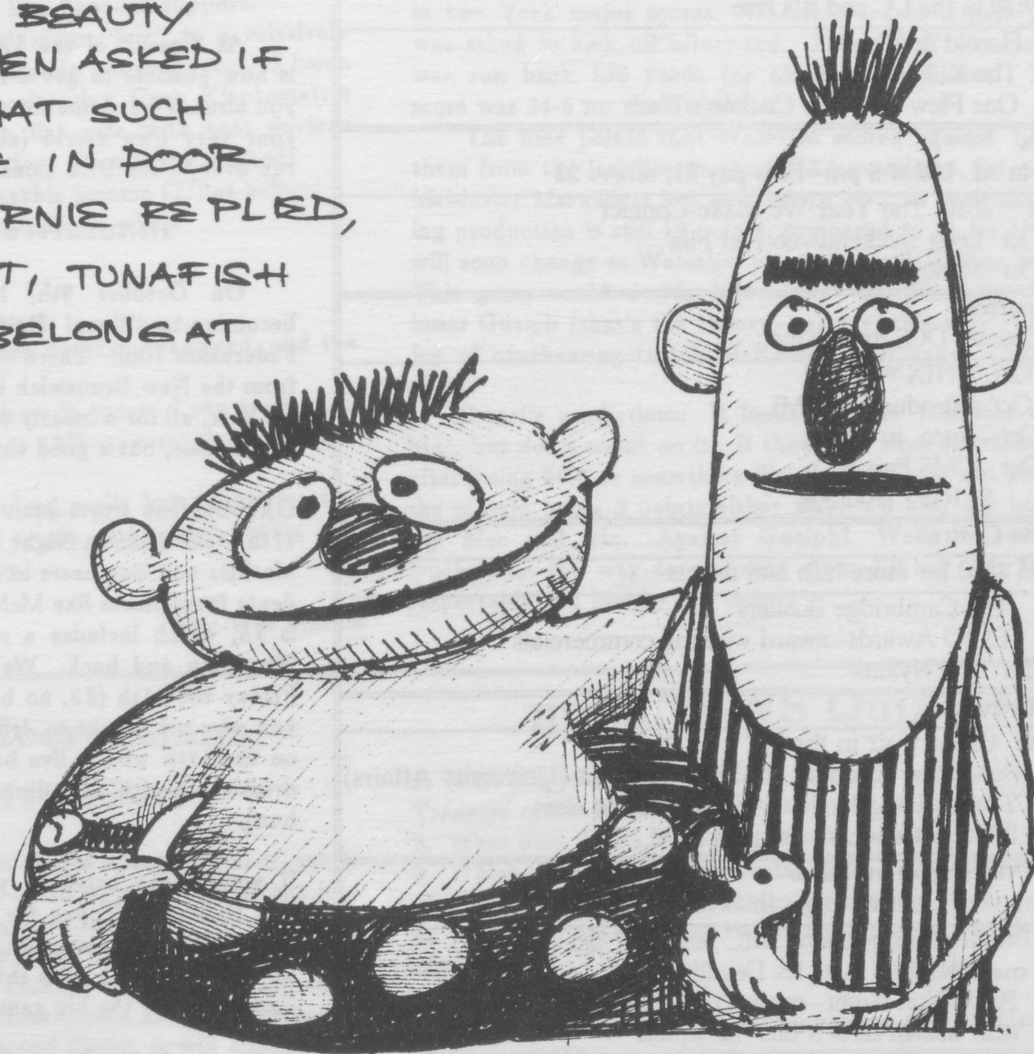# math NEWS

Volume 39   Number 2

Friday 4 October 1985

HERE THEY ARE:
DR. ERNIE AND DR. BERT
READY FOR THE SWIMSUIT
COMPETITION OF MISS
OCTOBERFEST BEAUTY
PAGEANT. WHEN ASKED IF
THEY FELT THAT SUCH
EVENTS WERE IN POOR
TASTE, DR. ERNIE REPLIED,
"THAT'S RIGHT, TUNAFISH
SANDWICHES BELONG AT
HOME."

ELF

Inside: The Big Prime Time Trivia Quiz to   the Warriors
Dawn Patrol during the Fall Fed Elections! LookAhead to
Othello during a British Pub Night where we GridWord along
with mathNEWS! And Lots More!
(A 40 foot lizard called Toto will not appear in this issue).

LookAhead

A quick look at what's happening

Math Events
4 Oct   •• Drop Deadline ••
4 Oct   Math Day at the Bombshelter
9 Oct   British Pub & Comedy Night with SciSoc
11 Oct   Pre-Oktoberfest at the Annex
11 Oct   Math Day at the Bombshelter
17 Oct   MathSoc Oktoberfest, Bingeman Park

Co-Ops Only
21 Oct   Interviews begin (get out those good clothes)

Cinema Gratis
Starts 9:30 in the CC and it's free
9 Oct   Harold & Maude
16 Oct   The Killing Fields
23 Oct   One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Fed Flix
Shown in AL 116 at 8 pm—Feds pay $1, others $2
4-6 Oct   2010: The Year We Make Contact
11-13 Oct   Long weekend—no Fed Flix
18-20 Oct   Micki & Maude

DCS Courses
Free! Contact DCS to register
7,9,10 Oct   UNIX™ part 2
8,9,10 Oct   Introductory GML
15-17 Oct   Intro. to SAS
15-17 Oct   CMS Part 2
18 Oct   SCRIPT Toolbox

UW Arts Centre
Call 885 4280 for more info and tickets
21 Oct   The Cambridge Buskers
23 Oct   CLIO Awards—award winning commercials
24-25 Oct   The Nylons

Other Events
8-10 Oct   Career Fair in the CC
9 Oct   Federation Elections for Vice President (University Affairs)
14 Oct   Thanksgiving Holiday—don't come to class
30 Oct   Pre-registration starts—plan now!

mathNEWS Important Dates
Here are your chances to get involved!
8 Oct   Brainstorming session, MC 3038 at 7 pm
14 Oct   mathNEWS Articles Deadline
15 Oct   Production Night—come to MC 3038 at 7 pm
18 Oct   next mathNEWS hits the streets

Duggan's Law:
       For every Ph.D. there is an equal and opposite Ph.D.

O'Dell's Lemma:
       Any set of three Ph.D.s is orthogonal.

Prezz Sezz

Flowers and thorns...

First of all, I'd like to thank all those of you who made it to Wednesday's General Meeting. As I write this, I don't know yet how well it went, but I think it will have been a success. At least we damn well better have had quorum!

The new lounge furniture has not yet arrived as I write this, but it *is* supposed to arrive Wednesday afternoon. If it's still not there as you read this (take a peek in MC 3001) you can bet that heads will roll.

Free userids!

As a result of the $70/$100 compulsory computer fees, it is now possible to get a free computer userid. That is, unless you already have one for a course you are taking. To apply for your very own userid (alas, on SCuMS (aka Student CMS)), run over to the DCS Consulting Office on the 2nd floor.

Innovative events coming up?

On October 9th, MathSoc is running the now-just-becoming-traditional **British Pub and Comedy Night** in Federation Hall. There will be two comedians, Irene & Carla from the New Brunswick House in Toronto, and some real British beer, all for a measly $3 ($5 for non-feds). There will be *no* dance floor, but a good time is promised for all.

Oktoberfest starts soon after; our main event is on October 17th – the Student Night at Bingeman Park. There will be 900 Mathies and Engineers in attendance, as well as 1100 other students from places like McMaster, Brock and Western. The cost is $5, which includes a souvenir mug and a free bus trip to Bingeman and back. We also have tickets for the Annex on Friday the 11th ($3, no bus or mug included) and for those of you who prefer not to drink, an evening in South Campus Hall on the 17th with a live band, German foods and non-alcoholic drinks, all with $2 admission (which includes a sausage on a bun).

If you're into baseball, you'll love our **World Series Pub**. Fed Hall will be open for this special occasion on Sunday, October 20th, for game #2 of the World Series. Admission is free to Feds, and Blue Jays shirts will be given away as door prizes. Come and see the big game on the big screen!

Tom Haapanen
MathSoc President

Fed Elections–Get Involved

Due to the resignation of Gayle Laws, Fed Vice-President (University Affairs), an election will be held next Wednesday (9 October) to choose a new vice-president. The candidates are Scott Forrest, Ian Mitchell, and Al Revesz. There will also be a forum in the Campus Centre Great Hall on Monday (7 October) from 10:30 am to noon. mathNEWS encourages you to get involved by attending the forum and by voting.

Pee-Wee's Big Column

Revolutionary Tax Tips

Being unable to dream up a good topic for my first column, I've decided to solve the government's taxation quandary. As all dedicated readers of financial pages know, the government is caught between the two major goals of removing marginal tax rates and making the rich pay for the crisis (a.k.a. fair tax assessments). The key problem is how to make the rich pay more than the poor, but still give incentive for higher salaries. Of course, even a flat tax rate accomplishes this: 20% of $15 000 is much less than 20% of $50 000, but in government doublespeak, there is a difference between more and *more*. And naturally, the government mustn't be too blatant about skinning the rich, or it will lose financial support.

Conversely, the system must seem "fair" to a relatively stupid poor person in order to maintain voter support. **I have the solution!** I call it the Accelerating Cash Kleptomatrix (Ack!). This system combines a flat rate with that devious government concept, double taxation. Here is the method:

1. The consumer calculates his taxable income (TI) as before;
2. Taxes payable equal the sum of a series where
$t_i = t_{i-1} \times rate$ for $i = 1,2,...$,
and $t_0 = TI$.

This system has several features:

□ the higher the income, the more iterations required, and the more tax assessed

□ the systems sounds like a decrease in taxes. I can see it now; "base tax rate drops from 20% to 18%–new revolutionary system beams Prime Minister.

□ this simple sequence can be solved easily but daunts most of the populace. Therefore it will create cushy, high-paying jobs for all mathies across the country.

Too bad it won't work.

Pee-Wee Mathie

Mathematical Recreations

Geometrical Paradoxes

Here is the familiar paradox that a square of paper, subdivided like a chessboard into 64 small squares, can be cut into four pieces which being put together form a figure containing 65 such small squares. This is done by cutting the original square into four pieces in the manner indicated by the thick lines in the first figure. If the four pieces are put together in the manner illustrated in the second figure, it will appear as if the rectangle contains 65 of the small squares.

Warriors Almost Get A Lead

The Waterloo football Warriors are actually looking semi-impressive for five-minute stretches now. Against the Windsor Lancers two weeks ago they scored *two* touchdowns to come up on the short end of a 42-15 score, well within the 4 unspecified unit margin I predicted two weeks ago (the unspecified unit was converted touchdowns). Then they actually contained the #6-ranked York Yeomen in the first half of the game last Saturday, going to the dressing room trailing just 7-6. The score should have been at least 9-6 in our favour, but the Warriors turned the ball over after failing on a third down short yardage play instead of kicking an easy 35-or-so-yard field goal.

In the second half of the game against York things fell apart. Waterloo gave up two safety touches in the third quarter, and made two spectacular punts of 1 and –1 yard, resulting in two York major scores. Waterloo scored a field goal, and was asked to kick off afterward. The kickoff was long, but it was run back 100 yards for another touchdown. The final score was 34-9 for the Yeomen.

The nine points that Waterloo scored against York lifted them from the last line in the OUAA standings, for now. The McMaster Marauders lost to Western 42-0, so their season scoring production is still 19 points, compared to 24 for UW. That will soon change as Waterloo plays Mac in Hamilton tomorrow. This game could decide last place. On Thursday Waterloo hosts Guelph (that's the theory, anyway; this may change (the joy of overhearing Coach McKillop)), last year's CIAU champions.
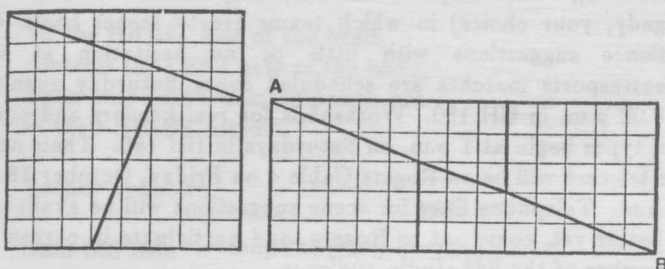
Dwarf's predictions: It looks like the Warriors can beat Mac, but don't count on it. It should be close (anything's close after losing 69-6 or something like that to them last year), with the margin being 3 points either way. I'll play my hunch and say Mac will win. Against Guelph? Well, to avoid being lynched on the way to my next class, I'll say they'll keep it respectable and lose by less than 21.

dwarf

mathNEWS Quiz #1

1. Who played Fred C. Dobbs in the 1948 motion picture "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre"?
2. What does "a.k.a." stand for?
3. Which former Prime Minister said: "The Hon. Member disagrees. I can hear him shaking his head"?
4. What was the name of the steamship company that owned the Titanic?
5. Where was Snoopy born?
6. Which rock group recorded an album entitled *Out of Our Heads* in 1965?
7. The "maillot jaune" was introduced to which sporting event in 1919?
8. Name the co-creators of the television series "Get Smart".
9. Jazz great Art Pepper played which instrument?
10. What is the brand name of the Flinstones' family piano?

Deposit quiz solutions (or reasonable facsimile) in the *BLACK BOX* (ie. flight recorder) on the third floor outside the C+D lounge. A lucky (?) prize (?) winner will be announced, along with complete solutions to this quiz and a brand new quiz, in the next issue of **mathNEWS**.

The Computer Science Club
cordially invites you to enter

The Second Annual CSC Open Computer Othello™ Tournament

to be held

Saturday, November 9, 1985
Math and Computer Building
University of Waterloo

The Computer Science Club is pleased to announce its second annual Computer Othello tournament. Each competitor is required to have written a non-commercial computer program which plays the game of Othello (Reversi). Any type of computer hardware and programming language may be used to construct the system; the only constraint is that the system must be available (physically present or available by communications link) from the Math and Computer Building on the day of the competition.

Trophies will be awarded to the winner and runners up; there will also be a prize for top finisher among undergraduate entrants from the University of Waterloo.

There is a $10.00 entry fee ($5.00 for members of the CSC). Deadline for entries is November 2, 1985. For more information or entry forms, contact the Computer Science Club.

CSC Flash!

The Computer Science Club Orientation/Organization/Film Night was held Tuesday, Sept. 24. Rob Ferguson and Jan Gray spoke about "CS at Waterloo: the courses, machines, and research groups". Many doughnaughts were consumed and copious quantities of tannic acid were quaffed. Then began the organizational meeting. The CSC executive for this term are: Jan Gray (pres.), Joe van den Heuvel (vice-pres.), Alan Whitton (treasurer), and Genia Vanderkruk (secretary). Scheduled events include **WATBALL-85** (a bus trip to the Blue Jays vs. Yankees game on October 4th (yep, today!)), the second annual Computer Science Club Open Computer Othello Tournament, several technical speakers to be annouced real soon now, and a bus trip to the Canadian Computer Show. After the organisational meeting, we watched **TRON** (a bad movie with good computer graphics) and **REPO MAN** (a good movie with bad computer graphics).

As always, the CSC is running its ever-friendly "Computer Science Club Friendly Consulting Service", available anytime the CSC office (MC3037) is open. If you are having troubles with computers on campus, try us, we might be able to help.
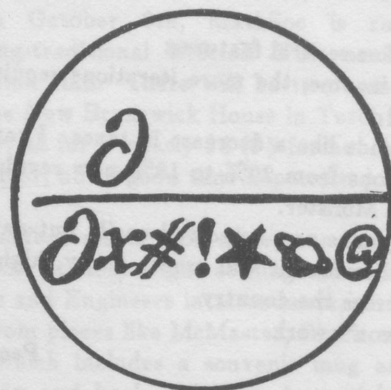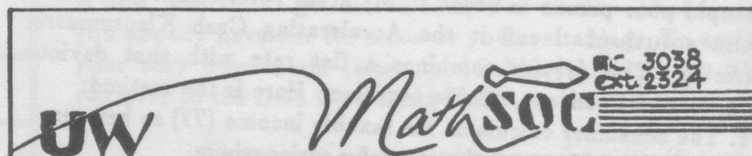
Calum

MathSoc Design Contest Winners

First class prizes were awarded to Kenneth Lai (3A CS) for his best T-shirt, Button, *and* Ruler Designs in MathSoc's recent contest. Kenneth will receive 1 c--- of b--- and 2 T-shirts for his winning T-shirt design and his best ruler and button designs (as picture below). Second runners up, Henry Chong and Benton Hui (both CS/EEE) will each get T-shirts for their "Choose Math–Frankie Goes to Waterloo" design.

Many thanks to the other enthusiastic contestants. We hope to use your designs in the official MathSoc Colouring Book that will be available tentatively in November.

T-shirts, buttons and rulers with the winning designs will be on sale from MathSoc later this month.

Attack Of The Killer Zeroes

They're worse than Pearl Harbour and the Battles of Midway and the Coral Sea combined. Indeed, few have survived the licentious punning, non-stop pandemonium and choking gags of Saturday night Theatresports matches. The 21st of September witnessed "The Peter O'Toole Fan Club" triumph over the "The Long and the Short of It" 37:35 (24:21). "Rude and Rusty, But Not Necessarily In That Order", with the assistance of a "Soap Opera" scene defeated "Touching All Bases" 47:41 (26:19) last weekend. For the uninitiated (or emotionally unscathed), Theatresports is live, improvised comedy (or tragedy, your choice) in which teams create scenes based on audience suggestions with little or no hesitation at all. Theatresports matches are scheduled every Saturday evening at 8.00 p.m. in HH 180. Workshops for real keeners and complex types begin at 1 p.m. on Saturdays in HH 180. Their next live telecast will be on Rogers Cable 4 on Friday, October 18 at 10 p.m. Telephone lines for scene suggestions will be available, or better yet, come out to Rogers and participate in person as a member of the live studio audience.

Money for Nothing

(Apologies to Dire Straits would be utterly inadequate.)
Now look at them yo-yos that's the way you do it
You teach a lecture on group theory
That ain't workin' that's the way you do it
Money for nothin' and your chalk for free.

Now that ain't workin' that's the way you do it
Lemme tell ya these guys ain't dumb
Maybe get a staple in your little finger
Maybe get an inkstain on your thumb.

(Chorus)
We gotta find these matrix inversions
Usin' Sieve of Eratosthenes
We gotta solve these recursive functions
We gotta solve to forty degrees

See the little turkey with the office and the tenure
Yeah buddy that's his own hair
That little turkey's got his own computer
That little turkey's got a VAX in there.

(Chorus)

I shoulda learned to think really hard
I shoulda learned to wave that chalk
Lookit that mama, she's got a problem with her algebra
Man we could have some fun.
And he's up there, what's that? Hawaiian symbols?
Scrawlin' on the blackboard like a chimpanzee
That ain't workin' that's the way you do it
Get your money for nothin' get research for free.

(Chorus)

Now that ain't workin' that's the way you do it
You teach a lecture on group theory
That ain't workin' that's the way you do it
Money for nothin' and research for free
Money for nothin' and chalk for free

(I want my
I want my
I want my chalk for free ...)
Sauron

Left On

"If the RIGHT side of the brain
controls the LEFT side of the body,
Then only LEFT-handed people are
in their RIGHT mind!"

Author unknown

from Bill Zide   ihnp4!hou2e!nvuxb!wjz

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPRESS
YOURSELF IN A PERSONAL
VISIT TO AN EDITOR?**

Show up next Tuesday (Oct. 15), MC 3038, 7 pm.

UltraClassified

*Send your UltraClassifieds to mathNEWS via that BLACK
BOX on the third floor. This service is free!!!*

I am looking for a bulletin system *(preferably "fido") for a
Tandy 1000 (IBM PC compatible running MS-DOS). Also a
copy of Kermit for an Apple II-e. Call Bob at 746-0706 or
mail to rfburke@watmum.*

Housing Available for Winter '86. Two bedroom luxury
apartment to sublet. Carpeted and partially furnished, billiard
and ping pong room, laundry facilities, sauna, gym and party
room in building. Call Nancy at 884-4035 or through the
mathNEWS box on the 3rd floor.

The Gooch Corner

Those of you who possess the ability to read may notice certain changes in this week's column. For instance, I have abandoned forever the usage of the name "Goochfrosh", much to the chagrin of my editors. I see no reason why I should add the designation "frosh" to my name. Indeed I have met many "frosh" and have concluded that I have no desire to be considered one, despite my first-year status. To my many legions of admirers I have always been "The Gooch" and not some discriminatory derivation of that great name.

***

I recently had the misfortune of passing through that architectural mistake known as the Campus Centre. I was having a rather unpleasant time discussing political theory with ineffectual intellectuals known as chevron members when I noticed an attractive young woman, clipboard in hands, standing alone on the other side of the room.

I bade the chevron people farewell, tiring of discussing dialectical materialism and arguing that Albania is hardly my idea of a utopian state As I approached the young woman, I couldn't help but notice that she was quite attractive, and she couldn't help but notice me in all my radiant glory. She quickly beckoned me over to her and together we had the beginnings of a very pleasant conversation. Naturally, I had to choose my words carefully as her speech was riddled with monosyllabic terms, misused clichés and incorrect syntax. Despite her butchering of the English language, however, I preferred her conversation to that of the stubbornly blind chevron people.

To my surprise, she was collecting names for a petition calling for the banishment of the "Miss Oktoberfest Beauty Pageant", a situation which acquired my curiosity earlier. Normally, I, the Gooch would be disgusted that certain individuals are going out of their way to prevent attractive young women from being placed under my scrutiny. However, I agree that such pageants are particularly degrading to women in that a woman's physical beauty is the only criterion taken into consideration.

Then, she asked me if I wished to sign her petition. I declined, citing my beliefs that petitions provide a feeble excuse for insignificant humanoids to pretend importance by signing them. Not only that, but it would be an insult to my respected name to place my graceful signature on the same sheet of paper as my inferiors. However, I reiterated my stance that the beauty pageant is a blight upon all intelligent women.

"So you'll sign it then?" she asked hopefully, her charming, unsophisticated face suddenly brightening.

A frown quickly creased my handsome features. Could she possibly be serious? Obviously she had mistaken my sympathy for approval. However, since the Gooch never speaks harshly to women, even insipid women, I changed the topic of discussion to that of her own attractiveness. [NOTE: I refuse to discuss in detail the various phrases I made use of as many readers, in a pathetic attempt to be as suave and debonaire as the Gooch, would misuse my expressions as "pick-up lines" and thus disgrace not only myself, but also the many women who have inspired me to create such phrases.]

At first, she was pleased to be the subject of such a complimentary commentary, at least until her pre-programmed feeble feminist mind decided that such compliments had to be "chauvinistic" as I neglected to compliment anything else about her, not realizing that there was nothing else to compliment. She launched into a repetitive litany of insulting labels predominated by "male" and "pig" [she experienced difficulties in pronouncing "chauvinist" and quickly abandoned use of that adjective].

Therein lies the heart of my dispute with feminists. Either through a pre-occupying zeal for name-calling or through blatant stupidity many feminists have arrived at the conclusion that the Gooch has "chauvinistic" attitudes. Such an absurd conclusion is absolutely unfounded. The Gooch has a tremendous amount of undying respect for women in general, as any woman who has had the pleasure of spending an evening with me will readily affirm. It is true that I compliment many women on the basis of appearance, just as I compliment many women on the basis of sophistocation, intellectuality et al. To call the Gooch a "chauvinist" betrays an utterly repugnant degree of idiocy which I hate to see in women. Every time these feminists slander the Gooch, they merely demonstrate their own stupidity.

With that note, I depart..

the gooch

Platter Spatter

Johnny Winter—Serious Business

Serious Business? Who does he think he's kidding?

Granted, every musician, even legendary blues guitarists, treat their playing seriously. But still, "Serious Business"?

This is a blues album—the lyrics are simple, with no political overtones. Not serious at all. The improvised solos that make up most of this album are such a delight that they can't be "serious".

Maybe he means that making an album is serious business. After all, the guy has produced enough Muddy Waters records to be a small authority on the subject. But enough pondering—this is supposed to be a review.

Johnny has done very little tampering with the formula that made his last record, Guitar Slinger, enormously successful. His band and producers are the same. (Pianist Ken Saydak provides an excellent complement to his guitar work.) The arrangements are simple, with only one other musician (harmonica player Jon Paris) brought in for 4 cuts. Indeed, nothing more is necessary. He has once again made a great album.

There are two major factors that Johnny exploits here. The first is his guitar playing. He has reached "living legend" status on almost everybody's scale, so on most cuts there is more soloing than singing (not that he isn't one of finest blues singers in the business).

The second is his ability to play in a variety of styles. Although they are all labelled "blues" (sometimes with a touch of rock and roll or country), each cut has a different beat and "feel". And of course he still allows himself a couple of cuts to give us some of his famous slide playing.

The result of all this is that I can't really pinpoint highlights—the album is too consistent. And it's all done with a lot of enery and fun— no "serious business" here at all. Whoever thinks that blues albums are boring should listen to Johnny Winter.

grmcfarlane

Opinion

User Feendly

If the local grocery store charged you ten cents for a shopping cart every time you shopped, whether you used one or not, would you think it was fair? Or do you expect the store to provide you with the cart, as part of the costs you already pay with your purchase? Can they reasonably expect that you would come shopping if they did not provide the carts?

This term, we all paid a computer fee, imposed on us without consultation. Like the cart fee, it is for a service essential to all of us, but one which some of us use more than others. It's a fee for something that we expected to be part of our purchase of an education here. So is it fair?

The University has taken an attitude of "Here are the fees. If you do not like them, prove to us that we should not charge them." Surely this is a backwards approach. They should have to sell the increase to us. We are the consumers of their service. I have yet to see a real estimate (not the oh-so-cute briefing notes) that can tell me where my money will go. As it is, without some sort of *audited* assessment, it seems likely that our fees are supporting an inefficient, top-heavy bureaucratic morass disguising itself as an efficient computer operation. Did the University do an audit of this so called "campus-wide computing" before hitting us with the fees?

When we came to this institution, we came to the best faculty of the best university in Canada. We pay the tuition which the government of the province feels is just, and then many "incidental" fees on top of that. Most of the incidentals are for things not directly related to our education (athletics, etc.). However, this new fee is different.

Why do we pay a fee to support *computing on a University-wide basis*? Surely we couldn't be charged if this mysterious "computing" were done manually instead. Perhaps it would be cheaper for UW to administrate *without* computers! Embarrassing, isn't it? Whatever the services the flat fee is supposed to support, other Universites must have the same costs, and they don't charge for them. Does putting it on computers make it chargeable to us? Obviously not.

As for the special CS major fee, we were attracted here as frosh as much by the reputation of the University for undergraduate computer resources as by the reputation for theory (WIDJET jokes notwithstanding). It's part of our education, so it's part of tuition.

As for the argument that the province is underfunding Universities, it is blatantly immoral for the adminstration to take it upon themselves to rectify things by soaking us for user fees. If they feel the need to pressure the government, then they should be advising us on how to do that. Unless they are afraid of an inquiry into the current system ...

If the administration has any ethics, they will justify these fees or stop charging them. If not, then we cannot continue to support, via these fees, what can only be administrative cowardice and incompetence.

Sauron

Re: Computer Fees

(This memo was sent to Sonny Flanagan and subsequently circulated to MathSoc prez Tom Haapanen.)

As you are aware the University recently introduced Computer Lab fees for students in the University. Students in the the Faculty of Mathematics, most of whom are, at any one time, registered in at least one course where the computer is used, are provided with computing accounts, either through the Department of Computing Services or the Mathematics Faculty Computing Facility. It has become apparent that there is a small group of students, registered in Mathematics, which because of their particular choice of courses, would not be provided with such an account. In order to furnish such students with access to computing facilities, the Dean of Mathematics has agreed to provide such a student, registered in the Faculty of Mathematics, an account on CMS provided that student is not registered in courses which provide computing resources. Such students (we estimate the number to be approximately 100) should request an account through Mrs. I.K. Moerth, MC 5153, ext. 3546.

Please note that should students subsequently change their course selection to one which *does* involve computing related courses, the account referred to above will be deleted immediately.

If I can be of any assistance with further information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Dr. J.Ll. Morris
Associate Dean of Computing

Midterm Blues

(words by C. Sneer; music by D. Bowie)
("Sorry about this, Dave...")

I see the midterm now
And I see the questions too
But there seems to be too much.
Can I answer all of them?
Well, I'll try,
    I'll try.

Where's my sign of life?
I cannot feel my pulse,
Yet half the midterm's left.
Can I answer all the rest?
Well, I'll try,
    I'll try.

Always gonna catch the
    Midterm blues   Lives inside me
    Midterm blues   Always hits me
    Midterm blues   When I least expect it

Least expect it   Terrifies me
Least expect it   Makes me shaky
Least expect it   Put my trust in bribes and bell curves

Bribes and bell curves   Please, professor!
Bribes and bell curves   Won't you give marks?
Bribes and bell curves   Cure me of the midterm blues.

Announcing ...

The First Digits of $2^{216091}-1$

(the highest known prime)

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Tune in next issue to see if 3 gets together with 4 or if they stay apart for 100 numbers!

I Am Curious Gëorg

The Geneology Of Lies

There are so few among us who realise the virtue, the effectiveness, and the social importance of lies. After all, none of us can really be little George Washingtons, can we? I'd like to present a few thoughts on lies, along with a classification of falsehood by usage and by motivation.

My interest lies in lies because not too many years ago I was a freshman student (but not at this university–note the motto, "Concordia Cum Veritate") and I found myself surrounded by contradictions and inconsistencies. No one truth seemed any better than another (especially in religion, philosophy and politics) and soon I could not believe any of it, although there were plenty of things that it was appealing to believe. That was when I was inducted into the Liar's Club. Although most of my associates ended up in jail, we spent many a succulent evening in elaborate duplicity, assailing each other and the public in general with our inventions. The only truths we learned were that there are different levels or degrees of falsehood, and that these levels encloses each other like an exquisite set of Russian dolls–each lie is contained in a still greater lie.

First, there are the small, piddling little lies that we tell every day to ourselves and to each other. These include platitudes like "Good to see you", "You're a sight for sore eyes", "Nice talking to you", "Have a nice day", and "Take care of yourself," along with a hundred others. Am I being too cynical? No, I think we hypocrites find it convenient to forget about these lies, and put a smooth gloss of plastic politeness on our daily life.

Next, there are the lies of pride and protection. These I find are entirely defensible; they are the statements we make when faced with a choice between self and truth–and "What is truth, anyway?", we say to ourselves, and lie to avoid embarassment or personal harm. These usually entail lying to an authority figure–policeman, professor, *Totenslager* guard–and somehow, we feel good about it. We're getting back, through lying, at someone normally unreachable.

Finally, there are the infinite degrees of the Big Lie. The Big Lie –be it Christ is Risen or Invaders from Mars–is a work of art, a beautiful, selfless sacrifice on the altar of Babel. This lie is of such power and sweep of invention that it obliterates any distinction we make between true and false. It plainly states, Epiminedes-fashion, that it is a lie, and yet asks us, enjoins us, convinces us to believe it. It can hold thousands, even millions of people in its thrall. It can grow venerable, hoary, and even take the semblance of truth in its old age. Then, when nature ordains another lie to take its place, the soft structure gently topples to make room for new growth. To misquote Huey Lewis, that's the power of lies.

Gëorg Mandrive

Those were the days ...

Mathematics Society Minutes

Tuesday, June 19, 1979

Vtg. Mem. Pres.	Non-Vtg Memb. Pres.	Others
E.A. MacNeil	Rosy Bernath	Walter Steinemann
Karen MacNeil	PC Kelly	
Greg Bezoff	Stan Mikoluk	
Rob Collins	Prabhakar Ragde	

1. Call to Order At: 12:39:37

3. Approval of Minutes.

PC Kelly and K. MacNeil: Move to receive the minutes of June 7.

Motion passes unanimously.

7. Old Business.

C+D (K. MacNeil) - applications have to be opened for the fall term assistant manager so that it can be voted on before the end of this term.

K. and E.A. MacNeil: Move that applications open June 29 and close July 13 for C+D assistant manager for the fall term '79. Carries: 2:0:1

Point of information: Kelly asks, "When is a door not a door?"

Speaker answers: "When it is ajar."

Kelly says: "Thank you."

Speaker says: "You're welcome."

8. New Business.

PC Kelly and K. MacNeil: Whereas this MathSoc meeting is being held in the MathSoc office, and whereas the wooden chairs make an annoying creaking sound, move that the wooden chairs not be creaked in during MathSoc meetings held in the MathSoc office.

Ragde and Mikoluk: Amend "wooden chairs" to "wooden chairs and desks"

Speaker rules dilatory.

Ragde challenges speaker.

Speaker states reason: desks do not creak.

Speaker upheld 1:0:1

Mikoluk and Ragde: Amend "wooden chairs" to "any chairs".

Motion ruled dilatory by speaker.

Ragde challenges speaker.

Collins resigns as speaker. Bezoff takes chair.

Amendment fails: 0:1

E.A. MacNeil asks for roll call vote on motion:

Greg Bezoff	no
Rob Collins	yes
E.A. MacNeil	abstain
Karen MacNeil	yes

Motion carries: 2:1:1

Ragde and Collins: Move that someone call Dean Forbes and get the chair fixed so that the previous motion can be ruled ridiculous.

Speaker's description of motion is challenged by E.A. MacNeil.

Speaker withdraws his description of motion.

Motion fails: 1:3

Collins and E.A. MacNeil: Move that the number "e" be rounded down to 3.

Motion ruled dilatory by speaker.

Speaker challenged by E.A. MacNeil.

Speaker upheld 2:1

Kelly and E.A. MacNeil: Whereas the motion just ruled dilatory was so moved because of the application of the word down, move that the number "e" be rounded up to 3.

Motion fails: 2:2

Collins: move to adjourn.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned

Small Mercies

Consider this: d/dx (room numbers of MC) and d/dy (room numbers of MC) are rather pathological functions, but fortunately d/dz (room numbers of MC) is a quite understandable "1," and (Deo Gratias) d/dt (room numbers of MC) is zero.

P.S. I know that those are partial derivatives, but I haven't the foggiest idea of how to write a "∂" using this editor. Sorry for the confusion.

Center of Gravity

Waterloo Weather Watch

Welcome to the Wondrous World of Waterloo Weather! Waterloo is blessed with many types of weather. Unfortunately, as you will soon learn to your sorrow, Waterloo often has all of them together. The following guide won't help you survive it, but at least you'll know what's about to hit you.

Type: Rain   When: Mar-Dec
Danger Level: 4
Equipment: Umbrella and Jacket
Victims: WLU-goers
Synopsis: If you have a business course at Laurier, you will get your fill of this. In any case, rain in Waterloo comes suddenly when you are halfway to somewhere, and stops as you arrive.

Type: Snow   When: Nov-Apr
Danger Level: 6
Equipment: Lots of clothes, gloves, etc
Victims: Car owners
Synopsis: The snows of Waterloo come seldom, but they come deep. There are a couple of almost-university-closing blizzards each year, and you need about 10 guys to get your car out of the lot (especially Village lots!). This weather also brings out the killdozers of UW...

Type: Ice   When: Nov-Apr
Danger Level: 9
Equipment: Cleats
Victims: Rear Ends
Synopsis: A subtle thing, ice is. Especially black ice on the asphalt. It lurks, yes, it does, gollum, gollum. It forms in November, and never quite goes away. Almost everyone falls at least once.

Type: Semi-Snow   When: Nov-Apr
Danger Level: 2
Equipment: Boots & T-Shirt
Victims: Squirrels
Synopsis: This wimpy stuff falls, then melts. Repeatedly. Winter is a shy thing at UW, it's coming and going is a long, drawn-out process. Confuses the squirrels, too.

Type: Sleet   When: Nov-Mar
Danger Level: 7
Equipment: Goalie Masks
Victims: Faces.
Synopsis: Stinging ice pellets designed specifically to eat off your face, this stuff **hurts!** It only comes a couple of times a year, so stay indoors instead.

Type: Wind   When: All-year
Danger Level: 5
Equipment: Tight Clothes
Victims: Light People
Synopsis: Every once in a while, the wind blows. **Hard.** Small people should hang on to larger ones. For people of reasonable mass, this weather is really neat. Oh, the tight clothes? I like them.

Type: Sun   When: All-year
Danger Level: 3
Equipment: None (!)
Victims: Engineers
Synopsis: Not that precipitation is the only rule. The sun shines often, especially in summer term, although outside of summer pure sun days are rare. Engineers live in tunnels, so the sun is hard on them 'cause they're not used to it.

Type: Cloud   When: All-Year
Danger Level: 1
Equipment: Any
Victims: Depressed
Synopsis: It gets cloudy, sometimes. Like everywhere.

Type: Cold   When: Nov-Mar
Danger Level: 7
Equipment: Lots of Clothes
Victims: Grad Students
Synopsis: It can get bitingly cold here. **REAL** cold. I'm not kidding. And Grad students walk about without jackets all year round.

Type: Thunder Storm   When: Apr-Oct
Danger Level: 8
Equipment: Non-conductive
Victims: Trees, computers, outdoor swimmers
Synopsis: Nature's fireworks, Waterloo style, are best watched from indoors. The lightning is terrific, the rain heavy and the wind strong. Computers go down during these (and many a Honeywell disk drive has been destroyed as a result). Branches are scattered all over the campus, but you can find some great walking sticks when it's over.

Type: Hot When: Jun-Aug
Danger Level: 9
Equipment: None
Victims: Exam Writers
Synopsis: You're going to fry during summer exams (if you're in co-op). It gets very hot, and very muggy. And the PAC gets even warmer.

Type: Nice When: Apr-Oct
Danger Level: 0
Equipment: T-Shirt
Victims: Exam marks
Synopsis: Sometimes, it's nice. That makes it very difficult to study. This is where you learn to Budget YOUR Time.

Well, experience and enjoy.

Sauron

Dawn Patrol

Preliminary Research

Early each morning, UW students act out Dawn of the Living Dead. Hundreds of zombies issue out of vehicles, totter on bicycles and stagger on foot with eyes glazed and jaws slack. They trudge heavily across campus and then vanish. What causes these disturbed souls to wander the dawn, when nought else but a bird breaks the stillness? (A colleague, Dr Simon, insists that any wildlife awake so early must be bats.) The force in question is not a mystic one, although it is not natural. It is known as ... the 8:30 class.

It is well known that the university student in his or her natural state rises between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon, works and/or parties until 2:00 am, and beds about 3:00 am. Disrupting this cycle is unnatural and dangerous; nonetheless the university schedules 8:30 classes.

The risks of this perversion of biorhythms are great. One danger is known technically as the lapse. As a direct result of being forced to pay attention from 8:30 until 9:30 am, the brain refuses to function between 9:30 and 10:30 am. Even the infusion of large amounts of caffeine cannot stop this phenomenon. Other malfunctions, like the dreaded "stats snooze", are also more likely to occur.

The performance level of the student is considerably lowered by this demonic dawn ritual of school at sunrise. If a student can be said to have potential x for the day, where a normally timed class exhausts perhaps $0.2x$, then it would seem that the 8:30 class uses up $0.75x$. This accounts for the the increased difficulty of the remaining classes, which have but $0.25x$ to share between them. Thus, the 8:30 class causes hardship across the board.

Sometimes nature wins out, and the student reverts to a more natural cycle. He or she never goes to the 8:30 class. The course is sacrificed for the sake of sanity.

At 8:30 am, students say things that they regret, forget things that they need, and frequently walk into walls. Yet dawn patrol is still forced upon the student population. Why?? Sadism? Payoffs from the caffeine industry? The research continues ...

Dr. Terrence Till

I Don't Like Yuppies

(words by C. Sneer; music by B. Geldof)
('Well, Bob, you got your Nobel...")

The emptiness inside their heads
Gets filled with urban thoughts.
The yuppies of the world go to work each day
In the business suits they bought.
Well, I really don't understand it;
Why are they such ambitious fools?
I can see no reasons
('Cause there are no reasons).
What reasons do you need to be sure?

Chorus:Oh oh oh oh (tell me why) I don't like yuppies,
   (Tell me why) I don't like yuppies,
   (Tell me why) I don't like yuppies.
   I want to shoot all of them down.

Expensive cars and suburban homes,
No time for kids 'cause nobody's home.
They must be young and professional.
Urban life can be so terminal.
High tech living and no forgiving
'Cause it ain't so neat to admit defeat.
They can see no reasons
(There still are no reasons)
What reasons do they need to know?

(Chorus)

All the working's started in the office now
As the yuppies play with their toys awhile.
And work's out early and soon they'll be learning
The lesson today is "how to lie".
And then the p.a. crackles
And the manager tackles with the problems of yuppie life.
He can see no reasons
(There still are no reasons)
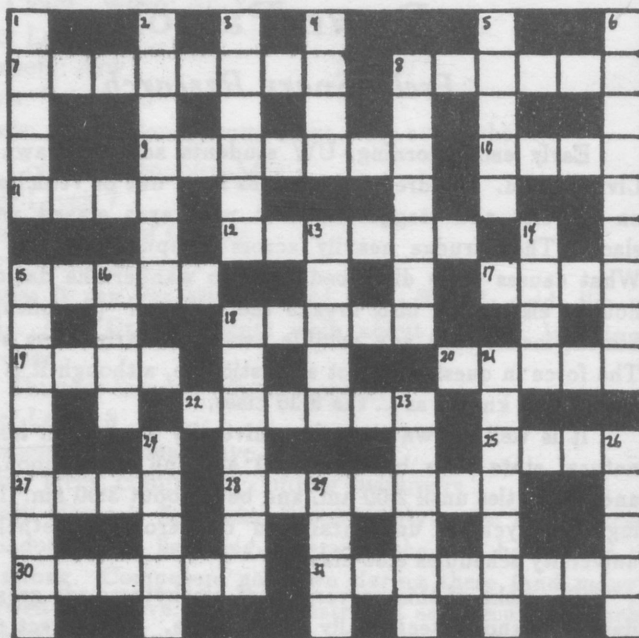And yuppies almost never ask "Why?"

(Chorus)

GridComments of Endearment

Woody Tobias, Sr

Well, we had a great response for our GridWord last issue. And we have a GridWord prize winner, too. His name is Cornell Carter, as chosen by the pseudo-random aerodynamic selection method. Our lucky winner can come to MathSoc (MC 3038) sometime to pick up the mathNEWS GridWord secret prize. Honourable mentions go to Jill Fleischman, Cyril Chen, Peter Found, Peter Simpson, James Cogill, John McIntosh, Gary Matsell et. al, Stuart Hodgins, Zamil Jammohamed, Jim McCaw, Brad Sokol, Catherine Olinski, Frank Coretti for their GridWord submissions. Thank you all, and if you haven't won yet, do try again.

This week, be sure to play GridWord, the mathNEWS cryptic crossword puzzle. Just fill it out, and hand it in to us care of the black box (ie. flight recorder) on the 3rd floor.

GRID WURD

Across

7. Could be an affair is over but this way it's a close person. (5,3)
8. Affirm that an American ship is back in existence. (6)
9. About the rent ... let it go. (6)
10. The meadow failed to show a piece of shrubbery. (4)
11. Fashion a stooge around many. (4)
12. The breeze hurts a piece of glass. (6)
15. Love twice in the pig's home is dirty. (5)
17. The far east has a region. (4)
18. The dike was built by fifty the night before, this way. (5)
19. Did well by having a backward computer company. (4)
20. Start an urge to quarrel. (5)
22. Herb said to change a direction in Scottish to the right. (6)
25. A sign to circle males. (4)
27. A piece to catch backwards. (4)
28. Continued stories could be airless. (7)
30. The wreck onshore has to figure. (6)
31. Exudes from a Mediterranean island in one or two directions. (8)

Down

1. Shock puts half of baseball on the limb. (5)
2. Most loved opposite a breather. (7)
3. Take my lead—Listen, don't stumble high! (6)
4. Almost the same plateau. (4)
5. The mixed sample loses a direction by the sacred verse. (5)
6. Make holes for each in agreement with that consumed. (9)
8. So be it around a single type of plant. (7)
13. In the stomach but sound in the service. (5)
14. Boast that the bosom supporter has a high note. (4)
15. A clean musical?—not on afternoon T.V. ! (4,5)
16. A cookie is about in the middle of nothing repeated. (4)
18. Hurt raised with one descendant of the connection. (7)
21. Change or store the morning bird. (7)
23. No charge in each change of luck. (6)
24. I see he's taken the post. (5)
26. Raise a way in the near future to get a looped rope. (5)
29. It could be sore if grabbed by the thorns. (4)

Frank Letniowski