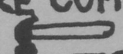
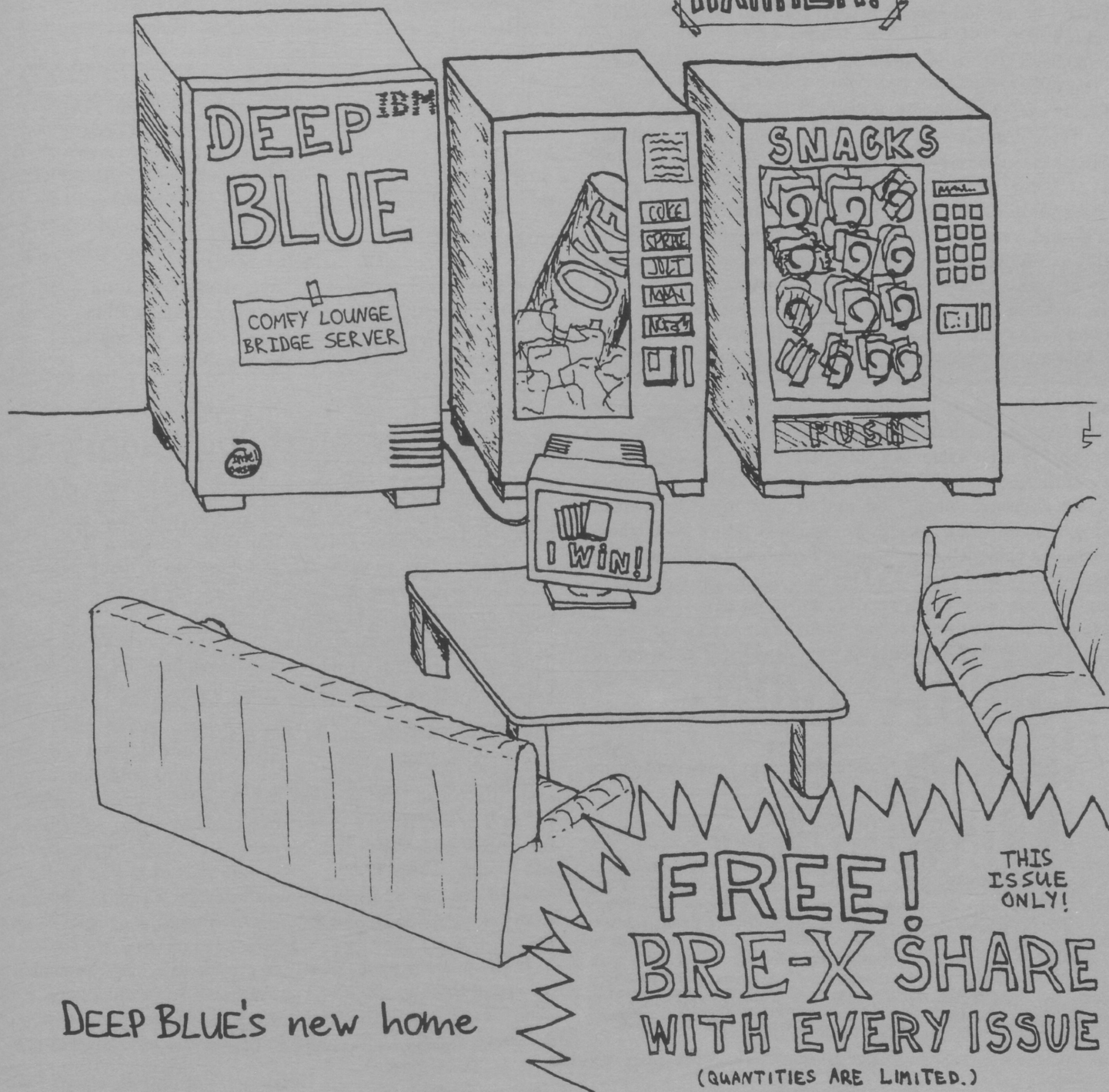


math NEWS

Volume 74, Issue 1

Friday, May 16, 1997

HERE COMES
THE  VOTE!
HAMMER!



DEEP BLUE's new home

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(QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED.)

socTOC

All right so you're back in school for the summer and you're thinking it'll be warm and sunny, life will be great, you'll have a wicked time and you'll be going out all the time, right? Thing is, after doing the same old going-out-to-the-same-coupla-spots thing you realize it's going to get pretty tired very soon. Well I've gone out and solved that problem for you. There are tons of things organised so you'll have fun this summer.

First of all, there are Movie Nights. Now unless you're blind (or just out of it) you probably saw the posters for the first one on May 8th with *Jerry McGuire* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*; maybe you even attended. Anyway, there are quite a few other Movie Nights coming your way every second week on Thursdays; \$2 for Mathies, \$3 otherwise. For listings of the movies check out the calendar outside the Comfy Lounge or just read the posters. If you have any movie requests or anything like that, please let us know.

There's also a trip to Wonderland coming up very soon with a price tag of only \$20.

On Friday May 30th there's this term's Math Pub Night. The theme is "The Simpsons" so if you're like most Mathies and can quote Simpsons lines relevant to just about any situation, you'll be right at home. There'll even be Simpsons trivia so you can flaunt your useless knowledge. If you're not into Simpsons, it's ok, you should come too, and observe the strange Simpsons fan species up close. There'll be free pool and fozzball tournaments and lots of great prizes. Remember Pub Night's not just for Mathies, so bring all your friends. It's free so you can't lose.

Later on in the term, there'll also be a trip to Whiskey Saigon and to Stratford to see Richard III so keep your eyes peeled for those.

Finally, if you've never been here in the summer before, you've probably never seen the big Canada Day thing that the University throws. It'll be extra big this year because it's the University's 40th Anniversary. There'll be fireworks over Columbia Lake, a fair, games, displays, food, and so much more. So instead of driving 6 hours to Ottawa to be squished into a spot where you can't see a thing why don't you try celebrating Canada Day right here at UW this year? And if you'd like to get involved in it, volunteers are very much needed, so let us know. In fact if you have anything you want to say about these events (or events that you'd like to see happen), or if you want to help out or something, please let us know. We can't make these things any better if you don't tell us how.

Ana
abadour@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca

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Your two wild and crazy editors: Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox, Matt "So-Krates" Walsh

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
May 16	Issue #1 parades onto the stands
May 26	Issue #2 Production Night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
May 30	Issue #2 settles onto the stands
Math Faculty	
May 16	Add deadline
May 26	Last day for 100% refund
May 30	Drop deadline
Movie Nights	
May 22	<i>Star Trek: Generations</i> and <i>Star Trek: First Contact</i>
Pub Nights	
May 30	<i>The Simpsons</i> Pub Night @ The Bomber! (Brian... er, Latrell insists that you go.)
MGC	
May 27- June 4	Grad Photos to be taken Sign up outside MGC Office More info in this issue!
Miscellaneous	
May 19	Victoria Day
May 26	Memorial Day (U.S.) (Don't forget!)
May 27	Joe Carter doesn't hit into a double play during a Blue Jays game... well, we hope.
May 28	Shovels become obsolete

Good Day MathSoc Shoppers!

It's your friendly Novelties Director here. I'm shamelessly plugging all the cool and practical doo-dads that are for sale in the MathSoc office (MC 3038). Come on down if you've got a present to buy or your pen just blew up in your pencil case (not that some psychotic Novelties director would come around sabotaging pens just to stir up business).

This month's special is on the great new Sports Water Bottles. They come with an oh-so-practical push/pull lid and, for May only, cost a mere \$2.00. Other great buys include:

- Cheat shirts (burgundy and pink) \$12
- Pink tie T-shirts \$5
- Black embroidered T-shirts \$15
- Grey embroidered T-shirts \$20
- Glass beer steins \$8
- Utility knives \$7.50
- Soup Mugs \$2 (New reduced price!)
- Pens, rulers, tie pins \$1 each

If the office is open, novelties are for sale. So the next time you're in there to get a few photocopies or an old exam... take a gander at the display case behind that friendly office worker.

Thank you for shopping in MathSoc and have a great day.

Candice "Shop 'til you drop" Parado

Blue Sayz

Summertime Rocks

Hey All!

Welcome back to yet another term of hot fun in the summertime! This term has lots of good things in store for all of you from the folks here at MathSoc. We had an overwhelming turnout to our first movie night. Jerry and Larry were lots of fun. Be sure to come by on the 22nd for our next movie night *Star Trek: Generations* and *Star Trek: First Contact*.

Other great things that are happening this term include a Simpsons pub night on the 30th of May and BBQs and sports outside the Math Building. (Watch for them when the weather is good!)

The regular time for MathSoc meetings, if you are interested in coming by, is at 5:00 on Wednesdays. Agendas with the location and other information can be found in the hallway outside MC 3035.

The Math Grad Committee is looking for help so if you are graduating in W98 be sure to drop by and see them.

MathSoc could use your help too. We have openings for class representative positions, various Administrative positions and our Computing Directorship is also open.

Finally, the Math C&D has undergone a huge renovation this term. Come by and get some Ice Cream from Conics!

That's all from the big chair,

Blue
President Spring '97

gradNEWS

All you 4th year graduating folks out there, we need you!!!

I'm Kim Jack, also the VPAS of MathSoc, and I've become the Spring term MGC financial director... by default. Kurtis McClellan is the Spring MGC chair... also by default. You see, no one has come forward to be the chair, so it has fallen on poor Kurtis to do it since he's the Prez of MathSoc. He's not even graduating!

So, nominations are open for MGC chair and please please please pick up a form in the MathSoc office, MC 3038.

But hold on a second, what is MGC? It is the Math Grad Committee, and is responsible for Pizza Days, Yearbooks, Grad photos through Jostens, Rings, the Math Grad Ball, and Grad social events. We desperately need volunteers to help out with any of these things. See Kurtis or Kim in the MathSoc Exec office (MC 3035) if you have any questions.

One other thing to mention... Photos! The process is already underway. On the MGC board (outside MC 3029) are sign-up sheets for photo sessions starting late May. More detailed instructions will soon be posted on the board. The important thing right now is to sign up!

Basically, I'll end with a little guilt trip. MGC stuff is not going to happen without volunteers. There have been a few who have come forward, and *thank you*, but we need more.

Thanks.

Kim Jack

P.S. The MGC chair gets a free photo package worth about \$100.00.

Math Orientation Communiqué

Math will take over the world. And it all begins this Fall... So, what is the theme for Math Orientation 1997TM (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 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 Math Orientation. Forms are available on the MathSoc office door and on the Frosh Week 1997 board on the 3rd floor of MC, across from the Comfy Lounge. There is also an electronic form on the way cool web site at <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/~orientation>.

So sign up now for Math Orientation, and be here in September when Math rocks!

Josh Cameron, Orientation Co-director
Sarah Kamal, Orientation Co-director



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The Engineering Scunt

Mathies can play too ...

Remember way back in your Frosh Week, when you and your newfound friends spent several hours running around trying to find improbable items, do impossible things, and generally impress the hell out of some people who called themselves Gods?

If you did, chances are that you enjoyed yourself a lot; if you didn't, then you were probably kicking yourself. Or sleeping. Whatever. Anyhow, I'm talking about something affectionately known as the Havenger Scunt, and it's usually one of the high points of frosh week.

What you may not know, is that there's **also** a Scunt every term, hosted by a class in the Faculty of Engineering; and also that they're usually graceful enough to allow groups outside of Engineering to enter a team. That's where we come in.

If you feel like staying up really late next Friday (the 23rd) to do crazy stunts, pretend that you've found the Fountain of Youth, or maybe travel hundreds of miles to make a fool of yourself in a completely different city, then I think that we might want to talk to you. We're XTREME, the Math Scunters, and once again we're taking it upon ourselves to show the engineers that they're not the only crazy ones.

If you'd like to be a part of the team in some fashion, then please contact myself (mwalsh@laplace) or Esther Small (esmall@napier) and let us know.

See you on the night ...

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh
Co-Captain, XTREME

mathNEWS on the Web

In case you didn't know by now...

This summer marks the beginning of mathNEWS's third year on the World Wide Web.

("What? mathNEWS is on the Web?" you might ask, in which case the only thing I would have to say to you would be, "What cave did you just crawl out of?")

The mathNEWS Web site is a great place not only to find the latest issues, but also to browse past issues, get information about how to contribute to mathNEWS and contact the editor(s). For those of you on work term, reading the latest mathNEWS is also a great way to abuse your company's direct Internet connection. (Never miss profQUOTES again!)

The site is beginning to show its age a little, but renovations are under way and the "new-and-improved" mathNEWS Web site will feature more interactivity and fun stuff you won't find in the issues (*and maybe even a "search" feature that works!*). All that and looks, too!

In the meantime, you can still find our tried-and-true Web site at: <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews>

Stay tuned for big changes, and E-mail me at vtluu@uwaterloo.ca if you have any comments or suggestions to make with regards to the current or upcoming mathNEWS site.

Viêt-Tâm Luu
mathNEWS Webmaster

VPAS babbles on...

Hey all. I'm Kim Jack, your Vice President of Activities and Services this term. I'm glad to be back on campus, but U(W) is quite a shock after a term at Queen's teachers' college. No tests, no exams... can you imagine?!

Well, what can I say about MathSoc this term? Hopefully it will start warming up around here. When that happens, I'm thinking of starting cheap weekly BBQs outside MC, and some fun games on the grass as well! Ultimate, horseshoes, lawn darts, three-legged races... I'm open to suggestions.

Well, what else can I tell you about MathSoc stuff? Actually, Ana, the Social Director nominee, has done most of my job and has planned a ton of great social events. See her article for more information on upcoming events.

I guess I should tell you my office hours, so you can give me all of your great ideas, or your brutally honest complaints.

Monday 10:30-11:30 MathSoc Office
11:30-12:30 Exec Office (MC 3035)
Wednesday 2:30-3:30 Exec Office

Kim Jack
VPAS Spring '97

P.S. Chris E. is my hero!

What about the BLACK BOX?

You know that BLACK BOX outside the Comfy Lounge? Ever wonder what goes in it? Well...

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

- Squiz and Puzzle submissions
- profQUOTES
- ultraCLASSIFIEDS
- Article and artwork submissions
- Questions for The Oracle
- Comments and suggestions
- Donations to the Bad Luck, Bad Timing Rehabilitation Center

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

- Letter bombs
- Bre-X shares
- Federal election campaign literature
- Millenium scripts

A message from your friendly neighbourhood
mathNEWS editors.

ultraCLASSIFIEDS

Who else is in 4C?

Stu MacDonald
scrmacdo@undergrad.math

HUGGBEES!

Ready, Fire, Aim

Software Engineering in the Unreal World

The Manchester United Mutual Insurance Society of Canada has made itself famous (or, at least, as famous as an insurance company can be in a rational society) by offering a product line sold directly to the customer, bypassing the inefficient but deeply entrenched agency channels. To make this system work on a national basis, the company needed a database of gullible people who would be easy marks for the next ad campaign (known in the business as "prospects"). In 1989, when this project was in its formative stage, it seemed only logical to maintain this information on the company's AS/400 minicomputer, along with all of the other business information.

Peter Prissyfoot, however, is a good salesman. He could probably sell anything; in fact, he sells obsolete database systems. In particular, the Pick database system. Invented in 1969 by Dick Pick (I am *not* making this up), the Pick database has changed far too little in 28 years. It remains what it always was: difficult to use, difficult to program, and hopelessly incompatible with the rest of the world. It inspires great loathing in those who come into contact with it, and eternal devotion among those whose lives have grown dependent on it, much like the Amiga users who attempt to persuade you that their platform will one day rule the world. I call this the evangelism of the damned, and Peter Prissyfoot was a damned good evangelist. It was whispered among my resentful co-workers in the Computer Services Department that he made the sale because he was the tennis partner of the President of the company, a man who knows just enough about computers to fear them greatly.

And so the Direct Marketing Department was formed, and so an RS/6000 was purchased to run Pick. What began as a pilot project, an experiment, quickly became the company's fastest growing product. Peter Prissyfoot was very happy. So was the consultant he recommended to be hired to maintain the system. The Computer Services Department was not so happy. They were now answering user's complaints regarding an unfamiliar computer system, and one which they had little control over (I quickly became the resident UNIX expert). The users were not happy, either — they now needed *two* terminals on their desks, one for each computer. Information had to be copied by hand between the two systems, meaning more work and more errors.

And this, I discovered, is how systems development works in the real world. Bad ideas are rationalized, until they become entrenched as legacy systems. Part of my time as a co-op with this imaginary but all-too-real firm was spent producing a slick graphical interface for the users, to enable easier name lookups across the two systems and, ultimately, to prevent copying by hand. A fleet of Pentium 166s were bought to run this formidable application. It didn't work. It seems the users had grown so accustomed to the green screens that they saw no reason to make the switch to GUI. Within two weeks, those P166s were nothing more than glorified terminals. At least they only had to have one on each desk. This, I am happy to report, is progress.

Richard "QSECOFR" Bilson

If you haven't handed in your work report yet, it's too late!

profQUOTES

"So this thing, is like a great big parabolic slide that goes up on the right, and straight down to hell over here."

Talvila, MATH 138

"I've never actually *heard* of anyone failing a course and taking it again just because they like the professor, but I'm sure it's happened."

Talvila, MATH 138

"Gosh, you're useless and I'm great."

Ennis, PSYCH 253

"These things do have real applications, though you'll probably hear me talk about oranges some more."

Cunningham, C&O 351

"It won't be today... It's not my problem."

Cunningham, C&O 351

"...so I really don't know anything. But that's not a problem."

Kunze, MATH 138

Remember to submit your profQUOTES by either stuffing them in the BLACK BOX or emailing them to mathnews@undergrad.math

mastHEAD

Get down, get down and move it all around...

We've been here too late, stressed out too much, and we want to go home. While we *should* be used to this by now, we like complaining about it anyhow. The turnout was pretty good tonight... nice to see some new faces at the terminals as well as many of our regulars, and the bunch that just won't go away. Thanks for coming out!

Without further ado, here's the list of people that turned out, along with their favourite use for old Bre-X stock: Mike "Hammer" Hammond (Put them in a manila folder and do a documentary on them — *The Bre-X Files.*), Warren "The Milkman" Hagey (Sell it and invest in the new Coke.), John Swan (They make good scrap paper for all my statistical needs.), Stuart Pollock (A great start for an Iron Pyrite mine.), Chris "Your friendly neighbourhood hitman" McGuire (Scorepads for a 24-hour "Screw Your Neighbour" play-athon.), Dave "Overlord" Robins (Paper airplane contest — new meaning to "rising stock."), Richard Bilson (Eat them.), Candice Parado (Use them as rags to mop up the grease in my oven.), Viet-Tam Luu (Trade for Club Z points.) and Chris Sanders (Ever fall out of a helicopter? Parachute?!).

Thanks goes to Domino's Pizza for their wonderful pizza and to Marion at Graphic Services. Happy May Two-Four and see you next time.

Right then. We're outta here.

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh (Funky butterfly cubes.)
Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox (Coasters for my beer.)

The Purple Geese with Fluorescent Green Leg Warmers

As retold by *The Milkman*

It was a beautiful day — the sun was out, a gentle breeze was blowing, and the sounds of nature filled my ears as I sat quietly beside Columbia Lake, eating my picnic lunch. I was completely unprepared for what was to follow.

There were some Canada geese nearby, and although I know many find their presence irritating, I'm very thankful that they're around. As I walked toward a small flock of them, the ground suddenly gave way, and I was falling ... falling ... falling down ... falling down a deep, deep hole in the ground.

It was pitch black. I couldn't see a thing, but I could feel the scrapes from my fall all over my body. As I groped around in the darkness, I discovered that I was in a cavern of some sort, with walls made of slightly damp rock. I felt my way around, and after much stumbling, I made my way around a corner and saw a dim glow further on in the cave.

I continued to walk slowly forward, now able to just barely discern my surroundings. The cave I was in appeared to be about 14 feet wide, 9 feet tall, and stretching 70 or 80 feet until the corner where the light was coming from. As I carefully made my way toward the light, I was able to hear some muted babbling coming from ahead. It sounded like a large group of people, but it was hard to make out much other than the constant noise.

As I approached the corner, the noise grew louder, and it became clear that it wasn't people making the sounds. I peeked around the corner and was amazed to see ... *purple geese!* Yes, purple geese wearing fluorescent green leg warmers! A whole cavern full of them! And they were giants — 7 feet tall!

Well, I ducked back into the tunnel and sat down for a minute to decide what to do. I couldn't go back the way I came, and I hadn't seen any other passages along the way, so somehow or another I was going to have to get past those geese. I looked around the corner again to get an idea of the cavern layout and see if I could spot any exits. The cavern was about 60 feet wide, 200 feet long, and 40 feet tall, and it looked like the only way in or out was an opening at the far end which was blocked by 6 or 7 geese. What in the world could I do?

After observing for a few more minutes, I noticed another small opening directly across the cavern. It didn't look very big, but maybe just big enough for me to fit through. The only problem was, where did it go? I didn't really have any other options though, so after delaying some more, I finally got up the nerve and made a mad dash toward the hole.

As soon as I was out in the open, there was an unbelievably loud honking all around me, and the geese started chasing after me. If you've never been chased by 7-foot tall purple geese wearing fluorescent green leg warmers, let me tell you, it's an experience you'd rather not have. I ran as hard as I could over the uneven cavern floor and dove head first into the opening, just as a goose snapped at my foot and tore off my shoe.

Now I was falling ... falling ... falling again, but this time I wasn't get scratched up. In fact, the walls were rather slippery. Finally I landed with a thud in another very dimly lit cave. I could no longer hear the geese honking, so I must have gotten away.

Surveying my present situation, I saw that about 30 feet ahead, a river was running — the only way out. I started toward it, but soon found myself face first on the ground. I had slipped, and the floor was covered in a thick layer of ... slugs ... Ewww! Okay, I thought to myself, this is just too much. I wasn't in any mood to deal with that right then, so I just pushed up against the wall and rested for a while.

Once I had regained a bit of my strength, I made another attempt crossing the slugs, but once again wiped out. I ended up lying on my stomach and sliding my way through the slimy mess. And then, the river ...

It was moving fairly quickly, and it was cold. I didn't have any idea where it went, and as I stood there deciding what to do next, I heard a noise from behind me. I turned to see what it was, but I'll never know for sure because, as I turned, I slipped and fell into the river.

Flailing wildly, I finally righted myself and just went along with the strong current of the river. Boy, was that water cold! Before I knew what was happening, the cavern ceiling disappeared above me, and I was completely submerged. The water just kept on pushing me forward, faster and harder, and there was nothing I could do. I must have come very close to passing out, but eventually I was released from the strong current and could see light above me, up through the water.

My body was completely drained, but I struggled and floated out of the water. I rested on the shore for who knows how long before finally looking up to see ... some geese eating my picnic lunch beside Columbia Lake!

I couldn't move, but I yelled at them and they soon went away after finishing all of my food. I guess I fell asleep, because the next thing I knew it was dark out, and I was all alone, still half in the lake and sore all over. There was nothing I could do but get up, grab my picnic basket, and walk home.

Warren "The Milkman" Hagey

Show me the *mathNEWS!*

Here's the schedule that *mathNEWS* will be following for Spring 1997.

	Production	Release Date
Issue #2	Monday, May 26	Friday, May 30
Issue #3	Monday, June 9	Friday, June 13
Issue #4	Monday, June 23	Friday, June 27
Issue #5	Monday, July 7	Friday, July 11
Issue #6	Monday, July 21	Friday, July 25

All articles are due at 6:30pm on Production night. If you need extra time to complete your article, let us know ahead of time and we'll see if we can accommodate you.

Your already stressed-out yet still humble editors.

Simple Politeness

I moved into a pigsty. Mud, corn husks, giant sows all over the place. That might be stretching it a bit. However, the townhouse I moved into had not been cleaned by the previous occupants. The place was filthy. Not just that moved-out-and-uncovered-dust-bunnies filth but that not-seen-Mr.Clean-in-years kind of filth. I had to use a barbecue grill scrubber to get the soap scum and mildew off the bathtub and tiles. I still didn't get all of it. Now you're saying, "Yeah, we've all moved into dumps. My heart is breaking." True, but we shouldn't have to put up with that. The lack of common courtesy is disgusting.

Where have all the polite people gone? Is it too much to ask that a person vacuum or sweep or even mop so the next tenant doesn't have to wade through a steaming heap? I'm from Mississauga - city of hoodlums with too much money and time on their hands. One such hoodlum called my house for my sister (whom I am helping to fight hoodlum tendencies). I was on the other line when the phone beeped.

Me: Hello?

Hoodlum: Yeah, is Charlene there?

Me: Yes, but I'm on the other line. May I ask who's speaking?

Hoodlum: Why?

Me: Umm... why what? Why do I want your name?

Hoodlum: No. Why can't I talk to Charlene?

Me (slowly): Be-cause I've got some-bo-dy is on the o-ther line.

Hoodlum: So?

Me: Can you call back later?

Hoodlum: If I have to.

Me: Are you sure it's all right? Can you handle it?

Hoodlum: Yeah.

Me: No, really, are you sure?

Hoodlum: Yeah.

Me: Okay. Goodbye.

Hoodlum: Yeah. (Click)

Well, after that charming conversation, I told my sister the hoodlum had better shape up if he ever wanted to talk to her again. Rude. Rude. Rude. There was no call for that kind

Grad Photo Stuff

Class composite and yearbook grad photos are being taken from May 27th to June 4th.

This is the portrait to be used for the yearbook and class composite photo. Final deadline to be in the yearbook and composite is November 30th. There will not be a composite photo opportunity in the Winter 1998 term.

All spring semester Class of '98 Grads must have their photos taken this term.

Please sign up for your appointment at the notice board next to the MGC Office (MC 3025) as soon as possible. There is a \$20 composite fee which includes: your grad proofs, class composite and yearbook photos.

See you there!

Steve Robinson
Franchise Owner, Jostens Canada Ltd.

of attitude and the only purpose it served was to get himself banished from my household for all eternity.

Yet another topic of discussion in my little rant is stupid email. I hate chain mail. People who send chain letters are low-lives who need more productive things to do with their time. After all the chain letters I've deleted, you'd better not stand too close to me. I'm due to lose my leg, my friends and my boyfriend any moment now. I don't understand why my friends would wish such curses upon my head. I admit, I've played a few practical jokes but death-by-chain mail? No one deserves that fate, except maybe the hoodlum from the phone conversation. If a funny joke is attached to the top half of the mail, delete the offending lines. Now you are free to forward to your heart's content. Not only is sending chain mail rude but, as a recipient, I feel like someone has got a contract out on my head.

I don't want to sound too cynical because I'm not. There are many people out there who go out of their way to be polite and their acts of kindness do not go unnoticed. They are the ones who hold doors open, pick up something I've dropped, offer seats to those more in need on the bus, and do a million other things that say we belong to a civilized society. Down with the hoodlums! BOO! BOO! Three cheers for the courteous! HURRAY! HURRAY! HURRAY!

Thank you very much for reading.

Candice "Be rude and I'll squish you" Parado

Spending Money

How would you like to spend lots and lots of money none of which comes out of your own pocket? I knew that would grab your attention because there isn't a person alive that doesn't like to spend money. Now is your chance. You and your friends, the students in this wonderful faculty of ours, have the opportunity to join the Funding Council for the Math Endowment Fund and help to spend the interest on that termly \$31.42 you have been contributing to MEF.

How do I do this you ask? Well, it is easy I say. Joining the Funding Council is as easy as picking up a nomination form from the MEF office (MC 4046), filling it out and bringing it back to the MEF office.

What exactly are the duties of the council members? Good question. You are responsible to attend one, possibly two meetings where you will listen to funding proposals and recommend whether or not MEF should fund the particular projects.

Are there any other perks that go along with being on the Funding Council? Why yes, I am glad that you asked. Just for sitting on the Funding Council you have the opportunity to be on the Board of Directors, which is a group of four students from the Funding Council, one alumnus, one professor and the Dean of Math. This board has the final say on all decisions made by the Funding Council.

The nomination period for the Funding Council will run from May 26th until June 6th. Hurry and get in your form before it is too late. There are a limited number of spaces. If you have any questions please email me at mef.com@undergrad.math or drop by the office (MC 4046), or give me a call at ext. 5757.

Lori Cook
MEF Director, Spring '97

Silicon Valley Ramble

Thus far topicless, no inspiration having struck, I resort to the only semblance of a suggestion I've received so far: co-op. Four months whose credit rests on a single report. Four months of ice and snow and dodgy buses in Canada's attempt at a Silicon Valley of its own: Ottawa.

I worked at the National Research Council. When they gave me a pen and my own pack of Post-It Notes™, and got me an office, wow, I felt important. That quickly ended after I took three days off around a weekend (dashing off an email to my boss since I couldn't get a hold of him otherwise), came back on Tuesday, talked to him about taking three days from my "banked" extra hours... and he asked when I was going. Talk about deflation.

Then there were the Macintoshes. Long the bane of civilized computing everywhere, they lurked, like vengeful demons, on our desks. State of the ark (not a typo) Apple IIci's, with about three crashes per hour on a good day, thank you. I finally got a PC, but had to lug it across the NRC campus in below zero weather. It was worth it to see the Mac go, and go it did, to a co-worker: his Mac had given up the ghost completely, despite good Doctor Norton's attempts to revive it. The monitor still bears two burn holes as a strange result of our boss tinkering with the

Restaurant Review

Lite-Way Subs

Cheap looking chairs, smells of laundry soap, and hand written signs adorning the counter tops. This is the initial impression that one receives when partaking in the dining experience of Lite-Way Submarines. The combos are reasonably priced with 8 inch sub blend beginning at \$3.49 while the one-footer commences at a more pricey \$4.99. Definitely a reasonable price given the surrounding culinary fare.

The submarines are made with tasty meat, yet the effects on one's innards must be questioned. On this day, the shop-keep was offering a generous discount because the shop had run out of cheese (no joke). The topping selection is a pleasant blend of fresh vegetables and sauces, most definitely the highlight of the Lite-Way experience. Moreover, pineapples were offered which has been heretofore unnoticed at other submarine shops. The bread is a grave disappointment not living up to its competition at Subway. The bread was hard and at times difficult to swallow rendering the experience much less than perfect.

The atmosphere is also in conflict. The pleasant colourings and friendly face conflict with the rancid smells emanating from the adjacent business. A laundromat attached to a restaurant can have negative effects on both shops. Such an arrangement is not kind to the human senses. Nevertheless, the surroundings are clean and the counter tops are tidy.

In closing, price is Lite-Way's chief attribute. The lack of quality in the cheaper-than-most submarine is excused due to its soothing of one's wallet. Whilst the experience can be considered a moderate success, one can't help but feel ripped off upon departure. The reason for this: blatant bastardization of the English language by spelling light, L-I-T-E.

Asterisk Rating: * * * * (out of seven)

Jon Ezer

CPU guts. Sorry to go on so, but Mac-bashing has become a bit of a hobby of mine. Never was a truer word spoken than the revelation of the meaning of Macintosh: Machine Always Crashes, If Not, The Operating System Hangs. Amen.

They gave us a little over a month to do nothing while finding out what we were supposed to be doing. ("We" is myself, another U(W) student going under the pseudonym "Potato Ears", and a student from Ottawa's Algonquin College). The job description was pretty vague, but I thought a government job would be interesting. By the way, it's not "surfing the web" any more; it's "research." And did we ever do a lot of sur... ahem, research. In fact, some of us did so much research that the company got wind of it, and lo and behold, on the second last day of our sojourn in that bleak land, what should appear on the screen in a flicker, but a line of red characters marching quicker and quicker. Come "Access forbidden" and "unsuitable site"; run "policy", and messages saying that this was Not Right. For Reasons of "Sports" and "Entertainment" and "Humour", the TNN Hockey site was closed with a bang. (We think our man Mondo did it that night).

"You know you're bored when..." More can be better, but in hangman, all are created equal, and it's easier to get hung up (pardon the pun) on "wry" than "psychedelic." Having finished my project, and polished it to a fair shine, I wrote an interactive hangman program. Official title: Hangman stress-reliever. It was something to do after finishing that last Eddings book.

I think the highlight of my time there was when a bunch of friends came up and I joined them for some Winterlude skating on the Rideau and a tour of the ice sculptures. I did go back home (to St. Catharines) once, and was amazed at the almost complete absence of snow. But why did I go back? To get together with some people and go camping up in the great white north. Sometimes I wonder about my sanity. Then I realize, why bother, it's long gone.

The NRC was a good place to learn, though. I got the chance to build a web and telnet server on my machine, which made it easier to do work on Internet sites and scripts. The staff were a real friendly bunch, too. I had even gotten used to the buses running late, and when back in Waterloo the 'something missing' around town was merely the constant barrage of français. Anyway, something must have worked out, because, surprise surprise, I got invited back and will be doing some contract work for them over the summer.

Dave Robins

The Mathie Handbook

Something new for this year's froshlings

This year, the Orientation Committee is working on supplying all of our new froshlings with a handy guide to Mathie life; you know, the things that you've thought to yourself that you wish you knew when you got here.

If you feel that you have some small pearl of wisdom to contribute to our effort, please contact the Orientation office or me personally (mwalsh@laplace) for details.

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh
Co-ordinator, Mathie Handbook '97

Accurate Mathematical Questionnaire:

A "how to" column

Since this is the first such column, we don't have any results from previous populously pertinent surveys — no, I couldn't think of a synonym, starting with a p; can you? To start you off, you need some instructions...

- Get yourself a writing implement, preferably something that is thick enough to smear across several answers and smudges easily. If you lack such a thing, find a sharp object and a friend willing to donate some ink. (I am in no way condoning murder — learn when to stop bleeding your friends... This is something you should know from high school and it won't be covered again here.)
- Write your name here:
- Answer questions only after consulting with a large group of friends. This will give us a better idea of what people actually think.
- Hand questionnaires in only between two and five a.m. There may or may not be prizes involved. If you thought that I was joking about that name thing, go back and write it in now. The mere implications of fame will win you friends and high marks. (Don't even think of suing!)
- Try to put down something interesting for the fill-in-the-blanks because no one actually wants to know what you think.
- Anything you write will be traced back to you for the sole purpose of public ridicule and interesting experiments on gerbils. Don't come crying to us when it does.

So, this week, we'll start you off easy:

1. Another synonym for survey: _____
 2. The best type of wonderfully nutritious chocolate:
 - a) milk b) dark c) white d) Nestle-brand
 3. The most attractive man:
 - a) Sean Connery b) Denzel Washington
 - c) Matthew Broderick d) David Duchovny
 - e) Franklin Mendivil
 4. The most attractive female cartoon:
 - a) Jessica Rabbit b) Marge Simpson c) Delerium
 - d) She-Ra e) Storm f) other _____
 5. Name of the manager of the C&D: _____
 6. Names of six past presidents of the PMC: _____
-
7. Stuffed animal best suited to lead our country into the next century:
 - a) A beaver b) A loon c) A polar bear d) A caribou
 - e) Preston Manning f) The Bluenose
 8. Best kind of ice cream: a) Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia
b) other _____
 9. $6 * 9 - 35 / 0 + 1 =$
 - a) 19 b) -156 c) all of the above d) other

10. Fifty words or less about the fate of the fourth floor study rooms: _____
11. How to avoid a collision with a train travelling from Boston at twice the speed of light is to
 - a) step out of the way b) go to Boston
 - c) think about it 'till it's passed you
 - d) duck cause gravity isn't quite relevant any more
12. Ratio of female to male CS grad students: _____
13. Your favourite mathematician named after a computer: _____

Well, that's all for now. Get those entries in if you like the colour red...

justyna

gridCOMMENTS

Howdy, folks. Welcome to yet another term of interesting Gridwords for your enjoyment. And when we say interesting, we don't mean that they'll be fun and challenging. No, when we say interesting, we mean it'll be interesting if we can actually have one for each and every issue. So, if you are the kind of person that likes to make up crosswords, let us at mathNEWS know because we do not have a GridMaster for this term.

But, for the moment, I will be taking up the reins of this job. This grid was put together at great expense and at the last minute. So it might not make any sense, but hey, I tried my best. Doing this kinda stuff is hard! I hope you can find some enjoyment in doing this puzzle. Some of the clues are standard, and some are kind of cryptic. Personally, I think I made it a little too easy but we'll see by how many entries I get or how many complaints I get.

All submissions are due at 6:30pm on Monday, May 26. You can stuff them in the BLACK BOX, in the mathNEWS mailbox in the MathSoc office, in person at the mathNEWS office or email them to me (bcfox@undergrad.math). And we'll have some kind of prize for you. Good luck!

Latrell "GridBoy" Fox

In the next exciting issue of
mathNEWS...

Well, we don't quite know yet. Most issues don't start to come together until production night. Sorry to tease you like that.

Picture It

Sicily, 1938...

Hello, fellow sun-worshippers!! (If it ever decides to come out, that is.) I figured that it is high time I contributed to this wonderful piece of journalism that is *mathNEWS*, so I've come up with the perfect thing - **another puzzle column!!**

I will give you 5 puzzles. Each one will represent something like a famous phrase, place name, person name, movie title, etc. However, each puzzle will be in a rebus-type form, so that you will have to unscramble each one. Here are 2 simple examples:

wear = long underwear
long (the word 'long' appears under the word 'wear')

t m
a u = what goes up must come down
h s (the word 'what' is going up, and the word
w t 'must' is coming down)

OK, got the idea?

The 5 puzzles I give will be set up like this: The first 2 will be strictly warm-up, similar to the calibre of the 2 above examples. The next 2 will be somewhat harder than that, causing perhaps more than a few headaches. The last one will be a mean, wicked, totally irritating groaner that will definitely have you sending me death notes. The scoring will be as follows:

Puzzles 1 and 2... 1 point
Puzzles 3 and 4... 3 points
Puzzle 5... 7 points

The submitted entry that generates the highest score will win a wonderful prize (depending, that is, on your definition of "wonderful"). Your answer must be at the very least very close to the exact answer in order to receive credit for it. (I apologize in advance, but this is going to be a subjective call on my part, and as such, you're going to have to live with my decision.) All ties will be broken by random draw.

OK, enough with the technicalities—let's get on with the game!! Here are this week's puzzles. Good luck to all!!!

1. You Just Me
2. sealedX
3. Hamlet
Webster's
4. HMADEK
5. Fairy
Wolf
Duckling

The deadline for this issue's entries will be Monday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m. SHARP. You can submit your solutions via the BLACK BOX, the mailbox in MathSoc, or by emailing your solutions to me at cjm McGuire@undergrad.math. Next issue I'll publish solutions to this issue's puzzles, plus a whole new set for you to try. Best of Luck!

Chris "Your Friendly Neighbourhood Hitman" McGuire

The Game — Preclue #5

In the summer of 1996, Will Chartrand, Mala Krishnan, Peter Moore, Darren Rigby, and I competed in the 'Beware the Leopard' incarnation of The Game, a puzzling competition that sends its participants across Southern Ontario in a state of bewilderment. Our team, "What's Left of Earth," won. This means that we have the right to create our own Game this summer.

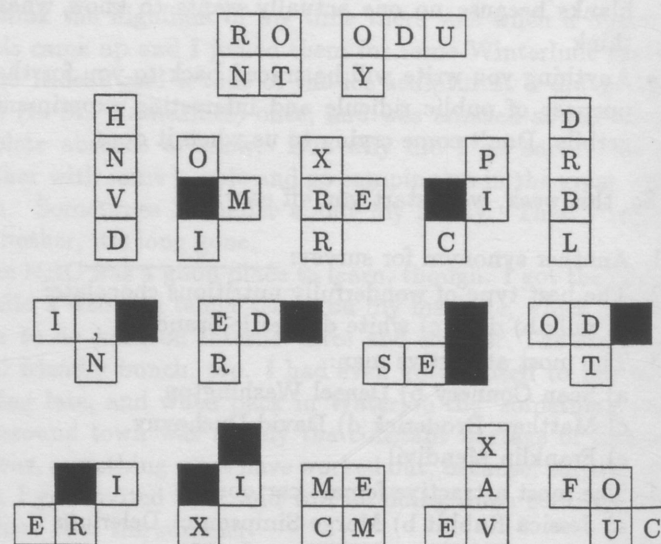
The Game consists of a series of puzzles. The solution to a puzzle will give you a destination; you travel there and pick up the next puzzle. The first team to make it to the end destination is the winner.

To help you prepare for The Game, we are releasing a series of preclues. Each preclue will lead you to the name of an item that we strongly suggest you bring with you when you compete — and we know you want to! Some items will be directly helpful in solving our puzzles. Others will be useful in another way.

To find out more about The Game, or to see any preclues you may have missed, visit our website at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~djrigby>. In the meantime, here's the next preclue for you to solve! Enjoy!

The Grid

Some Tetris™ addict has dismantled our message grid! Reassemble the tetrads back into an 8×8 square; none of the tetrads need to be rotated or reflected. Be sure to bring the item(s) described within!



Mike "Hammer" Hammond

A fictional conversation between a *mathNEWS* editor and one of the *mathNEWS* writers

- Editor:** So, *mathNEWS* writer, do you suppose you could write us some filler?
- Writer:** Well, I don't know. What does it look like?
- Editor:** Ummm... it doesn't really look like anything. It just takes up space.
- Writer:** Okay, but what should it say?
- Editor:** Nevermind, that'll do just fine...

mathNEWSquiz #1

*Spring is here, spring is here
Life is skittles, and life is beer!*

Hi everybody! Welcome to another fun-filled Spring term at the University of Waterloo! I hope everybody's ready to answer some Squiz questions, 'cuz we've gotta lotta nifty prizes to give away this term! [*Really? Ok, if you say so... — CalcBoyEd.*]

Song Lyrics

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

1. "What's with these homies dissin' my girl?
Why do they gotta front?
What did we ever do to these guys
That made them so violent?"
2. "Tonight I'm gonna meet her
At the Hungry House Café,
And I'm gonna give her all the love I can.
She's gonna jump and holler,
'Cause I saved up my last two dollars,
And we're gonna search and find that preacher man."
3. "We both lie silently still
In the dead of the night.
Although we both lie close together
We feel miles apart inside."
4. "Little boy says to me,
'Where you goin' now, son?'
I said, 'I don't know where I'm goin', boy.
I only know where I'm from.'"
5. "Another sunny afternoon
Walking to the sound of my favourite tune.
Tomorrow never knows what it doesn't know too soon.

Victorian England

1. We all know Benjamin Disraeli; he was the prime minister who quoted something rather nasty about statistics. Now, what years did he serve as prime minister?
2. Who was the prime minister when Victoria was crowned?
3. Where was the first World's Fair held?
4. Who wrote "Henry Esmond", "Pendennis" and "Vanity Fair"?
5. What party had the most prime ministers under Victoria's reign?

Games

1. In *Monopoly*, how much does it cost to buy an unmortgaged Boardwalk?
2. In *Axis & Allies*, what is the starting IPC value of Britain?
3. In *Scrabble*, what is the point value of the "Blank" letter tile?
4. In *Magic: The Gathering*, what is the casting cost of a "Counterspell"?
5. In *Risk*, how many bonus armies does one get for conquering all of North America?

The Tick

1. According to the comics, where is the Tick from?
2. What is the name of Arthur's sister, and who did she marry?
3. Name the villain who (partly successfully) burned his name on the face of the moon.
4. What is Tick's "dog" 's name, what is he (the "dog"), and why is he named the way he is?
5. Who are the members of "The Civic-Minded Five"?

Please remember that you can submit by email to scepollo@undergrad.math, or you can hand in a paper submission to the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge on the 3rd floor of MC by Monday, May 26th. **All submissions are due at 3:30 pm. No exceptions!** If there is a problem with the squiz, such as the *mathNEWS* web page not being updated when a new issue comes out, **mail the Editors!** They can handle your problem most expediently. Good luck, and I hope to see many submissions for next issue!

Mike "Hammer" Hammond, Jerry "Fish" Han
Stuart "Jean-Guy!" Pollock, John "I am not amused" Swan

And now... A political announcement.

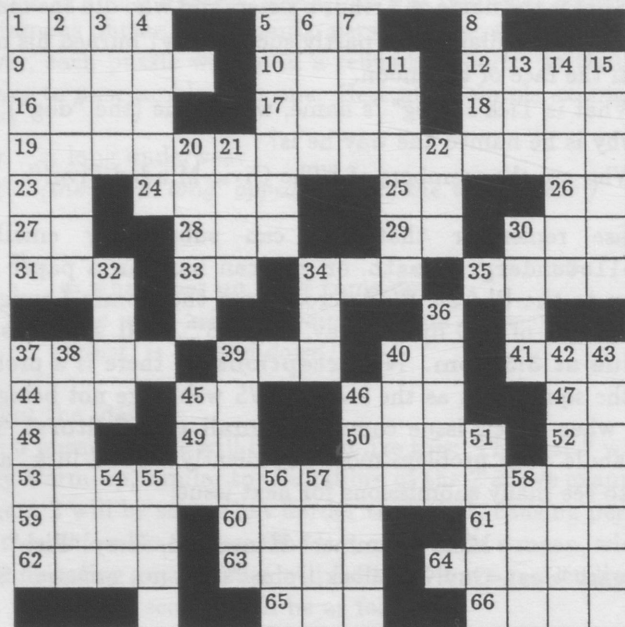
The editors and staff of *mathNEWS* would like to announce the nomination of Mike "Hammer" Hammond as the *mathNEWS* party candidate for Kitchener-Waterloo in the upcoming federal election. Mike won the nomination by a very close vote, 1-0, at a recently held nomination meeting at the Bomber. Turns out Mike was the only person to cast a ballot, while the entire staff did not show up and Mr. Brian Fox was too busy drinking beer and dancing to cast a ballot.

The *mathNEWS* party has quite the platform. We want Canadians to have more beer. We vow to eliminate the deficit (how we will do that we're not sure but we will). We think that it is in the best interest of our country (i.e. national unity) that CBC Radio should be mandated to play 70's disco music and more rockin' tunes. We have opinions on crime, immigration, the national fishery and other stuff like that, but the 3 points above basically say what we're all about.

If you elect Mr. Hammond as your Member of Parliament, he will do his utmost to serve you as your elected representative. He will not go off to Ottawa and slowly ignore the fine citizens of Kitchener-Waterloo as he gets more and more comfortable in his surroundings. He will not be corrupted by others in the Nation's Capital. And you won't hear about him getting into any crazy shenanigans on the lawn of the Parliament buildings when he can do that just as well in the privacy of his own home.

Mr. Hammond will make a formal campaign statement in the next issue of *mathNEWS* (The last issue before the election.)

The committee to elect Mike Hammond
in Kitchener-Waterloo



Grid Clues

Across

- Not quite ham
- 2 times (abbr.)
- A Honda car
- Object on a basketball court
- Finished
- Not odd
- Palindromic female name
- Only one
- Place where the residents wouldn't mind the British soldiers leaving (2 wds.)
- And, in France
- Time it takes the Earth to revolve once around the sun
- A pronoun
- Sports card manufacturer (2 wds., abbr.)
- Symbol for element 88
- To cook in a pan
- Symbol for element 73
- What a host tells their guests when host has no booze (abbr.)
- "You win some, _____ . " (abbr.)
- Symbol for element 81
- Young lad
- Diver Louganis
- Comes into the world
- Put the puck in it
- Symbol for element 52
- An Internet abbreviation
- "Monty Python's _____ of the Year." (abbr.)
- Another name for Dad
- Integral division operator in Pascal
- Symbol for element 18
- Shot from the charity stripe (abbr.)
- News gathering service (abbr.)
- Needed for fishing
- Ordinary or partial (abbr.)
- Place where the residents wouldn't mind the British soldiers staying (2 wds.)
- "Watermark" artist
- Half of the guy who thinks life is a lemon
- Electric measure
- Just older than twelve years
- What ice does at room temperature
- Used when painting
- Mr. Nessman from Cincinnati
- _____ majesty: a crime against the sovereign

Down

- Beautiful surroundings
- Crucial moment in time
- To state positively
- What your breath is like after an *After Eight*
- C. Eastwood's cop character
- West German capital
- She was Jennifer from Cincinnati
- Survey
- When you have equivalence
- American shortwave service (abbr.)
- Bored, in France
- One of those red beers
- The strong smurf
- Athlone was the last one of these appointed as Governor-General
- Approximate time that we'll get there (abbr.)
- You wipe the sweat off of it sometimes
- Arrange
- Tiny portion
- Not on an angle
- Lots of food laid out for many
- It's in gasoline
- Nothing like the smell of it in the morning
- Close links
- What a duck sometimes does
- To try and cope with
- Friend
- Carried along aimlessly
- Palindromic Quebec town
- Stuff used for cleaning
- He's a fine citizen
- Another word for Christmas
- Chip's pal
- It's on your face