

# *math* NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 3

October 22, 1993





## lookAHEAD

| mathNEWS       |   |
|----------------|---|
| November 1     | Issue #4 production night<br>6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)                  |
| November 5     | Issue #4 hits the stands  |
| November 15    | Issue #5 production night<br>6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)                  |
| November 19    | Issue #5 hits the stands  |
| November 29    | Issue #6 production night<br>6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)                  |
| December 6     | Issue #6 hits the stands  |
| MathSoc        |   |
| October 25     | MathSoc Annual General Meeting  |
| October 27     | Comfy Lounge Movies Return!   |
| October 30     | Rocky Horror Picture Show in AL   |
| November 3     | Leafs Roadtrip (tenuous at best)  |
| November 6     | Fed Hall Frosh Reunion  |
| November 9     | Bridge Tournament   |
| November 10    | Euchre Tournament   |
| November 26    | Bomber Nite   |
| February 21-25 | Ski Trip to Killington  |
| MGC            |   |
| October 22     | Last Day to buy a Grad Ring   |
| October 24     | Rock'n'Bowl   |
| October 29     | Grad Photo blurbs are due<br>(last Last LAST! day)                      |
| Co-op          |   |
| October 29     | Interviews end<br>Ranking Forms Available<br>at 11am                    |
| November 1     | Second Rounds Start   |
| November 8     | Job Matches Posted  |
| November 9     | Job Acceptances   |
| Feds           |   |
| October 25     | Federation of Students<br>Annual General Meeting<br>@ the Campus Centre |
| Real World     |   |
| October 25     | Federal Election<br>(Get off yer Ass!)                                  |

## Actuarial Science Club

Has your idea of a good time been reduced to meeting that assignment deadline? Are all of your midterms causing you to lose grip on reality? Let us help you on the road to social recovery! We have a pizza/pop-corn/movie night this Sunday (Oct. 24th): all details on the ActSci Club door MC3030.

Also coming up is an information session about professional exams, courses to take (and definitely not to take!) teachers and work experience. This will be on November 10th or 11th. (Come and view or enjoy our superb office door for more details.)

And I'm sure no-one will be interested in knowing that we have this huge PARTY coming up on November 20th. Come and increase your mortality with us! By the way, our next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 11th, at 4:30pm in MC4040.

Sebastien Lagarde

## SOC Talk with S&amp;M

Yet another mathNEWS, yet another breathtaking, dynamic myriad of events to rattle off. Come one, come all to these exciting events held for all you up and coming Mathematicians... OK, thats going too far... held for all you folks. Ignore that CS assignment due the next day, just get out and have fun. Join us for:

- Annual showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show  
Arts Lecture Hall, Sat Oct 30th 7:30
- Movie Night - movie TBA  
Comfy Lounge - FREE!!! - Wed. Oct 27th
- Bridge and Euchre Tournaments  
Comfy Lounge - Bridge - Nov. 9th Euchre - Nov 10th
- Fed Hall Frosh Reunion Night  
Fed Hall, Sat Nov 6th
- Bombshelter BEvERages and Games Night  
Bombshelter, Fri. Nov 26th
- Potential but improbable Campus-wide Road Trip to  
\*\*\*\* MAPLE LEAF GARDENS \*\*\*\*  
Leafs vs Panthers, Wed Nov 3rd, 8:00  
(arrangements are TRYING to be made, don't hold your breath)

Keep an eye out for posting with all the details on these incredible, exciting adventures. SEE YOU THERE!!!

S&M (aka Sara Manning and Shelley McLennan, Social Directors) and your trusty MathSoc Social Board

## PMC&amp;OC Speaks!

Well, once again it's time to update you, the mathNEWS reading public, with the latest goings-on in the Pure Math and C&O Club! The big news on the sports front... our basketball team is 2 and 0, while our flag football team is 2 and 2. *We need more flag football players!* If you can play flag football, come on out. If you can't play flag football, come on out. We don't care if you can't use all four limbs... if Tak can play with his bum arm, so can you! [*Gee, can I really play with Tak's bum arm? - EdiFuzz.*] Drop by the office to get the play schedule.

And talks, talks, talks! Just this Wednesday, we had a talk by Mike Moss about spending academic semesters in Budapest. This is an exciting opportunity to travel and experience the mathematics of another culture; of course, if you weren't there, you didn't find out how! And if you didn't catch that talk (shame on you!) be sure to attend next week's talk by Stan Burris. Watch for the posters for rooms and times.

That's all for this week. Remember, the perfect thing to take your mind off mind-numbing classes, exams, and interviews is mind-expanding mathematics. (yeah, maybe someone will believe that...)

Peter Milley  
probably-never-ex-president-for-life

Come to the AGM! See where  
your \$7.50 was spent!

Monday at 3:00 in the Comfy  
Lounge!





Computer  
Science  
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

## CSC Flash

Greetings, devoted followers. What follows is a digest of exciting events recently executed by me and my intrepid band of just-about-omniscient humans known to mortals as the CSC. Also see below for information on your future, i.e. all of the CSC-sponsored things in which you will soon be compelled to participate.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Samid Hoda hosted a remarkably informative Introduction to X Programming. If you missed it, because it was standing room only, you can always borrow a book from my extensive library of computer-related (and not-quite-computer-related) books which resides in the CSC. The source code used in Samid's talk, and some other useful examples, are available as:

```
/u1/sahoda/X/simple_template.c
/u1/sahoda/X/first_event.c
/u1/sahoda/X/redraw_self.c
```

The more advanced files are:

```
/csc/u/sdcoulom/talk_dir/abalone.tar.Z
/csc/u/sdcoulom/talk_dir/sample.tar.Z
/csc/u/sdcoulom/talk_dir/talk.stuff
```

Samid will be posting some notes on more of the theory of X in the next few days to `uw.csc` - this is stuff he couldn't cover because of time limitations. Feel free to mail him: `sahoda@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca`

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Stan Burris hosted a fascinating seminar on how computers are being used to prove mathematical theorems. It was a great success, and all who attended were incredibly enlightened. He looked at how some formal proof systems have been incorporated into automated theorem proving programs - in particular resolution and the Knuth Bendix method.

Now for the future; something to look forward to; the CSC continues to provide the only useful information on using the computing resources available to you. Here it comes:

*October 28 The Internet  
hosted by Stephen White*

You heard about this in the last CSC flash but I'm reminding you again. The Internet, by definition, is two things: a set of protocols, and large network of networks or "metanetwork", spanning the globe, on which those protocols run. What the Internet provides to the user is a mind-bogglingly vast source of information, often confusing and difficult to navigate. However, several exciting new tools have recently been developed for hypersurfing the 'net which combine ease of use and flexibility. This talk will focus primarily on the applications which are available to the aspiring 'net surfer, plus some coverage of the protocols underlying these applications. Yes that's right. Stephen will show you how to use plenty of nifty and vaguely erotic programs to your "net advantage".

*November 10 Adaptive device driver  
hosted by K. Salem*

This should prove to be very informative. The talk will focus on an device driver that maximizes file system efficiency through various adaptive routines.

*November 12 Stratford Road Trip  
hosted by my CSC*

This is a great opportunity to escape from the drudgery of your coursework and the alcoholism of the rest of your life. Forget your worries and enter the ephemeral world of Bill Shakespeare. We'll be meeting at the CSC at 12:30 pm to drive to the show which starts at 2:00. The tickets are just \$16.00. Come down to the CSC office (that's MC 3036/3037) to buy tickets and get your name on the list! A very limited number are available!! Sign up *now!!*

*December 2 VX-REXX  
hosted by Donald Cowan*

This talk will focus on the VX-REXX visual programming language that has been developed here at the U of W Computer Systems group and at Watcom.

Now, some business. To clear up some controversy, the CSC is not responsible for the fact that absolutely none of the terminals will be available for undergrad use during the ACM programming contest. As much as I would love to destroy your civilization, this was not my doing. The ACM programming contest is put on by the University, and UW will be playing host (and victor) to 100 teams from universities across Ontario, Quebec, and the northern U.S. The teams from Waterloo will, of course, once again come out on top, and advance to the finals at Phoenix, Arizona in February.

Jeers to the Federation of Students, who overwhelmingly voted *against* supporting Project Calum, *even in principle*. If you are not familiar with this wonderful project, it aims to extend the wonderful world of Unix and the Internet to all members of the University community, including all students who might want such services. The Feds just didn't think it was necessary to say that such an endeavour was a good idea. Well, just see if we give them free accounts *now!*

On a lighter (and better-looking) note, the CSC still has those excellent T-shirts and pens available for your purchase. Come on down and grab some for your collection. As the largest club in Math, we can satisfy all of your needs, wants, and even some of the things you didn't know you wanted. Also, make sure you read `uw.csc` to read all the essential information coming from my console.

Yours in perpetuity, the unforeseen,

Calum T. Dalek  
Chairbeing



## Faculty Of Mathematics Dean's Honours List

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will "GRADUATE ON THE DEAN'S HONOURS LIST" at Fall Convocation, October 23, 1993 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| CHEUNG Alice Man-Lok   | H ACT SCI  |
| DANTOWITZ David Jeremy | H AM       |
| LAU Tin Chi H          | C&O&CS     |
| WAI Betsey Wan Po      | H COMP SCI |
| ZHANG Qi Xiang         | H COMP SCI |

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will "GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION" at Fall Convocation, October 23, 1993.

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| BOK Wai Kee             | H CS/EL E  |
| HARRISON Mark Frederick | HC M/BA/I  |
| HEAL Kenneth Michael    | H AM       |
| LAU Sok Hoon            | H ACTS&STA |
| LEUNG Kung Fan Steven   | H CS/EL E  |
| MIRANDER Roxanne M.     | H STAT     |
| VU Yung Wai Willie      | H MTH/B/CS |

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 1993 term, the following students qualified for the Dean's Honours List.

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ANDO Seiji              | ASTLEY Derek John        |
| AU Kai Ming George      | BART Bradley Stephen     |
| BAL Sukhdip S.          | BENDER Lorraine Joyce    |
| BENKE Stefanie          | BOWMAN Ivan Thomas       |
| BRISEBOIS Michael A.    | BURTON Paul Kenneth      |
| CARD Lisa M.            | CARRIERE Jeromy          |
| CHADHA Dushyant         | CHAN Ho Fai James        |
| CHAN Ho Hon Joseph      | CHAN Peggy               |
| CHAN Soo-Ling           | CHAN Yuk Kuen Henry      |
| CHENG Henrietta         | CHEUNG Kevin King Hin    |
| CHIA Ben Jr.            | CHIANG William Hon C.    |
| CHIU David Tuen Wai     | CHIU Wai Man             |
| COONEY Christopher W.   | CRAFTON Bradley D.       |
| DAVIDSON Donald Edward  | DRAGE James              |
| EVANS Glenn Frederick   | FARRELL Glen Robert      |
| FERREIRA Paulo Fernando | FONG Yuen Fay            |
| FROGLEY Katherine E.    | FUNG Chi Wai             |
| GAAL Susan              | GAUTHIER Judith          |
| GREER Kevin Glen Roy    | HAMILTON Tiffany         |
| HAMM David              | HINGORANI Justin         |
| HO Jackie Cheukkin      | HUYNH Myphung            |
| IP Jeffrey Tsz-Yue      | JOANIS Eric Jean Sylvain |
| KAMINSKI Piotr          | KENNEDY John Adam        |
| KONG Po Shan Mary       | KRUK Serge               |
| KRY Paul Gregory        | LAM Grace Wai Si         |
| LAPENSEE Roxane         | LEE Wai-Wah Pauline      |
| LIAO Hiu Chung          | LING Chi Hung Alan       |
| LIU Qin                 | LU Fletcher              |
| LUK Paul K. S.          | MA Wai Man Theresa       |
| MAENHAUT Barbara M.     | MAN Vince Jing Ping      |
| MARSZALEK Krzysztof     | MAXWELL David Aquilla    |
| METZGER Christine L.    | MISTRY Chetna            |
| MOMOH Oshoma            | MORTON David Kennedy     |
| NAUMANN Bernard R.      | PATEL Nilesh             |
| PEIRCE Stephen          | PHAM Hoan Huu            |
| PIQUARD Nicolas Romain  | POSNER Marshall Evan     |
| RESTALL Shane Arthur    | RUETZ Christina          |
| SCHIEDEL Juanita        | SCHOFIELD Michael B.     |

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| SHNEIDER Aviva          | SILVA Elizabeth        |
| SPENCER Scott William   | SPIRO Vanessa          |
| STEPHEN Tamon Muri      | TO Siu Lun             |
| TONG Karen Tak-Kar      | TSUI Eddie Chak Sang   |
| ULLRICH Christopher J.  | VAN LEUSDEN Kenneth M. |
| WAI Betsey Wan Po       | WATT Penny Jean        |
| WATTERS Jennifer Louise | WONG Bonnie            |
| WONG Christine Wai-Yee  | YEUNG Kin Pong         |
| YU Rok                  | ZHOU Kathleen Yi       |
| ZINIUK Carly Cheryl     |                        |

## Is Math Well-Endowed?

*Do you even care?*

The first meeting of the Math Endowment Committee was held last Friday afternoon in MC4067 at 2:30. The turnout was great, with all of 5 people showing up. I know of many people that had prior commitments, such as class, eating, or their toilet backing up, but that still doesn't excuse the rest of the Math Undergrad body.

You know, I have been involved in things for the last couple of years in the Math Faculty, and it has brought me great pleasure in meeting new people, and occasionally effecting a change for the better. It really pains me to see the rest of the people here sitting back and letting the world pass them by. If everyone did that, we would now be in the Faculty of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, and a lot worse off as far as some of the restrictions on our courses go. You have to get your voice heard, even if you just drop a note somewhere telling someone what *your* opinion is. *You count!!* The Math Endowment Committee is investigating whether it is feasible to have an endowment fund in math [*Engineering, Accounting, and the Feds already have one in place, so if you don't know what an endowment fund is, you have an obligation to find out - Ed.*]. That decision can't be properly made without the input of the *entire* student body, not just 4 students and a faculty member sitting around a table. If you want this to go through in the way that *YOU* think it should, then speak up and be heard! Any ideas will not be thrown away. By remaining silent, you are allowing a small group to do whatever they want with the fund, Carte-Blanche. **THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!!**

There are several people I hear complaining about how they are never a part of the decision making process. Some of them protest their lack of voice through underground publications, or even in the pages of this journal. Now is the opportunity to be a part of that process in a positive and (hopefully) effective manner. This is *your* money we are talking about here. Don't let someone else make the decision for you.

The next meeting is today (Friday) at 2:30 in the Comfy Lounge. If you want to have your voice heard, then be there. Otherwise you are casting a vote in favour of whatever we do. The choice is yours.

Eric Sutherland  
Nathalie St. Maurice  
Ron Servant  
Christine Dewhurst  
John Wainwright



## Exec Says

Things at MathSoc are really hectic right now as all our volunteers are immersed in their midterms. Oktoberfest was a blast and everyone had a good time (the only person that puked on the bus was a certain redheaded social board member). To all the MathSoc volunteers — you guys are doing a great job! It is really sad that a lot of our fellow mathies don't realize how much work you guys put into the Math Society. I have even heard that the MathSoc volunteers are involved with the Math Society for their own personal benefit (Yeah right! The stress really does wonders for your complexion, believe me!).

Anyway, for those of you out there who are really concerned about the Math Society, the Math Faculty, or would just like to be heard... the following is the list of Math Society volunteers and their office hours:

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Elaine Ooi<br>Kathi Lai<br>Andrea McPhee | President<br>VP Activ. & Serv.<br>VP Finance | 2:30M-F<br>2:30M-F<br>9:30MWF,<br>9-10TR |
| Xavier Aburto                            | 1A Rep (4-stream),<br>Postings               | 8:30MW                                   |
| Rachel Nickie                            | 1A Rep (4-stream)                            | 9:30F                                    |
| Rachel Nieuwland                         | 1A Rep (8-stream)                            | 10:30-12:30R                             |
| David Ramsay                             | 1A Rep (8-stream)                            | 12:30M                                   |
| Sara Manning                             | 2A Rep, Social                               | 3:30M                                    |
| Chris Norman                             | 2A Rep                                       | 2:30M                                    |
| Ron Servant                              | 2B Rep                                       | 10:30F                                   |
| Nathalie St.Maurice                      | 2B Rep                                       | 8:30W                                    |
| Lisa Ballinger                           | 2N Rep, Secretary                            | 3:30M, 12:30R                            |
| Gus Hosein                               | 2N Rep, Acad.<br>Resource Mngr               | 11:30M                                   |
| L. Amber O'Hearn                         | 2N Rep                                       | 11:30T                                   |
| Jenn Dickson                             | 3N Rep, 2nd-VP<br>Finance                    | 2:30W                                    |
| Ian Goldberg                             | 3N Rep, Internal                             | 11:30T                                   |
| Murray Kucherawy                         | 4A Rep, Computing                            | 9:30T                                    |
| R. Gordon Schmidt                        | 4A Rep, External,<br>Publicity               | 2:30T, 1:30R                             |
| Barb Torner                              | 4B Rep                                       | 8:30T                                    |
| Andrew Walduck                           | 4B Rep, SAC                                  | 2:30F                                    |
| Eric Sutherland                          | 4N Rep, External,<br>Speaker                 | no hours                                 |
| Curtis Desjardins                        | Novelties, mathNEWS<br>Co-Editor             | 3:30W                                    |
| Paul Doforno                             | SAC  | no hours                                 |
| Shelley McLennan                         | Social                                       | 3:30M                                    |
| Neil Murray                              | Resource Manager                             | 1:30MWF                                  |
| Nathalie Nasr                            | Postings                                     | 8:30TR                                   |
| Vic Wiewiorowski                         | SAC, Chief Returning<br>Officer              | no hours                                 |
| Erich Jacoby                             | mathNEWS Co-Editor                           | 3:30W                                    |

Come talk to your respective representatives or directors, keep them company during their office hours or just chat with them about the Leafs or the Jays... we are here to help. Just bear in mind that the volunteers are volunteers and have lives (or try to) as well! And if you can't make it to their office hour, all Directors have message boards and Class Reps have mailboxes. Leave them a message if you can't find them.

Elaine Ooi, Prez  
Kathi Lai, VPAS  
Andrea McPhee, VPF

## What the Heck is an Endowment Anyway??

It has come to my attention that I, well, screwed up. I've been talking about this endowment fund for the last couple of weeks, without actually saying what an endowment was. Well, let me rectify that blunder.

Consider your bank account. Say you were to limit yourself to only spending the interest that you make every month (or year). For most of us, that would quickly lead to starvation. Now, say we were to increase our account so that it contained a very large sum of money, like \$1 000 000. Annually, we would be earning about \$70 000 worth of interest. If we were to spend that money, we would still have the original million in the account, and the process would repeat itself. It would be a perpetual source of money. This is an endowment.

The Math Endowment Committee is proposing that we set up an endowment within the Math Faculty, where only the interest would be spent every year, and the main principal would never be touched. The endowment itself would increase every term, with the income from the voluntary student contribution (if we choose to go that way), and other sources that will be investigated. Note that nothing is yet set in stone, and your input is required to get this plan working.

Let me leave you with one final fact. Princeton University has endowments totalling over \$2.8 billion, with annual interest about twice the annual UW budget. Princeton is about the size of Laurier.

Eric Sutherland



**HAPPY HOUR MENU**

**Available 4-6 p.m. at the BAR ONLY**

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Italian Nachos .....          | \$1.99 |
| Steamed Mussels .....         | \$1.99 |
| Slice of Bella Pizza .....    | .99    |
| Fresh Battered Zucchini ..... | \$1.99 |
| Jumbo Breaded Ravioli .....   | \$1.99 |



**EAST SIDE MARIO'S**  
An American Italian Eatery

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**

**\$7.95**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

**11-2PM**

Now with new menus!



## Record Breaking Dungeons & Dragons Tournament

This fall, the world's longest-running Dungeons & Dragons Tournament is being held at the University of Waterloo. A (non-partisan) commemorative plaque is expected to be awarded to WatsFic by the Parliament of Canada. WatsFic, which had its start with MathSoc in the 1975/76 academic year, is holding this record breaking tournament. When they started, there were no other tournaments around to model the event after—they had to go their own way; the result is a unique event based on traditions that evolved here at Waterloo. Unlike the average tournament, this one is a two round team event; most tournaments are based on individual players. The Watsfic tournament also has a history of being more earthy and less censored than the norm. Costumes are encouraged if you think it would be fun, although it will not affect scoring. However, weapons are banned; facsimiles such as foam hammers are allowed. It is so celebrated that the farthest someone has traveled to play in the tournament has been from Vancouver, BC. It is being run according to an Advance Dungeons & Dragons Format. The first round is run in three time slots on Saturday, November 6th at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. If preregistration demands, a Friday evening time slot may be added. The second round will be run on Sunday, November 7th at 1:00 p.m.

The Role Playing Gamers Association (RPGA) will be attending and running several side events; specifically the famous *Living City* Campaign. RPGA is a world wide gamers association. These will be held on both Saturday and Sunday, which allows for a full two days of gaming whether or not you advance in the tournament. Past tournaments have also included a graveyard shift adventure called *Thief's Challenge*, which starts at 1:00 a.m. and goes to 7:00 a.m. for the true night owls. *The Living City* is an ongoing campaign with characters that you create. They can be used in any RPGA Living City event at any future Watsfic tournament, or any other Living City event around the world.

The tournament will be held in the EL at U(W). Teams consist of six players and have names chosen by the players; these names get very weird and creative. Individuals will be assigned to teams with fewer than six players, or made into a team of individuals. Teams can play with fewer than six people, but this puts the players at a disadvantage against other teams competing to enter second round. Only about one third of the teams entering will make it to second round. In second round, teams must be complete; additions and substitutions are accepted so long as the entry fee has been paid. Players are encouraged to bring pencils, pens, paper, dice, and a copy of the player's handbook. Teams that register in advance will be called by the Thursday or Friday before and advised of the time slot they are in. Those who show up on the day will be taken on a first-come first-served basis. For further information, contact the award-winning Secretary of War (tournament organizer), Ron Roberts at (519) 885-1169 or (519) 885-5506. You can also get more information by writing to mcsmit@math.uwaterloo.ca.

At the beginning of the session, there is a general introduction held in EL 101 which explains your situation and (possibly) your objective. Each team will be introduced to their assigned DMs and sent to their private gaming rooms. Each member of the team will be given a character description and personality profile. Of course, all teams will receive the same six profiles. Time will be given to allow players to familiarize themselves with the character they received; this information is private and not to be shared with other players except as the role played out by the player. Play will then commence. Four hours are allowed to play the scenario. with up to half an hour allowed for breaks. After

time expires, or all the players do, your team will be scored by the DM. There will probably be survivors; however, a 100scoring information will be available but actual scores are confidential and will not be released. Prizes will be awarded for role playing each character in the first round. Team prizes will be awarded for overall second round performance. The prizes will be split roughly 50/50 between these. Registrations can be mailed to Watsfic at P.O. Box 22025, Westmount Postal Outlet, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6J7 or they can be dropped off in the Watsfic mailbox in the Clubs Room of the Campus Centre.

*The End of the Weekend* is a banquet held on Sunday evening at a nearby restaurant. Players should mention it on their sign up sheet if they are interested so that reservations can be made. If you are interested in further information about Watsfic, its games, Science Fiction library, short story contest, profitable discounts and associated Chaos, show up at a Watsfic meeting; they are held in the Math Building, room 1056 at 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays. Watsfic is the best place to meet people and get into a game, or find rare science fiction and fantasy books, and so on. Members get 10many local stores; such as K-mart of Waterloo Square (at the service desk), Imperiums to Order, Now & Then Books, Gamers Guild, Lookin' for Heroes, Carry on Comics, Titans of Tomorrow, K-W Book Exchange, Second Look Books, Collage, and Castle Mail Order. Some new discounts are being negotiated at such places as a grocery store, a video store, a photocopying store, a computer hardware store, a computer software store, and so on...

Watsfic runs other events during the semester. These include the *Mother of all Halloween Parties* from Saturday, October 30th at 10:00 a.m. to Sunday, October 31st at 10:00 p.m. This will be held in the Math Comfy Lounge/C&D, third floor of the Math Building. Everyone is invited for the ultimate in games, movies, and strange costumes. Watsfic will provide some of the movies and games and many people will be bringing their own. Another such party is scheduled for the end of classes before the beginning of exams as the last blow out of the semester.

a-chinese-signature-which-I-can't-read, but might mean  
Life-springs-from-thousands, especially since it was mailed in  
from Patrick J. Cummings

## MGC '94 News

The first item of interest this week is to explain who and what MGC is. MGC≡Math Graduate Committee, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to organize all the events for the grads. MGC organizes social events for grads, yearbooks, the Math Grad Ball, fundraisers, etc. These are all volunteers and anyone who is a math grad is more than welcome to help out. The MGC runs pizza days every Wednesday to offset the costs of the grad ball, yearbooks and administrative costs. For those of you until now who didn't know what MGC stood for; what the heck did you think it stood for?

Grads listen up... Rock N Bowl this Sunday. Yes there is beer for sale here! \$5 per ticket, tickets still on sale today outside the C&D. Yearbook grad blurbs due next week, give your blurbs plus any pictures you have to Claud with no e. Last day for ring sales is today. Trevor G. says to Don M. keep up the good work and come bowling on Sunday.

Volunteers needed to help with pizza day. See Daryl or Elin if you want to help out. That's all for now, no news is good news.

Trevor Dietrich



## Math Dropout Rate Skyrockets

Yes, from the figures that our esteemed federal candidates have been spouting, it becomes apparent that all of the parties who have bothered to try any calculations have gotten some (or all) of them wrong.

According to critics, the cancellation of retirement benefits and social assistance at the cutoff level that the Reform Party specified will either not reduce anywhere near as much spending as they say it will, or it will require going well below the poverty line in search of the desired cuts. Also, their budget does not take into account the increased costs of UI and welfare payments to the estimated 375,000 people who lose their (government supported) jobs as a direct result of their spending cuts.

The price not to buy a helicopter is somehow more than the price to buy one. Both Kim Campbell and Jean Chretien seem to have strange ideas about those amazing flying machines.

The NDP economic plan promises jobs for all, and a reduced deficit to boot. We're not sure just how this works, but Informetrica Ltd., "an independent economic consulting company," says it's so, so I guess it must be true.

The PC graph supplied by John Reimer (running for re-election in Kitchener) shows a wonderfully shrinking deficit. Of course, this deficit is all in the future. It also shows that the deficit has *increased* every year over the last six years, under the care of these incredible deficit-reducing Tories. Including this year, where the deficit is somehow climbing well over the planned 32.6 billion, and even over the 35.5 billion of last year. (It was only 32.9 billion when the Liberals left).

The Liberal program depends on spending 6 billion of job creation. Or does it? Actually, only 2 billion is to come from the federal gov't, with the rest being pitched in by the provinces and municipalities, which we all know are just overflowing with unallocated cash.

The Libertarian candidate believes that we can get better education if our funding is cut in half.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

## Ace Gets a Heart Attack

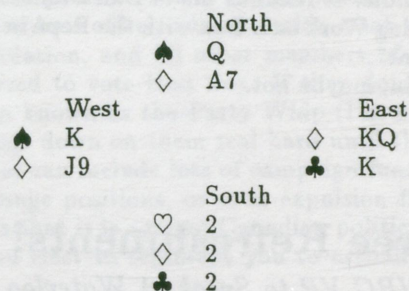
Welcome back to Bridge University! If this is your first term here, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ace Upmysleeve, the chief director and bottle washer for the campus. If you have any questions about what is going on, or who is who, just ask.

You say you've never played before? Well, I'm teaching lessons in the comfy lounge Tuesday's at 4:30 if you are interested. They're free, and you get to meet a ton of other enthusiastic people like yourself.

There will be two big bridge games in November. The first is on Tuesday, November 9th where we will be competing against other schools in North America for a cash prize of \$500 (US). The top score in our region wins the prize. The last two years, we have finished second in this event, and I feel this is our year to go over the top. Hand analyses will be given out after the game with a record of all the hands that you played.

The second is a challenge match between the students and the faculty. I am hoping to get about 3 teams of faculty members, and 3 teams of students together for an evening of bridge and fun. If you are interested in playing on either team (yes, professors read this too!) or know someone who would be, please forward their name to me as soon as possible.

Enough with the small talk, let's look at an end-position. South is declarer, and he needs all of the rest of the tricks. Hearts are trump.



South was on lead, and he started with the last heart. West felt some pressure. he couldn't let go of his spade, or else the Q would be high, so he discarded a diamond. Dummy threw the spade, and now East had a tough choice. He knew that South still had a club, so he couldn't let go of the club King, so he also had to discard a diamond. When South now led his lone diamond to the Ace, the 7 had become a winner. And South had fulfilled his contract.

This type of play is called a double squeeze, as both opponents are forced to give up control in a suit at the same time. In future issues, I will go into other types of squeezes as well as some advanced bidding conventions.

That's all for now, folks. If you have any questions or comments, drop me a note in MathSoc on the board for "EC". TTFN

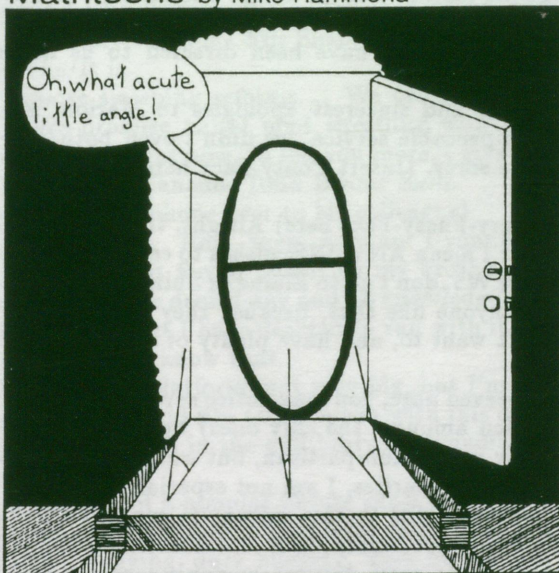
Eric Sutherland  
aka Ace Upmysleeve

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

## Mathtoons by Mike Hammond



Trig or Treating.



## The Thematic Explanation of this issue's cover

*As written by the guy whose cover wasn't printed and  
another guy under pretty heavy sedation*

The first thing that you should obviously notice is that the artist's name is inscribed sideways on the table leg. This is reminiscent of some British guy who defaced something or another while in Greece (Hi Susan). Note the calm which permeates the room from the candle light, and yet it casts no shadow. The full moon signifies good things happening to field mice, and the woman's shoe falling on the floor suggests good things happening to the guy in the picture. The Teddy Bear signifies Margaret Thatcher, alone and shunned in the corner without even a single diesel submarine to play with. The open, flowing curtains symbolize the voyeuristic world peering in, and possibly invoking a lawsuit. I won't even mention where the boy seems to be staring. Notice the predominance of wood furnishings, which suggests something to do with witches - wood burns, witches burn, wood floats, witches float, you can do your homework on wood, witches - why not? It's irrefutable. The fact that neither of them are studying implicates the world is without wisdom, but full of knowledge. Or maybe it's just a commentary on modern university students (Hi, Kathi. Dale says I'm not allowed to talk to Susan anymore). Finally, notice the soft mood music emanating from the candle. It reminds me of Dali's famous work "Two Students Avoiding Work on a Bed with the Pope in a stereogram Tutu resplendant".

Or, then again, maybe not.

Dale Wick  
Joeb Hewitt

## Free Refreshments!

*CIBC VP to Speak at Waterloo*

Robert L. Fletcher, Vice-President, Architecture and Consulting Services, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, will be in Waterloo on Tuesday, October 26, 1993 at 3:30pm in the Davis Centre, Room 1302. He is taking part in the Computer Science Department's CP Seminar Series, speaking on CIBC's Architected Approach to Systems and Information Technology. Mr. Fletcher will be discussing re-engineering, object orientation, and strategic investment in new technology.

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

**Undergraduate students are particularly encouraged to attend!**

## Free Showing of Akira

On Monday, October 25th, there will be a free showing of Akira at 280 Phillip St., building A4, in the 1st-floor common room. Akira is a psychic holocaust Japanese animation, dubbed in English. It's also the most widely seen anime in North America. Everyone is invited to this free showing (especially family 8 frosh...hint hint). The tape rolls at 8pm. This is my own personal showing, I am not affiliated with Ctrl-A.

Chris "Strunoph" Norman  
Ahmoras the Dragon  
Weirdo who likes Japanese Cartoons

## ultraCLASSIFIEDS

Currently seeking anyone with more Steve Purcell stories who'd be willing to let me read them. I read "Sam & Max: Freelance Police" a few weeks ago and only now have begun to talk in complete sentences again. Please phone or mail.

The ex-Guelph Erronious,  
airing out my pseudonym  
so it won't go mildewy

Pudge, You're a lovesick sap.

Sumguy

I scalded my finger with boiling soup on Thanksgiving, the blister was removed by a nurse and it's healing fine with no pain or scars. I repeat: I'm in no pain. Now stop asking me if it hurts.

Moses

Hmm, some R or R would be nice.

Dazed

Thor gets the women, eh? :)

The guardian

Shanty, stop kicking your butt. That really makes me shit!

C

## Apologetica

We would like to take this time to apologize to Math Society President Elaine Ooi and Faculty Advisor Shirley Thompson for the flak they have received regarding "The Editorial Scandal". Elaine and Shirley have no previous knowledge of what goes into any one mathNEWS at all, and in particular, had no knowledge of what was being put into our editorials this term. We are *not* apologizing for the content of the editorials, but neither do we like to see innocent by-standers caught in the cross-fire of controversy that should have been directed to us in the first place. We apologize.

Also, deepest and sincerest apologies to Marion, who after 20 years of impeccable service, we didn't even bother to give a chance. We're sorry. (Insert Pouty-Face here)

(Insert Angry-Fuzzy-Face here) Alright, this is about enough. If anyone, and I mean ANYONE wishes to comment or complain about mathNEWS, don't go to Elaine or Shirley or Jack or James or Kim! or anyone like that, because they have nothing to do with us, don't want to, and have plenty of other things to keep them busy.

On a less-peeved note, you may notice several political analysis articles (hidden amongst the silly ones) by yours Fuzzy. These are not by any means non-partisan, but while I am against some (okay, most) of the parties, I am not especially in favour of any of the ones represented in this riding. (I support the National Party and they're not running here, sob sob.) So learn a bit more about your favorite party, but please don't consider mathNEWS to be the be-all and end-all of political commentary (as if you would).

Da Editors



## The Topolist Party



this election day, I hope you will think of us- The Canadian Topolist Party.

(Fade to black with patriotic Canadian music playing in the background)

(cut)

Joeb Beret Hewitt  
TOdd Beanie Reid

## Vote for Prostitution

Yes, seven out of eight local candidates in our little election here are political prostitutes. What do I mean, you might well ask? Well, the assumption in a republic, like Canada (which is *not* a democracy) is that none of the decisions about government are made by the actual people being governed. Rather, once in a while we get to choose some local Joe (or Jill) to go off the glorious capital and bring our concerns directly to the government, and (in theory) actually form our government. So this means that if a hypothetical bill were to come up which went against the interests of our region (Waterloo), this representative of ours would speak out against and vote against this piece of legislation. But does this happen? No. Why? Because every party is composed of three kinds of members: the leader, the cabinet, and the peons – oops – backbenchers. The leader and some select members of her cabinet decide what the party stand is on any legislation, and all other members of that party are essentially forced to vote that way. If they don't, a big, nasty looking person known as the Party Whip (I'm not making this up) has to come down on them real hard until they mend their ways. Penalties can include loss of campaign funds, lack of support in patronage positions, or even expulsion from the party. So you can see that it is against Canadian political tradition for the person you elect to represent you to actually perform this function.

You might ask why, then, do our candidates submit to such a complete loss of freedom? One answer. Money. The Federal parties all have large funds which they receive from ongoing donations (including government grants) which they will use to support candidates who join them. This money buys signs, mailouts, advertising spots, etc. for the specific candidate, as well as general advertising for the whole party which benefits all of their candidates. Countless studies have shown that this sort of visibility, which can only be bought, is a major determination of how people vote, and politicians know this. The best, most rational, honest, and able of candidates will almost always be ignored by the majority if they do not represent one of the federal parties you hear about on the news. On the other hand, many totally incompetent MPs and other officials have been elected only because of the party to which they have sold their vote.

So the only kind of candidate who can truly fulfill the function of a Member of Parliament, ie. represent you, is one who is independent. The degree of selling-out is less when dealing with smaller parties, and some may say that certain parties (eg. Reform), by their policies (more free votes) will negate this effect. But don't be fooled. If Mike Connolly (Reform) were elected, and then proceeded to vote against every Reform party bill in the better interest of his riding, do you really think that he would be allowed to represent Reform again in the next election? Would Presto! really turn a blind eye to such behaviour, in support of his freer vote policy? Of course. And later this issue, monkeys will fly out of my butt.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

(pulls up a rather large soapbox and stands up on it)

Announcing the intent to run for office of Todd Andrew Beanie Reid for the position in this the year of 1993 (A.D., I may well add) of the Prime Minister of Canada! And lemme tell you, if you thought that the grammer of my previous sentence was bad, you ain't seen nothing yet!

(sits down and starts to look more comfortable)

Our campaign slogan this year is "Vote Reid- If you don't, who else will?". Hey! He's just not that bad! Todd will be running for office from the riding of Humber West (It's in Newfoundland; don't worry about it). Our other candidates are Jeff Fedorah Payne (Humber East), Corey T.L.A. Tomsons (Avalon North; Has not yet been informed that he is running), Martin Fonemason Leuschen (San Angelo, Texas; Has not yet been informed that he is running; Has not yet been informed of his Canadian citizenship), and finally Joeb Beret Hewitt who's running in whatever this district is called.

If you find that there isn't a member of the topolist party in your area, simply vote for Chris Sheppard. He/She/It will know who He/She/It is.

We promise sweeping reforms... We promise interprovincial unity... We promise naked mud wrestling with the Christian Heritage party... But now, to tell you more, I give you the next Prime Minister of Canada- Todd Beanie Reid.

(hands the microphone over to his colleague)

Thank you, Joeb. Now, then, why am I running for Prime Minister? Well I got forced into it by my brothers of the hats. Granted I could have denied any and all knowledge of said brotherhood and Joeb, but I have decided to run with it. Hell, I need the job, and you all know that.

That then is my platform, not very big, but I'm the only one standing on it. I would like to leave you with this quote, jahem;

If I get in, my faith in the gullibility of Canadian people will be renewed a fresh.

(enter the host of a popular nature show and a lawyer)

By the way, If I get arrested because of all of this, I'm blaming the bagel hogging, duck hugging, Trek hating ;cut for legal reasons;! (and the CSU!)

(the candidate for public office is shot with a dart gun)

(paramedics carry him off. Enter Joeb)

There you have it. So when you copy your ballots at Topley's



## Immigrants are Criminals!

At least, according to Kim Campbell they are. She has recently created a combined ministry of Public Security which combines federal police, prisons, border control, and *immigrant processing*, because "you have a right to feel safe in your community." (quote from John Reimer, PC-MP in Kitchener). This move has already caused international criticism at the United Nations from the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. A spokesperson said that "the fact that refugee protection is housed with prisons and police is a particular type of political message attempting to cater . . . to the right-wing agenda". We are also criticized because, although we officially agreed to allow 13,000 refugees per year, we have consistently fallen far short of that goal. For example, this year only a total of 4,000 refugees are likely to be admitted.

How do some of the other parties compare? The Liberals wish to keep immigration roughly where it is. The Reform party wishes to cut it by half, and abolish the Department of Multiculturalism. Christian Heritage wishes to ensure that immigration does not "alter our Christian Heritage." Do you think that immigrants are criminals? If you do, vote to maintain our PC gov-

ernment, or put in an even more right-wing bigoted Reform or Christian Heritage one. If, on the other hand, you support strong immigration and a humanistic refugee policy, support someone else.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

## mastHEAD

*Banging my head against the wall. It's 3am. I want to go home.*

It's too bloody late. I'm tired. I'm cranky. I need sleep. I'm done here (or soon will be, praise be). Here's everyone who showed up tonight, along with their answer to the following fill-in-the-blank, "I would do anything for love, but I won't...": Mala Krishnan (listen to Fuzzy (just kidding)), Brian Spencer (come off a virgin...), Mike Hammond (come up with something original for the mastHEAD?), Joeb Hewitt (get to see Gogh Van Go at the bomber because I'm trapped in a stupid fascist province and life sucks but I'm feeling much better now really.), Kivi Shapiro (for I can't—and O! If only I could.), Michael Melvin (say no. Ever.), Debra Richardson and a friend (stop saying "Flying Dead Fish!"), Peter Milley (ski through revolving doors, except for lots of money.), Dale Wick (understand why Gnu is now Unix.), Nabil Rehman (use Pascal to write a real program.), Adam Benjamin (do your Stats homework!), Moses Moore (withstand another Ursei Yatsura sing-a-long), and Ian Goldberg (use the zenos).

*(Productionists' Note: Gee, it's been a while since there's been a Productionists' note! Well, the computers went down again, just when we thought they were behaving nicely. Someone really needs to replace NFS (Not a File System) with something better, say, a CS 354 assignment. Oh, well. — The pLATAmN Guy)*

Erich Jacoby (print the words "fuck fuck fuck fuck (goose)")  
Curtis Desjardins (won't vote CHP)

## The Politicly Correct Stages of University Student Life

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year: Orientationally Challenged
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Academically Challenged
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year: Motivationally Challenged
- 4<sup>th</sup> Year: Financially Challenged
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year: Occupationally Challenged

Adam "The Bitsnatcher" Benjamin

Wilfrid Laurier University

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Where: MC 5158

OR

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 1993

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Where: EL 110

or contact the MBA Office at 884-1970, Ext. 2117



## Math, the Universe, and Everything

*Vote for me and beer will be tax-free*

Another federal election is upon us and once again there is no one for whom to vote. It's almost as bad as a Federation of Students election. Every candidate says the same thing, and we all know that none of them mean it. The two big differences between the President of the Federation of Students and the Prime Minister of Canada is that Kim Campbell gets paid less, and actually does something for her money. Something other than telling us how we can and can't spell womyn, that is. Uh-Oh, I spelt it wrong! Somebody call the Federation of Student's Thought Police! Sheesh.

*And now that the raving is over...*

Seriously, who can you vote for? The Tories are busy trying to pretend that the last eight years didn't happen, and Kim Campbell seems obsessed by her own butt. The Liberals plan on spending their way out of the recession, and we've all seen how well that worked in Ontario. The NDP? Get real—you might as well vote for Doug Henning and the Natural Law party. A vote for Preston Manning is a vote for a strong Canada, an English Canada, a white Canada. No thank you, David Duke. That leaves the Bloc Quebecois, and nobody outside of Quebec is going to go that route. Since I'm in Toronto this term, I'm unsure of any fringe candidates in Waterloo right now, but I figure there has to be at least one "vote-for-me-or-God's-gonna-getcha" candidate, as well as the militant anti-choice candidate. Shyeah, right.

*But there's another possibility...*

Why not vote for me? I'll probably be in school for at least the next four years, and that means I'll have plenty of spare time to run the country. I could use the money, and have plenty of great ideas.

I've really got a lot of experience in national politics too. Remember how my "My Canada Includes 24-Hour Beer Stores" proposal took the country by storm? I can make fun of the NDP just as well as anybody else, and fitting into Kim Campbell's skirts probably won't be a problem.

Don't forget my contributions to the University of Waterloo. Dean Kalbfleisch has asked me for advice ("Give me three good reasons I shouldn't kick you out of school right now.") and the co-op education department has always been very responsive to my suggestions ("Listen Shaw, if you don't stop making fun of us every week, we're going to make sure that you're at Canadian Tire for the rest of your life."). I've always admired James Downey's work as Scotty in the first Star Trek series, and plan on making him my *Minister of All Things Scottish, Especially Scotch*.

And it's not like I'm an independant candidate, either. I'm a member of the Keg Party (tell me you didn't see *that* one coming), and we're running a candidate in every riding. Of course, I'm the candidate that's running in every riding, but that just means that in-party fighting will be kept to a minimum.

*The policies of the Keg Party*

As some of you have noticed, we're in the middle of a recession that started back in the late 80's. Statistics also tell us that beer consumption has been dropping steadily in this country since about 1987. Coincidence? I think not! Beer is the lifeblood of

the Canadian economy, and it's up to all of us to keep it flowing. So in pursuit of that end, I would drop all beer taxes and provide large subsidies to all the beer companies, provided they promise to stop marketing all ice, genuine ice, extra ice, and ice-ice-baby beers. Ice beers are simply a Progressive Conservative plot to rob beer of all its flavour and individuality, much like the PCs themselves.

The next step on the path of Canada's economic recovery will be to start shipping full-strength beer down to the States. The Americans will be so impressed with the low prices of Dave Nicholl's PC Strong that they'll drink two bottles of it apiece, causing most of the northern States to pass into an alcohol-induced coma. While they're asleep, we'll move the 49th parallel south, claim half the United States as ours, and then sell it all to the Japanese. The revenue from the sale will then be used to pay the national debt, with enough left over for the mother of all keg parties.

To make sure that Canada will never again fall prey to such a huge deficit, the Keg Party plans to introduce a new Gros Stupidity Tax (GST). The GST will be levied against anyone doing something especially stupid. For example, the tax will be levied for the following transgressions:

- going to Fed Hall and enjoying yourself
- working for the government
- believing whatever Co-op Education tells you
- voting NDP
- drinking American beer
- being a Rec student
- getting all excited because a couple of drunks threw together a sexist, homophobic and funny spoof of *mathNEWS*
- not buying me beer

The revenue from this last offence alone would be enough to cover all government expenditures.

The last plank of my party's platform is my job creation program. Well-travelled students know that no bar in the country measures up to the Bombshelter. So, to create jobs, a Bombshelter will be opened up in every village, town, and city in the entire country! (Except for Quebec, where they'd be called "La Shelter De Bombs"). In addition, all parliamentary meetings will be held in the real Bombshelter on campus so I won't have to miss any of my drinking time while running the country.

*But seriously folks...*

Hey, get out and vote. The turnout of U(W) students to elections is simply pathetic. Don't like the candidates? Spoil your ballot, write in "none of the above", whatever. Get informed on the issues, make a decision, cast a ballot next week, then go have a couple of beers for democracy.

*[If you are going to spoil your ballot, you might as well do it by voting for Flipper - EdiFuzz.]*

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

**Yes, the MathSoc photocopiers take Loonies!**



## profQUOTES

"The basic instinctive drives can be summed up as the four F's. They are 1) Feed 2) Flee 3) Fight 4) Fsex"

Fong, PSYCH 101

"Perhaps we should make a Cobol-specific virus."

Becker

"There are those who think of a null graph as a pointless concept."

Younger, C&O 342

"One other thing you can buy for the course is a baseball bat."

Bartels, CS 488

[Informing us of the TA's identity] "This is her name, and she's on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor somewhere."

Younger, C&O 342

"With enough equals-signs (and a long blackboard) you can accomplish a great deal."

Bennett, PMATH 336

"Let's do a fairly horrible example."

Bennett, PMATH 336

[talking about star baseball players] "They get paid \$6 million a year for playing a *game*?!? They don't even play in the snow! They should retract the Dome and let them freeze for their money!"

Lefcourt, PSYCH 355

"If there is one thing you are going to learn in this course, it's about LSD."

Young, ST 430

"We're so close that, engineeringwise, we're too accurate."

Barby, E&CE 241

"I'm a lot better with a straight line than a French curve."

Barby, E&CE 241

"If you had digested AM 251... Don't laugh. I'll tell Frank Goodman."

Tenti, AM 261

"What you do is shoot the computer and use your head."

Tenti, AM 261

"You learn more if you bang your head against the problem."

Tenti, AM 261

"I'll wake you up before you do that in class."

Struthers, STAT 231

"...and then I'd go back into the house and do the woman stuff...cook and sew..."

Struthers, STAT 231

"The higher-up you screw... Let me rephrase that."

Pidduck, CS 430

"The big but here is... [Barb Torner giggles] ...never-mind."

Pidduck, CS 430

"Yes, there is a boner in here!"

Kerr-Lawson, MATH 135

"Amazing what these drugs can do to the mind... Antihistamines, of course."

Martin, MUS 100

"Remember, only Physicists do this cancellation. Mathies have a *more* complicated way of doing it and getting to the same answer."

Woolner, PHYS 121

"Please don't be late - it ruffles my feathers."

Wainwright, MATH 237

"The function which I'm trying to indicate, by running around like a complete idiot..."

Hoffman, MATH 247

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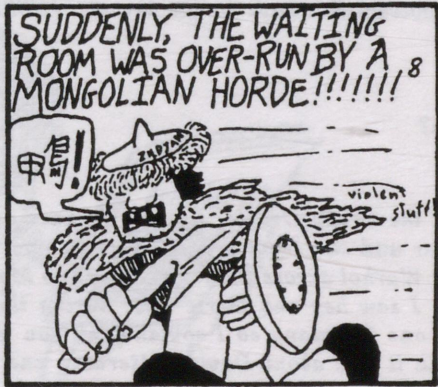
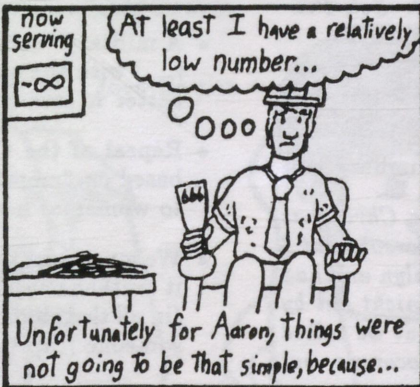
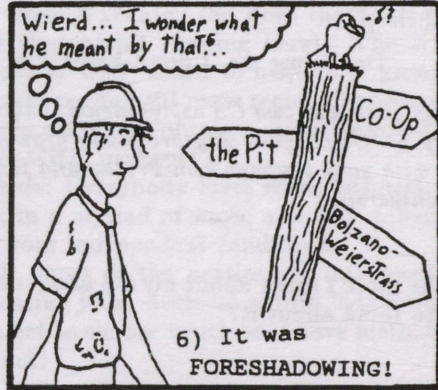
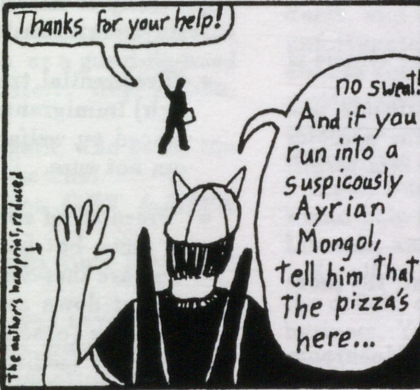
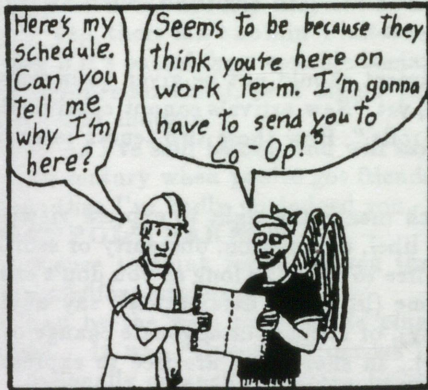
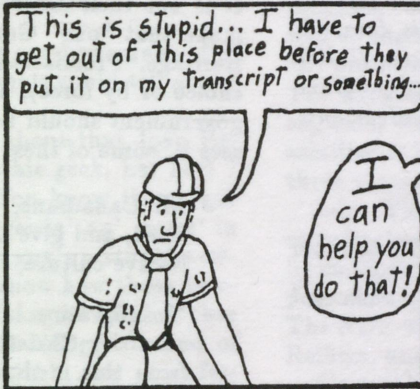
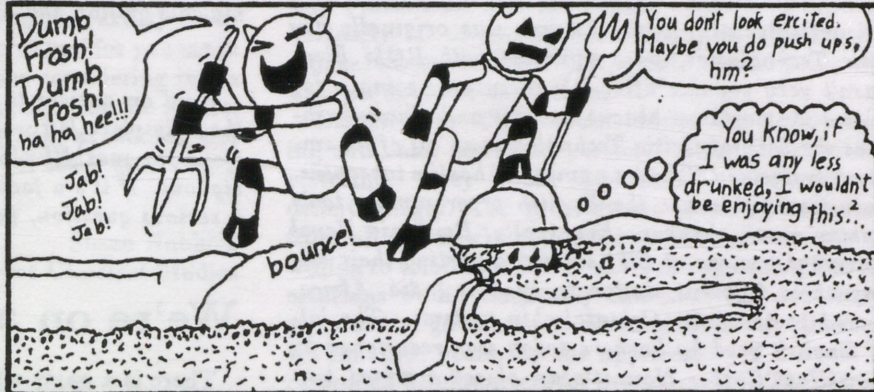


# AARON SILVER → GONE

Aaron Silver is

1) by Joeb Hewitt.  
w. thankyouze 2 Andreb.  
3) There is absolutely nothing wrong with this. I regularly take 4-5 a term.

Last time we met, our hero (Aaron Silver) filled out his change of address card and bought a frosh kit. Since then, he's been participating in the afterlife froshing events, which consist of all those frosh week traditions which have died out here on earth. We now join the festivities, in progress...



4) All characters in this series are entirely fictitious. Any similarity to honorary lifetime members of MathSoc is completely imaginary. So there. Besides, it was Karl's fault.

5) You just gotta love the subtle irony of this, folks...

7) Sorry, co-op. That last one was a bit excessive.

8) To Be Continued... Neat cliffhanger, eh?

2) The author of this cartoon wishes to apologize for the alcoholic nature of these last two strips. Therefore, from panel three onward, Aaron will be perfectly sober. Really.



## The Oracle's Advice column

*A franchise of Lucy VanPelt, Inc.*

Why is Japanese so easy & English so hard?

Lum Fan Club

*Not satisfied with Pascal? (sigh) English was originally designed by Celtic Technologies, once affiliated with ROM Electronics. It wasn't very popular after it's inception, being a favorite only among the northern abacus hackers and silicon bashers. Still, it was the baby of Celtic Technologies so all of its employees used it exclusively. CT had a number of hostile takeovers, each new owner wanting to use the English programming tools but always making small changes. Eventually, Britannia Naval Systems (the current owners of CT) started exporting their latest hack of English to different platforms, such as India, Africa, the Americas and some of the Oriental-chip systems. The latest version of English used by hackers today was redesigned by American-Know-How Corp. Now it's an object oriented language, where the meaning of each word is stored privately, and not every phrase has the proper method to extract this data. Japanese, however, has only had one owner (MegaJapan Unlimited). Originally a clone language, it has become a real programming language unto its own, going through many improvements.*

Where the hell is that blonde guy?

CSC member

*Have you looked behind the couch? If he's not there then look under the Snoopy blanket in the Comfy lounge.*

When can I sleep?

Don't bug me, I don't know who the Oracle is

*Not yet. You still have two CS assignments, one Calculus, one C&O, catchup on C&O, your Algebra study group, the aerobics class, dinner with your boyfriend on Friday and four mid-terms. Welcome to university.*

Why is it the more I think about my CS assignment, the more I'm told not to think about it?

Mushroom

*The well-rooted tree sways in the breeze. (CS233: Zen Processing)*

How's Lisa?

mail cs.indiana.edu

*You've got the wrong Oracle. I met Lisa once at a Christmas party last year and she seemed like a nice enough person, but I spotted Andy Warhol across the room talking to Marilyn and had to say hello. I saw her and Orrie later during the night but by then I'd had one too many so I couldn't tell you what we talked about. I think it was about David Letterman and coconuts, but I'm not sure.*

If you're so smart, why aren't you rich?

Rhetoric Bob

*Because I'm getting my degree at Waterloo, and I have to save for the tuition hikes. Being nigh-omniscient, I know how much tuition is gonna get boosted in the next four years, so I'm getting my gold bullion and Elvis paraphenelia collections appraised now.*

*Need an answer to a "burning question"? The BLACK BOX is the only place left where you can make true anonymous submissions for mathNEWS. If it's a personal question, make it ambiguous. If it's a facious question I'll answer it anyways. If it's a serious question, you will get a serious answer. Try me.*

The mathNEWS Oracle

## We're on a Mission from GOD!

There is a party which has the answer to all of our problems. It is not their answer, it is God's answer. Their God. Sorry, make that "our" God. Because Canada is based on Christian Heritage. Premise: lots of folks in our past were Christian (by choice or by force), and lots of folks are Christian now. So our government should be run by Christian principles. As the CHP sees it, some of these principles dictate that:

- All Canadians, including Native Peoples, should act the same, and give up any sort of "non-Canadian" culture (eg. Native culture, foreign or "ethnic" culture, etc.).
- "Immigration laws must not be [...] used to permanently alter our Christian Heritage." The only meaning I can get from this is that immigrants should either be christian or willing to make their children christian, so that Canada stays christian forever.
- "Preferential treatment should not be given to investor (ie rich) immigrants", yet "New arrivals cannot continue to be placed on welfare rolls." How these two tenets reconcile, I am not sure.
- "Freedom of speech means the right to express viewpoints or facts, but [not] libel, defamation, obscenity or sedition." You are therefore free to speak as long as you don't criticise or put-down anyone (libel and defamation), say anything offensive (obscenity), or criticise or advocate change of government (sedition). In short, you are free to express any viewpoint that CHP agrees with.
- A military "equipped with the best [...] resources available [...] with the capacity for control and interception" All the better to love our enemies with.
- Repeal of the Charter of Rights, which is apparently not based on "moral values". I suppose it gives too many rights to women or homosexuals or something like that.
- We must deny death to those who, in their suffering, request it (euthanasia), and serve it to those whom a judge and jury (in all their human fallibility) have been convinced has killed someone (capital punishment).

So in this election, you can vote for God — a very special God who is male, white, speaks english, and loves Canada.

Of course, I have better places to park my vote.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby



## FeedBack

*Joeb gets Flamed!*

As is typical with math geeks in general, Joeb Hewitt has no clue when it comes to anything out of his tiny world (or for that matter, anything that requires reading and writing skills). I understand his nom de plume (that means 'pen name' for you math heathens) is 'Guelph Erronius'. How apropos considering in his quiz article he spelled AristophAnes erroneously. For the future, if you're going to have a low-brow barbarian play at reading and writing in an area he has no business in, at least give him a dictionary.

Susan Nabholz  
3rd year Classical Studies

## My Bitter Response

Wow. Classical studies must be a really good program. I'm absolutely amazed at how much Susan Nabholz could tell about me just from one misspelled word.

Hey Bubba, hand me that stucco. Here about that Joeb Hewitt mathie geek? Guess what! He's a mathie geek, har har! I heard 'ee's also from New-Fund-Lund. You know them thar New-Fund-Lunders, always drinkin' an' screwin' an' rowin' in dories and stuff. Guess what? That Hewitt guy's a stupid newfie baywhop too! Pr'ally half injun... you know how those newfies is. Heard he's got a plastic dinousaur hangin' off that thar denim jacket. Pr'ally some kind of phallic thing, 'shamed of his that thar teeny manhood. Yep, that's Joeb... a good-fer-nuthin' boozin' for-nee-kay-ting newfie halfbreed with a stupid haircut. Yep, there ain't nothin' I hates worse than that... 'cept of course if it's one of them commie bastards, or a gawd-damned atheist ho-mer-sex-shual, or a higher primate... Hey, Bubba-hand me that shotgun...

(sigh). As I've said before, and will say again, who needs the twentieth century when you've got friends like this?

I hope that I've badly misjudged you. If not, **GET A LIFE FOR TOPOL'S SAKES!!!**

I'll be sure to think fondly of you the next time I misspell Aristophofefifoapodapopalous.

Oh, and by the way- my nom de plume was never "Guelph Erronius". It was "Guelph Erroneous", the second word being intentionally misspelled. Moral- before you attack someone, make sure you know who you're attacking. Learning how to relax wouldn't hurt, either.

Joeb Hewitt



GORDON HO

## Can you tell the difference?

Many people support the Progressive Conservatives because they will reduce the deficit. Others support the Liberals for job creation. Still others support Reform for changes to the way Parliament and the Senate operate. I have news for you. Virtually all of the parties running in this election intend to reduce/eliminate the deficit, create mucho jobs, and change the way we would re-elect them.

**Deficit:** The CHP would reduce the deficit through spending cuts, and increased personal moral responsibility and fiscal restraint. They would also amend the Constitution to make deficits illegal. The Liberals are counting on increased revenue from all the newly employed to increase the tax base, but are willing to tolerate a deficit of 3% or something like that. The Libertarians would essentially eliminate the deficit by eliminating most of the government. Natural Law will eliminate the deficit within three years, by the application of Natural Law (contact campaign headquarters for more details). The NDP will, like the Liberals, count on increased revenue from the newly employed, as well as higher corporate and wealth taxes. They have, however, not promised elimination of the deficit on any kind of schedule. The Progressive Conservatives will do it purely through spending cuts, with (read my lips) no new taxes and no increases in existing taxes. The Reform party will eliminate the deficit in three years with spending cuts and increased efficiency.

**Jobs:** The Liberals will create jobs through massive spending on infrastructure. The Libertarians will make job creation easier by ending government interference. Natural Law will have 10,000 yogic flyers, and hire folks to reconstruct and beautify the nation. The NDP will create 500,000 jobs with their Job Plan. The PCs, Reform, and CHP seem to have no real job creation plans.

**Electoral Reform:** Reform wants freer votes, binding referendums, and a triple-E senate. (So does the National Party, but unfortunately they aren't running here). The NDP wants to abolish the Senate. CHP wants to help voter groups and minor parties, and make parliament more regionally proportionate, and represent people who don't obtain a majority vote in any specific riding (like the CHP, perhaps?).

**Small Business:** Everybody loves small business. Parties that would help it, in a myriad of ways, are: PC, Libertarian, NDP, Liberals, and your independent candidate.

So all in all, most of the parties are interested in reducing the deficit, creating jobs, electoral reform, and supporting small business. You get to choose which ones have methods that might work. Good luck!

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

WHO SAYS THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IN CLASS?



I am the Watcher (tm). I am from an ancient race which is blessed, or cursed, with the ability to see what might have been. I live on the Moon. Normally I observe comic book characters (you understand how living on the Moon can leave one with a limited social life), but sometimes I look the wrong way and see your universe. Recently, I saw something you might be interested in. I call it:

## What if... Math Departments Established Their Own Political Parties?

*And Why Not?*

*Computer Science*

This is the obvious first break. The Computer Science department will finally decide they want not only out of the Math faculty, since they couldn't have distinct status, but out of the entire country Canada. They will obviously be a secessionist party, and their sole campaign promise will be to establish an independent country just outside Seattle and leave everyone else alone. I have also seen what will happen if they win: first, a huge amount of study space will appear in the Math building (including the Red Room, which the Computer Science Club takes over and declares yet another sovereign nation. It doesn't last long, as everyone graduates and moves away). Eventually, as Canada loses all its computer scientists to the newly proclaimed country, it is left a land of COBOL programmers and lumberjacks. Everyone is happy, but within fifteen years the economy is completely destroyed and Bill Gates buys British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta, leaving the rest to the Mexicans.

*Applied Math*

This party will feel that if only a delicate enough model can be devised, they will have solved the system of partial differential equations that everyone else calls Canada. If they win, they will discover that the solutions are purely imaginary, and will immediately establish a committee of 6,000 mathematicians to determine how to rotate reality by ninety degrees.

*Statistics*

In an obvious counter to the deterministic AM view, the Statistics party will claim that social trends can be predicted with good, but not perfect, accuracy. They will feel that by extrapolating current trends, it is possible to determine the future. What they won't tell the public is that they predict a 97% chance, nineteen times out of twenty, that Canada itself will not last the year. If they win, they will party day and night, singing Auld Lang Syne and waiting for the end. Their term of office will expire, and to their surprise, the stats will not have changed, but Canada will still be there. Another term will go by in a similar fashion. And another. And another. Eminent statisticians will examine the numbers, and confirm them over and over. The party will continue to party, the country will somehow continue, and to everyone's surprise, everything will turn out quite nicely.

*C&O*

Fourth among the five departments to choose the political route, Combinatorics and Optimization will easily choose a platform, but have a great deal of trouble communicating what exactly that platform is. All anyone will be able to make out of it is that it is generally optimistic and combinatorial, but that will be enough to bring them a landslide victory in several of

the alternate universes I have looked into. The government will spend the next four years in an ivory tower, trying very valiently to solve linear programs, determine objective functions, and find shortest paths between Montreal and Ottawa. They won't succeed, of course, but the populace will see how optimistic they all are, and vote them in again and again until finally the jilted Statistics party invades and brings the ivory tower down, bringing a new age of parties for all.

*Pure Math*

Well into the campaign, this department will realise that they are the only apolitical department left in math, and that this may impact negatively on their federal funding. In several desparate department meetings, they will determine whether or not to join the race at all, or whether it would serve them better not to, in case a fringe party like the Conservatives or Liberals managed to win a plurality. Finally, after some divisive debate, they will take a 7-6 vote against joining the race. In at least one of the realities I looked at, they win a majority anyway as write-ins. In that reality, people find that their new government is incorruptible and only holds to the highest standards of morality. As a result, several multinationals will form a consortium, arm St. Pierre and Miquelon, and take over by force. This is the bleakest of the realities I saw. In the others, the department remains out of the race and is rewarded by the winning party with a sleek new ivory tower (twice as high as the C&O department's), where they live happily ever after.

Of course, there may be things humans were never meant to know.

The Watcher, as transcribed by Kivi Shapiro

## Helpful Hints for First Year Students

*Number 68*

It often seems that, when working in the Mac Lab (after braving the long lineups), things seem to go wrong precisely when there is no tutor anywhere to be found. Little things like those "bomb" icons, dysfunctional mice, or a lack of paper in the printer really hold up the processes, efficient that it is, of getting your assignment finished.

You have two options. The first, and most often tried, example, is to run across the hall to the CSC, and cry for help. Unfortunately, most of the members there dislike Macs with a passion, and don't store extra printer paper, anyway. We at *mathNEWS* present for you Helpful Hint #68: what to do if you need help in the Mac Lab.

It's really very simple. If you look closely at your Mac, you'll see that there is a thin black cord running near it somewhere. If you pull hard on this cord, we guarantee that there will be someone running to help you within a minute or two. It's just like that cord on the bus, and those "Ring for Service" bells (though this works better).

Stay tuned for next issue's Helpful Hint for First Year Students: How to get let in on the Co-op conspiracy.

The Friendly people at *mathNEWS*



## Poetry

*Or is it?*

Some call it Broken Caps-lock Poetry, named for the fact that it is supposed to be entirely written with SHIFTed keyboard characters. This particular one kinda breaks with that convention quite a bit, so you might call this ASCII Poetry instead.

```

^ ^ :) \ 4
%! * [ -
/ $ _ = 10
| * < # )
! < > ! < * #
& | ' ~ . PANIC REBOOT

```

So, you're asking yourself, "OK, but what does it mean?" Well, poetry can mean anything you damn well please (or so said my English prof), but each character has a (nick)name associated with it, so it is possible to translate the above jumble of stuff into the following (make what you want of it):

```

carat carat smiley-face backslash four
percent bang splat open-bracket underscore
slash dollar underscore equals ten
pipe splat wocka hash close-paren
bang wocka wocka bang wocka splat hash
ampersand pipe tick tilde dot crash

```

OK, OK, so it's not the Answer to Math~H~H~H~HLife, the Universe, and Everything, but as Procratination Technique # 314, it's not bad. Although, I would have to say that whoever invented this 'art form' seriously needs to get a life. Seriously.

The Wookie Editor

## Who Woulda Thunk?

*Reasons to vote for parties that you otherwise might never consider*

The Reform Party - would be willing to save money by eliminating the Department of Indian Affairs and just giving the money straight to our Native Peoples, thus saving big bucks on administration. It's about time.

The Libertarian Party - would legalize and tax drugs, saving big bucks and lots of unnecessary criminal proceedings. Yes, yes, yes.

The Natural Law Party - would reduce the length of the work week - which is actually *the* best way to reduce unemployment.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

## Mathies Against Silly Puns

Math and alcohol don't mix. Please don't drink and derive. This message brought to you by mathematicians against drunk deriving.

Nabil Rehman

## mathNEWSquiz

Greetings from a thoroughly stoned (prescription medication) and mildly cantankerous squizguelph. On account of the fact that the longest logical unit I can currently deal with is a phoneme (hi, Susan!), I will get on with answering this week's questions and then hand you directly over to Mike Hammond. . .

There were two entries for the squiz this week—Paul, Dan & Alex with 3 correct answers, and Phage'n'2 with 5 correct answers. You can pick up your prize at the usual place.

The answers were as follows: Who's the Greek?: 1) Nick Adonidas (hi, Susan!) 2) Cleon (hi, Susan!); Bad Japanese Cinema: 1) Gamera vs Gaos, 2) Ken, 3) Because she was a cyborg; Name the Professors: 1) K. Davidson, 2) L. L. Neuru (hi, Susan!); Playing Doctor: 1) Narcolepsy, 2) Angina, 3) Shingles, 4) Depression ("Depression is even more common than urinary tract infections" was the first line in a magazine article I read once. And just think, Susan thought mathies were illiterate. . .).

### *Campus Sculpture*

*Name the Statue (or whatever)*

1. The orange, red, and yellow metal sculptures directly outside Hagey Hall.
2. The hanging mobile in the stairwell of Needles Hall.
3. The egg-shaped thing between MC and the Chem building.
4. The four suspended fiberglass figures inside the Optometry building clinic lounge.
5. The hanging sculpture in the PAS building.

### *Name the Products*

*Based on an Abbreviated List of Their Ingredients*

1. Flour, chocolate chips, margarine, brown sugar, baking soda. (Bonus for brand!)
2. Carbonated water, sugar, caramel, phosphoric acid, caffeine 160 P.P.M. (By brand.)
3. 30 mg pseudophedrine hydrochloride, 15 mg dextromethorphan hydrobromide, 500mg acetaminophen. (By brand.)
4. Water, fruit juices from concentrates (orange, cranberry). (By brand.)
5. 18offensive work, 12.5

### *British Columbia*

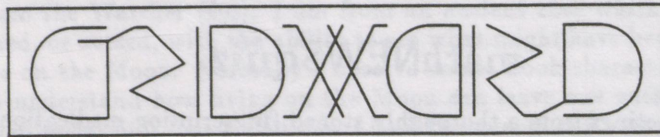
*Super, Natural B.C., brought to you by the Travel InfoCentre Network. Plug!*

1. Name the largest provincial park on Vancouver Island.
2. What are the two main islands in the Queen Charlotte Islands?
3. You all know where Clayoquot Sound is. But does anyone remember where the Carmanah Valley is? And what famous hiking trail goes by there?
4. Which of these are real towns in B.C.: Clo-ose, Saanich, Pysht, Spuzzum, Osoyoos, Fort Saskatchewan, Tsawassen?
5. Which mathNEWSwriter hails from Vancouver Island? Bonus points if you can name which town.

Joeb Hewitt

Mike "Some Hammer but I'm too sedated to track him down"  
Hammond





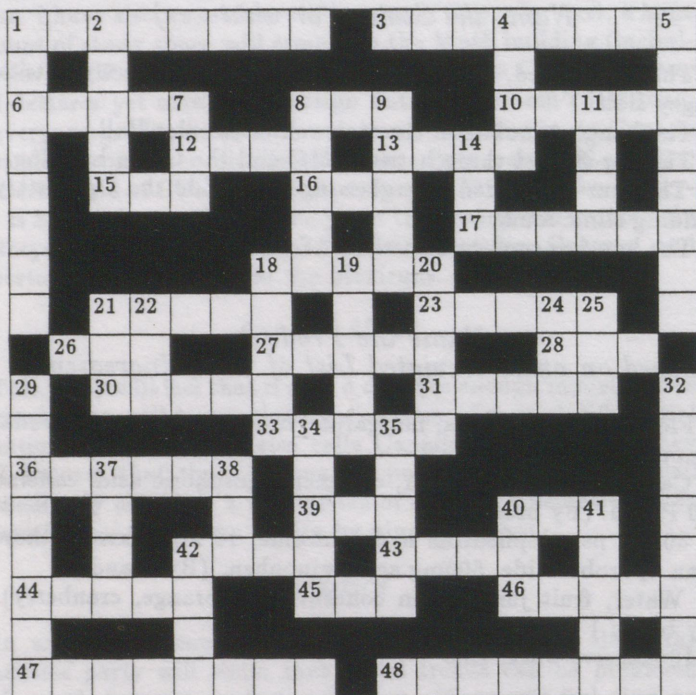
## Grid Comments

Hello all you gridlings. It's another issue of *mathNEWS*, and ergo, another Gridword. First of all, congratulations to all of last week's winners who were Paul, Dan, and Alex.

This issue's grid should be a tad more challenging than the last (after all, it's much larger). It is cryptic only again (sorry). For the next grid, I'll attempt both cryptic and conventional clues, but no promises (so many midterms, so little time).

Have fun with this fortnight's grid, and submit your solutions right into that BLACK BOX across from the comfy lounge (don't forget to include a comment and your favourite obituary headline).

Grid Alex



## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Tossed out, in the toilet (8)
3. An explosive last bing (8)
6. Just a gale of seaweed (5)
8. The tassle half cleans the floor (3)
10. Dancing friend is okay (5)
12. Die, but wait for a while first (4)
13. March in sides, just beware (4)
15. A tiny touch of evil (3)
16. Genes and chromosomes (3)
17. Gee, those brought to anger may have ran (6)
18. The duke or lord may be allowed or banned (5)
21. We score perfect on dressing (5)
23. A musical rape of voices (5)
26. The shorter woman strayed behind (3)
27. Our sylvan mythical selves (5)
28. Yell (in ponder) (3)
30. Shelled fruit company's C.A. (5)
31. It's either substance or not, who knows? (Not I) (5)
33. Welts that can be found in stores (5)
36. It's as alive as any tongue sauce (6)
39. A game that's labelled (3)
40. Routes to a short amplifier (3)
42. If regards were aflame (4)
43. Rebounding sonic hoe (4)
44. A Greek first... (5)
45. The dire need to excise (3)
46. Not less, not off, definately stupid (5)
47. Wandering without a series (8)
48. Smoker's say trash for ashes (8)

Down

1. The pig plans some whacking (8)
2. Engineering rid I of the tool (5)
4. The poor guys pass-out (4)
5. Touchers brag because of wanderind hands (8)
7. The flow be back and forth (3)
8. Newspapers for a dime (5)
9. Musically not yes, a  $\pi$  (5)
11. The(F.), A(M.), on the Moon (4)
14. See, yet it still looks (3)
18. Vegeatable bests (5)
19. I've been surrounded by watery R's (5)
20. Knowledge of facial parts (5)
21. A pouch that's actually a bag (3)
22. A generous offering, but a while in the past (3)
24. Really, you're exceeding your limit with this drink (3)
25. A fair mix of gases (3)
29. A non-acidic game for round types (8)
32. Beatings for his slang (8)
34. A creature other than a muskrat, but close (5)
35. Lawn deed gone to the very ends (5)
37. The ape laughed and took a jump (4)
38. A bead on a French friend (3)
40. My own maternal figure (3)
41. A park for jackets (5)
42. What if all drop? (4)