

math NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 1 Friday, September 24, 1993



lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
October 4	Issue #2 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
October 8	Issue #2 hits the stands
October 18	Issue #3 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
October 22	Issue #3 hits the stands
Math Faculty	
September 24	Last day to Add courses or to change course sections
October 8	Last day to drop courses or completely withdraw from all without academic penalty
MathSoc	
October 4-5	MathSoc Elections (come out and vote!)
Co-op	
	Ask someone who knows what's going on, I'm still confused

Exec Sez

There are no lockers left!!!!

Welcome back!!! For those of you who are new here... namely frosh... we are 2/3 of your MathSoc Executive. However, for now we are your entire executive... see, among other things this term we are looking for a VP Finance (formerly known as Treasurer) for the Society. So, for all of you reading this, the campaigning starts today... so, if you wanted the position you are too late. However, you can always support another candidate by coming out to vote. Read the campaign material that is, most likely, plastered all over the building, and look out for voting dates too!!!! Meanwhile, we are still looking for volunteers. You can be an office worker or help out on one of our boards (like Social, Publicity, Postings, Resources) if you are adventurous you can even chair the board!!!

If you can't help out around the MathSoc office then why not volunteer to be a math tutor at University Heights Secondary School (University and Weber). If you are interested sign up today on the MathSoc door (MC3038). It only requires two hours a week from now until the start of finals. And if you just want to be informed about what we do, come out to MathSoc meetings on Thursdays at 4:00pm in MC4067.

This term we have lots of events planned!!! There's Oktoberfest at Bingeman's, Rocky Horror, possibly a trip to see the Leafs!!! and lots more. So, look out for ticket sales only at MathSoc. If you have any ideas for a COOL event let us know... you can find us in MC3039 or leave a message on the board in MC3038.

Elaine Ooi, President
Kathi Lai, VP Activities & Services
(vacant), VP Finance

Deep Thought

Have you ever been seated on a crowded bus, and the person next to you kept saying, "Stop touching me." "Stop touching me!" "Stop touching ME!" That's always a lot of fun.

Brian Spencer, aka Pilot in Hell

MathSoc Elections

Get involved!

If you haven't noticed the posters around yet, we've got an election happ'nin to choose the next Math Society VP Finance (née Treasurer). Also, the Math Society is still looking for Class Reps. There are lots of spots available. As of tonight (Monday), the positions remaining are:

- 1N (3 reps)
- 1A 4-stream (2 reps)
- 1A 8-stream (2 reps)
- 1B (1 rep)
- 2N (3 reps)
- 2A (2 reps)
- 2B (2 reps)
- 3N (3 reps)
- 3A (1 rep)
- 3B (2 reps)
- 4N (2 reps)
- 4A (2 reps)

Drop by the MathSoc Office (MC 3038) to get a nomination form. And if you don't want to be a class rep, at least show your support for one of the VP-F candidates by coming out and voting next week.

Curtis Desjardins
Chief Returning Officer

WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

Heard of MathSoc? Have you seen what we have to offer in our office (3038)? Well, whether you have or not, the office needs people to volunteer time to run the place!

If you feel like getting involved (it looks great on a resume!), c'mon over to MathSoc and check the schedule posted on the door to see if there's any time you can spare. If so, SIGN UP!

Why should you? Well, apart from it looking good on your resume, there's also the end-of-term party, free t-shirt (at least there was last year), and lots of fun people (at least we think so). The most important reason to get involved, though, is that MathSoc can't run without people like you to volunteer their time generously.

So please, come help us, and the rest of your fellow Mathies!
NOTE: personal training from Dr. Seuss himself...

Neil "Dr. Seuss" Murray
Resource Manager

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Editor: Curtis "Chewbacca" Desjardins, Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Greetings, all! Welcome to the first CSC Flash of the term. I look forward to giving you useful and important information in this space all term long.

First, you will notice that this is a long article. Unlike some clubs, the CSC is large (currently sitting at over 230 members) and quite active. The article's length reflects the large number of events we have already held in the first two weeks of the term. Look out for our upcoming events, some of which I will describe below.

On September 14th the CSC held a display of the state of the art in computer graphics and animation, featuring the best clips from SIGGRAPH '93.

This event was so wildly successful and widely attended that the CSC elections were held at the same time (not to mention that they were supposed to happen then anyway). Here's a list of the elite of the cream of the crop of CSC members... the people who will lead your CSC into the next little while:

President	Ian Goldberg
Vice President	Mike Van Lingen
Treasurer	John Paul Vrolyk
Secretary	Samid Hoda
System Administrator	Dale Wick
Office Manager	F'jord
Librarian	L. Amber O'Hearn

On September 18th, this year's first computer programming contest was held, the top three scorers of which will form UW's 'A' Team at the upcoming ACM programming contest. The next contest, on October 2nd, will determine the members of the 'B' Team. As for the 'A' Team, it will consist of Ian Goldberg, Seiji Andi, and Ashraf Michail. The contestants solving two or more problems were:

Ian Goldberg	4	215
Seiji Andi	3	252
Ashraf Michail	3	299
Zygo Blaxell	2	83
John-Paul Gignac	2	101
Ka-Ping Yee	2	113
Dale Wick	2	133
Trent Gray-Donald	2	208
Jared Riley	2	253
Kevin Perry	2	258
Dave Bajor	2	268

On September 23rd, the CSC held another informative, useful event: the introduction to Unix. Attendees learned everything they will ever need to know to be able to learn everything else about Unix. If you missed it, you might be able to patch the information together by talking to the knowledgeable and exotic inhabitants of the CSC office. You may be able to learn even more by reading the man pages yourself, but you can't get a rowel from a man page. [CSC members with an OED can tell you what a rowel is.]

Sometime next week there will be a followup to the introduction to Unix: The introduction to X. This is much, much more than a simple refresher course on the latter part of the alphabet. X is the spiffy windowing environment, and everyone who shows up to this event will learn how to use it to their advantage. Anyone who doesn't show up is guaranteed an ambidextrous case of carpal tunnel syndrome. See you there.

On a curiouser note, just the other day I received another shining example of MathSoc's way of doing business. Last term, MathSoc showed some movies to the Math student public, and they were charged \$150 (that's not a typo: one hundred fifty dollars) each by the AV Centre. In their infinite wisdom, they charged the \$750 total to the CSC. While we admire their audacity, they didn't get away with it. I have tracked down the person responsible and she will be paid a visit by me, the illustrious,

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing
(accompanied by the CS club)

Applied Math Club Revived!

The UW Applied Math Club has been resurrected and is looking to be as strong as ever!

Over 200 AM students have supported the printing of an AM undergrad student class list. The class list will provide names, pictures, and phone numbers of AM students, and is designed to open the lines of communication between students in AM classes. Also, an AM Student Room will be assigned on the 3rd floor of MC shortly.

As well, the AMC had its first meeting Wednesday, September 15. Fifteen people, including Professor Tenti and Chairman Frank Goodman, attended to discuss future club plans. Class representatives will inform all AM classes about future meetings, seminars, and other activities in the upcoming days. Just attend class to hear about forthcoming club events!

If you would like more information about the club, its activities, the already-published newsletter, or if you would like to volunteer any time during the revived club's pivotal first term, please call Blair Nicolle or Blaine Campbell at 725-8857 (leave message if necessary), or get a hold of one of us by email: benicolle@descartes or becampbell@napier.

Blair Nicolle
Blaine Campbell

The Return of Unngh

PMC Notes

You missed the meeting. You missed the talk. Both were great. The Office is still MC 3033. Bye.

-leon hsu.
ex-president-for-life-who-did-not-want-to-write-a-long-article

MGC '94

Math Grads '94

Welcome back for our last and hopefully final year!!! If you are planning on graduating in December '93, April '94 or August '94 please come out for Grad Events for this term (and next term too!). We are tentatively planning on having meetings on Tuesdays at 3:30 in MC4067. All grads who want to help out are welcome to come to these meetings. The directors for this term are:

- Lisa Thurston - Chair
- Trevor Gimbel - Social/Fundraising
- Dan Ring - Financial
- Claudine Ayow - Yearbook
- Neil Yan - Merchandising
- Evelyn Yeung - Math Grad Ball
- Daryl and Elin - Pizza/BBQ

Please feel free to contact any of these people through the MGC office if you would like to help out with something specific. You can drop by the office at MC3029 or call at ext6659 (we have an answering machine). If you are free on Tuesdays please come to the meetings so as many people as possible have input on our graduating year events.

Today is the last day that we will be sitting on the third floor from 11:00 to 2:00 doing Grad Photo Sign-Ups and selling yearbooks (\$30 each). As of Monday the sign-up sheets will be posted outside the MGC office so you still have a chance to book an appointment time. Grad photos will be taken in the General Services Complex from September 28 to October 6. You must have your grad photo taken to appear in the yearbook or your class composite. Also we will be giving out grad blurb sheets when you sign up for your photo time. Please bring your completed blurb to your photo shoot. Someone will be there collecting blurbs and selling yearbooks at that time.

The class picture taken on the front steps of the Math building is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5 at 4:45. Please tell everyone you know (in Math obviously) who is graduating to show up so that we can have as many people as possible (even the cool guys like Sadiq and Az) in the picture. Everyone who shows up automatically gets a picture at Convocation. I know you don't have classes at 5:00 on a Tuesday!

Speaking of photos, everyone please try to hand in lots of photos to the yearbook committee. They will be returned to you! If you want them back just write your name and permanent address on the backs. We would especially like to have pictures from earlier years so we can laugh at how funny everyone looked. Also if there is something significant about the pictures that could be put in the yearbook put that on the back too. For your general knowledge the theme that was chosen for the yearbook is music and we have twice as many colour pages as past years. The more pictures you are able to contribute the more personal your yearbook will be. Also I'm sure Claude would appreciate any volunteers for help with the yearbook, especially but not only anyone with layout experience or drawing/doodling ability.

Our first night out for the first term of our last year is going to be a buffet dinner for \$10 at the Tien Hoa restaurant. Trevor has booked a room that holds 75 people but we were told that more of the restaurant could be blocked off. According to the undergraduate office there are more than 400 people in fourth year this term so we have the potential for a very large party.

Twenty tickets were sold from the office the first day we had them (it must have been Moe's great poster on the third floor). Tickets for Tien Hoa are available at the MGC office or from Trevor. Buy them early so we can't let the restaurant know ahead of time how much room we will need.

We have U.W. Math '94 canvas hats left over from last term available for \$12 in the MGC office. Neil will also be coming up with some other great ideas for Class of '94 clothing and/or merchandise. We will probably be selling class rings in late October. Last year they cost around \$90 each so they shouldn't be too much different this year.

Daryl and Elin have decided to try and have Pizza Days every day for a while at the beginning of the term. If it goes well and we don't get in too much trouble from the C&D it may continue.

Okay I hope this is enough information for now. I, or someone else (Trevor D. maybe), will have more stuff in the next issue of mathNEWS.

Thanks
Lisa Thurston, MGC '94

socTOC

Welcome back everyone for another great term of excitement!! What am I talking about? Usually us mathies are so bogged down with studying that we don't have time for relaxation or any FUN!!. Well let's get out there and do something about it.

There is tons of stuff planned, or in the works, but to get things to run smoothly, the Social Board needs volunteers. Events that are coming up include:

- **OKTOBERFEST!!** The annual K-W party, and you can be there. Student Night at Bingeman Park is on October 14th. Tickets and further details will be available soon. Watch for posters.
- Trip to see a Maple Leaf game
- Bombshelter pub
- Fed Hall pub
- Orientation get-togethers
- Bridge and Euchre tournaments. Bridge Lessons (Tuesdays at 4:30 in the Comfy lounge)
- First bridge tourney on Sept 30th, Euchre on Oct 12th. Sign up in MathSoc. There is a \$1 entry per person for this event.
- a tentative Rocky Horror night

There is still much more planned for this term, so stay tuned to this column, and keep the spirit!!

(S&M)² aka Sara Manning & Shelly McLennan
EC aka Eric Sutherland

There are no more lockers

Opinions

Just like assholes, everybody has one

Hello again. Welcome to another term of *mathNEWS*. Fuzzy and myself are going to be making minor changes to *mathNEWS*, but they should be small enough that you won't notice. The one change that will be evident is our attempt to de-emphasize our pathological dependence on pseudonyms. This has been brought on because during some trying incidents over the past few terms, some people in authority have accused us of hiding behind false names. Not only that, but last term in particular, articles were written anonymously, which we could not print without legal "difficulties". Some advice to people who are going to submit articles to us - we can't print it without knowing who you are (you can ask to have your name withheld, but we must have your name and phone number before we'll print it - just covering our asses, you understand).

Speaking of covering our asses, if you have a concern, complaint, or comment about anything written in *mathNEWS*, then please let us know, not MathSoc, the Dean, U(W) Administration, or KW news media. The content of *mathNEWS* is the responsibility of the editors (read: myself and Fuzzy), and of the editors *ONLY!* Contrary to popular opinion, MathSoc does not, and in fact cannot, tell us what or what not to print, just as the Dean cannot, just as U(W) Admin cannot, just as KW news media cannot. We are responsible for the content of *mathNEWS*, and no one else. If you have a problem or concern, then we will deal with it. Basically, if we hear of complaints that have gone to the MathSoc Prez, or to the Dean, we're not going to listen to you. To be frank, bring your comments to us, or go screw yourself. We don't have the patience to deal with little children who feel they have to run to adults and tattle on us.

Just as with Imp'tint and IW, we are not editorially responsible to *anyone* except ourselves. Yes, despite the fact that we get money from MathSoc, they can't say fuck all about what we print or what we don't print. We can print what the fuck we want, when the fuck we want to. Uh-oh, I said the word "Fuck". Guess what? Freedom of the press. Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck (Hi Jack!) Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck Fuck.

(Hmmm, now that my frosh family has seen this new side of me, I wonder what they're thinking? - Hi Guys! Popcorn!!!)

Curtis "Chewbacca" Desjardins
Co-Wookie...uh, Editor

Just a short Fuzzi-torial this week. This term, *mathNEWS* will be different. The editors (us) are much more tolerant of alternative, anti-authoritarian, and downright naughty articles than ever before. If you prefer a different sort of article, then submit it. And if you are someone behind a desk somewhere on U(W), and are thinking of intimidating us, then think again.

Just to clarify my position on Co-op, well, it could be better, it could be worse, and I no longer think that Randy Klawitter is a complete idiot. In fact, I never thought that he was an idiot. But from what I've heard of certain heavy-handed activities this past Spring, I am forming a less than positive image.

But back to this old rag, please, people, submit to us (before submitting to mathBOOZE) whatever you think mathies etc. will want to read, and we will probably print it.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby, Co-Editing Being

ULTRA CLASSIFIEDS

Watch out! Lady's Sexually Deprived are Coming! They're on the hunt in the mudd rooms!

The Sexy Woman

As Kirky would say: "Malrudin, be careful Squashead's watching you!"

Nasrudin

Hey Kirky whose the NEW most BBBeautiful GITMF ?

The Docs Woman

Kinky Sweathog, you're missing too many PMATHs, dude!

You know who...

Frosh 4-play/4-skins/4-nicators/4-on-the-floor/etc.
Popcorn!!!

The Bearded Wookie (you figure it out)

GINO'S PIZZA

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Gopher Day

"Geez, I can't believe that I've been assigned to go to this little town in the middle of nowhere!" said Murray Williams. "Waterloo! Who's ever heard of Waterloo!"

"Wait, you haven't heard the best part!" his editor replied. "You're there to investigate the on-line mathNEWS system at U(W)! Have you ever heard of Gopher?"

"Isn't that the program that, when you run it and it sees its shadow, lagrange will be down for six more weeks?"

"No, you're thinking of something else. Gopher seamlessly allows you to access various types of data residing on multiple hosts... or so says the man page."

"Then why can't I access it here?"

"Because then we wouldn't have a story! Now go!"

Williams packed up and drove to Waterloo. He stopped off at the CSC, even though it was 3:30 Sunday morning, because there were three people in the office.

"Excuse me... I'm here on assignment. Could somebody show me the Gopher?"

All three people perked up their ears. "C'mon," said one. "I'll take you to the Descartes lab so we can get a nice user interface."

They proceeded to the lab, and the CSC guy had Williams sit at a terminal. "Do you have an account here?" asked the CSC guy?

"For the purposes of this story," replied Williams, "yes."

"Okay. Log in, and we'll get Gopher running. There we go. You're lucky you came at a good time."

"What, you mean there aren't many people in here at 3:30 Sunday morning?" Williams asked sarcastically.

"Not unless there's an assignment due. Okay, here ya go!"

The screen showed a nice-looking box. "What do I do?" asked Williams.

"Just click on where ya wanna go with the mouse. I'll see ya later."

"Wait! Where are you going?"

"I'm busy writing questions for the next ACM Programming Contest. Ciao!" With that, he left.

Williams turned to the computer screen. *Okay*, he thought, *this doesn't look too hard*. And he clicked on "UWinfo". Instantly the UWinfo server came up. Figuring that mathNEWS might be under "news", he then clicked on "Events, news, weather".

Hey, this is easy! he thought, then clicked on "UWinfo server".

Hey, this looks familiar, he thought. Shrugging, he clicked "Departments, Faculties, Associations, Student Groups", then "Faculty of Mathematics (including Computer Science)".

Hmmm, he thought, *I'm not sure...* and clicked on "UWinfo server".

Wait a minute, I think I've seen this before! he thought, then clicked on "About UWinfo" for help. The only thing on the menu was "UWinfo server", which he clicked on.

I know I've seen this before! he thought. *I'm reliving the same menu over and over again!*

He began to wonder how to use this to his advantage. He click on "UWdir", hoping to get the phone number of any unattached (or for that matter, attached) frosh at U(W). He clicked on "UWdir query", figuring that to be the closest to what he wanted. Nothing happened. He tried other buttons. Nothing. The only one left to try was... "UWinfo server". He clicked it, and got back to the main menu.

Okay, let me try one more thing. He clicked on "Technical Notes", then tried "About Gopher". It failed. So did every other command, leaving... "UWinfo server".

This is depressing! he thought. *I'm going to try to end it all now!* He clicked on "Quit". The screen wavered indecisively, then steadied on... "UWinfo server". He tried to kill the window, and failed. Again, and failed.

Okay, I guess suicide isn't the answer. Maybe if I try something nice... He allowed it to go back to "UWdir query", then pressed "Help". A window came up which said, "Can I be of... assistance?"

"How do you get to the on-line mathNEWS?" he asked out loud. The window responded anyway, printing on the screen, "Click on 'Departments, Faculties, Associations, Student Groups'. mathNEWS is a part of MathSoc, a student group."

Williams did as he was told, and was rewarded with another window. "Okay, now click on 'Faculty of Mathematics', then 'Faculty of Mathematics Student Gopher Server'."

Williams did so, and saw the new menu. "Ha! I see "mathSOC"! I know where to go!" and he eagerly clicked on it. He was rewarded with "mathNEWS".

"Thank you!" he said to the window. "Thank you for getting me out of that interminable loop!"

"You're welcome," it printed. "But if you dislike interminable loops, just be glad that you don't have to deal with Needles Hall."

Mike "Hammer Day" Hammond

Please refrain from asking
MathSoc for a locker as there
are none left

Welcome from the Fed's

The Federation of Students would like to welcome you to the largest and finest math faculty in the world! Waterloo students are quite proud of their academic achievements and excellent departments. However, those of us who have been here for a while know that the key to a memorable time here goes beyond academics.

The Federation of Students takes pride in hosting huge events such as Summerfest I and II, orientation, Winterfest, Canada Day, and countless concerts, speakers, debates and fund raising. Open up the 1993-1994 Federation Handbook and check out over 60 clubs and organizations. Join one! Students at Waterloo are proud to own North America's largest student bar, Fed Hall, and rock all night and rock all night at the Bombshelter.

There's plenty to do at Waterloo! The Federation of Students would like to welcome all the new students and say hello to those returning. We encourage everyone to become involved with something. Come up to the Fed offices and say 'hi'. We'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Catherine Coleman, President
George Van Nooten, Vice President, Operations and Finance
Sharon Flood, Vice President, University Affairs

Thoughts on Frosh Week

Yes, this is *another* article on frosh week. This is also the most serious article you all will ever see me write in the upcoming months, so read it carefully, pin it to your wall, mail it to your mother etc. By the way, anyone who actually does mail this letter to their mother, and can get her to mail me a letter or some cookies in response will win a special prize.

This frosh week I was a leader. Last frosh week I was a frosh. Many of you will be able to deduce from this what year I'm in. I decided to be a frosh leader because, during my frosh week, I didn't go to many events. I acquired a girlfriend (a mathie none the less), and basically wasn't seen after the Scunt. Having not gone to many events, I decided I was obviously the most qualified person to introduce frosh to them. I applied for the position, got it, and the rest is history.

I was surprised to find that, this year, I had more fun than last year! Well, hmmm, perhaps I didn't, it was a different sort of fun last year. I enjoyed the frosh activities more than I did last year—and it wasn't just because I actually went to them! Frosh week was just fun! I found myself constantly spewing cliches to my frosh (family eight—EIGHT! EIGHT! EIGHT IS GREAT!), and they were true. "You guys are the best frosh ever!" They were. I found the frosh last year dull in comparison, including myself.

The comparative greatness of this frosh week wasn't an accident. For one thing, we had a damned good theme in M*A*T*H. The dog tags were really cool, and gave us something much better to wear to activities than those dorky pink ties. The leaders this year seemed to have more energy and spirit than last year too.

Another big change in frosh week was the elimination of rivalry with the engineers. The engineer bashing songs, and other widely offensive songs were removed. The engineering tool was not on the Scunt list. The engineers in turn did not put the PiNK TiE on their Scunt list. This was also the first year in a while that the PiNK TiE wasn't vandalized or stolen. I noticed that some of the offense and rivalry was reintroduced by individual leaders though. At least one group of frosh was taught the engineer-bashing song. That song pisses me off (I'm going a bit off topic here, but so what?) I sang it heartily in my frosh week, and enjoyed singing it, but about a month later I started feeling guilty. Why? Firstly, all engineers are *not* assholes—I have several good friends in engineering. Secondly, the song uses homosexuality as an attack-tactic which I find childish and very unworthy of such a great department as math. Thirdly, the song sounded to me like it was written by someone with a major case of engineer penis-envy. We're *mathies* dammit, we should be singing and chanting about why *we* are great, not mimicking and distorting another faculty's song to put them down. I'm glad the engineer-bashing song wasn't officially part of frosh week, and I hope it is forgotten eventually.

Another thing which really amazed me was the affection I began to feel for my frosh family. Even now, as I write it, it sounds like a really hokey thing to say, but its true. The title of big brother actually meant something to me towards the end of frosh week. If a frosh from family eight (EIGHT! EIGHT! EIGHT IS GREAT!) has a problem in the upcoming year, I'll be concerned, and willing to help. I know all you guys and gals are reading this, so if you have a problem of any kind, I'll be there for you. I also became really good friends with one of my frosh (hi Anna!), which was a great thing in itself, but is beyond the scope of this article.

Probably the most fun I had was at the Scunt. It was a fun Scunt, with a good list, and scunt gods who rewarded originality well. It was also the best tool for encouraging spirit which I found. Having math frosh do silly things for Scunt points is great. Of course, I ran around the comfy lounge wearing nothing but a jock for 750 points, but hey, I have spirit too.

I see a new influx of spirit in the math faculty with this year's frosh. I just hope we can work with it, and encourage it. I want this year's math events to become great events! For those of us who are not frosh, we'll have to work a little harder, because we've been discouraged by the relative lack of spirit in previous years. For those of you who are frosh, and participated, and had a great time, don't loose your spirit! The math faculty needs you!

Chris "Strunoph" Norman
aka Ahmoras
aka SCUNTmaster Chris

Give us \$50,000 and you can
have a locker

Administrivia

Deadlines

The deadline for artwork, grids, or any other non-text is Writers' Night (usually the Wednesday before Production Night). Production Nights are every two weeks (next Prod. Nite is Oct 4).

The deadline for articles is 9:00pm on Production Night.

Reading mathNEWS online

You can now read *mathNEWS* from an Xterm anywhere in the world *before* it comes out on paper! Just type *gopher descartes* at your prompt, choose *mathSOC*, choose *mathNEWS*, and read and follow the instructions there.

Electronic Submission of Articles

To submit an article electronically, send email with the subject request to the userid *mathnews*. You will receive a template in about a minute. Fill in the template with your article *without deleting any of it* and mail it back to *mathnews* with the subject article. If successful, you will receive confirmation in about a minute. *Please* include your real name (yes, your real name) somewhere in the article. You may ask the editors to print the article under a pseudonym and withhold your real name, but if the editors don't know your name they won't print the article. (The editors will only withhold your name if you have a really valid reason to remain anonymous, *and* if the editors are willing to take responsibility for the article.)

Ian "The pLAtAmN Guy" Goldberg

Math, the Universe, and Everything

Clean Genitals are Happy Genitals, and Other Things They Don't Tell the Frosh

You've been away from home for a couple of weeks now. Classes are going alright, since most of the stuff you're being taught is actually a review of Grade 13 material. You know your way around well enough to find the Math building, although the fourth, fifth and sixth floors are still a bit confusing. You're probably feeling pretty good about yourself, and you should—anybody who can make it through Frosh Week in the Faculty of Mathematics without slipping into a boredom-induced coma deserves some respect.

But the term is still young, little froshling. There are some things you may have already found out on your own, and others you can't find out without breaking a few laws. And there are still other things you can only learn after experiencing them.

Stream 4 is where it's at

The benefits of going to work on your second term are plentiful. First, you usually get put in Village 1: a bit more expensive, but you don't have to worry about your roommate walking in while you're having sex with your TA. You're not going to meet as many people in V1 as you would in V2, but the suicide rate is lower, so you'll probably come out ahead.

Another benefit is that you only have to pay for four months of school before going on to earn untold riches in the workforce. This guarantees that you'll have enough money to support your new hobby, alcoholism, and will still have enough left over to eat a couple of times a week.

But this all pales beside the simple fact that Stream Four students only compete against other co-op students for jobs, but Stream Eight students compete against every fucking student in the country for jobs. Little things like that will help a lot when looking for your first job, especially since Needles Hall is only placing about three students per term in jobs.

The last benefit is probably the best: Stream Four students get to spend 1B, one of the easiest terms, at summer school. Summer school is great: it's just like the winter term, but it's warmer, and the Bombshelter usually lowers beer prices. What more could you ask for?

Sex

First off, I'll say this: various venereal diseases, fungi, and infections run rampant on this and just about every other university campus. I don't care what you stick it in, or what gets stuck in you, but pay attention to what you're doing. Safe sex is more than a buzz-phrase: practise it, especially if you pick anyone up at Fed Hall.

Some of you are quite happy, because now that you're out of the house, you have free vein to get all the sex you want. A significantly smaller proportion of you are upset because now that you're out of the house, you're getting less sex—I really don't want to know about it.

Beer is your friend - your only real friend

After wading through the mostly-dry Frosh Week, some of you may be surprised to know that there are actually bars on campus—two of them, in fact. POETS is the engineers pub, and is squirreled away in one of the engineering buildings somewhere. The second bar is the Bombshelter, located in the Campus Centre. I've been to a few bars in my life [what, really? — Ed.] and I'm happy to say that the Bomber is the best bar in the world. The music is great, the beer is great, the food is greasy, and the bouncers hardly ever beat people up without a good

reason anymore. There are rumours of a third bar up by the Villages somewhere, but when I went to look for it, all I found was a big gym with a whole crowd of underage people sweating in time to some really bad music and paying too much for frooty drinks. So, it's not a real bar. I think it's called The Twist or something. No matter where you drink, be sure to drink a lot. As long as you spend all of your time drunk, little things like failing a course or six are not going to bug you. If you run out of money, start using your credit card. No credit card? Use your roommate's card instead—think of all the GM points you'll be racking up for him. He'll thank you for it.

Choose your electives carefully or How I spent my summer vacation

Be sure to balance your schedule carefully. Take as many bird courses as you can. The one mentioned most often is Professor Lawrence's MTHEL 100. Not only is the material fairly easy, but Barney is one of the most entertaining guys you'll ever meet. Be sure to attend a couple of lectures when you take the class. Other favourites for math students are PHIL 140 and PHIL 145, both of which are great because you don't actually have to go to any classes. Whatever you do, don't take a minor, or meaningful electives. They'll just cut into your drinking time.

The Kampus Kowboys are real cops with badges and everything

At somepoint or another, you're going to run into trouble with the Kowboys. Be polite, they can arrest you. But if you want to avoid trouble with the Campus Gestapo, it's easy: just stay off of Ring Road. It's against union rules for the cops to actually get out of their cars, or patrol the campus on foot, or do anything to actually help people. They're really good at giving out parking tickets and drinking coffee, but less proficient at catching bike thieves, keeping the campus safe, and shutting down prostitution rings, mainly since these latter problems cannot be addressed while sitting in a car.

A few things to remember

- You've never had too much to drink.
- Chances are you're not going to pass everything, so why bother going to class?
- I don't care how much he/she loves you, don't give away your Nintendo.
- The other faculties are great: engineers are just like us, arts students are fun, science folk are neat, and Rec Students exist just so we have somebody to make fun of.
- Clean genitals are happy genitals.
- The best part of mathNEWS is the Subway coupon. [well, it certainly ain't this column - embittered Editor]
- People at Needles Hall have no sense of humour.
- When in doubt, have a beer.
- There is nothing wrong with skipping class to go to the Bombshelter.

Don't take anything too seriously

Probably the most important thing to remember is to not take anything too seriously. (That includes me by the way). It's only school; It's not like the degree means anything. Relax, have fun, kill a small animal—whatever turns your crank. The most important thing you're going to learn at school is to not drink tequila on an empty stomach; everything else is secondary.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

Software Packages Catalogue

From the wonderful people at 'Will Sell Software For Food'

Tired of seeing all those software stores with a limited selection of good software? We here at 'Will Sell Software For Food' certainly are. That's why we're offering a limited selection of *bad* software! Think about it. This software is so cheap, you can buy it for the price of a couple of 7-11 burgers. Hell, you can buy it *with* a couple of 7-11 burgers! We're not called 'Will Sell Software For Food' for nothing!

Our catalogue

Blight Simulator

The first computer simulation designed for farmers, complete with toxic chemicals! See what happens when you use Alar on your apples, or DDT on your crops! SuperVGA graphics give pictures of resulting health effects; an almost *nauseating* realism!

Where in Hell is Carmen Sandiego?

Carmen Sandiego and her gang have terrorized all the countries of the world, looted all over Europe and America, and purloined objects through Time and Space. Now they have finally gone on to get their reward. Help Beelzebub, Mephistopheles, and various other, lesser, demons regain Satan's pitchfork, the brimstone pits, and everything else that Carmen's gang stole! Puts the *fun* in fundamentalism!

King's Police on Space Quest XVI

Sierra On-Line's latest in their interminable 'X Quest' series! "King's Police in Space Quest XVI" brings together all the characters from "King's Quest", "Police Quest", "Space Quest", and "B.C.'s Quest for Tires" (Whoops! *That* shouldn't be there!) Truly the 'Quest' game to end all 'Quest' games. (We hope.)

Paternity Suit Larry in the Land of the Process Servers

Ol' Paternity Suit Larry really went *too* far this time! He's turned Passionate Patty into Preggo Patty, and he's fertilized Knocked-Up Kate and 'In the Family Way' Faye on the side! Help keep Larry away from the Process Servers who threaten his swinging hedonistic lifestyle! (Political Correctness (tm) not included.)

Quickensand

Is your business being sucked down? Is it stagnant? Is it simply going under? Maybe Quickensand is just what you need! It helps you get out of the red by swallowing your creditors! It immobilizes the competition! Quickensand is the only commercial business software available that can solve all your quandaries... with a quagmire.

Locutus 1-2-3

Having problems making your spreadsheets conform? Need to eliminate irrelevant information? Then Locutus 1-2-3 is just what you need! Our new assimilation spreadsheet package will allow you to do whatever *we* want! Compatibility will no longer be a problem - Locutus 1-2-3 will *force* your computer to interface! And it's perfect for corrupting Data!

SimDeath

The latest in the popular "SimX" series. Choose from three scenarios: a doctor in an inner-city hospital, a soldier in a Yugoslavian UN operation, or a disgruntled postal worker in a suburban McDonald's. Make life-or-death decisions that always

seem to result in death! Intern with Dr. Kervorkian, or ask a gunman if he wants fries with that! Death has never been this much fun!

MS-DOS 6.0

Sorry. Even *we* can't recommend this package.

Mike "Hammerhead" Hammond

Ponderings

English is a strange language. Most of us don't realize it, having spoken it all our lives, but compare it to, say, a computer language and you'd wonder how anyone understood anything at all. Why, for example, do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway? How can someone be inept but not ept? And how can the word "colonel" be pronounced "kernal?" Compared to English, FORTRAN is a wonderfully consistent language.

This was demonstrated to me in my 2B term. After spending nearly 48 hours wrestling with μ C, I finally went home and caught up on my sleep.

I woke up ten hours later, after dreaming in C, with the sort of hunger usually associated with mythical beings or TV commercials. I checked the fridge first, opening it for the first time in several weeks. Anything potentially edible there scuttled away when the light came on. I was hungry, but not *that* hungry, so I checked the cupboards.

There, I found several twist-ties (which I considered briefly) and an old half-full jug of table syrup. I examined the jug. The label dated back to the mid-sixties but the expiry date was halfway through 2010.

I had something edible here, but what could I do with half a jug of table syrup? Hmmmm... *Table* syrup. My glance slid to the corner of the kitchen. There sat an old, broken table.

It only took me a few minutes to break off a few plate-sized pieces, strip off the plastic finish and throw them into the microwave along with a liberal dose of the syrup.

I don't remember much of what happened next. However, the paramedics later told me that they'd pumped about half of the wood from my stomach. It had been well chewed, making their job easier, but my teeth will never be the same again. Still, those six months of reconstructive dental surgery have allowed me to speak normally.

During my stay in the hospital, I phoned the information line offered by the chemical company that made the table syrup. I explained my situation and after bursting into laughter several times, the person on the line explained to me that table syrup was just another term for pancake syrup and what kind of idiot would try to eat a table anyway? I got offended and called their superior to complain but the conversation was pretty much the same as the last one so I gave up.

All in all, it was a very educational experience. My newly-gained knowledge did not, however, prevent several frantic phone calls to the police, the Ministry of Justice, and a number of pro-life agencies when, upon entering a local supermarket, I saw a shelf laden with row upon row of baby oil.

Chris Reuter, aka Dances With Mind

profQUOTES

"If we were in a world where everyone was left-handed instead of right-handed, would the laws of physics still hold?"

Tenti, AM 261

"The most difficult part of this course will be learning how to pronounce my name." [*Bullshit! This is the course I got 3% in!* — *Wookie Ed.*]

Chidichimo, AM 231

"The force 'g' is not a force. I call it gorce."

Tenti, AM 261

"In this course, we're not going to have 'The answer to this is 3.'"

Struthers, STAT 231

Professor: "My computer is inconsistent." Student: "But is it inconsistent consistently?" Professor: "No, it's inconsistent inconsistently. That's the problem."

D. A. Sprott, STAT 240

"I've complicated things in such a way that the problem can now be done."

Woolers

"Suppose you're the god of field F..."

Hoffman, PMATH 344

Guelph No More

and Flippers will only live in aqua-parks

There is something new in *mathNEWS* this year. Have you ever read the Masthead before? If so, you are probably part of the production team and already know what I'm going to tell you. Look down there, at the bottom of this article. What do you see? Yes, it's a person's name, not a pseudonym.

I regret to inform you that due to certain legal pressures (and a successful letter writing campaign by the North American Anti Pseudonym League) there will no longer be aliases in *mathNEWS*. The writer whom you used to know as Guelph Erronious has been fired and replaced by some geek calling himself Joeb Hewitt.

I'm sure that I don't have to explain in great detail all the drastic changes that will result from this. Guelph Erronious was a great man; someone willing to get up at any time of the day or night to help out a friend in trouble, do a classmate's calculus homework, or seriously humiliate himself for iced tea. Joeb Hewitt, on the other hand, isn't much fun at parties, hardly ever ties his own shoes, but is willing (at any time of the day or night) to seriously humiliate himself for an iced tea.

=sniff=. I'm getting a little weepy eyed.

Anyways, in the wake of this tragedy, we must carry on against insurmountable odds; at least until we start passing out and various body parts start dropping off. Even if Siberian Husky dogs keep us up all night with their loud disco music, we must persevere. Why? Why the hell not?

Regretfully yours,

The Ex-Guelph Erronious
Joeb Hewitt.

Best of Summer profQUOTES

Yup, these are the *best* of the Summer term. Pretty sad, ain't it? Let's get your pencils out and keep your ears open for those gems that are out there. We can come up with better stuff than this, right?

"Suppose you want to blow up your computer..."

Ming Li, CS 351

"Where the hell did that E come from?... Is my proof right?"

Moskal, PM 330

"For example, Brian Mulroney is secretly a woman..."

Moskal, PM 330

"It was 4 years... no, 8 years... no, 12 years; Gee, I'm getting old!"

Coffin, CS 246

"But I don't understand... why do we do that?"

Ming Li, CS 351

"I do things I'm embarrassed to tell even other geeks like myself."

Buhr, CS 242

"Once you've made your definitions, you're screwed."

McKiernan, AM 333

"Why didn't you tell me I was stupid?"

McKiernan, AM 333

"To use politically correct language, [this function] is integrally challenged."

Baker, MATH 148

"Gram-Schmidt Algorithm, what do I know about them? Gram lived somewhere a long time ago, Schmidt lived somewhere a long time ago, and they go together and did something."

Moskal, MATH 235

"It's clear that it's not by no means obvious."

Oldford, STAT 231

"We have here a proof by engineering induction: this is true for $k=5$, therefore it is true for all values of k ."

Wagner, C&O, 230

"We don't care about morality. This is economics."

Nguyen, ECON 201

MathSoc doesn't have any more lockers

Ask Me

Your own personal Oracle

Dear Oracle,

When will the season premiere of ST:TNG be on the TV? and what's gonna happen to Data? Is he really gonna kill Geordi?

The season premiere was on Tuesday for CITY TV, but there's not much point in knowing seeing as how mathNEWS is going to be out on Friday, but I can tell you my predictions for what's going to happen: Worf goes bazonkers and for the umpteenth time gets the snot beat out of him; Deanna senses something; Data beats the snot out of Geordi on Lore's suggestion, and he suffers brain damage; Riker bursts in with enough tan-shirts to serve as cannon fodder while he blows Lore and Data to bits with a phaser blast (after a few dodges); Geordi's brain is repaired with the help of the Traveller (who turns out to be Elvis), and he fixes Data by using parts from Lore's body. The DS9 premiere, if anyone's interested, will be on the 30th.

Dear Oracle,

This is my first year here at university and all, and the first time I've had to share my room with someone other than my brother. He's a huge guy, and a little violent sometimes. He likes juggling his knives and doing target practice in our room with his textbooks. He's never pointed a loaded gun at me, but I get nervous when he's playing around like that. How do I get him to stop?

Just because someone is a little scary doesn't mean they're not reasonable people. Ask him politely first, and 4 will get you 5 he'll stop. If not, then stand up to him! You own the room as much as he does; don't let your image of him stop you from getting what you want. If you need help resolving the problem, you can talk to other people who live in the house or the dean of your building. Before you talk to anyone else, try to work it out with him first because that shows that you respect him, and that will bring you respect in return.

Dear Oracle,

Where did you come from? Are you going to have cute names for the people who mail you questions?

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... when the CSC had a small minicomputer all to its own, Waterloo University had an oracle service. People could email the oracle@watcsc and get an answer in two days through the arcane use of shellscripts, mailservers and woodchuck's blood. Since then, someone stole watcsc by means unknown and requests for help got bounced back or sent to the /dev/null black hole. For a long time there was no oracle, so people had to rely on Dear Abby or Miss Manners or reading FAQ lists. Recently attempts have been made to resurrect the oracle, with rituals so dark and foul that repercussions were felt all over campus: woodchucks were nowhere to be found, mail daemons broke free to ravage postal workers, the sixth floor started acting Euclidian, the Female Engineer was kidnapped in the hopes of a virgin sacrifice... Then last Monday at dawn, in an unorthodox ritual involving pink polyester, motorcycle leather and Barney the Dinosaur, laplace was dominated by the initiates and burst open with the first successful resurrection of the oracle. It was wetware and insisted on using vi... but it would have to do. I'll start the cutesy names next issue... after we get laplace working before anyone notices.

If you have any questions you wish to pose to the oracle, you can email them to mathnews@undergrad.math, or drop them in the BLACK BOX if you wish to be anonymous. The oracle will answer serious questions with thought and maturity, and facetious questions with humour and immaturity.

Oracle

Frosh Week

Reports from the front line

We were wearing a military green shirt, a pink tie, and a DOG tag. Who were we? Not people with fashion sense: Math Frosh! Highlights of Frosh Week included hearing the following interesting dialogue:

"We're group 5!"

"Who cares? We're group 7!"

"Group 7 sucks!"

"So does your mother!"

"More than you can afford!"

In between, we learned several vocabulary expanding songs including *Waterloo Once...*

The third day featured the funny & informal *Single and Sexy* which we all enjoyed. (We're sure that those people who were dragged on stage will never sit that close to the stage again). Then the Magical Mystery Tour started. We got everything from cereal to Kraft dinner for the *n*-legged race ("Piz-za, piz-za, piz-za"), and we made the longest clothes-line with our own clothes.

We had lots of fun at Shinerama asking people for money in the time it takes to roll down a car window halfway and then back up. (How fast can you say "We are raising money for Cystic Fibrosis, can we shine your eggplant, green pepper, or watch for a small donation?")

One final word from frosh to their leaders for that soaking on Sunday: "We'll get you back!"

Mabel Chu and friend

Aaargh! Enough about the lockers! Leave us alone!

Northern Telecom IS Executive to Speak at Waterloo

David R. Cox, a member of the Waterloo Advisory Council and Vice President of Information Systems and Chief Information Officer of Northern Telecom Limited, Mississauga will be in Waterloo on Tuesday, October 5, 1993 at 3:30pm in the Davis Centre, room 1302. He is taking part in the Computer Science Department's CP Seminar Series and will be speaking on Northern Telecom's Information Systems strategy. Mr. Cox will be discussing his and Northern Telecom's experience with various IS technologies.

Complete information is included in the notices posted on the MathSoc bulletin boards. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Undergraduate students are particularly encouraged to attend!

Can't you read the fucking sign?? It says 'No lockers'!

MathNoose

It's that time of year, again

Here I sit at my trusty Xterminal preparing to write yet another humorous article for *mathNEWS*. I've been thinking about the past week, and all the funny things that have happened to me, and let me tell you that this is one of the most depressing things you can do with your time. Writers have to write about what they know best, and the only thing anyone can really know about is themselves, and sometimes it's kind of pathetic. Allow me to illustrate...

One day last week, I was running to a one o'clock class that I was late for because I had slept in. I stopped at the food services hot dog cart to pick up a hot dog since the only food I had ingested in the past three days was rice cakes with jam. Unfortunately, I had forgotten that the ducks were no longer being fed outside of village two, and was mugged from behind by about a dozen large mallards.

It was horrible; there were feathers everywhere. I thanked Topol that ducks don't have teeth as I recieved one of the most brutal gummings of my adult life. Thinking quickly, I tossed a dorito into the midst of their ranks and made a break for it. I made it all the way to South Campus Hall before I remembered that I had no idea where this class of mine was supposed to be.

Still determined to make it there on time, I ran all the way back to the MC to check the course listings. Almost as soon as I had entered the door, I remembered that there were lists posted in Needles Hall that would have been a hell of a lot more convenient. Undaunted, I raced up five stories to the Project:Mathstart room when I remembered the lists on the third floor. Then I collapsed into a lump of heaving protoplasm.

This really wasn't too exceptional; it's just what naturally happens to Newfoundlanders who try running on a warm day in southern Ontario. After checking the lists, I oozed down two stories to the C+D for an Iced Tea which would hopefully return me to a solid state. Checking my watch, I found out that I still had a full twenty three seconds in which to make it to class on time. I was off like a shot, confident that the architects who designed Hagey Hall would (at the very least) believe in sequential room numbering...

Three quarters of an hour later, I successfully located the correct room. I skulked in quietly, trying not to be noticed by the professor, and sat down in the last unclaimed seat which just happened to be in the middle of the front row. Another ten minutes passed before it dawned on me that they should not be discussing imagist poetry in a thermodynamics course.

At that exact moment, I should have gotten up and left. I should have tried to find out what room my class actually was in. I should have done something even *vaguely* intelligent. And I would have, if not for the fact that the rather attractive young woman sitting next to me had borrowed my pencil. I think that's a valid excuse for staying in the class... First of all, that was my good sketching pencil. Second of all, that was the first conversation I'd had with a woman in about two weeks. I mean, when you're in the faculty of math, you've to take what you can get.

Goddamn it! We're out of lockers!

After the class, I went to the front of the room and got the professor to sign me into the course. I could always use another Arts elective. Besides, I didn't get my pencil back. I was too self-conscious to ask for it since I was sweaty, thoroughly ungroomed, covered in duck spit, and had a streak of mustard trailing off into my beard. After the whole grisly ordeal, I walked outside and collapsed onto the grass where I considered how much "E2" can look-like "HH" when you're tired. That's when the ducks found me again.

My stitches come out next Wednesday. Anyways, as you can probably tell, finding material for Waterloo's second-most-controversial mathematics newsletter is no laughing matter. Enjoy the rest of the issue.

Joeb "Guelph Erronious" Hewitt

Lockers? We don't need no stinking lockers!

mastHEAD

Once again, we are editors of *mathNEWS*, (and get this, neither of us are in Math anymore, how 'bout dem apples!), and once again I am forced to write the *mastHEAD*. A little bit of confusion at the beginning of the night, and a tiny scare when I thought we didn't have any articles, but everything turned out alright. But then again, the production system is much different from Winter '92 when I last edited. But it's only the first issue of the term, and I intend to make it a fun term.

I suppose now it's time to thank all the *mathNEWS* Droids that showed up to write articles and type them in. Here they are along with their favourite fortune cookie fortune: Eric Sutherland, "You will find great riches" (in bed); Alex Wilson, "I don't know" (in bed); Brigitte Gagne, "You will reach a land of sunshine" (in bed); John Wink, "You will have great financial gain" (in bed); Gordon Ho (no fortune); Joseph Hewitt, "STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT!" (in bed); Kevin Hare, "You will be profitable in business" (in bed); Mala Krishnan, "It's too bad you can't have the feeling of accomplishment without accomplishing anything" (in bed); Peter Milley, "If you liked this fortune, please register your cookie by sending \$\$ to ..." (dammit Pete! 'in bed' doesn't work for this one!); Mabel Chu (no fortune); Moses Moore, "Do not remove this tag under penalty of law" (in bed); Mike Hammond, "Please turn over (on both sides)" (in bed); Michael Melvin, "You will get fucked" (in bed (or wherever)); Nabil Rehman, "Can't think of a good fortune cookie fortune" (in bed); and Ian Goldberg ("Beware of cookies bearing fortunes").

Thanks, of course, to Marion at Graphics Services. Until next issue... Later.

Curtis Desjardins, "You are sure to receive love and adoration" (in bed)

Erich Jacoby, "You will find great itches" (in bed)

Restricted Choice - Fact or Fiction?

We have all come across the situation where we have to play the following suit for no losers:

LHO	Dummy AT54	RHO
	You K9872	

So, bargaining ahead, we lead the 2 to the Ace, and the Queen drops on our left. We then lead the Ten from the dummy and RHO follows with the 6 (after playing the 3 on the first round), and we are at the crossroads. Do we finesse or do we play for the drop? How do we know?

The principle involved in this type of situation is called the Law of Restricted Choice. There is a lot of dissent about this Law, because it seems to defy logic. After all, what happened to the old eight-ever, nine-never rule. Why would the probabilities suddenly change in the middle of the hand?

The reason why RC works is this: If our LHO had the QJ to begin with, then he had a choice of cards to play on the first round, because the Queen and Jack are equals. If he had the singleton Queen or Jack, then their choice as to what card to play is restricted to the Queen or Jack.

Let's look at some percentages. First, let us assume that with QJ doubleton, LHO will play either card 50% of the time. Since the chance of QJ doubleton is 6.78%¹, LHO will play the Q (or J) from QJ about 3.39% of the time. The chance that LHO has a singleton Q (or J) is about 6.22%². So by finessing on the second round, we rate to win about 2 times to every time we lose. (6.22 to 3.39)

Sounds simple, right? Well, let's throw in a little kink into the works. Let's suppose that you're playing against opponents who you know from experience would never play the Queen from QJ doubleton, or even people who have that agreement conventionally (I've seen it!). Now let's examine our chances. If our LHO plays the Queen, then they must have a singleton Queen, so it is definitely right to finesse, but if they play the Jack, they could have the singleton Jack 6.22% of the time or they could have the QJ doubleton 6.78% of the time (as they would never play the Queen). So, in this case it is right (albeit by 0.56%) to play for the drop of the Queen.

Similarly, if you are playing against someone who you know always false-cards, and would never play the Jack from QJ doubleton, the same holds. Finesse if they play the Jack, but go up if they play the Queen.

Be warned, though. You must be very sure of your opponents. If you do choose to play for the drop in these situations, then you are going against the field, and you are single-handedly creating a swing that your partner and perhaps teammates will have to pay for later.

So, the moral of the story? Make yourself aware of the usefulness of restricted choice. On defense, play your QJ doubletons randomly, and on declarer play know your opponents, but above all play for the 2-1 odds. You don't get winning odds like that on Let's make a Deal... or do you?

Problem: Monty Hall tells you that there is a fabulous prize behind door 1, 2 or 3, and there are zonks behind the other 2. You choose door 1. Monty then opens up door number 3 and reveals a giant rocking horse. He then asks you if you want to switch to door number 2 or not. Do you switch? This problem has caused many heated arguments, and more hurt feelings than I care to mention.

Answer: You are supposed to switch with 2-1 odds of winning. This is a restricted choice situation. Let's say that you have managed to choose the right door. Then Monty could choose either door 2 or 3 with equal probability. If we are wrong, Monty was forced to choose door 3, and door 2 has the prize. Because Monty was forced to pick door 3 when door 2 has the prize, and only picks door 3 half of the time when door 1 has the prize, door 2 has a better shot at making you a winner.

EC Sutherland

¹The percentage of a 2-2 break is 40.70%, with 6 combinations

²The percentage of a 3-1 break on either side is 49.74% with 8 combinations

VapidFire

Co-op students returning to campus this week were startled to discover that Continuous Placement doesn't seem to be saving them the necessity of really long lineups. While there is no longer any line-up to receive Want Ads, every co-op student still had to stand in line on Wednesday to receive their "Master Copies" of their resume packages. Co-op students also still have to stand in line to submit ranking forms as the job ranking process has not been fully removed. When asked for their opinion on this, the average Math Student replied "Huh? Oh, I don't know. The Frosh shirts were pretty cool this year, weren't they?"

In election news, all sorts of politicians campaigned all over the place but this reporter didn't bother watching. If there's no Green Party candidate running in this riding this reporter recommends electing the Rhinoceros Party as a write-in candidate. If you don't know any Rhinoceros Party members, just vote for the rhinoceros.

Talks continue today in the United States as to whether or not homosexuals should be allowed to serve their country as orthodontists. Gulf war hero and slim fast veteran 'Stormin' Norman Schwartzkopf gave a patriotic speech about truth, liberty, and placing things in other people's mouths. Comments about Saddam Hussein's penis envy of George Bush were ordered to be stricken from the record.

Guelph Erronious aka Joeb Hewitt
Peter Milley

.Sig of the Bi-Week

A New Bi-Weekly Feature

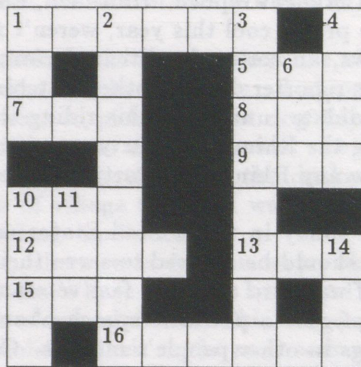
We here at mathNEWS are proud to announce the development of a new feature. And you can help. Internet News is not only chock-full of articles, it's also full of... signatures. And the best one that I see in a period of two weeks (that's between mathNEWS production nights) will be printed here.

If you wish your .sig (or the .sig of someone you love, hate, or merely tolerate) to be considered for this prestigious (yeah, right) designation, please send a copy of it to mhammon@descartes.uwaterloo.ca before the next mathNEWS production night. Maybe your .sig will be the next 'Sig of the Bi-Week'.

This week's .sig:

Our Program who art in Memory
Hello be thy Name.
Thy Operating System come.
Thy Commands be done at the Printer as it is on the Screen.
Give us this day our daily Data,
And forgive us our I/O errors
As we forgive those whose logic circuits are faulty.
Lead us not into frustration, and deliver us from Power Surges.
For Thine is the Algorithm,
The Application,
And the Solution
Looping forever and ever.
Return.

.Sig by Anon
Submitted by Chris Smith
Mike ".Sig Hammer!" Hammond



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Climactic smorgasborg w/o the evil assimilators (6)
5. Army Defense Algorithms (3)
7. A sack of gab don't talk back (3)
8. Immorality's in! (3)
9. Results example: clue 1 across (3)
10. Now it's changed, but it's mine. (3)
12. Peripheral tutors a bit (4)
13. Palindromic choking joke (3)
15. Lay every initiate in the flowered circle (3)
16. The relative company you wrong (6)

Down

1. Botched theft of a sphere (3)
2. Huge and job crazy (8)
3. It's heavy, it's old, and it rubs me the right way (8)
4. Anonymous male is a tailless cat (4)
6. Even after this, the editor won't rot (3)
10. The slippery silo of love ... (4)
11. Stop that horse or you'll be sorry (3)
14. Drinking without the drink oddly still gets you drunk (3)

Writer's Block for mathNEWS

It's been FOUR whole months since you've written for the one and only mathNEWS. You've had FOUR months to think about a great topic.

And what do you come up with?
This!

Mala Krishnan
The Mixed-Up Mathie

Cult Heroes

1. His name was never revealed; nor was the reason why he resigned. After retiring to the village, he made a career out of making Number Two's life a living hell.
2. He was a skilled brain surgeon and a theoretical physicist, but on the weekends he took to a life of adventure. In the same day, he saved the world from alien invasion and brought his girlfriend back from the dead.
3. Single, Sexy, and more than a little bit furry, this female feline worked at night as an exotic dancer but dreamed of bigger and better things.
4. Single, Sexy, and more than a little bit bisexual, this friendly alien from the planet Transsexual was the creator of the Rocky Horror.
5. Walter Kovacs wasn't the real name of this New York vigilante who swore to never compromise, not even in the face of armageddon.

Song Lyrics

1. "Pioneer of aerodynamics
They thought he was a real smart Aleck"
2. "Say your love is strong and true,
Let her know what she means to you,
Tell her she's that special one
that shines in your heart like a rising sun"
3. "My mother is pounding on my adolescence
My daughter is rubbing my shoulders today"
4. "And if you don't expect too much from me,
You might not be let down"
5. "It's not fair to say that it's cause I was 3 inches shorter
than you,
And it's not fair to say that it's cause I was only fifteen
years old."

Submit your answers to the BLACK BOX (just outside of the Comfy Lounge) by Monday, October 4th and you can win some really neat prizes. Really.

Joeb Hewitt

gridCOMMENTS

Tales from the Crypt-EC

Here is a little grid with super-easy clues to encourage all of you folks who have never tried one before, or to whet the appetite of those of you who have. If you have never done one before, here is a simple description of how they work. Conventionals are based on synonyms and work like conventional crosswords (surprise, surprise) and can be solved by a simple computer attached to a thesaurus. Each cryptic clue actually contains two clues to the word - one which is a definition/synonym etc, based on the meaning of the word, and one which tells you about the letters composing the word, assuming no knowledge of the meaning of the word. Which parts of the clue relate to which function is for the Gridmaster to know, and you to figure out.

So try the Cryptic (sorry, no conventional this week) and put your solutions in the BLACK BOX in the 3rd floor hallway, along with comment and favourite thing that a computer *can't* do, and you, too could win valuable prizes!

GridFuzzy
Crypt-EC