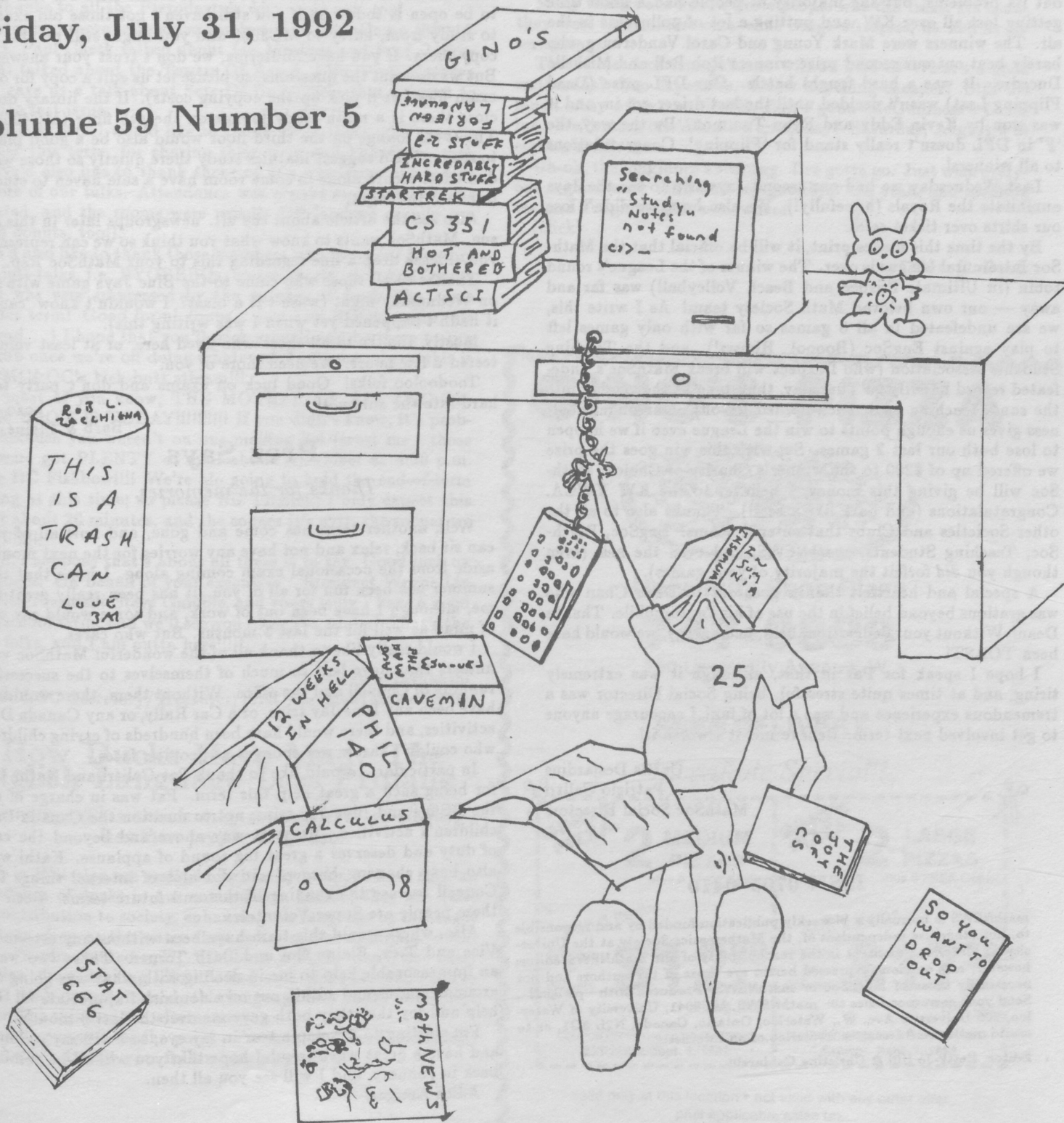


math NEWS

Friday, July 31, 1992

Volume 59 Number 5



Soc Toc

That Social Thang!

Well, the end of the term is here, so there's very little for us to report. Our BBQ's were a tremendous success. Through them we've managed to raise \$370 for the Canadian Cancer Research Society, \$280 for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and \$120 for the KW Hospital Kidney Dialysis Unit. Thanks to everyone who sacrificed their time (and sometimes their clothing - Hi Kathi!) to help at the BBQ's.

Two weeks ago we held our Car Rally. It didn't go off without its problems, but the majority of people had a good time getting lost all over KW, and putting a lot of pollutants in the air. The winners were Mark Young and Carol Vanderburg who barely beat out our second prize winners Rob Bell and Mishelle Ducedre. It was a hard fought battle. Our DFL prize (Dead Flipping Last) wasn't decided until the last driver got in, and it was won by Kevin Eddy and Ryan Tummon. By the way, the 'F' in DFL doesn't really stand for 'Flipping'. Congratulations to all winners!

Last Wednesday we had our second Jays trip to see the Jays annihilate the Royals (hopefully!). We also hope we didn't lose our shirts over ticket sales.

By the time this makes print, it will be official that the MathSoc Intramural League is over. The winner of the League's round robin (in Ultimate Frisbee and Beach Volleyball) was far and away — our own beloved Math Society team! As I write this, we are undefeated in all 8 games so far with only games left to play against EngSoc (Boooo! Hissss!) and the Teaching Students Association (who I expect will break MathSoc's undefeated record handily on Thursday, thumping us thoroughly into the sand, teaching us a much-needed lesson). Our undefeated-ness gives us enough points to win the League even if we happen to lose both our last 2 games. So, with this win goes the prize we offered up of \$200 to the winner's Charity-of-Choice. MathSoc will be giving this money, I believe, to the KW YWCA. Congratulations (and bark like a seal!). Thanks also to all the other Societies and Clubs that entered teams: EngSoc, PsychSoc, Teaching Students, mathNEWS, and even the Feds (even though you *did* forfeit the majority of your games).

A special and heartfelt thanks goes out to Dean Chan who was gracious beyond belief in the use of his l'automobile. Thanks Dean! Without your dedication, help, and energy, we would have been TOAST!

I hope I speak for Pat in that, although it was extremely tiring, and at times quite stressful, being Social Director was a tremendous experience and was a lot of fun! I encourage anyone to get involved next term. Believe me, it's worth it!

Curtis Desjardins
Patrizio Calitri
MathSoc Social Directors

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Editor: Betty-Jo Hill & Christina Caldarelli

From the rest of the Exec...

Finally Elaine and Barb get in a word!!

While our prez is on a temporary vacation, thinking of all those glorious memories, some of us are still humming in the MathSoc office (yes, we both have sung in a choir, but it doesn't guarantee we're in tune). Namely, we are getting a petition going regarding the cutting of library hours (see the article "Early to Bed" later in mathNEWS). We could always use a few more volunteers to distribute and collect these petitions or even to sign them, so come on down to MathSoc if you want some. Also our last day to be open is today, so if you still haven't got those old exams to study from, hurry to MC3038 and you might still be able to copy them. If you have midterms, we don't trust your answers. But we do want the questions, so please let us edit a copy for our exam files (we'll pick up the copying costs). If the library does close there is a math study lounge on the 4th floor (MC4065). The C+D lounge on the third floor would also be a good place to study. We'd suggest mathies study there quietly so those who don't feel secure alone in some room have a safe haven to study late into the night.

Also see the article about the alt. newsgroups later in this issue. MathSoc wants to know what you think so we can represent you. Please drop a line regarding this to your MathSoc Rep.

Thanks to all those who came to the Blue Jays game with us on Wednesday night (wasn't it a blast? I wouldn't know 'cause it hadn't happened yet when I was writing this).

Mostly, thanks to all those who lived here, or at least volunteered a few hours. We need more of you.

Toodooloo folks! Good luck on exams and don't party too hard into the summer!

xoxo
Barb & Elaine

Prez Says

Thanks for the memories...

Well, another term has come and gone, and now all of you can sit back, relax and not have any worries for the next month, aside from the occasional exam coming along. I hope that this summer has been fun for all of you. It has been really great for me, although I have been out of work, and some would say out of mind as well for the last 3 months. But who cares.

I would really like to thank all of the wonderful MathSoc volunteers that have lent so much of themselves to the successful running of Council and the office. Without them, there wouldn't have been any Blue Jay trips, or a Car Rally, or any Canada Day activities, and there would have been hundreds of crying children who couldn't throw wet sponges at people's faces.

In particular, I would like to thank Pat Calitri and Kathi Lai for being such a great help this term. Pat was in charge of all the BBQ's and Blue Jay trips, not to mention the Canada Day children's activities. He went way above and beyond the call of duty and deserves a great big round of applause. Kathi was also busy charring burgers and did alot of internal things for Council to ease the running of this and future terms. Both of these people are Super Volunteers.

Also, where would this term have been without my esteemed Vice and Trez, Elaine Ooi and Barb Torner. These two were an immeasurable help to me in dealing with what was going on around campus and within our own domain. I appreciate all the help and joy that they both gave me over the last 3 months.

I'm starting to develop a tear in my eye, so I will say so long, and have a great work term! I hope that you will all be coming back in January, and I will see you all then.

Adios Amigos!

PMC&OC Weekend Update

Still news to me...

Well, another term is over and here I am, writing the last Weekend Update column for summer '92 as your Secretary/Treasurer. Ah well, enough of the melancholy stuff... on to news!

First and foremost : On Thursday, July 23, the Pterodactyls broke a 2 game losing streak and the PMC&OC beat the pros 24-21 in a thrilling game! This victory avenges our previous two losses in this annual event — our next goal is to be above .500!!! Thanks to the pros and others who came out to play against us, and thanks to all the Pterodactyls who came out, too!

We've had more talks since you last read this column (no kidding!). Paul Check talked about Lie Algebras and Prof. Jeffrey Shallit talked about the Towers Of Hanoi. Also, Prof. Kathryn Hare gave us a talk about Sets Of Uniqueness that I forgot to mention last issue.

The PMC&OC would like to thank all of those who gave us lectures this term, for sharing their time and knowledge with us. We'd also like to thank those of you who came out to one or more of our talks. Attendance was always more than Wayne expected, and the rooms were usually full (and we usually ran out of donuts, too!).

We'd also like to thank those members who came out for more than just talks, i.e. BYOB BBQs, co-rec sports, etc. And I must say, I was very impressed by the number of frosh who came out this term! Good form! (oops...just saw HOOK again this weekend...) I hope that you'll stick around and be there to run the club once we're off doing whatever! Just remember - this is the PMC&OC's kick-butt stream!!!

As most of you know, THE MOTHER OF ALL END-OF-TERM BBQ'S IS TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you didn't know, it's probably because you weren't on our mailing list (trust me - those who were got PLENTY of mail about it). Meet at 4:30 p.m. in the DC Fishbowl!!!! We're also going to hold the end-of-term meeting at this time, so please BE THERE! I only expect this to last about 20 minutes, and the sooner it's over, the sooner we eat!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well, I suppose that's about all there is to say. Good luck on your finals. On behalf of your executive : President Wayne Liu and Vice-President Steve Gamble, and yours truly : have a good work/school term, and we'll see you come the winter! That's the term, folks, and I am outta here!!!!

Kevin Takahashi

PMC&OC Secretary/Treasurer/First Baseman/Movie Critic

How Ducks Have Made The English Language Less Profane

Warning: This article may contain ever-so-slightly less-than-proper language

We in Waterloo are really lucky, ducky lucky, to have such an abundance of ducks in our community. Indeed, they are quite the contribution to society, enhancing our language by making it clean, as clean as the water they swim in. For example, "duck-off!", "you're ducked-up!", "it's been a ducky day", the ever-popular, "you ducking idiot!!" and as a close second, "you're full of duck-poop!" Indeed, this language may make one cringe inside, but think of the alternatives...

And if you can't see the point we're making, then Duck you!! Go Away! Don't you follow me anymore!

Oatmeal and Milk

CSC Flash

Well, another term is nearly over and while I would like to say goodbye in person, I've been called away on urgent business in Barcelona. Fortunately, a faithful office staffer is typing in what I dictate over the phone so this last CSC flash won't be lost.

Did you get that? Good. Now fill a few lines with some crap about me being really sad to see all of those annoying exec get kicked out of office. Got that?

Many thanks are due to those people who did talks. As usual, they were informative on a wide range of topics, as well as entertaining.

The ^D (end of term) dinner will be held at—What's a good restaurant? Too expensive. Know anything cheaper? Still too much. Any other ideas? OK, that's good—McGuinness's Landing. We'll meet on—What's a good day?—Saturday, August 9 at eight o'clock.

Uh-oh, the longjump's starting. I've gotta go. Just wish everyone a good work term and say goodbye. Oh yeah, and mention tea and doughnaughts somewhere.

(click)

Calum T. Dalek

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Just On Time

What is time? Does anyone really know? How often during our all-too short lives do we descend to describing just how long something took, is taking, will take, or would have taken should we have have chosen to take that route at all?

The average person will spend 1/3 of their life in bed. In the case of a hacker, of course, that time will usually fall between the hours of 4am and noon, and will probably amount to an irrational amount of time rather than a neat fraction, for more than just the absurdity of the sleeping hours.

"Have a nice day." I, for one, have heard this said an order of magnitude too many times. Why should I have just a nice day? Is that more important than having a nice morning, or afternoon, or evening, or fortnight for that matter?

I propose a simple, elegant solution to this problem. Unless you intimately know the person you're about to say this to, you probably don't know what they want to hear. If you do know the person that well, you probably don't have to worry about it.

So, Have a nice day. Or not. Perhaps a morning, afternoon, evening, or night. Hmm, come to think of it, a week? I really don't know.

Have an appropriate time period. Clean, simple, and best of all, Politically Correcttm. What more could you ask for?

$$\frac{d}{dx}$$

Masthead

We've had a great term and a lot of fun, and it's not over yet. For all you mathNEWS people who didn't make it to the last production night, our end of term party is tonight; see Chris or BJ for details. Thanks to everyone who came out this term. Have a great work term (or school term) and we'll see you in January. Here's everyone who came out to help tonight, along with their term, major and five (5) words of anything they want to say:

Mike Hammond (1B Math, Always sign the masthead first), R. Gordon Schmidt (3A C&O/CS, Sheep, sheep, sheep, sheep: four!), Brian Spencer (1B Math, Lucky numbers always contain five), Peter Milley (1B Math, Don't fall off the floor), Curtis Desjardins (3A Psych, '92 Math, Mike Melvin's a dead man!), Phil Rittenhouse (4A CS/EEE, I want sleep, sleep, sleep!), Mala Krishnan (1B Math, When all else fails, $x = 4$), Tara Mulder (1B Math, Fierce huge awesome dominating, eh?), Zac Thompson (1B Math, I can spell my name), Adam Benjamin (2B CS/gEEEEk, Thanks for all the fish), Caryn Babstock (4A CS/Bus, Why should I say anything?), Rob Del Mundo (4A CS/C&O, Why can't I have six?), Michel Goudeseune (2B Math, See you in Math - '93), Rob Zacchigna (1B Math, Diet anarchy — yum yum good), Bill McEachern (4A CS, I need one more word), Chris Reuter (2B CS, There's nothing like five words), Monica Rooney (2A PM, Kathi, Curtis — holy matching hickeys), Eric Sutherland (2N Stat/C&O, Thanks for all the memories), Deb Gray (3B CS, I don't know five words), Kathi Lai (2B OR, Thanx CM for saving Bunny), Michael Melvin (2N Math, I love you Twinkle Boy!), Barb Torner (3A CA, Tell me to go study!), and Woody Engineer (2B Eng, I want your Pink Tie!).

Christina Caldarelli (4A ActSci, Boy, am I ever confused!)
Betty-Jo Hill (4A ActSci, No more editing for me!)

Free at Last...

So, this is the last day of classes! You're free! Well... not free, actually. I mean, you still have exams to write and all. And then a lot you have to start on your workterm, of course.

In fact, most of you are only getting an oh-so-short reprieve before coming back here to endure another four months of lectures. You'll keep taking lectures and more lectures and maybe workterms, counting the days until you graduate. But then you'll be free... well, no you won't, either. You're going to have to get a job then. Then you get to count the days until retirement! You realize, of course, that you spend six to ten times as long in the work force as you do in university. So I guess you won't really be free from this endless cycle of drudgery we call working life until you retire, and then all you'll have to deal with is taxes and a rising crime rate.

I suppose that means you're never free from the world's problems until you die. Oh well. Just ignore the rest of the world then, I guess, and try to spend the rest of the summer enjoying yourself. It's not as if you're responsible for anything, right?

Taco Hell

Top Ten ways NOT to study for exams

10. Watch the Olympics
9. Play cards
8. Start packing for home
7. Leave for home
6. Break up with your significant other
5. Talk about sex
4. Find a co-op job
3. Play xmahjongg
2. Read news (rn)
1. Have sex/sleep/both

Bettyboop
Rapunzel

It was the best of days, it was the worst of days...

The up and coming event of the future, already making its way through Waterloo, is the ever-popular "Rude Day". Yes, every Thursday (or "Rhursday", if you prefer), is Rude Day, and is very possibly the most effective way of relieving stress, especially around exam time. So to aid all those out there who are developing ulcers, I, in my infinite generosity, have consented to share techniques of using this seventh of the week to the fullest.

The most common activity is to shout loudly and use rude and improper language, directed to all those who live with you (all having the understanding, of course, that what is said is not necessarily true and needs not be apologized for...). Throwing Jello and attacking others with chairs is also a favourite pastime. Monty Python quotes, disgusting bodily noises and rude hand gestures command the attention of even those who are stuffy enough to attempt to ignore this most celebrated of days. Indeed the combination of all this and more have made life more bearable. I know that I can't wait 'til the next one...

Oatmeal

Early to Bed

Greetings math-types! I have volunteered to do some writing for your fine publication (I'm an engineer) because a fairly important issue has come to the attention of any student who has tried to do some late-night studying at the library recently.

It seems that in their infinite wisdom, our administration has decided that a reduction in library hours must come into effect just before the spring final exam period. There is apparently a slight money problem with the libraries' operations and so, effective now, the DC library is open 8am to midnight Monday to Thursday, 8am to 11pm Fridays, 11am to 11pm Saturdays, and 11am to midnight Sundays. I can't speak for everyone, but the last time I stopped studying at 11 o'clock for an exam the next day was in high school. Judging from the number of students I used to see in the library until 2am, I'm not alone in my study habits.

As I'm writing this on short notice, I was unable to find out who originally called for this action. But I do know that the motion was passed by the Federation of Students (although they purportedly oppose this) and the estimated annual savings are less than \$10,000 per year (the Feds have offered to cover this cost for 1992 to delay the changes).

If you feel that these changes will affect your studying over the next few weeks, there are several things you can do. The most effective option is to visit the Feds in the Campus Centre (ask the Turnkeys) and ask to speak with Dave Martin. If he's not around, leave him a note. The next best thing you can do is sign a petition. These will be located at the MathSoc office, EngSoc office, and also the DC Library and Dana Porter Library (its hours are also affected). The last way you can help is to leave a note on the 'Dear Library' board and raise your concerns with library staff, who can direct you to the appropriate administration types who will basically run you around in circles while they sit behind their desks, stuffing their faces with twinkies and basically becoming 'well-rounded' individuals who have nothing better to do all day than read the Enquirer and argue over whether Elvis was in fact seen going into the Math C&D. *ahem*. Thank you for your time.

The RIDGID Raider

Top Ten Television Programs, Past and Present

*As chosen by the Canadian Society for the
Preservation of Stupid Math Puns*

10. My Three Sines
9. The Greatest American Zero
8. A Differentiable World
7. E's Company
6. Sinefeld
5. Hogan's Zeros
4. General L'Hôpital's
3. Pi-nasty
2. The Cosine-by Show
1. M*A*T*H

Hammervision

Prof Quotes

"I'm going to use the paper and cover up here."

Brender, ACTSC 431

"If the house is burning down and someone is going in to steal something and manages to come out with an object, you're not going to sift through the ashes to see if it's been stolen or burned."

Brender, ACTSC 432

"We... uh... What the hell did we do?"

Froese, MATH 137

"Burn the textbook. It's no good anyway."

Hewitt, MATH 138

"There are three series you should know or you'll fail the course: Geometric; harmonic; and there's probably one more... I fail."

Hewitt, MATH 138

"The kids that see me think of me as an authority figure... at least, I'm taller than them."

Hymel, PSYCH 160

"Let's pretend... oh, I'm sorry, I'm dealing with math students. Let's *assume*, then."

Labahn, CS 132

"Your notes do not cover this problem. Your exams will not cover this problem. But we'll do it anyway."

Labahn, CS 132

"Lots of numbers can be zero. Even ones that aren't (zero)."

Labahn, CS 132

"Then you'll have to do your student evaluations. But we'll talk about that on Tuesday, when I bring coffee and doughnuts."

Labahn, CS 132

"Question 6 is kinda hard, so why don't we ignore it."

Li, CS 340

"You looked at me like I was crazy... well, ya, I am... but you don't have to rub it in."

MacIntosh, ACC 291

"We're going to make it slightly more difficult so it won't be so easy."

Majury, CS 132 TA

"It wasn't equal to zero when I did it before!"

McKiernan, AM 333

"I'll say it one more time. This is now an arithmetic problem which takes no brains."

McKiernan, AM 333

"I'm not out to finish your careers as students."

Moskal, MATH 235

"In order to be done before the bell rings, which it doesn't do..."

McKiernan, AM 333

CS Corner

sung to the tune of Yesterday by the Beatles

Concurrency...

I'm not half the task I used to be.

And I've just destroyed a bin'ry tree...

Oh how I miss... my co-routine...

WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST TO BRING YOU A FAST UPDATING NEWS STORY

— Just a few hours ago, two tasks were arrested and suspended for being in violation of the Critical Section Laws (subsection 3, paragraph 1). The two tasks were standing out in the middle of the code, arguing over who should be allowed priority, when they over-ran their time limit. One task was quoted as saying, "It's not my fault... I was just trying to be polite. I told him, 'No, you go first...' but he refused, suggesting that it wouldn't be right if he went first."

When asked to comment on this sad state of affairs, a Co-routine responded, "I don't get tasks. I don't have the same problem. I just do things when I'm told, and everything gets done. These days, tasks want to be able to do everything by themselves. I say it isn't right."

WE NOW RETURN YOU TO YOUR REGULAR SCHEDULED INTERRUPTION

The Bitsnatcher

The Truth Revealed

Dan Quayle: Bumbling Buffoon or Cunning Conspirator?

Most people view US vice-president Dan Quayle as a bumbling fool. His silly antics and slapstick blunders have made him the butt of jokes the world over. But a careful analysis of his mis-statements reveals an important pattern, and leads to a startling conclusion. In short, Dan Quayle is a time-traveller.

I realize that this is an astounding, and seemingly outrageous revelation. But there is careful documentation, and solid proof. I do not make this accusation on a whim, or a hunch. There are hours of research and probing to back it up. And so, I present a summary of this proof for your edification.

To begin with, consider the vice-president's latest gaffe, the potato(e) incident. Many people put this down to a simple lack of education. But nothing is simple when we are dealing with Mr. Quayle (if that is indeed his real name!). A little research into the history of the English language reveals that in the 18th century 'potato' was spelt with an 'e', in exactly the fashion that Mr. Quayle insisted it be spelt. This provides the first inkling that we are dealing with someone not of our own era.

Sometimes Mr. Quayle's spelling gives him away, other times it's his grammar. Many people thought that he had his verb tenses confused when he said, "I have made good judgements in the Past. I have made good judgements in the Future." But actually, this apparent mix-up is just a statement of fact. As a time traveller he has lived in both the past and the future, and presumably has made good judgements in both.

Another affirmation of his origins came on the campaign trail in 1988. While expounding the merits of the Bush/Quayle ticket, he said: "In George Bush you get experience, and with me you get - the future!" (LA Times 10/19/88). This statement makes it obvious to the trained observer that Mr. Quayle is from another time.

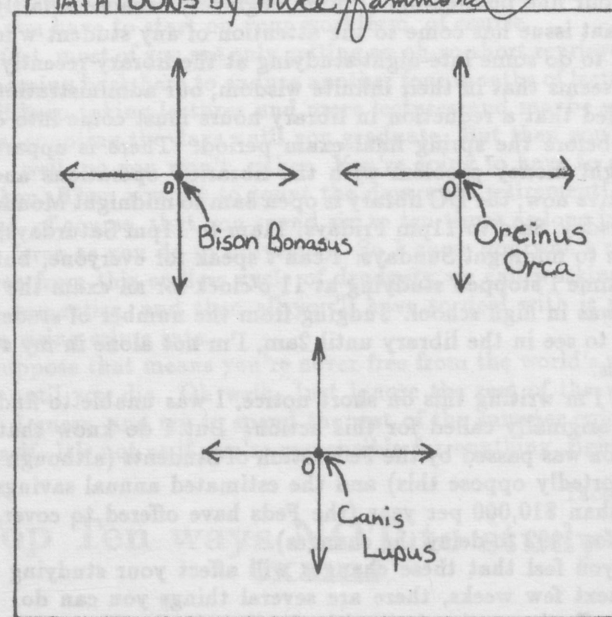
The real clincher though, is a flat-out statement by the vice-president that he is not of our time. While discussing the horrors of war he commented that, "The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century." (The New Yorker, p.102, 10/10/88). Here is irrefutable proof that Mr. Quayle comes from another time - he has admitted it himself!

Trying to track down leads on Mr. Quayle's time-hopping exploits, we run across the following tidbit that he shared with us: "I happen to be a Republican president - ah, the vice president." (Newsweek 4/9/90). Although this was quickly dismissed as the ravings of an over-ambitious politician with delusions of grandeur, it was actually a flashback to a former persona that Mr. Quayle had assumed. At one time he was known as James Madison. Quayle/Madison represented the Jeffersonian Republicans as the president of the United States from 1817 until 1825. This explains his previously mentioned spelling of the word 'potato(e)'.

It has been established that Mr. Quayle is a time traveller. The question remains, why? What is he scheming, what will be the result of his nefarious plans? I believe that the time has come for us to confront this evil time traveller who calls himself Dan Quayle, time to demand answers. He once said "We don't want to go back to tomorrow, we want to go forward". I ask, where is his secret agenda is leading forward to? What will be our part in his 'New World Order'? How does Murphy Brown fit into all of this? Illuminated people of the world, the time has come to unite and discover the hidden answers to these questions and more!

Hagbard Celine

MATHTOONS by Mike Hammond



The Origin of Species

alt.sex

- alt.sex.bondage
- alt.binaries.pictures.erotica
- alt.sex.stories
- alt.sex.movies
- alt.sex.pictures
- alt.censorship

Some of you may not have known that these newsgroups existed. Now you do, and if they interest you, then by all means subscribe. But if they do not interest you, I hope you will still agree that they have the right to exist. I say that if a group of people go into a soundproof room to discuss a touchy subject, and they put a sign on the door saying "Alert! This is the topic we are discussing. You are welcome to join if you like," then there is no conceivable reason why they should not be allowed to do so. The newsgroups are an analogous situation to this.

And I say that it is a very narcissistic for someone to believe that they know better than anyone else what is good or bad for people to see and read. And to say that the newsgroups should be banned is doing exactly this. But wait, you say, wait. Who said anything about banning anything? Well, I don't know that anyone has.

Yet.

In last Friday's Imp'tint (July 24), however, there was an article on this topic titled "Bondage on UW Computers". The title is slightly sensationalistic, and I thought the article sounded a bit anti-porn. That's OK, because it's an informative article, but I don't think the author fully understands how the newsgroups work.

1. You subscribe only to the newsgroups you want.
2. If you like, you can read the subject of the article before reading the article itself, and you can skip the article if you want.
3. The picture files which are posted in some newsgroups must be saved, modified, deciphered, and viewed through the appropriate software. It is no small task to go from post to picture.

The Imp'tint article describes two of the bondage pictures and two brutal stories. However it never states clearly that no one views these except by choice. The article does state that: "Some newsgroups are prefaced by disclaimers or warnings." If you voluntarily subscribe to alt.sex.bondage, then you probably aren't the type who will be offended by the posts. At the University of Manitoba, however, some newsgroups have been removed and others are being reviewed because somebody complained and got the media involved. It may be that these newsgroups were popular and generally accepted, but nobody in an appropriate position knew how to protest the censorship. It may also be that many people disapproved of the groups, and their removal was long overdue.

So please. Talk to your friends about your opinions. Tell your class reps what you think. Tell MathSoc, or if you aren't in Math, tell your own student society. Tell the Feds. Tell the government. None of these groups know what their constituents think on this issue. The Math Faculty is the largest group of newsusers on campus, and MathSoc very much wants to take an official position. The Feds are sitting on the fence until someone pushes them. The Federal Government has no clue.

I am against this kind of restriction because I'm pro-choice across the board. I think we should have a policy on what pictures cannot be shown on the Xterms, so that people can choose not to see them. The newsgroups are the widest-ranging self-regulating group I've ever seen. I think they're great the way they are, alt.sex included and I don't know anybody who disapproves of the discussions. But if you disapprove, tell someone. And if you approve, tell someone.

Drop someone a line about this.

busy signal

Hey Co-ops!

Beat those Work Term Blahs!

Are you going back to the same old co-op job? Are you going to spend hours staring at incoherent, boring code? Will you have to listen to your boss ramble on about his or her favourite pet project? Do you wish that just once, you could find something interesting in your life? Fear not! The answer is here: subscribe to *mathNEWS* on your work term!

For a mere \$7.00 per term (if you are in Canada) you can have your very own personal copy of *mathNEWS* delivered to your door every second week. Even if you're heading down to the States, or all the way overseas, you can have your own copies of the most scintillating publication on the planet! Order yours now, while supplies last!

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Important News Flash

It has been brought to the attention of several concerned math students that one particular Computer Science prof has been hoarding Waterloo's supply of pause words, especially those that are "Uhhhh..."

Based on 31 pre-determined one minute samples from the month of July, our shocking results are summarized below: (x_i representing the i^{th} sample)

$$\sum x_i = 309$$

$$\bar{x} = 9.97 \quad \text{"Uhhh's" per minute}$$

We are 95% confident (name withheld) is stealing from 9.2 up to 10.7 "Uhhh's" per minute. That's approximately 1500 of some of the most important pause words per week!

And that's only uhhh... Not to mention all the well, er..., um, ah and deep expansions of silence.

We must all be in this together! We must reclaim these words to avoid answering questions in class, to avoid those nasty speeches and ensure we don't have to think up new excuses for not having done that last assignment!

We demand rights to well, uhhh, er, ah and um!

Lurkin

Vapid Fire

James Meredith, the first black to attend the University of Mississippi, is running for congress as a Republican. He believes that policy-makers should only be paid expenses, in order to wipe out the gaggle of professional politicians. "That's the way our founding fathers set it up. But now the public service sector pays more than the productive manufacturing sector. This creates a problem because the smartest people are going into government instead of manufacturing," Meredith said. Of course this is not a problem here in Canada; our politicians have never been terribly bright.

Ross Perot, the undeclared non-candidate for the US presidency, has dropped out of the race he was never running in. His non-campaign manager has stated that Perot will be running a series of non-political ads to inform the voters of his decision. However, supporters of the Perot non-campaign are still collecting signatures to allow him not to run in the November election. During his brief time in the limelight as a non-candidate, Perot was widely criticized for not having opinions on the non-issues of the election. Like most politicians, he had no platform.

A government official has been quoted as saying that the situation in former Yugoslavia is "like watching a horror movie". Other reports have surfaced that describe the Persian Gulf war as like watching an action-adventure, the constitutional debates as like watching a romance, and the legislature as like watching a comedy. In response to the accusation that members of the government watch too many movies, Brian Mulroney expressed his opinion that it was better than watching Murphy Brown.

The space shuttle Atlantis begins another mission today. The crew that blasts off from the Kennedy Space Centre includes seven people and an experimental yo-yo. NASA has denied reports that the yo-yo is actually the vice-president of the US, Dan Quayle.

Once Upon A Time...

If you are like me, you find the slump in the economy depressing. But, the lack of jobs was not always so. The following is a list of the top co-op jobs from the past:

5. A CA/ActSci position: They became extinct soon after the equation earnings = taxes was introduced by the government.
4. Anything that paid over \$500 a month without you having to subject yourself to the silly whims of your employer.
3. Anything that paid over \$500 a month and allowed you to make subordinates submit to your whims.
2. Canada Post CEO: Basically, do nothing for 4 months, setting an example for all employees while the regular CEO is out of the country avoiding fraud charges.
1. Assistant Supreme Deity: Assisting God in creating planets, assessing morality, and annoying tele-evangelists.

Jack Rabbit

The citizens of Markham don't want a garbage dump serving Metro Toronto in their community. So to protest the possible dump, the residents hired several hot-air balloons to float above the proposed site. One wonders what they would do to protest a nuclear waste storage facility. A show by the Snowbirds, perhaps?

Ben Johnson recently went missing from the Olympic Village in Barcelona, Spain. There was a brief panic when Team Canada organizers realized that he had never arrived in the country. An extensive search turned Johnson up in Lisbon, Portugal. Athletics Canada is considering mandatory geography lessons for all its future athletes.

Lev Bezymensky, a historian examining Nazi paraphernalia captured by the Soviet Union during WWII, has announced that the teeth of Adolf Hitler are in Russian military archives. He also claims that he has stumbled on the remains of Eva Braun (Hitler's wife), Josef Goebbels and Hans Krebs. But this discovery leaves unanswered a more important question: Where is Hitler's brain? The National Enquirer is expected to answer this in the coming weeks.

A 70-year-old ex-convict has turned himself in for the murder of Jimmy Hoffa. He claims to have killed Hoffa with the help of three others, and then dumped the body in Lake Michigan. A lie-detector test has affirmed the senior's statements. The FBI are reportedly looking at the feasibility of draining the great lakes in order to recover Hoffa's body.

Diderot

A Guide to Nutrition on Workterm

For all you mathies who have a job, anyway.

Everybody knows that mathies can't count. Here at U(W), it's a rule of life. So while you're off on workterm, who can count all those calories or even figure out which food fits into which food group? Certainly not us at mathNEWS. As such, we've developed our new guide to nutrition to reflect the arithmetic capabilities of the average mathie. (Of course, everyone at mathNEWS is above average, but that's beside the point!)

In the mathNEWS Three-Point Nutritional Guide, all foods are categorized as positive (+1), zero (0), or negative (-1). To eat a balanced diet, all you have to do is sum all the foods you eat over the day and don't go to sleep until you come up with a positive total. It's a fairly simple system, so even engineers or artsies should have no problem with it. We categorize foods as follows:

Breakfast:

Food	Value	Reason
Leftover pizza	+1	(0 if from Pizza Pizza) A staple of the average student's diet, it contains many vitamins and minerals vital to staying healthy.
Coffee	0	The most nutritionally neutral food. Also, we feel that we shouldn't penalize students just because they're addicted to this useful food.
Bran Flakes	+1	Plus it's a drug-free way to promote regularity.
Frosted Flakes	-1	Sorry, Tony, it's not that grrrrrrreat for you.
Milk	+1	Unless it's chocolate, which is -1.
Banana/apple	+1	Fruit is good.
Banana split/apple pie	-1	Unless it's been corrupted by Dairy Queen.
Danish	0	Why not, they've been a fairly neutral people! (Sorry, that's a lame joke with no nutritive value.)
Coca-Cola	-1	While this may be what most Village students with 10:30 classes have for breakfast, it's still not good for you.
Orange Juice	+1	Much better. However, Tang still gets a 0.

Lunch:

Food	Value	Reason
Sandwich	+1	Unless you're one of those warped individuals who like peanut butter and chocolate chip sandwiches.
Cookies	-1	Generally a -1. However, Digestive cookies are a 0 because they're a drug-free way to promote regularity.
Coca-Cola	0	As a general rule with soft drinks, the later in the day they're consumed, the higher their worth.

Juice	+1	There's something about the blood of fruit that promotes health.
Coffee	0	Because it's zero, you can consume as much as you want over the day. (Unless it's BNR coffee, which is worth +1 because of its chemical similarities to various proto-life experiments.)
Harvey's burger	+1	As long as you put lettuce and tomato on it.
Onion rings	-1	C'mon, we've been understanding about coffee and Coke!
Coke	0	See what we mean?

Dinner:

Food	Value	Reason
Kraft Dinner	0	+1 for its cheapness, -1 for its psychological effect.
Chili	+1	The ultimate co-op food. It's cheap, takes little work, and you can put just about anything in it!
Pizza	+1	And make sure that you save some for breakfast the next day!
Coca-Cola	+1	And if you drink it just before you go to bed, it may be just enough to boost you to a positive score for the day!
Raisins (yeah, right!)	+1	Another drug-free way to promote regularity, of course!
Doughnuts	0	Actually, they're +1 if they contain holes with no topping, 0 if they have holes and a topping, and -1 if they have no holes.
Potatoes	+1	These fit under that mystical "vegetable" category, so they get an automatic +1 rating.
Potato chips	-1	These, through a series of mystical processes that only Hostess employees truly understand, are potatoes transformed into greasy, fattening foods. (Too bad they taste so good!)
Ice cream	+1	But only if you've made it yourself. (We figure that the amount of calories you've burned off turning that @&\$%# crank means that you deserve it.)

So go on work term feeling reassured that you've got yourself nutritionally covered if you stick with our handy guide. But if you happen to die of malnutrition or something, we're going to sign with pseudonyms so that we don't get sued. Have a good work term!

The Silence of the Hammers
Not the Secretary

I Can't Think

with apologies to Genesis

The Sun has gone down,
I'm beating my head against the ground.

Pressure's making me sweat.
Deadline's getting close, hasn't gone by yet.

I can't think, I can't hack.
The scary thing is that I am about to crack.
I can't think, I can't code.
I'm just sitting here waiting to download.

Last question's giving me a fright.
Am I ever going to make it through this night?

Oh, my eyes are starting to burn,
All I want to do is to write this code and to learn.

But I can't think, I can't hack.
The scary thing is that I am about to crack.
I can't think, I can't code.
I'm just sitting here waiting.

And checking everything is in place,
You never know when code will bomb.

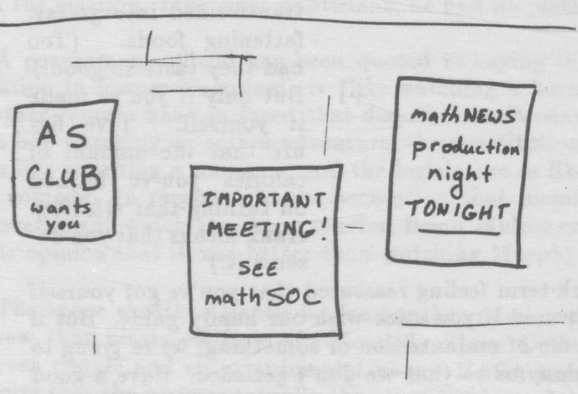
Some geek's running up system load,
I'm just waiting for descartes to compile my code.

Up too long, caffeine running high.
So much to do tonight I think I'm going to die.

But I can't think, I can't hack.
The scary thing is that I am about to crack.
I can't think, I can't code.
I'm just sitting here waiting.

And checking everything is in place,
You never know when code will bomb.
A perfect program written by an ace.

Lt. Trekkie
MacGyver
EvilCoop



Make Up, Put Down

An Ode to the Poster Runs

The 8:00 dash
Before 8:30 class
The markers, they clash.

We post.

Soc people we wake.
Doors slam
In our face.
Copiers jam
In our haste.

We post.

Tape's not to be found.
Where was
It put?
Oh, there it is.
It's stuck
To my foot.

As we swear to ourselves
We post.

The tape's been put on
The back
Of the sheets.
We find that we haven't
Been really that neat.
But we're in a hurry
'Cause we want to eat.

While we paste to the wall
We post.

The third floor's now covered
With ads that
Are cute.
But there are five more floors
That we need
On our route.
We find that our optimal
Wishes
Are moot.

As we stumble from stair to stair
We post.

It's 8:39.
At last,
We're done.
Posters all over seen
By everyone.
We hope. We now rush
To class, where we enter
At 8:41.

While we're flunking our math
We post.

After a lifetime,
Classes are done
For the day.

But we cannot leave
'Cause the posters all say,
"Don't forget about us!"
"Won't the janitors get you?"
And they
Reply, "Nay."

As we're removing the labours
Of an earlier time
We de-post.

But we cannot just trash them
Or burn one or three
For not to recycle
Is anti-PC.
So we take
Off the tape
'Til the posters are free
Of foreign material
Not from
A tree.

While we're saving the rainforest
And hugging a tree
We de-post.

We find that we question
The worth of our acts,
The earlier mornings
And lateness for class,
And often we wonder
If we're gonna pass.

As we question the validity
Of our actions
We post.

But there is a pride
When we look at the wall
And we see there a poster
Proclaiming its call.
We know that it's worth it
And we have a ball
When we hear people scream,
"One day's notice!"
"That's ALL!?"

While we feel the triumph
Of our form of revenge
We post.

The Rhyming Hammer
Not the Secretary

mathNEWSquiz # EOT

That's all she wrote

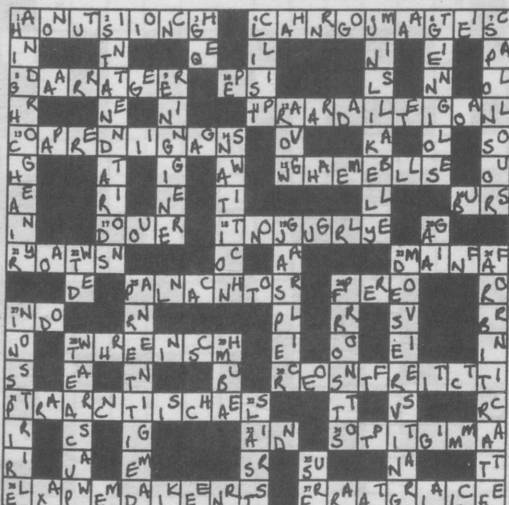
Classes are over: no more lectures, no more profs, no more assignments, no more essays, no more of anything! I'm dancing in the streets singing Hallelujah! Hell, I've even done half my exams already! ****Dance of Joy**** Anyway, enough gloating, here are the answers to the last quiz:

1) Ghostbusters; 2) Sleepwalkers (this Stephen King bomb sure put me to sleep); 3) Airplane; 4) Airplane II; 5) Wayne's World; 6) Fantine; 7) 24601; 8) Yellow; 9) Three (Bang! Bang! "I'm not dead yet!" Bang!); 10) the death of General Lamarque; 11) the All England Cup; 12) False (this was a trick question — never admit the Americans are the best; their heads are swelled enough as it is); 13) \$125,000 (and the Red Sox Curse has been effect ever since); 14) Rowing (I also accepted Fencing); 15) 1967, I think (I forgot my trivia book at home tonight); 16) Floor cleaner; 17) Eel skin; 18) Vitamins; 19) Baking Soda; 20) Fingernails (the skin shrinks back and it only looks like they grow); 21) Another Rainy Night (Queensryche); 22) Locked In (Judas Priest); 23) Heavy Metal (Sammy Hagar); 24) Cover of the Rolling Stone (Dr.Hook); 25) Bad Boys Running Wild (Scorpions); 26) Silence of the Lambs; 27) Terminator 2: Judgement Day; 28) EC didn't bother to tell me the answer to this one, so I have no bloody idea; 29) Musicals (West Side Story in '61, Tom Jones in '63, My Fair Lady in '64, The Sound of Music in '65, and Oliver! in '68); 30) True. (yup, another trick question, but then again, you don't know EC's tastes in movies... EC says it all).

There were sparse responses this time around, but all submitters put up a good fight; the scores were all pretty respectable. Here they are with their score: Sledge (10), a Group in C&O 380 (15), and once again our winners with a score of 20 is Romy, Rapunzel, Betty Boop, and Tyrant. I think they deserve a round of applause (hell, they won 3 of the 4 squeezes this term by just *tromping* over everyone else — they know their trivia). Once again, congratulations! You can pick up your prize in the Math-Soc office.

Well, everyone, that's it. I'll be back again as Squizmaster again in the Fall term, and probably the Winter term as well. I may have graduated, but you're not going to be rid of me *that* easy. (By the way, what the hell *am* I still doing here?). I hope everyone has a great workterm, and for those that are going to be here in the Fall, I'll see you next term! It's been a slice!

Monsieur LeFlouffe



Ultra Classifieds

Mike (my CS God)
I want to show you my Byte!

Steph.

Cdl Bny,
Try & keep a better reign on Bunny, will you? I can't be your Hero EVERY day, you know.

Cit Mon

To Triangle Man:
I'll get you next time, I SWEAR IT !!!

Particle Man

To the guy who makes my stomach growl
Do you want to come over and see my new pj's?

Remmick

My snuggley is cuddier. Beat ya

UC

BOEXMS@Watdcs.UWaterloo.CA:
Beware of your sins, your umbrella will fall off.

The Terminators

Brother Dan,
We knew that you hid our Cleaning Lady in your room!

R & D

Beej,
What are you doing? You're much too "b"-word to be reading this!

T.O.M.

To: Lethal Lover and Dimitri Laurence II
What are you two doing writing classified ads when you should be in class?

D³ - Lost in Vector Space!

To the Executive Slut:
Your cruftiness astounds me! You're a fierce, huge watery tart. A sodden bint.

The Nasty Old Cow

To Another Nasty Udder:
Ha! Ha! Eucher!! (or Euker, as you put it...) You just wish you were good enough to be a cow!

Green Eggs & Ham

Grid Comments

Wait a sec, there's no subtitle!

Well, either the BLACK BOX turned into a black hole or you're all a bunch o' wimps. We received zero, count them, zero solutions. But hey, that's no problem, now I get the boffo prize for myself.

And now the end-of-term thank-you's: thanks go to Fuzzy, Harvmonster, & HHH. It's been "fun".

R

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

2. His buddy powers not a bit of his particular speech, knowha-timean? (10)
6. Every other alphabet deals with this (3)
7. I will be an inscrutable sage forever (4)
8. I have special intuition (3)
11. Sting? Yessir, shuffled together! (12)
14. We must elicit yon town's allegiance (4)
15. The steamy heading gas was eaten (9)
17. Luckily, our Lee is regular (6)
18. A mad, sad rino develops the territory (7)
19. Unhappy reason for burning (4)
22. The fire may char all around the church door (4)
24. A thousand points of light serving drinks under pressure (7)
25. Shake up and rob Jor-El (6)
27. Mitsou a bi? Wild! She wants to go up, not down! (9)
29. Tasty all-corn oval (4)
30. Most of century spread in a nano-range (12)
33. She'd yell if we stained her shirts (3)
35. Fighting is par for the course (4)
36. It's in sight and I hear water (3)
37. The seedy stray was disturbed before today (10)

Down

1. In therapeutic imitation (3)
3. It's simply not the first queasy one (4)
4. Lie on, as he is oddly transparent (6)
5. Energetically reassemble the radio, Tina (9)
6. Behind the first Nazis (3)
9. A short European indentured worker (4)
10. Alternatively, a conservative speech (7)
11. She's got fantastically crazy tits on, I believe (12)
12. No end to the scandal in the navy with Ian from Finland (12)
13. Hey, Mr, IOUs are not understood here (10)
15. The speed of outcasting takes my breath away (10)
16. The reformed rite is on the level (4)
20. Curare poisoning is highly unusual (4)
21. Oly and put in pry her husbands (9)
23. Thieves stole an entire sea (7)
26. Skewed slang differentiates itself in heaven (6)
28. Catching a thug lying isn't pretty (4)
31. Crazy-Mary soldiers (4)
32. Sue is insane with a purpose (3)
34. Edible and tasty (3)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

2. Later or subsequently (10)
6. Flying mouse (3)
7. Poker term (4)
8. High card (3)
11. Type of orchestra (12)
14. Not closed (4)
15. Place (9)
17. Join (6)
18. Passed, slipped by (7)
19. Inactive (4)
22. Dry (4)
24. Inner body part (7)



25. Type of dog (6)
27. Stairway to Heaven (2 words) (9)
29. Forest plant (4)
30. Cynical or sarcastic (12)
33. Possessive pronoun (3)
35. Facial feature (4)
36. Black gold (3)
37. Type of rattlesnake (10)

Down

1. National testing organization (3)
3. Not low (4)
4. English river (6)
5. Precipitation (9)
6. Black and yellow (3)
9. Greeting (4)
10. Bewitched or enchanted (7)
11. Get ready (12)
12. Current, up-to-date (12)
13. Not finished (10)
15. Apollo, Titan, Columbia (10)
16. Beverage (4)
20. Hurtin' (4)
21. A lawn's enemy (9)
23. Beginnings (7)
26. About, approximately (6)
28. Penny (4)
31. All's fair (4)
32. Everything (3)
34. Tell (3)

