

# math NEWS

Volume 31

Number 6

thursday 31 march 1983

I'm not upset that my mind has left me, I just wish it had taken me with it.

## Watpubs

Watpubs Summer '83

Toronto

Wed. 4 May - The Jolly Miller

Wed. 11 May - The Brunswick House

Ottawa

Thu. 5 May - Molly McGuires

Thu. 12 May - Stoney Mondays

Montreal

Wed. 4 May - The Annex (Bishop St. above St. Catherines)

Wed. 11 May - Grand Boc Brasserie (across from Place Ville Marie)

Calgary

Call 284.1743 in Calgary for Watpub information.

Wed. 4 May - Westgate Hotel on Bow Trail

Wed. 11 May - Highlander Hotel - 'The Fling Room' (16 Avenue N.W.)

Additional information available at the first pubs or from MathSoc. Phone numbers will be finalized at a later date.

Sponsored by MathSoc.

Tonite!! Math Soc End of term bash, Waterloo Inn-- see Math Soc - MC 3038!

## C+D Ballot Results

Voting tally to increase fees in support of work required for the C & D:

Votes cast: 355

Votes for the fee increase: 316

Votes against fee increase: 39

Votes spoiled: 0

## Real Mathies

For the final time this term, Real Mathies...

- don't need to take off their shoes and socks to count to twenty.

- know the difference between a byte and a Byte and read the latter every month

- have not only read GEB (respectful pause) but can quote from it

- are a subset of Complex Mathies (C)

- ignore engineers

- don't drink Pepsi

- can draw perfect straight lines (freehand) even when they are too bazooed to walk one

And that's it for Real Mathies this term. We'll hopefully continue this column in September (unless the summer term mathNEWS staff should continue this column in May or June) when hordes of new students (i.e. Frosh) enter the campus. Thanx for your response, and we hope to see most of you back in September.

## UltraClassified

**EMPLOYMENT...** Student Employment, Campus Health Promotion. Student required to conduct education program in campus cafeterias. Responsibilities would include ordering, distributing and displaying appropriate educational materials in two campus cafeterias. No experience necessary- Work period to include 10 hrs./week from August 2nd to September 2, 1983; and 5 hrs./week during fall and winter terms (September 6th to Nov. 25, 1983; Jan. 9th to March 30, 1984). Applications should be sent to Lynda Davenport, Supervisor, Health Services. Ext. 3541. Deadline for applications is April 5, 1983.

McFarlane's Fables - #1

Once upon a time (or thereabouts) a math student found an old lamp and rubbed it. Out popped your proverbial genie who typically granted the student 3 wishes. Now, the mathie had heard about such genies and decided to ask for real important things. His first impression was to ask for the traditional health, wealth, and happiness, but then he remembered that "Careers" by Parker Brothers recommended fame, fortune and happiness. Two of these were repeats, but he still had to choose out of fame, fortune, health, and happiness. Besides, there might be other possibilities and he wanted to optimize his 3 wishes. sp. 1 "Well?" asked the genie who was getting as restless as the reader, and was also concerned about how long he could magically appear. "What do you want?"

"Ok. Let's see. Health."

"Oh, one of those. Granted, but only for 50 years or the rest of your lifetime, whichever comes first. Union regulations say we don't work on infinities."

"Fair enough. My second wish is wealth."

"Well, I can't cause inflation (the government doesn't like that), but I think that in this day and age, a small computer error in your bank account would suffice. And your third wish (as if I couldn't predict it)?"

The student was hoping he could pull one over on the genie. "I now wish for three more wishes!"

"###\$#, everybody's into that nowadays! If I had my druthers, I'd tell you to kiss off, but the current regulation says I gotta grant you three more, but that's it. Our union's working on that one, thanks to smart asses like you." "Too bad, eh? My fourth wish is happiness."

"Granted, but that's only good for 5 years. We're pretty sticky about that one."

"Fifth, I want fame."

"Ok, but once again only in a finite amount. Your sixth?"

"Umm...can I ask for that one later? I want to see if I missed anything first."

"Oh, I suppose. I have to do a spot check tomorrow anyway to see if you got everything. I'll grant the last one for you then."

With that the genie magically disappeared back into his lamp (he now remembered he had complete control over how long he can make these guest appearances). No sooner had he disappeared than suddenly the mathie's midwinter cold disappeared, and his phone and doorbell started ringing. It was the media, checking out a story about a guy with a genie who just granted him 6 wishes. All this fame made the student happy, but unfortunately he couldn't prove sufficiently enough to the media of the genie's existence (the genie is somewhat shy about appearing in front of cameras or large audiences). All he had was a silly lamp and a computer error in his bank account.

It wasn't long before he was committed to an insane asylum, still however very happy because he had a lot of midterms and assignments due that week. Eventually the genie reappeared to him one night.

"Sorry I took so long getting here, but you should've brought the lamp with you. I had an awful time finding you. Did you get everything you wished for?"

"Yes, but look what's happened to me!"

"Hmm, I'll have to brush up on happiness. You seem a bit disappointed. What about your last wish?"

"Oh, yeah. I've been thinking about that. My--"

"Oh, nooooo, I'm in for another big one."

"My first impression was just to ask to get out of here, but a more universal term that applies to this situation as well as others is power."

"Sorry, I can't give you that."

"Why not? You gave me all the other 'big

# Lord Of The DISKS

## The Graduation

Things were buzzing (other than those Mathobbits on pipeweed) in the Southern Quad of the Village Two in preparation for the momentous occasion of Bilboth's graduation. There was much preparation to be done to make the quad ready for the spectacular celebration that was typical of most All-Nighters at the Two.

Everyone in the Village was invited to attend, and each in his own way was getting prepared to celebrate Bilboth's graduation, and with no less jubilation Frosho's passing grade in first year Algebra.

Late one evening, a stranger appeared amidst the scurrying Mathobbits at the Village Two; a tall grey nobleman clad in a long, flowing grey cloak. His long white beard conveyed the fact that he had spent ages at his life's business (not unlike the looks on those who really do Calculus assignments). A huge red book was tucked neatly under his arm (THE CALCULUS), as he most elegantly rode forth and parked his steed (a CCM *Tour de France*) outside the entrance to the quad. Some of the more naive frosh (is that redundant), knew not who this noble mathie was, but to Bilboth, and his room-mate Frosho, it was none other than the pure mathie Mathalf the Grey.

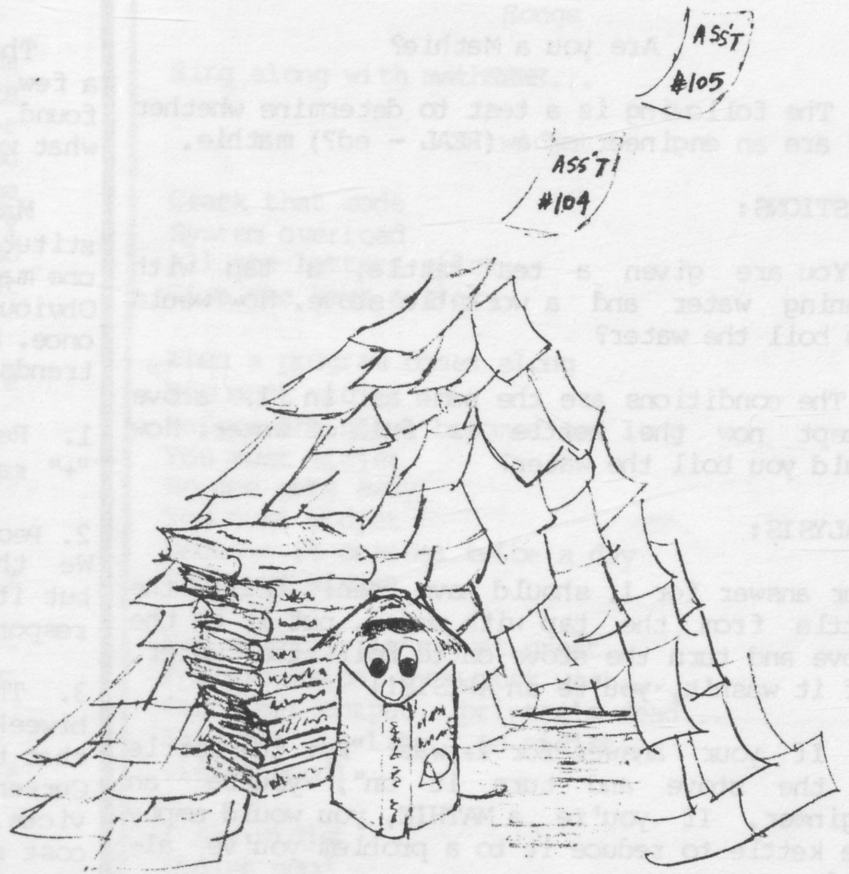
There was much awe as he passed quickly down the halls (rumor had it he got 100 per cent in Math 140A) to Bilboth's room. He knocked succinctly (a succinct knock?) and Bilboth ushered him quickly in.

"Welcome, to an old friend and noble pure mathie," greeted Bilboth, "I am glad you could come to my party."

"Bilboth, good Mathobbit, the happiness is all mine," replied Mathalf, "I wouldn't miss your party for anything in Middleloo. I don't get to many parties." (Hence the 100 per cent in Calculus)

Bilboth introduced his venerable friend to Frosho, and the two old mathies discussed the excitement of past adventures (like CS 250). The old friends stayed up very late that night and many old stories were shared with Frosho (e.g. the days before WIDJET) before the two crashed around 6:30 a.m.

The next day, the eve of Bilboth's graduation, was quite uneventful except for the arrival of thirteen dwarves into Bilboth's company. The arrival of the dwarves sparked little distress in the minds of most Mathobbits, since such uncouth boorish types often stumble during the preparation for some sort of party.



Finally it was the day of the graduation. The partying started early that afternoon (even earlier than most Fridays in the Village). Early that evening, Mathalf began his fireworks display with several proofs by Mathematical Induction and even an extended explanation of Linear Algebra based on abstract number theory.

After the stage show, Bilboth and his friends sat down for a large supper in the cafeteria. The whole place was buzzing (as much due to pipeweed as to the excitement of the evening). At the end of the elegant meal, Bilboth rose to make a speech.

"Thank you, all my loyal friends for coming here to celebrate my graduation." (Many cheers, hoorays, mathematical integrations)

"I now stand before you to say goodbye." (Gasps, disbelief,  $0 = 1$ )

"I plan to take my doctorate elsewhere."

His speech finished, he slipped THE DISK into LOAD position, and vanished into null string before their eyes.

J.R.R.Mathie

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Please address any enquiries to:

mathNEWS  
MC 3035  
University of Waterloo  
200 University Avenue West  
Waterloo, Ontario  
N2L 3G1

### Fun Shtuff

#### Are you a Mathie?

The following is a test to determine whether YOU are an engineer or a (REAL - ed?) mathie.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. You are given a tea kettle, a tap with running water and a workable stove. How would you boil the water?
2. The conditions are the same as in 1. above except now the kettle is full of water. How would you boil the water?

#### ANALYSIS:

Your answer for 1. should have been: "Fill the kettle from the tap with water, put it on the stove and turn the stove on to boil the water. (If it wasn't, you're an ARTISIE!)"

If your answer for 2. was: "Put the kettle on the stove and turn it on", you're an engineer. If you're a MATHIE, you would empty the kettle to reduce it to a problem you've already seen.

#### Books Are Better Than:

You can buy a book legally.

You can read a book whenever you want.

If you don't like a book, you can throw it out.

If someone else likes your book, you can buy him/her a copy.

You can read a good book for hours.

The book doesn't care if you're a fast reader.

You can have more than one book at a time; you can even be reading two books at a time.

You don't have to judge a book by its cover, but you can, and if you're wrong, you're only out \$2.50.

You can check into a single room with a book and you don't have to sign your name Mr [s] Book. Good books are easy to find.

Flames, comments, remarks to /dev/null.

Unwilling to be called Sexist

### Questionnaire Results

Thank you for submitting your questionnaires a few issues back. Now that the meagre staff has found the time to look at the results, here is what we have come up with:

Mathies have different ideas of what constitutes a good mathNEWS article. It seems that one mathie's masterpiece is another's garbage. Obviously, mathNEWS cannot please everybody at once. Nevertheless, there were a few general trends:

1. Reprints were favourably received (average "+" rating).

2. People liked the new "Real Mathies" column. We thought it would never catch on ourselves, but it succeeded rather nicely. Thanks for your responses.

3. The vast majority of people preferred a biweekly mathNEWS. Many people also told us that they would like to see a newsprint edition. Currently, we print mathNEWS at Graphic Services. Going to newsprint might give us some cost savings but any move to change the method of printing of mathNEWS will have to be studied carefully, keeping in mind the capabilities of mathNEWS staff in any given term.

4. As for specific articles, there seems to be a general and irrational hatred of the Grid Word (crossword-type puzzle), and Watsfic is somewhat frowned upon. The Calendar, Real Mathies features are liked. As for other articles, reactions were mixed.

#### McFarlane's Fables- #2

Once upon a time (again), a man took a ride in an airplane. Unfortunately, the plane crashed and he died.

Moral of the story:  
(subject to interpretation)

#### McFarlane's Fables- #3

Moral of the story:  
(subject to interpretation)

Cont'd from page two  
ones'!"

"Three reasons. First, it's vaguer term than the others. Second, it conflicts with the interests of other people, or in other words they don't like you having power over them. Thirdly, the union won't let me grant it, mainly because of the first two, but also because we haven't reached a settlement about the time amount yet."

"Oh, s---. Just get me out of here then."

"Nope. Conflict of interest with society."

"Alright, already. Well, if Moha we try material things. Give me everything."

"You're not listening! That's conflict of interest again, plus involves infinity."

"Ok then, give me the world! That's free, isn't it?"

"A free world? Are you nuts?"

"Just grant me my 6th wish, dammit!"

"Now that's a request I can handle. Granted." The genie the disappeared, never to be seen by the student again, who spent the rest of his days in the asylum wishing he not wasted his last wish in a moment of impatience.

Moral of the story:  
(subject to interpretation)

### Errata, Elucidation, Addenda and Apologia

First, from last issue's issue, sorry about the hideous speling errors within "Real Mathies". Due to time and staff restrictions, we suddenly realized we had to rush to get last issue's RM in.

Next, last week's Math Corner (r0 = 0) was a reprint from mathNEWS 2?:?? Also, looking at the masthead from 27:6, we found that the beeping watch article was created by a second phantom, and not the Phantom who appeared in the very first issues of mathNEWS.

### Songs

Sing along with mathNEWS...

widjet

Crack that code  
System overload  
All the letters stick  
Give the keys a kick

When a program comes along  
You must widjet  
Before the queue becomes too long  
You must widjet  
No one gets away  
You must widjet  
Because it crashes twice a day  
You must widjet

Now widjet...it's just great...  
For execution...you must wait...  
Can't get output...printer's dead...  
It's not too late...to widjet...  
widjet good!

I say widjet  
widjet good  
I say widjet  
widjet good

{ reprint from mathNEWS 29:3, from the Summer of 1982. }

### Boot the GCOS

They say that WIDGET is the one they love,  
If you hate it well it's rough and tough.

CHORUS:  
Boot the GCOS on the left hand disk  
Boot the GCOS on the left hand disk  
De dum de dum  
The slow machines can make it rough and tough

'Twas a breezy chilly Monday afternoon  
With a CS project due tomorrow noon  
So I saved my files and went out for a walk  
'Cos it took three hours to get the Bun to talk.

(do the CHORUS)

Well you hear it on the Datapac  
And you hear it on the Usenet  
They say you hear it on the Gandalf  
And now they say you hear it on the Datanet.

(do the CHORUS)

## Office Spews

Well, another term has come to an end (what a cliché way to begin!!). It's been real, etc. So, you ask, what's going on in MathSoc these days? Well, we're gearing up for the big bash tonight...L'etranger et al. Locker refunds end today. If you wish to keep your locker any longer, you must make arrangements **TODAY** in order that your lock not be removed and your \$5.00 lost.

Today is also the last day to turn in your \$20 for orientation shirts and to sign up for the week's festivities. Thanks to all who have made this term enjoyable, especially the MC3011 Thursday Night Crew.

Signing off (and off to the great plains...)  
Sean "Pete" Romenco

## More Proofs that $r\theta = \theta$

### Proof 1:

"Why?" said Zarathustra. "You ask why? I am not one of those who may be questioned about their Why."

"Do my experiences date from yesterday? It is a long time since I experienced the reasons for my opinions."

"Should I not have to be a barrel of memory, if I wanted to carry my reasons, too about with me?"

(proof by existentialism)

### Proof 2:

This keyboard has no "Theta" key, so I'll have to represent it by the "zero" key. But it is a well known fact that  $r0=0!$

Therefore,  $r\theta = \theta$ .

(proof by misrepresentation)

### Proof 3:

I read it in mathNEWS last issue!

(proof by blind faith)

Masthead Attempt #1...well, let's start off with tonight's production staff: Darcy Emery, Glenn McFarlane, Cynthia Kelly, and of course Scooter & yours truly. Writers--Sean Romenco for Office Spews, and informing us about Watpub: Glenn McFarlane (fables), J.R.R. Mathie (Lord of the Disks), Darcy Emery (Books, Decision) and Calendar), Ross Brown (mc-quiz, cartoon), and a cast of other people for Real Mathies. My thanks to Scooter! who did do much of the work for mathNEWS this term. He was especially helpful while I was labouring under many a miterm. In any case, our thanks go to those mentioned below. We hope that you have found this term's mathNEWS to be entertaining. We're sorry if we got any facts wrong, but mathNEWS has been prone to err before. If you would like to participate in mathNEWS if you are here next term, watch for announcements in September for details on how to join. With your help, we can continue to publish one of the better publications on campus. Also, while rambling on other things, we had tons of material for this issue, and we're sorry if we couldn't get it in, but that's life. Oh, wow, I have tons of space left for the Masthead,,,and like many a mathNEWS staffer before me, I should start to philospo...pholisup...philops-- aww, babble incoherently. We would hope that the great artistic and literary talents of the Math faculty would submit articles to mathNEWS in future terms...mathNEWS is ~~prichitly~~ a forum for the Math students, and has functioned more or less successfully in that capacity for the last decade. As for the tenth anniversary reprint-features, we hoped that you enjoyed a glimpse of mathNEWS history, and maybe we'll do it some more before another ten years are past. Still more to go! Famous last words...we are doing our part to serve the Mathies, and we hope that you would consider helping out in the various events in the Math faculty...many hands make light work as they say. MathSoc is always looking for volunteers, and perhaps many other clubs on campus are equally deserving of attention. ~~he~~ goodbye everyone..djcl is QRT @ 2320. -30-

## Acknowledgements

Well, it's been a good term for mathNEWS. Now, we present the names of those who have helped in some way this term:

Glenn McFarlane, Ross Brown, Jim Jordan Grounded Lightning, Sean Romenco, Graphic Services for a great job considering the state of our originals, MathSoc, a whole pile of author from the past ten years, DP15, Martin+Siegfried MathSoc, WATSFIC, all you Real Mathies out there, Jane Johnson (MCF for Bun resources), daemery, J.R.R. Mathie, and a cast of literally thousands.

## Answers to the 15th Anniversary MC-Quiz

Here are the semi-authoritative answers to those 9 questions about our glorious Math building posed in the last issue of mathNEWS. If you feel we've goofed, please let us know ASAP. We're no strangers to goofs here at mathNEWS...

1. The building was designed by the firm of Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden, who were in later years responsible for Toronto's Royal Bank Centre and a lot of other man-made wonders. There's no trace of their name in the building at the moment, as far as I can tell, since the sundial (a gift from the firm) was removed from the 5th floor "courtyard" so that a leaky roof could be repaired. Where is it now?? Anybody know??
2. The Honourable John P. Robarts opened the building, and committed suicide last year.
3. Lowest: 0001 (although 0002 is the lowest you see on the blueprint maps); highest: 6341 (a closet).
4. The "midget room" is room 1026A, an electrical room off the northwest men's washroom (unfair question?), whose door is half-height.

### In the Interests of Making an Intelligent Decision

So, you have fears of failing a course. The wise man says do one of the following: (1) Upon arrival to the examination location, puke on the paper. Hopefully they won't give you a clean paper, but this method may buy you time; or (2) Study, do some work for a change. Real work.

The fools attempt the following: (1F) Enter the examination center, cheat, likely get caught cheating.

The last case may not be so terrible, in high school when you cheated, nothing happened to you. But, this is the world of highest learning. (See the tall buildings?) Anyway, if you are suspected of committing an academic offense (An academic offense can be anything, dangerous behavior in a lab,

5. The "7th floors" you never get to see are called the "penthouses". For verification, look at the fire alarm board in the 2nd floor loading dock.

6. A stairwell up from the 1st to the 2nd floor off the WIDGET hallway has been closed for many years. There is no handle on the access door.

7. Hasn't it always been the EMS Library?

8. The film "Utilities" with Robert Hays was filmed partially in the Math building two years ago. In this film our Red Room posed as the computer centre of the mammoth Eastern Gas and Electric Co.

9. There are by our count 778 windows on the exterior faces of the building. This does not include the inward courts, one on the fifth floor level and one on the sixth.

{ thank to Terry Doner who submitted the correct solution for the architects. Trivia: did you know that the initial project cost was \$6 336 570, with alterations and additions costing at least a million more?? }

copying papers, cheating, etc, etc, ad nausea) you are presumed innocent until the contrary is shown.

What will happen to you is almost painless (physically), but definitely not pleasant. It could be any combination of the following:

1. A slap on the wrist.
2. A failing mark on the paper you (or somebody else) wrote.
3. Being placed upon probation.
4. A failing mark in the course. (Likely the best you can hope for.)
5. Being requested (in a strong manner, i.e. forced) to resign from your stay here for a specific period of time.
6. Being requested to remove yourself from the green grass of wonderloo on a permanent basis. (This option is always done with the consent of the President, Dr. D. T. Wright.)

Anyway, the choice is yours.

D.E.

# MARCH APRIL

S	27	3	EASTER	10	17	24	
M	28	4	EXAMS START WORKTERM HOLIDAY	11	18	I'm DONE!	
T	29	5		12	19	26	Enjoy
W	30	6	C.G. Double Fantasy Chaplin's Great Dictator Modern Times	13	20	27	the Summer
T		7		14	21	28	Summer / Workterm
F	1	8		15	22	29	Workterm
S	2	9		16	23	30	

NOTE: LOST: MY MIND--PLEASE RETURN BEFORE EXAMS! -- PAUL P.

Masthead : Attempt # 2

Scooter! here, there, and everywhere? Who wrote this stuff, anyhow? Whoever it was, you sure made it an interesting term and experience for the mathie of Quiet Desperation. Whether I would have done it knowing what it actually was like may be a different matter. (I already hear the "I told you so"'s from the various quarters). I must thank my Co-Editor, Dave Leibold, for the consistency and caution he showed in laying out and editing the many articles, as well as frequently beating me to the bun to get them typed in issue after issue. I also am grateful to MFCF for tolerating the many inquiries I had concerning printers, the bun's demise, and general confusion. However, either fortunately or unfortunately, the bun, in some form, stays.

And let's not forget you, the readers, supporters, and in some cases, contributors to this paper. Without you, there would not be us. To one of our contributors, we contacted the topic of your article, who preferred that it not be published. I must observe that your writing style is quite good; get in touch and we can discuss some idea as to what articles are needed by us. We gladly welcome you to staff if you are interested.

@10:48 pm Scooter! disconnects  
\*\*\* For The Term \*\*\*

