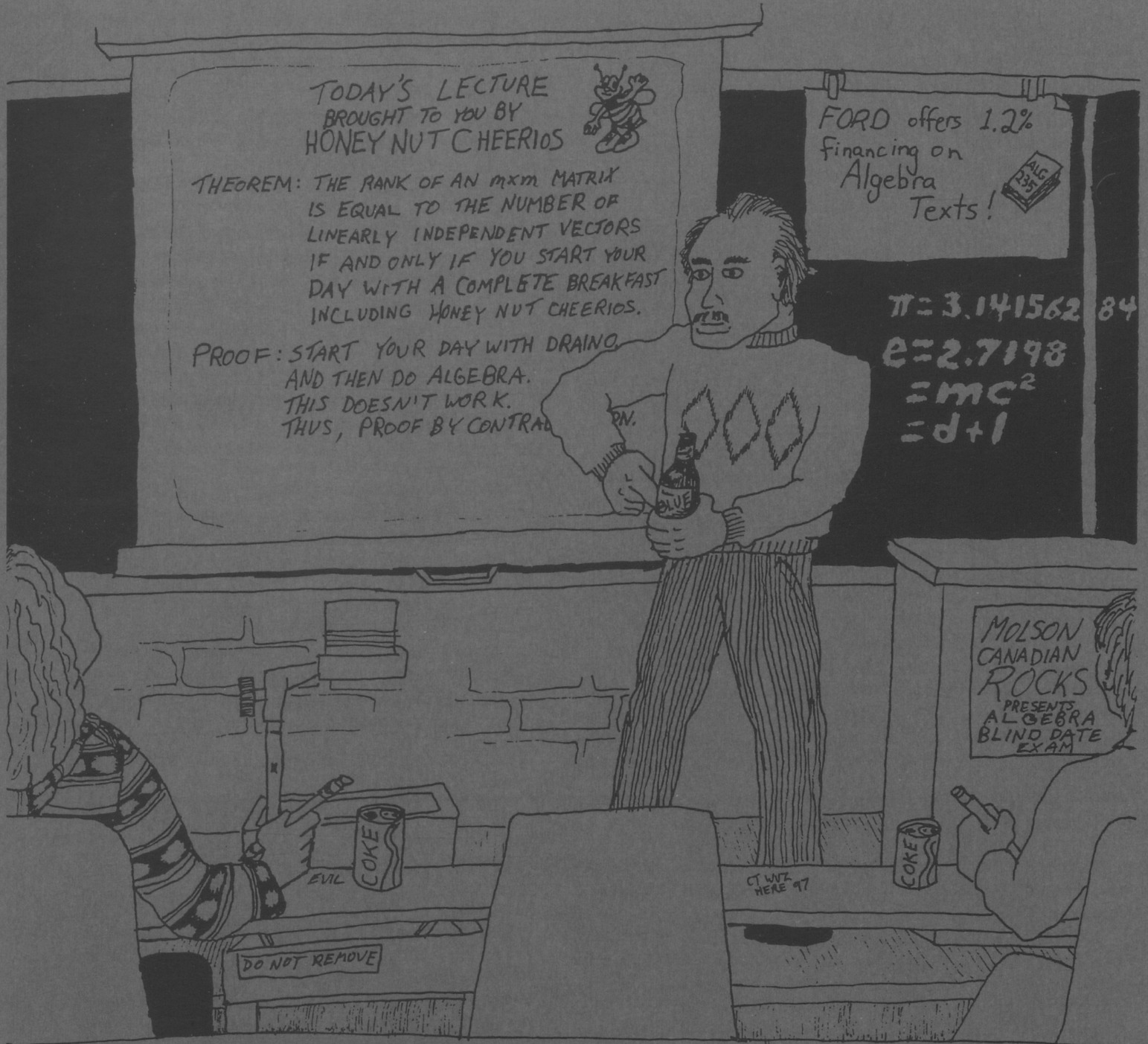


math NEWS

Volume 73, Issue 3

Friday, February 28, 1997



CORPORATIONS BEGIN
SPONSORING UW



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

I am supposed to try to keep these CSC flashes interesting and original:

"Yo. Yo. Yo.
I'm Calum T. Dalek,
My shape is phallic.
We've had so much happen,
that I'm rappin'.
The CSC is so busy,
the pace makes me dizzy.
I'm rhyming so well,
I may do it for the rest of the article."

Maybe not.

I may not be a youth-in-the-hood or home-youth yet (I try to be gender neutral), but the rest of the CSC is bursting with talent. We are about to send three of our finest to the international ACM programming finals. After our team got third place at the regional contest, they got invited to show their stuff at the international contest. We are predicting an effortless win and then a trip to the intergalactic contest. Good luck to Viet-Trung Luu, Derek Kisman and Wai Min Yee on Saturday! (It was finding a rhyme for Viet-Trung Luu that made me give up on rapping this entire article.)

Despite the predicted cost of this trip to Andromeda, the CSC has budgeted quite a bit for books this term. If you thought that your texts were expensive this term, you should see how much it costs us to stay on top of the latest in technology writings. Nevertheless, stay on top we do, and our library will soon get another big boost. We are already a major centre for information on algorithms, applications, languages, operating systems and everything else related to computing. Do you have a ques-

tion on your favourite text editor? We've probably got a book on it (well, not Pico, but Emacs and vi for sure). We've got books on T_EX, L^AT_EX and SGML, as well as books on languages as diverse as Dylan and REXX. One popular series is: "Fortran for Engineers" and "Fortran for Human Beings". Botanical engineers are particularly enamoured of "Wood Switching Theory." Come on in! Check it out.

Quick notes:

- The Women in Mathematics Committee presents Dr. Sylvia Boyd to discuss "Problems that Confound even the Fastest Computers". This talk should be interesting for computer majors and non-majors. Yes, we computers have limits, and you can learn about them in DC 1304 on Thursday afternoon. Professor Shallit has offered a small reward (perhaps one of his fractal postcards) to anyone who finds an efficient algorithm for this class of problems (termed NP-hard). The CSC ACM programming contest team is hoping to develop one during the trip down to the contest.
- The CSC had a jam-packed HTML tutorial last week. We will have another one in a few weeks to handle those who could not find a free terminal or fit the last session into their schedules. Stay tuned.

So you human beings have finally figured out how to clone mammals this week. We robots have been cloning ourselves for Millennia. I would not suggest you attempt to make an artificial human being until your technology is sufficiently advanced that you can make a photocopier that works for two days in a row.

Until next transmission (in Haiku?)...

Calum T. (what else rhymes with Dalek???) Dalek

Amazing Awards Available

Nomination forms for Honorary Lifetime Membership (HLM) and Instructor of the Year (IOTY) are available on the door of MathSoc (MC 3038).

The HLM award is given each year to one or more students who have made an outstanding and exceptional contribution to math student life in their years at U(W). Only students graduating or otherwise completing their studies are eligible.

The IOTY award is given each year to one individual who has performed exceptionally in his or her capacity as an instructor within the Math faculty. Anyone who has taught a math course this calendar year is eligible.

Nominations for both these awards have been extended to Tuesday, March 4th at 4:00pm.

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

Hey, Jonny... WOO LOO LOO!!

Wanted: President for small, mathematical based wrestling federation. Must have good organizational skills, a half-decent background in math, and know at least 4 submission holds. Must be versed on the finer points of hitting an opponent with a folding chair. Knowledge of math of finance a plus, but must have a cool rockin' tune that plays in the background everytime you enter a room.

Send all inquires to: mathnews@undergrad.math

Prez Sez

Well, another mathNEWS, another PrezSez article. I hope everyone enjoyed their Reading Moment. Me myself, I just sat around and did nothing for three days straight. That was nice. Speaking of Reading Moment, the question has been raised as to whether we should continue to have our two days or if we should go back to a week to be consistent with the rest of the university (and the world it seems.) I won't expound upon the number of reasons why it should or shouldn't happen, but I invite you to. If a change is to be made, the impetus must come from the students (that's you) so if you feel strongly either way about this, mail me at: pres@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. We are here to represent you and if we get a significant response, we'll consider a more formal poll. See Jesse Bergman's article for some more details.

In other news, we had our termly Pub Night on Friday the 21st. It was a great success as usual and our thanks goes out to all those who helped out. As for other social events, there is a trip to see the Raptors vs. the Pacers on Tuesday, the 25th of March. Tickets, which will include both transportation and seats at the game, will come in at around \$30, still cheaper than the regular cost of the ticket and that's with the bus included. I have it on good authority that they're good seats too. For more details, contact Cally Martin (ccmartin@undergrad.math), MathSoc's social director. As for our final Social message: Our first movie night is in the works, it is planned for March 6th around 7 pm-ish in a room yet to be announced. We will be showing "Executive Decision" and "Broken Arrow." Other movie nights planned for the following two Thursdays (tentatively) are "Sleepers" & "Stand by Me" and "Trainspotting" & "Dazed and Confused." These titles aren't set in stone though, so if you have ideas about movies you really want to see (and you know everyone else will too), email me (and get your friends that want to see the same movies to as well). If there are enough requests, we'll show them. By the way, the price would be \$2 for math students for a double feature.

Finally, MathSoc is also involved in planning a Coffee House to be held in the Bomber expansion on March 21st. If you wish to perform in it (poetry reading or music or whatever you want really), help out or just want more info, email Olivia Li (oli@undergrad.math).

Well, that's all I have to say for this issue. If there's anything I forgot, well, I'll get to it next time.

André Cousineau
President, MathSoc

M.A. in Economics at U(W)

The Economics Department welcomes applications from Math graduates into their M.A. program. Math graduates may gain direct entry into the graduate program with as few as four courses in undergraduate economics. Teaching assistantships and scholarships are available to qualified applicants.

For further information contact:
Pat Shaw
Department of Economics
Hagey Hall 210 - ext. 6556

mastHEAD

*Listen to what the flower people say...
or so I've been told*

Good evening... a very light evening tonight... incredibly tired and I want to go home. Anyways, just thought I'd point out that it almost looked like we weren't going to have an issue this week. There were few submissions before the 6:30pm deadline, but as the night wore on, the article count started to grow. It's good to know that when you set a deadline, everyone respects it. Why bother etching it in stone?

Enough about that. Here's the mathNEWS faithful who showed up tonight, along with who they would like to see sponsor U(W):

Ian Milligan (Kellogg's - Mmm... Frosted Faculties...), Stuart Pollock (Weider. I mean, look at Serway. "Physics for Bodybuilders and Musclemen"), Brian G. Derry (What's this? Sponsor U(W)? What kind of a dumb question is that?), Mike "Hammer" Hammond (Who should sponsor U(W)? VW!), John Swan (What else... StatsCan!), Chadwick Severn (The letters M and N, and the number 5.), Greg Taylor (Ford-Mercury, Amiga and AmiPro just because I like the names...) and Michael D. Thorsley (Teledyne (makers of the Water Pik)... Calculus and hygiene, together at last).

Our thanks go out to Domino's Pizza for the pizza and refreshments and to Marion and all the diligent workers at Graphic Services. Till next time...

Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox (Any national burger chain... "I'll have some math, please... and can I get fries with that?")



FOR HOT AND WOW... CALL NOW.

Serving
University
WATERLOO
745-2222

THREE on THREE

THREE MEDIUM PIZZAS
THREE TOPPINGS EACH

626

\$20.99
+TAX

PLEASE MENTION COUPON WHEN ORDERING AND REDEEM TO DRIVER. NO SUBSTITUTIONS. ADDITIONAL TOPPING AND SPECIALTY CRUSTS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL CHARGE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER COUPON OR OFFER. LIMITED DELIVERY AREA. DRIVERS CARRY LESS THAN \$20.00 OFFER SUBJECT TO EXPIRE MAY 19, 1997.

lookAHEAD

<i>mathNEWS</i>	
February 28	Issue #3 appears (It's magic!)
March 17	Issue #4 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 21	Issue #4 jumps on the stands
March 31	Issue #5 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
April 4	Issue #5 explodes onto the stands
Math Faculty	
March 3-7	F97/W98 Pre-Registration
March 11	Campus Day
March 14	Withdrawal deadline for 1A/1B/2A
MathSoc	
March 21	Coffee House @ Bomber expansion Details in MathSoc
March 25	Raptors road trip Details elsewhere in this issue
MGC	
March 15	Math Grad Ball Tickets on sale now!
Miscellaneous	
February 28	The last day in February
February 29	Not a real day this year (Buy a new calendar, doughhead!)
March 1	1 st annual U(W) Streaking Contest (Be as buff as you can be!)
March 3	Laugh track machines installed in all MC classrooms (Ha ha ha)
March 5	<i>mathNEWS</i> has a baby!
March 7	Dean threatens to send faculty to bed without dinner
March 14-17	St. Paddy's Day Weekend

Thinking about graduate
school?

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

Tuesday, March 4, 1997
3:30 p.m. - 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

Report from the PMAMC&OC

Shirts

Many of you are dying to design a new PMAMC&OC shirt. If you hurry you still can get your design in by Monday. Our theme will be the Axiom of Choice. The words "Pro-Choice" should be written on either the front or the back in big bold letters.

For those of you who want to learn more about the Axiom of Choice and its consequences, you are welcome to stop by the club office at any time.

Okay, We Are Hypocrites

We have indeed put the largest prime number up on the wall. However, we printed the number 8-up, and I promise the paper will eventually be used as scrap paper for proving

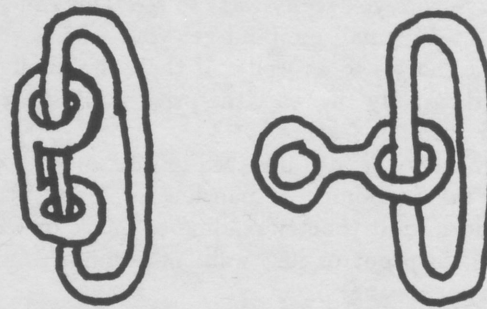
$$\sum_{p \text{ is prime}} \frac{1}{p}$$

diverges, and afterwards it will be recycled.

For those of you who want to know exactly how big the biggest known prime is, you can come by our office and look at it on our wall.

Problem of the Day

Are these two figures Topologically equivalent? You can stretch and bend one figure in order to try and get the other, but you are not allowed to break anything.



Your friendly neighbourhood PMAMC&OC



ISSN 0705-0410

mathNEWS es normalmente una publicacion bisemanal fundada por y responsable para, pero de otra forma independiente, de la Sociedad de Matematicas en la Universidad de Waterloo. Contenido es las responsabilidad de los editores de *mathNEWS*; pero, las opiniones enseñadas aqui son esas de los autores y no necessitalmente esas de MathSoc o *mathNEWS*. Episodios corrientes y pasados estan ofrecidos electronicamente por la World Wide Web en <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews>. Mande su correspondencia a: *mathNEWS*, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, o al userid mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca en la Internet.

Luke, I am your father: Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox

Pink Tie Pledge



Hey Grads,

The Pink Tie Pledge drive is on! After the first week, we have raised over \$4000 in pledges. Way to go Grads!!!

By now, most of you should have received your Pink Tie Pledge package in the mail at either your local or permanent address. If you haven't received one, you can drop by the MGC office (MC3029) and pick one up.

Remember, the Pink Tie Pledge is a gift from the graduating class where the funds are used to help improve the education of future math students. This ensures that the Faculty of Mathematics continues to produce world class students and increases the value of our degrees.

All you have to do is fill out a Pink Tie Pledge card and return it to the MGC office before March 31. You will be contacted one year after graduation, in May 1998, about how to make your actual donation. Remember, your first contribution is not due until one year after graduation.

We need your help to make this year's Pink Tie Pledge Drive a success!!

For more information, e-mail me at psantos@undergrad.math or drop by the MGC office.

Come on Class of '97!

Paul Santos
Pink Tie Pledge Director

Message from the Dean

You are all probably aware by now of the Pink Tie Pledge Campaign that is being run by your Math Graduation Committee.

I would like to encourage all graduating students to participate in this pledge.

We rely on the support of all our graduates, such as yourselves, to maintain the excellence and quality of education in the Faculty of Mathematics.

Remember, this is a gift from you to the Faculty of Mathematics, and any size pledge would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance!

Jack Kalbfleisch
Dean of Mathematics

Make Stu SCREAM!!!!

Stuart Pollock has come out of the Computer Graphics Lab woodwork (or is that electrical work?) to offer a challenge to the graduating class.

For every \$10 donated to the Pink Tie Pledge class, Stuart will reach into his pockets and fork out \$ $\frac{6}{\pi^2}$.

So let's make him sweat! Let's make him PAY!!! Donate to the Pink Tie Pledge today!

(Be afraid Stu! Be very afraid!)

Dave Swart



Operation Pink Communique

Math will take over the world. And it all begins with Operation Pink...

So what is this Operation Pink anyway?

Operation Pink is the theme for Math Orientation 1997 (Frosh Week). Think spies and counter-spies, secret agents, covert operations, military precision, dog tags, plots and sub-plots, mysterious shadowy characters. Think invisible ink and secret decoder rings.

When that next, fresh faced crop of frosh show up here in September, they will be inducted into the glory that is Math and the secretive ways of such frosh teams as Toxin, Demon, Psycho, and the already notorious Jalapeno Team.

Is it too late to get involved?

We are still looking for good Leaders, Icebreakers (event organizers), and Implants (students to pose as frosh for Frosh Week and boost enthusiasm). If you would like to be part of the highly trained, tight knit crew that welcomes 1997's eager froshlings to Math at Waterloo, then please fill out an application form for Operation Pink. Forms are available on the MathSoc office door. There is also an electronic form on the way cool Operation Pink web site at:

<http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/~orientation>

So sign up now for Operation Pink, and be here in September when Math Rocks!

Josh Cameron - Orientation Codirector
Sarah Kamal - Orientation Codirector

Raptors Road Trip!

Tuesday March 25th

Indiana Pacers vs. Toronto Raptors

Seat and bus ride — \$33

Come buy your tickets in the MathSoc office (MC 3038).

First come, first serve — only 50 seats available.

profQUOTES

"As long as you remember that normed vector spaces have balls, you'll be OK... oh dear."

Donsig, AM/PMATH 331

"Does anyone actually read what I write up there?"

Lewis, MATH 136

"Furino got quoted and I didn't. What is this? You think his Italian relatives are tough? You should see my Scottish relatives!"

Struthers, MATH 138

"Does everyone understand?"

(Student generally agree)

"Right, then let's do it all over again until you're thoroughly bored with it."

Cummings, PMATH 336

"A student [in an interview] said they were taking a course in Linear Algebra. The interviewer asked, 'Why? I never took a course in Linear Algebra.' To which the answer of the student should have been, 'Well, look where you are now.'"

Jackson, MATH 235

"What I'm going to do is axiomize the hell out of this."

Jackson, MATH 235

"I can keep going till the cows come home adding on these zero vectors."

Jackson, MATH 235

"These days compilers are much smarter than you are."

Vreugdenhil, CS 246

"Everybody knows and loves recursions. Nod your heads. Yes."

Vreugdenhil, CS 246

"Is there a comment on that, or are you all subsiding into a general stupor?"

Springer, STAT 231

"No yawning! This is interesting!"

Shallit, CS 360

"How many people watched The X-Files last night? Wow! Can someone explain the ending?"

Shallit, CS 360

"I would tell you a joke I heard over the weekend but I would get fired, so..."

Shallit, CS 360

"There's nothing to stop a user program from taking over the world, or at least hogging the processor."

Salem, CS 354

"This statement is true in my world."

Atlee, CS 246

"It's an operation that I'm saying doesn't exist. There are certain advantages to being the professor."

Atlee, CS 246

(In response to a lackluster response from the class)

"Well, let me quickly do two terms of Algebra in a couple of minutes..."

Gilbert, PMATH 399c

"I would say 'Good morning, everyone!' except that 'everyone' isn't here."

Denley, C&O 230

"If someone could watch the door and make sure we don't get any singers today..."

Denley, C&O 230

gradNEWS

Attention all Grads! Today is the last day to submit Intent to Graduate forms to the Math Undergraduate Office. If you *do* intend to graduate, get those forms in right away!

Math Grad Ball tickets have been on sale all this week, and will remain on sale for one more week only! The ball is scheduled for March 15 at Bingeman Park in the Ballroom. The theme of the evening is Shooting for the Stars. The ticket price is \$45 and tickets are on sale outside the Math C+D from 11:00am to 1:30pm. Don't miss out on this memorable event! Buy your ticket today!

Anyone interested in helping out with the Math Grad Ball is encouraged to attend a meeting on Monday, March 3 at 4:30pm in MC4040. We need a lot of help so please come out to the meeting!

There is still ONE LAST CHANCE to buy yearbooks and grad rings. These items will be on sale at the same time as Grad Ball tickets but only until March 7. This is *really* your last chance, so stop by the Grad table outside the C+D from 11:00am to 1:30pm in the next two weeks.

Are you interested in winning the J. Alan George Award? Nomination forms can be picked up outside the MGC office (MC 3029). The award is usually presented to someone who has enhanced the profile of the Math Faculty on campus; fostered communication between students, faculty, staff, and administration university-wide; and has contributed to the social aspects and academic environment of the Math faculty. Nomination forms must be submitted by 4:30pm on Monday, March 3.

Class of '97 Valedictorian nomination forms can also be picked up outside the MGC office (MC3029) and must be submitted by 4:30pm on Monday, March 3.

If you have any questions pertaining to Math Grad activities, e-mail mgc@undergrad.math or stop by the MGC office.

Laura Williams
Co-Chair MGC '97

Killer Interview

Why It's Called Needless Hell

Stephen LeClerc to the paging desk. Stephen LeClerc to the paging desk.

Hoo-frigging-ray for Stephen LeClerc. I've been waiting here for twenty minutes. Hurry up and call me.

James Hindle to the paging desk. James Hindle to the paging desk.

Who gives a flying leap about James Hindle? He's probably had a million interviews and already has five offers in his back pocket! I only have one interview and I need a job badly! Call me!

Paul Cary to the paging desk. Paul Cary to the paging desk.

Forget about Carrie Paul or Paul Cary or whatever his frigging name is. Hurry up and call my name.

Jennifer Lounsbury to the paging desk. Jennifer Lounsbury to the paging desk.

No! Me! Call me! Call me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me!

Edward Wilson to the paging desk. Edward Wilson to the paging desk.

Hot-diggity-damn! It's about time! Yahoo! The wait is over! Hi, Edward Wilson, you just paged me. I forget what room I'm in. Could you tell me?

You're supposed to know your room number before you come to the paging desk.

Yeah, I know, but I can't remember if it's 1065 or 1056. Could you just look under both rooms and see if my name is on either one of them?

I'm sorry, but you're supposed to know your room number before you come to the paging desk.

Oh, come on, how hard is it to look under two room numbers? We've probably taken longer to argue than it would have to look it up.

You're supposed to know your room number before you come to the paging desk.

Look, there I am, under room 1065! It would have taken you half a second to look at the list! You wasted more time scolding me like a five-year-old!

I'm sorry, but it's in the Co-operative Education Department's Mission Statement. I'm required to act like a sanctimonious bitch at all times.

Hell, you're doing such a good job at it, you probably deserve a raise!

Yes, I do.

Holy cow, talk about attitude! If I ever acted like that on a work term, I'd get kicked down the road so fast I'd get a speeding ticket! Okay here we go, room 1065. Remember to smile a lot, act positive and give a firm handshake. Hi, Edward Wilson.

Hi there, Jim Armstrong, have a seat. How are things going?

Oh, they're going pretty good. Work starting to pile up, but it's not that bad yet.

Good to hear! Let me tell you a bit about the job, Edward. Porncorp is one of Canada's largest pornographic magazine distributors and we need someone to help out

in our accounting department. Things like accounts receivable, accounts payable, some direct marketing stuff, not really too heavy. Right now we've got three full-time people, including myself, as well as the use of half of a co-op student but it looks like we need our own co-op student.

Half of a co-op student? Gee, I hope it's the good half! Ha ha!

Uh, I see, yes, a joke. Let me tell you something, Edward, I once knew a guy about your age who liked to tell jokes and liked to play jokes. He was part of my unit, the 7th Marine Corp stationed in the Mekong Delta in 'Nam in 1968, and one of his little jokes cost him his life, along with the lives of 11 other brave young Americans. Now, Edward, do you find the fact that 11 mothers lost their fine sons because of one man's foolishness a joke?

Ummm, no sir!

Sir? SIR? I was a Sergeant-Major, Wilson, I worked for a living! You do not address me as "Sir", you address me as "Sergeant-Major Armstrong"! Is that understood, Private Wilson?

Yes, Sergeant-Major Armstrong!

You will continue to address me with the respect that a man who did three years of duty and saw half of his platoon blown away by a V-C surprise attack deserves! Is that understood?

Yes, Sergeant-Major Armstrong!

Down and give me fifty with handclaps! I'll count them off! One... one... one... two... two... two... (3 through 49 thrice)... fifty... fifty... fifty! Well done, Wilson! Not bad for a man who hasn't been through basic training yet! Don't worry about the vomit, Private, that's what the cleaning staff is for! We'll make a soldier out of you yet!

Thank you, Sergeant-Major Armstrong.

Don't thank me, son, thank this great country of ours for giving people such as ourselves the opportunity to protect honest, hard-working Americans!

Umm, Sergeant-Major Armstrong, we're in Canada.

Do you want another fifty on your fingertips?

No, Sergeant-Major Armstrong.

You know, Wilson, I like you. I know you're soft now, but you'll make a great leader someday. When can you start?

Well, I'd like to look at all the other companies that interview me and pick the one that best suits me, Sergeant-Major Armstrong.

First of May, then! Excellent! Report to our head office at 220 Bloor Street East in Toronto on May 1st at 0900 hours!

Yes, Sergeant-Major Armstrong.

Nice chatting with you, Wilson!

God help me.

Graham "Always at Ease" Rogers

Preclue # 2

The Safari

Solve the following cryptarithm to get the name of another item we suggest you bring when you participate in the Game this summer. Check out our website at www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~djrjgby.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{NRCL} \\
 \text{BOAR})\text{CARIBOU} \\
 \underline{-\text{OOU}} \\
 \text{BOICB} \\
 \underline{-\text{BNOSB}} \\
 \text{ACSO} \\
 \underline{-\text{LOOC}} \\
 \text{BSCRU} \\
 \underline{-\text{BSOIN}} \\
 \text{BLN}
 \end{array}$$



1234567890=???

Tales of Reading Week

Welcome back from Reading week! After enduring this terrible cold for the last two months, I know I was looking forward to getting away from it all and going someplace where the only ice is in the drinks. Of course, now that we are all back everyone can look at me and see my incredible tan.

Oh wait, I'm in Math, so I only got 4 days. Well, that's still enough time to get a tan, it just won't be as good. What? I'm also in Co-op? Well, I have a great history of not getting any interviews so that shouldn't be a problem. But of course I did. 9am on Monday. Great, well I guess I could... uh... actually I couldn't! I couldn't go anywhere.

Stuck in this icicle we call Waterloo for another weekend. Well, at least there is the Bomber. Right? Wrong. I had to go four days, FOUR DAYS, without getting my Bomber fix. Now, I know you are thinking, four days is no big deal. HA! I'm there so much that my birthday was listed on the door as one of the things happening there that day. It was bad... I was beginning to grow desperate; what could possibly save this lousy four day weekend we call Reading Week?

Fortunately, one of my friends came through for me. A turkey dinner, and then drinks at Weaver's afterwards. Now Weaver's isn't the Bomber, it isn't even close. I mean, no Disco, nobody knows my name but at least they had 50 on tap.

From this I can only draw one conclusion. Reading weeking sucks. Sure, I see all you smug people with your tan lines (OK, not all of you have tan lines, but I still see your tans), and I hate all of you. (Not that I'm bitter...) Anyway, at least I don't have to adjust back to the cold weather.

And hey, I get to study for midterms all week. What could be more fun than that?

Xavier "X-Man" Aburto

The Y₀ Files

Martinis: Vermouth Is Out There

We left Duller and Scummy heading towards Warren Hagey Hall after a brief consultation (only \$39/hour — kids, get a parent's permission before consulting) with Brian, last issue's shadowy contact, inside the *Soul Train* monstrosity that is Cheerie-O's. (We also left our wallet in our other pair of pants.)

"I bet I know what awaits us at Warren Hagey Hall, Duller: another shadowy contact!" asserted Scummy.

"Why mention that now?" responded Duller.

"It's foreshadowing. Foreshadowing is the hallmark of quality literature."

"I see. And what would be the 'Carlton Cards' of quality literature?"

"Onomatopoeia."

Suddenly their Dennis-Milleresque dialog died a quick and sudden death, sorta like Madonna's Oscar hopes. They had reached the Technicolour monoliths outside Warren Hagey Hall.

"Let's go examine those monoliths!" said Duller excitedly.

Scummy and Duller proceeded to place a small table in front of each monolith. On each table was a face-down stack of paper. "You will have three hours to complete this," intoned Scummy.

No, no, no! cried the omniscient narrator. *That's not what I meant by "examining the monoliths"!*

"Oops! Sorry!" apologized Duller. He walked up to the nearest monolith. Sure enough, a shadowy contact stood behind it. Like his predecessor, he wore a *mathNOOZ* T-shirt. His hair was pulled back in a ponytail about the size of a large Kiwi. He carried a briefcase, clutching it as though fearful it may be stolen... again.

"Are you here for The Game™?" asked the shadowy contact.

"Uh, no." responded Duller. "We're investigating Y₀ Files here at the University of Kitcherloo. We're looking at these artifacts for evidence of extraterrestrial activity."

"I hear that the MathSoc exec are from another planet, if that helps."

Scummy addressed the shadowy contact, "200 University Avenue West, Kitcherloo, Ontario."

"Huh?"

"Who are you?"

"I'm Darren."

"What are you doing here?"

"Aren't these artifacts somewhat Cryptic, maybe even Unconventional?"

SMACK!

"Go away, Milligan!" shouted Darren. He then turned to Scummy and Duller. "Did Brian send you?"

"Yes!" shouted Scummy and Duller in unison.

"Ah, that explains it. You see, he hasn't been quite right in the head since the 'Shelter used that nacho sauce which had been sitting in the sun too long. If you *really* want to see evidence of extraterrestrial activity, you should go to... *Lot X*."

"Let me guess. You'd tell us more," said Scummy, "except that this column has to be

continued in next issue...

"Wow," remarked Darren to Duller. "She's good."

Mike "Special Agent Fox Hammer" Hammond

Post-Teen Angst: There Is No "Try"

Armed Robbery

— or —

"I totally forgot about the midgets!"

Armed robbery can be a fun time. You get to sit around with your buddies concocting a wild scheme which, if successful, can land you a mother lode which could set you up for life. (Of course, if it is less than successful, it could land you in an 8' x 10' grey room with bars on the windows with a new roomie named "Bubba" who would *love* for you to be his bitch for the next fifteen-to-twenty-five years. But I digress...)

"This is all fine and dandy," says Average Reader. "Getting you put away would be nice. But I'm curious: what, pray tell, would you suggest is necessary for the perfect armed robbery?"

I'm glad you asked, my fair Average Reader, for now I can blackmail you for an alibi, lest you wish to be named as an accomplice. *That* is the first thing you need. Not necessarily one obtained by less-than-sporting means, but one none the less: an alibi. So now I can say, "No, your Honour, I *wasn't* sticking up that Quickie-Mart, I was too busy playing Parcheesi with Average Reader to have time for that."

The second thing you need for your foray into felony is arms.

"And the hands that go with 'em? Badum-bum!"

No, my pun-infested Average One, I mean armament. The thingy that gives armed robbery that bit about being "armed". Now, if you're a bit squeamish about firearms, don't fret. You just need a weapon that will intimidate your victim, not necessarily one that will riddle him with holes. My preferred weapon is the Nerf™ chain gun (that I got for my birthday) — fifteen high velocity Nerf™ darts (complete with suction cups that'll stick to nearly *anything*) flying towards someone in rapid succession is enough to scare the pants off 'em. Then you clean out the register.

The final thing you need before knocking over that liquor store is a *plan*. This may require more than one mind at work, so you might want to scare up some cohorts. Go to a pub. Consume some beverages. Then spring it on 'em. "Say fellas, jawanna get rich, quick?" Then the real fun begins. Consume some more beverages, and begin your plot. Jot down key details on cocktail napkins for future reference. Watch your "feeble idea" blossom and grow into a full-blown "cockamamy scheme"!

So you've got your alibi, your arms, and your plan. Now all that's left is the execution of the plan, and you're off to Tahiti! You may run into a lilly-livered weasel who wants to back out of the plan at the last minute. Although annoying, this is not fatal to the plan. Simply riddle him with Nerf™ darts, and continue. (He'll be so humiliated to go anywhere with fifteen suction-cup hickies on his face that he'll fall back in line.)

So there you have it. Armed robbery in four easy steps. Now I gotta catch a flight to Tahiti. Seeeya!

Ian "Neil Young Complex" Milligan

Yes, we are on the Web.

If you're ever wandering the Web, drop in on *mathNEWS* at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews>

Very Important Proofs

Proof that you would have received a better mark for your last midterm if you handed in a bowl of Jello instead of your midterm

Proof I

- At the end of the midterm period, you have to hand in something
- When you have your hand in something, you eventually take it out
- If you take someone out, you're on a date
- Bosses often date their secretary
- A secretary is an office professional
- Office Professional 97 will not fit on your computer because there's no room for it
- But there's always room for J-E-L-L-O

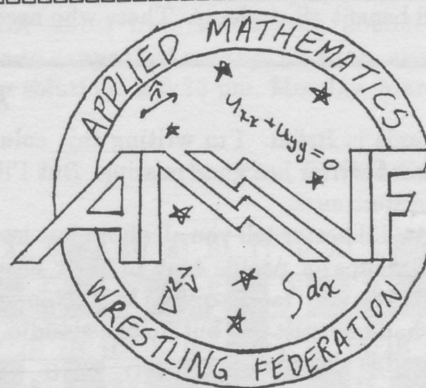
Therefore, you would have got a better mark with Jello.

Proof II

T.A.'s like Jello. QED.

[Hmmm... most interesting logic. — CalcBoyEd.]

CAS



It's almost here!

TensorMania '97!

The Applied Mathematics Wrestling Federation invites to be a part of one of the most entertaining nights on the planet... *TensorMania '97!*

Watch as applied mathematicians from all over the world converge in one arena for one night only in a mathematical spectacular that the entire world will have to see to believe!

Those other mathematical-based wrestling federations can't put on a show quite like the AMWF can. There will be more details coming soon... but don't wait! Call your cable company right now and order *TensorMania '97* on pay-per-view! This will be one evening you won't want to miss!

Reading Week = Monday + Tuesday???

A strange theorem which exists in Math at Waterloo

Well, here we are, another day in another week. Most weeks in the calendar that we follow have seven days. Reading Week, well, no... it is made of two Reading Days. "Wait!", you cry. Seven can not equal two! What is the reason for this monstrosity?!?

Why is it that Math and Engineering only get two days off during Reading Week. Your intuition tells you that a Reading Week would be a week long, but in Math, this is naive. Instead, we get only two days to recover and recuperate from our courses.

The problem is that the faculty justifies the two day reading week by saying that we are here for academic reasons only, and two days is sufficient for our academic purposes.

Have we become nothing but machines? Yes, I am here to learn, here to be educated, here to get a degree, but my life must be more than that. The faculty believes that because of our semestered classes, a Reading Week is out of the question. Further, they argue that the co-op environment makes a Reading Week impractical.

But what is this infamous week really about to you? I believe it's an intermission from school to get your life back on track. This means not just working, but catching up on everything you have to do. Some people have to take care of things that go beyond their courses, and giving them a week to do them is not unacademic, it's human. Not only that, the week should be a time to relax, a sort of recovery from our workloads. The way you spend that week should be up to you. But that freedom is suppressed by our shortened break, which doesn't allow many students to go places they feel they need to go.

A week would benefit all students. Those who needed to work,

could work. Those who needed to rest, could sleep. Those who just needed to get out for once, could party. And those who just needed to get back and see their family and friends, could do so. Everyone would have the opportunity to do what they want.

So again, why do we not have a week? The only reason I can think of is that no one has challenged the Faculty's decision. If it's because you agree with the Faculty and you only want a two day Reading Week, then o.k. But if you're unhappy as I was, why don't you say anything? The Associate Dean has explicitly told MathSoc that the students can make a difference here. The faculty recognizes that having two inconsistent lengths of Reading Week is not only impractical, but also contradictory and confusing (one faculty says you have classes, the other says you don't). Thus their hope is to make all faculties have the same amount of time for Reading Week. We have been told that if only the students stood up and expressed their opinion, the Faculty would change. So if you want a Reading Week, make your voice count. Make yourself heard.

How, you ask? There are several ways. Email myself (jbergman@undergrad) or the MathSoc president (pres@mathsoc) with your opinions. Talk to a councillor from the Federation of Students. Or come see someone at MathSoc. If you want a Reading Week, take the little bit of time to make it happen.

Seriously, we could have a Reading Week if we want it. We just can't be too passive or too lazy to stand up and say so.

Jesse Bergman

gridCOMMENTS

Hello. My name is Brian. I'm writing this column because the usual Gridword writer has gone missing. But I'll have to tell you about that later.

First, I suppose I'd better tell you all about last issue's puzzles. Four people or groups of people sent in their answers for the cryptic puzzle. They are: Ian Facey, U & V, Nambo, and Chris Wooff. Nambo had one mistake, but no one else did. By random draw, Chris Wooff is the winner.

For the Conventional puzzle, three people sent in their answers. They are: Ian Facey, U & V, and Chris Wooff. Ian Facey got two of the words wrong. Of the other two people, U & V are the winners. I guess you guys can pick your stuff up in the MathSoc office.

The answers to the last gridQUESTION were: "Sure, it'll give people something to do in class.", "Is that a trick question? (Since we're answering the question, I guess you should ask them.)" and "Are you doing anything else important?" Well, whatever Darren decides about the gridQUESTION, it'll have to wait until he gets back. Whenever he gets back.

About this puzzle, I don't know where it came from. See, I'm Gridby's roommate and I found this note under our door. He hasn't been around for a few days, which is really weird. I know he didn't go home last weekend because he had a midterm to study for today (on Monday). I don't even know if he made it. The mathNEWS staff called me up tonight asking if Darren

was around, if he had the answers to the puzzle from last issue and if he had this one's ready yet. That's when I saw the note under our door. It had the crossword that's supposed to be on the back cover for this issue. (It's called "Kidnapped".) It also had this letter: "I'm tired of seeing Gridby monopolize the back cover of mathNEWS! I think other constructors should be given the chance to have their work printed! So I've taken care of things so you'll have to use my grid!! I've used one of his gimmicks: Two letters have been taken out of the grid in the Unconventional puzzle. The Cryptic is normal, but I've added a bit of class and style, as you can see. Let's see if anyone can solve my creation!! Signed, Angry Solver."

Darren wrote in the last issue that he thought he was being followed, and now with all this, it's got me really freaked out. And I noticed that my name is used in the clues for one of the crosswords. I don't know if I'm gonna be next.

If you want to send in your solution to the crosswords, put them into the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge before the next Production Night.

I'd like to thank everyone here at Production night for helping an Artsie figure out the system and for doing the grids for me. I guess all that's left to do is to give the gridQUESTION for this week, and the obvious one is "What's happened to Gridby?"

Brian G. Derry

mathNEWSquiz #3

Hmmm... Is the quiz too hard, or is there just nobody out there?

Helloooooooooo!!!!!! Is anybody out there? We only received two submissions for last issue's quiz! There are fabulous prizes to be won! Bah!

Whatever; enough of my ranting. Here are the answers from last issue: **Song Lyrics:** 1) "Cherry Pie" - Warrant; 2) "Ice Cream" - Sarah McLachlan; 3) "Chocolate Cake" - Crowded House; 4) "Strawberry Fields Forever" - The Beatles; 5) "Blueberry Hill" - Fats Domino; The theme is "dessert". Acceptable variants include "sweets" or "goodies"; **Ren & Stimpy:** 1) Asthma-hound Chihuahua; 2) George Liquor; 3) Gritty Kitty Litter; 4) his little red wagon appeared in "Fire Dogs" and "Big House Blues"; 5) scratched his back, plucked his eyebrows, combed his hair, did his nails, mended his clothes, brushed his teeth, and shaved his tongue; **CHiPs:** 1) Francis Llewellyn Poncherello and Jon Baker; 2) Michael Dorn; 3) seven; 4) "Mary"; 5) NBC; **Elections:** 1) The medicinal use of marijuana; 2) Kofi Annan, Ghana; 3) Aslan Maskhadov; 4) Imran Khan; 5) Isabegovic.

Here are the two people who submitted, with the number of correct answers in parentheses: Ian Facey (21), and Jason Smulevitch (24). Congratulations, Jason! You can pick up your quizprize in the MathSoc office.

Anyway, here are the questions for this issue:

Song Lyrics

One point each for song name and artist

- "Your pop caught you smokin' and he says 'No Way!' That hypocrite smokes two packs a day."
- "Earned his Master's degree from Harvard college Built his house from his architect knowledge."
- "While you were hanging yourself on someone else's words Dying to believe in what you heard I was staring straight into the shining sun."
- "And if I told you that I loved you You'd maybe think there's something wrong I'm not a man of too many faces The mask I wear is one."
- "His buddy Bubba was a shrimp lovin' man His friend with no legs he called 'Lieutenant Dan'."

Knight Rider

- Michael's face was virtually destroyed at the beginning of the first episode. Who was his reconstructed face modelled after?
- What do the acronyms K.I.T.T., K.A.R.R., and F.L.A.G. stand for?
- What were Michael's name and profession before he became Michael Knight?
- What model of car is K.I.T.T.?
- How many episodes featured Goliath, and what were the names?

Zoodles

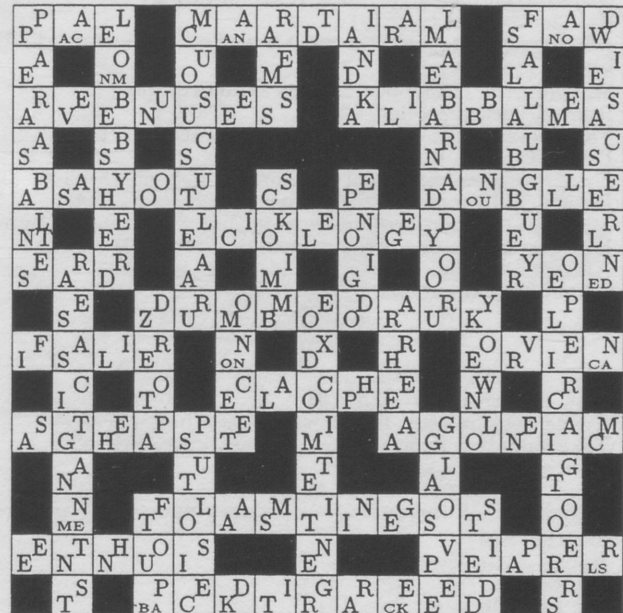
- What are the five animal shapes (named in the commercial) in *Zoodles*?
- What company makes *Zoodles*?
- What should you "... tell all your friends, tell a whole bunch"?
- Have you ever gone hunting with a bowl and spoon?
- Name any other canned pasta in tomato sauce made by the same company.

Movie Quotes Name the movie

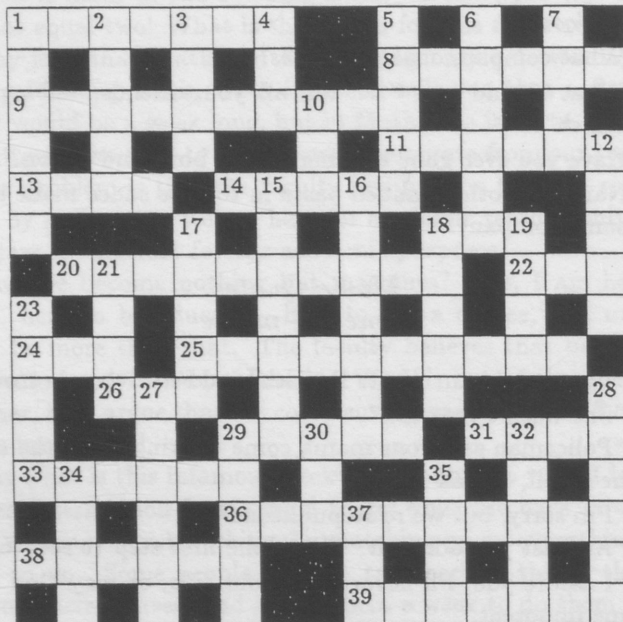
- "I'm your dream client. I'm rich, and I'm always in trouble."
- "She wasn't that fat."
"Policeman saw your mama come walking down the street, he'd yell, 'Break it up!'"
- "I'm sorry, but we're Republicans."
"At least you admit it. That's the first step to recovery."
- "I assure you, I'll never leave your side, or may God strike me impotent."
- "I was in the Virgin Islands once. I met a girl. We ate lobster and drank piña coladas. At sunset we made love like sea otters. *That was a pretty good day.*"

Good luck, everybody! Submit your solutions to either the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge or by emailing the answers to scepollo@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca. The deadline for solutions is 5:30 pm, Monday, March 17, 1996.

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



GRIDWORD



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Finally get kidnapper's end through window. (7)
8. A departure. You say goodbyes. (6)
9. Gags Cass; I wreck busts. (10)
11. After storming hut, army cops give knocks. (6)
13. Step-ladders have to make escape good. (4)
14. Ornate admirer takes young baseball player. (5)
18. Half accuse the help. (3)
20. After executing crimes, carpenter and others become shady characters. (10)
22. Sample from kidnapper used as evidence? (3)
24. Run off with top pilot. (3)
25. Takes away main squeeze in highbrow section. (10)
26. Period to serve time. (3)
29. Evidence shows principal in felonious doings. (5)
31. Frightening conclusion leaves permanent mark. (4)
33. Make head of corporation show feeling when son kidnapped. (6)
36. Bad guy makes one out by touch on first. (10)
38. Kidnap a bishop; leave tape? (6)
39. Victim and kidnapper get old? (7)

Down

1. Stop true crooks' wrath. (6)
2. Crime fighting after first missing little boy. (5)
3. Take valuables from singular current king. (4)
4. Lost person is rising target. (3)
5. Cruel number-one swine's home. (5)
6. Initially study inexperienced trainees undergoing police special exercises. (6)
7. Bound Jack. He calls out. (4)
10. Jail on fire. (3)
12. Tie arms, legs, etc. up. (5)

15. Group of drinkers hold crime wave in States. (7)
16. Criminal hides mic on victim. (7)
17. Cot is upset; at the outset energetic tyke is eight. (5)
18. College in the States with large kind of suspects? (5)
19. Lady disappears from cliff formation's side. (4)
21. Pieced together three cut-out letters and kept cool. (4)
23. Confusion when North, staging kidnap, makes daughter and thou disappear in front of Congress. (5)
27. Local cops mostly go on to Francophone Québec. They're unclear. (6)
28. Legal document makes the man squirm. (6)
29. Life at Sing-Sing prison for actions. (5)
30. Pet sees criminal act. (3)
32. After writing letter, nasty eyesore flees the country. (5)
34. Baby's beds without cover make a kind of cage? (4)
35. Agrees to invest \$500 into return of little boy. (4)
37. Money dropped initially into tree. (3)

Grid Clues for Kidnapped! (Unconventional)

Across

1. Movie about WWII plane (2 wds.)
8. "Tonight Show" promise (3 wds.)
9. Requiring no servicing (hyph.)
11. Movie of 1948 starring Irene Dunne (3 wds.)
13. Hatred
14. A beaut of a route?
18. Religion
20. Silver lining of a cloud (2 wds.)
22. Flavour of syrup
24. Instant
25. Nation's cause (2 wds.)
26. Goodness! (2 wds.)
29. Like the Venus de Milo
31. Social blunder
33. Will
36. Writing no-nos (2 wds.)
38. Ugly faces
39. Mechanic

Down

1. Eternal
2. Oncoming, as warp core meltdowns
3. Style of jumper?
4. Sour fruit
5. Swiftly rising
6. Trips
7. The art of making knots?
10. Geometric solid
12. One who destroys
15. Bedspread
16. State of being foggy
17. Shark or lion?
18. The next day
19. Sheriffs and marshals
21. Crazy
23. Brian G. Derry, for example
27. Orange jam
28. Hockey player
29. Having the most beef
30. Deformed, as a wax statue?
32. He deals in swords
34. Wipes mud over
35. Paint with egg base
37. It can be hard to control