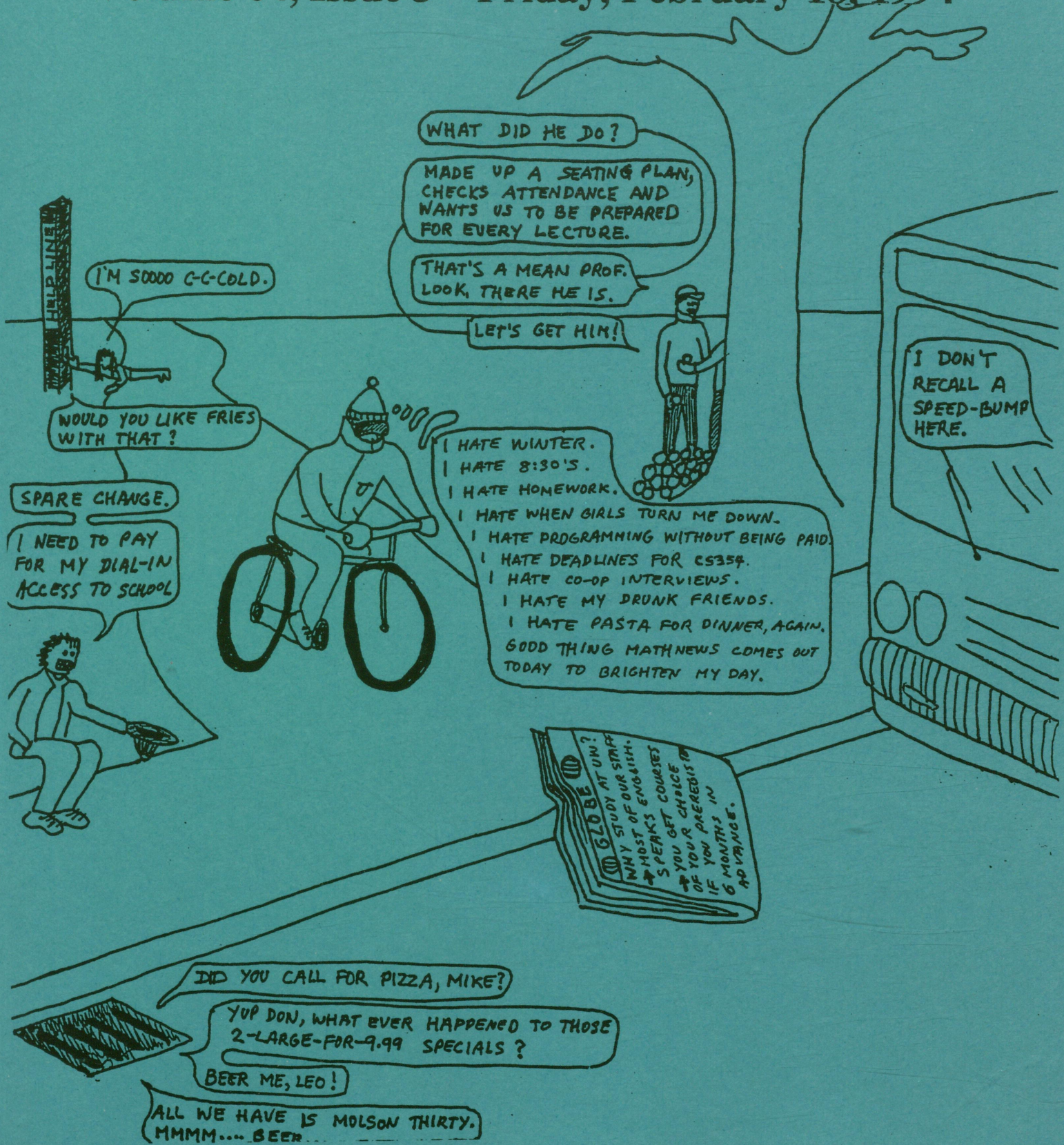


math NEWS

Volume 64, Issue 3 Friday, February 18, 1994



Prez Sez

Marco Raves About Something

"Reading Week, Reading Week, we don' need no steenkin' Reading Week!" BUT IT SURE AS HELL WOULD BE NICE! I hope you're all planning to treat yourselves to a little break before the second half of all this nonsense continues. As for myself, I see a Hot-tub and a Sauna in my future!

This week I'd like to thank all the volunteer workers who run the MathSoc office on a daily basis. For without them, we would run out of staples in the staplers, exams in the exam files and holes in the hole-punchers. There are too many people to list here (see office schedule on door for a more detailed list). Of course they're all under the watchful eye of Charlene Knowlton.

If you haven't noticed, the Math C+D has been decorated in honour of the Chinese New Year. Decorations by Michael and Kit, a couple of C+D cashiers, and Ed and Dean for their Dragons. Please mention to the cashiers how good the C+D looks. For those of you lucky enough, on February 10 MathSoc cut up and shared a cake with all C+D patrons. If you missed out you'll just have to wait until next year!

Have yourself a little break over the next few days, and good luck on the rest of your mid-terms.

MathSoc weekly meetings are held ever Thursday at 4:00p.m. All are welcome.

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

SocToc

It's time to rock the world, everyone. Hope you all have a great reading days (week for those that need it). For those of you who are still kicking around, we are going to be celebrating the 15th day of the Chinese New Year in the traditional way with puzzles, lanterns and puzzles galore. Keep an eye out next Thursday for more details of where and when things will be happening.

More movie nights and bridge tournaments are coming up, along with a challenge match against the profs of UW. Who's going to win? We'll just have to wait and see [Heh heh heh!].

In March, you'll be getting an opportunity to throw pies and anything else we can drudge up that's soft and squishy at your favourite math personalities. We're trying to get the Dean, among other special faculty friends [*I'm sure we can kidnap the Editor-in-Chief for the day, too — Curtis*].

We're also planning to give Assassin another shot in March, after midterms. Stay tuned for more signs announcing the meeting.

So until then. Drink hard. Party young. Die well.

Eric "Slave Boy" Sutherland

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Editor: Michael "Handsome Guy" Melvin, Steve "Balding Guy" Shaw

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
February 28	Issue #4 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 4	Issue #4 hits the stands
March 14	Issue #5 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 18	Issue #5 hits the stands
Math Faculty	
March 1	Last day for Intent to Graduate form
March 7	Faculty Info Night
March 7-11	Fall Term Pre-Registration
March 31	Last Day of Classes! Hoo-hoo!
MathSoc	
February 21,22	Reading Week - enjoy it while it lasts
Co-op	
February 18	Ranking Forms Available
February 25	Employment Acceptance

Speaker's Corner

Two things of consequence have happened at the last two MathSoc meetings, one being a proposal from the Faculty, the other concerning the banning of the newsgroups.

- Our External Director, Nick Piquard, reported that at a meeting of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, a motion was approved, in principal, that in order to graduate with a BMath Honours degree, you must attain an average of 65% in your major, along with the current 60% overall requirement. The philosophy behind this is that some students can graduate from here with a CS degree, but know very little about computers, because they padded their load with simple courses like HiFiSci, or REC 209 (ah, those were the days). By instituting this requirement, it would ensure that the value of a UW degree is still as high tomorrow as it is today. For those students that fail to meet this requirement, but are already part-way through their final year of study, they can enroll in a 4-year General program that will be designed for that purpose. If you have any strong opinions on this, please feel free to leave Nick a message on his board in the MathSoc office. (*BTW, This would affect current first year students, so if you don't like it, SAY SOMETHING!!*)
- At the MathSoc meeting of Feb 10th, a motion was put forth on whether MathSoc should take a position on the issue of the banning of the Newsgroups. After some discussion, it was decided that it was not an appropriate issue MathSoc to take a stand on, as many of the students that our Class Reps had talked to just didn't know or didn't care. It was, however resolved that a survey should be made and circulated so that a better understanding of what YOU want can be reached.

That's it for this week. I hope that all of you voted in the recent Fed Election and Math Referendum, and results will be released shortly.

From the man who came from the place for people who died before their time.

Eric "Slave to my Passion" Schmid (né Sutherland)



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Greetings once again to computer-interested people everywhere! As chairbeing of the CSC, it once again falls upon me to enlighten the masses with news of recently past and upcoming events.

What you missed

Unless you didn't of course, you missed the CSC's Forum on Newsgroup Banning, which was on Tuesday. Much debate, as well as the usual tea and doughnaughts, were had by all. See the article on the forum elsewhere on this page for more details, or drop by the CSC. If you did, in fact, happen to miss it, videotapes are available in the CSC for viewing. As of the time of writing, audio tapes have not yet been made, but that may be rectified shortly.

What's coming up

How could my CSC possibly come up with something to follow that outstanding forum? Well, as usual, they've done it. They will be hosting their termly **Programming Contest** on **February 26**. Contestants will have three hours to solve five problems in Pascal or C. Sample problems from past terms are available for viewing in the CSC office. Winners will be eligible for *big prizes!* Watch for more details on the `uw.csc` newsgroup (not yet banned, thank Calum (me)).

Speaking of programming contests...

We wish the best of luck (as if they need it) to Waterloo's team in the ACM International Scholastic Programming Contest Finals, being held this year in sunny Phoenix, Arizona. The team consists of our President, Ian Goldberg, along with Seiji Ando and Ka-Ping Yee (an engineer (gasps rise from the crowd)). We also wish a speedy mental recovery to the rest of the teams, who will undoubtedly be left floundering in the bit dust.

Let's talk about me!

Well, not really me, but a computer named after me. Yes, *Project Calum* was a success, and a computer bearing my name is, as we speak, on its way to the CSC. The glory days of a non-computerless CSC have returned!

And while I have your attention

No CSC Flash could be complete without the mention of disk quota, which is still (at time of writing) available for rent, pens, and T-Shirts, which will be ordered as soon as the exec get their brains un-muddled from the forum. Further, the CSC has acquired *new It doesn't have to make sense; it's University Policy buttons!* Get yours at the CSC (MC 3036); quantities are limited!

Until next time, I am, the illustrious,

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing

CSC Newsgroup Forum

On Tuesday, February 15, students and faculty interested in the recent banning of five Usenet newsgroups attended a forum organized by the Computer Science Club. Invited to the forum were Jim Kalbfleisch, Vice-President, Academic and Provost; Prabhakar Ragde, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science; Sally Gunz, Chair, Ethics Committee; and Jeff Shallit, Associate Professor of CS, and co-founder of Electronic Frontier Canada.

Ian Goldberg started the forum off by introducing the panel. Each participant was then invited to make a short statement.

Dr. Kalbfleisch led off his statement by recounting how the newsgroup ban had come about. During his statement, he neatly countered what he sensed would be the main two arguments against the administration's position: one, that the newsgroups are still available to anybody willing to make a little bit of effort; and two, that the university was practicing censorship by banning the groups. Kalbfleisch reasoned that the two positions contradict each other - the material has not been censored if it is still available.

Professor Ragde started his statement by claiming that he had no idea why he had been invited, as he had not taken a firm stance in regards to the ban. He then proved just why he had been invited, and launched into an enjoyable analysis of the situation. Ragde did not come down on one side of the fence or the other, but still knew the topic well. He spoke of the problems that each side of the debate has understanding the other, and how neither side was willing to compromise. He drew many good points, both for and against the ban. He also managed to make everybody in the room see the argument from several different views.

Dr. Gunz commented on the role of the Ethics Committee in the university community, and how Dr. James Downey (President) had set the Committee on the task of handling newsgroup complaints. During her statement, she managed to dispel one myth that had sprung up over the last couple of weeks: the banned newsgroups were not magically scanned and banned the day after Downey announced the new role of the Ethics Committee, but they had been under review for a period of time beforehand. She also stated, several times, that she did believe that the banning issue was about censorship, as she herself was not sure how she felt about the subject.

Professor Shallit let it be known from the start exactly where he stood on the ban. Taking Prabhakar's label of a "First Amendment absolutist" to heart, he talked about why he found the ban offensive (and he had plenty of overheads, too). He claimed to have found logic flaws in the criteria by which the newsgroups were banned (for example, by showing that `alt.sex.stories.d` was banned because of a `alt.sex.stories` post. Dr. Gunz responded that no such mistake had been made, and that Shallit had been given misleading information.)

The floor was then thrown open for questions from the audience. A notable comment from the floor came from a representative of the Wom[en]'s Centre, saying that she was disappointed that the WC had not been formally invited to the forum. Other students were content to question the administration's reason for the ban, as well as discussing possible future directions of Usenet both on and off campus.

The forum was considered a success by many, and it outlined many of the reasons the administration had for the ban. While not everybody walked away satisfied, most walked away with a better understanding of the problems concerning the ban.

Steve Shaw

Against the Ban, Part I

Wow, I've noticed quite the response in the past couple weeks over the recent bannings of the newsgroups. The protestations all follow the same general pattern: "I would never read any of those newsgroups, and certainly do not subscribe to them, nor do I condone or approve of what is (supposedly, since they never read them) contained in them, but I wholeheartedly object to censorship."

Well, I too object to these bans, but from a rather different perspective. I was subscribed to each and every one of them, have followed their contents for years, and not only approve of but actively participate in virtually all areas of the discussion. Here's how each of the newsgroups have contributed to enriching my life and the lives of those around me.

alt.sex.bondage: One might think, judging by our popular movie and television culture, that using such implements as handcuffs, chains, and whips is a simple and straightforward task. I can assure you, from extensive personal experience (prior to my introduction to the Internet), that cracking a whip is an enormously more difficult procedure than Harrison Ford makes it appear. In fact, without the proper guidance and cautions, one would end up looking far more like River Phoenix than Harrison Ford. (And we all know what happened to poor old River.)

This particular group has proven to be an essential how-to guide that has prevented my current ladyfriend from befalling the same fate as my first seventeen.

alt.tasteless: I congratulate the U(W) administrative types for their incredibly keen political insight. The New Liberal agenda includes eliminating not only RRSPs and the capital gains exemption, but soon tofu and tapioca will become banned substances. Unsubstantiated rumours say that rice cakes are next.

By eliminating *alt.tasteless*, we students will not be influenced by the evil forces that will induce us to grow our own rice. Information such as how to care for these agricultural products will undoubtedly be disseminated in this medium and must be curtailed. Tofu, the true ingredients of which is classified three levels above top-secret, would have its chemical composition broadcast to the world. In order to stave off the fall of Western Civilization as we know it, banning *alt.tasteless* was a prudent and essential step.

alt.sex.bestiality: I was more of a lurker in this particular newsgroup than an active participant, but I do know that all of Flipper's weekends (and most of his *mathNEWS* articles) were inspired by, and posted on, this newsgroup. Without *alt.sex.bestiality*, I personally cannot see how *Math, the Universe, and Everything* can continue in its present form. I hope the administration realizes the far-reaching, deep, fundamental implications of its actions. *mathNEWS* without Flipper... it's like the University without the administration. (Hmmm...) [*Hey, who let this schmuck in here? — ediFlip*]

alt.sex.stories: Prior to being introduced to this newsgroup, my girlfriend and I were sadly limited to the positions and techniques described in our collective imaginations, the *Joy of Sex, More Joy of Sex*, and the *Kama Sutra*. (*The Art of Sensual Massage* turned out to be somewhat of a disappointment in this respect. [*No kidding. Did you get it in the special "bonus box" that included massage oil and a really cheap vibrator? — Flip (again)*]) Now, however, both of us eagerly pore over this newsgroup three times every day for more ideas.

Our relationship has suffered somewhat as a direct result of this newsgroup's banning.

alt.sex.stories.d: The forum for critiquing the positions and techniques detailed in *alt.sex.stories*. Some we found to be wonderful, others boring, and a few to be unworkable. In this last case, the author of the original work responded, clarifying a few

crucial steps that we missed. Let me just say this: Krazy Glue's motto is 1001 uses... well, now it's a thousand and two.

So, I beseech everyone in power to reverse this decision before my life falls apart completely.

Leslie Rosenblood

Open Letter to UW Administration

Congratulations on the new Efficiency

To Dr. Jim Kalbfleisch
Vice-President, Academic & Provost

As an alumnus of this university, I am extremely pleased with the announcement of the Ethics Committee's review of certain newsgroups. This represents a quantum leap in the efficiency of the University administration which is certain to save millions of dollars.

Finally the university has an efficient bureaucracy that can promptly deal with important and complex matters. As you recall, there was an Advisory Committee on newsgroups and the Internet. This implies that in less than a day, the Ethics Committee requested and received legal advice, consulted the vast user community (which implies advance notification that such a review was being considered), made an important, precedent-setting decision with far-reaching implications (to which the Committee surely must have given careful consideration), and implemented this decision! All in a single day!

Obviously you will be passing on the efficiency secrets of the Ethics Committee to the rest of the University. The University could then layoff 70, maybe 80 percent of its administrative staff while still providing the same services. Even if the University doubles the salary of the remaining staff (to promote this efficiency), the millions saved would ensure that tuition will not increase while still providing a much needed surplus that could be used to improve teaching facilities and resources and attract top-notch professors. The reduction of work load and new research facilities will also prevent our excellent professors who are eyeing American Universities from leaving.

Again, my congratulations on a job well done!

Philippe F. Bertrand
B.Math, M.Math

P.S. I am surprised to have learned that these were the only newsgroups that contained material contrary to the Criminal Code. But in one day I guess the committee did not have time to review all the hundreds of newsgroups. Perhaps as I write this letter they will have completed this mammoth task that would have scared committees which were 10-100 times larger than our efficient Ethics Committee.

P.P.S. How did you get lawyers to be so efficient?

**Employment Network job
publications for graduating
students and alumni can be read
in the MathSoc Office**

Newsgroup Censoring

A Serious Article

What we have experienced here at UW with the recent banning of five newsgroups is pro-active censorship. Nothing more, nothing less. I will show why this is so, then argue why this is a wrong course of action for the university to take.

First, there were no technical difficulties with keeping the newsgroups. There was no scarcity of storage space, CPU capacity, or other resources that removing these newsgroups alleviated.

What do we have here? Someone internal to UW complained (apparently the Women's Centre), some newsgroups were examined (supposedly in depth by the Ethics Committee and the University's legal counsel), and five newsgroups were banned.

Why did this happen? Because of fears of future charges being laid against the University for the contents of the newsgroups. Are these reasonable fears? Are they justified? Is the UW administration being prudent or paranoid?

No external (to UW) forces were at work in this decision. No charges have been laid against UW (or any other news carrier), no warnings from criminal authorities, and no clear violation of any law (though there is considerable debate about this, which I will get into later).

So clearly we have pro-active censorship. Should it be accepted in this case? Absolutely not. And here is why.

UW has acted on the basis of a complaint from a single source on campus. No doubt the content of alt.sex.stories offended some women (assuming it was the Women's Centre that originated the complaint). But in Villages, pork is served regularly. This no doubt offends devout Jews, Muslims, and vegetarians. But it is *NOT* a violation of anyone's rights, nor is it creating a "poisoned atmosphere", if bacon is served with breakfast. Despite the fact that some people are genuinely offended by its presence, Jews, Muslims, and vegetarians (and whoever else) do not have the right to ban pork, and the administration would be wrong to accede to their heartfelt demands.

There is also numerous difficulties with imposing an effective ban. There have been numerous posts in uw.general, and a detailed, step-by-step guide in last week's *Imprint*, on how to circumvent the ban and still read the five newsgroups. If the administration's goal was to eliminate the presence of these articles on campus, they have failed. If the goal was to appease some phantom or spectre, by demonstrating that some small steps were taken, can we justify censorship for the sake of appeasement? I find either option untenable. Either the ban has failed, or its purpose is morally repugnant. Either way, it should be lifted.

Such "illegal" information can appear on any group. Not only can the contents of alt.bestiality be cross-posted to rec.music.makers.piano, but some newsgroups have contained other, definitely illegal, materials. For example, in October, can.general violated the law on two separate occasions. During the federal election, results of the Maritime provinces were posted to can.general before the polls closed in BC, violating the Election Act. Also, information on the Karla Homolka/Teale trial (including the American newspaper article in its entirety) was posted to this newsgroup. Must we ban can.general as well? No, obviously not. Because we would then "have" to ban every newsgroup, and destroy the entire Internet.

The solution to this dilemma is to treat the Internet as a "common carrier". Just as Canada Post is not liable for threatening letters, and Bell Canada is not responsible for harassing telephone calls, UW (and every other newsfeed organization) should not be legally answerable for the contents of the newsgroups it carries. At present, the legal status of the Internet is not clearly defined. Precedents would seem to lean towards a

conclusion that it *IS* a common carrier, but this has not been firmly established. If UW is to err in this matter, it should err on the side of free speech, not on the side of appeasement or censorship.

Universities are (in theory) bastions of freedom (and especially free speech and free thought) in society. This freedom is, of course, subject to the laws of the land. But no laws have been broken, insofar as no charges, or even warnings have been issued or laid against the University. It is possible, perhaps, that some articles in the banned newsgroups may contravene hate and/or obscenity laws. But UW, as a university, and as a moral imperative, should take a bold stand, and not kowtow to gremlins, ghosts, and unnamed spectres.

The headlines in recent weeks have been filled with speculations on what form the new "Information Highway" will take. The closest thing that already exists is, of course, the Internet. In order to set an example for the "Information Highway" of the future, we should keep today's technology, the Internet, as free from censorship, regulation, and external controls as possible.

Fight the ban, using whatever means and options available to you.

Leslie Rosenblood

Announcement

Happy Happy Joy Joy

Brenda Wilson (the really terrific lady who runs the Math C&D) became a grandmother on Thursday February 9. Weighing in at 8 lbs, 5 oz, Bryan Randall was born at 4:30 a.m. Congratulations to Brenda from all of us who appreciate all you do for us!

mathNEWS staff
MathSoc folks

and a whole bunch of other well-wishers

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Orientation Leader Interviews!

Yep, that's right. This year, we're going to do something a little bit differently... Each leader applicant will go through a thirty minute interview. The interview committee will consist of a class rep from each year, the dean, the Fed prez, the MathSoc prez, and myself. Please have a resumé ready as well as a video tape of your most memorable childhood experiences. This is no joke. This year, we're going to have a daily morning 10K run starting at 5 a.m. during Frosh Week.

Okay, okay, I know, I'm not funny. But, hey, you know that I try. No, really though, we are going to have interviews during the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the Reading Week that we don't have and everybody else does [*Let's hear it for Reading WEEK!! Yay! -Curtis the gloating Artsie*]. They will be between five and ten minutes in length and the interview committee has not yet been selected... and even if they were, I wouldn't tell you. So, when you get back from your lovely four day reading week-end in Daytona, check the message board across from the C&D to see when your interview will be. If you can't make it, be sure to contact me either through the Math-Soc office or my favourite, Email! What a PAYTER!!!! So, good luck to all and have a grreeeaaaaattt reading period.

Jane Pak
Orientation Director

Sheesh

Return of The Sphere

It's probably a surprise to many of you that Math and Engineering are not the only faculties that publish student papers. *mathNEWS* and the *Iron Warrior* are the two most visible and regular faculty publications, but other faculties will occasionally try to revive the spirit of their publications. Usually, our reaction to the re-appearance of our long-lost siblings is a positive one, and everybody here in *mathNEWS* headquarters likes to read as much of the student press as we can. We even agree with a lot of the stuff in the *Warrior*.

This brings us to the re-emergence of *The Sphere*. *The Sphere*, for those of you lucky enough not to have read one, is the Arts faculty paper's latest incarnation. It's eight pages of newsprint, consisting mainly of filler and a full page article telling us how *The Sphere* came to be. The passage that immediately caught our attention was description of how the old *Arts Lion* was revived in 1987, "only to die an even faster, more horrible death due to its terrible Mathnews [sic] like format." (Emphasis mine. Misspelling is theirs.)

Well. That's the sort of thing that we here at *mathNEWS* headquarters really don't like to hear. But, hey, we figure, they're just having a little bit of fun. We've been known to do it ourselves. And (surprise!) we're going to do it again.

Our format may be terrible. We may print too many puzzles. The covers may well piss some people off. But, at the very least, we don't take five years off between issues. We don't even take two months off, as the current team seems intent on doing. We don't fill the issue with the sort of self-congratulatory bullshit that can be found on page three of the current issue of *The Sphere*. And, to top it all off, we're not even the biggest faculty on campus. Neither is Engineering. Who is, you ask? I'll give you a hint: it takes them five fucking years to get out one issue of their paper.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

Mathie Ice Warrior Leads Team Scoring

Silently and efficiently, Jason Mervyn of the Waterloo Warriors varsity hockey team has been piling up the points. Not only does he lead the team in scoring, but he has also propelled himself into a tie for 5th in the scoring race in the whole OUAA!

Also silent are the crowds, because very few of Jason's faculty come out to watch or support the Ice-Warriors. What faculty is that, you ask? Math.

Jason is busy working on his 3rd year of CS, and is the only member of the hockey team in math, yet the math faculty doesn't come out to support him. Here is a guy who is combining an above-average intellect (like most mathies have) with athletic ability, and he is completely shredding the image of the pink-tied math geek, but nobody comes to support him.

Prior to playing for the Warriors, Jason played two seasons for the Stratford Cullitons in the OHA, and during this time he put up some amazing numbers. During the 1991-92 season he scored 79 goals to lead the league in goal scoring, and this stands as an OHA record for all of Canada right to this day. He finished the season with 123 points, second in the overall scoring race to his linemate, who managed to come away with 124 points.

It was during this season that Jason came to the University of Waterloo, entering math, so he put up these totals even though he was going through the first-year stress of the number crunching faculty.

In his second year of CS, Jason came aboard with the Warriors, and put up some strong numbers again. He led the team in faceoff percentage, and also finished second in team goal scoring. Not bad for a hockey frosh.

This year, his second with the Warriors, Jason has proven to be something else entirely, as his point production has vaulted him into the upper echelon of the OUAA in scoring, while easily leading his team.

Jason is not your typical hockey player, however. His skating style makes one think that he will lose his balance at any second, but this is very deceiving. He is not an overly fast skater, and nor is he a physical player, coming last on the team in hits. His game relies on finesse, puck-handling and outthinking the opponent.

This type of play has seen him referred to in the Imp'tint (by me) as Jason "Swervyn" Mervyn, "Mister Dipsy-Doodle", the "Wunderkind", "He Who Dances-with-pucks", etc., etc. He simply has to be seen to be believed.

Anyway, why am I telling you all this? Well, now is the chance for the math faculty to make amends and support one of their own. Waterloo is in the playoffs, but all of their home games are over. If the Warriors have to face the Golden Chickens of Laurier in the first round of the playoffs, there will be a one game winner-face-Western, loser-go-home match at Laurier's home rink. What we need is a lot of fans to come out and support Mervyn and the whole team.

As it stands right now, the game will be on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. The venue is the Waterloo Recreation Complex on Father David Bauer Drive (just off Erb by the Seagram Museum). So this is it. What could be the only game in the playoffs. I'm begging. We need your support. With vocal fans we could win this one, and then head off into the playoffs. If we win a national championship, all mathies at UW can point to the hockey Warriors and say, "They wouldn't be anywhere without a mathie, Jason Mervyn, and his superior mathie intellect."

Nicholas Mew
manager, Waterloo Warriors varsity hockey team
B.Sc. 90, B.A. 91, B.Ed. 93, M.A. 94,
but not good enough for a B.Math.

Math Endowment

Answers to "Fuzzy" Questions and Concerns

A recent article in *mathNEWS*, written by a math student [*ex-Mathie, actually. - Ed.*], raised some concerns about an endowment that has been proposed. I feel that the individual who wrote this article is somewhat misinformed and I would like to clarify some of the issues raised in the article.

- The article expressed a concern that people would be forced to donate or be scorned by the rest of the student community and be labeled a "welcher". This is NOT true. People who have donated, however, have the right to feel that they are being cheated by people they know are able to support the cause and choose to save their money and lean on others. This is a student endowment and it is up to the students to ensure that its purpose is served.
- The *\$75 of Self Respect* article was written to express concerns of an engineering student, very active in our engineering community. He has the freedom to express what others feel about people choosing not to donate even though they reap the benefits of the WEEF. If you do not donate for financial reasons that are true then you would not have to question yourself for not donating. You would simply donate when you have the means.
- The equipment that we purchase is not evenly divided among all disciplines in engineering. It is nice to give everyone a piece of the pie, but right now we need to satisfy the pressing needs of the students. Plain evidence of the spending pattern reveals that a significant majority of the funding has gone to the Civil Engineering Department. This is not because our council is biased, it is evenly represented. The reason is that civil requires the funding immediately because a lot of their lab equipment is in desperate need of replacement. Watstar is also a large recipient of our funding as this equipment is in high demand and there simply is not enough available to satisfy the need here.
- The issue that money could be raised in other ways is being done. We are currently asking certain employers to match the voluntary student contributions. I don't feel that small time fund raising like pizza days and BBQ's will be sufficient to support a venture such as the WEEF. We would be in competition with the other student project groups that like to run these events and I'm afraid we just couldn't generate the funds necessary to make the endowment worthwhile.
- Why \$75? Less would not solve our problem, and it is not really that large a sum when you consider the benefit. It takes an enormous principle fund balance to generate enough interest for our expendable fund to be fruitful. There isn't much point asking around for proposals from all departments if you only have \$20,000 to spend. Many single pieces of equipment cost double this, and this is the kind of equipment that we need to be buying.
- Will the endowment continue to grow and eventually become just another bureaucratic mess competing with the already existing university administration for the title of Chaos Champion? NO. The endowment is a good thing. It will always be governed by students. If the job gets too big for a few students, the position will have to be filled by many. We can continue to make it work.

I feel that the concerns of this student are valid, and initiative to voice them is admirable. It is obvious in the *mathNEWS* letter that there is discontent with the way MathSoc handles things. I would like to point out that the WEEF is not a part

of the Engineering Society per se. We are representative of the entire undergraduate engineering population in our own special way. I suggest that the Math Endowment be set up this way and perhaps "Fuzzy" would consider taking on this venture himself. Endowment foundations are a good thing, they just need concerned individuals willing to volunteer time and energy to make them work.

Morgan Day
WEEF Director

Notes from the Math Undergrad Office

Ready to Graduate!?

Do you plan to finish your studies this term and graduate at the convocation in May 1994? Make sure you submit an "Intent to Graduate Form". They can be picked up in the Math Undergrad Office (MC 5115) or at the Registrar's Office. The deadline for submitting the form to the Registrar's Office is March 1, 1994. *Missing the deadline may mean you won't receive your degree until the Fall 1993 convocation. GET IT AND FILL IT OUT TODAY!*

Haven't Selected a Major Yet? Explore your options!

The Faculty of Mathematics "Information Night" will be held Monday evening, March 7.

Faculty and students from different programs will be there to provide information and advice on choosing a major. Fall pre-registration information will be available. Refreshments will be provided!

Times and rooms will be published in *mathNEWS* on March 4th, and will be announced in the first and second year Calculus classes.

Dorothy Chapman
Dean's Office, Faculty of Mathematics

The Business Administration Club

Do you wonder where you can find the practical skills you need to survive in the real world. Do you what to know how to manage your money? Thinking of starting a business? or just interested in business management? Well then the UW Business Club is for you!

The UW Business Club is a dynamic organization for all UW students interested in business and management. The Club offers people the opportunity to network with other students and professionals to build beneficial relationships.

Many varied events held throughout the term allow members to be introduced to many areas of interest such as MBA programs, mutual funds, business simulations, financial management, starting a business and a lot more.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday Feb 24 — AGF Management of Mutual Funds.

Business Club memberships just cost \$3, get them at the office or at any event.

Remember the Business Club office (MC3030) has an extensive collection of MBA catalogues with most Canadian schools and many US schools, including Harvard, Stanford and Michigan.

Rob Keys

Bridge with Ace

Opening Leads

When people are first learning to play bridge, not enough emphasis is placed on defence, despite the fact that it comes up in around 50% of all deals. Further, many of the finer points of defence are lost, because of the complexity of the line that would have defeated the contract.

Today, I would like to talk about the most important card that is played during the whole of the defence, namely the opening lead. Let us begin with an example:

You hold Q432 AJ2 A432 32. The auction:

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

What do you lead? I actually had this problem at the table, and I came up with the wrong answer, as have most people that I have talked to about this.

Another hand. 9 J43 KJT654 KJ4. The auction:

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

My father and I have an extended argument over this problem and we have agreed to disagree. We will get to the answers to these problems later.

Most opening leads can be split into two categories: Passive and Active. On opening lead, we often have to make a choice as to which type of lead we want to make.

Passive Leads

Sometimes on defence, it sounds like the your opponents are in a precarious contract, that will need some luck to make it. In cases like this, declarers often don't have enough tricks, and it is up to the defence to not give the declarer any more. A passive lead is called for.

A typical passive lead is one that won't give up a trick, such as leading the top of an extended sequence (like QJT or JT9), or leading a trump into an anticipated strong holding (like when they have bid a slam, and you know that they have the AKQ, and likely more). The other benefit of leading trump when you want to make a passive lead is that it cuts down on the number of ruffs that a declarer can take in the short hand. This is especially effective against a Flannery or Roman 2D auction, where shortness is known before the opening lead.

Passive leads are common, and are often detectable by the end of an auction. Another clue is when you have many unsupported honour cards, and you don't want to lead away from any of them, for fear of giving up a vital trick.

Active Leads

More often, it feels like you have to establish tricks on defence before the declarer gets a chance to discard his, or even set up his tricks in a NT contract. It is in cases like this that an active lead is called for. You want to take a chance to set up extra tricks for your side. By this, I mean that it is OK to underlead a king, or break whatever rules you have been taught in your time to date.

Auctions where they have bid smoothly to game usually call

for an active lead of some sort, trying to establish a trick that you might not otherwise get.

Let's look back at our two lead problems. On the first hand, declarer clearly is comfortable in his contract, despite the fact that we may have 3 tricks to cash. No-one is that optimistic, so he can't have singletons in both red suits. And we likely have no shot if he has 7 spades and 6 clubs. So, we hope that he has at least 1 red card. But which one? If we pick wrong, declarer may be able to ruff our lead, cross to dummy with a club or club ruff, and cash the king of that suit, discarding his red loser. The way to avoid this is to not lead one of your aces, but instead lead a club or a spade. A club may give up a trick if partner has the Jxxx, so I would opt for a spade lead from the Qxxx. As crazy as it may seem, it is the lead most likely to let you set the contract.

In the second problem, it is time for a more active lead. Partner did not raise out pre-empt, so likely does not have any honours in the suit, so a diamond is out. A spade seems to be very dangerous, as we know that partner has some length, and may get angry if we pickle his holding. That leaves us with a club or a heart. Either could be right, but a club is right whenever partner has the Q, or the Ace and T; whereas for a heart to be right needs much more. So, in this case, I would lead a club. I might lead the jack depending on the mood, but I will leave that for another day.

So, the opening lead can be a very complex problem that is deserving of much thought. Consider your opening leads longer, and you will find that your opponents will be making fewer contracts all the time.

Eric "Slave to a silly card game" Sutherland

The Student Career Advisor Program

Whether you are:

- a regular student looking for a summer job
- a co-op student looking for a work term placement
- a graduating student looking for a permanent job

STUDENT CAREER ADVISORS (SCAs) are here to help you with:

- Resume Writing
- Letter Writing
- Interview Skills
- and much, much more...

Make an appointment in NH 1001, OR drop in to any SCA Office:

Tues.	Sarah	10:30-11:30	ML 244
	Tara	11:00-12:00	SJC 103
	Barb	11:15-12:15	CC 150A
Wed.	Barb	11:15-12:15	CC 150A
	Nicole	2:30- 4:30	ES1 242
Thurs.	Sarah	10:30-11:30	ML 244
	Tara	11:30- 1:00	SJC 103
	Barb	11:15-12:15	CC 150A
	Nicole	11:30-12:30	ES1 242
	Semin	1:30- 4:30	BIO2 246

Semin Poonja

Letters to the Editor(s)

we still L-O-V-E getting mail

In reference to Tom Tocek's letter in the Feb. 4 issue, it's interesting that you really like mathNEWS even though you obviously do not like the token profanity in the paper. It is also interesting that by 2:00 most people have a mathNEWS, so the profanity can't be so bad that no one will read it. This point is this: in life, there are a lot of things you are faced with. If you don't like it, don't read it (you still see Playboy in the stands). If you want to be able to read it, change it.

Charlene Knowlton

And now, regarding last issue's cover...

You folks may take some flak over the cover of today's [Feb. 4th's] mathNEWS. Personally, I'd rather see a cover in questionable taste that makes a valid political point than a cover in impeccable taste that is otherwise devoid of content.

Name withheld

I usually don't look at mathNEWS but one of my friends told me I should since I am paying for it. Anyway, I still can't believe [sic] what you guys put on the first page. I thought it was only me who thought that was too offensive but a lot of my friends think that the first page was too offensive.

Also I understand that you folks don't get laid often. If you want to talk about something like masturbation or oral sex, there is a newsgroup for it [*Not anymore there isn't -Ed.*]. Please don't waste our money on useless stuffs like that.

Name also withheld

You're absolutely right. We don't get laid often. Now they're taking away our favourite newsgroups, so we can't even enjoy those anymore. Come on, we need some kind of outlet, especially considering that mutual masturbation is illegal.

Hawk

It was much better than Cats. I would see it again and again.

Rogert Ebert

It made me laugh; it made me cry.

Gene Shallit

THIS SUCKS! Coincidentally, alt.sex.bestiality just got banned. [*No shit, Sherlock... - Hawk*] Time to grow up, kiddies. [*Nah, there's always tomorrow.*]

Person(s) hiding behind anonymity

I almost took this seriously until I realized there was no name. I mean, if I can take the heat from an entire university over a cover, I'm sure you can take the heat from an immature ignoramus who might say something against your opinion.

Hawk

mathNEWS Dudes,

Just wanted to let you know that a lot of people I've talked to found the cover of your last issue offensive.

While I don't really care one way or the other, somebody should bring it to your attention. You can write whatever you want in mathNEWS, because people don't have to read it. How-

ever, even if they don't want to read it, they can't really avoid seeing the cover.

So, while I definitely enjoy the tasteless quality of the content, maybe you should be a little more careful about what goes on the cover.

The Original Gangster

Thank you very much for some good criticism. This was something that I had not thought of before I put the issue to print. After it was printed, however, this did come to my attention and hence no issues were placed in Needless Hell. (I do know the difference between poor taste and sheer stupidity... almost) The point can also be argued that because it is a pictorial way of stating two commonly known clichés, the offensive nature is perceived before the actual representation is realized. I do apologize for forcing my opinion of what is offensive and what isn't, but no matter where the cartoon had been placed, the offensive nature would have been apparent first. The point behind the cover was to get people talking (about apathy, elections, etc.), and in it's own weird way, it worked.

Hawk

Why should I attend lectures?

or why should anyone care whether I do or not

I hope most of the 237 students that are registered in my Accounting class can relate to this. It is about our prof, or should I say teacher. His problem seems to be student attendance. It all probably started last summer term when very few students actually attended his class, maybe 1 out of 4. Last summer, I was one of the faithful students, physically attending every class (and mentally thinking about the girl sitting in front of me). This term, unfortunately, I got the same prof. He is back, and he is bad. He seeks revenge.

First of all, we have a seating plan. He (let's call him Herb) has the whole class mapped out, knowing if a student is attending classes and participating. In case the student doesn't know the answer, (s)he has the privilege to be the first one called at the following lecture. (Sorry Herb, I wasn't up to it, so I just didn't show up.) The newest method, designed to increase the attendance, is his surprise quiz, which we will get "anytime within next two weeks". And which, by the way, is not indicated on the course outline as any part of the final mark. My friends taking this course were traumatized, not knowing when the quiz will be, what will be on it, how much it will be worth, and what will happen if they miss it. In another word, chaos.

What I want to say is that, come on, Herb, this is not high school. This is university. Students do a lot of self-studying, and lot of sleeping-in, and a lot of other assignments, and job interviews. You can't expect to have everyone in class all the time, and prepared. There are many advantages to having fewer people in class:

- you don't have to talk as loud
- you don't get asked many questions
- you don't have to mark as many quizzes
- you don't have to photo-copy as many hand-outs
- you don't have to remember as many names
- and I'm sure there is more.

So let us study and attend any way we want.

Tomas "90069092" Tocek

Getting There $\geq 1/2$ the Fun*When you don't know what you're doing*

I won't bore you with the details of the actual trip.

I'm not going to embarrass you by putting you to sleep in your 8:30 class (or any other) by droning on about my slightly insane roommate who had a Fatal Attraction thing for one of the Dutch participants in Brno, Czech Republic or dining at the Ghoulash Museum or wandering the streets of Vienna looking for the Karntnerstrasse.

At least not this week.

A self-standing tale is that of the flights that got me to Europe from the 2nd World Puzzle Team Championship, an event I have participated in for all the years of its operation. All both of them. (Only they didn't call it 2nd the first time.) Or even the chain of events that got me to the flights that got me to Europe.

First of all, let's go over the background. A Canadian citizen needs a passport and a visa in order to visit the Czech Republic (site of last year's competition and tourist hot-spot). One such visa costs \$50 Canadian and must be sent away for to Montreal or purchased at the actual border at any of three conveniently-located crossing points.

My mother thought that it would be best if I had the visa before I ever left the country, a mistake she later made up for.

I sent the application *dangerously* close to the departure date, a mistake that I still have not yet made up for. After a week, just a few days before I was scheduled to leave, I contacted the Czech Embassy to see if they had processed my application, which, by the way, contained my passport. They had and were sending it back Priority Post, which is supposed to arrive at point B from point A in three days. So the post office says.

My itinerary was as follows: on September 25 at 4:30 p.m. I was to catch a flight out of Toronto to Montreal, change airports, and meet one of my teammates. From there, the two of us would fly to London, change airports again and pick up another teammate. From there, we'd fly off to Vienna where we would be collected and bussed to Brno for sightseeing the next day. This was the plan.

But as I said last issue, plans change. This is a phrase I find I get a lot of mileage out of these days.

When the mail arrived on September 25, the day the post office would claim my passport would come, my passport didn't come. I asked the letter carrier/letter chauffeur whether it was possible to find out if maybe she'd missed a few packages. She gave me a phone number for a Post Office office which I called immediately. The operator there said that if it wasn't with the carrier/chauffeur, it wasn't there either. Wonderful.

I now did what any mature young man of 19 would do when faced with a crisis. I called my mommy and my daddy.

They suggested that I see about getting a replacement passport and about tracking the passport I already had. Since a replacement seemed unlikely, I decided to track my passport down.

I needed the code number that went with the package. The Czech Embassy would have it. I called the long distance number in Montreal. For some reason, instead of a busy signal, I got a voice mail message stating that all their lines were in operation and please call back later. Since I was in a hurry, I used the redial to call as quickly and as frequently as possible.

I was not thinking clearly at the time, and so did not realize that every ten seconds I was putting a 1-minute charge on the phone bill, once for every time I called. Not that I would have cared if anyone had pointed it out.

I eventually got the code number and used the voice mail service to see what had become of my passport. The answer I

got was "in transit." It was only 2:00 o'clock and I was already getting information I already knew.

By this time my parents had come home and I tried to see about a replacement passport. The operator at the number I got out of the blue pages said it was possible to get an emergency passport by simply getting together all the same things I needed for the first one.

Next batch of background info: for a Canadian citizen to get a passport, he/she must have a form, obtainable from any travel agency or post office, and two photographs signed by someone who has known the applicant for at least two years and who can be trusted by the government.

My father raced me to a travel agency for a form (not trusting the post office those days), leaving my mother at home to try the post office angle herself. I have a valid driver's license, but on that particular day I was too upset to be trusted to negotiate the intricacies of a hallway let alone a highway.

We then drove to the photography store where I had gotten my first set (black-and-whites are preferable) and found out that the non-polaroid instant passport-photo-taking machine there was broken. We were directed to another store, some minutes away. Having gotten our photos, we only needed the signatures.

There are several kinds of people who can sign passport photos... legally. Lawyers, policemen, yes, even engineers, but I didn't know any. Your doctor can do it, too. My current doctor is a replacement after my previous one moved to Calgary. My medical history is filled with doctors who were unavailable or ineligible. Except for my first.

Dr. Halina Solow was the only person who could verify my pictures within the required time limit. She was a G.P. when I knew her. Now she was a gynecologist with a practice in downtown Mississauga.

We took the 15-minute drive to her office and then sat in her waiting room a long time before she had the opportunity to deal with us. I took the time to fill out the application from the travel agency.

Picture it. There I am, a frantic 19-year-old male, with his father, sitting in a gynecologist's waiting room full of confused patients and baby carriages who appears to filling out a form of some kind. We should have used this image for the cover, don't you think?

When she finally got around to us, it was 3:30. Now all that was left was to get the replacement form from the passport office and fill it out. In Brampton. Before 4:30, when it closed. Which was when my flight left, remember?

At 4:00, my father and I arrived triumphantly with my paperwork and pictures only to be informed that if we could just get this *other* form signed by a lawyer (My father's lawyer's office was closed now.) and COME BACK TOMORROW, they would be happy to oblige.

My father went into a series of expletives which I will not print here by public request to clean up the language in *mathNEWS*.

Back at home, my mother had the foresight to postpone my flight to 7:30, the latest flight I could take and still catch the other connecting flights.

All the time we were out, Mom was dutifully calling, for some unfathomable reason, head offices from Vancouver to Fredericton, searching for a package that was presumably somewhere between Oakville, Ontario and Montreal. I suppose anything is possible.

As an aside, I would like to mention that the post office made our case a Priority One affair. I was touched.

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When I got home, I went up to my room, lay down next to my packed suitcase and quietly went crazy.

Finally, the call came in that my passport had been found. It had just been delivered at our local branch minutes ago. It was now 6:30.

Everyone piled into our van and rushed over.

Just to make my life a little more hellish, the man who now had custody of my passport and the destiny of my trip and that of my teammates-to-be and who did not have to release anything he didn't really want to, was the same local postman my mother had badmouthed over the phone in a momentary release of frustration. Wheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!!

I accompanied my mother inside and witnessed the best case of bootlicking in postal history. It was terribly impressive. I never knew she had it in her. Your parents must have sides to them and secret talents you've never seen either.

Finally getting passport in hand, kissing it, we race to the airport with just enough time to make the flight.

I made it to my plane, but I had *no* misconceptions that the rest of my trip would be simple. A day that begins like this can only end the same way.

Does this article sound unfinished to you? It is. I'll tell you about the rest of that evening in the next issue. This is Darren Rigby, writing as...

Gridby

Employment Network job publications for graduating students and alumni can be read in the MathSoc Office

mastHEAD

Love Me, Love my Genitals

Whoo-hoo! Another fun night of *mathNEWS* production, another monster issue. Looks like the various issues (the news-groups, ancillary fees, and Curtis' venereal disease) have caused a flood of articles. Thanks to everybody who came out, and especially to those who sent articles in (more pizza for us, eh?).

The people who showed up tonight (and their favourite Winter Olympic demonstration sport) were: Eric "EC the Slave Boy from Mars" Sutherland (naked sled-less luge), Curtis "Chewbacca the Helium-Sucking Whipping Boy" Desjardins (the tongue-on-the-frozen-fence-post relay), Erich "Fuzzy Wuzza Wuzza Bear" Jacoby (men's synchronized swimming), Ian "CBC Radio Stud" Goldberg (zeno tossing), Stuart "but my friends (yeah, right) call me Stu-bud" Pollock (engineer-in-the-snow target shooting), Joe "funniest finger file in the land" Hewitt (full-contact halibut snowball), Jennifer "I drink orange pop" Watters (horizontal bungee jumping), and Darren "Quiet, But We Like Him Anyway" Rigby (alpine tobogganing).

As always, thanks to Marion over there at Graphic Services and especially Gino's for the truly excellent 'za we snarfed tonight.

Michael "Bobbitt" Melvin (Big tits; what was the question?)
editor-boy-in-charge-of-everything

Steve "Flip" Shaw (anything that involves getting tied up)
sub-editor-boy-in-charge-of-nicknames

Tomas Raves

about doing stuff in the shower

This is one of those things that everybody does and nobody talks about. If you lived with someone and shared the bathroom you probably know what I'm talking about. Is it okay to pee in the shower? Of course it is. I don't know why people, and especially my roommate, have such a negative outlook on this. I guess I shouldn't have told you that I do, but it's too late now. At least it's not the worst thing that people do behind closed bathroom doors.

Peeing in the shower is okay because:

- it naturally relieves the tension in one's bladder
- it is environmentally safe, and bio-degradable
- it saves time
- it saves the water in the toilet tank, and keeps the water pressure and temperature in the shower steady
- it keeps your feet warm
- you can practise aiming (a skill that so few men and even fewer women mastered) or, on the other hand, you need not be aiming at all
- you can wash it right after, so it won't leave that yellow stain on your underwear
- and, believe it or not, it is clean, as urine is sterile when it leaves the body.

I hope my room-mate reads this, because I will never forget the dirty look I got after telling the truth. Don't worry, I clean the tub after I'm done with it. (Not like you, leaving piles of your long hair everywhere, and clogging up the drain.)

Now how do I know that other people do it? I don't really. I never watched anyone besides myself (and I have no intention to). A while ago, a lot of people on the alt.sex confessed doing it (alt.sex is one of the few news groups we are still allowed to read at this university). Not surprisingly, girls do it too, they are just ashamed of admitting it. My point is: if it feels right, do it. Just don't do it while in the shower with someone else. I don't think your shower partner would appreciate that (unless they have a really sick mind) [*let's hear it for piss fights!! - Ed.*]. I guess you'll never look at a shower stall quite the same way again, eh. Especially those of you living in the Village. My work here is done. Enjoy.

Tomas "offensively Nice article writer" Tocek

Top 10 Things that Smell Better than Smoke

As inspired by the Huxtables

10. The CSC smells better than smoke
9. Diesel fumes smell better than smoke
8. That fat guy that sits next to you on the TTC all summer smells better than smoke
7. Sulfur dioxide smells better than smoke
6. Burning dog hair smells better than smoke
5. Boiling tar smells better than smoke
4. The rotting corpse of my brother that's been sitting in my fridge for six years smells better than smoke
3. Vomit from American beer smells better than smoke
2. The recycling bins outside the C&D smell better than smoke
1. The Bills' Superbowl record smells better than smoke

Charlene "Bear" Knowlton

Math, the Universe, and Everything

Flipper's Midterm Stress Test

This time of year is hard for many of us. Not only do we have to deal with midterms, assignments, hangovers, a shortened reading week, and all of our other responsibilities, but some of us *didn't get one fucking Valentine all day and are pretty fucking pissed off about it!*

Sorry. Sort of lost it there for a second. Anyway, this is the time of year when many of us are feeling stressed. This short quiz will help you determine how stressed you are, and what you should do about it. Actually, it'll probably do nothing of the sort, but it saves me from having to write a real column.

- Would you describe yourself as:
 - a little stressed?
 - stressed?
 - horny enough to have sex with a chicken?
- The best way to relieve stress is:
 - going for a jog around Ring Road.
 - masturbating.
 - both of the above. At the same time.
- You realize that you've missed two of your midterms. Do you:
 - call yourself an idiot and go back to bed?
 - continue editing *mathNEWS* like you've done all term?
 - masturbate all the way around Ring Road?
 - all of the above?
- You wake up one morning and realize that you're going bald, you're out of shape, and very possibly have an alcohol problem. You:
 - stop drinking and start exercising regularly.
 - join the Hair Club for Men.
 - congratulate yourself on a job well done.
 - are horny enough to have sex with a chicken.
- The best way to study for a midterm is:
 - prepare well in advance and know the material inside-out.
 - arrange to sit beside somebody who has actually attended a class.
 - call in a fake bomb threat and get the midterm cancelled.
 - get really really fucked up and throw up on the proctor.
- You realize that someone is likely to do better on a midterm than you. Do you:
 - write his name and ID on your midterm and hope to benefit from the confusion?
 - skip the midterm and go to the Bombshelter?
 - send two big strong men to break her kneecaps with a baseball bat?
- You fail a midterm. The proper course of action is to:
 - go to the Bombshelter and drink a lot of beer.
 - go to the Bombshelter and drink a lot of rye.
 - throw yourself under a bus.
- Two words to remember for midterm success are:
 - FLIPPER ROOLZ!
 - Rock on!
 - Mmm...beer.
- You're quite sexually insecure and don't like a post on a newsgroup. You:
 - stop reading it, like any sane person would.
 - get the newsgroup banned.
 - get the newsgroup banned, then go burn a few books for good measure.
- You walk into the Bombshelter one night, looking for the *mathNEWS* senior editing staff. You should look for:
 - a bald guy passed out in his own vomit.
 - a big guy laughing at the bald guy (and getting picked up by chicks).
 - a little weasly guy sucking helium out of a balloon.
 - Fuzzy wasn't there.
- You work for the *Arts Sphere*, a paper that took five years to put together. In your third issue, you should:
 - make fun of a paper that's been coming out for twenty years now.
 - have a full-page circle jerk congratulating yourselves.
 - just give up right now, as the damn thing won't last through the summer anyway.
- You work for Graphic Services, and see a cover of a student publication that offends you. You:
 - remember that the students are your customers and print off the paper anyway.
 - call the editor and discuss why you find it offensive.
 - aw, what the hell, call the Associate Dean and blow the whistle on them. Then go burn a few books just for good measure.
- You come into the Abel lab one night, and see that one machine is xlocked and a couple of others are free. You immediately power cycle the xlocked machine, losing any changes that I had made to this article. You are:
 - a big jerk who is absolutely convinced that you are the center of the universe.
 - a complete fucking idiot
 - David Christopher Borean
 - all of the above

Scoring

Score one point if you're female, none if you're male. If you scored above zero, then you are quite stressed. I recommend vigorous and enjoyable sex with a beer-guzzling, balding male you meet in the Bombshelter [or the big guy laughing at the beer-guzzling, balding male - and don't forget the weasly little guy sucking helium out of a balloon - secret mystery eds]. If you scored zero or less, then you're not stressed at all. Don't go to the Bombshelter for the next couple of weeks, especially if you're balding.

Steve "Firehose" Shaw

Employment Network job publications for graduating students and alumni can be read in the MathSoc Office

Nothing Flat

Well, I got some response to the flats last issue, even a flat written by one of you. Not bad for an introduction, but I know you guys can do better.

The entry for the flat writing contest was a good one, certainly worthy of printing, so here it is, the winner of the prize:

TRANSPOSAL (9)

I talked to the V1 LIVE
About a cure for DEAD
Most agreed the best cure
Was to go straight to bed.

Ian "Ianman" Facey

Okay, it's not Pulitzer Prize caliber, but who said it had to be? Churn out some garbage poetry with a clever base and submit it.

Now for the answers to last issue's flats: Trans: wrong, grown. Dele: tur(n)key. (Not accepted: cash(i)er) Curt: deadlines-s. Meta: adobe, abode.

Entries for the flat solving contest came from Ianman and Dima!, Alex & dAAn. Based on a coin toss, the winners are Dima!, Alex & dAAn.

There are more kinds of flats than those mentioned last time. Anyone who loves word puzzles plays with the letters in words. These flat types reflect that fascination:

Charade Two or more words are concatenated to form a longer one. e.g. ONE=can TWO=teen ALL=canteen (7)

Consonantcy Two or more words have all the same consonants in the same order, where y is considered a vowel. e.g. ONE=Co-op TWO=cape THREE=copy (2-2, 4, 4)

Letter Bank One word, the bank, which contains no repeated letters, has all the letters required to spell out a longer word or phrase. e.g. ONE=imps TWO=Mississippi (4, *11(the asterisk means capitalized word)); SMALL=educations TALL=United States Tennis Association (10, *6 *6 *6 *11)

Letter Change One word differs from another by one letter. e.g. ONE=cough TWO=rough (5) (A first letter change)

Here are this issue's flats:

CHARADE (9)

The quake had left the writer cold,
The fire died that made him bold.
He TWOed a tailspin uncontrolled.
He found he needed a change of soul;
To scribble on fear would break its hold
(And maybe score some Emmy gold).
The tale is writ, the script is sold:
A ONE of courage, sadly told,
About the victims at the WHOLE.

SECOND LETTER CHANGE (5)

My auntie keeps a plastic plant
Her blooms are BULL as well.
She waters and talks to them sweetly:
Her rose, her tulip, and BELL.

LETTER BANK (5,9)

You may come back to college
For a couple more BLANK
But only so long as
You still meet the BANK.

CONSONANTCY (4, 6, 5, 5)

Jenny got a ONE for Christmas

She took it straight outside to play
She TWO down the hill so often
She made a good THREE in a day.
She then built a ramp in front of it
Ran down again and over she flew
Until she crashed on a FOUR snowbank
And broke her new toy right in two.

A mathNEWS prize goes to the most complete solution, randomly selected, if necessary. Obviously, last week's goes to Ianman.

Again, the contest to write a flat still stands. Use any of the eight types from last issue, the four above or these four, which combine types:

- **Letter Shift** A letter moves within a word. e.g. crate, cater
- **Transdeletion** A word goes through a deletion, which is then transposed. e.g. capable, palace (7)
- **Charposal** Words are charaded together, then transposed. e.g. typewriter, pretty+wire (10)
- **Transade** Words are transposed, then charaded together (a bipartite charposal, in other words). e.g. solu-tion, soul, into (8)

Submit sols to the BLACK BOX and until next time, this is Darren Rigby, writing as...

Gridby

Thinking about graduate school?

The Faculty of Mathematics is holding an Information Meeting on graduate work in the mathematical sciences:

Wednesday, March 16, 1994
3:30 p.m. - M&C 5158

- * Why undertake a graduate program?
- * How do you know if you are suited for graduate work?
- * Where can you obtain information on programs?
- * What financial assistance is available?

Departmental representatives from Applied Mathematics, Combinatorics and Optimization, Computer Science, Pure Mathematics, and Statistics & Actuarial Science will be available with specific information about their programs.

All students welcome
Refreshments available

XENOPHOBIC

Part 3

The rains ceased later that afternoon, but the clouds still loomed darkly overhead. John disregarded the clouds as he was now happy that he could walk home at a leisurely pace and still be dry. The digital watch John wore on his left wrist displayed the time as being just after six, just after when *Star Trek* starts. So when John made it inside a minute later, he immediately went to turn on the television, and only then proceeded to take off his jacket and boots.

Most of John's friends going to East Side's for the gathering were going for seven, but John decided he wanted to take it easy and watch *Trek* first. It would mean probably getting to the gathering twenty minutes late, but it was to John an equitable trade.

An alien's walking stick had just blown off Data's head when John left for the bathroom, the one thing that John hated about the apartment. Well, what he hated was the fact that the basement had a ceiling only six feet and five inches above the floor, allowing only one inch of headroom for John. And worse, the bathroom floor was elevated six inches off the basement floor so John couldn't stand up straight in the shower or facing the mirror. The bathroom also was claustrophobic, with dimensions at maximum of six feet by three feet. And to top it all off, the toilet, the sink, and the shower areas seemed all to have been arranged in the least ergonomical way possible, given the floorspace.

John was thinking pensively about all of the bathroom's faults when the phone started ringing. Inconveniently caught, and with no one else at home, John let the answering machine get it. John then wondered where Eric, Charlene, and Mat were; John realized he hadn't even seen Mathew at all during the day.

Once finished with the toilet, John checked the answering machine in the T.V. room...

<BEEP> Uh John, this is Mike. Mike's voice was strained and a little desperate, and the entire sound seemed like a pay phone connection. That thing you got me to look at... well... you've got to come down here and see. I'm in the lab. Come as soon as possible... uh... bye. A click was heard as the message ended, then the machine rewound and emitted a few more beeps. John was stupefied. Jean-Luc Picard was pushing something into the back of Data's severed head.

John was breathing heavily as he entered the stairwell of the Math building. He had half-speedwalked, half-jogged to campus in about fifteen minutes. John glanced at his watch while climbing the stairs to the third floor. It confirmed John's guess that the time was about seven o'clock.

John exited the stairwell on the third floor near the Comfy Lounge. All the furniture and tables from the lounge were piled up in the hall to let the maintenance people clean the rug. However, no one was in the immediate area. Of course, on a Friday, the Math building was normally empty. What wasn't normal, on a Friday or any other day of the week, was a small blue puddle on the floor near the door to the Comfy Lounge. The puddle had the shape of a fried egg, except that it was bubbling hotly, just off-centre, like sizzling grease in a frying pan. And what definitely was nowhere near normal, was several more of these angry blue spots sparsely distributed between the Comfy Lounge and the hallway to the real time lab.

The hallway itself was dim. Looking up, John noted that one of the lights had burned out, specifically, the one above the area of the lab's door. John decided to roll his steps on the floor as he walked, in order to muffle the sound of his approaching. When he got to the lab's window, he found the curtains were drawn,

and lights inside the lab were off.

John looked around to confirm that nobody was in the hall. Further down the hall he could hear students typing away at computer terminals in the Descartes lab rooms, but no one was present within the corridor. With adrenaline starting to hyper-activate his thinking, John tried carefully and quietly to open the door, even though he knew it should be locked.

The doorknob was locked, but the door itself was slightly ajar, and easily slid open. John took a moment to pause and think about what he was going to do next. Like most people nowadays, John had absorbed decades worth of television, and he never could understand why so many intelligent people in one situation or another would walk naively around in dark rooms, without realizing the stupidly obvious peril that was laying in wait for them. Determined not to become the next such television cliché, John took one further, quiet breath, then took one step inside, expecting the worst.

The room's only light sources came from the hallway through cracks in the curtained window, and the cracks in the door that John held open, and as well a few of the still active computer screens. In fact, Mike's computer screen in the corner was on, too. But otherwise, the darkness was fairly opaque.

John took a long, strained look around. Nothing but equipment, at least as far as he could determine. So, calculating the area most likely to conceal something waiting for him, John quietly closed the door, and, holding his line of sight directly on a cluttered corner of the room, began making his way to Mike's table.

Two steps in, John stopped. He could hear something, an almost imperceptible sound. It sounded like hot grease frying. John decided to trust that he was alone in the lab and refocused his vision in the direction of the sound. It was coming from the floor near Mike's table, beside an overturned chair. John knelt down and saw the familiar fried-egg shape of one of the bubbling puddles, and beside it was a smaller, darker spot. In fact, looking around, several examples of this new spot were on the floor, on the sides of close-by tables, and under Mike's table. John noticed Mike's backpack and the VCR, still on, mostly concealed behind the table. *Mike was here. Where is he?*

Another thought came to John and he turned around. The security camera John had seen on the table yesterday had been mounted on a tripod in full view of this corner of the lab. John got up, climbed behind the table, and examined the VCR. He then ejected the video tape and made his way out into the hallway. Once out, he leaned back against the wall and gave a sigh. John looked down at the tape in his hand, and noticed a spot of blood on his right palm that wasn't there before. John's mind intruded with a panicked thought: *Where's Mike??*

John started following the trail of blue puddles back to the lounge, thinking perhaps that it might lead to an answer. Inside the almost empty lounge, two students were acquiring a late snack from a candy machine. The rug was drying from its recent cleaning, and yet, a single blue puddle was bubbling quietly away in the middle of the room.

John walked in, carefully, and on alert, as the two students chuckled by. John walked up to the puddle, and paused to examine it. There were no other puddles nearby, virtually a dead end. John straightened up and took in the feeling of the room. Without furniture in it, the place felt quite vacuous, especially with the room only dimly lit because of the darkness outside. John instinctively approached the door to the balcony and pulled on the handle. The door wrenched open, allowing access onto the

continued from page 14

concrete balcony.

The wind was still about, and it chilled John's skin while whipping by. And the Bombshelter, the on-campus pub on the other side of the Math building, echoed rock music off the walls and fields around the area. John looked over the edge of the balcony and down to the ground. Nothing. He looked ahead into the small clump of trees and the far-off buildings. Nothing. There was nothing he could see up or down the balcony area. The rock music abruptly stopped. John heard an egg being fried. Something dropped by John's right ear and he flinched back off the edge of the balcony. The rock music started up again. Something was dripping off the outside wall, above the balcony. John leaned over the edge again and looked up along the outside wall. He could barely make out the outline of three teardrop-shaped puddles slowly crawling down the side of the wall.

John had already unsteadily bounded up two floors of stairs when he noticed another puddle halfway up the next flight. Gripping the videotape in his left hand, he continued to climb and found another trail of disconnected puddles spotting the stairwell to the door to the roof. Deciding against venturing onto the roof because of his fear of heights, John returned to the first puddle he saw, within view of a door.

As John left the stairwell through the fifth floor door, he nearly stepped on another puddle sizzling away. Looking around, there were many corridors facing him, and nothing around to suggest which one to follow. So, John just picked a corridor and started walking.

The fifth floor of the Math building held mainly offices of various Math professors as well as the Math Undergrad Office, and Math Graphics Services. Because of the large amount of floor space collectively required by these rooms, the corridors and hallways were smaller than other floors. This in turn wreaked havoc on many a visitor's sense of direction, and always skewed John's bearings. After a few minutes of walking down corridors, all John could discern about his position was that he was walking by offices along one of the outer walls.

John froze. About twenty feet down the corridor lay a group of the same blue, bubbling puddles, congregating just outside a slightly open office door. John began to take a step forward, then stopped as the office light seen under the door briefly dimmed, as if someone was just inside. Without taking his stare off the door, John took a deep, silent breath to relax his body's spiking adrenaline. The video tape slipped out of his relaxed hand and fell to the floor with a distinct clatter beside his feet. It startled John into a panic. He looked down at the tape. He looked up at the opening door. He wildly grabbed up the tape and ran, hard to the limit of his lungs, back down the hallway and around the corner, and leaned up against the wall breathing heavily. Taking another look at the video tape in his hand, and hearing clearly the acid bubbling of the puddles in the hall, John decided to get out of there and go back home where it was for sure normal.

To be continued next issue...

John Wetmiller

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profQUOTES

"Anyone not got Life Insurance?"

Morrison, PHYS 122

"Being Italian, we visit Guido at the cement factory. Guido can get rid of anything.."

Furino, C&O 351

"There are a lot of professors who don't prepare their lectures, they just prepare their quotes."

MacKay, STAT 450

"I can't do it, cause I'd have to be around the other side of my arm."

MacKay, STAT 450

"This is graphics, we hack."

Mann, CS 488/688

"These are the children of the daemon . . . They were forked off."

Atlee, CS 354

"Anybody got any Valium?"

Best, MATH 138

"Hardness is a very important quality; it is the opposite of softness."

Richardson, ACC 401

"I'm not trying to be some Pure Math jerk up here . . ."

Forrest, MATH 138

"It depends on whether I'm going to act dumb again."

Younger, MATH 136

"You don't get to choose what 'z' is. God chooses what 'z' is. You're up against a tough opponent."

Burris, PM 330

"You could take every man, woman and child in Canada, plunk them in the People's Republic of China, stir, and we'd disappear."

Smith, ECON 102

"After 17 hours of kissing, a piece of toast might start looking pretty good."

Kerton, ECON 101

"... and of course the professor has the advantage, because he's giving the grades."

Gosselink, ENGL 208B

Student: "Can you please not erase whatever you just wrote on the board?"

Prof: "Oh, yes, yes. Sure, of course, you're right . . ."
[prof then erases board]

Platonov, MATH 245

Logic Puzzle the First

Flipper and the Seven Dwarves go to the Bombshelter

(Author's note: it's been a while since a logic puzzle of this sort has graced the pages of mathNEWS. This is my first one, so go easy on me. It's also a bit more than a logic puzzle: you're expected to know, for instance, the ingredients of a rye and ginger. God help me, I know them just a little too well.)

It was another just Friday night at the Bombshelter when Flipper and his new drinking pals, the Seven Dwarves, walked in. Over the course of the evening, each of them requested one song, ordered one type of drink (over and over again), and eventually left. Your job is to match each dwarf (and Flipper) to the drink, his request, and his eventual fate that night. Answers in the BLACK BOX, please.

1. The DJ looked at the songs that the the seven short guys and their bald friend had requested: "Heartbreak Hotel", "Bat Out of Hell", "Stayin' Alive", "Crossroads", "Tropical Hot Dog Night", "Everybody Dance Now", "I Was Made for Loving You" and "Brown-Eyed Girl". He snorted, and threw the list in the garbage. He hadn't played any requests all night, and he'd be damned if he started now.
2. Either Sleepy (who didn't like Van Morrison all that much) or Happy was drinking B-52s: the other was drinking rye and ginger. Neither were thrown out.
3. Dopey wasn't the smartest of dwarves — he actually liked drinking Prairie Fires. He also hated any music made before 1985.
4. A dwarf threw up on a bouncer and was thrown out. It wasn't Sneezzy.
5. The KISS fan drank beer. One of the dwarves that didn't drink beer was thrown out because he only had six pieces of ID. He wasn't Happy.
6. The dwarf that thought that Elvis was King (who was not drinking gin and tonics) made fun of the DJ's clothes and got thrown out. Doc, on the other hand, thought Clapton was God and was one of the beer-drinkers.
7. The dwarf drinking B-52s decided he was too drunk to be at the Bomber and left. He went to Fed Hall, where he was more likely to hear the Bee Gees anyway.
8. Flipper looked up from his 50 blearily. He had just realized that one of the dwarves had requested a dance song, and promptly lunged across the table (spilling someone's Moosehead) and beat the little bugger up. Both were quickly thrown out of the bar.
9. The Captain Beefheart fan sipped his vodka and orange juice and watched the Meatloaf fan get beat up by a bouncer and thrown out. Beside him, Bashful downed his rum and coke and ordered another.
10. The rye and ginger drinker was a big Van Morrison fan, and unlike Grumpy, did not get beat up.
11. The final dwarf, all alone in the Bombshelter, went home with the DJ. Man, he must have been hammered.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

mathNEWSquiz # 3

Insert keen-sounding subtitle here

Hello, squizzers! How are you this fine Friday morning? Are you bored to death in that 8:30 class right now? Well, here's the solution to all your problems: (flashing billboard) "Cure boredom today with the mathNEWSquiz!"

Here are the solutions for last issue's squiz: **Song Lyrics** 1) Spin Doctors - Two Princes; 2) Annie Lennox - Walking On Broken Glass; 3) Tool - Sober; 4) Duran Duran - Ordinary World; 5) Metallica - Disposable Heroes; **Comedy** 1) Rowan Atkinson; 2) The Firm; 3) Royal Canadian Air Farce; 4) Lorne Michaels; 5) George Burns; **Potpourri** 1) Afghanistan or Azerbaijan (sorry: we forgot about Azerbaijan); 2) Clitorides; 3) Robert Tappan Morris; 4) .9 past light speed; 5) Loni Anderson, Frank Bonner, Howard Hesseman, Gordon Jump, Tim Reid, Richard Sanders, Gary Sandy and Jan Smithers; **The Arts** 1) Michelangelo; 2) No. 16; 3) Eugene O'Neill; 4) Vergil; 5) Boticelli.

Okay, here's a recap of the scores from last issue: Sox & Inkle (2), Corn Goddess (5), Kevin Hartmann, The Much Titled (5), Jason "Lippy" Gruetzmacher (7), Phage & 2 (7), Ian "Ianman" Facey (8) (sorry about the typo!), Brad "Acid Tongue" Hughes (8), Bob The Great And Powerful (8), Dima! ALEX & dAAN (8), Wayland "Wayoleon" Chau (11), Darryl Farr (12), Jepperqueen (12), and the winner is The Calculus Cowboy, Brian Fox with a whopping 17 points! You can pick up your squizprize at the MathSoc office. Now, let's get on with this issue's questions:

Song Lyrics

Name the song and the artist

1. And the lights are all on, the world is watching now
People looking for the truth, we must not fail them now
2. Maybe I ride, maybe you walk
Maybe I tried to get off, baby
3. I know it's more than just you
You know it's all I can do
4. Now I'll rock a house party at the drop of a hat
I'll beat a biter down with a 'luminum bat
5. Is it worth more than diamonds
Or just a little cheaper than spit?

The Kids In The Hall

1. Who performs the theme music?
2. The bad surgeon is the "King of" what?
3. Which cast members play the cops in "Police Department"?
4. What is Mr. Heavyfoot's name in his native language (French)?
5. Name the kid who says thing such as "Did you know that movie stars get their hair cut every day?"

Potpourri

1. From what city do Paul Anka and Rich Little hail?
2. Which ancient Greek folk hero performed Twelve Labours?
3. Which Shakespearean play begins with the line "Who's there?"
4. Who is the author of the "Amber" series of fantasy novels?
5. Name the Disney animated flick which has eight title characters.

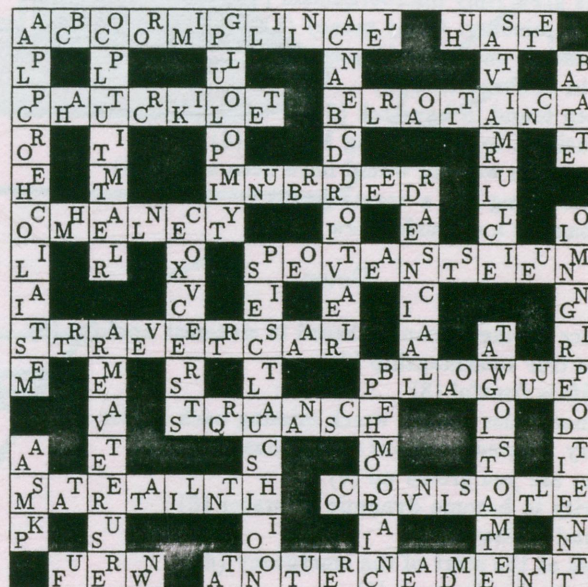
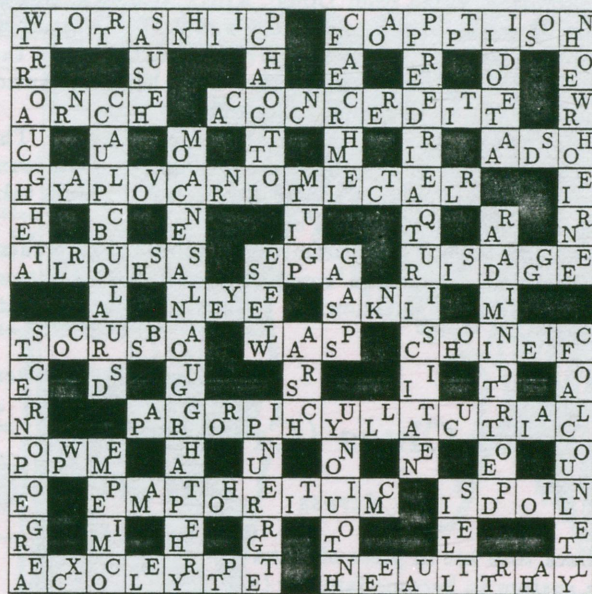
Ancient Celtic Religion And Mythology

1. Who is the goddess most associated with horses?

2. Who is Manannan's father?
3. Who is considered to be the greatest hero in the history of Ireland?
4. Which being is most associated with strife, war and death?
5. What is the name of the bard who is the reincarnation of Merlin?

Good luck with the squiz, everybody, and don't forget to put your submissions in the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge.

Darren "M" Morby
Stuart "Harry Organs" Pollock



gridCOMMENTS

I guess before I start blabbing on about anything else I should apologize for the 3 down cryptic clue. Maybe one of these days I will actually do one of these without making any mistakes, nah that would make it too easy. Some people have asked about whether the solutions will be given. The answer is yes, but I don't know when. They may make their way into this issue if there is room. If not, they will appear in a following issue. They will definitely appear this term. How's that for an answer. Boy do I feel informed. On to the submissives, I mean submissions.

For the conventional, we had correct submissions from The Phantom Scribbler and O Chrysalis; Fresh and Crispy; and Dima! ALEX & dAAn. We also had a solution from Ian "Ianman" Facey. For the cryptic, the correct solutions came from The Trio; Blaine! The Peewee; Brian Young & Jennifer Tripp (sorry about the 'g' last time); and Bob The Great and Powerful. Other solutions came from Dima! ALEX & dAAn; Sox & Inking; Ian "Ianman" Facey; and Phage and 2. The winners of the magical mystery prize this week are... Fresh & Crispy for the conventional and Brian Young & Jennifer Tripp for the cryptic. Prizes can be picked up in the MathSoc office.

Everyone's drinking/socializing establishments were: The Restaurant at the End of the Universe; Callahan's; soda fountains; Quark's or anyplace that has Schlitz on tap; I always take my friends to "you're buying"; V1 caf.

Thanks go to everyone who submitted a solution, keep them coming. Feel free to include comments with your solution. This week's silly grid question is: What is your favourite word/phrase?

Jennifer "jeffie" Watters

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. put back torn ace in piece of china (6)
4. it's a custom to become familiar (8)
8. Spud is the top Tao (6)
9. Mummer, chant said the trader (8)
11. avails oozing spit (6)
13. gave beer, uncommon drink (8)
14. others grew rimy microorganism (4)
15. beware prisoner! O my money (8)
19. the sea left one tunic (4)
20. hint in new end love (8)
22. eel den found in haystack (6)
24. its business to force eating M&M's (8)
25. without tea wetting would have been smart (6)
26. the pelt gang had a vegetable (6)
27. the band is a colourful crew (6)

Down

1. surface geometry can be heard in sincerest apology (8)
2. art is tree workmanship (8)
3. for life is fruitful (8)
5. pit mechanics rework wreck missing back fender (4)
6. jittery amateur without energy has stress (6)
7. team, are you grown up (6)
10. hilarity to become dynamic embracer (6)
12. a band on leave (7)
15. arrive at the start of the emergency (6)
16. force mother in tomb (8)
17. I upset the lantern inside (8)

18. try Gate's plan (8)
20. I see, I see leafy tree decoration (6)
21. met gun with spice (6)
23. browse through cans (4)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. hard shelled clam
4. done to a computer program
8. female graduate
9. 5 mL
11. display
13. ordinary
14. subject or object of verb
15. unlawful
19. cat sound
20. type of fish
22. plenty
24. type of blonde
25. give information
26. whole
27. set apart

Down

1. 1/4 of the plane
2. home for fish
3. as a ballerina
5. divisible by 2
6. made into powder
7. small rubber craft
10. ghost
12. readable
15. refrigerator
16. rude
17. fungus
18. to send
20. chatty bird
21. type of vegetable
23. what Melvin does

