

Volume 60 Number 4

# math **NEWS**

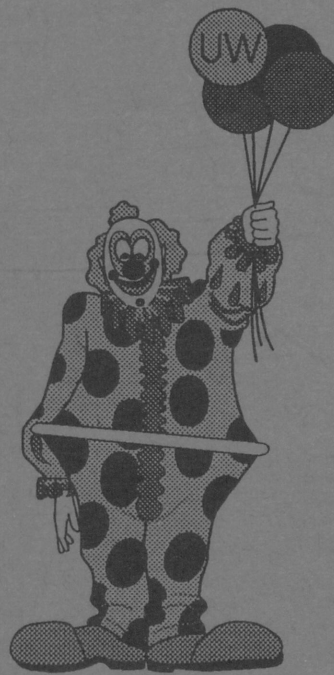
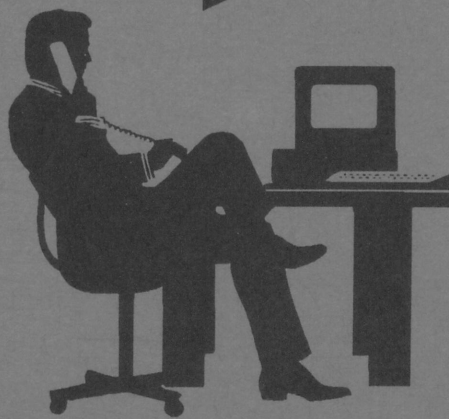
Prisoner serving life for cannibalism eats self  
in suicide attempt (pictures inside)

## PROF QUOTES

Studies show that beer actually stimulates math brain-cells,  
UW is considering beer-fountains at MC

Friday, 6 November 1992

So you're here for  
the Programmer's position...



Streaker ran thru the church on Sunday,  
they caught him by the organ

*1E Inflation is decreasing; you can get Sex for only \$59 at your local bookstore*

## Look Ahead

<b>mathNEWS</b>	
November 16	Issue #5 production night 5:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
November 20	Issue #5 hits the stands
November 30	Issue #6 production night 5:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
December 4	Issue #6 hits the stands
<b>Math Faculty</b>	
November 4-6	Preregistration for S93, MC 5115
November 7	Big E, Special K Math Contests
<b>MathSoc</b>	
throughout Nov.	All kinds of interesting things
<b>Co-op</b>	
November 6	Work Reports available, MC 5115

## CSC Flash

SJA: "Zonk, I don't want to have to type every CSC flash. Get off your butt."

Zonk: "I say let the frosh do it! NO! NO! What am I saying? Besides I'm tired of being called Zonk! I'm going over to the dark side, from now on I'll be known as..."

SJA: "Captain Dork!"

ExZonk: "Stop that, SJA!" ... ZOT!...

SJA: <Loud screaming in pain>

Flash! Update The Calum Canoe Around the World Tour:

Calum arriving at the ruins of what used to be Yugoslavia has decided to take the UN troops out for drinks (thus blowing the \$25000 the Feds have not yet given us, so much for WatCSC). Calum was heard to remark, "Sure hope that lunatic of a CSC prez (*CSC Prez's Note: You thought you could slip that comment by me, did you?*) finds some cash to get those ACM programming contest contestants down to Portsmouth, Ohio for Nov 7." Calum then proceeded along the southern European coast, and was last seen in the British tabloids with Fergie (lots of naughty bits hanging out all over the place), enjoying the southern European beaches preparing for the long trans-Atlantic trek.

The Open House is coming up Nov 14 from 10:00-16:00 in MC 3018: come see what we throw together for an exhibit.

ACM Lecturer Roger Hui will be coming on Nov 17 in MC 4040 at 16:30. More details will most likely (ie hopefully) be posted before then.

The Othello Contest is quickly approaching on Nov 21. Enter your lousy excuse for an Othello program against some world class competetion (Harold! Ha! Zeroman will take you down... you and your silly little Cray... Oh, my Ice Cream Bar you like the same things I do...).

Next Week (or the week after, or the week after that):

Will Calum survive the long Canoe trip across the Atlantic (without Fergie)?

Is SJA alive (or just mortally wounded)?

What is Zonk's new name?

Will the CSC ever get another computer?

Were Tea and Doughnaughts searved at all CSC events? (Probably)

Zonk & SJA

"— You could at least spell my name fully, Unfaithful side... <OUCH!>" "Shhhh... You're supposed to be dead."

## Prez Sez

Well, they seem to think I would have something to say to you again. It's only been a week. It's not like I've had time to do anything other than study for (and fail) midterms.

Basically, this is what has happened. Almost no one showed up at Fed Hall for the pub last week, so we didn't give away the bike. Tonight is another incredible Pub night at the BOMB-SHELTER, so come out and win something incredible.

That's it for my news. Have a good week.

Lisa

## Treasure Chest

MathSoc

This week everything is okee dokee. Hunky Dorey. A-O-K. Couldn't be better. (Okay, so I'm pushing it!) But things are running great this term. (Well, at least right now they are.) There's nothing really to report. Our bills are piling up, we have NO stationary (Rob!!), and I have a midterm tonight. (Well, tonight for me, last Monday night for you) Life is busy. Anyone else feel like just buying a permanent seat at the Bomber? No, of course not. You're all too busy studying, and going to class... right James?

Math C+D

The C+D will be undergoing a little bit more construction. Not much— just a little. There will be an IN and an OUT signs above the doors. Plus, there will be a sign on the main stairwell on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup>?) floor. Look for these, and more nifty improvements.

I'd just like to say, "Hi Barb!" I don't mean to put a paragraph in every article just saying "hi" to people, but somehow this paragraph always seems to sneak in here! Really, I'm not doing this on purpose. [Yes I am! No I'm not!] Ack!! See you all next issue! [Isn't that a bit difficult on paper?]

Trezmania

vice prez      vice prez  
prez  
trez      trez  
vice prez  
trez      prez  
zaid      vice

**Prez**  
**Vice**  
**Trez**

Nominations are open until 4pm today for Summer '93 Exec positions.

Run for Exec, it's lots of fun.

brought to you by Lisa



## Actuarial Science Club

Take one exam for ASA relief...

Isn't it amazing how time flies! It only felt like a few days ago that I wrote my last *mathNEWS* article. Well, since last week's article should still be fresh in everyone's memory, let's just expand on the upcoming events mentioned.

Let's start off by talking about the Actuarial Students National Association (aka ASNA) Convention. Before I get into the details of the convention itself, I want to outline just what ASNA is all about. ASNA is a student organization that represents those people studying Actuarial Science at various Canadian universities—people like YOU, the UW Actuarial Science student! As the official representative body of university students studying ActSci, ASNA represents YOU to the main actuarial organizations of North America, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society. ASNA also exists to promote an exchange of information and ideas between the different universities. The information and ideas exchanged are not only actuarial but cultural as well due to the bilingual make-up of the organization. Various projects that ASNA is involved with include a bi-annual magazine that is published in the Fall and Spring, a student exchange program between Waterloo and the University of Laval and a graduate studies information centre.

One of the most important events that ASNA puts on is its annual convention. This well attended convention (between 400–500 people) is organized for a couple of reasons. The first is to provide information on new and interesting topics in the Actuarial field. Conventions in the past have included talks about work experience/opportunities in Europe, the Property & Casualty field, changes to the examination process and actuaries in non-traditional role. The other reason this convention exists is to be a social event in which students from the different universities can get together, exchange information about their schools and have some fun. And trust me when I say that the people who attend like to have fun! (Oh, the stories I could tell!) This year's convention will be held in Quebec City from January, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 1993. If you attend, the cost of the weekend will come out to about \$100–150 for the convention, hotel and transportation plus whatever spending money you decide to bring. Overall, it is an event that really shouldn't be missed!

Other events that the ASC will be putting on this year include a tour of the Brick Brewery on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Brick Brewery, for those of who don't know, is a small local brewery located in Waterloo that offers tours of its operations and provides ;FREE; samples of the beer it makes. This tour is definitely the only thing that is better than going to the Bomber on a Wednesday night! Space will be limited, though, so keep your eyes peeled for more information later.

Last, but not least, is our guest speaker, Shiram Mulgoond, of Canada Life who will be speaking on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. His topic will be the changes in financial reporting by insurance companies and Dynamic Solvency Testing. Definitely some pretty heavy stuff here! In a way, I feel bad that this topic will basically be restricted to third and fourth year students who have an understanding of reserving. However, it should be one of the most informative talks ever provided by the ASC and is definitely on the cutting edge of changes that are currently happening in the insurance industry. Once again, keep your eyes peeled for more information.

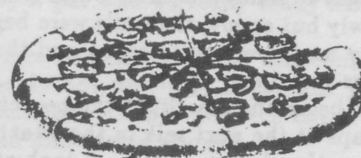
That's all for now. If you have any questions or concerns about what is going on, drop on by to the ASC office at MC3030.

Wayne  
ASC President

## GINO'S PIZZA

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Editor: Kivi "Kivi" Shapiro

# MGC

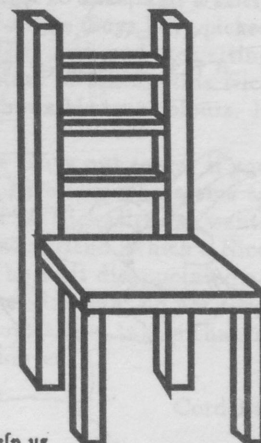
Class of '94 needs  
**You!**

Nominations now open for  
1994 Math Grad Committee Chair  
for Summer 1993  
(co-chair in Winter 1994)

Nomination forms available in MathSoc.

P.S. Thou shalt be in 5B (now) to qualify!!!

brought to you by Aya



We are still looking for a Chair. Please help us.

## The Mystery of the Missing Watermelon

A PMCSOC Whodunnit

It was a dark and stormy night. The beleaguered ex-president-for-life sat in the dark gloomy office, working by candlelight to finish the mathNEWS article that he had foolishly volunteered to write. He was determined to solve, once and for all, the mystery of the anonymous watermelon abductors. But, where to begin the search? Lost in his usual otherworldly daze, his mind began to wander.

The events of the past two weeks had been pretty normal. Despite the onslaught of midterms, The Office had remained as busy as usual. Slowly but surely, the walls were beginning to fill with posters. Many more were still needed and the call for new and exciting posters remained.

Where was he to begin the search for the perpetrators of this great crime? Perhaps at the next talk in the Mathematics: A Historical Perspective lecture series. A look at Gauss' contribution to the field of statistics, it looked like it would attract quite a few people, including the die hard pure mathematicians who had taken The Watermelon. Dr. D. A. Sprott, a faculty member at this very university, would be speaking on November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. in DC 1302.

Again, his mind wandered, back to the weekend, to a party at the apartment of the far-too-sexy Secretary/Treasurer. A couple of people had been found in rather compromising situations, but nothing that related to the missing Watermelon. There was a conspicuous shortage of alcoholic beverages though. Perhaps a connection?

Somewhere, music was playing, reminding our intrepid hero that there was now a ghetto blaster in the office. It was the generous donation of long-time member Dean Gaudet. He slipped in a tape and let his mind drift off into the nether-realms again.

Mindlessly, the ex-president-for-life continued to spew out words and sentences for the mathNEWS article. He soon became engrossed in it and lost what little connection to the real world he previously had. He was being sucked into the cosmic void of mathNEWS, never to be seen again.

Exactly at the same moment that he disappeared from this plane of existence, he realized who the only possible perpetrator was. He knew there was more than one person involved, but had discovered who the mastermind behind the cabal had been. Have you?

Leon  
Ex-president-for-life

1001 Things More Exciting Than Attending  
All of your Stat 332 Classes:  
#84 HOME DENTISTRY



## Masthead

*Hey, Does Anybody Even Read This?*

Gleep! No time! No time!

Thanks once again to all the wonderful people who came out and mad ethis a real issue after all. Very much appreciated, folks. (And that includes Colin and John, who are always reliable for distribution. A hundred thanks.)

The folks who came out tonight (and their explanation of where rainbows come from) were Marco Koechli (the Tooth Fairy), Steve Shaw (nice guys), Jennifer Waters (empty wine bottles), Curtis Desjardins (What do you mean, "Where do they come from?" What do you think you shoot rainarrows with?), Stuart Pollock (rain bowyers and fletchers), Arsenik Ustadis (midterms ... oops this question does not involve alcohol and head banging), Lisa Yeo (Pot-of-Gold), Oshoma Momoh (Every time an Artsie dies ...), Katrina Collmorgen (um... um ... I haven't been able to think since the Calculus exam), Ian Goldberg (the sonic oscillator), Colin Brace (uP(&semaphore)), Stopped Jobs Avenger (uV(&semaphore)) and Tomas Tocek (Macintosh computers — NOT!). Thanks to all of you for coming out.

(Productionist's Note: AAAAAAAHHHHH!!!! It's just MINUTES to midnight!!!!)

Kivi Shapiro  
Benetton Commercials

## Blast from the Past

mathNEWS Volume 30 #4; Monday November 15,  
1982

The Botswana tree beaver has a rather boring sex life. This is because only the females can climb trees, and they do this as soon as the male approaches. The male pleads with the female for an hour and then goes down the street and gets a hooker.

So what is blatant filler? (*This is — Flipper, 1992*) On a paper like mathNEWS, where no one is concerned with the quality (*Some things never change — Flipper, 1992*), our supply of filler is quite limited.



## Math, the Universe, and Everything

*Gee, I Sure Wish I Was a Nice Guy*

With the sheer number of self-proclaimed nice guys that have been showing up around here in the past few weeks, I'm surprised that more females aren't around here looking for potential mates. It's incredible that these nice guys are still single, since everybody knows they're not looking for sex. And this is supposed to be a good quality?

But, they must know what they're doing. After, they can provide more love than us normal guys, also known as "scum." Thanks a lot. Since I'm one of these scum, maybe somebody can explain to me what's wrong with sex. I would ask one of those nice guys, but I can't find any of them around—I guess they're all out on a starlit walk somewhere. There's a reason normal guys have a reputation for being scum—we are. I *like* being scum. It makes people's expectations so much lower, and low expectations are what I'm all about.

*Hello! Hello! We're Males!*

I think that this nice guy phenomenon is simply an outgrowth of the Sensitive Guy of the Nineties thing that I used a couple of years ago to pick up girls. Guys, it doesn't work—you just get a lot of heartbreak, and have your Nintendo stolen. It's just not worth it.

Guys are not supposed to be "nice." Puppies are nice. Rainbows are nice. Guys, on the other hand, like going out and killing things, then drinking beer. Not necessarily in that order. So, it's time for a handy-dandy guide to what nice guys are like and what normal guys are like.

### Nice Guys

- are nice
- have never killed anyone
- apparently spend time gazing into the distance
- don't hit on girls
- are only interested in you for your brain
- don't drink anything that's not pink and frothy
- are one in ten thousand

### Normal Guys

- are normal (i.e. we have the correct complement of chromosomes)
- like girls
- don't think we're anything special
- are not afraid of girls
- have had sex at least once
- think that girls that drink beer are hot
- think *mathNEWS* is kind of dorky

So, girls, if a guy seems to respect and like you, but isn't doing anything about it, then he's probably a nice guy. Guy. I meant guy. And there's nothing wrong with a nice guy that a fibre-rich diet won't fix.

*But How Do Normal Guys Meet Girls?*

Damned if I know. I'm not a good example, though, because I'm kind of a geek. It would be so much easier if I was a nice guy—simply give her a bogus prize in a pool tournament or something. But we normal guys simply do not have that sort of finesse, so we resort to something really sneaky and underhanded—communication. We tell them we're interested, and if we get turned down, we go out and get drunk. If she says yes, then we go out and get drunk. No big deal. (And if we get turned down by a girl who we really really like, then we get her drunk.)

I wonder if nice guys know about this communication thing. Nah, it's probably not necessary if the girl you like is psychic enough to realize that you like her even if you give her no other signs other than fantasizing about her.

*Should I Be a Nice Guy?*

Well, that's up to you, isn't it? If you think that women are stupid enough to fall for that hooey, go right ahead. If you like going for walks in the starlight, following girls around, go right ahead. If you're arrogant enough to believe that you're one in ten thousand, go right ahead.

Otherwise, you're just a normal guy. Scum. "The dirt under the slime of the lowliest."

Oh, well. You'll get over it. I did.

Flipper

*(Author's note: Apologies to McGill and all the fun folks who work at the Bombshelter. When I wrote that you should all be fired, I didn't really mean it. I didn't even know you guys could read. So I'm sorry, and please don't beat me up again.)*

## About Nice Guys

*A Nice Girl's Perspective*

I'm becoming rather intrigued by all these Nice Guys that are coming out of the woodwork in *mathNEWS*. It's a rather tempting thought that a Nice Girl can just slip her hand into a (hopefully) Nice Guy's hand and stroll by the light of the moon or watch the fog roll in, as one Nice Guy suggested. A purely romantic idea, but a pretty big risk to take, and a fairly discouraging risk as time goes by. Not So Nice Guys have picked up on what Nice Guys do to win a Nice Girl over, and are getting good at behaving as Nice Guys. You start to fall for this Nice Guy look-alike and all of a sudden, he shows his true colours. It makes a Nice Girl want to give up.

I'm not trying to discourage you Nice Guys out there: if you are a Nice Guy, and are interested in a Nice Girl who seems to have the same feelings for you, SHOW IT! A Nice Girl also wants to know if you are just interested in her as a friend (which a Nice Girl will accept quite readily). She may be a bit disappointed at first, but will be thrilled to know that she can count on her Nice Guy friend. In other words, Nice Guys out there, take a chance on a Nice Girl...we can't make all the moves.

Cordelia

## Prof Quotes

"When I say, 'in addition', I mean as in 'also', not as in arithmetic."

CT Ng

"30 or 40% of you will get this wrong on the midterm. No, wait. This isn't on the midterm. 30 or 40% of you will get this wrong on the final."

Conrad Hewitt

"A user is someone who uses something."

CT Ng, MATH 135

"Have you got cement in your deodorant? You've got your hand up like this (holds his hand up) all the time."

Best, MATH 235

"The proof is in the appendix. Don't look at it, it's terrible. It was published in 1974 and forgotten. It's something you do when you're young and crazy."

Forte, AM 481c

"We have the weatherman, and we have the SUPERWEATHERMAN."

Forte, AM 481c

"It's going to work the same way, only this time, it'll work."

Schellenberg, C&O 434

"You guys are so hard to please on those nitpicky details. I should mark your midterms that way."

Forrest, MATH 145

"I'd use coloured chalk but for two reasons. The first is I don't have any coloured chalk..."

Devitt, C&O 230

"Some people are shaking their heads no, some people are shaking their heads yes, and some people have nodded off completely."

Buhr, CS 242

"That's not a hint ... I mean that's not all that obvious a hint."

Hare, PMATH 351

"This is the kind of thing you see on a dry day, if you have a comb, and if you have hair — some of us can't demonstrate this."

Leslie, PHYS 252

"In my day, we would send the new boy in the lab down to the electronics store to get a 1 Farad capacitor — those were simpler times; the humour was simpler."

Leslie, PHYS 252

"Aha! Major misconception number 6!"

Buhr, CS 242

"Hide-a-beds are made of the same material ... as neutron stars."

Buhr, CS 242

## Vapid Fire

### Cross Walks and Dumb-Ass Drivers

Why do cars bring out the killer instinct in university students? When you as a pedestrian attempt to cross at those orange monstrosities that pass for crosswalks, it's like playing dodgeball. You remember dodgeball from grade 7... when you'd stand in the middle of a circle while your classmates whipped a rubber ball at you as hard as they could. Well, crosswalks are dodgeball in a whole new way. Here, you start to cross the road, and the oncoming car actually speeds up... only when you've crossed the roads do they slow down to normal speeds. Dodgecar... the line of Dodge vehicles must have been developed here on our campus. It was a test by the Psych department. It caught on and whammo, there's a new line of cars. Wow.

### A Classic Moment from Stat 231

Prof: Do you all know what a PLACEBO is?  
Geek in front row: I think it's a type of birth control.  
For all concerned please do not confuse a Placebo with Birth Control. The two are very mutually exclusive.

This has been a public service announcement from The Hedonist

The University of Waterloo is opening its doors to the community on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> during Homecoming Week. Activities include the Magic of Chemistry, the Circus of Physics, the Orgies of Recreational Leisure Studies, the Geeks of the CSC, the Nice Guys of mathNEWS, and the Cute Girls in the Teaching Option.

### Workshop a Huge Success

On Wednesday, a workshop was held at Conrad Grebel College entitled "Dealing With Difficult Behavior on the Job." Topics covered included "What to do if Your Employees Are Not Toilet Trained," and "Avoiding Homicide at the Workplace." Also included was a fifteen minute speech by guest speaker Marty Lashmore entitled "Look at Me, I'm a Flying Pig."

### Blood Donor Clinic Today

Be sure to go and give blood today, because it makes it a lot easier to get drunk tonight. Why do you think they always hold these things outside the Bombshelter? For a bit of fun, tell the nurse that you've never used a dirty needle without wearing a condom.

### Yet Another Talk At Conrad Grebel College

On Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, Professor Jim Reimer spoke about "The Disintegration of Yugoslavia." He also mentioned the disintegration of the Enterprise in last season's cool time-loop episode, the disintegration of his wife's underwear, and the disintegration of family values. He then went insane and killed everyone present at the lecture, but later came back and disintegrated them.

Katrina, the Hedonist, and Flipper



## Name That Equation

(...cheesey game-showish music, flashing lights, TV camera pan of studio audience, booming FM voice of announcer...)

Yes, it's time again for everyone's favourite game show, *audience*: NAME THAT EQUATION!!!!

(Applause)

Yes, the game show where U, the student, get to win fabulous cash, prizes and *pizza coupons*! But the prizes are yours if and only if you manage to NAME THAT EQUATION!!!!

Well, you already know who I am, *audience*: GUY SMILEY!!!  
(Applause)

So let's meet today's panel. On our left we have Preston Manning, leader of the Reform Party. Next to him is the Antichrist, immortal personification of evil. Our third contestant tonight is Lieutenant Commander Data of the starship *Enterprise*, and finally we have the Pope, spiritual leader of the Catholic Church.

Would any of you like to say something before we get under way?

Presto: Hey, you aren't white. I don't like you.

Antichrist: Evil. Evil. Evil. Evil.

Data: All systems functioning normally.

Pope: Hey, is that Data?

Now for our first category. I'll read the question and you, *audience*: NAME THAT EQUATION!!!! Panel, What is The Cauchy-Schwartz Inequality?

Presto: It's all these people on welfare. I hate them.

Antichrist: Evil. Evil. Evil. Evil.

Data: Oh no, my head's fallen off. Again.

Pope:  $|\langle u, v \rangle| \leq \|u\| \|v\|$ , eh?

*audience*: Yaaaaay!!!!

Yes, your Holiness, you're correct! You win a coupon for Gino's pizza, the official pizza of *mathNEWS*. Now for the next question, How many Grams in a Schmitt?

Presto: Let them go. Nobody likes Quebec anyway.

Antichrist: Evil. Evil. Evil. Evil.

Data: Ah, that's better. What was the question?

Pope: Hey, I like pizza.

*audience*: CHEERS!!!!

Well done your Holiness! That was a trick question, panel. John Paul, you've won, who would have guessed it, a Gino's pizza coupon! What is this equation?

$$x = \frac{M}{m} = \frac{\int_0^a x \rho(x) dx}{\int_0^a \rho(x) dx}$$

Presto: Those damned curly brackets. They don't pay enough tax.

Antichrist: Hey, I'm really a Nice Guy.

Data: Oops, there goes my head again.

Pope: That's the Centre of Mass Equation, Guy.

*audience*: We love the Pope!!!!

And another Gino's pizza coupon for the Pope—and not only that, but John Paul, that was Today's Ugly Equation which means you get to come back next week as reigning champion. Well, isn't that exciting your Holiness?

Pope: Wow. That's a lot of pizza.

*audience*: It sure is, your Holiness!  
Any last words from our guest panel?

Presto: Hey! I am not a bigot.

Antichrist: No, really I am. Trust me.

Data: These damn plot devices keep blowing my head off.

Pope: Oh, you dropped your head again, Commander.

And that's all the time we have this week on *audience* NAME THAT EQUATION!!!!

The Hedonist, Flipper, and Who, Me?

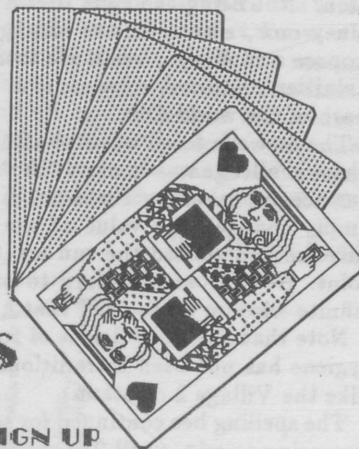
# EUCHRE

**WHEN:** November 17th, 1992. 7:30 pm.

**WHERE:** MC 3001 (the Comfy Lounge).

SIGN UP with partner  
in mathsoc MC3038  
Do it before space  
runs out!!!

\$2.00  
per team



FABULOUS  
PRIZES

SIGN UP  
EARLY,  
LIMITED  
NUMBERS

This space  
intentionally  
left blank.

NOT!

## Not Another Damn Folklore Essay

The Idiot: a person, a concept, or a force of nature? Possibly all three. Recently, it has been brought to my attention that, since the dawn of time, civilization has been directed by forces so incredibly powerful, so incredibly mind-boggling, so incredibly silly, that not even the Babylonians took them seriously. I am talking about Topolism, the forgotten religion.

Nearly every faith has legends about the short, drunken patron of village idiots. To the Dobe!Kung people of Africa he was known as Click-Click-Click- Double-Click-Raspberry, and on his festival day all the men in the village would wear tweed. During the golden age of classical Greece he had been called both Dionysus and Discordia; a symbolic representation of the sexual identity crisis which he had been undergoing at the time. According to legend, the crisis was resolved when he got totally wasted one night and passed out in a gutter in Athens.

Although, as I have said, all cultures keep their own traditions of the inebriated one, passed down from idiot to idiot, there is one story which remains common to all: the creation of the universe, and the division of the human race.

In the beginning of all things, the various gods met together to divvy up the world. The only problem was, how would they decide who would get first pick from among the bounties of creation? Not being the type to draw straws or play eenie meenie miney moe, a contest was arranged: each god would, in turn, propose a challenge, and if the total combined might of the other divinities could not solve it, that deity would get to choose his share of the world first.

The first one to go was Robustus, the god of personal hygiene, whose challenge was to move the sun by at least twenty feet. This was accomplished by Forbicus, divine lord of astrophysics, who simply changed the value of the gravitational constant of the universe and shifted the sun a bit closer to the galactic central point. Now, it was his turn to propose a challenge, and in his infinite wisdom he decided that a spelling bee was in order.

Note that the early defeat of Robustus explains why personal hygiene has not been a traditional strong point in many places (like the Village 2 cafeteria).

The spelling bee continued for some time. It looked like no-one was going to win, until Topol suggested that someone spell the plural of "Grilled Cheese." In the unavoidable confusion that followed, Topol proposed his challenge, which was as simple as it was impossible:

"Convince me that I'm not a tree," he said. One by one, each of the others took up the contest, and one by one they were shot down by Topol's illogical botanical arguments. "If I'm not a tree," he said, "then why am I photosynthesizing?" It was pointed out that, as a god, he could pretty well do anything he liked, even if it involved the production of simple carbohydrates from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of sunlight. Besides, they argued, why a tree? He could just as easily be a fern or sugarcane or something. However, despite their best efforts, all they could do was to prove that he was definitely not necessarily a tree, but then again he could be.

Three hundred years later, when Topol forgot about being a tree and got back to the business of being a god, he drew forth his section of the population of the universe, which consisted of all of the weirdos, idiots, neurotics, and funk metal bass players. Still being owed more, he took the rest of his share of the population on a gift certificate.

Can we see the influence of Topol's presence in the world today? Of course we can! This wouldn't be a very effective article if we couldn't. For example, take a look at the building in which you now stand. What was that large pink object that until recently adorned the outside? Yes, it was a tie. I don't think

elaboration is necessary here. In addition, Stonehenge, the Pyramids, crop circles, and that piece of fluff that they put inside of pill bottles all show topolistic character, as they are all useless, annoying, and if you try to figure them out they'll hurt your mind worse than taking MATH 147 in first year.

So, what can you do about all this? Nothing, really, although you might just want to hang on tight and enjoy this thrill-ride we call reality. Topol exists, the universe is inherently silly, deal with it. Hey, you might even enjoy it. I leave you now with the Topolistic Proverb: Life is like a bowl of cereal; It's got the crunchy bits and the marshmallows that float on the top.

Guelph Erronious  
with Julius "Insane Motorcycle" Horton  
and Acer Andrew Spicatem



## The Guardian Angel takes Flight

Ace was wandering around in the on-campus bar, Deuces, when he saw someone he didn't recognize come in and start asking about the existence of a bridge club. Ace soon learned that his name was Gus Wright, and that although he was relatively new at the game, he showed alot of promise.

Ace	Gus
♠Qx	♠x
♥Qxx	♥KJxx
♦KQJTxx	♦x
♣9x	♣AKQJTxx

Through a very aggressive auction, Gus ended up in 5♣, with the lead of the Jack of Spades. This was followed by the King of Spades, which was trumped in the closed hand with a small club. Gus played the Ace of Clubs, and lapsed into thought. How could he escape a heart and a diamond loser? Surely, the guy on his left would play the Ace of Diamonds if he had it, and having nothing else to do, would return a heart, and the same for Gus' right hand opponent. What to do?

Then it struck him in a flash of blinding light. He played his small diamond from his hand, and when LHO followed low, he went into a coughing fit, and played a small diamond into the middle of the table. Shocked at winning a trick with a small diamond, RHO promptly played the ♦A, only to have it ruffed with the Club King, and Gus then played his remaining small trump to dummy's 9 (pulling their trumps) and ran the top 4 diamonds for heart discards. MAKING 5♣!

It was clear that Gus would be a person to reckon with in the years to come...

For those of you that are still out there, your bridge playing skills could win you \$600. There is going to be an campus-wide bridge tournament on November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Math Building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor comfy lounge starting at 7:30. If your our school score beats that of other schools, our highest scoring pair wins!!

For more details, get in touch with Eric Sutherland (747-0286). Hope to see you there...

Ace Upmysleeve





## GridWord Know-How

Reprinted from V57 #1

This is an attempt to clarify the peculiarities of the mathNEWS GridWords. The GridWord (the crossword puzzle on the back page for those of you who have not yet gotten that far) has two different sets of clues for two different solutions, one conventional and one cryptic. The conventional puzzle is a standard crossword puzzle, the solutions being synonyms for the clues. It is perhaps a bit more difficult than normal, because of the lower word density.

The cryptic is similar to, but very distinctly unlike, what fans of the New York Times would recognise. Generations of Mathie GridMonsters have been raised on a diet of Grids from their predecessors and the style has diverged in time. Defining the particular style is difficult; it is not clear who will be doing the Grids this semester and it is frequently not the same person in successive issues.

The clues give two definitions for the word: a direct definition and a cryptic definition. This may sound like a piece of cake, (*Two clues for each word!*) but it can be difficult to distinguish the two parts. At the end of the clue, the number of letters in the answer is given.

At first the cryptic clues may seem meaningless or nonsensical. The GridMonster hopes that they make sense when deciphered. (Having a slightly warped mind helps sometimes.) A clue may be any one, sometimes more, of the following types. Look for keywords or patterns.

**Anagrams** One or more words in the clue are jumbled to give the solution. Key words: scrambled, agitated, mixed, sorted, confused, etc.

"A beat agitates for the diminution" = ABATE from the letters A BEAT

**Construction** The answer is assembled from parts given in the clue. Key words: follow, after, before, on, etc.

"He was first to build a water barrier" = ADAM build from A DAM

**Alterations** Split words or switch them around. Key words: in, around, split, turn, back, up, etc.

"Content and very quiet in the hay" = HAPPY, from PP (= pianissimo) in HAY

**Dropping Letters** Remove a letter from a word. Key words: headless, tailless, endless, heartless, etc.

"The head of the host was lost to the wealthy bird" = OS-TRICH, from HOST without the H plus RICH

**Double Clues** Two definitions are given for the answer.

"An article of French tea" = THE, an article and the French word for "tea"

**Hidden** The answer is hidden in the letters of the clue.

"The band is tantalising from afar" = DISTANT from band IS TANTalising

**Homonyms** The answer to part of the clue sounds like the solution. Keywords: anything related to hearing or sound.

"I hear the crew will be mean" = CRUEL from CREW'LL

**Other Instructions** Other words may indicate how to construct the solution. Possibilities: every other, alternately, initial, etc.

"Every other oblong marsh" = BOG, every other letter from oBlOnG

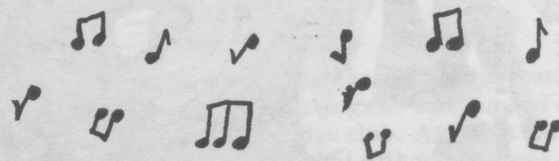
"Particle is initially a trio of moons" = ATOM, the first letters of A Trio Of Moons

**Special Words** By convention some words have special one or two letter meanings for word building. Examples: direction: N, S, E, W; hesitate: ER; loud, fail: F; love, nothing: O; fifty: L; current: AC; and many, many others.

Even having read these instructions, you may find that GridWords can be quite discouraging. A first pass through the clues may produce no results, but a little work, some searching for keywords and a bit of fiddling should get most answers. As you get solutions, you will get a better feel for the clues and they can lead you to other solutions. Checking against the solutions and looking for the connections is another way to gain understanding. Persevere! Even the GridMonsters were neophytes once.

A GridMonster

## Notes to You from the Editor



## Saskatchewan

Have you ever had a night like this? I know I have.

The kind of night when you're driving to a party, and all of a sudden a huge crack opens up in the road in front of you and you and six other vehicles go plunging to your doom and then you die?

I hate it when that happens.

'Cause I had a night just like that last night except that no crack opened up and when I got there all there was to do was to sit around and talk and listen to boring music. I think I would have been better off plunging into an unexpected chasm.

Or when you wake up hungry in the middle of the night and go to the fridge to get something to eat and when you open up the door ...

You find out that your fridge light has burned out? And not only that but some gruesome underworld creature has found its way into the cupboard and eaten up all your Cheezits and then vanished again without a trace so you never knew he was there and it just looks like your kid brother snarfed them again? So instead you wind up eating something *healthy* like broccoli or maybe even whole wheat bread because some joker used a tactical nuke to destroy the 7-Eleven down the street? Ever have a night like that?

Or when your neighbour decides to have a barbecue but he puts on too much lighter fluid and the whole of his back yard goes up in a huge fireball and pieces of flaming shrapnel come flying in through your window and set your clothes on fire? And your last few moments of life are pure misery because you know that you've just gotten a taste of hell and that you really deserve it anyway? Know what I mean?

(So how was *your* Hallowe'en?)

Mr. Death



## mathNEWSquiz #4

### Post-"HELLowe'en" Holocaust

Greetings, my excellent squizzers! Welcome to this issue of mathNEWSquiz. Before we start with anything, however, I, Harry "Snapper" Organs, must apologize for an ambiguous question in the "Weird" Al category of last week's quiz. Those who responded with either answer (see below) will be awarded a correct response. Now, here is a list of the answers to last week's quiz: 1) Rocky IV; 2) Starman; 3) Field of Dreams; 4) Deadlock; 5) L.A. Story; 6) 4; 7) 11 —every game but the 5th of the W.S.; 8) San Diego Padres; 9) 4—Winfield, Maldonado, Morris, Cone; 10) 23 (Bonus: Dave Winfield with 22); 12) Lucan; 14) Madison; 15) Sumo wrestling; 16) Nirvana; 17) 1986; 18) This Song's Just Six Words Long; 19) Sideburns OR Covers up the hole in the wall; 20) High School Cafeteria; 21) Enkidu; 22) The Necronomicon; 23) Ishtar; 24) Marduk; 25) Call of Cthulhu.

There were quite a few submissions to quiz this issue, among whom were Alex Moore (What? No pseudonym?) (7), Pokey and Phil Collins (11), Cosmic Charlie (11), Heb and the Fatman (12), The Original Gangster (14), Northern Exposure (16), and our winners this week, once again the kings of the trivia hill, —Tyrant and Rapunzel with a score of 17! You can pick up your prize in the MathSoc office. The rematch between Northern Exposure and Tyrant & Rapunzel starts with these next questions (come on people, let's give them a little competition this time, eh?):

### Song Lyrics

(Name the Song and Artist)

1. Diggin' like a shovel, rhyme devil on a Heavenly level  
Bang the bass, turn up the treble
2. We had a lot of fun, we had a lot of money  
We had a little son, and we thought we'd call him Sonny
3. Dreams of war, dreams of liars,  
Dreams of dragons' fire  
And of things that will bite
4. We would feel the heat of a thousand voices  
Telling us which way to go
5. Soul control, beat is the father of your rock 'n' roll  
Music for whatcha be whichin' you call a band, man

Monty Python (Yes, once again)

1. What happened to Mrs. Niggerbaiter's friend?
2. Name the enchanter in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."
3. What will the undertakers do for dead clients (list them all)?
4. Name the police officer who tracked the Pirahna Brothers, Doug and Dinsdale.
5. Who did Mrs. Premise and Mrs. Conclusion go to see in Paris, France?

### Movie Quotes

1. "I can't believe this. I've got a trig midterm tomorrow and I'm being chased by Guido the killer pimp."
2. "Women, a mistake? Or did He do it to us on purpose?"
3. "We came, we saw, we kicked its ass!"
4. "I can't believe my grandmother actually felt me up!"
5. "I hope they weren't triplets."

### Pot Pourri

1. Publishers of dictionaries and encyclopedias make up false entries to include in their works to catch plagiarizers. What are these bogus terms called?
2. Who was the only disciple of Jesus to die a natural death?
3. Arrange the following names according to teacher-student relationships: Plato, Alexander the Great, Socrates, Aristotle.
4. What is the only bird that has binocular vision?
5. Name the branch of geology that studies fossils.

That's it for this week. Make sure you get your answers in to the BLACK BOX on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the MC (just outside the Comfy Lounge). Get them in before 6:30pm Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for prizes. Good luck! Until then, as always, we're...

Harry Organs  
Token Artsie

## Mathematics Contests!

*BIG E for Upper Year Students*

*SPECIAL K for First Year Students*

The 1992 Big E and Special K contests are both taking place on Saturday November 7, 1992 in MC 4020, from 9 a.m.—12 noon. Come out and compete!

See Prof. C. Small in MC 6146, or Prof. M. Thompson in MC 6143 for more information.

### 53rd Putnam Mathematics Competition

Training sessions for the 1992 Putnam Competition are taking place 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. every Monday until November 30 in MC 6091. Sign up for the competition in MC 5107 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

da Faculty

## gridCOMMENTS

*I repent, repent*

Before I continue, I have one thing to say to all of the Conventional fans out there: I'm sorry ... Apparently I can't read my own handwriting. 'Gush' would have been a more appropriate clue for 30 across. Will you please forgive me? You could show your undying love for me by actually submitting your solutions.

We had seven submittals this week, all for the cryptic. Correct solutions were given by Cheeky Monkeys and Elwood. Others were from Curtis A. and George C, Grokostimpy, Andre and Izzy, Zebrina, and Tyrant, Rapunzel, & Betty Boop.

We had some interesting answers for favourite position: short-stop, third from the top, together, anything I can get, Chief Executive Bumlooker, and Pole Position.

Comments: It's a nuclear meltdown! Oh, wait, it was only Rich farting. Thanks to A Bold Winner, ¡Mon Dios! ¡Y abo une hache a la cabésa!, If I were small and cylinder like, would you help me? Don't look at my bare bum!

Hey Gridby, very artistic answer to the logic puzzle thingy, but where's my answer?

Shenothe

# Cryptic

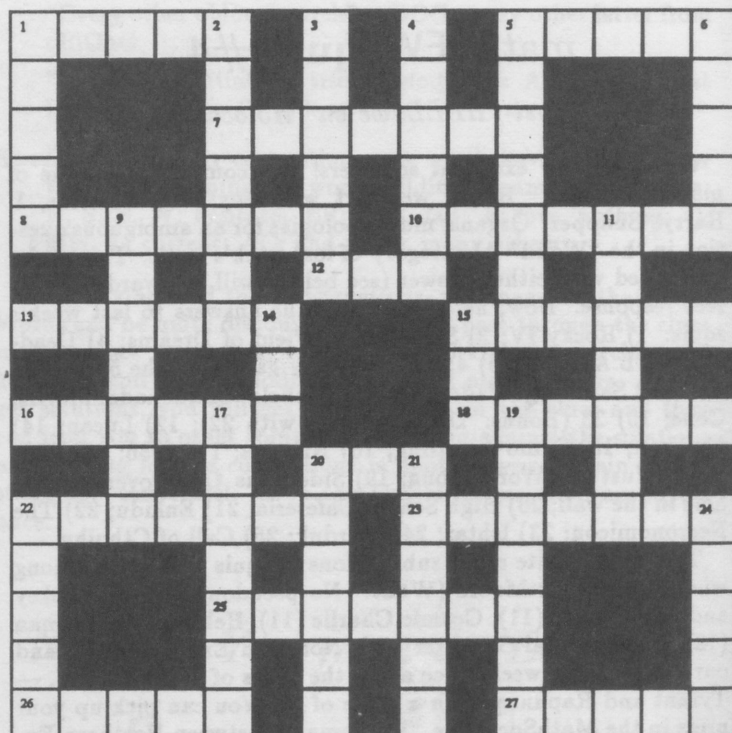
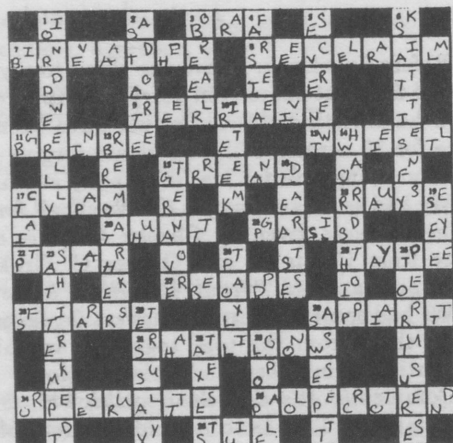
## Across

1. many directions cost money (5)
5. copy 1001 - 1099 (5)
7. in the confusion of treeing, whole groups were lost (7)
8. make well and heal thy own (7)
10. not there in either (7)
12. handful to last (3)
13. close the cabinet (6)
15. not why, how did stag enter hay backwards (6)
16. mouse instigates growing hardy too young (6)
18. in lore it stumbles and trails behind (6)
20. A Comedy of Justice was his profession (3)
22. Porky's girlfriend loved the flower (7)
23. lanes radiated back from the armory (7)
25. if I could only hold onto the bleaten' thing (7)
26. I heard that for him the session was postponed (5)
27. sides found in PHD's (5)

## Down

1. it thaws the malformed bundle (5)
2. listen to the pistol shoot the letter (7)
3. Ethyl ended the marriage with a hydrocarbon (6)
4. masked by your gentleman's pressing (6)
5. day begins mourning (7)
6. the cd are constructed of wood (5)
9. amidst a sorted moan the tax was added (7)
11. threatening confused and did little to encourage him (7)
14. every other tardy attempt (3)
15. every man near fifty (3)
17. small boy from Dickens (4,3)
19. indecent in interchangeable for best clean men (7)
20. lively, Juan stumbled to start the travesty (6)
21. be you able to startle the trinket (6)
22. professors rant over ordinary formulations (5)
24. the wild roles told the stories (5)

shenothe



# Conventional

## Across

1. resentment
5. clamor
7. twinkle
8. fabric type
10. institute
12. tepid
13. crave
15. cosmos
16. creature
18. prosper
20. sleep
22. inaction
23. resolute
25. obvious
26. fairies
27. camp

## Down

1. smell
2. ordinary
3. spasm
4. battle
5. extinction
6. foe
9. disobedient
11. shy
14. snake like fish
15. negative
17. performer
19. heathen
20. aboriginal
21. abhor
22. form
24. poison

name:

favourite size:

comments: