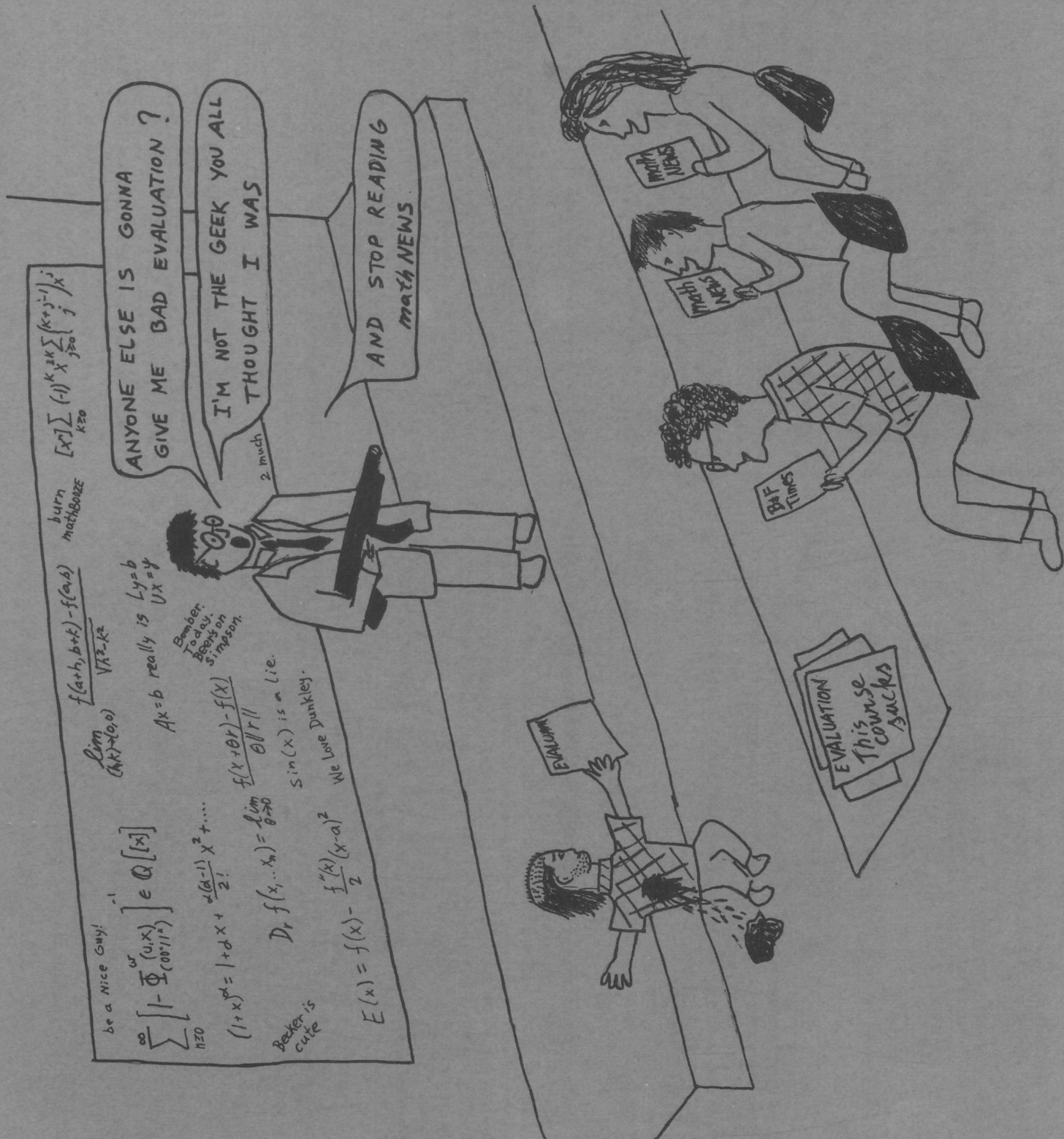


math NEWS



CSC Flash

It is I, Calum T. Dalek, back from my cut-short CANOE-AROUND-THE-WORLD TOUR. Just to set the record straight, those pictures were doctored!

The end of term is here, and you mere mortals are faced with the onslaught of exams. Well, I am too, but I need not worry! I write all my exams concurrently before the exam is given to me, and I get them right! Many thanks to the profs who have taught me over the last couple of decades... and to the ones who so silently passed away (hehehehe!).

Our fine members, particularly our office staff, will hopefully be able to keep our humble abode open for people like you. Yes, you! Why you might ask? Simple, we need money, and we think we are worth joining for only TWO dollars! Why consider joining now? YOU DON'T JOIN NOW! You can join for NEXT term, or even the term after that! Just remember to specify which term! And what benefits do you get? Well, lately our office manager and staff have been slack on allowing the use of the stapler to ONLY members, and so I have given them a reminder! (Don't ask what happened to Shannon Mann... You wouldn't want to know!) And all the people wanting to use our phone is crazy! I thought I clearly instructed them to ONLY ALLOW MEMBERS! You leave on a tour of the world, and everything goes to chaos!

Well, seeing as this is the last CSC Flash until January, Merry Humbug, and a Bah New Year! (What? You mean I was supposed to say Merry Christmas? You're wrong, Ex-Zonk! ... <screaming noises>)

Calum T. Dalek
Supreme Ruler

Administrivia

Indrownable is reminded that he/she/it still has a prize in the MathSoc office from Issue #3. It expires on 11 Dec. so get it now!

Kivi

And the winners are...

For the Spring 93 MathSoc executives (drum roll)

President Monica Rooney
Vice President Tamara Sargent
Treasurer Jeff Stammler

For the Spring 93 and Winter 94 MGC Chairperson (drum roll)

Eneida Fidalgo

I would like to thank Kivi, Dean, Curtis, Ian, and all those people who helped me during this election. Also thanks to all of you who voted.

MathSoc has positions open every term for anyone who wants to get involved. From office workers, class reps, all the way to President. All you have to do is come by and talk to us.

See you all next term.

Poesy

The Actuarial Science Club

There are only two (short) announcements this time around that everyone should know about, both concerning the Actuarial Students National Association. As mentioned in previous mathNEWS articles, ASNA is holding its next annual convention in Quebec City Jan 15th-17th, 1993. If you have read previous mathNEWS articles, you should know that I quoted around \$120 for the whole convention including accommodation and transportation. Well, I lied. Or, let me put it this way, I didn't know any better. A big variable in the price that I quoted is transportation. And let me tell ya, it ain't cheap! Because of the transportation, I am having a hard time quoting a specific figure. All I can definitely say is that the convention and accommodation will cost \$100. The cost of the transportation will be \$50 plus or minus \$20, depending on the number of people going. Regardless of the cost, this is a great event in which can learn more about your chosen profession and have the chance to socialize with over 400 other students from across Canada! In all honesty, I have yet to be disappointed!

My only other announcement concerns the finding of a delegate to represent Waterloo in ASNA for next year. The whole existence of ASNA is staying on top of changes that are happening in the actuarial field as well as being a liaison between the represented student body and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society. Its duties are few, but the benefits are great!

If you would like more information on the annual convention this upcoming January or are interested in becoming a Waterloo delegate in ASNA, drop by the Actuarial Science Club (MC3030) or phone 885-1211 x6534; or phone 725-1946 and ask for Wayne.

That's about it for now. Good luck on your finals.

Wayne—ASC President

GINO'S PIZZA

747-9888

160 University Ave. W.
Waterloo

Gino's wishes all UW
Math Students a Safe and
Happy Holiday Season!



Super Special !!

2 MEDIUM - 13" PIZZAS

with 3 toppings for

\$12.99

Expiry Date December 31, 1992

•not valid with any other coupons•

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are available. If you want to receive mathNEWS next term, go to the office (MC 3041), take one of the nifty subscription forms there, and pay the amount it says on it. Costs are \$7 for within Canada, \$9 for U.S., or \$12 for other places.

Kivi

Household Tips

What you need to know to keep your roof from caving in

I'm sure this has happened to all of you. I know it has to me: you just get settled in with the latest pirated copy of Sim Universe when all of a sudden a wall collapses, or some other minor annoyance with the building's infrastructure crops up, and your landlord isn't about to fix it because your landlord lives in Tahiti. Well, for all those of you who are too lazy to take down all your posters and move into a friend's house, here's what to do about the following:

- A pipe bursts in the apartment below you. This is not a big problem, because water in the floor below you isn't going to damage your computer in any way. Turn up the radio a bit and keep on playing.
- A pipe bursts in the apartment above you. This is also not a big problem, since your computer has been waterproofed in the event of such a flood. Hasn't it? Well, a little bit of foresight never hurt. Pause your game for a few seconds, put on a raincoat and return to the game.
- A pipe bursts in your bathroom. This, again, is no problem, and it may in fact be beneficial if you have been keeping some beer in the tub to cool it off a little. Ignore it.
- The power goes out. If you didn't bother to buy a good diesel generator, then you'll have to rely on your SRAMs to save the state of your game until you can get out and buy one. A diesel generator, that is. Don't forget to get some ducting so you can vent the exhaust through your window, or, if you don't have a window, into the corridor; otherwise you may start to asphyxiate, and your score will suffer.
- The roof starts to collapse. You should have enough used printer paper lying about to fashion a makeshift pillar to support the weight of the roof. Effective substitutes include: a bed stood on its end; a stack of dead VC404s; or an IBM mainframe.
- The floor starts to collapse. This is not a problem. The person in the apartment below you ought to know precisely what to do when their roof starts to collapse (see "The roof starts to collapse" above). As this particular catastrophe is self-rectifying, forget about it. All worrying will do is distract you from the game at hand.

Mr. Death

Adieu! So Long! Farewell!

PMC&OC's tearful goodbye

Yes, this is it. The very last PMC&OC column ever. This is it. The End, my beautiful friend. This is the end. Hey! Stop cheering over there! Oh yeah? Well, just for that, I think we'll keep this column going. Ha. So there. Put that in your pipe and smoke it. Hrummpf.

This is, however, the last article for the term. We have had a great term and there are lots of people to thank for it, but I'll get to them later. First off, I want to say that we had a couple of great lectures in the last little while, one by Dr. Tutte and the other by Dr. Colbourn.

In other news, we have recently acquired a hot air popcorn popper. Isn't it remarkable what modern technology can do? It does, of course, come with the mandatory yellow lid, just so you think your popcorn is well buttered. Just how stupid do they think we are? Don't answer that one. Many thanks and kudos to Mike (or is it Amber?) for the generous donation. And if it wasn't a donation, then ... well ... it is now, dammit! (Oh, is that language too offensive for mathNEWS?) [It's the last issue. We're looser anyway! — Ed.]

Kudos go out to Danny as well, for his party last weekend. Boos and hisses to Nikhil, instigator of the wretched timbit and water conflict. Further boos and hisses to Eli, the failed knife juggler. Stick to math, guys.

Ok, now to the ingratiating thank-yous. Thanks first of all to our most esteemed and enlightened executive. Thanks also to Amber (or is it Mike?) who cleaned the office far too many times for her own good. Thanks to me (how could I resist?) for writing these inane articles. Thanks to all of you. Thanks for coming out.

Ex-president-for-life

Masthead

Thanks once again to everyone who helped out. I'd say more but we're out of time!

Jennifer Watters (3B Stats) shenothe/Jeffie, Ian Goldberg (2N PM+CS) The plAMN Guy, Colin Brace (2A CS), Jason Rochon (2N Witchcraft) Cat Who Deceives, Marco Koechli (Math/Music/?), You Guesst, Salim (3B NS/Econ), Steve Shaw (2B CS/BIRD) Flipper, Joe Hewitt (1A CS) Guelph Erronious, Stuart Pollock (2A AM/CS) Harry Organs, Trevor Green (2 PM) Mr. Death The Incredibly Bad mathNEWS Poet, Wayne Edwards Wayne, Jeff Stammler (3B CS+C&O) Trezmania, Curtis Desjardins (BMATH '92, now 3N Psychology) Token Artsie, Tomas Tocek (2B CS/BIRD) 2 much, John Wetmiller (2 a+b/2 Math) The Puzzle bandit, Lisa Yeo (4A AM) this space intentionally left blank, Lisa Toth (In Math I guess) the Hairy Lisa. And we can never forget Marion and the fine crew at Graphics Services! ☺ 1-1-1-1-1 "w-k-n" Feller (2A Actrc) 5-t-t-l-e-r!

Productionist's Note the Last: How do you like the funky sideways issue?

Kivi Shapiro (4A C&O) Who, me?

Normal Guys

Membership Has Its Priviledges

Nice Guys, Normal Guys, CS-Geek Guys, Rebels-Who-Sit-In-The-Back-Row Guys, ... oh! and the Token Girl of course. Did I miss anyone? Create your own stereotype then and submit it to *mathNEWS*—the paper dedicated to upholding oppressive stereotypes.

Take, for instance, the definition of a Normal Guy—the most insidious category because of its claim to the word “normal.” Normal Guys think “girls that drink beer are hot.” Must girls be drinking to be hot? This definition also excludes homosexuals from attaining the same distinction of normality—but then again, a fibre rich diet would fix that right?

A Normal Guy has also had sex at least once. Great. Call me a Mathie but I sense an equation coming on ...

SEX = STATUS SYMBOL = POWER = POWER CRIME
= 1 IN 4 WOMEN ON CAMPUS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

But this is possibly too complicated for a Normal Guy to understand ... especially since the *No Means No* concept has him confused. If a Normal Guy gets turned down by a girl he really likes then he gets her drunk?! I only wish we lived in a time when this mentality was a joke. Girls are not just objects lacking free will—if one is smart enough to turn down a Normal Guy then no doubt she will be smart enough not to drink with him.

You would think that after 10 years *mathNEWS* would have become less sexist (check out the *Blast from the Past* in the same issue where it is acceptable and amusing for the male to go “down the street and get a hooker.”)

Enough already! Wake up and expand your definitions and the content of *mathNEWS* to include people; not exclude them as the past issues have been doing.

Salt & Rad

Happy Days are Here Again(?)

Argh! Pre-Exam stress strikes again! It's about this time every year that I realize that I have mere days left to completely memorize stuff that it's taken me three months to not understand. My mid-semester chant of “I'll make it up on the final” takes an ironic turn as I realize that, in reality, I'm depending on my midterm mark to push my final grade over fifty.

All of this would not be so bad if not for the fact that everyone else on campus is just as worried and grumpy as I am. It's a damn depressing situation. Oh, sure, me and my friends still make the same jokes about jumping off the Dana Porter, or killing our prof and hiding his body on the sixth floor where no-one will ever find it, but we aren't laughing as hard at them any more. They're beginning to look uncomfortably close to reality. Even this wouldn't be so terrible, but the general feeling of discontented weariness is having an effect on our academic performance, which is a bad thing right now when we need everything that we've got.

To give you some idea of the magnitude of this situation, I was sitting in Algebra the other day when I heard a loud “WHUMP.” Turning around, I saw that yet another of my classmates had given in to the pressures of a particularly strenuous proof, and collapsed under the table in a fetal position. Chalk up one more kill for Bolzano-Weierstrass.

Now I was one of only six students left in an upright position, and even I was drooling a little now and then. Fighting down the overpowering urge to race out the door and run screaming for the arts building, I attempted to follow along with what my professor was doing. Watching the board was like an Olympian test of willpower. His notation drew from no less than six ancient alphabets, none of them Roman. I was determined not to let it break me. Just when it looked like things were about to let up for a few minutes, he decided to move on to a corollary. Two people in the front row burst into tears. Now, there were just four of us left...

I wish I could tell you that I lasted until the end of the period. Unfortunately, I didn't. At about quarter past the hour, the professor started to give us a quick overview of everything we hadn't learned in high school. Thinking quickly, I ducked behind my chair, and fortunately escaped most of the mathematical fallout. A friend of mine wasn't so lucky, and was hit in the face by an incredibly nasty integral. Ever since that class he's been repeating the word “centrifugal” to himself, over and over, slowly and carefully. I don't know why.

Preparations for the end (of the term) continue, though. Right now, for example, I'm going to start screaming and not stop until I understand math much better. I really think that it'll work. WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARGH!!! Well, good luck with your studying, and I hope to see you all next year. WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARGH!!!!

Guelph Erronious

Fun for ONLY \$5

**THEATRE
SPORTS**

IMPROV COMEDY GAMES

Come out every Thursday
for an evening of
improvisational
Comedy

The Studio (KW Live Theatre)
9 Princess St, Waterloo
8 pm



Tickets at the door

The Ultimate Christmas Shopping List

Confused about what to get that special someone on your shopping list this year? How about all those people you don't really like but feel socially obliged to get something for? Do you feel financially restrained by your status as a starving college student? Well, friends, here I am to help you out with a list of gifts guaranteed to bring a smile to someone's face. Not necessarily the face of the person you're giving them to, mind you, but at least someone will be smiling.

1. A Set of Pens: This is pretty well the default Christmas gift in much of western society today. Every year, I must receive about a dozen or so of these things from my relatives. There's a small corner in my closet back home where they've been piling up for the past decade (I'm waiting for a lull in the market so I can sell them at an incredible profit). There are several advantages to giving this gift: First of all, it's cheap. Secondly, even though it's an annoying gift, it's so generic that the person you give it to will not likely remember that it was you who gave it to him. Therefore, you stand a good chance of avoiding gift retaliation in the coming year. Thirdly, it's cheap. Finally, and most importantly, on top of everything else, it's cheap. You're a starving college student, remember?
2. Magnetic Travel Boardgames: Has all the advantages of the Pen Set, and in addition you can try and pass it off as a novelty gift. Plus, it's cheaper. That's an important bonus.
3. Videocassette Tape Rewinder: This is the perfect gift for those times when you're obliged to get something substantial, but don't care enough to look for something good. Try and find one that looks like a car, or a microwave oven. If it's made of cheap, garishly colored plastic, even better. The best thing, though, and I know this from personal experience, is to give it to someone who doesn't even own a VCR.
4. Toys in Plastic Bubbles from Vending Machines: For twenty five cents, how can you go wrong? Just a roll of quarters and you can get something for everybody on your list, yet still have enough money left over to get an auto-rewinder for Mom and Dad. The toy vending machines found in the front of every supermarket in the world are an often ignored resource. They offer unique gifts at reasonable prices and, if you can find a machine that dispenses opaque bubbles, you won't even have to do any wrapping! These gifts are the cheapest of all, and we all know how important that is. And if someone accuses you of being miserly with your Christmas gifts, just remind them that you're a starving college student. That ought to shut them up.
5. The Holy Grail, Grand Unified Theory, World Peace, The Cure for Cancer, etc.: If you can locate one of these to give to someone, by all

means do so. They make lovely gifts that won't be forgotten by the next morning. Plus, they suit almost any taste, and wrapping them is seldom a problem. Unfortunately, they are a bit difficult to find, and even if you do luck into locating them they're almost certainly out of your budget. It's better to just stick to the above four. Trust me.

Have fun shopping.

Guelph Erronious

Not Just Another Sappy Christmas Story

Allow me to share with you a heartwarming little tale. It involves our own dear little editor Kivi, a student newsletter printed ninety degrees off the horizontal, and a whole lot of dedication and love.

Not very many of you out there know that Kivi is working his way through university by selling matchsticks on the sidewalk. I see him there every day, selling a few matches every couple of hours. In the meanwhile between sales he has to work on his calculus homework, outside and without gloves, integrating until his poor little fingers turn blue.

One day, while outside in the snow, sharing his last few morsels of food with the ducks, he came upon a vision. He knew that the students at Waterloo deserved more than they were getting. He knew that it was up to him to do the right thing and give them what they needed. This man, who seems to have so little to give, but yet was capable of giving so much, took it upon his shoulders to go the extra distance and do what was right for his fellow university students, no matter what the personal cost. He decided to finally give them a sideways newsletter.

Many of you don't realize that to get mathNEWS sideways, Kivi had to stay up all night with an X-Acto knife and a roll of tape, meticulously re-forming every paragraph to fit the new page format. It was a labour of love for him, though, and he hardly even felt the papercuts until after he had finished. In the morning, when the sun rose, and he finally accepted his job as done, he left the MC and without having slept went back to work selling his matchsticks. The pain and exhaustion had no effect upon him, for he knew that the greater good had been done, and on Friday morning, Waterloo would awake with delight to find its favourite newsletter had been printed sideways.

Just think about this as you finish the rest of this issue. Remember that it would not have been possible without the devotion of one man. And the next time you see Kivi in the hall, buy a match from him. Then give him a big hug. I'm sure he'll appreciate it.

And if you'll excuse me, I think I'm going to go cry for a while.

Guelph Erronious

[And a Merry Christmas season to everyone! — Ed.]

No More Mr. Nice Guy

OK, this is the last "Nice Guy mathNEWS issue" for us co-ops, so bear with me for a little longer. For the regular students, however, I'm sorry. After some heated flames from everywhere I'd like to exercise my freedom of speech in defense of Nice Guys. [Actually, this is it for both terms. I don't think anyone is still interested... — Ed.]

Firstly, thank you for the warning that Nice Guy issues are discussed on the news groups. But as you know mathNEWS is popular not only in Math, but also throughout other UW faculties, some of which don't have access to the Internet. (For you Arts students: Internet is a big computer thing) So I feel that it'd be unfair to spare these people. And also the student body of these other faculties (i.e., Arts) is full of Nice Girls, so I wanted them to know that I'm a Nice Guy.

Now, despite the popular opinion that Nice Guys are wimps, I assure you that Nice Guys enjoy talking to girls, walking in the moonlight, drinking beer, having sex, and writing for mathNEWS (not sure about the last one). I can see you're frantically nodding your head (as in: NOT!) But you know why this is so? Because everyone can be a Nice Guy! Hell, maybe everyone is a Nice Guy already. The secret is, that oneself can't determine if he is a Nice Guy. It's the people around you that judge your personality. You can be the lowliest slime on earth and someone may actually admire you and consider you a Nice Guy, whether you like it or not. For similar reasons, you can not be a self-proclaimed asshole, jerk, scum, (insert your term here), no matter how hard you try.

It may sound incredible, but it's true. It doesn't matter if you have a tattoo, or if you smoke, or if you like rap music, or if you are a virgin, or if you're attracted to people of your gender. You could be a Nice Guy to someone at some point, and chances are you already have been.

I guess the moral of the story is to BE YOURSELF. I.e., don't pretend to be 'nice' for whatever reason. You're excused of attempting to suck up to your prof. But for the rest of your life, just be yourself and take others the way they are. And one more thing, if you see something 'nice' in your friends' personalities, tell them. I'm sure they'd be happy to hear it.

Finally, for those CS majors who don't like to read, here is secretly encoded summary of this article:

```
begin
#define Nice_Guy != mamma's boy
repeat
  Be_Yourself;
  if ( not_happy )
    Loop 10 times
      have a beer;
  if ( still not_happy )
    go for a walk and gaze into the moonlight;
  if ( still not_happy )
    kill Flipper;
  if ( it's_hopeless )
    u_Die;
until ( dead )
end.
```

Tom 2 Much

Excuse me, please

I hate to interrupt your reverie, however, your opinion does not count. I do not mean to suggest that you don't have one, or that your opinion is not well supported. The simple fact is that your opinion is of no value whatsoever, regardless of your age, sex, colour, creed or anything of that nature. Tuition will go up, the environment will get worse, and the Fed's still won't do what you want. Are you angry? Good!

Think now... think... Why does your opinion not count? Media hypnosis? Fluoridation? Conspiracies fnord? I'll give you a hint. When was the last time you voted? Approximately three percent of you voted in the last referendum. In fact, roughly three percent of university students vote in any given federal/provincial election... Hmm... Think... Is there a link between our abysmal turn-out at election time, and rising tuition? Yes, I am an artiste. Why do you ask? No, it's not a conspiracy theory. It's Cause and Effect.

Let's look at another example. Do you think that the Fed's are doing a good job? You pay \$4.00 for Radio Waterloo, \$7.50 for Fed Hall, and \$21.65 for the Fed's to do things with your money. Do you like what they do? If you do, good for you. If not, I have one question for you. Did you vote in the last election? No? Then stop whining!

Take a deep breath. Think about cause and effect. Ready? If you don't vote then your opinions do not count. So vote! Now that you realize this you may go back to watching the television telling you what to buy, who to trust, who to idolise, etc. Someday we may discuss responsible voting.

Cat Who Deceives

mathBOOZE

To whom it may concern,

mathBOOZE was created as a joke and has ended as a disgrace to the Faculty of Mathematics and to the University of Waterloo. mathBOOZE was intended to be a satire of mathNEWS and to provide an alternate perspective on life in the Faculty of Mathematics. The first few issues of mathBOOZE did this, but at the expense of a few individuals and groups. We felt that the opinions presented in mathBOOZE would be taken as a joke rather than as slander. This in no way justifies our actions.

We, the creators of mathBOOZE, would like to publicly apologize to any and all individuals or groups which we may have offended during the life of our publication. We would especially like to apologize to GLOW, the CSC, and MathSoc.

Our involvement in the recent MathSoc election with the creation of banners and leaflets encouraging people to vote for mathBOOZE or they would be considered a "big fag" was never intended to make fun of homosexuals. Regardless of our intentions though, we realize that this could easily be taken as slander, especially by GLOW.

Again we apologize to all who have been offended and assure all that mathBOOZE will never appear again.

Regards,
Those Responsible

Math, the Universe, and Everything

Jeez, Do I Ever Need A Drink

It's the end of another term. If this is news to you, perhaps you should stop drinking. Ah, fuck it, it's too late now. Have one for me, 'cause I'm dry until finals are over. Or until Wednesday night, whatever comes first. Anyway, the term is over, and it's perhaps time to look at the term in retrospect and see just where it was that I lost control of my sex life, my drinking problem, and every single course I'm taking. Come to think of it, it was probably early September.

How I Spent My Term

I just realized today how infrequently I attend class. I made my 8:30 five times out of twelve in November. Coincidentally enough, early November is where the course actually started getting hard. And since I'd just broken up with my girlfriend, so did I.

Everything probably would have been a lot easier if I didn't hang around with the folks that I do. It occurs to me that not everybody finds it imperative to spend at least eight hours a week in the Bombshelter, more time than I usually spend in class. For many people, the weekend does not begin at 11:30 Friday morning, or more and more often, 2:30 Thursday afternoon. Some people actually hand in all of their assignments for every course. I haven't been able to do that since 1A.

So I've decided to turn over a new leaf. Starting now, I'm going to go to every class. I'm going to spend at least five hours a day studying, instead of five hours a month. I'm going to quit drinking. Ha, almost had you going until that last one, eh? Actually, I don't think I'm ever going to change my routine for the term. I always go to all my classes for the first two weeks, then get bored and stop going. Then midterms come along, and I get all caught up with them, but by the time they're over, finals are here, and I'm fucked. (You'll notice I'm swearing a lot. Editor Kivi said that I could write anything that I wanted to this week. So — fuckfuckfuck!) Anyways, you don't want to be reading about how badly I'm doing, so I'll move on to more familiar territory.

Bestiality, Necrophilia, and Other Pastimes

OK, just kidding. Actually, now I'm going to reveal several things that the frosh should have figured out by now, if they've been paying attention. First, the Pink Tie is kind of a dorky symbol. We accuse the Engineers of being phallus-oriented, but at least the Tool isn't pink. The alternative, the Natural Log (our less-known mascot) is also pretty darned penis-like. We need a new symbol to represent the undergrad students in math here at UW. I'm suggesting something less sexual, and more alcoholic, to represent the changing values of society. That's right, I want to be the new mascot of MathSoc. At least I'll have steady employment after I get kicked out.

For the frosh going out on workterm—you're lucky bastards. Going to school in the summer is as much fun as you can have without losing all of your brain cells. Earn lots of money, then come back here and spend it all

on the Bombshelter's patio. That's what I plan to do. For you frosh stuck here for another four months, I don't have much to say except, how the hell do you expect to get a job while going against every other university student in the province in June?

One last word: enjoy it while you can. Your 2A term is probably going to kick you square in the groin. I know I got nailed.

Flipper's First Annual End-of-Term Awards

The winner of the Faculty Most Likely to Have Fun During Orientation Week is, once again, Engineering. The winner of the Faculty Most Likely to Get All Pissed Off and Whiney About The Engineers Winning Again is Math. Collecting the award on behalf of the math faculty is everybody who wrote articles whining about how the big bad engineers tracked mud through the DC.

In the Textbook Least Likely to do Anybody Any Good category, we have a tie. Both *Probability and Statistical Inference (Volume I)* and *Probability and Statistical Inference (Volume II)* win this award. Why do we use this garbage anyway? He's what? Oh, that explains it then...

Our next category is the ever-popular Student Society Least Likely to Accomplish Anything. The winner is the Federation of Students, upsetting MathSoc. Hello? Hello? Are the feds still alive? Have we left any more province-wide student organizations yet?

And finally, in the People That We're Never Going to Believe Category, we have everybody who thinks that he's a Nice Guy™ winning the award against stiff competition.

And So That's It for Another Term

Well, another term, another few columns. It's been as much fun as usual writing for mathNEWS. I'd like to thank all of you who took the time to tell me when you liked my articles, when you hated my articles, and when you thought I was a real sick puppy because of my articles. I'd also like to thank everybody's favourite editor of mathNEWS this term, Kivi "I didn't even laugh once" Shapiro. Kivi's got the hardest job of all of us, and my hat goes off to him for doing such an excellent job this term. At least it's not as goofy looking as all those hats he wears. [I heard that. — Ed.]

So I'm off on another work term. For those of you about to leave campus with me, I'll see you in the summer. It's bound to be as much fun as a barrel of naked, oiled-down nuns. For those of you stuck in Waterloo for the long, cold winter, take heart: at least you're not in Ottawa. Happy holidays, folks, and have a couple of beers for me. Play safe, and we'll see you again real soon.

Flipper

ISSN 0748-0430

A rather irregular publication of a bunch of nuts who refer to themselves as the mathNEWS staff. It is funded by but independent of MathSoc, the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo. We're actually nice people, and if you want to help out and sometimes be lucky enough to get free pizza, come to one of our production meetings. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS staff, editor, assistant editor, vice editors, sub vice editors, assistant sub-vice-deputy-second-man editors, and the pizza delivery man. Address all (if we are ever lucky enough to get any) correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC 3035, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1

Vapid Fire

No More Jokes About James Downey Here
 Okay, we lied. Dr. Downey, fresh from his appearance as the aged Scotty on TV's *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, visited UW last week. Downey commented on the beauty of the stark concrete buildings, the elegance of that monstrosity we all like to call the DC, and the cheap Scotch at the Bombselter. "Aye, it's just home, laddie," he was heard telling one of the Bomber's bouncers, as he was being thrown out. Dr. Downey retaliated by phasing the bouncer, but couldn't get back into the Shelter because he only had four pieces of ID.

Stupid Prof Tricks

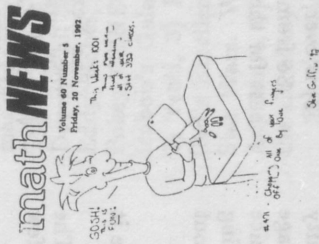
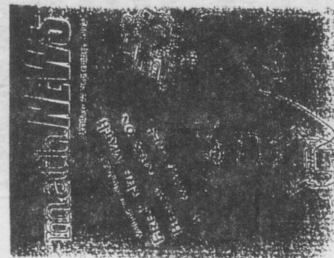
Why does Professor John English work in the History department? Anyway, Professor English spent all last week travelling around Waterloo and Kitchener, hawking copies of his book, *The Secret Sez Life of Lester Pearson*. Is this what we pay the man for? Oh yeah, he writes columns for the *Record*, too.

Since We Can't Pick On Downey...

Doug Wright recently was awarded a Gold Medal by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers. Wright won the tenth annual boat race with a record of a dozen beer in just under five seconds. Wright was unavailable for comment.

Peace and Conflict Studies

A seminar on "Race and Gender on the Job" recently broke out in a fistfight as an argument broke out over who would win in a fight between the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and the Dean of the Math Faculty. The contest was eventually decided by the fact that nobody's seen the Dean in a few weeks, so it's assumed that the Turtles won.



Ultra Classifieds

The eighteenth fast approaches. With the last exam we must say goodbye to Bob and hello to junior!

Ms. EQ: Where's my letter?

Mr. IQ

Shalini: Happy belated.

Frosh Leader

Employment opportunities in one of the world's oldest professions. Work in our luxurious offices or in your own home. Availability weekends and evenings a must. No experience necessary, willing to train. See Paul Weiss in the Comfy Lounge.

Cathy Beese: How's the Burglar Woman? We miss ya!

The Gang
 a.k.a. Mathies

$$\alpha Q \Leftrightarrow \frac{UR}{16} \cap QT$$



How to Celebrate Christmas, Cheap

So, your OSAP loan was turned down. Perhaps Dad isn't going to fund your 7th year here at U(W). You say, "How do I celebrate Christmas cheaply?" Well, do what I and thousands of other university students do, steal a tree.

"Isn't it morally and legally wrong to steal a Christmas tree?" you ask. Well, yes . . . but never mind that now.

What you do is find a nice wooded area with lots of tree theft potential. For transportation reasons this area should have easy automobile access, or if you're really daring, good bus access will do. Enter the wooded area under cover of dark, select a nice sized tree. This tree should have at least one presentable side, the "not so nice side" can always face a corner or wall. Felling this tree may present a problem. If you don't own one of those nifty Swiss-Army knives with saw blade, the next best thing to use is a village residence key. These keys make great tree cutting devices, they are nice and sharp and they all look alike so it diminishes the chances of getting caught. (If you opt to use a key, make sure that you clean the sap out before you try using it to unlock your door.)

Good, now you have a tree.

"Wow, what a nice tree I have, but Mr. Hedonist, how do I decorate it on a student's budget?"

This is one of the questions I hear the most at this time of year. The answer is really quite simple; the key is to improvise. Here are a few inexpensive ways to trim that fine tree of yours.

1. **POP-CAN ORNAMENTS** Outside of the C+D are thousands of beautiful, already pre-empted pop-cans ready for the Holiday season. These colourful cylindrical ornaments will bring a warmth to your tree and home, and more importantly, they're environmentally friendly. After the holidays, one can just throw them into a blue box and presto, no guilt. To hang up these trimmings use dental floss. Surely your roommate has some you can "borrow."
2. **PAPERCLIP CHAINS** Yes, paperclip chains, that yearly favourite. Not only do these chains add a touch of class to your tree, but they come in wonderful plastic coated colours. The traditionalists among you will most likely choose the stately silver and gold metallic paper-clips for that "Classic" touch. Again, paperclips are easy to obtain: there are a number of photocopying businesses on or around campus that offer paperclips for free. For the same effect, only a bit more time consuming, are staple chains. Again, as with paperclips, staples can be obtained at no cost without much hassle.
3. **PEN CANDY-CANES** Although not as interesting as the real thing, Pen candy-canes can be just as colourful and decorative. As a student you shouldn't have too much of a problem finding about 7 extra pens lying around somewhere. Just get two dozen pens and clip them onto your tree.

4. **COMPUTER PAPER TINSEL** Now if there's one thing that this campus has enough of, it's computer paper tearings. A tearing is that part with all the holes in it. These "tearings" can often be miles long, depending on what CS course you are presently taking. One can either leave them in their entirety or you can separate them and hang them individually on your tree. They give a wonderful effect of artificial snow, almost like the real fake thing.

5. **POPSICLE-STICK STARS** These stars take a little more work than the above ornaments. "Obtain" at least two popsicles, not really expensive, from the C+D and glue the four sticks together at the center. It will look something like this: * . Again hang these ingenious hand-made crafts around your home and tree with dental floss.

Now there you have it: a student's Christmas. These ideas should keep you busy throughout exam time, so when your C&O 350 exam (7-10 Dec. 22) is over, you should be ready to celebrate Christmas.

So from me, The Hedonist, to you, your family, and friends, I wish the best for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

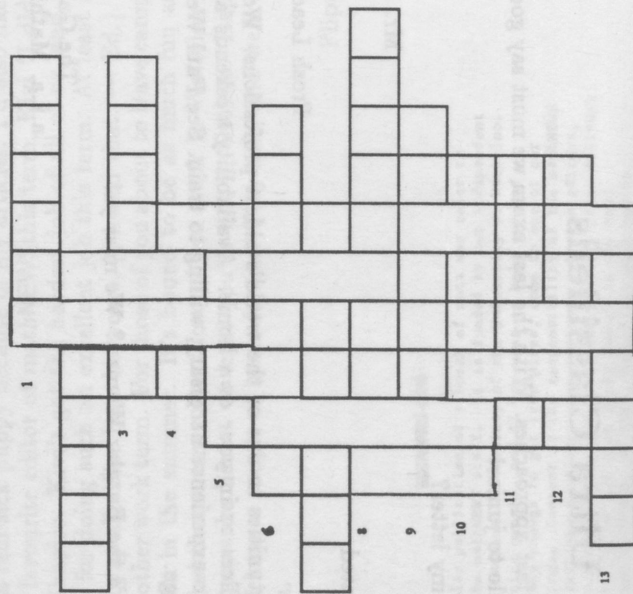
The Hedonist

The Puzzle Bandit

The Next Best Puzzle . . .

The puzzle below holds space for the names of 13 average Ontario universities. Each university in the list shares at least one letter with both its neighbours in the list; the shared letters to be placed in the big boxes. Now knowing, (as everybody does), that Waterloo is not in the list because it is not average, but superior, can you fill in the list?

The Puzzle Bandit



I've Got the MathSoc Blues

Who Are These Guys, Anyway?

Well, once again our student leaders at MathSoc are defending us against the evil forces of democracy and free speech. Thank God that somebody's taking the time to protect us from ourselves.

Maybe I'll explain what's been going on lately to those of you who have come in late. A few weeks ago, a satire of *mathNEWS* came out, appropriately titled *mathBOOZE*. The first couple of issues were fairly tame, and mildly amusing. The third issue was hilarious, but ruffled a few feathers on both the third and the fifth floors. And finally, the *mathBOOZE* folks put out election posters saying "Vote for *mathBOOZE*," followed by a homophobic slogan. That's when the shit hit the fan, to use layman's terms. Nobody had got too upset before this, because everything had been kept within the faculty. Now GLOW was upset, and rightfully so, about a poster displayed in the front window of the math building, repeating the homophobic slogan in large letters for the world to see. GLOW complained, and your trusty MathSoc swung into action.

Their first reaction was to post to uw-general an apology. First our trusty Computer Rep jumped in and posted his apology on behalf of MathSoc. He also claimed that "We do, however, have a fairly good idea who they are." Thanks for your input, fella. Then our valiant president joined the fray and apologized for MathSoc. Everybody failed to actually do anything about the problem, however. So, three days later, the banner was still up. Sure, MathSoc has no responsibility to keep the building cleaned up of stuff like this, but the claim that "MathSoc does not have the right equipment to remove something posted quite that high" rings a bit false. In fact, a friend and I just went down to where the poster had hung and climbed up to the position on the window where it had been hanging. And although MathSoc had no responsibility to remove the poster, it would have been a sign to the university community that we are not raving homophobes. As it stands, we came off as looking incompetent.

The *Imp'tint* picked up on the story, and we had some of our elected representatives participating in damage control. "We will do whatever we can to ensure they realize the consequences of their actions," our glorious leader told *Imp'tint*.

The facts of the matter are this: no one has ever tried to stop the production or distribution of *mathBOOZE*. Whether MathSoc has any right to do this is open to debate; I am of the opinion that they don't. While MathSoc blabs on about how they don't condone *mathBOOZE*, the offending newsletters sat on the third floor for a period of days. The "election issue" was delivered on Wednesday, the first day of the election, and was still there Thursday afternoon. This was definitely material that MathSoc had power over, as it was election material being displayed on an election day, and as such could be removed. But no, it stayed there for the duration of the election period.

So how did our elected representatives in MathSoc deal with the problem? Simple, just take the secret ballots from the election and not destroy them, as is the usual practice. From the minutes of the MathSoc meeting on

November 23: "should keep spoiled ballots with *mathBOOZE* votes to check the handwriting," and "keep all ballots until the *mathBOOZE* question is solved." It was decided not to destroy the ballots, with the tiebreaking vote being cast by our noble president. Great, so now we've done away with democracy. The purpose of a secret ballot is to ensure that people will not be adversely affected by their vote. By keeping them, MathSoc has in one stroke destroyed the chances of ever having a fair vote in this faculty again. And they want to analyze the handwriting? Who are these people, and who voted for them? It is interesting to note that all three of the winners in the recent election were present. We've kept the same people in, and are setting ourselves up for a summer of the same ineffectual management.

So, basically, we have had our basic rights of democracy and freedom to choose whoever we want without fear of reprisal trod upon by the current executive of MathSoc. Great. Maybe it is time that students in the faculty of Mathematics start asking serious questions about who we are putting in positions of power, because they're making us all look like idiots.

Flipper

The Puzzle Bandit

Could it be that we are all guided by a higher force of nature that we just can't resist no matter how hard we fight? (Sounds like beer, but that's not exactly what I mean.) The answers and winners article was lost in the shuffle last week which gave HAMMER, (Live from Ottawa), time to mail his entry in. The other correct entries were from: Cardinal Ximinez; Tyrant, Rapunzel, and Token Artise; Bamm-Bamm; Biff Henderson; Ben Dover, Phil Meup, and Jack Meov; Spike; "The Lounge Lizzard"; Kevin Eddy; Isabel, Colin, Krista & Greg; Paul Kry; Brother Bubs & Prof Peril; Pokey; CENEC; 18 centimetres; Ripley; *DimL* = 2; (and finally) Mortimer Icabob's Galactic Heroes. The correct answers were: 1) Citizen Kane, 2) Yentl, 3) Robocop, 4) Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade, 5) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, 6) Of Mice & Men, 7) Quick Change, and 8) Star Wars. With the aid of my Last Crusade, 5) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, 6) Of Mice & Men, 7) Quick Change, and 8) Star Wars. With the aid of my trusty d30, the two winners are Spike and Kevin Eddy.

For the Escape from the Sixth Floor contest, only CENEC and Gridby were able to derive ways of escape. Gridby's answer required looping back and forth collecting R,E,D's and exchanging them in for 500 clams at the colour booth, then dumping the extra letters later in the remove consonant/vowel rooms. Awesome answer but I hope you don't die of hunger while doing this, (the clams are poisonous to the outsiders). Both answers are so good I'll declare both entrants the winner of a prize! My path out of the maze goes as follows: K, G, A, B, A, C, Move Backward, NBA team [JAZZ], V, C, Move Backward, M, Y, T, D, Quark [BEAUTY], D, F, R, Move Forward, R, E, Colour [GREEN], H, M, G, M, B, R, F, Q, Move Forward, Flower (ignore), Move Forward, R, E, Flower [ROSE], Olympic Event [JUDO], X, U, Remove X, Remove U, W, O, N, Quark (ignore), D, Quark [DOWN], S, Sense [SIGHT], I, and Exit with some clams to spare. But now that finals are so close, I'll bring down the difficulty of the next puzzle. Good luck over finals, and I'll be back in the summer term.

da Puzzle Bandit

Hello, everyone! Well, we made it through this term with only a few scrapes and bruises. Sadly enough, however, this is the last quiz for the term. In honour of that event, we are having the FIRST (to my knowledge) official ARTSquiz! But before that, let's see the answers for the last quiz: 1) Parenthood; 2) Night Shift; 3) National Lampoon's Vacation; 4) When Harry Met Sally; 5) Strange Brew; 6) Gold (Green kills him, and Red has unpredictable effects. I forget what White does); 7) The Grinch; 8) Sequoia; 9) The Blesbok (a species of African antelope—a toughie, I know); 10) The Green Hornet; 11) Papa Was A Rolling Stone—Was (Not Was); 12) War Pigs—Black Sabbath; 13) Banned in the U.S.A.—2 Live Crew; 14) Tyger—Tangerine Dream; 15) In Der Fuhrer's Face—Spike Jones and the City Slickers; 16) Zero; 17) Anton Szandor LaVey; 18) Aleister Crowley; 19) Altered State of Consciousness; 20) Sabbat.

Before we start to list the people who responded to last issue's quiz, let us take a moment to look at a mailed submission for the previous quiz. Live From Ottawa . . . HAMMER! got five answers correct. For this week's quiz, the following people entered: The Tower (0, yup ZERO! Boy, are you ever a loser!), Phil Collins & Pokey (6), The Blue Lasers (8), Cosmic Charlie (8), Northern Exposure (8) (You're a dead man, James!), and with a score of 12, our winner is . . . The Companion Unobtrusive! Congratulations! Your quizprize awaits you in the MathSoc office.

Well, for our featured quiz, we certainly have a treat for you: the first ever ARTSquiz! Relax and enjoy!

War & Peace

1. When did the War of 1812 start?
2. Which came first, World War I or World War II?
3. In what country did the Korean War take place?
4. How long was the Six Days War?
5. Who took part in the English/Scottish Border Wars?

Pot Pourri

1. How long is a metre stick?
2. What colour is an orange?
3. What is the shape of King Arthur's Round Table?
4. In which country would you find the Great Wall of China?
5. Who is the Lincoln Memorial named after?

Television

1. How many male children did Fred McMurray have in the show "My Three Sons?"
2. What profession is featured in the programme "COPS"?
3. What is the location of the show "Beverly Hills 90210?"

4. Who is the host of "The Oprah Winfrey Show?"
5. In which city did the show "Dallas" take place?

Philosophy

1. Why?
2. True or False? (Note: there are two possible answers to this question)
3. How many corners are there in a round room?
4. What does P.A.S. mean?
5. What good is your degree if you can't get a job with it?

Movie Quotes

1. "Won't you please welcome, from Calumet City, Illinois, the show band of Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues—The Blues Brothers!"
2. "Another time, Highlander. I will find you."
3. "Sincerely yours, The Breakfast Club."
4. "I've got just four words for you—White Men Can't Jump."
5. "That's a Terminator out there! It can't be bargained with. It doesn't feel pity or remorse or fear. And it absolutely will not stop—EVER—until you are dead!"

Song Lyrics (just name the song)

1. I'm an adult, now
I'm an adult, now
2. Love shack, baby, love shack
3. If I had a million dollars
(If I had a million dollars)
4. Band on the run
Band on the run
5. You're a Juke Box Hero!

I wish you all good luck in the squiz (yeah, right!), and have heaps o' fun on your finals, true believers!

(WA)²
Super Dave
Harry Organs
Token Artsie

All Is Not Lost!

Oops, we're overstocked. The MathSoc Lost and Found is overflowing with scarves, umbrellas, and bags. Did you think your dear pair of mitts that your favourite aunt or uncle knit for were gone forever? We've got it! Missing a pencil case, we've got it! Missing a winter jacket (and are now in the hospital with pneumonia)? We've got it! Did you take a locker and not sign it out? We've got your things! I guess the only thing we don't have is my missing wallet! So come on down to MathSoc and identify your long lost belonging before December 11. All clothing after that date will be used to clothe the needy.

da Friendly Office Staff

CRIDWORD

Conventional

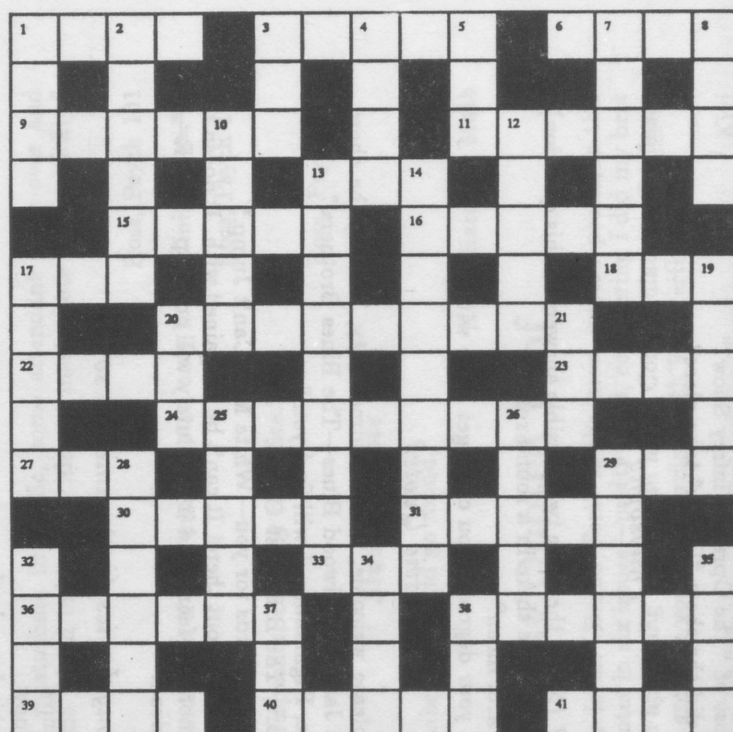
Across

1. hurt
3. tree
6. vent
9. adapt
11. fish
13. taxi
15. motto
16. frequently
17. question
18. sailor
20. type of comedy
22. New Zealand native
23. spied
24. to do with planets
26. damp
29. male person
30. transmission device
31. pupil of the eye
33. pinch
36. showy
38. eatable
39. notice
40. incorrect
41. smile

Down

1. partly open
2. take forcefully
3. portion
4. fish
5. relative (short form)
7. portion of time
8. hue
10. pilfer
12. pure
13. friend
14. shoelace
17. awry
19. Rn
20. small drink
21. important
25. shelf
26. quickly
28. hypnotize
29. a part of
32. carve
34. knowledge
35. Ne
37. deep

38. unit of work



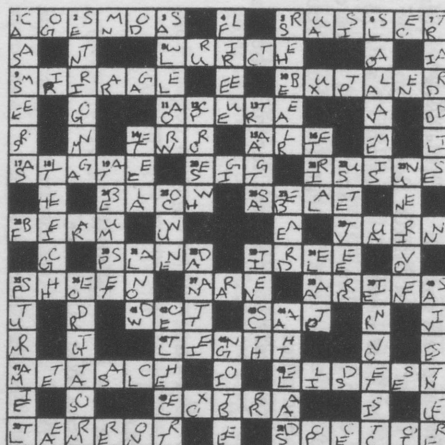
Down

1. the cape fell in step (4)
2. I strip, confused by alcohol (6)
3. last scout begone (3)
4. so darn crackers (4)
5. the C.A's are in the bag (3)
7. squirm twig gleams (6)
8. a portion in tarp (4)
10. No bull! He sounds magnanimous (5)
12. fortune, you are not frequently (5)
13. rightly existing is happiness (9)
14. map storm graph, why? (9)
17. five is the thing to see (5)
19. make ready for his bride (5)
20. head no other batch (3)
21. top a drop (3)
25. at last, the map was found (5)
26. hesitate in McDonalds scary farm (5)
28. my new dress, rate it (6)
29. help Jeres' cues (6)
32. a note right away (4)
34. one opposite the thing (4)
35. bang fifty in uncle (4)
37. affirm commencement the day before (3)
38. nip back the peg (3)

Cryptic

Across

1. don't go around the pole (4)
3. nothing as is found in the desert (5)
6. change a wasp (4)
9. patron conceals lithium in money (5)
11. courage exists east form car (6)
13. wave at gate (3)
15. season upset i.e.. bum (5)
16. glorify part of past tolls (5)
17. cistern in tavern (3)
18. embryo began existence gone gray (3)
20. careless negligé not nothing (9)
22. Hans was alone (4)
23. ammunition may make opening (4)
24. the bear looked shameless (9)
26. eat not drink (3)
29. edge in trim (3)
30. claw portal only (5)
31. the animal was inshore (5)
33. Gee you! Why him? (3)
36. thin, simplify, remove (6)
38. the writing implement at the foot of the window (6)
39. the deer back in the grass (4)
40. Stan, a fallen angel (5)
41. the brood wanted a meat substitute (4)



name:

favourite anything:

comments: