

# math NEWS

Volume 52 Number 6

March 30, 1990

*STUDENTS  
DEATH III III II...*



## First Class of the Nineties

*Life After the MGC*

Where do we begin when writing up this final article for the graduating class? It is impossible to summarize our final year in this small space, never mind the past four or five years of our lives. The memories that we all take from u(w) will last a lifetime.

A means of sharing future endeavours is to purchase a Grad Directory. Once we all go on our on path, it will be very easy to lose touch with our classmates. By having a permanent address and telephone number available, keeping in contact is that much simpler. You can even add any addresses that are not included on the last page. The directory has been on sale all this week and will be available in the grad office during finals. The absolute final purchase date is the day of convocation, and the asking price is a mere loony.

On Monday, the Registrar's Office will begin mailing out information dealing with convocation. If, by mid-April you haven't received anything, drop by the Registrar's Office and confirm that you are on the list of potential graduates. Remember to bring your yearbook receipt to convocation.

Our social directors Eileen and Steve have confirmed Don Cherry's on Tuesday, April 3rd as the location and date of our end-of-term pub. Show up early, because finger food will be served and trivia answers can earn you prizes ranging from Kool-Aid watches to Molson paraphernalia.

Yesterday, the selection committee met to choose a class speaker for Spring Convocation. To dispel a few misconceptions, the individual named valedictorian will not necessarily be the person with the highest average and most admired by the faculty. The person is chosen on the basis of nes writing ability and public speaking skills. The selection committee consists of five students from the graduating class and four faculty members. Since this article was written on Monday, we do not know the final outcome. In the past years Math was the only faculty that didn't have a valedictorian.

There is still a box of unclaimed rugby shirts in the MGC office; please come and pick them up at your earliest convenience, or Emil might end up with an XL black-and-red shirt free of charge.

Due to renovations being done to the grad lounge, the location of grad photos has been changed to MC 4067. The dates remain from April 2nd to 5th.

The MGC directors will be holding office hours during the exam period from noon to 2:00 pm. We hope this opportunity will allow us to clear out our stockpiling inventory.

Congratulations to you all for being the first graduating class of the nineties. We would like to thank everyone for their time, effort and support over the past ten months. See you all at the Grapevine on Tuesday night. Since we hate good-byes, we will end the article with, "til we meet again."

Kelly Start  
Emil Mlinarevich  
Chairs Near Expiry

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Editor: Paul J. Sahota and David Weil

## CSC

*The final flash (of the term)*

Old news: about one week ago by the time you read this, the CSC animation night came and went. Numerous animations, both computer and more traditionally rendered were shown. The majority were from the National Film Board of Canada. A handful of old favourites and a hilarious new animation ("Knick-Knack") by Pixar were thrown in for good measure. Of course, tea and doughnaughts were served.

Yesterday, Jim Boritz of CGL gave a small talk on SmallTalk. Since yesterday falls between now (when this is being written) and now (when you are reading this) not much else is known (other than that tea and doughnaughts will have been served.)

New news: Tomorrow, a small group of programmer types will be competing in the SUNY Albany programming games in (imagine that) Albany. The intrepid few (selected in a mini-contest held at an organizational meeting for the ACM programming contest to be held next fall) are (in alphabetical order): Jacques Carette, Trevor Green, Kevin Greer and Eric Veach. Rob Kleitan will serve as alternate.

Coming very soon is the traditional CSC CTRL-D (end-of-term) dinner. Voting for time and place has taken place over the last week or so and it seems that we'll be eating at the Olde English Parlour on the 3rd of April, 1990. If you plan on being there, please come to the CSC office and add your name to the list on the blackboard.

Calum T. Dalek



## 1990 Math Graduates

*"The Pink Tie Pledge"*

The Pink Tie Pledge represents the commitment of graduating Math students to the University of Waterloo. Each graduate pledges to donate money each year for three years, starting one year after graduation, for the purpose of improving undergraduate education within the faculty.

The Pledge levels are:

- The Dean's Prime Number Club: \$101.00 / year
- The Quarter Century Club: \$250.00 / year
- Other: Your choice

Each person who pledges will receive a Pink Tie lapel pin and more depending on his/her donation level.

Donations in the past have gone towards instructional equipment, like Mac II's, Mac SE 30's, or graphics workstations, and towards extending the Descartes Scholarship endowment.

Look for more information and pledge cards in your convocation mailing package or at convocation. If you want to know more now, please stop by the Math Grad Office, MC 3042.

Thank you.

Kelly Start  
Math Grad Chair

## Prof Quotes

"Wow, that's great!! And they said that math was boring!!"

P. Schellenberg, C&O 380

"... feed whatever you want into the transport theorem:  $f$ ,  $p$ , your aunt, your uncle ..."

G. Tenti, AM 361

"Me and integers don't get on too well."

D.M. Jackson, C&O 230

"I like to put the point  $(\infty, \infty)$  on my graphs. It helps me to see things."

F. Goodman, AM 373

"This is typical of physics... there is no real reason for it."

D. Siegel, MATH 230B

"Whoever is yawning up there, you're very wise."

J. MacKay, STAT 230

"This is so exciting, you're just going to run home and study all night."

J. MacKay, STAT 230

"You can do nothing in mathematics without jiggery-pokery, trickery, and knowing what the answer should be."

F. Goodman (FoG), AM 373

"So helium is what I call a happy atom."

F. Goodman (FoG), AM 373

"This isn't exciting, it isn't hard, it's just long."

G. Labahn, CS 337

"This is so exciting you'll remember it for the rest of your life, or for two hours, whichever comes first."

Marshman, AM 250

"I don't care what you call it, as long as it's polite."

Marshman, AM 250

## Letter about Copyrights

Dear Nutster:

Are you not violating copyright laws by photoblasting your logic problem from the "Logic Puzzles" publication because I have seen mathNEWS March 2, 1990 puzzle before.

I would like a reply in the next issue of mathNEWS.

Signed

Male Trapped In a Neuter Body

Nutsters reply:

I didn't even know that said publication existed. I spent several hours last term creating it, not copying it from a book 3 weeks ago. If it is the shape of the grid that got your attention, we aren't the only ones using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  to typeset. I didn't copy this puzzle.

Nutster

## Ultraclassifieds

To Mike L,

To the ugly toad I know  
So bold, so good, he knows!  
Your stick is too short  
And your gut is full of port  
I'm glad to see you go!

Happy Graduation Montréal!

C.C.

P.S. Did you DARE?

**WATSFIC** Operation Fried Squid activates tonight. We leave Clubs room at 6:00. But don't tell **THEM**

To Caroline, James and Curtis  
Just think. This is the last one!!!

Andrew, what are those iron balls for anyway?

Crush

Overheard in the hall one day:

1st Editor Didn't you check the article?

2nd Editor No, I thought you had!

Happy Birthday to all those people who have birthdays over the summer term!

## Top 10 Lectures That Weren't Brought to You This Term by the AM club, the PM club, OR the bleeding CSC

10. Limits: What can they do for you?
9. Everything you wanted to know about Calculus, but were too bored to ask.
8. Some common myths about generating functions dispelled.
7. Applications of chaotic dynamical systems to Canadian government policy decisions.
6. Famous jokes from number theory.
5. Gender bias in cyclotomic polynomials.
4. UNIX or DOS: which is the moral operating system? (in conjunction with the students for objectivism)
3. Multitasking for fun and profit.
2. Effects of sleep deprivation on software production: an overview of computer labs at Waterloo.
1. Reliability and educational computer systems. (brought to you by MFCF)

Boob

## "A Midsummer Night's Dream

Last week, the Drama Department, under the direction of William Chadwick, presented a phenomenal interpretation of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The costuming was clearly not what one would expect: Attendants in Wall Street and CIA attire. A Californian Lysander (complete with everything but a surfboard), and fair Helena in boxing gloves.

While the scenery was minimal, its flexibility was impressive. It would have been hard to imagine that the gothic columns would later function as tree stumps and rocks in a forest.

The modernisation of the play included a female Puck and a large contingent of female faeries. With the relatively equal numbers of males and females the play took on a great deal more sexual interaction and innuendo, then perhaps the Poet intended. This, however, was integrated most excellently with the script which was already rich with such innuendo.

Dr. Squid left the performance quite content. It was Shakespeare, it was contemporary, and it was obscure. Dr. Squid lives for the obscure.

While the Grey Pilgrim is not so sure that the performance was obscure (because he's not too sure what that means) he left it in a good mood. It was Shakespeare, it was sexy, and it was mostly funny except when it was downright hilarious.

The Lord did not find it in any manner obscure. This is Shakespeare we are talking about? I had a great time, and I loved the interpretation, even if the modernisation made some of the mythical references less appropriate.

Dr. T. Squid, BMath  
The Grey Pilgrim  
and Lord S'Djawkheril

## Useless UNIX<sup>1</sup> Command of the Week

*sleep 0 &*

<sup>1</sup>UNIX is a registered trademark of AT&T Bell Laboratories.

## The joy of Space

Oh, how I wish I was in space.  
Floating weightless in a void.  
Keeping my own pace,  
Listening to Pink Floyd.  
No exams to worry about.  
No studying to make me pout.  
No doubt, I'd flip out  
Like a trout with gout.  
I wouldn't be a lout but rather stout.  
But I'm not in space.

I'm on earth, over here,  
Looking at Stats with fear,  
Thinking about my peers,  
The final exam that leers,  
Realizing the only space I'll ever have  
Is the one between my ears.

Crash

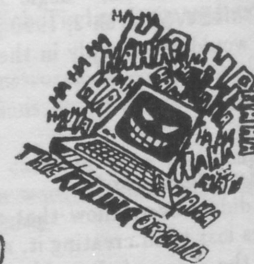
## Winter 1990

*The Term in Review*

Another term has come and is almost gone. (I wonder how many times that has been written) So, to help you remember the the highlights, here is a list of memorable events from this term so-very-nearly-completed, as compiled by the staff here at mathNEWS.

1. FASS entertained. (Thanks All!!)
2. Engineers, once again, drank and generally made fools of themselves.
3. Imp'tint published "record" reviews, "Intelligent" humour and letters.
4. MathSoc's new board was largely ignored. (Wow! That Rhymes!!)
5. Fees went up again. (SIGH)
6. A Waterloo tradition was upheld: General apathy towards Fed elections. (And almost everything else.)
7. The Leaf's began to win. (Another sign of the coming Apocalypse.)
8. A new coat check for Fed Hall.
9. The Football Warriors did not lose a game this term.
10. The Plague came third. (Congrats)
11. Food services once again entertained us with their version of... food?
12. Artsies still... existed.
13. More Female frosh. (For those who were on work term in the fall.)
14. Trojans. (No, that's not right! Okay, who put my shopping list here?)
15. The noise level in the Davis Centre remained high. (We don't have trains in Canada anymore, so we have to have some source of noise.)
16. Complaints about the stairs at Needles Hall fell sharply. (Or was it the complainers?)
17. Don Cherrys' Grapevine opened. (Nice tie, Don.)
18. mathNEWS was, once again, the most highly prized campus publication. (Sorry, Gazette.)

Don Chuckles and friend



## Sy Trek

*This time, it's personal*

It was a hot Friday afternoon in March, much like any other hot March Friday afternoon. I was sitting in my basement office, writing threatening electronic mail messages to users, 'cause that's what I do best.

My name's Phraille-Dais. I'm a DCS operator.

Of all the terminals on all the networks in the world, she had to tap into mine. At first I had no reason to believe she meant any harm; after all, I didn't even know her except by her unit number: C110,1. It even looked nice on my terminal: CALL RECEIVED FROM C110,1. Kind of sexy, even, I said to my partner, Croulle-Ceaux. Croulle-Ceaux gave me a funny look. I turned back to my screen.

I took a casual REMOTE SSTAT at her. She struck me as a real shy type; I couldn't put my finger on it, but from what little I knew about her I started to get a bad feeling. Then an idea hit me. I checked my own STATUS. My LISTEN was turned off. With horror I realized that this could only mean one thing: she was PRIVILEGED.

A quick REMOTE STATUS confirmed the worst. Instinctively I tossed a casual REMOTE PRIVILEGE OFF at her, but she was too quick for me: she had already hit me with a REMOTE DISABLE REMOTE. Before I could even ENABLE REMOTE she had me helpless with her REMOTE PRIVILEGE OFF REMOTE DISABLE PRIVILEGE. It was then that I knew I was in trouble.

"Croulle-Ceaux!" I called. "You got anything funny coming from C110,1?"

"Someone's just shut me down. But it wasn't C110,1. It was C112,0."

"Blast! Sound the alarm."

Croulle-Ceaux reached behind him and casually flicked the dipswitch that sent the alarm buzzer reverberating through the basement. Within seconds there were six of us in the tiny room.

"We've got a situation," I explained hastily. "Intruders, at least two of them. Man your stations. Bring me and Croulle-Ceaux back up, and take down C110,1 and C112,0."

"They've already taken out everything I've got! CALL, LISTEN, SWITCH, even SSTAT, STATUS and HELP! I can't even DONE the swine!" grimaced the operator to my right. I could never remember his name, but he always wore that same red shirt. Just then he leaned behind his terminal to reset his port, resting his hand on the power main. Countless times in the past I had told him he should have had that main taped up, but it was too late now: the operator in the red shirt had stupidly electrocuted himself. There was no time to see to him now: our chances against the intruders became more grim with every cycle lost.

The other three operators had me and Croulle-Ceaux back up. It took a few minutes, as they were busy protecting their own ENABLES and PRIVILEGES. In the meantime we discovered that we had more company than we had bargained for. C080 and C082 were hitting us with two lines each—together with C112,0 and my old friend C110,1 that made six of them against five of us.

"Phraille-Dais! How long can we hold up?" cried Croulle-Ceaux, typing madly. "I'm holding my own, but I'm not getting any offense off!"

"Same here, pal, but I've got an idea!" In a desperate move, I reached over and disconnected the co-axial cable that kept me a part of the network. I'd be cut off, but the intruders wouldn't be able to get at me either. "Just keep fighting them off!" I shouted.

I slipped out of my terminal emulator. The other guys, they've always preferred their hard-wired dumb terminals, but I always got a high from my PC running my own trusty terminal emulator. "Kind of turns me on," I would joke to Croulle-Ceaux. He always gave me funny looks when I said that, though. I don't know why.

Free from my terminal emulator, I turned back to the task at hand. I went into BASIC. Not my first choice, but I couldn't spare the time

to load another interpreter, and if I waited for a compile to finish we'd all be shot. So BASIC it was.

"Come on, we're getting killed out here!" shouted an operator behind me, as I put the finishing touches on my program. "Ready—cover me!" I called back, reaching for the co-ax, the other hand typing RUN. "Now!"

For the first few seconds, nothing happened as my port reset itself. After what seemed an eternity, I started to get some feedback:

"CALL COMPLETED TO C112,0. CALL COMPLETED TO C110,1." My program lashed out at all the intruders' terminals faster than they could DONE me. At the same time my program placed CALLS to my cohorts' terminals and kept their PRIVILEGES up. Then my code started taking down the bad guys systematically, with war cries of "REMOTE PRIVILEGE OFF REMOTE DISABLE PRIVILEGE REMOTE DISABLE ENABLE REMOTE DISABLE REMOTE." It was all over in a few seconds.

We never found the blackguards. But as Sytek as my witness, someday we will. Because we're DCS operators, and DCS operators always get their . . . man? woman? cyborg? I don't know, but whatever ne is, DCS operators always get nem.

Johnny Mathless

## Professor Sharkey's Guide to Final Exams

**Studying:** Why bother? Most of the questions on the typical final haven't been covered in class so you won't have any notes (if you have made notes). Studying just wastes time that would be well spent on other activities (see Drinking below).

**Writing:** The key word here is PANIC. Since you haven't studied you don't know anything. This immediately increases your stress level, releasing adrenalin into your bloodstream. It's amazing how a good dose of adrenalin will jog your memory and allow you to remember the odd point that was made in some of those classes you slept through (unless, of course, the previous class was held in the Bombshelter. See Drinking below). Who knows? You might actually remember something useful.

**Cheating:** Don't be obvious. Most professors hate obvious cheaters. Looking over your neighbour's shoulder will simply antagonize your prof. Try erecting an elaborate system of mirrors which will maximise the number of people that you can copy from. Even if you are caught, your professor will be so impressed that you will receive a passing grade. Physics students who do a professional job are almost guaranteed an A. Engineers, it is a good idea to hand in your designs as well.

**Bribing:** Those of you who aren't confident of your knowledge of optics may consider bribery. Don't bother. Everyone knows that professors are overpaid, so you probably don't have enough OSAP money left over to sway even the youngest prof. Grad students who proctor exams, however, are fair game. Some of the more desperate ones will even settle for a beer or two at the Grad Club (see Drinking below).

**Drinking:** By all means! Before, during and after. Alcohol will help you to forget the exam that you are about to fail, the exam that you are in the process of failing, or the exam that you just failed. It may even help you to pass the exam (see Bribery above).

**Passing:** Yeah, right, good luck!

Prof Sharkey

## Waterloo takes 3rd in Putnam

Results are in from the annual William Lowell Putnam mathematical contest written in December of last year. Students from the University of Waterloo did exceptionally well this time. Colin Springer, a second year student, placed in the top 6 students writing the contest (written by over 2000 math keeners in North America). Stephen Smith and Eric Veach, also from Waterloo tied for 12th place. The Waterloo team, consisting of Colin Springer, Stephen Smith, and Graydon Hazenberg, placed 3rd, just behind Harvard and Princeton and ahead of Yale.

Rumours that the Waterloo team used steroids have been hotly denied. Although he wasn't asked for an explanation of why we did so well this year, Graydon Hazenberg probably would have said, "Superior training, and a selfless dedication to the ideals of mathematics." Smith attributed the team's success to, "... our brilliant defence. Very few equations got past us." Also unavailable for comment, Springer would have said, "I dunno. We were just lucky, I guess."

Anon

## End-of-GridComments

Submissions for the grid published two issues ago came from: (Conventional) Glass and the Ubiquitous Towel; BADPR; "Dedly & Weird"; Barry Delyve + Son; Ann Droolang + Detective Dunc; Lemur-man; and (Cryptic) Ectorman; Sharkey; The Avalonians; The Mock Chichenloafs; Macgician; Auntie Annie & the Pup; Jujubes; Vistlik the Romulan; Ann Droolang + Detective Dunc. Unfortunately I no longer seem to have the information indicating which solutions were correct and which were incorrect. Kudos to all who submitted solutions. I'm not declaring a winner, because, for all I know, there weren't any correct submissions. (I'm almost positive there were a few, actually.)

Favourite Epitaphs were: Roses are Red, Violets are blue. So they tell me, Because I'm dead; Is this rigormortis or am I glad to see you?; You think YOUR apartment is small?; He lived until he died; I loved STATS; Under this sod lies another; I came, I saw, I kicked the bucket; Here lies JJ under grass, some big \*\*\*\*\* kicked his ass; So long and thanks for all the memories; If you can read this, you're treading on my bones; I knew I shouldn't have used OCCAM's razor!; He blowed up, yeah, he blowed up real good; Here lies a dead person; Gone fishing with Elvis, Jimmy Hoffa, and John Lennon; On the whole, I'd rather be at the 'Shelter'; No oxygen required; First I wasn't, then I was, now I ain't again; Good friend, for Jesus sake forebare, To digg the dust enclosed here, Blest be the man that spares thes stones, And curst be he that moves my bones; I pave our pet faith.

Comments: aaahouuhaaa; It took us awhile, but we got 'em both! (we think); — — with thesaurus, use thesaurus; Did you see Yvonne on Friday?; Be excellent to each other!; Too easy, even frosh can do it!; Sorry about the ketchup!; "My god, he's dead Jim!"; i couldn't figure 15 down so i guessed; Recycle cans—recycle the GridMonster—but I want 100usual this time; More fun than a... well, more fun than work, anyhow!; My brain's about to crumble/ Spill out on the floor/ Sweep 'em up, Throw 'em away/ Don't want 'em anymore; Despite the small numbers, original ones are better; Fighting hippos all the way!; I don't wanna grow up. I'm a Toys 'R' Us kid!; When a bran muffin dreams, does it dream in colour?

That's all for this term. I'm if there is a Grid in this issue, it too will be recycled, 'cause I'm not using a perfectly good original in an EOT issue. If there isn't, well, sorry, them's the breaks. I think I've about had it with this GridWord stuff. It was occasionally stimulating, see you next fall...

(Oh yeah. Were there to be a Grid in this issue the answers would be posted on the mathNEWS office door sometime next week.)

Lord S'Djawkheril  
(thanks Penny)

## Letter to the Editor

I feel that I must throw my two cents into the recent discussion of various articles in campus newsletters. I wish to support the decisions to publish the humour piece (is there any other kind) in mathNEWS entitled *How to Get a Girl* and the other pieces that have been attacked. The current debate seems to boil down to two positions. Either people feel that the pieces are just harmless fun or they represent a danger and reinforce the sexism we are labouring so hard to end. I do not claim that dangers are anything less than real but that the actions demanded are even more dangerous.

At first glance, the humour is simply that, humour. On second glance it is still humour and humour it remains no matter how deeply we peer. People find these things funny no matter what else might be true. The important point is that being humorous and being dangerous are not mutually exclusive states. The humour in the articles (or in any racial joke for that matter) relies on a previously existing stereotype for its effect. This reference reinforces it in the mind of the reader. However slight, this reinforcement builds up. Now I am NOT saying that anyone is going to become a raving misogynist or even covertly sexist after reading these pieces. What I am saying is that somewhere deep down, you remember seeing repeated use of a stereotype and it affects you. No politician would tell a Polish joke to the media today. Why should women be treated any differently?

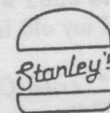
After the above, you might wonder why I support publication of this hazardous material. I find only one reason. I despise censorship and that is what is being demanded. Do not describe it any other way. There are editorial standards to be met, but refusing to publish an article because of subject matter is a very different thing. The article in question was the standard mathNEWS fare, excepting the sexist content, and fit quite neatly into the issue (unlike the rather poor Boyer interview in Imprint). One has only to look to the U.S. to see the effects of censorship of dangerous information. Judas Priest is being blamed for a suicide. Jello Biafra was tried for distributing harmful matter to a minor. Even John Denver had his contract 'reassessed' after conflict with the congressional hearings on Rock. Allowing any censorship, however well intentioned, sets a precedent, and Pandora's Box is not so easily closed. Censorship can only end in greater evil.

Please note. I could be wrong.



Mike Buckley  
1N Pure Math

## The Stanley Burger Philosophy



At Stanley's we believe that each customer deserves a great tasting, wholesome meal. Every item on our menu is prepared the old-fashioned way using only fresh, nutritious ingredients. Our burgers are made with 100% pure beef, all-natural spices, no added preservatives and are served on bakery fresh buns. We take pride in putting only the best into everything we make.

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## mathNEWSquiz #5

*We apologise for the inconvenience*

Okay! Okay! I confess! Space aliens kidnapped my siamese twin brain two weeks ago, as well as dag's brain and all the squiz submissions, and we only recently got the brains back. (We're still waiting for the submissions.) Our esteemed editors also managed to chop out one third of the previous squiz, but here are the answers:

1. The Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 began there.
  2. 1916
  3. Henry Kelsey
  4. Winnipeg
  5. St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands
  6. Sir Charles Tupper and John Turner
  7. Gaspra and Ida
  8. The heliopause
  9. Venera 7
  10. Valles Marineris
  11. 2062
  12. Andromeda and Pinwheel galaxies
- Note: This is the part you didn't see.*
13. 500
  14. Terminal moraine
  15. One inch (or 2.54 cm)
  16. Alumin(i)um
  17. Mt. Godwin-Austen
  18. Driver

And here are this squiz's questions. As this is the last issue of the term, we will put the solutions on the office door of mathNEWSsome time this weekend.

### Advertising

1. What product has a spokesman who floats around in a toilet tank in a boat?
2. What is Tony The Tiger's most famous line?
3. Of Snap, Crackle, and Pop, which wears a white hat?
4. On Raid ads, what do the insects yell before being killed?
5. What is the name of Starkist's suicidal tuna?
6. For what division of GM did Mel Blanc do his last commercial?

### History

7. What French hilly region was the site of French victory over Prussians in 1792 and Allied victory in 1918?
8. What country ruled Iceland from 1380 to 1918?
9. Who commanded the "Ranger", the first American naval ship to sink a British warship on April 24, 1778?
10. What date did the Titanic Sink?
11. What date did Lenin die?
12. What do the 1916, 1940, and 1944 Olympic Games have in common?

### Television

13. What was Lucy's maiden name (I Love Lucy)?
14. Who was Jim West's sidekick in "Wild, Wild West"?
15. In the Partridge Family TV show, what was the family's manager's name?

16. What is the name of the land vehicle used in the TV show "Lost in Space"?
17. What type of cartoon costume did Dan Fielding NOT want to rent?
18. Name the members of the Simpson family.

That's the squiz, and we are outta here!

sgdag

Mr. Death

## Box Car Tom and the Pink Tones



Their debut release "Pythagoras' Last Stand" adds an n-dimension to country music as we know it. We feel that they will prove themselves as they rise on the exponential charts. With the blistering vocals of Tom Vandelo<sup>2</sup> and the wheezing notes of Squeeze Box Dave, the listener is put not just into the third dimension, but transposed into the fourth dimension. An additional strong performance must be noted by Martha on the soon to be hit single "Where has all the Money Gone". Watch for this integrated group as they make their premier performance at the MathSoc lounge. For more tour information see Rob<sup>2</sup>.

BlueBeard  
The Boss  
The Machine



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## A Field Guide to Geeks

### *Little Known Secrets About UW's Most Desirable Men*

The recent article in *mathNEWS* recommending pick-up techniques to UW's great unwashed left me frankly puzzled. Why would the *mathNEWS* editors offer advice on finding women to the very men who are so irresistible that they hide themselves behind Coke© bottle lenses and cower in terminal rooms eating acne-inducing foodstuffs, trying to repel female admirers? What this paper really needs is advice to women on how to identify and acquire these men. Having recently succeeded in just this endeavour, and having subsequently conducted some related research, I wish to offer UW women the benefit of my experience.

#### *Geeks at a Glance*

While the inexperienced geekwatcher may feel she can make a visual identification of a geek based on the well publicised field markings of unkempt hair and beard, large digital watch, and fusion-powered calculator, the informed woman knows that these signs can be misleading. As elsewhere in the animal kingdom, different species use the same camouflage techniques and your slovenly target could turn out to be a philosophy major, toting a borrowed calculator so he can determine the number of 250 word pages he needs to write to fill the 2500 word essay on Thought in the Amazon Basin, due last week. Conversely, many geeks actually do own razors, and some have even mastered the rudiments of personal grooming. The preferred way to locate a geek is actually not visual, but aural.

The distinctive cries of a roomful of geeks is a haunting sound on a summer evening. "Grep!" "Foo!" "My calculator does symbolic differentiation." "Let's see whose calculator can find sixty-nine factorial first!" are typical examples. The dominant geek in the group is the one who replies to the latter call with, "Mine can do 250 factorial and matrix algebra."

#### *Confirming Your Catch*

Once you have selected a likely specimen, follow him home and make a few checks.

- The computer equipment in his room must be worth at least twenty times the value of everything else together. If you're not sure, ask.
- The explanation of the computer equipment must take at least ten minutes.
- Ask to use the phone. Real geeks have two modems but no phone.
- Does he have a desk lamp? Or does he just use ambient light from the monitor?
- As soon as he logs on, start rummaging through his belongings. If he notices, or if he hasn't logged on yet, you have struck out. He is only a geek-wannabe.
- Ensure he owns back issues to at least two computing magazines, a pile of multi-coloured computer disks in various sizes, and a pink tie.

If he checks out, you have found your man.

#### *Soliciting His Advances*

Now you must get his attention away from the computer and back onto you. This is the most difficult part of the procedure, so is left as an exercise for the student. (Hint: you will know this has occurred when he invites you to play Dungeons and Dragons).

#### *Enjoying the Advantages*

I cannot enumerate too specifically the benefits of having one's own geek, for fear of either offending the censors (so *that's* what the pocket protectors are for!) or overrunning length limit on *mathNEWS* articles. Aside from suffixing his declarations of love with, "you can parse that any way you like," and occasionally explaining the theory of symbolic logic at inappropriate moments, the geek should prove a long and loyal friend.

My Name Has Been  
Changed to Embarrass  
the Informed

## A Nightmare on Erb Street

It had been a hard day, starting at 8:30 and continuing through until her last Calculus tutorial at 5:30. She didn't even get to see those neat movies at the Shelter. So, with the hopes of sleep, she went home. But, alas, sleep was not to be hers that night. The disquieting tones of New Kids on the Block came from her roommates room.

"Turn that noise off!!" she yelled, "It's enough to give a person nightmares!"

With that the horrifying notes diminished in volume and soon she could concentrate on her C&O 230. But soon she was asleep and with sleep comes dreams.

Waking up, she heard a low scratching at her window. Getting up she cautiously approached the window. With horror, she screamed. It wasn't possible but there it was: her C&O text had come to life. It had gruesome claws and the nasty, sharpest teeth you could imagine. It growled, a low deep growl, from the pit of its pages, and threateningly stepped forward. It walked with the lumbering gait of one who had conquered many before. Indeed it had, many third year students were a testimony to that.

It stepped forward and she screamed again. It smiled at her fear. C&O 230 fed on the pallid terror of those forced to take the course. She tried to run, but the fumes of Seagrams and her own paralysing terror held her in place.

She closed her eyes and tried to wish it away, but she could hear it advance. If only someone had warned her in first year about this mind-boggling terror, she would have switched into something safer like Arts or even engineering. Her mind couldn't handle this type of terror. The algorithm just didn't compute.

Suddenly, with a flourish, she grabbed a pen and wrote down the graph for the problem she was working on. With a triumphant, primal scream she showed it to the beast. It shrunk away in terror. The beast was vanquished. She smiled to herself, that wasn't as hard as she had thought. Maybe C&O 230 wasn't such a hard course, but better not to tempt fate and she went back to her assignment.

Thus ended the menace of C&O 230 for this poor girl. May it end as happily for you.

Don Chuckle

## Masthead

Wow! Lots of people actually showed up today. Amazing! Thanks goes to those who came out and helped to put together this issue: Kivi Shapiro, Penny Watt, Dan Astoorian, Jim Sankey, David Nuttall, Roger "Klarg" Maxwell, Trevor Green, John Morton, David Gibbs, Stephen Smith, Salim Parak, Robin Stewart, Wade "the Geek" Richards, Koorosh Shahrokh, Mike Buckley, Miroslaw Kuc.

A salute to graphics services and the fine job that they have done all term.

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