

### Prez Sez

I've been told my article in the last issue of mathNEWS was too long. So have fun, see ya next issue.

But, before I go...

Unfortunately, the kind people at mathNEWS were unable to print Sara Manning's (VPF) wonderful article about the Math-Soc Budget due to space constraints. If you would like to see it, see Sara or possibly myself or maybe even MathSoc (they might have a copy handy).

Other places to look for it: MathSoc Home Page and/or Math-Soc "finger" information. If it isn't there yet, check these places in the future.

> **Ronald Servant** President MathSoc rservant@undergrad.math http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/ mathsoc/

# **Outstanding Professor Award?**

Currently in the makings is a professor award. You will soon be able to nominate your most valued professor for this award of recognition. Why? I think it's about time that we, the students in the Math Faculty, acknowledge the fact that we have some really great professors and, what better way to do it but through an award of recognition. There's only one thing holding us back from implementing this project: WE NEED A NAME. One possibility is the "Outstanding Professor Award". If you have any suggestions for a name, or you like the one suggested, please e-mail me at jpak@napier by Friday, February 10th.

Jane Pak

# **Special Thanks**

Well, with the success of our FIRST issue, Hammer and I would like to thank, along with the writers and productionists:

- 1. Graphics Services for printing our issues;
- 2. Brian Fox for helping for distribution on Friday (at least someone showed up?);
- 3. Stuart Pollock for asking people to show up for distribution even when he couldn't;
- 4. Stuart Smalley for telling us we're good enough, we're smart enough and doggone it, we're just a really awesome publication;

and

5. Professor Schellenberg for lifting a really heavy box of math-NEWS from the DC to the mathNEWS office. (Hey, I already have my C&O 230 credit from him, I don't have to suck up! [She just chooses to! - HammerEd])

CrakkoJack

Hammond

## lookAHEAD

mathNEWS				
February 8	Issue #3 writer's night			
	6pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)			
February 13	Issue #3 production night			
	6pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)			
February 17	Issue #3 hits the stands			
Math Faculty				
February 2-9	MEF Director nominations			
Со-ор				
February 22	Interviews end			
February 24	Ranking forms available at 10am			
Februrary 27	Posting #1 — Continuous Phase			
March 1	Job match results posted at 3pm			

## mastHEAD

Well, it's Tuesday night and a small, dedicated group of us are each slaving over a hot terminal to produce yet another great issue of mathNEWS. Just a small note that both of us editors are doing this today on 1 to 3 hours of sleep (maximum) today, after a hectic all-nighter. So, please excuse any strange mishaps like duplicate articles, missing articles or immense praisings of the Physics department's publication "Dark Matter".

Here are the people who worked on mathNEWS this issue (and their favourite reason to do an all-nighter): Darren Rigby (All my classes fall on Wednesday.), Stuart Pollock (Havenger Scunt! (We sang the Mathie version of the Engineering Song in PO-ETS and survived!)), Dave Vernest (To once again reach that fleeting, ephemeral moment when everything makes sense and no problem is too challenging. Unfortunately, it's all over when the Jolt wears off.), Marc Ducharme (Visiting 'friends' from out of town), D. K. Gardiner (For some reason, it gives me a natural high.), Dale Wick (The only time the hardware lab is only partway full.), Ian Goldberg (You need a reason?), Brian Fox (For free booze and the assurance that I will be elevated to God-like status in the near future.), Darren Morby (PMATH 332. Every Thursday! Gotta hate it!), and with his answer without reading the question, Moses Moore (Fill it up with Jell-O.).

> Mala Krishnan (CS! CS! CS! Oh, I just love to do CS all-nighters! [just kidding, of course]) Mike Hammond (I'd rather not go into it, but suffice to say that it involves Elle MacPherson and ten pounds of gelatin.)

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

## MGC News

### Intent to Graduate Forms

You can pick them up at the Math Undergrad Office or the registrar's office in Needles Hall. The forms are due on March 1, 1995.

### Math Grad Ball

Tickets will go on sale on February 13. We are also looking for a master of ceremonies, so if you are interested contact Lara Bajar at the MGC office. We also have a deal with Budd's for a 25% discount on tuxedos. Information is available at the MGC office.

### Group Photos

The group photos that took place on the steps in front of the Math building are now available at the MGC office.

### Hats

There are still some hats available at the MGC office. They are \$15 each.

#### Rings

Today is the last day we are selling rings in the MC. South Campus Hall will have their ring week next week if you still want the 10% discount.

### Pink Tie Pledge

For more information about the Pink Tie Pledge and the Dean's Prime Number Club, drop by the Math Graduation Committee in MC 3029.

### J. Alan George Award

This award is given to a 1995 graduating student who made special contributions to the faculty and the university and who is in good academic standing. Nominations forms are due by February 13. More information is available at the MGC office.

> Chairs: Richard Dault Greg Dinning

## Spit

Oh Spit! Maligned Secretion. How gained you such an evil reputation? You bathe my burned tongue in healing fluid Dissolve my food when it is chew-ed Oh, happy drool on Grandpa's chin! Is it you who make him laugh and grin? Surely there can be no sweeter drink Than the hork of Zeus, the spit of Kings!

My mouth overfloweth

Christina "babe" Norman



#### A Student Chapter of the ACM

### CSC Flash

Greetings once again, organic creatures. My CSC is, as usual, growing in both productivity and popularity. Since the last time I enlightened you, they have held three talks (on Software Hygiene, Computer Graphics, and Linux), one tutorial (on HTML), and tonight is the big outing to FASS, and then on to REACH.

### Coming Up

Some events coming up before your next enlightenment: On Tuesday, 7 February, my CSC will be holding a tutorial on *Customizing X-Windows*; come see how to get your X environment decorated with just the right colours, windows, and gadgets. The following week, on 14 February, they will be holding a tutorial on *Exploring the World Wide Web*; experience the massive amounts of hypertext information hands-on! On 16 February, they will host a talk about the International Obfuscated C Code Contest (IOCCC), given by a former winner. See for yourself just how ugly C code can get!

### T-shirt design contest

The T-shirt design contest ends on 13 February! The winner gets a royalty of 50 cents per shirt (100 shirts were made in the last batch). Designs can be either black & white, 2 to 4 colour, or maybe full colour. Give some thought to this, and remember that colour costs more. Note that the CSC logo, in some visible form, must be present. Submit designs to pdgray@calum. Read uw.csc for more official-type rules.

#### Internet Programming Contest

The Annual Internet Programming Contest will be held in midto-late February (the official date has not yet been announced by those at Duke University who organize it). Contact the CSC if you're interested in participating. Last year, the first place finisher overall came from Waterloo. We hope to continue our streak.

#### This date in history

Recently past is the one-year anniversary of the date that the UW administration so wisely removed certain newsgroups (that from time to time may contain offensive material) from our everso-puritan newsfeed. Take this opportunity to send a thank-you note to President Downey for his conscientiousness.

### Other stuff

As usual, read the uw.csc hierarchy, and check out our WWW page, http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca/.

Obfuscated to the limit,

Calum T. Dalek Chairbeing

## Comedy! Thrills! Suspense!

### neep...neep...neep...

It's not too late to see FASS! FASS stands for Faculty, Alumni, Staff, and Students (translation: you probably know a lot of us already), and each year FASS puts on an original musicalcomedy extravaganza in the Hall of the Humanities Theatre. This year, it's called "Village Don of the Dead", a charming little comedy about zombies, the Sixties, University life, B-horror movies, mysterious artifacts large and small, and the wholesale slaughter of Village residents.

When's it taking place? RIGHT NOW !!!

There are two shows tonight, at 7:00 and 10:00, and one show tomorrow at 8:00. (Opening night was Wednesday, sorry. math-NEWS just can't keep up with us.) Tickets are available at the Humanities Theatre box office (on the first floor of Hagey Hall...you'll find it) for \$6 in advance or \$8 dollars at the door. Seating is reserved, so don't dawdle! If you do, you might miss your chance to see two acts of comedy that will have you laughing your head off. Nothing else quite compares to the neeping zombie hordes of FASS '95!

> Peter Milley enthusiatic FASS zombie

### Mail Filler

Q: What did Vanilla Ice say to Bill Gates at Intel? A: Microsoft Word to your motherboard!

Making sure we give credit to the person who made it up: Jeffrey Aaron

### PMC&OC Speaks!

The term is well under way, and your friendly neighbourhood Pure Math and C&O Club is right there with it. We've already had talks by Prof. Leroy Dickey and Enrico AuYeung (kudos to both for excellent talks). Our next talk is February  $15^{th}$  by Prof. Furino; unfortunately, I don't have the topic of the talk at the time of this writing. As always, watch for posters and come on out! The talks are interesting and informative, kind of like Pure Math and C&O themselves.

In sports, the PMC&OC has co-rec volleyball and broomball games in the near future. Our next volleyball game is next Thursday (that's the  $9^{th}$ ) at 10:40pm on PAC court 1. The next broomball game is *today* at 3:00 at the Columbia Icefield; the next game after that is next Friday at 1:00, same location. Come out and have some fun! Our schedules are posted conveniently on the club door (that's MC3033) if you want to check them out. Everyone is welcome!

Finally, don't forget the other services we offer, particularly the lending library in the club office. And there will be a bake sale in the club's future (although the date is somewhat up in the air...stupid midterms).

Bye for now!

Peter Milley PMC&OC ambassador to mathNEWS

## ActSci Club

Hi everyone!

Another two weeks gone! Another two weeks closer to graduation! Another two weeks closer to our fabulous events!

We hope you made it out to our talk on January 24, on, basically, everything a first or second year actuarial student needs to know! It was great to see so many of you at the talk. Greg, Clare and I thank you for coming out. We hope to see you at the club's other events!

Here's what's coming up in the next few weeks:

- a talk on February 8, by Phil Watson of The Mutual Group, on the Prudential purchase.
- a talk on February 22, by Rob Brown, on the proposed new SOA exam system.
- a Laser Quest roadtrip on February 24.
- the ever-popular ActSci hats will be going on sale soon...

and more! Watch for posters and listen for your class rep announcements!

I admit it...I lied! Rob Brown did not speak at the convention, as his plane was fogged in to Toronto. However, he will be discussing the same topic, the proposed exam changes, on February 22.

We'd like to remind you again of our complete library of Actex manuals. Stop by the office to look over our library, to join the club, to talk to us about actuarial matters, or anything else! Everyone is welcome to join. We hope to see you soon!

> April Gale Publicity Director

## **Novelties Report**

We're off to a good start this term with Novelties. We're looking into all kinds of interesting new novelties items to sell out of MathSoc. This is your last chance to get many t-shirts. We will never be ordering more "limit shirts", "horizons shirts" or "maple leaf shirts", so get them now! Cheat shirts are on order, and should be in by the next mathNEWS. They've been ordered in black and burgundy, in sizes M, L, XL and XXL.

### Hey Office Workers

There's still some confusion about how to sell novelties. Just record the sale in the Novelties receipt book, and put the money in the MathSoc cash box. There's no need to leave a receipt in the cash box.

### Hey Artists

There's still time to make a submission for the novelties shirt design contest. Even if you're uninspired, you can participate, as I have a shirt design I'd like illustrated. Feel free to email me at cbnorman@napier if you have any questions about novelties.

Christina "Babe" Norman

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# profQUOTES

"Everyone knows-well, at least I know..."

Zorzitto, PMATH 448

"I shouldn't say everyone knows, because if you don't know then you feel stupid."

Zorzitto, PMATH 448

Prof: "Anyone ever tried studying?" Student: "I'm dying to." Prof: "You may."

#### F.G. Reynolds, MTHEL 305B

"It's better to mark final exams after a few beers—and I don't even have to worry about leaving bottle rings on the papers. You'll never see them again."

L. Davidson, MATH 125

"Since you are only about a foot apart, this midterm is not a test of your knowledge but more a test of your peripheral vision."

Woolner, PHYS 121

"Can anybody see those naked figures on the screen?"

Munro, CS 134

"Once you get good at this, you can write these things so fast that no one can keep up with you... Am I proving that right?"

Zorzitto, MATH 137

"The first two are dead easy. They maximize the amount of beer you can drink and still get the code right."

Munro, CS 134

"There's a number of you in the middle who didn't vote; you fail automatically."

Hind, MATH 138

"The most important concept in Linear Algebra is the concept of a vector."

<later>

"The most important concept in Linear Algebra is the concept of linear independence."

<still later>

"The most important concept in Linear Algebra...uh...I suppose I can't use this every time."

Younger, MATH 136

"[On calculus class:] It's not like history—you actually have to come to class."

Zorzitto, MATH 137

"This theorem has versions 1, 2, 3. In today's computer age, there are also versions 3.1, 3.2, etc."

Moskal, PMATH 330

"... and this means that John has at least one father."

Moskal, PMATH 330

"Last year, the best movie according to our textbook was King Kong. Either this book was written in 1939 or the author has very bad taste."

Moskal, PMATH 330

"That's what this is all about: gun clubs, police raids, and things that sum up to 1...it's the interconnectedness of all things."

C. Small, STAT 240

"Now we've got to start thinking, which is bad news for a mathematician. The whole point of mathematics is to delay thinking as long as possible."

Hind, MATH 138

"You ready for class? No? Okay, let's sleep first, then."

Chen, STAT 230

"For me to do arithmetics... and lose it... it really hurts."

C. Haff, C&O 370

"You've all learned to parallel process: you can look at her and listen to me!"

Wolkowicz, C&O 350

"... which is nonsense, but we'll do it anyway."

Morrison, PHYS 122

"I'm not very good at drawing elephants... I'm not even going to try to draw a left-handed elephant."

Morrison, PHYS 122

"In those days you could get a couple of beers for 50 cents, so it was well worth it."

Morrison, PHYS 122

"They're slightly less than an infinite distance apart, I guess."

Morrison, PHYS 122

"Remember, your exam questions are all written by instructors at this university, and we're not all that bright here."

Willard, MATH 135

"If one person drinks 5 bottles of beer, and another person drinks 10 half-filled bottles of beer, they both drink the same number of filly-fulled bottles...I haven't had anything to drink yet today."

Herauf, ACC 122

"You should always be suspicious about what pure math profs tell you about the real world anyway."

Larry Smith, ECON 102

"The service would come to an end...And everyone would say, 'Thank God'."

Martin, MUSIC 100

# Not Just Another Publication

"Fed"back

Many of you were away from school last term on work terms (or for whatever other reason). I was too, as was Mala. So you may have missed a source of controversy (among others)—math-NEWS published a parody of the *Imprint* called *Impotent*.

"So what?" you may be asking. Well, while feedback was on the whole extremely positive, there were a couple of notable exceptions. Most criticisms, apparently, did not go to math-NEWS, but instead went to the Feds or the Womyn's Centre or wherever. Last term's mathNEWS editor (Steve "Flipper" Shaw) received only one official document, and it didn't arrive

#### Dear MathNEWS[sic] staff,

Having read over the November 24, 1994 issue of the "Impotent", we at the Federation of Students are left with several concerns that we feel necessary to voice. We had thought that our opinions were expressed but in order to clear up some confusion, we have decided it would be appropriate to make our eelings very clear to you and to the campus community through this letter. We feel this response is necessary since as a student organization, MathNEWS[sic] is immediately affiliated with the Federation of Students.

We realize that the staff put a lot of time and hard work into the paper with hopes of it having a satirical tone. Unfortunately, in failing at this attempt, students have been left to read a publication that is offensive and at times demeaning. There is a general theme in this paper that contributes to a chilly climate for women on this campus. This can be proven time and time again. Whether it be found in the news story about the "Fed Hall Whore", the reprinting of a cartoon that mocked the concerns of those who were offended by the original, the so-called spoof on the Womyn's Week Rag, the list goes on. There are further homophobic, hetrosexist[sic], and racist tones throughout. Under the Human Rights Code, your paper creates what is

I am not going to bash anyone in particular. I wasn't part of the *Impotent*, like Hammer was, so I'm not going to pour emotions of disgust out to Julie Cole.

As current co-editor, I feel, though, that I should say something since, upon receiving the negative letter from Ms. Cole, we at mathNEWS never got a chance to defend ourselves.

First of all, I defend Steve Shaw (the editor responsible for *Impotent*) for what he did. *math*NEWS essentially lets writers express their thoughts freely and that's precisely what was done. Some may have been in slightly bad taste, but the paper as a whole was a parody.

### par-o-dy1 \'par-ed-e-\ pl -dies

[L parodia, fr. Gk paro-idia, fr. para- + aidein to sing—more at ODE]

(1598)

1: a literary or musical work in which the style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule

It was the "style of [the] work" of the Imprint that was imitated, not specific groups. Or, at least, they were not singled in time to be dealt with in last term's mathNEWS.

Accordingly, Mala and I are going to print the letter math-NEWS received, along with the responses we didn't have the time to publish in our first issue. Also, a limited number of leftover copies of the *Impotent* will be available in MathSoc starting today. Any comments, concerns, or opinions should be sent to mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca or posted to uw.mathnews, rather than being made to MathSoc or the Feds.

Hammer

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called a "Poisoned Environment."

It seems as though we at the Federation of Students office have a very different sense of humor than those who produced this paper. Perhaps it is because we work hard everyday to do the best that we can to see that students are provided with a learning environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. Surely, you would not be laughing if you saw all your energies being counteracted by your peers.

We have had many students come to us with these and other concerns. We hope that in the future you consider the negative power that words can have and use better judgement. If you wish to familiarize yourself and become more sensitive to any of these issues, please feel free to call us and we will help you to arrange a meeting with the Co-ordinator of the Office of Ethical Behaviour and Human Rights.

Sincerely,

Julie Cole Vice-President, University Affairs

cc: Jim Downey, Matt Erickson, Sally Gunz, Peter Hopkins, Imprint, Jack Kalbfleisch, Womyn's Centre

Say What?

#### out randomly and picked upon.

I believe the International Myn's Week Rag caused some stir and frankly, I don't see why. If the Imprint can publish the International Womyn's Week Rag, then why shouldn't a parody have the opposite? .

The entire issue of mathNEWS looked just like an *Imprint* issue to a point that it just about confused me when I saw it when I returned back to campus!

What was intended was not a malicious attempt at ridiculing or criticizing specific groups of people, but a humourous parody of yet another campus newspaper—*The Iron Warrior, The Gazette*—and now, the *Imprint*. I believe they succeeded.

Briefly on the "poisoned environment" comment: I don't see how writing about men can be given such a name, with a similar (it is a parody after all) article about women being fine.

In a world where we (humankind) strive for equality—not superiority—I find it strange that articles about women are given the "okay" and articles about men are given the "no way." I am female and still, am proud to see men equally represented.

> Mala "Crakko" Krishnan mathNEWS co-editor

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# Hammer's Response

'Ms. Cole, you first claim that mathNEWS is directly affiliated with the Federation of Students because it is a student organization. This is a perception that is untrue. mathNEWS publishes the occasional release from the Feds, but as it states in our ISSN information, "mathNEWS is... funded by and responsible to, but otherwise independent of, the Mathematics Society at the University of Waterloo." (The italics are mine.) mathNEWS, and not MathSoc or the Federation of Students, is responsible for our content.

Next, you say that there is "a general theme in this paper that contributes to a chilly climate for women on this campus," and "prove" it by giving as examples the "Fed Hall Whore" (actually titled "Lloyd Axworthy marked in Prosti-Tuition Scandal"), "The Parking Lot is Evil", and the "so-called spoof on the Womyn's Week Rag". I disagree, and will deal with each one directly.

The "Prosti-Tuition Scandal" article is a condemnation of Lloyd Axworthy's cuts to post-secondary education funding. It is saying that, if tuition indeed doubles, some students are going to be forced to do things they normally wouldn't in order to attend university. In a serious article this might include taking a part-time job while studying or taking out a large student loan. In this humourous article, this includes (but is not limited to) prostitution. The "Prosti-Tuition Scandal" article is by no means painting all women as prostitutes, nor is it promoting prostitution as a way for women to make money.

The "Parking Lot is Evil" cartoon is a direct parody of the controversy of the Fall term in the pages of the *Imprint*. It is not, as you claim, a reprint of the original cartoon (which, for those who were not here in the fall, will be on the mathNEWS office door until Friday of next week). There were also a number of letters in the *Impotent*, again directly parodying the large number of letters about the original that the *Imprint* published.

I personally believe that the "International Myn's Week Mag" is the source of most contention about the Impotent. With the exception of the "Hunk/Babe/Gay Couple/Lesbian Couple/Couple of the Month" page, every article in this pull-out section is a direct spoof of articles appearing in the "3rd Annual International Womyn's Week Rag". These spoofs, for the most part, take their tone directly from their corresponding articles, and have paragraphs consisting of the same words with female references changed to male ones. ("The Cunt" became "The Cock", for example.) To claim that the alteration of female references to male ones creates a "chilly climate for women" is silly. Thus I must conclude that the offense was caused by the tonguein-cheek references to outdated male views. I believe that I can honestly say that these views were inserted not because anybody on the staff wanted to add misogynist views to the Impotent, but because they run so contrary and so completely against the views usually presented in forums such as the Womyn's Week Rag. In other words, they were added to maximize the parodying effect the publication was intended to have.

You next say that there were further "homophobic, hetrosexist [sic], and racist tones throughout," then claim that the Impotent created a "Poisoned Environment" under the Human Rights Code. I take contention at your unsupported assertion that there are homophobic, heterosexist, and racist tones throughout Impotent. After a careful perusal, the only time I see race even mentioned is in the article "More Basketball Controversy", which is a neat reversal of the controversy last term where the Hong Kong Student Association wouldn't let white males play in a basketball tournament they sponsored. Other than the points I've dealt with about the "International Myn's Day Mag", I don't see any racist or homophobic tones in the issue.

True, those at the Federation of Students office have a different sense of humour than we at mathNEWS. (From your language, I'm assuming that you're representing the opinions of everyone in the Fed office.) However, I hardly agree that mathNEWS is counteracting your energies. The Impotent was a parody of the Imprint, and any successful parody of the Imprint must, by definition, include poking fun at common subjects gracing its pages. And since your "energies" use the Imprint as an outlet most of the time, it's only natural that we poke fun at them. No harm was meant by the issue, and it is my belief that no harm was done. I don't think that the great strides made towards "a learning environment that is free of harassment and discrimination" can be counteracted by a simple parody of a campus newspaper.

Finally, I just want to reiterate: the Impotent was meant as a continuation of our series of parodying campus newspapers, which has to date included the Gazette, the Iron Warrior, and mathBOOZE. The Imprint was not parodied because mathNEWS staffers wanted to create a "Poisoned Environment" and promote hatred towards any groups. The Imprint was parodied partly because it was its turn, and partly because, in the opinion of the mathNEWS staffers, it needed it.

Mike "Hammer" Hammond

## feedBACH

Dear mathNEWS,

We would like to express our extreme disgust at the vile swill which you have seen fit produce in the form of "The Impotent" Have you no shame?! Your denigration of this fine university's institutions, as well as its student body as a whole, just serves to illustrate exactly how out of touch your staff is with the world around us. In that one issue alone, you have managed to offend every special interest group on campus. The only exception to your unrelenting attacks has been the WPIRG, the only group on campus truly deserving of ridicule.

Seriously, what the hell does the \$3.41 I pay each term go towards; the creation of a newsgroup over which they have no control and buying spray paint so they can put thought-provoking messages on the walls surrounding the to-be-completed-by-2025 Campus Centre?

In conclusion, we would like to express our vehement repulsion towards the picture of Christina Norman with her mouth sewn shut. Combined with the dress she was pictured in, it clearly demonstrates that your "newspaper" is obviously in the hands of black, Italian, Bible thumping, Billy Joel loving, bald headed, militant republican lesbian reactionaries.

> Mario "Barbapapa" Bellabarba 3B Civ Eng

## Thanks for Coming Out!

It has always been rumoured that the Math Faculty is one of the most apathetic on campus. Having attended the January  $25^{th}$  Forum held by the Federation of Students, however, I must beg to differ.

The University of Waterloo is, in itself, hopelessly and disgustingly apathetic BEYOND BELIEF! Not 200 students showed up for the forum ... my basic math skills lead me to believe this is less than one percent of the University's population. Pathetic.

Walk around the campus and listen sometime (when you don't have CS assignments or beer-drinking to do). I guarantee you will hear complaints and general grumbling from students of all makes, shapes and sizes. But where were all of these voices on Wednesday? It doesn't really matter, except to say that when given an opportunity to be heard by some people who might at least have intelligent comebacks (as opposed to "ya, man ... it really sucks"), students really fell through.

That is not to say that we were the only apathetic campus around - only Toronto had turnouts worthy of attention. The student support is, generally, lacking. Even worse, in my opinion, was the media coverage of our lack-lustre event. With so few students in attendance, we were all asked to sit on one side of the auditorium, whence we were assured that we would "look better". Why not let Canada know how little students care?

Mr. Axworthy, go nuts. You could probably TRIPLE tuition with little more than token booing from students. Have a blast at our expense. Apparently, we can afford it.

Nathalie "A Frustrated (and poor) Mathie" St-Maurice

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All-you-can-eat Vegan Lunch Guest Speakers Video and Slide Shows

#### Call 884-7013 for more information and to register

Please bring a blanket (yes, a blanket)!

## **Terminal Regret**

From my vantage point in 3rd year CS, I'd like to take a look back, reflect, if you will, on the years gone by. Most significantly, a trip down memory lane concerning my seemingly endless hunger for new and better machines so that I can write more confusing and sometimes, let's face it, utterly wrong code!!

I remember my first day at Northern Telecom up in Ottawa. My boss greeted me at the door and showed me to my desk. And what stood there?? WOW!!! A small ASCII Cybernex terminal! Now, I know many of you are about to lose your early morning breakfast right now, but really, I was excited by this. I thought back to my bad old elementary school days, when the class had one PET computer, and we all had to scramble for the privilege of working with it. Or, when in Grade 8, we worked with databases on Apple IIs in groups of 3. I sat most of the time, my eyes hungrily looking at the keyboard, thinking "Oh if only you and I can be together!!" (Ahh forget it!) Now I didn't have to share, it was my very own. If I wanted to type something, I didn't have to convince two other people that I had something more interesting than them to type, and that they should shove over and let *me* use it. Nooo, I could type whenever I wanted!!

But it wasn't quite enough. I looked around and saw that everyone, (especially in the BNR section) had HP terminals even the co-ops! Workstations. Oh WOW!!! Especially a littleknown, obscure Partee functionary who rose up in the ranks to become, well, I don't remember whatever happened to him. Nothing much good I 'spect. What was his name again?? Mike Hammond?? :+)

But getting back on track, I basically salivated over these new HPs. Well, when my own terminal was constantly getting locked up, necessitating a call to the machine room for them to reconstitute the connection, could you blame me?? The Xterm seemed to offer so much more: money, wine, women (or for those of you more radically inclined, womyn), and song.

When, here at Waterloo, I finally got my hands on an Xterm, I was really happy. WOW!! Here I can read news, play xtetris, bring food into the lab, get caught by Kimberly, the ever-so friendly operator, ... repeat that last one again, and, oh yeah, get some work done. And that's fine, I type away for hours on my new Xterm, right up to and past the deadline, but anyway...

I wonder where all this will get me. Never being satisfied until I get a bigger, faster machine, and being inherently antitechnology in the meantime, what will I end up with?? I could stroll to the CSC to find out. But, then again, who'd want to do that??!!

I've often had my own vision of the perfect computer. The screen would be as big as an IMAX screen, with accompanying stereo ability. The mouse, well, you can imagine how big the mouse would be. It'd get to the point where he could tell me what to do. Each coprocessor would do, oh, 100 instructions concurrently, and damn the consequences!! But, most importantly, Microsoft would have absolutely nothing to do with the system, they'd lose money, and Bill Gates would become another has-been wandering the streets of Seattle, possibly meeting Kurt Cobain along the way.

But enough of this idle chit-chat. I have a program that's seg faulting, and it's not my fault! (And if you thought that was bad, wait till you see my other article!!) Pla

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# Bridging the Gap

Some would say that safety plays are the essence of bridge. Some of these plays are so subtle that many experts don't recognize them when they come along. Look at this hand, where North-South are in six hearts. Cover up the opponent's cards, and try to guarantee the contract after a diamond lead (given that East follows to the first trick).

	Deal	ler:	E	North
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		A	Kxxx	
		00	29xx	
West		$\diamond A$	x	East
♠ Q10	98	4 A	xx	♠ x
♡x				♡Jx
♦ Q 10	98	Sou	ith	◊ KJxxx
♣Q10	98	۸J	xxx	* xxxx
		♡ A	K10xx	x
		$\diamond \mathbf{x}$		
		♣ K	J	
East	Sou	th	West	North
Pass	10		Pass	2 NT*
Pass	30 *	k	Pass	3 🏟
Pass	4		Pass	4 🛇
Pass	40		Pass	4NT
Pass	50		Pass	5NT
Pass	6 🗘		All pass	
			and a second	

Before proceeding with an explanation of the play, first a word about the auction. South starts with one heart, and North bids two no-trump, which is a balanced forcing raise in hearts (known as Jacoby two no-trump). Three diamonds was shortness (a singleton or void), and the next three bids were cue-bids showing first or second round control in the suit bid. After South signed off in four hearts, North decided that enough was enough and launched into Roman Key Card Blackwood. Five hearts showed two key cards (ace and king of hearts), and six hearts was the final resting place.

Did you find the play? Win the ace of diamonds, and pull trump (with three rounds if necessary), finishing in dummy. Ruff a diamond, and play three rounds of clubs, ruffing in hand. Now, here comes the key play. A spade to the ace, and a small spade from dummy. If East follows, put in the jack, and you will either lose this trick to West (in which case the king will pull the last spade), or it will be your 12th trick. Otherwise, play small, and West will be endplayed. He will either play a spade away from his queen, or give you a ruff and discard.

A hand similar to this one came up in the semi-finals of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. This safety play was missed by six of the seven declarers who had the opportunity to make this play.

So, put this play into your bag of tricks. You may be able to use it someday to win a world championship!

Eric Sutherland

### Follow

The Worldwide Anthem Of The Sheep

Wake when others wake. Take what others take.

Feed when others feed. Need what others need.

Share what others share. Care when others care.

Feel what others feel. Is it real?

If you love what others love. You will never rise above.

You will stay where others stay. Play games they like to play.

And when they grow tired, you will fall asleep. Because to follow is the nature of the sheep.

> Your self-serving servant, Luke Gasteiger



## I'll Have The Special

I liked the title so much, I've decided to use it again

Ya know, people come up to me in the hall and say "Hey, whats-yer-name! What's that "I'll Have The Special" column all about anyways?" Well, let me tell you...

It's about math. And in mathNEWS too, eh? What a coincidence!

It's CRTC bashing. From time to time, I may point out stupid bonehead decisions these morons make. Whether it's raising our phone bill or licensing channels we don't want, I'll be there to make fun of them. I'll still annoyed about the fact we didn't get a Sci-Fi channel, but I'm really starting to like Bravo!

It's general goofiness. There are only a few people on the planet who can recite a large majority of dialogue from *The Simpsons*, *The Tick* and *Animaniacs*. I am one of them. And since I also help out with the mathNEWS squiz, you'll probably see trivia relating to these, and perhaps *Twin Peaks*, as well. Which brings me to another thing...

It's current events. Better read that newspaper. Better listen to that radio. Better watch that NewsWorld. (Well, not all the time, that's a little TOO much.)

It's about you. Because I love you. I really do. I'll make the time for each and every one of you. That's how much I care.

Well, there you go. My commitment to you. I hope you now understand what "I'll Have The Special" is all about. And now, I must go. As I have to put on a big blue suit and fight crime... to rid our fair city of the evilness that lurks within... to clean up... but I digress...

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox



### Solidarity Forever!!

The planned doubling of tuition will take place unless students stand up for their rights. If the cuts don't come in this budget, then they'll come in the next one. In the final analysis, budget cuts are going to come from the groups least likely to wield much voting power against the current government come next election. Governments gauge this by sending out trial balloons before the budget, to see what they can get away with. If we as students don't send a very clear message to Paul Martin that we won't assume an unfair burden of the debt, we'll get nailed. This means it is imperative to present a united front.

The bickering between the Feds and CFS (and by extension the UW Anti-Cuts Action Committee(UWACAC)) has only weakened our position. Politicians respond to results-visually damaging, politically sensitive results. t

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MathSoc's strategy of avoiding visible protests and settling for in-class discussion is ill-conceived and misleading. While hoping to be seen by the politicians as a civil and polite way of discussing the budget, it only shows weakness and lack of strength.

Staying in class and spending five minutes discussing tuition just won't do the trick. The prof is too eager to continue the lecture, and students feel too intimidated to express their views in a large throng of other passive students. (Hell, it's intimidating enough asking a math question in that situation!)

The intended message to the politicians is thus entirely lost. Attending a boring "information session", where we all crowd into a hall and basically attend a lecture, is not the way to go. This approach is just too institutionalised. Students are subdued, and fed precalculated info. It is boring, and people know that. Which is why, after all, 300 students showed up to the protest, and only 100 to the info session. People know what gets results.

Sure there is the argument that "Why skip class now if your intent is to be able to go to class in the future", but I don't believe in it. You can't get your point across to the powers that be that way. I believe if the Liberals see that the most action Waterloo can muster is a few minutes of flaccid discussion, and half-hearted attendance at a "information session" later on, they are not going to respect our claims of being fed up. You'll be falling right into the trap that they've set for you.

As I've heard a Liberal on the radio explain a few weeks ago, "I feel Canadians will complain about the coming budget, but eventually they'll just roll over and accept it." That's YOU they're talking about! From their comfortable chairs in rustic Ottawa, they are condemning you to a life of debt and despair.

Are you going to let them?? The way to get rid of the debt is to extract payment from those who stole from us in the first placethe big corporations, and the chronic mis-managers of money up in Ottawa.

Bottom line, create a united front or we're Melba toast.

Maybe the UWACAC is too radical to some of you, and in this corporate-agenda driven Generation X boot camp of the future called the University Of Waterloo, I can see why. I think a compromise between the Feds and UWACAC could have been reached. The important thing is, from now on we must stick together. Hopefully, we can decide on a truly strong and firm message. The point is, we must all stand by it. Political infighting will only tear us apart.

Dave Vernest...small but cynical reporter

# Unix Tip of the Week

This week's Unix tip begins with a word about multitasking never try out for a lead role in FASS and try to carry a full course load.

The rest of this week's tip deals with aliasing. Aliasing is another example of a timesaving device you can waste a lot of time playing with. In short, it allows you to refer to things by names you hope you'll remember better than the original names. (I will admit that from time to time it will also save you a bit of typing, but only if under extreme duress.) I will be discussing two separate types of aliasing, those for your csh/tcsh shell, and those for your mail program.

Most UNIX shells support some form of command aliasing. (If you're not sure what shell you're running, finger your own account... it will tell you.) What this means is that you can tell the shell that you want it to recognize a command that it didn't previously know. (You can also have it understand already existing commands differently, but you have to be careful. More about that later...)

Some common reasons for using command aliasing are

- 1. you can't remember the format of the original command
- 2. you think your own commands would look much nicer
- 3. you want existing commands to run with special options (again, be careful about this one)
- you think you prefer your UNIX shell to look like a different shell (Don't admit to this one out loud... it tends to offend true UNIX gurus)

#### How to alias your commands

These commands run from the command line, but instead of typing them in each time I highly recommend that you put them in your .cshrc file, or even a .aliases file in your home directory. (If you don't know what that is, or how to do that, drop me a line and I'll tell you all about it in a future article.)

The format for the command is

alias <name> <command sequence>

The name is that of the command you are either creating or renaming, and the command sequence is the list of instructions that you want executed. Now before you go trying to create your own, I suggest you sit down and find out a few things about the way the shell interprets information. I'll give you a few examples to play with though.

- alias rm "rm -i"—this changes your file erase command to prompt you for the name of the file you're erasing
- alias print "lpr -Plp2up"—this allows you to print files by typing print <filename> instead of typing lpr -Plp2up <filename> every time

As a final piece of information to think about, the default mail program we have online (the one that is run when you type "mail") also allows you to use aliases. (Those of you using some of the fancier mail programs will just have to read the man pages.) Instead of creating new commands though, it allows you to create new names for people on your email list. These aliases must go in a file called .mailrc which should be found in your home directory. The format is alias <name> <address>. So you can have,

alias joe jsmith@server.uwindsor.ca

Then, when you go to send "joe" email, you need only type mail joe

and then continue as usual. Hope that helps.

Adam "The Bitsnatcher" Benjamin

# The First Pothole on the Information Superhighway

### mathNEWS on the Internet

mathNEWS has its own newsgroup! If you subscribe to uw.mathnews now, you can participate in discussions of your own choosing! The newsgroup is appropriate for:

1. Talking to your favourite (or least favourite) author.

- 2. Giving feedback to the writers, whether negative or positive.
- 3. Adding your two cents as to the content of articles, the content of editorials, or the stupidity of Mathtoons.
- 4. Looking for mathNEWS information, such as production and writer's night dates.
- 5. Lining birdcages.

But that's not all! If you subscribe to uw.mathnews, we'll also throw in this nifty combination photocopier and tanning booth! (Not actually a legally binding offer.)

Operators are standing by! Subscribe now!

Hammer

### Darkness

Darkness.

Dreamland full of nightmares. Waves upon waves. Integrals dancing upon my battered soul. Pain.

Darkness. Sleep full of screams. Spaces upon spaces. Rings twisted about my being. Pain.

Light. Waking nightmares. Line upon line. 1's and 0's commanded by my hands. Freedom.

Frank Yao, A Resident mathNEWS Poet

# The Trouble With God

Faith and Mercy, The tools for your life. But where is your faith When the secret whispers fly. Where is your mercy when Accusations creep past shielded mouths.

Something better exists for you. You can trust, and be trusted. But not without turning away Away from all you know. Find your truth with me, And together we can explore The stars. You join the games, And I play the depression Like a flute, but all is Forgotten when we speak of God, His works, His curse.

You gave me faith, But yours is too weak to Protect you from yourself. Your beauty and intelligence Conspire against you And take your surety Away from you.

I tried to help, but my Soul was tarnished; My ugliness and intelligence Conspired against me. They took My confidence away From me. I am clean now, but I know not where you are. I cannot repay the Debt I owe.

### Education

Education is procrastination. Killing all inspiration. Bending minds and breaking bones. Form a line you pack of drones.

Procrastination is my education. Root of all my desperation. Bending truth and forming lies. Killing youthful enterprise.

Desperation is my inspiration. To finish my education. Simply put I'm out of luck. Or maybe I just don't give a fuck.

> Your self-serving servant, Luke Gasteiger

I am still ugly, still intelligent, But my confidence is my own. You, my first teacher, leading me On the road to Heaven; you cannot Cross the river Into the promised land. But maybe, perhaps, I can carry you Across.

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Find me, forgive me, Like your God before you. I was young, I cannot be Blamed for falling In love with you. Countless others did, None more worthy than I To call you friend, Or loved one, or dearest.

I do not belong in your other World. My interest lies in your Wellness, not in your body (although I must admit you have an incredible body). Your beautiful face, slayer of a Thousand men and boys, Is only a frame for your eyes. Messages written for the few who Know how to read your soul. I am a soul reader, a soul healer, And I could not have learned these Arts without you.

I still owe you my life.

Excerpt from "A Compendium of Nightmares" by Marc A. Ducharme



### Showdown at the U.W. Corral!

I'll never forget the day of the Great Protest, which loudly and firmly broke the tranquil silence of the barren wasteland known as Waterloo. It was a slow morning. Students were trudging towards their classes, finding out that for some reason, someone had inadvertently typed "rm -rf \*" in their home UNIX directory, you know, trivial stuff like that! But then, off in the distance, I heard a clamour. It was the sound of students gathering in the Arts Quad, just over yonder. I walked over, to find to my surprise a sixties-style protest, complete with protest signs and strange thin people walking around with bandannas and tie-dyed shirts! Having had enough of my pure math prof's boring lecture, I decided to liven things up a bit, and walked towards the light. On the way, I got thirsty, and decided to drink some Tang. But anyway...

It was quite interesting, and I generally I had a good time. We listened to speeches for a while, including one from the labor segment, given by What's-his-face and Buddy-over-there, then went for a walk down University Avenue. (I was reminded of the Walk-A-Breast campaign. Fortunately, yours truly was fully clothed at the time. (At the Protest I mean!!))

Anyway, we walked down the street, alternately shouting at parked cars, chasing after some of the cars, sniffing some fire hydrants, and avoiding getting run over by Kitchener Chance-it buses. Eventually, this motley mob made it down to the big bustling city of downtown Waterloo!!

Believe it or not, we did have an objective!! We were off to our local honourable representative Andrew Telegdi's office. Since he failed to attend our little function, we decided to bring the protest to him. We arrived at the door of his office, and a grad-student-turned-activist courageously entered. We crowded outside the door for a while, chanting really original mantras like

"Hey Hey Ho Ho, Double Tuition has gotta go!!",

and generally the whole thing escalated until we were crowded in front of the poor guy's office. After shouting our slogans a bit, we accosted him and started explaining our agenda. Finally, although he did seem a little...oh I don't know...reluctant, we dragged him outside and started an Imprmptu <sup>TM</sup> of Cognos press conference. (Hey, what's the use of having a work-term with Cognos if you can't use them as an obscure reference!) After a few drinks and a couple shots of whiskey!! (no, just kidding... it was vintage Russian vodka), the fearless leader of the Workers, labour leader Larry Batista and Andrew Telegdi locked horns. Now, it seems Larry and Andrew are old roommates, and to my surprise, a classic "mathNEWS moment" occurs:

Andrew "Yeah, Larry and I used to be roommates."

Some Student in the Crowd "Well, I guess we know who was on top!!"

(Getting screwed, that is, for those of you subtletychallenged.)

After that decidedly class-conscious observation, the students' complaints generally leading the way for conversation, the altercation insued without incident, until Larry suddenly got pissed, and got into a shouting match with Andrew. They wildly pointed fingers at each other, called each other names, drew their mighty ideological weapons from their holsters, and started fring. (Dramatization. May not have happened.). While this was happening, a nearby student whipped out a harmonica and started covering old hippy tunes!! With CKCO-TV and CKMS there in full force, this turned out to be quite the textbook photo-op, if not a truly humourous incident.

Then, excitement waning, we all walked off into the Sunset (back to Waterloo).

Now long after the Great Protest, dust bunnies parade along dirty Village student's floors. The city is back to normal, although sometimes, when the most important thing in my life is deciding which brace- style to use for my C code, I often think of that day, when Larry and Andy clashed in the Showdown at the U.W. Corral.

> Jethro McGillivray ... the first, (and last) Scottish cowboy

## We Interrupt This mathNEWS...

### What's Wrong With These People?

I hope you enjoyed The Price Is Wrong last issue. Now, what has happened since this column last appeared? Ah, yes...

### From the "Evening News with Milli Vanilli" Department

A media policy prohibiting the broadcasting of Irish Republican Army leaders' voices on British radio and television was suspended last September after fifteen years. So broad was the policy that films of IRA leaders had to be dubbed before being shown on BBC newscasts. I guess the news looked too much like "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers."

The Toronto Star, Sat. Jan. 7, Page L3

### From the "Voodoo-It-Yourself" Department

Juonsha, a company based in Tokyo, has introduced a curse kit available by mail order. First aimed at bullied schoolchildren, the kit has proven popular among women who wish to curse husbands, in-laws, and neighbours. The kit includes a straw doll representing the target, nails, an instruction manual and a doll which is supposed to block retaliatory curses. Now repeat after me, "Owa tana siyam. Owa tana siyam. Owa...."

#### The Toronto Star, Sat. Jan. 28, Page L8

### From the "And You Thought They Were Only Good as Bait" Department

University of Calgary economics student Brad Chapman has started an unusual pilot project. He has 500,000 worms converting food scraps from the dining room of the campus residence into compost; it is the first commercial-scale vermicomposting operation in Calgary. Says Mr. Chapman, "These guys just eat and eat and eat, and when they're not eating they mate. Quite the life."

#### The Toronto Star, Sat. Jan. 28, Page L16

And finally, CHYM-FM's Mr. Know-It-All reported last Friday that Florida's Carnival Airlines has introduced a frequentflyer program for pets. So until next time, fly the friendly skies, as long as they don't lick you in the face.

Darren "This mathNEWS Has 22 Minutes" Morby

## How to Write for mathNEWS

You're probably sitting here reading this article and thinking "Gee, I wish I was as beautiful and intelligent as Christina". Well, maybe not if you're a guy. If you're a guy you're probably thinking "Gee, I wish my penis was bigger". Well writing for mathNEWS certainly won't help you in any of these regards, but it can help you get free pizza!

Most mathNEWS articles can be basicly divided into three categories.

- Serious discussion of issues important to math students, such as whether the C&D should stock "fruity nut bars" or "nutty fruit bars".
- Informative reports on the fascinating activities of math-SOC and its affiliated clubs. I know I couldn't sleep without weekly updates from Computer Socialists Club on their efforts to get an 8088 in every home.
- Humourous articles people like to read.

Articles people like to read can be divided into two subcategories.

- Witty creations by inspired individuals. Original humour carefully crafted to surprise and delight.
- Rehashing the same humour over and over again to an apish audience who can't get enough.

My area of expertise is in the latter of the two. Rehashing old mathNEWS humour is easy, effective, and virtually guarantees your article will be published. Here are a few easy ways to write articles. The best thing is you don't need to be artistic, inspired, or even know how to spell. (What are editors for? [Removing your postscript, for one thing! - HammerEd])

1. Rewrite an old article

Go by the mathNEWS office and get an issue no one will remember (like one from last term). Take any humourous article. Replace references to "beer" with "tequila", "sex" with "masturbation", and "masturbation" with "sex". This will insure no one can accuse you of plagiarism. Your articles will even seem more wild and exciting with sentences such as "so then I drank six bottles of tequila, met up with this wild guy at Fed, we had masturbation in the washroom, and I was so horny I sexed when I got home."

Hockey — It's Back!

Yes, it's true, the season is finally under way. Now I'll have something to take my mind off of all of my assignments and bills. After watching a few games, I realized how much I missed hockey and how it seems that I can't remember which team various players are on. My favourite team is, of course, the Chicago Blackhawks, but I don't recall seeing many of their players in previous seasons. Luckily, most of the new players are good, so with any luck they might just win the Cup this year.

The shortened schedule will definitely make for some interesting situations in the playoffs. Even the lousiest team can make it in with a lucky streak, while a better team might not make the playoffs because of a short slump. This season will definitely be 2. Write a "Top Ten List"

Writing a top ten list is easy. No matter what the list is, three of the items can always be "sex", "beer", and "masturbation". Another three can be derogatory comments about other faculties or universities. Another three can be bizarre meaningless things, like your roommate does when she's drunk. The last should be a reference to mathNEWS.

Example: Top ten things to do with salad

- 1. Feed it to your partner and claim it's an aphrodisiac. Have sex with them.
- 2. Mix a beer with it. Beer makes everything taste better.
- 3. Masturbate, then eat the salad. You'll be hungrier.
- 4. Use it to entice a sheep to your boudoir, like Guelph students often do.
- 5. Tell an engineer it's "magic salad" that will grow into "a salad stalk" that will take them to a place where there are women who will date them. Sell it to him.
- 6. Find an artsie, tell him it will make his brain work if he eats it. Watch him transfer to math and flunk out. Ha ha ha!
- 7. Massage it in your hair as a new organic conditioner.
- 8. Stuff it down your pants. Try and pick someone up by saying "Hey babe, I've got a salad in my pants. You hungry?"
- 9. Mail it to Hostess, claiming you found it in your bag of potato chips.
- 10. Leave it until the dressing ferments, eat it, and write an article for mathNEWS while you're hallucinating.
- 3. Use gratuitous sex, beer, and masturbation

Write anything. Talk about your locker contents. Go on about that exciting food shopping trip. Complain about your coordinator's hygiene. Just put in frequent references to sex, beer, and masturbation. Hey, it works for me.

Christina "babe" Norman

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### very intense, and there have been some great body checks in the games I've seen. Also, the players can play all out every night because they only have half as many games.

I could give all kinds of predictions on how the teams are going to do this year, but the only one that counts is the winner of the Stanley Cup, so I choose ... the Chicago Blackhawks. I bet you didn't see that one coming. Anywho, all I have to say is that there's definitely nothing like the thrill of watching a good old hockey game when you should be doing your Algebra assignment. Bye for now!

# The Oracle's Advice Column

I know where your towel is

Oh magnificent oracle, are my breasts too small?

Pert and Petite

Sue Johanson answers: Unfortunately, many people equate femininity and sex appeal with having noticable breasts. But you are female no matter how big or small your breasts may be. I can promise you that the girl who you think has magnificent breasts is convinced they're too big and wishes hers were more like yours.

Perhaps your breasts aren't fully developed yet. Until they are, you can give mother nature a helping hand. Buy bras with a fibrefill liner. These are comfortable and subtle. Or you can buy foam falsies that slip inside your bra. There is nothing you can do to increase your breast size – no creams, pills, or exercises. Surgery can be performed to implant small bags of silicone... [and other things we won't get into here -Oracle].

Would it help you to know that every female has the same number of nerve endings in her breasts? Females with large breasts have more area to cover so the sensations are not as strong. Think positive!

I'm a heterosexual male in my early 30s. Any time I have intercourse or masturbate, I always get nasal congestion the following day, and cannot breathe properly.

### Dristan Doesn't Help

This affliction was suffered by the late, great John Holmes (a well-known thespian in, er, romantic shows). A doctor determined that it was an allergy he had to a spermicidal lubricant he used often for its heat-giving properties and transparent colour. In your case it has more to do with the asphyziation you are unconsciously using for greater sexual stimulation.

When you are coming to an orgasm, don't forget to breathe. A useful tool is to gag yourself if you are worried about someone Who the fuck is Skuld?

overhearing your gasps or grunts.

Sledge Mallet

The Norns, or the Fates, are three women who represent the three parts of time: the past, the present and the future. The past is represented by Urd, The Maiden. The present is represented by Verthandi, The Mother. The future is represented by Skald(Skuld), The Crone. Alternate names are: Klotho, Lachesis and Atropos(Greek); Mut, who are Maat, Hathor and Nekhbet(Egyptian); Parcae, who are Juventas, Juno and Minerva(Roman); and Morrigan, who are Nemhan, Badb and Macha(Celtic). The trinity of goddesses are present in many Western cultures, but as Cain would say, "It's a mystery, isn't it?"

The reverence that Skuld gets by Computer Science Club members isn't due to their respect for the future or senior citizens, but because a Japanese cartoon character of a 12-year old girl who is the Systems Debugger for heaven's computers. Her favourite debugging tool is a croquet mallet, used to bludgeon furry arachnid rabbits. There is an online shrine to the Skuld cartoon character at http://server.berkeley.edu/~ joepet/skuld\_shrine.html, but a quick search showed no online shrines or temples to the Norns.

Added Bonus: Next week's lottery numbers will not have the number 26; Stephanie, when you lose your keys on Saturday morning, look beside the telephone; and if you're the man who woke up with underwear on your head February 2<sup>nd</sup>, don't forget: her name is "Bambi", and not "Gretchen." Mail your burning questions to mathnewsQundergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca, or put them in the BLACK BOX, and I will extinguish them before I handle them.

The Oracle

### Reasons Why Winter Term Is Better Than Summer Term

### in no particular order

- 1. None of those annoying scantily-clad tanning (wo)men.
- 2. Bomber is almost always busy to the point of having a fun line-up.
- 3. The great summer weather is gone so we can focus on studies.
- 4. Village is full during the winter, so cafeteria ladies put more care into the greater quantities of delicious food.
- 5. Weather gives more reason to warm up before going to bars—cheaper for the student.
- 6. You get to take warm cabs places, whereas during summer we'd tire from walking in all that warmth.
- 7. You get to look forward to Easter (or Passover, or ?) instead of boring old Christmas (Hannukah, or ??).

- 8. Fed has people almost every day, not just at SummerFest or SummerFest II (bride of SummerFest?)
- 9. You can see how many people you can give your cold to.
- 10. You get the opportunity to earn your grades—Profs don't just give you slack because they are in a good mood.
- 11. The wide range of unpredictable weather is great for bets.
- 12. Get to bring your jacket with you wherever you go so you always know where it is.
- 13. FROSH! (Kidding!)

Ben (sarcasm is a lost art) Shapiro

## The Sexy and Scandalous World of Badminton: A Telling Expose from the Inside

There they stood, eyeing each other warily. Fear and respect were reflected in their faces as the sweat glistened off of them. With anxious hands they examined their weapons, pushing and prodding, searching for any signs of weakness; a broken string, perhaps, or a dent in the frame. Finally, they were ready. With what was almost a gentle sigh, the shuttle was released and then sent flying over the net with a violent crack. The players scrambled, constantly in motion, to get to the shuttle in time to return it down the edge of the court. A slip, a lunge, and a mishit deliver the shuttle to one of the players in a high graceful arc. The shuttle seems to hang high in the air, almost motionless. Leaping on his opponent's error, the player sends it crashing down into the ground on his opponent's side, winning not only the point but the match.

I jumped up from the couch and looked rather foolish yelling and cheering in the middle of my living room, oblivious to the cruel looks of "uncoolness" from my friends. I sat back down hoping to listen to the usual post-game banter only to have the remote control ripped from my hands and the channel changed to some meaningless drivel. I looked at the faces around me and wondered how they could feel no emotion or excitement toward this magnificent sport. It was at that point that I realized that badminton has a bad image with my friends, and, indeed, with most of North America.

I wondered how this tarnished reputation could have come about. Badminton doesn't promote itself as a "wimp's" sport, and it has enormous followings in Asia and Europe. When I asked my friends for their opinions on the sport of badminton their answers ranged from, "What d'ya mean it's a sport?", to, "Who cares?", to, "Leave me alone, I'm watching a real sport: football!" How could such a crass and vile game such as football take precedence over a beautiful game of skill such as badminton? I came to the conclusion that my friends, along with the majority of North America, were some of the most sports ignorant people in the world!

In North America, unless you're interested in the "big four" (that is hockey, football, basketball or baseball), people don't even want to talk to you. The truth is that a sport like badminton is not only much less violent than these sports, but it requires a great deal more skill to play. Unfortunately, in the North American psyche more value is put on being able to crash into each other with large amounts of padding on or being able to whip across the ice to smash a poor soul up against the boards. Violence, aggression, and bloodshed seem to be the only criteria for people in North America when it comes to choosing which sports to watch. This is why sports like badminton, where there really is no violence and the only thing that gets hit is the shuttle, receive hardly any popularity at all in North America.

It is almost dangerous to admit to liking badminton in North America for fear of being tackled by a bunch of diehard football fans or bodychecked by people like Don Cherry. I think that the depravity of the North American culture is clearly shown through the choice of sports that we support. Sports that are violent and aggressive merely reflect the characteristics of the societies in which they are played. It has got so out of control that certain players of more "gentle" sports have been seen playing with bags over their heads to conceal their identities. The solution as I see it is too educate the general public about badminton and to outlaw the ignoramus "big four" for good. Badminton must lead the way in forging a new society with new values and goals. It is our responsibility as badminton players to grab the torch and lead our less educated peers. We must step forward as a unified whole and scream out for all to hear, "We love badminton and we don't care who knows it!" Thank you for your support. Send cash donations to Randy Bender c/o mathNEWS Editorial Dept.

> Jeff E. Werbin "The Big E stands for Eucalyptus"

# Sleep — Or Lack Thereof

After three weeks of classes, it seems that I am already more tired than I ever was last term. While pondering this, I dozed off and realized that maybe it could be a serious problem. Some clever calculations allow me to assess the fact that I have only had about 100 hours of sleep in the past three weeks. You may think that this seems like quite a bit of rest, but it works out to only about 5 hours each night. That's just not enough to allow my brain to function properly, which explains why this article seems like it was written by an Arts student.

Luckily there is something in my life to keep me going through all of this adversity — television. Oh, sweet television, how many times have you saved the day? By some miracle I have managed to watch at least two hours of television every single day, but normally I average about four hours with my wonderful friend. I think someone tried to tell me that there might possibly be just a tiny correlation between my television schedule and my sleeping habits, but I was watching *The Simpsons* at the time, so I wasn't really paying attention to what they were saying. Anywho, this writing sure is tiring...

...Sorry about that, I'm back again, fresh as ever. Those little 20 second naps really help out. Oh, how I wish that I had my MTHEL class right now. Now that I'm rested up, I figured out why I can't get any proper sleep. It's the university's fault. My mental figuring leads me to believe that if I didn't have any classes I would be able to achieve at least 10 hours of sleep every day, along with 20 hours of watching television and 4 hours of eating. No, the number of hours in a day hasn't increased, but I've discovered that these three activities can very easily occur simultaneously.

Actually, my sleeping problems aren't really caused by the university, but by my internal clock. Unfortunately my internal clock always tells me to get up by 11 a.m. every day, even if I only got to sleep at 8. This creates problems, because often I can't sleep in even if I really want to. The other thing that my nasty internal clock does is keep me up until at least 2 a.m. even if I'm ready to go to bed at 11. By some strange coincidence it also just so happens that my assignments don't usually get started until 1 a.m. the day they are due.

Well, as interesting as this all is, I'm starting to get tired and I'm sure that you are too, so until next time, remember that if you sleep through your classes you won't even realize how bad off you are.

## My Lovely Day

# If I have to suffer, so should you!

The alarm goes off at 6:45, and I stumble out of bed, hunting for my alarm clock. Finally finding it under a pile of paper on my desk, I switch the infernal device off, and decide to crawl back to bed. Nine minutes later, the alarm rings again. It seems I was too groggy to do more than hit the snooze button, and now I have to get up again. I decide this time to get up and don a towel in preparation for my shower when I hear it is already running. One of my roomates has beaten me to it. I fall back down on the bed, and doze off again. I regain consciousness fifteen minutes later, untangle myself from my towel, and head to the shower. It is now 7:15, a half hour after I told myself I'd get out of bed. The first good news of the day-I've cut my time from bed to shower down from 40 minutes.

Twenty minutes later, I emerge from the shower refreshed and clean, but no more awake than I was before. I have the usual crop of about a dozen shaving cuts, none of which are really big enough to notice, but all of which hurt like the devil, and all of which will certainly be opened again tomorrow in the tragic ritual of my life. I grab some OJ, munch some toast, and now I'm ready to take on the world. Or at least the charms of a Waterloo Winter morn. My roomate, "the Goat" is bundling up in about five layers of assorted animal hides and artificial coverings to keep warm. I put my leather coat over my T-shirt. He looks at me, and says, "It's #@&#\* cold out there, and that's all you're wearing? You'll freeze!" I laugh, thinking about home sweet home, where the temperature on an average January morning is about minus forty degrees.

On Columbia Street, I'm not laughing any more. Columbia Lake isn't big enough to have ice in the Winter, but it seems to be big enough to have some nasty offshore winds. I hurry to get within the sheltering labyrinth of Village One without unnecessary delay.

After my customary snort of chlorine gas behind the PAC, and my also-customary curse to the Gods who saw fit to give us a Campus Centre that doesn't conform to its own blueprints, I finally get inside the math building and zone out in Calculus. I always seem to have new notes for that class every day, but I can never remember writing them down. Maybe I'll have a morning exam for that course. Naw, I'm not that lucky.

Well, with Calculus done, I can enjoy my Stats class. I don't actually go to Stats, because I have no idea what the prof is saying. It has nothing to do with a foreign accent (he has one), just don't understand what universe he lives in between 9:30 and 10:20. So I sit somewhere on the third floor. I check out the Comfy lounge, but between the bridge players, the Magic players, and any other players who are playing, I can't hear myself think. So, no Comfying for me today. Next, I check out the C+D, and grab a Sarsparilla. There are empty seats, but the lighting is so dark and forboding that I start to feel sleepy. Not wanting to miss another minute of this oh-so-exciting day, reluctantly decide against sleep, and plunk myself down on the lovely wooden creations in the hallway and watch the passng trade. A female aquaintance of mine (an attractive female quaintance) stops to talk to me, and I just manage to not sound ike a jackass (barely).

course is Philosophy and God, and today we started talking about Supernaturalistic Polytheism. Funny, I seem to remember the professor saying the week before that we'd be discussing that same topic the next day. We are still in the first five pages of the course notes, and the pace doesn't appear to be picking up.

"Polytheism means many gods, a multitude of deities, a collection of supreme beings. Sometimes only two, but usually more, and sometimes numbering up to six billion in some faiths. Many, many Gods. Many ... " and more in this vein until I feel his sonorous voice lulling me to sleep. I struggle against the waves of his voice, slowly but certainly being hypnotised by the sonic attack to my psyche. My only hope now is a keener with a keen question. Blessing of blessings, God provides.

"Sir, didn't the Greeks say that there were Gods in everything? How is this different from Naturalistic Theism?"

I'm saved, and the spell is broken. I think of a dozen witty replies designed to reduce the keener to a snivelling pile of goo, but I'm feeling merciful today, and class is almost over. Now I have only one more class left. C+O 230. Aughhh!!!!

to be continued...

Marc Ducharme The World's Greatest Whiner

## Something I Found In My **E-mailbox**

and received permission to publish

From: Alexander Pruss <pruss@math.ubc.ca> Message-Id: <9407141819.AA19222@euclid.math.ubc.ca>

Michael W. Martin wrote:

Oh, and speaking of set theory .....

Theorem: Consider the set of all sets that have never been considered.

Hey! They're all gone !! Oh, well, never mind ...

Thanks for considering them! Now, I have another paper to publish.

### The Nonexistence of Unconsidered Sets Alexander R. Pruss, University of British Columbia

#### Theorem:

Let U be the collection of all sets which have not been considered. Then U is empty.

**Proof:** 

Suppose that on the contrary we have a  $u \in U$ . Then, u is an unconsidered set. But Martin (1994) already considered all unconsidered sets. Therefore u has been considered, a contradiction. Thus  $U = \emptyset$ . Q.E.D.

#### Bibliography

Martin, Michael W. Personal communication (July, 1994). 1 page.

Oh well, off to philosophy at St. Jerome's. My philosophy

## Form #2

The Left Windmill Form



Clues

- 1. Astound four from the audience, including Liberal leader. (5)
- 2. Profits attract, engross company head. (5)
- 3. Canoe crossed a body of water. (5)
- 4. Speak about ring price. (5)
- 5. Loose cannons and exploding grenades contain error. (9)
- 6. Man gets actor's 20% for a start! (5)
- 7. Solid bear caves in the direction of the sunrise. (5)
- 8. Make certain no Republican is to follow. (5)
- 9. Allegedly take an alloy. (5)

Solution to Last Form



### **Top Five Things Profs Like To** Sav

- 1. ..., as long as you learned a valuable lesson.
- 2. But the model solution says...
- 3. There will be no office hours this week.
- 4. The tutor did not have time to mark questions 1 and 2 on the assignment.
- 5. Is this clear to anyone?

Mabel Chu Manal Katerji

## Fed Hall Gets a Facelift?

I remember reading mathNEWS last year, and seeing articles in which somebody, (usually Flipper Shaw) bashed Fed Hall for being a rather bad bar to spend an evening at. I also remember going to Fed, and thinking that Flipper (whoever he is) was right, and in fact had understated the case severely.

Last Friday, though, I was pleasantly surprised. I went to Fed to see The Pursuit of Happiness play, and I was quite amazed with how different the atmosphere was. I walked in, and the first thing I noticed was that the DJ was playing "Jesus Built My Hotrod" by Ministry. The second thing I noticed was that although there were very few empty seats, there was nobody dancing. I, of course, attributed this lack of dancers to the music. and figured the DJ would remedy the situation by playing "Mr. Vain" or something as equally nauseating to my tastes.

It was not to be, however, for Friday nights at Fed are now Alternative nights. The music was consistently good, striking a wonderful balance between mainstream alternative music and older, less known alternative tunes. The best part about it was that the music was danceable, and though the floor was empty early in the evening, it soon filled up, and stayed full for most of the night.

Of course, the bands had a lot to do with the capacity (not packed, but certainly not lacking for people) and the number of dancers, but we can always hope that Fridays at Fed will catch on and become a reasonable alternative to waiting in line at the Bombshelter. An added attraction to going to Fed is the price of a drink. Two bucks a glass, whatever you're having. It's a good, cheap drink, and with the addition of Upper Canada Dark to the draft selection, a pretty damn good one.

To sum up: I had a good time at Fed for the first time in my life, and considering how many times I've been dragged out there by well-meaning friends, that's saying something. We'll have to keep a watchful eye open, but I think that there is some hope of redemption for Federation Hall.

Marc Ducharme

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# mathNEWSquiz #2

<sup>1</sup> <Yawn> Ohhhh. Good morning, squizzers! Forgive our tiredness this morning, but we were up till late last night finishing our weekly Complex Analysis assignment (at least Morby was). It never gets easier, does it? Now here are the answers to the first squiz:

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Star Trekkin': 1) Devil in the Dark; 2) A Macintosh; 3) Frame of Mind; 4) Morn is an anagram of Norm (from Cheers). Song Lyrics: 1) "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi; 2) "I Lost on Jeopardy" by "Weird Al" Yankovic; 3) "Telegraph Road" by Dire Straits; 4) "I Know What I Like" by Genesis. 1994 in Review: 1) Chile; 2) Raul Cedras; 3) Paul Kariya; 4) Bob Crane.

Our fearless submitters to squiz number one were: Shawn "Stuck in Traffic" Stackhouse (3), Jason Testart (4), Cathy and Phronq (9), Slaves to the Gridword (10— the only ones to get Song Lyrics #3), and Bob the Great and Powerful (11). The squizprize therefore goes to Bob the Great and Powerful, who may visit the MathSoc office at any time to claim it. And here is the next squiz:

### Where the Hell Am I?

- 1. What Canadian city is located at 43°26' N 80°29' W?
- 2. In what province is the highest point known as Cypress Hills?
- 3. In 1973, a cease-fire agreement, intended to end the Vietnam War, was signed in this European city.
- 4. What lake is the location of Canada's highest waterfall? (Hint: It's in B.C.)

## gridCOMMENTS

Well, folks, this is the first issue where I've provided all your mathNEWS puzzle needs. There's the usual Cryptic and Conventional Gridword (to be followed next week by the usual Cryptic and the unusual Conventional) as well as the Cryptic Form floating around here somewhere. To reiterate, the across clues are also the same as the down clues. This type of puzzle appears in the Enigma, another puzzle magazine I submit to and the name of the shape is theirs. It doesn't look anything like a windmill to me either. It's called a left windmill because there's another windmill shape headed northeast and southwest that makes a right windmill. If I can swing it, you might see one in a later issue.

But before any of that, aren't you dying to know who won last week. (There's a guy here with an oxygen mask who seems to hink I am.)

There were five submissions for the Cryptic, Pamela Harpur tets a prize for her efforts. Both Slaves to the Gridword's and Pamela's cryptic were flawless, while Ian "The Word Man" Facey brgot the center square while copying his grid to lined paper, and Phage and 2 and Tanya and Steve had a few mistakes. On the Conventional side, none of the four submissions were comletely correct, but Ian's had the most squares correctly filled. The gets the prize for that issue. Pamela Harpur, Slaves to the tridword and Phage and 2 also sumitted. The middle letter of Across was not counted, since there was no clue for it...we appet you to be smart, not clairvoyant.

Your favourite Star Trek series ideas: Star Trek mathNEWS

### Song Lyrics: Name Artist and Song

- And you said you had to get your laundry clean Didn't want no one to hold you; what did that mean?
- 2. When it will be right, I don't know What it will be like, I don't know
- Someone somewhere has unglued our epoxy Now I'm kissing you by proxy; hope you don't mind
- 4. I've been searching for something taken out of my soul Something I'd never lose, something somebody stole

### Now Available in Potpourri

- 1. Who went on trial in 1990 for electronically publishing a proprietary phone company document supposedly worth \$80,000?
- 2. Who are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse? (You must name them all for the point.)
- 3. What does satirical magazine *Frank* call CTV news anchor Mike Duffy?
- 4. What magazine had the 3rd highest paid-circulation in Canada for the first six months of 1994?

So there are your questions. We look forward to your submissions to the BLACK BOX across from MC 3001 (the Comfy Lounge) or by e-mail to mathnews@undergrad.math by Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00 PM. Good luck to all!

> Darren "Morby!" Morby Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

where the Enterprise goes back in time and the crew ends up writing for mathNEWS. [You mean you haven't heard?], Star Trek: Our College Years, Star Trek Babies (reminiscent of Muppet Babies and the Flintstone Kids [There are Starfleet Academy books in stores if you've got a craving, Pamela.]), Starfleet Academy 90210, The Love Boat Enterprise [been done], Star Trek Imprint: The U.S.S. Editor (flies about torpedoing any other ships that dare make fun of it.

Comments: I like Cryptic best!, (no comment), The fridge is too cold, 11 down was too obscure! Explain it? [Since you got DRESSMAKERS, did you think that STEPHENKING is obscure?].

For the form there were six submissions, from the aforementioned Ian Facey, Pamela Harpur, Slaves to the Gridword and Phage and 2, as well as submissions from Bob the Great and Powerful and from Dave "No, Officer, I didn't realise that was your foot" Wong. Dave "NOIdrtwyf" Wong's sol was nearly right, Phage and 2 gave it a shot and the others were all correct. By random draw the winner is Ian Facey! The winners can pick up their whatever in MathSoc.

And for your gridding wittiness assignment, the gridQUESTION is: What's your favourite word to see in a Gridword? Send solutions, responses to the gridQUESTION and comments to the BLACK BOX by the next production night. (You'll see signs when it happens. It's probably next Monday.)





## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

### Across

- 1. Humanist loses head and drowns in tidal wave. (7)
- 4. Handcuff man with a French key. (7)
- 7. Annie is sloppy and stupid. (5)
- 8. Realize ruin's near. (4)
- 9. Strip of grass and piece of Astroturf pop. (4)
- 10. Rocket launcher first built, alias: Zoo Keeper. (7)
- 14. Demolished forest died, iced. (7)
- 15. Deer consumed cud, regurgitated and digested. (7)
- 16. Scolds vermin among workers and queen. (7)
- 18. Allocate bear market holdings. (7)
- 20. Swell blimp. (7)
- 21. People care about... (4)
- 23. ... a poor pear harvest. (4)
- 24. Savagely slain slowpoke. (5)
- 25. Lunacy amends crazy head of state. (7)
- 26. Hardly on time for the end of civilization, say. (7)

#### Down

- 1. Launch a spoof. (7)
- 2. Halo seen during nun's part of speech. (4)
- 3. Dozen (and two more!) vagrants charged. (7)
- 4. Work term report: "Manpower Lacks Power." (7)
- 5. Artillery mars doctor. (4)
- 6. Challenge, in the end, to be involved. (7)
- 10. Old boat from English riverside port is vessel for soaking.
  - (7)

- 11. Fireplace accessory and press. (7)
- 12. Rains softly for hours, we hear. (5)
- 13. Unfinished fight is still a fight. (5)
- 16. Boredom ruins boudoir. (7)
- 17. Quick runs in China need simple casts. (7)
- 18. "I got me" 's problematic! (7)
- 19. Echoes of tomb on fictional planet. (7)
- 22. First lady never starts uniform. (4)
- 23. Trio in an uproar! (4)

# Grid Clues (Conventional)

### Across

- 1. Thick pudding (7)
- 4. Wild (7)
- 7. Polecat (5)
- 8. Part of some if statements (4)
- 9. Noble gas (4)
- 10. Public performance (7)
- 14. Come first (7)
- 15. Calms down (7)
- 16. Place where people wait to be taken away (3 4)
- 18. Collapsed volcanic vent (7)
- 20. Insect that hangs around cedars (7)
- 21. Speech impediment (4)
- 23. Decrease (4)
- 24. Room on a cruise ship (5)
- 25. Delay (7)
- 26. Sugar-covered jujube (7)

### Down

- 1. Location of baby in rhyme (7)
- 2. Windows element (4)
- 3. Obliquely (7)
- 4. Sleigh's blades (7)
- 5. Stationary (5)
- 6. Born Free's Elsa was one (7)
- 10. Made (7)
- 11. Degree of awesome-ness? (7)
- 12. Rental agreement (5)
- 13. Smooth (5)
- 16. Glass case for a vacuum pump (7)
- 17. Set up beforehand (7)
- 18. Taking into custody (7)
- 19. Dirigible (7)
- 22. Wood puree? (4)
- 23. Base metal (4)