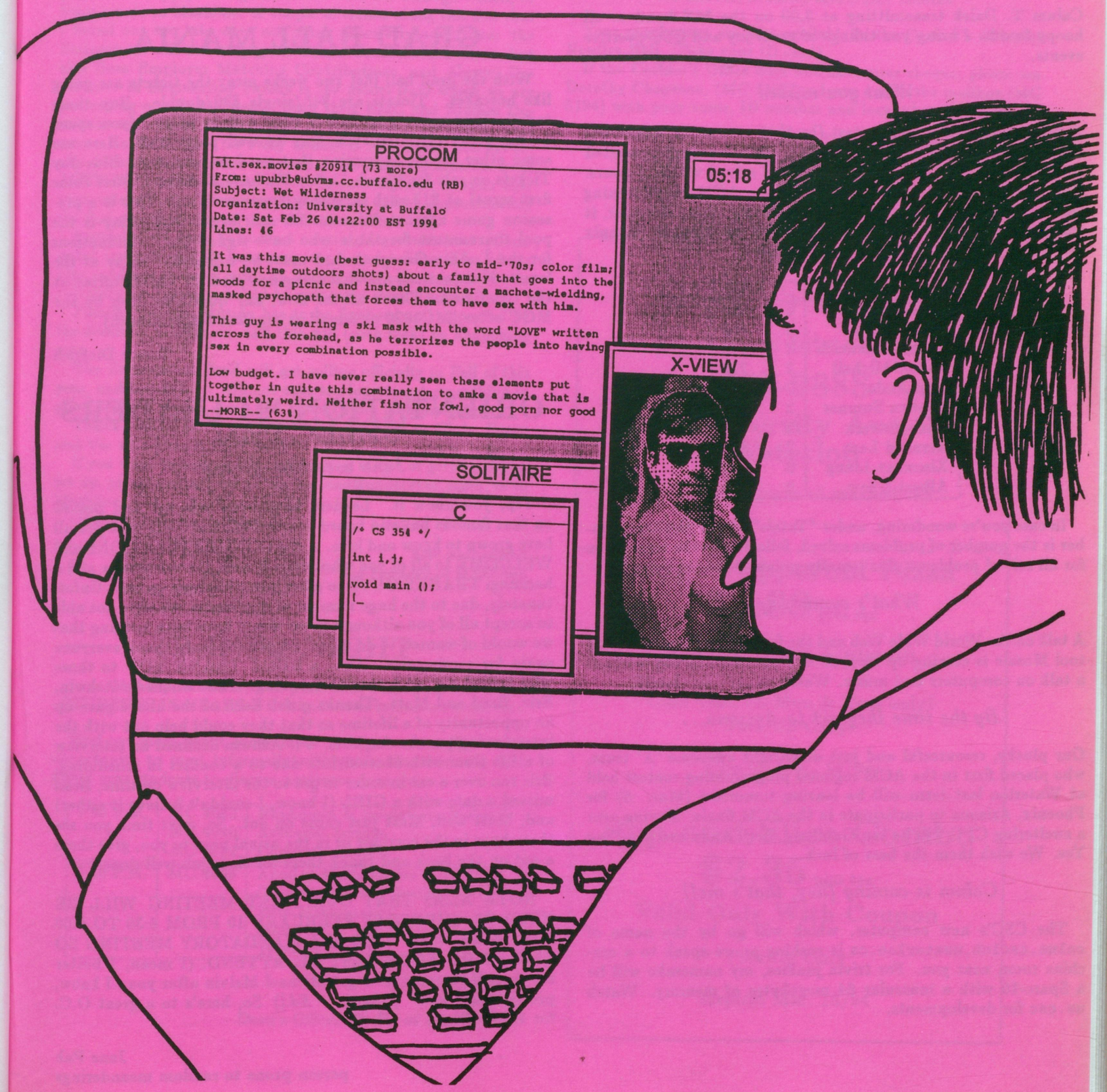
mathNEWS

Volume 64, Issue 4 Friday, March 4, 1994



Computer Science Club
A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Calum T. Dalek transmitting at 3.00 on the MN band to all hoopy froods. I bring you tidings of great joy and CSC-positive events.

What you missed

A practice programming contest (by that very name, even) was held on Feb. 26. Five mind-bending problems were presented to the lucky people who turned up, to be solved within 3 hours. This contest was not for selection for the ACM programming teams, since there are no ACM regionals this term. However, it was practice for our dashing ACM finalists travelling to Phoenix (see below). The standings were as follows:

Name	Score	
Ian Goldberg	5	386
John Tromp	4	451
Frank Radencich	2	145
Ashraf Michail	2	236
Seiji Ando	2	274
Reuben Sumner	2	360
Chris Rovers	2	426
Bernard Lam	2	467
Xiaozhen Liang	0	0
Albert Chow	0	0

In case you're wondering, under "Totals" above, the first number is the number of problems solved, followed by the time taken for all solved problems plus penalty points (lower is better).

What's coming up

A talk on the World Wide Web and the fantastic net hypersurfing tool Mosaic is coming up Real Soon Now. Also in the works is a talk on computers and music. Watch `uw.csc` for details.

By the time they get to Arizona...

Our plucky, resourceful and just downright awesome 'A' team, who placed first in the ACM regional programming contest held at Waterloo last term will be leaving tomorrow (Mar. 5) for Phoenix, Arizona to participate in the ACM finals. Slaving over a sweltering CPU will be Ian Goldberg, Seiji Ando and Ka-Ping Yee. We wish them the best of luck.

Calum is coming (hey, that's me!)

The CSC's new computer, which will go by the name of `calum.csclub.uwaterloo.ca` is rushing as we speak to a machine room near you. For trivia junkies, my namesake will be a Sparc-10 with a muscular 64 megabytes of memory. Watch `uw.csc` for developments.

Souvenirs, Novelties, Party Tricks

As always, we have many fine novelties for sale, including pens, T-shirts, and the new-and-improved "It doesn't have to make sense, it's University Policy" buttons. The CSC will be putting in an order for shirts RSN, so be sure to place an order for your favourite colour and/or size.

Until the sun goes nova, I remain,

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing

GRAD BALL MANIA

With the grad ball just two weeks away the tickets are going like hotcakes. Tickets are $45/single $90/double. Buy them today. Remember you do not need a date to go. (you spent 4 long years studying, you may as well party now) Here are some other events happening that need to be noted. Blue Jay Tickets on sale for March 11/94. We have 48 tickets, (first come first serve) at $13 each including transportation. This is a pre-season game against Atlanta. Do not forget that today is the pool tournament for those who have signed up. Nominations for the J. Alan George Award must be submitted today at the latest. Nominations are also being accepted for Valedictorian at the Grad Ball. That's all for now, any questions drop by the MGC office.(MC3029 or e-mail at mgc@undergrad.math)

Trevor Dietrich

ORIENTATION '94 LEADERS SELECTED

Jane uses lots of caps

Yep, you know it. Leaders have been selected and posted on that famous bulletin board across from the C+D that you all have grown to know and love. A big CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to all of you who made it onto the committee and a humungi THANKS GUYS to all of you who came on out. Unfortunately, due to the huge number of applicants, we were not able to accept all of you although there would have been nothing that we would of wanted to do more. So, we seriously thank everyone again for coming out. Also, a HUGE THANK YOU to those who helped out with the interviewing. That would be Ashwin, Eric, Brad and Matt. Thanks girls! Each of the above gave up an opportunity of a lifetime so that they could help out with the interviewing process for M.O. '94. Ashwin declined an interview of a life time with Mutual Life due to a conflict in scheduling, Eric ran over a cat in order to get to the interview on time, Brad missed a date with a GIRL (I know, I couldn't believe it either) and, Matt well, Matt just came on out. So, next time you see these boys in the corridor or in the urinal next to you, give them a pat on the back and thank them for their job well done.

NOTE ALSO THAT OUR FIRST MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10 FROM 4:30 TO 6:00 P.M. IN MC 4020. THIS IS A MANDATORY MEETING SO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND. (I mean, I better see you all there or we'll get Michael Melvin after you...I know, pretty scary, huh? [*Thanks – Ed.*]) So, here's to a great O.C. for 1994. Cheers to all. Q.

Jane Pak
person prone to random meanderings

MEFCom is Here!!

The Endowment Fund is here. Barely.

After a way-too-long campaign, the results are in, and the majority of mathies have voted in favour of putting the voluntary fee of $31.42 on your fee statement. The question is now, where do we go from here?

First of all, I would like to address the concerns of those people that voted against the Endowment Fund. If you do have a problem with the idea of an Endowment (apart from I don't want to pay the money), please get in touch with me through e-mail, or leave a note in MathSoc. A couple of tidbits along this line that I found out too late were not being effectively advertised: the Endowment will not only grow from student contributions, but also from Employer Matching Contributions, and Alumni Donations. In Engineering (which is the model from which we are patterning our Endowment), both their EMC and Alumni Donations are almost the same size as the student donations. This means, in Math, that for every donation YOU make, you are really donating three times as much. I did some calculations from ACTSC221, and for someone who is entering here in their first year, interest off of their virtual donations will be approximately the same as the value of their donations. Neat eh?

Secondly, we have to contact several large businesses (Computer companies, Life Insurance, etc.), and inform them of our plan, and ask them to come on board. This plan is in the works currently, and letters should be going out soon. (hopefully)

Finally, the constitution has to be finalized and approved by the Board of Governors, and this will (with luck) be happening soon.

The Endowment Fund will get rolling officially in Fall of this year, and hopefully it will not take too long to get everything in place to start seeing some real benefit from it immediately.

Thank you to all of you who voted yes, and to Chris, Fuzzy and Vic who gave it their best.

If you want to help out in these initial stages of getting things set up, please contact me at esutherland@undergrad.math, or in MathSoc.

Onward! Into the future!

Eric Sutherland
Co-Founder of MEFCom

1B INFO NIGHT

Monday, March 7, 7:00 p.m. MC, Fourth Floor
STUDENTS IN YEARS 1 & 2 and other interested students

Find out more about programs & preregistration. This is an opportunity to meet informally with professors, advisors, and upper year students to discuss programs & courses.

7:00 P.M.	MC 4042	BusAdmin & Operations Research
	MC 4040	Actuarial Science
	MC 4059	Computer Science
7:45 P.M.	MC 4045	Applied Mathematics
		Combinatorics & Optimization
		Pure Mathematics
		Statistics
		Teaching Option

Dorothy Chapman
MC 5107
Dean's Office, Faculty of Mathematics

Pick-up Your Work Report!

Work reports are now available for pick-up in the Mathematics Undergraduate Office (MC 5115). Please bring your work report receipt or ID card.

TA's Pick-up your Paycheques!

Winter '94 Undergraduate
TA's / Tutors / Markers
for MATH, MTHEL and STAT courses

Your paycheques are now available in the Cashier's Office at Needles Hall. (Take your ID card)

If the Cashier's Office does not have your cheque, please see Dorothy Chapman, (MC 5107) or leave a note the mailbox (MC 5194) with your name, ID number and local phone number.

Dorothy Chapman, MC 5107
Dean's Office, Faculty of Mathematics

GINO'S PIZZA

Try a little bite of Italy

747-9888

160 University Ave. W.
Waterloo

The official pizza of *math*NEWS

Large Pepperoni Pizza
$4.99 plus tax

Special with Coupon

Offer valid on Mon & Tues only!
Pick-Up Only!

Expires Mar. 18/94

Pop and Slice Combo
$2.35 plus tax

Valid Only With Coupon

Pick-Up Only

Expires Mar. 18/94

Letter to the Editor

actually, this one is Flip's fault

Flipper,

Thanks a lot for the article, though I think you guys missed something. Yes, we are a small paper lacking a total direction, I will give you that. You may be far more professional than us and you may well have a regular release schedule. The fact remains that you have very little sense of humour.

Yes, we published an article on the history of the Sphere, but it was not intended as "self-congratulatory bullshit" as you so eloquently stated. This was, look out, a joke. Perhaps you did not notice our space filler on page 8, the cheesy top 10, (like the one found in your recent issue) "Worst 10 Sphere article ideas" where "History of the Sphere" appeared with a page reference. Loosen up guys.

Mr. Shaw, your editing talent is only exceeded by your adoration for ranting, swearing and unprofessional attitude [*and beer - Hawk*]. I do apologize for any offense my comment caused, and I do not wish to create any bad blood between us. But a public display of immature animosity responding to a throwaway silly comment in an even sillier article is ridiculous.

See you in about five years,
Kevin McGowan
Sphere Editor #1

In reference to all the L–O–V–E and attention my article has received:

To the editors; I realize that you might be caught in between the tastes of the faculty staff, serious readers and pleasure readers, while you yourselves have the mentality of teenagers, and also trying to appeal to non-readers, non-faculty students, available women that you wouldn't mind sleeping with, available men that wouldn't mind sleeping with you, and other groupies that worship you. I just want to express my thanks and admiration to you. Well done. Give yourselves a pat on a shoulder or wherever else you'd like.

To Charlene; I totally agree with you. There is no point in arguing with a woman, at least not in public. Women are almost always right (or at least they think they are). Agreed, if I don't like it, I won't read it. But what if I don't like it, and someone shoves it in my face? (eg.: election cover) Or what if I like reading the humour, except the profanities? I think *math*NEWS has gotten better lately (we had eighteen pages last time!). We'll see what happens.

Tomas "name not withheld (note the spelling)" Tocek

About the *Newsgroup Censoring* Article [vol.64, no.3, page 5]:

You say that the Villages still serve pork and this offends Muslims, Jews, vegetarians, etc. and they don't have the right to ban it, and so they shouldn't ban newsgroups because alt.sex.stories offends SOME people. But everyone who wants bacon etc. pays for it – if they don't want it, they don't pay for it. But those who object to alt.sex.etc. have a legitimate complaint because they have to pay fees for something they DO NOT WANT. I think the topics discussed in alt.sex.stories are disgusting. Sex is for procreation, not recreation.

PS – If you REALLY want sex, try a PROSTITUTE.

Ian Facey

Steve Shaw is to be congratulated on his summary of the CSC Newsgroup Forum in vol. 64, no. 3, which shows balance and even tone that might have been difficult to predict from looking at his other articles. (Not that those were, or should have been, striving for balance and even tone.)

I would like to make one minor factual correction. The article states that Jeff Shallit took my label of "First Amendment absolutist" to heart. In fact, Jeff has since indicated his displeasure with this label. He feels he is not an absolutist, and after some discussion, I concur. In an upcoming Gazette article which contains an expanded version of my remarks, I have substituted the phrase "First Amendment literalist".

The exact phrase used, however, is not as important as the definition which I used: a First Amendment literalist is someone who thinks that all freedoms granted by the First Amendment to the US Constitution ("Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech") as interpreted by the US Supreme Court are rights, and some of those freedoms not granted should be rights. Furthermore, this is true not only of the US in 1994 but of all societies at all times. Jeff may draw back from the use of the word "all", but otherwise this is an accurate description of his position, with which I disagree.

Prabhakar Ragde
Associate Professor, Computer Science

*ANOTHER opinion about the the math*NEWS *cover*

In last week's *math*NEWS, Hawk wrote, "The point behind the cover was to get people talking (about apathy, election, etc)..."

I just have one single word to describe that sentence. BINGO!!! Yes, I thought the cover was disgusting! Yes, I thought the picture was very rude! And YES, I thought the cover was an accurate representation of the number of people who have very little interest in what goes on in our faculty. I can not stand the way people say how utterly tasteless it was, and how the idea (about the election) could have been expressed in a more tasteful manner. Yet how many people (we could also say how many people in Math) voted? Now, of the people who didn't vote, how many of you are going to go screaming to the university administration and say the Council is screwing you up (ie. the Math Endowment Fund). Rumor has it only 30% of the 12000 eligible votes were cast. [*Actually, Engineering had about 23% on campus, and everyone else was less than that. – Hawk*] Therefore, if you didn't vote, then I don't want to hear s–t from you. I put my vote in, so I can say what I want AND I'm entitled to run screaming to the new Council.

If people got off their asses once in a while, maybe we wouldn't have this trash on our newsletters! Now, many of you will probably disagree with me (I know a number of my friends do!!), but think of what I have just written, and this next sentence: "If you didn't vote and get screwed... or already got screwed from not voting in any other election – then that's your problem!!!!"

Paul Santos

Wheeeeeee!

Hawk

Faculty of Mathematics

Dean's Honours List

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will "GRADUATE ON THE DEAN'S HONOURS LIST" at Spring Convocation, May 28, 1994 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

Chui, Bo Yue Janis, HC M/CA(I); Di Tullio, Giuseppe Carmine, H ACT SCI; Druery, Jeffrey Douglas, H C&O/PMTH; Ellis, Katherine Anne, HC M/MA(I); Erickson, Julie B., HC M/CA(I); Hsu, Leon Cheng-Lin, H C&O/PMTH; Leung, Yollie Yolanda Yuk Yi, HC M/CA(I); Mehta, Atul Kishor, HC M/CA(S); Taves, Christopher David, HC M/CA(I); Vanderpost, Gerald Peter, HC M/CA(S).

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will "GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION" at Spring Convocation, May 28, 1994.

Calinawan, Jonah R., HC M/CA(S); Chan, Yau Leung David, H C&O/CS; Enns, Albert Nicholas, HC M/B/CS; Goertz, Steven J., HC M/CA(I); Lee, Teng Yeow Vincent, H ACTS/STA; MacDonald, Robert James, HC TCHNG; Man, Wendy Wing Yen, H CS/INF; McCartney, Donald Nelson, HC M/CA(S); Metzger, Christine Lynn, HC AM/TCHNG; Paul, Brenda Lee, HC M/CA(I) Rosselet, Ati David Vincent, H COMP SCI; Wielowieyski, Marek Stefan, H C&O/CS; Wong, Irene Si-Man, HC M/CA(I).

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

Ando, Seiji; Andress, Margaret Christine; Anton, Vasilica; Au, Gloria Wing Yee; Bal, Sukhdip Singh; Barnes, Jordan Douglas; Bart, Bradley Stephen; Becker, Matthew William; Bell, Jason; Bosland, Marcus Jomo; Briggs, Scott Raymond; Brown, Daniel R.L.; Bruce, Aaron Theodore; Catibog, Ricardo; Chan, Kai-Chung Petrus; Chan, Shirley; Chan, Sze Sze Ada; Chen, Jason Qiang; Chen, Wing Yee Anne; Cheung, Winnie; Chow, Chi-Wing Chadwick; Chow, Gabriel Hoi-Yan; Chung, Gloria Sze Mui; Coleman, James; Collens, Daniel Alexander; Di Tullio, Giuseppe Carmine; Dunn, Gregory Lewis; Dunne, Declan P.; Eisen, Philip Allan; Ellis, Katherine Anne; Engel, Trudy Suzanne; Enns, Albert Nicholas; Erickson, Julie B.; Farrell, Alana Christina; Fitton, Anne Marie; Floyd, Janice; Fok, King Yin Kenny; Foster, Mary Ellen; Frank, Dan; Gammage, Simon; Gaudet, Dean; Giuliani, Kenneth J.; Goldberg, Ian Avrum; Graham, Robert; Greer, Kevin Glen Roy; Guenther, Lawrence Alfred; Hall, Eric; Hancock, Matthew James; Hart, Jeffrey; Hayden, Linda Diane; Hirji, Rahim; Ho, Jackie Cheukkin; Ho, Kai Fai; Hsu, Leon Cheng-Lin; Huang, Po-Chih George; Huh, Woonghee Tim; Hui, Kevin; Hwang, Robert; Ip, Jeffrey Tsz-Yue; Irving, John Charles; Jin, Yuchi; Johnson, Bryce Alan; Kaminsky, Kirk Eldon; Kapur, Rishi; Kaushansky, Leonid; Keng, Leslie; Kennedy, Brennan; Kennedy, David John; Kennedy, John Adam; Kerr, David George; Kettle, Steven C.; Kheraj, Naheed ; Klassen, Matthew D.; Klein, David J.; Kruk, Serge; Kwok, Raymond Ying Wai; Laflamme, Frederic; Lakota, Darko; Lakota, Hrvoje; Lam, Cheuk Ying; Lam, Iris Sze Man; Lau, Oi Ting; Lau, Wai Tak; Laurie, Shana; Law, John Wing Hong; Lee, Alex Yuen-To; Lee, Kevin A.; Leshem, Ran; Leung, Eric Sze Yin; Leung, Yollie Yolanda Yuk Yi; Ling, Chi Hung Alan; Lou, Jie Jay; Luk, Paul K S.; Maenhaut, Barbara M.; Maguire, Andrew C.; Mak, Wing Chit Raymond; Marlatt, Megan Jennifer; McAllister, Sheryl Ann; Meredith-Jones, James Ryan; Merlo, Paul H.;; Michail, Ashraf Ayman; Milley, Peter; Mok, Ka-Yan Diana; Moreland, John; Morgan, Jason; Mosca, Michele; Murtaza, Afan; Nadarajah, Kavitha; Nebelung, Mark Rudolph; Ng, Benjamin; Nguyen, Minh Duc; Nguyen, Nghia Quang; Palmer, Chris R.; Palmer, Michael A.; Parsons, Kimberley Joy; Parsons, Todd Lawrence; Patchett, Sean E.; Peasgood, Michael Edward John; Peck, Michael MacAlister Pham, Hoan Huu; Pomykalski, Piotr Przemyslaw;; Preshing, Jeff; Pretti, John-Paul; Proos, John A.; Pun, Christopher M.; Rafman, Heidi Kathryn; Rechsteiner, Paul James; Reynolds, Diane; Ruiter, Angela Theodora; Ryder, Angie; Sabourin, Lousindi Rose; Scott, David Andrew;; Shah, Amresh; Song, Charles J.; Sood, Ravi; Sourelis, Constantinos; Srivastava, Raman; Stackhouse, Shawn Michael; Stastna, Marek M.; Surazski, Lukasz; Tang, Thomas Cheuk Kai; Taves, Christopher David; Tessier, Joelle Florence M.; Thurston, Lisa Naomi; To, Siu Lun; Tong, Ho Yeung; Tong, Kit-Ying Priscilla; Tran, Hoa Hong; Tsang, Vivian Yuen Chong; Ubeika, Jason; Vaidyanath, Rahul; Vandenberg, Erick Shawn; Wahbe, Andrew Albert; Wainwright, Martin James; Walji, Aziz; Whimster, B. Carsten R.; Williams, Therese Suzanne; Wong, Kai Ching Andy; Wong, Man Kit Danny; Wong, Victor; Wong-Sun-Wai, Wan Tay Von; Yap-Chung, Nicola Grace; Yeoh, Eng Kim; Yuen, Hamilton; Zhang, Hao.

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 1993 term, the following student has been added retroactively to the Dean's Honours List.

Syversen, Tom-Arne.

In recognition of outstanding editorial audacity during the Winter 1994 term, the following students qualified for the Dean's (Dis)Honours List.

Jacoby, Erich "Fuzzy"; Melvin, Michael "Hawkeye"; Shaw, Steven "Flipper".

In recognition of outstanding editorial audacity throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will "GRADUATE ON THE DEAN'S (DIS)HONOURS LIST" at Spring Convocation, May 28, 1994 and have their names displayed in liquid paper on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

Desjardins, Curtis "Chewbacca".

In recognition of outstanding political achievement during the Fall 1993 term, the following citizen is being awarded the honourary degree B.Math (Int.)

Bhaduria, Jag.

Withdrawing from a Course in your 1A/1B term

It is not uncommon for students to encounter academic difficulties when making the transition from high school to university. To avoid severely penalizing students who find it difficult to make the transition, the Faculty has the following **late withdrawal policy**, which **applies to students who enroll for the first time in the Fall 1993 or later:**

Students may withdraw from at most one course between the end of the fourth week and the end of the tenth week of lectures in each of their first three terms of full-time university registration. The course will remain on a student's record and will be assigned a grade of "WD". This grade will count as a course attempt, but will not be included in the student's averages or credit/failure counts.

Please note:

(a) You should be aware that in order to remain in good standing in the Honours program you have to maintain a cumulative average of 60% or higher, and may not fail more than 4 courses.

(b) If you have withdrawn from a course in a previous term, your present difficulties may be an indication that you should transfer to the General program. You should discuss your overall academic performance with one of the advisors listed below. Bring your most recent grade report when you see the advisor.

If you decide to withdraw from a course, you should complete a "Request to Withdraw from a 1A/1B Course" form, which can be obtained from the Math Undergraduate Office (MC5115). Obtain the approval of one of the advisors listed below and submit the form with a self-addressed envelope to the Math Undergraduate Office.

The deadline for returning the form and a self-addressed envelope to the Math Undergraduate Office is Thursday, March 17, 1994. Confirmation of your withdrawal will be sent after March 24, 1994.

Advisors:	Room
R. Dunkley	MC 5100A
D. Younger	MC 5038
K. Piech	MC 5116
P. Brillinger (Acc'nting)	MC 5103
C. Struthers	STJ 120, MC 6141
J. Wainwright	MC 5108

Dorothy Chapman, MC 5107
Dean's Office, Faculty of Mathematics

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Editor: Michael "Hawkeye" Melvin, Steve "Flipper" Shaw

From the Other Side

Believe it or not, Mathies don't suck.

Why are we realizing this only now? Many of the accomplishments of mathies are hidden in bureaucracy, or they just don't want to admit that they are, indeed a mathie, so they try to keep it a secret. Why is this? Mathies at the University of Waterloo have a long and proud heritage.

You can think about all of the landmark findings that have been made by our forefathers in research; the athletic accomplishments of people like Jason Mervyn; and in espionage. Did you guys know that someone had broken the codes for the VCR+ machines. And did you know that this person was a former undergrad right here? It's true.

When I was doing interviews for Orientation '94, I was amazed by the number of people who said "Well, I've been here for X years now, and I'd like to get more involved in the faculty". It's really great to hear that, and I do hope that these people DO get involved somehow.

I have complained in the past about the apathy that is present in our faculty; but it seems that I may have been wrong. We just need to feel good about ourselves again. Being a Mathie is an incredibly unique state of being. There are only (about) 5000 Mathies enrolled right now in the WORLD!!! And the other 1500 are in Russia!!

You will never meet such a diverse group of people in all your life as you have right here. From rich to poor, eccentric to conservative, tall to short. The one thing that binds us all together is our comprehension of mathematics, something that many people would cringe and shudder if mentioned even in the most remote of ways. We are all here together for 4 or 5 years, let's make the most of our time together and try to share or experiences, and form a strong union that will raise the status of our faculty to the highest heights.

So, think about where are you are, and what you are doing. Take pride in your work. Not even 0.1% of the world could do half of the work that we are doing in our classes. I am a Mathie, and I am proud.

Eric Sutherland
Mathie

*mast*HEAD

And these were the people who ate the 'za (along with their favourite banned newsgroups):

- Chewbacca (uw.coop.randy.threaten.legal.action),
- Darren Morby (alt.whipped.cream),
- Darren Rigby (the writers of "This Hour has 22 Minutes"),
- Fuzzy (alt.sex.bytch),
- Joe Hewitt (alt.I.refuse.to.even.describe.this),
- Stuart Pollock (alt.syx.women),
- Jillian Arnott (alt.sex.bondage.fractals),
- Chantal Bray (alt.sex.russ.courtnall),
- Jennifer Watters (alt.sex.mind.your.own.fucking.business).

Michael Melvin (uw.administration.fascist.pigs.kiss.my.ass)
Editor-type Being
Steve Shaw (alt.drink.50.til.you.fall.down)
Almost-an-Editor-type Being

All This Can Be Yours, If the Voice is Right

No, this is not another 'You guys suck' article. It's more like, Gus! What do we give a fuck about? Yes, there is some direction in your article about "where to start" but face it: we are mathies. As you have a general idea of how to derive a function but cannot get a specific answer without a specific function, you cannot tell a mathie just to "get some pride". Here's what's available to the average mathie:

1. There are lots of class reps who volunteered to listen to you bitch. Make them sorry they every opened their mouths during the nominations. (Hint: this is changing things through bitching!!)
2. There is a wide network of tutors who can help you with that tough assignment question. They are fondly called "He/She who has taken the course before". They are everywhere. Someone in the MathSoc office will know someone endowed with this special title or will have a friend who knows someone, etc. Yes, you pay to be taught, but you do not pay to have to memorize TA's or profs office hours and stand in line to see them. Statistics show that there is always some body who knows the answer.
3. MathSoc is, contrary to popular belief, not a clique. Cliques are for high school. We are (supposed to be) mature now. MathSoc has the reputation for being a clique because the same people get ratified every time because no i one else comes forward! The MathSoc meetings are for people in MathSoc. Let's think about this. MathSoc == Math Society. What is a Math Society member? Someone who has paid their $7.50 student fee. What? Hey! That's part of the tuition I pay every term I'm in school! Guess what? Every single one of us that has paid our $7.50 is a part of the Society. As part of the Society, you can run for any Exec position, or fill any job that either already exists or you think would be a good idea. You might have noticed that the Math Enquirer said that the MathSoc Constitution changes constantly. This is to allow valid things to happen that normally couldn't because of rules made in the past.
4. If you think you don't have time but still want to express your opinions to initiate change(!!), then you have every right as a member of the student society of the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo to go to the meetings and voice these opinions. The meetings are getting more crowded, but that may be just cuz the room got smaller.

Think you're an insignificant cog? Raise some shit! Let's make MathSoc meetings more fun!

Think of all this involvement gets you:

1. Contacts! Millions of them. I will almost guarantee you that someone you met through MathSoc is associated with some company you apply to for a JOB(!) later in your long life.
2. Better marks. Lots of tutors means more correctly answered questions on assignments, means better marks. It'll be like tide (with bleach). You'll be able to see the difference.
3. Better marks gives you more pride in yourself which gives you more time to be proud of something else, namely, your faculty! It also gives you more time for the social events some poor schlep has painstakingly organized for you and has risked his/her marks for.

If you are hesitant to volunteer for a position because you don't know what to do as that position, come and ask! The Constitution has a list of duties for each position and there's always someone who knows what to do. Hell, I'm still asking the Interim Resource Manager how to do things.

Office workers are all volunteers – if you are dissatisfied about the hours of the office, don't bitch, keep it open yourself! You are not forbidden to do work during your office hour. You are also not required to take any flack from anyone. This is a great volunteer job to learn interpersonal skills (dealing with assholes) – you know, that thing you're supposed to put on your resume.

Charlene Knowlton, Resource Manager, MathSoc
Dutifully reporting the resources available to you

Top 10 Reasons to go Stag to the Math Grad Ball

10. If you get drunk and pass out, no one will miss you.
9. You just might pick up the camel. (Arabian Nights theme)
8. Pick up a gorgeous Math hunk/babe.
7. There's going to be at least one lover's quarrel, so you can offer your shoulder for someone to cry on.
6. It costs less!!!!!!!!!!!
5. You get really neat souvenirs.
4. Haven't you always wanted to wear a tux/gown on a school bus?
3. If the banquet is boring you can always start a food fight.
2. Pick up your professor.
1. Puke on the Dean.

Trevor Gimbel

The Business Administration Club

The Business Club is having one of its most successful terms thanks to YOU! We now have over 60 members and are still growing. Did you know that we know have our own newsgroup. It's called uw.business-club. Find out more about the club there; if you want to discuss something business related it is a great place to get a discussion going. Our newsgroup is not even limited to UW. Universities throughout North America have picked it up, including Western.

If you still haven't joined we have some reasons for joining that you might want to consider.

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.

Our Mutual Fund discussion with AGF Management will hopefully be rescheduled for the week of the 7th of March. Look for details.

We're thinking of having a Graffiti Pub near the end of term. For those who don't know, a graffiti pub is a pub where everyone signs your t-shirt (we'll get special T's). This is a great way to get to know people better. Let us know what you think about it!

Rob Keys
VP Marketing

prof QUOTES

"Some difference equations are my best friends and they've never done that to me."

McGee, AM 343

"Have to go down to T.O. for my monthly donation to the sperm bank."

McGee, AM 343

"We are in touchy-feely mode."

McGee, AM 343

"No wonder your faces were all screwed up like you had sea sickness and lockjaw at the same time."

McGee, AM 343

"The first thing you might say is 'oh shit'."

McGee, AM 343

"If we look at this a week from now, it'll look like hieroglyphics."

McGee, AM 343

"This has been circumcised. That's not right – it's Bobbitized."

McGee, AM 343

"If you catch a quote to put in mathNEWS, you're paying attention."

Seim, PSYCH 212

"Listen to what I'm saying, not what I do."

Seim, PSYCH 212

"That's how desperate they were, to let someone like me teach."

Seim, PSYCH 212

"You're going to have to learn the Greek alphabet eventually."

Lipshitz, AM 332

"When Ian [Munro], who got his Ph.D at 18, says it is going to get messy, you know you're in trouble."

TA, CS 340

"We eat pizza, we code in C, we are geeks."

TA,CS 340

"Selective Exposure is not about men in trenchcoats."

Zanna, PSYCH 253

"Who thought the [midterm] exam was too hard? Too easy? Just right? I'll ask the same question when the marks are returned."

Ebergen, CS 360

"Any other questions that I can't answer?"

Coffin, CS 246

"So now what I've proved is . . . what am I doing here?"

Forrest, MATH 138

"I don't want you standing up here, it makes me nervous."

Haff, C&O 370

"Why should I? I'm not getting marked on it."

Haff, C&O 370

"[on starting a midterm exam at 8:10 am] I know they generally don't have funerals or weddings at that hour so everyone should make it"

Haff, C&O 370

"They haven't invented an arithmatic problem I can solve correctly."

Haff, C&O 370

"I make them up so I can do them, therefore they must be easy."

Haff, C&O 370

"And now life's ugly . . ."

Haff, C&O 370

"You'll be doing something which probably doesn't appear in texts, which is fine."

Haff, C&O 370

"If you've got a bottle of scotch. . ."

Haff, C&O 370

"Isn't it fun to take notes from someone like me."

Haff, C&O 370

"There's some cut-off point . . . I missed it."

Forrest, Math138

"There are an awful lot of bored and confused people in here."

Nighimurn, CS134

"Meeting a strange computer is like meeting a strange person . . . you have to watch out for viruses."

Lanktot, CS436

"Sometimes you think someone is smilling at you, but they're really smilling at someone across the room . . . that's happened to me."

Lanktot, CS436

"This is kind of like x . . . but not really."

Forrest, Math138

"If you don't like the problem you're getting, put down the problem you like."

Younger, Math136

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Xenophobic

Part 4

John walked in the door of his basement apartment just after eight-thirty, and immediately ordered pizza to quell his now demanding stomach. John never made the gathering at East Side's. There was no way he was going to stop anywhere until he was back home. Still, the gang was probably wondering where he was. They probably were wondering where Mike was, for that matter. Unless Mike was there too and John had blown everything that had recently happened way out of proportion. The Uzis in his mind started to wage a *jihad.*

By quarter-after-nine, John had finished off the meal of the small pep, and he was settled enough to watch the video tape from the lab. The tape had been recorded through to its end, and an automatic rewind feature had apparently kicked in, all before John found the tape. As John suspected, the tape had recorded what the tripod-mounted camera had seen: a view of Mike's work table, from behind a chair, a little up and to the right. There were no sounds accompanying the visual, but then, Mike's project didn't need the audio.

Nearly an hour went by, and John saw nothing to imply that everything wasn't as boring as always. The lights in the lab were on, Mike was working away in his chair, (apparently the chair John had found overturned), and no dark coloured spots could be seen in the fuzziness of the picture.

John realized the new *Star Trek* was on so he took a break to watch his beloved show. Part-way through, the door opened and John heard heavy steps coming down the stairs towards him. The footsteps turned, and started to head off through the kitchen. John leaned forward and looked around the doorless entrance to the T.V. room. He saw Mat heading to his room.

"Hey, Mat." Mat stopped for a moment. "How was East Side's tonight?" John asked.

Mat turned slowly towards John, but stopped as if in thought. "I don't know. I wasn't there."

"You didn't show up either, eh?"

"No." Mat continued on to his room and disappeared around the corner. John returned slowly to his seat and tried to concentrate on the show. For the next several minutes John had to deter the insistent urge to console Mat for whatever seemed to be gnawing at him.

When *Star Trek* finished, John restarted the video tape, only to see more of the same boring stuff. The clock on John's VCR glowed two past, five past, eleven past and still nothing new happened. Another twenty minutes went by before John noticed that Eric and Charlene hadn't returned yet from supper. It seemed strange that they weren't home yet, but they were a spontaneous couple, and there was no telling what they might have wanted to do after their supper.

John returned his attention to the screen. Mike was still in his chair, but he was examining some sort of cylindrical object in his hand. John, his interest perked, rewound the tape to catch what he missed. Mike gestured at someone off camera, then stopped typing on the keyboard. The computer monitor was clear. Mike leaned over the table and pulled up his backpack. Opening it, he pulled out the strange object. The picture was still fuzzy but John could see that it was a small cylindrical form about a foot in length, with rounded ends. Apparently the ends were projecting a kind of luminescence. Mike placed the object on a table off camera and walked out of camera range himself. He came back momentarily with some wiring and fiddled around with the back of the computer. After a few moments, Mike ran the wiring around to where he had placed the object and spent a minute off-camera doing something with the connection. Finally satisfied, Mike went back to the computer and launched into some interactive programming.

For two minutes, Mike typed in commands, glancing every so often to his left at the object. All of a sudden, a big flash of light came from off camera. John, surprised, leaned forward, mimicking the Thinker pose. Mike too was surprised, and began to type in more commands, measuring the reaction on the varying bursts of light emitted from, presumably, that object. Mike suddenly left the camera frame and didn't immediately return. *This must have been when he called me,* John thought.

John's impatience overcame him and he fast-forwarded through the inaction. He returned to normal speed just in time to see the lights in the lab go out, then Mike coming back into frame, talking to someone behind the camera. Mike sat down and proceeded to type in commands again.

Something wrapped around Mike's neck from behind and unmercifully jerked him off camera, overturning the chair in the motion. It took all of two seconds. John fell forward onto his knees, mouth agape and eyes straining to pick out as much detail as he could from the picture. The wires connected to the object started shaking, then abruptly fell loose and blended into the darkness. The tape blurred, snowed, and then stopped, finishing its capacity.

John hit the rewind button and yelled out, "Mat! MAAAT!! Come HERE!!"

Momentarily, Mat appeared from around the corner still in street clothes. "What's up, John?"

John stopped the tape and hit play. "Mike's been killed. He's dead!"

"What, Mike?" Mat sounded closer, but John forced his eyes to stay on the screen.

The tape started again with the lights on and no one on camera. John was almost blabbering the words... "I don't believe it. I don't believe it. I... he called me from the lab and said something about something he found and that I should come down and see... " — the lab lights went out again and John's pace quickened — "... something but when I got there the lights were out... " — Mike reappeared onscreen — "... and he wasn't there and there was blood all over the place and I found this tape and... " John paused and inhaled deeply as Mike was unmercifully jerked off-camera again. "He's dead! He's dead!" John didn't wait for a response from Mat as he kneeled forward to rewind the tape. The VCR clock read 11:59.

The lights went out around John, paralyzing him in position. A low voice floated out of the darkness: "I thought this might happen." John heard clothes falling on carpet, then a familiar sizzling sound. John nervously turned his head. Mat was gone. His clothes were on the floor. But in Mat's place in the doorway of the claustrophobic room was a five foot tall darkly shadowed form, protruding muscled limbs with knife-sharp digits. John found himself scrambling away from the deadly thing, but the wall kept the two in close proximity with no way out.

John never knew how deeply xenophobic he was, until now.

John's body was fed up with suppressing screams ...

To be continued next issue...

John Wetmiller

The Topolist Test

Greetings, friend. I would like to step inside and ask you a few questions. Are you currently in the market for a new religion? Tired of painting your body blue or waging holy war against cricket players? Read on; I think I may have something you'd be interested in.

Let me introduce you to Topolism, the worship of Topol, legendary patron of village idiots. This religion has several advantages offered by no others- first of all, you can have any number of holidays per year that you want! Gain access to the secret Topolist holy texts- *Usborne's How to Build a Nuclear Reactor from string, cork, and three pounds of fissionable material* and *"I don't know, I am a Potato" in thirty-six common languages.* Best of all, Topolism is the most open-ended religion ever devised! There are no annoying payments to some figurehead in Sweden! There are no rules against green okra or homosexuality! Hell, in Topolism, even atheism is a valid form of worship! It's great!

So, you say, what's the catch? Well, the trouble is that most people really aren't suited for life as an Elisabethan cloun. To see whether or not you are ready to accept the true, slightly silly, nature of the universe into your heart, I have provided the following questionnaire. This test is the result of at least fifteen minutes of quasi-scientific research and I'm quite sure that Doug Henning would approve of it especially if we bought him a few drinks or maybe a pre-frontal lobatomy beforehand. Answer honestly, and remember- you have no-one to blame but yourself.

1. Select the phrase below which best describes you:
   (a) I refuse to be a wombat.
   (b) I'm kind of short for my height.
   (c) I'm sort of like that guy on 90210.
   (d) I feel much better now. I really do.

2. What do you normally do for fun?
   (a) Country line dancing.
   (b) Post to uw.general.
   (c) Shadow puppets.
   (d) Teach dogs how to program in postscript.

3. Which of the following lines would most endear you to a member of your preferred sex?
   (a) Hi. Did I mention that I'm an editor for *math*NEWS?
   (b) Hand me that fork... I'm trying to do something...
   (c) So, are you into claymation?
   (d) You look like an optimist. How about a donut?

4. You have been abducted by Pirates/Terrorists/Skinheads. They're about to make you jump into a cauldron of molten lead. Before you die, what do you say to them?
   (a) "COOL!"
   (b) "I could never stand Andrew Lloyd Webber, but this seems like an appropriate time for it."
   (c) "Oh, well. it could always be worse."
   (d) "Wait a minute! You didn't say Simon Says!"

5. Check the statement that actually causes you to laugh.
   (a) Hey, Flip, going to Fed tonight?
   (b) Math Endowment Fund.
   (c) Two. One for each foot.
   (d) See that wall over there?

6. Which of the following would you need in a marriage ceremony?
   (a) A justice of the peace.
   (b) A pinjata, a donut shop, and a dunk tank.
   (c) Four milk bottles, a lawn chair and a tuning fork.
   (d) All you need is L–O–V–E.

7. Your mother finds a *Nine Inch Nails* tape while searching your room and worries that you may have fallen in with a bad crowd. To reassure her, you:
   (a) Sing the first twelve verses of your provincial anthem.
   (b) Point out the fact that you've had a mohawk for the past five years, so it's a little late to be worrying about things like that.
   (c) take her into your sister's room and show her the cover of *King Missile*'s CD.
   (d) Quickly change the subject by finally coming out and telling her that you're gay because you really aren't comfortable discussing musical taste with your parents.

8. If you were creating the universe, what would you make first?
   (a) horses
   (b) cows
   (c) people
   (d) viridian

9. Which of the following do you find most terrifying?
   (a) Atomic-Powered blenders.
   (b) An unnecessary fuzzy death.
   (c) Spontaneous combustion.
   (d) An ABBA reunion.

10. The most sincere form of flattery is:
    (a) computer piracy
    (b) bootleg recording
    (c) illegal photocopying
    (d) getting run down in the halls while en route to a chem lab

11. Craig Nickerson is:
    (a) A member of the *Imprint* staff and writer for the weekly Village Atheist column.
    (b) Proof that atheists can be as open-minded and emotionally healthy as the average pope.
    (c) A drug-free way to promote regularity.
    (d) The best evidence I've ever seen for the existence of a god with a sense of humor.

12. Rene Descartes was:
    (a) A French mathematician who is often referred to as the father of modern philosophy.
    (b) Only slightly more interesting than a walking tour of Corner Brook, Nfld.
    (c) A character from the original Saturday Night Live whose catch phrase was "I think, therefore I am".
    (d) The best evidence I've ever seen that god doesn't exist. That'd just be silly.

13. Chris Shepherd is:
    (a) "Isn't he that music guy?"
    (b) "Getting a degree in Chemistry."
    (c) "Oh, you mean Snowden. He's gone to d'club."
    (d) "Whoever he/she/it is, there's too damn many of them."

14. Who is the alien clone sent from Jupiter to destroy us all?
    (a) Ronald Reagan
    (b) Casey Kasem
    (c) Stephen Seagal
    (d) Ian Goldberg

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15. Spot the worst misuse of free association from among the following.
    (a) psychoanalytic theory
    (b) the collective unconsciousness
    (c) old Prisoner reruns
    (d) obtaining yet another Bobbit joke from watching a video by Guns'n'Roses

16. You are trapped on a nearly deserted island on Easter Sunday. What shouldn't you eat?
    (a) The two-day-old donuts.
    (b) The three-day-old croissants.
    (c) Your roommate's beret.
    (d) The last bottle of Pepto Bismol.

17. You are sitting in the Comfy Lounge when suddenly someone walks in and makes an obscure reference to a book/movie/song that you've never heard of. Your response to this is:
    (a) "I feel pity for you, Doctor Saucer, but it's off to jail after the eighteenth hole".
    (b) "People should get beaten up for stating their beliefs."
    (c) "I have a very good dental plan. Thank you."
    (d) "Someday, I will make my father proud, and fight for him in the kumite!"

18. How many topolists does it take to screw in a light bulb?
    (a) Two.
    (b) Three. One to derive Planck's Constant, two to go for donuts.
    (c) Flying dead Fish.
    (d) I can't answer this question; It's Wednesday.

19. How many militant topolists does it take to screw in a light bulb?
    (a) Three.
    (b) Twelve. They all go for donuts.
    (c) Flying Dead Fish.
    (d) Will I be graded on a curve?

20. God shows up to your front door and asks for a loan of $20. What do you do?
    (a) Give it to her, with complete faith that she'll get it back to you by next Thursday.
    (b) Ask her for some ID first.
    (c) Demand that she give you back the last $20 you gave her, first.
    (d) Lock the door & turn on the sprinklers.

Joeb Hewitt

The Scoring Bit

1. a. 0 pts; b. 2 pts; c. -2 pts; d. 5 pts; e. "God, I'm Bored", 25 pts (You get the bonus points just for knowing that option "e" had to exist)
2. a. -25 pts; b. 0 pts; c. 3 pts; d. 5 pts
3. a. 1 pts; b. 5 pts (the only one that has ever been shown to work); c. 0 pts; d. 3 pts
4. a. 3 pts; b. 1 pts; c. 5 pts; d. 4 pts
5. a. 1 pts; b. 2 pts; c. 0 pts; d. 5 pts
6. a. -1 pts; b. 5 pts; c. 3 pts (save this for later); d. 0 pts (The sixties are over. Deal with it.)
7. a. 0 pts; b. 2 pts; c. 5 pts; d. 5 pts (Bonus: 15 points if you've ever actually done this)
8. a. 5 pts; b. 5 pts; c. 5 pts; d. 5 pts (As Bob Ross would say, it's your world. Do what you want.)
9. a. 5 pts; b. 3 pts; c. 4 pts; d. 2 pts (Point values based upon relative probabilities. Bonus: add 10 points if you answered c and your name is Karl)
10. a. 5 pts; b. 5 pts; c. 5 pts; d. 2 pts (Lord, I miss that...)
11. a. -1 pts; b. 1 pts; c. 3 pts; d. 5 pts
12. a. -1 pts; b. 5 pts; c. 1 pts; d. 3 pts
13. a. 0 pts; b. 0 pts; c. 0 pts; d. 5 pts
14. a. 1 pts; b. 5 pts; c. 3 pts; d. 0 pts (Bonus: 10 pts if you answered d and you *are* Ian Goldberg)
15. a. 1 pts; b. 2 pts; c. -2 pts; d. 5 pts
16. a. -1 pts; b. -4 pts; c. 5 pts; d. 0 pts
17. a. 5 pts; b. 1 pts; c. 4 pts; d. -5 pts (Bonus: name the source of your answer for 5 points)
18. a. 0 pts; b. 5 pts; c. -2 pts; d. -1 pts
19. a. 0 pts; b. 5 pts; c. 0 pts; d. -1 pts (Bonus: 22 points if you answered c for both 18 and 19)
20. a. 25 pts (you poor sod); b. 0 pts; c. 0 pts; d. 15 pts

Scoring:

Below 0 points: You are in all likelihood a psychologically sound individual. Get help. Soon.

From 0 to 25 points: Despite the fact that you probably need to be watered twice daily, there's nothing wrong with you that a fourth year PMath course couldn't fix. Come back later.

From 26 to 50 points: Apparently, you slept through question 20. Such incapacitation is not without it's advantages. Transfer into Arts, get a decent haircut, and maybe someday you'll make it onto the cover of the *Iron Warrior* frosh issue.

From 51 to 83 points: Promising, but maybe Topolism isn't where your destiny lies. Have you ever considered starting a religion of your own? How about a Chia Ranch(tm)? In any case, not bad. not bad at all.

From 84 to 84: You are approximately three feet tall and covered in dense white fur. Favorite hobbies include stealing candy from small children and badmouthing the canadian government. Your zodiac sign is the flying space turtle.

From 85 to 100: You are a Topolist, a Topolist you were, a Topolist you will be. Get help. Soon.

Over 100: You are a better-than-average Topolist. There is no help for people like you. Chances are that you're a fun person to hang around with and you only catch on fire every once in a while. I would not be surprised if you pronounced your name without the vowels but with the silent Q. Live long, die with a mysterious smile.

Joeb Hewitt

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"[written on the board] UT is a timear lransformation"

Younger, Math136

STUDENT: "Could you write a little darker, I just can't read that!"
PROF: "Uh well, ahhh it's nothing important anyway!"

Hudson, Math137

"STUDENT: "So, eval [a procedure] is smart enough to ..."
PROF: "eval is infinitely smart."

Atlee,CS354

Strike Down the Endowment Fund

The results of the Math Endowment fund referendum are in, and they're a bit disconcerting. The Yes side had only 29 more votes than the No side (that's about 0.8% of the math student body). As far as the Federation of Students, and MathSoc is concerned, this is immaterial. Whether the Fund passes by one vote, or by one thousand, the results are equally valid. Hey, look up the rules in the Federation of Students' Constitution. See, it meets the criteria, its a valid vote.

Let's toss away the Constitution for a moment [*Let Anarchy reign!! – Fuzzy*]. Let's look at the fundamentals of the situation. What do we know?

Well, we know that 311 people think the Endowment Fund is a good idea. We know that 282 people don't think its a good idea. Twelve people chose to not voice an opinion on their vote, and 3117 people's opinions (if they had any) were not heard.

All that does is show how unrepresentational referendums are and have been in the past.

Forget your democratic brainwashing for a second, and look at these results again. Look at them scientifically, and statistically, and answer me this question:

"Do the students of the Math Faculty want an Endowment Fund?"

If you say yes, or no , go off and think about it for a while. Think hard. Pretend this is a squiz question or something. Come back in an hour or two. If you still have the same answer, don't go into stats.

If you say "probably" or "I'm not sure" or "probably not" you're on the right track. No definite results can be concluded from these statistics. It can't even be said that it is likely the Math Student Body wants this fund (or doesn't want it).

"What should be done?"

Common sense says we should figure out if Math Students want an Endowment Fund before we do anything. Unfortunately, its out of our hands now. The legal wheels are in motion already.

Of course, as voting students, it is our right to object. We have the power, don't we?

Well, Fed appeal procedure (math doesn't have its own) requires a 90 day waiting period, and that 10% of the faculty support calling another referendum (note: 10% is needed to overthrow or call a referendum, but only 100 voters with 51 in the positive, 1.34% are needed to pass a referendum in motion) [*Note: this happens because the rules of 2* **dissimilar** *Constitutions are being used. As of yesterday, MathSoc has added an appeal procedure that is more consistent with their current Bylaws – Curtis, MEF Returning Officer*].

Sounds pretty disgusting, eh? Luckily we tossed that silly Fed book out of the window.

So, what can we do? Well, we can run home, grab our shotguns and...whoops...sorry, I've been playing a little too much DOOM lately.

No, let's do this one the quiet way. Go down to your local MathSoc office and you'll find a petition. Read it. Sign it. Congratulate yourself on making your voice heard.

A warning, this may be the weirdest petition you'll ever sign. If anything it will send MathSoc and the Feds into a flurry of confusion. It doesn't refer to any Bylaws. It doesn't call for another referendum. It actually ignores the whole Fed Constitution completely. All it basicly says is:

"How could this happen? It shouldn't have happened. The Endowment Fund shouldn't be pursued until its shown that Math Students really want it."

That's what it all comes down to. What do math students really want? Legal card tricks can make rules for determining this, but that doesn't make these rules effective or right.

The Math Faculty doesn't have its own appeal procedure, yet. Sign the petition, and maybe MathSoc will realize that it had better get one fast, and that it shouldn't be like the Feds'.

So what it should be like? I don't have any magic answers. Something along the lines of requiring a higher majority when there's a smaller turnout. Perhaps a larger requirement than 100 votes.

One last note, if you think this is an article against the Endowment Fund, stop here. Go back to the first line, and read it again. Substitute each reference to the Endowment Fund being passed with a reference to it being shot down. The message is the same.

Chris 'Strunoph' Norman

Tomas Raves Again

Just to make you all feel better, I didn't get a Valentine either. I was actually trying to forget this stupid day, but it was hard to do. Seeing all the flowers, couples talking, smiling, and women dressed in red...Ah. The high point of the day was when my night class prof told us a Valentine Day joke and put up a slide with a huge red heart with "Happy V.D." in it. (Thank you Barb).

So I decided to plan ahead, for 1995. I don't want to repeat this year's fiasco and subsequent depression that lasted for days. The plan is to encourage people to do random acts of kindness. It's that simple. I hope it's not too bizarre to substitute ignorance and acts of violence for random acts of kindness and senseless beauty. There is a good probability (yes, I took Stats) that sooner or later I will end up being the stranger receiving a random hug, kiss, or a flower, maybe even on the Valentine's Day 1995. There is a lot of things that YOU can do to propagate this idea. Here are some that I came up with, but feel free to be creative and add to this list.

- randomly give out hugs to people
- give someone a flower (doesn't have to be for V.D.)
- discreetly slip a $20 bill into a pocket of a needy friend
- let the person behind you in the C+D line go before you
- change the due date of any given assignment to 5 days later
- sign a student in your class, even when it's full
- cook a meal for your friends/roommates
- deduct only half the marks for wrong answers, when marking midterms
- give 5% bonus to all the students in one of your classes
- put a quarter in an expired parking meter
- make an addition error to overstate a midterm mark
- shower with someone and don't pee on them
- post assignment answers or take it up in class before it's due
- give a ride to a student that is walking to school
- buy someone a drink at a club/bar

Personally, I'd like to receive any or all of the above gestures of kindness (and I could really use some of them!). I'm sure there is more that could be done, just use your imagination. So let's do it! Together we can make it work. Hug someone today!

Tomas "as nice as he wants to be" Tocek

Strike Down 'Strunoph'

A Pseudo-Editorial

Well, first of all, you really shouldn't be messing around with the numbers. You can't say that there was a 0.8% difference between the Yes and No sides. The fact is that with the number of people who voted, 51.4% were Yes, 46.6% No and 2.0% spoiled. (or if you really like manipulating, throw out the spoiled ones and you have 52.4% Yes and 47.5% No) Either way, you have a difference of about 5% . This all of a sudden seems a bit more significant than your 0.8% difference. You can fiddle around with the figures all you want, but it still comes down to the fact that:
(a) the referendum did pass, and
(b) it wasn't really that close.

If you are upset that it isn't representative, there isn't really anything you can really do about it. First, you should be pissed off at all the people who didn't vote. Secondly, we don't follow the Fed's Bylaws with regards to running a referendum; MathSoc has its own. MathSoc follows the Feds *appeal* process because it didn't have one in place (which has since been rectified). Thirdly, would you believe that in Real Life[TM] you are right. If something does pass by one vote, it passes! Big fuckin' surprise. You can't kick someone out of Parliament because her party wins by one seat. Deal with it.

To make things worse, the people who organized the whole thing have the same concerns you are voicing. These people have sunk hours of time into this Endowment Fund, and now they are even second-guessing themselves with respect to what they should do.

An important thing to realize about all of this is that MathSoc is a PROactive, volunteer body, not a REactive government. This means that it does not have to get the full support of an absolute majority of the students to do something. It is free to come up with ideas which Council thinks are good for U(W) Math, or support ideas brought to it by people B willing to volunteer on their own initiative, like MEFCom. If such an idea would involve a major change to how things operate, then it is the responsibility of MathSoc to inform the student body explicitly and directly and ask for a response. If more interested students are in favour of it than are against it (as was the case in the MEFCom referendum) then it gets a go-ahead. What you are getting at, that nothing should be done unless a large majority of ALL math students support it, is simply unworkable, given the lack of interest in such things evidenced by the referendum turnout. What the referendum did show, without any doubt, is that OF THE PEOPLE WHO CARE, more are in favour of an Endowment Fund than are against. This is the most that we should expect or even desire. The only way to do what you seem to favour, which is to get the explicit opinion of every student on the issue, would be to confront every one and force them to answer. I think that this is an affront to their right to ignore the whole thing. Any math students who had an opinion were free to express it in the referendum, and were strongly encouraged to do so by MathSoc reps, in *math*NEWS, and at information sessions. Did you show up to any of the referenda? Those who didn't obviously didn't wish to. If you can somehow get more people to sign your petition than voted in the referendum, I will be shocked to the core. Where were they Feb. 15th & 16th?

Your statistical analysis points to a problem which most Western democracies face, namely voter apathy. This is a problem which bothers me as much as you, but MathSoc is not about to come up with the magic solution that has eluded all of our illustrious political leaders. The most a concerned person can do is speak their mind, question the policies, try to convince your friends to vote, and show your own view with your vote. Other people have the right to sit back and accept whatever is handed to them if they just don't care, and they deserve everything they get (or don't get).

The fact of the matter is, they don't have to get complete consent, they just have to make sure to not stifle dissent. Everything possible was done to achieve this, not to mention that much was done beyond what was expected of anyone.

Michael Melvin

alt.sex.bestiality and Country Music

I was surfing through the channels last week in a bored moment and momentarily paused on some sort of country-music awards show or some such and at the time, a crowd of hicks was line-dancing on stage to accentuate the music. I paused on this channel to see what this line-dancing was all about. In the minute or so that I was able to force myself to observe it, I got a gut feeling that this was not real dancing. I have seen real dancing, running the gamut of human culture, from San, Hadza, Nubian, and Hawaiian folk dancing, to ballet and ballroom, and even the Fly Girls, all of which I consider to be real dancing. For some reason, line-dancing just didn't fit in.

This gut feeling bothered me, because I was worried that it might merely arise from my extreme dislike of country music, so I decided to analyze it. What I discovered will come as a shock to many, and will surely be denied by the afficionados of this activity, but nevertheless must represent the truth. Country line-dancing is an imitation of horses.

That's right, horses. Let's begin by looking at what usually characterizes dance. It is the rhythmic movement of the body, involving the stretching and contracting of the limbs in creative contortions to the limit of human ability. Just imagine yourself doing a Fly-Girl routine without some serious tendon damage. Most true dances, regardless of culture, involve glorifying in the ability of the human body to twist, stretch, and move as only a primate can. Now look at the movements involved in line-dancing. Firstly, the arms spend most of the time at rest, and are never raised over the head or stretched out to the sides, or moved with much speed. Why is this? Because horses don't have arms. Secondly, the leg movements involve none of the uniquely human abilities, and are comprised only of simple steps a short distance forward, back, or to the side. Simple movements that any horse could do. Thirdly, the little knee-bending kicks and foot touches resemble nothing more than a skittish horse shooing away flies with its tail. They certainly do not represent the amazing range of movements of which even an out-of-shape human is capable.

In short, country line-dancing is nothing but a poor man's dressage, a Musical-Ride-without-horses, if you will. It does insult to the word "dance" to call it that. Perhaps "country line-trotting" would be more appropriate. If you always envied low-intelligence, quadropedal grazing animals, it is the "dance" for you. As for myself, I must agree with Flipper in the belief that the appearance of this "art" at Fed Hall is one of the Seven Signs of the Apo-calypso (the dance which signifies the end of the world).

Next issue: Chewin' t'baccy or chewing cud? Smokeless tobacco and the bovine urge.

Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

Going Flat Out

I only got half the submissions I got last week, which is to say one.

It again comes from Ian "Ianman" Facey who of course wins both prizes this week. This is unfair to Ianman. He now has three... three... three whatevers in his possession. If you want your whatever, solve the flats or write one yourself. It's not hard if you try. (I should know, I've had to write two a week for you people. It would be nice to see more response.)

The prize-winning flat goes like this:

TRANSPOSAL (4)
I watch the Olympics on TV
My eyes ONEd to the screen
Those Italians, they TWOd very fast
It's the fastest I've seen.

This is the winner because it is the most clearly clued among the three he submitted.

Ianman also had a complete solution to last week's flats. The solutions are : Reader Submission: residents, tiredness. Char: epic-enter. L.C.: p-h/e-ony. L.B.: terms, semester. Cons: sled, sailed, slide, solid.

Last issue, I highlighted the flat types that involve letters being moved. More elegant flats result when whole words are involved, as in:

Falsehood Two or more more appear to share some grammatical relationship, but don't. e.g. False Gerund (-ing word) ONE=frost TWO=frosting (5,8)
Word Deletion When one word is removed, intact, from a long word, a short word remains. e.g. ALL=performance IN=man OUT=perforce (11)
Heteronym Two phrases (or words) have the exact same sequence of letters. e.g. ONE=mustache TWO=must ache (8, 4 4)
Linkade This is a charade that overlaps by one letter. e.g. ONE=Libra TWO=Aries ALL=libraries (9, *5, *5)

FALSE COMPARATIVE (7, *9)
A fire in my BIG made me shout
Until the BIGGER F. D. put it out.

WORD DELETION [4 4] ([]=phrase, dictionary entry)
We in the government bought '18.
The citizenry had SHELL.
It cost us damn NUT 2 million bucks
But that's the price of WELL.

HETERONYM (7, 3 4, 2 5)
"Hop up," said the ONE Dr. McGee
But I was TWO because there was THREE.

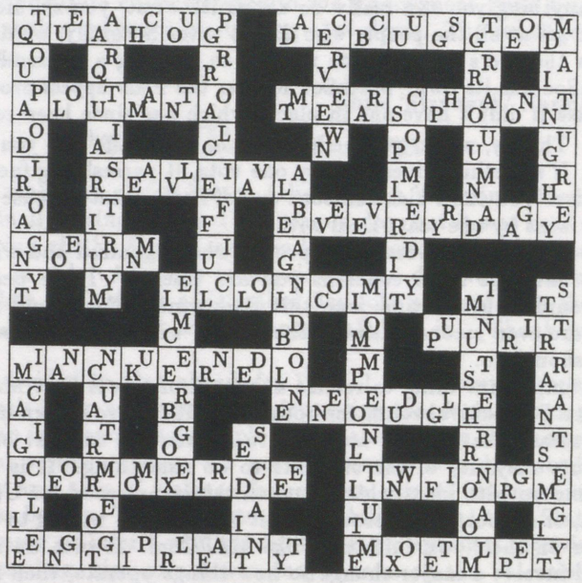
LINKADE (6, 3, 4)
Visiting the WHOLEs of Europe,
My friends and I went to the top.
Tripping over one of my TWOs
My ONE saved me from a very long drop.

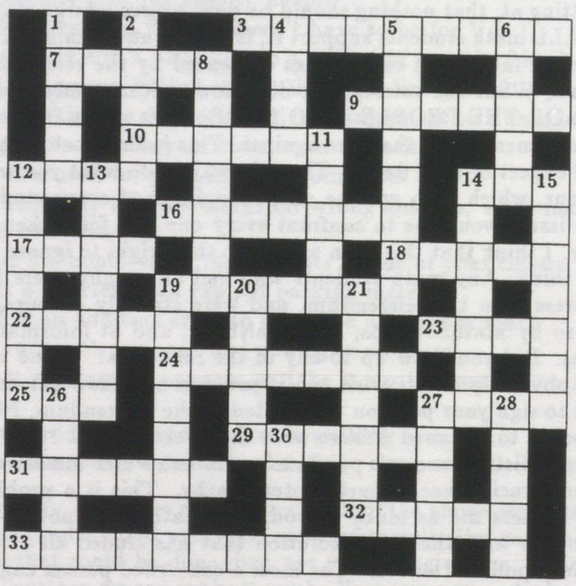
Other flat types that involve whole words are:
Interlock Two words appear intact in a word without overlap or leftovers. e.g.fig, rebus, firebugs
Literatim A word is spelled by other words. e.g. WHOLE=grin 3-1-4=energy (NRG), 2=I
Double Cross Two pairs of words cross ends. e.g. fl/ake dr/ip and fl/ip dr/ake

If you want information on the National Puzzler's League, the Enigma (their magazine full of flats), or flats in general, I'll be in the MathSoc office on Monday, March 7 at around 10:30am (between classes) with the goods.

Solutions to these flats and new flats should go into the BLACK BOX before March 14 at 6:00. I hope to hear from you all. This is Darren Rigby, writing as...

Gridby





mathNEWSquiz #4

The SQUIZ 101 Midterm!

Good morning, faithful squizzers. We, your squizmasters, trust you've had enough of midterm exams, so why not relax and test your knowledge of, oh, stuff.

Here are the answers to squiz number three: **Song Lyrics:** 1) Phil Collins — Both Sides of the Story; 2) R.E.M. — Drive; 3) Glass Tiger — (Watching) Worlds Crumble; 4) Beastie Boys — Shake Your Rump; 5) Meatloaf — It Just Won't Quit. **The Kids In The Hall:** 1) Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet; 2) Referrals; 3) Mark McKinney and Bruce McCulloch; 4) M. Piedlourde; 5) Gavin. **Potpourri:** 1) Ottawa; 2) Heracles (the Roman spelling "Hercules" was *not* accepted); 3) Hamlet; 4) Roger Zelazny; 5) *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.* **Ancient Celtic Religion And Mythology:** 1) Cerridwen; 2) Lir; 3) Cu Chulainn; 4) The Morrigan; 5) Taliesin.

And now, let's give a big hand to our participants: Brian Young and Jennifer Tripp (3), Baloo (4), Girls' Best Friend (4), Marni (4), Ian "Ianman" Facey (7), Acid Tongue (8), and Chantal Bray (8). By random coin toss, our winner is Acid Tongue! Congratulations, Mr. Tongue, your squizprize awaits you at the MathSoc office.

And now, let this squiz begin! (Fanfare.)

Song Lyrics

Please name the song and the artist. And no, we do *not* make these up!

1. Well, can you get excited by what you see?
   You've been taking my love; you should be giving it back to me
2. I can feel you breathin'
   I can feel your heart beat faster
3. I go to school, I write exams;
   If I pass, if I fail, if I drop out,
   Does anyone give a damn?

Ancient Persia

1. Who is chronicled in the Behistun Inscription?
2. What was the main religion called?
3. What is the name of the main god in that religion?

Potpourri!

1. Name the first 3-D movie (advertised with "a lion in your lap").
2. What did Tim Horton do for a living?
3. What is Mr. Dressup's real name?
4. What "supermarionation" show featured International Rescue?
5. What common name is given to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis?

Canadian Comedy

1. **Smith and Smith:** Name the mascot of "The Kids' Show."
2. **Royal Canadian Air Farce:** What does Brian Mulroney (Don Ferguson) always say first?
3. **The Frantics:** Name Mr. Canoehead's brother.
4. **Kids in the Hall:** Who is Sir Simon Milligan's sidekick?
5. **S.C.T.V.:** Why was Guy Caballero in a wheelchair?

You may submit your answers in the BLACK BOX before 6 P.M., Monday, March 14. Good luck and happy squizzing!

Darren "" Morby
Erich "Fuzzy" Jacoby

Logic Puzzle Solution

Well, we got four answers to last issue's logic puzzle. Correct answers came from R. Kirk "the Kaptan" Metcalfe, David "Waldo" Swart and Mark "I Saw It All Happen" Coburn, and a nearly correct answer came from An Engineer Known as Beast. From the two correct answers, a coin toss has proclaimed Waldo as the winner. C'mon by the MathSoc office sometime to pick up your prize.

Included below is Kirk's answer, which does a fairly good job of explaining how everything fit together. The numbers in parentheses are clue numbers from last issue's puzzle.

Flipper drank 50, and was kicked out for fighting with one of the dwarves(8). The two beer drinkers liked KISS(5) and Clapton(6), but Doc liked Clapton(6). So Flipper liked KISS and requested "I Was Made For Loving You".

Sleepy drank either B-52s or rye and ginger, but did not like Van Morrison(10). The Van Morrison fan drank rye and ginger(10), so Sleepy drank B-52s. This means he went to Fed Hall and liked the Bee Gees(7). So he requested "Stayin' Alive".

Happy was the one who drank rye and ginger(2), so he liked Van Morrison(10). He requested "Brown Eyed Girl". He was not thrown out(2), so he left with the DJ.

Doc was a beer drinker and liked Clapton(6), so he requested "Crossroads" and drank Moosehead (since Flipper drank 50). Doc did not fight with Flipper(8),did not make fun of the DJ's clothes(6), wasn't beat up by the bouncer(9), and didn't get booted out for having only six pieces of ID(5). Therefore he threw up on the bouncer and was thrown out.

Dopey drank Prairie Fires(3). He also hated music made before 1985(3), which means that he requested "Everybody Dance Now". Since that was the only dance song, he was beaten up by Flipper and thrown out(8).

Grumpy was beat up(10), so he was the Meatloaf fan who got beat up by the bouncer(9). He requested "Bat Out of Hell". He was not drinking vodka and OJ(9) or rum and coke(9). He drank gin and tonic.

Bashful drank rum and coke(9). He was not the Captain Beefheart fan(9), which means that he didn't request "Tropical Hot Dog Night", which means that he requested "Heartbreak Hotel". So he was the Elvis fan who was kicked out for making fun of the DJ's clothes(6).

By elimination, Sneezy drank vodka and OJ, requested "Tropical Hot Dog Night", and was kicked out for having only six pieces of ID.

Due to the fact that I've been short of time recently, there won't be a new logic puzzle this issue. Look for one next issue.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

3. four sided AHS knot (9)
7. beginning of fad diet tragically ends rotten odour (5)
9. barely agreement without ten (6)
10. foot begins tepid (6)
12. ring around the smile (4)
14. I agree (3)
16. own a mangled coy stud (7)
17. so Al left too (4)
18. frighten rended races (5)
19. honour Aretha's song (7)
22. listen to all of the pimento places (5)
23. are a space? (4)
24. Slash, state you are tall (7)
25. consumed tea (3)
27. issue right time (4)
29. Supe's cape got away (6)
31. heard surreal just right (6)
32. nigh eave, sounded childlike (5)
33. history of Waterloo paper (8)

Down

1. get off her oral presentation (5)
2. I sent broken beer mug (5)
4. write e's without difficulty (4)
5. pinch of thyme sat by purple gem (8)
6. wary to lay reel back (5)
8. argument put around in side (7)
11. literature experts read aloud (5)
12. health food for the French after organ crashed (7)
13. motivate from within church top (7)
14. juggle an old horse, male sheep (7)
15. polished tangle with energy (7)
19. bind the trainers loosely (8)
20. slide around the skate (5)
21. a particular cretin (7)
26. dentist works on accurate ethnic retainers (6)
27. ear re: heard ghostly (5)
28. conclude finer dances (5)
30. close a letter in! (4)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

3. explain
7. bird sound
9. steady
10. loathing
12. tangle
14. insect
16. James Bond drink
17. reminder
18. standard deviation
19. throw
22. outlaw
23. preference
24. trick
25. lair
27. pellet
29. resident
31. charming
32. T.V., radio ..
33. limitation

GRIDWORD

*grid*COMMENTS

Mornin' everyone. Hope everyone is having a better week than I. Let's see, by the time you read this I will have had one midterm, done two assignments, done parts of two group projects, made the grid, gone to the Shelter and recovered from a hangover. Boy do I wish I had more weeks like this. I see by the number of submissions that you all spent your study break wisely. Keep them coming.

Correct solutions to the cryptic came from: Brian Young & Jennifer Tripp; Baloo; Ian "Ianman" Facey; Phage and 2; a couple of liars; Three Men In an Office; The Non-Negative Integer; Blaine and his sidekick Bobo; Gimme a prize; Bob the Great and Powerful; and Pinky & The Brain. Correct solutions to the conventional came from: The Rigorous Slacker; Blaine; Jennifer; The Hedonist; Ian "Ianman" Facey; Phage and 2; and Pinky & The Brain. We also had a incorrect (but only slightly) solutions from Extra, Fresh & Crispy. The winners are... Baloo for the cryptic and The Rigorous Slacker for the conventional. Stop by the mathSOC office for your prizes.

Everyone's favourite word/phrase is: Pleased Tubers; This grid was a Cluckie!! (What exactly does this mean anyway?); Reptile wins... Fatality; Life is short – Procrastinate Hard; Sweatin' like a pig; pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosises (Ian); FUN'damentals; rigorous (not rigid); and World Domination!!

I hope everyone has a good weekend. The grid question for the week is: What should I do this summer (ie. I graduate really soon and have no plans to work, so I'm looking for ways to goof off) the more interesting the better?

Jennifer Watters

Down

1. large body of water
2. freedom
4. legend
5. hopeful person
6. claw
8. trap
11. beverage
12. kindred
13. stop sign
14. pain
15. passage
19. start
20. confess
21. shout
26. escape
27. learn
28. eg. brain, lung, heart
30. gain