

# math NEWS

Volume 69, Issue 4 Friday, November 10, 1995

Commander Chakotay!  
Beam me aboard!

We don't have a board,  
Captain. How about a log?

A personal log?

No, a natural log.  
We got it at the  
last base.

OK, send it down, if  
there's enough power!



TAYLOR '95



## Computer Science Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

### CSC Flash

Sad news, meat things. Calum crashed. The patient was revived, but it was touch and go for a while. So send your "get well soon" cards c/o sysadmin@calum.csclub.uwaterloo.ca.

#### Upcoming events

Just one. And no one has told the venerable CSC flasher where it is going to be. The "Java and Metamedia" talk will be held on Nov. 16th. Check the MC building for posters pertaining to this wondrous talk by Mike McCool. (There is some disagreement in the CSC as to whether McCool's name is Scottish or Irish. Any informed parties, please fill us in.)

#### Mousepad Update

CSC mousepads are still available, but only by the narrowest of margins. Response has been tremendous. Over 400,000 have been sold so far, with a couple of dozen left. Buy one of the very last ones!

Calum T. Dalek

### profQUOTES Books

*Do we have to remind you again?*

profQUOTES books — Volume One — are on sale in the mathNEWSoffice!

Only \$ 2 each!

Now, until the end of the term (or until the books are gone), we're having a special: 2 for \$3, 3 for \$5 and 5 for \$8 (can you say, "Fibonacci"?)

Come to the mathNEWSoffice (MC 3041)!

### PMC Soccer

The Pure Math Club soccer season finally ended last Sunday, as the team was defeated in the finals after a strong playoff run. While only winning one regular season game, the team was uplifted by two default playoff wins (the other teams didn't even dare to show up). Playing conditions were very unfavourable, with the field being frozen and only a thin layer of mud thawed out on top. Congratulations on a great season, and thanks to everyone for coming out.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

### Distinguished Teacher Awards

To nominate your outstanding professor, demonstrator or teaching assistant for the Distinguished Teacher Award, contact TRACE, MC 4055, Ext. 3132.

### lookAHEAD

<i>mathNEWS</i>	
November 20	Issue #5 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
November 24	Issue #5 hits the stands
November 29	Issue #6 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
December 5	Issue #6 hits the stands
<b>MathSoc</b>	
November 13	LaserQuest for \$15 London vs. Western for 4 games, signup in MathSoc
November 20	<i>Reservoir Dogs</i> @8pm, CL
<b>MGC</b>	
November 24	MGC Wine & Cheese
<b>CS Due Dates</b>	
November 10	CS 246—Assignment 4
November 15	CS 354—Project 3
November 16	CS 488—Assignment 4
November 20	CS 360—Assignment 4 Due 11:59pm + 1 minute
November 22	CS 342—Assignment 4
November 27	CS 246—Assignment 5
December 4	CS 246—Assignment 6 (no programming)
December 4	CS 360—Assignment 5
December 4	CS 452—Proj 9 am
December 5	CS 342—Assignment 5 <b>Load Forecast To Be High</b>
December 5	CS 354—Project 4
December 5	CS 488—Assignment 5
<b>Cinema Gratis</b> (All in the SLC)	
November 13	<i>The Sweater &amp; Citizen Kane</i> @7:30pm
November 20	<i>Do The Right Thing</i> & <i>Jungle Fever</i> @7pm
November 27	<i>Henry &amp; June &amp; Paris, France</i> @7pm
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 14	Cheerios Appreciation Day

ISSN 0705-0410

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to, but otherwise independent of, the Mathematics Society at the University of Waterloo. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or mathNEWS. Current and back issues of mathNEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews>. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

The powerful and most-awesome duo: Mike "Hammer" Hammond, Mala "Crakko" Krishnan

## Prez Sez

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzz...

Ron?? Oh, Ron?!?

Huh? Huh? Wha...? Oh, it's you...

Yes, Ron. I'm here to get your Prez Sez

Huh?

Yes, ladies and gentlemen reading this wonderful publication, our esteemed MathSoc President is dozing on the job **again**.

Are you bugging me about not getting my Prez Sez on time again?

Yes, Ron. It's your responsibility to inform the Faculty of what's going on at the Exec level.

But I don't want to!

Stop whining, Ron! Nothing worse than a grown guy whining! Just do the darn thing!

Okay, okay, next time! I promise! I promise, oh great one!

## MEF Update

It's time for a quick Math Endowment Fund update. There have been a lot of interesting things on the go the past few weeks and the month of November should be a lot of fun.

First, the final tally of students requesting refunds is 508. This puts the percentage of students who requested a refund this term around the 21% mark. This is a great number. Thanks everyone!

Second, after this term's refunds the Fund balance stands at about \$205,000. This means that we have roughly \$4,000 in money that can be spent this term. If you have any ideas for improving this Faculty, please contact me so that we can arrange a funding proposal for you. The deadline for proposals is November 22nd.

Finally, the Funding Council held its first meeting on Wednesday. For details and minutes you can e-mail [mefcom@undergrad.math](mailto:mefcom@undergrad.math).

Talk to ya next edition.

Things to watch for: MEF homepage!!!!

Etienne Phaneuf

## Sex

*Beware the Profs*

Now that I've got your attention, I'd like to discuss a very serious problem that seems to be occurring all over campus. Regular professors have turned into mind-crazed monsters whose sole purpose in life is to ruin students' lives with midterms. First I thought that this was just a coincidence that this would happen so close to Hallowe'en, but now I'm beginning to think otherwise. We must do something about this phenomenon before it has a chance to occur again. I have a feeling that just before Christmas (the next big holiday) these evil fiends will strike again. We must be prepared! In order to combat the beasts we can set up monster watch groups, a capture and containment centre, and if necessary, a disposal unit to rid the earth of these hideous abominations. All those whose are interested please respond to [someguy@evil.profs.at.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:someguy@evil.profs.at.uwaterloo.ca)

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

## mastHEAD

Hey all! It's Monday night! Mike (a.k.a. Hammer) is at home, sick, sick, sick! Oh, that reminds me, I have to hand in my (and Mike's) CS360 assignments now before I forget. And NO, I didn't look at his. I'm an honest person. So there! (*insert long pause while assignments are being dropped into the black box*). Phew! Much better. So, here I am. The sole editor. Power! Power! Power! It's all mine!! Ha! Ha! Ha! The issue's in my own hands. Of course, all the questions and complaints are also in my own hands.

Horror! Horror! Horror!

Without further adieu, here are the people who claim to be mathNEWS people with their top reason no one submits Squiz answers (Guess who came up with **this** question?):

Curtis "Neil Murray sucks at LaserQuest" Desjardins (Because the trivia craze of the Jeopardy generation has been over for years. Brian — get over it!); Darren Rigby (People spend all their time submitting grids with doubled letters by e-mail); Brian Fox (It's one big conspiracy. I'm on to you people); Marni Mishna (Squids? There's no water. That's why.); Sarah "Don't flare your goddamn nostrils at me" Kamal (So that the value of the prize goes up, like the Lotto 649 thing. Only it don't work that way. Mathies ain't all that bright sometimes.); Greg Taylor (They're still trying to figure out what the 'S' stands for); Andrew Archibald (I don't know about you, but I'm too dumb.); Dale Wick (I can name that tune in 5 notes)

Thanks to Fed Pizza (even if the boxes were reversed) and to Graphic Services for the pizza and printing.

Hope you feel better, Mike!

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan (Beats me!)

Mike "Hammer" Hammond (I'm too sick to bother. Brian!)

**\$1.00 OFF FedPizza**  
**Fast Free Delivery**

This coupon entitles you to \$1.00 off any three item FedPizza.  
This coupon cannot be combined with any other offer.  
Expires Dec. 2/95



**FedPizza** is open Wed - Sat 4pm-2am  
We'd love to cater your parties. Call us about our special rates for orders on 10 or more pizzas

## The World Outside Math

*Keeps a-turnin' and a-turnin' and a-turnin'*

And mah tum-tum, it keeps a-churnin' and a-churnin' and a-churnin'.

Why?

Um, motion sickness.

(Yeah, thass' it)

(hic)

Goooooooooooooooood Mooooooooooooorning Waterlooooooo!!!! Midterms are over for me, so I'm looking at doing a whole bunch of nifty things as External Director this month. First off, you should have had the chance to pick up poppies at either the MathSoc office or with the C&D cashiers this week in remembrance of all the sacrifices made in the world wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, and since 1945 combined with Armistice Day. If you still haven't, then this'll be the last day you can do so. There is also a collection box (actually a collection plastic thingy) outside the C&D for pop can tabs. These go towards the purchase of a wheelchair for charity, so please remember to drop your tabs off there when you recycle.

Also happening this month is Operation Christmas Child. This is a drive to collect shoeboxes filled with goodies for children in crisis areas around the world. The suggested items for filling the shoeboxes are small toys (dolls, cars, etc.—no war toys, please), stationary, and/or hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, etc). Your photo and address are encouraged, since pen-pal relationships are often established between the donators of the shoeboxes and the child recipients. Finally, include \$5 in the shoebox to help defray shipping costs, and drop the box off in the MathSoc office for Michelle Ng, who's organizing the drive for the Samaritan Purse group. The boxes are sent off to areas like Bosnia and Croatia to make the lives of the children there a bit more bearable. Please note that a small pamphlet outlining the story of Christmas (in the traditional Christian sense) are often delivered with these boxes. For more information, please get in touch with Michelle Ng ([mng@cayley](mailto:mng@cayley)).

I'm going to be trying to start up a drive to collect toys to distribute to children a bit closer to home. If you have any leads on who I could get in touch with to do something like that, I'd appreciate it if you'd drop me a line. If you are part of any group who would like some help in putting together a drive for a similar cause, feel free to get in touch with me, either by leaving a note in the MathSoc Office (MC 3038) or by mailing me ([skamal@cayley](mailto:skamal@cayley)).

'Tis (soon to be) the season, guys. Let's celebrate it by remembering how incredibly fortunate we are.

Sarah "Don't be a jerk!!! Recycle, dammit!!!" Kamal

**LaserQuest in London**  
**Monday, Nov.13 @ 4:30**  
**\$15 for 4 games**  
**Limited to first 40 people**  
**Signup in MathSoc**

## Exam Time TLA

*The T in this case is Thirteen*

People  
 Rarely  
 Obtain  
 Coveted  
 Rewards  
 After  
 Scheduling  
 Tasks  
 Into  
 Never  
 Attainable  
 Time  
 Elements

Coitus Desjardins

## socTOC

Hey there! My name is Tammy Duff and I am your Social Director this term. So far this term, the Social Committee has brought you Math Pub Night at Fed Hall, Oktoberfest at Bingham's, the barbecue with "99 Pictures", The Rocky Horror Picture Show on Devil's Night, a trip to the Brunswick House with the Engineering Faculty, Laser Quest in Kitchener and Blade Runner for our first movie night.

Unfortunately, the attendance at all of the planned events has not been high. The Social Committee and myself have been working hard this term to bring you events that we think you would find worthwhile to attend. We understand that you have assignments and exams but we have tried to arrange the events outside of busy times. The Social Committee would just like to ask if you could make a little effort to try and attend our events in support of MathSoc and the Math Faculty itself. Now, we only have one month left before the last day of lectures (Dec. 5 — Sorry to remind you) so lets make the month of November successful socially. Stay tuned for another Laser Quest trip to London (perhaps if we have a high level of interest we can set up a friendly tournament with Western on November 13), another movie night featuring Reservoir Dogs (November 20), an indoor rock climbing trip, a Magic card tournament and an Euchre tournament. If you have any suggestions on something that you would like to see happen, you can email me at [tlduff@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tlduff@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca)

Thanks,

Tammy

## Do Us All a Favour

In going to class, you acquire knowledge. And, everyone knows that knowledge is power. But, power corrupts. Therefore, by association, going to class is a cause of corruption. The world is far too corrupt already, so do a service to the human race and sleep in.

Coitus Desjardins

## profQUOTES

"Huh, you learn something new everyday. There's a little clip here on the overhead projector to keep your transparencies from sliding off without having to pile stuff on top of it. I've been teaching for twenty-eight years, and I never knew about that before."

Norman, KIN 102

"Who can give me an example of arousal? And I know what you're thinking, and there ARE other forms of arousal..."

Widmeyer, KIN 103

"I've always had trouble with numbers."

Davidson, MATH 135

"You don't want to wake up in the morning wondering who's bed you will sleep in. That didn't come out right."

Smith, ECON 101

"If you can't take this derivative, I'm going to get fired!"

Forrest, MATH 147

"Some professors do six drafts of a paper; me, I'm drunk after six drafts..."

Davison, AM 473

"This is not a Lifesaver©! Unless you sucked on it for a day or two until it became infinitely thin."

Paldus, AM 231

Student: "So I made a stupid mistake, right?"

Prof: "I KNOW you made a stupid mistake. You don't have to tell me you made a stupid mistake."

Forrest, MATH 147

"Instantaneous reincarnation is not part of actuarial science... You can come back as a cow or a mosquito, but you can't come back as a 62 year old."

Brown, ACTSCI 435

"I hope you remember that users are malicious idiots."

Cormack, CS 452

"There was this guy that masturbated 30 times a day. Personally, I don't know where it all came from."

Lefcourt, PSYCH 355

"With umph this time, everybody now—squeeeeeeze."

Best, MATH 137

"Do you people use Latex?"

Best, MATH 137

"It is sometimes difficult to figure out what's in the professor's mind. There is only one person who knows what's in my mind. It's my girlfriend because she is the only one person in my mind."

Smith, REC 280

"So let's imagine that I've really done the work. Of course, you can't do this on the exam."

Willard, MATH 135

"Why don't we pretend that we're stupid. Pretend we're from Western. (Shortly after) Okay, let's pretend we're not SO stupid. Pretend we're...honours students from Western?"

Willard, MATH 135

"So here you have a question which an engineer could not answer...are there any engineers in here?"

Hare, MATH 137

"...and I don't want anyone to know what the private key is. (rubs it off board) Oops...except me!"

Willard, MATH 135

(after midterm) "Well, you all came back...or at least all of you who are here came back."

Younger, C&O 230

(written on board) "I'll have your midterms done by Wednesday...if it kills me!"

Haff, MATH 237

"How will you know what an awful curve looks like at a critical point? MAPLE, yes, that's a good answer."

Haff, MATH 237

"It's tricky, because it's just a little trick."

Cummings, MATH 235

Prof: "So where did we screw up?"

Student: (muttering quietly) "We?"

Cummings, MATH 235

"That's good enough for me...that sounds like something from Sesame St."

Haff, MATH 237

"I don't have a clue what I'm talking about."

Moskal, PMATH 330

"Warning! You must have *nothing* better to do."

Moskal, PMATH 330

"People are smiling. This is calculus, you're not supposed to have a good time."

Best, MATH 137

"It's a shame I can't forget this stuff. I forget philosophy, but I can't forget this stupid trivia."

Roberts, PHIL 100

"Lay off physics philosophers!!"

Roberts, PHIL 100

## Can I Have Your Attention Please!

*Please fasten your safety belts*

As students in the Faculty of Mathematics, there are many services that are available for your use, be they through the Math Society or through faculty/campus programs.

At this time, when the whole educational system is in the midst of change it is time to take stock and look at the services that are offered, and examine the relevancy of each one. Further, new ones should be considered.

This can only be done through you, the people who have used or will use these services. While there are better methods for data collection, a survey will at least start to paint the picture that you want.

Please take the time for fill out the following survey. For each item in it there are 4 boxes. Tick the first box if you use the service; the second if you know about it, but do not use it; the third if you didn't know about it; and the fourth if you believe the service should be continued. After completing the survey, if you have any further comments, please feel free to either talk to one of the committee members (listed below), or write your ideas on a separate sheet of paper, and submit it with your survey.

Completed surveys can either be put into BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge or the MathSoc office.

Thank you for your time. If you have any other questions or ideas about what MathSoc should be, or what it might be, then please feel free to contact any of us either in person, or by e-mail to [esutherland@jeeves.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:esutherland@jeeves.uwaterloo.ca).

Brought to you by:

Eric Sutherland & Matt Walsh &  
Ron Servant & Chris Buchanan &  
Sarah Kamal & Victor Wiewiorowski & Steve Furino

## Ask And Thou Shalt Receive

In response to Ms. Kamal's article in the last *mathNEWS*, I think that the main problem with MathSoc is the rarity of math within its ranks. Sure there's a world of "work smarts". Sure the management speaking skills on display at any meeting would satisfy even the most stringent of corporate standards, but math? I mean that stuff isn't all that cool, is it?

Of course much of the same goes on at the Federation of Students. Indeed it seems that a ballooned self-importance is far more important for achieving success in the ranks of student representation (or is that ostentation?) than any sort of academic qualification (such as the ability to pass a reasonably challenging course above the 2nd year level). So you want to improve MathSoc? Here's my suggestion: Replace the question "Am I peppy, popular, and a real knock-out in my interview clothes?" with "Do I have any idea of what goes on in the mathematics faculty, both academically and socially?" It's not much (imagine if our student leaders actually knew some history or read books that didn't involve getting rich in three weeks or battling evil wizards), but hey, for me it would be a real start in giving MathSoc some much needed credibility. Thanks for asking.

Mark Stastna

	Use it	Know it	Don't know	Keep it
Office hours:				
information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
course calendars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photocopiers (5 cents)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lockers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Rec teams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exam bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MacLab:				
PC — MacIntoshes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C&D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comfy Lounge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cards and games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lost and found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study carrels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poster boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment Network	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>mathNEWS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pizza days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yearbook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math Grad Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pub Nights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Card Nights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road Trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Movie Nights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prof and				
Course evaluations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Novelties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representation on				
faculty committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pure Math Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching Students'				
Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ActSci Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer Science Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## MGC Stuff

Get pictures of you and your friends doing whatever for the 1996 yearbook in now!

Order a yearbook for \$30!!

Fill your yearbook blurb *on-line* on the MGC homepage at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/>

Sign up for your grad pics if you haven't had it yet for Dec. 1, 1995. (8:30 am - 12 pm)

If you want retakes, Jan. 19, 1996 is the day! (8:40 am - 4:20 pm)

Grad rings are in! Come pick them up Monday, Wednesday and Friday!

Check out the MGC (MC 3029) door for more information!

## The Queen Of PDEs

The life of Sonya Krukovsky Kovalevsky is an example of a brilliant woman that encountered ridiculous barriers solely because of her gender. She made such rich contributions to the fields of mathematical physics and analysis, that it is amazing that she was so often denied the opportunity.

Sonya was born in 1850 in Moscow. She, like many women mathematicians, sprang from a mathematical family; her grandfather and great grandfathers having been notable mathematicians. Though her conservative father allowed her to study mathematics with Strannoliubsky at the naval school in St. Petersburg, he objected to her pursuing math as a serious career. She faced quite a dilemma: women were not allowed to attend Russian universities at this time, and her father considered foreign study improper for young women. A marriage of convenience then became the best option. She married Vladimir Kovalevsky in 1868 and the next spring they moved to Heidelberg where she was allowed to attend school. Her ability and youth made a very positive impression on those in Heidelberg, particularly Leo Konigsberger, a former student of Karl T. Weierstrass. They worked together and Sonya soon decided that she wished to work with Weierstrass himself. She went to Berlin but once again was denied entrance to the university because she was a woman. So, she worked directly with Weierstrass himself. She soon impressed him as well and he tried to appeal to the university to let her study there, but she was once again denied. She worked with Weierstrass directly and completed the university course of mathematics.

On the merit of her written work, she was awarded a doctorate from the University of Gottingen in 1874. Her thesis was entitled *On the Theory of Partial Differential Equations*. Some examples of other important works that she completed in this time include *On the Reduction of a Definite Class of Abelian Integrals of the Third Range* and *Supplementary Research and Observations on Laplace's Research on the Form of the Saturn Ring*.

After several years of study, Sonya returned to Russia. Despite help from Weierstrass she was unable to cross the gender barriers to find work in mathematics. In Russia, Sonya took up a new life filled with writing newspaper articles, poetry, criticisms, and a small novel. Understandably, much of her literary work centered on the theme of women's rights.

Fufa, her only child, was born in October 1878. Around this time, she decided to make another effort to make the mathematical world accept her. She did some work in Berlin, and then moved to Paris. Soon after, in 1883, her husband committed suicide after a succession of failing business enterprises. This took a great toll on the lively spirit of Sonya, who had since fallen in love with him. This same year, Sonya found an opportunity in the enlightened Stockholm that was delighted to have such a talented mathematician as Sonya, regardless of her gender. There she lectured on the theory of differential equations. She was very well received and soon received an official appointment at the university.

In 1888 for her work *On the Problem of the Rotation of a Solid Body about a Fixed Point*, she was awarded the famous Prix Bordin of the French Academy of Sciences. Her entry was deemed so superior that they increased the value of the prize from 3 000 francs to 5 000 francs. Until her work, limited work had been done on the rotation of a solid body about a fixed point. Her work considered a new case that advanced the solution consider-

ably. The work was somewhat of an extension of Weierstrass' work on ultraelliptic integrals.

Finally, at the end of 1889, she was recognized in Russian academia. She was the first woman Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Despite this honour, and her willingness to return to Russia, no positions were offered to her. This same year her novel *The Rayevsky Sisters* was published. It was well received and was soon translated from Russian to Swedish and Danish.

The last few months of Sonya's life were not especially happy ones. She parted with a lover, her sister died a slow, painful death and she was perpetually separated from her daughter 'Foufie'. She died in 1891 after catching influenza on a journey to Stockholm.

She was buried in Sweden, and honoured in Russia in the form of a postage stamp. She is the only woman in this field to have such an honour.

Sonya was remarkable in her energy, her incredible talents and persistence. She did much original work and excelled in mathematical research. She is often given recognition in *Kovalevsky's theorem*. This general problem considers second order linear pde's in one-dependent and  $n$  independent variables. Sonya's theorem rigorously established the first existence theorem in this problem.

It is quite tragic to think that I should feel lucky for being allowed to attend university. Yet, Sonya Corvin-Krukovsky Kovalevsky worked around these barriers, and helped begin the slow process of progress. So perhaps in 100 years from now there will be more than one woman in a third year Pure Math major course. Ahh... Dare to dream.

Marni Mishna

mjmishna@undergrad.math

## Your Furry Friends Can Solve It All

*Seats? We don't need no stinkin' seats!*

Eeeeeek! No! Not the never-ending debate of toilet seat etiquette! You just can't escape it, can you? Once again it slips into the pages of *mathNEWS!!!*

Before it goes too far, let me propose a quick solution. If everyone living in the house/apartment/whatever would drop not only the seat, but ALSO the lid, this in fact serves two purposes:

1. No one can argue "Why should I have to do all the work?"
2. You don't get woken up at 3am by that eerie, high pitched squeal when the cat goes for an unexpected middle-of-the-night swim.

Neil "What's the bloody cat up to now?!?" Murray  
a.k.a. Dr. Seuss

Need... sleep... central... nervous...  
system... shutting... down... \*THUNK\*

## One Last Shot

*Before the Vote, After the Vote*

Once, back when I played basketball on my high school's team, we made it to the final game of the season's most important tournament. The game was hard-fought, and with about twelve seconds left we led by two points. It looked like we were going to win it all, but in the excitement and the slightest moment of inattention, we let the other team through our defense, and they scored the tying basket. In overtime, they surged ahead and won the game.

The above is not just a convenient metaphor; it really happened. And now as I sit here, in my apartment in Sainte-Foy, Québec, I find the situation repeated as Canada holds its collective breath, awaiting the results of the Referendum. Overtime is drawing to an end, we trail by one point, and in the final second we make one last, desperate shot. I cast my vote about two hours ago; the polls close in an hour, and by the time I finish writing this, Québec's answer will be known.

I've spent about half my life in various parts of Québec, and half in British Columbia and Ontario. I am fully bilingual, and speak the *Québécois* dialect of French which is indecipherable to my "French-speaking" Ontarian friends. I see my identity as undeniably Canadian, with Québec as an inseparable part of it. What to make, then, of a vote that stands to split apart these two aspects of my identity?

Truly, a vote for separation would leave me bitter, and quite resentful to say the least. However, my resentment would not be towards the people of Québec. Come tomorrow, they would still be my friends and my colleagues, and I still would work, have lunch, and share jokes with at least one person whom I know will vote "Yes".

It is politicians such as Parizeau and Bouchard, I feel, who have deceived so many Quebecers into adopting an "us versus them" mentality. For those who have lived all their lives in this province, those who have never seen the ancient forests of the Pacific coast, the Rocky Mountains stretching up as far as the eye can see, and the waves crashing upon Peggy's Cove, it is all too easy to believe that Québec is *alone* "against" the rest of Canada...

20:00 EST. The buzzer sounds — regulation time has ended.

And if, by no small miracle, disaster is avoided? A "No" vote would *not* mean that we could ignore the problem for a few years. It would not be a victory, but an *avoidance of defeat*.

Unlike myself, the majority of *les Québécois* are not happy with the current arrangement. When you read this, on the eve of Remembrance Day, remember that though in the past the battle for Canada was won with courage and with blood, in foreign lands, now it is fought here, with understanding, co-operation, and a spirit of compromise. Let us not disappoint those who gave their lives for this great nation...

23:00 EST. A nation watches, spellbound, as the ball descends, and in an almost frozen instance, passes through that hoop. This time, the game is won.

Thanks, everyone, for your support. Long live Canada.

Viêt-Tâm "Not-Foreign Correspondent" Luu

## Students Advising Co-op

*Mini Forum*

What the hell is this all about? Who is Students Advising Co-op and what's this about a Mini Forum?

Well, since you asked, allow me to explain!

Students Advising Co-op is a small group of student representatives from each faculty (that's me!), who make suggestions to Co-op on behalf of the student population (that's you!).

To do this job a little better and to actually get your input, SAC is sponsoring a Mini Forum to be held on:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1995 at 4:30.

Where you ask? Fortunately, I can answer that question too!

LOCATION: MC 4061

The Forum will centre on COMMUNICATION LINES between Co-op and Students. Have you ever needed information from Co-op and didn't know where to go to get it? Have you ever wondered *why* Co-op needs a whole bunch of resumes for second rounds? Ever had problems with an employer on a work term and wanted to tell someone? Do you have suggestions for how ACCESS works?

The main purpose of this forum is to get *your* input. Where does Co-op need to improve its communication skills? Also, as students, how can we help to make the Co-op process run smoothly?

There will be representatives from SAC to take *your* concerns under consideration. Representatives from Co-op will also be there to answer *your* questions.

Okay, so lets recap:

Where: MC 4061

When: Tuesday November 14, 1995

Time: 4:30

Subject: Communication Lines Between Students and Co-op

Any questions? Good! Come on out and voice your concerns!!!  
For more information, e-mail: [gcrate@undergrad.math](mailto:gcrate@undergrad.math).

Graham Crate

## Another Mathie-Type Song

My old math prof wrote a text,  
 $E_i, E_i$ , oh.

And in his text he had a proof,  
 $E_i, E_i$ , oh.

With a  $\forall, \forall$  here,  
and a  $\exists, \exists$  there.

Here a  $\ni$ , there a  $\in$

Everywhere a  $\dots, \dots$

My old math prof wrote a text,  
 $E_i, E_i$ , ooh.

Jason Testart



# Bridge Over Troubled Minds

It was a quarter to six on a Wednesday morning, and a group of bridge players, mostly novices, had been playing for far too long. North had been bidding erratically all morning, and his luck finally ran out...

Vul: N-S	<b>North</b>		
Dealer: N	♠ Q 10 7 5 4 3 2		
	♥ J 4 3		
<b>West</b>	♦ Void	<b>East</b>	
♠ K J	♣ 8 7 3	♠ A 8 6	
♥ A 5		♥ Q 10 6	
♦ K Q J 6 5 4	<b>South</b>	♦ A 9 8	
♣ K 6 2	♠ 9	♣ Q J 5 4	
	♥ K 9 8 7 2		
	♦ 10 7 3 2		
	♣ A 10 9		

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
2 ♠	Dbl.	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♠	All Pass		
Opening lead: ♦ 8			

South was worried about his partner's bidding, and when he laid down his hand he was not comforted by North blurting out "They have the two high trump!" South warned him that he had to be careful, since they only had about fourteen points between them. North corrected him by saying, no, they only had ten. Needless to say, South stormed out of the Comfy Lounge, making various references to the cocaine habits of his partner. A mutual decision to record the hand was reached. South's confidence was further eroded when, after beginning to play again, North asked, "What's trump?"

The eight of diamonds was led, which North trumped from his hand. He took a trick with South's ace and ruffed back to his hand, but ran out of steam when he was unable to get lead back to the dummy. Skillful playing earned North six tricks, considered by all to be a respectable amount, given the ten points to work with. North continued to bid and play erratically, and the true point of the morning became clear when, a few hands later, North lost a contract he would have won had he kept the seven of diamonds. "Never trade anything for beer. Beer is the king," he said. "That's the moral of this story."

Greg "X. N. Trick" Taylor  
Duncan "No... I was West" McGregor

## ultraCLASSIFIEDS

The editors found a cake pan in the mathNEWS office? I was wondering where I lost it.

Buddha

Nachos are for eating, not for programming. What's wrong with UNIX anyway?

Fed up with CS 354

# TRY

A "hacked" Blue Rodeo song

This is a song for all of you Modula-3 programmers out there. I figure if PMath can have a song, CS is no *EXCEPTION*

I've been working too long  
On this assignment for two-forty-six.  
Lots of ADT's, that have to be REVEALED.  
If I could only get this to run.

Every time, I run m3build,  
I can't ever be sure it'll compile.  
Well it's never the same error twice.  
Here come a few more,  
Oh, line after line  
I'm goin crazy.

I forgot the TRY (twang, twang, twang)  
TRY-Y-Y-Y,  
TRY.  
Oh yes for sure I forgot the TRY,  
TRY-Y-Y-Y  
TRY.  
Oh-oh-oh-oh!

Oh baby that TRY.

Jason Testart

## \$1.00 OFF FedPizza

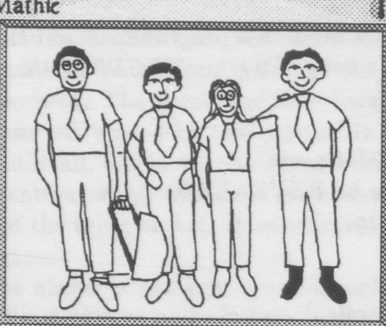
### Fast Free Delivery

This coupon entitles you to \$1.00 off any three item FedPizza.  
This coupon cannot be combined with any other offer.  
Expires Dec. 2/95



**FedPizza** is open Wed - Sat 4pm-2am  
We'd love to cater your parties. Call us about our  
special rates for orders on 10 or more pizzas

**Mathic** 1

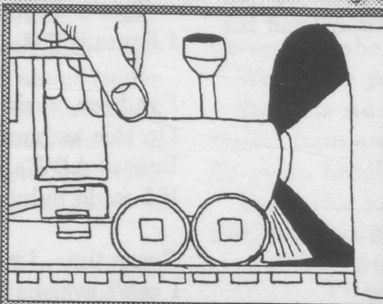


**Summon Mathic**

*Jon the Artsie hated going to his CS 100 class in MC. Everywhere he looked, there were mathies.*

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 1/1

**CS 452** 3 1

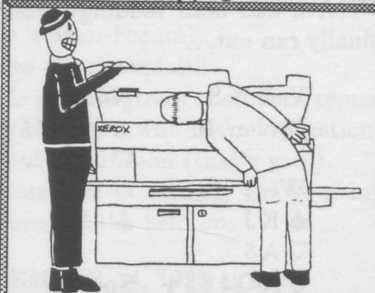


**Enchantment**

3, 4: All attacking pink creatures lose -1/-1.  
*One year, Vernest took Real-Time and no longer had the time to concentrate on battle.*

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

**MathSoc Photocopying** 1



**Sorcery**

Target creature becomes two identical creatures, each with half the original creature's power and toughness. Round all fractions down.  
*Cheap copying is just one of the many services MathSoc has to offer.*

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

**Graduation** 1 1




**Instant**

Target creature is removed from game entirely; return to owner's deck only when game is over. Caster loses life points equal to the creature's power.  
*It hurt to watch all his friends graduate and leave before he did.*

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

**Jolt Cola** 1

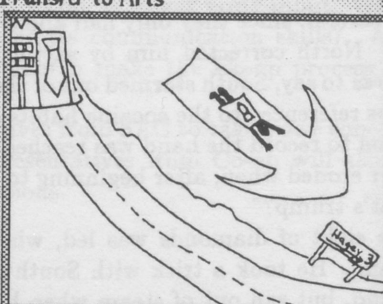


**Instant**

Target creature gains +2/0 until end of turn.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

**Transfer to Arts** 2



**Sorcery**

Replace ↓ with \* on target card.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

# MATHIES

The Gathering™

by Mike "Hammer" Hammond

## Filler Wanted: Inquire Within

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my duty as a responsible member of the *mathNEWS* staff to bring to the attention of the readership a recent disturbing trend. The overall quality of the *mathNEWS* articles referred to as *filler* has been declining at an alarming rate and, as a result, attentive and devoted readers are being confronted with the awkward and embarrassing need to not read *mathNEWS* completely from front to back.

In order to address this humbling situation, we must appeal to you, the readership, to bring respectability back to this aspect of our fine publication. To bring about this return to form, we implore you, as an upstanding member of society, to submit filler. For the uninformed amongst you, we are specifically hoping to attract submissions of the following nature:

1 fill-er fil-er n

(15c)

:one that fills: as

a: a substance added to a product (as to increase *bulk, weight, viscosity, opacity, or strength*)

b: a piece used to cover or fill in a space between two parts of a structure

c: material used to fill extra space in a column or page of a newspaper or magazine

As incentive for those not altruistic enough to participate for the betterment of the publication alone, *mathNEWS* will award unto the finest submission of filler, a splendid MathSoc novelties prize, as well as the overwhelming glory of having your name in our hallowed newsletter.

To participate in the resuscitation of filler, simply put your submission in the BLACK BOX. [*Be sure the filler isn't too long. Filler longer than half a column will not be considered filler. — CrakkoEd*] To have a chance to be presented with novelties beyond your heart's desire, be sure to include your name and e-mail address on the submission.

Your support of quality filler is appreciated, and will likely get you into heaven.

## I'll Have The Special

*Just brown and serve*

When I write my columns, I try my best not to complain about things that other people would find trivial. That's why I always have an agonizing time trying to come up with stuff to write about. It seems all I do is complain... school, my car, life... well, don't worry. I did my best to spare you from such tripe. And now, here's my serving of tripe for this issue...

- Watched the Bowe-Holyfield match last weekend, and it wasn't too bad. Mind you, after a few beers, any two guys beating the crap out of each other on TV would seem like the fight of the century.
- This weekend marked the home openers for the Toronto Raptors and the Vancouver Grizzlies, Canada's new NBA teams. The Raptors won their home opener and Vancouver won theirs. And you can feel it... NBA excitement is blanketing this land like the first snowfall of the winter. And no matter how much I try, I just don't care one bit.
- Gotta love the weather we've been having for the past couple weeks. Rainy, windy, chilly, snowy, cloudy... generally miserable. Makes one think it's autumn or something.
- Could somebody please explain to me why the *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* movie was such a bust at the box office? Just wondering. Thanks.
- Only 45 shopping days left until Christmas. Haven't started? Well? What are you waiting for?

And don't forget that my useless and feeble attempt to find people who worked at GM in Oshawa continues. You can email submissions to [bcfox@undergrad.math...](mailto:bcfox@undergrad.math...) but I know you won't. Till next time...

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

## All the Rage

*Ramblings, Ravings and Incoherent Mumbles  
completely unrelated to a certain Professor in the CS  
Department*

Well, several important world developments have happened in the scant few weeks since I chewed on your ears last, but fortunately, I've forgotten them all, so I won't be telling you about them. Instead, I thought I'd meander about the recesses of my mind for a while.

I'd like to clear up this whole thing with the toilet seat. It seems that there has been a great deal of traffic about it in *mathNEWS* lately. I'd just like to put my two cents in before the government takes them too. Guys have this really neat thing in between the knees and the stomach. It is generally a very useful thing, which hasn't really been taken into account. It is called a butt. It is used for sitting. That porcelain altar we all make sacrifices to isn't called the throne for nothing after all. If you are so concerned about all the extra time it takes prepping for the event, maybe you can take a book in with you or something.

One of my roommates and I were recently buying oven cleaner, and we noticed that the instructions for all the different brands gave identical instructions for "twenty minutes or overnight". Now it seems a little odd that the instructions are identical. No scrubbing is needed, just wipe away, and your oven, ideally, will be clean. What happens though, if you try leaving the cleaning stuff in for more than twenty minutes, but *not* overnight? If you start at nine-thirty in the morning, do you have to wait a full day if you miss the window of opportunity at nine-fifty? If you start at one minute before midnight, can you wipe the oven spotless two minutes later? Unfortunately, we were too cautious of discovering the real truth, for fear of tearing a hole in our nice space-time continuum thing.

Well, that's about all I have on the top of my head, so I guess recess is over. I'd just like to point out before I go however, that this article was printed on 100% Zoggo-free paper.

Chris "the other 'h' in 'http' is also for hyper" Calzonetti

## Tsk Tsk

Dave Dave Dave

Dave Dave Dave Dave Dave. (Sarah shakes her head sorrowfully). Sigh. The foolishness that you so gratuitously spewed around the place last issue of *mathNEWS* makes me want to cry. In fact, copious tears are streaming down my face at this moment as I think of your folly. Listen, and listen well, O Representative of the Boffo-like Ones. It appears that I will have to tell you a leetle story.

See, there was once this guy called Beefo. He was kinda dim. In fact, people meeting him often guessed (correctly) that his mother was a weight-lifter. (I mean, how else could she have raised a dumb-bell like him?)

Anyway. I digress. The fact remains that he was quite a few sandwiches short of a picnic. And, (by quite an amazing coincidence,) he happened to believe, as you do, that the steady state of toilet seats should coincide with the majority preference of the particular house in which they are installed. When he informed me of his opinion at one point and suggested that we implement this policy in our house, I smiled benignly. "What an incredibly reasonable thought," I marvelled. "How utterly fair and progressive," I exclaimed.

*OVER MY DEAD BODY!!!!!!*

"Just WHAT do I look like?" I shrieked, furiously pummelling his shoulder, "A moron?!?!?"

"What kind of an idiot do you think I am?!?" I yelled while bouncing his thick skull off a nearby cabinet.

"You remember Lorena Bobbitt?! Remember what she did to her husband with that Ginsu knife?! Know why she did it?!? *So that the toilet seat would stay down!!!!*" I screeched while rattling his tiny brain with resounding slaps to the face.

"Hey, hey! Wait a sec," Beefo mumbled, warding me off with raised arms and backing up several steps, a look of intense concentration on his face. I paused, panting for breath.

I paused some more, rolling my eyes, waiting for his swift mind to process its thought. I could almost hear the creaking of the rusty cogs of his noggin as he ruminated.

"So you don't like my idea?" he asked after a few more minutes of deep thought.

*NOOO!!!!!!*

I shrieked, pushing him down and using his rotund gut as a trampoline.

"The toilet seat stays DOWN! DOWN! DOWNDOWN-DOWNDOWNDOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!" I hollered, doing the nifty WWF moves I'd just recently witnessed on TV on his supine form.

"And if it doesn't stay down, then I'll make sure it does *just like Lorena did!!!*" I cried furiously.

"But, but... you don't have a Ginsu knife!" Beefo blurted.

"Hmmm. You're right. I don't," I conceded, getting up and rubbing my chin thoughtfully. Beefo, noticing my preoccupation, quickly dragged himself over to a nearby azalea bush and cowered behind it. Unfortunately for him, however, I recovered quickly enough to catch him by the collar before he'd managed to hide himself behind its scraggly foliage.

"You know what I do have, though?" I asked, a maniacal gleam in my eye as I hoisted him up by his lapels. He shook his head wordlessly.

"I have a stapler."

I giggled.

"And a hole puncher."

I giggled some more.

"And a pencil sharpener."

I guffawed.

"And a meat grinder."

I started laughing so hard that I released my grip on his shirt-collar. He, not fully realising the gravity of his situation, fell to the ground with a thump.

"And an electric sander."

By now, I was actually rolling on the floor, paroxysms of laughter convulsing my body.

Beefo, a worried look on his face, started sidling inconspicuously back towards his mangled azalea bush. I got up instantly and hoisted him up again off the floor a few inches, my fist digging into his neck.

"So, do you still think we should leave the toilet seat down? Hmmmm?" I asked silkily.

"Nope," he croaked, managing to gaze at me adoringly through big bambi-eyes while blood streamed down his face.

"And do you think men anywhere in the world have the right to leave the toilet seat up?" I queried, narrowing my eyes at him in distrust.

"Oh, never!" he murmured as fervently as he could past his crushed windpipe.

I sniffed, mollified. I even relented enough to let him back down to earth relatively gently.

"Oh Sarah!! The men who even DARE think that toilet seats should be left up are BAAAAAAAAD. Real bad!!!!" he exclaimed as enlightenment dawned on him.

"That's right, Beefo!" I said encouragingly.

"I'm never going to be one of those bad men again, Sarah! Never ever!!" he cried passionately. "Thank you for showing me the One, True Way, Sarah! You're so smart!"

I cast my eyes down modestly. "Oh no. You're just saying that!"

"Oh yes!" He said intelligently. "And you're real sexy, too!"

I preened.

"You're so amazing, Sarah!! You ought to be elected queen of *mathNEWS*, or something!"

I smiled and ruffled his greasy, matted hair affectionately. Such a bright boy.

"My thoughts exactly, Beefo. My thoughts exactly."

Sarah "Bad, bad, BAD childhood experience when getting potty-trained" Kamal

## Deep Thoughts

Did you ever wish that people would stop throwing around terms like "hell"?

What they don't know is that hell is a room with a pencil and a C&O textbook.

Dale "Jack Handey" Wick

## Playing Darts

*Or, the Co-op Process*

I am, but a young and helpless froshling, so I am just being introduced to the wonders of co-op. Never mind that it doesn't make too much sense to have a Pure Math co-op, never mind that nobody knows what semester I'm in, I still have to find a job. No problem, think I, for I have good marks, a scholarship, all that wonderful stuff. Little did I know. I still had just enough doubts to go to the co-op dis-information sessions. These lectures introduced me to the joys of administrative double-speak. Talk of "Transferable Skills" filled me with confidence, although the only example of "Transferable Skills" I ever heard was flipping burgers at McDonald's (exactly what employers are looking for, I'm told). So in spite of my somewhat skimpy (well, one job) experience (so it was two weeks, all right?), I felt full of confidence.

Well, around comes the day of first postings. It occurs to me that maybe I should have a resumé. And maybe it shouldn't be in my handwriting. But wait — I don't have a computer any more. Well, I have two choices. A friend has a typewriter. Or I can use UNIX. No, problem, UNIX has a word processor, right? Well, strictly speaking  $\text{\LaTeX}$  is a word processor. It's not for the uninitiated, though; it's a bit more of a programming language. So I asked the MFCF consultant (who was quite helpful - thank you!) and he gave me a resumé to mangle to my heart's desire. At about three o'clock in the morning I gave up in frustration and went to join the CSC (they were open of course) in order to borrow a book. With this help I finally finished it (minus of course about three or four revisions... I suppose I should mention C++ if I'm going to apply to Watcom, shouldn't I?). When I finally saw the posting, I immediately noticed the slim pickings for Mathies. CS jobs were a little better, but there go all my nice ideas about plentiful jobs...

I noticed a distinct trend: the first posting I got all my resúmes in the first day. The second posting, I left it until the evening. Things progressed from there until the last day I was sending someone to stall the guy who collects them. In any case I sent them all in (all 50). I applied mostly to junior jobs after noticing the requirements on some of them: Must have extensive experience with LANs, UNIX and the IBM AS400. Now, at least I know what the first two are, and of course I run UNIX on my LAN at home.

Now the best part: wait. And wait, and wait, and wait. My favourite question:

"So, how many interviews did you get today?"

"(mumble)"

## Donate Blood

There is a blood donor clinic in the SLC on Nov. 27th from 12:00 to 4:00pm.

We need donors (of course), but also volunteers to help with coffee and bandaids and various other stuff. There's a 12:00 to 2:30 shift and a 2:30 to 5:00 shift (which may only be until 4:00 depending on what area you work in). Interested parties can call Karen Damery at the Red Cross or Lisa Ballinger (lcballin@undergrad.math) or Marie Elliot at 744-6110 (also Red Cross, the blood division)

"Sorry, how many?"

"None! I said none, all right?"

"Oh, well I just had my fourth... today."

Some of them survived this.

I have gradually developed this fixation: I log on to the xterm at every chance and count my NOs. It is a morbid sort of interest: "So, who doesn't want me today?" Somehow, though, I manage to feel hopeful about the one remaining job in Montreal. Its interview date is Monday Oct. 16. As the weekend approaches the rest of that company's jobs fill up with NOs. This one, though, remains that ever-hopeful question mark. On Saturday, I start to worry. When Monday comes and it's still not decided, I am convinced something odd is going on. Through Monday I continue to hopefully check the status. Well, Monday the 16th is long past and still no sign of a decision. The form still reads Oct. 16, but no answer yet.

Well, I'm up to thirty-one NOs, and am depressedly scanning the list: NO...NO...NO...YES...NO...wait a minute. YES? Huh? Oh, an interview! As I quickly scan the information I notice that, wow, these people are all 3B. I'm 1A. One of these things is not like the others... This job is marked intermediate/senior only. I have no job experience, no previous work terms, and they are interviewing me. Why? Job requirements: SQLWindows, Delphi, Gupta, knowledge of the client-server model. Sure. I know the client-server model. It's where you have a client, and a server. Uh-huh.

Wait a minute. When is this interview? Tomorrow. At the same time as my physics midterm. Oh boy. Well, maybe I can talk the prof into letting me write the exam early, late or (preferably) never. What does he say? "Well, you can write the exam, or not. You've known about this exam for two weeks." Yes, but I've known about this interview since yesterday, I didn't say. My best choice was to write the exam and then take off after an hour to go to my interview. Of course when I get there, the interview has been postponed to the middle of my CS class. Aargh.

I'm beginning to have dreams of a utopian life: studying at Waterloo, nothing to worry about but exams, the only NO I am interested in is the one for the Quebec neverendum. Oh well, wishful thinking.

Andrew Archibald

## MathSoc Says...

*We're asking nicely... Please!  
Leave the photocopier lid DOWN!*

## Row, Row...

Row, row, row reduce  
Madly down the page.  
One mistake and you'll be baked  
Check at every stage.

Anonymous

## Post-Teen Angst: I Always Have Time For You, Just Not Right Now... Part VI - KAWPHY

Or "What? Whaaaaaat? STOP POKING ME!"

I like to drink KAWPHY. It is good.

"Pardon? What is this KAWPHY stuff?" asks Average Reader, rather stupefied.

Sound it out. You'll get it.

Yes, it is a wondrous, wondrous thing. It is the thing that wakes me each morning. It is the thing that keeps me awake each night. It is the thing that helped me (almost) pass Stats last term. (Who thought up 2-hour 8:30 stats lectures anyways? S/he deserves a good swat. "Gee," thinks Average Reader, "this parenthetic aside bodes well for your \*next\* attempt at the course...")

But I was talking about KAWPHY. Yes, I do have to shout. You see, I have a bit of a problem. I'm a coffee addict. It drives me. It motivates me. It stimulates me. It makes me go. It \*is\* me. (Well, aside from a couple litres of water and a pile of assorted chemicals.) Point being, it's really neat stuff. I mean seriously - you're hanging out in Tim Horton's procrastinating studying for that pesky CS midterm, and think, "Hmmm... I think I'd like a cup of coffee."

That's how it starts.

You finish said cup, and think, "Hmmm... That was good, so I think I'd like another cup." And another cup. And another cup follows that cup. And another cup and another cup and another cupananandacupand beforeyouknowit you cant remember how to capitalise let alone punctuate and you know that theres no way that youll get to sleep for another couple of days now so you have six or seven more and youre sitting there and get to thinking how utterly and completely uncomfortable these stinking little attached-to-the-table chairs really are but you do find six or seven positions that keep your butt from going numb for about three seconds each so you figure that youll just rotate through them in the eighteen to twenty-one seconds required which works really quite well until the other people at tim hortons start to stare so you get up because by this point your bladder is bursting and your insides are screaming HELP ME I'M DROWNING so you nonchalantly bolt off to the can but the damned urinal just WON'T STOP SHAKING so you hose down the wall instead cause its sure as hell easier to hit than that jockstrap-shaped hunk of porcelain hanging on the wall and you go back to the counter for one more cup but the little zipper on your a-team wallet require just a little too much manual dexterity for you to open it at this point so get really really REALLY PISSED OFF and hurl it at the poor lady behind the counter who is used to this kind of behaviour and easily dodges it and you send all the jelly-filled and crullers flying all over the tim hortons and of course theres a cop there cause what donut shop is complete without an opp cruiser parked outside so he drags you downtown claiming you are hepped up on goofballs and so you miss your midterm and fail out of school and spend the rest of your days eating maggots off the bottoms of dumpsters and and and...

Ahem. Shall we continue?

There's not really that much more to say. Except for noting that there are those who commit the ultimate sacrilege, and

taint their coffee, by putting... stuff... in it. You know, cream, sugar, milk, Sweet-n-Low, spoons, apples, stray cats, motorized donkeys, condom dispensers, small apartment complexes...

Not I. No bloody way. I like my coffee like I like my women: ground up with hot water poured over 'em and straight into my mug. Coffee with stuff in it is just that: coffee. Coffee without stuff is truly KAWPHY, and transcends all.

Now you know. And I'm going to jog to Alberta.

Ian "Son of God Complex" Milligan

## Geas of the Amplified Light

or: *LaserQuest for Dummies*

Well, last Friday, MathSoc organized a trip out to the Kitchener LaserQuest. There was a great turnout of 23 people who blasted, zapped, and, in one case, butt ended their opponents, on the way to victory (or in the case of the butt end, on the way to a face plant and a headache).

Of the three games played, there was a normal solo free-for-all, an LQ version of the game Clue, and a game in total blackout. Neil Murray and Curtis Desjardins quickly asserted themselves as the freaks to beat. The first game saw Neil nudge ahead for the slim victory.

In the game of Clue, most of the players survived till the end in order to guess who the murderer was, which was strange in itself, until I found out that Jonathan Cressman was playing the worst murderer in the history of the game. Just one tip (OK, two tips): don't shoot someone when their 2 feet away from you cause they'll figure out you're the murderer, and most importantly, don't run out of shots. How Jon managed to avoid both of these points during the game is still a mystery. And although it was by no means hard to guess the identity of the murderer, congratulations go to Marty van Lanen in successfully winning the 2-for-1 pass.

The third game, the blackout, saw another top score by Neil Murray, although it was for a losing cause: Curtis' Red Brigade took Neil's Green Berets to town, even though both Neil and Curtis were the first two players eliminated from the game (It's tough being the top guns, I tell you, people are always gunning for ya). Course, because it was dark, and the mirrors screwed up my sense of the maze, I had a nice talk with a wall, and almost a talk with the floor right after. Bent my glasses, the wall did.

Well, it seems everyone had a great time, and thought it was time (and money) well spent. I hope to see you all on Monday when we take a trip to the London LaserQuest (see details elsewhere in the issue).

Coitus Desjardins

## Don't forget Remembrance Day!



## Cipherpunks!

¡ Ola, everybody!

This week's seven correct submissions came from Club 21, Eric Fung, Greg "X. N. Trick" Taylor, Slaves to the Gridword, Shawn "Lycanthrope?" Stackhouse (aww, you gave it away!), Phage & 2, and Ian Facey. Pamela also submitted correct solutions to crypts 7 and 8 and submitted the labels for 9, but that isn't enough for a correct entry. Sorry. The winner this issue is Phage & 2. Congratulations!

Here are the solutions for last week's crypts.

ESPAÑOL After eleven years of expensive therapy  
THUMBSDOWN The Blockbuster Video Guide review for  
'Look

lunarLYCANTHROPEshock The name of a book about  
werewolves

Cryptogram #10 is an ordinary aristocrat, #11 is a checkerboard, like #9 was last issue, and #12 is something called a columnar transposition.

The message is written horizontally into a full rectangle, and the columns numbered:

123456  
HEWHOL  
AUGHSL  
ASTISD  
ENSEST

The columns are then written down in random order. Let's say we use 154362 as our key. ("We use 154362 as our key!") Then our ciphertext becomes HAAE OSSS HHIE WGTS LLDT EUSN, which is written in blocks of five letters to hide the lengths of the columns.

Hints: bear in mind that the message must have been written in a rectangle. What factors does the message's length have?

10. It was dismissed as coincidence.

OL PZNBPV, \*XKSQOL NBQ FZV \*PNDPGDGC \*PRI-  
ORL ZNHV FNUVB NB VDVPFHSV SB  
PRYYRB FIR FVKYC KGBBOBX: YGCSP RBV ZGBQKVQ  
NBQ CPSVBPV FIR=RZ=WSHV.

11. And you get a different answer. CHECKERBOARD  
[geniuses]

ER IR IR TI TD HD EO TA GR GI HD HI HO GI HI TI HA  
TA TD HI GI HR TI GI HI GA TA ID TA TD HD TI GI TA  
GI GI EA HA ER TD HO EA ED TI GI ID TI TA GI GI IO  
GD TA TD IO TA IO ER TD HI HI EA ID TA HI TI EI GA  
TI HI EA EO TA GR TD HD ID GD HI HD TD EA TI GR GI  
IR TA TA EI IO TA GR TA HI GD HD TD IA HI GD TA IO  
GD EA IR TA EI GR EA GA IR TA HR.

12. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern aren't dead. COLUMNAR  
TRANSPOSITION

UGLBE WRAEN SQDON ASHOO SKINR BLSRI NTHEY  
WTTOA OEEWD AAYAU TSSRQ HNWIIW EGWUO IAOTA  
NRMOS SOIYI CNWNT NUROE STHUO IHCHP QIEIW  
PTSCO TLDNE HTLKI OIKEA OEIHN.

Gridby

## And the Green Grass

*It is sing-song time, so sit cross legged around your burning terminal, pull out those marshmallows, and get an extra warm blanket as the cool autumn breeze flows through the terminal lab. Here is a variation on a well known camp fire song.*

1. In Waterloo, there was hole  
Just the prettiest little hole, that you ever did see.  
And the hole is in the ground  
And the green grass grows all around, all around  
And the green grass grows all around.
2. And in that hole there was MC,  
just the ugliest Math Building that you ever did see.  
And MC was in the hole  
And the hole was in the ground  
And the green grass grows all around, all around  
And the green grass grows all around.
3. And in MC there was a wall  
Just the plainest old wall that you ever did see.  
And the wall was in MC  
...
4. And on that wall there was a brain  
just the strangest wooden brain that you ever did see...
5. And by that brain there was a chair ...
6. And on that chair there sat a prof ...
7. And on that prof there was a tie,  
just the gaudiest pink tie ...
8. And on that tie, there was a stain ...
9. And on that stain, there was bacteria ...
10. And on that bacteria there was the Natural Log ...

*Now as the silence fills the lab, and the xterm fire burns low, look at the stars and dream of the easier times when concurency just meant money from the Continent.*

Dale "ñotanote" Wick

## From The Desk Of...

*the mathNEWS editors*

During the last clean-up of the office, we noticed a cake pan. This time I bring you the latest discovery — pictures! Not just any pictures. Pictures from *way* back. Mini-skirts, bell-bottoms, etc.

Who's in them? I couldn't tell you. Where have the pictures actually been used in *mathNEWS*? I have absolutely *no* idea!

So, I've just got to know: **What the heck are these pictures doing in the *mathNEWS* office???**

There's no one I recognize or we could have fun with these pictures. Real fun (insert sly laughter).

Oh, well.

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan



# mathNEWSquiz #4

*More stimulating than electro-shock therapy*

Well, what can we say? You all spit in our face. For the second consecutive issue, we received ONE submission. That's right, one submission. The entire math student population collectively spits on our face. But I'm just going on here.

The answers for squiz #3 are... **Song Lyrics:** 1. Ordinary Average Guy, Joe Walsh; 2. Saturday Night Special, Lynyrd Skynyrd; 3. Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting, Elton John; **Live From New York...** 1. 41; 2. Male prostitute; 3. 1; 4. Daily affirmation with Stuart Smalley; 5. Texas; **Hockey Night In Canada:** 1. 1952; 2. Toronto Maple Leafs; 3. Toronto; 4. 200 feet by 85 feet; 5. 4; **Bonus:** Saturday.

With their submission, Club 21 is our big winner with 10 points! Head on over to MathSOC and claim your prize. And now, on with the squiz!

## Song Lyrics

1. Last thing I remember, I was running for the door  
Had to find a passage back to the place I was before
2. Life springs eternal  
On a gaudy neon street
3. You'll have to excuse me I'm not at my best  
I've been gone for a week, I've been drunk since I left

## Money, Money, Money

*Name the currencies of the given countries*

1. Greece
2. Cuba
3. Panama
4. Czech Republic
5. Vietnam

## Quantum Leap

1. What was Sam's birthdate?
2. What was Al's sister's name?
3. What was Sam's daughter's name?
4. What was Ziggy called in the alternate reality where Al died?
5. Name the day and month that Sam leaped into in the episode "Piano Man". [Hint: The answer is everywhere in this issue.]

We will be enthusiastically awaiting your submissions... which will be due on Monday, November 20th at 6:30 pm... either email [bcfox@undergrad.math](mailto:bcfox@undergrad.math) or stuff it in the BLACK BOX. Good luck! And submit, damn you!

Brian "Your bitter squizmaster" Fox  
and his minion Greg "Hologram" Taylor

**This mathNEWS will self-destruct  
in 5 seconds**

5...4...3...2...

# gridCOMMENTS

Greetings, Gridders!

For the Cryptic last issue, we got 5 correct entries. They were from Club 21, Turbulent Open Jet, Slaves to the Gridword, Pamela, and Ian Facey. The winner by random confetti toss is Ian Facey.

And for the Conventional, we received two correct entries from Slaves to the Gridword and Ian Facey, an entry missing ten squares (but with the correct quote) from Club 21, and an entry containing 157 incorrect squares from Sym. This was accomplished by submitting a grid containing nothing but zeroes. With slashes. You could have at least made my night a living hell by leaving off the slashes and making me figure out how many O's you got right. Our winner is Ian Facey.

The quote, from Terry Pratchett, is "In the beginning, there was nothing, which exploded."

I asked you to submit your favourite lightbulb jokes last time, and here they are:

How many sopranos does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

—One. She holds on to the lightbulb and the world revolves around her.

How many MS programmers does it take to change a lightbulb?

—None. Bill Gates will define Darkness(TM) to be the new industry standard.

How many mice does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

—Hmm... I'm not sure if you can even fit two in there!

How many dumb guys does it take to change a lightbulb?

—101. One to hold the bulb and 100 to turn the house around.

How many Pentium guys does it take to change a lightbulb?

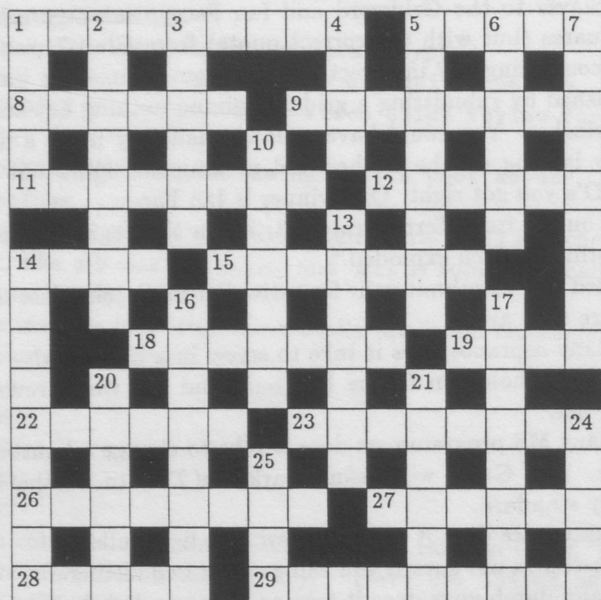
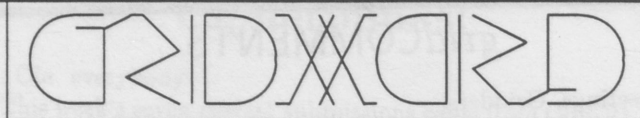
—1.9999999934232

This week's Gridword has the same gimmick as last week's: there's a quote hidden among the squares of the conventional. In nineteen places in the grid, two letters have been compressed to fill one square. Reading these pairs row by row will produce a quote by Stephen Wright.

And the gridQUESTION this week is: What is your best get-rich-quick scheme?

I	N	G	R	E	R	D	S	I	A	N	D	T		T	H	I	S	E	V	E							
A	M	P	E	R	S	I	A	N	D	T				A	I	S	E	L	E								
L			E	B	I	O	I	R	N	E	A			D	A	T	X										
L	U	A	T	E	Q	N	U	S	E	I	R	L		C	N	E	G	M	L	B	E	I	C	N	T	E	S
O	S		N	L	N	C		E	I	K				I	I			R	H		V	I					
W	I	E	L	L	I	N	D	O	I	S				S	S	E	P	T	F	N	I	R	A	R	E	D	
E	O		C	E	T	V	T	T												N	G	U					
D	N	O	R	E	T	H	E	R	T	N				B	N	E	W	S	P	R	I	E	P	E	L	S	
C	C	A	L	R	I	D	P	R	E	O	R	O	S	M		A	D	N	E	N	M	A	I	M	C	O	
A	S															N	O										
R			E												B												
O	B	O	A	C	R	L	D	U	S	P					R	N	E	C	O	N	R	A	D	T	S	E	
W															A												
D	H	A	H	M	I	N	G	W	A	S	Y				H	I	D	N	E	T	L	I	E	N	S	A	S
W	O	U	T	P	L	O	D								Y	O	A	V	E	R	S	T	I	A	Y	E	D

Gridby



## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

### Across

1. Silly—yet lucid—doctors foul up. (9)
5. Metallic mold got in the other way. (5)
8. Around the company, send support during meetings. (6)
9. A revenue bureau makes step into high-up territory. (8)
11. Come back for two pears: one bad, one good. (8)
12. Fine for a deadly sin. (6)
14. Eat light: cube a bit of turnip. (4)
15. Weep into a 51¢ paint. (7)
18. Lack of water is difficult in double time. (7)
19. Sealed-up vessel sounds like it's horrible. (4)
22. Opportunity knocks; mechanics miles away. (6)
23. Sick for French storm. (8)
26. Places for pens sink. Ground water source found therein. (8)
27. Sound equestrian's gear for groom's new boss? (6)
28. Drive over stone? Sometimes they get a flat. (5)
29. Short talk to bring up about certain executive. (9)

### Down

1. Light (altered slightly) eradicates Romulans. (5)
2. Position in bridge is clear: shuffle in red to the back. (8)
3. Cover can of peanuttty shells. (6)

4. Pass unfilled prescriptions back. (4)
5. Main sign I am enclosing. (8)
6. Stones for burial site are large. (6)
7. Fitness equipment means a thousand in the cash register. (9)
10. Chemical, alongside lactase, comes in unexploded milk. (7)
13. Coiled python swallows egg during storm. (7)
14. Argument turns into fight after stolen cuddle (not little!). (9)
16. A little boy makes disruptive noises getting braces. (8)
17. Rods ride in a clutter. (8)
20. Question posed in bet for two points. (6)
21. Traps cause near collapse on board steamship. (6)
24. Head of university meets the French among the leaders of Rwanda. (5)
25. Strategy for blind pilot? (4)

## Grid Clues for Too Much Like Work (Unconventional)

### Across

1. Ancient ancestor to birds
5. LP, EP or CD
8. Get
9. Small tornado
11. Rum cocktail
12. Exhaustion due to stress
14. Make extensive use of, as phone lines (2 wds)
15. Fantastic
18. They advertise united colours
19. X, Y or Z
22. Relief flyer?
23. Adjective for Odessa
26. Propaganda papers
27. Pirate Jean
28. Production
29. Australian city

### Down

1. Donny or Marie
2. Infamous
3. Large kind of flatfish
4. German river
5. They get carried at sea
6. Add to (2 wds)
7. Reflects
10. Ultramodern (2wds)
13. Makes contacts
14. Colossally
16. Kicked, as a gun
17. He's got a piece of the museum
20. One of wine's vitals
21. Compatriot, esp. in Spanish/Italian culture
24. Brother's kid
25. Opposite of stern