullivan

Running for Vice President of MathSoc

I am running for the position of Vice President of your student society, MathSoc, because I believe that the society should be given a chance of survival. My opponent is part of a group that is trying to take over MathSoc and run everything according to their own personal whims. This group, in my opinion, is equivalent to "THE NEW ENGINEERS", as shown by their recent wine and cheese fiasco. This event, although supposedly sponsored by MathSoc, was in fact a private party put on by the members of that group the pub having been rejected by the MathSoc council, those persons elected by you to serve the Mathematics student body. Upon hearing that the party was not to be sponsored by MathSoc, that group went and obtained Federation funds to stage their "Meet the New Executive Wine and Cheese". These funds are your funds, to be used for your benefit, NOT to be used to stage a private party. Granted, these funds were a loan, but immediately after the conclusion of the party, the "President" of that group declared his intention of having MATHSoc re-imburse him for the losses incurred. This is in face of the council's refusal to fund his private pub. At this time, he was not only not in an official position within the society, he had not even been nominated! One can only conclude from this behaviour that he will get worse if he actually gains power within the society. In all of this, he has been actively abetted by his friend who is currently running for the post of Vice President.

MathSoc has often been accused of being a clique. This may have some justification because of past activities, but to the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that an absolutely closed clique has attempted to gain complete control of MathSoc. Suggestions by students have been rudely rejected and students volunteering their assistance turned away. Is this representative? Is this what you, the members of MathSoc want?

If I am elected, I will do my best to assist the president in the running of the Society as long as the president stays within the bounds dictated by fair and representative government. Remember, you only get the society you elect. Vote for Drew Sullivan for Vice President of the Mathematics Society.

ISSN 0705-0410

mathNEWS is a publication funded by, but independent of, the University of Waterloo Mathematics Society, and is produced by an all-volunteer staff. It is published whenever we damn well feel like it (approx. biweekly). Content is the responsibility of mathNEWS staff and editors.

Steve Lightstone for President of MATHSoc

Fellow Students,

I represent a large group of Math students presently on campus who want to see a change. I have decided that it's time that something be done about the current state of MATHSoc. My aim is to change MATHSoc so that it will no longer be a private club open to an exclusive group of students. I want MATHSoc to be open to all math students, to be used by all of us for:

- social events
- information
- student representation
- student awareness
- orientation

With your help and support, I can, and will, make MATHSoc something that we can use and be proud of.

"IT'S YOUR MATHSoc, YOUR MATH FACULTY, AND YOUR REPUTATION AS A MATH STUDENT THAT I HOPE TO IMPROVE!"

Sincerely

Steve Lightstone

Rod Currie for Treasurer

Friends, Romans, math students, lend me your money.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rod Currie, and I am running for treasurer of that esteemed institution, MathSoc. If elected, I promise to rob, steal, embezzle and commit any other money-related crime which comes to mind. Actually I'm lying which is another thing I intend to do. Usually, I make cents (pun intended), crime does pay, but not that well. To be honest (which is rare for someone in politics), I feel that MathSoc, like Canada, should be run with real money (true dough, that is). But seriously, folks, in reality (which is something completely different) I'm not all that bad.

Remember:

DON'T WORRY
VOTE CURRIE

PUT MORE SPICE IN MATHSoc
ELECT CURRIE AS TREASURER

FOR A TREASURY OF GOOD CENTS
VOTE FOR ROD CURRIE

LEMON CURRIE???

The opinions expressed above are definitely not those of the candidate, who is an honest, hard-working slob, who feels he can get the job done.

Direct enquiries to: mathNEWS, MC 3035, University of Waterloo, 200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1.

Drop Deadline

The deadline for dropping courses and/or withdrawing without academic penalty is February 12, 1982. Don't forget!

Jake and the Feds

Mounting the stairs into South Campus Hall, Jake is confronted by some boards covered with ragged, outdated posters. Out of their disorder he spies a recurring word: "vote". Vote? Vote? The Chief had told him students were apathetic, sex-crazed. This smacks of responsibility!

Realizing he might be conspicuous, he ducks under his trenchcoat collar and sidles into a dark corner to ponder his task. "The world must know of this," he thought. First: find and befriend an insider.

"Election?" said the first.

"I think it's tomorrow," said another.

"Wanna buy a duck?" cracked a third. Jake smiles and realizes nothing has changed.

Rather than waste time getting opinions, Jake figures he'll read the posters.

Someone named Wim says he's incumbent.

Someone named Chuck says he's competent.

Someone named Chris has a fixation with apples.

"Aha!" says Jake. "Now I know the real issues."

Just then some young hothead happens by, verbally garroting the fellow he is walking with. Jake tails him, tape recorder running.

"The Federation can never do things right! Have you ever seen their meetings? It's not the President that runs that thing! Nobody cares about BEER, or BENT, or the Fed councillors; it's 'vote for Wim', 'vote for Wim'."

Jake leans closer in disbelief as the hothead starts to flail limbs.

"BENT has posted tons of Fingerprintz posters on utility poles in direct violation of the law. The people out there don't see us as responsible students, they see us as young hooligans who delight in flouting all societal controls: drug laws, liquor laws, just plain common decency. You know and I know that the Feds do good things, like running buses to T.O. and the Bombshelter. But we're never going to get \$13 bus passes without some sucking up to the other 200,000 people around here."

At this point something catches his attention and the conversation ends. Jake turns and discovers he is lost, not having watched where he was going. Right ahead he sees a polling booth. Voices call to him: Vote! Vote!

From his trenchcoat pocket, Jake produces the wallet he had removed from the hothead's pants. Presenting the ID card, he takes his ballot, and in true private-eye style, eats it.

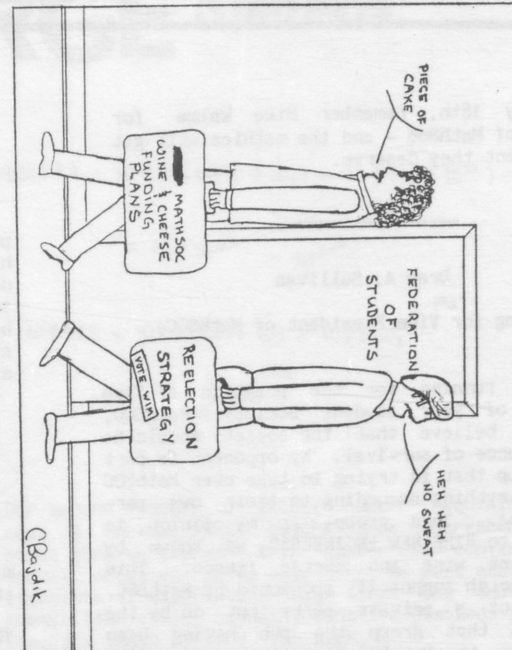
"There," he says, turning for the door. "He didn't deserve his vote anyhow."

Returning at last to his car in M lot, Jake takes the snow brush and starts to dust off the hood. As he brushes he notices a circled A finger-drawn in the snow on his window.

"That's the spirit," says Jake, smiling.

"This university's gonna be O.K."

Ross Brown



WATSFIC

Meetings

Tuesday and Wednesday nights

Room MC 5158 at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 17.

If you are interested in Science Fiction or gaming, then come on up!

D'n'D Tourney

Watsfic will be sponsoring a Dungeons and Dragons tournament to be held March 13th and 14th. Team signups will begin Monday, February 15th, with an entrance fee of \$3.00 per person, or \$2.50 per Watsfic member.

movie review

On Golden Pond

Inserting the entire ignition cylinder wrapped around the key she pulled out wrong, brushing the thick morning snow from the windshield and hood, the snow which I later shovel from my driveway in partial penance. The roads are insidious. The vacuum caused by the shape of my car spreads a blanket over the rear window. There is light everywhere.

Five ack-emma drive through its genesis, awkward shadowy figures appearing at the edge of our headlights. In a house on Erb Street, pounding rusty nails into our brains, the ratio changing with time: two-one, three-one, pure Scotch. Mick Jagger draws, dipping his hand in his heart. They finally ask me what I thought. Woodsbunny chic, I say, though it is not true. Middle America mellow, I say, which is.

A staggered chorus of replies. It was a great movie. I tickled him when he was about to cry - I saw him saving that tear throughout the film. Warm, human, and sentimental. Great one-liners, wonderful characters. Come on, admit it, you enjoyed it. I don't like obvious manipulations, I say. Then why do you go to the movies? Whaddya want, high art? I hear the backlash in their voices, feel the cold descending again. Poor paranoid. Don't look at me that way, toots, whatever innocence I possessed was lost forever in the caves at Altamira.

Mistaking the railway embankment on Victoria for the driveway to a restaurant, getting mired between the tracks. Via says a train will be along in five to ten minutes. This only happens in movies. Forward, reverse. Hen on his knees scooping snow from around the spinning wheel. Absurdly: the liquor store closes in seven minutes. Supertruck to the rescue. We never see the train.

Five minutes of nature shots and it is done. Applause. Rising from our seats as the house lights come up. The glib fluid phrases of the young spring unchecked to our lips. There is a cynical sneer painted on mine. Sorry, Kate. Sorry, Henry. Speak aught but good of the dead. Excuse me while I destroy everything that is good and sweet and holy. Backstage exit into the cold.

Cross left leg. Cross right leg. Sink down, watching the screen between the heads of the next row. So obviously a stage play. That's a lake, not a pond. Loons, lake, trees, loons, lake, trees. I marvel at my detachment. Why not shout it out now? Save it for the end of the film. Give them this day. From time to time the characters explain it all in simple phrases. Treacle. I snort. No one objects.

Old man, crusty but benign. I like that in a man. Old woman. She need only stand there and function. What's there is cherce. Young boy. Artist's conception. Suck face, he says. Bullshit, he says. Women. We are told she is haunted by her childhood. Several times. Man. Uses large words indiscriminately. I think: they want us to realize that. Pacing like a Sunday afternoon cup of tea. From the beginning I am lost.

Hold it to the light: it melts under your gaze, drips through your fingers. No, reverse that. The warmth preserves it; the cold destroys. Snowflake sentimentality. Sir, you mawk me. But must it always be cold? Must the snow swallow us? Think of sunshine, save your innocence. Save that tear throughout the film. I looked into her eyes briefly: no method, no madness.

Hen and me and Guy makes three, in the line to see On Golden Pond. The others inside already. The snow will come much later. We discuss structuring of organizations in loud voices while the stolid burghers ignore us. Style guides, manuals, handbooks. Dogma, I say. Populism. Conditioning. We draw abreast of the first poster. Henry Fonda. Katherine Hepburn. Jane Fonda. Nominated for six Golden Globes. Will win Oscars in April. Why are we going to see this film? General consensus: wotthehell. Indeed.

Prabhakar Ragde.

SEMI-FORMAL

You are cordially invited to the Math and Science Valentine Semi-Formal to be held Saturday, February 13, 1982 at Bingeman Park in Kitchener starting at 7:00 p.m. Admission charge: couples, \$25; singles, \$15. Tickets are available at MathSoc (it's open now during the day!), SciSoc, and the SciSoc C & D stand.

The Famous And Much-Anticipated
Collaboration between Rohan Jayasekera
and Prabhakar Ragde

(Warning: this rather florid title should not produce Great Expectations in the minds of the reader, or mind of the readers, respectively)

PR: riverrun, past Eve and Adam... that was completely spurious, but you knew that... the golden rays of the sun are about ready to tangentially kiss the eastern edge of County Kilkenny, and so I can say top o' the morning, and isn't it a fine day, and aren't we sitting here in the "New Mathsoc" chine-and-wheeze sozzled out of our silly Irish faces - or rather, mine, since I see by the clock on the wall that you hain't been drinking much wine at all.

RJ: That's not hard to understand - it would seem that the New Mathsoc only believes in New Wine. (Cuvee Skid Row, December.) As time passes all sorts of people are offering me their unused wine tickets. (I don't accept any because I have extras of my own.)

PR: Oh, come now, there's nothing wrong with Canadian wine - I think they're all Canadian wines, certainly those that aren't should be. I particularly like the pinkish stuff from the Niagara Peninsula, though it was a bit chewy, and that one of indeterminate colour - pretty feisty wine, that, it kept trying to climb out of my glass and argue metaphysics. Can you figure out how I've gotten seven glasses on only five tix?

RJ: Well, the cheese is all right, and there's enough of it. "Elesed are the cheesemakers." Elasted are the people - so one might expect, but it's hard to tell when I've never seen most of them before. I'm getting old... Oh well, at least the music is quarter-decent. This is the first Mathsoc Wine and Cheese I've been to where the D.J. played Orchestral Manoeuvres and Depeche Mode.

Continued on page 7.

FASDRR

Doors, the final frontier, this is the voyage of the starship FASDRR. Its five year mission: to intoxicate strange new worlds and new civilizations, to boldly go where no hound has gone before.

Hammer's log, stardate 19.02.527-c.

FASDRR returns to Waterloo for yet another term of havoc and mayhem. Welcome back to all you members out there and best of luck on this school term. Special thanks to Trent Krauel who will not appear in this article.

On the sporting scene, the FASDRR Hounds have taken to the ice to do battle in the Recreational Broomball League. The team consists of some veterans from last year as well as many new faces. The games are played on Friday afternoons. There's a squash ladder this term; for more information contact Philomena Hughes. FASDRR supports Robert Hughes in his bid to win the ongoing Snooker Tournament.

From the FASDRR Follow-up File, we have several interesting items. Contrary to popular belief, former frosh Berry Meher will not be sent to West Germany for part of his school term. Three former FASDRR guest lecturers have recently published new books. Animal biologist, Dr. M. Murphy, has completed his latest book entitled "Where did ya get that pig?". Fresh from his travels in the Hawaiian Islands, neurologist Dr. J. Smith has written his fifth novel entitled "Why Key Key?". Constable D. Agnew has written a book on winter driving entitled "Keep your eyes on the road and your hands upon the wheel".

Winner of last term's "Name the Famous Person" contest was Katy Vanneste. The correct answer of course was "Sharon". This term's contest is "How many words can you make with LINE?". Here are a few samples: LINEar, seLINE and LINen. Winner will receive a free meal at

"Chez Kendra", famous for its toasts with apple and nibblet corn.

On the political scene, rumour has it that former FASDRRite Doug Cornish will soon be joining the cabinet. At the last FASDRR meeting, two proposals were passed by unanimous consent. The first resolution, submitted by Reg Suggitt, stated that members who drink and then chase women will now chase drinking women, in order to save time. The second resolution, submitted by Rob Miller, stated that all bald jokes and Katy jokes will be banned from the C.C.

Back by popular demand, the weekly lecture series has returned. This week, FASDRR proudly welcomes Dr. N. Neal (Artificial Intelligence), author of the bestsellers "Intelligence is a stupid concept" and "E.A., M.A., Ph.D., S.O.B."

Dr. Neal states that: "the flaw in our concept of intelligence is that it's based not on one's performance in life but on one's performance on tests, most of which are self-serving devices for perpetuating the aristocracy of mentality". Dr. Neal further mentions that: "anybody knows that intelligence tests just measure modern consciousness---those mental faculties best suited to our technological, rationalistically bureaucretized culture". Dr. Neal will also attempt to answer "who put the sap in homo sapien and in saperson?".

Next week, FASDRR welcomes Dr. P. Hughes (secret services), author of the popular spy novels "Dr. No" and "For my eyes only". Dr. Hughes (alias agent double oh zero, alias agent SQ, alias agent IWDH), will discuss her amazing winning streak against her arch enemy Mr. Mojo Risin.

Finally, FASDRR's membership drive this term will be to Quebec City, for the winter carnival. FASDRR Fever! Catch it!

M. Admen

Warrior's Band

Well, here we are two weeks later. Since then, the warrior's Band has had a couple of (unofficial) practices, with not too bad a turnout, and attended several games. The best-attended of these games was Saturday's game against Western, live on television! The Band was well-featured on t.v., but the cameramen were continually spoiling the show by televising a basketball game that happened to be going on in the same place. After the game, the remaining members made a tape of their sounds, for (a good laugh, and ...) sentimental reasons. This tape will be permanently archived. The sounds taped were 'Waterloo, Waterloo' and the School Song. And... for those who wondered what happened to it last issue, the words to 'Waterloo, Waterloo' occur in this issue (eh, Dave!). (If they aren't below, try Masthead.) Anyway, until next issue, happy sounds to you from the warrior's Band. "One of the Bands in Canada."

jhputtick

"Waterloo, Waterloo"

Alternate School Song

Waterloo, Waterloo
Dum dum dum da dummmmmmm
Waterloo, Waterloo
Dum dum dum da dummmmmmm
We dum da dum dum deeeeee
and dum da dum dum daaaaaah
Waterloo
Waterloo
Waterloo

Laurier, Laurier
pfffft to Laurier
U of T, U of T
pfffft to U of T
We pfffft to Brock and Guelph
and pfffft to York and Mac...
Western U
Windsor tooo
pfffft to you....

Tune - "Denis Moore"

feedback

For the first time in a long time, a real election is being fought over for mathSOC positions. And there is no doubt about the fact that the positions are being fought over. Unfortunately, all the fighting is occurring for the wrong reasons, in the wrong places. It is unlikely that there will be any sort of formal debate or candidates forum in which opposing views can be aired. Rather, a faction-fight between two groups is being held, and, as usual, the average Mathie is being left out in the hall.

Two main problems have caused this. The first comes from mathSOC itself. A lack of planning and co-ordination has resulted in extremely late, and poorly organized elections. As well, mathSOC, suffering from a lack of on-campus members, has barely been able to keep its door open, let alone organize any major social events. The second problem arose when a group of students, frustrated with the lack of mathSOC activity, "jumped the gun", held a wine-and-cheese party, and declared themselves running for office under the banner of "the new mathSOC". The "current" mathSOC immediately took offense at this, and began procedures to have the usage stopped, permanently, and those responsible punished. The actual punishment to be imposed has ranged from nothing to invalidating the candidates, and has now been set to disallowing the use of posters by one of the candidates. For myself however, it brings back memories of the Chevron, the New Chevron, the Real Chevron, the Sunday Chevron, and on and on, and on. That finally led to the destruction of the Chevron as a student newspaper, and its eviction from campus. This is definitely something I do not want to see happen to mathSOC!

But the important point of all this is being overlooked. And that is, what is mathSOC really here for? To hold fights between two groups over the right to sit in the mathSOC office and proclaim themselves the "head" of all Mathies? Or is it to work with and for all Mathies, organizing events, and basically doing the best, and the most, that one can?

All right, so certain formal procedures and rights have been ignored. And those responsible should not be let off lightly. But, for the good of all, those people who are interested in working on and for mathSOC, and are serious in their commitment to work, must be allowed a fair chance to do so.

But what it finally comes down to is the student body itself. If you're interested in what's happening, show it! Ask questions about what's been going on. Come up and ask mathSOC, and especially, ask the candidates. Then make up your mind about what's going on, and, on Thursday February 18th, show your concern by voting.

Gerry Smit, 4B Math

MASTHEAD

Oh, wow, masthead starting on page 7! (I'd better write small and not waste time on this dribble, as there is only about an inch of space)...to the credits...first on the list (why?) is David Till, EDITOR, layout, anything you can think of...Dave Bray (layout), (wow, a new mathematical symbol discovered! What does it mean?) Gerry Smit (feedback, general nuisance, layout); Jane Roberts (subscription editor, layout, only female in the place), Chris Bajdik (comic) (symbol occurs again! continued on p 8

uw arts centre

For those of you interested in the upcoming events at the UW arts centre, MathNEWS presents the following summary:

- award winning play SLEUTH, starring Jack Creley, will appear at the Humanities Theatre beginning March 1. Tickets are \$8.00 for students.

- DANCEMAKERS, a Toronto based modern dance group, will perform the world premiere of 'When Evening Spreads Across the Sky' by choreographer Robert Cohan on February 18th at the Humanities Theatre.

There are only three days left to see an exhibition of Political Cartoons by some of Canada's most famous cartoonists. The show remains at the UW Arts Centre Gallery until Sunday, February 14th.

Continued from page 5.

PR: Um, yas... "Just Can't Get Enough", "Enola Gay" - too bad the sound system makes everything sound like amplified seashell mutter. Yeah, who are these people, anyway? And who is this "New Mathsoc", and why do they have a leader named "Caps"? I ask myself: is this illegal? Probably, because they haven't been elected yet. But that never stopped anyone. So is it immoral? Well, morality is subjective, and subjectivity is objective. And is it fattening? Oh, yes, several hundred calories a glass. So it must be OK. Hey, can we call him a DJ if he uses cassettes? Hey, where is my glass? Hey, where is my left arm?

RJ: A "CJ", maybe? (American Motors probably has that trademarked.) As for the New Mathsoc, I hear that Mathsoc Council voted against funding this so the New Order got the Wims to do it.

PR: Cassette jockey, um, conjures up images of some guy straddling a tape machine... I've heard of audiophiles, but that's ridiculous... well, there's nothing wrong with an isolated group putting on a wine & cheese - call it the MGB syndrome - but perhaps they shouldn't use the Mathsoc name and our money. Oh, curse it, no one cares, I certainly don't. It's not new at all, it's the same old wine & cheese with the same vacant faces, but the wine's cheap and if you're quick, it's plentiful... which reminds me, Roheneroomi, you hain't sayin' much and you hain't drinkin' much. Try some of this turquoise bubbly - it's not bad, though if you don't drink it quick it'll pit the inside of the glass -

RJ: But if I do then it'll pit the inside of my stomach -

PR: Exactly -

(continued on p 8)

Grounded Lightning Strikes Again!

"The time has come," the walrus said, "to speak of pride that hides the pain."

By now, everyone has run across the one or more persons in their classes (yes, each and every class) who "thinks they know everything and appear to know nothing." Generally, this person will answer all the prof's rhetorical questions, ask "dumb" questions of his own (actually, that's not fair. If he asks the question, chances are it's not dumb to him, but to the rest of the class...) and, when answering the prof's questions can manage to yell out the wrong answer nine times out of every ten. This person has the knack of getting under your skin without even trying, so you most likely try to avoid him.

If fate should deal upon you the blow of actually having to speak to this person, his general personality type will be seen to go something like this. According to him, he is doing quite well in all his classes and finds them all easy. ("So why all the dumb questions" you ask yourself.) If allowed to continue, he will proceed to instruct you in everything you already knew about whatever subject he happens to latch onto. Sometime during this discussion he will "just happen" to mention (and show you if he can) a particular test or assignment on which he did particularly well. That also just happens to be the same one you bombed miserably. (You know better than to enquire about the ones he doesn't mention.) In desperation, you change the subject. Now he's talking about his personal life. (You DID change the subject!) His personal life is sure to be full of such things as the nuclear reactor he and 30 or 40 of his friends are constructing, his residence's triumph over any and all other residences on any subject (you name it, they beat someone/everyone at it), and his vicious revenge plans for someone (you couldn't care less who, though you like him already) whom he says has enraged him. He can go on like this for hours (days? weeks? years?) so if you want more examples, just follow the instructions above.

Finally you manage to escape and, swearing never to get near him again, you try to flush all memory of him from your mind (by alcohol, stereo at volume level 10, or whatever). Through a great expenditure of willpower, I shall not flush these thoughts from my head (yet) but rather, I shall examine them. (Why? Because I'm stupid!)

First, his great marks. If he's so smart, why does he (how could he) ask all those stupid questions so constantly? Well, the answer to that lies in what WASN'T said. If his marks were so good all the time, why bother to mention one midterm or assignment. Was it because this midterm or assignment was extraordinary? (Hmmm. The plot thickens.) Next, he and 30 or 40 friends building a nuclear reactor. Have you ever seen him with more than one friend, much less 30 or 40? You may suspect that he was exaggerating. Now what about the reactor ES. You really find that harder to swallow than the part about the 30 or 40 friends. (If you were foolish enough to ask at the time, you probably discovered that the whole reactor scheme was discussed once at a pub crawl or something similar.) His residence is the champion of everything? It could be true, but could you possibly care less? (I couldn't, even if I tried!) Finally you come to his revenge bit. All you'd like to know is what was done to him so you could do it too.

Well, you've come to a conclusion. Even in retrospect you dislike the twit. (Big surprise, huh?) Why does the troglodyte make up such trash? Well, here's the reason. Your opinion of him is shared by most of the campus. Everyone wants to be loved. Old vacuum-mind is trying to impress you so that you'll like him. Rather than being himself, he has been putting on a little act to attract friends. This has gone on so long that he probably doesn't even know what he's really like. (The world may never know!) Why does he put on this act? Most likely he is extremely insecure about everything--his marks, his friends, his abilities. (His social skills?) He makes up for this insecurity with a double portion of pride (conceit?).

So what can be done to bring air-head back into the human race? I really don't know. Some time you could try asking him why he makes up such junk. (Personally, I wouldn't touch that one. It could set him off into justifying what he has said at which point you might NEVER shut him up!) You could get someone else to ask him why he makes up that junk (that's more my speed). Or, you can just continue avoiding him along with the rest of the campus and hope that some day he'll clue in and give up the act. Whatever you personally decide, good luck!

Meanwhile, when Titanic-mouth asks his questions and starts getting on your nerves (like squeaky chalk on a blackboard), just remember, murder is still a criminal offence. Just keep calm, ignore him, and hope he goes away (or someone else kills him first.)

Grounded Lightning

) (Gerry Smit wants to be remembered as a WATSfic representative (why???) Andy Morton helped with layout...oh, dear, I just saw how much more I have to type...It seems so easy when you watch other people do it, but once you are in the driver's seat... Back to the subject...(handy things... 's, aren't they?...) Walter Steinemann complained (so the others tell me!) Ross Brown wrote 'Jake'; Prabhakar Ragde and Rohan Jayasekera discussed the wine&cheese... Thanks go to all of the various MathSoc nominees who inserted their various blurbs; also, the same goes to those class rep nominees who didn't give us anymore bkantant filler... M. Adman wrote FASDRR for us, glad to see him again (is he on campus every term?) ...Hey, every figure out why they called widget widget? I figure its because of the similarity in sound to that ingenious device which on paper looks beautiful, but which turns out to be very nasty when you try to create or implement it... perhaps they have something in common! You remember the mathsoc survey in mathNEWS last issue on the pinball machines? Well, thanks for all the people who returned the questionnaire. Leafing through them, I found one or two that didn't care what happened to the machines; all the rest said (in very vehement tones, for the most part) that they wanted the things removed. Well, perhaps they will go; I don't know yet if thy will or not.

.ph
Oh, dear, I am only about half way through this mess, and already slogging along. In case I forget to tell you, this is my first masthead (so I am not dave till, otherwise his name wouldn't have been first...) I an james puttick (jhputtick on the 'bun the past couple of terms, but just mathnews (/mathsoc?) this term...) so much for all of the nice accounts they gave out for such course as stats...(editor here says i can't blurb about that which i want to blurb about...ah, well, you might hear more about me later on.. The next CSC meeting will be next Thursday...i thought there was an article from them for this issue, but it doesn't look like it... the words to Waterloo, Waterloo finally got in this issue, so I don't have to print them here. Well, one o'clock and all's well, and the paper is 99.99% (approx) done...Next issue may be 2 or three weeks or more from now, the editor is beyond caring (he hasn't even been to the bombshelter tonight!) Ah, well, this is practically done, so we'll call it a night...jhputtick signing off.
cp disconnects