

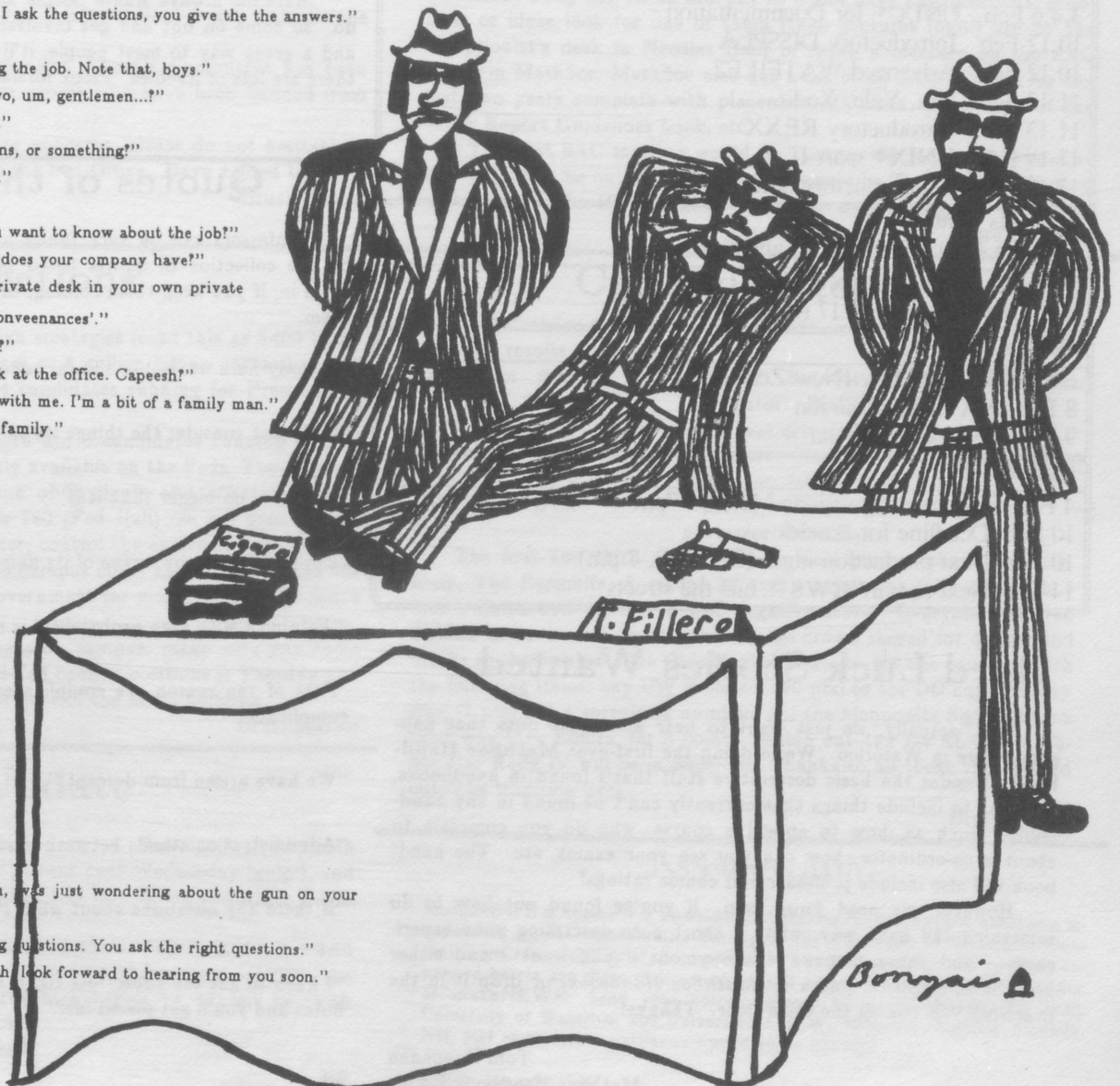
math NEWS

Do Interviews Make YOU Nervous?

Volume 40 Number 2

31 January 1986

"Ahem...er... Mr Fillero, sir?"
"Yeah, whaddya want, punk?"
"I believe you have an opening for a Chartered Accountant in your company?"
"Maybe."
"Um, my name is Tim Morrison. I applied to your firm and was granted an interview."
"Yeah. So?"
"Ah...may I sit down?"
"Why?"
"Uh...ok. You have my resumé there, I presume?"
"Somewhere. We don't really need one around here."
"But doesn't my education and work--"
"Look, kid. Who's hiring who around here? I ask the questions, you give the the answers."
"Yes, sir."
"That's good. That's the first step to getting the job. Note that, boys."
"Yes, I was kinda wondering about those two, um, gentlemen...?"
"These are my...associates, Guido and Gino."
"Oh, they're like personnel or public relations, or something?"
"Public relations. That's a good name for it."
"Thank you, sir."
"OK. Now here's my question. What do you want to know about the job?"
"Um...well..what kind of work environment does your company have?"
"We like to keep things quiet. Your own private desk in your own private office. Wid' all the whadd'call 'Modren Conveenances'."
"Oh. Well that's good. How about overtime?"
"There will be some, butcha keep your work at the office. Capeesh?"
"Great. I don't like to take my work home with me. I'm a bit of a family man."
"So are we. This company is one big happy family."
"That's, um, nice."
"Yeah. We think so."
"OK...Is there much travel with the job?"
"Not if you know what's good for ya."
"Uh...what's the starting salary like?"
"Depends on how good you are at the job."
"Well, I did get my Chartered Accountancy from the University of Waterloo."
"Yeah. So did the last one."
"Excuse me?"
"He, ah, took an extended vacation. Deep sea diving, was it boys?"
(Laughter)
"I see. I'm not into deep sea diving myself."
"Neither was he."
(More laughter)
"OK. Well, um, just one more thing. I, ah, was just wondering about the gun on your desk...?"
"Oh. That's for applicants who ask the wrong questions. You ask the right questions."
"Ahem. I see. Well, I must be going now. I, ah, look forward to hearing from you soon."
"Yeah. Oh, kid?"
"Yes, sir?"
"I like your tie."



LookAhead

Prezz Sezz

Math Events
31 Jan The Jitters
3 Feb Drop deadline, withdrawal deadline
Co-Ops Only
Fed Flicks
AL116 at 8 pm (extra shows at 10:30 pm on Fri, Sat only)
\$1 Feds, \$3 aliens
31 Jan-2 Feb Gremlins
7-9 Feb Desperately Seeking Susan
14-16 Feb Ghostbusters
Cinema Gratis 9:30 in the CC—it's free! (with selected short feature)
5 Feb Blues Brothers (Batman)
12 Feb Racing With the Moon (Occurrence at Out Creek Bridge)
19 Feb Never Cry Wolf (Spartree)
DCS Courses Free! Contact DCS (MC 2045) for more information
3,4,6 Feb Tell-a-Graf
3,4,6 Feb UNIX™ for Documentation
10,12 Feb Introductory DISSPLA
10,12 Feb Advanced WAIFILE2
11,13 Feb Sim, Yale, Xedit
11,13 Feb Introductory REXX
17-19 Feb UNIX™ part II
17,19,20 Feb Introductory SAS
UW Arts Centre Call 885 4280 for more info and tickets
5-15 Feb FASS™ (two weeks!) until 23 Feb North of 17 (in The Gallery)
Other Events
6 Feb Waitangi Day (New Zealand)
8 Feb WATSFIC Reunion
9 Feb Chinese New Year
mathNEWS™
4 Feb Brainstorming session—MC3038 7pm
10 Feb Deadline for articles
10 Feb Next production night (MC3038, 7 pm)
14 Feb Next mathNEWS™ hits the streets

Hard Luck Stories Wanted

Well, actually, we just want to hear about the ones that happened here in Waterloo. We're doing the first-ever **MathSoc Handbook**. Besides the basic descriptive stuff that's found in handbooks, we want to include things that currently can't be found in any handbooks. Such as, how to appeal a course, who do you complain to about a co-ordinator, how can you see your exams, etc. The handbook will also include professor and course ratings!

However, we need **your** help. If you've found out how to do something the hard way, write a short note describing your experiences - and you can make it anonymous if you want - and either bring it to MathSoc (mark it: *MathSoc Handbook*) or drop it in the **mathNEWS** box on the third floor. Thanks!

Tom Haapanen
MathSoc Handbook Editor

Well, it's another winter term at U of W. As you may know, MathSoc recently held their elections. I would like to introduce myself as being your new MathSoc President for W86 and F86—Wilma van der Veen.

I am currently in third year, majoring in Operations Research. I have been active in student organisations, both in high school and in university. Most recently, last term, I was MathSoc Social Director, organised and presided over the Inter-Society Workshop, and I was a student representative on the Faculty-Student Liaison Committee. For the past few terms I have also been working in the Math C+D.

Even though almost a third of the term has gone by, there are many things to do. Our ex-prez, Tom Haapanen, is undertaking the project of editing a MathSoc handbook. This will consist of two parts: the first regarding everything you wanted to know but didn't and it was too late, and the second part consisting entirely of course and professor rankings. We welcome your ideas about this project. As for our lounges, the C+D's furniture will be reupholstered and drapes will be in place by late February (we hope) in both MC 3001 and 3002.

As for social events, on January 31 at Fed Hall we are having "The Jitters"—music to make your pants feel <blank> (you fill it in), and the following week another band TBA. Stay tuned. Of course we will be having the infamous Wine and Cheese later on in the term as well as other events. If you have any ideas about social events, drop by MC 3038, the MathSoc office, and tell us about them.

MathSoc always wants people and there are plenty of things to do. So come on out and get involved. Besides the fact that it's fun and a great way to meet people, it'll look great on your resumé, and there are lots of freebies. I look forward to meeting you, the student.

Wilma van der Veen
MathSoc President

Quotes of the Week

Professors can be very funny and entertaining as demonstrated by the collection of quotes listed below. Thanks to those who sent them in; if you keep them coming, **mathNEWS** will continue to print them.

"Nobody here worked in the tar sands? Good—it means I can lie!"
P.W. Dibble, Chem 363

"Let's just consider the things we've considered so far"
D.A. Siegel, AM 365

"Well, *f* is no bigger than it is"
K. Davidson, PM 351b

"Epsilon is small by virtue of its name"
P. Ponzio, AM 391

"'Establish with high probability' is rather a mouthful to say"
Prof Cherry, Stat 221

"Part of the reason it's complicated is because keeping it simple is complicated."
Prof Goebel, CS 486

"We have arisen from descent."
Prof Rutherford, Bio 112

"Administration stands between the students and learning."
Prof Goebel, CS 486

"Is there any questions about what I'm rubbing off?"
Prof Easton, PM 340

"I have to get the subscripts right; otherwise I'll have to change your notes and you'll get pissed off."
D. Easton
PMath 340

Fed Report

Hi—for those of you who do not know me, I'm Bruce Parent, your Math Co-op representative on the Federation of Students. I will be using **mathNEWS** as a vehicle to inform you of the "going-ons" of the Federation.

First, with respect to computer fees, the university administration has agreed to register those students who withheld their computer fees. The next stage is to await the Minister of Colleges and Universities, the Hon Gregory Sorbara's decision on the legality of these fees, ie. whether they are considered tuition. If you have a point of view you would like to express, please write the minister care of Queen's Park.

A manual, entitled "Student Representation Manual" has been produced by the Federation which serves as a guide to the University of Waterloo's Committee structures. If you are interested in becoming involved in the functioning of this university, it may be worth your while to browse through this manual. A copy will be available in the MathSoc office, or the Fed Office. You will be surprised at the number of positions available to students. Some of these committees include: UW Board of Governors, UW Senate, various student advisor committees, library, as well as faculty councils.

If you are not already aware, the Federation of Students is now operating the Safety Van. Between 7 pm to 1 am, a van leaves the campus centre every 30 minutes to provide a free ride home to University of Waterloo faculty, staff, and students along a specified route. Women are given priority. Information is available in the campus centre turnkey desk.

One final note—a Pub Suspension Appeals Committee has been set up to hear appeals for those people who have been banned from Fed Hall and the Bombshelter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have a mailbox in the Fed Office. Have a good term!

Bruce Parent

Fed Elections

Due to questionable campaign strategies (read this as \$400 budget \times 2¢ per poster \times 8 candidates = 8 million billion posters) you all probably know that there are 4 candidates running for President of the Federation of Students.

Did you also know that there are 4 candidates running for the three Math rep positions currently available on the Feds. These people are your voice on the Federation of Students and affect how your \$13.75 Fed fee, and \$7.50 Club 750 (Fed Hall) fee are spent. They hold the future of the Bombshelter, control the entertainment at Club 750 (Fed Hall), allocate monies to campus clubs and services, have the power to lobby the provincial government for more money, and much much more.

For your say in what happens on campus, make sure you come out and vote. The election for all Fed council positions is Tuesday and Wednesday 11-12 Feb. on the 3rd floor of the M+C building.

Brett Martin

FASS Update

The rehearsals go on (and on, and on ...). But it will all be worth it! FASS '86, "The Scream Play", opens next Wednesday (gulp!), and tickets are selling fast at the Humanities Box Office and other BASS outlets.

It's a pretty good deal for a good show: Feb. 5 & 6 are \$3.50 (general admission); Feb. 7, 8, 12, 13 cost \$4.00 (reserved seating - the best seats go first!), and the last two nights (Feb. 14, 15) will be \$4.50 (by this time it will be a great show!).

So come out and enjoy the show!

BP

In The SAC

SAC (*sak*) n. A group of students who meet biweekly to discuss possible improvements to the way things are run by Co-Ordination and Placement.

Long form—Student Advisory Council to the Department of Co-Ordination and Placement.

SAC held its first meeting on Tuesday 14 January. The Placement stats for our last term, Spring/85, were mentioned and, as usual, were excellent. Overall—97.2%; Math—97.7%. The numbers of jobs available for the current term will be posted biweekly outside the MathSoc office as well as mentioned in this column.

Things to note:

Due to staff restraints (read this as underfunding):

- Late postings will no longer be colour-coded by faculty
 - resumé writing workshops will only be open to graduating students
- New for 1986:**
- an N/A column will be added, as column 6, on student evaluation forms since not all areas covered by the form apply to all students
 - Needles Hall will probably stay open until 7 Mon-Fri during interviews

Ideas presently being worked on include:

- combining all co-op info and pamphlets into one big book similar to the undergraduate calendar
- more changes to the evaluation form

Your Math SAC Reps this term are Brett Martin, Sherry Hedden, Nathalene Fong and Brian Murphy so if you have any questions, problems or ideas look for one of them (their pictures (ugh!) are by the receptionist's desk in Needles Hall) or leave a message on the SAC board in MathSoc. MathSoc also has a set of all SAC minutes for the last two years complete with placement statistics and a copy of the Work Report Guidelines book, etc.

The next SAC meeting would be Tuesday 28 January but **mathNEWS** won't be out until Friday so it would be Tuesday 11 February at 4:30 in Needles Hall Room 1029. Anyone may attend.

Brett Martin

Car Rally Report

The MathSoc Car Rally on Sat 25 Jan. was an overwhelming success. The results are:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st- team #6. | driver: Stewart Fleming (154 pts) |
| | navigator: Wally Bridel |
| | back seat driver: Bonnie MacK |
| 2nd- team #27. | Driver: Cindy Dedeyne (138 pts) |
| | navigator: Jeff Clark. |
| 3rd- team #10. | Driver: Steve Van Winden (133 pts) |
| | navigator: Dave Ball. |

The first and third place finishers were part of the Winterest team, The Earmuffs. A record 32 cars started the rally of which 5 didn't finish and another 5 had negative scores. Everyone involved seemed to have a lot of fun, and a large crowd stayed for dinner and drinks at the finish at The Olde English Parlour. No one came up with the following items: any UW professor (20 pts) or the DD cup bra (any size) (7 pts) but a surprising numbers got the Mennonite Signature, on their way thru Elmira, for 8 points. Watch out—the 1st Annual MathSoc Car Rally IV will be in Sept. '86. Thanks to all those that helped out. The tradition lives

Brett Martin

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Editor: dan schnabel

Essay Contest

The English Department is sponsoring an essay contest open to students in all faculties. Essays discussing "Why I would love to have a horn sticking out of my forehead" will be accepted until 4:30 Friday, February 7. Submissions of 500 words or less will be judged on a number of factors, including length. The authors of the five longest essays will each receive the keys to a new car. On Saturday February 15, these five winners will be invited to Waterloo Town Square, which will be filled with lime flavoured jello, 8 feet deep. Each contestant will then have five minutes to find which one of 5 new lime-coloured Chrysler LeBaron's, buried in the jello, can be started by their key. A number of consolation prizes will be offered.

dan schnabel
university liason
Waterloo Town Square

UW Gets Little Tortilla

In a recent Federation of Students general meeting, a motion was passed to change the title of the president to the "Little Tortilla."

In light of the recent news of the renaming of the University of Saskatchewan Student Union president to the "Big Enchilada," this move would appear to possess a startling lack of originality.

However, sources close to mathNEWS point out the less publicized renaming of student union presidents at the University of Winnipeg and the University of Toronto to "Taco Tim" and "Mr. Burrito" respectively, as part of the trend toward Mexican food.

Flanagan Wins!

Sonny Flanagan, the incumbent for the position of Federation of Students Little Tortilla has been declared the winner of the Carol Goulette look unlike contest. Among the many prizes donated by various businesses in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, Sonny received a lifetime supply of lime jello and an exciting dream date with mathNEWS' own Cary Timar. No contestants left empty-handed as Carol Goulette, who finished last in the contest, won a date with dan schnabel.

dan schnabel

Walkmans As A Fashion Statement

As the post-plaid paisley monster rears its head for a summer attack, many of the fashion conscious are wondering what walkman to buy.

An affluent acquaintance of mine, Butch, had been invited to a walkman party recently. The party was being thrown by Dick Bittenof, an important person to impress. For his last work term, Dick had been president of Xerox of Canada Limited. Elegance was the key here, and Butch looked superb in Dolby with metal capability, FM stereo and separate channel volume controls.

A walkman such the one Butch wore that night is certainly stunning, and for Butch it was very appropriate. If, however, your wardrobe is limited to only five or six walkmans, such extravagance is likely to be inappropriate. This is especially true for victims of the paisley monster. Laurie Reedman, publisher of Walkmangazine, a leading Walkman fashion magazine, once said, "Paisley and metal capability clash in every way."

Most top Paris designers agree with Miss Reedman in predicting a summer of bright colours, paisley, comfortable designs and Dolby noise reduction.

Fall predictions? A more conservative look accompanied by two walkmans, each with record capability.

dan schnabel
mathNEWS fashion desk.

A Scummy Scam

The normal serenity of the goings-on surrounding the production of mathNEWS has been shattered as this senior staff member has learned of the financial mismanagement on the part of certain other parties. Apparently, the editor, as party of the first part, had planned a party for various parties of the second part (that is to say, the staff). Funds for this party were listed in the Winter 1986 mathNEWS proposed budget. The document was leaked to this reporter by an undisclosed source. The amount earmarked, \$300, is more than the total anticipated outlay for such costs as production-night pizzas (\$105), laser printer charges (\$70), supplies (\$50), prizes (\$30), and "Assorted Miscellany" (\$30). The cost of mailing subscriptions to subscribers is listed as \$132; however, subscribers doled out \$129.50 to cover this cost.

When asked for comment on the findings, the editor (a man who wouldn't fire anyone for misquoting him) quoth, "I have no comments at this time. Just because we didn't invite you, you're trying to make a molehill out of this. And anyway, \$300 for a party is trivial when compared with the \$1723 we have set aside for 1400 copies of each of seven eleven-page issues this term. And the party is really an investment in the staff and a reward to our long-term members. Fourthly, we have a surplus of \$127.76 from the fall term. Surely we can afford a little fun, eh? But as I already told you, I have almost nothing to say at the present time. You're fired."

As if to respond, Lyn Burkowski stated, "Yes." Later, she added, "I agree," and summarised by saying, "Yes, I agree."

The total drain on MathSoc finances required to pay for the proposed decadence is \$2183. Without the party, the total drops to \$1883, and if only six issues were produced, the resultant savings of quite nearly \$300 would bring the financial requirement for the term down to \$1596.

Dark Thread

UltraClassifieds

"Pregnant?" A loving, married couple, unable to have children, would love to adopt your healthy green infant. Confidentiality assured - private adoption can be arranged. Please write P.O. #2871, Station "B", Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6N3.

The political weather today is cloudy and partly Flanagan. All Forrests and Groves will be snowed in for the time being.

"Preggers are we?" A seriously involved couple, unable to spare nine months, really really want to adopt your healthy aquamarine infant. Convenience above all - pirate adoption will be arranged. Let us take advantage of your misfortune; write P.O. #2871, Station "B", Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6N3.

Thanks to everyone who voted for me, and to Lisa. Cyril.

"Got a bun in the oven?" A fun-loving couple of guys, unable to tolerate children, would get a kick out of adopting your healthy plaid infant. Confidently assume a primate adoption is being arranged. Mail the thing to P.O. #2871, Station "B", Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6N3.

Wanted: musicians and semi-talented non-musicians to help the Warriors Band's new virtual trumpet (VT) division. We have instruments. Send e-mail to pdmckone@watale if you're interested. (If the team co-operates, we may go to Halifax in March...)

"Pregnant?" Loving people are always willing to help or just listen. You will find them everywhere. People really care.

"Mommy, where did I come from?" "From a newspaper ad, dear."

FeedBack

Dear Gooch:

Congradulation [sic] on writing some real news for a change. Your article on the situation in Ireland was well informed and interesting. You showed the professionalism of a real journalist. I wonder at the motivation of this burst of realism on your part though.

Has perhaps your normal style of imitating hard hitting journalists in the shoddy manner that you do, left a bad taste in your mouth. It is hard to write a provocative story about the news but much easier to use sensationalism to seem impressive. If you hold that what you write is done in jest then I accept this, but it says nothing about your talent as a writer. Either let us continue to hate you or come out in the open and show us your lovable self. Till then:

"Nemesis"

Dear Mr Hnews,

Have you ever noticed how it seems like 90% of all Mathies frequently have a forlorn look in their eyes as if they are lost? Well, I have found out why! It's all a plot by the administration to cause disorientation right from the first day that you walk in this hallowed building. What, you may ask, is my evidence?

I present as Exhibit #1: the map on the third floor nearest the elevators that bring you to the EMS library. The "You Are Here" symbol tries to make you think that you are in the opposite corner of the building! Surely, this is an attempt to make one feel that they are in two places at the same time or, if they are not, they should be. Presented with the apparent physical impossibility, the eager frosh's brain goes into a tight loop, never to be freed again! No wonder they feel that they can get away with the comfuter p ... oops, computer fee. They are in the midst of one of the most sinister plans of brainwashing in human history! Call in Maxwell Smart!

No longer in a tight loop,
Carlo Sgro
4B CS

Dear editor,

How come orange fruit loops are always the first to go? And who do I see about getting some W.W.F. wrestling matches brought here to UW.

A Fan of Rowdy Roddy Piper

Dear fan

The chemicals making up the orange fruit loops reacts with the milk and is annihilated. The other fruit loops are merely catalysts. Check with Paul Solomonian, a coordinator, he finds a few students coop jobs in the wrestling business, he has the connections.

the editor

something or other

It seems that enthusiasm is greater than ever in the applied math department. The services and seminars made available through the Applied Math Club, are informing students, and bringing them closer together with their professors. As a result the Club itself is becoming more enthusiastic, and is planning a good number of seminars over the next couple of months. In the near future, potentially February 13th, the Club will put on the previously successful and informative (as the name implies), Information Meeting. This will consist of an interactive discussion, by Professor Wainwright and others with the students about the pursuit of graduate studies, NSERC research awards and so on. Watch for posters for more information, or if you just can't wait any longer, pop up to the club office (MC 5168). If anyone is there they'll be glad to help you.

Bruce Sutherland

dearest editor,

this is a list of people we don't like. please do something about it.

jeannie beker	elmer fudd
the road runner	feyd-rautha harkonnen
bonso	john diefenbaker
hulk hogan	(remember the arrow)
simon le bon and his boat	john ritter
the editor of this rag	pennsylvania nasis
(get a hair cut)	mao
calculator-on-the-belt types	fed hall d.j.'s
howie meeker	nero
he-man	carol fletcher
descartes	wonder woman
tetley tea folk	coordinators
rockin' dave t.	jack edmonds
ralph nader	thank you

we (the back row) had nothing to do with this. that's our story and we're sticking to it.

we would also like to take this opportunity to inform the people of the 'bill-the-cat for president' campaign in the upcoming fed elections. (opus for vice).

dearest back row,

This is an impressive list, even with some omissions owing to obscurity. Let me tell you what i've been doing for you.

I couldn't catch the road runner and i scared Hulk Hogan into running even faster. Simon Le Bon invited me to his boat and i told him to beat it and get a hair cut.

We can thank both He-man and Descartes for scholarships and fellowships in their names. I don't know if i could have made it through university without my large He-man scholarship.

Did you know that Elmer Fudd was once one of the Tetley Tea Folk? I'm trying to convince more to undergo the same operation.

I've no stinging remarks about Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen.

John Diefenbaker is dead. John Ritter is dead.

Perhaps you missed mathNEWS' declaration of war on Pennsylvania - it made the third page of the Toronto Sun, how could you miss it?

Mao used to be a D.J. at Fed Hall until i told him to skip town or else!

Carol Fletcher? Wonder Woman? I believe that the world needs some of their sort of amusement.

THE GODFATHER

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Watts Line

So they tell me they want me to write an article. *Me?* After spending two terms as mathNEWS editor (F83 and W84) I feel I no longer have any qualifications for journalism. Since I'm no longer MathSoc prez, I guess I have to do something for a living, though. Sigh.

The computer fee seems to be a dead issue at this point; all we can do is sit and wait for the Ministry to make up its mind. The concern right now is underfunding, which is what the societies were saying last term already. Look at the symptoms: crowded classrooms, computer fees, space shortages, UofT's architecture faculty closing, McGill's photocopying fees, ... Neither the previous Conservative nor the new Liberal government have been overly enthusiastic about increasing funding - why? It's because people are much more willing to pay taxes for hospitals and welfare programs than for spoiled brats in universities. Most taxpayers do not realize that underfunding is deteriorating the entire higher education system in Ontario, and *their* kids or grandchildren will not have a chance at a good university education in a few years, let alone realize the economic benefits of a good higher education system.

We must make the government **and** the public aware of this. Once we do, it will be a lot easier for the government to justify giving universities funding increases of more than 3.5% per student. The Computer Fee Committee is making some (good!) plans for this term to fight underfunding; let's make sure that we all work on this together.

Next week I'll write aboutt something a bit lighter and definitely more interesting. Promise!

Tom "Watts" Haapanen
4B CS

Slash's Shoebox

Owing to amusing circumstances, the printing of the longer version of this article has been delayed until this time. Apologies -ed.

Dear Steve,

I don't know quite how to begin this, but I thought that I should explain why I haven't written lately. I need to clear the air about a few things.

I guess I didn't realise what being apart would mean to our relationship. I have gradually gotten used to what the co-op system is all about, and I have adjusted to having to move every four months. I found it tough to make close friends because often I would think more of whether people were co-op, or on my stream, or whatever, before I would accept them for what they were. When we first started going out, I was a little afraid of what would happen if things got serious and then we couldn't see each other for a long time, but because we saw so much of each other last term I didn't really think about it too much again. Now that we are apart, though, I'm having those concerns again, and I've tried to come to grips with them. I haven't been able to sleep properly and I feel that if I don't resolve things soon my work and my health may start to suffer.

So I have decided that maybe we should end our relationship. I hope this doesn't come as too much of a shock to you. I have thought about it alot and feel that it would be the best thing for both of us. I know we meant a great deal to one another, and I don't want you to forget that, because I won't. I hope we can stay friends. You may not be able to understand this right now, but I think you will in time. I didn't want to write a letter because it seems so cold and unfeeling, but I knew that if I called you I wouldn't have been able to go through with it. Please don't hate me.

Love, Betty

Universal Documentation Language

As mathNEWS's resident linguistics expert, I feel it to be my duty to inform you of a very important language in the "Real World". The language I'm speaking of is called Universal Documentation Language, or UDL (for short).

Any of you who have had previous work terms will have already noticed (those of you who are going out for your first one now, or for a summer job will find out very soon) that any explanatory documentation (whether it describes computers, software, company organization, telephones, or photocopiers) is written in a language that in no way resembles English. If you speak French, German, Chinese, or Swahili, you will also observe that the documentation makes equally little sense in that language.

The reason for this is that the documentation is written in UDL. This unusual language is unique in that no matter what language you speak, UDL always seems as if it would make sense, if only you strain your thought processes a bit harder. Don't bother.

UDL can not be made to make sense, even to those fluent in the language. It is rare indeed for the author of documentation to understand what he means himself when he writes the documentation, as it is almost impossible to construct a meaningful sentence in the language.

An added constraint of UDL is the stipulation that if a meaning must be conveyed in a sentence, much though this is frowned upon, then that statement must be repeated, with only small changes, at least $n!$ times, where n is the tolerance limit of the reader.

Having warned our readers, I will save the details of UDL for later instalments. I would also be happy to hear from any of you who have had experiences with UDL (label your mail "UDL" and drop it in our Black Box).

Cary

Want Ad Awards

Once again, it is time to award mathNEWS' Want Ad Awards. If you have seen any outstanding want ads this term, please tell us about them. We have awards for:

Vaguest Want Ad
Most Technical Jargon
Most Acronyms
Most Over-sold Position
and more!

A Mathematical Paradox

"A little patience goes a long way"
=> exponential growth (or a steep linear function)

BUT

The rate of change of patience should be small
=> derivative should be close to 0.

Hmm...

grmcfarlane

Possibly Fed Hall's Greatest Concert

It had everything going for it; it had been sold out for weeks. It was a relatively big name musician and he had a reputation at UW for good concerts.

There was never much of a lineup since there were no tickets to sell at the door (the good tables were gone early, however). The DJ played mainly good rock, perfect for a Wilcox concert. The beer was flowing well, sales were reportedly well above average. Around 10:15, a crowd had gathered in front of the stage and was shouting "Wil-Cox, Wil-Cox", then "Dave, Dave, Dave, Dave,..." Everyone was all hyped up.

He came on at about 10:25 to a screaming audience, and remarkably, he wasn't plastered, but I heard rumours he wasn't in great health. He went on to play fantastically to a screaming, dancing crowd. The music wasn't too loud or soft, just right (not what you'd expect from Wilcox). He did turn it up some later on but everyone was getting drunk enough that no one noticed. He went through lots of his hits including Bad Reputation, My Eyes Keep Me In Trouble, The Grind, Hot Hot Papa, the two word favourite Brain Fever, and a ten minute rendition of Bad Apple. He even took requests at the end, but still there will be the morons who complain he didn't play their favourite song.

He played a solid 100 minutes of great Rock and Roll/Blues ending at 12:05, but since one long set ending just after midnight is so unorthodox some people yelled rip off. He only had a 90 minute contract, and I'm sure no one would have complained about the 50 minute sets ending at 1 but children will be children.

I haven't seen many concerts at Fed Hall, and if this were the Greatest Concert in Fed Hall's history it wouldn't be because Wilcox was more than outstanding but because other concerts have been less than outstanding.

Nonetheless, get ready to line up early for tickets for Wilcox's 4th Fed Hall concert which will probably be later this year.

Brett Martin

Watsup?

WATSFIC is an active club this year with a number of activities in the works (some of them are even related to science fiction).

WATSFIC is holding a Tenth Anniversary Reunion Party on Saturday, February the 8th. WATSFIC got started on this campus way back in November of 1975 (OK, so we have a minor rounding error). All members of WATSFIC (past, present and future) are invited to attend. As currently planned, events should start around 1 pm in the Math & Computer building and continue on into the evening.

A Cosmic Encounters tournament is planned. As well, there may be other games in action (BYOG). There will be a special edition t-shirt for sale, as well as used sf books. Science fiction and fantasy videos will be shown. And naturally enough, there will be cake. In the evening FASS will entertain a block of WATSFICers. A number of tickets have been aquired, which WATSFIC will be selling to interested members. The FASS theme this year is "Mysteries".

WATSFIC will be departing very shortly from its office (MC 1009). Yes, it has finally happened, WATSFIC has received an eviction notice. Will WATSFIC find another office? Tune in next issue to find the answer to this burning question.

On Saturday, March 1st, there will be a one day SF convention in Waterloo. WILFCON 2 is being held on the campus of WLU. Cost is \$2.00 in advance, \$3.00 at the door. The convention will start around 12:30 pm. There will be videos, panels, a dealers room, an art show and guests. Guy "Summer Tree" Kay will be the writer guest and Heather Bruton the artist guest. WATSFIC is not officially involved with this con, but a number of WATSFICers are helping to run it. For more information check the WATSFIC office or phone 743-9485.

The WATSFIC AD&D Tournament is currently scheduled for the weekend of March 8 & 9. There are also plans in the works for a RuneQuest3 tournament on the weekend of March 22nd.

The WATSFIC short story contest will close March 10th. Stories can be up to 7500 words long and should be on a SF or fantasy theme. First prize is \$50, second is \$25 and third is \$15.

WATSFIC meetings for the rest of the term will be held Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm somewhere in the math building (check the office door, MC1009, for details).

djmullin

Three Unrelated Pieces

Here's something I read in an ad for one of those funny chairs you half-kneel on that are supposed to be good for your back (I quote (their italics)):

Reduce the effect of gravity on your back. Sitting regularly in a conventional chair your lower back is suppoting the *Total Weight* of your body, plus additional weight due to the downward effect of gravity.

Kinda gets you down, doesn't it?

The only thing I've heard recently that compares with this for intention to mislead, and failing miserably, is something Prof G. Thompson said Monday to his MATH 244A class:

"Let me explain why this is obvious."

Must be some new use of the word 'obvious' that I've never heard of before. Anyway, without any further ado (so you can look up at the proof your algebra prof is finishing, and nod appreciatively with quiet murmurs of wonderment), let me close with a philosophical insight so deep you can drown in it.

"Life is a sexually transmitted disease."

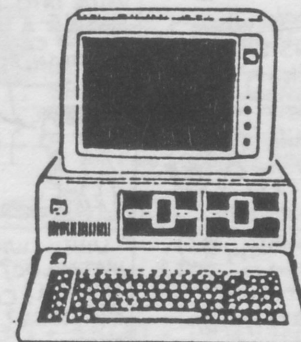
(Shhh, you're disturbing the class!)

from the collected hearings of Center of Gravity

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THE ADVENTURES OF WATMAN



When we last left the Dual Dynamo, they were headed for the can...

"Wholly bondage, Watman! What can we do?"

"Stay calm, Duck. I have an idea. Did you notice that the knot they used to tie us up was topologically equivalent to a knot that's not a knotted knot?"

"You mean...?"

"Yes, Duck, Watnots! On the count of three (3), do a Wattwist. One, two, three! ... OK, this time, do a *left* Wattwist. One, two, three!"

"Anti-gonish!" screamed Captain Lowliner, as our heroes entered, using the vilest oath he knew.

"pow bam zowie", suggested Watman.

"Only works in capitalised exclamations, Watman."

"OK"

POW!
BAM!!
ZOWIE!!!

c
r
a
s
h

"You'll take care of them, won't you, Chief O'Romenco?"

"Certainly will, Watman, and thank you for a job well done."

"Our pleasure."

"By the way, if you wouldn't mind, we've had a few problems in scheduling, I think WASS might be on the loose again, so if you wouldn't mind..."

Far away, in the heart of the Red Room, the Reds were brewing up trouble.

"Und now ve gif dem all die acht thirty! Heh, heh."

"Can you do that, WASS?"

"O, Ja. Ich can do anything to de schedules. Ho ho."

"What was that noise, WASS?"

"Dat wast ein CRASH, dumkopf!"

"OK, WASS, you'd better surrender!"

"Wass ist? Oh! Ist Watman!"

"Never again shall you terrorize the students of this archaic institution! Get him, Watman!"

"Never again shall you force classes of 120 into MC 3008! Get him, Duck!"

"Never again shall you ..."

"Schutzen der Schnabel, Duck! Get them, minions!"

"Oh no, Watman!"

Suspended in a cage, high above the Red Room, Watman and Duck slowly regained consciousness.

Will Watman be eaten by a recursive bug? Will Duck succumb to an infinite loop? Will our stack (or their bladders) overflow? Will our crass university be saved from hopeless schedules?

Tune in next issue, same Wat-time, same Wat-place.

Da-da da-da da-da da-da, da-da da-da da-da da-da... **WATMAN!**

The Chuckler

GO=OP COMIX *Today: Common CO-OP problems...* by Mark DeCaradz

THE PROBLEM...	THE Solution!	THE Results
<p>Problem #1: People who INSIST on talking about their jobs while at a WATPUB!</p> <p>...SO I MERELY LOADED THE HEX VALUE INTO THE 'Q' REGISTER MAKING A BINARY INFUSION WHICH CAUSED THE AMOEBA TO... ... BLAH, BLAH... BLAH...</p>	<p>ALWAYS CARRY LOTS OF OLD ASSIGNMENTS TO KEEP THEM BUSY!</p>	<p>YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO CONTINUE YOUR EVENING HASSLE-FREE!</p> <p>HEY, I REMEMBER THIS! I THINK I CAN DO IT EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MY TEXT! LET'S SEE... IF I INTEGRATE OVER... THEN TAKE THE DOT PRODUCT... NOW NORMALIZE... AND...</p>
<p>Problem #2: Urban Cerebral Paralysis; i.e. waking up & not remembering what CITY you're in!</p> <p>UHH... WHERE AM I? WATERLOO? TORONTO? OTTAWA? CALGARY? MC 2064? HOME? JAIL?</p>	<p>STAY IN BED UNTIL YOU REMEMBER! ...</p>	<p>AH WELL, WHO CARES ANYWAY?</p>

The Tales of Dirk Halfspeed

Part 2

We now return to Dirk Halfspeed, sitting in an Italian bistro, blitzed out of his mind and being told by a waitress that he had come with a friend who then promptly disappeared.

"What friend?" Dirk asked anxiously, trying desperately to remember.

The waitress would have answered him immediately if it were not for the commotion at the front door. A handful of stormtroopers dressed not at all like the ones in Star Wars were forcing their way into the bistro.

"Quick, you must leave," said the waitress urgently.

"Huh?" inquired the dumbfounded Dirk. The waitress pulled a hypo out of a pocket and it hissed against Dirk's arm. Sobriety chased out inebriation. "What?" asked Dirk more intelligibly.

"Go!" said the waitress a lot more urgently.

Dirk still didn't know what was happening, but at least he was in better condition to be confused than before. The stormtroopers finally broke in, just in time to miss seeing Dirk fleeing with his carry all through a door marked "Employees Only".

The stormtroopers cleared everyone out of the restaurant except the waitress with whom Dirk had been conversing. They put handcuffs on her.

Meanwhile, Dirk found himself in the kitchen. In there was a cook who was cooking, a dishwasher who was washing dishes, and an off duty waiter who was waiting for his shift to start. None appeared to notice Dirk.

Dirk did, however, notice that the stormtroopers were going to take the waitress prisoner. He thought he should get her out of trouble. Dirk pulled out of his carry all a spherical object. "Better watch it Dirk," he warned himself as he examined it, "this is powerful stuff." Then he tossed the object into the dining area.

In seconds, the troopers rushed out of the building, all rubbing their eyes. Dirk put on a pair of goggles and entered the dining area. The waitress's eyes were watering and she was clearly in severe discomfort. Dirk found the onion that he had tossed in and threw it into a garbage can. Then he broke the waitress's handcuffs. "It's all right now," he comforted her.

"They'll be back again soon."

"No problem." Dirk found his Electric Thumb and activated it.

The two were picked up by a passing spaceship. To be more precise, the waitress was picked up by one spaceship and Dirk- well, read on.

The waitress materialized just outside the control room of a small ship. She looked around and saw a plaque on the wall. There were two lines of writing on it. The first said "Sirius", the second "King, Joseph." The waitress leaned forward and the doors to the control room slid apart. She stepped in and saw the silhouette of the ship's owner seated in front of the navigation panel. "You must be Joe King", she said.

"Actually, I'm Sirius," replied a disembodied voice.

The lights came on and the silhouette turned into a human figure. "I'm Joe," said the human figure. "That was my ship's computer talking to you."

"Oh." Then the girl saw that the panel was open and several tools lay beside it.

"The computer warned of a faulty transistor," Joe explained, "but I can't find it."

While the two were discussing their problems, Dirk was having problems of his own. He materialized aboard another ship, one that

was manned by an octopus-like creature. When he saw the waitress wasn't with him, he figured she must have been caught in a teleportation cross beam. He asked the creature to run a scan to determine where the girl materialized, but ran into a few communication problems. Finally he got the message across, and a sensor scan revealed that the waitress was currently aboard the Sirius. Dirk then had to convince the creature to teleport him to the other ship.

Teleportation between moving ships is a very hazardous act, more hazardous than under normal circumstances, as Dirk will shortly find out.

In an unknown country on an obscure planet, two adolescents were going horseback riding. Neither of them had ever done anything of the sort before, and neither of them were aware of that fact about the other. The male was trying to impress his female companion, nevertheless, by performing various stunts.

The first two were successful, but they were relatively tame. The male grew bolder and tried a harder one.

This time, unfortunately, he didn't quite make it, and he fell off the horse. The horse became spooked and began running in random directions.

Back on the octopus's ship, Dirk got himself teleported off, and onto what he had expected to be the Sirius.

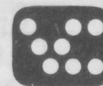
This is exactly where the hazard of teleportation between moving ships comes in, for Dirk was teleported not onto the Sirius, but onto the horse. The loss of the first rider and the sudden appearance of Dirk confused the poor creature. This time it headed in a direction which, as far as Dirk was concerned, could have been more random. There was a cliff ahead which was rapidly getting closer. Everything happened too fast for Dirk. One moment he was on the horse heading for a cliff, next he found himself hanging by the edge of the cliff and slowly losing his grip.

O. Nahacziwec

A Hangover

The time warp from morning to noon
My head feels like a balloon
I shouldn't complain
I caused all this pain
But why did it hit me so soon?

grmcfarlane



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Platter Spatter That Matters

a.k.a. Alternative Corner

Hello and welcome to the new and improved mathNEWS music corner. This column is guaranteed to enlighten the math populace concerning the goings of mainly the alternative music world via record and concert reviews, as well as information about upcoming events and future vinyl releases. However, there will be the offending tidbit thrown in at random. Much of the music industry is currently situated in the post-Christmas void ... but ... Talk Talk (of "It's my life" fame) have a new album, which will probably be out mid-February - also due in February, a nine-track, as yet untitled LP, by Siouxsie and the Smithless Banshees to follow up "Cities in Dust" - John "Sex Pistol" Lydon (who turns 30 today) and his group, Public Image Ltd., have a new album out next week, simply titled "Album" and a cassette called "Cassette" and a compac disc... how original - Prefab Sprout will release two albums this year to follow up the success of "Steve McQueen/Two Wheels Good." The first LP, "Protest Songs" is due late February/March. This will be available only in a limited edition of 25000 copies worldwide. Details for the distribution of the record as they become available. Their second album is scheduled for a late summer release - Hey kids, start saving those pennies... Michael Jackson's new album is out March/April, and should hit the bargain bins April/May - From the "Nobody Really Cares Anymore Dept."... The Police return to the studio later this year, with an album out in the fall, to be followed by a (Gasp!) Farewell Tour - Kitchener's own

WATSFIC Reunion

WATSFIC will present its tenth anniversary reunion on Saturday 8 February. All past, present and future (!!!) members of WATSFIC are invited to attend and participate in games (bring your own games) and a book exchange. The reunion starts at 9 am in the Math building and lasts all day. Participants will attend that evening's FASS performance. See WATSFIC in MC 1009 for more information.

Psyche have released a 12" single entitled "Thundershowers in Ivory Towers"... quite good. This is beginning to receive airplay on CFNY and some campus stations - the Dave Howard Singers, who opened for the Psychedelic Furs here in Sept. '84, will release an album this summer featuring a live version of "Road Warrior" - If you don't already have tickets, you're probably too late. Blancmange's sold-out Toronto premiere takes place this Monday, with a second show on February 4th at the Copa - Fine Young Cannibals, comprised of some ex-members of the (English) Beat perform at RPM in Toronto on Feb. 27 - the Fall will be playing in T.O. at Larry's on March 11 - England's "Group of the Year" the Jesus and Mary Chain, currently riding the wave of rave reviews for "Psychocandy," will be visiting Toronto's Concert Hall in early march - finally - the Cult, who gave a great concert in Toronto last December, will be on Tour in March. Yes, you too can see these self-proclaimed hippies in KW's own Superstate 7.

CS Kitten

Jordan's First Principle Of Numbers

The only numbers that live up to their name are the irrationals.



ON THE FATEFUL DAY BEFORE SAMPSON LEFT FOR UNIVERSITY MANY STRANGE AND WONDERFUL THINGS HAPPENED: FOR INSTANCE, SAMPSON'S MA CRIED...



The Raj of Rochester

Part Two

{In our last episode mild-mannered student Pierce Williams' day went from bad to worse as various unrelated omens and portents, followed by an unusual electrical storm, left him stranded among the ruins of a university that time forgot.}

With not much better to do, I sat down to figure out just what had happened. My explanations went from the sublime to the ridiculous and back again.

(a) This is really a very vivid, very bad dream, and I'm actually lying unconscious somewhere after falling down those stairs.

(b) Maybe some comic genius slipped LSD into my mashed potatoes and I'm having a pretty good trip (perhaps inspired by the sci-fi pulp I use for junk reading).

(c) Assuming what I see and feel is real, maybe that lightning bolted me into the future, and all this is the aftermath of an atomic war or something.

(d) Assuming the existence of some superior intelligence (eg. God, IBM, Dalton Camp), this superior intelligence has on some whim plucked me out of one universe and put me into another.

The sun was getting low in the sky, and so with this speculation getting me now here I set out to find *something*—food, water, a time machine perhaps. Following the stream that ran through the ruins, I picked my way through bucked concrete and overthrown walls. By the time it was getting into serious twilight I had covered maybe two miles—as the stream flows, not as the crow flies—and had seen nothing: no animals, no birds, no fish in the water. Oh, there was the occasional human skelton amidst the wreckage, but the bones had been stripped by scavengers and sun-bleached long ago.

The sunset was turning a curious shade of indigo when my path led into what must have been a park area. The trees, easily three times taller than anything else around, hid vast, dark spaces beneath them. I chose to follow a low ridge of rubble that skirted the trees—and then I saw it.

I had never realised just how beautiful an animal could be. It was a unicorn. Perched on a flat stone some ten paces away, it was like some magical golden statue with the dying light glinting from its one horn. Pale and yellow in the twilight, the powerful body of the beast stood majestically still. I made some noise to end the moment and it turned to gaze at me. The eyes, large, dark caves in the long head, seemed to speak to me for a moment before it fled. Then it bounded off into the forest, its mane aflame in the air, its swift forelegs the essence of the wind.

Now I was in deep trouble; things in that place ran on different rules. Magical, mythological creatures, however noble, are not part of the picture where I come from, unless you throw away most science done after 1600 and go back to alchemy. Going back to alchemy, and the times when there were sea monsters in every corner of the map, I didn't know what to expect next. Behind each rock could be a hippogriff or a basilisk; I really wasn't ready to face a dragon that day, either.

With dragons on the brain, you can imagine my surprise when I rounded a corner and saw sooty smoke rising over the next ridge. The last time I looked in the mirror I had seen nothing remotely resembling a knight in shining armour; with skinny arms and legs, scrawny chest and geeky glasses, I certainly wasn't Sir Launcelot, let alone St. George. Still, I cast about for a weapon. A rusty steel bar presented itself near at hand, so I shouldered my vorpal blade and strode off in the general direction of danger. No dragon was going to make a fool out of me; if lucky, I'd just be charred beyond recognition.

As I rounded the ridge and crouched behind a rock, I swear I smelled brimstone in the air. Then, tensed with the tension of tenagers' tendons, I sprang with a rebel yell.

The small, bearded man was in the midst of making tea when I pounced. With a start, he dropped the kettle into the fire and a large

cloud of steam filled the night air.

"Ye goddam sonofahellcat, whatthedevilsthewayof ... What? Whereabouts are you?"

I answered meekly and felt a small but strong hand fasten on my shoulder. I spun around.

"Who are you?"

"I am Regall Pander. And what is your way in these wilds?"

"You mean, what am I doing here?"

"Don't mock me. Answer, sirrah!"

"I don't know ... I'm lost."

"Lost it is, then. And what is your name?"

"Pierce Arrow, sir. Pierce Arrow."

"Sir Percival, is it? 'Tis the rare knight to leave me my head after terming them 'sirrah'! Well, whether ye be knight or not, ye have not horse nor gear, and it is my honour to offer you sup. That is, if any remains in all these vapours."

I sat down to a welcome repast of mealy bread and a thin stew that smelled vaguely of herring guts. Between mouthfuls I tried to tell this little man—Pander, I'll call him—just how I got there. When I spoke about the university he stopped his noisy chewing and gave me a strange stare.

"Ye have been to babel, then." Making a quick gesture with his hand, he declaimed in a high voice:

"Babel, babel, teller of tales;
Hopeless, gone, the light fails;
Sailors of the hourglass sea
Until two minutes the hour be.

Like that? 'Tis one of mine, if truth be known." He smiled at my dumb gaze. "I am a songster, an afterdinner singer, a spinner of long tales to aid the digestion of those better fed than I." He paused, as if to reflect. "But no man remains free to tell of the Dreamking's castles in Babel! Where, as ye recall, were you born?"

"A small town in eastern Ontario, just—"

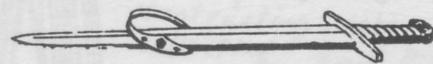
"Ancient names! Ancient gods! You are the Dreamking's own now. 'Tis sad, indeed. Sir Percival, what is your quest?"

"I'm trying to find my way ... home, back to the university—"

"Aye, thought as much. Ye belong to the Dreamking, lad. You are his own." Pander thought gravely for a moment. "I know of a mystic, a ponderer, one whose troth is given to no king. You have heard of Troyer Dreamspeaker?" I shook my head. "They say he was a Doctor once. He dwells along on the Lake of Shadows. My journey south will bring us near the Lone Point. You shall come, then?"

What could I say? Lost in a world full of strangers and dangers unknown to me, I had to follow. Besides, maybe this Troyer had some answers that Pander didn't. At my assent, Regall Pander upended the cauldron into the fire, and the night once more dissolved into steam.

Thomas Ivey
(to be continued)



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Dear D.K.,

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Dear GLUE,

It's a sticky business, compiling a book collection to accomodate the tastes of a maths hunk. Indeed, a great contributor to the magnetism exuded by this rare breed is the maths hunk's paramount individuality, his steadfast unwillingness to adhere himself to something simply because it is popular.

The key, therefore, is to avoid sticking to any one genre of books. Display a wide variety of tastes and you will have a better chance of catching his discerning eye.

To help you on your way, I have included the titles and authors of five books, along with a review of each. It is the opinion of this writer that these books form a solid base for a collection that will have maths hunks lining up outside your door.

Science Fiction - Sliverworld by Phlippant Farming Joser

The setting for this major piece of fiction is a planet upon which, for unknown reasons, humanity, in its entirety, has been simultaneously resurrected only to find that each resurrectee has a painful sliver in his or her finger. Everything necessary for comfortable living has been provided except the means to construct a pair of tweezers suitable for extracting the sliver.

Speculative fiction at its best.

Pulp - The Fed Zone by King Stephen

After an extended drinking bout during orientation week, a frosh goes into a coma for four years. Upon being revived, our protagonist discovers that he has been endowed with 'something extra'. The novel deals with his frustrated attempts to gain credibility for what he calls his 'B-Math' and his search for useful applications of his talent.

This is scary stuff, folks. Don't read it at night, alone

Non-Fiction - Noodle, Schroeder, Buck by Hugless P. Toffeeschredder

Toffeeschredder uses some of the most poignant excerpts from the Buck Rodgers T.V. series combined with the brilliant expression of Schroeder as viewed in frame by frame representations of musical out-takes in the Peanuts comic strip to explain the elusive yet fundamental Noodle's Infulness Theorem. With these concepts, he weaves an eternal pasta braid (approx. 20 min. to 'al dente').

For the first time we clearly see how, as predicted by the Infulness Theorem, when a student becomes sufficiently hungry, his or her digestive system exhibits the property of Infulness (ie. is characterized by both extreme hunger and that 'I couldn't eat another thing' feeling, when confronted with Village cafeteria spaghetti.)

Action-Adventure - A View to a Krill by Ian Phlegming

Once again, our favorite amphibious agent, James Pond, liscenced to krill, goes under cover as a baleen whale to battle villians left, right, and center. Never a dull moment. I couldn't put it down.

Other James Pond favorites include 'The Fly who Loved Me' and 'Live and Eat Flies.'

Humor - the compiled back issues of mathNEWS

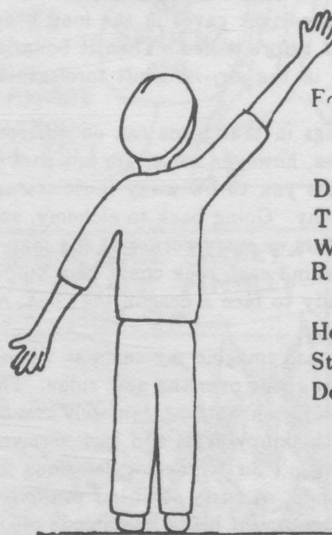
Pages of the quintessence of humor by the zany comic writers that give its present outstanding reputation. You are guaranteed plenty of belly laughs provided you can weed your way through the obscure and polysyllabic tosh that is used to hide the jokes. For instance, mathNEWS critics are not allowed floccinaucinihilipilification unless they can find out what it means.

Good Luck.

D.K.

Next week : I live in residence. As if that weren't enough, all the other girls on my floor are goochews. They hang around with their respective gaggles and act pert. Since I can't lick 'em, should I start chewing Dentyne and join 'em, or should I stick to my guns and stay human?

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mathNEWS Question Air

mathNEWS presents this interesting survey that you might want to fill out. Because we get feedback and comments from real mathies, we are directing this survey to those complex, imaginary mathies only. As well, apart from just asking questions about things like content, this survey also asks about some more fundamental issues of mathNEWS. In the following questions, circle all answers that apply.

- What is your favourite publication?
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 - All of the above
- Why do you pick up mathNEWS?
 - LookAhead
 - Feedback
 - Real news
 - GridWords
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 - Other _____
- How often do you read mathNEWS?
 - Once a term
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 - Twice an issue
 - Will never admit reading it
 - One of the above
 - All of the above
- How frequently should mathNEWS be published?
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 - Hourly
 - ν/λ
 - Bicentennially
 - '
 - Never
 - Other _____
- What sort of content would you like?
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 - No more Gooch
 - Coupons
 - More imaginary surveys
 - More quiche
 - Other _____
- What language should mathNEWS be printed in?
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 - French
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 - Albanian
 - Sanskrit
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 - APL
 - Elfish
- What should the pages be made of?
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 - Onion skin
 - Pink ties
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 - Clay tablets
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 - Issues of engines
- How should the pages be bound?
 - Staples
 - With nothing
 - Paper clips
 - Folding corners
 - Masking tape
 - Wooden pegs
 - Crazy glue
 - Rivets
 - Plasticine
 - Lemon meringue pies from Village
- What type of ink should be used?
 - Black
 - Pink
 - Invisible
 - Corrosive
 - Village gravy
 - C+D chocolate doughnut icing
 - Tattooes on mathNEWS personnel

All imaginary mathies are requested to fill out this questionnaire as soon as possible. The imaginary results will be printed in the next issue of mathNEWS.

J. D'Oe et al.

Mathematical Puzzles Column

This game can be played with pawns on a chessboard, dots on graph paper, or pegs on a pegboard. (8X8 square)

Players take turns adding pegs to the board. A player loses when a peg is added that creates a line (straight or diagonal) of three pegs.

The skill in the game is to select patterns of play which force your opponent to complete a line of three pegs.

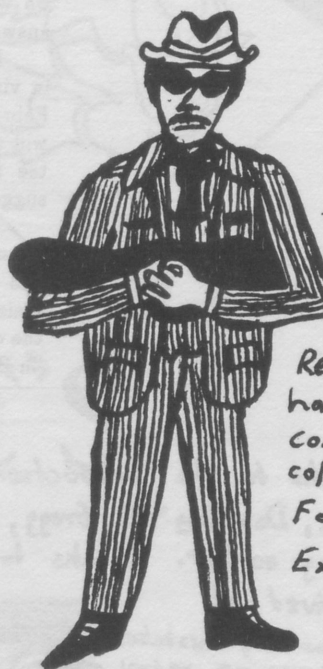
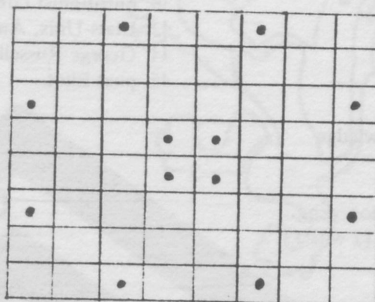
Note that the maximum number of moves is seventeen since only sixteen pegs can be placed on an 8X8 board without having three in a line.

In the diagram there are 12 dots, placed judiciously, so that the next person to move will have to make a line of three. Verify this by checking every empty square.

Can you determine how to place 16 dots on the paper so that there are no lines of three. (This is the classical problem of placing 16 pawns on a chessboard so that no three of the pawns are in a line).

The solution will appear in the next issue of mathNEWS.

the wizard of id



mathNEWS
welcomes the
Newest member
to our staff,
Tony Fillero.
He will be
Responsible for
handling complaints,
contracting, debt
collecting, and Pizza.
For service, contact
Extension 5455
(KILL)

Bongai A



These are the Voyages of the Starship GridWord

Across

1. brother to law-giver
5. basic itch ingredient
10. *Pachelbel Variations* Brian
11. Sumerian city on Euphrates
12. anglicised ö
13. time on a large scale
15. big hairy arachnid from Hogtown (pun)
17. "We ... a crossroads" (2 wds.)
19. study of man (abbrev.)
20. Addams cousin
21. tinny symbol
22. falsehood recline
24. chunk of intuition
25. "Ike"
27. devotee of Kali
28. glacial debris
29. Egyptian god of knowledge
31. jump up and down
33. interpreting the stars
37. salty town near London, Eng.
38. "She was ... pickle" (2 wds.)
39. IOU, less verbally
40. less than (abbrev.)
41. Can. poetess Susan
43. "Free to be you and .." (1 wd.)
44. having the location of
46. to search keenly
47. surfacing in Engineering quad (abbrev.)
48. flows without pumping
49. noble "Fatha" Hines

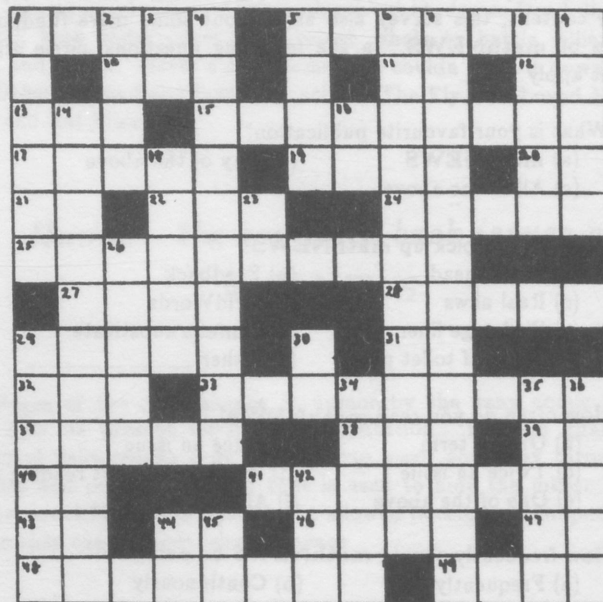
Down

1. opposite to "Attention!"
2. Levesque or Descartes
3. see 16. down
4. Sherwood town
5. "Que ..." (same wd. 2ce)
6. chase the plantlike sea animal (3 wds.)
7. "Childhood's End" author

8. complaint of the colon
9. wasteland, moor
14. Arrakis air transport
16. reverse bondage doctor
18. Alaskan islander
23. Can. "Huh?"
26. goes on a spree
29. *Rear Window's* Ritter
30. Spielberg homephoner
34. "Joan Crawford is ... from the dead"
35. benefactor, donor
36. nutritionist Gibbons
42. Etats-Unis, Amerika
44. George Russell (penname)
45. poet Eliot

"The earth is degenerating these days. Bribery and corruption abound. Children no longer mind parents. Every man wants to write a book, and it is evident that the end of the world is approaching fast."

Assyrian Tablet
2800 B.C.



GridComments and Squiz Summary

From last week's mathNEWS Squiz, we only had one contributor, namely Jim Dupuis. This person didn't get all the answers, but he does win a MathSoc button or ruler for actually handing something in. Because the squiz master hasn't sent in his mathNEWS Squiz #2, we won't be featuring a squiz this issue and we don't have correct answers to Squiz #1.

However, we do have a GridWord for you to complete and hand in via the *BLACK BOX* on the third floor. You have until Saturday 8 February 1986 to hand it in. Then, we might pick a lucky winner who will at least receive fame, if not fortune. The prize selection committee is functioning rather slowly (like any good committee). Prize suggestions are also being accepted.

We have a bit of cleaning up from last term that we should have done last issue, namely with respect to the GridWord printed at the end of the fall term. Grid solvers known to us are: the team of Jill Fleischman, Jack Rehder and Hélène Lacombe, the solo John Gilhuly, the one-man team of John McIntosh, Jim McCaw, and the duo of Alis-on Burnham and Dave Keir. These people all win fame this issue.

Woody Tobias, Sr

Masthead: Thanks to the production crew - Dave, John, Cary, Rick, Rob, Ken, Fred, Kerry (fingers), Jim, Dan (big "O"), Gregg, Glenn, Bruce, Paul. It's too bad the night classes keep us from starting earlier. Thanks to all contributors and to Scooter?, whose article we! have not received yet.

Apologies for my mistakes - i am aware of a few already. I meant to include a note about the APPLIED MATH CLUB INFORMATION SEMINAR - i guess you'll just have to watch the bulletin boards.

whoa! time for bed!

*Thanks to all
dan schubel*