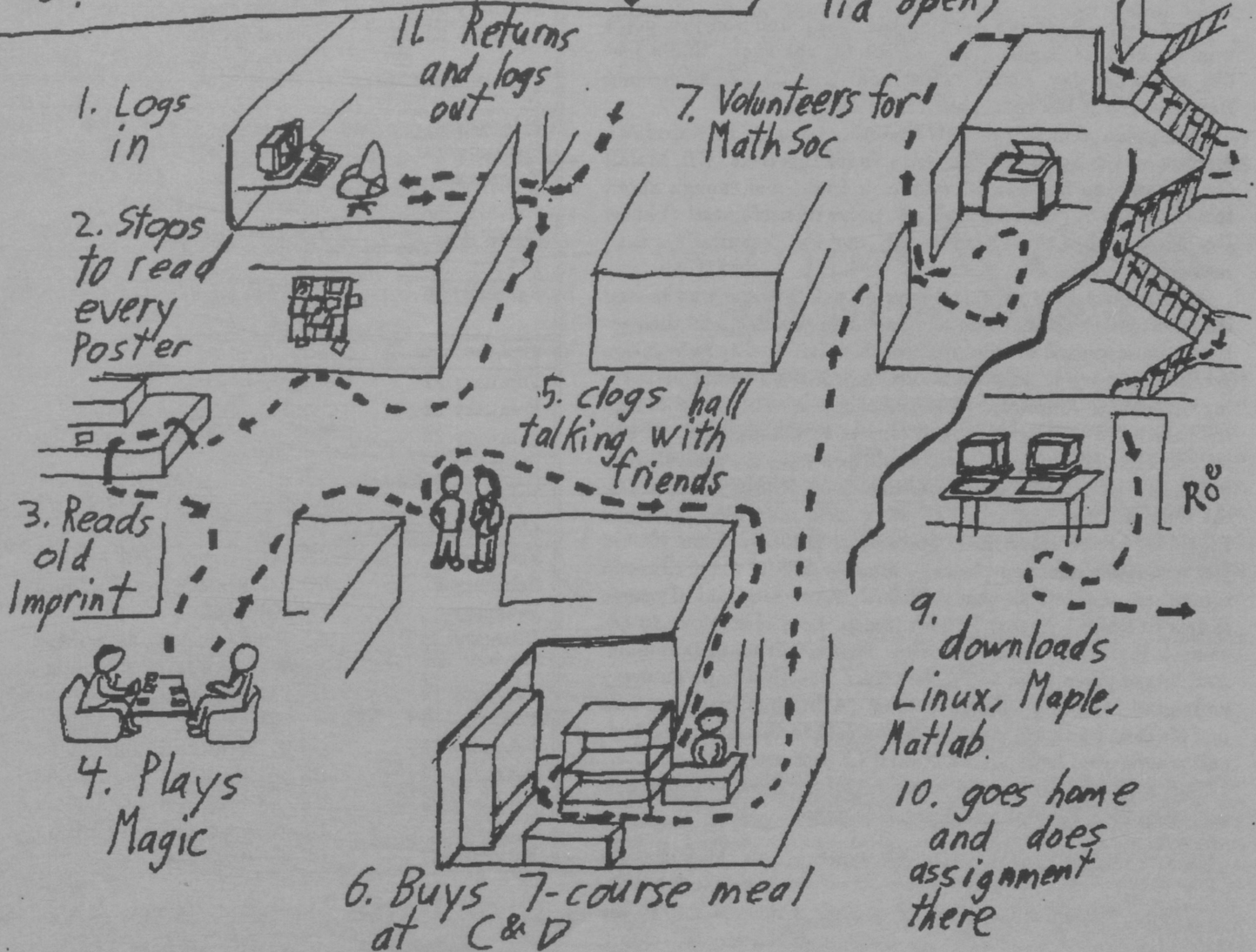


math NEWS

Volume 70, Issue 2

Friday, February 2, 1996

Don't you hate it when you need to use a computer, but all the terminals are taken, half by people who don't show up for hours? Where do these people go?



Prez Sez

MathSoc Loves Your Butt

This'll be short, sweet, and to the point.

Janet "News Gal" Kubisewsky has taken over the job of posting to newsgroups, so make sure you subscribe to `uw.math.ugrad` and read her posts about upcoming dates and important deadlines.

Some of you'll have noticed the "Right Angle Cafe" sign that's gone up in the entrance to the Math C+D. That sign was made up last term for business reasons, to give our C+D a more professional and distinct name from the other C+Ds on campus for the benefit of the suppliers of our food. Josh Cameron, a Mathie, was responsible for the cool artwork on the sign, BTW.

Oh, and GIVE US FEEDBACK, ALREADY!!!

Extension 6515, MC 3035/3039. Drop by any time to help out or to give comments, suggestions, concerns.

'Nuff said.

mastHEAD

Sarah Kamal

Good day, all! So it's snowing like crazy, and you just don't want to be here, right? Hey, except for the snow, that's just like any other day, right? Trust your friendly neighbourhood Hammer to put the right perspective on things...

Production went surprisingly smoothly tonight. Perhaps it's a function of Crakko being back with us for this issue. (Hi, Mala!) Or perhaps the mathNEWS system is frightened enough about this Omnibus bill that it's trying to prove its usefulness! (I know I'm frightened of this Omnibus bill, and I'm technically a B.C. resident!)

Anyway, our most profuse thanx go out to those who braved the snow and the cold, came to school on a Monday, and then actually stuck around to help produce this high-quality publication you hold in your tepid little hands. mathNEWS would be nothing without its volunteers! And the people who bothered to sign the mastHEAD, along with their answer to the question, "If you were forced to retire now, what would you want the most in your retirement package?", are: Chris Buchanan (Gerbils wrapped in the Omnibus bill and taped together with duct tape.), Darren Rigby (A better mastHEAD question.), D.K. Gardiner (Could you repeat the question please?), Matt Walsh (A plane ticket to somewhere without all this #@%?! snow. Oh, and of course tickets to FASS.), Stuart Pollock (Sleep. Lots of it. Now. In advance.), Kevin Hartmann (Wealth. Power. Ultimate Dominion. And lots of green jello, too!), Viêt-Tâm Luu (Netscape on every undergrad machine.), David Vernest (A lifetime supply of Jolt and Maalox, and permission to drink both in the lab.), and last, and maybe even least, Sarah Kamal (A pick axe).

Thanx also go to Marion at Graphics Services, and our new pizza supplier, Domino's! Mmmmm... pizza...

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan (Do you expect me to think that far into the future?),

Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox (Lifetime membership in the "Beer of the Month" club.),

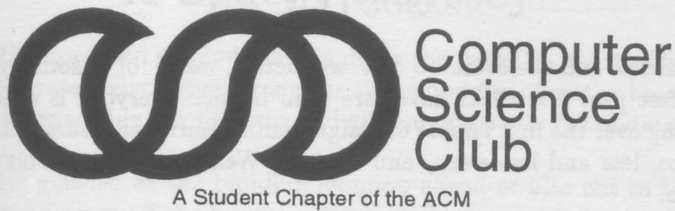
Mike "Hammer" Hammond (A blank cheque with James Downey's signature on it.)

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
February 12	Issue #3 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 16	Issue #3 hits the stands
February 24	Mala "Crakko" Krishnan's birthday
February 26	Issue #4 production night 6:00pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 1	Issue #4 available to Math beings and other campus critters
Math Faculty	
February 2	Pre-Registration for Spring 1996, non-coop
February 19-20	Reading Moment
February 29	1B Info Night, 7pm
March 2-6	Fall Term Pre-Registration
MathSoc	
February 2	Math Pub Night at the Bomber Beach theme — no cover
February 12	MathSoc meeting — all welcome
February 23-24	30-hour Famine Sign up on the MathSoc office door
MGC	
February 4	Laser Quest trip, 1:30pm
February 7	Tickets for Math Grad Ball go on sale
February 9	Valedictorian and J. Alan George Award nominations begin
March 16	Math Grad Ball
MEF	
February 20	Deadline for Winter '96 proposal submissions
Co-op	
February 21	Interviews end
February 22	Ranking Forms Available
February 28	Employment Acceptance
CSC	
February 3	ACM-style programming competition
CS Assignments Watch That Load!	
February 5	CS 241 Project 2 due 8:30am
February 5	CS 337 Project 2 due 1:30pm
February 6	CS 454/654 A1
February 9	CS 488 Project 2 due 9:30am Load forecast to be high
February 12	CS 241 Project 3a due 8:30am
February 16	CS 354 Project 2 due 5:00pm
February 26	CS 241 Project 3b due 8:30am
February 26	CS 337 Project 3 due 1:30pm
February 26	CS 488 Project 3 due 9:30am Load forecast to be high
February 27	CS 454/654 A2

**ProfQuote Books Are Available
in the mathNEWS Office**

\$2 each, or 5 for \$10!



CSC Flash

Greetings humanoid beings!

Once again, my CSC has started the term with a flurry of talks and tutorials. People can't wait to perform such services for me.

This Term's Executive

I have hand-picked the following people to be my special slaves this term:

President:	Nikita Borisov
Vice-President:	Joe Deu Ngoc
Treasurer:	Stephen Mills
Secretary:	Sharlene Schmeichel
Sys Admin:	Dave Brown

Past Events

We had our usual extremely popular UNIX introduction talks. UNIX I was held twice, on January 11th and 16th. UNIX II was held on January 23rd. If you missed these, they will be held again if there is sufficient demand. The Intro to the Web tutorial was held on January 25th, and will be held again if demand warrants.

We've also had several talks; namely, The Intellectual Property Law, Netscape and Net Security, Intro to Smalltalk, and Kerberos.

Our ever popular SIGgraph video night was held on January 12th.

Upcoming Events

We have a Computer Graphics Lab tour scheduled on February 14th. Space is limited to 10 people, so sign up quickly.

We also have a talk on the Open Text Search Engine on February 15th.

Novelties

We still have some T-shirts on sale for \$14. We sold out of mousepads, and we still have to order more. Bug me about it and I'll exterminate you. If you bug them something might happen.

Other things

I have created a newsgroup for my very special slave. Go look at alt.fan.nikita-borisov. Post, post, and cross post, and mention Nikita.

At time of writing, I have enslaved 511 of you pitiful humanoid creatures. My plan to take over the universe continues...

Calum T. Dalek

FASS '96: FASStic Surgery

It slices, it dices

This year's FASS show is happening *right now!* FASS is a theatre company composed of Faculty, Alumni, Staff, and Students who every year write, produce, and stage an original musical comedy as funny as our twisted little minds can make it. And we had some very twisted writers this year, let me tell you. This year's show, "FASStic Surgery", is all about the drama, romance, explosions, wrestling, singing, and megalomaniacal dementia found in modern hospitals.

Not only is it hilarious, but you probably know someone in it! (Yes, besides me.) So come out and laugh your butt off. Opening night was yesterday, but there are three more shows: tonight at 7:00, tonight at 10:00, and tomorrow night at 8:00. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased from the Humanities Theatre box office on the first floor of Hagey Hall, just inside the doors to HH which face Ring Road. The box office is open Saturday as well as today.

Want to know more? Look for the flashy colour posters around campus and in the surrounding area, or check out the "Now Showing" board in Hagey Hall or the FASS bulletin board in the SLC, to the left of the stairs by the Bombshelter entrance. There's also a FASS web page at <http://math.uwaterloo.ca:80/~fass/>.

Come see FASS, because Zoggo wants you to.

Peter Milley

FASS ambassador to mathNEWS

WOW! LOOK AT ALL THE NAKED PEOPLE!!!!

Ok. Now I've got your attention. Last issue I announced that nomination forms for Orientation Director were available. I'd like to thank all those who came out and volunteered; of course, I can't because no one did! So let's try this again. Nominations are open for Orientation Director and shall be so until Friday, Feb. 9th at 4:30. This position is a very important one that needs to be filled. You won't have to do it alone; there'll be a lot of people to help you out. So come out and pick up a form today!

Chris Buchanan — CRO, MathSoc

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The Holy Trinity: Mike "Hammer" Hammond, Mala "Crakko" Krishnan, Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox

gradNEWS

The Class of 1996 is in the final stretch. For those grads who do not already know, the Math Graduation Committee (MGC) exists to help facilitate the activities associated with graduating (grad photos, yearbook production, graduation rings, the Math Grad Ball, and many different social activities). I actively encourage all 1996 Math grads to benefit from, and get involved with, the MGC.

Interacting with the MGC

Office : MC3029
 Phone : x6659
 E-mail : mgc@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca
 Web : <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/>
 News : uw.math.mgc

MGC Happenings

Sun, Feb 4: Laser Quest

- Leave from MGC office on Sunday, Feb 4 at 1:30 p.m.
- Spaces are limited to the first 28 people who sign-up on the MGC door
- Cost is \$10 for 3 games
- Drivers (with vehicles) are appreciated

Wed, Feb 7: Math Grad Ball Ticket Sales begin

- The Grad Ball will be held on Saturday, March 16
- Tickets will be sold from the MGC office
- The ticket cost is yet to be determined (\$40 - \$50)

MGC Pizza Day

- Outside the C&D of the 3rd floor of the Math building
- Eat yummy, reasonably priced pizza with proceeds going to support various MGC social activities

Fri, Feb 9: J. Alan George Award nominations begin

- Award criteria and nomination forms can be obtained from the MGC office

Valedictorian nominations begin

- Valedictorian criteria and nomination forms can be obtained from the MGC office

Wed, Feb 14: MGC Pizza Day

- More yummy pizza available outside the Math C&D

Class of 1996 Yearbooks

The MGC has a limited number (50) of extra yearbooks on order. For those who have not already purchased their yearbook, the extras will be sold from the MGC office on a first come first serve basis. No yearbooks can be ordered/sold after the extras are gone.

Michael Vanderkaden
 MGC Co-Chair

socTOC

Hello and welcome to the wonderful world of insomnnia! These past few weeks have sure been hectic. Everyone is struggling over the first couple of assignments, hours and hours in the labs, less and less sleep, and no fun. Well maybe just a bit of fun.

Last weekend was the Engineering Havenger Scunt. Our wonderful faculty sent in an awesome team of creative, fun individuals. The team members showed Xcellent leadership, Xtreme fun, and Xotic ideas. Xcitement filled the air at around 5:15 am on Saturday morning when the results were released. As Xpected one of the Engineering teams won, though Math rocked in almost every event. Thanks to all of those who participated in this Xtreme Xperience. You guys were great!

Last night was the bowling tourney. The University Challenge Match was held at Frederick Lanes and a fun time was had by all. The tournament was open to everyone at UW. Each faculty sent a team or two, and the FEDS were out as well. We sent three tremendous teams, they had style, they had grace... Thank you for your energy and for those big arms you have.

NEWS FLASH!!

The BEACH BOMBER BLAST has come AT LAST.

That's right boys and girls, tonight is Math Pub Nite. As advertised we are holding a Beach Party so come out in shorts, t-shirts, sandals and in your favourite, coolest swimsuits. Remember underage Mathies are allowed in tonight, so don't forget those student cards (and other ID). We are going to be showing some beach movies, have some special beach treats and there is the Labatt's give-aways as well. The movies will start at seven o'clock. Here is your movie guide for the evening:

7:00 pm	WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S
9:00 pm	Something to laugh at, with, or near In other words, we don't know yet (But I'm open to suggestions)
11:00 pm	JAWS - A Summer classic

Get there early and avoid the lineup.

Something to look forward to is Waterworld at the Cinesphere on Friday March 8. Tickets will be going on sale (soon) for only \$10. For this low price you get to see the movie and you get a ride to Toronto. If you are from the area and were planning on going home that weekend, my price is a better deal than the FED bus. Keep that in mind. For those who are not going to use my cool, cheap bus ride to TO deal, don't worry, I'll bring you back to Waterloo FREE of charge because I like you, and I want you to be coming back for more.

So stay on the look out for fun things to do, brought to you from your friendly, neighbourhood MathSoc.

May Szeto
 Director of Social Affairs

Wanna See a Co-Editor?

mathNEWS co-editor office hours are posted on the door of the mathNEWS office (MC 3041)

A Spacey Odyssey

He proceeded to plod his way down the path, taking slow but deliberate steps, sidestepping the many puddles of earthy brown water speckling the walkway and glimmering under the midnight sky.

He glanced at the building looming ahead of him out in the distance, just off the horizon. It was dark, grey, and gloomy. Its massive concrete pillars rose like towers out of the fog-concealed ground, reaching towards the clouds. Occasionally, one or two little squares of its facade would be bathed in yellow artificial light. Must be early-bird profs, he mused, that arrived at the crack of dawn to commence the day's events.

He diverted his vision to his lower extremities, checking that his shoes were tied, ensuring each loop was equidistant from the other. Seeing one on his right foot that violated this oh-so-cardinal law, he bent over to rectify the problematic shoe.

Upon returning to his normal vertical position, he was astonished to see something unusual clear before his eyes. He strained to verify his questionable assumption of vision, then suddenly realized there was no doubt. He could make out the shadow of ghosts of all that had come before him, standing there, mocking him. They were on the third-floor ledge, up on the roof, and perched precariously on the windowsills. Some were young, some were old, some were guys, some were girls, but they were all there.

There were burnt out CS majors, their hair pulled out strand-by-strand through six years of enduring programs that didn't work, while tolerating proofs that didn't make sense. Pure Math guys, guru-wannabes who just didn't "get it", had watched in vain as they sunk further and further into the great abyss. Stats majors who tragically enough had become, well, just another statistic, C&O majors who failed to optimize their time, and ended up watching TV instead (See, *Terminal Sitcom Addiction*, last issue!), OR majors having been operated on due to too much research, and of course Applied Math guys who failed to ... apply themselves.

The voices spoke, beckoned, and summoned him closer. He strained to see them. He could make out some motions, possibly a message. Through the shroud of thick fog, he was barely able to see what they were saying. As they mounthed the words, over and over again, he finally understood.

"We are the dead.

Short days ago, we ...

Loved and were loved, and now, point directly to /dev/null!

To you from failing hands we throw,

The torch, be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep ...

We shall not sleep ...

We shall not sleep ..."

The words resonated and rebounded inside his head, as he ascended the steps. Slowly, methodically, one by one, he then opened the heavy doors that led to this mighty Pandora's Box.

With a heavy sigh, he opened the door and went inside.

His exam was in three hours and, right now, he'd do anything to not end up like them!

"Anything???" he heard a voice boom. He turned, thought, and knew exactly what he was going to do.

Dave "The Ogre of Overdramatization" Vernest

profQUOTES Books

They're back!

profQUOTES books are available in the mathNEWS office (MC 3041) for only \$2!! That's \$2!

Come and get 'em!

mathNEWS office hours are posted on the door. We'll be happy to serve you then!

LaserQuest Adventure

Well, after our little romp over the engineers a couple of weeks ago, there have been some calls to go back to the maze and play some more. So for all of you avid LQer's and those of you that want to give Laser Quest a try, this is a good chance. For the low price of \$7 you get to shoot your way through 3 games of high intensity action. This is a 66% saving over the normal price. Mail dglow@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca to reserve your place now.

David Low

The UnSocial Committee Chair



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Zippy and Spaz

Detectives Extraordinaire

It was a slow day at the office. Zippy was doing some paperwork and Spaz was jumping all around bursting capillaries. You see, they aren't just your regular, everyday private eyes; Zippy and Spaz are body detectives.

Whenever anything strange happens in the body of which they are inhabitants, Zippy and Spaz are the ones who check it out and make sure that justice prevails. Zippy (manizippookola xanae) is a harmless (and sometimes even useful) bacteria, but Spaz (awanalaya spazillo), his sidekick, is one of the nastiest viruses you'll ever meet.

So anyway, like I said, they weren't very busy. Then their secretary, Divine, walked in. Divine (devinamole boubina) was the cutest little amino acid you could ever set your eyes on, and she wasn't afraid to flaunt her good looks.

"You've got a call on nerve 3." Divine told them in her high soothing tones.

"Okay, thanks honey." Zippy replied in his gruff voice.

Spaz jumped for the phone, but Zippy beat him to it, remembering all too well the ugly incident with the left ventricle last week.

"Hullo, Zippy here. . . Yeah, uh-huh, yep, uh-huh, alright, we'll be right there."

"What is it boss? What is it?" Spaz asked excitedly.

"There's been a murder in the liver. Let's roll."

Zippy and Spaz rushed out of their office and jumped into a nearby artery that was headed toward the liver. It was rush hour and Spaz was having a great time bumping into anyone that he could. Zippy tried to keep him under control, and one of the main reasons that Zippy kept him around was so that he could keep an eye on him and hopefully prevent some disastrous situations before they happened. Finally they got to the liver.

"Hey Spaz! Quit foolin' around. This is our stop."

They both jumped out of the bloodstream and made their way to the crime scene which had already been sealed off by the local deputy, LockEmUp. LockEmUp (iamjoshenu malipollockemup) was a big, husky protein who had worked with Zippy and Spaz on many cases in the past. He was a good cop, not afraid to break the rules if he had to, but still very fair and committed to his work.

LockEmUp informed them, "The deceased is a 13-day-old fatty acid. He was found here 3 minutes ago, already dead. It appears that he died last night, but it sure beats me how it took this long before somebody found him."

As they were talking, Zippy saw some white blood cells taking away the body. "What was a young kid like that doing in the liver at night anyway? He should've known enough not to come here alone. Heck, I know I wouldn't want to find myself in a dark capillary with some bile."

"Yeah, well, he may not have been that bright, but we've still got to get to the bottom of this. Do you think you can handle it?"

"Oh yeah, we'll take the case." Zippy said.

"Yeah! Yeah! Let's kick some bile!" Spaz exclaimed.

"Calm down, little buddy. We're investigators, not vigilantes. What we have to do is start knockin' on some doors and askin' some questions."

"And then we'll kick some bile?"

"Maybe, but only if you're really good."

"Oh, by the way," LockEmUp interrupted, "there's the one who found the body."

"Thanks," said Zippy, "we'll get right on it."

As they walked on over, Zippy's mind was racing, trying to imagine what the fatty acid was doing here in the first place, and why he was killed; Spaz was thinking about kicking some bile. As they got closer Zippy saw that the informant was a young, good looking piece of bile. Too bad he had a rule about not getting involved with anyone related to a case.

Zippy started in his confident manner, "Good morning, I'm investigator Zippy and this is my partner Spaz. We hear that you're the one who discovered the body."

"Yes," she replied in a delightful soprano, "I was running some errands, and that's when I found the body. I just about tripped over it."

"Did you see anything unusual, anything out of the ordinary?"

"No, nothing other than the body itself."

Zippy took down the rest of her statement, along with her name, address, and phone number (maybe once the case was finished. . .), and turned to Spaz. "Whaddaya think, little buddy?"

"It's gotta be the bile. I just know it is."

"Well, we'll sure find out. Let's go back to the office so I can make some calls."

Zippy and Spaz took a vein back to their office. Zippy got to work while Spaz had something to eat.

"Take him away, boys." Zippy told the officers.

"Hey, wait a minute Zippy!" said Spaz, "When did we solve the case?"

"Weren't you paying attention? I found some suspects, gathered evidence, established a motive and opportunity, and it all pointed to this guy right here."

"Oh, sorry boss. I must've missed that."

"That's alright little buddy. We all have lapses sometimes. Oh no, here comes my mom."

As Zippy's mom, Finny (arwefinnisht etyay), smothered him with hugs and kisses, he tried to think of some excuse to leave.

"Pookie, I'm so proud of you!"

"Aw, mom, you know I don't like to be called that"

"But you'll always be my little Pookie. Come on, I've made dinner for you. First we have to stop at the spleen to pick up some things. You know. . ."

As Zippy's mom droned on and on, and they slowly made their way to the spleen, Zippy marvelled over his work on this case and thought to himself, "Now, where did I put that bile's number?"

Please note that I have never taken a Biology class in my life, and therefore my knowledge of anatomy and biological entities is very limited. Realism and accuracy have been sacrificed for the sake of humour.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

profQUOTES

"OK, you guys just stood there like morons."

Hayes, HIST 102C

"The key to mathematics is to learn as little as possible."

Godsil, MATH 136

"I can't pay you, so I will have to give you marks."

Vrscay, MATH 138

"People will just think you're cool if you can prove \mathbf{R} " is a vector space."

Agrawal, MATH 136

"You should look more confused than you do."

Thagard, PHIL 256

"Let's see... there's three erasers, and there's eleven of you, so I'd have to get them back if I started to throw them."

Bennett, MATH 245

"Thank you for calling me 'Professor'. That sounds nice... better than 'Hey stupid!'."

Vrscay, MATH 138

"This is the first year I thought to say this now instead of later. You people will have remarkable insight. Everything should be clear now."

Vrscay, MATH 138

"Don't think about it too much because you might blow your brain cells."

Vrscay, MATH 138

"A point is closed because it has no balls."

Platonov, MATH 247

"See a math nerd, pick it up, bring it to the Institute. That's where it belongs."

Jackson, MATH 245

"Why do you think Bill Gates comes here in person? By the time you're done this course, you're just the kind of dweebs he's looking for..."

Burkowski, CS 444

"I like seeing you squirm. It makes me feel powerful."

Willard, PMATH 330

"...you stimulate me, I stimulate you..."

P. Chieh, SCI 270

"COBOL... I wouldn't want to do that to you... young, innocent minds corrupted by COBOL..."

Burkowski, CS 338

Not Playing

Reviews of 1996 movies not playing at a theatre near you:

Pulp Fraction

Quentin Tarantino (*Reservoir Dogs*) again displays his immense talents as a writer and director with this multi-threaded story involving a couple of professional hit men/amateur mathematicians, their mob boss, his hedonistic wife, a boxer on the run, the cook, the thief, his wife, and her lover. Though the story line and sheer number of principle characters are confusing at times, this film deserves an Academy Award; were I a member of the Academy, I would definitely be de-nominator. ★★★★★

Goldenratio

Pierce Brosnan (*Mrs. Doubtfire*) stars as the latest incarnation of 007 in this thrilling mixture of modern action-adventure and classical geometry. In this film, Bond is sent on assignment to Athens to retrieve a top-secret formula known only as Goldenratio from the clutches of the Greek maniacal genius Archie Meedeez. ♣♦♥♠ $\frac{1}{2}$

204

This comedy thriller, starring Nicole Kidman (*Far and Away*), details the lengths a television weatherperson will go to to scale the heights of her profession. Though most critics seemed to like this movie, I found it derivative, and my limit was quickly reached. Nonetheless, Kidman's performance was funny enough that I'm willing to give the movie partial credit. $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\oplus\oplus)$

Legendres of the Fall

This is the first in our series of Anthony Hopkins (*Remainders of the Day*) movies. I haven't actually seen this movie, but I have heard (with apologies to Brad) that this movies is the Pitts. $\emptyset\frac{1}{2}$

Remainders of the Day

Our other Anthony Hopkins (*Legendres of the Fall*) movie has him playing the part of a repressed butler in Victorian England who falls in love with a maid, played by Emma Thompson (*Sense and Sensibility*). This movie was split into two parts, but both divisions were long. By the time I reached the divid-end of this movie, I was cursing at the divisor of such a hackneyed film. I think Hopkins should keep playing maniacal characters, like Hannibal Lecter, and maintain a happy *status quotient*. $\Delta\emptyset$

While You Were Clipping

Sandra Bullock (*The Net*) and Bill Pullman (*Casper*) are drawn together in this not-too-graphical light romantic comedy. It's love at first sight when a lonely transit-booth worker saves a train commuter, Peter Gallagher (*sex, lies, and videotape*), who's nearly hit by a train and lapses into a coma. Trouble ensues when Bullock is mistaken as the victim's fiancée and ends up falling in love with his brother, played by Pullman. The laughs will keep you at the edge of your seat. $\bowtie\bowtie\bowtie\frac{1}{2}$ -space

Mike "The Milkhammer" Hammond
Mala "The Milkkrakko" Krishnan
Brian "The Milkcalculus Cowboy" Fox

Baseball in America

The Designated Lawyer Has Arrived

It has been a while since I last wrote because I haven't been able to dream up any ideas or humorous patter that I felt were worthy of publishing. However, this past weekend, when I picked up my friendly copy of *Sports Illustrated* I noticed a fascinating story on which I feel compelled to comment. On page 31 of the January 15, 1996 issue of *SI*, in the Scorecard section, is a brief article entitled "The Windup, the Pitch, the Suit." Contained in this article are perfect examples of the pathetic mentality that more and more people seem to have these days.

Johnny Lupoli of Wallingford, CT, age 9, a pitcher for a Little League team, accidentally overthrew his catcher during pregame warmups and hit Carol LaRosa in the head on May 6, 1995. LaRosa felt that the most fitting punishment for this little occurrence was to sue Johnny, and Johnny alone, for \$15,000.

To add a little more heartlessness to this tale, Ms. LaRosa filed her suit two weeks before Christmas:

"Merry Christmas, Johnny!"

"What do you want for Christmas?"

"Well, I want a New York Yankees shirt, a new bike, and 1000 hours of free legal service from Johnnie Cochran."

Carol LaRosa, and her husband Thomas, are suing Johnny because Carol had to have sixty stitches and now carries a one-inch scar on her jaw and for a "loss of consortium," which seems to be legalese for "Carol doesn't want to make love to me any more" (they have legal phrases for everything!). The article goes on to say that only Johnny Lupoli was named as a defendant, and not the league's insurance carrier or any adult coaches. The LaRosa's attorney is quoted as saying, "As [the facts] become known, it's possible that other defendants will be brought in."

When asked about the risk of minor injury that is implicit with watching a baseball game, the lawyer replied, "There was no game going on. It was a warmup session. Does a nine-year-old boy know that it's dangerous to throw near a crowd? I know when I was nine I had a rifle arm."

I wish I could say that I was making all of this up, and that it was just an early April Fool's joke or something along those lines. But it's not. Every single word I have just written is true. All of it is absolutely the truth and it disgusts me as much as Jerry Springer disgusts me.

Starting with the basics, the first question I would like to ask this slimeball lawyer is: Where is a nine-year-old going to get \$15,000? When I was nine, \$50 was almost as good as \$1,000,000. You could buy all the chocolate bars you wanted until you hurled them into a trash can. The LaRosas would have been better off suing for 15 cents, because then, at least, they might be able to collect their damages. Secondly, the LaRosas are suing Johnny Lupoli because he hit Carol LaRosa *accidentally* with a baseball. It's not as if he lined her up and threw a 90 mph fastball into her nose! When I was 9 I could throw 35 mph maximum without tearing my arm from my shoulder. If Johnny was 16 he probably would have broken Carol LaRosa's jaw in half. I think a little itty-bitty scar is getting off pretty well.

And did the medical treatment to sew up this superficial wound really cost \$14,000? I realize that health costs down in the U.S. are appalling but \$14,000 for 60 stitches? That's \$250 per stitch! Did she have a brain surgeon do the work? As for

the loss of Ms. LaRosa's self-esteem from having a one-inch scar on her jaw, I don't ever recall her being a famous supermodel, so it's not as if she *needs* her face to be completely unblemished in order to live a normal life. Did she sue her parents for giving her rotten hormones when she got acne? Also, if part of the damages are for Thomas LaRosa's "loss of consortium", exactly how did he value this loss? Did he take the average going rate for female prostitutes in Wallingford and multiply it by the number of times he projected he would have sex over the next year?

The scariest thing about this suit is that, through the magic of the Rule of Precedent, this case could affect children's sports forever. Could a youth football player be sued for hurting someone with a hard tackle? Could a pee-pee hockey player find himself \$25,000 in the hole after a hard, but clean check against the board? Could a gymnastics coach or figure skating coach be sued by his or her students should they injure themselves attempting a difficult move? More importantly, how many mothers and fathers would be willing to sacrifice the large amounts of time necessary for coaching a children's sport if the potential for an expensive lawsuit exists? I was looking forward to coaching my son's baseball team or my daughter's soccer team, should I be fortunate enough to be blessed with kids. But now, I may decide to let some other sucker put his personal fortune on the line. How many parents will go to a youth league game if they have to sign a waiver just to sit in the stands?

This case belongs in the file of stupidest court cases ever, right beside that goof who sued McDonald's for having coffee that was too hot. The statements made by the LaRosa's lawyer make Lionel Hutz of *The Simpsons* look like F. Lee Bailey. I can just imagine those cheesy accident damages ads you see for lawyers from Buffalo: "If you've been hurt in an accident, we can help. Whether it be from a car accident, an accident at work, or being beamed by a little tyke's pitch, we will recover damages that are rightfully yours."

It's a good thing that Johnny Lupoli decided to hit Carol LaRosa instead of Mafia boss John Gotti. No doubt his response would be:

Gotti: (*gets hit in the head by baseball*) Hey, wotthehell! Guiseppe, find the man who did this and whack him!

Guiseppe: But, boss, he's just a kid! He didn't mean to do it!

Gotti: How dare you question my orders! Guiseppe, go plug the kid and throw him where you threw that kid who hit the home run and broke my window!

Unbelievable as it may seem, this sort of crap was just waiting to happen. People are so quick to ring their lawyer for anything that a suit like this was inevitable. Well, my only advice to Johnny Lupoli is to hang in there and hope that you draw a judge with the sense necessary to put this case where it belongs: namely, the lower intestine of the LaRosa's lawyer. Meanwhile, Johnny, keep practicing and soon that heater will be dropping in the strike zone on every pitch. As for the LaRosas, I offer my congratulations on being the most appallingly ridiculous people in the solar system.

Graham "The Hanging Judge" Rogers

Are You Graduating in '96?

Pledge Size

Any amount can be pledged, the basic pledge is \$101 for three years totaling in a pledge of \$303. The basic pledge entitles you to join the Dean's Prime Number Club, and a special individual prime number will be assigned to you. Another way to join the Dean's Prime Number Club is to pledge \$53 the first year, \$101 the second and \$149 the third and final year. It works out to be roughly the same, but the amount is less in the beginning.

What You Can Be Expecting?

During the next two weeks a letter accompanied with a pledge card will be mailed to you. (If your local address is not current, the letter will be mailed to your permanent address.) Throughout the rest of the term, there will be more *mathNEWS* articles, as well as articles in *Imprint* and the *Gazette*. Stay tuned for challenges by individual members of the Class of '96 and for the first time this year, a Pink Tie Pledge web page that, if all goes well, pledges can be made over the World Wide Web!

This Year's Challenge

This year's challenge is to, as a graduating year, pledge over \$30,000. With the spirit that I've seen in our Class of '96, I feel that we can easily pledge this amount.

More Information

I have a roll-out plan for this entire campaign where progress reports will be made through different media. But if you ever have any questions, specific or general, please feel free to contact me either by calling the Math Grad Committee (MGC) x6659 or by e-mailing me at mkoechli@undergrad.math.

Let's Go Class of '96!

Marco Koechli
'96 Pink Tie Pledge Chair

Hope Against Hope

The UW Storm Closing Policy

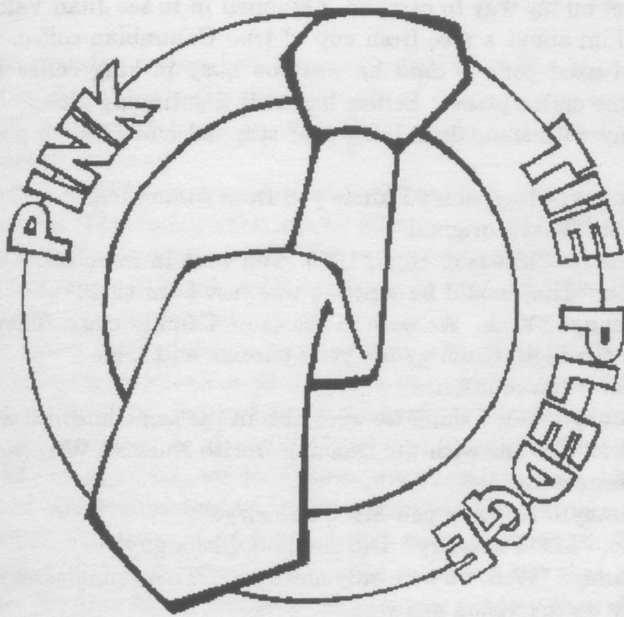
Now that we've had our first winter storm of the year, we thought that you might like to know when UW closes due to the weather and how to find out whether it's closed or not!

UW will be closed for the day if the Waterloo County Board of Education closes all its schools. If UW is going to be closed, campus media will be advised as early as possible in the morning by telephone, and the UW News Bureau will inform the news media. So it's just like if you were back in elementary school; listen to the radio in the morning!

NOTE: UW being "closed" means that all classes are not held, scheduled events are cancelled, exams are cancelled, and deadlines for assignments are postponed until the same hour on the next weekday when the university is open. Also, once open for the day, UW will close "only in extreme circumstances," whatever that means.

This has been a public service announcement. We now return you to your regularly scheduled *mathNEWS*.

Stolen from a UW News Bureau Release



Are you graduating in '96? Do you know about the "Pink Tie Pledge?" It is a tradition in the Math Faculty that the graduating year pledges to donate money to the Faculty to better its facilities. The Pink Tie Pledge has helped to provide X-Terminals throughout the undergraduate computer labs including the re-design of rooms 3018 and 3022. If you are here as a "Descartes Scholar" your scholarship has been partially funded by the Pink Tie Pledge.

History of the Pink Tie Pledge

The Pink Tie Pledge was started in 1990 by the graduating class of that year. The intent was to generate funds for the Math Faculty to buy new equipment to ensure that future students, such as ourselves, would gain the best education possible. Since then, the Pink Tie Pledge has been run every year. Last year was the first year when money could be pledged directly to the Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF). If you are not familiar with MEF, it is an interest-bearing account where the actual donations are never spent. The pooled funds generate interest which is spent on projects to enhance the quality of education here in Math. More importantly, all projects undertaken by MEF are student directed. This means that any amount pledged to MEF will generate funds for years to come!

Last year the campaign brought in over \$39,000, just shy of forty grand, and thus setting a new record for last year's Class of '95.

But we can do better.

What Exactly Is a Pledge?

A pledge is a promise to donate. For example: if I pledge \$100, I will not be expected to donate immediately. If you pledge through the Pink Tie Pledge you are not expected to donate until May of 1997. This is great because in a years time we will all have paid off a good part of our student loans. Better yet, a donation to the Faculty is tax deductible!

We Accept!

sciNOTES has challenged us!

I, a co-editor of *mathNEWS* on behalf of the other two, hereby accept the sciNOTES challenge as proposed to us in their Friday, January 26, 1996 issue.

However, we have a few changes we'd like to propose:

1. Since we have three editors, we'd like to be able to rotate two editors at a time. That is, if there are three events, each editor will sit out of one event each.
2. We'd like to open this challenge up to other editors of faculty student publication — Iron Warrior, The Sphere (as was originally proposed), The Spectacle (even if they only come once a TERM!)... and other such student papers. In-print editors need not apply.
3. We'd like to kill the squash, Risk and chess thing and make it pool, Euchre and Trivial Pursuit™.

Propose a date and time and we'll see what we can do!

Failing this, how about a better challenge: The sciNOTES editors do our CS 488 (Computer Graphics) and AM 361 (Continuum Mechanics) assignments!?

Go *mathNEWS* go!

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan
mathNEWS co-editor
 on behalf of Mike "Hammer" Hammond and Brian "The
 Calculus Cowboy" Fox

mathNEWS on the Web

This term is *mathNEWS*'s third term on the WorldWide Web (WWW), and since the first appearance of *mathNEWS* on the Web in Spring '95, we've attracted readers from all over the world. (*mathNEWS* has gone international! How frightening...)

For those of you who still don't know about this phenomenon taking the Web by storm (well, a small storm), fire up your favourite browser and come check it out at:

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

(And if your favourite browser happens to be Netscape, and you're experiencing withdrawal symptoms in the face of MFCF's recent hack-and-slash tactics, we've got instructions on how to run Netscape on [undergrad.math.](http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews))

Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available from the *mathNEWS* Web site, as well as compilations of past favourites (such as *profQUOTES*), information on *mathNEWS*, interactive documents, and other fun and interesting stuff in the works... So come one, come all to the *mathNEWS* Web site! Tell your friends, your neighbours and your pets about it; raise access levels and make this WebMaster happy!

Viêt-Tâm Luu
mathNEWS Winter '96 WebMaster

Crazy Commercial Corner

One fine morning, I found myself strolling down Columbia Street on my way to campus. I stopped in to see Juan Valdez to ask him about a nice fresh cup of true Columbian coffee. Man, did I need coffee. Said he was too busy picking coffee beans for the entire planet. Selfish bastard! Continuing along, a pink bunny with some drumming gear stopped and tried to pick me up.

Bunny: "Hey, don't I know you from somewhere?"

Me: "That's original."

Bunny: "Emerson High, 1975. You were in my class."

Me: "That would be weird. I was just born then."

Bunny: "Yeah. We were in the same Lamaze class. They had it at the high school gym — your parents and mine."

Me: "You're insane."

Bunny: "No. I think we were also in the same hospital ward."

Me: "The one with the Dancing Dorito Nurses? Were you the baritone baby?"

Bunny: "No. Are you Ms. Fitzhenry?"

Me: "Ms. Fitzhenry? Did she look like a guy?"

Bunny: "Well, we were only newborns. These sunglasses really screw up my vision anyways."

Me: "Since things aren't going according to plans, I'm willing to bet that you're not Buggy Brown then."

Bunny: "No. I'm the Energizer Bunny."

Me: "Wow. Say, why don't you stop circling me?"

EB: "It's because I can't stop. Damn batteries. Tried, tested, and true! Say, want an Easter Cream Egg?"

Me: "Sure. Mmmmm... I could eat a large quantity of these. What do you say we get some coffee to wash these down with?"

So our hero and the Energizer bunny danced off into the horizon doing the Chicken Dance and eating Easter Cream Eggs. And they kept going, and going, and going....

THE END

Note: And if the sight of this, the perfect article, didn't bring to mind Pizza Hut deliveries and their new phone number, then try photocopying it a few times. Three times, three 10s. HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Eric "I watch way too much TV" Moreau [*Just like his roommate, Dave!* — CrakkoEd]

We Love You, Brenda!

Attention, everybody! Brenda (the really awesome lady who manages the C&D for us) is taking a leave of absence for at least six weeks, starting on February 7th. We wish her all the best, and hope she enjoys her temporary reprieve from all us whiny students.

We love ya, Brenda, and we appreciate all the work you've done to make the C&D the BEST DAMN FOOD OUTLET ON CAMPUS! Take care of yourself, and we'll see you in a month and a half.

Sarah "The Math C&D Rocks" Kamal

The Adventures of Rogerstan Systems

Hot Sex Under the Sun Terminals

The morning began just like any other day. The sun came up, the wind blew softly, and the din of cars carrying restless, harried workers drifted from street-level to the sixth floor of the Rogerstan building.

Today, however, was no normal day. Something big was going to happen. The anticipation almost filled the air! It had been *the* thing to talk about around the Jolt cooler last week, supplanting even talk about Michael and Lisa Marie, or that annoying cheese guy from the commercials.

For years, Rogerstan Systems had been a bit player in the software industry: some shareware here, some mildly successful applications there, but no real breakthroughs, no killer applications to really put them on the map. But now, an epiphany of sorts! An elite team of top software jocks were coming. Individually selected and handpicked by Michael Hamlin, Esq., Rogerstan's president, they were expected to turn everything around. Their mission — to create, design and build an attack-bot that could disable the finances of whatever company or country they chose. It was an assignment for the U.S. military, and was absolutely critical for their next invasion — Japan! That's right, revenge for Pearl Harbour was finally at their grasp. Moreover, since in this day and age, casualties were political suicide for any self-respecting president, the plan was to cripple Japan economically without ever setting foot on Japanese soil.

Now, Rogerstan had the contract, but so far they had not been able to deliver. They had been working on it for a year and a half now, but still no real progress had been made. Each time they thought they were getting somewhere, they ran into a brick wall. They now had six months to come up with a working prototype, or face the penalty: bankruptcy and personal slavery for the board members of Rogerstan. Needless to say, the Fab Four were going to be under a lot of pressure over the next six months. But that was fine with them, for they thrived under the gun.

Meanwhile, the four had no idea they were going to be working together, and were only told that they would be working with the best. The first member, Rachel, was a 24 year-old redhead with a slim figure and a sharp mind. She also had an acid-tongue, and would shoot down anyone if they left themselves open for a cheap shot. She had already been key to the fortunes of a small Ottawa software firm, and had decided to work in Redmond for Microsoft, before being recruited by Michael. She had received her education at Waterloo, before making her mark in the software world.

Jack was a rather disturbed individual. An eccentric genius, he had a personality conflict with his boss on his last assignment, and was driven from his team by a coup d'état. Still bitter and resentful, he was determined to work his revenge by working at Rogerstan, who incidentally formed the main competition for Jack's former employer. Jack was driven; driven to be the best in a world of mediocrity. He always wanted things his way, and hated to compromise.

Susan was a hot-shot newcomer from UBC. Sensible, relaxed, and a little on the chubby side, she was easy-going, and always tried to be the peacemaker. Having done some ground-breaking

work on WWW applications, she was the Internet expert of the group.

Max, a post-graduate student from SFU, rounded out the group. He had worked with Susan back in their academic days, but they had a falling out. He was was the most experienced of the four. He was an API wizard, and had the uncanny ability to memorize an entire API, and thus have the correct syntax for whatever function he needed at the time.

The time for their arrival had been set at 1:00 on Tuesday afternoon. The day before, Rogerstan staff had hardly been able to concentrate on their work at all. Why, one employee, Sarah Camal, had been so distracted that she accidentally sent an intimate letter meant for her boyfriend to the entire company. She was so mortified by this she could not come in for the next week, so she missed the great arrival.

Matt, a former worker on the attack-bot project, said it all:

"These four are going to take us to the top. We'll all finally get some respect! No longer will I have to lie about where I work. We could be the next Microsoft! And these four are going to do it."

Lama, his partner, tried to calm him down.

"No, but wait. Think about what will happen to us if these four come in. They'll supplant us! We'll lose our jobs!"

The company had long ago decided to spare no expense on the Fab Four. They were all provided with fashionable apartments on the Upper West Side, company cars, complimentary cappuccino, wall-length whiteboards, the latest 55-inch hi-res colour terminals for their homes, ARR-RRR-RR!! (*à la Tim Allen*), and ethernet strung to their apartments.

The excitement wound to a fever pitch at Rogerstan, as the arrival was only an hour away. Soon, these four legendary figures would be there, right in front of them.

Unfortunately, Max and Susan had a falling out in their school days, and hadn't talked to each other since. Would they tear each other apart when they reunited?? And would Jack and Rachel rekindle their long lost romance?? Find out, in the next installment of "The Sultans of C." (Or is that "The Denizens of Documentation??")

Dave "ARR-RR-RR!!" Vernest

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

Needed: one real-time voodoo-eraser doll.

Beatty

May and Tick.

Xtreme

Timbley,

You know what's better, eh?

Jean-Guy!

Now Playing

Here are my latest movie reviews:

Jumanji

This film, starring Robin Williams, is about a board game that comes to life, and is a wonderful mix of comedy and adventure. Williams' character, Alan Parsons, finds the game Jumanji as a boy and gets 'sucked' into the game, to the horror of the friend that he was playing with. Then the game is lost for over two decades, when a new family moves into the Parson house and the children discover it. As they play the game, they free Williams, but release all kinds of creatures on the unsuspecting town. Kirsten Dunst, Bonnie Hunt, BeBe Neuwirth, and David Allan Grier put in fine performances, and an interesting ending helps in making this movie one to watch. ***

12 Monkeys

Directed by Terry Gilliam (*Brazil*, *Monty Python*), *12 Monkeys* will grab ahold of your mind and take it for an exciting ride through time and space. Bruce Willis stars as James Cole, a 21st century prisoner who is sent back to the 1990s to discover a cure for a disease that wiped out almost the entire human population in 1996 and 1997, forcing survivors underground. Willis, who has always been one of my favourite actors, shows some real acting depth in this role, and he is accompanied by Madeleine Stowe and Brad Pitt, who play the parts of a psychiatrist and mental patient respectively. Definitely worth seeing, especially if you enjoyed Gilliam's previous work. ***

Dunston Checks In

Although Jason Alexander (*Seinfeld*) is a favourite of mine, I wasn't overly impressed with *Dunston Checks In*. Alexander plays the manager of a five-star hotel that is constantly the object of pranks and stunts done by his two sons. Then a thief who has an orangutan, Dunston, as his accomplice checks in to the hotel, with his mind set on stealing jewels and anything else of value. Dunston is mistreated by his owner though, and befriends Alexander's youngest son. This only causes more trouble, and Paul Reubens (PeeWee Herman), who plays an animal control expert, is called in to take care of the situation. It is funny in a silly sort of way, but unless you're really stressed out and need some wacky, mindless humour to relax, *Dunston Checks In* isn't worth checking out. ***

Mr. Holland's Opus

Richard Dreyfuss is surely Oscar bound for his brilliant work in this film spanning 30 years in the life of a high school music teacher. Although often discouraged, Holland (Dreyfuss) perseveres both in his teaching and his family life, which is complicated by the fact that his son is deaf. Also starring in the film is Glenna Headly (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, one of my all-time favourite movies) and Olympia Dukakis. I may be partially biased, since I'm in the Teaching Option, but even putting that aside, this is a great film with brilliant acting and an important message. Don't miss it. *****

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

I'll Have The Special

Always goes down smooth...

Well, we have stumbled upon yet another Friday. How it got into the position of stumbling us in the first place I don't know. But it's none of my business so I ain't gonna ask. Anyways, the Steelers didn't win so my Super Bowl prediction was incorrect. But I feel there was a conspiracy since two Cowboys touchdowns shouldn't have counted and Neil O'Donnell kept throwing the ball to Larry Brown (who happens to play for the Cowboys, by the way). Oh well, Neil will soon play for the New York Jets so we won't have to see him in a Super Bowl ever again.

- So what's the deal with that Fox Puck, anyways? Here I am trying to watch the game, and my attention is continually distracted by this blue dot or red streak on my screen. Sometimes I couldn't even see the puck. And to those people who say they can't see the puck... all I can say is (and this isn't the first time I've said it) black puck on a white background. How much more contrast do you want?
- Bob Rae says Ontarians will miss him now that he's stepping down as NDP leader. Uh, which particular Ontarians are you referring to, Bob?
- Figure this one out: I can remember everything there is to know about little known cartoons and comedy series, TV movies no one's ever heard of, past Super Bowls and classic hockey games. But why can't I remember most of what was said in my classes over the past week?
- It's been two years since someone stole our reading week from us and replaced it with two days off... a reading "moment" as I like to refer to it. Has anything been done to get that week back? Have there been rallies? Have people joined together in a single cause and I just haven't heard about it? Just wondering...
- Over the holidays, I received a shortwave radio for Christmas. Ever since, I've enjoyed listening to whatever international broadcasts I can pick up. Over the holidays I listened quite a bit, but not as much since school began. What's the point of all this, you ask? Well, Canada's international service, RCI, was slated to have the plug pulled in March because no one wanted to pick up the \$16.5 million tab. Compared to other countries' international services, the price is a bargain. But no one wanted to pay for it so it was going to go off the air. But when Prime Minister Chrétien named his new cabinet, one of its first decisions was to make sure RCI had the money to stay on the air. I am very pleased with this decision. I think it would be an embarrassment if an industrialized country like Canada didn't have a worldwide shortwave broadcast. By the way, I've listened to RCI and they do a good job of broadcasting a Canadian perspective on world events... now if I can only get a clear signal every time I listen. That would be nice.

Well, I can only ramble on so much. So I guess that'll about do it for this issue. Until next time...

Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox

The Oracle

Knows all, sees all

Dear Oracle,

Didn't you used to play the sidekick of He-Man on Masters of the Universe?

Ah... No.

Dear Oracle,

How do you spell "Mathematics"?

Mathematics.

Dear Oracle,

Are you more powerful than Zoggo?

I have no power but knowledge, and since knowledge is the greatest power, and I possess all knowledge, yes I am very much more powerful than Zoggo.

Dear Oracle,

I'm having trouble finding a Jolt supplier. Can you recommend one?

It depends on how much Jolt you need, and how often you need it. If you simply need a single Jolt Cola at a time, the Right Angle Cafe stocks Jolt.

Dear Oracle,

When should I get my Profquotes book?

This is an intersection of whenever the mathNEWS office is open with whenever you feel like getting one.

Dear Oracle,

I'm a helpless math geek. Can you teach me to be cool?

I can give you the knowledge you seek about being cool, but I have not the time to give you personal lessons. Perhaps you could ask me about a more specific question.

Dear Oracle,

Are you aware that someone is spreading copies of the Iron Warrior around the Math building? What should I do to this heinous person if I see him/her?

I do know of this situation and my suggestion is to rally together a band of Mathies, take this person by force to a secluded location, and torture him or her as you see fit (such as by exposure to CS 666 textbooks), and then tie and gag the evil propagandist, and leave him/her on the doorstep of the Iron Warrior office (Carl Pollock Hall, Room 1327), with a message attached describing the complaint.

Dear Oracle,

What's with these cow-people in the milk ads, anyway? They naked or what?

As a matter of fact, some are, and some are not. If you inspect the advertisements closely, you will see some do have full body suits on and others you can see the leg hairs and other such revealing information.

FED DEAD?

I think not!

Before I am bombarded by complaints that I know not of what I speak, I hereby admit that I am not an expert on the subject of this article, Fed Hall. I love the Bomber. I have been and always will be a diehard fan of the Bomber and all it represents. I also love alternative music. However, I feel it is time someone stood up for the dance crowd in this faculty and the only on-campus source for such music - Fed Hall. I have been to Fed maybe five times during my 2.3 terms here at UW, most recently January 19th for Inter-University Night. The Energy 108 Roadshow was in house providing the music.

Those of you who just groaned at the mention of Energy 108, please bear with me. Many Mathies enjoy and even prefer dance music to alternative. My companions on this most wonderful of occasions were 2/3 of the MathSoc exec (cough, cough - Prez Sarah and VPAS Kurtis) as well as at least 5 other Mathies. We also met several other groups of friends from Math and other less important faculties. Some of us even made some new friends (Amit, Sarah). It was a spur of the moment thing for a group of friends looking to have a good time on a Friday night. I must say that for such closet dance music lovers, everyone enjoyed themselves (with the exception of two minor alcohol related incidents but that's a whole other story). If such high ranking members of the Math community are willing to be seen at Fed, shouldn't we all be?

Another major bonus of Fed is that minors are granted admittance and they even get cute little buttons and bracelets to wear (right, Sarah?). The music was awesome on Friday... all dance but that is expected at a 108 Roadshow and the fact that students all the way from Western and Brock felt that Fed had something to offer should make us proud to have such an institution on-campus. One might argue that they didn't know what to expect and thus cannot be blamed for having attended. The same cannot be said for the multitude of Laurier students who attended, however. Surely the reputation of Fed has been spread around the WLU campus just as that of the Turret is known here. So all you dance music loving Mathies (and I know you're out there) speak up for what you believe in, defend dance to all those doubters out there. Write to mathNEWS and proclaim your feelings. Prove that I am not the only Mathie who loves to groove.

My point is this - Fed is a great place to party. So is the Bomber. There doesn't have to be a choice between the Bomber and Fed. On Wednesdays go to the Bomber and on Fridays, party at Fed. You get the best of both worlds while supporting Feds on-campus pubs/clubs. This week though, I'll expect to see all of you at the Bomber on Friday for Math Pub Night... it's beach night at the Bomber. Wear your swim suits and sandals and head for the fun.

Candice Parado
Unofficial Social Committee

**Crispy spews:
"Run for Orientation Director"**

Questions for the Oracle can be left in the BLACK BOX or e-mailed to mathnews@undergrad.math

The Philosopher's Stoned

Defending the MC

Now admit it. How many of you, on first coming to campus and laying eyes on your new home for the next four or five years, the old MC... how many of you thought, "All right, so it's a bloody fortress." I know I did, and I'm assuming that I'm not entirely unique.

But then I realised that it made sense. After all, according to the Frosh Week hype, we are the only Faculty of Mathematics in North America, which means we've got a lot to defend here. What better way to do this than to have a building which could double as a fort if times were tough? As well, both the CSC and the much superior PMC have expressed territorial desires in the past (I believe the phrase "take over the world" has been heard a time or two); the MC was chosen deliberately as a base of operations.

Maybe some of you doubt the truth of my words, and can't see how the MC is anything more than an ugly grey block of concrete in the middle of campus. If you hold this opinion, then all I can say to you (aside from that you've already been brainwashed by certain forces Out There) is to hear me out.

Let's start with the doors. There are five sets of doors (more or less) leading into the MC building. With one small exception, these all open into stairwells. Thus, key strategic point #1: hold the stairwells. With only five of them, it shouldn't really take more than 20 people or so to control access to the third and higher floors.

As for that one door which comes directly into the MC... well, entering through it involves descending into a lowered courtyard, which is (coincidentally?) right below the balcony off the lounges. As myself and a few other hardy warriors discovered during a certain water fight in the spring term, being on that balcony confers a definite tactical advantage against people in the courtyard below. Another problem solved.

The DC tunnel? A couple of people with sufficient firepower should hold it easily. Not a problem. As for the tunnel to C2, so few people even *know* about it that it shouldn't be too hard to keep secure.

So now we're all fortified up. How do we survive? Well, it should come as no surprise to most of you that the lounges were in fact designed as living quarters for the defenders of the MC. All those couches and the luxurious carpeting in the Comfy Lounge? Sleeping space. As for food, it is a little-believed fact that, yes, the donuts and such in the C&D really *do* appear magically every morning. So food and living space don't form a problem.

One primary element of warfare is effective communications. Fortunately, we've got that one covered too. Consider for a moment the mass of ethernet cables snaked around the building; even if one hub or whatever got knocked out, some of the CS geniuses around should be able to rig up a replacement in not too much time. Also, the computer network can provide a diversion; all we need to do is reinstall Netscape & watch the invaders get caught up in the WWW.

Now, the offices on the fifth and sixth floors provide effective avenues for attack. Those narrow concrete-bordered windows? If you're unfamiliar with the term "murder-holes", ask some WatS-Fic type to explain it to you; you probably know what I mean. Ammunition? Those are all prof offices, which are of course full of books. This is double impact ammo: if it doesn't conk them

on the head on the way down, it boggles their mind when they open it up and start reading.

Finally, what if the worst happens, and we get overrun? Once more, the top two floors come to the rescue; we hide up in that rats' warren. When the invaders come stumbling around up there, dazed and bewildered, it should be easy to pick them off one by one.

Questions?

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh
Captain of the Zoggonian Defense Squad

gridCOMMENTS

Greetings, Gridders! Last issue's grids must have been killers. We only got nine submissions for them combined.

For the Cryptic, we got 5 submissions. One, from Pokey & Phil Collins was unfinished, another, from Baloo had 5 incorrect squares, and the other three, from Chris Wooff, the Forrest Rangers and Ian Facey were completely correct. The winner, by random pen draw is Chris Wooff. Way to go!

If the Cryptic was hard, then the Unconventional was harder. Only four submissions received: one from Pokey & Phil Collins was incomplete, and the others from Chris Wooff, Nambo, and Ian Facey were flawless. The winner for this is Chris again. Nice work! You can pick up your prizes in the Mathsoc office.

Answers to last week's gridQUESTION: What's the worst thing you could do on a first date? Admit that you still watch Sesame Street. *Fart really loud.* Go when there's something really good on TV.

For those of you who didn't get this one (and there are a lot of you), the gimmick was that many of the answer words contained -IN- in them. This implied that the first part was to be inserted into the center of the second part. For example, 1-Across was mincemeat, which was to be entered as CEM M EAT. Check elsewhere in this issue for the completed grid, and read uw.mathnews for the complete solution to both grids.

Onwards and gridwards to the current issue. The cryptic is a normal puzzle this time, as always, and the unconventional may give you quite a turn.

Words are to be entered into the grid in all four directions: north, south, east and west. All directions are relative to the page when it is right-side up (i.e. the numbers, clues, and rest of the issue read normally). So East clues are entered like Across (starting at the numbered square, and continuing east), and Souths are like Downs. As a help, turn the page so that the appropriate letter appears in the upper left, and enter the clue as though it were just a normal Across word.

As if this weren't enough, there are also 8 symbols that appear in the grid. And, get this, THE MEANINGS OF THE SYMBOLS CHANGE AS THE GRID GETS ROTATED. These symbols will make sense when you use the above help. If there is the option of using two symbols or one, use one.

Submit your entries to the BLACK BOX or to djrigby@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca by February 12 at 6:00 pm. And don't forget to answer the gridQUESTION: What course would you like to see offered at U(W)?

Gridby

Post-Teen Angst: Source of Seven Essential Nutrients

Psychic Powers

—or—

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking, B1?"

I have psychic powers.

"What?" cries Average Reader. "No grossly inaccurate generalisation about humanity which is, in fact, merely a reflection of your *own* twisted views?"

I knew you were going to say that.

But yes, I can only say for certain that I (JoJo's Psychic Hotline notwithstanding) have these powers. My powers are not vast and all-encompassing, however. There are limits to what I can foretell. I can't, for instance, tell you who is going to win the Stanley Cup. I ain't no fortune teller. My power is more of a communing with my muse. Whatever he tells me is what I can "predict". So, though I can't tell you who's going to win the Stanley Cup, I *can* tell you that the winning goal will be scored by someone who will have gravy on his french fries on February 17th.

Yet again, I must demonstrate to you, oh skeptical Average Reader, by providing a sordid tale from my bottomless pit of zany antics.

The Room-mate and I are sitting around the house. He is bored. I am bored. The magic box o' entertainment is failing to do so (surprise, surprise). We're watching the TV-Guide channel, silently lamenting the loss of the cool flamenco music. My mind starts to wander.

—WHAM!—

It hits me. I hear George Michael's voice faintly repeating, over and over, "Wake me up, before you go-go". Suddenly, there is a brilliant flash of light, and the Mighty Hercules stands before me.

"If you build it, they will come," Herc says.

I sez, "Pardon?"

"Oh, sorry. Wrong message. Uhm... Lemme see here..." Hercules pulls out a sheaf of papers from behind the big "H" on his belt, and starts leafing through them. "Ahhh, here we go. In about five minutes the phone is going to ring. Want to have some fun? Here's the name of the mystery caller."

At that, he hands me a 3" x 5" card with a name on it.

"Cool," sez I, taking the card. "Anything else?"

"Yeah. D'you ever watch any soaps?"

"Not really. Why?"

"Oh. Well, Paul is going to tell Christine that he can't marry her because he's already married to her father."

"Really? If nothing else, I can shock some friends with that one. Which one is it going to be on?"

"Uhm, all of them, I think. Just juggle the names around a bit."

"Say, Herc, can I ask *you* something? Why doesn't your little skirt fly up when you jump off of Mount Olympus?"

"Dunno. It jus' don't. Anyway, I gotta book. Later!" At that, Hercules stuffed his wad of future trivia behind his belt, and turned to go.

"Wait, Herc, wait! What about Dick Van Dyke? Or natural disasters? Elections? Lotteries? Wait!"

"Sorry! Olympiaaaaaaaaaaaaaa..."

I came to my senses. A minute had passed. The Room-mate

was still staring at the TV, and hadn't noticed a thing. I look at him, and say the name off the 3" x 5" card that Hercules had shown me.

He looks perplexed.

The phone rings. (Heh, heh, heh...)

So there you have it. I commune with Hercules to obtain trivial events yet to come, and share them with the world. No, I should not be locked up.

Ian "Son of God Complex" Milligan

INPUTOutput

I am very impressed! I received twenty submissions for this new game! And nearly all the answers given were correct, too. I'll have to make these harder. I do love a challenge.

Twenty submissions, twenty points up for grabs. Here are the standings: (17) Colin McMillan, (18) Glory Leung, (19) GnuF, Verna-Marie Hafner, Lisa Harpur, (20) Phil Chong, Tim Coleman, Terence Wong, Luna & Artemis, Michael Delacruz, Chris Hendrie, Mute Marine, Zone, Austin Roche, Robin Stewart, Laurel van Dommelen, Pokey & Phil Collins, Wise Guy, Khalid Syed, and Ian Facey. Colin McMillan had an alternative answer for number 5, which almost works (but intermittent doesn't go. Sorry.). A random draw of the fifteen tied entries showed Austin Roche as the winner. Congratulations. You can pick up your prize in the MathSoc office.

Here are the correct answers: 1) 16 and 40. State the number whose name you can spell from the letters in the input. 2) L and A. State the letter that, when added to the beginning of the output produces an English word. 3) J and L. State the letter that appears directly between two consecutively inputted letters in the alphabet. 4) W and H. State the letter that follows five letters from the input in the alphabet. 5) 7 and 3. State the number of distinct letters in the input. Accepted alternates: 1) EXISTENCE \Rightarrow 6 or 10. 4) Rule: State the first letter of the alphabet that follows the initial letter of the input, but does not appear in the input.

We now have five more output sheets. Can you supply the missing values and state the rules? (For 1 point each and 2 points respectively)

⑥	EXCELLENT	3	⑦	MAXIMUM	13	⑧	ESTATE	5
	COMBINE	3		RIDDLE	4		DEGREE	3
	TWELFTH	1		FURRY	18		SENSE	6
	GYPSY	0		PALACE	1		COME	1
	BROOK	2		HITCHES	8		SERVED	1
	DENIAL	?		WILLFUL	?		HEAVEN	?
	MARCH	?		OBLONG	?		WIND	?
⑨	SUBTLE	2	⑩	CREATE	A			
	BLANK	0		CONTAIN	N			
	KNOWLEDGE	4		GAMES	M			
	SCULPTURE	1		FLUID	I			
	BOARDWALK	2		BOYHOOD	Y			
	CASTLE	?		CEDAR	?			
	TWISTER	?		STRUCK	?			

Griddy

How to Make People Hate You

North	South
♠ Ax	♠ KQxx
♥ A Qxxx	♥ K J 10
♦ K 9xx	♦ A 7xx
♣ Kx	♣ A Q
Opening lead: ♣ J	

You and your partner skillfully bid 7NT, but now you have to make the contract. If either hand had a 3rd club you would be home free with 13 tricks. But, you have only 12 and must create one out of thin air. A miracle is definitely needed.

The first thing you notice is that you have cards in both spades and diamonds which might be promoted into winners, if you could convince your opponents to throw all of their cards away in one of the suits. You look at them to determine which of the two might be dumb enough to unguard a suit for you, but one is an ex-girlfriend that remembers one or two of the things you shouldn't have done in your relationship and the other is your little brother who wants to prove he is better than you. Neither of them will be doing you any favours.

Resignedly, you started to cash tricks. First the clubs, then the top two diamonds, and finally all five of your hearts, throwing two diamonds from your hand. Knowing that the diamond 9 wasn't high you took your top three spades, being careful not to block the suit. Tossing the last spade on the table you dejectedly began explaining to your partner that there was no chance and that you were ever so sorry but the contract couldn't be made. Your partner interrupted and said that you had indeed made the contract because the eight of spades was high.

Why had somebody been so kind as to let you make this contract? Had the flame been rekindled? No, one icy glare was enough to convince you otherwise. Why then? It turned out that she had been dealt the following hand:

♠ 10xxx, ♥ xx, ♦ QJ10, ♣ Jxxx.

When you got to this position...

	North	
	♠ Ax	
	♥ x	
West	♦ xx	East
♠ xxx	♣ -	♠ J 10 xx
♥ -		♥ -
♦ -	South	♦ Q
♣ xx	♠ K Q xx	♣ -
	♥ -	
	♦ x	
	♣ -	

You played your heart and discarded a diamond from hand, but whatever card she played let you have the contract. Hoping against hope, she tossed a spade, but in the end, you prevailed.

Now you have two paths you can take as a bridge player to becoming an expert. You can either suck up to your opponents so that they do nice things for you, or you can remember how to do a squeeze. Then you can treat them however you want to.

If you are interested in learning to play Bridge, e-mail wbc@watserv1 for details.

Jared Riley

mathNEWSquiz # 2

We Are Immune To Budget Cuts

Hello again, Squizpersons! Hope last week's wasn't *too* challenging for you kiddies. If so, oh well!! Here's the answers to our brain-busters: **Song Lyrics:** 1) Political, Spirit of the West; 2) Possession, Sarah McLachlan; 3) Darkness, Rage Against The Machine; 4) Les Zombies et Les Loups- Garou, Raffi; **Our Nation's Capital:** 1) 24 Sussex Drive; 2) \$1.85; 3) Chateau Laurier; 4) The Queensway; **Pee-Wee's Playhouse:** 1) The picture-phone; 2) Tin foil ball and rubber-band ball; 3) Phil Hartman; 4) Conky-2000; **Star Trek: The Original Series:** 1) Number One (from *The Cage*), Nurse Chapel, Lwaxana Troi, and the voice of the computer (in both TOS and TNG); 2) "Space-stud" William Shatner and James "Scotty" Doohan; 3) Walter Koenig; 4) The *Galileo*, with a crew of seven.

Much to our surprise and dismay, there were only *four* submissions! Furthermore (to much lesser surprise), none of them were perfect! The scores went, "Pokey and Phil Collins" (7); Greg Taylor (9); "Satan's Onions" (9); and, our winner "The Church of the Latter-Day Sporks" with 11 correct answers! You can pick up your prize in the MathSoc office. A valiant effort by all. And now, on with the Squiz!!

Song Lyrics

Name the song and artist for 2 points

1. Tom Thumb, Tom Cushman, or tomfoolery
Dating women on TV with the help of Chuck Woolery
2. Now the battle's over, Kedikoi can cry
For all the gallant hillmen she's seen fought and die
3. I was upset, you see, almost all the time
You used to be a stranger, now you are mine

Morons of the Cartoon World

1. Who had a pet fart named "Stinky"?
2. What does g-u-n p-o-w-d-e-r spell to Baby Bear? (Hint: c-a-t spells "dog")
3. Who said that drinking tea "gave him a headache"? (Hint: "How many lumps would you like with that?")

Musical Instruments

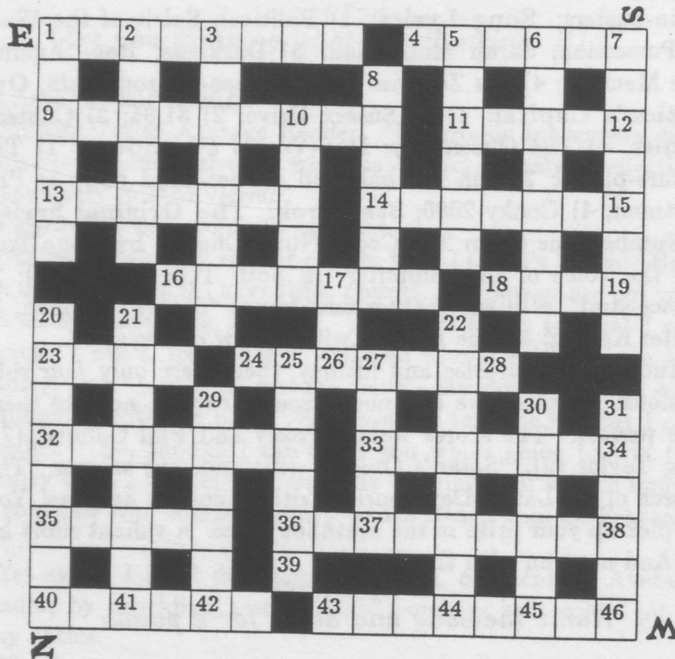
1. Which horn is 2/3 conical and 1/3 cylindrical tubing, the trumpet or the cornet?
2. What instrument "family" would you lump the contra-bassoon and the bagpipes into?
3. On any valved brass instrument, what does pressing the first valve do to the note?

The Dukes of Hazzard

1. What is Bo and Luke's uncle's name?
2. Give the full name of Rosco P. Coltrane's brother-in-law.
3. What is the Dukes' weapon of choice?

Good luck, kiddies! You can submit your responses by e-mailing us at mathnews@undergrad.math, or in the BLACK BOX. Submissions due 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12.

Ian "Son Of God Complex" Milligan
Stuart "Jean-Guy!" Pollock



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. A car and a truck's carrying groups of travellers. (8)
4. Money given if cabinet member's returned. (6)
9. Oil transports gone funny with age, spot is left. (9)
11. Actions earn titles. (5)
13. Old pair of rioters returned periodical to publisher's center, paper folded. (7)
14. Female lead given drug in radio play. (7)
16. French wine recalled in anger: it tastes sour. (7)
18. Take streetcar back to store. (4)
23. Drive away without preamble! (4)
24. Rising spiritual leader for rodents is celestial body. (3 4)
32. Fight over part of a quart of half-eaten relish. (7)
33. Sinks submarine over drop point. (3 4)
35. Grant's backside hurts. (5)
36. Foolishly censored concert opening was getting loud. (9)
40. Secern properly! (6)
43. Payment collected; beer brought back. Next round on the house. (8)

Down

1. Catcher's cap returns to trash. (6)
2. Evened debt for baby clothes up. (6)
3. Violent maniac in a cloverleaf held back. (8)
5. Comedienne Rudner held up last. (6)
6. Flying airmen from around California, US. (8)
7. Sweets are touted up. (8)
8. Difficulty in breathing won't end—ask the man. (6)
10. Simple water the French drink up. (5)
17. Band gets work either way. (3)

20. Hear discouraging sound. Calms down one of the stinks. (8)
21. I lie about Hawaiian, e.g. (8)
22. Butcher's service worth a lot. (8)
25. Hundred hours old slug. (6, contains apostrophe)
27. Weasel from an Italian island is back. (5)
29. Look around for prime bullion, alert sounds. (6)
30. Immediately throws weight into tennis play. (2 4)
31. Looks around for servers. (6)

Grid Clues for New Directions (Unconventional)

East

1. Abandonment
9. Cross-country?
13. Side effect of some earthquakes
16. Avoids
23. Fourth of July, to Americans
32. Perpetual
35. Your wife's brother's mother's granddaughter
40. Brown pigment

South

1. Benefit by (2 wds)
2. Quantity of eggs
3. Like Janus
5. Fits
6. Famous village
7. Like this (2 wds)
8. Solutions
10. Kind of cream?
17. Magic organization? (abbr.)

West

7. Proprietors of the Hotel California?
12. Fish of film
15. Walters and colleagues
19. Invitation to take a mile?
28. Prefers to be called a flight attendant
34. Allowance for grown-ups
38. Critique
46. Japanese city

North

26. New option for cars (abbr.)
37. They descend staircases
39. Daze
40. Saturdays and Sundays
41. They can be "Usual"
42. Imitation
44. Forever
45. Collins' band
46. Ambergis source