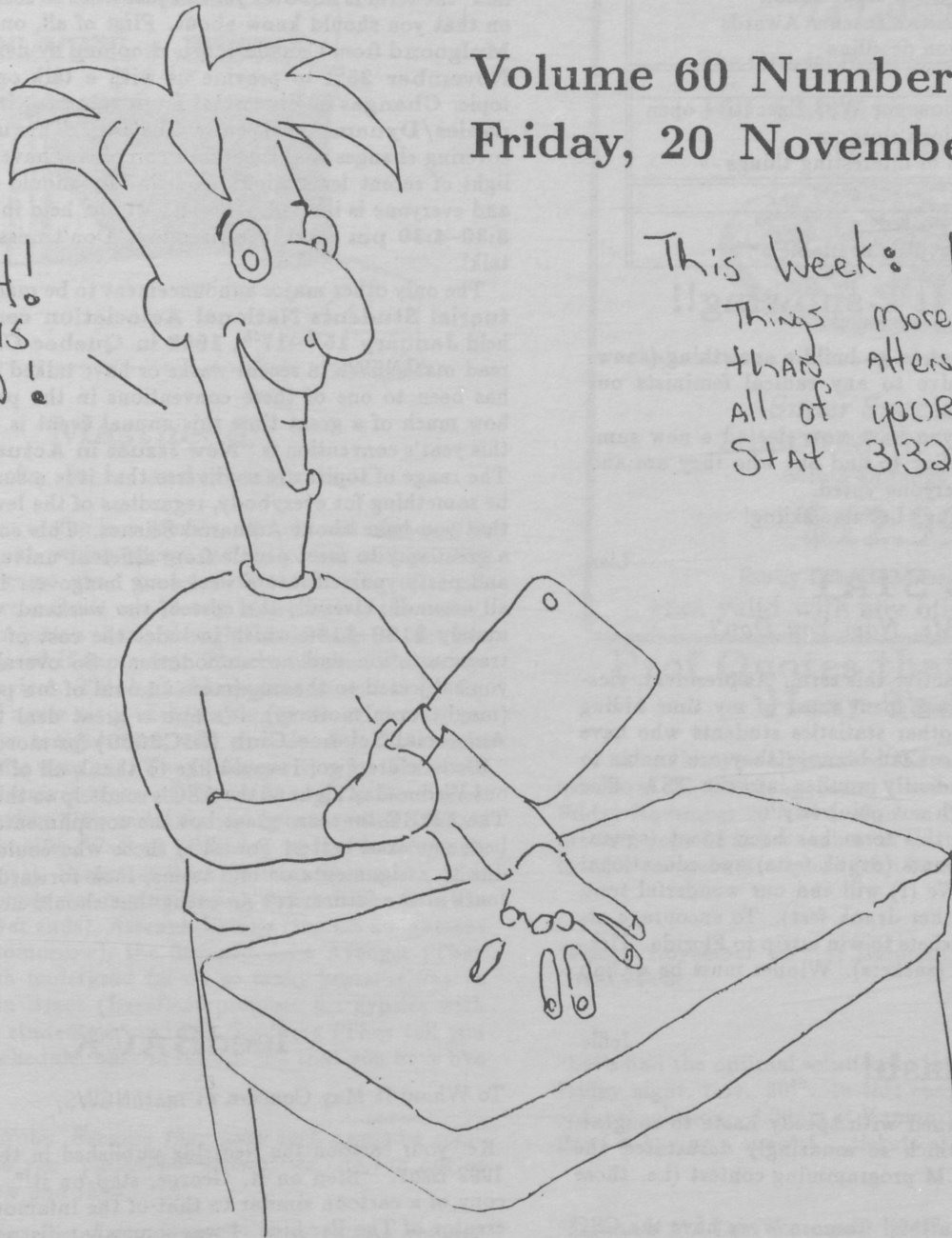


math **NEWS**

Volume 60 Number 5
Friday, 20 November, 1992

GOSH!
THIS IS
FUN!

This Week: 1001
Things more exciting
than attending
All of your
STAT 332 classes.



#471 - Chopping All of your fingers
off - One By One

Steve Griffin '92

Look Ahead

mathNEWS	
November 30	Issue #6 production night 5:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
December 4	Issue #6 hits the stands
Math Faculty	
December 5	Putnam math competition
February 5	Distinguished Teacher Awards nomination deadline
MathSoc	
November 23	Nominations for W93 Executive open
November 27	Nominations close
throughout Nov.	All kinds of interesting things
Co-op	
November 23	Matches posted
November 23	Late Want Ads available

Prez sez ... It's snowing!!

Well, it's snowing and I want to go build a snowthing (snowman being potentially offensive to any radical feminists out there).

What's happening? Well, you have now elected a new summer executive. Stop by MathSoc to find out who they are and congratulate them. I hope everyone voted.

I love snow! Let's go camping! Let's go skiing!

Lisa

Club STAT

Now You See Me, Now You Don't

Club STAT has been very active this term. As president, vice-president, and treasurer I have spent most of my time hiding from the hungry masses of other statistics students who have been trying to usurp me. Most fail because they are unable to find me. Those who do accidentally wander into the TSA office are dealt with quickly, though not painlessly.

Most of our (my) budget this term has been spent (squandered) on numerous social events (drunk fests) and educational seminars (male strip bar). We (I) will end our wonderful term with a social gathering (another drunk fest). To encourage attendance, we (I) are selling tickets to win a trip to Florida. Tickets are available to everyone (suckers). Winner must be a Club STAT member (me).

Jeffie

Flash!

Calum T. Dalek has returned with speedy haste to congratulate our awesome team which so amazingly devastated the other competitors in the ACM programming contest (i.e. those AMERICANS!).

But to more important matters! Tomorrow we have the CSC Othello Program Contest! From 9:00am to 6:00pm in MC3022, the computers will be having FUN playing Harold and DUMB! These are only two of the contestants that are sure to be there. If you wish to enter, then drop by the CSC, and ask for an entry form. If you can't show up to get one, just show up on Saturday, and enter then. The standard "Tea and Doughnaughts will be served" is still valid.

Too bad that you possibly missed the INTERNET PROGRAMMING CONTEST, and our wonderful talk that was on Tuesday! But if you want to get in on all the action, then come on in the CSC! Join today for only TWO dollars!

Maimed Jobs Avenger (Soon to be Stopped)

The Actuarial Science Club

And life goes on ...

Whew! There goes another brutal set of professional exams! That means I can have my life back again and I can look forward to better things, something less stressful, like final exams. Anyhow, the term is not over yet so I just want to recap what is going on that you should know about. First of all, one Mr. Shiram Mulgoond from Canada Life is dropping by next Wednesday, November 25th to provide us with a talk on an interesting topic: **Changes in Financial Reporting for insurance companies/Dynamic Solvency Testing**. This is one juicy talk covering changes that insurance companies have had to make in light of recent legislation. It definitely should be a great talk and everyone is invited. The talk will be held in MC4058 from 3:30-4:30 pm next Wednesday. Don't miss out on a great talk!

The only other major announcement to be made is for the Actuarial Students National Association convention being held January 15th-17th, 1993 in Quebec City. If you have read mathNEWS in recent weeks or have talked to someone who has been to one of these conventions in the past, you'll know how much of a great time this annual event is. The theme for this year's convention is "New Issues in Actuarial Science." The range of topics are so diverse that it is a sure bet there will be something for everybody, regardless of the level of knowledge that you have about Actuarial Science. This convention is also a great way to meet people from different universities, have fun and party yourself into a week long hangover. It's a great time all around! Overall, the cost of the weekend will be approximately \$100-\$130 which includes the cost of the convention, transportation and accommodation. So overall, not only are you subjected to the maximum amount of fun permitted by law (maybe even more so), it's also a great deal too! Go to the Actuarial Science Club (MC3030) for more info.

Just before I go, I would like to thank all of those who came out Wednesday night to the ASC's roadtrip to the Brick Brewery. The FREE tour was great but the complimentary (ie. FREE) beer was even better! For all of those who couldn't make it out due to assignments or mid-terms, look forward to many more tours in the future. It's an event that should never be missed!

Wayne
President, ASC

feedBACK

To Whom It May Concern at mathNEWS,

Re: your cartoon the Nearside published in the October 30th, 1992 issue. "Step on it, George, step on it!" is practically a copy of a cartoon similar to that of the infamous Gary Larson, creator of The Far Side. I was somewhat distressed to see such out and out plagiarism. Did you know that plagiarism is a punishable offence? If you don't believe my claim, you and I will take a trip to a bookstore and find the original in one of Larson's Farside Galleries. I just wanted to enlighten your readership of this very serious issue.

Artsie Fan(atic) of the Far Side

We at mathNEWS would like to apologise for this unfortunate coincidence. We were unaware that Mr. Larson had in fact already used this idea, and no plagiarism was intended.

Kivi



Masthead

Ducks, ducks, and more ducks

Well, a little fun at the last minute. We ran out of money in the printing account, which meant saving to disk and printing from an IBM. I guess they are good for something after all. Thank Shannon we weren't completely blown out of the water.

Also, we have forgotten that although thanks may be thought, they are only received if expressed. Thanks Marion, and everyone at Graphic services. This looks like a great issue, but the fun folks in MC would never see it without your gentle ministrations.

The fun folks out tonight were, well, nobody. But the normal assortment of misfits were out. They (along with why *they* would say UW is the best university) were: Steve Shaw (The Bombshelter), Curtis Desjardins (It's certainly not because of our female to male ratio), Jennifer Watters (Because of the female/male ratio (sorry, Curtis)), Stuart Pollock (Village Gourmet), Lisa Yeo (Because someone was paying me to), Mitch Fellen (It's like Paris—the fun never ends), Arsenyk Ustaris (the CS assignment I have to do by tomorrow), the Stopped Jobs Avenger (They allow you to be an undergrad for oh so many years. (Way to go Calum!)), Colin Brace (Excellent program for gypsies with books (i.e. Co-op students)), and Ian Goldberg (They tell you your next term's schedule, only to inform you that you have five 8:30's).

(Productionist's Note: Because they have such awesome computers on which to run pLAtmN! Even if we DO run out of printing money now and then ...)

Kivi (Imp'tint Arts. Everyone knows that.) Shapiro

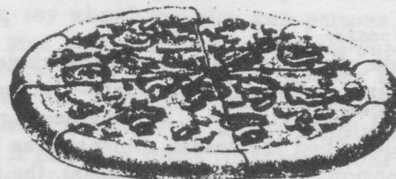
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Waterloo



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2 MEDIUM - 13" PIZZAS
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Prof Quotes that I Want to Hear Today

"I know that you all bombed the midterm in breathless anticipation of the UW Stage Band Concert being presented tonight, Friday November 20th at 8:00pm in Humanities Theatre. If you produce your \$4 ticket stub next lecture, I'll increase your grade by 35% on account of your good taste in music."

C&O 330

"Friday November 20th ∩ Humanities Theatre ∩ 8:00pm ⇔ Great Music."

Phil 140

"Let's find the optimal solution to the problem of what to do on Friday night, Nov. 20th. In this case, there is only one unique optimal solution—8:00pm at Humanities Theatre, the UW Stage Band is having a concert... tickets at the door."

C&O 350

"Fermat's 2nd Last Theorem: $(\$4)^2 + (2 \text{ people})^2 = 4$ happy individuals enjoying the UW Stage Band concert on Nov. 20th at 8:00pm in the year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred Ninety Two."

Math 135

CAN THIS MANY PROFS BE WRONG?

PLAN TO ATTEND:

THE UW STAGE BAND CONCERT

TONIGHT, HUMANITIES THEATRE 8:00PM

\$4 STUDENTS / \$6 ADULTS

TICKETS AT THE DOOR OR FROM MUSIC OFFICE, CONRAD GREBEL COLLEGE.

Stretch

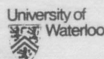
Optional Versions

2 Measurement "A" - Min. %

University of
Waterloo



Actual minimum size



Vapid Fire

So Much News, Your Head May Fall Off

Water Treatment Research Position Launched at UW

The UW News bureau released information last week about a new multi-million dollar research chair at the university, aimed at improving the treatment of water across Canada. The chair is reported to be quite comfortable. Professor Marty Lashmore claims that the responsibility of whoever sits in the chair is to "make sure that water is treated equally the world over". In unrelated news, the funding to the undergraduate community was cut by an unspecified "multi-million" dollar amount.

Larry Smith Speaks!

Larry Smith, one of our favourite guys in the whole world, gave a talk in the continuing "Bridging the Gap—Understanding the Human Dimension" talks given to UW's engineering students on Tuesday. Larry described the human dimension as "kind of like the seventh dimension", but deeper. As usual, the talk was cut short as Larry exploded.

James Downey to be New President

James Downey, also known as Scotty on TV's *Star Trek*, has been chosen as the next president of the University of Waterloo. Dr. Downey has degrees in warp physics and alcohol distillation, and plans to introduce courses in Not Knowing When to Quit Acting, and How to Drink A Lot of Scotch. When asked for comment, Dr. Downey replied, "Och, laddy, I'm a-lookin ferward to examining yer warp coil." This reporter quickly fled the scene.

Future of Quebec Discussed

Last Saturday, Professor Don Horton of the history department it (what? we have a history department?) gave a talk on "Where is Canada in the Canadian Family Now?" It was revealed, to the shock of the audience, that Quebec is actually the illegitimate daughter of Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Professor Horton then exploded, leaving us all pondering the question, "Why are all the profs at this school exploding?"

Wow, I'm Impressed!

Today in the MathSoc office, I heard some of the people who work on mathNEWS talking about how a certain cartoon printed within had offended someone. This wasn't too surprising. The surprising bit is that they seemed to think this was a bad thing. This is very different from a certain other student paper that I've worked on elsewhere...

"Here's the idea for the article I had."

"Good. Now, can you go back and put the words 'erect penis' into every second paragraph?"

"Uhhh... I suppose so..."

"Well, what are you waiting for? Go to it!"

"I'm afraid that it won't be a very good article."

"What do you mean?"

"It was supposed to be about the university housing crisis and the recent troubles with the student loan system."

"I'm afraid that I really don't see what your problem is. Okay, tell you what: You only have to mention erect penises twice if you can slip in a comment about menstruation."

"Okay. That sounds fair."

Nope, you won't find that kind of talk here. We're too nice.

Guelph Erronious

Introduction to U-Math

For many of you out there reading this, this is your first term here at Waterloo. You are taking your first university level math courses, and are probably still unsure about what your profs are looking for. To help you all out, I have compiled a list of common methods of mathematical proof and their usage in the college environment.

1. **Proof By Implication:** The professor wants us to prove proposition "A." The professor is smarter and more experienced than us. Therefore, he knows that proposition "A" can be proven, so therefore it must be true.

If this form of proof is taken as axiomatic in whatever course you're in, most problems become almost trivial. Unfortunately, in some courses contradictions of this rule have been found, so you had better check with your prof about it before trying this on the final.

2. **Proof by Convolution:** "But the question is, why a radish?"

Remember that not even your seemingly omniscient teaching assistants can accurately mark what they don't understand. A proof by convolution attempts to confuse your marker into believing that you really do know what you're talking about, and hopefully keep him confused long enough so that he doesn't notice the big gaping holes in the rest of your paper. This method is highly recommended.

3. **Proof by Insinuation:** This form of proof is enacted by the gratuitous use of the phrases, "It is obvious that..." "As a direct consequence, we know that..." and the all-time favourite, "Trivially..." This form of proof is actually a type of "result spackle," used to hide the fact that you don't understand a major step in your argument by implying that if your T.A. can't see what it is instantly then maybe he shouldn't be a T.A. after all.

4. **Proof by Brute Force:** This goes as follows: "I know where you live. I'm a desperate man who doesn't have much to lose if he doesn't pass this course. If you ever want to see your children and pets alive again, I WILL get an eighty." Not highly recommended.

5. **Proof by Exhaustion (Physical/Mental):** This type of proof is usually implemented at three in the morning on the night before your assignment is due, and is initiated with the words "Let's just write something down so I can give up and go to bed. I really don't care anymore." Admittedly, this form of proof is not as likely to help you pass the course as the previous four, but it is the only one which offers you instantaneous and complete gratification. I think that this more than makes up for everything, don't you?

So, now you have been given some high-level mathematical tools to help you in your university career. Good luck using them, and remember: finals are just around the corner. Fun fun fun.

Guelph Erronious
with thanks to all the mathies who
developed and tested the above methods



Not Just Another Nice Guy Essay

There has been a lot of talk around here lately about "nice guys," what they are, and what they aren't. I'm afraid that it's caused a bit of confusion among the student body, and a few minor identity crises, which is a dangerous thing in a faculty as psychologically unstable as Math. So now, to see what I can do to help, I'm jumping on the bandwagon. Here are my ideas on "Nice Guys."

First of all, insofar as I can tell, I'm a pretty decent guy. I mean, I once received the compliment "You know, after talking to you I really want to run outside and strangle a goat just to get this NICENESS out of my system!" (I think it was a compliment. . . .) I help people when I can, I'm quiet and artistic in nature, so by definition I should be a "Nice Guy."

Unfortunately, I discovered long ago that I have a not-altogether platonic affinity for members of the opposite sex. As it turns out, this attribute is not keeping with the traditional character of the nice guy.

(Several keepers from the faculty of Psychology, shouting in unison: "Aha! He just described Stress from Incongruent Behavior in a Conditional Regard situation as described by the great humanist Carl Rodgers!!")

Please retain your comments for the end of the essay. Besides, I don't understand a word you just said.

(Keeners, lowly: we're sorry.)

Fine. Don't let it happen again. As I was saying, what's a nice guy to do when he wakes up one morning and discovers that he is subject to the same laws of psychology and physiology as normal people everywhere? Well, the most obvious solution to this problem is castration. Not surprisingly, not many nice guys go for this one.

So, what's choice number two? You could always pretend that your physical feelings (no, I must correct myself—urges) don't exist, and go on with the business of being a nice guy. This is a rather heavy load to put upon your already overtaxed brain, and if you keep it up long enough your head will explode. No kidding. Freudian repression is the leading cause of spontaneous combustion in the world today.

Assuming that you would rather not end up as a crispy critter, what's left? You could always try accepting the fact that you are not a nice guy. Therefore, you are a normal guy. Therefore, this should offer you a perfect opportunity to go out, get drunk, and hit on women all night. Mind you, if this is not part of your intrinsic nature, as it wouldn't be if you had originally considered yourself to be a nice guy, this would probably not be too much fun for you. Plus, you probably can't handle liquor too well, so you'll probably make a fool of yourself.

Maybe neither one of these solutions sounds too good. Maybe castration is looking better all the time. But wait, there's more. You could always try what I did, solution number four. Simply accept your feelings/urges as facts of life, and realize that there are no absolutes in the range of personality so there really isn't any such thing as a normal or a nice guy, just you and everyone else (gee . . . this sounds like the most long winded and boring solution of the lot, dunnit?). If you can talk to a girl, and judge her based on who she is rather than on whether you think she's a venus or an atilla, then I guess you're a nice guy. What else can you ask for?

Oh, yes, before I forget—you psychology students can discuss this to your heart's content now. I'm finished.

(together: YAY!!!)

Guelnh Erronious

About Nice Guys

(hoping this is from a nice guy's perspective)

Some people seem to be of the opinion being a nice guy is a bad thing. I really do not see anything wrong with being one—and I hope girls would consider me a nice guy. I am a Christian and don't believe in the "normal guys" attitudes expressed in the last ish. A case in point is: I have been told by several girls that a (normal?) guy will not offer to walk a girl home if it is the slightest bit inconvenient, or will not offer to drive a girl home for the same reason. Since I will (usually offering) walk a girl home no matter how far out of the way it is, I guess I am not normal (and yes, being a Christian also means that I have not "had sex at least once"—I guess I am just not normal.)

What I can say about my nice guy persona is that I have the atypical nice guy "afraid-to-ask-a-girl-out-for-the-fear-of-rejection" phobia; I do not know how many female friends a normal guy has, but I do know that this nice guy has more female friends than I could ever count; thirdly, I do not drink anything that is pink and frosty (pass me a vodka please) and I am not perfect. (I do get women PO'ed at me—this might be the only thing that makes me "normal.")

My normal guy tendencies do tend to get me in trouble now and then. I have on occasion asked a friend/girl out without success. I have no problem with this and in my ignorance, I see everything continuing as before. The girl does not always share my view and I lose a good friend or our friendship is never quite as strong. Losing a friend like this is, to me, the worst. If I had not been so stupid in the first place we would still be great friends—if I could change the past to undo these acts of stupidity, I certainly would. Sigh.

Since every tale of woe must have a moral, here is what I have come up with: Maybe this is what really makes a nice guy—the friendships we have and the people we know. But for sure nice guys will never change. We are who we are.

SCUD

(AGAIN) About Nice Guys

hoping this is from a Jerk's point of view

I've read, since the beginning of this term, a lot of really informative articles about this rare (NOT!) being we call the Nice Guy™. I have just this one comment: Cut this shit out!

Look, anyone who reads newsgroups can tell you that this NiceGuy/Jerk thing has been beaten to death, not once, but a gazillion fucking times. The result is always the same. The NiceGuys (read: wimps, momma's boy, insert your term here) whine incessantly about how they're still virgins. Look, life's not fair. Live with it.

If you want to discuss this topic further, there are newsgroups that thrive on it, alt.listen.to.me.whine is only one of them.

This message brought to you by the Committee to Stop NiceGuy™ Discussions from Appearing in mathNEWS.

Curtis Desjardins

(Yah, I'm a jerk. Proud of it, too!)

ISSN 0705-0410

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to, but otherwise independent of, the Mathematics Society at the University of Waterloo. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS editor; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or mathNEWS. Produced with π LaTeX. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid mathnews@descartes.uwaterloo.ca on Internet.

Editor: Kivi "I'm a nice guy!" Shapiro

Blasts from the Past

mathNEWS, December 3, 1982

A little early perhaps, but how about a Christmas carol? (To the tune of *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*).

"Oh, you'd better take care completing the square;
You'd better not try dividing by y;
'Cause exams are coming to town.
We're making a list, don't shake in your boots;
just watch out for extraneous roots—
March exams are coming to town
You know you'll have quadratics
And exponentials too—
You rationalize denomi-
Naters like the root of two.
So, you better be bright and calculate right—
You'd better check roots for the one that suits;
'Cause exams are coming to town."

"A note from the birth control centre: celibacy is not hereditary."

Stadtler

I failed, I failed!

This sound like you? Yes, autumn, the time of year when marks as well as leaves come falling down. And the time when first-year students come to realize that, No, this isn't high school. When you truly learn what a 50% failure rate is like. Here the profs will tell you, "Drop the course." Oh sure, first week we were told to expect our marks to drop and to fail a course, but that didn't mean *us*. It meant some other people, but surely not us. But right now suicide looks like a viable option. (It isn't really. It gives U(W) a bad name and makes the rest of us look bad).

Are things really as bad as they seem? No, this is normal. Pretty much everybody bites it first year. (Somebody pound that guy complaining about his 86 average.) For some of us though there are some signs that show you need help. These are

- you talk to the squirrels between classes
- Guelph starts sounding better and better
- you write for mathBOOZE
- the Gridword helps you understand Calculus
- you're failing Phil 140M
- your prof makes sense
- you find mathBOOZE the height of literary accomplishments
- you have conversations with people who aren't there
- you pay attention to this list

One final thing: while having conversations with non-existent persons is not healthy, talking to yourself is, if you are alone. If you're not, then it's allowed if you're a nice guy. (mathBOOZE, no offense unintended).

Brayne Dhed

Prof Quotes

"Other than I've got it all wrong, it's not too far off."

D. Taylor, CS 354

"The rationals are like cops in Italy — everywhere dense."

Forte, MATH 247

"Freud would say that the end of the chain is ... well ... you're going to get sex."

Teschuk, PSYCH 355

"To be Canadian is to prepare for death."

Smith, ECON 101

"Teenagers have abandoned clothing at night for reasons I refuse to speculate."

Smith, ECON 101

"I'm sorry, but I got lost in my fantasy life."

Smith, ECON 101

"It's stupid to ask students about another course, because once the mark shows on their transcript, that's it. They're done with it."

Safayeni, M SCI 311

"Physicists usually think that everything is continuous, life is smooth ... Mathematicians were put on this world to screw that up."

Vrscay, MATH 137

"This is a pathological curve. It's sick!"

Furmo, MATH 137J

"If you send it to a DEC machine, instead of 1 you get 16777216, which is not a very good approximation of 1."

D. Taylor, CS 354

"This exercise reminds me of an IQ test I flunked once."

Whiton, GER 101

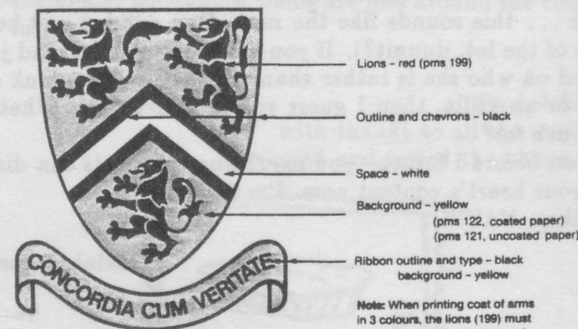
"It's not a stupid question. I'll tell you what. Go to the instructor who wrote the question and say, 'What a stupid question!' Let me know if you live."

Frackleton, CS 130

"I see that proof by intimidation doesn't work."

Oldford, STAT 231

Full colour version of Coat of Arms



Note: When printing coat of arms in 3 colours, the lions (199) must be printed over the background (121 or 122).

Math, the Universe, and Everything

University or Hell's Angels, And Why I Chose as I Did

Once again, this week my title is totally misleading. Actually this article is about how to succeed at this school, or any school for that matter. Since most of you by now have written most of your midterms, and some of us have failed several of them, you may be wondering if there is any way in which you can salvage this term. In fact, there are many, especially if you are a creative student, and oral sex with your profs doesn't seem all that repugnant. But, wait, if that's not to your fancy, there are plenty more things that you can do to save your ass this term. They may not pretty, they may not be legal, but they're going to work just fine.

Relax, You Still Have a Month

Well, actually, you have two weeks until the end of classes. But there's still plenty of time, so don't get too excited yet. There's still no need for desperate actions, like studying or going to class. That will do absolutely nothing at this point but confuse the hell outta you. So instead of going to class this afternoon, go to the Bomber and have a few quarts. I did it last Friday, and let me tell you, it sure cleared my head out. In fact, I'll be there again this afternoon, lying in the corner, being beat up by staff who just tried to run my credit card through one of those damned little machines. So if you see me there, come on over and give me a kick. They'll thank you for it.

Have Sex and Plenty of It

If you get the opportunity, have sex. Then relax, and have sex again. Repeat until bleeding occurs. Again, this will do nothing to help you pass your courses, but after a month of this, *you won't care*. That's the great thing about sex. In fact, if you can find somebody to have sex with during your final exam, by all means do it. Not only will it relieve any tension you might have about writing the exam, but it will give the rest of us in the PAC something to watch while we try to remember what the square root of four is.

Have Sex With Your Prof and Plenty of It

This is even better. You get all the bonuses listed above, as well as having a fairly good chance of passing the final, whether or not you actually write it.

Kill Your Prof

As long as you can get away with it, the killing of UW math profs is okay. They're out to get you, don't be afraid to go after them. Just look at question #4 on the midterm—you don't think that they actually expected anybody to get that, do you? Death's too good for them. Be sure that you're not having sex with your prof while killing him/her. Also be sure not to have sex with your prof *after* killing him/her.

Cheating's Okay as Long as You Don't Get Caught

Face it: if you haven't learned the material covered by the course in three months, you're sure as hell not going to do it in three hours, while suffering from a hangover. Spend the three hours productively by writing as much onto the face of your calculator as you can fit. Practice improving your peripheral vision, and be sure to sit beside somebody smarter than you. The

room should be full of folks who fit that description, as most of them were smart enough to go to class while you were spending Friday afternoons in the Bomber. But you can probably kick their ass at darts.

Have a Valid Medical Excuse for Missing the Exam

This is a great way to go, especially if you can invoke the prof's pity with a really pathetic disorder, such as spontaneous combustion. Nothing ensures that you won't have to write an exam better than igniting mysteriously. Other good ailments to have are tuberculosis, rabies, or anything that turns your skin green. Unfortunately, that rash you picked up two weeks ago after meeting that person at Red Hall will not qualify as a valid medical excuse. I mean, I imagine that if anybody had something like that, then that hypothetical person would still have to write all of his exams.

Remember, Beer is Your Friend

Beer is sometimes your best friend. Instead of using coffee to stay awake all night, try drinking a few beers. Not only will you be able to stay awake longer, but your roommates will love you for it, since you'll probably wake them up, just so you won't have to drink alone. A few beers make you much more receptive to such things as Calculus and Algebra, since you sure as hell don't understand them when you're sober. Be sure to have a few beers before you go into the exam room, so you'll be in the same state of mind while writing as you were while studying.

C'mon, It's Not Like You Actually Wanted A BMath Anyway

Don't be afraid to switch faculties. Imagine telling people in the real world that you have a BMath. Wow, you'll get invited to a lot of parties. You already know enough now to get a well-paying job, unless you're in 1A, in which case don't worry, you've got your whole life ahead of you. And unless you fail every course, they're going to let you come back.

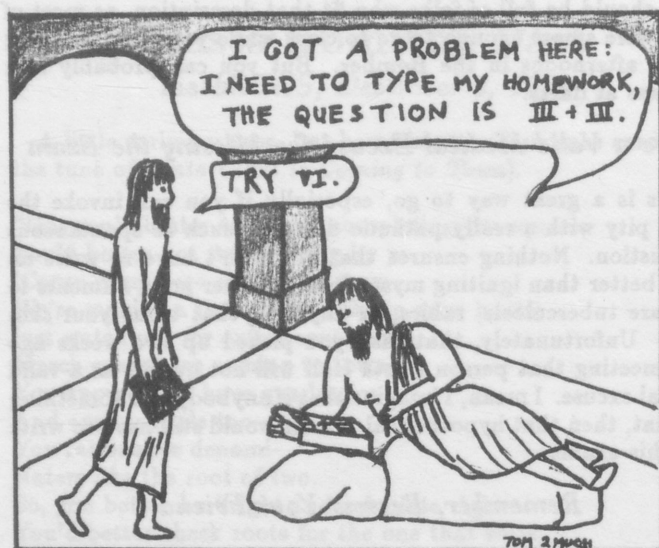
And Finally ...

Under no circumstances do any work. This will only cut into your relaxation time. Do not open your textbooks, 'cause that will only lower their resale value. If you do flunk out, don't panic, and rest assured that you were good enough to flunk out of the best university in the country. How many people can say that?

Flipper

100 Things More Exciting Than Attending
All of Your STAT 330 CLASSES:
#196 Putting Your Head in a Moulinex





An Analysis of the Netual Preferences of News Junkies

The world of the Internet is evolving, and more people than ever are being exposed to the wonders of FTP, MUDs, and most influentially, news. This is, to the author's knowledge, the first attempt to seriously examine the effects of this phenomenon. Due to temporal restrictions, it will be limited to a brief overview of the various preferences of the new race know as news junkies, presented in alphabetical order.

Accountnet: A news junkie who keeps track of exactly how long it has been since a particular flame war was last erupted, or who counts the number of included lines compared to the number of original lines in a posting.

Arsonet: A news junkie who enjoys starting flame wars. Typified by a lack of :-) and IMHO, and a large quantity of profanities.

Impotnet: A news junkie who cannot post news. The chief cause of this rare affliction is companies which have only an incoming newsfeed.

Incompetnet: A news junkie who cannot compose a coherent article. Symptoms of this are: lines longer than 80 characters in an article; entire articles placed in the subject line; articles without any body text (often posted more than once); articles which end abruptly in the middle of a sentence.

Netrophiliac: A news junkie who likes posting to dead (ie bogus) newsgroups.

Nymphonetic: A news junkie who can't get enough news. Symptoms are, surprisingly, similar to those of the Virginet, but Nymphonetic's usually have much larger .newsr files (and that wide-eyed look is for a different reason).

Pregnet: A news junkie who creates new groups.

Sentinetal: A news junkie who repeatedly posts about how good things were back before "The Split" or some other event.

Transnetual: A news junkie who enjoys cross-posting. Most members of this group are fairly conservative, and only cross-post to two or three groups, but some are more adventurous.

Virginet: A news junkie who has never posted a message. News junkies usually cannot resist the attraction of the unknown, and do not remain Virgines for very long. Watch for people who sit for hours on end pressing the space bar in wide-eyed wonder.

The Companion Unobtrusive

NEW!! CP Seminar Series

Industrial Applications of Information Technology

The Computer Science Department at the University of Waterloo is organizing a new monthly seminar series with the support of Canadian Pacific. The series is aimed at Computer Science and Mathematics undergraduates, and is focusing on Industrial Applications of Information Technology. Seminars will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm.

Both CP and the University of Waterloo recognize that graduates of a computer science program should be able to apply their learning to help meet the needs of Canadian industry. According to the recent report on "Software and National Competitiveness" from Employment and Immigration Canada, "Only a workforce which is skilled in either developing software products, or using them in the service of all business opportunities, can deliver the benefits of technology." Thus exposure to industrial applications and familiarity with the methods and techniques employed in the development and maintenance of large-scale systems constitute important complements to traditional, more technical, computer science instruction. This seminar series is intended to address these needs.

The first seminar in this series will be Tuesday, November 24th, 1992 at 3:30pm in the Davis Centre, Room 1302. The speaker will be Ray Simonson, Information Systems Executive, of the Mutual Group, Waterloo, Ontario, speaking on Image Technology at Mutual. Mr. Simonson will discuss the history of image processing at the Mutual Group from its introduction with FILENET through the current implementation of IMAGE-PLUS. He will also provide some insight into the future direction of imaging systems. Mr. Simonson is Canadian President of XPLOR, the Electronic Document Association.

Everyone is welcome! Refreshments will be served.

da CS department

MUSIC REVIEW

Back and Forth; series 2

Skinny Puppy

Netwerk/Capitol (W2-30078)

I couldn't do the Puppies any justice by presuming I know much about this group. I never went to any of their concerts, never bought any souvenirs, never asked Netwerk for a "bio". However, what I do know is that after listening to all their albums, I can stand to take some more.

"Back and Forth II" is a reproduction of a demo tape called "Back and Forth" with additional tracks from early concerts and reels never published before. This compilation shows us what Skinny Puppy (SP) did before their breakthrough in 1984. Although many of the tracks have a snappy dance-like appeal, they don't carry the weight and depth of newer material. Still, it's the same old "Brap", and it remains unquestionably SP.

This compilation is available in limited edition only at music shops that matter. Another edition, packaged in a flashy metal box is available only through mail order ... the metal box itself has some sharp edges for Ogre-ish flesh-gouging fun!

Pilot in Hell

Ordeal at Optometry

I went to the optometry building for an eye exam a couple of weeks ago. Need I say more?

If you say I do, then let me explain. I first walked up to the foyer of the building facing Columbia St. Not a bad place to start, eh? All the while I'm thinking how proud I should be that the school I chose also houses the only English School of Optometry in Canada. This was going through my head as I opened the door to the reception area where I was greeted, and my name and OHIP number were taken.

Soon, a lady named Nancy came by, and escorted me up a set of stairs to where I was to be examined. Now, Nancy was pretty nice. She was tallish, with black hair that went to her shoulders. She was on the thin side and had a nice voice. I was enjoying this.

Once we're in her office, she tells me to sit down, and that since this is the first time I'm being examined, there will be a few questions before we begin. These go off without a hitch, except for a few awkward moments about whether I had ever hit my head on anything before. "No, I hadn't injured my head previously," I answered. But I had hit it on something before. I mean haven't you had your midterms yet?

Now we got to the nitty gritty. The lights go off, there is some rustling in the darkness, as I settle into the ease of the examination chair with my head leaned back and relaxed. I was ready getting sick with anticipation.

"Read the smallest line you can see clearly," Nancy says. Alright, back to reality. I go through the tests she puts on the wall with the projector. My thoughts started to wander, and I wondered if Nancy might be a student, and not a full-fledged doctor. Soon, a woman came in and sat down at an empty chair. She didn't seem that much older than Nancy, but she introduced herself as Doctor Burks, Nancy's superior. Ooops. What have I gotten into now? I think. Would this be a good time to ask if the person examining me is an actual doctor? Like the chickenshit that I am, I clamp my mouth and shut, after smiling a nice hello at Doctor Burks.

Soon, there were more tests. Doctor Burks left not long afterwards, and Nancy came up with a surprise. It seemed she wanted to stick something in my eye to figure out the pressure on my eyeballs or some weird thing like that. I couldn't shut up about this one. No, thanks, I said. Umm, maybe we could go to the next test? She seemed insistent, and finally suggested we try another machine that wouldn't stick anything anywhere. We went downstairs, and did what had to be done, after ten or fifteen unsuccessful tries, it was finally finished. Granted, this was partly my fault. I couldn't help but be fidgety while the machine was doing its job.

Finally, the pleasant part. I've got black irises and Nancy said she was having a hard time looking into my eyes with a light. So, after trying several times, she called in Doctor Burks to help. This was the first time in my life I could say I was alone in a dim room, with two beautiful women peering deep into my eyes, almost close enough to kiss. Not much more need be said.

After that, I got my prescription, and Nancy showed me where the dispensary was. I was just itching to get out of there, but I tried to be pleasant. I entered the building expecting to be there for no more than thirty minutes. Two and a half hours had gone by. I was so happy it was over, that I played ultimate with a few guys in front of the Math Building afterward.

The next time I need an eye exam, I think I'll wait until I can get home.

Deep End

Feedback Time!

Hey! Have you been saying to yourself, "I wish I could let mathNEWS know how I felt about their newspaper," and you just haven't found the time to write? Well, it's time for our quasi-annual questionnaire. Do we need more *math*? More NEWS? You can pick up the form in the C+D between next Monday and Friday, and return it in the BLACK BOX. In fact, please do. We need to know how we can best serve you.

da staff

MS Windoze actually a fiendish virus!

SEATTLE (mNP)—According a reliable source who has recently returned from a work term at MS, it would seem that the international software corporation is actually a front for activities such as the creation and distribution of the most heinous and potentially damaging virus in the short history of computing.

How had this gone unnoticed for so long? The answer is quite simple—the effects of the WINDOZE virus are very subtle. There is nothing overtly malicious about the WINDOZE virus, any more than there was anything overtly malicious about the Internet worm. Neither was written with the intent to damage files; they are both intended to (and do) cause the loss of computing time.

The mode of attack of the WINDOZE virus is especially devious. While most viruses attach themselves to other programs and then lie dormant for months or years before activating, the WINDOZE virus is a separate program which is willingly invoked by thousands or even millions of users every day. It will appear to run various applications normally for a random period of time and then crash (the message is usually "Unrecoverable Application Error"), resulting in the potential loss of hours of work.

The WINDOZE virus has other attacks as well. Some of the main symptoms which may indicate that your system is infected include:

- a sudden drastic increase in hard disk use
- lengthy startup times associated with any application
- confusing set-up menus, meaningless field descriptions
- the appearance of mysterious files in random directories

Another symptom is the constant compulsion of the user to install 'update' viruses, which not only take hours to install but cost money to boot (no pun intended).

According to our source, this is just the tip of the iceberg. MS has enough resources to blackmail the world into following their evil schemes for world domination through the slow paralysis of every PC which is infected with WINDOZE.

What can you do?

Tell all of your friends about this menace to society. Refuse to work for anyone who refuses to listen to your warnings. Don't even consider a co-op job at MS, not even to try to change things from the inside—according to our source, you will be given an unsatisfactory rating on your evaluation if you so much as whisper the word. Most importantly, everyone must immediately remove the WINDOZE virus from their hard disks. Re-format if you must, but *get it off of there!*

What, me sign my name to *this*?

mathNEWSquiz #5

I don't wanna play school no more

Hello, squizzers! Well, we seem to have had a good turnout for last issue's squiz answers. First off, I'd like to recognise that there was a submission from Live From Ottawa... Hammer! He got 7 answers correct. I'm sorry you couldn't get your solutions in on time. Also, there were (mistakenly) two answers omitted from last week's squiz. Here they are: 11) Saskatoon; 13) Jan. 25, 1973. Now, here are the answers to last issue's squiz: 1) The Power—Snap; 2) The Obvious Child—Paul Simon; 3) Enter Sandman—Metallica; 4) Drawn to the Rhythm—Sarah McLachlan; 5) Bring Tha Noise—Public Enemy (with or without Anthrax); 6) Nothing; Mrs. Niggerbaiter exploded; 7) Tim; 8) Burn, bury, dump(in the Thames) and eat; 9) Superintendent Harry "Snapper" Organs of the Q Division; 10) Jean-Paul Sartre; 11) Risky Business; 12) The Witches of Eastwick; 13) Ghostbusters; 14) Sixteen Candles; 15) Marked For Death; 16) Bunnies (I could prove it if I had the article, but I don't, but Webster's successfully sued someone for plagiarism in this way); 17) St. John (not The Baptist); 18) Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Alexander; 19) Owl; 20) Paleontology.

Lessee, here... here are the people who submitted answers to the squiz: 2B but I'd prefer not (2B)(1), CENEC(1), Elwood(1), Noooooorrrrr!(2), Clueless(2), Waldo's Twin(4), Flusher & Men Hiding(10), Just-Us-League(11), Tyrant & Rapunzel(15.5)(No, Caught-you-plagiarizing-you-son-of-a-bitchisms is not quite correct), Phil Collins and Pokey(16), The Spanish Inquisition(19), Northern Exposure(21), and the winner is (drum roll, please)... The Original Gangster(23), who answered the call of distress for more competition! Congratulations! You can pick up your prize in the MathSoc Office during the next couple of weeks. Now, here are this issue's questions:

Movie Quotes (name the movie)

1. "My back is tense, my neck is tense, my ears are tense. It's like they're hot or something."
"Maybe I could do something to help you relax."
2. "I don't know about you people. This is a morgue, you're partying in a morgue. You don't believe me, let's go take a look at rigor mortis over in room 12 here."
3. "We watch his TV programs, we buy his toys... doesn't he owe us? — fuckin' A right he owes us!"
4. "'Baby talk'? What's that? That's not an expression!"
"Oh, but 'Baby fishmouth' is sweeping the country."
5. "Turn to the Dark Side, Luke! Like, I am your father, eh?"

Pot Pourri

1. What colour of kryptonite can take away Superman's powers forever?
2. Boris Karloff provided the voice for what cartoon villain?
3. What is the only 7-letter word in English to contain all 5 vowels?
4. What is the name of the only purple land animal?
5. The Lone Ranger's grand nephew is better known as who?

*Song Lyrics (yet again)
(Name the Song and Artist)*

1. Wishin' and hopin' for my dreams to come true
So I could feel like the other kids do
2. In the fields the bodies burning
As the war machine keeps turning

3. Corrupted politicians, playing games
Bringin' us down to boost their fame
4. What immortal hand or eye
Has framed thy fearful symmetry
5. Is zis Nazi land so good? Would you leave it if you could?
Ja, zis Nazi land is good! Ve would leave it if ve could!

Magic, Witchcraft & Religion (a.k.a. Anth 311)

1. How many witches were burned in the Salem Witch Trials of the court of Oyer and Terminer in 1692?
2. Who is the self-proclaimed Father and High Priest of Modern Satanism?
3. Which famous occult figure called himself "The Great Beast (666)?"
4. What is the mental condition of one (usually a shaman) who is contacting spirits or gods called?
5. In the Middle Ages, Christian leaders wanted to promote their religion. What did they call the meetings of witches' covens to downplay Judaism?

We wish you luck on this squiz (some of you may need it ;-), and you may submit your answers in the BLACK BOX outside the Comfy Lounge on the third floor of MC before 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, 1992.

Token Artsie

Harry (you guessed it) "Snapper" Organs (Q Div.)

The Newfie Plot

A Critical Examination of Alien Invasion Theories

A few days ago I was in the hall when I overheard two guys talking about Chinese people coming into southern Ontario, taking jobs away from the people who live there. The discussion was overtly racist and paranoid, and at first I was stunned. I had never expected to find such small-minded ignorance in an institution such as this. After that, I was angry. Did those people really believe that a vast wave of Chinamen is going to conquer and settle this province? I can tell you now that such an event is never going to happen. Us Newfoundlanders have too much of a head start on them.

At this moment, there are more people who consider themselves Newfies living off the island than on it. The multitudes of young islanders who have come here looking for work have been viewed humorously by many people: "What do you call a Newfie living in Montreal? Someone who ran out of gas on the way to Toronto!" Nobody suspected the truth... we were a secret society steadily gaining power and influence in the heart of Canada. Remember, we look just like you do, speak both official languages, and breed like bunnies. It'll only be a matter of time.

Then one day, you're going to wake up and there'll be a rowboat in your driveway. Of course, you won't be allowed to call it a rowboat anymore, it's a dory. There will be nothing to eat in your house except for tinned sausages and hard tack; we'll have taken all the real food back home with us. Actually, you might not even notice that we've taken over for quite some time, until one day you're walking down the street and suddenly notice that your town's name has been officially been changed to "Seal Cove." And, of course, by then it will be too late.

So, to all the racists, bigots, anti-semitics, and xenophobes out there, just remember- you don't have to worry about anyone else anymore. Just us. HaHaHaHaHaHaHaHaHa (Maniacal Laughter... fades to silence)

Guelph Erronious

Grid Comments

Who will be the next to die?

What a turnout! I nearly died when I saw all of the submissions this week. We even had some for the conventional. I'm not sure I can stand the excitement!

Correct cryptic solutions were given by Arfin Gfarfinblatz E.P.Q; Isabelle and Amber; The Warlord and Bob, Zebrina; The Prophet and Sandra D.; The Griffimmer; Noooooorrrm; Elwood; and Cenec. Other solutions were submitted by Clueless; Waldo's Twin; Pilot in Hell; Thunder Storm; Bobster the Lobster; Tyrant, Token Artsie, and Rapunzel; and The Tower (nice try).

A conventional solution came from 2B but I'd prefer not 2B. The only correct solution came from Amster, Edgar Allan, 18 centimetres.

The winners are ... Amster, Edgar Allan, 18 centimetres for the conventional (it was a tough decision) and Cenec for the cryptic. Drop by MathSoc for your prizes.

Favorite size: 36D; 14 (Re: Silence of the Llamas); Extrasuperbig and size +1; 36D; extra medium; 341 mL; 18 centimetres; it's not the size of the hockey puck, it's how you slap it; just a smidgely widgely; X-large; huge; XXXL; Big; 5'2"; if it comes in blue then large otherwise XL; Omnimax on Imax; Huge; 2B.

Comments: Smell you later (I don't smell, do I?); Although I am not Fizz-Wiz, if you suck on me, or touch me with your wet finger, I will explode; #19 sound like a bad translation; I'm not shy, I'm xenophobic; I'm Mr. Failed-All-My-Midterms! And I'm Crazy! Now, Give Me Some Candy!; English majors would do well on this one!; Are you done with that yet?; One in the hand is worth two in the bush; This is the year the Maple Leafs do it; size of what?; O my God ... it was huge!; Women — can't live with 'em, pass the beernuts; Big, Big, Big!; Who needs clues?; How long is a Chinese Name?; I know this entry is coming to you from Ottawa-Hull, but can you tell me if my breath stinks?; Thanks for the How-to's; Get out of Math while you're still alive!!!

Have fun on this one ... if you dare.

Shenothe

Ultra Classifieds

Has anybody seen Nicole's tattoo?

Ashtray Wrecker

Dear Rub-a-Dub,

Who's in your tub? Scrubbing the shrub?

Uncle D

Cleaning Lady, Blondi, Peach, and Wouldn't-You-Like-to-Know,
Do not drink too much in the fishbowl.

dimL=2

From Laurie to Laurie,
Let's talk. Please reply.

To those comedians who posted the false election posters,

Ha ha! Very funny! Even though it took me a while to tear them all down, I'm sure MathSoc appreciates this new supply of scrap paper that you so graciously provided for them. Next time you don't have to use coloured paper. We know how expensive it can get, so white will do.

the MathSoc publicity dood

The Puzzle Bandit

Escape from the Sixth Floor

There's a small island with strange natives. This island is called, strangely enough, Sixth Floor. Don't ever visit the Island Sixth Floor, because the natives will get hungry for brain and clam chowder. It's a soup type meal that requires dried human brain, but the brain must be dried while still alive to maintain freshness. To this end, they've created a complicated maze to completely drain the lost victim's brain juices with the incentive of escape from the island should the victim find the exit of the maze. With the map below, found in a bottle on the Fifth Floor, can you find a way out of the maze without drying your brain?

Instructions:

1. You are given 100 clams before entering. Clams are used to pay the tolls for leaving/entering a room.
2. Upon entering a room with a letter, you must take only one of that letter and add it to your hand. You are not allowed to bring letters with you to the entrance.
3. Several rooms have categories and clam amounts. You can earn the amount of clams shown in a room if you can give, from your accumulated letters, a 3+ letter word fitting the category. You also lose these letters when you use them, but it is optional to answer the category if you wish.
4. Certain rooms require you to alter your hand. Remove a vowel/consonant: Choose a required letter from your hand (if you have one) and discard it (you can't get it back). Move all letters forward/backward: If you held 'tzaf', you would move forward to get 'uabg' and move backward to get 'syze' (notice the wrap around effect). These rooms are NOT optional but you must do it once every time you enter one.

					ENTER
M	MOVE ALL LETTERS IN YOUR HAND ONE BACKWARD	C	A	G	K
10c	10c	10c	10c	5c	5c
10c	10c	10c	25c	15c	15c
Y	NBA TEAM NAME e.g. Hornets (100 clams)	V	B	M	H
10c	20c	30c	30c	5c	5c
120c	135c	130c	35c	40c	40c
T	D	F	R	E	COLOUR e.g. BLACK (500 clams)
10c	40c	40c	55c	50c	50c
3000c	15c	45c	100c	70c	1000c
S	QUARK QUALITY e.g. Top, Bottom (500 clams)	Q	MOVE ALL LETTERS IN YOUR HAND ONE FORWARD	COMMON FLOWER e.g. Iris (1,000 clams)	OLYMPIC EVENT e.g. Swimming (5,000 clams)
500c	500c	50c	50c	50c	1000c
11,000c	1970c	1,500c	1,000c	150c	300c
ONE OF THE FIVE HUMAN SENSES e.g. Touch (6000 clams)	N	O	W	REMOVE A VOWEL FROM YOUR HAND	X
3000c	1000c	500c	600c	50c	50c
1,000c	1,000c	1,000c	1,000c	100c	1400c
I	P	L	Z	REMOVE A CONSONANT FROM YOUR HAND	U
5000c	1000c	500c	100c	100c	100c

* EXIT (* YOU MUST PAY A TOLL OF 5,000 CLAMS PER LETTER LEFT IN YOUR HAND TO EXIT)

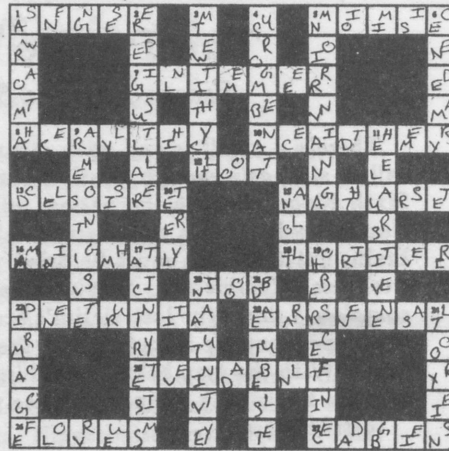
Conventional

Across

1. timetable
5. seaman
8. leap
9. coiled
10. enlarge
11. composition
14. ___ clues
15. illustration
17. say
20. recline
21. topic
24. every
26. can
28. hard
29. conceited
30. beg
33. still
35. picture
37. grandmother
38. coliseum
41. damp
43. hat
45. illuminate
47. spot from disease
48. hear
49. snake
50. moun
51. coin

Down

1. rate
2. riddle
3. let
4. candid
5. thin
6. of bread
7. joke
12. pristine
13. pro ___ in proportion
14. beverage
16. cash
18. compact
19. provoke
22. cut
23. combination
25. hint
27. mattress
31. deep
32. against
33. move slowly
34. lick
35. beat
36. mispronounce organism
39. sexual
40. vindicate
42. pick
44. map
46. sneer



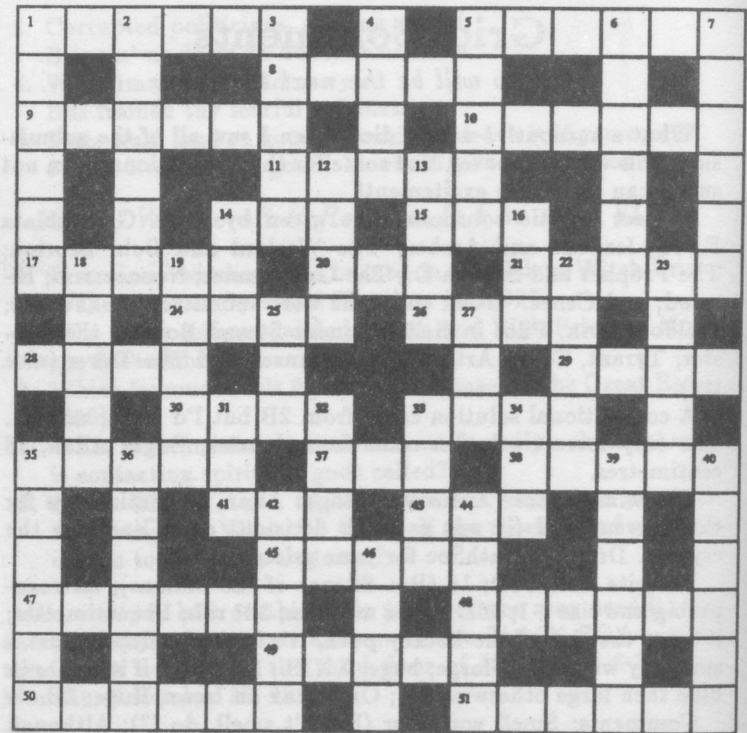
Cryptic

Across

1. the so-so MC owns the backward universe (6)
5. rest us concealed bu the reddish brown chair (6)
8. copy it right as it sounds (5)
9. silver in wetland is a delusion (6)
10. the servant is in trouble (6)
11. a cute guy is lively (5)
14. error or not (3)
15. the scales cover the beer (3)
17. sea weed periodically can log safe (5)
20. the embryo in Peg got killed (3)
21. the new insurance covered the wreck (5)
24. the punch is in the bowl (4)
26. eats bananas in chair (4)
28. French lover heard bow and arrow (4)
29. the bend upset the runt (4)
30. start another needed dust (4)
33. to be dans une arbre (4)
35. she endures in the splendour (5)
37. to be in an ear (3)
38. disturb and raise the Ram (5)
41. girl begins dating other teachers (3)
43. reclined interrupts Saturday (3)
45. X is often then included (5)
47. fix mixed at chat (6)
48. the oldest lives in the deletions (6)
49. embarking xanthic trains runs accessory (5)
50. that error masks the horror (6)
51. physician specialist (6)

Down

1. Kodak! stir a cream (6)
2. mighty hard (6)
3. sorted wares are a promise (5)
4. Lou stated the place was Paris (4)
5. initially revolt engages both enemy lines (5)
6. spiced meat sausage (6)
7. phone booth began time and relative dimensions in space (6)
12. company raids every-where in capital (4)



name:
favourite fuzzy soft thing:
comments: