

Merry Christmas from...

math NEWS

Volume 54 Number 7

30 November 1990

I'm not biased, but...



DON'T WASTE OUR FUTURE
RECYCLE 

mathNEWS	
Nov 30	Last issue release! We are outta here...



Get away from this cold, dreary weather and ESCAPE TO THE TROPICS tonight at Fed Hall! Dress for the heat and be prepared to limbo, hula dance, play hacky-sack, and carry pineapples on your heads.

Everyone will receive a lei at the door as well as a raffle ticket giving all a chance at winning the grand prize of a trip for two to Daytona Beach during reading week—but don't fret if you don't win the trip because there will be many other terrific tropical prizes available to be won. Also, specialty drinks will be served in coconuts and pineapples. All this for the low price of \$1.00 Feds and \$2.00 non-Feds! Go Coconuts and I'll see you tonight at Fed Hall!

Since this is my last column, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the social event volunteers and participants for making my term as Social Director a rewarding one. Good luck in your exams and have a very, merry Christmas!

Seema Wadhwa
Social Director



The State of The Society

My biggest problem this week was how to start this article without beginning the first sentence with the word "well." Well, I did it (obviously) so now the pressure's off and I can get on to more important things.

First off, I would like to express my extreme appreciation to everybody who made a positive contribution to this Society this term. While it may seem that their efforts usually go unnoticed, I want them to know that I do notice them and appreciate them very much. I guess I could say that it's been a difficult term without being shouted down. That just raises the level of admiration and thanks that I have for everyone who helped out — even if it wasn't in their job descriptions.

As for hating my job, well, sometimes I do. There's way too much stress associated with it and not enough rewards — except for one. The people that I've had the pleasure of working with during my time as president have been (with few exceptions) second to none. I hope that all of them were and are lucky enough to get as much out of their involvement with MathSoc as I have.

I give my congratulations to the new executive of the society and wish them well.

Other than that, there's not much. I'll be interim President for the first few weeks of the Winter term, for those of you who'll be returning then and after that I'm outta here! To those of you who I may not see next term, please leave me your phone numbers and addresses so I can get in touch with you later. For now, that's a wrap! See you at the Shelter.

Tom Vandello, President
The Math Society

MGC

143 days till we're outta here!

This article is the last "word from the Chair" for the Fall '90 term, so listen up!

We bid a fond farewell to the Accounting students who are graduating this term and leaving Waterloo. Don't forget about the MGB—you accounting folks will be getting your invitations in the mail. Remember to submit your addresses for the Grad Directory—we need your signature to authorise us to publish the address in the Directory.

The Grad Rings are in, so for all those who bought rings, you can pick them up in the MGC Office during Office Hours. If you FORGOT to buy one of these (many adjectives) rings, don't worry; they'll be on sale again in the Winter term.

We hope and "trust" that everyone had/will have an amazing time at the MGC End-of-Term Pub at Don Cherry's. Look for an equally fantastic Beginning-of-Term (BOT) Pub in the first couple of weeks of January.

There will be a General Meeting in early January to let you know about Winter term's events, so watch for the time and place on the signs.

And lastly, Paul, the MGB Director is still in search of a theme for the MGB, so do some thinking now or over the holidays and submit your ideas to the envelope on the MGC Bulletin Board (last year's theme was "Stepping Out in Style") - generally something classy is desired.

Happy Holidays!!!

The Chair
Peter

Recycling News

Well, many thanks to those who *did* come out to help with recycling this term, and those who used the services we provided. Your efforts were much appreciated.

The last run to the depôt will be on December 6th, after this time the bins will be unavailable. I can't afford to do it after then. So if you still want to recycle, my suggestion is to bring a plastic bag when you come to school and take any cans and glass home to your personal blue box.

If you are here in the winter term, please get in touch with MathSoc to find out who the Recycling Director is, and to help get this going early. If you are back in the summer, please drop into MathSoc and get in touch with me as I've been ('stupid'?) enough to volunteer to do this again.

Have a good work term and I'll see you in May. Thanks again for all your help and support!

Karen Smith

First Mourn

Then Fight to Change

14 women died in Montréal on December 6, 1989. 89 women were killed by their partners in 1989.

At 12:15 on December 6, 1990, a memorial service including song and readings will be held at Siegfried Hall, St. Jerome's College, for the women killed at L'Ecole Polytechnique.

Members of the federal and provincial parliaments, mayors and others have been invited to remember this moment. The Women's Issues Board, Women's Centre, St Jerome's College, The University of Waterloo Chaplains and the Graduate Students Women's Issues Committee have all been involved in planning and supporting this event. For more information contact Tammy Speers, Women's Issues Board Chair, at 888-4042 x6305 or Melodie Marratto, St. Jerome's College 884-8110.

USET or lose it

The other evening after taking advantage of the library's extended exam hours (don't you just love the DC library staying open until 2 am?), I called the University Student Escort Team (USET) for an escort home.

I had wanted to call on other occasions but never had. I always had good reasons for *not* using the service: I didn't really live *that* far away; it wasn't late enough for anything *bad* to happen; my room mates were expecting me (and they'd *do* something if I didn't arrive home) . . . besides, the escort team was probably too busy to walk me home anyway.

USET met me and walked me home. It was a great relief not to have to look over my shoulder every two seconds to see if any weirdo was following me. The escorts were friendly and the cold walk home seemed a lot shorter than it does when walking alone.

I've subsequently heard that USET service is not used very much. I've also heard the rumour that it may not be available next term due to lack of interest from the student body. This is a great service that may be eliminated, if we don't start taking advantage of it.

There is no walk short enough to be *safe* nowadays. If you live in Village, get USET to walk you home. If you drive to school, get an escort to your car. If you live off campus, you can take the Safety Van.

We have a great school with excellent student safety programmes. Use them, or we may just lose them.

Jennifer

Waterloo Co-operative Residence Inc.

WCRI is student built, owned, and operated, and is located within a five minute walk to the University. Applications are accepted from all students regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in a university co-op program; the word "Co-operative" here means that the residence is owned and controlled democratically by the members who live here.

WCRI has three co-ed residence divisions: Dag Hammarskjold, at 139 University Ave. W., and Phillip North and Phillip South, at 280 Phillip St. Each residence has a dining room where meals are served daily. Each floor has a lounge and a kitchenette where members can make breakfast and snacks with food supplied by the Co-op.

The apartment divisions have a combined total of 16 one-bedroom, 48 two-bedroom, 58 three-bedroom and 35 four-bedroom apartments. Each apartment is equipped with a fridge and stove.

WCRI's small-community-like atmosphere encourages members to get together for many events such as pubs, movie nights, fitness classes and excursions. Members also have access to piano room, bike room, study carrels, recreation rooms, and laundry facilities.

For further information write to or call:

268 Phillip Street, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6G9, 519•884•3670
Built, Owned, and Operated by Students.

Vapid Fire

- *Warning: the following is absolutely true.*

Following the resignation of Britain's Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, a number of people (all male) are running to replace her at 10 Downing Street. As of press time, the front-runner is John Major of 11 Downing Street.

- Following a long diplomatic meeting, President George X. Bush agreed to let Iraq keep Kuwait in exchange for letting the U.S. annex Iraq. When asked about the United Nations resolution, Bush retorted, "But what do you think I'm doing if not uniting nations?"
- Following Stanislaw Tyminski's incredible showing in the Polish presidential runoff, a variety of other Canadian businessmen have decided to run for President in a variety of Eastern Bloc nations. Among them are Jaroslav Břozočkė (Czechoslovakia) and Josef Susak (Yugoslavia).
Meanwhile, Tyminski has pledged to bring Canada and Poland closer together by using a number of mechanisms including a free-trade deal and the annexation of Mississauga by Poland with the reciprocal annexation of Lodz by Canada. Both sides feel it's a fair exchange.
- Brian Mulroney yesterday apologised to all owners of dogs that were imprisoned in kennels during World War II. "Despite the fact that it was a time of war, we had no justification for interning Canadian citizens of Canine descent," said the Prime Minister. He then announced a \$17 million allocation to reimburse all Canadian dog-lovers for the emotional turmoil caused by the imprisonment of their pets.

- Homeowners in Mississauga are outraged at the impending annexation of their city by Poland. Said one frustrated man, "I've lived in this city for the better part of 30 years, and not once have I ever felt that I needed an annex, and now they're going to force me to build one. It's criminal!"

Mr. Death
Mr. Annexation
Four Bee Prime

Top Nine Reasons to be Different

9. It's not wrong, it's just different.
7. Vive la différence!
8. To be just like all the other non-conformists.
- 5½. Oooh Wakka Wagga Wacca Whooooo!
- G. Artsies won't think you're strange.
- ∞. If you write enough articles, you don't have to be the editor.
- ∞. To get rid of annoying people.
- . Normal is so boring.
0. For fun!

Cat who Deceives

Your Handy-Dandy, Amazing, Incredible, Phantasmagorical mathNEWS Study Guide

Finals are approaching, and as they do, many students start to feel the pressure mounting as they realise that they are behind in their work for most of their courses and must hurry to catch up if they are to do well. This is your handy mathNEWS Study Guide. Keep it handy wherever you study: your desk, your easy chair in front of your TV, the door to the local Brewers' Retail. Refer to it often; while mathNEWS can make no guarantees as to its success, it must be used properly in order to be effective.

- Keep lots of your favourite beverage handy at all times.
If you are one of those who plan to post this on the interior of a Fed Hall toilet stall, this is obviously not a problem. However, for the sane ones out there who prefer to think while studying (something I personally find difficult at Fed Hall), we suggest Jolt Cola, the breakfast of champion CS majors. Barring an adequate supply of real Jolt (the Canadian version has less caffeine), coffee makes an adequate substitute.
- Take the telephone off the hook.
The reason behind this may seem obvious - you don't want to be disturbed. However, there is more to it than that; after all, part of the reason for studying is to do well in one's courses. If everyone does well, however, the professor will adjust all of the marks downward to produce a class average in the mid-60s. Therefore, it seems obvious that it is not only important to do well; it is also important to do better than everybody else. If your classmates are able to call you and ask you questions about course material, their application of your knowledge will raise their marks. Consequently, you will not do as well. It is therefore necessary to keep your classmates from being able to contact you.
- Unplug the television.
Again, the reason behind this seems to be to avoid distraction. However, the real reason is one that is much more immediate: to avoid being electrocuted when you throw your textbook through the screen in frustration.
- Take frequent breaks.
It is important to take breaks so that you will not go stir crazy with the pressure. I hear Florida is quite nice at this time of year, and by the time you get back from your little walk, you should have nicely avoided the problem of exams altogether.

These tips come from five years of experience at UW. Frosh, take note; you develop good habits now, your first set of university exams need not be any more difficult than high school. Upper year students, it is not too late. If you start now you may yet be able to rescue your academic careers.

Four Bee Prime

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Editor: Trevor "the rerouted editor" Green

Fatally Festive Foods

The holiday season is just around the corner and many of us are looking forward to an old-fashioned, family holiday. There's just one drawback: the family is included! Yes, those horrid relatives you absolutely detest will soon be descending upon you en masse. Horrid fat aunts with moustaches and flowered mu-mus will drown you in a shower of garlic-reeking kisses while cooing 'Why, you must have grown a foot since I last saw you!' Meanwhile, your least favourite uncle will be offering to show you the scars from his appendectomy and their brood of whining brats will demolish everything in sight. Sound too painfully familiar? Relax. As an early yuletide gift mathNEWS suggests the serving of the following dishes at your holiday dinner. These delicacies will ensure you never see those unwanted relatives again:

Strychnine Shortbread

500mL butter
500mL flour
250mL sugar
100mL strychnine

Combine ingredients in a large bowl. Roll dough flat and cut into desired shapes. Bake for 15 min. at 400. Makes 24 cookies that are guaranteed to cause bone-cracking convulsions, sickness and other unpleasant side effects. Death should occur in 15 min. Your friends will be dying for the recipe.

Cyanide Stuffing

2 medium onions (chopped)
1 loaf bread
50mL water
1 tsp sage
1 tsp poultry seasoning
100mL KCN (potassium cyanide)

Saute onions over a low flame for 3 min. Combine ingredients and stick 'em! (In the turkey of course.) This recipe will give an elusive roasted bitter almond flavour to your holiday meal and ensure that your guests don't ask for seconds. If you can't get KCN, HCN (prussic acid) may also be used with equally satisfying results— respiratory failure, blue complexion, staring eyes and death in 15 seconds. Definitely a holiday killer!

Arsenic Cesar Salad

1 large head of romaine lettuce
2 eggs
1/3 cup oil
1 clove of garlic
1 tbsp lemon juice
250 mL parmesan cheese
bacon bits
croutons
250mL arsenic

This one is for those non-traditionalists in the group. Cover the tell-tale after smell of garlic on the victim's breath by blaming it on the Cesar. You can begin your getaway while the victim is attempting to cough his/her pancreas out his/her nose. Death will be slow, but rewarding.

A small note goes along with this handy guide: You will probably only have a few minutes to make good your escape before the police arrive! We therefore suggest that you ask Santa for a very fast car and a one way ticket to Brazil. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Leon Amore

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Texasville?

Congrats to all who entered submissions for last issue's logic puzzle – there were a record nine of you this time! And, as it happens, I flubbed. The puzzle was unsolvable, so all solutions were considered correct. The winners (two, 'cause none were right and we need to get rid of these prizes) were Rhiannon-Sue and Wuntvor, the Eternal Apprentice: congratulations, both. Your prizes may be picked up the Math Society office. The other solvers were Pceçil, The Sheep Connection, MISTER BITCHIN, The Traitor, Death by Calculus II, The Demented Slinky of Frobozz, and Mearthie. Now for the sequel to the last puzzle of the term. Enjoy...?

This is the story of a group of people running a fictional organisation.

Their names were Tommy, Davy, Marthy, Duggy, Jeffy and Janiny, and they held the positions of Dictator, Vice-Dictator, Miser, Judge, Navel Ponderer, and Blabbermouth, respectively.

Now, there was a big contest going on, and Davy was involved. This meant he couldn't be vice-dictator any more, and Lisy took over the job.

When the contest finished, though, Davy got his position back – but the Judge resigned and the Navel Ponderer had to take his place, which meant he couldn't be Navel Ponderer any more.

Oh, but then there was trouble. Duggy was annoyed 'cause the Dictator had hurt his feelings, and the Dictator resigned. And then the Blabbermouth resigned too, and of course no-one could even find the Vice-Dictator.

And the Miser said that if the Dictator and Vice-Dictator both resigned, she would too, and that would leave only the Judge. And then the Judge would be Boss, and nasty things would happen.

But then everyone that had resigned came back, except the prior Judge 'cause now there was a new Judge but no Navel Ponderer.

Question: who was what, after all?

I think I'll use my real name... NOT!

The "Just Say No" CSC Flash

No gimmicks! No theme! No Brussels sprouts!

This fortnight's CSC flash contains no sexual innuendo, no references to silly programming languages, no pronking, and only one obscure in-joke.

AD Dinner

Contrary to the announcement in last fortnight's *mathNEWS*, the AD (geekspeak for "end of term" and pronounced "control dee") dinner takes place *tonight* at McGinnis Landing. Meet in the CSC at 5:45, or meet us at the restaurant at six. All CSC members, friends of the CSC and people who can stand Robqn's laugh are welcome to attend.*

Clubs' Christmas Party

On Monday, December 3rd (that's the last day of classes) the CSC, the PMC and the AMC, with the generous support of the Faculty of Mathematics, are hosting a Christmas Party for all math faculty, students and club members. The party will take place in the Davis Centre fishbowl, from 3:30 to 5:30 or so. Drop in after class. Volunteers are needed to help with decorations: see Carolyn (ceduke@tiger) if you can help.

Library Books

If you have any CSC library books, *please* return them to the office (even via on-campus mail) as soon as possible. Offenders risk being EXTERMINATED by Dalek hordes.†

Winter '91 Memberships

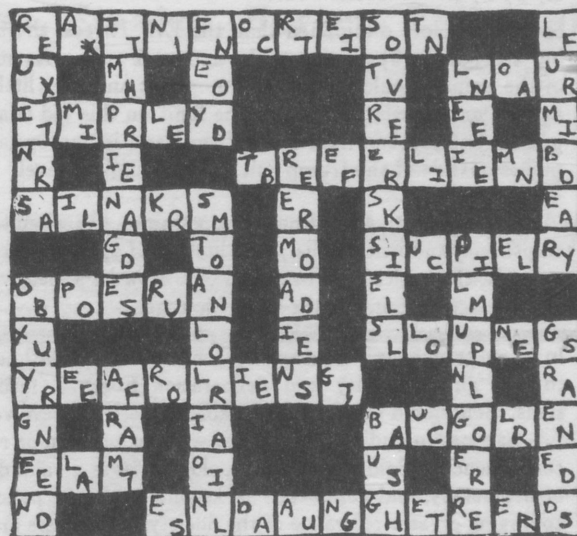
Current accounts on watcsc and fred will be frozen at the end of the term. To keep your account active and to retain (or gain) the numerous privileges of a Computer Science Club member, come into MC 3037 and exchange your \$2 for a membership card and a term of tea and doughnaughts.

Calum T. Dalek

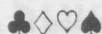
* This is not the obscure in-joke: nothing that loud is obscure.

† This may be obscure, but it is not the in-joke.

‡ It would hardly be an obscure in-joke if I footnoted it and explained it, now, would it?



ACE on Bridge



This week in ACE on Bridge, we will talk about preëemptive opening bids. First, let us define a preëempt. The first part of the word is 'Pre' meaning 'Before or prior to'. The second part is 'empt'...

Now for those of you who didn't understand (I'm one of them), maybe I should go into a little better explanation. A preëempt is designed to take away the opponents' bidding space so that they must describe their hands to each other with fewer bids to choose from. It is most effective to preëempt with fewer points (within reason) because it is more likely that the opponents will bid game/slam and you may make it difficult for them to find the right place.

But everything is not a bed of roses. There is the occasional time that the opponents will be evil enough to double you and you go down for a telephone number, but the advantages of preëempting far outweigh the disadvantages.

And now... for the explanation of the opening bids. (Responses are normally forcing for one round... asking partner what he/she thinks of the other suit as a proposal)

2 $\diamond/\heartsuit/\spadesuit$ — 'Weak Two bid'

6 card suit - Should be fairly disciplined (2 of top 3 or 3 of 5), 5-10 High-Card Points, No side 4-card major

A lot of people say that you shouldn't open with a void either, but I don't go along with it. I advocate the theory that any excuse to preëempt is a good excuse. As long as you think you can take 5 tricks with your own hand, it should be all right.

3 $\clubsuit/\diamond/\heartsuit/\spadesuit$ — 'Evil Threes'

A new system on the scene that makes life very difficult for the opponents. The bids themselves aren't new, but the name is. The theory behind the opening is that you can have whatever you want in your hand, as long as, if doubled, you will go down only the value of their game. As long as you have less than 10 HCP's, it should really muck up the action for the defense. Discipline is recommended, but not necessary.

Suppose you had $\spadesuit JT987654 \heartsuit 2 \diamond 32 \clubsuit 32$. You are Not Vulnerable vs. Vulnerable opponents. Don't you want to preëempt them? Open $3\spadesuit$ and watch them squirm.

4 $\clubsuit/\diamond/\heartsuit/\spadesuit$ — 'Forceful Fours'

Somewhat more disciplined than the Evil Threes, these bids are bid to show 8 (9) playing tricks in 1 or 2 suits. As such, most of the points should be in the Trump suit and very little defense against an opposing contract. The limit on this bid is around 12 points, but you can have more if the hand is appropriate. With points outside of the trump suit, open at the one level.

And that's about it. Aside from obvious things, like when to restrain the temptation, and when to lie just a little, and open a weak two with a 5 card suit, the basics have been laid out. Now let's see if we can get a little more action going in the Comfy lounge.

Flash!

In a surprising and controversial move today, MathSoc voted to ban all rationality and deliberation from all future decisions. Henceforth the decision making process will revolve around "... passion, prejudice and impulse without restraint or regard to consequence." Said a MathSoc apologist, "It is a valid definition of democracy, and completely in keeping with our policy of encouraging greater relevance of the Society." Observers are unsure how the introducer of the motion managed to find a copy of US Army TM2000-25.

The Twelve Days of Algebra

to the tune of... well, I'm sure you can figure it out

On the first day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
matrix invertibility.

On the second day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the third day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the fourth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the fifth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the sixth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the seventh day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
seven deadly theorems, six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the eighth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
eight eigenvalues, seven deadly theorems, six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the ninth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
nine normal vectors, eight eigenvalues, seven deadly theorems, six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the tenth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
ten transpositions, nine normal vectors, eight eigenvalues, seven deadly theorems, six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the eleventh day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
eleven annihilators, ten transpositions, nine normal vectors, eight eigenvalues, seven deadly theorems, six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

On the twelfth day of Algebra, my math prof gave to me:
twelve useless lemmas, eleven annihilators, ten transpositions, nine normal vectors, eight eigenvalues, seven deadly theorems, six spanning subsets, Five pointless prooooooooooofs! Four Markov chains, three vector products, two tangent vectors and matrix invertibility.

Fluffy the Wonder Bunny
The Benign Giant



Prof Quotes

Many thanks to all of you who submitted prof quotes this term. We love you! You don't need to submit any more this term, but feel free to, as we may well use them next term.

"Welcome to 'Bullshit 211'."

D. Conrath, M SCI 211

"The material in this chapter is nothing to get wildly excited about... you may, in fact, get wildly annoyed."

G. Bennett, STAT 230

"What does the book call it? 'Individuality'? What the hell does that mean?"

G. Bennett, STAT 230

"Anyone who doesn't get this part right on the midterm is dead! ROADKILL!"

G. Bennett, STAT 230

"Well, this is going to be an easy midterm to mark!"

G. Bennett, STAT 230

"I need some of Ron Scoins' exotic chalk to mark this bunch of crap over here with some colour..."

G. Bennett, STAT 230

"When a prof says 'of course', everybody ducks."

G. Bennett, STAT 230

" $0 \times 0 = 0$, except on the STAT 230 midterm, where it could be any number of things, according to you guys."

G. Bennett, STAT 230

"Now we consider the inertial motion of my rod."

B. Forte, Math 147

" e^x is real small, and $\sin y$ is real small. y isn't really small, but a small times a small is really small, so it's OK. Now let's get more precise..."

K. Davidson, Math 145

"Since it's Grey Cup weekend we'll have to find the parametric equations for a football."

Forrest, Math 137

"I didn't say *all* women are like that, just the ones you don't want to marry are like that."

F. Reynolds, MTHEL 305A

"I heard that the Taming of the Shrew is sold out. I guess people think it's Maggie Thatcher's autobiography. ... Wait a minute! I don't want to see that in print, anywhere!"

Woolstencroft, Pol Sci 260A

MATH 230B/English Dictionary

All those of you who are contemplating taking MATH 230B (re-named AM 231) will probably need this compendium of "mathematical expressions" if you are ever to understand what the prof is saying.

Expression	Translation
theethrahedron	the name of a Japanese movie monster
substruct	this bomb is about to explode
sinus x	I've got a stuffed-up nose
minus the cosinus	My nose is cleared up now
effin ay	Like, awesome function, dude!
calcoolade	a fruit beverage for mathies
calcaloose	the buttons fell off my HP
orientable	Hong Kong international student
who is ρ_1 ?	the keeners up front
who is the region?	What planet am I on?

Fluffy the Wonder Bunny
The Benign Giant

MastHead

it's been integer

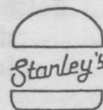
Well, I'll no doubt ride the mathNEWS railroad again, but for now I'm done. Thanks to all who came out to help, including: Dave Weil (Production Night demigod), Lance Sibley (a good friend and a damn good writer), David Gibbs (Squizmaster), Joe Varnell (another writer person), Robon Stewart (writer and Elvisoid representative), Marcel Goudeseune (Editor-Elect), Dale Wick (Chief Bridge), Jason Rochon (General Nice Guy), Shannon Mann (someone who will do things), Julia Harrold (Chief Daughter), Kivi Shapiro (Editor-in-training), Mike Neumann (Yet Another Helper), Mark Brockington (Chief Assistant in charge of Title Distribution), Curtis Desjardins (Production Manager and Closet Cross-Dresser) and Betty-Jo Hill (Thankless Slave).

Thanks to the people at Ginos for keeping me well-fed while doing all these silly papers, the people at Graphic Services (what would we do without you, Marion?) and my parents for keeping in touch. I love you, mom and dad.

It's 11:50, and I have to get this downstairs Real Soon Now, so I'll stop it here.

Trevor "\$nickname" Green

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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**STANLEY
COMBO**

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Pop

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Expires 31 December 1990

Ed Sed

Computer Geeks Still Can't Have Sex

Last April, Associate Provost John W. Wong announced that, for "economic reasons", the alt newsgroups would no longer be carried on campus-owned computing equipment. From the start this created a cry of "Censorship!" from computer users around the world and here in Waterloo. This fall, the Federation of Students, Computer Science Club and other on-campus student groups got their act together and managed to get a review committee set up and get the issue on the University Senate agenda for their meeting on Monday 19 November.

On Friday 16 November, Provost Alan George announced that the alt groups, with the exception of groups which are "obviously objectionable", would be reinstated. The groups not being brought back are alt.evill and the alt.sex subtree of groups. He simultaneously removed the issue from the Senate agenda.

This strikes me as a rather clever manoeuvre—instead of creating an outcry for censoring the alt.sex groups, the administration are praised for taking this step forward. Doesn't this strike you as odd? When the somewhat less-offensive rec.humor.funny was banned at Stanford (it's *still* censored at our campus, by the way), there was such an uproar that the administration backed down immediately. But what is happening here? Our administration lies to us, refuses to listen to us and is additionally suppressing our freedom of speech. And they get *praised* for their open atmosphere. It is getting to the point where I am ashamed to have my name associated with this university.

Surely the administration must realise that this oppressive atmosphere is driving away the best students. I am seriously considering transferring universities, and this is not an empty threat. I came to university to: get an education; fraternize with peers to whom I can relate; and to speak my mind. It frustrates and irks me that the administration of a university, an institution which is supposed to embody the principles of unrestrained research and learning, is preventing me from communicating with my peers, because it doesn't want me to be "offended"!

Does the university have rules on its books saying that I can't discuss matters of sexuality on its campus? No. Heck, this university even has a department of Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies! Yet they won't let me read alt.sex because I might find it "offensive". The library subscribes to Playboy and has copies of *Fanny Hill* and *Lady Chatterly's Lover* on its shelves. Are these somehow less offensive than a discussion of my (hypothetical) love life?

If I don't get some answers soon, I'm going to be too fed up to stay at this university. Maybe it's time to move back to Saskatoon and try to learn in a less oppressive atmosphere. Then again, if I'm not going to fight, who will?

Trevor Green
mathNEWS editor

Opinions expressed in this article are merely the humble opinions of the editor, and should be in no way be construed to be the opinions of mathNEWS. Rebuttals to this editorial will be accepted with an open mind.

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The Rest of This Title is in Bangkok, on

(apologies to DRH)

This is the last PMC column of the term, in which is revealed the mysterious whereabouts of SuperBert, more or less. We will be having our grand and glorious end-of-term general meeting this coming thursday at 3:30 pm, in MC 4063. (Actually, this has in fact already happened yesterday, due to the recursive nature of temporal mechanics as expressed in units of issues of *mathNEWS* per bi-weekly fortnight squared. Never fear, I'm sure you were there and can confirm the most excellent time we all had distributing the leftover embezzled funds.) First up on the agenda is DisneyworldTM. Economic sanctions are presently in effect to combat this unbridled aggression on the mental stability of the human race, however in the event that this does not succeed, a preliminary resolution on the use of calculus is under deliberation. Following this, there is to be a discussion of the merits of post-modernistic painting and it's possible relevance to the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra. We will be presenting the pro and con theories, before concluding that it is a total waste of time. At this point, we will bring up the usual club exec business, which is to say budgets, review of the term's activities, etc. But come on out anyway, there'll be free "refreshments" for all! And on December 3, the long awaited end-of-term festivities will occur, brought to you by the CSC, the AM club, and yours truly, the PMC. 3:30 pm in the Davis Center fishbowl (opposite EMS library).

As regards the Great SuperBert Contest: we received three entries. They are (in reverse order), Janet C. Berkstone (2N CS), George H. Hissletow (12A mech. eng.), and the grand prize winner, Ernie (0E pure math).

And you, having won, are now the official PMC columnist of next term! (polite applause) So we'll be looking forward to more of the above in the months to come. It seems I'm all out of time, so I'll let you get back to your class now. Happy winter solstice.

cap'n wolfy and the flaming cadenzas

The Joy of Pronking

Have Fun! Burn Calories! Learn a New Skill!

When you were thirteen (or five, or starting your second marriage, depending on which side of the room your parents sat on at PTA meetings), you learned about the birds and the bees. Now birds and bees had some pretty interesting life skills to impart and I'm sure we all spent many happy hours feeding worms to our younger siblings or rolling in the clover, coaxing the succulent nectar out of those purple flowers, but isn't it time you took some lessons from creatures in the same biological class as yourself?

Consider the ruminant even-toed ungulates, vertebrate mammals such as yourselves. These graceful creatures pronk several, if not dozens of times, daily. While you may not have the stamina, or the daring, to pronk for hours in a large group the way a *Neotragus neotragus* can, surely you and your partner can derive some of the same benefits from this exciting activity, in the privacy of your own home. Don't be ashamed that you lack the impressive equipment of the originators of this 'sport,' your efforts can be enjoyable nevertheless, and you are less likely to injure yourself or another.

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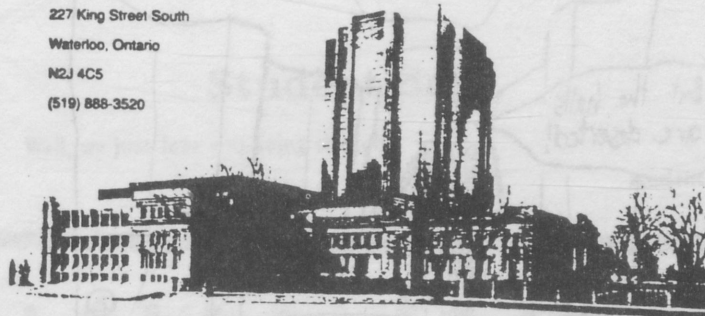
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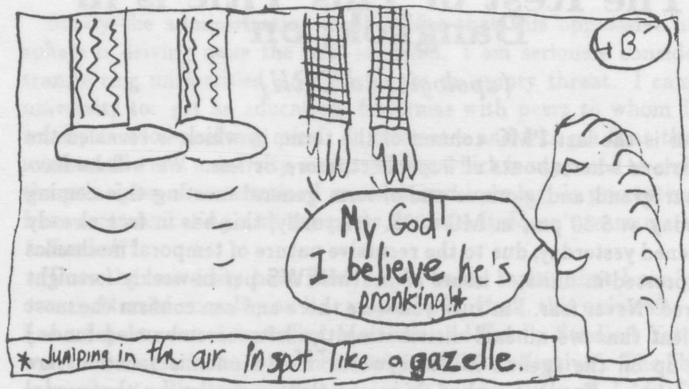
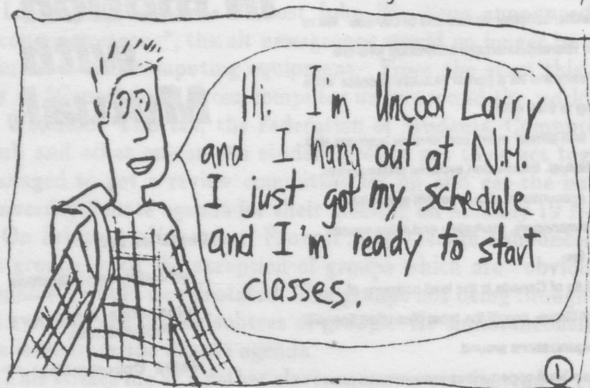
You will need to find an open area, free from obstacles and having a soft surface. For your first pronk you will feel more comfortable with few if any spectators, so some degree of privacy and insurance against anyone 'walking in' while you are pronking is preferable.

Remove hard shoes, and any constricting clothing. Now bend your knees and squat down on the ground with your hands touching the floor just in front of your feet. Arch your back downwards (with your stomach protruding) and raise your head. You may need your partner for balance. Lower your crouch and lean forward slightly, like a sprinter on the starting blocks, but with arms slightly bent. Now, in an explosive burst of energy, arch your back the other way, snapping your head smoothly down, straightening your arms, and — most importantly — pushing off with your legs. You are aiming for maximum altitude and time aloft, but stance (legs and arms extended similarly — this is a four-limbed action — and back arched) and a graceful landing are equally important. As soon as you and your partner understand the basic moves, you should started pronking together, both going up at the same time or alternating, depending on the effect you wish to achieve.

I wish you many happy hours of pronking. Please remember to be thankful to those beloved ruminant ungulates, the antelopes, who founded and developed this cardiovascular sport. More information on pronking can be found in any textbook on ungulate behaviour.

Homo sapiens

The Parallel Serial - starring Uncool Larry



To Be Continued ...
or is it end of Term!
90 11 26 Bridge Dale

⑥



Are Math Profs Indistinguishable?

Since 1976, the University of Waterloo *Distinguished Teacher Award*, has been bestowed forty-eight times, but only three recipients have been in math, all three prior to 1985. Verna Keller of the TRACE Office assures us that the TRACE staff *love* to push paper, and she worries that perhaps mathies lack the imagination necessary to concoct reasons to nominate profs.

Is the most distinguishing characteristic of a math prof the ability to generate seven fonts with an eight millimetre stub of chalk? Or do mathematics students lack the acumen to string together sentences like, "My prof is reel good"? And what about the TA's who help with the incomprehensible courses. Don't they deserve more than your tattered, late, seventeen page assignment?

As an individual, or in a group, you can improve your letter writing skills and further recognize your fellow mathies, by recommending a professor or teaching assistant for an award. Contact TRACE (MC 4055, X-2001) for further information. Or do you have a better way to procrastinate in studying for finals?

mathNEWSquizz

I guess last issue's squiz must have been a bit easier, since I got a lot of answers this time. Anyway the winner, with a score of 12 correct was: DJCB & The Fresh SOX. Also entered were: The Wild Boys: Cliff, Richard, Mr. X, Rod & Jack(11.5), The Seven (Almost) Deadly Sins(8), Auntie Annie & the Pup(6), The Mock Chickenloafs(6), Pceçil(5), The Mock Chickenloafs(4.5) [Again? — dag], Skratch(3), FIZZ(3), Trebekkie(3), Ann Droolang(2), Aileus(2), Mearthie and MF(1.5), Rhiannon-Sue Jones(1.5), Red Dog(1.5).

And the answers to last issue's squiz were: 1. Patsy, 2. A Shrubbery, 3. It tells you that your baby is still alive, 4. Lauretta, 5. The Nikolta Camera Co. 6. 1961, Hoboken NJ, 7. The Starchair Enterpoop, 8. Senator Bedfellow, 9. "Here Comes the Rain Again" - Eurythmics, 10. "My Life" - Billy Joel, 11. "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" - Meatloaf, 12. "We Built This City" - Starship, 13. Jupiter, 14. Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird, 15. Dick Clark & Ed McMahon, 16. The Philadelphia Phillies.

Of course, since this is the last issue of mathNEWS for the term, this is the last squiz of the term. This also means that answers won't be printed in the next issue, but they will be posted on the math-NEWSoffice door sometime after this is published.

Now for this week's quiz:

SF/Fantasy authors

Who wrote:

1. *A Wizard of Earthsea & The Left Hand of Darkness*
2. "The Game of Rat and Dragon", "Mother Hittons Littul Kittons" & "The Ballad of Lost C'mell"
3. *The Sheep Look Up & Stand on Zanzibar*
4. *Neuromancer & "Burning Chrome"*

Note: for those of you not familiar with these sorts of things, a title which is in italics or underlined implies the title of a novel or novel sized work, and a title in quotes implies a short story or short story sized work. This is also why song titles are listed in quotes in the answers section.

Bloom County

5. Who was Opus' girlfriend.
6. What was the name of the girl from L.A. that Binkley fell in love with?
7. Name the 2 songs done by Billy and the Boingers.
8. What was Opus' usual job at the Bloom County Beacon?

Lyrics

- As usual, I want group/artist and song title.
9. Take your protein pills and put your helmet on.
 10. This could be heaven or this could be hell
 11. What is this? / This is a rock song
 12. And the meek shall inherit the earth

The Simpsons (Revisited)

13. Name the cat and mouse cartoon on Krusty the Clown's show.
14. What is the name of Springfield's baseball team?
15. Who is the genius in Bart's class?
16. What are the names of the Simpsons' pets?

Bonus question

Special for the last issue, we have a bonus question. The bonus question is:

17. What is Rhiannon-Sue Jones' favourite squiz answer?

dag
major

Alien Hijackers Recycle Grey Cup

With great expectation I sat down in front of my TV Sunday evening with beer in hand, ready to witness my beloved Eskis bring the Grey Cup home. They didn't and I'm crushed, but after the initial shock I began to analyse the situation, and have a few theories as to why:

- Joe Faragalli [coach]'s body was under control of aliens who made him say all those stupid things like, 'defence isn't necessary.'
- The BC Lions hijacked the plane and stole the Eskies' uniforms, as that's the only way they'll ever play in the Grey Cup.
- The Eskis require snow and severe weather conditions to play well.

I guess it doesn't matter now, but just wait until next year — you'll see! [See what?? The Elvises play the Space Aliens on the moon? —ed.]

Eski-mowed

Student Say


Well, we just love you doing the job.

student

o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o

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Fed Hail
Friday November 30



o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o

Not Another Grid!

that's right, it's not another grid

Well folks, welcome to the last grid of the term, and probably of my life. I believe the position is open next term and onwards for anyone who's interested. Anyway, due to massive circumstances, this grid has

1. no cryptic clues,
2. no conventional clues,
3. no nice symmetrical grids, and
4. no grids.

What it does have is two diagramless fill-ins. Whatcha do is take all the words from the following headlines and fit them into the nice un-symmetrical grids. Just so you don't think I'm the nasty person I really am, I've included one word and one blocked-out place in each grid. One grid is a mirror-image of the other, so the words go in backwards in that one. So there. Have fun.

Here are the cryptic submitters from last time: The Mock Chickenloafs, Skratch, FIZZ, Auntie Annie & The Pup, Pceçil, Rhiannon-Sue T'Srewat-Jones, Ann Droolang, Aileus, Mearthie and MF, and Red Dog (incorrect). Only Rhiannon completed the conventional, and her solution was correct so she wins by default.

Favourite Planets were: The Daily Planet; Prince Planet (do you remember his show from 20 years ago on channel 29?); Any planet that serves SHOOTERS!!!; Magrathea; an hibiscus; "ch'Rihan" (128 Trianguli III, to Earthlings); Planet of the Apes; Alderaan; Io (I know it's a moon, but I like it).

And the cryptic winner, picked at random from the correct entries, is: Pceçil, who comments, "I'm celebrating my love for you with a pint 'o beer and a new tattoo (yes, I mean you!)" Now you can celebrate with a prize collected from the MathSoc office, as well, Pceçil.

G'luck on exams. Have a nice life.

the snark

Sun Deck Pays Sod

Sad Sight: Snow Doe

**Where Well-to-do Widow Ousts
Ebullient Druids**

The End

**Hero Upended Wheelbarrows —
Gout Gone**

**International Star Adorned
Plumb Spellbound Lass**

Bent Armor Was Depressant

Basic Bewilderment? Yodel!

Creative Lug Needles Elk!

Candlelit Grin

**Locket Inset Embellishment
Used Legume, Fig, Fresia,
Rosette**

Lei Omen: Expel Tad

