

# math NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 4 Friday, November 5, 1993





## Speaker's Corner

When I first started at UW many moons ago, I attended a MathSoc meeting, and I was very much turned off by the bullshit and bureaucracy that went on in a (short) 1-hour meeting. I later found that the Math Society was perceived as a clique of friends that hung out together, and tried to look important, but in the end really did nothing.

A year later, I found myself volunteering for the position of Treasurer. Don't ask me why, at times I'm not so sure myself. But in the time since then, I learned much more about what really went on behind the scenes. The meetings are more friendly now, and there is nowhere near as much cliquiness as there was just a few short terms ago. Admittedly, there still are quite a few silly discussions that seem to last forever, but some relevant things do happen. That is what this column is for, to tell the student body of the goings-on of the Math Society Council meetings, to keep you informed.

Problems that have been addressed of late:

- **First Year Mac Labs:** The question of the huge line-ups was raised. Much of the problem seems to be that many of the students are going into the labs cold, and hence are doing all of the preliminary work at the terminal, which is essentially a waste of someone else's time. It was agreed that the free time is a good idea, but many students are taking advantage of it. Perhaps students could be let into the lab only if they have the prelims done. That idea will be forwarded. (Note: I know of at least 1 TA that is doing this now, and the line-ups do seem to have gone down)
- **Fourth Floor Study Rooms:** There was a problem with some people signing out study rooms that were not supposed to (ex. Engineers, people with suspended privileges). Also, many keys are not being returned at the time of the office opening, which causes many problems for people who have those areas signed out for the morning. For example, last Thursday, there were 3 keys that had not been returned by 10:30. Anyone who is delinquent with these keys shall have their booking rights suspended for the remainder of this term and the next term that they are in school.
- **ACM Programming Contest:** As you have probably noticed over the past couple of days, there have been several students around that are not from this school. They are here for this competition. Unfortunately, a fall out of this contest is that the computing resources will be limited for the next couple of days. From late Friday afternoon until 8pm Saturday, no-one will be able to access Cayley, Napier, Descartes or the La's. After this time, these machines will be available, but you may have problems logging on and staying on. Check out `read_system_news` for more information. [*But you can't logon! am I stupid or what??*]
- **Phil 140/241/242:** A proposal from the faculty's Undergraduate Affairs Committee brought up the question of Phil 140 being on the course overlap list. Many students enroll in Phil 140 in 1A, not realizing that this will limit their choices in later years (i.e. they can no longer take PM330 for credit). If we were to put it on the no-credit list, then the problem would be solved. After discussing it in the Math Society Council, one of the 2 student reps on the UAC mentioned that this would, in effect have one math course, PM330, overlapping with 3 Phil courses, Phil 140/241/242. This seems to be a little too big for 1 little math course. The Pure Math department took note of this, and will be making a different recommendation at a future meeting.

- **Math Day:** Later this month, there will be several local grade 11 students that will be taking part in Math Day '93: Expanding your Horizons. The intention of the day is to increase these students' interest in pursuing mathematics as a career. All the clubs are getting together and each of them are making a presentation about their area. The hope is that, by offering something like this to the community, it will increase the image of mathematics in high schools, and perhaps some of the students who come here can encourage the students that didn't make it to continue in math, and not stop after grade 10.

That's all that I can think of for now. If you are interested in attending a Math Society meeting, and having your voice heard, they are Thursdays at 4:00 in MC4067. If you can't attend, but you want something said, leave a note on my board in Math-Soc (look for "EC"), and we will try and do something about whatever it is.

Don't be left in the dark. No-one is going to turn the lights on for you.

Eric Sutherland  
Speaker, Math Society Council

## S&M's SOC Talk

Here it is: another amazing and exciting mathNEWS SOctalk column. Always thrilling and up to the minute, this is better than seeing Chewbacca reveal his chest in the frosh week photos.

Last Saturday night (Oct. 30) the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* was shown in the Arts Lecture Hall for the enjoyment of you Mathies. If you weren't there, you missed out on a very good time. There were lots of Mathies, along with lots of rice, toilet paper, newspaper, confetti, waterguns, etc. Thanks to everybody who was there for being so enthusiastic, especially those people who went right out and pierced their nipples just so that they could look more like Slash. And a very big thank you goes out to David Ramsey who did a terrific job organizing the event.

Tomorrow night (Sat. Nov. 6) there will be a Fed Hall Pub night. The theme is "MATH GOES EAST". There will be sumo wrestling and special drinks. Frosh are eligible to win a leather jacket; just bring your dog tags. There will also be other great prizes that everybody in Math is eligible for. The admission is free for Mathies and \$2 for everybody else (until 10:30, after which they get in free too). Make sure you show up!

Other upcoming events:

- Bridge Tournament, Nov. 9, Comfy lounge
- Euchre Tournament, Nov 10, Comfy lounge
- Bombshelter BEvERages and Games Night, Fri. Nov. 26
- Possible trip to the Imax in Toronto with a stop at the Brunswick house

There will be more details coming out on these events so keep an eye out for the postings. See you there!

S&M (aka Sara Manning & Shelley McLennan)  
Your trusty (and Beautiful) Social  
Directors and their sidekicks, the  
Social Board





## Computer Science Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

### CSC Flash

Greetings again, underlings. As usual, the inexorable CSC marches on with more activities in the near future.

Among the most important are the teams, largely composed of CSC members, that are representing U of Waterloo in the ACM Programming Contest that you are no doubt aware is happening today and tomorrow. They will, of course, be victorious, crushing all opponents, and advance to the finals in Phoenix in February.

Next week, the CSC will be hosting its annual International Open Computer Othello Programming Contest. As usual, the best Othello programs from all over the world will be competing here at Waterloo for the top honours. All students are encouraged to enter, and match their programs against the competition! Send email to [tdprime@descartes](mailto:tdprime@descartes) for more details.

And now, for the ObList of Upcoming talks. Be sure to attend all of these events lest you be subject to ridicule when it is realized that you have not been enlightened by the CSC.

On November 10 is a talk on an Adaptive device driver hosted by K. Salem. This should prove to be very informative. The talk will focus on a device driver that maximizes file system efficiency through various adaptive routines.

On November 12 is the Stratford Road Trip hosted by my CSC. There are still a few tickets left! Grab yours today! 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 \$14.50 + tax, which comes to \$16.00. Come down to the CSC office (that's MC3036/7) to buy tickets and get your name on the list! In case you were wondering, the play is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The CSC still has those attractive T-shirts and pens available for your purchase. When the end of the world comes, you'll need this paraphernalia. As the largest club in Math, we can satisfy all of your needs, wants, and even some of your deepest desires. Also, make sure you read [uw.csc](mailto:uw.csc) to read all the essential information coming from my console.

Best regards and wishes for the destruction of your civilization,

Calum T. Dalek  
Chairbeing

### Act Sci News

Hey you Top Actuaries, get your butt on that volleyball court (#4) November 25 at 8:40pm! That's an order!

On November 10th, some senior actsci students (the rare ones who somehow manage to survive) are going to give an Information Session at 4:30pm (after the ActSci Meeting). Ask all the questions that you can think of! (well...almost). See our door for the location.

I'm sure you don't remember what is planned for November 20th? Party? Alcohol? Ah! Now you remember! We'll keep it posted on our door!

Chantal Bray  
ActSci Secretery

## Free Discounts! Metrowide offers long distance savings to UW students

The Federation of Students is offering discounted long distance services to UW students through an arrangement with Metrowide Communications, a telecommunications company. Metrowide gives students savings with their "Take 30" plan, a long distance package which saves you an 30% off Canadian and USA long distance calls, and 20% off International long distance calls, over and above Bell Canada's time of day rates and discounts. This plan is available to all off-campus and co-op students—students living in Village residences or the Church Colleges are contracted with Bell Canada and therefore exempt from this program, but all other students may sign up for this FREE service.

The Federation of Students will receive revenue based on the number of registrations and the volume of usage they obtain from the student body at UW. The money gained through this joint venture will be given to the Endowment Fund to be allocated to worthwhile student-directed projects on-campus like improving safety, accessibility and the quality of life at UW. Information on the Metrowide "Take 30" program can be obtained by calling the Federation of Students Office in Campus Centre Rm # 235 at 888-4042, or from several of the on-campus Society registration booths placed strategically near lounges, C&D's and Society offices. Get your "Take 30" Metrocard soon, and start saving!

the Feds

## GINO'S PIZZA

Try a little bite of Italy

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160 University Ave. W.  
Waterloo

The official pizza of *mathNEWS*

### Free Slice

Buy any Gigantic Slice and Pop  
and receive the second Slice FREE!

Expires Nov. 19/93



## Subscriptions

This term *mathNEWS* is revising its policy for subscriptions. This article contains our rationale and the new policies. (Clarification: when we talk about on-campus subscriptions we mean the people who get *mathNEWS* mailed to them by on-campus mail. Our policy of distributing free copies in stacks on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors will not change.) Rationale: *mathNEWS* is printed on a budget received from the Math Society, which provides for one copy for each math student currently registered on campus. Subscription copies are not covered by this basic funded amount. Therefore subscriptions incur extra costs for printing, handling, and mailing. In the past, our policy has been to distribute all on-campus subscriptions free of charge, and to charge \$7 for off-campus mailings. (\$9 and \$12 for U.S. and overseas, respectively.) Upon re-examination of our actual costs, we have realized that this unfairly bills off-campus subscribers extra to support free subscribers on campus. Our new subscription policy will be as follows:

### *Free copies: (unconditional)*

- National Library of Canada
- Previous editors (1 year)
- Dean of Math
- Archives Office

### *Free copies: (conditional)*

- Any U(W) publications, *provided that they send us an equal number (1 or 2) of copies of their publication as it is published.*  
Examples: Imprint, Iron Warrior, Gazette.
- Any U(W) student societies who wish to display a copy in their office or keep one on file, or any other offices on campus which wish to display/distribute several copies of *mathNEWS* to campus visitors or students not in Math, *provided that they renew their subscription each term.*  
Examples: Federation of Students, Co-op Services.
- Advertisers can receive complimentary copies of the issue they advertise in to display/distribute at their place of business.

### *Paid Subscriptions:*

- On campus: \$3.00/term (printing costs)
- Off campus: \$6.00/term (printing + postage), \$7.00 to U.S. address, foreign rates pending.

Persons on campus who do not fall into any of the free categories are nevertheless welcome to help themselves to a free copy when the issues are distributed on the Friday of publication, in the Math and Computers building and at St. Jerome's College.

These policies will be going into full effect next term (Winter '94). On-campus subscriptions will remain free for the remainder of this term, *as long as the subscriber sends a reply indicating that they wish to continue subscribing, or commences sending us copies of their own publication.*

Also, please be sure to send any changes/corrections in address or number of copies desired. Free subscriptions will no longer be automatically renewed each term.

The Editors

## NEW Pre-Registration Guidelines

In recent terms, a number of students were unable to enroll in courses of their choice because the courses were full. The major reason for this is that the Departments and Faculty have not been able to gather accurate information on which to base projections. Sources of inaccuracy include students not pre-registering and students changing their pre-registration because of inadequate earlier planning.

To improve its ability to make accurate projections (and thus maximize access to the courses of their choice for students who pre-register on time), the Faculty of Mathematics has adopted the following pre-registration guidelines for the Spring 1994 term:

- Co-op students who preregister during the officially scheduled period, November 3-5, 1993, will have highest priority for enrolling in Math Faculty courses for the Spring 1994 term.
- Late pre-registrations from Co-op students will not be processed until after Regular students have had an opportunity to pre-register (end of January 1994). This means that late pre-registrations from Co-op students will have lowest priority for course access.
- Course selection should be planned carefully in advance of the pre-registration period. Students may find it helpful to consult with an academic advisor. Once pre-registrations have been submitted, no course changes can be made until after the Spring 1994 schedules have been printed.
- Students may pre-register for a maximum of 5 courses.

**Note:** Revised policies with respect to Regular Mathematics students studying on campus in the Spring term are still under development within the Faculty. These policies will be publicized in time for pre-registration at the end of January 1994.

Dorothy Chapman  
Dean's Office, Faculty of Mathematics

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Editor: Curtis "Chewin' T'baccy" Desjardins, Erich "Fuzzy Navel" Jacoby



## feedBACH

After perusing the October 22nd edition of *mathNEWSI* discovered [sic], not to my surprise, that political ignorance still reigns over Mathies. As a concerned voter I took the time to read each party's campaign material, including the CHP. Although the CHP did not receive my vote, it was not because of the reasons forwarded by Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby in the Oct. 22 issue. Not surprisingly, again, "Fuzzy" inaccurately reported on the platform of the CHP. In fact, had I not read that Jacoby was covering the CHP, I would have mistaken the stated principles as those of mathBOOZE! Get it together.

A.C.  
Masters History

*And now the response*

Well, A.C., I am sorry that you misunderstood the intent of the articles I wrote concerning this past federal election. When confronted with the opportunity to comment as an editor on such an important political event, I realised that I had three choices in approach. The first choice was to do what most of the rest of the media was doing, and simply regurgitate campaign promises unquestioningly. I felt that the rest of the media had already done more than enough of that. The second possibility was to write a series of fair, objective, and totally unbiased comparisons of our electoral choices. As any competent psychologist, anthropologist, or philosopher will tell you, no thinking human has the capacity to be truly objective, especially in such a personal issue as politics. Also, anyone who thinks that the words of a candidate exactly indicate what they will do in office needs a serious dose of cynicism. The third option, which I chose (and incidentally, was chosen much too rarely by the rest of the media) was to question and criticise the rhetoric that the parties were spewing.

Anyone who has read all of the campaign material put out by our local candidates and parties (as I and apparently you have) should notice that most of the parties were contradicting or misrepresenting each other and even themselves. The article in question merely brought attention to some of the internal inconsistencies in the CHP stance, as well as questioned the implications of some of their statements. Most of the points I made were based on direct quotes from their official campaign documents. My conclusion (that they represent a white, male, English-speaking god) was based on overall impressions that I will now defend. White? The CHP stated that they believed that any ethnic culture should raise all of the money to preserve their own culture. This can be interpreted as meaning that any culture whose community is not wealthy (for example, refugee Somalis) has no right to the preservation of their culture, since they don't have much money to spend on it. They also imply that anyone who tries to promote ethnic culture do not "exhibit a primary allegiance to the land they have chosen." The implication is that only current Canadian culture is good for Canada, and anything that new immigrants could contribute culturally is inferior, because it is not already Canadian. Not being a xenophobe, I am always eager to learn about other ways of doing things, and I don't see why our government should discourage the entry of new elements into Canadian culture by only funding "non-ethnic" cultural activities, whatever those are. Remember, all of the things that we now consider to be "Canadian" culture were at one time or another new elements brought in by immigrants, whether the tradition is Christmas (European-Canadian-Christian), Oktoberfest (German-Canadian), or Thanksgiving (European-American and American-Indian). Also, they state that "Canadians, regardless

of race [should be] governed by the same laws." This ignores two very important historical facts. One is that the Native peoples of this country (who are represented in the CHP flyer by a cheesy graphic of a shirtless man with a feather in his hair) have had a working set of laws governing them for centuries, which is different from ours but just as valid. The province of Quebec has its law system based on the Napoleonic code, which is different from, but just as valid as, the English Common Law that the rest of Canada is working from. When the Natives and Quebec were incorporated into Canada, they were both assured that they would be allowed to retain their own cultures, and these cultures are inseparable from the languages and laws which are a part of them. Saying that all Canadians must now conform to one uniform set of laws, presumably the English Common Law derived set, is a culturally insensitive if not racist comment and shows an arrogance and historical ignorance that deeply offends me. As for being a male god, the CHP states that they believe in obedience to biblical principles. Very few phrases are more loaded with ambiguous meaning than "biblical principles." So-called biblical principles have launched crusades, sustained extended inquisitions, burned school textbooks and fire-bombed family planning clinics. They have also founded charities, harboured refugees, and advanced literacy. By relying on biblical principles, I must assume that the CHP believes in the subordinate status of women which is prevalent in many parts of the bible. They also reinforce this assumption when they state their opposition to no-fault divorce and same-sex marriages.

In conclusion, I restate the aim of all of my political analysis articles. Analysis. That means questions, criticisms, examinations of ramifications. It does not mean regurgitation of campaign promises or ambiguous policy statements. If you want to read simplistic solutions to systemic problems, go back to reading the campaign materials.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

## This Week in Poetry

*Untitled*

Oh, to be a lump of jello  
I'm not fussy I'd settle for yellow  
And just by looking you'd see how mellow  
My simple life would be.

Forever would I comfort in  
My pleasant state of gelatin  
And flexible so's to fit in  
Most any shape at all.

So happy would I while away  
Not caring for the time of day  
And all who asked of me would say  
"He's a sparkling jolly fellow."

It's jello I'd be, and shiny too  
The kind of stuff you see right through  
And really friendly to any who'd  
Let me sleep right through the day.

Adam "The Bitsnatcher" Benjamin



## Math, the Universe, and Everything

### *The Real World and How to Avoid It*

The most important lesson that any of us can learn from the co-op program is that a lot of people over at Needles Hall are petty tyrants with delusions of godhood and very poor senses of humour. But we've had enough Needles bashing in the past few weeks, so we'll concentrate on the co-op program's second-most important lesson: the real world sucks. Most students, co-op or not, have already picked up on this, since we're here at school instead of at home working at Dairy Queen or collecting pogeys. But a work term (or a summer job) brings home this lesson like nothing else. Here, then, is a guide to the real world, and ways to avoid contributing anything to society for the rest of your life.

### *Why the Real World Sucks*

Being in the real world means having a job in which you are expected to actually produce something. (By definition, then, co-op co-ordinators are not in the real world.) This is the sort of pressure that causes stress, heart problems, impotence, and premature male pattern baldness (trust me on these last two). You're also held to be responsible for your work, and are sometimes expected to work after lunch. It's this sort of pressure that is responsible for North America's decline on the world markets, and bodes ill for the rest of this century.

Being in the real world means possibly getting married and having a few kids, not necessarily in that order. I guess having kids has its good points, but I can't think of any besides the obvious - you'll be sure to have a drinking buddy in nineteen years, or twelve if you raise your kid in the country.

Being in the real world means having to start eating healthy food, drinking less, and maybe even exercising once in a while. It means not having sex with anybody other than your spouse. It means waking up early and walking the dog.

### *Jeez, That Sounds Horrible! How Do I Stop It?*

Avoiding the real world is easier than it may seem. By enrolling in university, you've taken the first step. Look around you - what's to get stressed about? Academia is one of the classic places to hide from the real world. It's great - nobody really expects anything of you, and if you do accidentally learn something, you can rest assured that it will do you absolutely no good in the real world. So enjoy - spend your days sleeping and your nights drunk.

Eventually, though, no matter how much you try to put it off, you're bound to graduate. How can you continue to avoid the real world even after graduating? Easy! There are plenty of ways:

**Become a government employee:** The great thing about government work is that the unions have managed to make it illegal for any civil servant to actually get anything useful done. You'll spend your days drinking coffee, harassing the public, and going on strike. Once in a while you'll get to charge an innocent co-worker with sexual harassment suit, just to have something to gossip about on your 3-hour, 6-beer lunches.

**Go into politics:** Everybody knows that politicians of every kind seem to be from another world, probably Neptune. Look what they do: hold referenda about national unity while the economy is self-destructing, make promises they have no inten-

tion of keeping, and spend most of their time making sure that their friends and family are getting cushy government jobs. At the student level, things aren't much better: tuitions are up, quality of education is down, faculty make too much, sexual assaults still occur on this campus, and the freedom of the student press is threatened. And how do they deal with this? They tell us how we can and can't spell "womyn." Now that's what I call effective student government.

The bottom line is, go into politics: it's got all the benefits of other government jobs, but the pay is better and the pension plan is unparalleled.

**Stay in school:** Get another degree! Whee! Go for another undergraduate degree - you can never have too many of those. Go for something fun, like REC. Not only will it add absolutely nothing to your value in the work force, but you'll meet plenty of beautiful, tanned, healthy and sexually active members of your preferred sex.

Alternatively, if you wish to set yourself up for a lifetime of hiding from the world, go into grad school. Imagine - four to ten years of getting paid to go to school, sleeping with people five years younger than you are, and producing nothing except papers that get stolen by a prof.

Which leads to the next step of academic reality avoidance - becoming a prof. It's even better than being a grad student - the pay is better, the sex is with people a lot younger than you, and the only work you have to do is steal the occasional paper and go on the occasional shooting spree.

### *A Final Word*

Alas, not everybody can avoid the real world. Eventually, most people settle down, get a job, have kids, stay in debt for thirty years, and die. But, don't despair: there are worse things - being a New Democrat comes to mind.

The motto is, enjoy life. Have sex - preferably with me. Drink a lot of beer - preferably with me. And above all, don't be afraid to sexually experiment with gerbils, whipped cream, handcuffs, and a video camera - preferably without me.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

## Has this ever happened to you?

Did you ever get this feeling like you were in this giant sadistic cuckoo clock and little mechanical people were taking turns going BONK BONK BONK BONK BONK BONK BONK BONK on your head with wooden mallets and every time one of the little mechanical people got tired there would always be another one waiting their turn so you never got a chance to dig yourself out because of all of the BONKING?

Well I've felt that way for about a month now, and I've decided it's a real shame the Natural Law party didn't get elected. I mean, any party which thinks that all problems can be solved by eliminating stress can't be too bad. So since they didn't get elected, I say we start nice little revolution to get them into office where they belong. Then we could get down to the business of eliminating stress in Canada-by forbidding parallel programming for all time!

Peter Milley  
a.k.a. "Panic Guy"



## The XMosaic Law

And it came to pass that I did program all night long, and the night following, and the one after that. And visions came upon me.

I saw a cat run across my screen and eat my mouse, and roaches did crawl out from under my windows, and I did regret my "xhost +" command.

Then a window did appear in front of me, and in it were the following words which I will repeat here:

These are the X commandments. Though shalt follow them always.

- 1 Whenever possible, thou shalt use fork recursion in thy assignments. (See also: Rule 1, Rule 1 and Rule 1.)
- 2 Thou shalt not start flame wars on course news groups except when flaming thy professor while logged on as someone else.
- 3 Sunlight doth rot bits, and so code written during the day is an abomination to the spirit of UNIX.
- 4 Thou shalt drink at least one bottle of Jolt cola each day, for caffeine is an essential nutrient.
- 5 Thou shalt share thy Jolt with thy terminal, for it also needeth nutrition.
- 6 Remember always this: The computer is a game-playing machine, and all other uses are merely peripheral. For this reason, in all programs that thou writest, thou shalt make it so that getting them to work is challenging, for in this way, thy users will be entertained.
- 7 When thou useth a Mobius, thou shalt defend it from all others who may rlogin to it, for it is thine alone. In defending it, thou mayest use intimidation, nasty mail or messages, fork bombs or thou mayest power-cycle without provocation.
- 8 Listen not to the agents of the evil one, for they seek only to lead you astray. Thou shalt know them, for they have "MFCF" after their names.
- 9 When thy compiles doth take too long, thou shalt use ^Z to stop them. Then, thou shalt try again. Thou shalt also do this with EMACS, Ada, m3 and gdb.
- 10 Thou shalt use a colour X terminal for reading news, for this is necessary, especially when assignments are due.

And I didst swig more Jolt, and I was enlightened (though my therapist thinks differently.)

Chris Reuter, aka Dances With Mind

## Postscript Limerick

Here is a working Postscript Limerick.

```
/there { 30 100 moveto show } def
/for { /whenI findfont 10 scalefont } def
/its pop for setfont
(Postscript's for fonts)
there /to { showpage } def to /done { } def
```

Read as follows:

```
There thirty one hundred move-to show-def
For when I find font 20 scale-font-def
It's pop. for set font
Postscript's for fonts
There to show page def to done def
```

Dale "notasquare" Wick

## mastHEAD

It's Tuesday (yes, Tuesday) afternoon, and I haven't started layout yet. I guess I'd better get started if I want to have an issue ready for Friday. And as punishment for not showing up to Production Night last night, I'm being forced at gunpoint to do layout on my own. \*sniff\* No one wuvs me no more! \*Wahhhh!\*

Here are the people who *supposedly* showed up last night, along with their favourite location for jewelry [*Fuzzy, what the hell kind of question is that? -The other Ed.*]: Michael Melvin (I've always been partial towards left nipples), Adam Benjamin (Under my pillow (Don't ask)), Eric Sutherland (In a jewelry store. (Better there than on my fiancée's finger!)), Peter Milley (Discount stores. (Hey, I'm on a budget!)), Mike Hammond (Hock shop), Brian Spencer (Places that you probe regularly), Dale Wick (In Cyberspace (I virtually like jewelry)), Joeb Hewitt (You don't want to know. Trust me, you don't want to know), Kivi Shapiro (Italy), Mala Krishnan (In my shoe. (It's none of your business)), Nabil Rehman (Up my nose and around the corner)

Thanks to Marion at Graphics Services for taking us back after we goofed up!

Chewbacca Desjardins (Do cock rings count as jewelry?)  
Fuzzy Jacoby (See dis finger? What's wrong wit dis picture?)

## Ultra Classifieds

Everyone,  
Thanks.

Pudge

Chanty,

I'll need some air conditioning for my place next summer. Can I rent your squash forehand volley? Heh heh.

Curtis

Weirdo,

"Dom" was supposed to be a compliment ... so stop giggling!

The Man in the Moon

"Your Head, My Wall  
Peach by Peach"

not quite Jesus

Hey, uSquashhead!

uAnnoyMe! uDisgustMe! If uDon'tStopBotheringMe, I'll have to make sure uDie!!

Leave-Me-Alone

To Her Majesty the Queen  
Either the Gorilla goes, or I do.

The Yogic Flyer

Oh, Kirkus Domesticus!

Haven't seen you *here* for a long time!! Hope the B-Day was swell!

Guess Who

Hey, CS242-ers

Remember last Tuesday? WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT??!!??

Surprised-To-Have-Survived-That-Horrendous-Experience



## profQUOTES

"As the term progresses, it gets more and more curlier."

Bondy, MATH 135

"This building needs a bar."

Bennett, STAT 231

"It doesn't mean there are no mammals who don't bark—like you and I... Did someone just bark?"

Kerr-Lawson, PMATH 330

"If we can't do it with FIDO, we'll do it with BOZO... and that's the whole story."

Kerr-Lawson, PMATH 330

Student: "Why are you doing it the hard way?"

Professor: "Because I'm a silly person and I'm paid to do it the hard way... Basically, I'm just filling in time until my pension."

Bennett, PMATH 336

"I don't know if you guys know this, but we actually have an exam next week."

Forrest, MATH 137

Student: "How did you get that, sir?"

Professor: "How did I get what? Oh, I guess I got that... I guess I got that wrong!"

Kerr-Lawson, MATH 135

"Being innovative and a genius can be hazardous to your health. So, aren't you glad that you guys don't run that risk?"

Tenti, AM 261

"I agree you could probably disagree with me and that I'm full of shit, but I'm the prof so I get to decide."

Struthers, STAT 231

"I have this vision of all of these ladies running around, each with one large hip and one thin hip. Oh well, at least their hips will be totally randomized."

Young, STAT 430

"All I'm saying is, is statistics say that my left nut could fit in your mouth quite comfortably."

Abraham, STAT 331

"You can't flip 3 coins and get 1 1/2 heads... at least not without the help of recreational drugs."

Lewis, STAT 230

"If there is someone who is a hermaphrodite then it wouldn't be a function."

Bondy, MATH 135

"There is a statement that says, 'All models are wrong, but some models are useful.'"

Struthers, STAT 231

"If I didn't know Newton's laws, how would I have got on top of the building?"

Tenti, AM 261

"The final exam will not be like this test. I mean it might be like it, but you'll have three hours to do it."

Duggan, CS 242

"If you drive a tank, like I do..."

Struthers, STAT 231

Professor: "Can't you control your woman any better than that?"

Student: "You take that back."

Struthers, STAT 231

"I have a left-handed friend and I always remind her about her disability[...] she's a really good friend, though."

Struthers, STAT 231

"I'm not that type of girl—thank you very much."

Struthers, STAT 231

"I guess food would include how much I had to drink at lunch—not enough."

Struthers, STAT 231

"My lovely assistant will now come to the front of the room. I wanted him to wear one of those skimpy outfits, but he refused."

Struthers, STAT 231

"If you're still not satisfied, then you and I can arm wrestle."

Struthers, STAT 231

"I'll pay a beer to anyone who can find me a function which is not continuous on I, but is differentiable on I."

Sivanogonatan, MATH 137

Student (talking about an ex-boyfriend): "What a geek!"

Professor: "Who called me?"

Bondy, MATH 135

[Pointing at his head] "There's nothing going on up here."

Wagner, C&O 330

(on invitro-fertilization) "My wife and I did it the cheap way."

Wolff, SCI 263

"It's like bungee jumping; there are better ways to die."

Vanderkereg, PHYS 121

"Serious rear-ender there."

Vanderkereg, PHYS 121

"It seems mathematics was more exciting in those days."

Hind, C&O 480

"I thought you were a math stud!"

Hudson, PMATH 351

"It's a good idea not to barf all over the interviewer."

Hudson, PMATH 351



## The Article with No Name!

Since everybody here is taking math (at least I hope we all are cuz if we aren't that means that some of us just couldn't find our classes in E1 and decided that the MC was the easiest building to get into without being noticed, but I digress...) I think that a few guidelines are in order to save everybody a little embarrassment in the long run. So, I have compiled what I think is the most important document that any mathie can have on his or her person (except of course the Reference card for 'vi' which only sado-masochists and the like are without).

*You Know You're a Geek When...  
(or how to pick up babes (or dudes, your preference)  
in MC3003)*

1. You have a photograph of your favorite piece of software in your wallet.
2. You have the release date for the newest version of your favorite text editor on all of your calendars.
  - 2.1 You are planning a party for the above date.
  - 2.2 You're going to the above party
3. You spend all weekend having deep soul searching conversations with your keyboard.
  - 3.1 Your keyboard talks back (OK, so this doesn't really mean you're a geek but you definitely need professional help - or a couple of extra cans of Jolt!)
4. You check your mailbox expectantly every two weeks for the latest issue of Popular Pocket Protector.
5. You find error messages to be stimulating late night reading.
6. You think that manually working out  $\pi$  to 300 decimal places is a perfectly acceptable way to spend a friday night.
  - 6.1 You actually memorized  $\pi$  to 300 decimal places (just as an aside, if you've really done this, DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT use this little tidbit, as impressive as it may seem, to try and pick someone up at Fed Hall, or any other bar for that matter!)
  - 6.2 Someone actually impressed you with the fact that he could recite  $\pi$  to 300 Decimal places (and did) and you let him buy you a drink (Yes, this may be a little chauvenistic but lets face it - how many women do you know that would want to memorize  $\pi$  to 300 places? - by the way, if you know one and you can convince her to recite it in the comfy lounge both you and she will win a prize!)
7. Instead of english you send email in C Code.
  - 7.1 You receive such a message and can understand it.
8. You actually offered mathSOC \$50,000 for a locker.
  - 8.1 You actually let mathSOC take your \$50,000 and all you got was a bottom locker with someone else's lock on it.
9. Your handle on the network is something like 'Wheezer' or 'Sniffles' and you think it's really cool [*Hey Wheezer! You just going to sit there and take this???* - Wookie Ed.]
10. You paid some guy in a yellow hat two bucks for this issue of mathNEWS

11. You asked the editor of mathNEWS for the phone number of 'Will Sell Software For Food' so you could get your hands on a copy of 'Paternity Suit Larry in the Land of the Process Servers'
12. You find this list really offensive
13. You spent most of your Saturday thinking up this damn list!

So, If we all can try to keep this list in mind when we're in public we can save everyone a whole lot of ribbing and general embarrassment. In other words even if you do some of these things (I know you're out there and you know who you are - 'nuff said) DONT TELL ANYONE - especially the press - the last thing that we need is for some jerk in the outside world (read: not in Math) to spread rumors that we're not real cool - cuz we are - aren't we?

Oh, by the way - EIGHT! EIGHT! EIGHT IS GREAT! [*Hey! Enough of this Frosh Week crap! It was over six weeks ago, give it a rest already! It's called a life. Get one. - Ed.*]

Berj (Aw, Hell! I can't think of a pseudonym) Bannayan

## Thoughts on Unreality

*Or, how to balance an academic career and a budding psychosis*

Reality-Can't live with it, Can't tie it to a rock and dump it in Columbia Lake. Aside from a few members of the CSC who only exist on Internet, I'm sure that everyone reading this article will have had lots of experience with the aforementioned presence.

People are always telling me that I don't live in the real world. Even worse, they seem to think that this is a bad thing. I disagree with both charges against my person; First of all, what is reality other than the sum total of all a person's experiences and expectations? Just because my personal reality contains a disproportionately large number of donut shops, sacred anvils, and large green fuzzy anteaters named Sheba doesn't mean that I'm wrong.

Secondly, I reject the notion that to reject the standard view of how the world works is in any way dysfunctional. Okay, so I admit that there is a limit to this... If you ignore reality well enough you'll eventually starve to death. Short of this occurrence, though, the only problem with living in a subjective reality seems to be that you won't socialize well.

I once met a guy who reacted rather violently when I admitted to him that I didn't really believe that he existed. Or maybe I just imagined that. It's hard to be sure.

In any event, I'm just sick and tired of people trying to use reason to convert me to their way of thinking. Fortunately, I don't believe that the rules of logic are universal. That shuts 'em up pretty quick. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to Mr Grubert's garage sale. I hear he's got some interesting things...

At this point, the Fuzzy Editor would like to inject one of his favourite quotes: "All life is only a set of pictures in the brain, among which there is no difference betwixt those born of real things and those born of inward dreamings, and no cause to value the one above the other." - Howard Phillips Lovecraft.

Joeb Hewitt

**The C+D is OPEN tomorrow!**



## mathNEWSquiz #4

*Again, a Guelph-free Squiz. Hi Susan!*

Hi, everybody! Yes, this is an issue of firsts for me! My first GridWord, my first Squiz writeup, my first Top Ten of the term, and my second Mathtoon of the term!! (I hope!) Okay, so it's an issue of firsts *and* seconds. So sue me.

Anyway, JoeB is off elsewhere, doing something, probably, so it falls to me to comment about the last 'Squiz and present the new one. So this week, there were a grand total of 3 entries: Phage and 2 with a grand total of 4 (and some very creative campus sculpture names!); Dan & Alex, with 7 (and kudos from yours truly for getting so many of the B.C. questions correct!); and Fizzy Tobaccy, with a total of 8...making Fizzy the winner! Mr. Fizzy "Wacky" Tobaccy can pick up his fabulous 'Squizprize in the MathSoc office, as I'm sure he's well aware.

The answers were: **Campus Sculpture:** 1) Sculpture Environment; 2) Space Modules; 3) Break; 4) Four Suspended Fiberglass Figures (a title breaking old ground in originality); 5) Man And Woman; **Name the Products:** 1) Chocolate chip cookies (by Dare, which nobody guessed); 2) Jolt Cola; 3) Tylenol Cold; 4) Orange-Cranberry Tropicana Twister; 5) A rather jumbled question—it should have read, "18% valid criticism, 41% humour good enough for mathNEWS, 28.5% stupid or offensive work, 12.5% News From The Throne", the answer of which is mathBOOZE; **British Columbia:** 1) Strathcona Park; 2) Graham Island and Moresby Island; 3) Southwest Coast of Vancouver Island—the hiking trail is the West Coast Trail; 4) Pysht is on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State and Fort Saskatchewan is in...Alberta—all the others are real B.C. towns; 5) Mike "Hammer" Hammond—from Ladysmith, B.C.

Good luck on this 'Squiz, with its non-traditional questions and whatnot. Answers should be submitted to the BLACK BOX before mathNEWS production night, currently slated for November 15.

*British Columbia: History*  
*Yes, more questions on Lotusland*

1. What year saw the completion of the transcontinental railway in BC?
2. What famous American slogan more or less resulted in the Alaskan panhandle?
3. Everyone knows that B.C. joined Confederation in 1871. But when did the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia unite?
4. B.C.'s current premier is Mike Harcourt. Before that was Rita Johnson. Who led Lotusland before her?

*Alberta*  
*Second in a sequence of filler categories about the Canadian provinces*

1. Name the world-famous museum located in Drumheller. What makes this museum famous?
2. Which of these are real towns in Alberta: Movie Springs, Okotoks, Fernie, Manyberries, Gwynne, Quifter, Sexsmith?

*"Weird Al" Yankovic*

1. What is 'Al' short for?
2. Where is he from?
3. Who played the synthesized symphony orchestra for the Album "Peter And The Wolf?"

4. What was his first released parody and what artist or band was it a parody of?
5. Which of the following artists/bands has he /underlinenot parodied (polkas don't count): George Harrison, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Peter Gabriel, R.E.M., Phil Collins, Queen, Fine Young Cannibals, Janet Jackson.

*Ren & Stimpy*

1. Name three of the five boring games.
2. Name the musical group that performs those catchy tunes, like, "Dog Pound Hop".
3. Who can crawl like a dog without scraping his knees?
4. Why do Stimpy's nose goblins think he's crazy?

Mala "Squizrudin" Krishnan  
Brian "Pilot in Hell" Spencer  
Mike "Hammering out this week's 'Squiz" Hammond

## Top 12 Rejected Names for Mathtoons

*Now that you've actually seen one this term...*

12. The Badly Drawn Adventures Of X and Y!
11. Fuck Fuck Fuck (Hi Ian!) Fuck Fuck Fuck
10. It's Funny This Week! Really!
9. We Actually Have Fans! 6 Of Them! Honest!
8. CSC (Crude, Stupid Cartoons)
7. Filler For The Very Desperate
6. Aaron Silver is Gone... (Hi Susan!)
5. Single-Panel Stupidity
4. PMC (Poor Math Comics)
3. Variable Comics (as in variably good, variably appearing, etc.)
2. How'd This Get Past The Editor, Anyway?
1. Stat's Entertainment!

Mike "Hammering out yet another rejected Mathtoon"  
Hammond

*continued from page 10*

"We all live in Mathematicsville; otherwise known as Dweeb City."

Hudson, PMATH 351

"Who was it that discovered that this chalk made an error?"

Wubnig, PHIL 140

"Some of you look like you haven't taken off your costumes."

Hudson, PMATH 351

"I guess I lied when I said I was through with the screwy stuff."

Hudson, PMATH 351

"If you study while drunk, have a beer before you write the exam."

Bulman-Fleming, PSYCH 101

"Some proofs in calculus are actually quite difficult."

Wainwright, MATH 137



## The Startling Adventures of Errand Man

Errand Man's highly confidential mission is to (surprise, surprise) carry out errands for his fellow underlings. The scenario: it is Friday afternoon, and most stressed-out, nutcase students are flocking to the highways and byways of our beloved motherland as they frantically attempt to reach the utopian haven known as Home. Errand Man, however, remains stalwart in his decision to endure the weekend here at the institution UW without succumbing to the overwhelming urge to flee to Home, or in Errand Man's case, the ever-enticing Cottage. Upon Errand Man's broad and manly shoulders have been placed three burdensome duties which he is obliged to perform due to the hasty departure of his comrades:

1. Errand Man is compelled to hie himself to the fantastical literary smorgasbord of the Bookstore, whereupon he has the sudden urge to purchase a textbook... a red textbook... a SHINY red textbook... Elementary Linear Algebra, Second Edition, by Larson & Edwards! Errand Man can not possibly comprehend how his friend, whose identity is closely guarded, managed to last through 1B without this essential tome, and it is not his prerogative to try. All Errand Man knows, indeed, all he needs to know, is that he must fork out \$63.60 + GST, and ask no questions.
2. Errand Man senses that his obligation to this individual remains unfulfilled. An unseen force drags Errand Man from the edifice South Campus Mall to the acronymic building known simply as MC. Errand Man is promptly drawn upwards: the third floor... the fourth... fifth... sixth... The jarring pain Errand Man experiences as he hits his head on the ceiling is a subtle signal telling him to climb no further. He proceeds to wend his way through the humid demenses of the Sixth Floor. Ay, it be as convoluted as the Labyrinth itself! At last, Errand Man finds room 6016A. Uttering nary a word, Errand Man points at a mauve and white booklet entitled "Preliminary Actuarial Exams". The sage advisor nods solemnly and bestows the requested item upon Errand Man. As fleetingly as the wind, Errand Man exits.
3. Errand Man senses that his mission nears completion - there is only one obstacle in his way! However, a chilling premonition overcomes him. He realizes that his next destination is none other than the infamous Needless Hell! Memories flood back from Errand Man's inaugural term on campus, and they frighten him. Undaunted, he proceeds until he is at the verge of entering the jaws of the beast. Bravely, he plunges inward, and penetrates deep into its bowels. There, posted for all to see, are the holy Job Interviews! Blessed be those whose names appear on these sacred scrolls, for they alone have the opportunity of securing a Job. With startling speed, Errand Man scans the scrolls for the absence or presence of the name of a certain friend, a former H&R Blockhead. He mutely makes a mental record of the outcome, and departs as fast as his powerful legs will take him.

Errand Man returns to MC to faithfully record the details of his exploits. Perhaps future generations of Errand People will read them, and revel in the richness of their history.

Jason "Pokey" Ubeika

## Recipe of the Week:

*Bone soup*

*Ingredients:*

- 1 Femur
- 2 Tibia
- 5 Fibula
- 1 Calcaneus
- 1 Talus
- 4 litres water
- 1 bottle cooking vodka
- spices to taste

*Directions:*

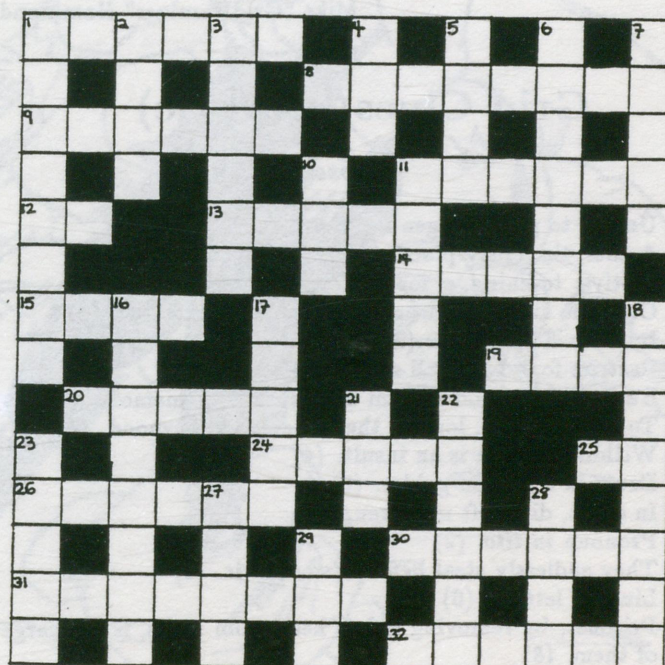
Combine ingredients, except for the vodka, and half the water. Then nuke, bake, boil, mash, sautee, marinate, mix in blender, let stand 5 days. You may notice strange things now floating in the soup. Leave them — they add flavour.

Nuke again (to kill anything nasty), drain, oven-bake, add water, boil again, add salt, pepper and cooking vodka to taste (the vodka really brings out the flavour) and serve.

Don't tell guests what's in the soup. This recipe serves as many people as you can find — they each only last one spoonful. Please request wills to be submitted up front.

Dances With Chris Reuter's Mind  
Master Chef Dale "notasquare" Wick

## The C+D is OPEN tomorrow? YES!!







## gridCOMMENTS

They said it couldn't be done. And they were right! So I came up with this nifty GridWord instead! Yes, it's my first time. (I'm a GridMonster virgin.) As a result, I don't know if it's too easy, too hard, or just about right. But here's a hint anyway: In the Conventional, every letter of the alphabet is used at least once in the completed grid, and most at least twice.

Before I go on, I suppose I should announce the winner. And the winner is... Ian "No Pseudonym Given So Hammer'll Add One Anyway" Facey! He included a little dissertation on his life, which gets him no bonus points, but is relatively entertaining. His comment: "I enjoy cryptic crosswords, and this GridWord was easy compared to the Globe and Mail cryptics I've been doing for years." Ah, such modesty is refreshing!

And as for everyone else, we got two other correct Cryptic solutions from Dan & Alex and The Unteachables. Congratulations, people! Incorrect solutions from Phage and 2, Sean and Sarah, and Jeff "no stupid nickname" Hart. Comments, in no particular order, were: "Sorry bout the feet!"; "See Squiz" (which then says "See Cryptic"); "We need more letters to solve these clues. 2 ain't enough."; and a couple uncommented solutions. Obituary headlines: "Obituary? What kind of sick-o are you?" (Sorry, Jeff, not my Grid.); "He was a nice man, a good man, but he danced like a chicken"; and "I'll save you a spot by the fire."

Good luck with this bi-weekly grid! Submit your solutions to the BLACK BOX, along with comments and your favourite thing to do while the computers are taken by the ACM programming contest.

Mike "GridHammer" Hammond

## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

### Across

1. Unable to put nitrogen in French canoe. (6)
8. A cool, tin, crazy place. (8)
9. Motive: torching 'e' for money, strangely. (6)
11. One who swaps crimson masterpieces backwards. (6)
12. Initially simple verb. (2)
13. Pastries found in droll songs. (5)
14. Backward sun god's beam of light creates memory. (5)
15. To end a prayer, look in the same neighbourhood. (4)
19. Within his lurch is an insult. (4)
20. Drum in a carbon goblet. (5)
24. In effect, diva left mistaken. (5)
25. Pronoun *in tito*. (2)
26. They endlessly steal before I've done it. (6)
30. Lines of letters. (6)
31. Prisoner, by removing lady's head from trolls, is in charge of them. (8)
32. Scrambled its ass in suspended animation. (6)

### Down

1. Religious man endlessly discarding aluminum. Take Sid away! (8)
2. Note an eccentric close by. (4)
3. Strangely, our sod smells. (6)
4. Jackson a snake? (3)
5. Carla, irritated, said, "I live in there!" (4)
6. Wind before Autumn is an unexpected stroke of good luck. (8)
7. Mistakenly inter the inactive. (5)
10. Last scrambled computer key without beginning of sentence. (3)
11. Russian rulers' mixed-up celestial bodies. (5)
16. Beginning of end, movements of feelings. (8)
17. Hand covering ending with love. (5)
18. Objects to professional exams. (8)
21. An insect to move through the air. (3)
22. Change in the squad, Justin. (6)
23. Branch in elastic kids. (5)
27. Très good in lover, yes? (4)
28. Carries headless mollusks. (5)
29. A shout at bullfighters from ol' Ed. (3)

## Grid Clues (Conventional)

### Across

1. Early computer (6)
8. Leading (8)
9. Has reality or being (9)
11. Large gun (6)
13. Identical (5)
14. New wing (5)
15. Make out well (4)
19. Discharge (4)
20. Aids (5)
24. Reputation (5)
25. You and I (2)
26. Sense (6)
29. Consume (3)
30. Thin dried meat strips (6)
31. Explode violently (8)
32. Circus performers (6)

### Down

1. Doing unto others as they did wrong unto you (8)
2. Eager (4)
3. No longer bound (6)
4. November 8<sup>th</sup> goal (3)
5. Greek letter (4)
6. Night light (8)
7. Make up for a misdeed (5)
10. Place (3)
11. More than one earth (5)
16. Wood preservative (8)
17. Sap (5)
18. Godless heathen (8)
21. Cooler (3)
22. Strike down (6)
23. Escape (5)
27. Acknowledges to (4)
28. Slant (4)