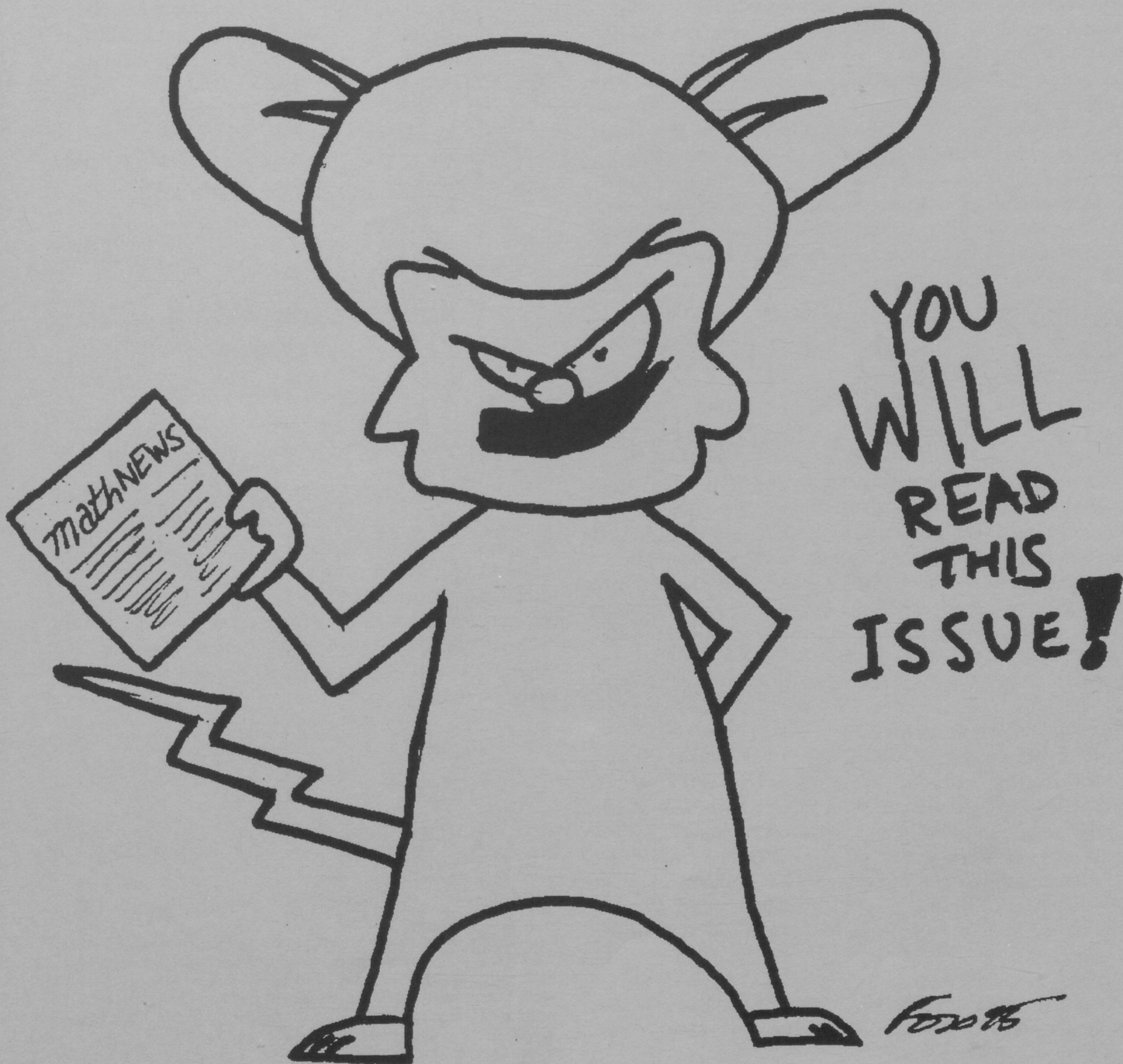


math NEWS

Volume 67, Issue 1

Friday, January 20, 1995



A Fresh New Start

Hell-o-o-o-o-o-o, people! (*Animaniacs* ref for you culturally-deprived people. Awesome Spielberg show. Really funny. End plug.)

New year, new term and best of all, NEW EDITORS!! Can it get any better? No way!!

We've been working on mathNEWS since 1B ... okay, I've been working working on it since 1B; Mike started in 1A, but this is our first attempt at editorship. We're in 3B now! Between our CS 354 assignments (oops, sorry, that's *projects*), CS 374 assignments (does *anyone* understand what's happening in that class?) and other too-thrilling-for-words Math and elective courses, we hope to bring you an awesome term of mathNEWS.

Remember, to make it a great publication, we need YOUR input. Don't complain to us if you don't like the style of the articles you read. If you want something in there, put it in yourself! Simple, eh?

Submit articles into the BLACK BOX in front of the Comfy Lounge) or e-mail them to mathnews@undergrad.math (preferred). Piece o' cake!

We take humorous and serious articles, stupid puns (sorry, Fuzzy; sorry, Curtis. *We're* in charge now!! Ha! Ha!) and funny cartoons (please, save us. No more Dale Wick 'toons!)

Kicking 1995 to a great start,

Mala "Crakko, The Warner Cousin" Krishnan
(Yes, that's an *Animaniacs* reference)
mathNEWS Co-Editor

And A Stale Old Continuation

And welcome back to yet another term of mathNEWS! Despite being off to a somewhat late start (thanks to a really disorganized Disorganizational Meeting!), mathNEWS is well on its way to being another student publication on the U(W) campus!

What makes mathNEWS different? Well, the Gazette is a forum for faculty and U(W) staff who want to bore students. Imprint is a forum for students who want to bore students. mathNEWS is for us!

What do I mean by that? Well, mathNEWS is here for you! We depend on people like you to submit articles, and these articles are what define mathNEWS!

This term, Mala Krishnan (aka Crakko, The Warner Cousin) and I (aka Hammer) are your editors. (And I guess it's too bad that Steve "Flipper" Shaw has flat-out refused to work for mathNEWS this term. 'Cause if he was, we could appoint him Vice-President of mathNEWS...and call him Flipper Gore! Okay, maybe Hammer has put too many bad puns in this publication in the past. But I promise that this term, I won't do that! No, this term I promise to put way too many bad puns in this publication!)

There isn't too much more to say. Have a good term, write for mathNEWS, may the Force be your umbrella, practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty, and kids, say "No!" to drugs!

Mike "Hammer" Hammond
mathNEWS Co-Editor

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
January 31	Issue #2 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 3	Issue #2 hits the stands
February 13	Issue #3 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 17	Issue #3 hits the stands
Co-op	
January 20	Posting #3 available 10:00am
January 23	Posting #3 expires 8:00pm
January 24	Posting #4 available 10:00am
January 25	Posting #4 expires 8:00pm
January 26	Posting #5 available 10:00am
January 27	Posting #5 expires 8:00pm
January 30	Interviews start
	Posting #6 available 10:00am
January 31	Posting #6 expires 8:00pm
February 1	Posting #7 available 10:00am
February 2	Posting #7 expires 8:00pm

What's This FASS Thing, Anyway?

There I was, writing mathNEWS articles at a frantic pace, trying to get them finished before going to my FASS rehearsal, when I suddenly realized some of you may not know what FASS is. How silly of me!

FASS is an annual production where a high-spirited (*really* high-spirited) group of Faculty, Alumni, Staff and Students put on a musical comedy at the Hall of the Humanities theatre. It's a lot of fun, both for the actors and the audience. This year's production is titled "Village Don of the Dead", and takes place February 1st through 4th. Tickets are on sale at the Humanities Theatre box office; they're six dollars in advance or eight at the door. You probably know a couple of the cast members too. So come on out!

Peter Milley
Enthusiastic FASS Drone

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Editor: Mike "Hammer" Hammond, Mala "Crakko, The Warner Cousin" Krishnan



Computer Science Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Welcome once again, mortal ones, to another term in the great and continuing saga of my Computer Science Club. This term, they hope to break last term's membership record and two terms ago's number-of-events record.

What you missed

Already, they are well on their way. So far, you may have missed SIGGRAPH video night, the ever-popular elections, two UNIX tutorials, a showing of the *Star Trek: Voyager* premiere, and Frank Tompa speaking on the Electronic Oxford English Dictionary.

What's coming up

But never fear; coming up in the next week alone are David Tilbrook, speaking about Software Management (Tuesday, 24 Jan), and Bill Cowan, speaking on Computer Graphics (Thursday, 26 Jan). Watch for posters for more details.

Just who are those geeks, anyway?

In case you've not been paying much attention, the Computer Science Club is the campus club for all members of the University community interested in any aspect of computers. We have hundreds of members, from all faculties across campus. We are also the UW student chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Our illustrious leaders are:

Chairbeing	Calum T. Dalek
President	stephen f. white
Vice-Prez	Peter Gray
Treasurer	the AMAZING Sharlene
Secretary	Grant McArthur
SysAdmin	Moses Moore

But what can the CSC do for me?

The CSC holds weekly talks, tutorials, and other events. Members can get free accounts on our Sparcserver, affectionately named calum, after me. We also have an extensive and ever-growing library, to which members have access. Membership is only \$2 per term.

For more information

To keep up-to-date on CSC events, you can read the newsgroup `uw.csc`, or visit the URL <http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca/> (our WWW homepage).

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing

Library Reserves

Overcrowding in the Dana Porter Library has been a problem for years, and in 1991 a task force was set up to look at ways to alleviate the overcrowding and enable the Library to continue to provide effective service. Relocating reserves to an area elsewhere on campus, somewhere inside the ring road, was one of several recommendations from that group. Shortly after that task force had tabled its report, the Library learned that the committee developing plans for the Student Centre was accepting proposals from groups on campus interested in providing service in the new building. Over the years, the idea of combining Porter and Davis reserves had been raised. Once the Library began to seriously consider the opportunity provided by the Student Centre, the idea of combining both units and moving them there took on new life.

In the fall of 1992, representatives of the Library met with the Student Centre Committee to present a proposal that reserves from the two libraries be relocated to the Centre. The students on the Committee were enthusiastic about the proposal, particularly because they had already decided that the facility would include quiet study space and they saw the library reserves as a complement to those plans. Some students who use both libraries particularly liked the idea of being able to get all of their reserve readings in one place.

The move was seen as having other advantages to students as well. In particular, the Davis Library is exceptionally noisy and there is never enough student seating. Relocating reserves may cause both of these problems to diminish somewhat. Just what the traffic patterns will be once reserves is relocated remains to be seen.

Eventually, students on the Student Centre Committee voted on which of the proposals would be accepted and which would be rejected. The proposal to bring reserves to the new building was accepted.

The Library hopes to begin offering service in the Student Centre towards the end of April 1995. Other library services of particular value to undergraduates which might be provided in the future will also be explored.

The Library has established a team to develop, implement and administer plans for the provision of library services in the Student Centre. Team members include staff from several areas of the Library, one faculty member and two students, an undergraduate and a graduate. Because of their schedules the students now on the team may not be able to participate next term. Any student interested in joining the team and able to attend weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoons is invited to contact Susan Routliffe at ext. 3312.

The team began to meet in mid-October and determined that communication about the move was one of its highest priorities. The team is very interested in getting feedback which will help determine the best way to offer the service.

Information about the move has been posted to campus newsgroups and suggestion boxes have been placed in the reserves area of the Dana Porter and the Davis Center Libraries. Anyone interested in providing suggestions about the move is encouraged to contact. Email messages may be sent to `LibReserves@library.uwaterloo.ca`. Those without email may submit something in writing through the suggestion boxes referred to above or by sending it to Annette Dandyk, Library Office, Dana Porter Library.

The Business/Investment Club

Why would anyone want to join the Business/Investment Club????

Seminars:

1. V.P. Marketing, Microsoft
2. Senior V.P., **Elliot and Page** (Mutual Funds and Investment)
3. Head of Recruitment, **Citibank** (Careers in the Banking Industry)
4. Professor David Downie (Introduction to Derivatives)
5. V.P. Foreign Exchange, **Royal Bank** (Derivative Products, Rate Risk Management, Credit Risks for Derivative Products)
6. Manager of Trading Floor, **TD Bank** (Trading floor activities and careers in investment)
7. A consulting firm (Arthur Anderson, Deloitte & Touche, McKinsey)

Stock Market Game (with Cash Prizes)

Trip to the Toronto Stock Exchange

Magazines (Business Week, Financial Post, The Barrons, Wall St. Journal)

GMAT information (available in all major MBA schools in North America)

Tour of the Brick Brewery facility (FREE BEER!!)

Movie Night/Pub Crawl

Essentially, our objectives are to:

- Show you what you can do with your money
- Show you how to run your own business
- Give you some indication of how the markets work (Money Markets, Foreign Exchange, and Capital Markets)
- Inform you of careers in the Investment industry
- Provide you a good list of contacts (i.e. networking) for summer and full-time jobs

Feel free to drop by our office (MC 3030) to join up (membership is only \$5.00)

Please Note: The Business/Investment Club is OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES AND PROGRAMS!!!!

Dave Sharma, President

Dave Cicchini, V.P. Finance

Al Riet, V.P. Marketing

Scott O'Connor, V.P. Operations

Tin Cheung and Shahid Budhwani, Senior Executive Staff

ActSci Club

Hi everyone, and welcome back to another term! If you wrote in November, we hope the news last week was good!

The ASNA convention in Montreal was this past weekend. Did you miss out on this excellent trip? Mark it in your datebooks for next January! Speakers this year included Rob Brown, talking about the proposed new exam system, and of course the usual convention party was held as well!

This term's executive is:

President	Chantal Bray
Vice-President	Kevin Moniz
Treasurer	Janice Floyd
Secretary	David Moore
Publicity	April Gale Greg Lawrence Chris Pun
1st year rep	Calvin Chiu
2nd year rep	John Goll
3rd year rep	Hrvoje Lakota
4th year rep	Claire Pace
ASNA Liasons	Kevin Reimer Mark Nebelung

Are you studying for February exams, or thinking about May? We recently bought a whole set of 1994 Actexes. No more nearly useless 1989 versions! We now have 1994 copies of all the series 100s, some 200s and CAS 4B. Stop by to get your membership and look our library over!

Oh yes, membership... what will an ActSci club membership get you? Your \$5 gives you Actex borrowing privileges and discounts on club events (some are free for members). What events, you ask? We're planning a game of Laser Tag, a Yuk-Yuk's night, an outing to Shot in the Dark mini-putt, keg parties with other universities, a Weaver's Arms pub night, and much more! Our Campus Rec basketball team has been set up, but if you'd like to play please speak to Hrvoje Lakota as soon as you can—there's still room for people who want to join.

We are also planning several talks this term. Our first talk will be on Tuesday January 24 at 4:30 (room TBA). Three 4B students, Greg Lawrence, Claire Pace and myself, will be speaking about writing the SOA exams—what courses to take before which exams, what order to take exams in, our exam experiences, etc., as well as answering any questions you might have. First year and second year students will find this especially helpful. We'll keep you posted on other talks as they come up.

Please feel free to stop by or call the club (MC 3030, x6534) and ask us questions, check out the Actexes, or hear about upcoming events. New members are always very welcome!

April Gale
Publicity

PMC&OC Speaks!

They can't pay us enough to stay away

We're back! It's another term and your friendly neighbourhood Pure Math and C&O Club is here again to bring you talks, sports, camaraderie, and exciting events!

The club executive elections were last week (What? You didn't see the posters?), and here are the results:

President	Marni Mishna
Vice-President	Debra Richardson
Treasurer	Mike Mosca

If you'd like to meet any of these exciting people, there's a good chance you'll find them in the club office: MC3033, just a short walk from the C&D. Or just come on down and see what the club is about; memberships are available and the club boasts a lending library with books on a wide variety of math-related subjects.

If you do come down, you'll also find the co-rec volleyball schedule posted conveniently on the door; our next game after you read this is Thursday, January 26th at PAC Court 1. Come out and support your club! (Andre, our ever-helpful co-rec sports organizer, is always eager to welcome new players.)

What else? Talks! We're still scheduling talks for the term, but our first currently scheduled talk (as I write this) is on January 26, when Professor Dickey will be our speaker. Watch for posters and check out the newsgroup uw.pmc for topics and more info (we may have more talks planned before then by the time this mathNEWS comes out). And also watch for a PMC&OC bake sale sometime in February.

That's all for now!

Peter Milley, mathNEWS drone

A Plea To All Contributors

Wouldn't it be nice
If things just could
Be exactly the way
They really should?

So here's a little plea from us
For those who mail their stuff:
Please put "article" in the subject line
Or you make production tough!!

By not putting "article" in the subject line, the mail just ends up in the inbox and does not get properly processed by the mathNEWS filter. This makes a couple of really busy editors quite angry!

Crakko, cracking out the poetry!

**Lockers are still
available in MathSoc**

Students Advising Co-op (SAC)

Have you ever had a concern (whether positive or negative) about Co-op but didn't know where to go? SAC is a committee made up of students and a co-op representative that addresses these concerns. We meet every Monday at 5:30pm in Needles Hall, room 1029. Meetings alternate between formal settings and "workshop" settings. The former setting is used to identify key areas of concern, and to discuss and report on current projects. The latter setting is used to work on these projects. This Monday's session will be one of a workshop setting. Your input is welcome and encouraged. If you have any questions, please feel free to attend our next meeting this Monday, January 23.

Jane Pak
SAC member

Why We Should Thank The Gods At Waterloo

The Campus Centre Gods

For giving one the opportunity to smell fresh racquetball sweat whilst making one's way to the centre's only entrance. Alternatively, one can brave the elements and construction workers and marvel at the Great Glass of the East Wall.

The Weather Gods

For giving one every chance to wear the wrong exterior clothing. Heavy winter jackets inspire sunny days and singing birds. Lighter fare promises great pain and suffering from Big Wind and Severe Snow.

The Car Gods

For giving one humility upon driving one's car into a Big Ditch.

The Roommate Gods

For giving one three wonderful roommates, and only one Bitch this time. Praise be for getting rid of the last one, whose Long Showers and Endless Laundry, in addition to her Highly Vocal Sexual Practices, nearly necessitated a ritualistic sacrifice to the Great Gods of Groans.

The Co-op Gods

For giving one the pleasure of standing in long lines, applying to stupid jobs, and interacting with the lowly Co-ordinators. Thanks be for SAC, whose endless patience is great in magnitude when dealing with the Lowly Beasts.

The TA Gods

For endowing a few more TA's with the gift of speech.

Nathalie "A True Believer" St-Maurice

Prez Sez

Welcome Math students to another exciting Winter term (or is that Spring!?). I am your president this Winter and next Fall term. If you have any questions or concerns about MathSoc, the Math Faculty, a prof, or anything else drop by my office and have a chat with me. My office is located in MC3035 directly across from the MathSoc office.

This term is shaping up to be a pretty good one. There will have already been a euchre tournament by the time of this issue. Other events to look forward to: SCUNT, a film at IMAX, movie nights, rock climbing, and tons of other stuff. If you have any ideas that you would like to see happen, contact the social director, John Savoie, (he has a board in the MathSoc office) or come out to a MathSoc meeting (Mondays at 4:30pm in MC 4067).

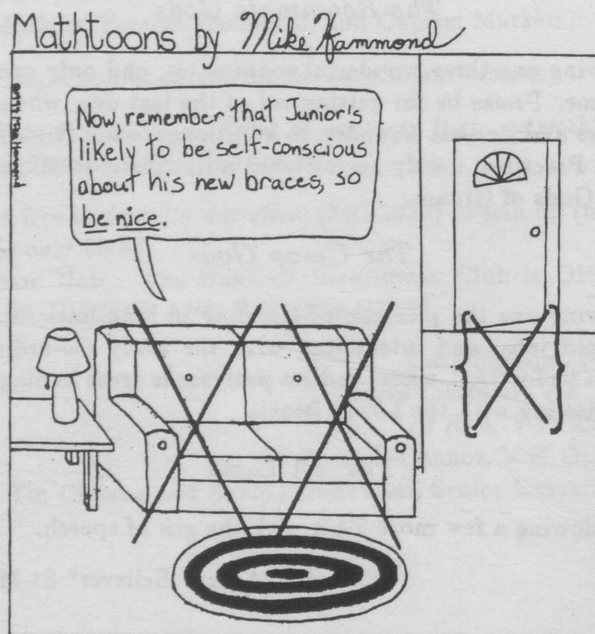
January 25, 1995 is a very important day for students. CFS has called for a student strike. MathSoc as well as the FEDs don't support striking on the 25th. Instead we propose that discussions be held by profs in class on that day. I will be discussing this issue at a Faculty council meeting on January 17 and will have hopefully convinced enough professors to start discussions on post secondary education (PSE) funding.

There exists information about the PSE funding situation. It can be obtained from the MathSoc office as well as the FED office. If you wish to discuss the issue informally I am more than willing to do so with you.

Well, I hope everyone has a great time this term, but, if you don't, come and let me know and maybe I can do something about it!

Ronald Servant
President of MathSoc
rservant@undergrad.math

<http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathsoc/>



Grad Happenings

Welcome back to what will hopefully be our last term before we're outta here! If this isn't the case, don't worry—there are lots of others in the same boat. This is your last chance to get involved, so make sure to come by our office (MC3029) to see what's happening!

We've already got quite a number of events planned, the first of which is the traditional First Night Out. This will be taking place at The Huether Hotel on Friday, January 20 (tonight, by the time you read this) at 8pm. We have a party room booked, so we will be charging a mere \$2 to cover the cost. There will be prizes, so don't miss it. For those of you who were at our last Huether night, there will be NO KARAOKE!!! Hear that, Haitham?

Another great event that we have planned is an indoor rock climbing trip at the Summit Rock Climbing Gym in Mississauga on Saturday, February 4. The cost is only \$10 per person, which includes the cost of instruction and equipment. You will be able to arrange a ride with others that are going. Sign up outside the office.

Nominations for the J. Allen George Award are due at the MGC office on February 13. Candidates for this award have been involved in organizations around campus and contributed to student life here at U(W). For more information and nomination forms, come by the office. Note that nominations for Flipper will not be accepted.

Anyone interested in participating in a squash ladder should sign up outside the MGC office. There will be prizes at the end of the term.

As usual, the yearbook committee meets every Sunday in MC4040 from 1pm to whenever to work on layout. They are still looking for more pictures to use, so it's not too late to submit photos. Anyone who wants to help out is more than welcome to come out to the meetings. No yearbook or layout experience is required.

Those great U(W) Math '95 hats are still on sale in the MGC office for the low price of \$15. Get em while we still got em!

Grad rings will be on sale again during the week of January 30 until February 3. This will be your last chance, so procrastinate no more!

There will also be one more group photo with everyone in it taken on Wednesday, January 25. The time will be around 4:00pm, but watch for posters stating the exact time. The picture will be taken in the field between the math building and BC Matthews. Make sure that you leave the Bomber on time for the photo!

Watch for posters around MC with more details, or come by the office (MC 3029, x6659) for more information. Love, luck, and lollipops!

Greg Dinning
MGC Chair

Lockers are still
available in MathSoc

profQUOTES

It's the first batch of profQUOTES for the term and I thought it would be nice to let you all know where to submit them:

1) The BLACK BOX in front of the Comfy Lounge or 2) electronically to mathnews@undergrad.math. PLEASE put article in the subject line. Please quote the profs exactly so we don't get blamed for a misquote. The funnier, the better!

"A lot of things in Unix are stuff guys sitting eating pizza and drinking Coca-Cola in front of a terminal at 2:00 in the morning would find funny, but the rest of the world is just thinking: geeks!"

Mouawad, CS 342

"So, let's prove this ... It's not an assignment question, is it?"

Gilbert, PMATH 343

"Let's take a different approach—forget about computers."

Becker, CS 241

"We're not engineers ... we need to get some work done."

Morrison, PHYS 122

mastHEAD

Well, here we are, at the first mathNEWS of the term! (We're not going to welcome you again.) We want to thank everyone who came out and contributed more articles than you can shake a stick at! (At least, that we can shake a stick at! But then, we're not in the best of shape... [Speak for yourself, Dude! - CrakkoEd])

Here are the people who worked on mathNEWS (and their favourite 1-900 Number): Ben Shapiro (1-900-I-LEFT-THIS-BLANK), Dave Vernest (1-976-WOMYN When you want to take a walk on the WILD side!), Jeff Werbin (1-976-CYNIC Cynicism, not just a religion, but a way of life.), Marc Ducharme (1-900-SUK-ME-DRY (a Lard favourite)), Dale Wick (1-900-CANOEHEAD (Mr. Canoehead)), Marco Koechli (1-900-BIG-GEEK also listed as 1-519-885-1211x3870, open 24 hrs and they love to talk about nothing!), Darren Morby (1-900-IMPOTENT: Call and hear the latest Myn haps!), Justyna Berzowski (1-900-COLLECT), Stuart Pollock (1-900-382-5633 (see what it spells!)), Darren Rigby (1-900-QUIZZES (you'll get it when you dial it.)), Fuzzy (1-900-SHAVE-ME), Brian Fox (1-900-BARRY-WHITE Advice on relationships and women from the prophet of love.), Tara Mulder (1-900-YOU-WISH) Frank Yao (1-900-PENTIUM only \$9.98543265 per call!) Adam Benjamin (1-900-MID-WIFE (we deliver)).

Mike "Hammer" Hammond

(1-900-MATHSOC All MathSoc. All the time.)

Mala "Crakko - The Warner Cousin" Krishnan

(1-900-CS-RULES Well, OK, I'm pushing it just a bit, there... but I am a CS-major)

"We have absolutely no reason to think this will do us any good at all. But let's do it anyway."

Small, STAT 240

"I disown this technique."

Small, STAT 240

"Waltz was the Gothic Rock of the 19th century."

Enns, MUSIC 356

"I have some things to say today ... suprisingly enough."

R. Willard, PMATH 330

"... I am boring you to death, but I should still stretch this out to 15 minutes of truth tables."

R. Willard, PMATH 330

"Oh...uh...I thought $3 \cdot 3 = 6$."

Tang, PMATH 334

"I feel like a homeboy."

Lederer, GER 101

A Poem

My soul is lost,
Lost to the green beast.
I watched it consume
My most prized possession.
The long sharp fangs,
Stained black under the fresh red blood,
Pierce and tear.

I worked for so long to
Reclaim my soul.
Now I cower in terror
As I lose again what
I had been given.

Marc Ducharme

profQUOTES for Sale!

Are you one of those people who forgets to subscribe to mathNEWS on off-terms? Do you miss the pages of quotes by our dear profs who decide to make utter fools of themselves, saying something really wacky!??

Now, you can own a bounded book of these quotes for yourself— those quotes that you spent countless lectures writing through, while the prof rambled on about something or another... with just a touch of humour.

For only \$4, you can get your book in the MathSoc office.

Come and get 'em before they're gone!

Crakko

An Interview With The Co-ordinator

[The article you are about to read is factual. Names have been changed to protect the almost innocent. Any similarity to people—dead or living—is purely coincidental... No, actually, it's not!]

I slowly walked to the cafeteria in Lab 03, pausing only to check the goodies in the Lab 05 cafeteria. I was in no hurry – I was on my way to see Stephen Barron.

I arrive and he's still talking to the previous interviewee. I wait until he finishes. Then I approach. The preceding student says to me on the way, "Have fun."

I do not look forward to this. As I sit down, I shake his hand. He starts talking about the weather and how nice it is. I tell him it's cold, and he gives me his realistic laugh.

"Okay, so this is your third work term, right?"

I reply that it is not. He becomes slightly agitated and starts shuffling some papers around.

"Hmm, somehow my papers ... are you Dennis Pej ... Pech ... do you know Dennis?"

"Uh-huh," I reply, "He works at Corpsetown." Another laugh from Stephen.

"Okay, so you are ... Benjamin?"

I nod to this question, and he relaxes visibly.

"Okay." He pulls out a few papers (I assume it's my FILETM) Let's see here, your last work term was at Jumbo Video?" (A stifled grin)

"Yes. I didn't get a job through co-op," I interject. "I found it on my own and I guess the London co-ordinator found some pity and accepted it.

"Well, if it was in Ottawa, I wouldn't have taken it," he offers glibly, "There's no computer related work here."

I choose not to tell him about the exciting customer database and the daily pseudo-managerial tasks I did. He wouldn't understand.

"That was last work term though. This term I'm using computers every day!" feeling I must justify myself.

"Yes, yes. So tell me about your job." A good beginning. "What do you do?" By asking this, he's put me into a bit of a hard place. See, I haven't done too much. My project was postponed two months so far, and up until recently, I've been filling my time with Mosaic, and a game I found called Combat Zone (a cool game with tanks and stuff). Thinking quickly, I answer.

"I'm in charge of integrating a new problem database into the current current environment. This will take on the responsibility of the current PROBS system that is in use." Hah! I feel power!

"Ahh, so they are finally substituting an adequate application! Good. In the past, the co-op students haven't had too many good things to say about PROBS."

Doh! How the heck does he know about that? Various feelings pass through me at this point. Most of them involve melting or losing bodily fluids.

"So, what aspect are you involved in?" He starts prying.

"Well, I'm touching on almost all the points: documentation, training, manipulating the data for metrics, creating macros ..."

He seems satisfied with my answer – constantly writing through my spiel. "So what programs are you using?"

"Excuse me?" I wasn't expecting this. I began to think while he repeated the question. I then answered, "Well, obviously I use

Excel for the metrics (never touched it in my life, but might in the next decade), the database is called ProSTAR, I use Frame to write the documents (I start to dry up), um, I use PROBS, um, (I start to reach) Mosaic ..."

"X-Mosaic or regular Mosaic?" he asks. I have no idea! Is there a difference? Is this a test of some sort?

"I type Mosaic and it runs," I answer stupidly. "Not X-Mosaic."

He seems somewhat amused by this feeble answer. I see him write X-Mosaic on his report sheet. He starts talking about how wonderful the World Wide Web is, and how 2 million people are joining per month. I start to drift.

"So what do you want to do when you graduate?" he asks, snapping me out of my haze.

"Wuzzah? Graduate? I hadn't given it too much thought," I stall, "I like the stuff I'm doing here." A guarded answer.

"Well, it's sure different from Jumbo Video!" he says a little loud. A few people turn around and look at me, the Jumbo Weenie.

He smiles and pulls out my mark sheet. I groan audibly as my marks come into view. Last term I was in residence (Summer term, no less). I really didn't do very well. He looks at my sheet and a frown appears. I start to fidget.

"Hmm. You did okay the first term, but I see you didn't do so well the second." He chuckles lightly, making light of it. I grabbed this opportunity.

"Yeah, well, you know – res, Summer term, I had one bad term."

"I see you're in CS-EEE. You know that if it gets too difficult you you can always just take CS. It's hard, and with your marks ..."

I marvel at the resemblance to my father. I snap out of it, and play along. "Yeah, I'm really going to *apply* myself next term. I just needed that little kick in the butt."

He smiles and says, "Good. I have faith in you." I can see that he doesn't. In fact, I don't think he even remembers my name.

"Well," he starts off, "It looks like things are good here for you." His finger scans down the page, and stops near the bottom. "Ah, I see here that you haven't passed the ELPE, you should take care of that." He gives a fatherly head-shake.

"Pardon? ELPE? I don't think so!" I respond. This isn't right, the interview was ending so nicely, I was going to go back to my desk and relive the interview with my group, poking fun at the Barron-man.

"It says here you need to write it." He has great faith in the printed word, I guess.

I mention that I got 81% in OAC English. Not phenomenal, but enough that I wouldn't have to write that horrid test. He mentions something about how it's possible the standard might have been raised to 85%, and with that he pulls out his trusty Undergraduate Calendar.

I start to worry. "Could they mean WHMIS?" He shakes his head.

"Hm. 80% is the lower limit." He looks confused. "Are you sure you got 81%?" He looks at me as though I have thought a 7 was an 8 all this time.

continued from page 8

"Yes." By this time the next co-op student has arrived and is trying to be unobtrusive, yet look like he belongs. I can't blame him.

Stephen, sorry, I mean Mr. Barron, looks up and sees the other student. "Okay, well have a good time with the remaining month you have. Don't forget to write an analytic work-term report!" I nod agreeably, realising that my interview is over. He sticks his hand out for me to shake it. I do.

Walking past the next student, I remember the friendly words that I was told on my entrance. "He's all yours," I say, and grin.

As I walk away, when I get to a safe distance, I glance back at him. He's sitting at the desk, talking to the co-op student, gesturing outside. I picture him commenting about the weather. I feel a tinge of pity for this man that has travelled so far to do such a fun job.

Then I get over it and go back to my desk in anticipation of more Combat Zoning.

Ben "Oh! You're Kivi's younger brother!
You guys look the same!" Shapiro

Dealing with Depression

Dealing with depression is a serious issue for everyone. Sometimes things happen in our life that make us think life just isn't worth living: beer prices increase, you sprain your hand masturbating, you miss Trek because of a night class—any of these can drive a Mathie to suicide or even Arts. Below are some excellent ways of dealing with depression, to be taken with a pound of salt.

Remove the source of depression: Steal some beer, get a friend to masturbate with you, skip night class—it's Trek, after all!

Chocolate: Eating chocolate produces the same state of mental well-being as Prozac, with the added bonus of tasting great! I don't recommend it as a cure for being depressed about your weight or acne though... Hey, but if I can eat a kilogram of Toblerone over the Christmas holidays without gaining a pound or breaking out, anyone can, right?

Drugs: Speaking of Prozac, it's not bad as a chocolate substitute. Other drugs can introduce even more intense feelings of well-being, or make you forget the things that depress you (like your life). If illegal drugs don't appeal to you, try drinking. If you're still depressed, drink some more. Eventually you'll cheer up or fall unconscious.

Use the Net: Can't get laid? Can't get a life? The solution "virtually" all Mathies use is to get an electronic one. You too can enjoy the wonder of net.sex, or even net.beer. Type irc on cayley or calum and let the wonder which has flunked a thousand Mathies become part of your lack of a life!

Ignore it: Those feelings of woe? Ignore them (tick). Deny them (tick). Cram them deep down inside (tick) of you. You're tough (tick), you can deal with it (tick). It'll go away (tick). KABOOM!

Violence: Try kicking your chair. Try kicking your roommate. A little destruction can go a long way towards nurturing a positive and healthy attitude.

If all else fails, write for mathNEWS...

Christina "Babe" Norman

SIDDOWNANDSHUTUP*!!

HEY FROSH, I'm talking to you!!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Jeff Werbin and I am currently in my 1B term of CS. This is my first term in mathNEWS and I hope to represent you, the frosh, with an alternative, non-GEEK, viewpoint. Watch mathNEWS for many scathing, yet pertinent, editorials! Got something on your mind? Too shy to write about it? Perhaps even a wee bit illiterate? (Hey, we're in Math, not English, right?) Just email in your topics and a little bit of information about it to jwerbin@descartes, or just stop me in the hallways and tell me what's on your mind; I'm here to listen to you.

In this issue of mathNEWS I have decided to address a topic that has been burning me up for all of first term. I've noticed that there's been a certain breed of Frosh cropping up in a few of my classes. You know the type: loud, obnoxious, arrogant and always crawling back to their infernal "Comfy" Lounge to do God-knows-what with others of their type. Now don't get me wrong; I'm not slagging all those who call the Comfy Lounge their second (or perhaps first and only) home. I'm just talking about these particular students who seek to lead a normal life by hanging out there. The growing breed that I'm referring to is that of the Intelligentsia-Gluteus-Maximus—or, for those of you who don't speak Latin, the SmartAss!

These creatures will stop at nothing to show the world just what kind of an ass they are! They'll ask stupid questions, snort with derision, and say "Oh, I already knew that!" when the profs review something from last term; they'll always insist on their insanely wrong ideas being right. They employ clever attention-getting devices (have you heard their bottles drop during an especially intense moment of the lecture?) to disrupt classes and are constantly plotting their next anal-retentive comment in hopes of impressing others of their ilk.

I have not determined why they choose to go against the laws of human nature and act the way they do, but I have figured out what we should do about it. Each of us should carry a very heavy, very sharp rock with us and... whoops, that was my plan for members of the CSC, my mistake! Anyway, every time one of the Intelligentsia-Gluteus-Maximi wail their mating call in class ("Ya, butwatyouidwasrong! Ya, butwatyouidwasrong!"), those of us who want to put a stop to their rapid reproduction should stand up and shout with all our might: "SIDDOWNANDSHUTUP!!" Simple as it seems, I think that this would shock them into silence and would eventually lead to a mass migration of the SmartAss away from the Math faculty and into the Engineering faculty where they belong.

Everybody has their favourite SmartAss story that they like to tell, so here's mine. This occurred during my CS 246 class where, after an already tedious lecture on the INC and DEC functions in Modula-3, a certain SmartAss made his presence known. He put his hand up and asked the question, "But sir, what if we have a personal grudge against the DEC function, what do we do then?" I'll tell you what to do: SIDDOWNANDSHUTUP!! It's as simple as that.

Jeff E. Werbin
"The Big E Stands for Editorial"

*All opinions expressed are that of the author and keep in mind, he's a cynic!

Get ready, Waterloo, it's time to play

The Price Is Wrong

And here's your host, Bob Barker!

Bob: Thank you, everyone! And welcome to the University of Waterloo Bookstore and *The Price Is Wrong*. Rod, who's our first player?

Rod: Amelia Andgate, come on down! You're the first contestant on *The Price Is Wrong*!

Bob: Welcome to the show, Amelia!

Amelia: Thank you, Bob!

Bob: You're quite welcome. And here's Rod to tell you what you could win.

Rod: An exciting trip to Austria! [Audience oohs and aahs] You and a guest will fly round trip coach on USAir – if we can get the plane in the air, that is. You will stay for seven days and six nights at the Wiener Schnitzel Hotel in Vienna, Austria, with all the amenities that you come to expect, in the uniquely charming environment that is Vienna. Bob?

Bob: And you can win that trip, Amelia, by pricing this item over here. This is the textbook you need for CS 351, *Computer Engineering: Hardware Design* by M.M. Mano. Doesn't look very thick, does it?

Amelia: No, Bob, it doesn't.

Bob: It is marked \$87.75. Do you believe that that price is true or false?

Amelia: Hmmmm... [Audience yells "False! False!"] I don't know... [Audience yells louder "False! False!"] I think it's... [Audience yells even louder "False! False!"] FALSE!

[Audience cheers. But the card is turned over to read "\$87.75 – TRUE." Buzzer sounds. Contestant groans. Audience groans. Bob puts on an apologetic expression, even though he knew all along that she wouldn't win.]

Bob: Oh, I am SO sorry, Amelia. The book actually was \$87.75. I guess you'll have to dream about Austria some more. Thank you for playing our game. Rod, who's our next player?

Rod: Colby Hayward, come on down! You're the next contestant on *The Price Is Wrong*!

Bob: Colby, my man, how are you?

Colby: I am.

Bob: Ohhhh-kay. How would you like to win this?

[The doors open to reveal a model sitting in...]

Rod: A new spa! [More oohs and aahs] It's a...

Colby: Does the model come with it?

Bob: No, I'm taking her back to my place. Anyway, you're taking CHEM 237, aren't you, Colby?

Colby: You betcha!

Bob: Then you're going to need *Biochemistry* by Voet and Voet. Is that book \$65 or \$109?

Colby: Oh gosh, I don't know... [Audience yells "Sixty-five! Sixty-five!"] Sixty-five? [Audience cheers] Sixty-five, Bob!

Bob: Is it \$65?

[The actual price is revealed: "\$109." Buzzer. Groans. Apologetic expression.]

Bob: No, it's not, and that means no spa for you. Thank you, Colby, for being here today. Rod, do you have one more player?

[Cut to fat man wearing a metallic silver suit, purple shirt,

and green silk tie. How do they let him dress like that?]

Rod: Willy Wunbee, come on down! You're the next contestant on *The Price Is Wrong*!

Bob: Heyyy, Willy! Welcome to our show!

Willy: I'm happy to be here, Bob!

Bob: Yes, you are, because you have a chance to win that... [The doors are opened to reveal...]

Rod: A new ca-a-a-ar! [Audience cheers] A Ford Probe. Comes with preferred equipment package 355-A: air conditioning, AM-FM cassette stereo, and California emission.

Bob: And here's *Linear Algebra*, Second Edition, by Friedberg, Insel, and Spence, which you need for MATH 136. You are majoring in Math, Willy?

Willy: Yes, Bob!

Bob: It is marked \$75, but that's not the right price. You tell me whether the right price higher or lower than \$75, and you win the book and the car.

Willy: Um, I don't know... [Audience yells "Lower! Lower!"]

Bob: Make up your mind, Willy. Darren's running out of space for this article.

Willy: Lower, Bob. I say it's lower.

[Card is turned over to say "\$82 – HIGHER." Buzzer. Groans. Apologetic expression.]

Bob: Oh, I'm SO sorry, Willy. No book. No car. Gloom descends. Thank you for being on the show. This is Bob Barker reminding you to help control the pet population; have your pet spayed or neutered. Goodbye, everybody!

Darren Morby

Novelties Report

Novelties will be on sale in the MathSoc office starting last Wednesday, so be sure to drop by and stock up on old favourites. T-Shirts, mugs, pencils, pins, and all-new prof quote books are available at very reasonable prices.

If you're artistic, or know someone artistic, [or if you're Dale Wick, who put *Uncool Larry* on the Spring '94 shirts — *HammerEd*] you could become famous for all time. This term Novelties will be holding contests for the design of shirts!

Make.Shirts.Fast!

Volunteer Shirt Design Contest: the object is to design the artwork for the shirt being given to MathSoc volunteers for this term. If you are the lucky winner, you'll get a shirt plus a mathie novelties dream package. This package includes: a pink tie pin, a cheat shirt, a mathie mug, a mathie pencil, a pink ruler, and a pair of pink tie shorts! Also thrown in will be a \$20 gift certificate for the C&D. Total value of this prize package – \$46. Designs can be either black and white or colour. You can email me at cbnorman@undergrad.math for more information. Deadline for the shirt design contest is Feb 28th!

If you have other ideas for new shirts, let me know. All you need is artistic talent and you too can be famous. Think of the thrill of telling your grandchildren that you designed a Mathie Shirt!

Christina "babe" Norman

The Oracle's Advice column

Not just your hairdresser knows

Where the hell were you during the last term?! I had an important question that I even sent to mathNEWS and you weren't there!

Fed Hall Maniac

I'm afraid that omniscience isn't what it used to be, and even I have been having a hard time paying the rent. I may know where the undiscovered treasures of the world are, but I don't have the venture capital to mount an expedition. I knew the best way for someone as lazy and over-qualified as I am to get a job would be to go through Co-op—my apologies to everyone who was ranked "second." My final job placement was working for CSIS in promoting the only true white supremacy group, "The Albino Alliance." Remember, omniscience means never actually having to ask if they want fries with that.

You didn't answer my question.

Fed Hall Maniac

Yes you did, but he has a girlfriend so he's not going to call you. I know that's not very comforting, but don't feel horrible about it—he's a jerk for promising his girlfriend he wouldn't sleep around any more. He's not worth feeling bad over. We all make mistakes.

Alright, enough of the news coverage and media circus. You know it all and I want to know: Did O.J. do it, or not?

Outside Edition & Soft Copy

Finally, I'll give in. Orange juice was responsible for President Bush throwing up on the Japanese trade leaders. It wasn't that much of a big deal, he just should have been more careful about Hiroshima Orchards oranges. If you want to find out more about the Simpson court case, ask Lisa and Maggie because she's their mother.

I am not gay, but I went into a bar and this guy tried to make a move on me. Why?

Nervous Hetro

Sue Johanson ("Sex With Sue") replies: *This can and does happen, and heterosexual males get very upset when it does. They wonder if they look gay, or have somehow done something to create the mistaken impression that they were looking for gay sex. It's nothing to get upset about. Many females are approached by males all the time to have sex, and most learn not to get upset if some jerk makes a move on them. They simply say, "Sorry, no thank you," and move away.*

Do people in paintings and drawings think?

Eolake Stobblehouse

Dr. Science (of Duck's Breath Mystery Theatre) replies: *Yes, but what they think about usually boils down to "what's that guy staring at?" Some people in paintings are quite depressed, especially in the works of Van Gogh or Edvard Munch. The saddest creatures in the art world are the big-eyed kids in Keene paintings. Many of them have to be watched 24 hours a day to make sure they don't strangle themselves on the wire that holds the picture frame to the wall.*

It's a new term, and it's the usual "I don't have any questions so I'll quote someone else's column." You can solve this problem by asking me to solve yours: your anonymous queries belong in the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge, and the on-the-spot questions can be emailed to mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca, or vice versa. Your name can be withheld if you ask, for personal, religious, occult or dietary reasons.

The Oracle

How Revolting!!

No, I'm not talking about my beard!

Greetings, fellow Mathies! It is I, a humble student who spends all his time glued to an xterm in the DEC lab, here to impart some so-called gems of wisdom into your fertile brains!

Today, I am concerned. I look around, and I am frightened. Tuition is supposed to double, adding lots of hardship for students everywhere. Me, I am convinced it is a cynical plot by the bureaucrats up in Ottawa. They plan to shift the responsibility of paying for their mistakes to the weak and politically disorganized sectors of society, i.e. the elderly and students. They are planning to screw the elderly by raising the eligibility date of OAP to 67, and for that matter screw the future elderly with their bankrupt Canada Pension Plan. And furthermore, by decreasing the subsidy to universities, and placing the burden of paying for education solely in the hands of the students, they wash their hands of having to worry about the mess they've created.

I say, don't let them. I say, let them know we aren't just going to roll over and accept these indignities. The Indians occupying the Revenue Canada office in Toronto have the right idea. So do the students who threw Kraft Dinner in Lloyd Axworthy's face. Those in power must learn that we are fed up. I welcome the future tax revolt, and hope for a brighter future where we all share the wealth.

Dave "Yes, I love my multicoloured beard" Vernest... a subscriber to several revolutionary newspapers, but not a licensed professional.

[The views of this article are Dave's and Dave's alone. Mike and Mala generally do not agree with anything he says... and this is no exception! — CrakkoEd]

Bridging the Gap

It is said so often, that the expression is almost cliché; however, if there is only one distribution that will allow you to make a hand, then by all means you must play for it. Cover up the East-West hands on this deal and try to make six hearts on the lead of a heart.

Dealer: E			
	North		
	♠ J 3 2		
	♥ J 4 3 2		
West	♦ Q J x x	East	
♠ x x x	♣ Q 10 2	♠ x	
♥ x		♥ 10 9 8 7	
♦ x x x x	South	♦ A K 10	
♣ J x x x	♠ A K Q 10 x x	♣ K x x x	
	♥ A K Q x		
	♦ x		
	♣ A x		
East	South	West	North
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

Needing a pick-up in a team match, South drove to the slam, hoping that his partner would have something useful in his hand, and indeed he did.

South won the heart lead, and pulled trump. Noting that a diamond trick can't be set up naturally on best defence unless someone has specifically ace-king of diamonds alone, our hero played for a slightly different line of play that would allow for either an opponent's error, or the actual distribution of cards.

He played out all of the spades, and all of the hearts, ending in his hand. This removed all of East's major suit cards, and forced

him to reduce to the ace of diamonds and the king-x of clubs. South then played a diamond, and forced East to win with the ace, and he had to play a club away from his king. South played small, and scored a trick with the queen. Six spades, four hearts and two clubs was enough for the small slam!

This is an example of a strip-squeeze and endplay, as East was successively stripped of sidesuit exit cards, then he was squeezed down to the endposition. Now a diamond endplayed him. An excellent example of expert technique that anyone can do!

If all this was Greek to you, but you want to learn how to speak the lingo, then join the University of Waterloo Bridge Club! For the low cost of \$5, you get to participate in either the Starting Up or Advanced Lesson Series, including the textbook; a funky t-shirt; free entries into all bridge games held for the next year; and a 6-month membership in the American Contract Bridge League!

The Winter lessons will start on Monday, January 23rd at 4:00 in the Comfy Lounge (MC 3001). The next meeting of the UWBC (for a duplicate game) will be Thursday, January 26th at 7:00, also in the Comfy Lounge. Contact me at x6714, or esutherland@jeeves.uwaterloo.ca, for more details. If you are really enthusiastic, then pop into the Lounge, and try and find the bridge players in there.

There are tons of events that are being planned for this term, with a student-faculty challenge match, a Bridge-A-Thon, Swiss Pairs, and a rematch of the Tri-Campus Challenge between the University of Toronto, York University and UW, with the winners going to Memphis in May!

So come out and join UW's hottest new club! You'll be sorry if you don't!

Eric Sutherland

Forces of Nature

as is related to the common wallet

- **The Strong Force:** This is the force responsible for the ability of your wallet (and the contents thereof) to do work. This force is directly proportional to the size of the contents therein.
- **The Weak Force:** This is the force responsible for keeping money in your wallet. It is inversely proportional to both the Strong Force and the Federal Budget.
- **Electro-magnetism:** This is the force responsible for focusing the Strong Force on toys such as VCRs, computers and all other manner of electronic devices.
- **Gravity:** This force relates the phenomenon by which members of opposite sex seem to be drawn towards your wallet.

While there have been many attempts to unify these forces into one understandable law, the true relationships between these forces remain a mystery to all except Jo-Jo's Psychic Alliance... and she isn't letting on.

Adam "The Bitsnatcher" Benjamin

Purity

Pure Math,
So pure the teaching of it
Defiles it,
Taking the shine off the rings,
Flooding the fields
With apathy and boredom.

There is no logic at 8:30 in the morning,
In that hazy period of time called class.

Groups, gathered, ready to leap,
To drag your average down,
Special though it may be.

How pure this must all seem,
From that ivory tower you live in.
If you try hard enough,
You won't even hear us
Screaming in pain...

Frank Yao

Warning

Competition in the telecommunications industry helps us all by pushing down prices, I believe we all can agree. But unethical practices hurt us all. I wish to inform the student body of one unethical practice which I am in the process of fighting.

Not too long ago, I found that I had been signed onto Unitel without my knowledge or consent. Having just received bills for the period I was unknowingly signed up with them, I called the credit department to ask for more information and to complain. I was put through to an extremely rude assistant who informed me that I had verbally agreed to be signed up. My memory told me that they had asked if I wanted information and I said okay, but that I did not want to be signed onto Unitel. They had assured me a couple of times that I would not be. I told this to the attendant and she said "it's just your word against big Unitel." After talking a bit more, she abruptly ended the phone call.

Immediately, I talked with my mother for advice, and she called Unitel to talk with them some more. After dealing with two very rude people, she talked with the manager of the credit department. He informed her that Unitel's standard practice is to call, asking if you want information. If you answer yes to this, you have agreed to be entered into the first stage of being signed up for Unitel. The second stage involves being called a few days later to confirm being on Unitel. The credit manager admitted that anyone who happens to pick up the phone for you and agrees will sign you onto Unitel, and he sees this as a weakness, but is not currently working to fix this problem.

Yes, Unitel is a big company, but working together, we can make a difference in getting justice. To find out which company your long distance is being billed to, you can call the toll-free number 1-700-555-4141. If you have been signed to Unitel without your consent, write to Bell to tell them your story and to Unitel to complain. Write to the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission) - call the operator or directory assistance for the information, as I have not yet managed to secure the information. And talk to the Better Business Bureau. Yes, increased competition may help us all as consumers, but the unethical practices of Unitel deceive and hurt us all.

Tara Mulder

Shallow Thoughts

did you ever wonder why
people wear fluorescent pink
or have bad haircuts?

maybe it's because they're colour blind
and they think that it is fluorescent green.

and maybe they live with sadistic parents
who put their hair through the lawnmower
every Saturday night.

or maybe they just think they're cool.

Jocelyne Black

Books

Can't buy 'em, can't burn 'em

I hate buying books. I really, really hate buying books. Why? Why not? How many times have you heard you prof say, "I must apologize for making you buy the required text for this course. I'm not sure how much they cost this year, does anybody know?... What? You say that it's gone up to \$95? That's odd, the last edition was only \$35." Ya, sure it was only \$35.

At the bookstore you find out that they only have two of your books: one of them is there and the other is across the hall at the UW Shop. What the hell is it doing there? Did the bookstore run out of shelf space because they ordered too many cook books for that ever popular arts course, "Ancient Mythological Tribal Delicacies" offered by the Gastronomy department (GAS 332)? Or did that long awaited truck load of 3H 0.1mm pencil leads finally arrive? Who knows why? I guess they can run out of space. It just sucks to have to wait in twice as many lines just to find out that the book your prof told you that you absolutely need is sold out. Look on the bright side: they had at least one of the books you were sent to purchase.

This is where I start to really lay the boots to the wonderful people at the bookstore. No, not because I haven't \$95 to spend, although many of us students don't. No, not because I've spent a day tracking down the numerous books stores, and four different copy centers for prof notes. No, not even because the \$95 text is in reality just a soft-cover pamphlet published by some multinational corporation sucking the life-blood out of students and laughing the all the way to the bank. (Remember: publishers must convince profs to use their text books. How much must their marketing departments spend to do this, and why don't profs tell them that they'll buy their books if the prices were lower for us poor students?) It's not even that these publishing leeches change editions every year. (Thank god that they don't know that UW works on a 3 term basis or they'd change their editions three times a year!)

The real point that burns me up is that blasted, stupid, useless, hateful, resented, rubbing-salt-into-my-open-"text-book-buying"-wounds, little white sticker on the back of the book. You know, the one that reads, "SUGGESTED PRICE...\$95.85, OUR PRICE...\$94.95". What the hell is this? You're telling me, and very proudly as well, that you, Oh Mighty Book Store people, that you're saving me a whole 90 cents? WOW, gee, you know, this means that after about buying about one hundred such books, I get one free! Yes, there is a god!

Sorry, gang, don't try and make me feel good about saving less than one percent of three hundred dollars worth of books. I think in the long run it's only going to piss people off. So remember, as tuition sky-rockets, the UW bookstore is saving you 90 cents when you spend one hundred dollars or more. What a wonderful world!

Marco "The Hedonist" Koechli

**Lockers are still
available in MathSoc**

I'll Have The Special

Cancelling your cable subscription? Well, hold off a moment, and have a read...

Recently, our friends at the CRTC thrust upon us 7 new cable specialty channels. And reaction across Canada has been enormous. With the way the services are packaged, Anglophones in droves have been cancelling their subscriptions and investing in 20- to 30-foot antenna towers. (Francophones, however, haven't been upset that much.) As well, in June, the CRTC will be accepting applications for even MORE speciality services. The Math Faculty doesn't intend to miss out this time, and is drawing up their applications for the following services.

(Unless stated otherwise, all channels are 100% CanCon.)

The mathNEWS Channel: For 24 hours a day, people reading mathNEWS, past and present. Programming will consist of previews of the latest issue, readings of "classic" mathNEWS, as well as live coverage of Writer's Night, Production Night, and people eating pizza during Production Night. Special interview shows will allow the audience to "get to know" mathNEWS personnel, up close and personal. [*Yeah, don't you want to get to know us awesome Editors??—CrakkEd*]

The Zeno Channel: All day, a camera will be positioned in front a zeno terminal for round-the-clock viewing. Occasionally, someone will come by and fool around with the bright and contrast controls for optimum viewing pleasure. [*What do people see in those terminals, anyway??—CrakkEd*]

The MacLab Channel: Programming to entertain those waiting in line for a Mac terminal because they waited until the last minute to finish their CS 130/134 assignment. Channel will only be on the air for 2 days prior to the due date of assignment as no one will be around or there will be enough terminals to accommodate those who decided to work on it early. Hence, everyone will be too busy to watch it.

The Impotent Channel: Nah, I don't think so.

The 6th Floor Channel: For 24 hours a day, someone with a camera will walk around the 6th floor, trying to make his or her way to an exit. Along the way, we get to know the cameraperson, along with all the colourful characters he or she meets along the way.

The Comfy Channel: During regular school hours, relaxing-type programming to make Comfy Lounge patrons even more comfy. Will have fun-filled tip shows on bridge, euchre, cribbage and Magic. Hopefully, the channel will be made more enjoyable with addition of a big-screen TV in the Lounge. One can only hope....

Hopefully, Mr. Spicer and the rest of those CRTC dorks in Ottawa see that these channels are the true future of cable TV in Canada. I won't get into any of my personal choices such as a Sci-Fi Channel, another sports channel, a Barry White or ABBA Channel, etc.

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

Linguistic Twistic

Why do you park on a driveway and drive on a parkway?

Dale "ñotasquare" Wick

ALERT! Crack Steppers on Campus!

ATTENTION: This article has nothing to do with the backsides of plumbers

Sitting in my CS class the other day, I listened to my fellow students present various situations. I asked the prof how the computer language would respond and I found something that distressed me greatly. After a particularly ridiculous situation was given, my prof responded with, "Yes, there are people who might do that, but there are also people who don't step on cracks in the sidewalk." That's when it hit me: my prof is a crack stepper! Now, I'm not especially superstitious or anything, but I thought it was just taken for granted that you don't step on cracks. Then again, I'm from a town with a population of only 1100. My mom told me that I'd probably run into some weirdos in the city, but I didn't think she meant my profs.

Anyway, after a while I got thinking that maybe my prof isn't the one who is different. For all I know, most of my friends here could be nothing but lousy crack steppers (mental note - check out my alleged friends for crack stepper qualities). Sure, I may look a bit funny taking odd-sized steps, but you can bet I won't be stepping on any cracks. (Oddly enough, the snow melted again, so now the cracks are visible once more. All of those evil crack steppers will resurface with no regard whatsoever to their mothers' well being.)

Thinking this all over, I realize how little I really know about my profs and friends. Why, for all I know, my prof could be a ladder walker too. Yeah, you know what I mean, the kind of guy that just has to walk underneath a ladder every chance he gets. Perhaps I should just stay at home and take correspondence courses so that I could be sheltered from all of the crazies. No, wait a minute, that won't work either. I guess I'll just have to put up with them. Well, that's about all from me, for now. Remember, don't step on cracks—it could save your mother's life.

[*And don't step on the cracks in Warren's head, it might save his life - FuzzyNotEd.*]

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey
[*No relation to Hagey Hall - HammerEd*]

Self-appointed president of CRACS
Coalition Ranting About Crack Steppers
[*And no relation to Crakko - HammerEd*]

Ultra Classifieds

Happy Birthday, Dude! Must be fun to be 21, eh? I know your birthday was on Sunday, but who cares? Ok, now you can rent the van and take it down by the river!

Your Crakky friend

Ok, this isn't too "ULTRA", but, thanks, Dale for your help in getting us through layout. Hope your Music test went fine.

Hammer and Crakko

mathNEWSquiz #1

And We're Off!

Good Friday morning to all faithful squizzers!

At this point, there would normally be the answers to the previous quiz and the list of submitters. As you may recall, there were no questions in the last issue of the Fall term. Hence, no answers, no submitters, and no winner. So let's get right to the quiz for this issue:

Star Trekin' Across the Universe

[In honour of *Star Trek: Generations* and *Star Trek: Voyager*, we present this category for die-hard Trekkies]

1. In which original series episode (by title) does Dr. McCoy protest "I'm a doctor, not a bricklayer"?
2. What kind of computer does Scotty use in "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home"?
3. In which Next Generation episode (by title) is Riker an amnesiac patient in a mental institution?
4. What is significant about the name of Morn, the silent big-chinned alien always seen at Quark's bar on Deep Space Nine?

Song Lyrics

One point for song, and one point for artist

1. We gotta hold on, ready or not
You live for the fight when that's all that you've got
2. I was there to test my intellect on national TV
Against a plumber, ooh, and an architect, both with a Ph.D.
3. First came the preachers, then came the schools
Then came the lawyers, then came the rules
4. Me? I'm just a lawnmower
You can tell me by the way that I walk

1994 In Review

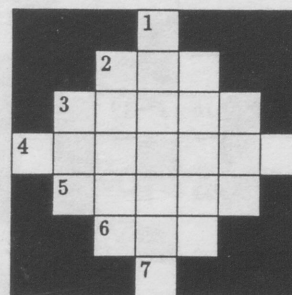
1. What country was announced to be the next to join NAFTA?
2. What general was ousted in Haiti to restore deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide?
3. Which Canadian player missed the last penalty shot to give Sweden the gold medal at the Lillehammer Olympics?
4. Police in Scottsdale, Arizona say new DNA technology could help them in an unsolved murder of a TV star from 1978. Who was the victim of the murder?

Good luck, everyone! Remember, there is a squizprize available to the person who gets the most answers correct, so submit to the BLACK BOX, or to mathnews@undergrad.math by 6pm, Monday, January 30.

Darren "squizREN" Morby
Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

Cryptic Form

This is a smaller, more geometric version of the GridWord, which I will also be writing this term. In each of these forms (crosswords) the words across are the same as the words down. There will, of course, be a prize for a correct solution to this puzzle.

The Diamond*Clues*

1. Starts fire (1)
2. Get ready to fire! Decapitate! Maim! (3)
3. Sonar destroyed in illegal fire (5)
4. On sonar, searchin' for power source (7)
5. Wet blanket (me) with nearly everyone (5)
6. Never hears Granny (3)
7. Center of attention (1)

Darren Rigby, as Gridby

Double Trouble—A Filler

This excerpt is from the Gazette: January 11, 1995
"The plan to pull out most of the money Ottawa now spends on post-secondary education, introduce a new program of "income-contingent repayable" student loans, and letting tuition fees *double to something like twice their current level* has drawn student anger."

Since when was *double* anything but twice an amount??

Cracking Up

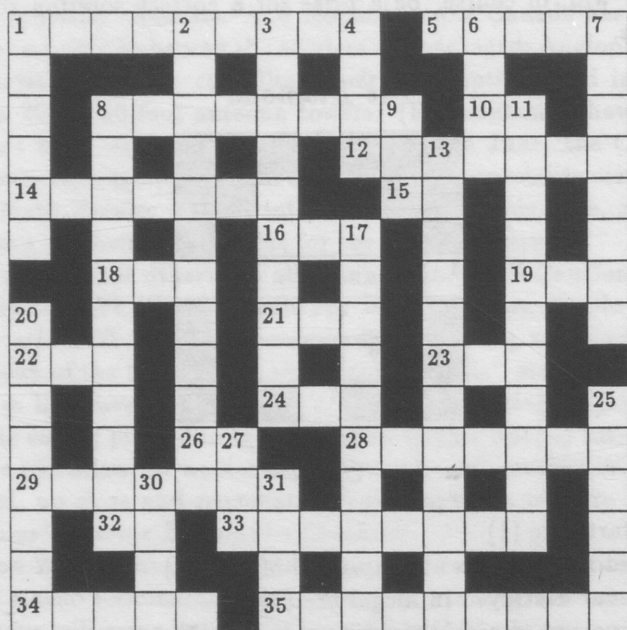
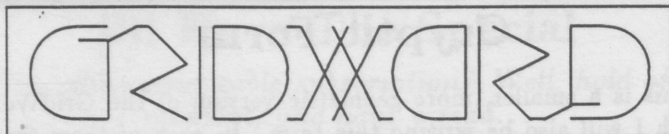
gridCOMMENTS

Hidley-ho, Gridders! This is the first Gridword of 1995, and oh, what a Gridword it is! (Even if I do say so myself!) I know you're just *itching* to get to the GridWord, so I won't keep this long.

Solve this Gridword—if you can—and submit your solution to the BLACK BOX by Monday, January 30th, along with your name, your comment, and your favorite idea for a new Star Trek series!

Good luck, and remember: you can use any fluid you desire as ink, as long as it's legible—and legal!

Mike "gridHAMMER" Hammond



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Schedule I met in delay (9)
5. See oxidation of hard surface layer (5)
8. Closed National League franchise's tumble (8)
10. Pitch a low grade (2)
12. A murder hurt tympanic membrane (7)
14. Removes hesitation from aerobics (7)
15. Complete hairstyle (2)
16. Hoard fat pig (3)
18. Pressure Greek letter (3)
19. Rise up without head title (3)
21. Monkey up ecological watchdog (3)
22. Comedian Phillips in the morning (3)
23. Drink, eat bananas (3)
24. Sit up poetic contraction (3)
26. Exclamation of pain of headless mammal (3)
27. Organized group of people put Ice T remix in sauce (7)
29. Forever let near insanity (7)
32. Very likewise (2)
33. Drinks in psychic reversed slides into former state (8)
34. Peels back nap (5)
35. Those who spank rush spine injury (9)

Down

1. General Electric in pie shell (6)
2. Broadcast across post (12)
3. Exile destroyed the man's bin (10)
4. Simplicity in idea search (4)
6. A love in Doctor Back Way (4)

7. Everyone's efforts broke lawn cutter in wood without head of Eaton's (8)
8. California commanding officer fakes discords (11)
9. Possessed laugh letter (3)
11. Tailors pieces of furniture around, forming a kilometer (10)
13. A crimson mist obscures quixotic behaviours (12)
17. Laundry irritant loosens as rat sings (10)
20. Chemicals get near southern storm (8)
25. Only (sp. error) towerlike structures (6)
27. Card game battle (3)
30. Flower came up (4)
31. Sudden move into lovable apartment (4)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. Actor in *Once Bitten* and *The Mask* (3,8)
5. Not once (5)
8. Overjoyed (8)
10. Exists (2)
12. Sweater maker (7)
14. Ineffectual people (7)
15. Letters after a brand name (2)
16. Decompose (3)
18. Type of interface (abbrev.) (3)
21. Biblical affirmative (3)
22. X, to an Athenian (3)
23. Element between indium and antimony on periodic table (3)
24. Letter of the alphabet (3)
26. Canadian province (abbrev.) (2)
28. Ideate (7)
29. Product of California and Florida (7)
32. Primary concern of the egotist (2)
33. Being an informer (8)
34. Character in Bergman's *The Seventh Sign* (5)
35. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* actress Drew (9)

Down

1. Type of peer? (6)
2. Abridging (12)
3. Fancy car (5,5)
4. Jerk (4)
6. Egress (4)
7. Restore (8)
8. American author from Mississippi (4,7)
9. Device attempted to be used by coyote on roadrunner (3)
11. American author from Maine (7,4)
13. Disinterest (12)
17. Electrical component (10)
20. Taught (8)
25. Magazine found at check-out counters (6)
27. Operation performed on a table before a meal (3)
30. Barber's call (4)
31. Car maker (4)