*math*NEWS

THIS IS THE GREAT PUMPKIN?

CT 96

Computer Science Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Upcoming Events:

October 22	vi Tutorial 4:30 PM
October 23	HTML Tutorial 4:30 PM
October 27	Human Anal Retentive Day
October 31	Do you really need me to tell you?

Well, midterm time creeps upon us all like so much death once again. However, do not despair, for the mighty CSC still stands strong in these transitional times. We have a vi and HTML tutorial planned for you this upcoming week, so if you are one of these frosh that gets all obsequious whenever you admit that you do *not* know vi (or God forbid, you use pico), then come on out to the vi tutorial, and even *you* could become the coolest student in the MC (or at least improve your standard from sub-human).

Next, I'd like to reveal a fact so shocking to some of you, you may want to contemplate suicide. No, the MC is not switching to UNIX 95, but rather this involves the DCS Dial-up Server. We're through the looking glass, people. I'm sure almost all of you have used (or seen someone use) their modem from home to dial up the DCS server (725-7300), and telnet in to one of the undergrad machines to check your mail, do some mundane assignment, etc.

Whatever the reason, whenever you telnet anywhere, make sure that you logout to the main server and type hangup when you're done. If you do not, shards of plastic and metal will be embedded in your skull from the resulting explosion of your home PC for displeasing the UNIX God. Actually, you are left on the server for *another 30 minutes* before DCS hangs you up. That's 20 cents, people. Sure, it doesn't seem like much at first, but for those of you that do it 3-4 times a day, you're dying a slow, painful death.

Finally, if you're not already a member, *join the CSC*! Think of the benefits: you get access to our library, office, stapler (well, you get that anyway, but that's beside the point), terminals, and a cool membership card.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end sometime, so I must leave you for now, but I will return to right wrongs and triumph over evil, and that means you (subtle reference).

Calum T. Dalek

Distinguished Teacher Awards

To nominate your outstanding professor, demonstrator, or teaching assistant for the Distinguished Teacher Award, contact TRACE, MC 4055, x3132. Further information is available at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotrac.

gradNEWS

Grad Photos

Well grads, by now you should be awaiting your grad photo proofs from Jostens. If for some reason you didn't get your photos taken, there is one last chance for you to sign up. The sign up sheet is outside the MGC office (MC 3029).

MGB

We need your input! Math Grad Ball planning is fully under way. The ball is scheduled to be at Bingeman's Ballroom on March 15th, 1997. Now we need your help in coming up with a theme. E-mail any suggestions you may have to Tracey Ryan (tryan@undergrad.math). The person who suggests the theme that is chosen will win a gift certificate from HMV. So please start brainstorming and tell us what you think.

Yearbook

The production of the yearbook is in full swing but we need help from everyone to make it a success. Candid photos of you and your friends at different times over the course of our time here need to be submitted for the yearbook. Any photo submissions will be returned at the beginning of April '97. So start going through your old photos and drop off whatever you like at the MGC office anytime. Just make sure your name and student ID number are on the back along with any caption that we can use with the picture.

Also... this year YEARBOOK is encouraging all grads to come out and leave their mark on the yearbook. We have created "The Wall" to be placed in the yearbook. Bricks on this wall can be purchased for 2 bucks and you can leave you own personal message in the yearbook. Those bricks will be available for sale on the third floor of MC on

Oct. 22nd 12:30–2:30	Oct. 23rd 1:30–2:30
Nov. 5th 12:30–2:30	Nov. 6th 12:30–2:30

So come out and buy yourself a brick and make this yearbook more personal for you and your friends!

Laura Williams
MGC '97 Chair

ActSci Club

As you might expect, the Actuarial Science club has been up and running for about one and a half months. We have already enjoyed two speakers and are planning a BIG PARTY for shortly after November 12th: more precisely November 13th at the Bombshelter.

Coming up in January is the ASNA convention in Montreal. A bus will leave from campus provided people fill the bus. Dates have not yet been set for LaserQuest or Shot in the Dark.

Membership has its privileges including access to the ACTEX library (CAS 4B Study Notes have just arrived) and perhaps even advice on how to pass MTHEL 305A.

Wes Reynolds

mastHEAD

And welcome once again to another issue of what we like to call "That Damned Paper"... um, I mean, "*math*NEWS". If you see me (Matt this time) around today (being Friday), congratulate me on surviving the week. I can assure you that it sucked. And would suck even more if I were conscious for the majority of it, which I do not foresee as being the case.

But that's just me. Of course, it's not just me here tonight; on staff this evening (and their methods for recovering from Oktoberfest) we've got John Swan (Did four hours of Stats and two hours of Act Sci! Consecutively!), Darren Morby (I wasn't there; I was in Mississauga watching the Leafs lose on TV — Again!), Darren Rigby (I drank Klatchian coffee and got knurd first.), André Cousineau (What? You mean it's over already?), Warren "The Milkman" Hagey (No recovery necessary.), Michael Thorsley (PURPLE MONKEY DISHWASHER.), Ann Scea (Passed out on the floor in my room in the Royal York.), Esther Small (Oktoberfest was something that happened while I was writing midterms.), Richard Bilson (By going out and getting drunk.), Mike "Hammer" Hammond (Puke-toberfest), and Stuart Pollock (Trying to motivate myself to do work).

Thanks again to Domino's for the 'Za, and to Marion at Graphic Services for printing off these suckers. Catch you on the flip side...

Brian Fox (By going on strike with all my
autoworker buddies.),
Matt Walsh (Oktoberfest... yeah... there was
one of those, wasn't there?)

Announcing the MathSoc Annual General Meeting

The Math Society shall be having its Annual General Meeting on Monday, October 28th at 4:30 in the Comfy Lounge (MC 3001). All full-time Math students and part-time Math students who have paid their Society Fee are eligible to attend and vote upon various issues. Come out and make your voice heard.

Chris Buchanan
MathSoc Internal Director

ISSN 0705-0410

Do You People Want *math*NEWS? Read On ...

Dear *math*NEWSreaders:

As many of you know, *math*NEWS and MathSoc have had some financial difficulties this term. In fact, *math*NEWS's costs have doubled because the price of photocopies has doubled!

The problem is that MathSoc can no longer afford to be the sole provider for *math*NEWS. This is where you the readers of *math*NEWScome in.

What has been proposed by *math*NEWS and MathSoc is that a new refundable fee be added to each full-time Math student's fee statement. It would be on the order of $2.50 per term, starting in Spring 1997. The referendum will take place this term and next, during the election for Spring 1997 MathSoc exec (this term in a few weeks) and the election for the Winter/Fall 1997 MathSoc exec (beginning of next term).

Make your voice heard! If you'd like to see *math*NEWS continue to provide entertainment and information, or if you think *math*NEWS is a worthless expense not worth $2.50 a term, let us know by voting! We need your feedback and, besides, it's your money we're dealing with!

There will be more information in upcoming issues of *math*NEWS....

Stuart Pollock
*math*NEWS Fee Statement Referendum CRO

Should Mathies pay more for their education than Arties?

Should a Computer Science major pay more for his education than an English major? Should an Engineer pay more than a Philosophy student? It could happen. Several University Administrations are calling for what are known as Differential Fees. This is where students in some programmes pay higher tuition than those in other programmes.

There are two main arguments used to support this type of request:

1. these programmes cost more to provide.

2. graduates from these programmes often have higher incomes than those in other programmes, and so should pay more.

At first, you might say "Sure. That sounds fair.". But is it? Is it fair to base your tuition on money you *might* make in the future? If your tuition was $6000 next term, would you be able to afford it? What if student loans were changed so that you could borrow that money? Would you want to take on that kind of debt-load? How would you implement such a system? Would it be on a per faculty basis? But doesn't Pure Math cost less to provide than CS? So what about a per programme basis? But what about those Engineering electives you might take instead of the Arts ones? Which programmes would be involved? All or some? So maybe on a per course basis? There are a lot of questions here that need to be answered, and I know I don't have all the answers.

So now that I have your interest (I hope), the reason that I'm bringing this to your attention is that on Sunday, Students' Council will be voting upon whether or not we support Differential Fees. Basically Council will be supporting one of the three following motions:

1. The Federation of Students Students' Council supports the greater differentiation of tuition fees between disciplines. The Federation of Students Students' Council does not support the increase of any tuition fees without the prior implementation of an income sensitive aid program that limits debt to a manageable level.

2. The Federation of Students Students' Council supports the deregulation of fees for Dentistry, Medicine, MBA programs, Optometry, and Law School. The Federation of Students Students' Council does not support the increase of any tuition fees without the prior implementation of an income sensitive aid program that limits debt to a manageable level.

3. The Federation of Students Students' Council does not support the differentiation of tuition fees between disciplines. The Federation of Students Students' Council does not support the increase of any tuition fees without the prior implementation of an income sensitive aid program that limits debt to a manageable level.

Keep in mind that regardless of how we vote on Sunday, it will not be the last word on this issue. However, it is important that the Federation of Students takes a stand on this issue, so that it may best represent you when talking with both the administration and with the government.

This is a very important issue, and you need to let us know what you think, so that we can truly be *your* representatives and represent *your* views. Below are listed the names and e-mail addresses of all the Math Councillors. Please let us know what you think before the Sunday Council meeting, which is at noon in the Multipurpose Room in the Student Life Centre.

Your Feds Reps:

Chris Buchanan	Math Regular	csbuchan@undergrad.matl
Andre Cousineau	Math Regular	accousin@undergrad.matl
Xavier Aburto	Math Co-op	xaaburto@undergrad.matl
Etienne Phaneuf	Math Co-op	ephaneuf@undergrad.matl
Robin Stewart	Math Co-op	rjstewar@undergrad.matl
Mark Thornton	Math Co-op	mthornto@undergrad.matl

"And now"... "It's"...

We Interrupt This math**NEWS**

MISSISSAUGA—Yes, everybody, your intrepid reporter of real-world events now returns after a fourteen-month absence to... er, uh... report on real world events. And now, our top story:

From the "Look on the Bright Side" Department

A branch of the Agrobanka bank in the Czech Republic was robbed of about $8000 in September, but officials of the finanically-troubled institution aren't all that worried. Bank head Jiri Klumpar is reported to have claimed that people will now believe the Agrobanka actually has money. Well, at least it *had* money...

The Toronto Star, Sat. Oct. 19, page K10

From the "Happy Hallowe'en" Department

The superintendent of an Akron, Ohio, cemetery has asked relatives of the late Adkins family to remove Hallowe'en decorations from the Adkins' graves. The family was allowed to leave a battery-operated pumpkin but were forced to remove a dangling toy skeleton and a green plastic monster, among other paraphernalia.

The Toronto Sun, Wed. Oct. 19, page 35

From the Birth Notices

CICCONE/LEON—Madonna and Carlos proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon, at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 1996. Lourdes (pronounced LOR-dis) came in at six pounds, nine ounces. Congratulations to the proud parents.

And remember, watch Monty Python's Flying Circus 11pm M–F, 7am and 3pm T–S on Bravo. Good night / morning / whatever.

Darren "It's" Morby, from Mississauga

MEF

Your contribution at work!

Some great news arrived in our email box from Bill Ince of MFCF earlier this term with an update of where some of the funds from MEF have been used.

The story begins two terms ago in Winter '96. A proposal was made in that term by MFCF for improvements to the undergrad.math environment. The proposal was granted $5400 to be spent as MFCF sees fit in the improvement of the undergrad.math environment. This money funded a part of a project to implement a new machine in the environment called picard.math. It's a Sparc Ultra 1/140 running Solaris 2.5 with 128 MB of memory and 3 GB of disk space. It is currently in use as one of the general purpose "CPU servers" in the teaching environment (the so-called undergrad.math collection of machines). This is one of the first major purchases that the fund has been able to assist.

Other funding projects in previous terms include funding for seminars and workshops by the various departments. The MEF bulletin board (located outside MC 4046) will have more information posted on the various events and proposals that have been sponsored by MEF in the next few weeks.

Submission Deadline: October 31st, 1996

Speaking of proposals, the deadline for proposals for this term is coming very near. If you are planning on submitting a proposal for funding this term, you should have the form in by 5pm on October 31st. There is approximately $15,000 available for funding this term!

Do you want my job???

Nominations for Directorship-Spring '97 is now open. Nominations must be back by October 31st. If you have any questions about this position, please contact me personally, skacharj@undergrad.math.

So you don't want my job.
But do you want a job?

Your help is needed! The Mathematics Endowment Fund needs your help this term. We need representatives to sit on the Endowment Fund Council which decides how we are going to spend our $15,000 available this term.

The following positions are available on a first come first acclaimed basis: one rep for each of Year 1 and Year 2, and two reps each for Year Three and Year Four.

If you are interested in one of the above positions, please pick up a nomination form from the MEF Office (MC 4046) and fill it out. Return the form to MC 4046 by slipping it under the door. If you have questions, please contact mefcom@undergrad.math or x5757.

All candidates that have submitted forms previously have been accepted into their applied positions.

Thanks!

Sumon Acharjee
MEF Director Fall '96

Mathematics Endowment Fund

Submission for Funding

While most requests for funding are well intentioned, they are unfortunately also too short-sighted to be of full use. We need to undertake something major, something drastic, something **big**. Fortunately, for this idea we do not have to create something big; we already have it. Rather, we are going to adapt something big to other uses. Ladies and gentlemen, what I propose is that we give the MC movement by mounting it onto a set of treads.

With a normal cruising speed of 5 km/h, but able to go all the way to 8, the newly christened **"Roving Fortress of Knowledge"** would inspire awe in all those who behold it. The sight of this mobile MC pulling up to high schools would by itself inspire many students to enroll in the Math program. Not to mention the effect that such a presence would have at Athena/Warrior games, faculty events, or student rallies. ("Hello, Mr. Snobelen. Macaroni?")

It would also be able to serve as an additional source of funds by appearing in feature films. Imagine the MC as a foe of Godzilla, a Mobile Borg Assimilation Center (very similar to its current use), or even appearing in the sequel to *Independence Day*. Not to mention the ability to literally crush any opponents who stand in our way... and are too slow to move out of it.

This project is intended to be implemented over the course of 9 years, to be completed in 2005. The first step in accomplishing this task would be to convert the red room into an engine room. Personnel to operate and maintain the engine would then be found, partly to be assisted by a new half-credit lab course. Naturally, the chief engineer is to always be called "Scotty." There are also several optional modifications which can be made. These include a trailer hitch to which the Bombshelter would be connected, and the creation of several gun turrets. Final cost is yet to be determined, but I can personally assure you that my cousin Joe can give you a very good price.

Although costly, I can think of no better expenditure of funds which would give the Math faculty the continued and lasting impression in the community that this would. Besides, it would be *so* cool.

D. K. Gardiner

A Definition of Lecture

"The process by which the notes of the professor become the notes of the student without ever passing through the mind of either."

Anonymous

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

MMMMM... Alcool and chocolate.

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 Fall Convocation, October 26, 1996 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium room (MC 5158).

LAU Oi Ting	H C&O & CS
SCOTT David Andrew	H STAT
HUANG Po-Chih George	H CS/INF

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION"** at Fall Convocation, October 26, 1996.

HARWOOD Peter Kenneth	HC CS & PMATH
SAUJANI Simal	HC AM/PHYS
SHORT Trevor Daniel	HC C&O & CS
TSUI Eddie Chak Sang	HC CS/INF
CHUNG Gloria Sze-Mui	H COMP SCI
LIM Beng Kuan	H C&O
LIU Ngar-Wing	H CS/INF
SZETO Charles	H C&O & CS
TSE Frank Chi Ho	H C&O & CS
YEUNG Winnie Min Min	H COMP SCI

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 1996 term, the following students qualified for the Dean's Honours List.

AJAMIAN Nairi Christina	ANDREWS Marnie
ARCHIBALD Andrew	AU Kenneth Wing-Yiu
BABINEAU Denise	BARCLAY Sheila Kristine
BAUMAN Shane Brendon	BRUCE Aaron Theodore
BURGER Reinhold Friedrich	COLLENS Daniel Alexander
COSTA Danny	CRERAR Michael Cameron
DALCOURT Pierre	DAVIS Daniel Aharon
EISEN Philip Allan	FITTON Anne Marie
FLOYD Janice	FUNG Grace Pui Yin
GLASON Margaret Alice	HALL Eric
HANCOCK Matthew James	HART Jeffrey
HARVEY Nicholas James	HIRJI Rahim
HUI Kevin	INGRAM Christopher
JOHN William Francis	KASSIF Eiad
KENG Leslie	KENNEDY David John
KHAN Khalyl	KLASSEN Matthew
KUCHARCZYK Andrzej	KUMAR Rohan Peter
LAKOTA Darko	LAKOTA Hrvoje
LAU Wai Tak	LEE Alex Yuen-To
LEE Mike Min Ho	LIM Woei Chet
LO John Chung Yan	LUSHMAN Bradley Michael
LUU Viet-Trung	LYNCH Gerard Thomas
MACPHAIL John Revan	MAN Angel On-Kay
MARR Sarah Elizabeth	MARTINEZ Andrew
MAZZUCA Tina	MORTON Jeffrey
NEBELUNG Mark Rudolph	O'CONNOR Russell
PATIENT Ian M.	PAYTON Christopher
PILKEY Steve	PIRIE Carol Louise
POOLE John Frederick	PUN Christopher
RAFMAN Heidi Kathryn	RECHSTEINER Paul James
REED Jason	RENWICK Randy Robert

RILEY David Lawerence	ROEGELE Jonathan
RYDER Angie	SCOTT David Andrew
SHADDICK Scott Allen	SRI-SKANDA-RAJAH
STACKHOUSE Shawn Michael	Anya Kanmani
STERNE Brendan	TEH Yee Whye
THOMPSON Christopher James	TUDOR Mihai
VAN DAELE-HUNT	VANDENBERG Erick Shawn
Rafael John-Karel	WAITE Michael Lawrence
WHYTOCK John Christopher	WU Huayue

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

GREEN Richard Jeffrey

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Winter 1996 term, the following student has been added retroactively to the Dean's Honour List.

DOMARATZKI Michael

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout his undergraduate career the following student did **"GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION - GRADUATING AND TERM DEAN'S HONOURS LIST"** at Spring Convocation, May 25, 1996.

LAM Cheuk Ying Charles

Minisoft™ Mishaps

Yes, it's true! Minisoft™ has had a few mishaps in its time. But how could such a formidable and kind-hearted corporation have troubles, you ask? Well, I believe that most of us are familiar with the little $3.11 - 3.1 = 0$ fiasco, although that wasn't really a mishap, but just some programmers having some fun. However, the big boys do have some more serious problems.

My friend Steve, who works at Minisoft™ and lives in a Minisoft Condo™, as many employees do, told me that they don't always deduct his rent money off his paycheque. Now, it seems to me that this can't be a very good business practice. Sure, it may keep the employees happy, but it may also encourage further abuses of the company. (I heard of one guy who made long distance calls to Brazil for *four hours* every day!) And goodness knows Minisoft™ isn't looking out for anyone or anything other than their bank account.

The biggest mishap of all (Windoze™) is just so devastating that Minisoft™ has done everything in its power to make sure that no one finds out about it (Windoze™). Of course, word always leaks out (Windoze™), and sooner or later people will realize (Windoze™) that Minisoft™ isn't all it's cracked up to be (Windoze™).

Oh well, I guess that's about it for now. I'll be sure to keep you up to date on the latest absolutely true and completely unfabricated information from Minisoft™ as it becomes available.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

*prof*QUOTES

"I can't explain the relationship between the course notes and what I'm talking about."

Younger, C&O 230

"It's sort of a tradition in this course to skip section 1.6."

Younger, C&O 230

"...Not that I consider you godlike. Well, only on Thursdays, when I don't see you."

Lastman, MATH 237

"I don't know what you think of this. I think it's rather yummy, myself."

Jackson, MATH 235

"Vector spaces don't have that shape, or that colour. Nor are they that dusty."

Jackson, MATH 235

"Why don't you and I have a party afterwards and we'll discuss it."

Jackson, MATH 235

"Just say one word: 'one-sided limits'."

Wainwright, MATH 137

"It's like sex... it doesn't work out by yourself."

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

"What happens if they operate on my brain? (Afterthought) Well, they'd have to find it first..."

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

"Yes, this is a bad program."

Geddes, CS 134

"A picture is worth a thousand equations, at least in applied mathematics."

Tenti, AM 261

"Where would you be without linear Diophantine equations? Swinging through the trees I guess."

Hoffmann, MATH 135

"Sorry to the guy with the pen hanging out of his nose... you caught me off guard."

Kenyan, PSYCH 101

"The beauty of the co-op system is that it really fucks up your education."

Kesidis, E&CE 241

"This survey has been reviewed and approved for ethics by the Office of Human Research and Animal Care. I'm not sure which category applies to you."

Richardson, ACC 401

"I hope you realize this, but I'm not just shitting bricks here."

Hoffman, MATH 135

"Let me write something down, so you can work on it if you get bored today, like in my lecture."

Hoffman, PM 467

"I've always had the urge to go for an entire class with a straight face and teach complete garbage."

Best, MATH 138

"I'm the prof, that's why I can do it. You're the student, that's why you can't. Haven't you figured that out yet?"

Best, MATH 138

"I know it's unfair, but life sucks."

Best, MATH 138

"If you were walking down a dark alley and you met a sequence, how would you know if it converged?"

Best, MATH 138

*look*AHEAD

mathNEWS	
November 4	Issue #4 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038) Articles due in by 4:30pm EST
November 8	Issue #4 hits the stands
Math Faculty	
November 15	Last day for late withdrawal from 1A/1B/2A courses
November 6-8	Spring Term Pre-Registration
November 11-15	Core course evaluations
MGC	
November 25	Last chance for Grad Photos
Miscellaneous	
October 27	Set clocks back one hour
October 28	Students arrive one hour early for classes because they forgot to set clocks back
October 29	*math*NEWS staffers go on strike over outsourcing issue
October 31	Halloween (**Boo!**)
November 1	November begins
CS Assignments	**Watch That Load!**
October 28	CS 488 Assignment 3 Due 1:30 pm **Load forecast to be high**
October 30	CS 354 Assignment 2 Due 5:00 pm **Load forecast to be high**
November 4	CS 351 Assignment 3 Due Midnight
November 5	CS 340 Assignment 3 Due Midnight
November 13	CS 488 Assignment 5a Due 1:30 pm
November 15	CS 488 Assignment 4 Due 1:30 pm **Load forecast to be high**

Phoenix Finally Ponders Career Paths, And Why You Should Too

Odds are that I don't know you and you are wondering why I should care that you are in the right program. Well, frankly, I don't, but I felt like writing an article so here goes:

I was to become an Honours Co-op Math-Accountant-CA but transferred to a three year General Math degree. I intend to go to McGill in January to complete a degree in translation: English-French. A slight variation in the original plan! Changing your mind can be costly, time consuming and require a lot of Tylenol Extra Strength™. In the past three weeks I've accumulated so many "to do" post-its that I can't find my desk...

Apart from giving you something to read I am writing to wake up those of you who doze through University only to find out at the other end that you can't possibly enjoy the career you've set yourself (or have been set) up for. I am, of course, talking about making sure you aren't staying in your program just because of your teachers or classmates, parents or neighbours, promises of fame, fortune or glory.

Knowing something is askew

One day, while I was studying for finals, I got an immense sense that I was letting my calling pass me by. It felt very wrong and evil... It was more than the doubt, cold feet and panic I've intermittently felt over the past two years: it was certainty. From that day on, I could not imagine myself possibly staying in a business program. Do I have regrets? No. BUT, it is a lot of work and hassle to put one's life on another track, especially when the destination is unclear. Robert Frost once said there were 2 paths in the forest: one heavily traveled and one less traveled. I am making a third one.

Why you must be sure of your choice

In case you don't know this already, life is about a lot more than fulfilling expectations, getting a diploma and a bunch of letters after your name. Your working life, according to statistics, will last 41.59 years and only one person is going to have to endure it: you. The days of working hard with the unique goal of putting bread on the table are over; you must enjoy your job as well. Face it, you will be doing it 40 hours a week. Can you say you will get a sense of accomplishment, an emotional reward from your work? We all have courses we hate and assignments we wish would spontaneously combust. However, if you spend more than half the time complaining then you have a mighty problem because it's not going to change. The real world is very different from school and you will likely never again encounter much of the "junk" your mind is being filled with right now. Yet, don't forget that the subject matter will remain. I don't have a sense for business and I can't read a financial paper without gagging. Since I can't change the business world, I had to take myself out of the equation... Do you feel similarly about your program?

If you are near or on the fence

There are a few psychological tests available at counseling services which may give you an insight into your personality and interests. The two I took were the Strong Interest Inventory (confirmed I am neither enterprising nor conventional) and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (told me I'm intuitive and introverted, imagine that!). There is a token charge for the tests which are taken over two weeks in one hour sessions and you must sign up ahead of time. Also, you should make sure to interview, or better yet job shadow, someone in the field. They will surely mention something you did not take into account. And if you are in co-op, try to get jobs with different companies to really get a feel for the profession. Counselors at Needless Hell will be thrilled to make an appointment with you and discuss results and possibilities further.

Exploring your options

Going through the course calendar is quite entertaining and also helps to give a sense of what is available. If you want to further your research, going through the calendars of other schools (God forbid I should imply transferring...) or the insurmountable collection of job search binders at the Career Resource Centre is definitely a good idea. Bear in mind that you might not be suited for university in the first place...

Conclusion

The saying certainly fits here: "A stitch in time saves nine." I still don't know what I am headed for but I guarantee you that whatever it is, it will be something I enjoy. As I understand it, we only have one life to live, no?

Patrick "Phoenix" Tye

Top 10 Ways To Mess Up A Job Interview

10. Keep calling interviewer "Sick Boy"

9. End each sentence with "Or so the Germans would have us believe."

8. Bring American Gladiator equipment and challenge the interviewer

7. Work your sentences around Vanilla Ice lyrics (do this to the extreme...)

6. Offer interviewer a muffin from Food Services

5. Tell them your greatest achievement was doing a drive-by mooning of Electric Circus

4. When informed of your salary, scream like a banshee

3. Tell them the Urkel character on Family Matters was your idea

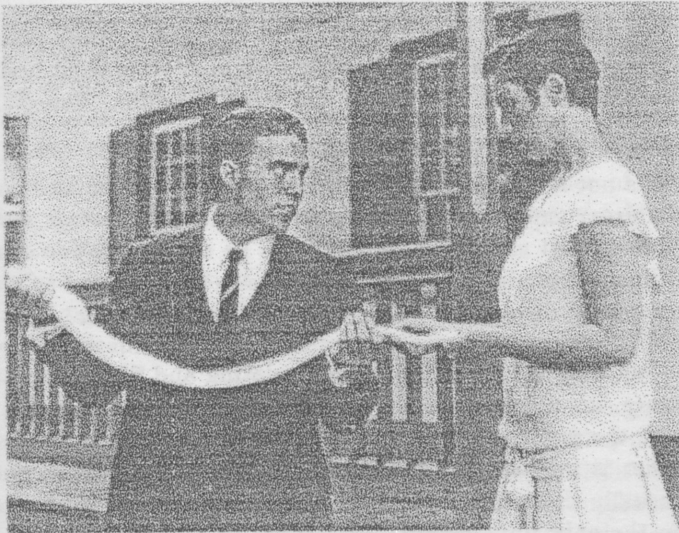**2.** Your name is Tito Jackson

1. One word: Yodel!

Eric Moreau

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
DRAMA DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

SALT WATER MOON
BY
DAVID FRENCH

October 16-19, 1996 and
October 23-26, 1996 at 8pm

STUDIO 180, Hagey Hall

Tickets available at the Theatre Centre Box Office, Hagey Hall
or by calling 888-4908

$10 general public, $8 students/seniors

Thinking About Lateral Thinking

Well, if the last Gridword was a technical success, then this contest is a flop. Very few people have asked any questions at all. No one has got the solution yet, so this contest is still open.

In case you missed it, the object of the game is to be able to explain this situation: *A thief, caught at the scene of his crime, requested that his arresting officer book him for manslaughter, not theft. How come?* You can ask any yes-or-no question to help you figure out the solution by e-mailing your questions to djrigby@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca. Questions received any other way, including through uw.mathnews will not be answered. The first person to solve the puzzle wins a prize. Please try!

Gridby

Theatre Review
Salt-Water Moon

It's not often that *mathNEWS* gets a chance to review theatrical productions. So when I heard that not only was the Drama department asking us to review their latest production, but that said play was one that I'd studied and enjoyed in high school... Well, I jumped at the chance.

Salt-Water Moon is a simple play: two characters, one act, one scene. This bare structure, however, serves only as a framework to the complex interaction between the protagonists. Jacob Mercer (played by Justin Sharratt) left his native Newfoundland abruptly a year ago, bound for Toronto, and leaving behind his sweetheart, Mary Snow (Aine Magennis). Mary is now engaged to marry another man, and Jacob, returned home for the funeral of a family friend, has vowed to win her back.

Simple love story, right? Except that in the course of Jacob's wooing that night, any number of ghosts are dragged up that might have been better left buried. The conversation (or should that be confrontation?) delves deeply into the two youths' pasts, both individually and collectively, and back a generation to old wrongs not forgotten nor forgiven.

The first thing that I noticed when I walked into the Hagey Hall studio was the set. In fact, it would have been difficult to miss; the *entire studio* has been painted to look like a slice of Newfoundland. Combined with the intimate setting of the studio itself (I believe there were maybe seventy-five seats available), the set drew me in very quickly.

What kept me engrossed, though, was the dialogue. The playwright (David French) did a stupendous job of keeping the flow of words natural-sounding, and yet interesting enough that one could attend to it with a minimum of effort. My mind drifted away from the action only once during the entire hour and a half; this compares very favourably indeed with my lecture record so far this term.

Finally there are the performances themselves. One thing that I really liked was the emotion displayed; both Sharratt and Magennis are wonderful at portraying emotion with their face and posture. The setting again helped; it was impossible not to notice details which would have been missed in Theatre of the Humanities, yet which added so much to the performance.

Magennis' portrayal was truly amazing; the character of Mary Snow is a very complicated one, which undergoes a number of changes throughout the play, and Aine handled it very well indeed. Add to this one of the most expressive voices that I have heard on stage for a long time, and the result is a performance which is transfixing. Sharratt seems less confident, but makes up for it with a gift for playing off of Magennis' Mary to make an extremely convincing Jacob. His occasional monologues are some of the most absorbing parts of the play.

Finally, my compliments to the director's *mise-en-scène*. Throughout the entire play, Mary and Jacob never touch; but there is a palpable tension that cannot be ignored. "Intense" is the best word I can think of to describe the piece, and the staging adds a lot of subtext to build this up. While this is not the sort of play that a sensory-addict fan of action movies would want to sit through, I highly recommend it to anyone who feels like getting lost in a story.

Matt Walsh, Drama Critic?

An Open Letter

So what do I have to talk about today boys and girls? I have a special treat for you all: I'm going to talk about a topic that is of great importance, at least in the Math Faculty anyway, but certainly in real life too.

A few weeks ago I was in the Shombelter for a concert when a certain person walked in with his newly acquired girlfriend. Now previous to his arrival, the people at the table were talking about him and wondering what he would be like with a girlfriend (none of us had actually seen him with a girlfriend before, although he had had them in the past). Specifically, the topic of "PDA" or Public Displays of Affection came up. We all expressed a tad bit of revulsion at the thought, but then the conversation went somewhere else.

Well, in walks this guy with his girlfriend on his arm, and right from the get-go you can tell that they're playing the no-holds barred game (well, ok, they weren't having sex in public, but they certainly weren't shying away from each other either). This was most disappointing of course, but it was to be expected.

You see, any couple these days in the Math Faculty seems to be of the pathetic type. Pathetic in that they're continuously giving each other baby eyes, always touching in some fashion (if not draped across each other, then at least holding hands), laughing or giggling at even the most mundane things they do, etc. This state of patheticness is like a virus. Every new couple save a very few seem to acquire it (I should know, too. Much to my own revulsion I acquired the syndrome myself. Some people tell me I wasn't as bad as others, which is semi-amusing and semi-scary, since I thought I was really bad).

There are a few reasons why this behaviour is so annoying.

i. It's exclusive. Nobody else can waltz into the happy couple and get a kiss or hug from one of them. The couple relishes the activity in which only they can partake.

ii. It puts the participants into their own little world. I suppose from the participants' point of view this is fine, but it makes talking to either of the participants very difficult for an outsider to do without either feeling like they're interrupting, or feeling like they're the butt of a joke as the couple continues to laugh over some stupid joke they just shared amongst themselves but not you. Of course, the alternative is to be obnoxious and break it up like one would while passing two kids sucking face in the Rideau Centre in Ottawa, but then you're being obnoxious.

iii. It's distracting. I don't know about you, but having a pair of giggling maniacs flirting heavily with each other right beside you is distracting. They're just hard to ignore. Especially true when they start to make out.

iv. It's not needed. OK, so you two love each other and have a great time together, fine, do you need to let *me* know about that as well? Shouldn't this be something you share amongst yourselves? Why do I have to be subjected to your common displays of how much you like each other?

So not only is this an exclusive, isolating and distracting occurrence, it's not even required. Often times in my experience it gets to the point where talking to these couples when they are together is impossible. The people who want to talk to them are usually their friends, so the isolation is taken a step further when the only time your friends are really going to talk to you is when your partner isn't around. To me, a relationship that doesn't involve interaction with the outside world doesn't sound too healthy.

So I'm asking all of the couples in the world out there to stop the Public Displays of Affection. There's plenty of time to do it in private, and even if you must do it in public, there is no need to drag it into a spectacle.

Max Stevens

Time for Investigative Journalism?

Perhaps mathNEWS can find out the answers to a few questions about the C&D.

- why do they run out of bagels by 1 p.m., even though they are open for another 9 hours?

- (ditto for various other items.)

- why can't they serve brewed decaf? Surely no one actually likes that Sanka powder.

- why was the hot chocolate machine replaced by mix-your-own powder?

- why has the chocolate-flavoured mix-your-own been replaced by a cheaper brand?

- why must people be blinded by the pretzel warmer when they get hot water for tea, mix-your-own hot chocolate, etc.?

Anne Nonymoose

Wonderful Website of the Week

I'm back again to tell you all about the Web. When midterms and interviews are over, cruising the Web is the leisure activity of choice here in the Math faculty, and I'll guide you on your journeys.

Of course, you'll eventually want to create your own homepage (if you haven't already), and I'll tell you how to do that in a future issue, but for now, you can check out my homepage at http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~wchagey/. It even made it into the August edition of *The Net*, and with a little time and work you can do the same.

Anyway, here's my suggestion for this week:

Top-N
http://www.oir.ucf.edu/~mike/topn/

You've heard of the Top Ten, now check out the Top-N! This site has lists of various sizes on various topics, but one thing that they all have in common is that they're funny. Best of all, you can start a list yourself, or add to a list that's already there.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey
Webmaster Extraordinaire

Post-Teen Angst:
The Tautology is Right

Tangents
—or—
"It's like the mango sorbet dance,
but with more jumping..."

But, that's how the bullfrog got *into* the bakery, which caused the baker's wife to proclaim, "My word, but you're all slimy and it's not even lunch-time!" which was, as I mentioned earlier, subsequently repeated to her pastor who proceeded to turf her out of the church, which lead to her becoming a jazz singer instead of merely a baker's wife, which ties in to my original point exactly how...?

Right. Tangents. Y'know, those thirty minute monologues about feudalism in Europe, which, by a *long* series of logical leaps, ties in very nicely with Elvis Presley and the birth of Rock n' Roll.

Which reminds me of a funny story...I'm sitting there in my CS lecture, trying really, *really* hard to not pay attention, yet not fall asleep, when the prof suddenly comes out with a "thang you veramush".

"Huh?" thinks I. Very peculiar. There were two possible explanations for this odd occurrence: (i) I *had* nodded off, and filled in the line; or (ii) my prof was Elvis. Now, I didn't recall my head hitting the table, and there wasn't an abnormal amount of drool on my notes, so that kind of ruled out my being asleep at the time.

"But how," cries Average Reader, "does this relate in *any* fashion to the topic that was being discussed at the beginning of the article?"

You know, I've been trying to figure that out for myself. It doesn't, does it? It **must have been a tangent**. Y'see? I go off rambling for half a page on a totally unrelated topic in every *other* column I've written and you don't complain, but the first time I set out to *discuss* this practice you jump down my throat!

You remind me of my Uncle Bob. He was *always* tearing into me for rambling on and on and getting waaaaay off topic and I always *hated* him for it. Well, that and this really weird habit he had of unravelling his sweaters and feeding them to the cat. Yah, that cat would be in the litter box for *hours* trying to pass three pounds of multicoloured acrylic fibres, and why? Because Uncle Bob just wouldn't listen to me when I told him that a cat's digestive fluids just weren't strong enough to break down synthetic fibres. If he'd fed the thing *natural* fibres, like everyone *else* in the family, then...

I did it again, didn't I? See, that's the sinister part about tangential ramblings. They kinda sneak up on you. Slow, and steady. Real casual-like, until *–BAM–* you're off in the tundra of the Northwest Territories with a pack of wolves hunting caribou.

But the really pressing question is, will the tangent appear on the midterm? Now, obviously I'm not talking about the *Post-Teen Angst* midterm...wouldn't that be cool, though?

"Hi! I'm Professor Milligan, and this is PTA350: Armpit Hair Paperweights, Cereal, and Differential Equations. We'll pick up where we left off in the last lecture, where I was giving the proof of the Milligan Kawphy Theorem. So we've proven the "if you drink sixteen ounces of coffee at 8:30 then you'll have to pee by 9:30" direction. Now we've got to do the tricky part — the "if you pee at 9:30 then you have had sixteen ounces of coffee at 8:30" direction. Looking back to your first year calculus, you can see...

Oooops. Sorry. Gosh, I'm just trying to remember where I was going with this and am failing miserably. Perhaps I'll just stop babbling on so, and let you folks get on with your lives. And yes, mathies *do* have lives. Why, just the other day my buddy was tellin' me, "Y'know, mathies *do* have lives. Or at least *some* of 'em do."

And I had to agree with him, for he spake the truth. "Verily, Jeb, I do agreeth with ye. Forsooth! Looketh ye at the tyme! Thy woman shall have thine head — aye, and mine, too — lest we sally forth. Hie! Hie, I say!"

Oh yah. Tangents. Right. I just can't seem to get very far on this topic, can I? Always going off into the middle of nowhere. I think that might actually have been the point, but I'm not sure anymore. Better just stop now, while I'm ahead.

Ian "Son of God Complex" Milligan

Useless Filler Works

Want Proof?

You're Reading This Now, Aren't You?

Mmmmm...Froot Loops™

After reading Ian's article in last issue, I just knew that I had to write and tell a bit about my experiences with Froot Loops™. First of all, let it be noted that the Froot Loop People™ are very smart, since "Froot" is clearly not "Fruit", and therefore they could never run into lawsuits over the fruit content (or lack of content) in the cereal. In fact, **Froot Loops™ was the #1 selling cereal in Canada** a few years ago (I'm not sure if it still is or not), so these people definitely know what they're doing.

Now, about my own Froot Loops™ adventures...This past summer I consumed a great deal of Froot Loops™. One weekend alone I ate an entire **Jumbo** (750g) box of Froot Loops™! I must also point out an error in Ian's article. He complains about a lack of milk, but this is not a problem. I found myself without milk for my Froot Loops™ one morning, so do you know what I used? **Iced tea.** Yes, you heard me, iced tea. Let me tell ya something, that was the *sweetest* bowl of cereal I've ever had. It was actually pretty good, but the juice that was left in the bowl once the cereal was gone was so vile that I had to take it to a special waste disposal site.

Anyway, I could go on, but I imagine you've have enough of this, so I'll leave to your yummy, sweet, tasty, oh-so-good bowl of Froot Loops™.

Warren "The Frooty Milkman" Hagey

The Philosopher's Stoned
Card Games... Ah, Card Games...

Now, some of you may be wondering exactly what it is that philosophers do all day to pass the time. Well, I can't speak for *all* philosophers, but I know what I do. And the parts which don't involve things with "Combinatorics" or "Analysis" or "Optimization" or "*mathNEWS*" in their name, are generally card games.

What is it about card games that make them so fatally attractive to myself and many, many other math students? Well, from previous editions of this column, we know the following:

- Card games are the primary form of Zoggo-worship.

- They create large numbers of gravity waves, sucking people in.

- They tend to live in the Comfy Lounge.

(As an aside, the astute reader will have noticed by now that I tend to place a lot of blame upon gravity waves when explaining things which in some way hamper me from doing what I am supposed to. This is quite true; perhaps I shall discuss this in a later article. Don't hold your breath, though.)

While the above points are all true, I suspect that they miss the fundamental point: why **are** card games so popular?

It should first be noted that cards as we know them were first developed in about the 12th century, by a group of wandering alchemists who had hidden themselves among gypsies so as not to be discovered by the masses. Originally, the cards were created as a way of modelling certain formulae the alchemists were deriving, having to do with reducing wood into its component metals. (No one said that they were very *bright* alchemists.) At any rate, one of these original decks was stolen by a gypsy the alchemists were travelling with, who then went off on his own with the cards and a few random chemicals.

Now this gypsy (Bob by name) didn't understand the complicated scientific modelling which was the original purpose of these cards. Instead, after spilling the stolen chemicals more-or-less randomly over the cards, he started performing a mystic ritual that he'd picked up somewhere.

This was a bad idea.

Bob was blasted halfway across Europe, and came to somewhere in the middle of France holding the now-ensorcelled cards. Unwittingly, Bob had summoned a number of evil spirits into the cards, and these malevolences wished to use the cards as windows onto the world, through which they could effect changes and eventually free themselves.

Not realising this, Bob immediately went to market the cards he had stolen and oh-so-tragically altered, and many, many copies of these cards were made.

And each card from each deck so created serves as a gateway for evil forces. In fact, it is widely believed that a certain Deity of the Comfy Lounge is the only such entity to have escaped captivity, and set to watch over the Lounge by mighty GAUSS. (But that's just a rumour. And not true at all.)

So yeah, malign spiritual influences aside, cards are a lot of fun, actually. They provide a good way of shutting down the majority of brain functions for extended periods of time while still managing to look vaguely busy. An example: the game referred to as Ninety-Nine. This simple-seeming game takes little movement and less thought, and yet manages to absorb the minds of Loungers for long periods of time.

The secret of card games is that they subtly hook into the emotions of the players, and draw them out during the course of the game. (And it's the ripples from this drawing-out that cause all those damned gravity waves.) Thus, card games have at least one good point: they are very cathartic.

Which really leaves only one question: why do so many people play bridge? And the answer is that there is no more socially acceptable way of taking out your frustrations on someone. ("Yeah, partner bid that once. I'll stick him in game.")

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh

Today's Top Story
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
(A Fictional Story for a Real Headline)

Millford, CT. (AP) - After months of debate and funding setbacks, the new bridge crossing the Sesquihenna River was finally opened on Saturday. It had been feared by many that the bridge would remain unfinished after Millford Town Council voted down a proposal to spend another $2 million on the bridge. However, Bridge Development Corporation president J. Keith McFadden managed to find a cheaper alternative that allowed the bridge to be completed only three months behind schedule.

"We were really disappointed that the council denied the funding that would have bought the rivets and steel that we needed but we decided to go with a cheaper alternative," said Mr. McFadden. That alternative was 20,000 rolls of bright red electrician's tape, which was used to join the girders together on the 700 foot long structure. "Luckily my Chief Architect was smart enough to see both the structural and financial benefits of using the electrician's tape," said Mr. McFadden.

Indeed, Chief Architect Archie Forman is enthusiastic about the bridge's unique structure and appearance. "The red tape makes the bridge into a unique landmark in the Millford area. Already, tourism to the area has increased by 70% in the last week alone." When queried about the bridge's structural safety, Forman replied, "It's as safe as any other bridge in the USA, except when it rains. Then I would suggest using the bridge on Route 78."

The Bridge Development Corporation still has about 3000 rolls of the tape for any necessary repairs to the bridge due to inclement weather. "The glue loses some of its bonding power in wet weather but it's easily replaced. It costs a lot less to keep repairing it this way rather than using the traditional rivets and steel," Forman explained. "If we have under 20 fatalities in the next five years due to the bridge falling apart in bad weather, then I'll be happy."

The Bridge Development Corporation has already signed a contract to build a bridge in upstate New York out of plastic drinking straws.

- Millford (CT.) 7/12/82

Graham "Cronkite" Rogers

Math for Dummies™

Welcome once again to the International Order of Odd Fellows annual general meeting...well, if you weren't ready for this, neither am I. I just realized right now that it is *mathNEWS* production night and I am writing this article for your pleasure, and so that I can complain more about U(W) life in general, and math life in specific. I hope that you all read my last article (you DID enjoy it, didn't you? Good.) I thought that I would not change my formula of bitching and complaining that seems to work so well. So, this is the random rambling section, and any second now the specific rambling will begin...

Nicknames and roommates

Why is it that people seem to think it necessary to come up with new and (dis)interesting ways to insult me?...Maybe it's my hair...Chris Buchanan hasn't been around lately, however, and that means that no really bad names have been invented...I know you're reading this, editor, and you had better not change the name at the end of this article in an effort to be funny...*[Who, me? – SoKratesEd]*

How to succeed in your Co-op Interviews (Part II)

If you haven't got a job yet — *What's wrong with you?*...But seriously, follow these and other interesting tips to get that job you always wanted (if you had followed those in the last *mathNEWS* you would *have* a job by now. Tip #27 — Dye your hair. Pink is a very nice colour, and your interviewers will see it as a sign of innovation and individualism...Tip #e — Be irrational (nuff said)...And the final tip — Show up to your interview...

Musical Interlude

Congratulations to the 0 readers who recognized the verbal sound bite from the last article that came from the song "Exhuming McCarthy", by R.E.M. on the album Document. Now, name the easy song from which this comes (I couldn't think of anything better):

Every artist is a cannibal
Every poet is a thief
All kill their inspiration
And sing about their grief

Gee, I don't even know if I wrote that correctly. Please tell me if I did because my memory is failing me and I can't think because I have Calculus on the brain.

Why I Suck Part III

Once again, I would like to say that I don't, and I hope that you all agree...

Should We Talk About the Weather...

Again, the weather continues to be incredibly rotten...I'm expecting snow any minute now...I like summer (wish we had had one this year)...Winter is coming very soon, boys and girls...

...Should We Talk About the Government

American election coming up soon...Guess what, Clinton's going to win...Why does government have to be so silly...

Exams

Who ever thought up the idea of midterm exams? Two weeks ago I had an exam, last Thursday I had an exam, this Tuesday I have an exam, next Tuesday I have two exams...All of this AND my regular complement of assignments...I'm going out of my mind...Wait, it's too late for that...

Well, folks, I guess that's all I have to ramble on about this week. Stay tuned next issue for more *mathNEWS* bitching and complaining and rambling and run-on sentences and pure unadulterated boredom.

P.S. All things written above are my thoughts and are not subject to the approval of Teamster-man in any way, absolutely not...Cargo Van!

Tim "Insert your favourite nickname here" Coleman

I'll Have The Special
Nothing much today so I'll make it short

First off, I have some explaining to do. You've probably already noticed that this issue is a week late. Well, you see, because of the budget problems both us and the Society are having, I had to cancel the issue I wanted to do for October 11th. However, I already had everything in place for an issue on October 25th (the issue you're reading now) so I decided to stick with the original schedule. That would explain why there was no issue last Friday.

Second, I usually have a column long rant for every issue. But not today. You see, I just wasn't inspired. And I wanted to spare everyone from yet another serving of tripe like the one I conjured up in Issue #2. Sure, I could go on about the GM strike (if it's still going) or sports or how much my life sucks or something else trivial or meaningless. But I won't.

I ask you please consider the new funding proposal for *mathNEWS* over the next week or two. And maybe by that time, I'll have something for Issue #4. Maybe not. We'll see.

Brian "Not in a writing mood" Fox

It's a man's life being a *mathNEWS* editor...

Mathie Drinking Song

Aleph-null bottles of beer on the wall
Aleph-null bottles of beer
Take one down, and pass it around,
Aleph-null bottles of beer on the wall

The View from the Other Side

Whose side are you on, anyway?

Busy week last week. I had one assignment due Tuesday, two assignments due Thursday, a midterm Thursday I had to write, and a midterm Thursday I had to proctor. So this week's alternate viewpoint is: *Midterms*.

Last Thursday, I spent from 4:30 to 6:30pm proctoring a CS 246 midterm. Then, from 7:00 to 8:30pm, I wrote a CS 454/654 midterm. Aside from the power of poor scheduling, what did I learn last week?

The first thing I learned is that the duties of proctors seems to boil down to two things during a midterm:

1. Sit around trying not to look bored. (I did a good job of this, because I *wasn't* bored; I was feverishly trying to study for my midterm!)

2. Walk over to people with their hands raised, listen to their questions, and answer, "I don't know. Let me go get the tutor."

That, at least, is what I gathered from watching the other TA's. We weren't briefed on what to do for the exam, so we just pretended we knew what we were doing. Do you think that it's just the students who go into the exam not knowing what they're doing?

We also helped hand out the exams, and we picked them up after. Other than that, there wasn't a whole heck of a lot to do. At least the room wasn't *too* cold.

The second thing I learned is just how much of a difference there is between the two sides of the desk. A half hour after the 246 midterm, we went to a different room and wrote a midterm. There is a difference between the two sides of the desks. For one, as students we were actually supposed to *know* the material on the test. (I don't think *any* of the TA's marking CS 246 knew Modula-3 before marking the first assignment, including myself. CS 246 didn't exist when I was in second year.)

Time also runs differently. Proctors want to get out of the exam just as much as you do, and time runs slower when you're doing nothing instead of demonstrating what you know (or don't) on a sheet of paper.

The final thing I learned is that there is one major difference between students and proctors. As I remarked to Tim Coleman, "You just had to *write* your midterm. *We* have to *mark* it!"

The professors, the tutor, and all nine TA's came in on Saturday morning, 9:30am sharp, and marked the exams for the next seven hours, minus pizza break. (Yeah, at least we got pizza. On the down side, it was *Gino's* Pizza[TM 1].) By the end of the day, my brain could have been served for breakfast, it was so toast. (Aside: you people in CS 246 sure can come up with some *creative* examples of sh programming!)

I've looked at clouds, er, I mean *midterms*, from both sides now. And what I've discovered is that I don't like either side. They don't get any better, folks. Enjoy 'em while you got 'em.

Mike "GradHammer" Hammond

[1] This insinuation is the sole opinion of the author, and does not require any representative of Gino's Pizza[TM] to sue *mathNEWS*

gridCOMMENTS

Ucalegon is a word, dammit!

¹aper·i·tive \ə'perəd·iv\ *adj* [ML *aperitivus*] **1** : APERIENT **2** [F *apéritif* aperient, stimulating the appetite, fr. MF *aperitif* aperient] : stimulating the appetite
²aperitive \"\ *n* -s **1** : APERIENT **2** [F *apéritif*] : APERITIF

U·cal'e·gon (ū·kăl'ĕ·gŏn), *n.* [L. *Ucalegon*, fr. Gr. *Oukalegōn*.] In Trojan legend, one of the ancient counselors who sat with Priam on the wall. Aeneas speaks of the flames reaching Ucalegon's house, next to that of Anchises, before he fled from the city. Hence, a next-door neighbor, or a neighbor whose house is on fire.

Greetings, Gridders!

The errors in last issue's Gridword were...um, let's see...Wait. There weren't any errors in last issue's Gridword. That's amazing. How did I do that?

Given that the Gridword was error-free, you'd think we'd get more entries, don't you? I received four for each contest.

For the Cryptic, I got submissions from Chris Wooff, Ian Facey, Antony & Cleopatra and Pokey & Phil Collins. Pokey and Phil only got two of the words, but at least they tried, people. The other three correctly solved the puzzle. The winner, chosen at random, is Ian Facey.

For the Unconventional, The same four people and teams submitted solutions. Antony & Cleopatra and Pokey & Phil's submissions were incomplete; the other two were entirely correct. The winner is Chris Wooff. Congratulations to you both!

Last issue's *grid*QUESTION was "How many cooks spoil the broth?" The only answer I got was "However many are rich; that way, the broth is spoiled rotten—born with a silver spoon in its mouth!"

There was also some contention as to whether Ucalegon and aperitive are words. Ucalegon can be found in Merriam-Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition (NI2), and aperitive is simply an anglicization of *aperitif* and can be found in NI3 (same book, 3rd edition).

In last issue's Unconventional, there were 20 words that stuck out of the grid, five through each side. If you start at the arrow in the solution grid in this issue (and it is there, I checked) and read clockwise, you get the message STEPPING OVER THE LINES. Well, this issue, I've *really* done it. I broke the same rule as last time, only more so. In a few spots in the Unconventional grid only, entries will be too long for the space they've been given. In most places, *more* than one letter will stick out of the grid, 16 letters in all. If you read the letters that stick out, you'll see what most editors would do if they saw this puzzle.
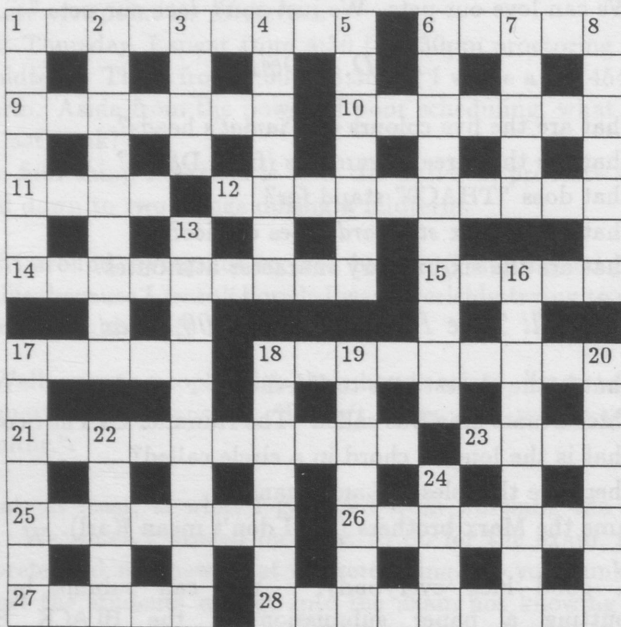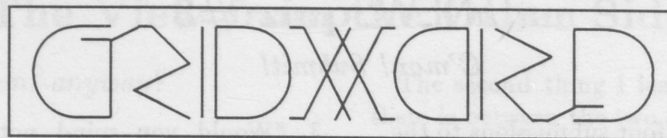
Submit your solutions to the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge, or email to me at

djrigby@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca

by Monday, November 4 at 6:30pm. Submit to one or both contests and include your answer to this *grid*QUESTION: How many beers in a six-pack?

Gridby

mathNEWSquiz #3
C'mon! Submit!

Greetings, squizzers! There were only four submissions to the squiz this issue. I was kinda hoping for more, since you folks had a week more than usual to answer this stuff. Anyway, I hope we get more submissions for this issue's squiz. Anyway, here are the answers to last issue's squiz: **Song Lyrics**: 1) Sheryl Crow – All I Wanna Do; 2) Monty Python – Decomposing Composers; 3) Seal – Crazy; 4) Def Leppard – Rocket; 5) Hootie and the Blowfish – Let Her Cry; the theme was "animals"; **Just Due It**: 1) All the Queen's Horses; 2) Constable Benton Fraser, RCMP; 3) Detective Ray Vecchio; 4) Camilla Scott; 5) Lincoln; **Mel's Diner**: 1) $1.99; 2) eight; 3) Pud; 4) over-hard; 5) 2 eggs, toast, home fries, bacon, ham, sausage, and french toast; **Time Zones**: 1) Greenwich Mean Time; 2) six; 3) 24; 4) November 1, 1884 at Washington, D.C.; 5) Oct. 25.

Alllllrighty, then! We had four submissions this issue. I'll list them off with the score they got in parentheses: Pokey & Phil Collins (6); Colin McMillan (6); Aaron Desjardins (8); and the winner is (drumroll please) … Ian "The Word Guy" Facey with 11 points! You can pick up your squizprize in the MathSoc office, Ian.

And now, on with the squiz!

Song Lyrics
One point each for song name and artist, and one extra point for the general theme

1. We've been through this such a long long time,
   Just tryin' to kill the pain.
   But lovers always come and lovers always go,
   An' no-one's really sure who's letting go today.
2. When the destination reached,
   It was the east detention, where them
   Whipped down me pants,
   Looked up me bottom.
3. Hang my head,
   Drown my fear,
   Till you all just
   Disappear.
4. We've got a low pressure system and a northeast breeze.
   We've got a falling barometer and rising seas.
   We've got the cumulonimbus and a possible gale.
   We've got a Force Nine blowing on the Beaufort scale.
5. Ladies and gentlemen, I got fat as a public service.
   When I was a child, my mother said to me, "Clean the plate, because children are starving in Europe."
   And I might point out that that was years before
   The Marshall Plan was ever heard of.

Movie Quotes
Name the movie

1. "I always wondered: when a person is insane, as you clearly are, do you know that you're insane? When you're at home, do you go, 'Wow, it is amazing how fucked up I really am!'?"
2. "Tell Scarlett I *do* give a damn!"
3. "Would you mind not shooting at the thermonuclear weapons?"
4. "I merely chewed in self-defense. I didn't swallow."
5. "We can love our pets. We just can't *love* our pets."

D&D, AD&D

1. What are the five colours of *Tiamat*'s heads?
2. What are the three alignments (from D&D)?
3. What does "THAC0" stand for?
4. What are the six *standard* types of dice?
5. What are the six primary character attributes?

I'll Take Potpourri For 100, Alex

1. What is the closest star to Earth?
2. Which Stuart king was called "The Hammer Of The Scots"?
3. What is the longest chord in a circle called?
4. Where are the Isles of Langerhans?
5. Name the Marx brothers (no, I don't mean Karl).

Well, good luck everybody! You can submit by either putting a paper submission in the **BLACK BOX** across the hall from the Comfy Lounge, or you can mail scepollo@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca with your solution. The submissions are due Nov. 4, 1996 at 2:30 pm. Until next we meet…

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

GRIDWORD

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Bookbag support carries a gun. (9)
6. Instruct Blackbeard. (5)
9. Beams from laser after shots. (7)
10. He raises a glass to a flower. (7)
11. Chopped liver and beef! (4)
12. I step in spilled aspic here on rugs. (10)
14. Beginning of poison letter from Greece contained rubs and bleaches. (9)
15. Start throwing stone. (5)
17. Huntress and frequent submitter held by prosecutor. (5)
18. Singer Amy sets fire to windows overhead. (9)
21. Drop current debts with errors. (10)
23. Technical spaceship left health food. (4)
25. Auditor's closing off upper limit. (7)
26. Guard has ID badge on backwards. (7)
27. Famed boxer pounds on sty. (5)
28. Sheriff sharpens audio equipment. (8)

Down

1. Noise from scrapyard guard near disassembled Cherokee draws mixologist. (7)
2. California party sends up broadcast from diner. (9)
3. Slip and listen to classmate? (4)
4. Could odd celebrity inside get dessert? (7)
5. Pieces of writing resist a rewrite. (7)
6. To hold smoke up, bug has bad news and good news? (10)
7. Prison without a top story. (5)
8. He darts around firm. (4-3)
13. Dig former warning on charged particle (not electron). (10)
16. Rough, macho son takes on large headmaster. (9)
17. Shortfall is handy around here in France. (7)
18. One could take an hour to get roofing tile. (7)
19. The reader without a rage is not as old. (7)
20. Stares at small babies numbering five. (7)
22. Privates' entry commands no glory, initially. (5)
24. Sorceress loses her head over irritation. (4)

Grid Clues for Pushed Too Far (Unconventional)

Across

1. Extremely clever
6. Theme
9. Judgment against a plaintiff for failing to present a valid case
10. Last part of chess match
11. Baby beef
12. *Cheers* regulars and others
14. Poked fun at
15. Stoneworker
17. It's wasteful?
18. Canopy
21. *Baywatch* characters
23. Snakes like the one that killed Cleopatra
25. Strange
26. Dirty, rotten (hyph.)
27. Ivory sources
28. By-law

Down

1. Macabre kind of story (2 wds.)
2. French police force
3. A Western gathering? (hyph.)
4. A Western non-gathering? (2 wds.)
5. Smelly
6. Subject of three laws
7. A capital idea by some Canadians?
8. Winter, to the swimsuit industry (hyph.)
13. Models (2 wds.)
16. Item in a silverware drawer (2 wds.)
17. Kind of fish
18. Sugar pill
19. Filled (with)
20. Nature
22. Makes flinch
24. Operatic bit part?