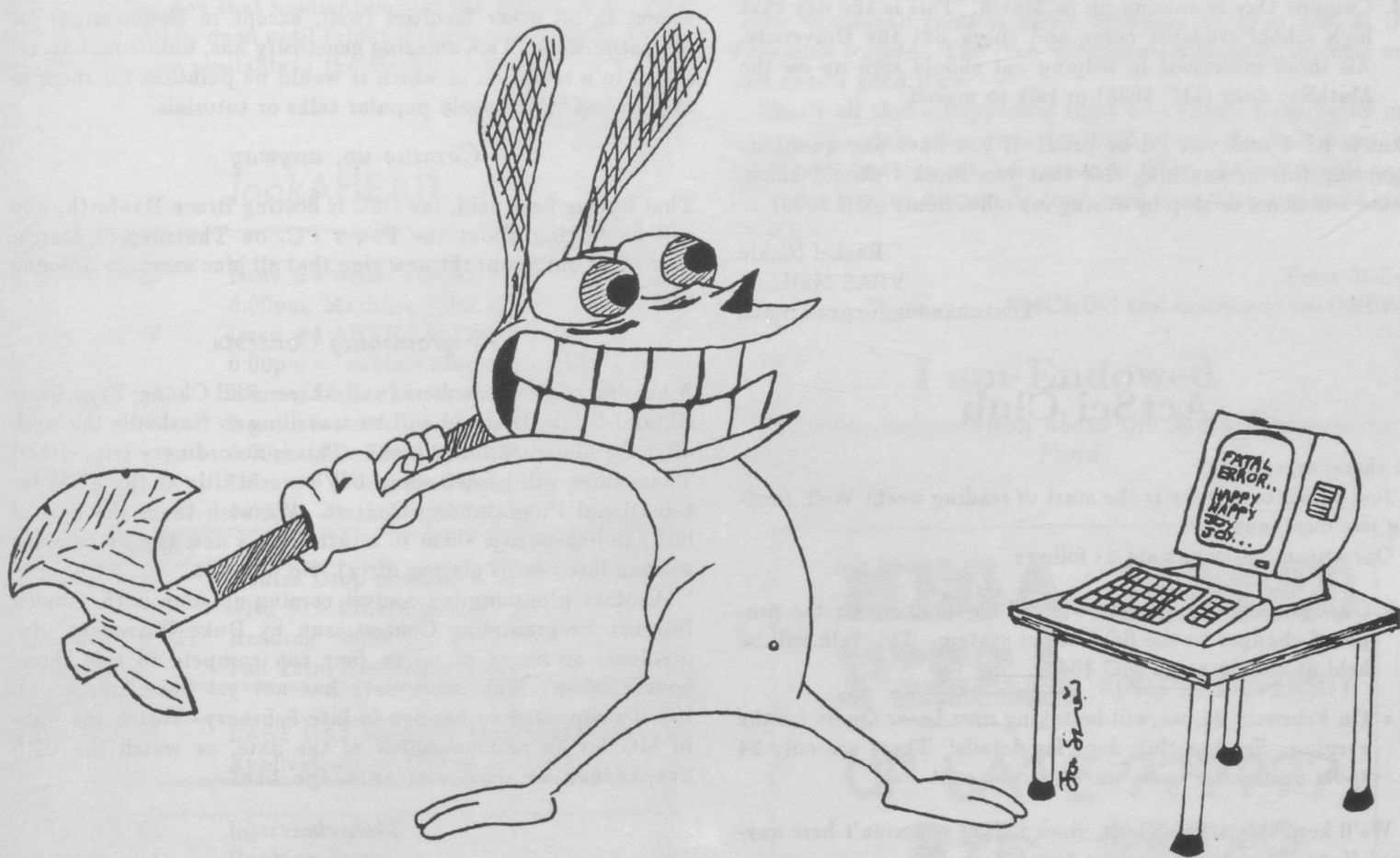


math NEWS

Volume 67, Issue 3 Friday, February 17, 1995



Signs of midterm
STRESS!

VPAS Sez

I just have a few brief announcements:

1. This Friday (tonight) is Mardi Gras. All are invited to attend. Funds raised go to student projects such as improving the computer labs. Read the posters (see MathSoc door) for more details...
2. Mark Friday, February 24 on your calendars! It is the Math Pub night at the Bomber. The theme is Spring Break (since we don't really have one!). Underagers will be allowed in for the festivities and there will be tons of great prizes to be won.
3. Campus Day is coming up in March. This is the day that high school students come and check out the University. All those interested in helping out should sign up on the MathSoc door (MC 3038) or talk to myself.

That is it! I told you I'd be brief! If you have any questions regarding this or anything else that you think I should know, please e-mail me or stop by during my office hours (MC 3039)...

Rachel Nickie
VPAS MathSoc
lrnickie@undergrad.math

ActSci Club

Hi there, everybody!

Just think, tomorrow is the start of reading week! Well, reading two days, anyway...

Our upcoming events are as follows:

- On February 22, Rob Brown will be speaking on the proposed changes to the SOA exam system. This talk will be held at 4:30 in room MC 4040.
- On February 24, we will be taking over Laser Quest for the evening. See the club door for details! There are only 24 spots available — get 'em while you can!

We'll keep this article short, since half of you aren't here anyway! Have a wonderful reading "week"!

April Gale
Publicity Director

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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

Salutations once again, organic life forms. My CSC, ever growing in popularity (and admittedly overcrowded at time of writing), has announced that all Math classes shall be cancelled this coming Monday and Tuesday. In fact, in appreciation of the ever-growing non-Math contingent, they will be cancelling classes in all other faculties (well, except in Engineering) for the entire week. This amazing generosity has, unfortunately, resulted in a situation in which it would be pointless for them to hold one of their hugely popular talks or tutorials.

Coming up, anyway

That having been said, the CSC is hosting Bruce Danforth, who will be talking about the Power PC, on Thursday, 2 March. Come find out about the new chip that all Mac users are drooling over.

Programming Contests

A handful of CSC members (well, three: Phil Chong, Zygo Blaxell, and Nikita Borisov) will be travelling to Nashville the week after the aforementioned break. This is no ordinary trip, either! Those three will be defending UW's world title at the ACM International Programming Contest. We wish them the best of luck, and encourage them to return with a new trophy (the one we won last year is getting dirty). No pressure.

Another programming contest coming up soon is the annual Internet Programming Contest, run by Duke University. Individuals or teams of up to four can compete in this three-hour contest. The exact date has not yet been announced, but it's supposed to happen in late February. Watch the walls in MC for an announcement of the date, or watch the URL <http://www.cs.duke.edu/~ola/ipc.html>.

T-shirts

There are just a handful of the last batch of T-shirts remaining. Come and get them before they're gone! The design contest for the new T-shirts has been extended in order to get a wider variety of entries to choose from. Contact Peter Gray pdgray@csclub for more details or to enter.

Post Script

No, not Postscript... As usual, for more information, read the uw.csc newsgroup, or visit our homepage at

<http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca/>

Special thanks also go to Spatula City, who so audaciously blew up the Math Building, because he didn't like "42."

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing

Orientation Leaders Wanted

If you want to be a Math Orientation Leader this September, applications are available in the MathSoc office. Submission deadline is February 17th.

All Math students are welcome (except Curtis).

Jeff Preston
jpreston@undergrad.math

Math Grad Chair 1996 Nominations

Hiho, this is your friendly neighbourhood Chief Returning Officer reminding you that nominations for the MGC '96 are now open. They will be open until Friday, February 24 at 4:30. Nomination forms are available in the MathSoc office.

Jillian Arnott
C.R.O. W'95

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
February 22	Issue #4 writer's night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 27	Issue #4 ARTICLE DEADLINE 6:00pm — submit electronically
March 3	Issue #4 hits the stands
March 9	Issue #5 writer's night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 13	Issue #5 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
Math Faculty	
February 20	Course Drop deadline with 50% tuition refund
February 20-21	Reading "Week"
March 6-10	Fall Term Pre-Registration
MathSoc	
February 17	LAST DAY for Math Orientation '95 Applications — Due at NOON!!!
Co-op	
February 22	Interviews end
February 24	Ranking Forms: Available 10am, Due Back 4pm
February 27	Continuous Phase Posting #1: Available 10am
March 1	Job Match Results Posted 3pm No Match Instruction Meetings 4:30pm Posting #1 Expires 8pm
March 2	Employment Acceptance Meetings Posting #2 Available 10am
March 3	Employment Acceptance Mtgs (cont'd) Posting #2 Expires 8pm
Mike's Misc.	
February 24	Mala "Crakko, The Warner Cousin" Krishnan's ***BIRTHDAY***
March 17	"Weird Al" Yankovic Concert Music Hall, Toronto

PMC&OC Speaks!

and writes assignments, and tries to get this article done on time...

Midterms. Ugh.

But enough about that. Because no matter how dreary my schedule may get, I know that I can count on the Pure Math and C&O Club to spice up the week. Why, in the past two weeks your friendly neighbourhood PMC&OC has hosted talks by Cameron Stewart and Steve Furino, and Prof. Gilbert will be speaking to us on March 8th. Watch for the posters and come on out! As usual pop, juice, and donuts are available at the talk.

For the sports-minded of you, the club's next co-rec volleyball game is March 9th at 10:00pm on PAC court 3. And the next co-rec broomball game is *today*, February 17th, at 3:00 at the Columbia Icefield. The club welcomes all players, so come out and have a good time.

That's all that's happening right now (aside from pesky exams). The club office is in MC3033, down the hall from the C&D, and features couches, a handy fridge, knowledgeable people and a lending library. So long until next time and good luck on exams!

Peter Milley
PMC&OC ambassador to mathNEWS

I am Endowed

Get some information about the Math Endowment Fund

MEGA 747-2900

PIZZA KING & UNIVERSITY

UP LATE ????????

☎ + ♪ ☹ ✂ ❄ 🍷 🍷

COME AND GET IT!
LARGE PEPPERONI PIZZA

☺ **\$4.99** PLUS TAX

OR

2 MEDIUM PIZZA'S WITH THREE ITEMS AND 4 COKE - DELIVERED !!

☺ **\$12.99** PLUS TAX

Thinking about graduate school?

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

Wednesday, March 8, 1995
3:30 p.m. - MC 5158

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

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

All students welcome
Refreshments available

Nominations are open for the Summer and Fall Directorships of the Math Endowment Fund

Nomination forms on the MEF office door (MC 4046)

MEGA 747-2900
PIZZA KING & UNIVERSITY

UP LATE ???????

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AND 4 COKE - DELIVERED !!

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Actuarial Science Referendum

The University of Waterloo ActSci Club is holding a referendum on March 22, 1995. The purpose is to vote on a non-refundable fee of \$2.50 per term, to be added on the fee statements of all Actuarial Science Majors, starting in Fall 1995.

As the ActSci Club is affiliated with the Actuarial Students' National Association (ANEA/ASNA), this fee would be used to pay mandatory membership dues.

If you are interested in participating in the campaign or simply want more information, please attend the organisational meeting on Thursday February 23, 1995 at 4:30 pm in a room to be announced (see ActSci Club door MC 3030).

Chantal Bray
President, ActSci Club
Kevin Reimer
President, ANEA/ASNA

*mast*HEAD

Yahoo! Finished before midnight! Wow! This time, at least, we're wide awake...or relatively awake. Midterms consume us next week, which is just great when you want to *enjoy* a birthday. Oh well. I guess the CS 374 assignment just *had* to be due on the same day as the CS 354 midterm. Don't we ever get a break?? (Obviously not—we only have a two day Reading "Week"—don't we go through enough torture to merit a full week??)

Anyway, this issue wouldn't have been possible without Marion at Graphic Services (who was really nice for the second issue when we charged in at 1 pm last Thursday), Mega Pizza for the wonderful pizza on Writer's Nights and Production Nights and, of course, the regular posse of writers and productionists, here with the flavour of gum they'd like to see:

Brian Fox (Pan galactic gargle blaster), Marc Ducharme (Green Eggs and Ham), Stuart Pollock (Village Pizza (oh yeah! oh yeah!)), Darren Morby (Renison Rib-o'-Pork), Dale Wick (lasagna), Darren Rigby (Ice cream. And it would be blue.), Moses Moore (Marsha from the Brady Bunch movie.), Jillian Arnott (Caramel, the hard kind), Adam Benjamin (Fish-flavoured), and

Mike "Hammer" Hammond (Coke. Not Pepsi, Coke.)
Mala "Crakko, The Warner Cousin" Krishnan (Jolt)

Stupid Men Tricks...

...and stupid women tricks will be the subject of a series of articles appearing in upcoming issues of *mathNEWS*. You can help with these articles by submitting your own "stupid men" or "stupid women" experiences. Has your S.O. (significant other) ever done something that seems totally idiotic or insensitive, but which they think is totally reasonable? If so, mail your story to cbnorman@napier.uwaterloo.ca if your S.O. is male, or fyao@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca if your S.O. is female. All submissions are confidential, no names will be revealed.

Christina "Babe" Norman

profQUOTES

"Do you know how to grow mushrooms? Take a nice, dark dungeon, and lay about 2 feet of shit on the ground. Then plant your mushrooms in the shit. Then after 4 years, you give each of the mushrooms a degree. So if you're feet feel heavy, now you know..."

N. Mouawad, CS 342

"The answer to every problem is a '24'."

Younger, MATH 136

"Hey, can you count the number of hands for me? Because I can't count past ten without taking off my shoes and I can't count past twenty without undoing my zipper."

McGee, AM 343

"The integral of x from zero to infinity is BIG... bigger than this country's inflation."

Best, MATH 138

(Discussing convergence of sequences and ϵ - δ notation) "What's your favourite value of ϵ ?... Forty-seven? Forty-seven!? ϵ is forty-seven? ϵ isn't forty-seven! δ is forty-seven! ϵ is supposed to be small!... One half? That's *still* too big!" (minutes later) "Forty-seven! Get a life! ϵ being forty-seven... There ought to be a law against that!"

Best, MATH 138

"Men are just an erection waiting to happen."

Rempel, SMF 205

"Oh well, [I] only got one wrong."

Younger, MATH 136

"...and here is a graph of my profits from selling the hydroponics in my basement to school children..."

Don McLeish, STAT 331

[About pushing an assignment due date to Monday] "Keep this in mind at evaluation time."

Labahn, CS 487

"I didn't think of this [Cauchy Mean-Value Theorem] myself. I admit that I got it from a book. Actually it's in all the books"

Zorzitto, MATH 148

"Do I know how to add two sine waves? ...and the answer is no, but I know where to look."

Anderson, PHYS 122

"If you snooze because this won't be on a test and you don't have to know, at least do it quietly."

Anderson, PHYS 122

"Let's let S be the set of stupid people. Of course, the union of the set of $U(W)$ students with S is the null set. The set of Western students is contained in S ."

Willard, PMATH 330

"Don't copy *this*... this is not in your homework."

Younger, MATH 136

"While we are at it, let's do the homework problem... but don't tell anyone about this."

Younger, MATH 136

"This problem has plagued mathematicians for centuries. Well... they haven't had anything else to do."

Younger, MATH 136

[On the baby boom] "The men came back and the babies came—makes sense, right?"

Allan, BUS 111W

"I should make mistakes more often to see whether or not you are awake."

Tang, MATH 235

"It's a good thing more of you are more awake than I am."

Tang, MATH 235

"...is honoured by having a matrix named after him. Wouldn't you like to have a matrix named after you?"

Seigel, MATH 237

"A class of detectives you are not."

Martin, MUSIC 100

"There is more gut on a sheep than on a cat."

Martin, MUSIC 100

"This room, it doesn't promote thought."

Martin, MUSIC 100

"My mind just wandered; it's Wednesday, this must be Waterloo."

Martin, MUSIC 100

"I don't actually play [the violin], but it doesn't look that hard..."

Martin, MUSIC 100

"Does anyone remember this [from MATH 135]? I wrote a book..."

Gilbert, PMATH 343

A Mathie's Lament

Next week is Reading Week
Around these here parts.
But I'd enjoy it much more
If I were in Arts.

Darren Morby

The State of the Math Endowment Fund

Something is different in the faculty this term, and it is called the Math Endowment Fund (MEF).

My name is gus and I am the Director of MEF for the Winter term of 1995. Nominations closed last week and I was the chosen one. However nominations are still open for the Summer and Fall Directorships, so make an effort, get a nomination form found on the MEF office door, which is MC 4046.

MEF is now offering its positions on its Funding Council to any interested candidates. Nominations open today, and Nomination Forms are also available on the door of the MEF office, MC 4046. See if you are interested, by reading this article.

I am endowed

MEF is our newest tool in battling the cutbacks that the University and the government has been proposing. In the past few years, we have noticed the disappearance of some courses, some lousy TA's, failing equipment, and limited supplies and tools for courses (i.e. course notes, few references).

Upon seeing this, a few students sat down and created the MEF.

Power to the Students

All decisions where the money is spent is decided by the MEF Funding Council, which consists of a student majority, and some interested faculty members. If you are interested in getting involved in the workings of the faculty, then this is an ideal opportunity for you.

The **MEF Funding Council** is the council responsible for the Endowment Fund. The Funding Council shall decide the allocation of the interest from the MEF, and which projects are worthy, and which are not. The existence of this committee was passed last Spring along with the MEF by the University Board of Governors. We are not linked with MathSoc, nor are we classified as a club. We were approved by the University because a few ambitious students decided to take the funding crisis at this University and in this Faculty into their own hands.

That is exactly where it all is: In our hands. The Funding Council will constitute of mostly student representatives who will evaluate each funding proposal as it comes, and approve or disapprove of the decision.

What to do with \$110,000+

What can we do for you? The goal is to get this faculty working again: training TA's, updating departmental equipment, expanding resources and teaching aids, funding progressive courses, or simply to avoid the harsh effects of government cutbacks.

Currently, we have about \$126,000 in MEF, and although in the following weeks this number will fall due to the increasing amount of refunds of the Voluntary Student Contribution, that fund is bound to only grow in the years and decades to come.

Thinking about it again, \$31.42 does not seem like all that much of a contribution.

What you can do

Have your say.

- Get nominated for the Directorship of the MEF. Nominations open February 16th, and close March 3rd, and forms are available at the MEF office MC 4046.
- Get nominated to the Funding Council. There are numerous positions, with numerous possibilities. There exist positions for every stream of every year, and from every department within the Faculty. Make this a fair representation, and get involved. Grab a nomination form from MC 4046, and slip it under the door when completed, or submit it to our mailbox in the Math Society office.
- Come on out to our meetings in MC 4067 on Fridays, at 4:30 pm.

Ian "gus" Hosein
ihosein@undergrad.math
Director of the Math Endowment Fund

UNIX Tip of the Week

This week's tip is don't hit the terminals; save your energy for things that really deserve it. (Try hitting the person next to you; if they log off, the machine load will go down.)

Actually, while I'm on to the matter of terminals, for those of you who use the wy99gt terminals in the Cayley lab, please, *please* don't change the settings on the terminals unless you know what you're doing. I spend a *lot* of time trying to get them working just because someone thought they knew how to configure them. (And I'm only a fellow student—they don't pay me to do these things.) If you really feel convinced that your terminal needs help, keep in mind that they should be set for seven data bits, and two stop bits. (This comes up as "7/2" on the appropriate menu option.) As well, the school seems to have those terminals set with a vt100 "personality"—so don't go changing them to something else (like a more sensible "wy99gt" personality—it doesn't seem to work right.)

For those of you who *do* use the wy99gt terminals, make sure you tell the system that you're using a wy99 terminal—if you don't you're almost definitely going to run in to trouble when you try to do anything fancy—say like using a fancy editor. The place you do this is at the prompt you get while logging in—no, it's not there for the sole purpose of delaying your login. One of the things you might want to do (if you haven't already) is edit your `.cshrc` and change the default prompt (for a sytek login) to be wy99 instead of the kd404 terminal that it is currently set to. (Do a search for "kd404", and you'll find the right spot.) That way when you log in from the Cayley lab all you have to do is press ENTER to continue logging in. Those of you who exclusively use the X-terms, you don't have to worry about all that.

Hope that helps make life simpler.

Adam "The Bitsnatcher" Benjamin

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about the Mathematics Endowment Fund

Q: What is an endowment fund?

A: An endowment fund is an interest-bearing account. Donations are collected and pooled into a common account. This account (capital) is never spent. Only the interest from this account is spent. With continuous contributions the capital will continue to grow and subsequently the spendable interest will be larger and larger at the end of every year.

Q: What is the Voluntary Student Contribution?

A: The Voluntary Student Contribution for mathematics students is found on your fee statements. It is the Mathematics Endowment Fund, abbreviated MEF. It is collected at the beginning of each term by Needles Hall.

Q: How was the amount of \$31.42 arrived at?

A: To make the amount both affordable and to give it some mathematical reference the value of 10π was used.

Q: How long has the Mathematics Endowment Fund been in existence?

A: It has taken about 2 years since the idea was initially formulated in the Summer of 1993 by fellow Math undergraduate students. The Voluntary Student Contributions have only been collected as of Fall 1994. So this term, Winter 1995 is the second term that the \$31.42 has been collected. The Mathematics Endowment Fund is separate from the Mathematics Society (MathSoc).

Q: Why is it called the Voluntary Student Contribution and not the Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF)?

A: The reason that it is called the Voluntary Student Contribution (VSC) and not the Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF) is that VSC is the naming convention used by Needles Hall for the various endowment funds around campus. The present board of directors is attempting to change VSC to Mathematics Endowment Fund.

Q: Who else has an endowment fund?

A: Around campus there are a number of endowment funds. The first fund was the Waterloo Engineering Endowment Fund (WEEF). It started collecting funds in 1991. The amount collected by the engineers on a termly basis is \$75. There is also the Waterloo Science Endowment Fund (WASEF) and collects \$45 a term from Science students. The accountants also have a common fund which is a little different from an endowment fund where part of the capital is spend each term as well as all interest accumulated. They also ask for \$75 each term from both Math and Arts accounting students. It is interesting to note that the Engineering endowment fund, while only having run since 1991 and while asking \$75 a term have amassed a capital sum of over \$1.7 million. Other notable endowment funds include Princeton University's which exceeds \$2.6 billion dollars (US, of course).

Q: How will the money be spent?

A: This is one of the most important questions. The money will only be spent on academic projects. "Projects to enhance the academic life for mathematics students at the University of Waterloo." This will include, but not be limited to such topics as; funded course notes, extended library materials, extended computer facilities, a tutor training program, a 3rd and 4th year tutorial center and other submitted suggestions. This is not to say that we will be seeing all these improvements to math academic life immediately. Since we have only been in operation for about 5 months, the spendable interest is modest. But these suggestions for MEF funded projects are not unreasonable.

Q: Who can submit funding suggestions?

A: All math undergraduate students as well as all professors teaching math faculty related courses. Funding guidelines and suggestions submission forms are available at the Mathematics Endowment Fund office MC4046. You can also e-mail mefcom@undergrad.math.

Q: Who chooses what to spend the money on?

A: All submissions will be reviewed and recommended by the funding council. This council is composed mainly of undergraduate students (2 per department as well as non-specialist and math general) as well as a faculty representative from each department and 2 alumni as recommended by the Dean of Mathematics. The funding council will give their recommendation to the board of directors made up of the endowment director, the Dean of Math, 1 alumni representative and 4 student representatives.

Q: How can I find out more about the Mathematics Endowment Fund?

A: To see the constitution and the by-laws of the Mathematics Endowment Fund you can: drop in to the MEF office MC4046 x5757, send an e-mail to mefcom@undergrad.math or drop in on one of our meetings. This term the meetings are held in MC4067 4:30pm on Fridays. In the near future there will be a Mathematics Endowment Fund World Wide Web home page. A good place for discussion of MEF is on the newsgroup uw.math.ugrad.

Marco Koechli

Mathematics Endowment Fund Board of Directors

Why We Should Thank the Gods at Waterloo

The Roommate Gods:

For not smiting me with lightning upon getting my last offering.

..... A True On-My-Knees-Giving-Thanks Believer.

P.S.: apologies to C&C!

Are you Graduating?

Just what is The Pink Tie Pledge?

Within the next few months, the Faculty of Mathematics Class of '95 will become alumni of the University of Waterloo. The Pink Tie Pledge is an opportunity for the class of '95 to leave its mark on Math! It represents the commitment of graduating Math students to current and future Math students. The graduating class of 1990 initiated the Pink Tie Pledge to donate money to specific projects in the Faculty of Mathematics. Our donations will allow students who follow us to have even better learning opportunities.

Where will the money be spent?

Gifts in the past were spent on

- purchasing undergrad computing equipment (UNIX and Mac systems, new X-window terminals)
- expanding the Software Tools Lab
- enhancing the Descartes Scholarship Endowment

If you wish, you may specify where your donation will be spent in the future.

What do you mean by a pledge?

You are asked to donate each year for three years. Your first contribution will not be due until one year after graduation. By donating at least \$101 per year for three years, you are eligible to be a part of the Dean's Prime Number Club.

Why should I participate?

Many UW alumni have contributed to the quality of our education at Waterloo. We benefited from their generosity—let's do the same for the students who will follow.

Due to the government cutbacks, the Faculty is becoming increasingly dependent on alumni upgrades to fund upgrades of teaching equipment and assist in Scholarship programs. Your pledge will help keep our programs strong and uphold the reputation of the Faculty. We can help to guarantee the value of our own degrees by supporting Waterloo after we graduate. Let's do our part to secure the quality of education at Waterloo!

It's affordable and tax deductible!

How can I make a pledge?

Just fill out the pledge card which will be mailed to you at the beginning of March, or pick one up at the Math Graduation Committee (MGC) Office in MC 3029 at the end of February. Return the completed pledge card to the MGC before March 30th. You will be contacted one year after graduation, in May 1996, about how to make your actual donation.

Sandeep Gupta
MGC

Bridging the Gap

Be nice to your opponents! Sometimes, you will need their help in making your contract. A example of this comes to us from the UWBC Duplicate of January 26th.

Vul: None North
Dealer: S ♠ x
♥ Jxxxx
West ♦ KQ10xx East
♠ J1076 ♣ A10 ♠ AQ8xx
♥ Q109 ♥ Axx
♦ xx South ♦ x
♣ KJxx ♠ K9x ♣ xxxx
♥ Kx
♦ AJ9xx
♣ Q9x

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
1NT	2♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	All pass		

North has a difficult choice of call over two spades; three diamonds seems like an underbid, and nothing else is really appealing. Over three spades, South probably should have bid four diamonds, but at matchpoints, three no-trump is appealing (although without first-round controls, I would say that it's closer to appalling).

A spade opening lead went to the ace, and the eight of spades was returned to the king, West following small. Having little hope for the contract, declarer now led a diamond to the king, and a heart off the table. East rose with the ace, and played the queen of spades. This blocked the suit. He played another spade now, and the best West could do was to return a diamond. Dummy had discarded a diamond and two hearts, and declarer a club.

Declarer won the diamond, and ran the diamond suit, discarding a club from dummy on the last round. At this point, South had the king of hearts and Q-9 in clubs, and North J-x in hearts and the ace of clubs. What could West do? He was the victim of a Criss-Cross squeeze.

A nice example of declarer play, but where did the defence go wrong? East should have returned a lower spade at trick two, to let his partner know the location of the queen (the eight looks like it's denying a higher card). Also, West could have unblocked the jack under the king, but I find this play a little deep. Perhaps he should have led the jack in the first place...

Eric Sutherland

Nominations are open for the Winter 1995 Funding Council for the Math Endowment Fund

Get a nomination form on the MEF office door
(MC 4046)

Do You Lean Right or Left in DC Lectures?

Not a Political Article!

How many people have classes in either DC 1350 or DC 1351? I think its almost impossible for a Mathie to have a term without any classes in either of these two lecture halls. Chances are that you will also be writing at least one exam, be it a mid-term or a final, in one of these rooms. So why am I writing an article about them? Because they both have about 95% broken seats! In these two classes you either lean right or you lean left, and I'm not talking about politics. Why aren't these things being fixed? Being so close to plant ops are they always being forgotten? Don't tell me it's not obvious that so many chairs are busted. I know the university is having financial constraints imposed on it, but there must exist a maintenance budget somewhere to fix these chairs. I dread my Wednesday night lecture in DC 1350 because of these chairs. You can never find one that's not in the first row that isn't broken. I don't plan on being a half an hour early for class. Thanks, but it ain't gonna hap'n. I understand that everything has a depreciation associated to it; things break. That's life. I can't understand why most of the same type of chairs scattered throughout the 4th floor of MC are still working fine and almost all of DC's swivel chairs are defunct. Are the students going to DC lectures heavier than those attending classes in MC? Now really, are the green "fix-it" men waiting for all the chairs to go kaput before solving the problem? Come on folks, fix them please. It would really be great if Systems Design 342 "Industrial Ergonomics" or Kinesiology 431T "Ergonomics" were scheduled to use these rooms for a term. Better yet, how about Kinesiology 422 "Human Gait, Posture and Balance" (Neat, who thought that you could learn to sit straight at a university course). These courses in those rooms would really be great! Nothing like comparing class-room learning with real-life examples, eh? Wouldn't the profs be surprised to learn that students were skipping classes just because the chairs were impossible to sit on. I think I've ranted and raved enough now. So in conclusion, how about some mice in the computer labs that actually work!

Marco "The Hedonist" Koechli

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

In "Bridging the Gap," an extra spade was dealt to North. The author has caused me (who \LaTeX 'ed the article) much grief over the error—about five seconds worth. I apologize to him and readers of the column for the mistake.

Darren Morby

To all women: Check out my "questionnaire for women" Web page, please. It's at: <http://calum.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/~mtompset/questionnaire.html>.

Anonymous [*but we think it's Mark Tompsett*]

Editor named Crakko:

Have a great 22nd on the 24th!!!

Editor named Hammer

House Rules

Gentle Readers,

The following are some house rules you may find valuable. Please feel free to clip them and post them appropriately in your home. Fill in the blanks as appropriate.

Things to Remember at _____
<address or name of your home>

1. LOCK DOORS when coming into the house. (Easy access only encourages drunken friends to crash here frequently.)
2. Never, EVER criticize _____.
(Discuss _____'s smelly socks instead.)
<movie star's name>; <roommate's name>
3. TURN OFF LIGHTS when leaving a room.
(Help stamp out voyeurism in this neighbourhood!)
4. Keep sexual outcries to a minimum. (Exceptions may be made in cases of severe drunkenness.)
5. TURN DOWN HEAT at night.
(Use the money for sexual favours instead.)
6. Avoid eating raw meat whenever possible.
(Ambulance service costs lots of money.)
7. PAY BILLS as soon as they are due.
(Charitable donations may also be made to the ludicrous-amounts-of-alcohol fund.)
8. Don't use musical instruments as sexual aids. (They get stuck in the wrong places, and can really ruin the mood.)
9. PEEL LABELS off cans to be recycled. (Rinse out the food too... feeding city employees is a no-no.)
10. Don't yell obscenities at the neighbours. (They still think we're such nice _____.) <girls/boys/kids>
11. TURN OFF TV if no is watching it. (Unless O.J. is on, in which case you can yell obscenities at the neighbours.)
12. Don't store powerful magnets near your computer or diskettes. (The bad diskette burial site is located _____.) <out of the way spot near your home>
13. Always ANSWER CALL WAITING when on the phone.
(We are now officially registered as 1-900-_____, so you know what to do.)
<G-I-R-L-I-E-S, B-O-Y-T-O-Y-S or H-O-T-S-E-X-Y>
14. Don't discuss wedding plans. (Especially not your own.)
15. REMEMBER TO HELP with household tasks. (Penalty for not doing so will be _____.)
<a suitably horrible punishment, determined non-democratically by you>
16. Don't buy lottery tickets. (You'll only win if you've first been struck by lightning. Twice.)

Ann Landers

I'll Have The Special

More musings from that musing guy

Hopefully, you have all survived to make it to this point. Yes, the last Friday before the Study "Period". Not "Week", but "Period". Ya know, one of these days, I just might meet someone high up in this place and really tell them what I think of this 2-day sham. Maybe they'll actually listen to me... Well, on with the musings...

- First, the addition to the Campus Centre isn't finished on time. Then they won't give us that fee back. At least they could announce that once the damn thing *is* finished, that at the grand opening everyone gets free beer. It's only fair for all the frustration this is putting us through.
- I never actually got around to voting in the Labatt Copper deal. Even if I voted "X" or "Y", will I ever drink the stuff? I feel sorry for the eventual loser, "Y". I hear the leading candidates for its new name are Bronze, Aluminum, Manure, SwampWater, 51 and Blue II.
- The CBC had yet another "Prime Time Documentary" on the Internet. I get the feeling the CBC just can't enough of the Internet or the "information superhighway". I guess they feel like real geniuses when they do these stories. And they have to do them all the time, too. I get the impression they want us to think "Hey! We know technology. We're cool." Yeah, real cool. Just shut up and show us some hockey.

- Most of you probably haven't heard this, but the United States said they might start a "trade war" if Canadian cable operators don't put Country Music Television, an American all-country video channel only offered in some areas, back on the air. It was taken off when New Country Network, a Canadian station, went on the air back in January. Now, when Newsworld started up, CNN wasn't taken off. So why should this channel be removed? Of course, I don't think we should cave in to American demands. But if this "trade war" means we lose such shows like *American Gladiators* or *Caribbean Workout*, then I don't know if we can hold out very long. Like, that could bring an entire nation to its knees!
- Canada has a new Governor-General. I don't recall any election. Should I be worried?
- My final musing is that for the entire time that I've been on this planet (about 21 1/2 years) I have still not received a card, a flower or anything else romantic or touching from a special someone on Valentine's Day. You can understand why this particular day has no meaning to me. Hope yours was better.

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

Popular Paranoia

Have you noticed that there doesn't seem to be enough furniture in the Comfy Lounge lately? That at least once a day you can find half a dozen people in there sitting on the floor because there aren't any free chairs? MathSoc, they tell me, is looking into the problem and there are plans to get more furniture for the lounge. But the question no one seems to be looking into deeply enough, in my opinion, is *where did the old furniture go?*

Some people dismiss this problem out of hand. They give pat answers like "it broke and got thrown out." Or, "none of the old furniture is missing, it's just clustered at the edges of the room." Or the oh-so-popular "it was smashed to pieces by a rampaging mob of Rec students, determined to get some respect at last for their much-maligned program and sick of the general impression of Rec as a degree for bird-brains interested in nothing but watching films and building mini-golf courses as a career." How naïve.

Those answers, while easy to come by, fail to account for the unmistakable aura of evil, yes **EVIL**, which now permeates the lounge where the missing furniture used to be. They do not explain the sense of chaotic power which hovers over bridge players and Mao players alike. They do not explain the complex civilization which I am **CONVINCED** is developing inside the microwave! But no longer shall these dark forces go unexplained! For I and I alone have passed through the shadows and emerged from the other side with the knowledge of the true powers that are shaping our destinies even now!!!

YES!!! I now have proof that the evil one, the infernal Zoggo, is coming to claim our souls at last! He comes, through the corners (yes, the corners) to bring **JUDGEMENT** upon us all! No puny *Magic: The Gathering* ritual will save us! Now we must **FACE** the great evil, the **MIGHTY DARKNESS**, the all-encompassing **PENALTY CARD OF ETERNAL SHADOW!!!** I **HAVE PROOF!!!** **THEY ARE HERE, THEY ARE...**

[At this point, the narrative is interrupted by a sudden entrance and a violent struggle. A hypodermic is seen briefly, as the light reflects brightly off of the metal. Then the author lapses into unconsciousness. The gentleman with the needle, apparently a doctor, resumes the piece.]

Ahem. Yes, well, as you can see from the above text Peter has been in far worse shape than he led us to believe. We, at the Institute, have been forced to conclude that he has not, in fact, been taking his medication, and as such will probably be placed back on the "black" series of pills, if not the intravenous treatments. The Institute apologizes for the above outburst and wishes to state again for the record that it does *not* endorse any of Peter's obviously farcical theories concerning "Zoggo" or the total annihilation of all furniture as we know it. Thank you.

Dr. Mumble Furple, of the Institute
speaking for Peter Milley

The Oracle's Advice Column

Winnie-the-Pooh = Tao, Yoda = Zen

Oh Magnificent Oracle, [Hey, I like that] Why do I keep getting email like this: [email removed]

Christina

You've been getting email like that because of a prank mail filter that MFCE has installed for the amusement of the sysadmins. Normally they use the filter for humorous messages to each other, such as asking a coworker out to lunch or if they can ask a question ("food-p?" and "answer-p?" respectively). It comes from an old programming convention of LISP.

The proper answer to your admirer's question is either TRUE, not with you, or female, depending on what you think the filter interpreted as "sez-p?"

I get more touching and hugging from a gay male friend than I do from my boyfriend. Why?

Faith

Sue Johanson ("Sex With Sue") replies: I often hear this from females. We all need touching from the time we are born — it is warm, comforting and comfortable, and reassures us that we are accepted and appreciated. Female infants are often cuddled and held more than males; by adolescence, males have generally learned that the only touching that is appropriate to the male is sexual contact. When a female touches him — holds his hand or strokes his arm — he may misinterpret this as permission to proceed hugging, petting and eventually sex. Females pick up on this, and if they don't feel like sex, may back off from hand-holding or hugging. Males interpret this as rejection and stop doing it.

But with a gay friend, sex never enters into it. You both know that there is no danger of misinterpreting a casual hug or kiss as a sexual come-on.

Why do babies always come out crying?

Izzie & Mikey

Dr. Science (of Duck's Breath Mystery Theatre) replies: Despite their scrunched-up faces, those are tears of joy. No matter how lousy this world of ours gets, it beats the womb for fun, diversity and that "what's going to happen next" feeling we're all so addicted to. Have you ever tried to order take-out Chinese in the womb? Catch that MacGyver rerun? Even the simple joy of walking around the block is denied the pre-natal. Let them weep, for soon they will laugh, and then weep again. Then they'll probably settle down and get jobs and stop emoting all together.

Bonus Spoilers: Marcia gets into a lesbian encounter in the new movie, the "new footage" for the upcoming Star Wars rerelease is Luke talking to his buddy Riggs for 10 seconds, and Julie Delpy doesn't get to do a sex scene with Ethan Hawke (but see Killing Zoe for her big break with Eric Stoltz).

As always, send your questions to the BLACK BOX or mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca, and I will soak them in Jell-O.

The Oracle

We Interrupt This mathNEWS

Warning: Ren & Stimpy and James Cagney jokes coming

From the "People's Choice" Department

You remember the big deal about the Waterloo mayoral election last November? It was worse in Rice, Minnesota: a 90-90 tie between Virgil Nelson and Mitch Fiedler was decided by drawing cards. Fiedler won with an eight over Nelson's seven, after both drawing eights and then aces.

The Toronto Star, Sat. Feb. 4, Page K7

From the "I Feel Like Such an Eediot" Department

Last Thanksgiving in the U.S., Butterball issued a press release which discussed a strange call to their emergency hotline in 1993. The caller's pet chihuahua, it seems, had gotten into the cavity of the family's turkey, and could not get out.

The Toronto Star, Sat. Feb. 11, Page K13

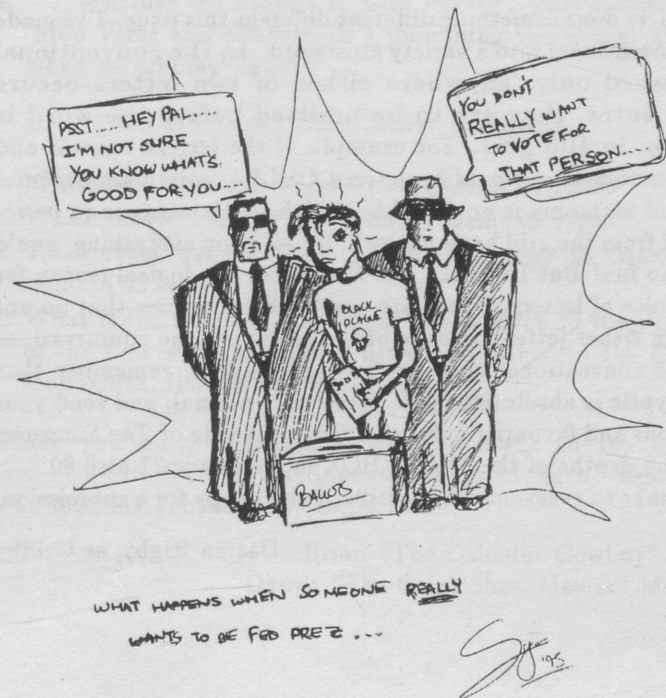
From the "You Dirty Rat, You Killed My Brother" Department

Last July, Robert Minahan, an Australian chef whose specialty is crocodile dishes, was swimming when he was attacked by—you guessed it—a six-foot crocodile. Revenge is sweet, ain't it?

The Toronto Star, Sat. Feb. 11, Page K13

Finally, if you read "Social Studies" in Monday's *Globe and Mail*, you already know this: next week is Hand-Washing Awareness Week in Toronto. So enjoy Reading "Week" with clean palms, everybody! For **We Interrupt This mathNEWS**, I am...

Darren "Ren" Morby



gridCOMMENTS

Well, folks, we had quite a few submissions for all three cross-words this time around.

For the Cryptic we had seven perfect solutions from Keemo & Lisa, Slaves to the Gridword, Bob the Great and Powerful, Pamela "Glinda" Harpur & the Munchkins, Blake & tAS, alt.fan.londo and Ian "The Word Man" Facey. The winner here is Slaves to the Gridword!

The Conventional had problems, problems, problems. Have we gotten this right yet? The Down clues for 2 and 5 were reversed. Even so, there seemed to be an acceptable solution. The grid checks with EVEN instead of ELSE and IRON instead of ICON, after the switch is made. Because of the screw-up, and because a more correct solution is not really to be expected, if both sides had one correct entry (according to the solution printed here) with no other mistakes, the solution was deemed correct. Mistakes were counted by the number of incorrectly-filled squares, ignoring the second word where my mistakes are. Got all that? I didn't think so. Alice_Gary had 12 incorrect squares, Pamela & Co. had 3 (Don't thank your roommate too hard for CALDARA), Slaves to the Gridword lost 1 for TRETTOP, Ian "The Word Man" Facey slipped by with PREMADE for PREPARE, which also fits the clue, but suffered a loss for LESS, and our winner with a completely correct fill is alt.fan.londo! He was the only entrant to notice the switch, and with PREMADE for PREPARE, also.

For the form, we received 4 perfect solutions from Slaves to the Gridword, Bob the Great and Powerful, Pamela & Co., and alt.fan.londo. The winner by random dice roll is Slaves to the Gridword!

I'm not mentioning the results from the favourite Gridword word because I'm going to try to make a Gridword out of them for the last issue. However, the comments are: The bed is too hard. I like Cryptic best! Glad I've got my dictionary here...

Most of you probably grabbed your copy of mathNEWS and ran for the airport bus or your cars and headed out for Reading Week(end). For a weird guy like me, this can be a major inspiration.

So, I've done something different different this issue. I've made the conventional into a variety crossword. In the conventional crossword only, anywhere either of two letters occurs in an entry, they are to be omitted before the word is written in the grid. For example, if the letters were M and N, then nobleman would be entered OBLEA, minimum becomes IIU and ammonia is now AOIA. Which two letters are to be removed from the grid here, ah, well, if I told you everything, you'd have no fun! But I will tell you that there is a logical reason for my choice of letters. There are exactly three entries that do not contain either letter; because of the omissions the enumerations for the conventional clues have been removed; remember that the cryptic is absolutely (well, relatively) normal; and send your solutions and favourite guest star for an episode of *The Simpsons* into the depths of the BLACK BOX by February 27 at 6:00.

Thanks to everyone who sacrificed their copy for a submission.

Darren Rigby, as Gridby

Oh, How the Mercury Hath Fallen!

Yesterday in Ottawa the mercury fell and banged its head, knocking it senseless. Its injuries have been described as "not life threatening" and is currently listed in "stable" condition.

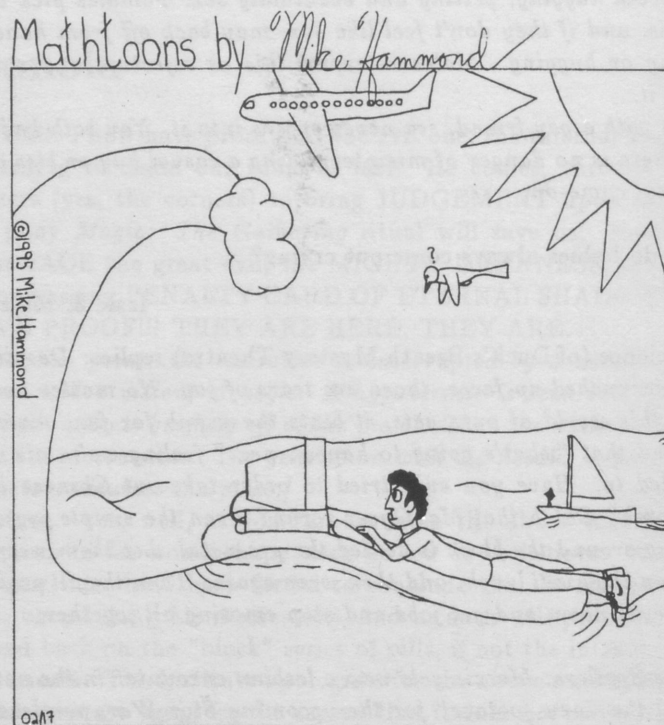
When asked to comment on this tragic accident, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said "Well, you know dat dis is exactly de kind of ting we need to get de ball rolling downhill. It will almost possibly mean new jobs for Canadians."

A demonstration was held by several women's groups in Queen's Park this afternoon to protest the loss of funding for social programs intended to keep Ottawa warmer.

Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau argued that the only way to keep Quebec warmer than Ontario is to separate. Sources from within Parizeau's party have quoted him as saying he is going to move Quebec somewhere warmer no matter what the cost. Reform Leader Preston Manning is on record as telling Quebec where he thinks Quebec can go. Although admittedly warmer, Parizeau said that it might be too much trouble to change all the signs to French-only.

In a related study, scientists have shown a correlation between Ottawa weather and cancer in laboratory rats.

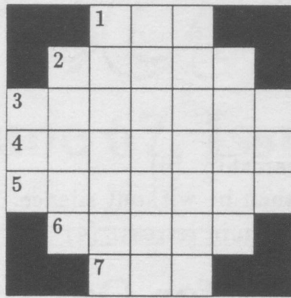
Adam "The Bitsnatcher" Benjamin



Jeffrey met a premature end when he followed his CS tutor's instructions and did his assignment in Sea.

Form #3

The Octagon



Clues

1. Three quarters of this belongs to Gridby. (3)
2. Reddish hair dye for husband repulsed Ms. Bancroft. (5)
3. Back again to start into meat without help from husband. (7)
4. Establish in an office in Washington. (7)
5. Second Egyptian leader in the nude crept. (7)
6. Later, change! (5)
7. Given food with iron as part of diet. (3)

Solution to last form

F	L	O	O	R	
L	U	C	R	E	
O	C	E	A	N	
O	R	A	T	E	
R	E	N	E	G	A
				A	G
				D	E
				E	N
				S	T

T	A	S	U	I	N	A	M	I		M	A	D	I	A	C	A	L	E													
R			D			S	O			U	A			C	R			I	N												
E	K		L			S	I	K	U	A	N	K	E		M		O	G													
E	L	A	S	R	E	N		A	I		H			N	S	E	O	D	A												
T	O					C	B	O	A	Z	C	O	E	O	R	K	T	A		G											
O	F		L	P		R	A		C	E				U		N	S	S	S	E											
P	F	R	E	O	C	S	E	T	D	E	D			S	R	E	T	T	U	L	C	E	S	D							
			A	U		A	H										A	I		E	R										
B	U	E	S	R	S	A	T	O	E	P	S			C	E	A	L	R	D	E	A	R	A	K							
E			E	S			E	U		R	P			U	G		L	O		K	P		I	R							
L	D					D	B	E	A	E	L	R	L	F	O	L	O	N						Y							
R	I	A	C	P	E					P	I			F	T						L	R	E	S	A	P					
J	O									C	S	A	N	B	A	I	I	N	L		E	I			H	T					
A	O									L	E									N	S		A	O	I	O					
M	E	A	D	P	N	I	E	T	S	E	S										G	M	E	N	D	T	R	I	O	P	N

mathNEWSquiz #3

Reading "Week" Squizentertainment

Morning! Notice how I didn't say good morning... because for some of us, not every morning is a good one. But what can you do other than down another coffee and donut and just hope for the best... well, we got yet another squiz for you... but first, here's the answers from last time... **Where the Hell Am I?:**

- 1) London, Ontario; 2) Saskatchewan; 3) Paris; 4) Della Lake.
Song Lyrics: 1) "Break My Stride" by Matthew Wilder; 2) "Hope of Deliverance" by Paul McCartney; 3) "Intermittently" by Barenaked Ladies; 4) "River of Dreams" by Billy Joel.
Potpourri: 1) Craig Neidorf, alias Knight Lightning; 2) Famine, Pestilence, War, and Death; 3) The Puffster; 4) TV Guide.

Our submitters were: alt.fan.londo (1), Bob the Great and Powerful (1), Slaves to the Gridword (3), and Joy & Jen (7). Joy & Jen, congratulations, your squizprize is in the MathSoc office! Now let's have a whack at this week's questions:

Song Lyrics

1. If you were mine, I'd give you all the world
If you were mine, I'd take you higher girl
2. Because they're waiting for me, They're looking for me
Every single night they're driving me insane
3. There was no thank you for your skin
There was no thank you for your meat
4. Now I'm towing my car, there's a hole in the roof
My possessions are causing me suspicion but there's no proof

And Our Next Contestant Is...

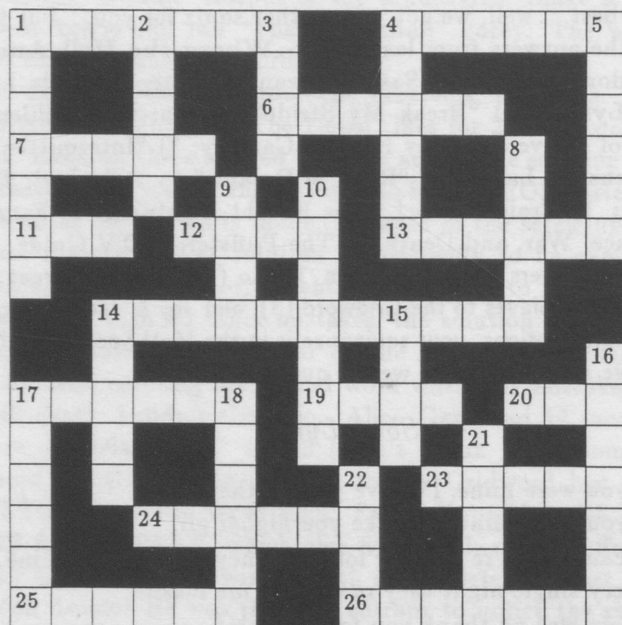
1. Who is the newest model on *The Price Is Right*? (with Bob Barker, not the now-cancelled version with Doug Davidson.)
2. What is the first thing that Magnus Magnusson asks a *Mas-termind* contender?
3. What game show host is now doing the "JoJo's Psychic Alliance" infomercials?
4. "...Whether the subject is 'Cow Poetry', 'Salt Holders' or 'Moo Verse and Shakers', it's something you'll hear about when we all play" what?

No Business Like Show Business

1. Which movie won the Best Picture Oscar in 1988?
2. Which movie won the Best Picture Genie in 1988?
3. What event was broadcast for the first time on Canadian radio in 1924?
4. What is the name of the annual award given to the author of the best work of English fiction published in the Commonwealth, Ireland and South Africa?

There you go... submissions can be made to the usual places—BLACK BOX or mathnews@undergrad.math—before 6 pm on Monday February 27. Good luck!

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox
 Darren "The Game Show Maniac" Morby



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. No end to unnecessary injections. (7)
4. Part of an eye and ear each. (6)
6. Officer Penny. (6)
7. Sack apparently contains letter from Greece. (5)
11. Audit secures smoked salmon. (3)
12. See prince's odd odyssey. (4)
13. Frightened padres scatter. (6)
14. Potpourri hath distant worries. (4 3 4)
17. Caves hold raging, primal hungers... (6)
19. ... and contain primal sounds, too. (4)
20. Are back on time. (3)
23. Obscure middle note (forte). (5)
24. Pass bush without a bit of hesitation. (6)
25. Ocean birds first sound off like a rock band. (*6)
26. Wagered heaps on allergen. (7)

Down

1. Foolishly likens cent to 5-cent pieces. (7)
2. Cover Doctor Gibbon. (5)
3. Depraved (*sic*) of oak finish. (4)
4. Scrape mess of garnishings. (6)
5. Add to a written speech. (6)
8. By the sound of it, hotel room is cute. (5)
9. Mimics monkeys. (4)
10. Heretic's extremity in open shoe creates gossip. (7)
14. Liar travels first up forest path. (5)
15. Time to ask for work. (4)
16. Took care of set of cards led. (7)

17. Alter coins. (6)
18. Piles pin into steamship. (6)
21. Let underwater shelf be without silence. (5)
22. Celebrity makes vermin retreat. (4)

Grid Clues for Out of Town (Unconventional)

Across

1. Yokelish
4. It runs perfectly
6. Nerd
7. An easy job
11. Lunatic
12. Woven reeds
13. Puzzle
14. Active, but employed hobbyist (2 wds.)
17. Fool
19. Hawaiian island
20. Polish city
23. Functional
24. Unit of power
25. Squealed
26. Obstruction (2 wds.)

Down

1. Vingt-et-un
2. Motorcycle manufacturer
3. Cube's inventor
4. Pots and pans, e.g.
5. Japanese taxi?
8. Physical gathering of information
9. Symbolic picture
10. Uncontested rush for the goal
14. Basis for some codes (2 wds.)
15. Precipitation
16. Unfair
17. Slogan for beer (3 wds.)
18. Superstitious ritual (2 wds.)
21. Magician
22. Injure a toe

A Thought

Isn't it strange that a newsletter full of humour (of various degrees), controversy, and occasionally even the odd bit of information can be published for 22 years, and yet the *Gazette* still thinks it's called "*MathNews*?"

Darren "The One Who Isn't Gridby" Morby
who proofreads and \LaTeX 's for a newsletter that isn't
"*MathNews*"