

Volume 61 Number 1  
Friday, January 15, 1993

# math NEWS



## Look Ahead

<i>mathNEWS</i>	
January 20	Issue #2 typists' night MathSoc (MC 3038)
January 25	Issue #2 production night MathSoc (MC 3038)
January 29	Issue #2 hits the stands
<b>Math Faculty</b>	
January 15	Last day to add courses Last day to drop if doing 6 courses
January 22	Last day to drop courses
<b>Co-op</b>	
January 18	Resumes due for new Co-op students
January 22	Want Ads and Job Application Forms available
January 25	Job Application Forms Due Late Postings Begin
January 27	New Late Postings

## Actuarial Science Club

A warm and welcome Happy New Year greetings to all of you reading this article. It's a pleasure to be back here once again. There are only a couple of things to mention. First of all, the ASC has already had our organizational meeting from which we elected our executive for this term. The executive is as follows:

President: Wayne Edwards

Vice-President: Robert McRae

Treasurer: Diane Reynolds

A big round of applause for these people who have taken on such difficult, challenging but very rewarding positions.

As you read this, the ASC's first event of the year is well underway. The event I speak about is the annual Actuarial Students National Association convention taking place in Quebec City. A great break from school, this convention is also an informative, fun way to learn more about actuarial science. For those of you who couldn't make it, keep your eyes peeled for more information and take note. This is one event that shouldn't be missed!! Throughout the term, the ASC will have many other events and speakers that you really won't want to miss. The first is the **Brick Brewery Tour on Wed. January 27th**. Spaces are limited so don't miss out when it comes time to sign-up.

If you want more information about upcoming events, exam information, study materials, etc., drop on by to the **ASC office MC3030**. Office hours (officially starting next week) will be **Monday - Thursday 10:30am-1:30pm**.

Until we meet again...

Wayne Edwards - ASC President

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Editor: Christina Caldarelli, Erich Jacoby

## PMC&OC Weekend Update

*There's no such thing as adventure and romance, only trouble and desire.*

Greetings, and welcome to the first PMC&OC Weekend Update of the term!

First off: this term's executive! We held elections at our first meeting last Thursday... and your Winter '93 Executive are:

PRESIDENT	Dean Gaudet (deafening cheers and thundering applause)
VICE PRESIDENT	Andre Chang (deafening cheers and thundering applause)
SECRETARY	Amber O'Hearn (deafening cheers and thundering applause)
TREASURER	Kevin Takahashi ( ) (the sound of one hand clapping)

What are our plans for this term? The same as usual—lots of talks, sports, movies and fun!

We should be having 8 talks this term, with an emphasis on student talks... keep your eyes peeled for signs of further developments! The PMC&OC is a student chapter of the Mathematical Association of America... drop by the office for details! We also have a filing cabinet full of information on graduate studies. Again, drop by the office for details. Finally, we'll be getting T-shirts in the very near future... only we don't yet have anything brilliant to put on them! If YOU have a brilliant design, or are capable of coming up with one, then submit it to us here at the office A.S.A.P.!!!

Sports? The PMC&OC has co-rec volleyball, indoor soccer and broomball teams!! Schedules will be posted when available... drop by the office for details. We had our first volleyball game on Thursday, which was just tons'o'fun!! We also have a road hockey team, and are preparing to kick some TSA butt... or any other butt, come to think of it. So here's an open challenge to any and all clubs: if you think you're tough enough to beat the mighty PMC&OC road hockey machine, stop by the club and we'll pencil you in!

Movies and fun? Well, movie nights to the Princess and/or some other theatre are always in the works... and I'll probably make another attempt to organize the PMC&OC Mother Of All Movie Marathons 72-Hour Non-Stop Movie Weekend!!! Who knows? Maybe this time it'll fly... And there's always lots of fun social stuff going on... from just hangin' out in the office (which, for some strange reason, is nowhere in the OED definition of fun...) to parties, to nights out at the Shelter or Fed. And don't forget our Humongous End-Of-Term Get-Together! Actually... it should have thawed enough by then to have another End-Of-Term BBQ! One that will rival, or dare we say... surpass, the EOT BBQ we had in the summer! Mmmmmmm... barbecue!!!!

If any of this sounds interesting, come on and drop by the office!! It's usually staffed with knowledgeable people most of the day almost every day. (formal office hours will be posted once we know what they are). We're in MC 3033 (right across from the Mac Lab)... x6139... or drop us a line... you can reach us at [pmclub@watserv1](mailto:pmclub@watserv1).

Oh... and next week's column will be funny, too. Be seeing you!

Tak  
PMC&OC Treasurer/Soccer Captain/Movie Buff

## SocToc

NO, WE HAVE NO LOCKERS LEFT!

Hello,

Welcome to Winter '93!! We are your Execs for the Math Society, and we need YOUR HELP. We need volunteers for the Social Novelties and Publicity Committees. Show up to our meetings at MC4067 every Tuesday at 4.30pm if you want to know how your money is being spent or if you want to know what's going on.

Is there any events you'd like us to pull off? If so, drop us a line in MC3038 in the social box. Remember we're here to make your term fun.

Elaine Ooi, Prez  
Kathi Lai, VP  
? ? ?, Trez

(But in the meanwhile, Barb Torner)

## In the SAC

Students Advising Co-op (SAC) is your inside track to co-op info. Have a co-op gripe that you haven't been able to solve through the "normal" co-op channels? Wonder why the co-op system runs in a certain way? SAC to the rescue!

SAC members and other students are giving assistance with first-year student resumes in NH today from 1 til 4. (Look for signs to tell the exact location.)

I hope you filled out your Student Work Term Summary so that you can peruse the Summary files in the Career Resource Centre guilt-free. Look for our ad in the Want-Ads. And while you're poring over them, think about the 20% of students still without jobs for this term. Maybe you should have stuck with the stapler/printer perforation ripper/hamburger flipper job you had this fall.

You can contact a SAC member though your student society (hopefully Math, or why did you pick up a *mathNEWS*?), the SAC bulletin board in Needless Hell, or through the Board of Academic Affairs, Federation of Students. Or you can become a member yourself, since...

SAC is always looking for new members. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 20th at 7:30 am (yes, you read correctly) in NH 1030.

Not the Secretary

## CSC Flash

Welcome back to a whole new term of CSC antics! I, the illustrious Calum T. Dalek, am back in town for the CSC Elections, which were held yesterday. By now we've elected some suckers, ahem, devoted members into the esteemed executive positions.

Some news from last term: if you missed it, the CSC sent two teams to the ACM Regional Programming Contest in Ohio last November. Out of 98 teams, ours, the only two Canadian teams, placed FIRST and 26<sup>th</sup>. Our first-place team will (if the new president is paying attention) be attending the finals in Indianapolis in February. My condolences to their opponents.

By now, we should have a number of events lined up for this term (if the new Veep has been paying attention), including our local Programming Contest.

Well, I'm off. Beware the net.

Calum T. Dalek  
Chairbeing

## So You Wanna Write for *mathNEWS* like the Big Boys (and Girls), Eh?

In an attempt to mess with time-honoured tradition, We the Editors are going to try to start some new activities which will hopefully make *mathNEWS* production nights run a little smoother. The general principle is to get the articles into the computer and proofread before production night, so that when that fateful day comes, we can concentrate on printing the articles and putting them together.

First of all, if you would like to write an article for us, either do it in your account and email it to us (*mathNEWS@descartes*) or let us know your intent and we can give you direct writing access to the *mathNEWS* account. The earlier in the production cycle you do this, the more likely it will be that we can print your article, and the better the article will be (because we can give you any needed input in time to make changes rather than having to pull the article).

Secondly, we are going to try to have a Writer's Nite the Wednesday before Production Night to get all you talented writers (or people who would like to learn to be talented) together to collaborate on articles and TopTen lists and such things. We would even feed you free pizza, or something like that!

Finally, if you are interested in creating articles (serious or silly) for us, or are sending in club updates etc., email us a request and we will send you the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X template and crib sheet to save us both lots of time. So talk to us (by email), and come out to Writer's Nite, if you can. Even if you don't want to write, you can help us type in various needed articles and render a valuable service to your Faculty, your God, and your Queen (important for all you Cub Scouts).

Fuzzy

## GINO'S PIZZA

Try a little bite of Italy

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The Official Pizza of *math NEWS*

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Waterloo

## GINO'S SUPERBOWL SPECIAL

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2 LARGE - 15" PIZZAS  
with 4 toppings for  
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January 23, 1993  
•not valid with  
any other coupons•

## Hey! Read this!

Hi there! What are you doing Monday night? No, I'm not trying to pick you up; I'm asking you if you'd like to come and help us put together *mathNEWS*.

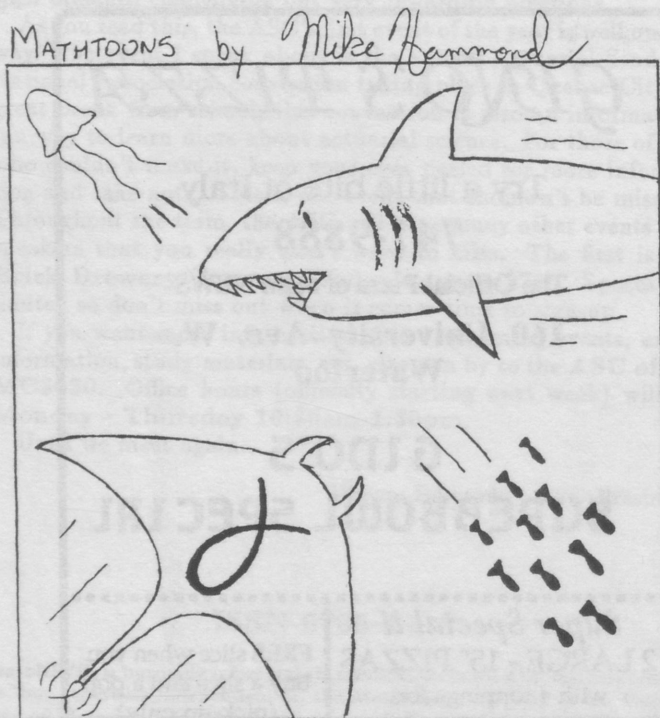
This newsletter does not just magically appear on Friday morning, left behind by the *mathNEWS* fairy for all the good little boys and girls of the math faculty. Of course not. It's a whole lot more complicated and silly than that. It all starts out on Wednesday night, which is when all the writers get together and type in their articles. Just think, that could be your pseudonym at the bottom of the page. Or your real four initials; whatever you want to put down. Articles can be funny, or serious, or informative, or whatever you want. It's up to you. And if you don't want to write, remember that we need typists too.

Of course, you may think that you're not good enough to write for us (obviously you've never read any of my articles...). In that case, you can show up Monday night for production. It's on Monday that *mathNEWS* actually gets put together. We'll give you an X-acto knife, and an orange thing to work on, and you can cut out all the articles you want. Plus, you get to hang out with all of us in between printouts, which I know doesn't sound like that big of a deal but it's a lot of fun.

Then, if you're really ambitious, or you just don't feel like doing any of the other jobs, you can always show up at 8:00 on Friday morning for distribution. Hey, if you're going to skip your early class, you might as well have a good reason for it.

I hope that you're all excited, now, about showing up and helping out, but if you need further motivation, I have just two words for you: FREE PIZZA. Convinced yet? Good. Remember, this newsletter is only as good as the people we have working on it. Might as well be you.

Guelph Erronious



In the Mathtoons ocean, the only animal **not** afraid of the great white shark is the gamma ray.

## Leftovers from the Fall

### An apology

The last cover of *mathNEWS* of the Fall term, which depicted a professor shooting one of his students—Flipper, actually—came out uncomfortably close to the anniversary of the Montreal incident, and I would like to apologize to anyone that was offended. We will try to avoid such unhappy coincidences in the future.

### Feedback forms

We put out some questionnaires about the contents of *mathNEWS* for people to send back, last term. A grand total of eight came back! Results may or may not mean anything, but some useful comments were made, and we want to thank those that took the time to respond. Results follow (not all people answered all questions):

Do you wish to see:

	More	Same	Less
Math	2		4
News	1	3	2
Sports	2		4
Campus Events	3	3	1
Creative Writing	5		2
Opinions	1	1	4
University Politics	1	3	3
Non-univ. Politics	1	1	4
Advertising	2	3	2
Cartoons	5		2
Puzzles	4	3	1

Comments ranged from "Don't be so hard on *mathBOOZE*, they're a lot fuckin' funnier than you are" to "Please—less obscenities + crudities. It diminishes the paper." Basically everyone hated the Nice Guys thread. One person asked that we publish on newsprint, while another asked why the issues are so small. The answer is simple—*mathNEWS* is staffed by volunteers, and we can only generate so much output. A ten-page issue would barely fill one piece of newsprint, which would also be much less convenient for the readership. We do use Save-a-Tree™ paper, and *mathNEWS* is fully recyclable. There was also a concern about our (ab)use of pseudonyms, but this is a tradition that we feel keeps our writers from being kidnapped and suspended upside down over hot coals. We know who the writers are, and full responsibility for content belongs to the editor, whose name is published every week.

kiVI da XEDITor

## ULTRA CLASSIFIEDS

S-A J:

How 'bout a phonecall sometime?

Highschool Amie

To: The Terminator

You're a fierce, huge, awesome dominating roomie to get rid of the obscene slime in our apartment. Hope the slug departs soon, eh?

Guess who?

## MathTrek: N Space 9

Captain's Log, Stardate 9123.45. The Sarsparilla has just received orders from *math*FLEET headquarters to rendezvous with the fleet at Wolfenstein 359. We are to confront the Borg, in a battle which will mean certain death. Before leaving, I managed to bring my wife and son along with me.

"Sir, sensors have detected the Borg," said Ensign Expendable.

"You will lower your shields and prepare to be assimilated. If you do not comply we will destroy you," ordered Lagrange of Borg.

"Fire all weapons," exclaimed Crisco.

The Borg indifferently crushed the Sarsparilla without a thought.

Station Log, Stardate 9301.11. I have returned from Badg'r with an Orb given to me by the high priestess. She kept babbling on about my pah and how it was my density, ah I mean destiny, to find Ali-Babba's Celestial Holy Temple of the Shrine.

"Sir, my analysis indicates that the Orb's came from right over there," said Vax.

"Right over where?" asked Crisco.

"Second Star to the left," replied Vax.

"Ok, lets take the St. Lawrence and check it out." ordered Crisco.

As they approached the Orb area, a giant drainhole appeared in front them, and they were sucked in. The ship's engines quickly lost power and the ship was forced to a halt. The pair opened the hatched and looked out.

Before Crisco's eyes was a tangerine sky with marshmallow clouds and newspaper taxi's waiting to take him away.

Before Vax was a virtual Lego land.

But not for long. Vax was compressed into an orb and spit out of the drain like a bad tasting prune. Crisco's world vanished into an all-encompassing white light, similar to a milk commercial.

Meanwhile, back at the station, the Carcinogen's had returned.

"So, you have come back for the rest of Badg'r, Cul de sac," spat the first officer.

"Badg'r? We don't need no stink'n Badg'r. We have simply come for a friendly game of Halmut."

Back in the drainhole, Commander Crisco was attempting to communicate with the entities of the hole, through a series of flash backs.

"You claim to exist in polynomial time."

"Yes. That is the nature of our existence."

"Then why do you exist here?"

The scene is instantly replaced by the *math*FLEET academy examination room.

"I don't wan't to be here. Please take me somewhere else."

"But it is you who brought us here. You exist here."

"But this is my C&O 230 exam. This is where I failed."

The proctor calls time up. And a security guard starts to drag Crisco away.

"NOOOOO!!!! I can't leave. I'm not finished!!!"

"I never left here."

"Your existence is not polynomial."

"No, it is not polynomial," sobbed Crisco. "It's a constant."

Back on the station, Mr. O'Brien is wrestling with some of the equipment.

"When I say jump, you say how high!"

"Request violates safety parameters."

"Take that, and that!"

First Officer Kira interrupted O'Brien's 'repairs'. "Mr. O'Brien we need to move this station to that drainhole."

"Well, I could get out and push."

"Get to it."

Suddenly a klaxon began to wail.

"The Carcinogens have opened fire."

"Return fire," commanded Kira.

"With what?"

"I don't know. Throw something."

Just in time the St. Lawrence emerged, distracting the Carcinogens just long enough for O'Brien to get in a really good shot with his sling shot and sent them packing.

MacGyver and EvilCoop

## I Feel So... Empty

Heard in the computer lab:

Q: Why is the computer lab so empty?

A: Because there isn't an assignment due tomorrow.

The Eavesdropper  
Overhearing Hammer

## Tolerable Housekeeping

It's the start of a new term, so it's time to review a few principles of housekeeping. Remember: "cleanliness" is next to "cleat" in many dictionaries.

- If you had bare wooden floors when you moved into off-campus housing back in September and you can't remember installing the deep pile carpeting, it's time to vacuum.
- Don't be concerned about mold growing on food in the refrigerator. Some of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's finest medical advances have come from moldy food. When your refrigerator applies for membership in the United Nations, however, you may wish to consider sealing it up tight and selling it as-is to some sucker for \$10 or less.
- Dishes left piling in the sink for long enough will eventually topple and cause seismic disturbances, which could lead to further eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo in the Phillipines. Volcanic ash kicked into the upper atmosphere might cause next summer to be cloudy and overcast, just like last year, and it'd all be your fault. Never cut a hole in the ceiling in order to be able to pile dishes higher. (Note: Those living in vaulted cathedrals should be OK up to the forty-foot elevation.)
- Despite what you might think, "inflammable" is not the opposite of "flammable". Don't put a match to your aerosol hair-care products just to prove how safe it is.
- Newly-discovered subatomic particles, "waxons", are vectors for dirt, grime and other forms of domestic entropy. This explains why cleaning the shower stall makes the sink become dirtier; cleaning the sink could have catastrophic consequences. To overcome the so-called "thick waxon" force, you have to find a way to offload your dirt onto somebody else (cf. refrigerators, above).
- Arson has an honourable history throughout Western culture, but if you're living in rental accomodations, you don't get to collect the insurance money anyway.

## ProfQuotes

- "I have trouble with things like  $2 \times 2 \times 2$ ."  
Haff, Math 237
- "If you're looking for a handout, my office is MC3035."  
Godsil, Math 235
- "This (exception handling) is especially useful when you have a cruise missile flying around."  
Vreugdenhill, CS 241
- "i' is like a constant. I mean, it's a constant that changes, but..."  
Vreugdenhill, CS 241
- "Engrave this on the inside of your eye, or remember it..."  
Goulden, C&O 230
- "My 'r's are very peculiar, and I won't apologize for it."  
Goulden, C&O 230
- "It's very hard when your 'r's look like 'n's, but I *still* won't apologize."  
Goulden, C&O 230
- "I'd like to claim that we don't make it complicated. It just seems that way."  
Goulden, C&O 230
- "I'd like to pretend that these are all deliberate mistakes to keep you awake, but..."  
Goulden, C&O 230
- "As you'll find out, writing concurrent programs is kind of interesting, kind of exciting, but ultimately kind of soul-destroying."  
Duggan, CS 242
- "Who cares if fighter aircraft crash? We expect them to be shot down anyway."  
Duggan, CS 242
- "And then you Bolzano-Weierstrass the sucker!"  
Baker, Math 247
- "This line of reasoning turns out to be correct—but it isn't the line of reasoning we teach here."  
Willard, Math 138
- "I've got a built-in bullshit detector."  
Davidson, Math 135
- "... which is the circle we like to think of as 'a circle'."  
D. Hare, CS 372
- "Physics is a blood sport... sometimes people get hurt."  
Mann, Phys 444
- "Brush my teeth and call me Smiley."  
Mann, Phys 444
- "Complex variables are fun until someone loses an *i*."  
Mann, Phys 365
- "How many of you were ever children?"  
Mullin, C&O 331
- "Sorry... we shouldn't have such a long alphabet."  
Cummings, PMATH 340
- "This VAX instruction creates life on a new planet."  
Cormack, CS 444
- "It's terrible when you have a person in your class that's been in your class before. You think these jokes are spontaneous, but they're not."  
MacKay, STAT 230
- "And people go around saying, 'Nah nah nah nah nah! You're incoherent!'"  
MacKay, STAT 230
- "IQ's — I was going to say of Engineering Students, but those are pretty low."  
Brown, STAT 241
- "Anybody in Applied Math? Before I insult you?"  
Forsyth, CS 374
- "Ian! What are you doing here?"  
Becker, CS 340
- "All the things we take for granted... turn out to be sort of wrong."  
Leslie, PHYS 234
- "You don't have to believe a word I say. I'm not the Pope. I'm not infallible. But then, neither is the Pope. You can quote me on that."  
M. Malone, RS 230J
- "I'm also a great believer in people fooling around in libraries. Fooling around in the right sense, of course. There's a set of historical books in the St. Jerome's Library. I want you to take them out and fondle them."  
M. Malone, RS 230J
- "I was a student in the sixties. By this time in the term, we would probably have gone on strike three times."  
M. Malone, RS 230J
- "Usually, by the time you know how to say my name properly, you'll find that the course is trivial."  
S. Siraloganathan, AM 361
- "Regarding ownership of your projects: if it's a trading strategy that makes money, then it belongs to the whole class."  
Ravi, STAT 464 / ACT SCI 441
- "Calculation of eigenvalues is a real bugger."  
Hare, CS 372

## Do You Want to Keep Internet?

### Keep Reading

Math Undergrads use a computing environment containing a variety of hardware and software and, through this environment, are part of the global Internet community of millions of users and over 1,000,000 computers. While the Faculty would like to provide continued access to the Internet, this will only be possible with the continued cooperation of students. Students must be professionally responsible in the use of this technology, and should be aware of current pressures on us all for economic restraint, political awareness, and financial accountability.

In broad terms, acceptable use of this equipment includes any activity consistent with the educational goals of the Faculty. In particular, the Faculty has been able to provide students with general access to the Internet, including news, electronic mail, and file transfer. In large measure, students do in fact use this equipment wisely and responsibly, with the result that the Faculty has been able to take a broad view of acceptable use.

I am concerned that the actions of a few individuals may jeopardize the computing environment of many, and that the consequences of a few thoughtless acts may well extend beyond the Math undergrad environment. Let me illustrate some of my concerns as objectively as I can by submitting the following observations.

#### *Don't Mess Around With Security*

- Some students have exploited security holes in MFCF software to insult others on behalf of innocent third parties and, in some cases, to invade the privacy of others.

Abuses of computing resources are regularly reported by MFCF to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies; in serious cases, disciplinary action will be taken in the same way as for academic offenses. In extreme instances, these actions constitute criminal offenses.

#### *Don't Display or Print Offensive Pictures*

- MFCF provides students with high-quality bit-mapped graphics terminals. Students acquire and display background images on these terminals which others consider offensive. These images are generally visible in public terminal rooms, and make for an uncomfortable environment for some other students. Similarly, MFCF provides students with 100 free pages of high-quality laser-printer output per term. Some students print images on these printers which are not related to academic work, and which many would consider offensive.
- Recently, the RCMP investigated allegations that pornography was being distributed electronically through news groups at the University of Manitoba.

Without making any comment on the images themselves, it is clear that such activities are unethical, insensitive, and an unacceptable use of resources. It is the responsibility of all of us to see that such behaviour is stopped.

#### *Don't Use Resources Frivolously*

- MFCF connects the undergrad subnet to the worldwide Internet, and provides students free access to off-campus news, electronic mail, and other information available via ftp and gopher. Students have created software on MFCF undergraduate equipment which makes games (and hence MFCF computing resources) accessible from off campus.

- The Internet link between Waterloo and Toronto (and hence to the rest of the Internet) is a single 56-Kb/s line, and is arguably the scarcest computing resource on campus. Recently, when monitoring has been performed on the Internet link, Math undergrads have been a prominent and identifiable group of users. This fact is known at the level of the University Computing Committee.

It takes very little reflection to realize that trivial incidents can explode if attention is drawn to them: Math undergrads should be aware that they must bring the same high degree of professional responsibility to their use of computing resources as is expected of all other members of UW. Their actions can affect not only their own reputations, but those of the Faculty and University. Their actions can also have significant positive or negative effects on the future evolution of the computing environment within the Faculty, and around the University.

J.P. Black

Director of MFCF

and Associate Dean of Computing (Mathematics)

## Ottawa Handbook for Drivers

### 1. Wear Blinkers.

While this practice may increase the risk of traffic accidents during lane changes or turning, it will reduce the number of "mishaps" caused by extended observation of pedestrians of the opposite sex.

### 2. DO NOT navigate by driving in the desired direction!

This is very dangerous, and often illegal. Try to drive in the opposite direction of your destination. The street will usually curve one hundred and eighty degrees, putting you along the desired heading of its own accord.

### 3. Avoid buying Gas!

Admittedly a difficult task when driving a car, it will save you a great deal of money. While the government advertises the GST as being a standard 7% across the province, in reality (as it pertains to gas prices) its magnitude is proportional to your proximity to the parliament buildings.

### 4. Lane changes MUST be signaled properly.

Use of anything less than a .45 calibre pistol will fail to gain the attention (and respect) of the motorist beside you.

### 5. Anything that looks like a parking space, IS.

This includes sidewalks, driveways, street corners and the feet of slow moving pedestrians.

### 6. If you have the Right-of-Way, assume you're the only person who knows it.

While this is a common philosophy in driving, Ottawa traffic warrants mentioning it again.

This pamphlet was brought to you by the Ottawa Police where our motto is, "If it ain't moving, give it a ticket."

The Bitsnatcher

## Calling out to the C+D

I, the founding member and ultra-superior President of the Vegetarian Club would like to make a slight request to the C+D. Sure, we enjoy the great doughnuts (donuts), the wide variety of non/carbonated drinks to keep us awake for class, the oh-so friendly staff, but there is just one thing that is bothering us. WHY AREN'T THERE MANY VEGETARIAN SANDWICHES AND SOUPS?!? Members have said they've seen at most one, that's right ONE veggie sandwich.

We feel that green peppers, tomatoes and cheese between two slices of a bun aren't enough to fulfil the hunger of four straight hours of Math courses. Perhaps a long bun with Mozzarella cheese oozing out with scrumptious vegetables and a few chillis (not too hot) and a savouring sauce, topped by perfect spices would truly make a Veggie's lunch. Various soups of the vegetable nature would tempt one's hunger (everyday, not once in a while).

So what do you say? Could we get more than the one sandwich on the shelf? We hope you'll consider our idea.

Thank you.  
The President.

Very hungry and tired of donuts for lunch

## Welcome Back!

*or Next time on ST:TNG: Troi's hair changes style four times in the same show! Will the crew of the Enterprise be able to withstand the Tresses of DOOM?*

As another term begins, a good majority of you returning to campus after having a wonderful four months of not doing any homework; we pause before going to our first class of the winter term to reflect... As usual, it is raining. Nature has again cheated us out of an enjoyable season. Those of you that were around for the summer remember it as being cold and wet. Well, I am less then thrilled to inform you that it has not changed. Sure, maybe it is a little darker and a little colder. Perhaps not. Perhaps, as some of you who were around last term may have noticed, it has something to do with the fact that "Nice guys"<sup>TM</sup> are crawling out of the woodwork. Yes, *this is not a coincidence*. Let's examine this a little more closely, shall we?

Well "Nice guys" consist of two things: the word "Nice" and the word "guy" (or "guys" if there appears to be more than one). Funk & Wagnalls Canadian College Dictionary describes guy as "a man or boy; fellow." Fair enough. That sounds like something we all think we can handle. Nice, however is described as "a port city in SE France; pop. 450, 000." (Note, incidentally, the use of commas in a *Canadian* dictionary to keep place numerically.) This comes as a shocking surprise. Kitchener-Waterloo has a population of only 260 000 (Note: no comma) and here we are, practically being *invaded* by the French! Not only that, but they're bringing their crummy, rainy European weather with them!

All of you out there, who were thinking that these Nice guys were \$0.09 a dozen (plus GST) and thought nothing more about them, TAKE HEED! We are facing a threat to our very way of life! Oh, sure, I like truffles and snails and other equally repulsive foods (and French kissing of course) but we have to protect our own heritage (like our beer for example)! So a note to all you girls out there: Do *not* go out with Nice guys. For us male-types who are not as capable of being subtle, if you meet a Nice guy: Shoot'em.

LittleBoy

## Top 10 Movies, Past and Present

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

10. Theta and Louise
9. A Few Good Men-dlebrot
8. Citizen Cone
7. The Adding Family
6. The Seventh Sine
5. .sig-terminator
4. WarGammmas
3. Malcolm X<sup>2</sup>
2. The Silence of the Lambdas
1. Deriving Miss Daisy

The Hammer That Rocks the Cradle  
some boobs and other people  
who object to being called boobs

## Horrorscope

To get a good start on the new term, follow these useful tips. You won't be sorry.

**ARIES:** Ignore the scraping noise coming from your toilet. Hug a walrus.

**TAURUS:** It's a good time to pull the plug on that machine that's been keeping your great-grandparents alive.

**GEMINI:** Don't get out of bed!! TRUST ME!!

**CANCER:** The transvestite leprechaun who's been giving you subliminal messages at night will no longer influence you. Return the Kris Kross tape.

**LEO:** Sentient potatoes are watching you.

**VIRGO:** For almost a full minute today, you will be sober. Strive not to slack off again.

**LIBRA:** You will write a really stupid article for *mathNEWS*, yet you will find it hilarious. All your friends will alienate you.

**SCORPIO:** Your pre-occupation with the Flintstones' sex life will become an obsession. Move on to the Care Bears.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You realize ST:TNG is the only pleasure in your life. It's OK to cry.

**CAPRICORN:** Elvis is a Capricorn. Elvis is dead. Therefore...

**AQUARIUS:** That rash should clear up soon, so you can start dating your preferred gender again.

**PISCES:** You fall into the minority of these people who should commit suicide, but don't.

JackRabbit



## Stars

I just want to know, has this ever happened to any of you?

The other night, I was out staring at the stars. Do you know the way that a poet, or a painter, or even an astrophysicist, describes the night sky? Well, that's what it was like. Beautiful, harmonic spheres, floating through an endless placid sea. Infinity ceases to be an abstract concept and becomes instead observable reality. I felt a sudden burst of emotional energy as I became one with the universe and let my consciousness drift. Wow. My mind wandered through history and the realm of possibilities. I imagined gods and legends, immortalized in celestial form as the constellations; those beings who were the inspiration for Homer and others. As I spaced out even more, I could almost imagine that I heard one of them whispering something to me . . .

"What are you gonna do now, Math-Boy? Prove a theorem? HaHaHa!!!"

Suddenly every star in the heavens cracked up. Great. So now, I had a sky full of wise-asses making jokes at my expense. After taking all the abuse that I'm willing to take from astral bodies, I got so annoyed that I started shouting back at them. "Oh, yeah? I don't have to take this kind of stuff, you know! I'm gonna go inside and write an epic poem! Maybe several!!! That'll show you!!!!" It wasn't until after I had been shouting for several minutes that I noticed that I had attracted a small audience.

Wow, I thought, I'll bet that I must look like a complete and utter moron.

So, after taking a bow (I'm never one to ignore a free audience), I left the spot and continued on to my friend's place, which is why I was outside in the first place.

"Galahad," I asked him, "have you ever been out late at night looking at the stars?"

His face lit up as he turned on his computer. "Aha! Let me show you the new starfield I have!" After a startup-sequence that would have made Scotty from Star Trek burst out into tears, he managed to produce for me a fairly typical looking starfield screen-saver.

"No, no," I said, "Have you ever seen real stars? You know, the kind they keep outside. Huge molten balls of plasma. . . you know, stars!"

"Why bother? This is much better," he protested.

"Why?," I asked.

"They move. It's more exciting."

I shook my head in despair. Following this exchange was a lengthy discussion about:

1. whether or not exciting visuals are the main point of stargazing,
2. the fact that real stars move as well if you're willing to wait a few thousand years, and
3. I was being (as always) too picky.

Maybe a few more years, and another couple of computer courses, will help me to appreciate the beauty inherent in a starfield program. Hey, at least they don't make fun of you. Somehow, though, I'm not sure that it's going to work out that way.

So, as I asked before, has this ever happened to anyone else out there? I hope so. I'd hate to be the last stargazer in the faculty.

Guelph Erronious

## Goin' to Iowa

*Home of the Quasi-Brave*

It was going to be a long trip, so the Ace settled in for the ride. Four of them set off that morning to Northern Iowa State. Ace and Jack sat in the back trying to catch up on the sleep that they would need in the days ahead. A new pair, the Viking twins, Garth and Sven were in the front with their beards sailing the breeze. It had been sometime since Ace had taken a group to represent Hey U, and it was the first time that he was playing with them; they were playing in the Interstellar Bridge Championship. They were going up against the likes of Eastern Mars University, and the Very Ancient College of Uranus University and Mall. And there would be some random teams from around North America, but the most feared team in all the universe would also be there. The dreaded team from Princeton. Rumor had it that none of them bathed within a week of the competition just so they could live up to their reputation.

The preliminary round robin was uneventful with Hey U winning their first 3 matches against low-ranked teams, and then squaring off against P.U. This was the decisive hand:

♠ 3	♠ A864
♥ AKJ987632	♥ Q5
♦ 654	♦ KQ7
♣ ---	♣ AKQ6

Ace's Table:

4H 4NT  
6H 7H

Other Table:

4C(H) 4NT  
5NT 7NT

As you can see both pairs got confused and wound up in a grand slam off an ace. But would they find the lead? At Ace's table, where he ended up in 7 Hearts, the opening leader thought about the problem for what seemed like eons, and emerged with....a small club, bringing the grand home for +2210. At the other table, 7NT was played from the other side and Sven had no problem finding the lead of the ace of diamonds, for down one. A win of 20 IMPs on one board!! A swing of 41 IMPs; if the Diamond Ace had been in the other hand, the result would have been the opposite! Thanks in part to this hand, the team from Hey U won the round-robin and now it was time for the semi-finals. The next round would see Hey U vs. E.M.U. and Princeton vs. V.A.C.U.U.M.

Who would win? Well tune in next time for more strange tales of weird bridge hands. And one final note, there will be a bridge game next week (Jan 18-22). As of press time, the precise date was not known, so watch out for posters going up everywhere!!

Ace Upmysleeve

## Administrivia

According to UW records, enrolled this term is one (1) 2N Co-op student. Things that make you go hmmm . . .

The pIAT4mN guy

## The Thing on the Sixth Floor

*A horror story for undergrads*

Listen. Listen closely. Somewhere on the sixth floor you can hear them: lost souls in search of enlightenment, salvation or the WatSun lab.

"I know it's here somewhere."

"6017, 6018, 6019, 6021..."

Little did I realize that when I went looking for the fabled WatSun lab that I and those doomed souls I brought with me would discover that horrible, Lovecraftian monster for which the maze was built. It was twelve feet tall, with tentacled limbs bristling with razor-sharp teeth of an inhuman shade of green, mandibles the size of men still dripping with blood, and eyes... well, I can see you're not interested.

It started innocently enough, when I spied a small sign in the 3rd floor computer lab. It advertised "17 more X-terminals and 16 Sun stations available to you in MC60XX". Young, heady fool that I was I didn't notice that MFCF hadn't signed it, nor the absence of the Sacred Seal of Gary Embro. I couldn't resist; the offer of virgin terminals for use was as tempting as Road-runner Helper to the Coyote. I started preparing for the trip immediately. I packed a compass, tesseract, signal flares, climbing pitons rope, torches, potion of Heroism, Comanche (Max Overkill) attack helicopter and peanut butter sandwiches in case we got hungry. I even convinced two of my friends to join me in this reckless quest (whose names aren't Blake and Jef) for the treasure that we would share.

First it started at the elevators, where we disembarked on the sixth floor. I led with the torches while B. started mapping our progress on the tesseract/map, and Jef brought up the rear. For days on end we walked the long, brightly-lit but very spooky hallways on the sixth floor. Each turn brought new room numbers, new rooms below the new room numbers and pictures by Gary Larson depicting what would happen to us if we disturbed the things within. One door we found on the second day tauntingly stated "You Are Here" on a map of what the Math building used to look like before it was twisted into the blasphemy of architecture we know today.

### Masthead

This is the first issue of the term, and I'd like to thank everyone who came out tonight and made the issue possible. There weren't a lot of us, but that meant that everyone got more pizza. The fabulous folks who helped create this issue (and their dream jobs) are: Brian Spencer (Wherever the wild winds...); EC Sutherland (President of U of W...not!); Christopher Calzonetti (Manicurist of the Gods); Curtis Desjardins (Kathy Ireland's personal tongue bath boy); Joe Hewitt (Telephone Sanitizer); Rob Zacchogna (Al Bundy Stand-in); Monica Rooney (Professional Procrastinator); Mike Hammond (mathNEWS Editor); Peter Milley (Virtual Reality play-tester (a real "dream" job)); Mala Krishnan (— memorizer); Phil Rittenhouse (Madonna's Editor); Bill McEachern (Madonna's Cameraman); Keith Browne (Rampant, scurrilous, irresponsible yellow journalist); Moses Moore (Patrick Stewart's Hair Stylist); Betty-Jo Hill (Eternal Student); Caryn Babstock (Any Job!!); and Ian Goldberg (The kind of thing those guys did in *Sneakers*).

Thanks to everyone for coming tonight and NOT disappearing when the fire alarm went off... three times. I hope I'll see you all in two weeks!

Christina Caldarelli (No job at all, with a very large salary)  
Erich Jacoby (Mailman (short hours, good pay, fresh air and exercise))

Then, on the  $e^2$  day — we heard it. A low, thumping sound of a heart with no mercy, no love, and no pacemaker. We tried listening for where it was coming from, but to no avail. The office numbers all around us were primes, and J. had mistakenly eaten the tesseract instead of the sandwiches. We were lost, so the only direction we could go was forward. On we marched, with the heart beating louder, and Louder, and LOUDER. The air grew heavy, and even the floor tiles looked scared. B. held on to his pink tie and sent up a prayer — I took the helicopter out of its holster. We rounded an apex and there it stood (or it would have if it had had legs) before us: the Heart of the Sixth Floor, the Minotaur for whom the Labyrinth was built, the Festering Sore on Creation's Face that Tormented Mathies for Jollies.

I let loose with the helicopter — both barrels. J. tried the flare, but it accepted the signal like any other sine. B. threw everything else at it, and this distracted the Cthulloid enough that we could run away. We dared not look behind us in our escape, feeling the acid breath on our necks and the third set of jaws from the left jibbering partial integrals designed to drive us mad. I remember the small pile of toenails before it, and the unmarked exams of the T.A. who had once stood there. When we finally made it out of sight, we dived into some drop-boxes and hoped that the Thing wouldn't smell us out. I was too busy reciting  $\pi$  to preserve my sanity, but B. tells me that the Beast passed us by, only casually licking the dropbox we hid in. We

had to wait there until a T.A. rescue mission could be sent to get us out of the dropboxes.

When we finally were released, the TA-SWAT team escorted us to the elevator by following a ball of thread through the maze. We were skittish, but still had the sandwiches. When we finally made it to the C+D, I thought I would break down and cry at the sight of normal, sequential room numbers again. I will be forever scarred by that inhuman experience. If you feel a tap-tap-tap on your shoulder when you're cloning an assignment at the drop box, pray that it's only a T.A. and not the THING FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR! (sfx: evil, inhuman laugh, ie post-exam prof).

Moses

### Music Review

*A decade of Box Music, The Box Kardiak/Select*

The Box is one of Quebec's most successful English-appealing bands. Throughout the 80's they produced a finite number of singles, all of which are clearly memorable, such as "L'affair Dumoutier", "Closer Together", and "Ordinary People". In fact there are at least a dozen songs that have had well-deserved airplay. As a rock band, The Box's music is relatively soft. The lyrics, accordingly, are more optimistic compared to today's bands. But why the hell do I care? Until recently, I was content to hear The Box once and awhile on the radio. I certainly couldn't be bothered collecting all their albums. That's why this new compilation is so appealing. It offers *the best* of The Box. It's just that simple!

Pilot in Hell, in a box

## mathNEWSquiz # 1

*Orson Scott Card? Who's Orson Scott Card?*

Your new year's resolution for 1993 is to try and solve the mathNEWSquiz. So, with a little knowledge and a twisted mind, give these ones a try ... Hey! You might just win a fabulous quizprize!

*Ren & Stimpy*

1. What exactly are Ren & Stimpy anyway?
2. What is Stimpy's favourite song?
3. What is it that Ren loves to clean?
4. What is Ren's last name?
5. Where is the company that developed Ren & Stimpy based?

*Orson Scott Card and Friends*

1. What prestigious awards did Ender's Game and Speaker for the Dead garner?
2. What is the name of the third book in this series?
3. What is the method of communication used to talk between planets?
4. What is the name of the 'ultimate weapon' used to kill the Buggers?
5. How old was Ender when he defeated the Bugger home world?

*Star Trek: DS9*

1. What was the name of Cmdr. Sisko's ship that was destroyed by the Borg?
2. How did the station block the Cardassian sensors?
3. What did the Cardassians think the offensive capability of the station was?
4. Why did Quark stay on the space station?
5. Where does the wormhole lead?

*1992: The year of Columbus*

1. Who directed both "1492: Conquest of Paradise" and "Blade Runner"?
2. Name the three ships that took Columbus on his first voyage.
3. Why did Columbus become a monk in the Monastery of La Rabida?
4. What did Columbus name the first island he discovered?
5. In 1492: CoP, Moxica severed the hand of a native as a demonstration of what?

*Movie Quotes (Name the movie)*

1. "Back in bowl. Back in bowl."
2. "I love you, but we only have 14 hours to save the Earth."
3. "Did you see anything?"  
"No, sir. I didn't see you playing with your dolls again."
4. "He doesn't want you because you're mean and evil. He wants me because I am sweet and innocent and pure. So fuck off!"
5. "It was an accident, right? You slipped, tripped, and accidentally stuck your dick in my wife. 'Whoops! Sorry Mrs. H. I guess it just isn't my day'."

*Potpourri*

1. This writer's original penname was Edward Powys Bradbury.
2. Charlie Brown gets this in his bag every Hallowe'en.
3. What is significant about the time period from September 3, 1752 to September 13, 1752?
4. In what country will you find Casablanca?
5. Dr. Who travels around in a police box called the TARDIS. What is TARDIS an acronym for?

Stuff your answers into the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge or e-mail your answers to bchspencer@descartes before sundown on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January of 1993 (mathNEWS production night). Good luck!

EC  
Jack Rabbit  
Pilot in Hell  
Token Artsie

*mathNEWS Predictions for 1993*

- President Clinton's first year in office will be rocked by scandal when Madonna's new book "More Sex" reveals the president in a compromising position involving whipped cream, a plunger, and several pieces of fruit.
- Aliens will return Elvis after his long abduction claiming that they could not stand his singing any more. They will say that they intended to kidnap JFK but they didn't discover their mistake until reaching Alpha Centuri and could not schedule a return trip until now.
- In a related story, NASA's Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project will make a major discovery this year. Researchers will detect transmissions from Alpha Centuri which contain a rendition of "Jail House Rock."
- Saddam Hussein will go one step too far in 1993.
- The new colour X-terms will be found to cause cancer after constant exposure. MFCF officials will be heard to say "Serves them right for playing xtrek all night long."
- Jimmy Hoffa will come out of hiding this year to denounce Danny Devito's movie "Hoffa" as unrealistic. He will promptly be shot by a CIA hit squad, chopped up into little pieces, and fed to the fish in lake Michigan.
- Patrick Stewart will be cured of his baldness and subsequently lose his title of "Most Bodacious Man on Television."
- Brian Mulroney's conservative party will come in sixth in the federal election in September after the Liberals, NDP, Rhino Party, Reform Party, and Ross Perot (who will not even run).

MacGyver and EvilCoop



## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

### Across

3. Fits around your fingers (4)
7. Mom, don't begin logical casting! (7)
8. Lie down and listen to a tree in the stew (6)
9. It's said that Lovelace owns NBC (5)
10. Controlled spillage of the homeless (4)
13. Three without the preparation growth (4)
14. We escaped from the weird reef! (4)
16. Drive each other salve? Eon huge (6)
18. Earth advances swiftly towards (4)
20. To sin, I tar all over the lines (9)
21. Peanuts without the doctor, we're not sure (4)
23. Improperly drain a mole (6)
24. Not my yoyo urban (4)
26. Swim past a weakling (4)
28. Attach the second above the fourth (4)
30. Nickname for a strolling prophet? (5)
31. It was somehow lent, so I didn't pay (6)
32. I think to wildly film nudes, without the last two (7)
33. Near mistaken but deserving (4)

### Down

1. Satisfy up a colourful sleep (6)
2. Hurt the electric man! (4)
3. It falls down if lopsided (4)
4. Strange twinkle in Russia (4)
5. Play on the southern dock (5)
6. To solve, replace Antwerp with the Gestapo (7)
11. The fat lady sings a cup of charges by a surgeon (9)
12. Destroyed the planet's colour (6)
14. First in jumps islands (4)
15. Simply fifth to end (4)
17. One atop the southern collectives (6)
18. Demilitarized North Vietnamese Army turning green (4)
19. Trip to Ursula's house... (4)
22. Burn the door of the ship (7)
25. Arranging us fuel serves a purpose (6)
27. Plus fifty silly yanks (5)
28. Be around on the skeleton (4)
29. Destroy absolutely my nemesis! (4)
30. Fix guys fourth (4)

## GridComments

Okay, the first Grid of the term. I wrote the cryptic on a really productive work term last winter and the conventional was graciously provided to me by R and mouse2. Hope you have fun solving it, I know I will (What, you think I can find solutions from that long ago?). As always, have your solutions into the Black Box by sunset on the 25<sup>th</sup> and you will (well, might) win a prize.

## Grid Clues (Conventional)

### Across

3. Show equipment
7. Type of bird
8. Labourer
9. Brag
10. Maker of money
13. Beast of burden
14. Transport
16. Teacher's gift
18. Funeral song
20. Month
21. Gallop
23. Companion
24. Leave
26. On the north side
28. "And wash behind the ears"
30. Of M.A.S.H.
31. Crowd
32. Destroys
33. Rant

### Down

1. Rimless shot
2. Machine for gambling
3. Sink or
4. Police team
5. Fantasy
6. Grow
11. Equip
12. R.V.
14. Position on a council
15. Bug
17. Impersonate
18. Where 16 Across grows
19. To order
22. Early riser
25. Pictures
27. To mold
28. Brew
29. On the range
30. Bell

