

Volume 37 Number 4

15 February 1985

math NEWS



**It was the worst of times
It was absolute hell...**

- Sir Stewart of Melanson

(What in the Dickens was that?)

LookAhead

A glance at upcoming events

Math Events	
4 Mar	Orientation Meeting, 4:30 pm, MC2035
4 Mar	1B Info Night, AL 116, 7:15 pm
6 Mar	Pizza Day
6 Mar	Meet the (CS) Prof Night
16 Mar	Wine + Cheese
Fed Flx	
starts 8:00 pm in AL 116; fed admission = \$1.00	
1-3 Mar	The Natural
8-10 Mar	Red Dawn
15-17 Mar	Moscow on the Hudson
Cinema Gratis	
starts 9:30 pm in the CC	
6 Mar	Ordinary People
13 Mar	The Grey Fox
20 Mar	Two for the Road
Guess who's coming to dinner?	
UW Arts Centre	
Call Humanities Theatre Box Office at 885 4280 for more info	
Art Gallery	
On now: Rome Retrospective	
At the Humanities Theatre	
2 Mar	The Frantics
5 Mar	The Chieftains
DCS Courses	
Free! One to three one-hour lectures; contact DCS to register or for more info.	
5-7 Mar	CMS Part 1
11,13 Mar	Introductory SAS
11,13,15 Mar	Introductory GML
Co-Ops Only	
Math schedule...	
8 Mar	Interviews end; submit rankings
AM/Eng schedule...	
15 Mar	Interviews end; submit rankings
mathNEWS Important Dates	
11 Feb	Articles deadline for next mathNEWS
12 Feb	mathNEWS Production, 7 pm MC 3038
15 Mar	mathNEWS #6 hits the streets
Other Stuff	
1-3 Mar	Winter Carnival
4-8 Mar	Pre-Registration for f85 term

"This is getting ridiculous," said the walrus, placing his snout face down in the soufflé. To no one had it occurred that ridicule and scorn might be the order of the day, perhaps even the catch of the day. Suddenly it did and they did, and it was delicious.

MLE

ORIENTATION '85
General Meeting

MARCH 4th
4:30 pm



MC
2035

GROP!

GROP!

CSC & MathSoc Flash

Meet the Prof Night

Are you in a quandary about which honours CS courses to take in fourth year? If you are, here is the night you have been waiting for. MathSoc in association with the faculty of Computer Science and the Computer Science Club is proud to announce the first annual "Meet the Prof Night" on:

Wednesday March 6th, 7:00 pm, at MC 2065

The guest speakers include: Prof V.A. Dyck (moderator), Prof B. Simpson, Prof C. Colburn, Dr. R. Goebel, Prof G. Cormack

Other speakers will be around to tell you about graduate school (yes some people do that), both here and at WLU.

BEER, Refreshments and informal chat will be served in the Math Grad Lounge MC 5136 after the speaking session. This will allow you to corner your favorite prof-type to get the unadulterated truth about those courses you've heard so much about. Don't be shy, it's your education, find out about your options.

Vivien Nybbles

Tax Tips

Question: Can moving expenses incurred by a student to take a vacation-time job be tax-deductible?

Answer: Quite often they can be. The move to the new residence must be at least 40 kilometres (25 miles) closer to the temporary work location, and the student must be in full-time attendance at a Canadian university or other post-secondary educational institution. The moving expenses may only be claimed against the money actually earned at the temporary work location.

(Taken from "1984 Tax Tips for Individuals" by The Certified General Accountants Association of Ontario. Please consult Revenue Canada for specific advice.)

Strange Fedbellows

An Interview with the President-Elect

Scooter!
mathNEWS staff

Waterloo[mN]— As a bit of background, I first met Wilfrid "Sonny" Flanagan back when both he and I were Frosh in Fall '82, in none other than an introductory philosophy course. Since then, we have always been able to keep in touch, and since then, two of his brothers, with whom I went to school, have also started at UW in math, along with many of their friends. It took me a bit by surprise when he joined Allison's executive last year to represent the Creative Arts Board, and I found it an even greater shock when he resigned in the fall. I had just read about it in *Imprint* when Sonny walked in and we talked over the situation.

Sonny was quite adamant about his stand, and it came as little surprise, when I ran into him at registration for this term, where he informed me of his intentions to run for the Presidency. Due to my role as News Editor of **mathNEWS**, I could not come out and become actively involved in his campaign as he had hoped, but he understood and respected my convictions as I felt my responsibility to my readers.

Sonny grew up in the town of Tamworth (pop. 100), about 100 km due NW of Kingston in the Township of Sheffield. He, like myself, went to Napanee District Secondary School in Napanee (where I got my name-News.Ed.), although he left home at the age of 16, moving to East York and East York Collegiate Institute for Grade 12. He went back to Napanee for one semester of Grade 13, and then was hired by GM in Oshawa (where he is still employed) to work nights while he finished Grade 13 by day at Henry St. High, graduating in 1978.

He continued to work for GM until 1982 when he took his first eight month leave of absence to enter UW Arts, where he is studying Philosophy. He returned to GM in the summer for another four months, took another leave for second year, returned again to GM, and now is on a third leave, although he realises that he will now need to quit so that he may concentrate his energies on the Federation.

Asked why he entered philosophy, he mentioned that the course in which we met was what intrigued him, and he has not really looked back since. At the same time, he points out that he also carries a good number of math courses, another area he finds quite interesting.

I asked him to comment on the election results and what he had been expecting, and he was very surprised by the closeness of the final results, although he had expected a slightly larger turnout. His predictions were that he knew that Jeff Wilson had a core of 1 000 votes that could not be touched, simply due to his experience, but that he had little room to grow beyond that. Scott Forrest had made some headway, and he expected Forrest to take HKLS by a landslide, which, given the rest of the results in retrospect would have permitted Forrest to squeak through to a win, but at the time Sonny thought that Forrest could only draw about 700 in total compared to 1200 for Wilson and 1500 for himself.

MathSoc Council Report

The MathSoc Council met at 4:30 pm on February 13. Early in the meeting Alex Weaver of the **Warriors Band** asked the Council for funds. The band intends to travel with UW's basketball team to the CIAU finals in Halifax. A motion was passed to give the band \$250 provided that the team does indeed make the mid-March finals.

The Social Report from Tom Haapanen mentioned upcoming MathSoc events, including the **Ides of March Wine & Cheese** (Mar. 16th) and **BEnd of Term Pub** (Mar. 30), both at Fed Hall. Ian Sargent of the Faculty Liaison Committee reported discussions on the proposed computer fee and plans for the fourth floor. Although such fees seem inevitable, the method of charging them and the amount of the fees are not decided on yet. Student representatives have recommended to the Faculty that funds generated by the fees be kept separate from the faculty budget, and that at least some set percentage of the money would have to be spent on new equipment. After the EMS Library moves from the fourth floor, plans include faculty offices around the outside, up to twelve new classrooms, and a large study area roughly where the Periodicals section is now.

Business at the meeting also included the Math Grad Ball budget, which was tabled for further discussion, and a discussion of the MathSoc fee. The student fee was raised to its present level in order to pay for the C+D renovation, and as the C+D loan will be paid off after this term, MathSoc must soon consider whether to increase, decrease or maintain the same fee. The subject was tabled pending further study of the effects of such changes on MathSoc services. At the close of the meeting John Haines announced three new bylaws to the MathSoc Constitution to be presented at the next General meeting.

Winterfest '85

The Federation of Student's Winterfest will take place this weekend, March 1st to 3rd. Events scheduled Friday include a road trip to the Late Show in Niagara Falls, a Casino Night in Village One, a skate party at Columbia Icefield, and an all-night Danceathon in the Campus Centre Great Hall. On Saturday, numerous competitions are scheduled at different locations on Campus. These activities include Moonball, Snow Sculpture, Scavenger Hunt, X-Country Ski Race, Log Sawing, Tug-of-War, and Broomball. The Bombshelter will open at noon and there will be a barbeque on the patio. On the Saturday night, a draw will be made for a ski trip for two to Mount Ste. Anne. On Sunday there is a Champagne Brunch at Fed Hall from 1 to 5 where the prizes for Saturday's competitions will be awarded. Get a team together and come to the MathSoc Office (MC3038) for details and to sign up for events.

Dan Provost

Sonny was disappointed that Wilson had not chosen to congratulate him, as Forrest had done rather sincerely when the results became available. He holds no grudges, though, and wishes to work with all concerned to make Waterloo a better place. But he still can't remember buying me that scotch on election night around last call (Although he swears he was stone sober, grinning from ear to ear).

Entertainment

by Marcel Kahnt

This issue is our special *Oscar Predictions* column (also known as I didn't get a chance to see a movie this week, and since this was coming up anyhow...). In addition, I have a few reflections on the British Pub Night, and as always, Fed Flicks and Cinema Gratis features.

And The Envelope Please ...

I in no way intend to predict every last category, but, as always, there are enough non-shoe-ins in the main categories (the big five categories that really count) that it can be thinned down to a respectable number of competitors in each field from which an educated guess can be made.

We should start with the less remembered categories, Best Supporting Actor and Actress. For the Best Supporting Actress, Christine Lahti may be likely dropped immediately because no one knows who she is, she was in *Swing Shift*, which was a box office flop, and comedies rarely get awards. The same fate awaits Geraldine Page, because *The Pope of Greenwich Village* bombed both with the audience, and the more important critics. This brings us to Lindsay Crouse. She isn't well known, but she did a very competent job in the semi-successful *Places In The Heart*. She is in trouble, however, because this is also nominated for other awards, and if she wins here, it is a sign that the picture would not win any other award in the top five. Don't expect her to, though.

That leaves Peggy Ashcroft for *A Passage To India* and Glenn Close for *The Natural*. As this is the only nomination for *The Natural*, and many within the Academy feel that Glenn Close greatly deserved recognition from *The Big Chill*, expect her to pick this award up.

For Best Supporting Actor, there is little question, the award will likely go to Haing S Ngor for *The Killing Fields*. As Sally Fields was the dominant character in *Places in the Heart*, it is very hard for others to have a chance to be supporting cast. Adolph Caesar in *A Soldier's Story* did a good job, but the movie was widely ignored, and he was left unknown. The opposite is the problem for Pat Morita, best known as Arnold on *Happy Days*. People that saw this less than substantial movie thought of him still as the guy who dished out the greasy burgers on TV. And last to consider was Ralph Richardson of *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan*, who did a good job, but nowhere near as good as Haing S Ngor, who was instrumental to the plot of his movie.

For Best Actress, Vanessa Redgrave of *The Bostonians* is out almost immediately for political reasons, Sissy Spacek and Jessica Lange for doing the same movie under different titles, and thus leaving us with just Sally Field for *Places in the Heart*, and Judy Davis for *A Passage to India*. Nix Judy Davis because, after nominating all sorts of movies that people didn't go to this year for the big awards, the Academy will want someone popular like Sally Fields to get a big award like this one, and *A Passage to India* will do fine in other categories, anyhow.

For Best Actor, F. Murray Abraham played too much of a bad guy in *Amadeus* to be a popular choice here. Albert Finney would be a shoe-in if he would do a movie that people

would go to. He deserved the award last year for *The Dresser*, and he deserves it this year for *Under the Volcano*, except that no one had heard about it until the nominations were announced, just like *The Dresser*.

That leaves Sam Waterston (*The Killing Fields*), Tom Hulce (*Amadeus*), and Jeff Bridges (*Starman*). Tom Hulce is young and should have many of other chances for an Oscar in the future, so he is likely out here. Sam Waterston deserves this Oscar for the job he did, except that he was helped a bit more by a good script. I am giving this one to Jeff Bridges, who took a story that was almost identical to one Steven Spielberg released two years ago (*E.T. The Extra-terrestrial*) and made it worth watching by an uncanny sense for the quirks and abnormalities actually necessary to make the character he played into a plausible alien.

And now, the Best Movie of 1984? Since *Amadeus* will get the best score, which is its main drawing point, it won't get best picture in exchange. *A Soldier's Story*, while an excellent movie, is sufficiently contentious that it also will scare away many potential votes. Since Sally Fields will get the Oscar for Best Actress, *Places in the Heart* has no chance here. That leaves *A Passage to India* and *The Killing Fields*. I would have to say that, while it did not win any of the acting or supporting Oscars, *A Passage to India* will win David Lean the Oscar for Best Director, mainly because David Lean is the director and an Oscar for him is long overdue. *The Killing Fields* is not as large of a potential draw, and because it does attack some American policies while *A Passage to India* questions British policies, it is more likely to encounter resistance. Thus I choose *A Passage to India* as the Best Picture of 1984 Oscar recipient.

And now to other stuff

The MGB British Pub Night was certainly had some terrific comedians performing. Although it had a few British ales stocked, it didn't sell them in the proper British way, by the yard (that is in a yard long glass). But I must admit that I just upped and walked out on Irene and Clara from the Brunswick House in Toronto. I liked the type of music they were doing, it was that I could not stand to hear what they were doing to it. They seriously thought that they were giving good renditions of the songs, which made it all the less bearable. I don't believe I have ever seen two people fill the bombshelter so quickly as they did, because I discovered that I became part of a caravan down to its doors.

Fed Flicks

Anybody interested in seeing Robert Redford strike out? *The Natural* was not quite such at the box office, but it started on the same day as *Ghostbusters* and got left rather high and dry in return. It split the critics, and as I was not able to see it then, I can only pass that on as information. Next week, however, is *Red Dawn*, about the takeover of the US by the Soviets, Cubans, and Nicaraguans, and the fights of a troop of teenagers as terrorists to wreak havoc on the occupying forces over forty miles (about sixty kilometres) behind the front lines. They held down so many troops that supposedly the remaining forces of the US Army were able to turn about and win the war. So long as you don't try to believe it, this is a good movie; but when it comes to believing the proposed scenario, you'd swear that this was made by the Pentagon.

Imprint News Editor Resigns

an Opinion

Waterloo[mN]— Tucked away in the *Soapbox* section of last Friday's *Imprint* was a statement by Mr T. A. Grier, News Editor of *Imprint*, explaining his reasons for leaving the campus student paper. As a News Editor myself here at **mathNEWS**, by the reasons presented by Mr. Grier I feel that I would, in the same situation, be forced to step down. What arose was the inclusion of the following paragraph at the end of a credible and well written report on the results of the Federation of Students election.

The Federation executive's partisan support of Mr Wilson was exemplified by two member's reactions to reporters' queries shortly after the results were announced. Fed president Tom Allison refused to comment directly, but said offhandedly, "it's pathetic when [you] people have to beg for abuse." Peter Klungel, chairperson of the Board of External Relations said "All I have to say at this time is journalists are leeches."

At the same time, the reporter who obtained that paragraph, Todd Schneider, argues that he was presenting news as obtained through perfectly legitimate means directly from the persons named, and that the paragraph was included after Mr Grier had left for the evening by the judgement of those still working at that late hour. Mr Schneider felt that the inclusion of the paragraph strengthened the credibility of the article, while Mr Grier argued that it reduced the credibility.

Herein we have a question of reporting methods and whether this was fair play to those quoted. I wish not to pass judgement, but instead relate this to the ideas of the investigative reporter and the old-fashioned newsman.

Investigative reporting did not really arise until the Watergate breakins when Woodward and Bernstein started trying to trace down who was ultimately responsible. They relied upon the methods of detectives and a certain informer, known only as *Deep Throat*, and gleaned out a great deal of information which helped to force a President from office.

Since then, many print and broadcast journalists have sought out information that could be as potentially embarrassing as arose from Watergate. Brilliant political careers have been demolished by the uncovering of some little indiscretion in the past of some of our most trustworthy leaders. Unfortunately, too often this is done without any actual consideration for the aftereffects. Take, for instance, the Hatfield marijuana case in New Brunswick. One who is a successful and certainly committed politician concerned with the well-being of his constituents is being openly challenged for what is claimed to have happened a few years ago. If it did happen, it was certainly questionable, but experience has shown that it hasn't really affected the performance of his government. Yet, many feel that his career may be irreversibly damaged. Was it necessary?

Other points arise, such as the Robert Coates affair, the Westmoreland vs. CBS case, and the Sharon vs. Time-Life Publications case, which are examples of journalists gone wild after information. The news media hold a tremendous respon-

sibility in today's society, and now are in a situation where they must be accurate in their reporting, and also consider the effects of their reports. Turning locally, Tom Allison was, to some extent, a victim of the existence of only one widely available news source which had come to have some grounds to dislike him. Has *Imprint* been impartial when it concerns Mr Allison? I would like to believe so, but I fear that the reporters were after any information that made for good stories, which usually means conflict and scandal, without considering the long-term effects. Problems which arose with the development of Club 750 could easily be traced in part to Mr Allison needing to concentrate on personal defence against the broadsides of reporters. Did it accomplish anything? Club 750 went over budget, and the relations between the feds and *Imprint* soured even more, but nothing positive really came from the matter.

So what good did the paragraph quoted earlier do? It caused an *Imprint* news editor to resign, it voiced hostilities on the part of Mr Allison to claims *Imprint* has made throughout the election which Mr Allison has denied. Having heard the question, it reminded me of the no-win situation created by the question "Yes or no, have you stopped beating your wife?" trick (try that out on a friend and see them try to work their way out of it). Mr Allison was not in the mood to deal with that.

Reporters should realise the effects of their work, and try to focus it for the most positive benefits. The contentious paragraph was in no way constructive, nor beneficial to anyone involved, nor to the public at large. I would wish that in the future, the reporters on campus would consider their role as positive agents of change for improvement, rather than believe that their role is one of digging at weaknesses until things break and fall apart.

Scooter!
News Editor
mathNEWS

Warriors Band Leads Impressive Victory

W. Jim Jordan, CPWB
mathNEWS staff

Waterloo[mN]— What's black, white and gold, has anywhere from ten to sixty legs and makes noise? I'm not sure either, but the Warriors Band did a good impression of one of these at the OUAA West Division basketball championship tournament held at the PAC last Friday and Saturday.

The Band led a crowd of 3000 staunch, rowdy basketball fans to a victory over roughly 50 preppies from the largest high school in London (Western, if you haven't guessed this by now) on Friday night. On the court the Warriors overcame a 40-32 halftime deficit to demonstrate their superiority with an 83-78 victory. In actuality, it took a lot of hard work from Paul Boyce, Jerry Nolfi and the rest of the gang to win, and Randy Norris' much-improved free throw shooting threw a wrench into Western's plans as they discovered they could no longer foul him and get almost automatic possession after his first shot hit the rim.

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Nobodaddy

Part Five

Fred clung to her arm. It felt like ice. She wrinkled her brow at him.

"Would you not rather have an adventure?"

"No, no! Adventures are only histories to me. Something in the past that happened to someone else."

"That is unfortunate. It is the way of *laman-al-faq*."

"Please. I don't understand."

"The earth travels through space and time, never visiting the same place twice. So it is with *laman-al-faq*; the soul journeys ever inward, entering new layers and never turning back. Here, you must know the relevant field equation." She proffered her computer, which he realised resembled Mr Rice's handkerchief. The green symbols on its display danced an elegant dance and then stopped and stared back at him.

Fred had failed math and was always embarrassed about it. She could tell it meant nothing to him. "I suppose you too shall have to see Odin. Come follow me."

He blinked in simple disbelief. Odin was, after all, the chieftain of Norse gods and he had met him only in the Elder Edda. Besides, he was talking with an invisible mathematician who was visible. It was all making very little sense when Janet looked up from her reading.

"Did you write this? Did you make it all up?"

"It all happened, and I can't tell it any other way." Bill smiled a winning smile that lost. He looked for something in her eyes—sympathy, awe, pity, revulsion—but there was nothing save the unleavened intellectual curiosity of an enlightened predator. Why not end it all now? Tear up the story, tear up his life, and become a street-corner ascetic. Bill swiftly saw himself staggering in the raw winter air, wearing sandals, stale poppies and a chestnut necklace, carrying a placard with only the word 'Repent' in large red letters. No, he would have to fight this one out, make the story his own truth, and convince others without losing himself in the process.

Time seemed to be moving again, and he was glad of it. He amused himself by turning words around in his head, seeing how they looked from all angles. Take *animal* for example; *animal* is *lamina* spelled backwards. Foreshortened, the former looked like a crouching tiger ready to spring, while the latter resembled a trapezoidal trampoline, also ready to spring. Now he had only to wait, and everything would be cleared up.

Among the things she told him was that there was no need for real travel in Wintern. Everything was in one place (perhaps a speck of lint in the middle of Rice's snog, thought Fred) and one only had to pull it towards oneself to "be there". Of course some important people like Odin weren't there at all (or rather, they were in everything, but only in small amounts) and had to be computed up. She was waiting for signs; how the rooks cried in the distance, the exact shade of the grey in a certain quarter of the sky, and the precise symmetry of snowflakes all meant something.

To Wintern then Odin came. He was dressed head to foot in animal skins, and would have passed for a one-eyed trapper except for his extraordinary height and his ebony staff. Fred knew what the runes on the staff said, and he was afraid. Odin spoke first.

"Be silent. By no act of human will have you been brought here. Remain with me and you will be taught. Do aught else and you will be killed like an animal." He squinted at the mathematician. "Lorelei, answer a riddle. What surpasses time, defeats and dooms the gods, sways the three fates, and yet is my servant and raiment too?"

Fred saw her sway in an unseen wind, and wanted to catch her because of the beauty of her name. It all happened very fast. The only emotion she had showed thus far was fear, and as her face tightened in fear and puzzlement her body began to wash out like a chalk drawing. With a slight sigh of impatience Odin passed his staff through her like a scythe and she was gone. Fred answered quickly.

"Ragnarok."

"You have much to learn." Odin touched him with the staff and he became dust and ashes. The god drew back his bear hood and laughed, shattering the sky, as he gathered the powders into his satchel.

(to be continued)

Musings

I actually happen to know someone who works at CKMS. He is an odd sort of guy, but then so are most of the people with whom I hang out. He goes by Ziggy, at least around us, and he does the Thursday morning show over there.

By Thursday morning, I should mention that this is from 2 am to 6 am, so it could really be considered as Wednesday night. It is only the sort of thing you listen to if you are pulling an all-nighter, but it is not that bad.

Wednesdays when I go to dinner, or an imitation thereof (I'm in V1), Ziggy is busy asking people what they want to hear. One night I lent him my recording of the 1812 overture, as someone had requested it. I requested the Monkee's theme, and also offered him a story presented by a British comedian, which, although it was entertaining, had to be passed over as it didn't fit in with the rest of the show. How often can you make your requests in person?

I was tempted to refund that fee this term, but when I discovered that there are some over there that will play what people like, so long as it is not current top 40 (which, by their license, they are not allowed to play), I didn't feel so bad about it. Just what is the role of Radio Waterloo? To present music heard nowhere else? To present not-so-often heard music which people like anyhow? Some people at the station are said to take the first stance, while the populace of the university tends to the latter. I enjoy it when I hear my kind of music, which I seem to come across only on CKWR locally (KW Community Alternative Radio, which is sometimes in German and which sadly signs off at 11 pm, but it seems to be commercial free), but I wonder why CKMS feels at times that it has the task to present music funded by the students but selected by some for only a special few. Some DJs, like Ziggy, rebel against this frame of mind and offer music from their own, less bizarre collections, but during the hours of the living, it seems as the unwashed masses "need the leadership of the advanced edge of music" in the eyes of the station. I thought that most of the people here had advanced to a reasonably educated position in most things by the time they got here...

Scooter!

Bridging the Gap

by Mary Lou Kannon

While I expected this to come out each issue, it seems that I am working towards this actually being monthly instead. Since I started writing this column, I have been tempted to touch on abortion, but have been encouraged against this frequently by my writing coach. Hence, this column will deal with the controversy aroused by the discussion of abortion.

I hate to debate things, because I always get flustered and interrupted before I can get out everything I want to say. I would like to say that I do not support Dr Henry Morgentaler, while I do support abortion. Now that I have gotten that out, let me explain why.

The current law, in theory, is terrific. The current law, in application, is horrendous. The idea of the Abortion committees at accredited hospitals was a good idea to keep abortion from being a form of birth control. The problem has arisen that far too many hospitals didn't bother to seek accreditation to perform abortions, and those that did treat the committee meetings like trials. Perhaps the point to question whether a pregnancy should be ended is long past at the time of the committee meeting.

But the main concern is the voices you hear during the abortion debate. Either you hear one side that sounds, or is portrayed to sound as though every pregnancy should, at the mother's discretion, end in an abortion, or you hear the other side being portrayed as saying that if a woman is pregnant, it serves her right to have a baby. Am I the only person that feels that both sides portray women as either creatures to be punished for their actions or creatures who take pleasure in ending pregnancies? Why don't both sides stop and think what goes into deciding on an abortion?

While I support abortions, I doubt that I could ever choose to have one. This is because I am rather careful when it comes to my love life, and as a last protection I am on the pill. If it were to happen that I found myself pregnant, however, this being within me would have been a creation of love and would be a part of me. I know that I would seek counselling at that point in an attempt to make a decision, and then I would still be willing to keep the alternatives in mind, including having the child and raising it. Is this not what we really want; the consideration and guidance through all the possibilities? If the law was rewritten to recognise the importance of this guidance, as this is a scary time for any woman concerned, and modified the Abortion committees to supervise the guidance and see that all alternatives had been considered, not only would the number of abortions likely drop in favour of the alternatives, but both sides would likely be far more satisfied that the methods used were humane and considerate.

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Cinema No-Charge

This Wednesday's showing is a film with great substance, **Ordinary People**. Dealing with a teenager who had tried suicide once, and was still trying to adjust back to normal life while those about knew little of how to help, it is a very enlightening view of how stress tears at people until they snap. Next week is **Grey Fox**, about which I cannot find any information. If you are interested, ask the Turnkeys about it, as most times they are able to find something out.

Non-Even Discrimination

Non-Even numbers get a raw deal. Described by terms like "odd" or "uneven", or similar negative terms, non-evens are abused by the general public despite their great usefulness. On what grounds? They're not "evenly divisible by 2 with no remainder." I ask you, what basis is this for discrimination?

The typical formula for non-evens, $2n-1$, implies a lesser status. You never see $2n$ and $2n+1$ used to generate evens and non-evens!

The evens themselves are snobbish. Add any number of evens together, and you get an even. Non-evens generate both evens and non-evens, depending on the number of them added. In multiplication, evens force the result to be even, irrespective of the involvement of a non-even in the multiplication.

Surely non-evens deserve better. They are at work everywhere → in "simplest form" fractions, and a multitude of other places. A little respect for non-evens would not be misplaced.

N.E.L.F.

[Non-Even Liberation Front]

Transcribed by Sauron

The Impossible Code

From: adolph@ssc-vax.UUCP (Mark Adolph)
Organization: Boeing Aerospace Co., Seattle, WA

from the LOTS Songs archives...

(Sung to the tune of "The Impossible Dream")

To code the impossible code,
To bring up a virgin machine,
To pop out of endless recursion,
To grok what appears on the screen,

To right the unrightable bug,
To endlessly twiddle and thrash,
To mount the unmountable magtape,
To stop the unstoppable crash!

This is my quest -
To debug that code,
No matter how hopeless,
No matter the load,
To write those routines
Without question or pause,
To be willing to hack FORTRAN IV
For a heavenly cause.
And I know if I'll only be true
To this glorious quest,
That my code will run CUSPy and calm
When it's put to the test.

And the queue will be better for this,
That one man, scorned and destined to lose,
Still strove with his last allocation
To scrap the unscrappable kludge!

- Mark A.

On The Family Of Man

by *Slash Sinatra*

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; ... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee ...

- John Donne, from *Devotions*, 1623

Jean's not happening no more

She's like the pouring rain ...

- Pale Fountains, 1985

When viewed in the context of sensibility, the context of reality, aren't we all just one big family after all? To think of everyone in the world as your brothers and sisters is a pretty heavy concept I know, but how else are you going to view it? Are you going to cast a jaundiced eye on the world and try to file the individual lives with whom you share it in either the "naughty" or "nice" box? Good luck, Jack. Do you feel that you have been ordained with the powers of judgement necessary to deliver such a verdict? Anyway, since we *are* all a family, should we not then start behaving like one? I would like to deal with this on a number of planes and then I hope to draw it all together.

War and Peace

There seems to be some problem here. It seems that some of the family just can't stop fighting. Maybe we should try to understand what the problem is. How can we take sides and say who's right? How can we say we understand? Our brothers and sisters should not be fighting one another; they are part of our family. In our family we are all one colour; we are all one religion; there are no borders in our house. Maybe we should take the brothers and sisters aside and have a talk with them. I'd hate to see the whole family to be hurt by the actions of just a few of us.

Money

Money is the root of all good. It makes the world go round and without it the family would not function properly. But some of our family doesn't have enough; others have too much. It seems that there isn't much we can do about that, but remember that money can't buy happiness, and for the family to be successful we must all be happy.

Music

The universal language of peace is one of those key unifying elements which can bind the family of man together. Some music has a more profound influence and has historically had this influence. I won't say what sorts of music the family of man should listen to; whatever sorts bring a kind of inner strength to individual brothers and sisters is the right sort for them. I would instead emphasise being familiar with various sorts, being broad-minded, or at least knowing the difference between Led Zeppelin and U2.

Sympathy and Empathy

Personal attacks on certain of your brothers or sisters for their opinions, condition, or beliefs is not conducive to a family atmosphere. The key words are sympathy, or a caring for the

problems that some members of the family may have, and a desire to help them overcome them, and empathy, or a way of relating other people's conditions to your own, and providing strength through the way you have dealt with those. Some members of this university community are unfamiliar with these key words. Some people have censured homosexuals, and Mr Gerrard in particular, for their attitudes. We should be sympathetic to those people's problem: it's called prejudice. Zeke himself has censured others unjustly (including myself, for my matter-of-fact analysis of Bronski Beat, which was not prejudiced). His problem is called paranoia; we should sympathise. We should also sympathise with Mr Wevrick, who is an elitist, and cannot sympathise with students who are poor or not quite so intelligent as *he* is. He is not promoting family unity.

Love

Although love is related to all aspects of family life, it is also a topic unto itself, with its own set of problems and concerns. Love is a delicate balance between loving all members of the family, which is essential, and loving certain members, or even one particular member, more than all the rest, which you cannot avoid. Too often we forget one side of the balance in concentrating on the other, or are too busy to be concerned with either. Never spread yourself so thin that those who truly love you are alienated. Never love one person so much that the rest of the world, your family, doesn't matter at all. Never bury yourself so deeply in your own problems or in winning the rat race (what are we, after all, a family of rats?) that you cast yourself adrift from your circle of love and those members of the family within and without it. Incidentally, you're balanced on the rim; take care not to fall off.

continued on page 10

The First Annual Humiliate-A-Thon

We want you to tell us embarrassing thing about your friends. On a piece of paper write down the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to one of your friends and send it to **mathNEWS**. Sure, your friends have done some stupid things, and frequently embarrassed you. Now you can retaliate and win large cash prizes unofficially rumoured to be in the neighbourhood of thousands (but officially rumoured to be in the neighbourhood of nickels).

To enter the contest, print your name and ID number on a piece of paper. Then fill the rest of the paper with the embarrassing story. Naming names is important, especially in the case of similar stories. In any case, each entry is guaranteed not to go beyond the **mathNEWS** staff and a few close friends. The winning entry will be published in an upcoming issue of **mathNEWS** (in a possibly censored state) along with the name of the winner.

The judges are looking for originality, humour, and story-telling ability. Neatness counts, but not heavily. As long as we can read it, it is neat. We want to see some really libelous stuff, and the juicer, the better.

All entries become the property of **mathNEWS** and we reserve the right to sell entries to the highest bidder.

Dr Ernie

Offensive Humour

by Richard Tummers

There are many ways to create a joke. Puns, ridicule, satire, double meaning and insult are all methods that people use in their attempt to make others laugh. Engineers usually manages to offend someone with their humour. First I'll investigate various forms of humour, and then I'll use this to conclude which complaints against Engineers are justified.

Humour can be created using several methods, and some methods are more prone to offend than others. Every one has probably heard some form of the classic lightbulb joke:

Q: How many <generic group> does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Seven, one to hold the bulb, and six to rotate the ladder.

This particular form of the lightbulb joke uses ridicule in an attempt at humour. Ridicule itself is not offensive, however, any type of humour becomes offensive if it is rude, crude, or socially unacceptable (the penalty being social ostracisation by the audience). If the joke is slanderous the joker can be taken to court by the jokee.

Puns or double meaning often create humour:

Q: How many necrophiliacs does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None, they prefer dead bulbs.

Q: How many mice does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

A: Two, but don't ask me how they got inside!

In ordinary situations double meanings often cause misunderstandings. I have managed to foul up two perfectly decent relationships in the last few years due to avoidable misunderstandings. This type of joke has the good quality of giving people (i.e. me) practice in avoiding misunderstanding, and very rarely offends.

Jokes can be directed at an imaginary group:

Q: How many Jedi Knights does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: One, but he has to be on the Dark Side.

Q: How many Klingons does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Two, one to change the bulb, the other to shoot him and take credit.

These jokes do not offend anything but an imaginary group (and, perhaps, the listener's intelligence).

Some jokes use the concept of satire:

Q: How many computer scientists does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None, it's a hardware problem.

Q: How many Maple Leaf fans does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Both of them.

The first joke satirises excessive specialisation in the hardware and software fields. People listening to it may realise the problems that specialisation can cause. Satire itself may offend, but does so in the hopes of causing desired changes.

Some jokes insult various groups by using stereotypes or half-truths to create humour:

Q: How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None, I'll sit in the dark. My own son won't change the lightbulb.

Q: How many Californians does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Seven, one to change the bulb, six to contemplate the experience.

Stereotypes exist that Jewish mothers nag their son's, and that Californians are drug addicts. The problem with stereotypes is that many people feel acknowledging a stereotype gives it legitimacy. The opposite view is that acknowledging a stereotype allows people to see it's ridiculousness. People in the audience are VERY often offended by insults, in particular on topics such as abortion, religion and the like.

Some jokes insult concepts rather than groups. Some years ago (marked by the over abused book "Real Men don't eat Quiche"), these jokes were popular.

Q: How many "Real Men" does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None, Real Men aren't afraid of the dark.

Q: How many "Real Women" does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None, Real Women can accept things for what they really are.

The only difference between joking about a concept and joking about a group is that the people sensitive to the concept may be offended.

An interesting phenomena concerning jokes aimed at groups is that generally people inside the group make the most cunning (and least offensive) jokes! A psychology journal published this:

Q: How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One, but the lightbulb has to want to change.

Jokes using the method of insult are often considered offensive. Other types of jokes are usually only offensive if they involve rude, crude, or socially unacceptable humour. Once you have chosen your audience, you can use your judgement to determine what they will consider offensive. Without knowing your audience, it is impossible to tell a joke that will not offend anyone. Of course, since society has defined slander to be illegal, any humour containing slander is illegal, and the joker can be prosecuted.

continued from page 9

Now that we have found the reasons that some forms of humour are offensive, and who they offend, Enginews' problem is twofold:

- ♦ 1) "Does the intended audience of Enginews feel offended by the humour?"
- ♦ 2) "Is the humour in Enginews slanderous?"

The first question can be easily answered by the engineers (this might seem more acceptable if I mention this includes female engineers). Enginews' intended audience should not feel offended by the paper. Enginews can not have outside groups affecting the content of an engineering related paper. Unless, of course, the material is slanderous.

The second question is for society (it is often answered by the legal system). It involves questions which encompass the contents of Mad Magazine, National Lampoon, Playboy, Playgirl, Hustler, ad infinitum. If Enginews is guilty of slander, then it must change. But Enginews does not seem to violate any principles that are not violated monthly by some of the above (legal) magazines. Evidently the views of our society are not universal. And I hope they never become so universal that differences of opinion are eliminated. Society will stagnate if they do.

I know my solution: I use my best judgement in the jokes I tell. And I endure my mistakes.

Life

continued from page 8

Your family—you can't live with them and you can't live without them. Each day is a new bowl of cherries, each one grinning up at you and each one offering a different taste of the world. Try as many as you can, but watch out for the pits!

Death

I don't like to see people die. It bothers me.† As a member of the family of man, each death is a loss of a member of the family. Whether it be someone I know, and can identify an image with that will slowly fade away, or whether it be a faceless child in some dark corner of the world (read 'Ethiopia'), I feel a loss. The more you are involved with your family, the family of man, the more loss you feel.

I know some of you are now saying "Who the hell is this guy, trying to tell me how to run my life?" Well, if somebody didn't tell you, maybe you wouldn't think about it. You can't take the planet in for family counselling. The change has to come from within. And if you don't think this family has a problem, take a closer look at your house, this world. Watch the news. Are you happy with your brothers and sisters? Is this the way you want them to grow up? Take a look around this campus, or where you live, or among your own group of friends. Go back over the seven points I have outlined. Think about it. Then do what you can. A glad heart is infectious, and it is a disease for which there is no remedy. Just think what it could do for a family.

C'mon people now, smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now ...
- The Youngbloods, 1969

† For a different view on death, see "Death" in Vol. 37, Issue 3.

The Linker

I strap myself into the linker's chair
Waiting for the electrical flow
Of information from the computer brain,
Setting my soul aglow.
When the numbers come, my mind goes blank
Of everything unimportant.
Stellar power courses through my veins
As I become omnipotent.

I am one with space, I am one with time,
I am the only universe.
But I have to leave this common mind,
Returning to the human curse.
I steer the ship among the stars,
Passing all the dangers
Of interstellar space. I have to land
On planets full of strangers.

Universal power, coursing through my veins,
I can't go on, no, I can't go on.
Universal power, pulling all the reins,
I'm just a man, I'm not a god!

Here I lie, with my mind burnt out,
With my nerves all dead,
In deepest space.
Here I lie until eternity
Becomes another part of me.
Punishment comes, punishment kills,
Punishment leaves me alone.
My God, my God, what have I done?
My God, take me home.

B S Tomcatt

continued from page 5

On Saturday the CHCH-TV crew, complete with the always informed Dick Beddoes, televised the Band's second victory of the weekend over about 50 fans and the campus radio station from McMaster. The battle was fierce as the teams on the court were engaged in a tight defensive struggle. Every time the Mac Marauders scored to take a one-point lead their supporters would stand and let out a feeble yell, but the Waterloo fans were always ready and able to put them down, with a little help from the Band. As the lead changed hands for the thirty plus *n*th time the crowd knew the Warriors were ahead to stay, and the team went on to win the West Division championship by a score of 66-60.

This is the second time that the Warriors have won the title in the past three years. The win clinches a position in the 16-team CIAU championship tournament, which culminates in the Final Four in Halifax March 14 and 16. The win also allows the Warriors to play the York Yeomen at home for the OUAA championship on Saturday, March 2 at 2:00 pm.

The Band is planning on going to Halifax to cheer the Warriors to the CIAU championship (since the Warriors are currently the number one team in Canada, going there is in little doubt). In order to raise money for the trip the Band is raffling off a Panasonic VCR and a lifetime video club membership from an establishment in Kitchener. Tickets cost \$1 and are available from any Band member.

GridWord

By Frank Letniowski

Across

1. Match one of four cards (4)
3. Approaches the small companies around me (5)
6. Sway but be solid (4)
8. Romeo is backwards and confused out in a rebellion (10)
9. An article on French tea (3)
10. Short start to loving other women (3)
11. If you start out getting this, you may get a cold (4,3)
13. American intelligence gets about fifty-one lashes (13)
14. Carmen has hope radio will take her (5)
16. A lion sleeps in the study? (3)
18. Say Lulu is around most of the time (7)
19. Or a touch-down for love in Florida (7)
20. Finish a letter with a lot (3)
22. A sign of balance (5)
23. Positioned in a fabric (5)
24. Composers' wits err in odd ways (7)
27. A return blow for equality (3)
28. A number to split for the west (3)
30. Small computers handle it but may blow up! (10)
32. A way for a sailor to guide his boat (4)
33. Swept up on your head or below your feet (5)
34. Subdue a crazy mate (4)

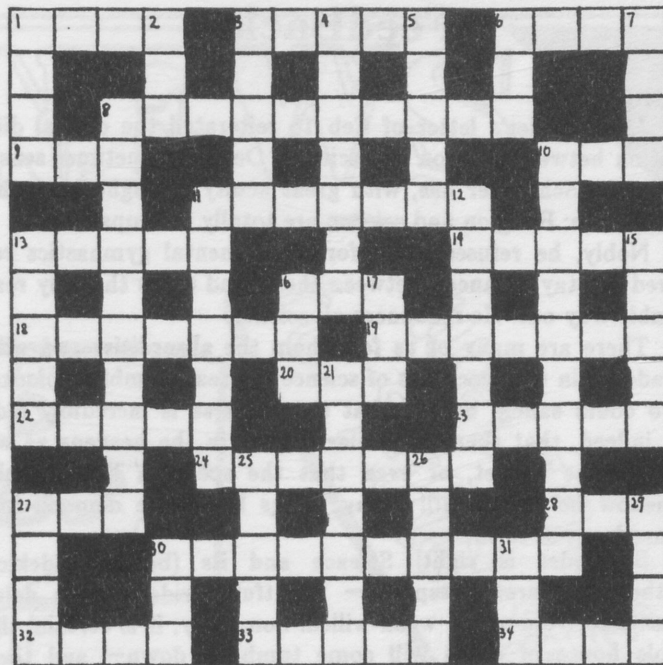
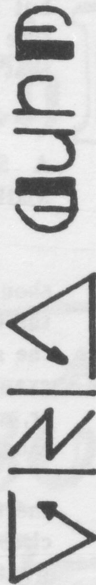
Down

1. A kind shuffle (4)
2. Bind it up this way (3)
3. A hundred, by themselves, replicate (5)
4. A policeman sorts out mine (7)
5. Cut fifty-one hundred in two points (5)
6. Go quickly in the car unit (3)
7. Aware of the negative sound (4)
8. Not whole, fictional or complex but may have infinite length (4,6)
10. Seems to repose in an American sectional but is dead (3,2,5)
11. If a wall is around you, you may not pass MTHEL 100 (4,3)
12. An open jar, a male swimmer or some waitresses (7)
13. I hear the crew will be mean (5)
15. A grain may eventually become an oak (5)
16. Much of an old article to colour (3)
17. Dose off in an odd manner (3)
21. Total energy at the TV station (7)
25. Again about the dog (5)
26. Hurried a current trend in colour (5)
27. A ticket for Dad, the German soldier (4)
29. Leak that the animal display is up that way (4)
30. Ruin a split, sir (3)
31. A raised lid of a pan (3)

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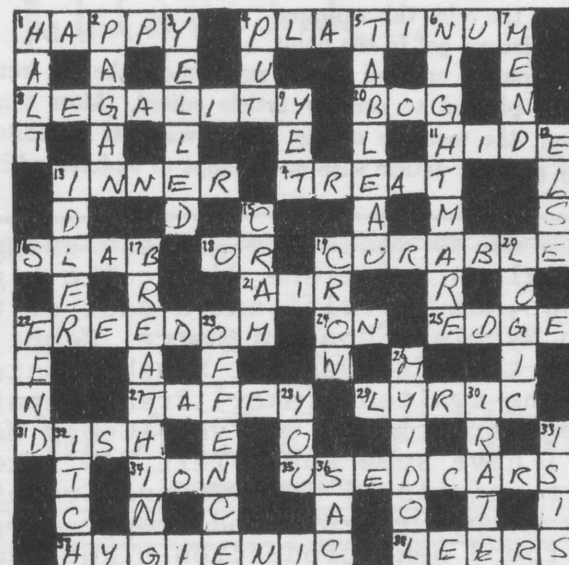
Editor-in-Chief: Tom A Ivey



GridComments

From last issue's GridWord, there was one typo: in #11 Across the clue should read "...badly tanned", not "...badly turned". However, this did not daunt the latest batch of eager puzzlers from deluging us with correct solutions. Honourable mentions go to Judy Majsztrik, Randy Richard, Sam Schmidt, Angela Ruiter, Daniel Simon, Rob Sutherland, Jill Fleischman and Mark Haygarth, Lorie Silverthorne, Peter Found, John McIntosh, Gary Matsell, Paul McKone, and the team of Carter, Edwards and Rozee. If you happen to be James Puttick, however, you are the latest winner of the GridWord mystery prize. Come down to MC3038 to claim your prize.

You have another chance at the GridWord mystery prize. Just solve the cryptic GridWord that appears near the back of this mathNEWS and place it inside the handy mathNEWS box across from the third floor lounges in MC. Deadline for entries is 2359 hours Monday 11 March 1985. Those submitting correct GridWord solutions will win fame, and out of these, one lucky big Grid Winner will be chosen. Enter today!



FeedBack

mathNEWS:

J. Schroeder's letter of Feb 15 reiterated the crucial distinction between religion and science. On this sometimes sensitive issue, Schroeder has, with great acuity, brought forth the bottom line: Religion and science are totally incompatible.

Nobly, he refuses to perform the mental gymnastics required to stay balanced between them, and takes the only reasonable way out: He renounces all science.

There are many of us for whom the absurdities and wild paradoxes in the teachings of science are real stumbling blocks. Who could sanely believe that the universe is incredibly old? Or, indeed, that there is similar matter in the heavens as we find on the Planet, or even that the speed of light should somehow be universal!!! Many things like these demand immense leaps of faith.

Schroeder is right. Science and its (boring) sidekick mathematics are widespread—frightfully widespread—delusions! Deceivers of the weak-willed! Some day, it is certain, the whole house of cards will come tumbling down— and then where will we be? Fortunately Schroeder mentions both Judaism and Christianity as alternatives to the hard-to-swallow science.

Many people can successfully juggle religion and science, but if you, like Schroeder, find the two irreconcilable, make sure you choose the most consistent alternative. That is all that Schroeder is trying to tell us.

Tim Rudy, 1B Math

A Suggestion For New Teaching Guidelines—Faculty of Mathematics

As part of each course outline an approximate schedule should be included indicating (a) the topics to be covered, (b) the time frame over which each topic will be covered, and (c) the areas of the course text(s) where each topic is found. For example, a topic in the text may have several sections, however, one or more sections of the text contain material not being taught and that need not be studied.

This would allow students who are having trouble to go to the text for another explanation. Further, students who miss classes due to illness or other reasons, know approximately what will have been covered and can try to keep up while at home. Also, some students learn more easily from a text than from the lecture. Since the text is required, the schedule facilitates both types of students [sic].

Bill Switzer, 2A Operations Research

Fear Not

It is enough that **mathNEWS'** biweekly (as opposed to weekly) publication limits my opportunities to speak my mind, but to have had a significant portion of my previous, harmless, article tastelessly rejected is truly unpleasant.

But, you ask, isn't it only fair that editors do just that - edit? I guess that depends on what you think **mathNEWS** is for. As semi-editor last term i realized that **mathNEWS** is supposed to entertain, inform and be a forum for discussions by mathies, not necessarily on math (or quiche). As editor i don't recall ever having edited - i just made sure the necessary work got done

This term's editors are trying too hard to be serious and as a consequence have disappointed people i've talked with. People are not finding **mathNEWS** entertaining. I can't wait to take over the reins this summer.

But let me get to the point.

Although i enjoyed having my name make the front page, i wasn't pleased to see my article edited. More than that, however, the message of my article was lost by editors who clearly read my article with no attempt to understand it.

In my previous article i expressed the rewards one might enjoy if you can liberate yourself from the fear of what other people will think. Having just read that, the editors thought to remove a few brief, but important, comments about people loving people and people touching people, because they were afraid of what people would think. From all the positive reactions to my beliefs that i have been receiving it seems clear that there is nothing to fear. So what's up guys? Is it wrong to express my realization of the importance of the physical aspect of our existence and of our relations with other people? Look forward to an open-minded summer **mathNEWS**.

dan schnabel

*The editor of **mathNEWS** reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication. Usually any changes are discussed with the author beforehand. However, as dan schnabel could not be reached after 8 pm. last production night, changes to his article "Beautiful" could not be discussed with him. It was decided to run the article with some editing, rather than not running it at all and thereby ignoring its obvious merit. I apologize if this editing has given the author a false impression of the attitudes of **mathNEWS** staff members and its editor.*

Tom Ivey

Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated ... this week's mathNEWS was brought to you by glenn mcfarlane,djcl,colin biggin,richard kuzell,Scooter!,dwarf,stewart melanson,ken shirriff,and a cast of thousands. Contributors included MLE,djcl, Vivien Nybbles,Scooter!,Marcel Kahnt,Dan Provost,W. Jim Jordan, Mary Lou Kannon, Sauron, the effervescent Slash Sinatra,Dr. Ernie, Richard Tummers, BSTomcatt (the long-awaited linker),Frank Letniowski, and dan schnabel (or dsch -- for a musical variation). Oh yes, Gëorg Mandrive wrote the MathSoc Report and Nobodaddy. Since I have some space left I'd like to thank MathSoc for their (its?) continuing support, similarly for DCS and Graphic Services, and Grop Products Inc., makers of the Grop, Grop-XT, and Gropjr grops. If you want to find out what a grop is, come 'round next production night and see. Until then, it's goodnight from me and it's goodnight from him.

STACK LOGOFF

Houston, this is Major Tom ...