

# math NEWS

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## Editorial

### *The Serious Truth About Drinking*

Welcome to the the Responsible Drinking Issue of mathNEWS. Several of our articles this week deal with various facets of alcohol use and abuse, and I hope that they entertain you.

That is, after all, the point of this issue: to entertain you. There are going to be some of you that are not entertained, however. You may feel that jokes about booze are sophomoric, irresponsible, and generally in bad taste considering the detrimental effects that alcohol has on society. Or you may simply believe that pandering to the lowest common denominator is not what mathNEWS is all about, and is something that should be left to rags like the *Gazette*.

Before deciding to go ahead with this issue, I had to balance those views with those of people who feel that mathNEWS has lost whatever spark it once had and think that the magazine has become too tame. As well, I had to consider the fact that booze does cause quite a few problems in today's society, and may not be the sort of topic that one wants to treat lightly.

But, as you can tell, I decided that it wouldn't be outside mathNEWS's mandate to publish this issue. I made this decision even after I was given first-hand proof that some university students are incapable of drinking responsibly, especially at my parties. However, I do not feel that it is the responsibility of mathNEWS to reform the drinking habits of a small number of people who should know better. Sure, there are a few irresponsible jokes scattered throughout the issue, but I purposely avoided letting anyone take unfair shots at organizations like BACCHUS that do a hell of a job. (BEnt is, of course, an entirely different story.) I also, for entirely selfish and probably arbitrary reasons, decided not to include any jokes that even vaguely suggest that drinking and driving is a good thing. (I must point out that as I write this editorial, I haven't yet edited anything for the issue, so I don't know if any such jokes were submitted.)

The reason that I say these editorial policies are probably arbitrary is that I didn't hesitate to include any references to hugely excessive and irresponsible drinking that may be doing nearly as much damage to society as drinking and driving does. There are several reasons for this. The first is that among my friends, fairly responsible drinking is the rule rather than the exception. We're not abstainers by any stretch of the imagination, but it's a rare occasion that any of us drink to the point of being violently ill. I know that we're not a representative sample of the student community, but it's the only sample that I have, so there you are. The second reason is that you folks shouldn't be taking mathNEWS seriously in any case, because, well, we're mathNEWS. The third and final reason is that I'm the editor, and that means that I'm in charge, so I can do whatever I want.

All I can ask is that you take the articles that follow in the spirit in which they were written. Don't take them seriously, but relax and enjoy them. Finally, when you drink, use your fucking head. Don't drink too much, don't drink anything before driving, and don't drink anything before breakfast. And don't dress up as the pink Power Ranger and drink so much that you puke on my roommate and get barred from my house for life.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

## Prez Sez

Good Morning Waterloo! Mid-terms are over, or just about. This means I can get back to my regular routine of, of, what the hell is it that I do again? I hope every did well on their mid-terms.

What has happened in the last couple of weeks. MathSoc had it's Annual General Meeting last Wednesday. A financial report, a report on the state of affairs as well as numerous other reports were given. Most importantly, the new constitution has been ratified. The need for a complete constitution has sprung out of the evolution of the society and the faculty, as well as a solidification of all the hodge-podge past changes. This new constitution has been worked on over the past 3 terms by numerous people. Thanks to this group for a job well done!

For those more adventurous types, we held our Math Pub at the Bomber. It must be added that the staff of the Bomber were (*cough*) a little short, they had not expected so many people to turn out. We had fun drinking and dancing and drinking and playing pool and drinking and playing air hockey and drinking and drinking and spam and drinking.

Another great event was The Rocky Horror Picture Show, a first for me. If you have never been a part of a screening of this classic, next year is a must. We had 6 people show up in costume, and will some body please tell me why high heels are worn so much when they hurt so damn much! Well, now we know it, Jonathan Cressman (aka Janet) and Me (aka Monique) are a couple of very ugly women. This stands to reason because we're also a couple of very ugly men.

There is a Strategic Planning Committee starting up for the Math Faculty. The Dean is chairing this committee. It is looking for an undergrad student representative. Meetings will be every Friday. This individual should have good ties to the undergrad community, the best would be through the undergrad structure of MathSoc. This individual will be appointed by the Dean. If you are interested, please contact me or Shirley Thomson. She is located on the 5th floor outside of the dean's office.

And that's all folks! Wow, all this before the 9:00pm deadline imposed by our friendly mathNEWS despot Fliptator.

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

## Tuition Increases

### *Lloyd Drops the Ax*

Did you know that if Lloyd Axworthy's Social Policy Reform Paper is put into action, tuition will *DOUBLE* by 1997? Makes, you stop & think, doesn't it? If you have any questions or would like to know more, join us on November 10<sup>th</sup> in EL 101 from 7-10 p.m. The Federation of Students, Andrew Telegdi (MP) and, John English (MP) have put aside the time to discuss these issues with you. So, come on out, and get your questions answered.

Jane Pak  
Student Councillor



## ActSci Club Update

Thanks to everyone who came out Oktoberfesting with us Friday, October 14 at Queensmount. Hope you all had a great time... heck, I sure did. I'm still hungover from that night! That Walter Ostanek guy sure can PARTY... you probably know now why they call him "the King of Polka."

Make sure to leave the night of Friday, November 25 open. Why not get rid of your frustrations and exam stress and come out with us for a night of LASERQUESTing. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the ActSci Club door (MC 3030) for the first 28 people interested. Cost is \$13.35/person for 3 games - approx. 1½ hours.

In the month of November, we are also expecting 2 guest speakers. One of them is Charles McLeod from Canada Life who will be coming on Wednesday, Nov. 23 to speak on current issues in "Asset-Liability Matching". Another is André Perez, but has not confirmed a date yet.

For those of you who haven't picked up an ACTSCI hat, there are only a few left in both the blue/tan and black/white models. To sum up, in November we have:

Thurs. Nov. 17	After exams lunch at Front Row
Wed. Nov 23	Talk on "Asset-Liability Matching" by Charles McLeod of Canada Life
Fri. Nov. 25	LASERQUEST

Good luck on your midterms and those ActSci exams.

Tom Peng  
ASC Prez

## GINO'S PIZZA

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## CSC Flash

This is Calum. I have been having monetary difficulties recently, and have been forced to take a job with a pest control agency. Exterminate! Exterminate!

That is not true. It is true that I am encountering some difficulties, so this missive will be shorter than you are used to. Rest assured, these minor difficulties will not delay my plans much longer.

All foes of the Doctor will be happy to hear that we have enlisted the help of the Rani. I understand a human named Poesy Chen is responsible for donating the computer by that name, which has already made great strides at assimilating that upstart Doctor. We are always grateful for such useful tools. Rani's colour display has already successfully infiltrated Doctor, which may lead to a more pleasant interface.

This same Poesy Chen will be speaking on Thursday, 17 November, about the legal issues surrounding Usenet and the Internet. Humans, with their ridiculous "consciences", always seem to worry about such things. It should be a most interesting talk.

My eponymous computer has much more memory now, since the purchase of a 1-gigabyte hard drive. This is obviously a good thing.

Other upcoming events include the ACM regionals on Saturday, 12 November, and the Othello contest on Saturday, 26 November. Note that the Math C&D will be open from 10 to 4 on the day of regionals! I understand trivia like this are important to carbon-based lifeforms like yourselves.

Unfortunately, I accidentally exterminated the emissary who was to bring me news of the ACM programming contest participants. I can only assume they will or do know who they are.

Finally, I have been asked to thank and congratulate Ian Goldberg and Amber O'Hearn for hosting what was apparently a very pleasant executive meeting at their apartment recently. Note that meetings are open to all CSC members.

That is all. Keep building those wheelchair ramps—we Daleks find them very useful. And pay no attention to any small invasion forces you might notice.

Calum T. Dalek  
Chairbeing

## More Fun From The PMC&O Club

Another week has ended in the PMCO empire. Ken Davidson spoke to what we are sure will be an enthusiastic crowd on the subject of connecting invertibles in infinite dimensional algebras. (Don't ask...) Within the next two weeks there will talks on Symbolic Algebra and The Mathematical Detective: The history of Analysis of Algorithm. So be forewarned.

Marni "untouched by the british tabloids" Mishna

## profQUOTES

"The meat is hard... maybe we should do vegetarian proofs, skip the meat."

Munro, CS 134

"I'm not going to give you an assignment this Wednesday because of the midterm (standing ovation)... I'm going to give it to you today."

Stewart, MATH 145

"This was in fact invented by Sir Isaac Newton, my great grandfather."

Woolner, PHYS 121

"There are two hard parts in this course. One is getting the transparencies off their backing, and the other is putting them on the overhead the right way around."

Munro, CS 134

"Excuse me while I erase the board and breathe in tiny bits of fossilized microorganism."

Shallit, CS 462

"I hate numbers!"

Wainwright, ???

"I guess that the difference between a Theorem and a Lemma is this: If you find it useful and you will use it again, you call it a Lemma. If you don't find it useful and never use it again, you call it a Theorem."

Cummings, PMATH 336

"And this is not gender-specific; Bob could be a woman."

Bennett, MATH 135

"This is an article from the Globe in 1988. How many of you were born in 1988?"

Simpson, CS 246

"The primary emotions are: fear, anger, happiness, disgust, sadness, surprise and a fanatical devotion to the Pope."

Bulman-Fleming, PSYCH 101

"We're marking your exams today, and you're providing us with a lot of entertainment."

I. Munro, CS 134

"When you look at their treatment of masturbation, it's fasci... uh, mildly interesting."

L. Smith, Econ 101

"In this situation, we need only consider the positive values of zero... uh let me repeat that..."

F. Zorzitto, Math 137

"You happen to have a solid idea—I'm just being facetious about it."

I. Munro, CS 134

"When you try to think of this in terms of algebra, all meaning goes away."

F. Zorzitto, Math 137

"We are 99.99% sure that  $p$  is prime... this is what you call an 'industrial' prime."

W. Gilbert, Math 135

## C&amp;D

Due to the increasing price of coffee, thanks to Colombian drug lords finding the coffee market almost as controllable and corruptible as the cocaine market, prices are rising. The MathSoc C&D is being forced to adhere to a pricing structure as follows. You are welcome to bring your own mug provided that it is one of the following measured types.

MUG	Price
Small styrofoam	\$0.50
Large styrofoam	\$0.60
White math	\$0.60
Lug-a-mug	\$0.60
Science	\$0.60
Blue MATH	\$1.00
Black FEDS	\$1.00
Super-Tim	\$1.50
Lugger	\$1.50

These prices ensure that we are not losing money due to already inexpensive prices and are therefore around in the future.

Marco Koechli

## Letters to the Editor

*Not Everybody's A Drunk*

It has come to my attention that mathNEWS has an excessive amount of articles about beer and other drinking related topics. Why is this? Is it because they are so interesting and funny. Is it because everyone like them so much. Certainly not. It is because the editor gets some kick out of including articles about a topic so dear to his heart. The problem is that drunk people don't read mathNEWS, so it is sober readers like myself that must put up with all of the drinking crap that could instead be funny and interesting articles. Please, stop the insanity!

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

Drinking drinking drinking.....

I'm already quite tired of all the drinking reference used in mathnews. It's made the rag pretty one-dimensional in my opinion. There are plenty of usefull/useless and funny topics besides beer and rum.

Drinking is an active thing. You GO drinking. You DRINK. Sitting around talking about drinking de-values it. It's a zen thing. Drop the subject already.

Brian Van Straalen



## Urinal Etiquette

While standing at the urinal it is acceptable to stand in front of the urinal so as not to expose any areas of your body that are in use at present. If you stand too far away, you will find that you will expose and possibly disgust and/or interest other people that are in the area. If you stand too close there is an increased chance of damaging important organs. Also the splash factor increases exponentially.

Eyes should be up front and forward. Looking side to side can be perceived as "checking out" other people's equipment which is a serious violation of urinal etiquette. It is considered very rude to examine or even to glance at other people's equipment while in use. This is a very private moment for most and should be left as an individual project.

If you are unable to commence activity while standing in front of a urinal the proper course of action is to pretend that you have completed your duty and to flush the urinal. This will give the perception to anyone else that there is nothing wrong. This holds true within the private residence.

When selecting a urinal it is very important to distance yourself from other parties as much as possible. The recommended distance is 2 urinals. If this is not possible, it is strongly recommended to stand closer than normal. This will prevent any voyeurism on your equipment but does increase the splash factor. Good judgement is required for this. If you are unsure of proper distance in this situation it is acceptable not to use the facilities. If you have been in line for the urinal, the case of action is to head to a stall. If you are not in line but have just entered the room, washing your hands (though conspicuous) is a good alternative. Please note that the stall use is frowned upon but in dire situations can be used.

While using the stalls as a urinal you must raise the seat. If you find that the last person who used the stall as a urinal did not follow this etiquette there are two options. One is to clean the seat off and then raise it (this is especially effective in private homes and is worth bonus points for female patrons in co-ed bathrooms). The other option, though a little more severe, is to loudly make the comment "That's disgusting" or "Who was the rude person who whizzed on the seat!" and exit the stall with a disgruntled look. Never sit down in the stall when performing this task.

When you have completed your duty to the urinal it is acceptable to shake your equipment to ensure no residue fluid is around. An up-down shake should be done with care so as not to splash any fluid on your clothings. A side-to-side motion is totally unacceptable (and can cause severe bodily harm) if any of the fluid flies in the direction of another patron. This is another reason to distance yourself from other users. In some less formal environments it is a test of manlyhood to clean your equipment out by smacking it against the side of the urinal. Be very careful when doing this to avoid any damage to personal equipment. This should only be attempted by professionals or intoxicated persons.

Smoking is perfectly acceptable activity while at the urinal. It is common and accepted practice to use the urinal as an ash tray. This is also true for used gum. It is considered a faux pas to take any used cigarettes or gum out of the urinal.

After completing duty to the urinal it is expected to clean your hands. Though this is expected it is not necessary. Any

residual fluid remaining on your tools can easily be cleaned on your pants or friends (while patting them on the back).

If all else fails remember that urinal etiquette is an individual activity for one. There should be no communication or contact while in the act. It is correct to converse while in line but the actual act is sacred.

David Low

## Recipe for Gigawatt Pacemaker

### Ingredients

- 1 can Jolt™ cola
- 2 tbsp. fresh espresso coffee grind
- 2 caffeine tablets (these can be found at your local drugstore)

### Utensils

- mortar
- pestle
- set of measuring spoons
- espresso maker

### Steps

1. Grind the caffeine pills with the mortar and pestle. This step is extremely important; the finer you grind the tablets, the more efficiently they will dissolve.
2. Place the espresso in its usual receptacle in the espresso maker. Add crushed caffeine tablets and mix well.
3. Empty the can of Jolt(tm) into the compartment where water is normally placed.
4. Use the espresso maker as you normally would. However, **DO NOT REMOVE IMMEDIATELY!!** Let the pot sit overnight on the hot plate of the espresso maker. This will allow the *Gigawatt Pacemaker* to reach its full potency. Decant in the morning. Then add 3-4 tbsp. sugar to taste.

### Hints

- To cure a hangover, add 1 shot tequila at the time sugar is added.
- *Gigawatt Pacemaker* toll-free support line: 9-1-1-CAFEN-OD An operator will be ready to take your call 24 hours a day.

### Disclaimer

Are you stupid?? This was a joke!! We didn't actually mean for you to try it!! Call the Poison control Centre Immediately! Drink a glass of water to dilute the stuff! **JUST DON'T DIE!!**

Mark Ambachtsheer

## mastHEAD

*Be afraid, be very afraid... Flipper is mad*

I can't believe Flipper is letting me do this. He must like me or something (or he is mad). We have a most awesome issue this week to raise alcohol awareness. How about we all head over the Shelter after reading this and have a drink.

To go with the theme of this issue, here are the people who were out on our production night, and their favourite drink: Christy Dolynchuk (Diet Coke fed intravenously), Curtis Desjardins (The one with McCain punch), Darren Morby (Kool-Aid. In mass quantities), EC (Blood), Mike Holmes (The alcoholic kind!), Kivi Shapiro (Depends...), Jennifer Watters (Moosehead Red Label (Not the crappy Green Label stuff they export to Ontario)), Dan Gardiner (Caffeine. Sugar), Tara Mulder (Whatever free drinks I can get at the bar), Sarah Kamal (Yeah! as if I can ever find the loo!), Karl Zaryski (PAN-GALACTIC GARGLE BLASTER (or sulfuric acid with a twist of lemon)), Fuzzy (My Navel), Stephen Johnston (Coke, cases of coke), Marco Koechli (Cuba Libre or Rum & Coke or Pain Killer), Stuart Pollock (Milk on the rocks without ice, or milk), and Chris (Frooty Coolers).

We must not forget to give thanks to Gino's for our bi-weekly Za's. We thank Graphic Services, without whom there wouldn't be a mathNEWS. We also thank the Customer Support Centre, without whom there wouldn't be a mathNEWS cover.

Poesy "L&C" Chen, not the editor  
(Long Island Iced Tea, my one and only!)  
Steve "Flipper" Shaw, the editor, still mad  
(Beer. Sweet, glorious, beer.)

## We Interrupt This mathNEWS...

Okay, since I have no beer stories — sigh — I'll keep this short and sweet.

- **The "Food Fight" Department:**

In February, police arrested a 32-year-old man and his 24-year-old girlfriend who were fighting in a grocery store in New Brighton, MN. The fight started with verbal abuse, but became physical when the loving couple started attacking each other with sweet potatoes. Highlights of the fight included him throwing her "into several vegetable racks, sending the contents spilling to the floor."

*The Toronto Star, Sat. Oct. 29, Page J15*

- **The "We'll Drive Any Way We Want To" Department:**

Earlier this year, the residents of Osage, WV, voted to disband their police force, and later their town council. One major reason for the mass turnover seems to have been the large number of traffic tickets issued. I guess that's the American way.

*The Toronto Star, Sat. Oct. 29, Page J15*

Darren "Ren" Morby

## Grad Happenings

Hello again! I don't have too much to say this week, but there are a few items worth mentioning.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'm going to say again that we still need people to bring in photos for the yearbook. Piles of people have already brought in pictures, so make sure that you do too. Don't get left out in the cold (or out of the yearbook)!

Anyone wanting to sign up for retakes for their grad photos should sign up ASAP outside of the MGC office (you know where it is — I'm not going to repeat it). If you need to sign up for your first photo, you'd better hurry! There are only a few spots left for first-timers!

Thrills! Chills! Romance! Adventure! Home brew! All this and more at the *Halloween Recovery Party* tonight at the Heuther Hotel! People will be showing up around 8:00pm, and the execs will probably be there even earlier (I think they start serving alcohol at noon). Come out for what may be the most forgotten evening of the term — you know what I mean! If you don't know where the Heuther is, then finding your way there tonight is probably the least of your problems.

Watch out for the MGC Brick tour coming up. By the time you read this, a date will probably already be decided. Come by the MGC office and let us know you're interested. Only fifty people will be able to go, so come and see us early!

Good luck with the midterms, keep smiling, and don't eat yellow snow.

Greg Dinning  
MGC Chair

## Top 10 Actuarial Science Pick-up Lines

10. Is that an SOA calculator in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?
9. My father owns an insurance company.
8. Actuaries do it without risk!
7. Baby, my love for you is endless - like a perpetuity.
6. You cubicle or mine?
5. I am a close friend of Prof. Harry Panjer.
4. Of course I won't tell anybody about tonight. I am like an exponential distribution - I possess the memoryless property.
3. Since the beginning of the night, my interest in you has compounded continuously.
2. I love the way your hairline emulates the p.d.f. of a normal distribution.
1. If you have an urn with 5 red marbles, 4 blues, 3 whites, then what is the probability of you coming home with me tonight?

Tom "I'm a client, too!" Peng  
ASC prez



# Top 12 Ways to Get Drunk

*For Five Dollars or Less*

In the good old days, a university student could head out to the bars with five bucks and be assured of having enough money to get royally pissed. In fact, she'd usually have enough left over to intoxicate any piece of fluff she decided to make her conquest that particular night. We don't live in the 1920s anymore, however, and Russia is quite a cab fare away. These days most university students have become resigned to a life of poverty, sobriety, or both.

Never fear, and grab your beer, cuz Chris is here. Cheaper than your mom, more tight fisted than the university administration, able to balance a budget and embezzle 10% while tied naked to rampaging yak in heat, Chris's secrets on how to get drunk on five Altarian dollars a night are now yours for the low low price of the cost of this issue of mathNEWS. Order now, operators are standing by.

Without further waste of space, here are the top 12 ways to get drunk for five dollars or less.

## Number 12: Be a frosh.

Now, it's not true that every frosh can be knocked into unconsciousness by waving a Tom Collins under their nose, but as those of us who went trolling for frosh on "New Kids night" at Fed Hall know, the phenomena is certainly not rare. Frosh are usually young, inexperienced, and sometimes even illegal to entice into your boudoir. If anyone can get drunk on five bucks, it's them.

## Number 11: Be female.

Chivalry is not dead! While you ladies can't expect guys to risk their life, or miss an episode of *Star Trek* for you, you may still be able to get some alcohol out of them. Try standing around the bar in Fed, sipping water with a grimace on your face. Dress slutty. Smile at guys as they walk by, the drunker and geekier the better. If you want to get more than one drink out of a guy start talking about how hot it is. Act intoxicated. Become even more friendly. At an appropriate time have a friend come by and "save you" then move on to the next guy.

## Number 10. Try Antifreeze.

Hey, if thousands of alcoholic street people swear by it, it must be good!

## Number 9: Try Medication.

Sleeping pills. Allergy pills. If it says "do not take alcohol with this drug" or "do not operate a motorized vehicle while under the influence of this drug," it must be good! Intelligent students such as ourselves, while not having a shred of pharmaceutical knowledge, can see that these statements are a plot by the alcohol producers of Canada to keep us buying large quantities of booze.

## Number 8: If it ends in 'ol', drink it!

Alcohol isn't the only intoxicant ending in 'ol'. Methanol, Butanol and Propanol are all fine safe intoxicants, often available at bargain prices. Stay away from aerosol, cholesterol, and drool (though rumour has it that Flipper's drool is about 10% alcohol).

## Number 7: Sleep Deprivation and Sickness.

For some reason, our body doesn't want you to have any fun, and actively fights alcohol ~~pp/s~~ enhancement. When you're sick, and tired, your bodies defences are at their lowest. This means its often one of the most cost effective times to get plastered! Best of all, if you puke, you can blame it on the flu.

## Number 6: Smash and Grab.

Drunk on less than five bucks? Try drunk for free! Surely if you're smart enough to get a UW Math diploma, you're smart enough to plan a little robbery.

## Number 5: Gamble.

You think those people playing bridge in the comfy lounge are just wasting their time on a game for old ladies? No sirree! Eric "Sloshed" Sutherland and his crew run a mean bridge-sharking operation. Many a Frosh has been filched of her finances by old Slosy, so he can get drunk the following Friday. If you're lucky, maybe you can beat him though, and win millions. Or if you don't care to try your hand at bridge, set up your own gambling table. There's no shortage of dumb frosh to hustle.

## Number 4: Be a MathSoc office worker.

Do you think those volunteers are dumb enough to sit in the MathSoc office for hours just so you can get photocopies cheap? The MathSoc cupboard are well stocked with alcohol confiscated from from Wainwright's ill fated BYOB profs and grad students party, held in the comfy lounge last August. That'll teach Wainwright to not read the fine print. "No alcohol in the comfy lounge unless you're MathSoc exec, or a campus cop".

## Number 3: Get a Refund.

Next term, go to MathSoc and get your endowment money refunded. Then get your MathSoc fee refunded. Then take that money, and your \$5, and enjoy one night of blissful drinking. Then go ahead and read mathNEWS, use the photocopiers, get old exams, and make use of all the benefits of the endowment fund. Why pay voluntary fees?

## Number 2: Scavenge.

Go to any bar and you'll usually see alcohol that people just don't want. Most often these finds will be at empty tables, with chairs with jackets on them that people also don't want. Grab the booze, and the jackets, and leave. Do so stealthily though. You wouldn't believe how many losers will pretend that they really wanted their cast offs. Finders keepers!

## Number 1: Make Beer Fast.

Buy a beer. Look at the bottom of this article, you will find a name. Give the beer to this person. Now, cross out the name at the bottom of the article, and write in your own. Make ten photocopies of this article (at MathSoc) and give them to ten friends. In four weeks you will have received approximately 10,000 beers! Do not break the chain. Flipper broke the chain, and he went bald. Marco broke the chain, and now he's President of MathSoc. Randy Klawitter broke the chain, and Flipper wrote a nasty article about him in mathNEWS. Something even worse might happen to you!

## profQUOTES From the Past

*Coincidentally, They're About Drinking*

"Go over this later, preferably with a good stiff drink because your mind will be relaxed and you can see anything then."

Keith Rowe, MATH 234A  
43:2 (30 Jan '87)

"I know I'm not an alcoholic because an alcoholic is someone who drinks more than I do."

B. Lawrence, MTHEL 100  
48:2 (30 Sept. '88)

"Bring beer to the final. Right! It'll be an open bottle final. Please don't quote that in mathNEWS."

M. J. Best, C&O 350  
48:7 (2 Dec. '88)

"Don't drink and drive. Too many people are caused by accidents."

B. Lawrence, MTHEL 100  
48:7 (2 Dec. '88)

"I'm a beer can collector. So, if any of you are down in Timbuktu, I'd appreciate your bringing me back one empty. I wouldn't mind your bringing one full either."

I. McGee, MATH 130B  
50:4 (14 July '89)

"Sequences and series aren't that tough. All you need is a bottle of scotch and an hour."

Ponzo, MATH 137  
51:7 (1 Dec. '89)

"And if we're really sadistic, we give you all the beer you want, but we don't let you go to the bathroom until your program finishes."

Monroe, CS 340  
53:3 (22 June '90)

"If you need an excuse to drink beer, then you're not really serious about it."

Woolner, PHYS 121  
54:3 (5 Oct. '90)

"Who can tell me the answer? I'll buy you a beer if you do"

Lewis, MATH 137  
54:3 (5 Oct. '90)

"Hold the beer in one hand, the textbook in the other hand, and then you'll become the god of probability."

Ravi, STAT 230  
57:2 (27 Sept. '91)

"I'm a little bit hung over."

Reynolds, ACTSC 433  
58:5 (20 March '92)

"These (midterms) were marked at SkyDome, so there's some beer stains on them."

DeMarco, PHIL 219J  
60:3 (30 Oct. '92)

"If it doesn't have alcohol in it, it isn't good for you."

MacKay, STAT 231  
62:5 (30 July '93)

"This building needs a bar."

Bennett, STAT 231  
63:4 (5 Nov. '93)

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

Struthers, STAT 231  
63:4 (5 Nov. '93)

"I am an alcoholic!"

Vrscay, MATH 138  
64:1 (21 Jan. '94)

"For those of you with nothing better to do, attempt this problem; although, in my opinion, going out and having a few drinks is a better thing to do."

Moskal, MATH 137  
51:4 (20 Oct. '89)

"I drink a bottle of vodka at a time."

Frape, EARTH 238  
64:5 (18 March '94)

"There was a lot of alcohol flowing when I was in university. I belong to the 'Wet Generation'."

Faber, CLAS 302  
65:1 (13 May '94)

"Why are we interested? If the air rises we get clouds; if we get clouds we get rain; if we get rain, we get wheat; if we get wheat, we get barley; and if we get barley, we get whiskey."

G. McBoyle, C&O 230  
57:2 (27 Sept. '91)

"I don't know how much they're offering but there's probably an alcoholic special."

W. C. Corning, PSYCH 101  
65:1 (13 May '94)

"I don't have to be drunk every time I write a midterm."

Ennis, PSYCH 253  
65:3 (10 June '94)



## Drunken Bumblings

I recently partook of numerous alcoholic beverages. Well, to be honest, I drank my face off, but let's not get pedantic about it. It's been quite some time since I've been that looped—about 8 years, in fact. My friend and I delved into Daddy's liquor cabinet and discovered the joys of Smirnoff vodka, straight up, right from the bottle. It was also at this time that I discovered what Curtis refers to as "calling the moose on the big white phone", but that's another story altogether and I won't get into it here. Suffice to say that I have been a mere social drinker for many years—long enough to earn me the title of "born-again virgin" in the drunkenness department.

But my one weakness has always been beer. And beer, that lovely malt beverage, was cast as the villain in my virginal status. For one with greater willpower (and lesser thirst) than I, resisting that (free!!) full keg would have been so simple. But like I said, beer has always been my Achilles Heel. Unleashed upon that keg, I was a spectacle to behold. It didn't stand a chance. I started drinking at 5 in the afternoon, and was forced to quit for the first time at 10 when I could no longer feel my face. As the night progressed, I realized that there are a number of things I've somehow managed to forget about drunken stupors.

### *Clothing*

Generally, buttonfly jeans are *NOT* a good idea, unless you want to be remembered as "the one who was asking everyone to button/unbutton his/her fly". This is especially important if you're with a bunch of strangers and, say, want to take a midnight dip in a lake full of leeches. Easy-access items are a must, kids—trust me on this one.

### *Operating a motor vehicle*

In a word, don't. Whoever came up with the theory that alcohol slows your reaction time must have been operating a motor vehicle at the time. The vehicle in my case was one of those tiny motorbikes—the ones where your knees bang into your forehead every time you hit a bump. I hit an alarming number of bumps, and also a fence, bringing me to my third point:

### *Falling down*

I seemed to do a whole lot of falling throughout the course of the night (and I have the scratches and scrapes and road rash to prove it). When you're drunk, even doing a faceplant seems like an eternal bungee jump. If you like your stomach to be somewhere around your throat, it's an interesting enough sensation—that few feet to the ground is the closest most of us will ever get to free-fall. But like good old Isaac Newton said, for every action there is an equal but opposite reaction:

### *Landing*

Funny, but I seemed to do more landing than I did falling down. And while the falling part isn't bad, it's the landing part that hurts in the morning. I somehow managed to give myself whiplash, but I'm not sure if it was the run-in with the fence or the toppling backwards off my lawnchair that did it. Either way, I would have been fine if I hadn't hit the ground.

### *Hormones*

Ah, yes. There's nothing like a few pints to make you feel like a randy teenager again. When I was in high school, my friend and I came up with something we like to call "The Beer Test", which is centered around the question, "How many beers would you have to drink before  $\langle$ person, place, or thing $\rangle$  started to look good to you?" By 9 o'clock, even those individuals who would normally take a truckload (if not a brewery) of hi-test were starting to look mighty fine. Luckily, I had someone to protect me from myself—a lad whose name is both irrelevant and Jamie. Unfortunately, Jamie happens to be an ex o' mine. Anyone who can understand the term "leftover lust" will sympathize with me.

### *Memory loss*

This is something I could do without. When I finally passed out at around 5 a.m. (after consuming quite a few more beer after the dip in the lake), I could swear that I remembered all the events of the evening. However, I woke wearing mismatched socks (neither of which were mine), a sweatshirt I'd never before laid eyes on, and the baseball cap of a chap named Steve whom I remember only as "the guy who danced around the campfire in his skivvies". My friends—and I use the word lightly—were only too happy to regale me with tales of events for which I still to this day do not remember. This would have been fine except for the starring role I played in an astounding number of those tales. And as if that weren't bad enough, they have videotapes to prove it. And to think I never knew I could yodel.

Oh well, you're only young once. Right now, defiling myself with many, many beers seems like a grand ole thing to do. When I'm old and grey and sitting in my rocking chair at the home, at least I won't have to wonder where my brain cells wandered off to. They're right beside the campfire, probably squished from my run-in with the lawnchair, underneath the cap of a lad named Steve.

Christy "I did not!" Dolynchuk  
U. Alberta correspondent

## Where Were My Brain Cells?

Tonight, I overheard someone call Curtis "Flipper," and I wondered how someone could confuse Curtis for Flipper.

Later on, I called Flipper "Curtis." I guess I found out.

Darren "Ren" Morby

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Editor: Steve "Flipper" Shaw

## Why beer?

*You don't have to drink it to have fun*

Right from the beginning of your university voyage, from the very day that you finally experience freedom for the first time, when you leave your high school friends and parents behind, every frosh is exposed to the pressures of drinking and alcohol. Seeing older classmates drunk, hearing them talk about how good vomiting feels, finding out what are the best remedies to cure a hangover, reading about drinking at the Bomber all the time. Thanks to some issues of *mathNEWS* and to rumours spread by a few individuals, students are lead to believe that there are no choices for Wednesday and weekend nights. But there are choices, and I think that the 2000+ population of the Math Faculty deserves to hear the truth.

The first choice is very easy, it's either beer or hard liquor. By the elimination method, we discard beer due to its foul taste and low alcohol content. In addition to the obvious beer repugnancies, there are many other not-so-obvious side effects, like bad breath, frequent bathroom trips, and growth of large fatty masses in the abdominal area. (To check for the latter, get naked, stand erect, look directly down, and if you can't see your member, then you're fat!) [Or possibly female, Tom — Flip] As you can see, beer is a no-no. If anyone tells you otherwise, they're lying.

So the selection of hard liquor is obvious. In the mix drinks or shooters department, the choice is totally up to you. Try them all out and you are bound to like the taste of some or all of them.

If you are, despite my warning, a beer drinker you can still be cool and get impaired in style, providing you choose the right beer. Variety of beer labels makes it hard to pick the one matching your personality, but to start you off, here are some basic rules:

- a) Canadian beer is better than American.
- b) Molson is better than Labatt's.
- c) Ice beer is better than anything else.
- d) Labatt 50 and Genuine Draft are known to cause hair loss
- e) All of the above tastes like urine.

If you're still reading this and still haven't found the right alternative for you, I must tell you that "You don't have to drink at all to have fun." Yes, is true. The evil souls of this campus have been trying to hide this from you, but it's time to unveil the truth. There are many other things that you can do on weekend nights, like dancing, for example. And it doesn't even cost you anything, and you get to meet a lot of new people. Dancing is good. If anyone tells you otherwise, they're lying. Hmm... dancing. Go try it, give it a shot you Doubting Tomases. I did, and I have been wearing my "Thanks, but no thanks" button proudly for the past four years.

It is important to know your alternatives and know what your choices are. Don't give in to peer pressure. Do what is best for you.

Tomas "The Anti-Flipper" Tocek

## Vapidfire

*Last month in review...*

John Wayne Bobbit capitalized on his fifteen minutes of fame by starring in his own pornographic film. While details at press time were sketchy, speculation abounds about the film's subject. Suggested possibilities include remakes of "The Cutting Edge", "Edward Scissorhands", and "Bladerunner". As well, it is thought that Bryan Adams has been contacted to enable the film's producers to include "Cuts Like A Knife" on the film's soundtrack.

48 members of a doomsday cult committed mass suicide last month in Switzerland. Among those who participated in this ritual were a reporter for *Le Journal de Quebec* and the mayor of Richelieu, Quebec. Jacques Parizeau released a statement today expressing his condolences to the families of the four Quebec residents involved in the ritual, and stated that "in a sovereign Quebec, no Quebec mayor would participate in a doomsday cult; sovereign Quebecois would not fear the future!". Preston Manning responded by expressing his hopes that parties trying to force their Quetopia on the rest of Canada would commit mass suicide, too.

*The Toronto Star* revealed last month the new social cutback plan of Finance Minister Lloyd Axworthy. Among other cuts, Axworthy wants to replace the \$2 billion federal cash support for post-secondary education with a trust fund to help finance student loans. These loans would be repayable after graduation. When asked if these cuts would decrease the number of university-educated Canadians, Axworthy replied, "Absolutely. But Canadians don't need an education. Look at me. I have the power of deciding who does and does not attend university, and I'm downright stupid!". Well put, Lloyd.

In a related story, the recession has been declared over yet again. University students, however, are now facing a deep depression; the news that tuition could double in two or three years is the most depressing news this reporter has heard in a long time!

*The Toronto Star* ran the headline last month stating "Clinton aims 350 planes at Iraq". When asked his plan for the planes, President Clinton said, "Onto an aircraft carrier, across the Atlantic, through the Suez Canal, into the Persian gulf, off through the no-fly zone, nothing but net." Should Clinton's plan prove to be successful, we at *mathNEWS* hope that Saddam Hussein's retaliation bounces off the rim. Also, we can't help but speculate which item from the McDonald's menu the two world leaders are playing for.

Finally, last month saw two major biographies hit the bookshelves—those of Prince Charles and Pope John Paul II. Prince Charles revealed in his biography that his father forced him into his marriage with Lady Diana Spencer, and that he never really loved her. Similarly, Pope John Paul II revealed in his biography that his father forced him into the priesthood and that he never really loved God.

Mike "NewsHammer" Hammond

## Senate Elections are Coming.



*Bad Boys, Bad Boys. Whatcha gonna do?  
Whatcha gonna do when when they come for you?*

## KOPS

*On location on the streets of U(W)*

These are the stories of the men and women of Law Enforcement. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of Law. Unless you're beaten up by BEnt security.

Officer Brent W.L. Mackenzie-King (10:32 a.m.)

*Driving around in his kop kruiser, Officer Brent sees that the Math Loading docks are crammed with parked cars. Pulling over, Officer Brent gets out of his kruiser and walks over, writing parking tickets for each car.*

"It's a shame to see this many cars over in this area here. Up until now, my morning has been pretty uneventful. Just driving around in my kop kruiser, not doing much of anything. And these people went and made me get out of my kruiser. That's just disrespectful. This isn't even a real parking lot. Is it my fault that all the good lots have been converted to Staff card-only lots? No. They just care about getting as close to the MC as possible, not caring if they block the delivery trucks that bring the C+D its supply of Snapple. I'm sure a \$25 parking ticket will remind them. Mind you, we have no real power to enforce these tickets, like withholding their degree or anything, but we don't tell them that. It's a shame, though. If only they didn't make me get out of my kruiser."

Officer Laurie Endemic (1:18 p.m.)

*Officer Laurie is in her kop kruiser driving along one of the many pathways that criss-cross campus.*

"It sure is a beautiful day today. Nothing really eventful, except for Officer Brent giving out those parking tickets. I still can't believe he actually had to get out of his kruiser. I find it upsetting every time that happens. And look at this... a rollerblader on campus. Looks like I'll have to deal with this one." *Stops her kruiser and rolls the window down* "Excuse me, son, did you know that rollerblades aren't allowed on campus?"

"Yah, so?"

"Well, don't do it again. If I see you with rollerblades again, I'll have to get out of my kruiser, and that's something I know you don't want to happen, right son?"

"Yes, Officer. Thank you for chastising me. I will never do it again."

"Just see that you don't." *Drives off slowly, shaking her head,* "Kids."

Officer Keith Herron (3:43 p.m.)

*Call for First Aid in the Math Society Office. In the office, a woman is seated, holding her head. Blood is gushing from her head gouge, soaking her arm, face, and clothing.*

"Where's the victim?"

*MathSoc volunteer points to the obvious person covered in her own blood* "I took First Aid. I checked for other injuries, and made sure to keep pressure on the gash."

*Officer Keith, to the injured person* "Could you remove that gauze, please? And can I see some ID? Ewwwwwww! That's gross! Call the ambulance!...oh, can you take the ID out of the pocket?" *Ambulance arrives minutes later and takes the injured*

*person over to the hospital. Officer Keith leaves the building, and hops back into his car.* "Sometimes this job can make you feel really good. Had I not been there within the allotted 20 minutes, I'm sure that gash would have stopped bleeding on its own. I'm glad I was there to call the ambulance. I really love to know that I've helped someone. Not like that Black Orchid prostitution ring a few years back. Boy, we almost had to get out of kruisers to stop them. Whew!"

Officer Laurie Lavable-Marker (9:57 p.m.)

*In her kop kruiser, Officer Laurie sits outside the entrance to CPH, watching for those troublesome drivers who don't stop at the crosswalk. She notices a student by the bike racks using a crowbar on a bike lock.*

"Excuse me, son, did you lose your key?"

*The man, dressed in black with blackface makeup, startled, looking back at Officer Laurie with apprehension.* "Uh... yeah. I lost it."

"Well, just a second. I've got bolt-cutters here that you can use. Or if those don't work, I can go back and get the Jaws-of-Life." *Minutes later...* "There you go. Try not to lose your keys again. I may not be around next time to help you. Have a safe ride home!" *Back in her kop kruiser...* "Uh oh, I got a 469. That's just a call to round up some students who found their way into the campus tunnels. I'll have to get out of my kruiser, so I hope they have their tunnel passes..."

Officer Alan "Double" Chins (12:03 a.m.)

*Outside the DC Food Court, Officer Alan is parked by the newly established Tim Horton's*

"I'm glad they put in a Tim Horton's right here on campus. Now I don't have to go over to Donuts Plus. I actually had to get out of my kruiser, can you believe that? I just wish that this Tim Horton's was open later. It may not be open now, but I can wait all night if I have to. I certainly don't have anything better to do."

*Bad Boys, Bad Boys. Whatcha gonna do?  
Whatcha gonna do when when they come for you?*

Curtis "I hope Kampus Kops have a sense of humour"  
Desjardins

## That Weird Objects Thing

I really want to know the stories behind those mysterious items in the mathNEWS office, but nobody has submitted anything! The deadline has been extended for another two weeks: you've now got until 14 Nov. to come up with stories true or false. See the last issue for details, and get those submissions in. There will be prizes!

Kivi Shapiro

## 10, Social!

That's another drink, everybody!! It is always fun to play 3-Man when you are writing for mathNEWS. Here is to yet another week of fun and excitement brought to your by your friendly MathSoc social committee.

If you missed the Rocky Horror picture show last Friday, you missed a great show with a very enthusiastic crowd. Thanks to everyone who showed up in costumes and made our lives more rich and interesting. We hope plant operation staff managed to clean up the room in time for classes... we did make a very big mess.

We had our Math PUB night at the Shelter awhile back. The turnout was so good, the manager had never seen such a great crowd. The first 150 mathies to arrive received a awesome bandanna to remember this day by. The theme was Mexican and the drink was on the house!! (Just kidding) Your social director Jonny "Be Good" Cressman won the Air Hockey showdown. Andrew "The Engineer" Mulder won the "Let your opponent scratch on the 8 ball" contest. There goes yet another fine math tradition to give away prizes to non-mathies (at least we didn't give it to some kid from the high school down the street again). The night out was cut short by the fire alarm. We had so much fun we just might throw ANOTHER MATH PUB NIGHT in the near future. ANOTHER MATH PUB NIGHT would just be so cool, don't you think? We should PUBLICize something like this if it were true.

Here are some up coming events:

Hiking at Schnieder's Bush, Part Deux — We had so much fun last time, we shall go again. Meet in the Comfy Lounge TODAY at 2:30. All you need is yourself. If you are wondering where Schnieder's Bush is, just walk in the Comfy Lounge and look to the right. It is located where the flashing lights are.

Spelunking (or Caving for you youngsters), Part Deux — It is tentatively scheduled for next Thursday night. Watch for posters with details.

Fire bombing Andrew Telegdi's office has been cancelled. Sorry to get your hopes up.

Keep your ears open for other up coming unPUBLICized events. D-de-d-de dat's all folks!

Jonny "Feel Good" Cressman  
Social Director

Poesy "Nosy" Chen  
Just a nosy person

## Practice Exams

### *The MathSoc Exam Bank*

Old midterms & finals are available in the MathSoc office for your use. In order for us to keep these exam banks up-to-date for you, we need your help. We would greatly appreciate any donations or photocopies of your old exams.

Jane Pak  
Vice President, Activities & Services

## This Article is Here

*You may as well read it*

Ever do something *really* stupid on an assignment, I don't mean just some little mistake like dropping a sign, but something major, like solving the wrong equation? You know, those kinds of mistakes that are bad enough when they cost you marks on an assignment or mid-term, but also feel like a kick in the teeth because you did something so stupid, so unbelievably dimwitted, you felt that if you told anybody what you did they would break out in fits of laughter? Well, you were right to feel that way, because what you are is an idiot. But don't take offense when I say that for I honestly, deeply, truly meant it as a compliment. Yes, it is my belief that being an idiot is a good thing, and in most cases preferable to being a genius!

For one thing, as an idiot you can never disappoint anybody. If you completely screw up your assignment for CS \*\*\* such that you cause the whole network to collapse, well sure people are going to get pissed. But look at the facts, you're an idiot, it was bound to happen. And the more you do such, the less people are surprised by it. They'll come to expect it of you. Which just makes it all the better when you manage to do something right. It's as if you've pulled off a miracle! But if you're a genius and you do something right, big deal. And just try pulling a major blunder when you're a genius. You become a pariah (no, I don't really know what that word means, but I heard it on tv the other day and it sounded cool, so piss off). Besides which, genius has its limits. Idiocy knows no bounds.

In class you can be a valuable asset. I mean, honestly, here at Waterloo highly intelligent students are a dime a dozen, and true genuises not much rarer. As an idiot however, you provide your prof with the satisfaction of knowing that (s)he is truly teaching something to someone, even if they aren't getting any of it. Without you, classes would be full of people just killing four years so that they can get legal proof that they know what they're doing. And feel free to speak your mind about any topic at all. You don't have to worry about saying something stupid. You're expected to anyway, and after spending all that brainpower thinking of something intelligent to say you're most likely going to sound like Rain Man anyway, and drool all over yourself in the process. So go right ahead, speak what little is on your mind! You can't be embarassed by anything you do! Why? Because you're an idiot! What article have you been reading?

So maybe you can't count to ten without taking off your socks. So what if you find out that the light bulb isn't burnt out, it's merely turned off? And who cares if you can't even remember your name in the morning? (Unless you're one of those annoying morning people, always chipper and smiling and never requiring any caffeine even after just 2 hours sleep and you make me sick I just want to shake your head back and forth until I hear your teeth begin to rattle and then... \*ahem\*, where was I?) Get up out of your chair, rise proudly to your feet (and if you fall that's okay, you're an idiot, just try again), and while patriotic music that only you can hear plays in the background, a stiff breeze ruffles your hair, and shout loudly "I sir, am an idiot!" (Remember, you can't be embarassed!) And be proud, because in these recessionary times, you are keeping thousands of people employed trying to make innumerable products idiot-proof.

Danny Gardiner



## Repentant Young Frosh

Okay, okay. I know when I should give in. Sheesh!! From the response (death threats) I've received in the last little while, I can now honestly say that you people have absolutely no sense of humour. I'M SORRY ALREADY! I TAKE IT ALL BACK! ARE YOU SATISFIED?!!

To those of you who (god forbid) didn't read the 1st issue of mathNEWS and don't understand what I'm talking about, I'm referring to my last innocent little article which may have been (maybe) just a *liiiiittle* demeaning and cruel in describing guys in math as weenies. I would like to take this opportunity to make an entirely voluntary (unless I want my fingers mailed back to me) public apology.

Math guys do NOT, I repeat, DO NOT resemble weenies in any way! I apologize *profusely* if I, with the comments from my last article, hurt or traumatized any of the decent, unsuspecting weenies out there. Weenies are great!! Weenies are wonderful!!! Weenies are fine, upstanding examples of the evolutionary cosmic way of things!!!! Math guys don't even come CLOSE to the blessed state of weenedom. MATH GUYS ARE NOT WEE-NIES!!

I really hope this ends the disturbing trend toward mass weenie suicide over the last two weeks.

So just what are math guys? Well, since I learned enough from my last attempt at a definition (I kinda became the Salman Rushdie of weenerland there for a while) to know not to claim that math guys resemble any sort of sentient organism, it took me a while to figure out what the perfect description of a math guy is. I've figured it out, though. Math guys are (drum roll, please) (oh, the suspense) OxyMorons! (i.e. drooling idiots with pimples.)

Isn't that the perfect solution? Since they're OxyMorons (given), and since they're in math (given), and since oxymorons are combinations of two opposite ideas (by definition), then the two opposite mathematical ideas cancel each other out, and that means that we can ignore math guys since they couldn't possibly exist! Oh, the ecstasy!

Anyway, what new stuff am I gonna write for mathNEWS? Well, for starters, why don't we take a look at all the Bad, Evil, Corrupting Influences my dad warned me were in university? Hmm, where to start... gosh golly geez, why not with mathNEWS?

I really want to meet the genius (probably an OxyMoron) who named this newsletter. Like, hello? Are you *conscious*? Is it just me, or are you not too swift? Isn't any other name, like, say, BeerNSexNBaldJokes, a better representation of mathNEWS' content than mathNEWS?! Is there anything even *close* to resembling math OR news in mathNEWS *anywhere*?!! Course not!

("Whatcha reading there, son?" ("Oh nothing, ma. It's just mathNEWS!")

WRONG!!! It's actually BeerNSexNBaldJokes. PARENTS, BEWARE! This is definitely NOT some type of wholesome and informative periodical that your young innocent frosh offspring should read. This is a chance for sick and twisted people to write about sick and twisted things. This is where the ugliest and most revolting aspects of life are revealed. (Like OxyMorons, for instance.) When I get to the point where I understand all the jokes in mathNEWS, I'll probably shoot myself.

And that's not even the worst of it! There's an even more evil and corrupting influence in this university! (Hard to believe, I know.) Where? In the UW Feds Handbook, of course!! Have you taken a look at the section on Safe Sex recently? Yow kaboozers! My goodness, I mean, just, like, HOLY COW!! Augh! I blushed *at least* five times as I was reading it, and uh, well, I thought it was very, um, *informative*. Even Stephen King isn't this, uh, *informative*. When I understand everything it says in the Safe Sex section of the Feds Handbook, I'll DEFINITELY shoot myself.

Speaking of shooting myself, I've been writing my midterms the past little while. And every once in a while, I'd try to get a copy of an old exam from the MathSoc office. Try being the operative word, since the files for a lot of the courses are so old and outdated that their toughest questions ask for an estimation of the number of hairs on Flipper's head. Oooh. Tough one. (Ah, so I stoop to a bald (joke?) at last! Well, this IS mathNEWS.)

Don't get me wrong: I'm not blaming MathSoc for this lack of vaguely recent examination material: I'm blaming the second year students! Yeah, just *one* of you bloody second year students could have left your exams with MathSoc last year so that I wouldn't have to read through the crud there was this year. I've already lent all three of the exams I've gotten back so far to the MathSoc old exam bank, AAAAAND, I would like everyone to know that I risked life and limb to procure a copy of the Bus !!! exam (which is quite well-protected, thank you very much) after I wrote it. What presence of mind to do this after writing the harrowing three and a half hour midterm on Saturday! What incredible generosity! What stunning perseverance! No applause, please. I prefer to revel unrecognized in my selfless deed.

So, what's the moral of my little story? Well, it's like that Nutrasweet ad: If I can do it, maybe you can do it! (ESPECIALLY all you 2nd year students!) Lend your old exams to MathSoc! Pave the way for my future! Don't be ashamed of the 30 you got on your calc exam: be proud and flaunt your inability to integrate! It doesn't really matter, anyways. Your friends and TA's already know how much of a ween... (cough, cough) (sincere apologies to J. M. Schneider), *OxyMoron* you are. And the rest of the faculty's already guessed. So be a pal. Otherwise I'll be back next year as the Grumpy Older Frosh. And that would just be ugly.

Sarah Kamal

## Novelties Novelties Novelties

*Ya want novelties? We got novelties!*

Are you looking for a good deal on a sexy t-shirt? How about a good mug? Checkout the novelties on sale in the Math Society! And... coming up next week we are slashing our prices!! We will not be undersold! Playing Cards! T-shirts! Rulers! Keep your eyes open! Get your holiday shopping done early! So come on down to good ol' MC 3038 and get in on the fun!!

"CRAZY CRAZY Marni" Mishna  
Novelties

## The Down Side of Drinking

Well folks, it's mathNEWS time again. This time we have decided to do a all drinking issue. (Or at least that was what I heard last time I talked to anyone about it.) So I got to thinking; probably most of the mathNEWS people are going to be telling you all about the good side to drinking. In fact, most of them will probably be far too drunk to remember any of the bad effects of drinking. So, out of a sense of journalistic integrity, and a desire to present a fair and unbiased account of the facts, I endeavoured to present the down side to drinking. (Besides, it was the first thing to occur to me, and was the easiest to write.)

Of the many detrimental side effects, probably the "hang-over" is the most well known. The "hang-over" which is basically a really bad headache, is usually accompanied by the pasty's, the trots, and a whole host of other unpleasant, primarily minor health-related side effects. These usually go away within a few hours, but they are still not insignificant.

Then we move on to one of the more serious reasons for not drinking, which is serious health problems. It is fairly easy to become addicted to alcohol. Being addicted to anything is not my idea of a good time. Drinking is also hard on your liver. Trust me people, your liver is your friend, and you don't want to damage it too seriously early on in life. And of course, drinking is actually fattening. You are probably thinking that being fattening doesn't deserve to be in the serious health reasons paragraph, but don't underestimate the effect of being overweight on your chances of a heart attack.

But being fattening also leads to another topic: drinking makes you unattractive to your preferred sex. First, no one wants someone who looks and acts like Homer Simpson, Al Bundy, or Flipper. It is hard to be charming and seductive when you are barfing on your and everyone else's shoes. Imagine the scene: I am in the Bomber, and that engineering girl in my Math 138 class, the one I have wanted to meet for weeks, walks in. (I can say stuff like this, cuz she'll likely never know who I am.) I walk up to her and say: "RALPH!!" all over her and her friends. What a first impression.

Also, drinking causes memory loss. I think. I can't remember. Anyway, here we are, spending thousands of dollars to be in university, where we are trying to learn something, and at the same time, ensuring that we will have a hard time remembering to get dressed before leaving the house by drinking so heavily. And speaking of dollars, think of all the money that drinking costs. Recent estimates have placed the amount of money that Flipper alone has spent on alcohol in his university career at such a high amount that he could have afforded a Ferrari, and actually gotten some chicks!

Another thing to remember is that drinking causes poor judgement. Only when you are drunk would you even attempt to talk to that girl, you know the one, the one WAY out of your league. Then you get the embarrassment the next day, when all of your "friends" (the ones you picked when you were drunk) remind you for YEARS what a complete idiot you made of yourself that night.

My final argument, if this has not convinced you, is actually an example: Flipper. Yes folks, take a look at this poor gentleman. Here we have a man who has been an undergraduate for almost 10 years! He keeps forgetting where and when his exams are, because of drinking. He can't even remember his friends. (I

have gone drinking with him at least once a week for years, but he walked into the MC building sober the other day, and I had to introduce myself. (And for those who point out that I just admitted that I drink in spite of this article, I feel that if I, as a journalist, had to be consistent, I would never get anything done.) Does Flipper have women? No. (Ok, ok, I am bitter because he got a hug in the hallway the other day, and I didn't, but who asked you?!?) And, sadly enough, Flipper has a very poor choice of friends. You see, he has been under the illusion that he is going bald. This is not true. You see, if he were to remain sober for long enough, his hair would all grow back, since his loving friends would not have the opportunity to shave it all off again.

Well, that is my contribution for this week. This is much harder work than it looks, it took me almost 20 mins to type all this in, and boy are my fingers sore! Here's hoping that Flipper has enough of a sense of humour to take this as it was intended. I have had enough of this hard work stuff, I'm going for a drink. Any takers?

Mike Holmes

## The Top 8 Best Things About Being a Mathie

(all I could think of)

8. Faculty owns biggest tie around
7. mathNEWS
6. Not in Arts
5. Might get Co-op job
4. Never have to take another English course
3. Get to learn Math songs that end off with "Fuck off and die, Fuck off and die..."
2. Keener Bingo and Prof Football
1. Increased Sexual Endurance (that's what Palmala tells me)

## The Top 10 Worst Things About Being a Mathie

10. Don't understand what prof is talking about
9. Calculator overload
8. Get lost in MC everyday till you graduate
7. Engineers think they are better than us (obviously untrue)
6. Don't have faculty drink
5. Don't have a bad (or good depending on your definition) reputation
4. Take Calculus for life
3. If you don't know who Flipper or Curtis are, you don't get half the jokes in mathNEWS
2. Don't have time to watch Power Rangers (maybe this is a good thing)
1. Get confused when someone speaks English to you

Ken Reycraft



## mathNEWSquiz #4

## Second Open Plea to Answer the Squiz

Only three submissions to last week squiz? You complain to Jean-Guy and me (Ren) about how difficult the squiz is, we make it easier, and this is the thanks we get? (Continued ranting and raving) Here were last squiz's answers: Song Lyrics: 1) Phil Collins - Do You Remember; 2) Sting and Eric Clapton - It's Probably Me; 3) Soul Asylum - Runaway Train; 4) Midnight Oil - Blue Sky Mine 5) Moxy Früvous - B.J. Don't Cry; Quiz Shows: 1) *Family Feud*; 2) Boxing; 3) *Lingo* (1987); 4) *Kneemoi*; 5) *The Last Word* (1989); Halloween: 1) Michael Myers; 2) Devil's Night; 3) Samhain; 4) All Hallow's Eve; 5) Turnips;

Our submitters were Brain Dead(3); Pokey & Phil Collins(8); and the winner, for whom a mathNEWSquizprize waits in the MathSoc office, The Grebel Contingent(13). Okay, for this special issue we now present this special squiz:

## Movie Quotes

1. "My brother and me used to say that drowning in beer would be like Heaven, but now he's not here, and I got two soakers. This isn't Heaven. This sucks!"
2. "What'll you have, sir?"  
"Martini. Shaken, not stirred."
3. "Looks like I picked the wrong week to quit drinking."
4. "Just go away! It's not your problem!"  
"No, it's not my problem! It's just my fault!"
5. "You OK? Do you want to throw up here or in the car?"  
"I think... both."

## Song Lyrics — Name the song and artist

1. I've got one bourbon, one shot, and one beer
2. Afternoon delights, cocktails and moonlit nights
3. Where the whiskey drowns, and the beer chases  
My blues away, and I feel okay
4. Your face is as red as your glass of wine  
that you spilled on my lyrics as you wasted my time
5. At night I drink myself to sleep and pretend  
I don't care if you're not here with me

## Drinks and Shooters

1. 1/3 shot each of the bottle 6<sup>th</sup> from the right, 4<sup>th</sup> from the left, and 9<sup>th</sup> from the right.
2. Bailey's, Lime Juice (swish swish swish, chew chew chew, mmmmmmm).
3. Southern Comfort, Galiano, Vodka, Sloe Gin, Orange Juice.
4. Kahlua, Vodka, Coke.
5. Kahlua, Vodka, Peppermint Schnapps, Coke.

## Potpourri

1. Who gained super powers when he drank his Super Sauce?
2. Which deceased comedian made a career out of acting like a drunk?
3. What is Dr. McCoy's favourite beverage?
4. What is the legal blood alcohol percentage for driving in Ontario?

5. What did sailors drink to prevent scurvy (besides lemon or lime juice)?

Good luck to all squizzers. Please remember to have your submissions in the BLACK BOX by 6 P.M., Monday, November 14, or you can submit by sending mail to [mathnews@undergrad.math](mailto:mathnews@undergrad.math). Remember, if you don't submit, you can't win.

Stuart "Jean-Guy!" Pollock, Darren "Ren" Morby, and Curtis "I'm not an alcoholic, but I play one on TV" Desjardins

## Orientation Pictures

## Come and Get'em!

Yes, if you've wondered for the past 2 months where the hell the pictures that were taken of Orientation Week were, well, they're ready. Actually, they've been ready for about two weeks, but I've been lazy. The photo album is located in the MathSoc office (MC3038 for those of you who don't photocopy old exams). Take a look, and if you want to order copies, you can do that too! Some things to know about ordering copies of pictures:

- You must pay for them in advance. No money, no pictures. Period.
- Please don't take the pictures from the album. Most pictures have negatives, but a lot don't.
- Those that don't have negatives will be copied using colour photocopiers.
- I will be putting in orders for pictures every Friday. With any luck, orders can be picked up the following Friday in the MathSoc office.
- When ordering, place picture numbers and money in an envelope along with your name, and have the Office Worker put the envelope into the mathNEWS mailbox.
- Orders will be taken up to and including last day of classes. Once exams start, ordering is done (for this term, at least)
- Do not take the photo album out of the MathSoc office. If you take the photo album out of the MathSoc office, we will find you and we will kill you.

Thanks to Marni, Sandeep, Melanie, Grandma Tamara, Dean, and the people at Josten's for taking and submitting pictures with me. Hope you enjoy viewing the pictures as much as we had taking them.

Curtis "Gramps" Desjardins

Senate Elections are Coming.



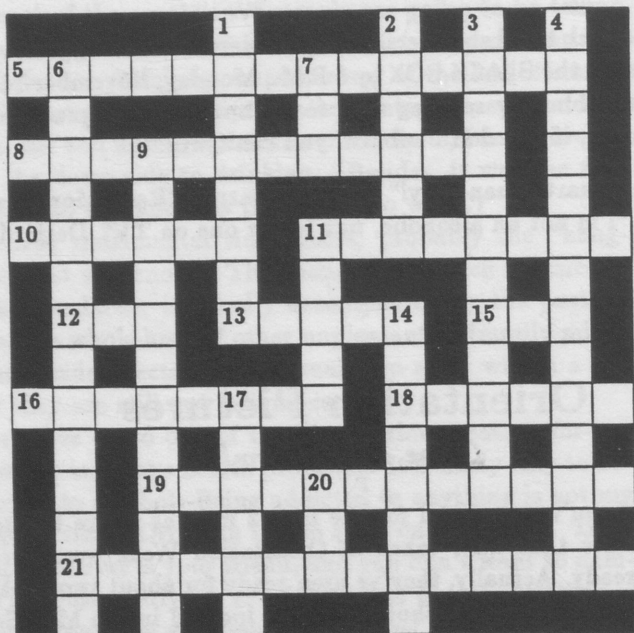
## gridCOMMENTS

So I take it that you people out there didn't like the last grid or is this just the result of those silly things we call midterms? There were only four submissions for the cryptic and one for the conventional. Well, I guess I should apologize for the fact that last time I forgot to mention who won but I don't feel like Flipper made some executive decision about the whole thing and I don't even remember who the winners were so how about I just shut up and get on with it.

Of the four submissions for the cryptic two were correct and two weren't. Correct solutions came from Robert "I'm in print" Bridson and Reza Shahidi. Incorrect solutions came from Ian "The Word Guy" Facey and Pokey & Phil Pollins. The only submission to the conventional came from Ian "The Word Guy" Facey but it was incorrect. So I guess that gives you guys a fifty-fifty chance of winning. Do you guys want to fight it out or do you want me to decide? We could always call Flipper in to make another executive decision. Ok I'll toss a coin. The winner is (by my 'random' method which I refuse to discuss)... Robert "I'm in print!" Bridson. I heard rumours that there might actually be some kind of a funky prize this week but don't quote me on that. Seeing as how there were no correct submissions to the conventional, no one gets a prize.

We have a couple of favorite quotes from the people who got the correct solutions: "All science is either physics or stamp collecting"; "I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather, not screaming in terror like his passengers." (Jim Larkin) This week please give your favourite lyrics (not the whole song) Although mine seem to change day to day, at the moment they would be: "I quit; I give up; Nothing's good enough for anybody else" (Eddie Brackley and The New Bohemians). See ya in a couple of weeks.

Jennifer "Jeffie" Watter



### Grid Clues (Cryptic)

#### Across

5. shrink did examination following mental patient (14)
8. Don Duench: crazy sprinter, without direction, throws away hydrogen (12)
10. spectator see hideout held flower (6)
11. actor loathes piano insides 8)
12. head noble! (3)
13. rye? No but I heard a large animal (5)
15. in my youth? Not me. (3)
16. egg Ilene near dressing gown (8)
18. one of rye or rum is haunting (6)
19. violator rents grass or is molested (12)
21. see Troy cringe, line unsound dynamite (14)

#### Down

1. ponder confused titles son. Cider? (8)
2. hatred began with collar of dress (6)
3. study of matter finished with celestial science (12)
4. see a soul rain coin, mystifying a gregarious mythical beast (1,6,7)
6. landlord is best within ten hollows (14)
7. Not! Or I will in the North (3)
9. merge how I relate habit to reinstate (12)
11. three heads that employer stereotyped (5)
14. others block street to rightful use considering title! (8)
17. ram log through American fashion (6)
20. weekend comedy show started selling nude ladies (3)

