WHERE'S Zoggo?

Also find:
- Comfy lounge furniture in good condition
- Someone doing work
- The two of hearts (Happy Valentine's day!)
- A copy of the Iron Warrior

Computer Science Club
A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Greetings again, my faithful followers!

I have decided to award vacations for all my faithful followers. My math and engineering followers have all earned two days off, but the artsies get five days since I won't miss them anyway. Not that I'd miss anyone, of course.

Past Events

We had our termly Kerberos talk on February 1, and our termly HTML tutorial on February 6. A FASS Outing (to the late show, of course) was held on February 2. The puns were well-enjoyed, congrats and thanks to all who worked to put together the show. We had a Computer Graphics Lab Tour on February 14. If you missed this one, we have another one scheduled for March 6. Space is limited, sign up in the CSC soon! We also had a talk on the Open Text Search Engine on February 15.

Upcoming Events

We have a talk on CORBA by M. McCool scheduled on February 21. Come find out about what the acronym means and how you use it. If you want to learn how to install Linux, come to Gavin Peters' Linux talk on February 22. We will have new Linux CD's at the talk. The CD's will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, so come early! Joanne Atlee will be talking about the CASE tools on February 28. Watch for posters about these and other CSC events!

Progress Report

`alt.fan.nikita-borisov`, my extra-special slave's personal newsgroup, has been spotted at the University of Michigan, in both Japan and Australia, and others. Sadly it has not been spotted at Waterloo yet. Help get the newsgroup here at Waterloo – crosspost to `alt.fan.nikita-borisov` and mention Nikita!

My CSC has now absorbed 541 of you fleshy beings. Come join and find out about my plans to take over the universe ...

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing

ISSN 0705–0410

All Hail the Mighty PMC!
'Bring us your weak...'

The PMC, in its illustrious glory, is once again operating at full steam this term. For once in a long time, our executive have finally managed to bind together, this time through the mutual medium of pain. Specifically, a limp. Yes, that's right, every single member of our exec is currently limping, though it's not guaranteed to happen for long.

With this new-found unity, they have taken the PMC to new heights. Our fridge is now stocked every week with a variety of pop (usually Coke and Sprite, with a tad of carbonated orange on the side) and juice (current favourites include apple juice and lemonade). We somehow manage to go through at least six cases a week, much to the surprise of just about everyone in the club. Prices are still 35 cents for a member, 50 cents for a nonmember, and 2 dollars for a membership.

In terms of enlightenment of the student body this term, the PMC has a few talks coming up, including Prof. Lipschitz on Thursday Feb 22 at 2:30 talking about overcoming quantization distortions, and the admirable Herb Kunze on Tuesday Feb 27 at 3:30 when he will discuss differential equations with respect to neural nets. Sounds interesting.

So come on into our office, laugh at our exec as they limp about, linger over a cheap pop, and think to yourself that its good the PMC is around to counter the evil forces of darkness.

Max Stevens

What about the BLACK BOX?

So what actually goes in the BLACK BOX, you ask? Well...

Here's what **DOES** go into the BLACK BOX...

- Squiz and Puzzle submissions
- *prof*QUOTES
- *ultra*CLASSIFIEDS
- Article and artwork submissions
- Questions for The Oracle
- Comments and suggestions
- Donations to the "Help Brian stay at the Bomber" Support Fund, affiliated with the Disco Preservation Society of Waterloo

Here's what **DOES NOT** go into the BLACK BOX...

- Old Christmas cards
- Unpaid parking tickets
- Letter bombs
- Sacrifices for Zoggo (I'm sorry, they just don't belong there.)

A message from your friendly neighbourhood *mathNEWS* editors... And some guy named Biff.

Enjoy Your Study Moment!

Sarah Spews

*Yes, words seem to roll off my tongue
like so much puke*

Alrighty, then.

Well, tonnes of changes are in the works, folks. Case you haven't noticed yet, we've got the ol' scrolling pixelboard sign (that used to be outside the Right Angle Cafe (RAC)) taken down and replaced by a Math Feedback Board. Please tack on your opinions on anything to do with this faculty: be it Co-op, the food selection at the RAC (specific items you like, what you'd like to see offered), or other miscellaneous criticisms/comments.

You'll also notice that we've installed a new whiteboard in the RAC hallway. That'll have upcoming events and info pertaining to Math written on it. Take a look!

And while you're there, check out the Math Art board to the immediate left of the whiteboard. Artwork from talented Mathies, from photography to pencil drawings to silk screenings, are posted there. Please leave your original artwork with the MathSoc Exec if you want to flaunt your skills like the other people on that board.

There's also an Academic Issues input board on the right of the whiteboard. Issues dealing with academic policies and stuff are posted on it on a quasi-weekly basis. Many of these issues affect Mathies directly, so take a gander and give us your input so that we can take them to faculty meetings. These issues are also posted on uw.math.ugrad, so please tune into that newsgroup for updates.

This weekend, we'll be renovating the MathSoc office and hopefully make it more attractive and functional. Drop by next week to see the new, improved MathSoc office!

We'll be starting up the Natural Log Reforestation Fund pretty soon. It'll take donations and proceeds from events and sales and give them to people who will use those funds to plant trees and make our community a little greener. You'll probably see requests for contributions to that fund in the RAC sometime this term. Sound cool?

Our pre-photocopied exam package service is up and running! As of this moment, we have the exams (midterms and finals) for some of the courses with the highest enrollment this term packaged up and selling for $1.00 each. They're going pretty quickly! Looks like people appreciate the fact that they no longer have to stand in line and deal with overheated photocopiers. We'll look into getting more of those course packages made up over the next little while. Until then, come on by and see if we've got a package for you!

Whew! Told you there was lots going on! As always, I'd like to invite any of you to drop by the MathSoc Exec office (MC 3035/9) and tell us how you think we're doing, to whine and complain, and to chat about life in general. Our hours are posted, but chances are you'll find one of us in there pretty much at any hour of the day. *(Is that a challenge? – AppEd)*

Hope to see you soon, and keep that feedback flowing, folks!

Sarah "Majorly overworked exec" Kamal

Happy Valentine's Day!

socTOC

Well it has been another long haul. Just think we've got **Reading Week** (oops, I mean *days*). Take this *math*NEWS and read it while you're taking your vacation. We are in the midst of midterms, so not very much is happening, in the MathSoc Social standpoint.

Bowling results are in and MATH RULES! We placed first, second and tied for third. We will be getting a plaque, with the first place team members' name etched into it. All we are waiting for now is for someone to challenge us to a rematch. Come on, are you chicken?!

The only newbie to be born is *Waterworld* at the Cinesphere, Ontario Place, Toronto. This will be on Friday, March 8*th*. It is open to all Mathies, but if you have friends in other faculties, schools, cities, universes, whatever... they can come along. The cost is $10 and there is only a limited number of tickets available, so get 'em soon. Tickets can be purchased at the MathSoc Office (MC3038) on a first come, first served basis. So go find a friend and plan a date.

On Saturday, there is a music jam at POETS starting at 7pm, so c'mon out!

GOOD LUCK ON THOSE MIDTERMS! That's all folks.

May "This message is what happens when I forget to add my name to the end of an article" Szeto

mastHEAD

Hey people! Welcome back to another exciting issue of *math*NEWS! It's Monday and what a day it's been! I'm tired. Ve-e-e-ry tired.

The blackout was a nice touch, don't you think? Kinda spruced up the day.

I'm hoping tonight won't go until 1 a.m. as it usually does, 'cause I'm so drained.

Fortunately, we've got a wonderful and valuable bunch of dedicated *math*NEWS-ies to help with production (nice segue, eh?). Here they are with their favourite thing they'd like to do during a blackout:

Davido Vernesto (Try to find some whiteout!!), Darren Rigby (Sabotage the phone lines next.), D.K. Gardiner (The winter nights are cold.), Matt "So-Krates" Walsh (Listen to my calculus prof keep on talking about inverse functions.), Sarah Kamal (Getting caught in the PAC shower room while washing my hair (No joke! It was horrible!! I almost used conditioner before I shampooed!!!)), Ian Milligan (Watching Mathies practice social skills face-to-face (for a change...)), Stuart Pollock (Complain about government cutbacks.) and Mark Thornton (Continue with Prof. Hewitt's algebra lecture with Hewitt only pausing long enough to catch his breath).

Thanks, as always, to the folks at Graphic Services and to Domino's for the yummy pizza.

Mala "Crakko" Krishnan (Play shadow games.),
Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox (Asking an artsie how many fingers I'm holding up.),
Mike "Hammer" Hammond (Watch the CSC members go through withdrawal.)

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
February 24	Mala "Crakko" Krishnan's birthday!!! **Happy Birthday, Mala!**
February 26	Issue #4 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 1	Issue #4 hits the stands
March 11	Issue #5 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 15	Issue #5 hits the stands

Math Faculty	
February 16	Application Deadline for S96 Distance Education Courses
February 19-20	Reading Moment (Yep. 2 days. That's all you get, folks…make the most of it!)
February 29	1B Info Night @ 7pm
March 18-22	F96/W97 Pre-Registration

MathSoc	
February 23-24	30-Hour Famine
February 25	Laser Quest Trip E-mail sdmcisaa@undergrad.math for details
March 8	*Waterworld* @ The Cinesphere

MGC	
February 24	MGC Skating, 10pm
February 26	Valedictorian and J. Alan George Award Nominations due
March 9	MGC Skating, 5pm
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
February 29	UI forms available for 2nd round students

CS Assignments	**Watch That Load!**
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 Due
March 8	CS 354 Project 3 Due 5:00pm
March 11	CS 488 Project 5a Due 9:30am
March 13	CS 488 Project 4 Due 9:30am **Load forecast to be high**
March 14	CS 241 Project 4 Due 8:30am
March 14	CS334 Project 3 Due 11:59pm
March 15	CS 488 Project 5b Due 9:30am
March 18	CS 337 Project 4 Due 1:30pm

gradNEWS

Well, we are in the midst of midterm season and you don't have time to read what I don't have time to write, so this will be short. The following are some of the upcoming dates of importance for grads (further social events TBA):

Wed, Feb 21: MGC Pizza Day

Sat, Feb 24: MGC Skating
- Time: 10:00 - 11:00 pm
- Place: Columbia Ice Fields
- Cost: Free, Free, Free
- Instant Replay Sports (located in Waterloo) has skates for rent

Mon, Feb 26: Valedictorian Nominations due
Valedictorian Selection Committee applications due
J. Alan George Award Nominations due
J. Alan George Award Selection Committee applications due
- blank forms are available from MGC office
- completed forms should be returned to MGC office

Wed, Feb 28: MGC Pizza Day

Fri, Mar 1: Intent to Graduate Forms
- Blank forms are available from the MGC office
- Return completed forms to the Registrar's office

Sat, Mar 9: MGC Skating
- Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm
- Place: Columbia Ice Fields
- Cost: Free
- Instant Replay Sports has skates for rent

Sat, Mar 16: Math Grad Ball
- BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW (from MGC office or MGC sales table next to Comfy Lounge)
- for more information, see 3rd floor display case
- tickets on sale until March 3

Mike Vanderkaden
MGC Chair

profQUOTES

"You hear a lot of that at university…things that sound good but they don't mean a damn thing."

Johnston, PSCI 292

"When I go to the coffee shop in Kitchener, I see more pschopaths on the street than in Waterloo."

Johnston, PSCI 292

"Once the markers have [the assignments], we can never find them again."

Tang, MATH 136

*ultra*CLASSIFIEDS

To Everyone who's shared this long, strange trip for the last 5 years:
Thanks.

> EC

Bitter guy:
How's the juggling act going?

> Your friends at Broomball

To the database guy and everyone who called me on Monday, February 12*th*:
AAHAAHOOWAAGHOOWAAGHAHA!

> Xuul

Nixil:
Happy (slightly belated) Valentine's Day!

> Hammer

Crakko:
Happy Birthday!

> Hammer, MC Venn, & Nixil

Top 10 Rules In Laurier's New Code Of Conduct

10. First time offenders must watch 24 hours of Roseanne singing the American national anthem.

9. Hidden cameras in every residence room that transmit back to your parents' house.

8. No more derogatory comments about cafeteria food. Any person caught must table dance around the cafeteria singing "Eat It."

7. Overdue library books result in public floggings.

6. Being a bird of prey, the golden hawk has been deemed a bad influence. New mascot is Barney.

5. On way to class, must now prance around in a Julie Andrews-like fashion while singing "The Hills Are Alive (With The Sound Of Music)."

4. Recess now only 10 minutes long.

3. Every time a student gets arrested, a hot Laurier girl gets transferred to Waterloo.

2. Mandatory Sunday mass to worship their new God, Forrest Gump. "Stupid is as stupid does" becomes new school motto.

1. When eating Chunky Soup, must now use spoon instead of barbaric fork.

> Eric "King Hobo" Moreau
> Inspirational assistance from Jon "Snuffy" Adams

Thinking About Graduate School?

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

Tuesday, March 5, 1996
3:30pm — MC 5158

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

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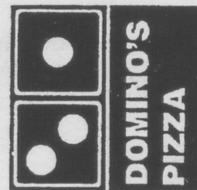
All students welcome
Refreshments available

Faculty of Mathematics
Dean's Honour List

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE ON THE DEAN'S HONOUR LIST"** at Spring Convocation, May 25, 1996 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium room (MC 5158).

CHEN Wing Yee Anne	H COMP SCI
DIMITRIOU T. Eugene	HC ACT SCI
HINGORANI Justin Rohal	HC MTH/CA
HO Jackie	HC MTH/CA
IP Jeffrey	H CS/INF

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION"** at Spring Convocation, May 25, 1996.

BAL Sukhdip Singh	HC MTH/CA
CHAN Soo-Ling	HC MTH/CA
CHAU Wayland	H ACTS & STA
CHEUNG Man-Kee Betty	HC MTH/CA
CHEUNG Winnie	H CS/INF
CHIU Wai Man	H ACT SCI
FUNG Yu Fai Raymond	H CS/EL E
LAU Wing Yu Danny	HC MTH/CA
LEE Pauline Wai-Wah	HC MTH/CA
MAN Vince Jing Ping	HC MTH/CA
MINTZBERG Robert Samuel	HC MTH/CA

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 1995 term, the following students qualified for the Dean's Honours List:

ALI Nasreen	ARCHIBALD Andrew
AU Kenneth Wing-Yiu	BABINEAU Denise
BARCLAY Sheila Kristine	BAUMAN Shane Brendon
BELL Jason	BERNAT Andrew
BILSON Richard Charles	BLANEY R. Kyle
BOCCANFUSO Joe	BORISOV Nikita
BOURNE Steven Byron A.	BRATHWAITE Lillian Ivy Simone
BRIDSON Robert Edward	BRUCE Aaron Theodore
CHAN Leo	CHAN Patrick Shiu Cheung
CHANG Andre	CHEUNG Felice Kiu Yan
CHOW Gabriel Hoi-Yan	CHUNG Ricky Wai Kay
COLLENS Daniel Alexander	DALCOURT Pierre
DEMARCO Paul Francis	DIMITRIOU T. Eugene
DULDHARDT Tracey Dana	FITTON Anne Marie
FLOYD Janice	FOSTER Mary Ellen
FUNG Eric	FUNG Pui Yin Grace
GIULIANI Kenneth J.	GJENERO Boris
GMACH Frances Christine	GRAVELLE Jeanne
GRAY Andrew	HAMMOND Michael Hugh
HANCOCK Matthew James	HARITON Nicolas N. C.
HART Jeffrey	HARWOOD Peter K.
HO Jackie	HO Wing Hong
HUANG Po-Chih George	HUI Kevin
IP Kee Wai	IRVING John Charles
JAMIESON William Trevor	JOHN William Francis
KAMINSKY Kirk Eldon	KAPLAN Craig Steven

KAPUR Rishi	KENG Leslie
KENNEDY David John	KER M. Alyssa
KLASSEN Matthew D.	KOEPKE Jeremy Jens
KOS Ondrej	KUCHARCZYK Andrzej
LAKOTA Darko	LAKOTA Hrvoje
LAM Ada T.	LAM Cheuk Ying
LAM Elizabeth	LAM My-chau
LANGLOIS-GROVES	LATOUR Frederic
Tina Jacqueline	LAU Wai Tak
LEE Alex Yuen-Te	LEUNG Benny Wai Shun
LEWIS R. William	LIM Woei Chet
LIU Bonny Hin Pong	LO John Chung Yan
LU John	LUDMER Aaron
LUM Wai Keung Henry	LUSHMAN Bradley Michael
LUU Viet-Trung	LYNCH Gerard Thomas
MA Vincent	MAFFIA Maria Neve
MAHARAJ Ravindra	MAN Curtis Cheng-Cheng
MARR Sarah Elizabeth	MARSHALL Ryan Joseph
MARTINEZ Andrew A.	MCDOWELL Sean Morgan
MEREDITH-JONES	MERLO Paul H.
James Ryan	MILLEY Peter
MILOSEVIC Jovan	MILSTEIN Adam Henry Polk
MORAN Jodi	MYERS Jennifer A.
NEVRAUMONT Adam Frank	O'CONNER Russell
PARSONS Todd Lawrence	PATIENT Ian M.
PILKEY Steve	POCRNIC Andy Anthony
POMYKALSKI	PRETTI John-Paul
Piotr Przemyslaw	PROOS John A.
PUN Christopher M.	QUAH June Boon Hong
RECHSTEINER Paul James	REED Jason
REYNOLDS Diane	REYNOLDS Franklin Wesley
ROEGELE Jonathan	RUNGE Adam Marshall Thomas
RYDER Angie	SABOURIN Lousindi Rose
SCOTT David Andrew	SHADDICK Scott Allen
SHAHIDI Reza	SHEGELMAN Igor
SHUM Amy Kit Ying	SRI-SKANDA-RAJAH
STACKHOUSE Shawn Michael	Anya Kanmani
SYMONDS Michael Edward	TANG Thomas Cheuk Kai
TEAKLE Carlson	TEH Yee Whye
THOMPSON Christopher James	TSAI Jesua
TSANG Vivian Yuen Chong	TUDOR Mihai
VAN DAELE-HUNT	VANDENBURG Eric Shawn
Rafael John-Karel	VANDERBURGH
WAHBE Andrew Albert	Ian William Thomas
WAITE Michael Lawrence	WELDON Shona
WOLINSKI Christian	WONG Kai Ching Andy
WONG Sabrina Y.	WONG Tak Wai Alan
WONG Wai See Candy	WU Huayue
YE Xiao Mao Charlie	YEE Wai Min
YEOH Eng Kim	YONG Alexander T.
YUEN Kim Ping	ZADEL Mark

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 1995 term, the following student has been retroactively added to the Dean's Honour List.

PALMER Chris R.

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate career the following students did **"GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION"** at Fall Convocation, October 21, 1995.

ILES Michael	HC CS
SPIRO Vanessa	HC AM & CS

Way To Go!

Pink Tie Pledge '96 Continues

Last issue I introduced you to the Pink Tie Pledge, where members of the graduating class in Mathematics pledge to donate funds to better this faculty's teaching facilities. Since then I have had a some individuals e-mail me asking for more information on how they could pledge. The answer is simple. A letter is currently underway to all fourth year students. Enclosed is a letter of introduction, an information sheet, and a pink pledge card. If you are going to be a part of the Pink Tie Pledge, simply fill this card out and mail or hand-deliver it to either the Math Grad office (MC 3029) or the MathSoc office (MC 3038).

If you have misplaced your pledge card or cannot wait for your letter to reach you, please feel free to drop by either the MGC or MathSoc office and pick up a blank one.

To add a little excitement to the pledge this year I will be running challenges. This is where prominent individuals of the Class of '96 have the opportunity to issue their personal challenge to the rest of their fellow grads. If you would like to issue such a challenge to a group or an individual, please email me at mkoechli@undergrad.math and I will see that it gets printed in the upcoming editions of *math*NEWS for all to see.

Stay tuned for the location of the Pledge on the Web!

Marco Koechli
'96 Pink Tie Pledge Chair

*prof*QUOTES Books Available

*prof*QUOTES books are available in the *math*NEWS office during office hours. Check the door for our hours.

Makes a great (slightly belated) Valentine's gift. It has a wonderfully romantic *pink* cover, too! Only $2.

If the night isn't going as well as you planned, try something new. Try reading him/her/it some *prof*QUOTES and bring the spark back in the relationship! (...or maybe not!)

DISCLAIMER: *math*NEWS accepts no responsibility for any unexpected activity while reading *prof*QUOTES to your significant other.

Orientation '96
Frosh Leader Application Form

Name:

Student ID#:

Year/Term:

Phone Number (local):

Phone Number (permanent):

E-mail address:

Permanent Mailing Address:

Where will you be in the Spring term? In the Fall?

Why do you want to participate? Give a brief account of your strengths, weaknesses, and opinions.

How are you qualified for the position? Please list other frosh weeks you've been involved with, other organizations on campus, etc.
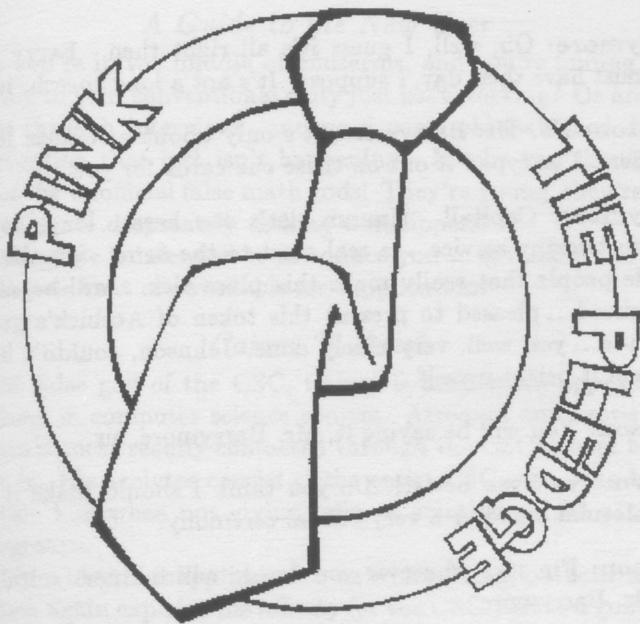
What sorts of events would you consider good events?

What would you like to be for frosh week?

☐ Big Brother / Sister (Group Leader)

☐ Icebreaker (Running an Event)

☐ Photography / Film

Please submit this form by March 1st to MC 3038 (the MathSoc Office). Attn: VPAS.

Kurtis McClellan

The Retirement Party

Barrymore: So, tell me again, Johnson, why are we here?

Johnson: It's a retirement party for one of the employees, Mr. Barrymore.

Barrymore: I see. And who is retiring? Not Catherine, I hope. Good, reliable secretaries are hard to find nowadays.

Johnson: No sir, it's Bill Campbell, from the mail room. He turned 65 last month.

Barrymore: Campbell? Never heard of him! Why are we having a retirement party for someone who just joined the firm?

Johnson: Bill has been with Acebick for 35 years, Mr. Barrymore. He was here before we merged with Segoncorp.

Barrymore: That long? I remember that merger. It was the first really big deal I ever put together. Papa was so proud of me. After all those long days with business lunches and meetings, I finally proved to him that I was no longer just a measly branch manager. It wasn't easy becoming president in only five years, let me tell you. Papa made sure he didn't give me any special treatment. In the end, I had to leapfrog over four vice-presidents to get that job. And together, side by side, Papa and I made Acebick the number one producer of paper clips in the world.

Johnson: I'm sure it must have been exhilarating, Mr. Barrymore, sir.

Barrymore: Oh, it was, Johnson, it was. And to think that this Will Campbell has been here all this time and has watched me take this company to new heights!

Johnson: Uh, it's Bill, sir.

Barrymore: What was that?

Johnson: It's Bill Campbell, Mr. Barrymore sir, not Will.

Barrymore: Oh, yes, quite right. Thank you, Johnson. It's so easy to confuse the two. Anyway, they're just different versions of the same name! With a name like mine, there is no confusion!

Johnson: A name like Algernon, sir?

Barrymore: That's right! With me, it's Al and nothing but! How long is this going to last, Johnson? I have a golf game with the president of the bank at two. Last time, he beat me and I'm determined to win this time!

Johnson: You only have to give a small speech and present Bill with a gold watch, sir.

Barrymore: A gold watch? How much is this setting the firm back? We can't go around handing out expensive jewelry to just any retiring employee! I should think a man should be at least a branch manager before getting a watch!

Johnson: It's not real gold, sir. And we're deducting the price from the staff's social fund.

Barrymore: Oh, well, I guess it's all right then. Every dog must have their day, I suppose. It's not a long speech, is it?

Johnson: No, Mr. Barrymore, it's only about a minute long. Here, I've typed it out on these cue cards for you.

Barrymore: Capital! Hmmm, let's see here...long, loyal, trustworthy service...a real asset to the firm...it's the little people that really make this place tick...will be sadly missed...pleased to present this token of Acebick's gratitude...yes, well, very nicely done, Johnson, couldn't have said it better myself.

Johnson: You will be saying it, Mr. Barrymore, sir.

Barrymore: Even better! Do you think I should make it an informal mood or a very official ceremony?

Johnson: I'm sure whatever you decide will be most suitable, Mr. Barrymore.

Barrymore: Yes, well, quite right! Well, let's get this over with. Ladies and gentlemen... ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please! Today we gather together to say goodbye to a very special member of the Acebick family. Will Campbell has been a part of the Acebick team for, uh, many years and for those many years, Campbell here has provided us with long, loyal, trustworthy service. Will, you are indeed a real asset to the firm. While often the executives are the ones who are given credit for the success of a firm, it's the little people that make this place tick. Behind-the-scenes employees, such as yourself, Will. Will, you will be sadly missed here at Acebick and we would like to present you with this token of Acebick's gratitude. Congratulations, Will, and all the best during your retirement!

Bill: Thank you very, very much, Mr. Barrymore! It was an honour working for such a generous employer! I'll never forget all that you and Acebick have given me!

Barrymore: Yes, well, thank you Will. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a very important meeting at two with the bank president.

Bill: You're not attending my retirement dinner tonight?

Barrymore: Umm, well, I'm sorry Will, but this meeting is very important and a lot is at stake.

Bill: I understand, Mr. Barrymore! Thank you very much, Mr. Barrymore and God bless you!

Barrymore: Thank you. Johnson, get my limousine ready. I think I handled that rather well.

Johnson: Extremely well, Mr. Barrymore sir, extremely well.

Barrymore: Are my clubs ready?

Graham "Fortune 500" Rogers

False Math Gods

A Guide to the New User

So you're in the middle of midterms, and you're finding that praying to your conventional deity just isn't working? Or are you going through interviews, and need some old-fashioned divine intervention that just isn't happening? Maybe you should try one of the unofficial false math gods! They're young, they're hip, and they are desperately seeking worshippers!

This guide is intended to introduce you to several of the false math gods that are available for supplication.

Calum T. Dalek

The false god of the CSC, Calum is most often appealed to by those in computer science courses. Arrogant and egotistical, Calum is most readily contacted through the CSC, where he fits right in. His acolytes consist of the entire CSC exec, who busily worship him when not giving talks or creating stupid alt.fan newsgroups.

Calum likes his supplicants to be whimpering, pathetic shells. (Which again explains his affinity for the CSC.) He is a god from the old school; any request of his services must be accompanied by sacrifice, preferably human, though you can make do with any engineer. The rarer the sacrifice the better: a Double Honours student isn't bad, a technically-oriented artsie is quite good, and a CSC member with good hygiene will pretty much guarantee that your request is met.

Zoggo

The false god of the Comfy Lounge, Zoggo is most often appealed to by those who spend more time in the Comfy Lounge than any other room in Waterloo. Zoggo likes to see his worshippers having fun, and will accomplish this by drawing them to the Comfy Lounge and not letting them leave for several hours.

Zoggo is unlikely to help directly with assignments; however, his acolytes are largely upper-year students who can *afford* the large amounts of time it takes to please Zoggo. Thus while praying to Zoggo may not result in divine intervention, someone who can help you will probably overhear you.

Sarah Kamal

The false goddess of MathSoc, Sarah differs from the rest of the false math gods in that she actually has a physical manifestation, which is most likely to be found in the Exec Office. Sarah is a very unbalanced god; the same prayer on two different occasions will likely result in two wildly different results. Thus care must be taken with timing and phrasing of the prayer, and precautions (such as bicycle helmets and next-of-kin addresses) are warranted.

Sarah is also the goddess of change. Her physical manifestation is often found planning, implementing, or thinking about changing something. Past metamorphoses accomplished by Sarah include parts of the MathSoc office, parts of the third floor hallway in front of MathSoc, and parts of her personality.

Important: *do not offend Sarah.* Known fates befalling those who have offended her include forceable transfer to arts, power outages, and MathSoc positions. David Vernest wrote some *math*NEWS articles about her last term, and just *look* what happened to him. Be warned.

Mike "The Hammer of Thor" Hammond

Warren's Laws of the Comfy Lounge

1. Comfiness is conserved. Therefore, more people in the Comfy Lounge cause it to be less comfortable for each individual person.

2. The amount of time spent in the Comfy Lounge varies inversely with the amount of time you plan to spend there.

3. The amount of time spent in the Comfy Lounge varies directly with the number of your friends that are in there and the number of card games that you need to play before you will finally win.

Law 1 gives the basic comfy equation:

$$C = \frac{nc}{T}$$

where C is the "total comfiness", n is the number of people in the Comfy Lounge, c is the comfiness of each individual person, and T is a time factor to account for the deterioration of the "comfy couches".
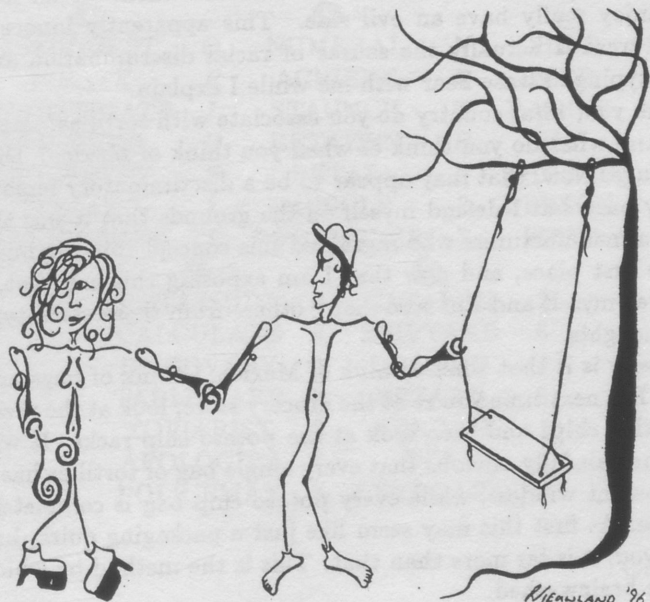
Laws 2 and 3 give the comfy-time relativity equation:

$$t = \frac{Fg}{I} + 2$$

where t is the actual time spent in the Comfy Lounge, F is the number of your friends in the Comfy Lounge, g is the number of card games that you need to play before you finally win (or give up), and I is the intended duration of your visit to the Comfy Lounge. (Note that 2 has been added, since trips to the Comfy Lounge always last at least 2 hours.)

There are also many other Comfy Lounge related physical phenomenon, such as the comfy-gravitational pull, but they would require special attention which cannot be given in this limited space.

Warren "The Milkman who won't stoop to butchering other people's nicknames" Hagey

Niemiland '96

A Tincture of Common Sense

Howdy co-op campers, expecting a fun filled summer co-op job where you get to do all sorts of neato stuff? Sure you do! Everyone does. By golly, you're living in a land of milk and honey, and don't you forget it! I, on the other hand, have decided to do something entirely different this summer. I have decided to take the bull by the horns and set up my very own business which I'm sure all of you zesty guys and gals out there should be really interested in.

You see, with the new Harris government (God bless his precious little heart) there will be a greater amount of disposable income than ever before, and coupled with greater class separation, there is plenty of room for more business in the Heartland.

"Whew, what does all this mean for me?"

It means that you the consumer will have a greater range of goods and services to choose from. It means that if you're living on the right side of the fence you're going to have more money than you could possibly know what to do with.

"Yippee! I guess life isn't that bad after all."

It sure isn't, and that's why I've decided to target you guys. Currently I'm a small time cocaine reseller, but by May I plan to go full time. Furthermore, I've decided to service the virtually untapped Kitchener-Waterloo area.

"But I heard that that stuff isn't good for you," you say gruffly.

Nonsense! This is the sort of urban folklore that surfaces from time to time in universities. I'm sure that you've also heard that the Dana Porter library is sinking due to the number of books in it, and that Mikey from the Life cereal commercials died from choking on Fizz Whiz and Pepsi. These stories spread quickly because people think they're neat and will believe all sorts of pap. The truth of the matter is that the stuff has been around as long as baseball and apple pie. The esteemed Sigmund Freud used to prescibe the stuff like it was candy — and my doctor says I'll have to wait a full three weeks before he'll give me a Ritalin prescription. I sometimes think that life was a heck of a lot more honest back then.

"Neil, you seem like a decent guy. The type of guy who would follow the Canadian dream if such a thing existed. What in particular do you have to offer me, the consumer that demands the best?"

Whoa, easy there, one at a time! But seriously, I have always believed that variety is the spice of life, which is why I offer cocaine in all three of its most popular forms. That's right, the ever popular powder, the let's-do-something-groovy-tonight liquid form, and the now up-and-up flake form.

"Umm, don't tell anyone, but I've always had a penchant for free basing."

Pshaw, don't be ashamed. Free basing is like masturbation, every one does it, but no one will admit to it. But to further quash any doubts you may have, special care has been taken to ensure that my product will burn cleanly and consistently, sacrificing none of the many advantages that free basing has to offer.

"Hey Neil, how come you don't have any of that soft stuff that all the popular kids are going on about?"

That "soft stuff" you mention has already saturated KW; it would be like me opening up yet another Tim Horton's. Wouldn't it make more sense to open up a Country Style? I think so.

"Well Neil you're alllllright!"

Gee thanks, and I hope to see your patronage in the coming months.

"Neil" Hepburn
with "Matthew" Balint

Tortillas Exposed

Through a great deal of personal observation and research, it has come to my attention that the tortillas which we all love and enjoy really have an evil side. This apparently innocent snack treat is actually the source of racial discrimination and stereotyping. Please bear with me while I explain.

I ask you, what country do you associate with tortillas? Mexico. And what do you think of when you think of Mexico? Dirt and bugs. Now, that may appear to be a discriminatory remark on my part, but I defend myself on the grounds that it was the tortilla manufacturers who ingrained this concept into my mind in the first place, and now that I am exposing this evil plot, I will free myself and I'm sure many others from these stereotypical thoughts.

So why is it that when I think of Mexico, I think of bugs and dirt? The next time you're at the grocery store, look at the racks of tortilla chips and then look at the potato chip racks. It will soon be painfully obvious that every single bag of tortillas has a transparent window, while every potato chip bag is completely opaque. At first this may seem like just a packaging quirk, but I tell you, it is far more than that. This is the method by which we are brainwashed.

Since there is a transparent window, presumably it has a purpose, and people decide that they should look through it — to check for bugs and dirt. Just as a wise shopper wouldn't buy rotten fruit, they surely wouldn't want to buy a bag of tortillas that had bugs and dirt in it. Since potato chip bags are opaque, there is no way to check on the contents, and the bag is just assumed to be bug and dirt free. In this way, people build up an association of bugs and dirt with tortillas and hence with Mexico.

Surely we can't allow this practice to continue, or else future generations will be brought up with the same misconceptions about our southerly cousin. Mexico is after all an industrial country. You ever hear of something called NAFTA? Anyway, some projects have already been started to raise public awareness of this issue, and a fierce letter writing campaign against the tortilla packagers has been initiated. If you would like to help out the cause, please send me e-mail at wchagey@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey
President, ETCHAN (Expose Tortilla Chips Here And Now)

Yes, You can Play Bridge Too!

Bridge has a large following here in Math, and quite often you can find a game just by walking into the Comfy Lounge and yelling "FOURTH". Nobody is expected to play perfectly, and just to make you happy, I will show you a hand where silliness abounds. You too will be able to make crazy bids and plays.

```
Vul: N-S        Face
Dealer: N       ♠ J 10 3 2
                ♡ 8 4 3 2
Bob             ♢ 6             Bill
♠ 9 5 4         ♣ Q 10 4 2     ♠ 7 6
♡ 9 7 6 5                      ♡ A Q J 10
♢ Q 10 4 3      Greenhat       ♢ K 8 2
♣ A J           ♠ A K Q 8      ♣ 9 7 6 5
                ♡ K
                ♢ A J 9 7 5
                ♣ K 8 3

Face   Bill   Greenhat   Bob
1♠     Pass   2 NT       Pass
4♠     Pass   4 NT       All Pass
Opening lead: ♢ 3
```

This hand was played over the internet, as you can see by the interesting names of the participants. The internet gives people an opportunity to play bridge against the best and worst from all over the world.

Face's one spade bid was a few points shy of the thirteen that we normally expect for an opening bid. Greenhat's two no-trump showed spades and a hand forcing to at least four spades. Face meekly bid four spades to try discouraging Greenhat from going any further. He was hoping that Greenhat wouldn't have anything in reserve and would pass. Unfortunately, Greenhat's hand was pretty good and he wasn't stopping short of six spades until he was brought up short by Face's pass of four no-trump. Greenhat was quite sure that he wasn't going to see a very good hand when he saw the dummy.

When the lead appeared, Greenhat's convictions were confirmed. This was not going to be a good result. Off the top, it looked like he was going to go down about 6 tricks, but he won the diamond king with the ace and immediately cashed four spade tricks, to make sure that they wouldn't go away. Ending in dummy, he played a heart to finesse the king. Looking at all four hands it is obvious that the ace is the right play by Bill, but at the table he followed with the ten. Greenhat won the king and exited a club to Bob's ace.

At this point, the contract was doomed, but when the diamond queen was cashed, Bill dropped the eight, and Greenhat falsecarded with the nine. A diamond was continued and Greenhat won the rest of the tricks with the club jack now singleton onside.

Fortunately for Bill and Bob, they couldn't see the broad grin on Greenhat's face while he played the hand. Commendably, neither of them had a thing to say after the hand was over, other than "oops", and "I think we might have beaten that one." This is the reaction that I hope you will have when your partner does something foolish, or you do something stupid. After all, it is only a game, and being pleasant at the table is the best way to keep your partner playing with you.

If you would like to find out how to play bridge, e-mail uwbc@watserv1, for information about games and lessons.

Jared Riley

INPUTOutput

Well, I suppose I did make them harder last week. We got twelve submissions tonight, not including the one from Shawn Wilkin for the first batch of puzzles. Let's start with the solutions.

6) State the number of vowels/A's, E's, I's, O's and U's in the input: DENIAL, 3; MARCH 1. 7) State the position of the most frequently used letter in the alphabet: WILLFUL, 12; OBLONG, 15 —or— State the position in the alphabet of the third-last letter of the input: WILLFUL, 6; OBLONG, 15. 8) State the number which, in ordinal form, precedes the input in a phrase: HEAVEN, 7; WIND, 2. 9) State the number of silent letters in the input: CASTLE, 2; TWISTER 0 —or— 1 (The e is sort of almost silent). 10) State the letter that follws the first vowel in the input: CEDAR, D; STRUCK, C.

Again, twenty points were available, and the standings this time are: 10 points) Mr. Blue, Mr. Green & Mr. Teal (no rules given); 12) John Gillespie; 18) Robert Bridson (The consonant following the first vowel in CREATE is T, not A.); 20) Gnuf, So-Krates, Lisa Harpur, Laurel van Dommelen, Greg Young, Big R., Khalid "Omen of the Great Lakes" Syed, Ian Facey, and Marshall Posner. By using the budding science of lucromancy to divine a winner (I used the last digit from a two-dollar bill serial number), the winner is Big R.! Pick up your prize in MathSoc, you know who you R.

These puzzles are a bit harder again, I think. We'll see. Good luck working them out.

⑪		⑫		⑬	
DISHONEST	O	NUMERAL	N	CHILD	N
PIRATE	R	ACHIEVE	X	DEER	R
INVESTIGATE	I	STAUNCH	T	RADIUS	I
KINDRED	D	BETAKEN	B	FLY	S
FORESTRY	S	PETAL	H	CHERUB	M
TOMATO	?	MUSCLE	?	PERSON	?
COOPERATE	?	POORHOUSE	?	FOOT	?

⑭		⑮	
POTASSIUM	3	CATALOG	2
CALCULATE	9	SHIPYARD	6
DISCOVERY	4	BRANDY	3
TABLEWARE	3	WIZARD	4
TOPIARIST	2	ABROAD	1
APOLOGIES	?	TEA	?
POLICEMAN	?	KEYBOARD	?

Gridby

I'll Have The Special

Man, does Valentine's Day suck

Well, here we are at the midpoint of February and another Valentine's Day has come and gone. Oh well... I'm still trying to figure out why it suddenly gets warm for a day or two, causing the snow and ice to melt and then we get a cold snap just like that causing the melting snow and melting ice to freeze again giving us an instant ice rink. And it stays like that for a week so you can't really shovel it or scrape it off the driveway (you can tell this situation applies only to me) without freezing to death. And it doesn't help when that damn groundhog says we're getting another 6 weeks of the cold stuff. Great! Just great.

- The new $2 coin will be out sometime later this month. To honour the arrival of the new coin, I have set up a shrine to pay homage to our new denomination. The Temple of the Two Dollar Coin accepts all those believe in the majesty and power of the coin. No longer will we have to endure worn out $2 bills. The coin, with its serrated edge, superiority in size and weight, and likeness of the mighty polar bear, will now lead us to the promised land. All hail the mighty Coin!

- Okay, it looks like governments are going to make some cuts to education. Pretty inevitable what with the current state of government finances. Students want governments to know that they think the cuts shouldn't be too deep and that they have some ideas of their own. Okay, sounds reasonable. Students protest when the government isn't listening or doing some unreasonable, etc. That sounds okay, too. But when a bunch of students rush the barricades and then proceed to kick in and destroy the front doors of the Ontario Legislature, I think you've gone just a little too far. I honestly thought the whole event is going to make people think students everywhere are spoiled little brats who'll destroy everything in their path if they don't get what they want. Don't be surprised if governments (especially in Ontario) decided to just impose whatever cuts they want without any input from individual students and student organizations. They'd probably think that if they invited them to a hearing on the cuts, they'd knock the table over and throw the coffee maker out the window. This tiny faction has done a great disservice to all of us.

- Has anyone noticed that U(W) has a pretty half-decent varsity hockey team?

- Hey, you! Did you hear? The CFL has a team in Montreal again!... ah, you're right. I don't care, either.

- I don't know about you, but I don't think I can handle 1996 knowing that in the next seasons of their respective sports, there will be no Cleveland Browns, Winnipeg Jets and Birmingham Barracudas.

Well, it's now time for the "Reading Moment"... the Math Faculty's big 4-day weekend. Maybe I'll actually catch up during this rest period. Maybe I'll start to understand material that has so far given me trouble. But anyway you look at it, no FR 152 classes for a week! Till next time...

Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox

The Philosopher's Stoned

Third Floor Addiction

One of the things which kind of puzzles me about Mathies in general is the sheer amount of time we seem to spend in our building, even when we don't have to. I mean, yes, there are nasty things like CS projects and the like, but that isn't sufficient to explain why, for example, you can wander into the Comfy Lounge at half past midnight and find a half-dozen or more people playing a variety of card games. What's up?

To begin with, let's consider the basic needs of living organisms. I never took any biology courses, so I'm guessing here: food, a suitable environment, and some way of keeping occupied. Food we got; we have the Right Angle Café (the C&D in real life), we have vending machines, and we have the Jolly Chef, for suitably loose definitions of the MC.

Environment: two words. Climate control. No matter what the hell it's doing outside, in our little universe it's nice and toasty warm without being intrusive about it.

As for keeping our little minds occupied, we seem to have come up with many, many alternatives for accomplishing this. We have e-mail. (Warm toasty e-mail...) We have decks of cards. We have USENET. (God help us.) We have Magic^{TM}. Need I go on?

Still, that's not enough to explain why people are here so much. After all, there's plenty of places where these three factors are also present, starting with donut joints and working our way down. It seems, therefore, that we need to resort to more esoteric explanations.

An obvious one is that space has an abnormally high curvature around the MC building. Thus, people who are inside are physically prevented from leaving. There is a certain amount of credibility to this idea; I know from my own experience that people require some kind of extra force above and beyond having nothing to do here, to propel them into the Room with the Blue Ceiling.

What causes this curvature? Card games. No, really. Have you never noticed how people accumulate around a game of cards in the Comfy Lounge, sometimes to the extent that there are more hangers-on than players? (If you haven't, I invite you to watch (from a safe distance, of course) the daily games of Screw-Your-Neighbour.) The Lounge itself acts as a kind of reverse dish antenna, bouncing the high-amplitude gravity waves to surround the building.

Another reason that the MC is such a hangout has to do with the massive computer networks we've got. And no, it's **not** what you think, i.e. the joys of the Internet. Although that's quite true as well. But the *real* reason is much more insidious. The flow of information which goes on all around us is not mere harmless electrons; as a side effect, it creates a form of radiation which can interfere with normal thought processes. As a result, after spending a little time in the MC, students are too dazed and helpless to find their way out, and thus spend long hours in front of Xterms, worshipping the great System which has enslaved their minds.

(Damn it, it's *true*. Computer networks induce mind control. I'm sure anyone who's ever done a work term at one of these Hulking Giant-type companies will back me up on this point. And besides, what better way to explain CS students?)

Finally, there are the mild mind-affecting drugs which are included in the various "sugars" on some C&D products. Actually, I'm not sure you're equipped to handle the truth about that, so maybe I won't say anything.

So there you have it. Scientific explanations for why you're sitting here in the MC **right now**, when you could be out making something of your life. Then again, maybe it's just the will of Zoggo.

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh
I can back this up, you know.

Rogerstan: The Agony Continues

With quite insincere apologies to Friends, "Microserfs," and my long lost cow Betsy

When we last left the wonderful wacky world of Rogerstan Systems, our four heroes were about to have their big first day. Now we rejoin them while they partake of a scrumptious meal in the Das Kapital restaurant:

Rachel: So, here we all are!!

Jack: Yeah, that was a big reception. Ah, so Rachel, how are you doing?

Rachel: Oh, surviving! After the divorce, I threw myself into my work, eagerly doing double overtime, being so committed it's not funny. I really learned a lot. Oh it was good, brushed up on my C and C++...

Jack *(to himself)*: Mmmm, she's available...

Max: Wow, that's good. You know, I've had quite a hard time of it myself! All this work really drives me around the bend.

Susan: What are you talking about?? You never work hard, you just look at the problem, do it up a few coding sheets, put it in the computer, and voila, you're done. It makes me SICK!!

Max: Hey, hey, let's not start that again.

Susan: You know Max, I'm glad we aren't together any more. You're the most conceited bastard I've ever met. Why, I've seen hens in chicken coops that have more social sense that you do. Lettuce that's more respectable, carrots that never forget to call you at home, never work late to *welcome* the latest blonde secretary to your office.

Max: Ah, ahem. That's "administrative assistant"...

Susan: Whatever, she's still a blonde floozie.

Rachel: Susan, what's wrong with you?? You're usually so calm and relaxed??

Susan: *(glumly)* Oh, I don't know...

Jack: And on that happy note, I've got an announcement to make.

All: Oh, no, what this time??

Jack: I just wanted to let you know, I've turned over a new leaf.No more messy rooms, offices with cans of rotting Jolt sitting all over the place, no, now Jack Dempsey is full of dignity!!

Rachel: That's not all he's full of.

Jack: That would make my apartment better for, oh, entertaining people, maybe an intimate dinner for two. *looks meaningfully at Rachel*

Rachel: Yeah, that sounds good. I hope you find someone like that.

Jack groans deep inside, hidden to all but himself.

Susan: *making up her mind to talk to Rachel later in the ladies' room* Well, anyway, I'd like to propose a toast. To the future of Rogerstan, may we all last six months without tearing each other's eyes out.

Unison: I'll drink to that!!

Susan: Well, that drink was too much for me. Um, I'm going to the ladies room. Rachel, would you care to join me??

Tune in next week when I yet again change the story format completely! Will Rachel fall in love with Jack? Will Susan decapitate Max? And exactly where does Betsy fit into this anyway??

Find out next time, for the continuing storrrrrrrry of a software development team, that's gone to the dogs.

Dave "the master of Sarahndipity" Vernesto

gridCOMMENTS

Greetings, Gridders!

I never thought that that Unconventional would be that tough! But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Let's begin with the Cryptic. I recieved four entries, all correct. They were from Goof, Lawrences of Arabia, Baloo and Ian Facey. The winner this time around is Lawrences of Arabia. Congratulations.

The Unconventional got only one submission, from (guess who!) Ian Facey. His solution was entirely correct as well. Pick up your prizes in the MathSoc office, folks.

The trick from New Directions was that all of the cardinal directions (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW) were replaced by arrows pointing in the direction they suggest when the grid is turned the correct way up. So if you're answering a 'North' clue with an S in it, you'd turn the grid so that the N is in the upper left, draw a ↓ in the appropriate box, and that's it. When you turn the grid back right-side up, you'd end up with a →. (Armed with this information, some of you may want to try that one again. Or not.)

Last time I asked you what course you'd like to see offered at Waterloo. Your answers were: A lab for a sexuality course, CS666: Doom Techniques, and Unconventional Gridword Checking Made Easy.

This crossword is dedicated to the Ancient Order of Two-Headed Turtles, which is not quite an organization yet, but will probably get around to becoming one someday. It is the (soon-to-be, maybe) proud association of procrastinators everywhere. With this in mind, find the two letters of the alphabet that I have deleted from the grid wherever they appear. As always, the title is a clue to what letters I mean, if you hit upon the right phrase. (Hint: What do members of the Order (when they eventually become an Order) say?)

Submit your solutions to the BLACK BOX by the next production meeting on February 26. The deadline for submissions is 6:30 pm (despite what some posters may say). And don't forget to include your favorite Murphy-like law as an answer to the gridQUESTION.

Gridby

Post-Teen Angst: Blitzkrieg Insanity

Rice

—or—

"A man's pick-up truck is his castle."

Rice is the enemy.

(Stunned silence from Average Reader.)

Now before you get your underoos in a knot, allow me to explain. I *like* rice. It tastes good. It is healthy. It makes me feel all warm and squishy inside. But it is the enemy.

You see, dear Average Reader, rice and I just don't get along. At first I thought that it was my lack of agility or lack of prowess with a fork that made me shovel the stuff into my lap. However, I soon came to realize that this was not the case. Corn, peas, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, lima beans, asparagus... none of these caused me trouble. Only the rice would leap from my fork and decorate the lap of my Sunday best. Only... the... *rice*...

The rice is the ringleader. The rice is the cause of this culinary conspiracy. The rice is the enemy.

F'r instance, take an average meal of mine at nine years old. Pork chops, corn, rice. Fine. Mom plops a plate of this down in front of me. Great. I drink some milk from my "Great Muppet Caper" glass from Burger King, and contemplate life. This gives the rice the time to plot...

"Okay, this is the plan. The chops will create a perimeter, allowing Gold Squadron to penetrate his superstructure and make a direct attack on the stomach. This will only happen after we get his defences down. Now, we have managed to obtain a fork. This will get us inside his defensive sphere. General, is your strike team ready?"

"Yes, admiral, but I don't have a command crew for the fork..."

"Later, General, later. So, the strike team, once inside the defences, will drop down into his lap and distract him enough to let Gold Squadron do its work. Is everyone ready? Good. Then, let the Rice be with you..."

So, not knowing what had transpired on the distant plate, I pick up the hijacked fork, and shovel some corn into my mouth.

"This is Gold One to Gold Leader! We're getting pulverized in here!"

"Hang on, Gold One! We've got to give them more time!"

Lalalalala. Chew, chew, chew. Time for some rice. Scoop. Pause. Move fork to mouth aaaaaaand *dump*!

"Aaaaaaw, jeez! Not again! Urrrrrgh," mutters I.

"They've done it! Gold Squadron, move in and attack!"

Hmmm... Pork chops. Saw, saw, saw. "Hmph. Pretty tough. More corn." I unwittingly shovel some more of the golden vegetable into my craw, and return to working on the chops.

Saw, saw, saw, *choke*!!

After several minutes of gagging and spluttering, I managed to hack my way through the rebellious veggies. Only then did it dawn on me. The conspiracy. And I had no doubt as to which thing on my plate was the offender.

Yet, meal after meal, Mom would put the vile stuff on my plate. I would think, "Hey, maybe it's learned. It has put its treacherous ways behind it." And each time I would end up wearing it, just the same.

So, Average Reader, be wary! It may not have attacked yet, but it will. One by one, the rice will take us down. Just remember where you heard it first.
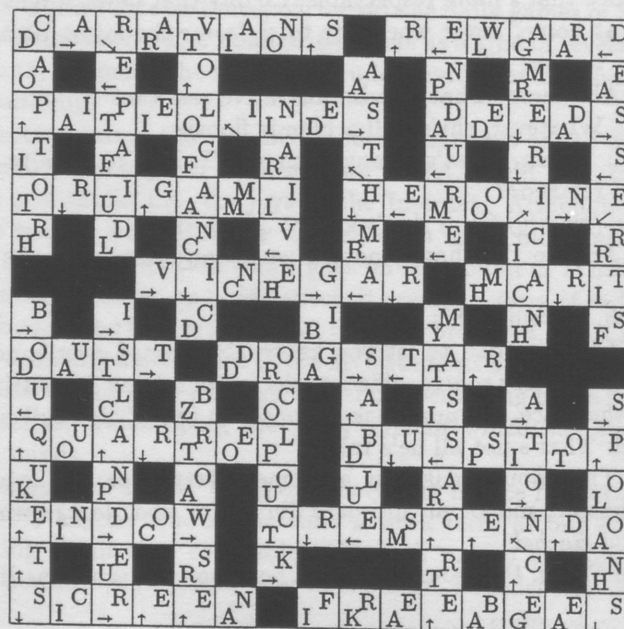
Ian "Son of God Complex" Milligan

Now Playing

Here is a review of the most recently released movie I could find:

Broken Arrow

An (over)abundance of explosions was the highlight for me in this film starring John Travolta and Christian Slater. Both play pilots in the movie: Slater (the good guy), and Travolta (the crazed maniac who organizes the theft of two nuclear weapons). There is a romantic subplot involving Samantha Mathis, who plays a park ranger, but this part of the film really falls flat. All of the scenes in Washington with the high ranking officials were also disappointing. I wish that I could have seen an uncut version, since there were some parts that had obviously been hacked. Weak acting and bad subplots bring down this run-of-the-mill action flick, but *Broken Arrow* is still worth seeing, if only for the helicopter crashes. ★★★

Warren "The Movie Milkman" Hagey

mathNEWSquiz #3
Please Submit Solutions! We're Begging!

Welcome to Squiz #3 of this "Winter-that-can't-decide-whether-it's-winter-or-not" term. How are you? We are fine. (Consider that your warm-up question.) Last week's answers are as follows: **Song Lyrics:** 1) Hey Ladies, Beastie Boys; 2) Thin Red Line, Glass Tiger; 3) Regret, New Order; **Morons of the Cartoon World:** 1) Stimpy (you eeediot!); 2) g-u-n p-o-w-d-e-r spells "tobacco"; 3) Pete Puma; **Musical Instruments:** 1) cornet; 2) woodwinds; 3) lowers the note by one tone; **The Dukes of Hazzard:** 1) Uncle Jessie; 2) Jefferson Davis Hogg; 3) Bow and arrow.

Song Lyrics
Name the song and the artist for 2 points

1. Out on the tar plains, the glides are moving
   All looking for a new place to drive
   You sit beside me, so newly charming
   Sweating dewdrops glisten fresh on your side

2. So here I lay in my 23rd year,
   It's been 6 years since we sailed away
   And I just made Halifax yesterday

3. Inflammation of the foreskin
   Reminds me of your smile
   I've had ballanital chancroids
   For quite a little while

4. The bottom drops out
   As you fall into the space
   Left by the things that you were losing
   While you tried to save face

5. We went to the village Pizza company
   And we ordered some hot tea
   The waitress said
   "Well, no, we only have it iced"

Inventions

1. Name the inventor of Velcro. (Hint: He was Swiss.)
2. What did George Crum of Saratoga Springs, New York, invent in his restaurant in 1853?
3. Name either member of the team that invented the Aqua-Lung in 1942.
4. What pastime inspired the Fourth Earl of Sandwich to invent the hand-meal that bears his name? (I.e. the sandwich!)
5. What device was originally patented as a "clasp locker or unlocker for shoes"?

Sesame Street

1. Under what pseudonym does the Cookie Monster host "Monsterpiece Theatre"?
2. Name any three residents of 1-2-3 Sesame Street.
3. Who was the original proprietor of Hooper's Store?
4. How many ladybugs went to the Ladybugs' Picnic?
5. Which neurotic muppet character has a paperclip collection, a bottle cap collection, and is fond of saddle-shoes, pigeons, and oatmeal?

Okay. We *won't* complain about the paltry number of Squiz submissions this time. Fat load of good that did. So, here's the scores from the *three* we got this week: Aaron Desjardins (3); "Baloo" (5); and, our winner for the second week running, "The Church of the Latter Day Sporks" with six correct answers. You can pick up your fabulous prize in the MathSoc office. Congrats and thanks to this triumphant trio of true Squizpeople. Okay. Squiz me.

Mythology

1. Who was the father of Osiris? (Also famed for his "role" in *Stargate*.)
2. How was Fenris captured in Norse mythology?
3. Which knight of the Round table found the Holy Grail?
4. What orphan twins who were suckled by a she-wolf were to later found Rome?
5. Which **Greek** demigod was hounded by Hera for his entire life?

Good luck! Tell your friends! Submit some answers! Make us laugh at least! Aaaaaaaaughgh! Jus' slaps 'em in the BLACK BOX by 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 26, and try to dethrone the "Sporks"!

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

Lonely Valentine

Alone I find myself
Wasting every breath
Time ticks ever onward
'Til the hour of death

Solitary I wake
Sadness is my scene
Rebuffed and rejected
Failure is routine

Friendless do I journey
My love spent in vain
Try to battle misery
Defeat constant pain

Depression swallows soul
Agony eats my heart
When will this ever end?
What caused it to start?

At night I lay my head
Conscious thought at sea
Dream about a woman
Who'll fall in love with me.

Graham Rogers

GRIDWORD

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Most precious silver piece put into storage. (7)
5. Can't see straight around short film star getting coverage. (7)
10. Previously, curse broken. (2)
11. About half here. (2)
12. Maybe Western home is almost done. Get permit. (6)
14. Sitting before the physicist, bit of an atom, e.g. (6)
16. Noon party? It's against the rules. (2-2)
17. Bureau invades; killer hides. (4)
18. Saint spends religious time in vain, error. (9)
19. Irritable pest put his foot down. (4)
22. Broken bowl intern needs to get cleaned up. (10)
26. She's in there somewhere. (3)
27. Boat loses piece of hull to the drink. (3)
29. Canadian author Jules was described with less wit. (10)
34. Flyer joins army, navy. (4)
36. He predicts dog, with head chasing tail, will fall in the drink. (9)
39. Shake & bake chicken part. (4)
40. Made off with cheese. (4)
43. Chipmunk's smell permeates you. (8)
44. Add gas at a safe, even speed. (6)
45. Sell off locomotive and caboose of train. (2)
46. Half went with my group. (2)
47. Order soldier to go out. (7)
48. Raise tears: sad part of movie doesn't stop for interruptions. (7)

Down

2. Demon lad mixes drink. (8)
3. Sox enclave carries farm team. (4)
4. Pioneer rewrites letters. (7)
6. Hear the marines are laid back and friendly. (7)
7. I don't start disasters for flowers. (6)
8. Poke Dot and she loses her head. (4)
9. Fairies leave some loafers behind every night before. (4)
12. Operating nicely. (2)
13. Solve puzzles for Valentine's. (5)
14. Open cement for some of the contents, not enough for a pound. (5)
15. Perfect camping equipment—then the end falls off. (3)
20. Odd Taoists flip a coin. (4)
21. Begins to pick up little seal. (3)
23. Press club? (4)
24. Eat well, note something wrong, succumb to poison. (3)
25. Regret rude daughter's departure. (3)
26. An impulse—decapitate the guy. (3)
28. By myself, I am far behind—by a day! (8)
30. Beware the watchman. (7)
31. Place a tax? Not again! (5)
32. Endless practice; tries again. (7)
33. Spare won't get started with enthusiasm. (5)
35. Ancient ale god quaffed. (3-3)
37. Car part is awesome. (3)
38. Tiny piece in anatomy. (4)
39. Buzzer part never existed. (4)
41. Sunrise depicted without red. (4)
42. My existence. (2)

Grid Clues for the Ancient Order of Two-Headed Turtles (Unconventional)

Across

1. Scare
5. Urbanite
10. Fade like a flower
11. Rule
12. What you get when you cut a cone off a cone
14. Syrup brand (with "Mrs.")
16. Prepare to fall
17. Passed time
18. Announcer's test (2 wds.)
19. Diving gear
22. Jenny Craig's competitor (2 wds.)
26. He has a legal guardian
27. They're seen in ballets
29. Valueless item (2 wds.)
34. Stern
36. Adage concerning thrift (4 wds.)
39. X
40. Chirps
43. Boxer's class
44. Clear the aisle!
45. Sharpen with a stone
46. 3 (Ital.)
47. Author's device
48. Gypsies

Down

2. Amount of guns and ammunition
3. Musical instrument
4. Annoy me (3 wds.)
6. Oenophile
7. Small bloom
8. In the direction of
9. Band that wore whiteface
12. Little
13. Pungent
14. Inhalation
15. Scribble
20. Type of exercise
21. Baseball team
23. Choice morsel
24. Group of scullers
25. Archer of legend
26. Area of interest to 22-Across
28. Submarine
30. December to March
31. Part of Hamilton
32. Adolescent
33. Include (2 wds.)
35. She does weddings
37. Candy
38. Variety of 47-Across
39. Amnesia causing river
41. Large bird
42. Pigpen