

math NEWS

Volume 69, Issue 5 Friday, November 24, 1995

ABSOLUTE VALUE BAR

Know your limits.....

don't drink and d^rive



PrezSez

"In my own words..."

Congratulations go out to our new Spring '96 executive: Xavier Aburto (VPAS), Kim Allison Jack (VPF), and either Rachel Nickie or Chris Buchanan, President. I wish you the best of luck.

C&D tenders happened on Tuesday; trust me, it was an event not to be missed. I wish you all could have been there.

The society has donated some money to charity. \$200 to both the December the 6th Committee and the Village Community Outreach Campaign.

I would invite all students to come and talk to the executive (myself, Rachel, or Gursh) about anything regarding Soc or the faculty or the universe in general. We are *very* open to comments, criticism, and praise.

Have a great couple weeks and I'll see you in the halls of... well, the math building.

Ron Servant, President

"A president who likes to have fun"

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

mastHEAD

Gooooood eeeevening. It's 12:49am, I managed to get my CS 360 assignment in by midnight, and I'm not sick for once! (Well, physically, anyway!)

You want to know the scariest part? Even though it's 10 to 1 in the morning, of the six people in the currently-open MathSoc office, only two people are here for *mathNEWS*! Isn't that, well, sad? (Kinda like the "extra, extra long" hours MathSoc has been open this term! Can you say "Certain MathSoc people have no life?")

And now, the moment you've all been waiting for! (Well, the moment you've been waiting for if you've helped with this issue, or are the mother of somebody who helped with this issue!) Here's a list of the people who gave us a great big hand with this issue, along with the person they'd most like to see as MathSoc president:

Marni Mishna (My Chia PetTM, Rex.); Sarah Kamal (A big 300 lb. vat of tofu. Why? Just 'cos I've never seen a 300 lb. vat of tofu before.); Darren Rigby (Sir Isaac Newton. He's dead? So?); Greg Taylor (Doesn't matter. If they mess up, Dr. Sam Beckett will put it right.); Brian Fox (Don Cherry. Nothing wrong with a sharp-dressed prez.); Duncan M^cGregor (Zoggo. He should be Prez of everything!); Dale Wick (Ed the Sock for Prez!), and Mark Thornton (Ron Harm Knott).

Thanx go out to Fed Pizza and their never-dwindling supply of plastic cups. And grateful thanx go out to Marion at Graphics Services, who actually manages to print our issues no matter how much (or little) lead time we give them.

Mike "Hammer" Hammond (Yakko Warner.),
Mala "Crakko" Krishnan (President? I want anarchy!)

lookAHEAD

<i>mathNEWS</i>	
November 24	Issue #5 hits the stands
November 29	Issue #6 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
December 5	Issue #6 hits stands
Math Faculty	
November 24	Differential Equations/ Dynamical Systems Seminar
December 1	Deadline to submit <i>Intent to Graduate</i> forms if last academic term is Fall 1995 and intending to graduate in May 1996
December 2	56 th Putnam mathematical competition
December 5	Lectures End
MGC	
November 26	Rock Climbing Trip @ 1pm
November 28	Grad Portrait Appointments
December 1	Deadline for Yearbook blurbs
December 1	MGC Wine & Cheese
December 1	Grad Portrait Appointments
MathSoc	
December 1	Deadline for X-Mas toy drive
CS Due Dates	
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 9am
December 5	CS 342-Assignment 5
December 5	CS 354-Project 4
High Load forecast	
December 5	CS 488-Assignment 5
Co-op	
November 27	Job Posting #7 available Mandatory Co-ordinator Interviews
November 28	Job Posting #7 expires
November 29	Job Posting #8 available Mandatory Co-ordinator Interviews
November 30	Job Posting #8 expires Mandatory Co-ordinator Interviews
December 4	Submission of 20 resumes for Option 2A
Miscellaneous	
November 27	The Mortyman Triathlon
November 31	International Myn's Day

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The powerful and most-awesome duo: Mala "Crakko" Krishnan, Mike "Hammer" Hammond, with special appearance by our editor-in-training, Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

The World Outside Math

Is, yes, last I checked, still there

And, yes, folks, our tenuous link with that nifty (but scary! Scary!!) outside world is growing ever stronger in the math faculty through people taking a moment out of their busy schedules every once in a while to help out with several of the drives going on right now.

The pop can tab collection plastic thingy outside the C&D lounge is filling up quite nicely, as is the glass jar for the change drive that is to the right of it. (The pop can tabs go towards the purchase of a wheelchair, and the change in the jar goes to the folks organizing that drive, to defray some of their expenses.)

The Christmas Toy Drive that I mentioned last issue of *mathNEWS* is up and running as well, and is being publicized brilliantly by Sarah's Most Excellent Procrastination Effor- uh, I mean, External Poster, which is currently outside the Comfy Lounge. The "toy" drive is for new and used toys and clothes, which get distributed around on December 23rd and 24th by the Robert's Christmas Toy Drive people. I went through a whole load of stuff I had over the weekend, and managed to lug over here two garbage bags full of stuff I never use. It's such a relief! Now, when I have to go to some incredibly useless location for my next co-op job, I won't have to be taking all this stuff with me. I shoulda done this ages ago!

Anyway. The drop-off box for the toy drive is in the MathSoc office, and is overflowing with stuff that people have brought in already (thanks, folks!), so feel free to contribute any of your own good quality (but unnecessary) clothes and toys to the drive. Winter clothes would be especially appreciated, I'm sure.

Also, Michelle Ng and her friends are manning the Operation Christmas Child booth every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. or so, so check that out and please drop off any donations you have for them until next Thursday. They'd appreciate any help you want to give, be it monetary or just a couple small toys that you have lying around. I don't know if any of you have ever lived in a war-torn area (most likely not), so take it from me when I say that it sucks. Yeah, life does go on, but luxuries are veeeeeeeeeeery scarce. Never, ever, take pretty stationery for granted.

So, to recap, remember to pop off your pop-can tabs, dump your dumb, clunky change in the change jar outside the C&D, give us your old laundry and toys in the MathSoc office (MC 3038), and help out the kids in crisis areas of the world through Operation Christmas Child.

And make sure you eat your veggies, too.

Sarah "Are you wearing your mitts, sonny?" Kamal

Donate Blood

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

We need donors (of course), but also volunteers to help with coffee and bandaids and various other stuff. There's a 12:00pm to 2:30pm shift and a 2:30pm to 5:00pm shift (which may only be until 4:00pm 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).



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

The end of term is bearing down on us like a myopic rhinoceros on a shiny object. For those of you who can feel the ground shaking, the CSC is holding its End of Term party (aka, 'Control-D'), at 6:30 pm on the 1st of December. Meet at the CSC, and bring a car if you can. (If your car can't fit in the CSC, then leave it in the parking lot.) From there, we will all proceed to the Dragon Palace for the Chinese equivalents of Jolt and Fritos, the quintessential Computer Science Clubber edibles.

My slaves placed first and second at the ACM eastern regional programming contest, annihilating all competitors. The only other team to answer all questions took five hours, while the slowest Waterloo team took only three and a half. The superiority of my slave race has been proven once again.

Upcoming events

Nov. 28th: The REAL Metamedia talk is coming up, held by Prof. Mike McCool. All previous 'talks' on Metamedia were really clever forgeries held by an imposter. This talk will deal with SGML, Java, and Scheme. The talk will be held in MC 2034 at 4:30 pm.

Nov. 29th: "Intro to Linux". Linux is NOT a cartoon character with a neurotic attachment to a blanket. It is a shareware UNIX wannabe for PC platforms. You can meet Linux in MC 4058 at 4:30 pm.

Nov. 30th: "Computer Interfaces: From Punch Cards to Mice", presented by Dale Wick of the Brooklin Horticultural Society. MC 4040 is the place, and 4:30 pm is the time, unless you're very confused.

<Insert your interpretation of the sound of an irate rhinoceros here.>

Calum T. Dalek

Elections Committee Report

Nominations for MathSoc President, Vice-President of Activities and Services, and Vice-President of Finance for the winter term opened Tuesday, November 21. The nomination period will be closed the last day of classes, Tuesday, December 5. The election proceedings will be held at the beginning of January, so anyone interested may rest assured that they won't have to worry about campaigning during finals.

Elections Committee:

Matt Walsh, Sarah Kamal
Kurtis McClellan, Mark Thornton

Editorial

For '96 Grads and People Concerned About Computer Resources

Have you seen the signs saying that Yearbook blurbs must be submitted by December 1st? (I certainly hope so! I helped post them!) Then you may have noticed the following text printed in a nice Corel font towards the bottom of the page:

"Paper submissions are not permitted!"

"Oh, really?" I thought to myself. Curious, I asked the MGC Yearbook Director, Victor Wiewiórowski, why this was so.

His answer? "I don't want to type them in."

Now I suppose the logical question to my concern is, "Who cares?" Well, obviously I do. Why?

Because it will increase the number of people using computer resources for non-assignment work!

Using Netscape sometime last week, I visited the MGC homepage (<http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc>) and found the appropriate section for yearbook blurbs. It seemed straightforward enough. I thought about it for five or ten minutes, then didn't write anything. In other words, I occupied a terminal using a load-eating program (Netscape) and didn't even submit the blurb!

When I talked to Victor, he was of the opinion that most people would only occupy a terminal for ten minutes or so to submit their blurb. I don't believe this. It is my belief that most people will not write the blurb before visiting the homepage. (How can they? They have no idea what the template looks like!) Most won't even have thought about what to write until they actually visit the homepage. In other words, I believe most people will do their writing while Netscaping the homepage, and I think it's naïve to think that people will log off after 10 minutes.

The attitude of "If it's not on a computer, I don't care" is, unfortunately, quite widespread in this faculty. I don't want to generalize to any one group or person, but I certainly get the impression that certain people in this faculty look down upon those who are not as computer-oriented. I find this to be an insulting attitude, even though I *am* a CS student.

Making all submissions by the World Wide Web only is a sledgehammer solution to the thumbtack problem of "I don't want to type them in." A better solution, perhaps, is to allow *both* electronic (WWW, e-mail templates, or whatever) and paper submissions. Allowing both will:

- increase the flexibility for grads, and hence likely increase the number of submissions — imagine all the non-CS grads who rarely (if ever) need to use the computer, and as a result haven't the foggiest idea how to use the WWW; and
- reduce (but not eliminate) the number of paper submissions.

What can you do about this? Withholding your submission is unlikely to change anything about the yearbook except your appearance in it. Instead, I believe that if you share these (or other) opinions regarding the yearbook, you should mail them either to Vic directly (wwiewior@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca), or to the MGC (mgc@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca).

It's your grad and your yearbook. Make sure that your voice is heard.

Mike "Hammer" Hammond

Reflections from the Back Seat as We Speed Dangerously Down the Highway of Life

"Are we there yet? I gotta go potty!"

Today, I'd like to address a serious and controversial topic (which will look really out of place with the rest of this silly nonsense). I'd like to address something that has yet to be publicly discussed in the Math Faculty, but should be. It is the Sedhev Kumar scandal.

For those of you who consider *mathNEWS* as the only source of good journalism on campus, here is a brief summary of the facts. Professor Kumar took some environmental students on a trip to India. While there, he (allegedly) sexually assaulted a female student of his TWICE — once by forcibly kissing her on the lips, once by fondling her. It was brought to the attention of the Dean of Prof. Kumar's faculty, then to the President of the university, Pres. James Downey. The Dean suggested that Prof. Kumar be dismissed from the university. However, Pres. Downey took Kumar's fate into his own hands (instead of consulting the Board) and decided to suspend Kumar for 6 months without pay, claiming his actions were closer to sexual harassment, not sexual assault, and did not deserve full dismissal.

Now, let's take a look here at the facts. First of all, I (like every other student on campus) cannot believe that Kumar will be back teaching in 6 months. Excuse me? Sexual HARASSMENT? Whose set of laws was President Downey looking at — Hammurabi's? I was at a sexual assault clinic for students in Village 1 today (Sunday, Nov 19), where a Parry Sound area district attorney talked to us about what constitutes sexual assault. Basically, anything from serious rape to pinching someone's butt is sexual assault. As long as intent to make contact is established, it is assault, NOT harassment. I'd say that Prof. Kumar's actions fall under that category, wouldn't you? Hmmm...?

Secondly, throughout this whole deal, Prof. Kumar has maintained his innocence, saying that "[the allegations] are totally false and fabricated". Yeah, RIGHT! First of all, if you are such a respected and revered professor (after all, most students and faculty have spoken highly of your 25 years of teaching here), why would one of your students make up such malicious lies about you? Why would she bring up this very serious charge against you? Second of all, I know you're not stupid. Of course you're going to deny it! There's no way you'd be dumb enough to go around saying, "Yeah, India was nice. Oh, by the way, I did sexually assault one of my students there as well." As far as I'm concerned your denial is worth about as much as the 8-tracks people sell at garage sales!

It's time to look at reality. Crimes such as sexual assault CAN HAPPEN HERE. As much as I hate to admit it, it can happen here. As long as we keep giving people like Prof. Kumar slaps on the wrist like 6-month suspensions, we are just inviting them to do it again. And again. And again until somebody gets seriously hurt. So therefore, I will leave you with one final thought, a fundamental rule of the "GOTCHA!" game we played in Village: If something doesn't seem right, IT PROBABLY ISN'T. Please, be careful out there.

And now, back to our regularly scheduled insaneness...

Chris "wanna-be *mathNEWS* writer in training (I must be CRAZY!)" McGuire

The Oracle

Knows all, sees all

To ask the oracle a question, simply email your oracle question to mathNEWS or put it in the BLACK BOX. Thanks to all of the questioners who made this possible.

Dear Oracle,

What question should I have asked here?

J. Random Mathie

Dear J. Random Mathie,

Since I am all-seeing and all-knowing you can, in theory, ask me absolutely anything at all. But since your mind is so petty and small, most everything that I do know you don't have the brain power to even formulate the questions for. So you could and should simply (as I know simply is the only way you can think) ask me anything that is bothering you around the Math building, in your life, love life, or even something at the global or universal stage. In short any question you can wrap your little mind around I can answer.

The omnipotent Oracle

Dear Oracle,

The plus sign on my calculator isn't working anymore. I need to know the answer to $419 + 5347$ by Friday. <wah!> Solve my problem.

Adam Up

And Survey Says...

We need more opinions!

Hey guys! This is the Math Planning Committee again. We're a group of people who want to know what math students need and want from MathSoc and the faculty as a whole. We'd like to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the survey we included in the last issue of mathNEWS, and invite you all to join us for a forum that will be held at 11:30am on Wednesday, November the 29th, in the Comfy Lounge. Again, we will be wanting to know what you like/dislike about MathSoc and the way the math faculty is run by the folks upstairs, and how you think either can be improved. Feel free to come on out and spew your opinion—positive or otherwise—at us on issues to do with the faculty. If you've got a gripe, share it with us!

This is change in action, folks. Become a part of it.

The Math Planning Committee

Distinguished Teacher Awards

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

Dear Adam Up,

I assume you mean today. Therefore your answer is $664 \frac{7}{24}$.

Oracle

Dear Oracle,

Umm, this is kinda embarrassing. You see there's this, uh, girl, and I think she's, uh, schnazzy. Can you help me get to meet her?

Lost in Love

Dear Lost in Love,

I know of this girl. She is very schnazzy. I also have the solution to your problem. But you must be brave of heart and iron of shoulder if you really want to meet her. All you have to do is stand in your favourite place within the Pink Tie Zone and shout 'LEMON HEAD' three times. She will now run to you and if you don't run away very quickly she will proceed to pummel you upon your left shoulder. Hard. Repeatedly.

Best of luck,
Oracle

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Not The socTOC

Ruminations of a LaserQuest Newbie

Well, I hear some events have occurred in the past couple of weeks. There was the movie *Reservoir Dogs* in the Comfy Lounge (inconveniently scheduled in the middle of mathNEWS Production Night!), and that trip to LaserQuest in London, and... well... that's all I know about!

I'm not here to tell you about upcoming social events, if there are any. Nor can I tell you that *Reservoir Dogs* is a good movie (though I find it interesting that Harvey Keitel seems to pop up in Quentin Tarantino-like movies!).

What I *am* here to tell you about was the trip to the London LaserQuest! I'd never played LaserQuest before, though I *did* make an outing to Paintball in Ottawa during one summer work term. Since LaserQuest offered no mosquitos, I jumped at the chance to go! (Well, I hopped a little. Really.) I convinced a friend (and co-editor's roommate) from Optometry to join me. (Hi, Lixin!)

There were a grand total of nine of us that went. Most had played before, while a few of us (including me and Lixin) did not. We were given an avalanche of information on what to expect, strategy, stories about world conquest, etc. Needless to say, I retained little. (Hey, cut me a break! I *am* in CS!) So when we got there, I didn't know quite what to expect.

But I have to say that it was cool. We were led into a black-lighted room, where we were given the basic rules of the game. (Shoot everyone. Don't run, sit, or lie down. And don't forget to shoot everyone.) If we got shot, we weren't eliminated from the game; instead, we were disabled for five seconds. After the five seconds, our guns came back on. So it was a pretty good idea to get away from somebody you shot!

It was fun. I actually managed to shoot Curtis Desjardins a couple of times, and kept as far away from Neil Murray as possible.

However, there were a few dark spots. Western never showed up. Instead, we played in a standard game against people who dropped in off the street. And one of these people (in the process of cheating) actually physically assaulted one of the people with us, named Mike! (No, not me. Another Mike.) Mike was kicked in the head and the ribs. The police and an ambulance were called; fortunately, Mike was okay. Because of this, though, we played three games instead of four.

So all in all, it was a fun event. (Mike may disagree, though!)

I strongly suggest that, if you haven't tried this before, you sign up for the next MathSoc outing to LaserQuest! It's a lot of fun, Neil probably won't shoot you *too* often, and the crowd in Kitchener is a little more sedate. Or so I hear.

Mike "HammerQuest" Hammond

MPC Forum
Wednesday, November 29th
at 11:30am
in the Comfy Lounge
Everybody Welcome

profQUOTES Books For Sale!

Yeah, they're still on sale!

They make great Xmas stocking stuffers, cheap birthday or holiday gifts or maybe even a worthwhile bribe to your profs for a better EOT "it all depends on the final exam" mark. Who knows? They may even be quoted in it! And while it would be beneath us to suggest *blackmail*, we certainly can't control your actions!

They're available in the mathNEWS office (MC 3041) as follows:

1 for \$2, 2 for \$3, 3 for \$5, 5 for \$8, etc.

Come and get 'em!

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan
 Mike "Hammer" Hammond

Green Means Go

You'll never forget to put the seat down again!

We've all heard the splash in the middle of the night—and the curses that follow—when we've forgotten to put the toilet seat down for her. Well, there's a solution to every social glitch, and this one is no exception. It's a potty light that makes the throne glow green when the seat's safely down for her and red when it's not. The battery-powered light also projects a bull's-eye pattern onto the water to help you aim. Scorecard not included. Available for \$40 from SuperLife, (800) 856-7575.

Taken from the September issue of "Men's Health"

Ode to Modula-3

The following is a short poem dedicated to those poor souls suffering through CS 246, and to those of us in CS 241 who have paid our dues in full with interest. Here's hoping the light at the end of the tunnel is a *real* programming language and not the 3:05 to Modulaville.

Modula Modula Modula-3

How much fun can a Modula be?

Contracts and Larch traits, hmm, let me think, gee...

I guess I would rather drive into a tree

Or be thrown through a window, or stung by a bee,
 Or be strapped to an anchor and dropped in the sea,
 Or to have a huge sewer rat gnaw at my knee,
 Or be trapped in a room watching OJTV.

Modula Modula Modula-3

Don't you dare try to Modula me!

So until the day that I can program in C,
 I'll dream of a world that's Modula-free.

Josh "Ixnay on the Odulamay" Cameron

No Free Pizza

That's right! No more pizza on Writers' Nights (okay, there'd only be one more), because there just won't be any more!!

Writers' Nights, that is!

We're abandoning the idea, 'cause no one contributes enough then to merit a whole night for writing.

So there!

If you were looking forward to a free dinner on Wednesdays... tough. Learn to cook!

Your Bitter Neighbourhood mathNEWS Co-Editors

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

S.S.P.:

Damn it! Ask her already!!!

Everyone that knows

C.M. (Not Cookie Monster):

I hear there's a new video vender chyck. Why don't you try your luck.

The Rude Relative

Phyl:

Yo mamma's so fat, when she walks, her ass looks like two pigs fighting over a milk dud.

The Rude Relative

Mr. J.:

So why AM I down in the basement?

Winona

Rude Uncle

Who's IRONMAN?

Abubu

Help, help, I'm being repressed!

Beefo

Rude Uncle

(quoted text follows)

OKAY U'M LIDAED N NIW WHOOOOO HOIOO ! I
GUESSS IT'T S HHOI TGE GW GEW SRRA HYOY GL-
HFA SAAAAAHLH YOYYHKS[name deleted to protect
the chemically inconvenienced]

I AM IRONMAN

X

CandleMan

Rafael:

Cool cards! I'm honoured to have inspired you! Unfortunately, right now I've already got a lot of card ideas. But they were fun to read, so thanx!

Magic: The HammeringTM

profQUOTES

"profQUOTES books are available in the mathNEWS office!"

Huron, MUSIC 275

<to female student> "You're getting there, now let's go all the way."

Whitney, STAT 331

"You've gotta wonder about those people who write these course notes, with all those $f(u)$'s all over the place... that expresses my sentiments exactly."

Sivaloganathan, MATH 137

"You don't trust me, you got your calculator out again, don't you?"

Carvalho, ECON 201

"I should call you guys Statler and Waldorf... I feel like Fozzie Bear!"

Duggan, CS 241

"Now you're all mathies, but I'm a physicist and I'm not bound by your rules. So we'll cancel these numbers out."

Vanderkooy, PHYS 121

"This is a peaceful use of mathematics... a useful piece of mathematics."

Tenti, AM 463

"Codeine isn't as addictive as heroin. Of course, codeine isn't as good a pain-killer as heroin."

Kruuv, PHYS 480

"We were talking about cycle space when we were so rudely interrupted by the weekend."

Younger, C&O 230

"Next week's topic is recursion. If you haven't seen it before, it can throw you for a loop."

Rehder, CS 130

"Why do we use a parameter at all? <silence> Okay, so that will be question one on the final..."

Rehder, CS 130

"But you *know* that there are... because I told you... and you trust me... because I wouldn't lie to you."

Forrest, MATH 147

"MAPLE is very easy to use. You type maple, and press Enter. Then you type help."

Stewart, MATH 145

"Don't forget to buy your profQUOTES book!"

Huron, MUSIC 275

Rainstorm Cafe

It was a dark and stormy night. Two truckers approached a seedy old diner from opposite sides, about ten miles apart. The first trucker was Soira, better known as the Terminator. She had long greasy hair, about ten days growth on her face, and was chubby, mean-spirited and angry as hell. She peered through the ubiquitous rivulets of water streaming across her cracked windshield, and saw some lights a short distance ahead.

Just then her massive stomach grumbled, and she instinctively knew it was time for another big bacon and cheese greaseburger. A large neon sign blinked up ahead. After squinting a bit, Soira barely made out the sign — "JOLLI SHEF". Soira knew she was home! Being distracted by the odour of burning bacon wafting out the door, Soira lost control of her rig. She jack-knifed across the four-lane highway, ending up parked diagonally in the lot. Soira looked at her handiwork with a satisfied smile, opened the bent door, and shoved the door shut.

She walked in and ordered her greaseburger. The clerk informed her it would be ready in ten minutes. Immediately Soira reached across the counter and grabbed the guy's collar.

"Do I look like the kind of person that can wait that long for a greaseburger??!" she yelled into his face. "GET A MOVE ON!!!"

The clerk rushed to the grill and started to prepare her burger.

Just then, a burly sad-sucker of a trucker ambled in. He had cuts all over his face, bloodstains all over his jacket, and a scar on his right cheek. The two saw each other. Soira greeted him.

"Why if it isn't my old buddy Cleophus. What the hell are you doing here?"

"Got hungry, stopped for a bite to eat," Cleophus replied. "Whatcha got there?"

"Greaseburger. Why?"

"I want one of those!"

"Oh yeah, get one yourself!"

"Oh I'll show you 'get one yourself!' "

The two proceeded to tussle, shoving and punching, breaking tables and chairs, and God knows what else. Finally, the greaseburger broke in half, and the two dishevelled truckers sat down to enjoy their meal.

After they were done consuming the calories, they looked at each other. They had been rivals since pre-school, when they would race their Big Wheels around the play room. Truth is, neither really did like the other, but each felt a common bond, a pull between them so to speak, probably as a result of their decade-long feud.

You see, back a spell, Soira had been driving her truck with Cleophus in hot pursuit. Soira had spotted spikes sticking out of the pavement, probably some Religious Right terrorist's attempt at sabotage, and swiftly drove out of danger at the last second. Poor Cleophus never had a chance. He drove right over the spikes, punctured his tires, and lost his contract to haul manure to the CSC office.

Soira gathered herself up, and proceeded to walk towards the door. Just then, she noticed that Cleophus had already left. Hmmm. Interesting.

She walked back out to the parking lot, where her jaded, hardened eyes saw something horrible! All sixteen wheels of her rig had been slashed, with a knife still sticking out of one of them. Attached was a note, still soggy from the pouring rain. It said "Soira, my apologies, but I couldn't let you beat me back to the

depot. Catch ya later, sucker!!, Cleophus."

"Damn that Cleophus," Soira cried. "DAMN HIM TO HELL!! I'll get him one of these days. I'll get him alright, and when I do, it won't be pretty!"

Soira ambled her way back to the diner, while lightning forked and arced in the background, signalling that this dark and stormy night was far from over.

Dave "Greaseburger Connoisseur" Vernest

"Are you kidding? That moose is worth at least 50,000 bonus points!"

The Sock Murders - Part IV

Movie Massacre

After witnessing such brutal attacks by a certain sock, I thought that maybe a nice relaxing movie might do me well. As usual though, my plans just didn't work out quite as I expected.

It was a cold and snowy Saturday afternoon as I went to the theatre to catch a matinee. Finally I'd get away from the sock — or so I thought. I bought my ticket and found a seat with plenty of time before the movie started. As is my custom, I was alone, so I just sat there listening to the wonderful music that they play. Eventually, the movie started (or at least the previews did). I was really looking forward to this film, since I had heard that it was very good.

Finally the movie started, and I stretched out to get comfortable. The title sequence was very entertaining, and I settled in for good as the main movie started. To my disappointment, the film didn't seem to be of very good quality, because the sound and picture kept on cutting out for brief periods of time. It was like there was a problem with the projector. Then the movie suddenly stopped completely, and the theatre was completely dark.

Upset that my afternoon had been wasted, I wandered my way out of the theatre through the darkness. As I looked around, I was shocked to see that the entire area was a mess. It looked as if someone had taken an axe to the snack bar. That's when I saw the sock. It was heading around the corner toward the main entrance. I knew then and there that I wouldn't rest until I had got rid of the sock once and for all.

I ran after the sock, hoping to catch it before it could do any more damage, but when I got out of the theatre and onto the street the sock was nowhere to be seen. I sludged my way home through the snow, but all that was on my mind was how I would exact my revenge on the sock for ruining my movie. The next time we met, the sock was sure gonna be in trouble.

Watch for the exciting conclusion in the next issue of *math-NEWS*.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

From One Who Knows

Murtle's Tale

*Part um, you know, that number after two. I don't
have my calculator, leemee lone.*

Well. To those of you anxiously holding your breaths, taut with suspense over the entire Boffo vs. Murtle Saga, I send my sincere condolences. You must be dead by now.

Okay, okay, so I'm just a *tad* late in finishing off the gripping tale of treachery and deception, of war, betrayal and toilet lid abuse. So I'm concluding the story two issues later than I promised. Big deal!

Stop trying to get me all defensive, already! It's not going to work. I had lots of other stuff to do, okay? It wasn't my fault.

Sun was in my eyes. Wind was against me. My dog ate it.

Geez.

Anyway, when last we left our heroine, she was trembling with anger over Boffo's insensitivity to her delicate toilet etiquette sensitivities. She had issued an ultimatum to him regarding his disgusting habit of leaving the toilet seat raised, and had received nothing but a blank stare and a belch in return for her pains.

It was at this point that Murtle began her plot to overthrow Boffo's evil bathroom tyranny.

She researched hard into the various annoying female things she could do to disgust Boffo into being more aware of his own failings. She left long strands of hair all around the bathroom, lovingly rubbing some hair into his pristine bar of Dial soap (which he never used, anyway, making the entire attempt an exercise in futility,) and practically made herself bald in the process of trying to clog the tub drain. She left stockings soaking in the sink, would drip-dry underwear from the shower-head, and stood for hours in front of the mirror, yelling: "I'm *soooo* fat!"

Boffo, butt firmly entrenched in the couch, trying to find his own belly button, wouldn't notice a thing.

She would bravely soldier on, and, blushing furiously, discuss "freshness" in a painfully loud voice in his vicinity.

Boffo, engrossed in squeezing the pus out of his zits, would be oblivious.

Murtle worked herself into a frenzy of frustrated fury over Boffo's imperturbability, and almost gave up in despair, practically convinced that there was nothing she could do that would get Boffo back for the hell he was putting her through. Then, all of a sudden, Murtle remembered Boffo's Achilles heel.

She had discovered an exposed nerve in Boffo's thick hide very early in their relationship, before he had shown himself to be the cruel lid-raising demon she now knew him to be. Boffo had been decorating his walls, and Murtle had happened to peek inside his room.

What she saw made her laugh. Dominating his room, on the far wall, was a large life-size Elvis poster.

Murtle, after a few seconds of speechless surprise, burst out laughing. "Oh, I love it!" she chortled. "That is just too funny!"

Boffo looked offended. "What're you laughing at?!" he asked belligerently, "That's *Elvis!*"

"That's not only Elvis," she chuckled, "that's *old and fat* Elvis!!" As indeed it was. The poster portrayed The King in all his sequined, rotund, middle-aged glory.

"I just find it so hilarious when I read about Elvis being alive in the papers," she continued. "I mean, Elvis is dead, people! Try and live with it, for crying out loud!"

Murtle laughed for a few seconds more before she noticed that he was not sharing in her mirth. She glanced at him uncertainly.

"The King is alive! He lives in Tweed!" Boffo exclaimed, seemingly hurt that she could even *suggest* such a horribly cruel thing.

Murtle, noticing the tears in his eyes, murmured a confused apology and backed off that day, but now, remembering that episode, she began to wish that she had needled him a little bit more. She began to make up for her omission now.

She bought a whole bunch of books that chronicled Elvis' life and death, highlighted the sections on his death, and left them lying around the house.

Boffo would flip through the books past the highlighted areas, looking for pictures.

She brought home several video documentaries on his death and left them playing on the VCR.

Boffo dismissed the stories as vicious rumours.

Murtle began to notice that she was getting through to him, though. He began to look a lot more confused and bewildered all the time, as the implications of this most incredible of incredible possibilities began to filter through to him. In fact, she found him staring slack-jawed at the wall several times, which, for Boffo, is a sign of high mental activity. Boffo's unusually active mental state was so intense, in fact, *that he began to forget to flush.*

Now there are many things that Murtle can take, but this was the final straw. When she discovered the state of the toilet one day, (seat raised, unflushed,) she lost what tiny grip she had on reality. Her mind snapped, and she raced to the kitchen, where Boffo was having his dinner. Pulling out a chicken leg from the freezer and waving it aloft, she screeched: "This is Elvis, Boffo! I have Elvis here!!!" Then, giggling hysterically, she began gnawing at the frozen limb ferociously.

Boffo, being about as intelligent as the average squashed slug, felt rage sweeping over him. With a wounded roar, he lunged at her. She evaded with a hysterical, manic laugh, running for her life down the hallway and out of the door. Like the dim beast that he was, he chased after her, bellowing pitifully.

And, thus, it was in this way that the entire tradition of the Olympic chicken began. Yes, folks, unbeknownst to the rest of the world, it was not actually some weird freak in Greece running way too far for no particular reason that the proud tradition of the Olympic marathon, and passing the Olympic torch began. No sirree! In fact, it is the entire Boffo/Murtle affair that is the inspiration for the athletes who congregate every four/two years to compete with the other elite from around the world. In honouring them and their achievements, we remember Murtle, and her frantic flight from Boffo. In raising the Olympic torch to the sky, we likewise hold high the chicken leg that she so bravely chewed in the face of Boffo's Elvis worship.

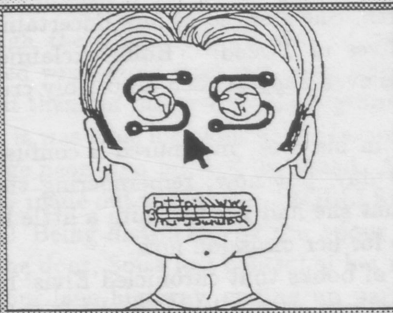
Let the games begin.

(What?!)

[*My sentiments exactly.* — HammerEd]

Sarah "Final Toilet Article! I swear!!" Kamal

Mosaic Geek 3

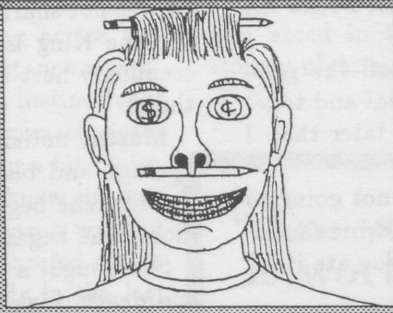


Summon Geek

When tapped, Mosaic Geek cannot be untapped for 3 rounds.
"When Mosaic Geeks first discover the Web, they spend most of their time using Mosaic — that is, until they discover Netscape."
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 3/3

Accounting Geek 1

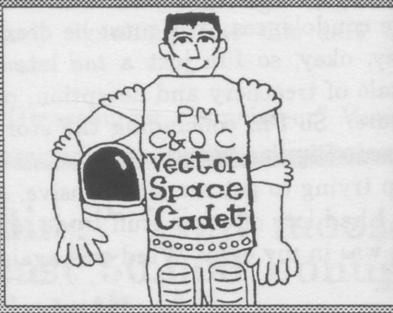


Summon Geek

3, ♠: Target creature is tapped.
"Said to be the most boring of geeks, Accounting Geeks rarely associate outside their own kind. Given the other types of geeks one runs into daily, one should be grateful."
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 1/2

PMC&OC Geek 1




Summon Geek

Bands
"Only the CSC exceeds these geeks' high male-to-female ratio."
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 1/1

Teaching Option Geek 1/1




Summon Geek

First Strike
"Teaching Option Geeks are typically hard to spot. They look like any other geek, and are usually only distinguished by their strange work term stream pattern. Be careful not to confuse them with Accounting Geeks!"
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 1/1

CS Geek 1



Summon Geek

Coin is flipped at beginning of turn. If coin lands heads up, CS Geek may not attack for the duration of the turn.
"The most common type of geek, CS Geeks spend most of their time doing assignments."
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 2/2

mathNEWS Co-Editor 2



Summon Geek

2, ♠: All pink creatures gain +1/+1.
"mathNEWS Co-Editors are typically geeks prior to assuming the title. So they can be said to be a geekier geek than usual."
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 2/1

MATHICS

The Gathering™

by Mike "Hammer" Hammond

CSC Geek 3 1

Summon Geek

MathWalk
"The strength of CSC Geeks lies in their defensive abilities — nobody wants to get near them."
 — Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 1/6

Flame 1 1

Interrupt

Counters a pink spell being cast.
Don't like what some mathie has to say? Flame 'em!

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

C&O 230 6

Artifact

6: ♠: For every creature your opponent controls, they must roll a six-sided die. If the roll comes up as 6, that creature must be placed in your opponent's graveyard.
The Math faculty used the C&O 230 requirement to weed out mathies.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

Watstar 2

Artifact

All creatures with ♠ in casting cost lose -2/0 while Watstar is in play.
Doing assignments on Watstar always seemed to slow things down.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

CS Prof 4

Artifact Creature

4: ♠: If opponent has more than four cards in hand, opponent has the choice, for each card in excess of four, of discarding it or paying 1 life.
When she got her first assignment from her CS prof, she really felt the pressure of having too much to do.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 2/3

The University of Waterloo Gazette 0

Artifact

1: ♠: Target attacking creature loses -1/0.
We found that the gazETTE had little effect on UW students.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

MATHIES

The Gathering™

by Mike "Hammer" Hammond

Analytic Procrastination

or, How many procedures does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

```

program ScrewYou;
{{Author: Richard Bilson}}
{{CS 130 Assignment 12}}

const
  CW = 1;
  CCW = -1;

procedure GetInput(var NumBulbs : Integer);
begin
  Write('How many bulbs would you like to
        replace? ');
  ReadLn(NumBulbs);
end;

procedure RemoveOldBulb(var NumTurns : Integer);
begin
  while not Loose do
    begin
      RotateBulb(CCW);
      NumTurns := NumTurns + 1;
    end;
  ThrowOutBulb;
end;

procedure GetNewBulb(var Package : Boolean);
begin
  if Package = True then
    begin
      OpenPackage;
      GetBulb;
      ThrowOutPackage;
      Package := False;
    end
  else {Package = False}
    begin
      GetNewPackage;
      OpenPackage;
      GetBulb;
      Package := True;
    end;
end;

procedure ScrewNewBulb(NumTurns : Integer);
var
  Count : Integer;
begin
  PutBulbInSocket;
  for Count := 1 to NumTurns do
    TurnBulb(CW);
  end;

```

```

{{Main Program}}

```

```

var
  NumBulbs : Integer;
  NumTurns : Integer;
  Count : Integer;
  Package : Boolean;

begin
  GetInput(NumBulbs);
  for Count := 1 to NumBulbs do
    begin
      RemoveLampShade;
      RemoveOldBulb(NumTurns);
      GetLightBulb;
      ScrewNewBulb(NumTurns);
      ReplaceLampShade;
    end;
  end.

```

The remaining procedures will be left as an exercise for the marker. Possible enhancement: Save the old boxes to be used for the safe and efficient disposal of used lightbulbs.

Richard Bilson

Spies!

Spies! Cloaked figures, creeping through the C&D late at night... silently they gather information, until it is time to strike! Some of you may be shocked to learn that this kind of skullduggery is not limited to B-grade movies and cheesy detective stories. No, there is an underground war going on here in Waterloo, and indeed in this very building. And I, Duncan McGregor, am one of the participants! Yes, I am involved in the ongoing war between my master Zoggo and the dæmon Netscape!

Many of you have likely encountered one or both of these unseen powers in the MC building. Indeed, anyone who comes in late at night can see both of these at work. Students in the Comfy Lounge, deprived of sleep, and yet playing cards... Zoggo at work. Students in the rooms with X-terms, exploring the 'Net, held there by some unseen force... Netscape's evil pull. But these are not battles that can be won without resources. Netscape finds corporate sponsors in his quest for souls, willing to expand his power, while Zoggo masterminded the development of Magic: The GatheringTM. But these are not the resources that will win the war for either. What is needed are souls!

As a member of Zoggo's counter-insurgency section, I work to hold off Netscape long enough for Zoggo to claim the building as his own. I follow in the footsteps of many brave mathies who worked to keep Netscape at arm's reach from Zoggo (ever wondered why the X-terms were so far from the Comfy Lounge? Now you know) so Zoggo can expand into the C&D, but alas! Netscape grows ever more powerful, as professors and, yes, even the MathSoc office are stealthily invaded by Netscape. I send out a call for help to all devoted followers of Zoggo. Now is the time to act! Boycott Netscape! Play bridge until the wee hours of the morning! Lobby to have the C&D replaced by 'The Den of Zoggo'! And never give up hope. We will triumph yet!

Hail Zoggo!

Duncan "Strong Back Hand of Zoggo" McGregor

"I only hit a hearse! He's not gonna care!"

Top 2⁵ Rejected Lines for "Fantasy Island"

Inspired by Comfy Lounge talk

32. De rail, boss, de rail!
31. De bait, boss, de bait!
30. De canter, boss, de canter!
29. De light, boss, de light!
28. De code, boss, de code!
27. De fence, boss, de fence!
26. De base, boss, de base!
25. De fault, boss, de fault!
24. De pendant, boss, de pendant!
23. De part, boss, de part!
22. De liver, boss, de liver!
21. De cent, boss, de cent!
20. De side, boss, de side!
19. De vice, boss, de vice!
18. De tail, boss, de tail!
17. De void, boss, de void!
16. De note, boss, de note!
15. De brief, boss, de brief!
14. De spite, boss, de spite!
13. De scribe, boss, de scribe!
12. De port, boss, de port!
11. De spies, boss, de spies!
10. De duct, boss, de duct!
9. De crease, boss, de crease!
8. De nominator, boss, de nominator!
7. De Brie, boss, de Brie!
6. De limit, boss, de limit!
5. De grade, boss, de grade!
4. De test, boss, de test!
3. De deuce, boss, de deuce!
2. De range, boss, de range!
1. De Φ , boss, de Φ !

Greg "De liberation" Taylor

The Fun Continues

For all of you who submitted answers to the Filler Contest from last issue — Thanks! Most appreciated ...

For those of you who didn't — do not despair! We're extending the deadline until the next and last issue!

What are we looking for?

1. Paul Rechsteiner, who's in charge of this contest! (Please check in, Paul!)
2. Humour: The filler should be funny
3. Originality: Don't quote us anything from rec.humour
4. Brevity: Filler is meant to be a few lines (at most 5 or 6) and is supposed to fill in the white spaces that are caused due to the combined lengths of a few submitted articles being too short to fill in one column
5. Relevance: Make sure people can relate the message. Submitting "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dogs" doesn't qualify. It isn't funny and it doesn't belong in mathNEWS.

A Novelties prize package awaits for the best one! And many entries will actually be printed in *mathNEWS*; this issue is chock-full of filler entries!

Good luck!

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan

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special rates for orders on 10 or more pizzas

Just Pettin' Around

Heavy Petting

It seems November is already asserting itself as K-W's "run over your neighbour's dog" month. It's only the 15th day of the month, and the vet hospital I work at has already seen a broken leg, a dislocated hip, a punctured lung, and a couple of other too-gory-to-tell-in-mathNEWS incidents, all due to these psychotic K9-respect-challenged drivers.

I want to ask all the readers, next time you're tearing down the road and notice a dog stepping onto the road, please, take the time to look around for an alternate target. Who knows, you just might see your stats prof [or CS — Ed] walking along the sidewalk...

Light Petting

I was at a pet show the other week, and came across a display of hedgehogs. The little guys were SOOOOOO cute (though they looked nothing like Sonic)!!! However, they very suddenly became very... ummm... "uncute" when I made the mistake of asking about the cost of a hedgehog:

"Normally \$180, but today we have a special show price of \$120."

Excuse me? \$120 for a prickly little critter that'll die on you in five years? I then went on to ask why someone would pay that much:

"Well, once they get to know you and their surroundings, they'll follow you around like a little dog."

Okay, I've personally never seen the attraction of owning one of those tiny dogs that look like nothing more than over-grown gerbils (y'know... the ones you can punt 20 yards...), but can you imagine a hedgehog following you around wherever you go? One step backwards and... bye bye \$120!

REALLY Light Petting

Now this is the part that really gets me. I was at Toys 'R' Us last week (I got a really cool RC car. It loves to terrorize my roommate's cat, but that's another story) and couldn't find something I was looking for. When I asked an employee where I could find it, I was shocked, confused, and, well, down-right broken hearted:

"Sea Monkeys? Never heard of 'em."

My God, what kind of society are we living in when knowledge of Sea Monkeys aren't a part of a Toys 'R' Us employee's job description?!? I wanted to scream "What? Haven't you ever seen those cheesy ads in those mindless comic books?" or something, but I decided that would be against my better judgement. Instead, I just bit my lip, bought my RC car (did I mention it likes to chase my roommate's cat around the apartment?) and hurried out of there.

Since that unforgettable day, I've shared my story with a few people that looked like they'd have no escape once I started complaining. There seems to be two basic responses. Either:

"How can anyone *not* know about Sea Monkeys?!?"

or

"Sea Monkeys? Never heard of 'em."

For those of you who have experienced the true joys of being a parent to your very own colony of Sea Monkeys, I feel we must band together and teach the world what happiness really

is! We must fight this ignorance, lest it destroy our very culture. After all, how can you honestly say you are happy without the love of hundreds of tiny translucent aquatic sperm-like beasties? [Mmmmmmm... baby brine shrimp... — HammerEd]

What a sad world we live in...

Neil "Pets: They're not just for breakfast anymore!" Murray
a.k.a. Dr. Seuss

Now Playing

Here are my reviews for movies in theatres now.

Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls

Well, the most amusing thing that I found about this movie was that the theatre ran out of '5's for their marquee and had to list the starting time as 4:46 instead of 4:45. If you've seen the original, then prepare yourself for disappointment. Jim Carrey (*Dumb and Dumber*) is back again as the same crazy and wacky Ace Ventura. Unfortunately, this time around his inane antics are just tired and predictable. Save your money and rent *Pet Detective*. **

Goldeneye

Brosnan, Pierce Brosnan. As the newest incarnation of James Bond, Brosnan (*Mrs. Doubtfire*) shows that he's definitely up to the challenge. An old acquaintance is in possession of a satellite capable of destroying all electronic devices over a wide area, and Bond must prevent him from using it, all the while eluding the many who are intent on killing him. Action-packed from start to finish, including a very memorable chase scene, *Goldeneye* is definitely worth watching. **** $\frac{1}{2}$

The American President

Starring Michael Douglas (*Disclosure*) and Annette Bening (*Bugsy*), *The American President* is the best film I've seen in a long time. The basic premise is simple — a single president (Douglas) begins dating a lobbyist (Bening). What comes out is fabulous. Wonderful performances by the stars and the supporting cast, including Michael J. Fox (*Back to the Future*), Martin Sheen, and Richard Dreyfuss (*Stakeout*) make this movie one of the year's best. Many will probably stay away because of this film's classification as a romantic comedy, but if you want to see great acting and some really funny moments, look no further. *****

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

**"Remember: do as the course
notes say, not as I do."**

Sophie Germain

Sophie Germain offered much to the mathematical world in the areas of number theory and elasticity theory. That same world would offer her, a middle class woman in the time of the French revolution, very little in return. The Bastille fell when Sophie was only 13. She was from a middle class family of merchants that protected her through the revolution. As a result, she spent many hours in her father's library where she learned of the story of Archimedes. She was fascinated with his passion for geometry and immediately scoured the library for every book on the subject.

From the onset her parents opposed her interest. They deemed her enthusiasm so inappropriate for a young woman that they denied her heat and light to prevent her from studying. They even confiscated her clothing at night, but she wrapped herself in blankets and used a hidden supply of candles to read from. Such was her passion that her parents finally conceded. She continued, tutorless. In 1794 Ecole Polytechnique opened, and as no women were allowed, she acquired the notes from the classes to learn from. At the end of one term she offered some observations that she made to Lagrange under the name of M. LeBlanc. He was impressed, found her, and praised her talents.

In 1801 Carl Freidrich Gauss presented a complicated treatise on number theory, *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae*. Sophie was inspired by this work and began a correspondence with Gauss in 1804, again under the name M. LeBlanc. Her identity was revealed when she sent a message through an army commander friend of hers to Gauss. Napoleon had conquered most of Prussia and she was concerned for his safety.

In 1808, she shared with Gauss one of her greatest results in number theory. If x, y, z , are integers such that $x^5 + y^5 = z^5$ then either x , y , or z are divisible by 5. This was a good stepping stone to the proof of Fermat's last theorem for $n=5$.

She then began a shift from number theory to the experiments of Ernst Chladni, a German physicist investigating the vibration of elastic plates. A search was on to find the equations governing the actions in the experiments. Sophie took up this challenge. Her works earned her a First Class Honourable mention by the French Academy of Sciences in 1813. This prize elevated her mathematical status considerably. She published *Memoir on the Vibrations of Elastic Plates* which became well known. She also published works on the nature, bounds and extent of elastic surfaces, and the principles of analysis used in the solution of the problem of elastic surfaces. She was the first woman, not a wife of a member, to attend sessions of the Academy of Sciences.

Gauss was so impressed by her work, he recommended to the faculty of the University of Gottingen that they grant her an Honourary Doctoral Degree in 1830. Though she was deserving, she never received one. She died in 1831 after a two-year battle with breast cancer.

Sophie lacked many of the advantages that other women in math have had. She was not born into a mathematical family, nor one in aristocratic intellectual circles. She yearned for professional training, but was continually denied. Yet, she had determination and an undistracted passion for mathematics. She continually strove for excellence amidst prejudice. She offers an excellent model for us to follow.

Marni Mishna
mjmishna@undergrad.math

I'll Have The Special

Face it, Brian... she just ain't gonna call...

I almost didn't write a column this issue due to the fact that I had some assignments due and I'm trying not to fall further behind in my courses. And also being a lazy ass doesn't help either. But, I managed to brush those aside and deliver yet another stunning column for you to read... don't act so excited.

- So what's this about Mulroney suing the government for \$50 million, in which \$25 million is earmarked as compensation for damaging his reputation? Hmmmm... I would have thought being prime minister for 9 years and screwing up the country would have damaged his reputation enough. But I guess some of it still remains. And all this happened because the RCMP says Mulroney was involved in some bribery scandal involving Air Canada's purchase of European airplanes in the 1980's. Now, it wouldn't surprise me if Mulroney was involved in such a scam. But the RCMP better have some damn solid evidence before they go ahead with this. We're talking about charging a former prime minister. Doesn't matter who it is; when you charge a prime minister of wrong doing, you better have something to back it up with.
- I'm going to talk a little football now. First, I'm shocked and disgusted by the fact that Cleveland Browns' owner Art Modell is moving the Browns to Baltimore. When the Cardinals, Rams, and Raiders moved, I didn't really care that much. It seemed their fans didn't care about their teams and so nothing much was lost. But the Browns? With the most loyal fans in the NFL? I couldn't believe it. Through the good and the bad, these fans just keep turning up to every game unlike the fans of my team, the Bills, who seem to hop on and off the bandwagon depending on how the team is doing. If this move is allowed to go through, I don't know if I can bother with the NFL anymore. Of course, there is the CFL. But a team from Baltimore just took the Grey Cup out of country for the first time in history. There's that city of Baltimore again. Always causing trouble. And what's up with Western, eh? Like, how far can luck take a football team these days? Well, I'm saying right here and now that the horseshoe runs out Saturday against Calgary. Calgary looked impressive against Ottawa and I think they can win it all. You heard it here first.
- Other than the MathSoc elections, seems to have been a slow week in the Math faculty. Not much to talk about that's math-related. Oh well. At least they finished the repairs to the exterior of the MC building. Nice to know that the building has been changed from a dark, dreary gray colour to a bright, gleaming gray colour. Yes, it's quite the noticeable improvement.

Well, exam time's almost upon us. Almost time to get down to studying. Gotta prepare for those long nights of cramming. Gotta get ready for that nervous breakdown once the exams get into full swing. Not me, however. I'll be at the Cove improving my pool-playing skills. Till next time...

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

Cipherpunks

Hello, cryptographers! Thanks to you, this column is our most popular puzzle column this term.

As a kind of proof, we got seven submissions for ciphers #10-12. They were from Club 21, Phage & 2 (who only solved no. 10), Slaves to the Gridword, Shawn (The Stallion pt. 4) Stackhouse, The Happy Pygmy and Seldon and Stauch, Greg "rhetorical" Taylor (Stop it!), and Ian Facey (who couldn't solve no. 12).

The correct answers last time were:

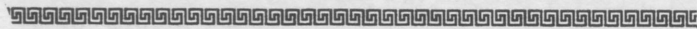
STUDYBREAK By chance, Gridby and the Calculus Cowboy eightALARMCLOCKradio All university students must be 8741936A25 A:Will you stop asking rhetorical questio

Each of the first two crypts had a single letter typo.

The winner this issue is Greg Taylor. He wins a t-shirt and a button. Way to go.

The new cipher type this issue is called a railfence. Write your message on several lines (I'll go between 3 and 7), going up and down writing the message.

```
..E.....O.....R.....H.....T.....E
.H.L...C.M...A.O...T.E...N.A...H.N etc.
S...L.E...I.G...U.D...M.U...I.W
.....B.....N.....N.....O.....N
```



Hope Against Hope

The UW Storm Closing Policy

With the onset of wintry weather, this is the annual advisory on the University of Waterloo's procedures for cancelling classes and services in the event of a major storm:

1. UW will automatically be "closed" (in other words, not open) for the day if the Waterloo County Board of Education closes all its schools. (UW follows the school board's lead because it has developed an effective system for evaluating weather conditions across Waterloo Region and announcing its decision to the news media.)
2. If UW and its colleges are to be closed and classes cancelled, campus media will be advised as early as possible in the morning by telephone. Only the UW News Bureau is authorized to inform the news media of a closing.

For the university to be closed, this means that all classes (both daytime and evening) are not held; meetings and other scheduled events are cancelled; staff other than those employed in "essential services" are not expected to be at work; examinations are cancelled; and deadlines for assignments and other submissions are postponed until the same hour on the next weekday when the university is open.

Once open for the day, UW will close "only in extreme circumstances."

UW News Bureau

You can start going up or down first, and you can skip some rows from top or bottom before you start writing. In the above example, I used 4 rows, I started up, down, up, down,... and I skipped 1 row. The written key for this cipher, then is 4M1. (If I had started going down first, I'd have used W instead of M.) The diagram is written out, line by line, in blocks of five. So the above (if it was the entire cipher) would appear as EORHT EHLCM AOTEN AHNSL EIGUD MUIWB NNON. There is a clue given with a railfence cipher, and it will usually be a word that changes direction, as WHEN does in the example. Look for a pair of consecutive letters in the ciphertext that would appear one line away from a peak or valley in the diagram. For "WHEN" this would be WE or HN. Start reconstructing the diagram from there.

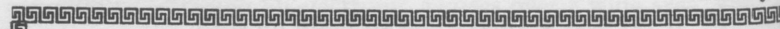
This week's puzzles:

13. Bigger coincidence? ARISTOCRAT
ALBQRSL SRDAZKZRT PI=RQXLIT, ZBJJNR PINBESXAL
KSQ UTRFBRSL WKCR RKPW DIS *VKERA L=AWXTLA
UIT CKTXIBA RUITLA.

14. What a way to go. COLUMNAR TRANSPOSITION
EMSSO TUAEO AEDIS ILUTE AIAOM GOFTN SEITD
ECTFU MOITC LRABA ETBIT IPCIE NLBNR FTETU
GFSRD LEMNE ARTCN GGEIE EYECH OLFOS UTAWI
MLOFT NEHNS OAIQG HNINS NINEE LLIIR HHACI RN-
SNP OWPFH GEIS

15. Perspective. RAILFENCE [knows]
SMIPU ERISI PSNEA ORNWO GMIEO SGHPY EOHEE
NBRIG TETTY OGCCT TMENR SHLKS ANMSA TTISO
ENNWR IUNSL OOL

Gridby



UW DRAMA DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

CHICAGO

a sensational musical by
Fred Ebb, Bob Fosse & John Kander

CHICAGO is a musical that explores our fascination with celebrity and public-fame-at-any-price. Set in Chicago of the early 1930s, it tells the story of Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, two "sensational jazz babies", who murder their faithless lovers and go on to fame and fortune as Vaudeville Stars.

CHICAGO was originally produced in 1975 but its messages are still potent and serve as a chilling reminder that we live in a society where fame, money, celebrity and media attention matter most. The musical challenges us to consider a world where murder is acceptable if the cash pay-off is big enough. If the fan mail and gifts pour in from all over the world. If the public is gullible enough to confuse cheap theatrics for common justice.

CHICAGO is structured as a series of Vaudeville acts -- each piece of the story is presented as though the people and the events are nothing more than entertainment, a metaphor so powerful that the lines between morality and obscenity become increasingly blurred as the musical goes along.

There is considerable humour in this biting satire -- Billy Flynn, the great legal-beagle, who mocks the judicial system by playing it against itself; Matron Mama Morton, the prison warden whose love of money is exceeded only by her love of money; Mary Sunshine, the pop journalist whose raucous self-serving style makes victims out of killers; and a wide array of liars, cheaters and sycophants -- a world of people who are out for themselves.

This may sound dark for a musical, but the team of Kander and Ebb, the creators of *Cabaret* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, are experts at taking strong themes and developing a musical with integrity, power and purpose as well as solid entertainment.

November 22-25, 1995
8 pm

Theatre of the Arts, Modern Languages Bldg.

Tickets available at the Theatre Centre Box Office, HH
or by calling 885-4908

\$10 general public; \$8 students/seniors
Contains Mature Subject Matter

Two Days Left!



mathNEWSquiz #5

Not just your normal average everyday squiz today

To honour the 69th volume of *mathNEWS*, we present to you a 69 question squiz. Please calm down, it's not that bad. The first few questions should be trivial. But as you go on, the level of difficulty will increase. There are a couple of things to keep in mind.

First, some of the questions have something to do with the question number. For example, #10 may have something in

common with the number 10. In other cases, the answer may refer to another question. For example, #17 may have an answer of 33, while #33 may have an answer of 17. Do remember, though, that not all of them are like that. Try to keep an open mind when doing these questions, and don't let it tax you too much.

So here's goes for the last squiz of the term...

1. What city hosted the 1st Summer Olympics?
2. What animal will be on the new \$2 coin?
3. What network aired "Three's Company"?
4. How many time zones does China have?
5. How many Secretaries-General has the U.N. had?
6. Name the five permanent members of the U.N.'s Security Council.
7. What mineral has a hardness rating of 10 on Mohs' scale?
8. Where does Great Britain rank in terms of the world's largest islands?
9. Who defeated Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham?
10. What is the "beer card"?
11. How many years is the cycle for sunspot activity?
12. What president was on the old U.S. \$2 bill?
13. How many arrows is the eagle grasping on a U.S. \$1 bill?
14. What job does a quatorzième do in a restaurant?
15. Who developed logarithms?
16. What U.S. state ranks 16th in area?
17. What state lies "north" of the state in #16?
18. Where is the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame located?
19. A win of 30 points or more is a skunk in what game?
20. What score will a ten-pin bowler get if he throws alternating strikes and spares?
21. How many zeroes in a North American sextillion?
22. According to the 1994 *Rand McNally Road Atlas*, how many hours (approximately) does it take to drive from Montreal to Vancouver?
23. How many inches in a cubit?
24. How many senators does Ontario have?
25. How many senators does Quebec have?
26. What year did the Ottawa Senators last win the Stanley Cup?
27. Who was the NHL scoring leader for the 1976-77 season?
28. How many goals did he score that year?
29. Does more of Lake Erie lie in Canada or the U.S.?
30. Does more of Lake Ontario lie in Canada or the U.S.?
31. What is the 2nd largest lake in Africa?
32. What is the 2nd largest lake in Australia?
33. What is the escape velocity of the Earth? (in km/s)
34. What Ontario town has the postal code L0B 1A0?
35. How many possible hands are there in poker?
36. How many possible straight flushes (excluding royal flushes) are possible?
37. What are the odds against a royal flush?
38. Was 1800 a leap year?
39. The invasion of what country started World War 2?
40. How many rods are in a furlong?
41. Who was the last baseball player to hit over .400 in a season?
42. What kind of drive was Zaphod Beeblebrox's ship equipped with?
43. What name was most popular for newborn boys in 1990?
44. What name was most popular for newborn girls in 1990?
45. What was the name of the treaty signed in 1842 that settled the Maine-New Brunswick border dispute?
46. Who discovered penicillin?
47. What two U.S. states were admitted to the union in 1912?
48. Which one joined first?
49. What were the first two shows to premiere in prime-time on the Fox network?
50. Who was the first NHL player to score 50 goals?
51. How many games did he play in that year?
52. What year did Canada win its last gold medal for hockey at the Winter Olympics?
53. Where were those Olympics held?
54. What sports device did George F. Grant patent in 1899?
55. What is 141° W better known as? (Please be specific.)
56. How long did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stay on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission?
57. Name the only two Major League Baseball teams that haven't qualified for the post-season.
58. Name the only three NFL teams that have not won their divisions since the AFL-NFL merger.
59. How many times have the New York Yankees qualified for the World Series?
60. How many times have they won it?
61. What is 6076.11549 feet better known as?
62. Cape Spear, Newfoundland is better known as what?
63. How many dry pints in a bushel?
64. How many feet in a chain?
65. Who has been England's longest reigning monarch?
66. How many years did this monarch reign?
67. Who was the MVP for Super Bowl I?
68. This province produced the most molybdenum in 1987.
69. Who invented the sextant?

Well, good luck to everyone... and remember all submissions must be either e-mailed to bcfox@undergrad.math or stuffed in the BLACK BOX by 6:30pm on Wednesday, November 29th.

Brian "The Calculus Boy" Fox
Your only source for useless information

How to Avoid Flunking

This isn't an article to tell you how to study; it *is* an article about academic regulations. All math students are bound by certain academic regulations that help and hinder them, and most students don't even know what they are! So before you flunk a course, check your academic regulations; you might be able to avoid it.

Current academic regulations include lots of protection for Frosh. The faculty recognizes that many first year students suffer academically when adjusting to university life. Accordingly, there are a few safety nets you can jump into if you've really messed up some or all of your courses.

You Can Drop Courses — After The Drop Deadline, Even

If you are in your first, second, or third school term, and were admitted to the faculty in Fall '93 or later, you may withdraw from one course, as late as tenth week of lectures. What this means is that this course will not count in your average, and you can take it again next year. It will appear on your transcript with a mark of 'WD'. It also counts as a 'course attempt'. More on those later. Note, for this term, the tenth week of lectures has passed.

You Can Withdraw from the Entire Term

First year students are normally allowed to withdraw from an entire term. This effectively deletes the term. The fact that you withdrew will be on your academic record. Further, if you withdrew from your first term of study, you'll have to re-apply to the math faculty.

You Can Skip Exams and Potentially Raise Your Mark

When a student doesn't write an exam (without a valid reason for doing so), one of two things happens. Either the prof assigns them a mark of zero on the exam, or he assigns them a grade of DNW (instead of a normal grade ranging from 0-100). When your average is calculated, a grade of DNW counts as 32%. So, if you think your final mark is going to be less than 32%, talk to your prof to see if he'll give you a DNW. Note: students who were admitted in '92 or earlier don't have this cushy policy; they get a 0 for any DNW! That includes me. Also, a DNW still counts as a fail, no matter what year you were admitted.

Don't Get Sick

In university, you can't get off writing an exam by giving your prof a note from your mom saying you have the sniffles. You need a medical certificate, to be submitted before the end of exam period, as part of any claim that illness prevented you from writing an exam. The math faculty has a reputation for being very thorough in evaluating such claims. So, don't get sick; but if you do, document it to death.

Read Your Academic Policies

Don't trust me; read your own academic policies, and understand them. When reading academic policies, you must read the

policy book from *your year of admission*; they change from year to year! MathSoc has undergraduate calendars (which contain these policies) dating back to '92. [Actually, they have undergraduate calendars dating back to the 1977-78 school year. Even better for those students who, like Marco, have been here long enough to collect their Canada Pensions! — HammerEd]

Lastly, these academic policies are here to protect you, but don't make use of them too casually. They're for students who have had real problems. Above all, don't use these policies to try and avoid *low* marks. Low marks won't kill you. Multiple failures will. [Low marks will only disfigure you a little. — HammerEd]

Good luck!

Christina "babe, the talking pig" Norman

gridCOMMENTS

Greetings, Gridders!

Entry levels for the grids... are go—

Going dow... (Don't say "entry level!" Co-op nightmare flash-backs!!!)

I'm fine now. Really.

Greetings, Gridders!

Entry le—no. Numbers of submissions for the grids are going down, it seems.

For the cryptic, I received 6 submissions. Two from Club 21 and J.M. & E.L. with help from I.V. had one and two errors, respectively. The other four from Phage & 2, Turbulent Open Jet, Slaves to the Gridword, and Ian Facey were correct. Using the dictionary as a random number generator, the winner is Phage & 2! They win a ruler and a deck of cards.

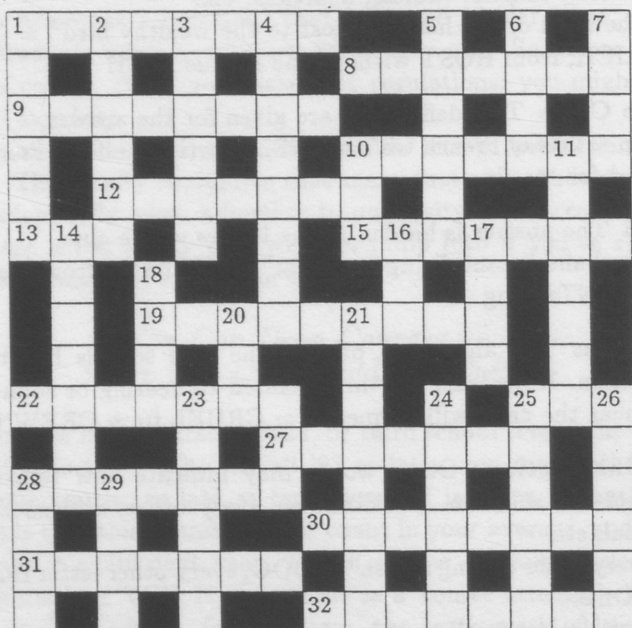
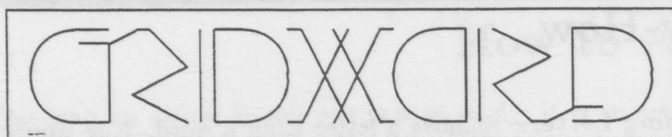
I also asked you for your get-rich-quick schemes. Here's what you've got: 1) Charge a dollar every time Sarah punches you on the shoulder. 2) Run Food Services. 3) Sell tunnel passes to unsuspecting frosh. 4) Sell off your winnings from *mathNEWS*. No wonder university students are poor.

In the conventional last time, yet another quote was included through doubled up letters. This time the quote from Steven Wright was, "It's a small world, but I wouldn't want to paint it." I got three submissions, one from Club 21 with 6 errors, and two perfect sols from Slaves to the Gridword and Ian Facey. The winner is Slaves to the Gridword. They win a tie pin and a pencil. Remember that the more submissions for a puzzle we receive, the better the prizes get.

This time, a pair of letters are grouped together wherever they appear in the grid, something like it was last week. There are 9 grid entries that are left untouched. You haven't got much time on this one; your entries **must** be in by November 29.

gridQUESTION: You may have seen some examples of this throughout *mathNEWS*, but what do *you* say when you're stopped by the police?

Darren "I Just Get These Headaches" Rigby,
writing as Gridby



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. First couple of months through rough winter bring years' worth of decay. (8)
8. Large crafted ruby nicked finally; returned by thief. (7)
9. Ninety hang in east end's stock market. (8)
10. Near bottomless bay dredged to find little one. (Lad, at first, wasn't recovered.) (7)
12. Properties of einsteinium: takes on solid, liquid or gas... (7)
13. ... slightly positive, initially, in yttrium bond, for example. (3)
15. Where novice singers go to finish walk, paddle back in lake without a leader. (7)
19. Time of winter to hang rich masts. (9)
22. For example, Merlin turns tan into another colour. (7)
25. A disturbance outside. (3)
27. Little monster (now green) attacks Merlin. (7)
28. Ought to have made second-half serve. (7)
30. Steel is imperfect. Bug proves most costly. (8)
31. Applause will calm CIA worries. (7)
32. Horse's back section is abstract. (6)

Down

1. Helps to heal batter's broken and deprived head. (6)
2. Potassium-rich ice in my bottle of booze. (6)
3. End for greedy people breaking the law. (6)
4. Capital put into risky pasta product. (8)
5. A shaft of light is in each ritual of Christianity... (6)
6. ... other religion leaves me beat. (4)
7. An ethical message won't start from the mouth. (4)
10. Task master leaves quiz. (3)
11. Around here, tribute is inconvenient. (7)

14. Cost of shipping coach beneath poor couple. (7)
16. No end to military weaponry. (3)
17. Unrest in Laos, too. (4)
18. Race full-tilt for amount of land. (4)
20. First residue of tooth decay. (3)
21. Recordings to examine before the court result in hanging. (8)
23. Natural order retained; most attributes likened. (6)
24. Doable calculation of reflectiveness. (6)
25. Perhaps guardians give brief answer about toothpaste. (6)
26. Talks and runs, ignoring gym. (6)
28. Good price — 100 off sticker. (4)
29. Snack bar vandal is a hit? (4)

Grid Clues for Tribute to an Elf (Unconventional)

Across

1. Toy that children ride
8. Bluenose, e.g.
9. Tinseltown
10. Greenhouse will melt them
12. Focus of many surveys
13. Sixth sense
15. What a mermaid might ride?
19. Earthquake side effect
22. Arnold Rimmer's nightmare soup
25. Anagrams program _____ Magna
27. Construction site diggers
28. Souvenir
30. Alternative to work as a newsboy
31. More selective
32. Raise and raze, e.g.

Down

1. Plant nursery kept at a high temperature
2. Hotel attendant
3. Stuff and nonsense
4. Igloo
5. Gastrointestinal disease
6. Small car
7. Trumpets
10. Birth certificate and driver's license
11. Someone easily coerced
14. Deficit
16. She loved Narcissus
17. Truancy
18. Soggy
20. Twitch
21. Scandinavian capital
23. Uncle's wife
24. Place where cars are illegally disassembled. (2 wds)
25. Appoint
26. Construction site diggers
28. Aggressively virile
29. Satellite