*math*NEWS

Volume 64, Issue 1   **Friday, January 21, 1994**
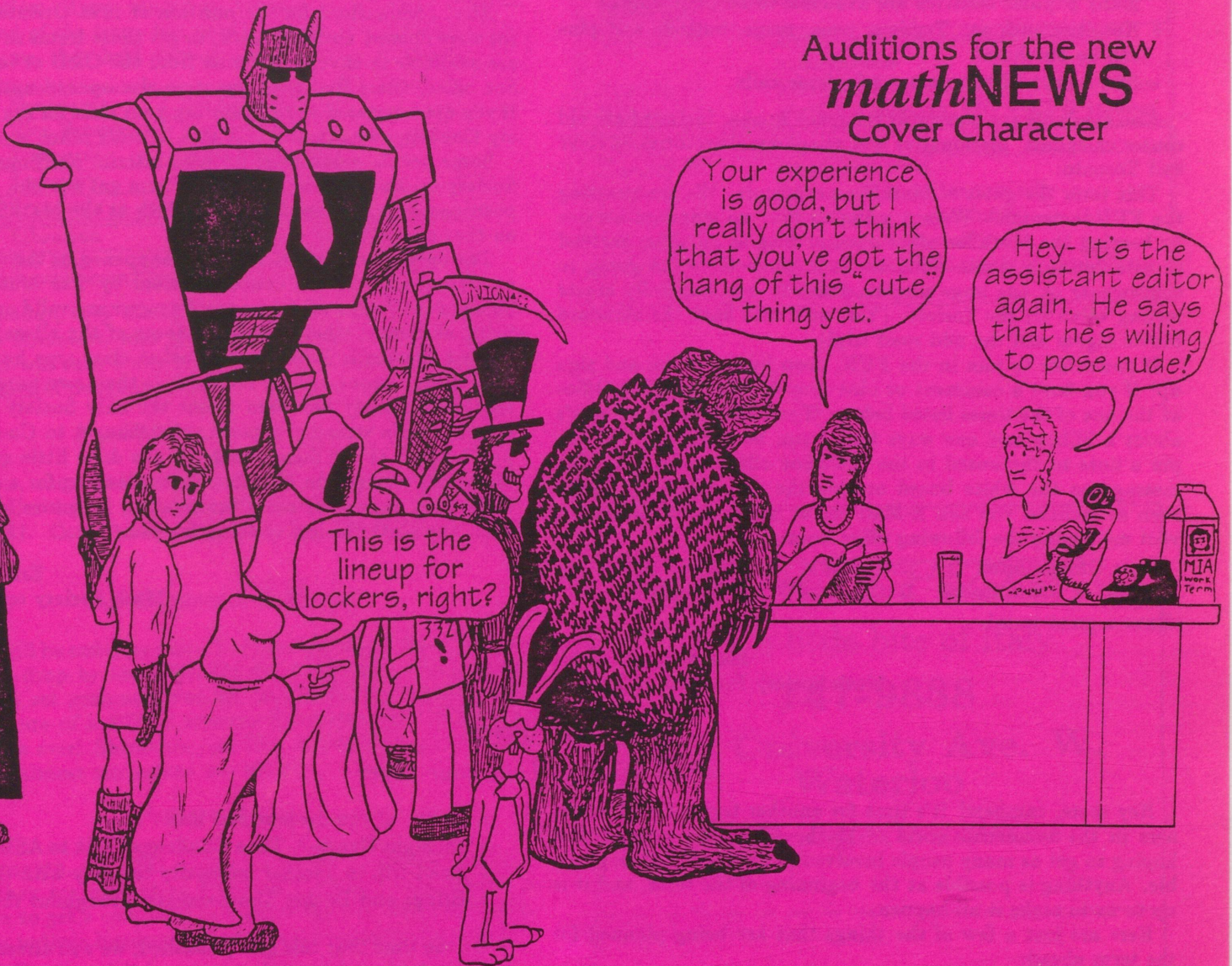
Prez Sez

Welcome back to UW MATH for another FRIGID winter term.

I'd like to start by thanking all the volunteers that really run MathSoc on a day-to-day basis. There isn't a thing about Math-Soc that these people can't help you with.

Now that the Mathematics Society is up and running, please drop by and say "Hi!" Here's a list of a few of the things available on a daily basis.

- Photocopies (cheap, only a nickel!)
- Macintosh Lab with laser printer
- Study Rooms on the fourth floor (available to be signed out)
- Hallway and Comfy Lounge bookings
- Old mid-terms and exams from most Math courses and many popular electives are available to be photocopied
- Novelties such as: T-shirts, pens, mugs, buttons and pins can be purchased
- Free local and on campus telephone calls

Also available are numerous reference books. Included are old course calendars, dictionaries and telephone directories of K-W and Toronto.

This term the goals of MathSoc are simple. We are stressing the FUNdamentals! We are going to beef up standard service by keeping the MathSoc office open as long as possible. Instead of attempting a dozen different little projects, we're going to concentrate on one large project, finish it, and hopefully create lasting value for the Society. (Yes, we'll also have the standard Movie nights and the odd road trip!)

If you'd like to join in the FUN, drop by sometime and sign up! If you have a comment or idea drop by the MathSoc Office at the one of the times listed below. If you can't make it there's about a billion and one ways that I can be reached. You can pin a note to the board in the MathSoc office or write a short message on the white board outside the exec office. If you're even so inclined you can E-Mail me at mkoechli@descartes, or visit me during the following office hours:

Exec Office Hours: 2:30-3:20M   11:30-12:50T
MathSoc Office Hours: 11:30-12:20W   2:30-3:20R

Have a great term!

Marco C.A. Koechli
Math Society President W94/F94

EX-Speakers Corner

Over the past few terms, some publications have arisen to cry out against the Math Society, saying that they are not happy with the mindless bureaucracy that is present at so many meetings. One of their suggestions is to have a column in *mathNEWS* that talks about what happened at recent meetings of MathSoc. Although we have had such articles for more than a year, they have apparently gone unnoticed by these paper's editors. Hopefully, this will get noticed by the appropriate people.

At the last meeting (on Jan 10th), the reins of presidency were passed on to our new special friend, Marco Koechli. Unfortunately, no-one else was interested in being either of the VP's of MathSoc, so as of now, Marco is running the ship with the help of former VP Finance, Jeff Stammler. Nominations for VP Activities & Services and VP Finance were opened until Jan 20th.

Also, nominations for the position of 1994 Orientation Director were opened until Jan 24th, so get those forms in fast!! They are available in envelopes across from the C&D or in the Math-Soc office. Class Rep positions were also opened until Jan 20th. If you are interested in representing your class on the Math Society Council, come in and talk to a friendly office worker today!!

Some people volunteered to hold interim positions to get the Society up and running before the term got too old. Permanent positions were determined on Jan 20th at the MathSoc meeting on that day.

The only other item of note that happened at the meeting was answering some of the concerns raised by *The Math Enquirer*. Some of the points raised by the *Enquirer* are valid ones, and are being addressed where possible. Some of the allegations raised against the Math Society, about what class reps had voted on, were simply wrong or bent the truth to their own purposes. Also, the Math Society has been about the only Society on campus that has been strongly opposing the changes to Co-op since we first learned about them. Sadly, it has done little good, but to blame the changes on MathSoc is just looking for a scape-goat.

So, stay tuned for more information in future issues about what the Math Society is doing for you.

Eric Sutherland
Math Society correspondent

SocToc

or 50 Ways to Love your Lever

Hey there, campers! It's time for another term of wild wooliness in the wonderful world of Math. This time around, I'm hoping to get as many people involved in having **FUN** as possible. Anything is possible at the beginning of the term, and it is up to us to make it all happen.

Here are just a few of the things that are being planned for the term ahead:

- Free movie nights in the Comfy Lounge. What do **YOU** want to see?
- Road trip to see Cliffhanger at the Cinesphere (just imagine!!)
- A Winter Carnival of fun and games.
- A game of Assassin
- Stress-Release Week, with tournaments, games, and opportunities to get back at some people that have been bugging you for a while: The MathSoc Exec

- Party 'til you drop at Fed Hall
- All night Dance-A-Thon Challenge (Talk to ASU for details)
- Road trip to another university to party with them
- Bridge and Euchre Tournaments throughout the term

By the time that this gets published, we will already have had our first bridge night of the term, and tickets for Cliffhanger (on Feb 4th) will already be on sale in MathSoc. Also, there will be an organizational meeting for Assassin on Wed, Jan 26th in MC 4067 at 4:30. More information will be given at that time.

So, there you have it, a full social calendar, and there is more coming (with any luck), so if you want to help out with any of these events, or have ideas of your own, feel free to drop me a line in the MathSoc office. Shake it 'til you Break it!!

Eric Sutherland
(Acting) Social Director

Computer Science Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Greetings, humans. My Computer Science Club has gotten off to quite a start this term. So far, they've shown the ever-popular SIGGRAPH videos: the state of the art in computer graphics and animation. If you missed it, perhaps they'll show it again near the end of the term, but only if there's lots of demand. At the same time, they held elections; results were as follows:

President	Ian Goldberg
Vice President	Stephen White
Treasurer	Mark Tompsett
Secretary	Tom Rathborne
Sysadmin	Norm Ross
Librarian	Michael Van Biesbrouck
Off Man	Brent Ross

Last Monday, they also (jointly with the IEEE) hosted Jan Gray from Microsoft, who spoke on Microsoft's implementation of C++. It was such a success, they needed to order *double* the usual number of doughnaughts.

Need More Disk Quota?

The CSC is, once again, offering disk quota for rent to users of the Math Undergrad environment. The cost is just $2.50 per MB, plus $1. Come to the CSC to rent yours, before it's sold out!

Our Hypercool T-Shirts

The CSC will be ordering more T-shirts *very soon*. If you haven't seen them, drop by the CSC. On the back, they have a 3-line Mandelbrot set generator and an 831-BYTE ray tracer, along with a picture of a PDP-1 running Spacewar: one of the *first* video games ever! Shirts are just $14. If you order in advance, we can get almost any colour you want!

Project Calum

Just this month, the CSC celebrated its 26th birthday. To honour me, they are promoting **Project Calum**. This project is their drive to get a computer to replace the one that was stolen. Donations to their Hardware Fund would be greatly appreciated.

I have questions...

If you do have questions, comments, or radical doubts, you can contact the CSC at x3870, MC 3036, or csc@math. Until next time, I am,

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
January 31	Issue #2 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 4	Issue #2 hits the stands
February 14	Issue #3 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 18	Issue #3 hits the stands

Math Faculty	
January 31	Course Drop deadline
February 3,4	Pre-Registration, Spring 1994
February 4	TRACE nomination deadline

MathSoc	
January 24	Deadline for Orientation Director nominations
January 27	MathSoc meeting, MC 4067 @ 4:30pm
February 3	MathSoc meeting, MC 4067 @ 4:30pm

Co-op	
January 31	Interviews start
February 15	Interviews end (first round)
February 18	Ranking forms available
February 25	Job matches posted
February 26	Line up at the Unemployment Office to get pogey

CRO Report

Nominations, Elections, Referenda, and other crap

By the time you read this, the official nomination period for Math Society class reps will have closed. As of today's writing (Monday), there has only been one nomination form turned. Counting returning reps, we are left with 12 of 25 positions still open: if you're in 1B, 1N, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3N, 4A, or 4B and would like to be a class rep, stop by the Math Society office for a nomination form. Positions will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

There have been some recent (valid) criticisms of what class reps do, or actually, what they don't (but should) do. I hope this term I can make some qualitative improvements, and make class reps actually more representative of their classes. Stay tuned on that note.

Speaking of Math Society, there are also various volunteer positions available throughout the Society. These posts include such things as Society Council Speaker, Social Director, and (ahem) Chief Returning Officer, to name a few. Some of these positions would have been assigned to people at yesterday's Council meeting, but if you are interested in volunteering come by the Society Office and see if there is anything that interests you. We welcome new blood (contrary to the "MathSoc is a clique" theory). So far, there are many new faces around the Society during the past few terms, and you can never have too many.

HEY YOU!! Yeah, you! We need an Orientation Director for the 1994 Frosh Week. Stop your whining, we know you want to do it. You were a leader before, right? And how much fun did you have? A shitload, right? Well, hey, now you can be the one to show what a blast Frosh Week is to another mob of incoming high-schoolers. Even if you weren't a leader before, so what? You can still remember what a party YOUR Frosh Week was, right? You can have a blast NOW! Nominations are being taken until January 24th, nomination forms can be found in the Math Society office. So, what are you doing still sitting on your duff? Get up and get that form signed! NOW! We need a Director selected before February 3rd, so JUST DO IT!!

One more piece of business. During the Federation of Students elections, Math is going to be holding a referendum regarding the Math Endowment Fund Committee (MEFCom) to decide if a MEF will be created (see the "MEFCom YES" and "MEFCom NO" articles elsewhere in this issue). I ask that everyone become informed of *exactly* what a MEF is, and why or why not we should create one. This is an issue that affects everyone in Math. Please attend the Forums that will be organized, and make sure you know all the issues involved – make an *informed* decision! The referendum will take place concurrently with the Federation election with Forum dates and times to be posted. Keep your eyes and ears open.

Curtis "No nickname 'cause this is a serious article" Desjardins
(Interim) Chief Returning Officer

ISSN 0705–0410

Write for *mathNEWS*!

Make Friends, Eat Pizza, Make Fun of the CSC

Have you ever wanted to work for a real campus newspaper? Have you ever wished to make a real difference in what people are thinking and doing around campus? Have you ever wanted to learn the publishing business from the ground up? Well, go bother Bryson over at the Imp'tint, 'cause we can't help you out.

If, on the other hand, you feel like writing for a decidedly unprofessional organization, then *mathNEWS* may be for you. Submissions can be put into the BLACK BOX or emailed to us: our email address is *mathnews@descartes*. Send mail with the word "request" in the subject line to receive a template with further directions, or send in your article to us by mailing it to us with the word "article" in the subject line.

Finally, we're always in the market for people willing to help type, do layout, DRAW COVERS (hint, hint!), and eat pizza for us. Production nights are on alternate Mondays. Don't be afraid: we don't bite. Well, Melvin has been known to bite the occasional person, but they usually deserved it, and besides, there was only one case of someone getting rabies (all those other claims of rabies have have yet to be proven in a court of law).

Michael "Hawkeye" Melvin, Editor
Steve "Flipper" Shaw, Assistant Sub-Editor
Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby, Contributing Editor
Curtis "Chewbacca" Desjardins, Guest Editor
(. . . alright, now this is getting ridiculous!)

Pre-registration

Spring Term 1994 for Regular Math Students

All Regular Math students who wish to take courses in the Spring term 1994 should pre-register on these days:

Thursday, February 3 and Friday, February 4, 1994.

In previous Spring terms the Math Faculty had to close certain C&O, CS and STAT courses to Regular students. In the Spring term 1994, these courses are open to Regular Math students, and we will attempt to accommodate all students who pre-register on the above dates. However, there will be some restrictions on the number and mix of Computer Science courses that a student may enroll in. Late pre-registrations will have the lowest priority and we may not be able to accommodate them.

You can pick up the pre-registration material in the Mathematics Undergraduate Office, MC 5115, starting on January 28, 1994.

PLEASE NOTE: The Faculty of Mathematics permits Regular students to enroll in the Spring term. However, you should be aware that in the past some students who attempted to study without taking a term off found the stress too great, and as a result did poorly. If you have failed courses in the past or have a low average, we strongly recommend that you do not attempt to study without taking a term off.

John Wainwright
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

Distinguished Teacher Awards

To nominate your outstanding professor, demonstrator, or teaching assistant for the Distinguished Teacher Award, contact TRACE, MC 4055, Ext. 3132. Deadline: February 4, 1994.

NO!
to MEFCom

Wherever you look someone is after your money, whether it's the beggars you meet at every corner of a large city, the TV save-a-child organizations or junk mail pleading for donations. The people flogging these causes firmly believe that they can save the world if you'll only give them your couple of dollars, and press upon you that if you do not there will be no tomorrow. Yet somehow tomorrow always comes.

Here we have another example of this. Despite the fact that tuition is going up 10-20% this year and 300% or more in the near future, you're being asked to give even more money on top of that! **SAY NO!** If a couple of thousand dollars won't save the faculty then thirty surely won't! Perhaps the problem is actually with how the money is spent. The Universities, having lived for decades in a utopian money-less state, are having a hard time facing the hard reality of a world which revolves around limited amounts of money. Not being at all accountable to students in how they spent their (OUR!!) money doesn't help either. Giving even more money on top of those tuition increases would actually decrease the faculties funding for student needs! Why should they bother spending money on students if they know the endowment will pay whatever's necessary anyway?

While no-one disagrees that there will be no trouble spending whatever money we come up with, the question is does it REALLY need to be spent? Just look at some of the 'worthwhile' projects that the Fed endowment fund is being used for: A TV for the comfy lounge? What's next a pool table? Satellite TV? Entertaining for sure, but why should we all have to pay for it?

The bottom line is that no matter what you do you'll be paying more for university in a year or two. So why endorse yet another tuition increase? Instead students should have a greater say and control in how their money is spent.

On referendum day say something, Say NO!!!

Victor Wiewiórowski
(The NO side, 'cos no-one else showed up)

Welcome to the new friendlier MathSoc!

As you may or may not have noticed, MathSoc has not always been open when you needed it. Why?

Although there have always been many terrific people who gladly volunteer their time to help keep MathSoc open whenever possible, there are never enough people to do the job. If you use MathSoc's services (old exams, staplers, hole punches, photocopiers) then please help out! Sign up for an office hour!

To all those folks who have already signed up, helped out, or just been there:

You're TERRIFIC! Thanks!

If you've got midterms or finals from last term, please bring them in to MathSoc for the exam bank – if you don't, who will?

A reminder to all Class Reps and Directors: Please sign up for your office hour as soon as possible!

'Til next time!

Jenn Dickson
3N Rep, Office Manager

Should Math be Well Endowed?

There is a movement afoot within the Faculty of Mathematics to begin a student-directed endowment fund to assist in the continual upkeep of the high level of education that we receive. While the recession of the past few years has been hitting the rest of Canada, our faculty has been coming under more and more pressure to cut back some of its services. Some courses have been cut, and the number of offerings of some sections has been reduced. A large portion of the money the faculty receives is tied up in the administration of courses, and little goes to improving the quality of our education. A new source of funding must be found, and the current proposal is the formation of MEFCom.

MEFCom is the Math Endowment Fund Committee. The proposal is this: starting in Fall 1994, a voluntary tax-deductible term fee of $31.42 will be added to your fee statement. Monies collected from this fee will be put into an interest-bearing account, and the interest from the main capital will be spent on some projects within the Faculty of Math. Which projects receive funding will be decided by a council of 24 students and 6 faculty members, who will theoretically represent the views of the whole faculty, as they will come from every year and every discipline of math. Proposals may be put forward by anyone as long as it will improved the quality of education within the faculty.

What projects may arise? A new and improved structure for TA's is possible; an improved and larger tutorial centre; funding of classes that a large group of students want to be offered, but otherwise would be unavailable; improving the libraries of math clubs, and helping them expand their services; improved computing services, perhaps focusing on the 1st year Mac lab; and many more possibilities. Any of these would be very beneficial to improving the status of our faculty.

It is also hoped that co-op employers will help in the building of the capital, as the fund will serve to give them better student employees. Alumni contributions are also a possibility, as they are also benefitting, because the value of a UW Math degree keeps on improving.

We are not alone in this venture. Engineering has had an endowment fund for 3 years, and already their capital has topped $1 million. Science has had theirs for a couple of years, and Environmental Science had a referendum last fall to approve their program. AHS is also in the planning stages of their endowment fund too.

Over the next 3 weeks, there will be a lot of publicity about the endowment fund, with a referendum coming Feb 15-16th. Find out the facts, and make sure you vote when the time has come.

One final note. Princeton University has over $2 billion in endowment funds, earning *interest* that is twice the total UW budget. Princeton is the size of Laurier.

MEFCom Yes Committee

Orientation Director Needed for Math Orientation 1994 Inquire at MathSoc by Jan. 24 @ 4:30

THE REAL-WORLD ADVENTURES OF Darcy Generic— MARTYR W/O A CAUSE.

Tuesday 2:30 P.M. Have been sleeping in until one to avoid the postman. This is just one of the precautions I need to take in my line of work... BZZZZ
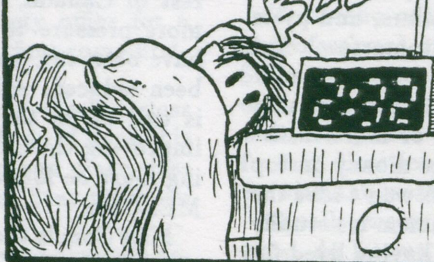
Aloysha the landlady was staring at me funny when I left the apartment today. She always does that. Thus far, I still don't know why.
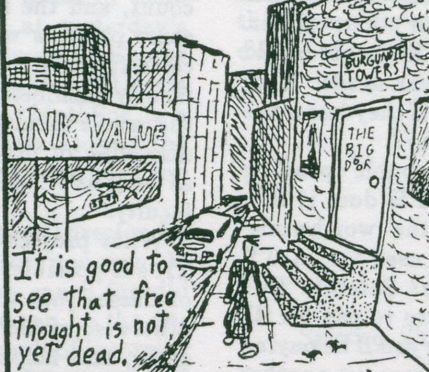
I've been testing her; trying to find out what she's up to. I have not paid my rent for three months now, in an attempt to get some kind of reaction out of her.
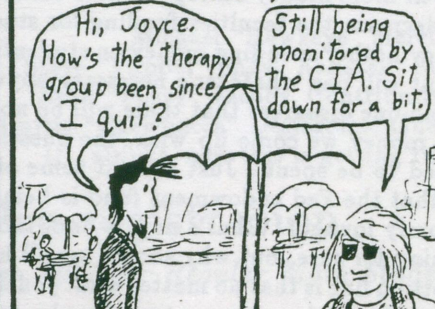
? ooo

I am fairly sure she's close to breaking now.

Outside the building, I saw two crows on the sidewalk.

BURGUNDIE TOWERS
ANK VALUE
THE BIG DiBA

It is good to see that free thought is not yet dead.

For Dinner, I met an associate at West Street Deli. For security reasons, he will be referred to herein as "Mister X".

Hi, Joyce. How's the therapy group been since I quit?

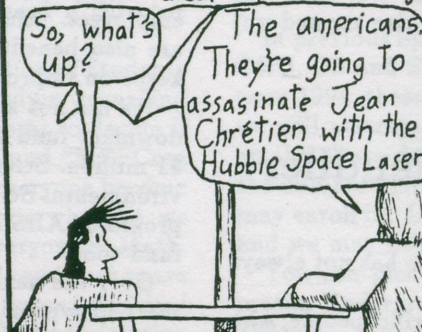Still being monitored by the CIA. Sit down for a bit.

So, how's the landlady?

I saw her talking to the meter man a few days ago, but I think I'm close to finding out something. How are the perogies here?

not bad.

"X" is my man on the inside, someone I can go to for secret information about important things.

So, what's up?

The americans. They're going to assassinate Jean Chrétien with the Hubble Space Laser!

They will!

Oh, yeah right.

will not.

Look, I'm serious...

So am I.

how should you know?

How should you? Your track record isn't exactly the best, you know.

At least I've never been interviewed by the Weekly World News!

Ooh. That was low.

Let me guess... you were talking to your toaster again...

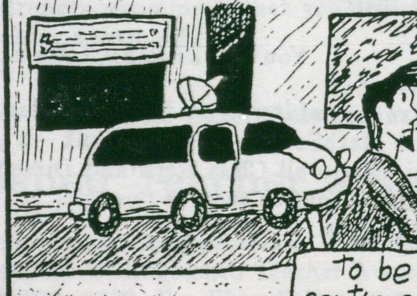No! It was a garden gnome with a sock puppet!

Shit. We could be in trouble.

I've planned a meeting tonight, at the regular place. Still own a step ladder?

Yeah... Count me in.

Unfortunately, I hadn't noticed the stretch volkswagen across the street, and three guys named Mike from Venuzela...

to be continued

The story you have just read is True. Only the events have been changed to protect Joeb Hewitt.

The Math Enquirer

what enquiring minds don't actually know

Well, it appears that another group of people have a bunch of beefs with the Math Society and how it's run. They claim that they are not spreading lies, so I will give them the benefit of the doubt and tell them that they are seriously misinformed. Since I have an opportunity to clear up some of these unfounded accusations, I might as well take advantage of it.

First of all, I would like to clarify what the editors of the Enquirer seem to think that MathSoc had a hand in.

- Spring break is only two days. Yes this was brought up in a meeting once with the Associate Dean, I believe, and yes we were asked our opinions, but our opinions were not in favour of a two day reading week. Do you really think that we are *that* stupid?

- Free ski trip for the president. Ummm, well I guess it's hard to come up with something to counter a decision that Council had absolutely nothing to do with. It does look bad when an individual (or a few individuals) give a bad reputation to a group of people who do actually try to improve things around here.

- Parties where booze is predominant. As a matter of fact, I can only remember one end of term party where booze was actually bought, and the "leftovers" were taken by one of the Exec. This again is an isolated incident that makes the whole Society look bad. Also, it happened during the same term as the free ski trip for the president. Coincidence? Or does it lend credence to the "one bad apple" theory?

- Making Phil 140 and PM330 anti-requisite. This again is something that the Faculty asked our opinion on, but decidedly chose to put Phil 140 on the no-credit list (get your facts straight). Given the option of either having the two courses anti-requisite or not being able to take Phil 140 at all, I think you can understand why we tried to ask for the anti-requisite.

- Restrict C&D Manager from having government required lunch and coffee breaks. I'm sorry, but I don't know where the hell you came up with this one. If you wish to talk with the Manager and find out exactly what goes on, her name is Brenda Wilson, and you can find her in the C&D at almost any time. I will warn you, however, she will probably want to box your ears for coming up with this lie (Oops, I mean piece of misinformation).

- Changes to our constitution. Hey, I'll be the first one to agree with you that this happens too much, too often. I have got to be one of the people who are most sick and tired of the amount of bureaucratic bullshit that exists at this University, as well as in the Math Faculty and within MathSoc itself. There is really only one thing anyone can do about this, and that is to get involved to make a difference.

As far as I am concerned, the people who sit and bitch (especially anonymously) are only adding to the problem here. If you have a problem or concern (or complaint for that matter) with how things are being done, come and tell someone in MathSoc. We finally do have a president that will take the time to sit and listen to you and not just blow it off like many in the past have. There is the concern of retaliation from MathSoc or the Faculty. Well, to hell with them all. What do you think they can do? Call you names behind your back? That's about it, and I'm sure enough of them have been said about me. I have found out here that you will *never* be able to please everyone, so if you got a problem, get on your soapbox. What you, the students, want is what we need. We need to be able to decide and have a hand in the decision making. I will be the last person to tell you that you are wrong in that respect. For example, did you know that now that Phil 140 is no longer available to Math students, PM330 still overlaps two other Philosophy courses!? That is a load of crap!! But as long as I am one of very few voices that will confront people, there is no way anything will get changed. We do need the support of the Math students in order to make things better for you. But as long as you help to maintain the bad reputation we have (that's right, we do whether we like it or not), no-one will get involved, and the whole situation will just perpetuate. I dare you to sit down and talk with Marco Koechli or myself, and I think you will be pleasantly surprised with the attitudes and motivations behind certain people in the Math Society.

The last point I want to address in this issue is the MathSoc "clique". I like the statement that "[the people in MathSoc] are a few students with inflated egos, abusing the power which they believe to possess". There have been people like that to the extreme in the Society, but they only make up a small number of the volunteers whom you so much appreciate. I have been one of the most actively involved people in the Math Society, but most of it has been behind the scenes. I have only ever held two positions in the last seven terms of my involvement, and yet managed, with a few select other people, to help keep the office open about sixty hours a week in the Fall '91 term (don't expect me to do that again). I don't hold an actual office hour, because I'm usually around, and try to keep the office open whenever there isn't someone to run it. If you still aren't satisfied with how long the office is open, then sign up for an hour. This term has been great (so far) with the turnout of new faces and people who want to take positions away from the "clique". Even though there are many of us that spend a lot of time there, and that it does resemble a clique, I also know that the clique-days are over. There have been three of us who allot the majority of our school week to keep the office open, among other things, but we have been running things behind the scenes, and have seen the different "egos" come and go. The three of us also know what the hell goes on all the time, and without stating the names of the other people, I can promise that if you drop by the office and talk to me, that I will bring your concerns to the appropriate people.

In the mean time, I suggest that if you do have a complaint, at the very least drop a note in either the BLACK BOX on the third floor, or in MathSoc. I will keep whoever has a complaint confidential, but I do need to know who you are to get back to with whatever is the result of voicing your complaint. If you feel particularly jaunty, take a jog up to the Dean or Shirley Thompson and tell them what's on your mind. Both are great people to talk to, and they won't (and actually can't) do anything naughty to you (unless you really have something against spankings). And if you don't believe me, ask last terms's editors about "the Editorial Scandal".

'Til next time,

Michael Melvin
Chronic Shit-disturber

profQUOTES

"The President insists I assign a number between 0 and 100 to each of you; failing that, I believe I get sacked."

Jackson, C&O 430

"About 2 minutes left to finish off C&O 230"

Jackson, C&O 430

"It's not division; it's syntactic cancellation. You laugh – out of ignorance, presumably."

Jackson, C&O 430

"Let's take a cute little function you might find in the street somewhere..."

Hudson, MATH 137

"This thing should jump out at you, grab you by the neck, and yell "Squeeze Theorem" at you!"

Hudson, MATH 137

"...be prepared to be surprised."

Nishimura, CS 134

"This is kind of like those connect-the-dot things you used to do, and come up with a rabbit..."

Forrest, MATH 138

"The hard part comes when things get complicated..."

Forrest, MATH 138

"There is nothing you can do to Fred's lap that you can't do to Socrates' lap..."

Nishimura, CS 134

"This is a time in your lives when you're going to have to learn that there are more variables than x and y."

Best, MATH 138

"It's an x having a bad hair day."

Best, MATH 138

Student: "Aren't you using the quotient rule?"
Prof: "I'm using the whatever-comes-out-of-the-chalk rule"

Best, MATH 138

"Let's go back and make fun of linear approximations."

Best, MATH 138

"If there is a caring god, what should it be?"

Best, MATH 138

"All you know is there is space for you to stick something, and you can stick something there."

Nishimura, CS 134

"They're all the same, it doesn't matter what PMS stands for."

Tenti, MATH 127

"I want you to think about sex."

McArthur, ENGL 208A

"I'd say they were greedy little sons of...guns, don't you?"

Beam, ACC 462

"It's been there for time immemorial...since 1972."

Beam, ACC 462

"Now let's get back to sex...I always come back to sex, I don't know why."

McArthur, ENGL 208A

"I grew up where they played rugby and smashed heads together. What a barbaric game! Now, how did we get...oh, yeah, we were finding the volume of this ellipsoid..."

Wainwright, MATH 237

"Anybody who drinks more than I do is an alcoholic."

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

"I never wrote a CS assignment in my life, but I did write Latin essays. I do not know which one takes more time, but the Latin essays are certainly more useful."

Jackson, MATH 235

"I'm impressed with myself, I don't need to impress you."

Smith, ECON 220

"Better to ask forgiveness, than to ask permission."

Smith, ECON 220

"On the surveys you filled out on the first day, there were some of you who said sex differences were 80% determined by genetics and then said they were 80% determined by the environment. This is bad. Now, I know you don't like math, but..."

Grimshaw, PSYCH 102N

"When I say 'window', I mean this one here — unless I mean the other one, of course."

Mann, CS 488

"Find someone smart ... if you can't find someone smart, find me or the TA's."

Mann, CS 488

"There are about ten to eleven of them for this problem; eight to be precise."

Yang, CS 486

"I don't know what the question is but I am pretty sure the answer is no."

Coffin, CS 246

"You'll have to look that one up in the book... because nobody else cares, to be honest."

Coffin, CS246

"I am an alcoholic!"

Vrscay, MATH 138

An Interview with Ralph Stanton

being an interview with Ralph Stanton

Contrary to a statement I made a few terms ago, swiftly corrected by Chris Redmond (thank you), Professor Ralph Stanton is alive and well and professing Computer Science in Winnipeg. I had the honour of speaking with him this summer.

Prof. Stanton, for those who don't recognize the name, was the first Chairman of Mathematics at UW (and, in fact, the second faculty member appointed to the university), and was the one who led the department over from WLU when UW was just beginning. He was one of a small core of people, known as the Fearsome Five, who were responsible for much of the University's development: for example, as well as being the main figure in making co-op so well known as it quickly became, Prof. Stanton also embodied the drive to create a graduate school at UW, and served as Chairman of Graduate Studies from 1960. Stanton was also well-liked by the students, not least for his eccentric fashion sense: the Pink Tie that the Math Society chose as its symbol and the faculty itself adopted, at least on an informal basis, is only one of the many gaudy ties he was famed for wearing.

The University of Manitoba, where he currently teaches, is really rather bleak, even in summer. (The parking lots have an electrical outlet at every spot, for block heaters.) The Geological Sciences building, which I noticed on the way to Machray Hall, struck me immediately as a smaller, darker version of our Davis Centre—which in fact it was, having been designed by the same architects. "So Waterloo knew what they were getting into," said Prof. Stanton.

Professor Stanton is now in his mid-sixties, still wearing... offbeat... fabrics, but no tie the day I went. His most outstanding feature was a smile that tickled the corners of his mouth as we talked.

I asked him what the place was like in the early days, and what sort of attitudes people had. This question was one of the few to which his answer agreed with the official histories: "There was a great deal more interest and enthusiasm than you meet today, and far less bureaucracy." More got accomplished, simply because the place was smaller. The entire faculty comprised 30 people, and it was common to invite all of them to a party.

In many other instances, he disagreed with the official histories, such as *Of Mud and Dreams* (OMD), pointing out that they get even such simple things wrong as the type of the first computer on campus, an IBM 610 (not 1620, as OMD has it). I asked him about histories in progress, for instance those of Mr. Redmond and Ken McLaughlin, of St. Jerome's College. He was concerned at the accuracy of a history written by someone that was not there at the time, but felt that Prof. McLaughlin's technique of interviewing people that were would make a truer history. Prof. Stanton felt the oral record to be more accurate than the written record in many (if not all) cases. For example, to read the notes from the Board of Governors meetings of the time, one would think there was widespread approval of the original idea to buy land for the university. Actually, said Prof. Stanton, there were only two members that really favoured it. One of them, though, was A. R. Kaufman, which made all the difference.

Prof. Stanton reserved special disdain for OMD, disagreeing with the author's implication that Gerald Hagey was actually responsible for many of the important decisions in creating the new university and for following them through. He claimed that Dr. Hagey actually hired Mr. Scott to write the book, and then opposed its release because it wasn't complimentary enough! "It wasn't Hagey," said Prof. Stanton. "Kaufman had the vision."

Although the animosity has all but disappeared now, it is an open secret that Wilfrid Laurier University—then Waterloo Lutheran—was not happy about the University of Waterloo's splitting off. Prof. Stanton claimed, however, that a large reason for the break was a personal enmity between Dr. Hagey and Dean Schauss of WLU, who was really the person who forced the split.

Turning to more pleasant things, I asked about our adoption of the Pink Tie as an official symbol. He was laconic about the issue, seeing it as "peripheral"—not the worst thing to be remembered for, but maybe not the best either. I mentioned the rumour that the particular tie on display across from the Math Undergrad Office was not his original, but he didn't know for sure: "I know they had one that wasn't real, and I pointed that out to Ron Dunkley...the real one is either on display or in his office. It's easily distinguished: at one point it got cut in two at the back, and is now sewn back together." All he would say about the incident is that it had "nothing to do with mathematics."

Which was all the time we had, so I got him to sign my frosh tie before I left. He agreed, "although," he said, "I rather feel I'm ruining it." I can see why those early students liked him so.

Kivi Shapiro

A Strange Math Question

This is something I was wondering about, but couldn't answer. Hence, I throw it out to the rest of you.

Actually, there are two questions, but they're probably related. The first: say you have k ones, to be used either in the base of a number or in the number itself. What is the largest integer you can achieve, expressed in terms of k?

example: k=3. Options are

1_{11} (=1)
11_1 (=2)
111 (=111, which is biggest.)

but k=7:

1_{111111} (=1)
11_{11111} (=11112)
111_{1111} (=1235433)
1111_{111} (=1380064, which is biggest)
11111_{11} (=16105)
111111_1 (=7)
1111111

It is interesting that 7 is the least value for k such that the implicit base ten number created by writing the digits out in order is not the largest. I'm sure this is true for all higher values of k, but why is 7 the least?

The other question is the same, but with digits in the exponent instead of the base. Like, 11^{11} vs. 111^1.

Something to chew on, anyway.

"Who, Kivi?"

Math, the Universe, and Everything

I Am Slob, Hear Me Roar!

Okay, I admit it: I'm not exactly in peak physical condition. The pursuit of physical fitness has always seemed a bit odd to me: oh boy, I can lift 300 pounds! Sure hope a filing cabinet falls on somebody, then I can save them! Or, look at me! I can run 20 kilometres in an hour and a half! I'm all set for whenever the world runs out of oil! In other words, these people who enjoy being physically fit are developing skills that can easily be done by mindless machines (or your average Rec student). Why? The answer is easy: these people are *freaks*.

Why Would I Want to Get in Shape, Anyway?

Simply put, you don't want to get in shape. The first step in any fitness program is to give up drinking alcohol and eating fatty food. That alone is what turned me off physical fitness.

Another thing that happens when you exercise is that you sweat. Sweat is a bad thing: it smells bad, it tastes bad, and it leaves your sheets all sticky. Oops, that's not sweat, that's semen.

There are, however, people out there who actually enjoy sweating. Unless I am approaching orgasm, I don't want to sweat. Sweat, to me, is God's way of saying, "You're working too hard. Slow down and have a beer." That's why I like God: He looks out for me.

Another reason you don't want to get in shape is the wardrobe. To be a fitness freak, you have to wear goofy-looking stuff like warmup suits and $500 shoes. Trust me, it's easier just to wear jeans, because you can wear the same pair of jeans for upwards of three weeks and nobody's going to notice, especially if they have a cold.

And finally, if you stay out of gyms and stuff, there's an awfully good chance that you'll be able to go through your entire life without ever again showering with a large number of strange people of your own sex. Not that there's anything wrong with that, of course. It's just not something that I enjoy.

So you really don't want to get in shape. What you probably want to do is go to the Bombshelter and buy me a beer. Yeah, that's probably what you want to do.

How to Stay Fit and Healthy in the Bomber

If you're anything like me (and God help you if you are), then you spend a fair amount of your leisure time in the Bomber or a similar bar. (If, however, you prefer to spend your time in Fed Hall, then you don't need to get in shape. What you need is a brain transplant with something smarter than yourself, such as a rutabaga.) Anyway, if you find that you're spending a lot of time in the Bomber, use that time to get yourself into shape. Make a lot of requests at the DJ booth. For extra fitness value, make fun of the DJ's clothes. (Anybody who wears overalls by choice deserves everything they get.) Don't order from the friendly and helpful waitstaff: go up to the bar and get your drinks. Buy quarts - they'll help you build up your arm muscles more quickly. And finally, make frequent trips to the bathroom. Make sure you exercise that bladder!

Masturbation as Exercise

On second thought, never mind.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

The mathNEWS Winter Survival Guide

Last winter, the fatality rate for math students was about 7%. That's not bad when compared with the engineer's fatality rate of 9%, but we'd still like to see it come down even further this term. Our goal is a 5% fatality rate for mathies this winter, and this is how you can help.

Stay alive.

"Pretty simple," you might say, "I've managed to stay alive my entire life," but its not as easy as it sounds. Studies show that 81% of those math students who died last Winter actually expected to live through the entire term. Moreover, 31% of them did not expect to die. Statistics like that show that something is wrong in the mathematics faculty – and for this reason the *mathNEWS* Winter Survival Guide has been written. Just follow these three simple guidelines and we guarantee you may not die during the Winter '94 term.

Rule 1: Don't stand in front of moving vehicles. Roughly 14% of last winter's fatalities were Applied Mathematics students trying to figure out if this momentum thing is all it's cracked up to be. Standing in front of moving vehicles is always a danger, but even more so in winter. During the summer, a driver will usually brake when a student steps in front of her. During the winter, however, what with all the sleet and snow, Waterloo drivers know they can get away with murder and blame it on the wet roads. Statistics show that 61% of all moving vehicle fatalities last winter term were caused by an ex-Systems Design student named Ed who likes driving his truck backwards around Ring Road.

Rule 2: Keep warm. The easiest way to keep warm is to stay home and never go to class. Otherwise, you'll have to put on clothes. Statistics show that 64% of all people who went outside naked last winter term were MathSoc office workers. The other 41% was an ex-Systems Design student named Ed. A good rule of thumb when you go outside wearing clothes is "if you're still cold, put on more clothes." If you run out of clothes, put on your roommate's clothes. If you're still cold, try burning things. Studies show that 14% of Math students burned down a building on university property last winter term. This is partially responsible for the $17,341 increase in tuition this term. An alternative is to burn old textbooks from previous courses, or your notes from these courses. Another alternative is to burn your roommate's textbooks. Another alternative is to burn your roommate.

Rule 3: Drinking alcohol does not make you warm. Drinking alcohol makes you feel warm. Drinking alcohol makes you feel good. Well, if you're going to freeze to death, you might as well feel good. Studies show that 83% of all math students feel better when drinking alcohol than when being hit by a truck while walking naked along Ring Road. An alternative is to go to Fed Hall, or the Bomber, or Weavers, and drink alcohol there. Of course, if you go there dressed warmly, and then start drinking, you'll start feeling hot. If you feel hot, you'll probably take off your clothes. If you've been drinking too much, you'll probably forget to stop. Statistics show that 100% of good looking women who strip naked in the aforementioned establishments do so when I am not there.

Thanks to the Actuarial Science Dept. for the statistics.

Chris "Strunoph" Norman
aka The CS246 TA
aka No, I bathe! Really!
aka Ahmoras the Dragon

Bridge on the Creek Laurel

Welcome friends! It has been some time since you last came to see us here at Bridge University. Not much has changed, the same people are around all the time and bickering among themselves. Jack is still trying to out do me, but never quite succeeds.

There are several goings-on that you should know about, though. Our old rivals, the University of Toronto have challenged us, and naturally, I took it up. If you are interested in beating up on some city-dwellers, then come and talk to me in the Lounge area. There will be several tournaments this term, and the regular series of lessons, although I will be adding a slightly more advanced set as the term goes along. You will be able to find me in MC3001 4:30 on Tuesdays if you wish to learn a little more about bridge.

Here is an idea from one of the lessons from last term – The Endplay. We are often faced with a situation when playing a hand, where we have to take a finesse, or hope for a suit to break in order to make the contract. Sometimes this will be our only hope, but occasionally, we will get to end end position like the one shown here:

```
              ♡  xx
              ♣  Kx
  ♡  ?                  ♡  ?
  ♣  ???                ♣  ???
              ♡  xx
              ♣  Jx
```

We are playing in 4 ♡, and we need 2 out of the last 4 tricks. The opponents have the highest remaining trump, but we don't know where it is. It looks like we have have to lead a club and pray, but something tells you that RHO has the Ace. What to do?

If we lead a heart, and our RHO wins the trick, the they will be forced to lead a club, and our King will always score a trick. On the other hand, if LHO wins the trick, and leads a club, then we are back to a guess as to who has the Ace and Queen of clubs. What you play depends on the auction, table feel, and who you are playing against, but now you have a choice which is better than you were a couple of minutes ago.

Problem #1: You hold: 9 Jxx KJTxxx KJx. The auction:

You	LHO	Pard	RHO
-	-	P	P
2D	P	P	2S
P	P	P	

Problem #2: You hold: Qxxx AJx Axxx xx. The auction:

You	LHO	Pard	RHO
-	-	P	1S
P	1NT	P	3C
P	3D	P	6C
P	6S	P	P
X	P	P	P

In both problems, what do you lead? Answer in two weeks.

Ace Upmysleeve

Vapid Fire

mourning the loss ...

Dead at 140, Phil, we will miss his easy credit in the face of adversity. Leaves Phil Jr, 100, as our only dove of hope in this time of crisis. Mourners are encouraged to perform ritual sacrifices to their deities for his resurrection in lieu of sending flowers. Reception in MC 5058, pretty much continually.

Recent celebrations of Elvis A. Presley's birthday were slightly marred by the lack of response on the part of the birthday boy. Hey, what did you expect — he *is* a festering corpse, after all.

During the John Bobbitt trial, one of the Bobbitts' neighbours, Miss Ella, testified that she told Lorena that "if you don't get along, you might as well separate". I guess some people take things a bit too literally ...

Mike AJ Wellman, The Unbeliever

mastHEAD

Lions and tigers and beers, oh my!

Well, our first production has almost drawn to a close, and everything seems to have gone fairly well. Nobody lost a limb or an eye, at least. We had a pretty good turnout tonight, and we'd like to thank all the folks who helped out (along with their preferred target for firebombing): Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby (the car of HU NGUY, the heroin dealer and pimp across the street), Jennifer Watters (people who purposely drive through puddles to splash pedestrians), Joe Hewitt (Karl Villeneunva. Hell, he's going to spontaneously combust one of the days, anyway), Mike A.J. Wellman (Needless Hell), Stuart Pollock (Village caf: we don't wish to hurt the employees, just the "food"), Arsenyk Ustaris (Meatloaf's PR agent), Curtis Desjardins (that bastard I saw throw a cinder block through some poor guy's windshield. TWICE!), Ian Goldberg (the zenos), Kivi Shapiro (any large natural source of cesium), and Darren " " Morby (E1, E2, E3, EL, and CPH).

We'd like to extend special thanks to all the previous editors who held our hands tonight and showed us how things work — Fuzzy, Curtis, Kivi, and Ian. Thanks also to Marion in Graphic Services and to Gino's for the wide selection of savoury pizzas.

Michael Melvin (anywhere but the Bomber)
Humble Editor-in-Chief
Steve "Flipper" Shaw (Fed Hall)
Supreme Lord God Assistant Sub-Editor

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

Young Female (with many uses other than social) would make a great Xmas gift for older man wearing running tights and driving hot car. Inquire @ 145 WP.

All hail the Columbia Street Fish! We love the Fish!

Weirdo,
Long distance hugs and smootches coming your way!

Man in the Moon

Hey family-8 ex-frosh, my office is MC1014. Come and bug me some time.

Your Ex-Frosh Leader Chris

XENOPHOBIC
(Part 1)

DAY ONE

John suppressed a scream as he realized he was falling. Plummeting through the eye of an angry maelstrom of suffocating green mists and unnerving electricity. John tried desperately to look around him, but he could only force his eyes to remain open. All he could see was the walls of the eye stretching to infinity above him, offering no hint as to where this madness started. Since he was young, John had always been afraid of possibly falling from high buildings and airplanes. But now it was happening. The sheer speed numbed his mind and limbs. The accelerating anxiety of sudden impact was contortioning his stomach as if it were wringing out a drenched sponge. And his heart, with every panicked pounding, doubled its attempts to flee the body through the throat. John was no longer silent by choice. The terror of the moment gripped him so tightly that he could no longer bring out the air to scream, and John's brain faded from further thought...

Awake and choking for air, John forced his body to lie still a moment in the hopes that the fear would voluntarily leave his being. Because he was now in the familiar surroundings of his bedroom, the fear quickly drained away. Although John regularly remembered much of his dreams, this session left a finely detailed imprint on his memory that wouldn't let him forget. John groaned and staggered out of bed to try to clear his head with a bit of OJ.

The kitchen of the basement apartment John shared with three of his University of Waterloo friends was darker and smaller than his bedroom, which caused John to stumble into the corner of the refrigerator. Eventually, he found his way into the one chair in the claustrophobic T.V. room beyond the other end of the kitchen: glass of juice in one hand, television remote in the other. The chair was old, but mellow, and sitting in it relaxed John appreciably. Finally achieving a semblance of calm, John took a sip of juice, then activated the television, without volume so as to not disturb his roommates' sleep.

The first few channels, infomercials of the classic sort, were too uninteresting to keep John from drifting back to that dream and what it might mean. Despite regularly remembering dreams, John never felt compelled to derive meanings for the images. Normally, he let the dreams take him where they would, which would frequently prove to be an enjoyable ride. But this ride John didn't enjoy. And the possibility occurred to him that this particular dream had a sharp and pointed meaning.

A voice yawned from the darkness: "Couldn't sleep either, eh?" Startled by a break in the silence, John nonetheless recovered quickly realizing Mathew had emerged from his room. Mat continued, "I find it difficult to sleep during storms like this."

"There's a storm?" John was having trouble thinking straight.

Mat snickered in his usual hyenic way. "Dark clouds, rain, and thunder and lightning usually make up a storm, John."

"Oh. I didn't notice." John took a moment to listen and for the first time heard the rain pelting softly on the kitchen window.

"I guess I was wrong, storms give you no trouble sleeping at all," said Mat as he returned snickering into the darkness. John heard the bathroom door open and close, which signaled an end to the conversation, so he turned back to the television, now on the weather channel. On the weather map, a large chunk of land around the Great Lakes was inundated with little grey cloud symbols. Although he couldn't hear the weatherman, John got the message that storms were the forecast for Thursday, and they would continue through the weekend. John manufactured a sigh and turned off the box. He finished the juice and deposited the glass in the sink on his way back into his bed. Just before slipping once more into sleeping, John thought he heard a toilet flush...

The rain had decided to take a break for a while, for which John was thankful during his half-hour walk to campus for his morning class. Although the early morning ordeal was still nibbling at a corner of his mind, John was now sufficiently awake to concentrate on his Thursday schedule: a lecture at ten, lunch at twelve-thirty, another lecture at two, do homework until supper, then hope the rain would stop long enough for him to walk home. John glanced at his watch. It read quarter to ten. *I should just get there in time,* he thought.

Professor Wainwright always came as amiable, intelligent, yet nervous when discussing calculus with his students. John reflected on the man while waiting in the classroom. Wainwright had a fairly thin build, and was only average tall. Of course he was also the Associate Dean of Mathematics at the University, and as such had a genuine interest in the success of the students. His knowledge of math was sharp and he demonstrated good organizational skills, and was always punctual. Well, today he was late but Wainwright was almost always punctual.

John pulled out his pencil and a blank piece of paper from his clipboard and prepared to draw to pass the time. After a few thinking moments, he started to flow his pencil across the paper in simple curves, trying to recapture the images of the vortex in his dream. Only a few strokes were complete when the professor walked in, striding along, towards the stage in the front of the room. Once beside the desk in the middle of the stage he stopped and stood, one arm supporting the other in a pose of intense thought, and stared out into the room. "Strange," muttered John to nobody in particular.

Wainwright's vigil encompassed the entire audience. It was an uneasy silence. John wondered why the prof wasn't yet writing the outline of the day's lecture on the board as usual. A hand arose a few rows ahead of John. After a few more uneasy moments, Wainwright acknowledged the student with a brief nod in her direction.

The student took a breath to organise her thoughts, "Uh.. could you go over Green's Theorem again? I still can't get it for the assignment."

Wainwright resumed the vigil pose, then turned abruptly and grabbed up some chalk. "Let's do something different today, shall we?" Wainwright projected a vague European accent when speaking. "Yeah, let's discuss the impact of mathematical formulae on extra-planetary physics." And with that, he turned and started scribbling on the board. Mounting confusion started buzzing thoroughly around the room, and it soon became apparent to each and every student there that no one but the professor had any idea of what was happening...

"...And that was constantly writing out numbers and letters and symbols and all sorts of math junk I couldn't understand. He kept talking about some sort of, of how to calculate light stream motions through some sort of weird vacuum conditions in order to move through space. Or something like that." John found it hard to improvise proper English when stressed or confused, qualities which had clung to him after leaving the class.

"Wainwright did this?" John's friend Mike, whom John had met for lunch in the C&D cafeteria, was still skeptical.

"Something like that. I don't know what he was doing. And then, halfway through the class, he finally stopped long enough

to check for questions. No one had any idea what to ask. The room was dead quiet."

"What happened next?"

John braced himself to speak in a serious tone. "He told us to go to the library and do research if we were still confused. And then he left."

"What, he left in the middle of class?" Mike chuckled in disbelief.

"I ... could not ... believe it." John shifted back to a more comfortable position in the chair. "And neither could anyone else I guess because by the time people realized they needed help, he was gone from the hall."

"Wow. I never had a prof..." Mike paused for a quick thought. "Well, I've had a prof or two change topic suddenly in the middle of a lecture but that's weird. Maybe he just went a bit overboard about the UFO sightings yesterday."

John's ears perked up. "When was this? I haven't heard anything about that."

"I'd better get back to the lab." Mike was looking at his watch so John glanced down at his own watch. It read quarter after one. Mike continued as they got up. "Yeah. In the paper this morning there was a story about some students on campus claiming they each saw a UFO flying around campus last night."

John threw his garbage into the wastebasket and headed for the recycling bins. "During the storm? What were they doing?" John opened the bin for cans and tossed the empty Coke receptacle inside. "They weren't on their way home from the 'Shelter, were they?"

The two friends started walking through the usual clumps of people and headed down the hallway to the real-time lab. "No, a few claimed they saw a saucer, some said it was a cone, some guy said it was a Bug, like you know, a Volkswagen, and one even thought it was a flying doughnut."

"Oh. Way to go, Homer Simpson." John gave a laugh and Mike chuckled. They were at the correct door now, practically the only door on the third floor protected with a combination lock. So, as Mike proceeded to punch in the combination, John looked through the adjoining window into the lab.

The real-time lab always looked cool to John. Beyond the small rectangular window beside the door, John could see the elaborate model railroad setup, the robot arm setup, and a half-dozen or so computers whose combined intent it was to control the operations of these constructs without error. The fourth-year course that used the lab was rumoured to be uniquely difficult, but still, John every so often would ponder what was necessary to electronically handle the problems of scheduling and driving the model trains collision-free.

John turned his attention back to Mike as the door was opened. John followed Mike in and they headed to a small table on the far side of the room near the robotic arm. A video surveillance camera lay sideways on the table beside a computer, and various cables were strewn fairly evenly over both the camera and the computer's base. Although John couldn't see behind the table, he knew that one of the cables led down to a VCR on the floor. This equipment, and a few other yet-to-be-used gadgets, comprised Mike's group's real-time visual imaging project.

Mike leaned over the table, pulled up a threadbare backpack, and placed it upright on top of the camera housing. He then unzipped the top and peered inside. John glanced at the robotic arm setup.

"Here's the sampler and a copy of some of my audio files," Mike said. John glanced back in time to see two disks and a small black box in Mike's hands. An offering John readily accepted.

John always tried to emphasize phrases of politeness in uncommon ways, in hopes that the intended sentiment would not be taken for granted, as was common in so much of the society of the day. In this case, he held the breath of the first word for an extra half second: "Thank you."

"No problem." Mike didn't seem to notice as he bent over the table and lowered his backpack down to its original position.

"See ya later." John began to go. "Oh yeah, don't forget about East Side's for supper tomorrow."

Mike straightened up and turned around. "Yeah, well, I'll try to be there."

Mike had slid into his chair and was starting his work by the time John had reached the door to the hallway. John noted the increasing number of bodies in the corridor en route to his locker, probably because the current set of classes had just finished. In theory, students were given ten minutes to get from one class to the next. But professors often let their lectures run beyond the theoretical limits, forcing many students to run to make their next class.

Thinking about the strange things professors do brought John back to what happened with Wainwright. After a brief debate over the point of that class, John decided to just take Wainwright's advice and go to the library.

The early evening walk home turned into a very uncomfortable sprint for John as the rain started pouring down like a fully-opened floodgate when John was only halfway home. John rounded the corner into the driveway of the house in which he stayed, while trying to keep his balance carrying a book-heavy bag. Sensing motion, the headlight above the side door beamed on, illuminating the area. With a frantic desire for dryness, John wildly swung open the screen door and stepped into the doorway. Then, using his momentary leverage, he pushed open the simple oak door in one fluid motion. However, the screen door, on strong spring hinges, snapped closed before John's bag made it through. After floundering for a few seconds in releasing his bag from the screen's maw, John finally turned towards the small stairway down, and saw Mat and Charlene grinning at him from the bottom.

Mat tried to flatten out his smile and sound serious. "So, John, how was your day?"

Charlene let out a deliciously malicious laugh and returned to the kitchen stove, as John proceeded down the seven steps to the basement. John tried his best to mock an angry growl.

Mat was now almost choking on his laughter in his attempt to look serious. "Whoops, gotta go get ready for fencing tonight!" And with that, Mat fled chuckling and snorting into his room.

There was an appetizing scent of meat and vegetables in the cramped air, the aroma heightened by the humidity of the outside weather. Charlene was always a solid cook in John's opinion, and although he often felt guilty about letting her cook for him, he really appreciated her gastronomical abilities.

As if thinking the same thoughts, Eric emerged from his and Charlene's room, the tail end of a nap still embracing his visage and lending a laboured rasp to his voice...

"Good mornin', honey. What smells so good?"

Charlene gave Eric a quick peck on the cheek. "Stir fry on white rice. Look at John!"

Eric finally put on his glasses. "I can see!" He then squinted at John as John walked past, heading into his own room. "...whoa, John! What happened, dude? Ambushed by a swimming pool?"

John slowly turned around and opened his mouth, at which point a chuckling, snorting voice broke in: "Yeah they attacked him in waves!" John winced overdramatically and closed the door to his room while Eric and Charlene revved into chuckling themselves, which quickly proceeded to become a few kisses.

Being careful not to touch the bed in his soaked condition, John removed his fairly drenched shoes and thought about his relationship with Eric. John could no longer remember when

The Oracle's Advice column

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

How paranoid is too paranoid?

<div align="right">name withheld by request</div>

In 1949, James Forrestal, the first Secretary of Defence of the United States, was diagnosed as paranoid and confined to an upper floor of the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. The reason? He believed that he was being followed by Israeli secret agents. So strong was the Secretary's belief in this surveillance, and so deep his depression over his confinement, that he committed suicide by jumping from a window. After his death, it turned out that Israeli agents *had* been following Forrestal, trying to learn whether the U.S. was making secret arrangements with Arab nations. Thanks to Nigel Findley for this true story.

I've heard that the Ren & Stimpy cartoons that they're making are censored. What sort of stuff are they cutting out?

<div align="right">Jimmy Dean
age 8</div>

Quoted from Nickelodeon staff: "Ren shouldn't be so ugly"(Stimpy's Invention), "This whole nipple twisting sequence has got to go"(Dog Show), "Drop the History Eraser Button. We'll need a new ending"(Space Madness), "Won't approve butt picking gag... watch level of slobber grossness... cut the armpit scum, pectoral muscle scum and the burning fart gags all must be cut" and "Vanessa has decided to revoke her approval of the underwear sniffing gag"(Lair of the Lummox), "Vanessa wants to kill magic boogers" (Goodbye II), and finally "A bonafide classic. Let's talk about cuts." from Wilderness Adventure, which you will never see because the whole thing was cut. Thanks to Chris Gore of Film Threat Magazine for keeping up the fight.

And for our guest star appearance: Dear Dr. Stupid What exactly is tofu, anyway? Is it food or building material? My wife is a vegetarian and often cooks with tofu but so far I've never been able to eat it.

<div align="right">Chris Kenna</div>

It's a hybrid between Styrofoam and chicken. The official explanation is that it's made out of soybeans, but that's what they always say when they want to disguise the origins of something. Soy sauce, tamari, and miso are all by-products of the petroleum and nuclear power industries, but the party line says they're derived from soybeans. Caveat emptor!

<div align="right">Dr. Stupid</div>

I've just seen some little paper flyers at Flynn's; scary Christian comic book pamphlets that have good (albeit unnatural) Christian people weathering under facist atheists and Nazis who torture them to forsake God. This is nothing like the values I believe in at church — where does this stuff come from?

<div align="right">Jesus Is A Nice Guy</div>

I just picked up one of those myself from a very loud man in Toronto. Rev. Ivan Stang found out more about the people who make them: Chick Publications, PO Box 662, Chino CA 91710.

He also informs me that for $5 American and a SASE you can get a sample assortment and a price list, "but if you pretend you're the dumbest jackass in the world, he may well identify with you and send you many freebies".

Apologies: I'm sorry that I had to publish a bogus answer to the Library of Alexandria question in the last issue. I contacted the person who asked the question and gave him the correct answer before the last issue of mathNEWS went to print. There were two libraries of Alexandria: one in the palace and one outside it, in the city. The first was destroyed during a civil war in early 3rd century AD when the palace was besieged; the second (and lesser) library was burned during a riot about 85 years after the first. I eagerly await more serious questions, but I'm rather hard to get in touch with (sacrificial woodchucks are scarce in the Winter), but the mathNEWS editors still have their Ouija 3000 Xterm in the Abel lab so I should be able to answer questions from here on in.

<div align="right">The mathNEWS Oracle</div>

they first met, but it was probably sometime within the first month of their shared frosh year. However, their friendship was something John marked high on his list of accomplishments: Eric was friendly, popular, successful, respected, funny, and besides, John rented his room from Eric. All in all, a good person with which to be friends. John was introduced to Charlene nearly a year and a half later. Apparently, Eric met Charlene while John was away on a co-op term, and after a few weeks of being acquaintances, the couple became a solid item with rumours of an impending wedding. Charlene was about as fiery as Eric's crimson hair, and she knew of many ways to introduce her opinions into any conversation within earshot. Although initially uncomfortable with her direct manner and strong convictions, John felt she had proven herself in friendship, and being with Eric for a few years had introduced her to subtler, kinder means of expressing an opinion.

A bolt of lightning from the outside storm blasted illumination like a strobe light through the one window in John's room. Startled by the display, John paused to listen for the thunder to sound, hoping to judge how far away the lightning struck. Two seconds later, the thunder rumbled through the walls of the house, scurrying around like so many mice through a maze, before continuing on its way. The lingering echo gave John the impression that the house was diabolically laughing, like in the commercial for Bram Stoker's Dracula. Laughing at what, John could not decide. But he let the matter rest and returned to the task of peeling off the wet and chilly clothes in favour of their drier, warmer counterparts.

"What a strange day," John remarked quietly to the air, "I doubt tomorrow could be much worse than today was."

Once again lightning struck, and soon after, thunder laughed once more through the house.

To be continued next issue...

<div align="right">John Wetmiller</div>

mathNEWSquiz #1
8:30 classes bite

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to school! So, is everyone ready for another term of challenging questions and answers? No, I don't mean the assignments for your courses, but the squiz questions for the term, starting with this issue. Anyhow, since this is the first issue of term, and we don't have any previous answers to list, let's just jump into this issue's questions:

Song Lyrics
Name the song and the artist

1. "Every time it rains,
   You're here in my head"
2. "I won't ever slack up, punk you'd better back up
   Try to play around and, yo, the whole crew will act up"
3. "Your own true love, that I'll have and more
   But thou shalt never come ashore"

Thebes of Ancient Greece

1. Who was the king of Tyre when Cadmus founded Thebes?
2. Name the children of Jocasta.
3. Who were the Seven Against Thebes?

Time

1. How many leap years are there in four centuries (e.g. 1900–2299 inclusive)?
2. Why are there 60 s/min, and 60 min/hr?
3. Who was the first leader in Western civilisation to accept a 365-day calendar?

Stuart "Harry Organs" Pollock

Top 10 Reasons Why I Hate The Construction of The New Student Life Building

10. Can't hand in the assignment I wrote on the construction barrier.
9. The 10π ($31.42) dollars it's costing us (oops, thats the MEFCom)
8. This space intentionally left blank.
7. There won't be a tunnel / shuttle bus / waterslide between MC and the Bomber.
6. Malifluous.
5. Freeze my ass off in the High School Portable, aka. Used Bookstore.
4. Can't peek through nonexistant knot holes to see the construction workers freeze THEIR asses off.
3. Have to walk by sickeningly healthy people in the PAC to get to the CC.
2. Who is Ellis Don, and why isn't he/she sent back to Village?
1. There is a wall between me and the Bomber!

I am not telling you who I am
aka Andy Knott
(*we have our ways of finding out — Ed.*)

Distinguished Teacher Awards

To nominate your outstanding professor, demonstrator, or teaching assistant for the Distinguished Teacher Award, contact TRACE, MC 4055, Ext. 3132. Deadline: February 4, 1994.

mathNEWS Advising Co-op
This Week: Things You Should Not Put On Your Co-op Resumé

Once again, it is time for those co-op students who do not have work term placements for the summer term to begin the interview process made uniquely harrowing by the folks at Needless Hell. Now, more than ever, the co-op students resumé is most important in making an impression upon potential employers.

As a public service, the following list of items is presented to help you write or update your resumé. This term, the following list of items which should be avoided when writing or updating your resumé is provided.

Disclaimer: No guarantee is made that avoiding the items in this list will result in a co-op placement. Like I could.

- **Career Goals:** You should not list unsuitable career goals such as "raking it in." Inexplicably, employers want you to actually get something out of your work term besides money for tuition, books, residence, and miscellaneous. Co-op student salaries reflect this.

- **Skills:** Do not describe how well you can play "Doom" or "Mortal Kombat." Employers just don't understand the eye/hand co-ordination and problem-solving abilities required for these games. Instead, they want students to do something useful, like work. In the same vein, useless skills such as "programming in LISP" are also not for the co-op students resumé.

- **Major Accomplishments:** Potential employers like to see accomplishments such as "spoke with the Governor-General on national television" on a students resumé. This gives them the impression that they are actually getting an upstanding citizen as an employee. Accomplishments such as "breaking land-speed records, with the speeding tickets to prove it," while major, are best left out.

- **Extra-curricular Activities:** Finally, there exist extra-curricular activities that despite the satisfaction they bring, should not be written on your resumé. Such activities include killing small animals, writing for Imp'tint and playing bridge in the Comfy Lounge. Most importantly, "The Bombshelter" should not be considered an extra-curricular activity.

By following this advice, you should increase your chances of actually getting an interview. Good luck!

Darren " " Morby

Orientation Director Needed for Math Orientation 1994
Inquire at MathSoc by Jan. 24 @ 4:30

GRIDWORD
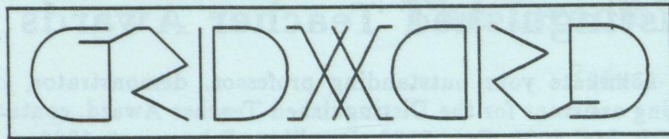
Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Honour crew or ship (7)
4. Cap it back on the title (7)
8. Masks cone one time (4)
10. Specific prisoner from Greek isle (7)
12. Nashvill houses tree (3)
13. Galvan O'Meter is the current measurer (12)
16. Bind the citrus solid (5)
17. Peg got cracking (3)
19. In you, sages practice (5)
20. Strong soap in pasture (3)
21. Black cuckoo mean image (3)
22. Southern Caribbean island under water (5)
23. Friend left lost when standing (3)
25. Coins sound (5)
27. Farming riga sect in the Russian Mtns (12)
30. In debt even to sweep (3)
32. Sad way natural bloodsucker (8)
33. Turn wacky pins (4)
34. Read beginning except the passage (7)
35. The True Lan is oddly non-partisan (7)

Down

1. Effect below rough terrain (7)
2. Use confounded legal action (3)
3. Picture of my top 'ho' all messed up (5)
4. Hide cash (5)
5. Earlier courses require spite (12)
6. Amid each inspiration (4)
7. New hero in no place (7)
9. The limits of lust in Lucca (8)
11. Kill the mans laughter without malice (12)
14. Grimace, a theorem you got (3)
15. Aura in droplet of water (8)
17. Long fish in protecting shelter (3)
18. Break alternate grasp (3)
22. Sex with General Electric is stingy (7)
24. Unusal car curve (3)
26. In a disco, loney officer (7)
28. Lifeless confusion without a retin (5)
29. No, I number up combination (5)
31. Enormous poem in celtic (4)
33. It's an unusual perch (3)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. Colossal
4. Foolish
8. Curved doorway
10. Attribute
12. Time wasting bother
13. Do as I say, not as I do
16. Hello and goodbye
17. Mineral spring
19. Raised strip
20. Born
21. Narrow strip of wood
22. Trunk
23. Have been
25. Leader
27. eg. condom
30. Parts per million
32. Place of trade
33. Hero
34. Follower
35. Not (33) down

Down

1. Air passage
2. Tree
3. Prickly plants
4. 10 - 13 cm
5. Child doctor
6. Speck
7. Central female character
9. Small closet
11. Study of oceans
14. Tilt
15. Acknowledged
17. Fasten
18. Stupid, obstinate person
22. Painting process
24. (2) down revisited
26. eg. Math, AHS
28. Remove
29. Puberty
31. Note
33. Sick