

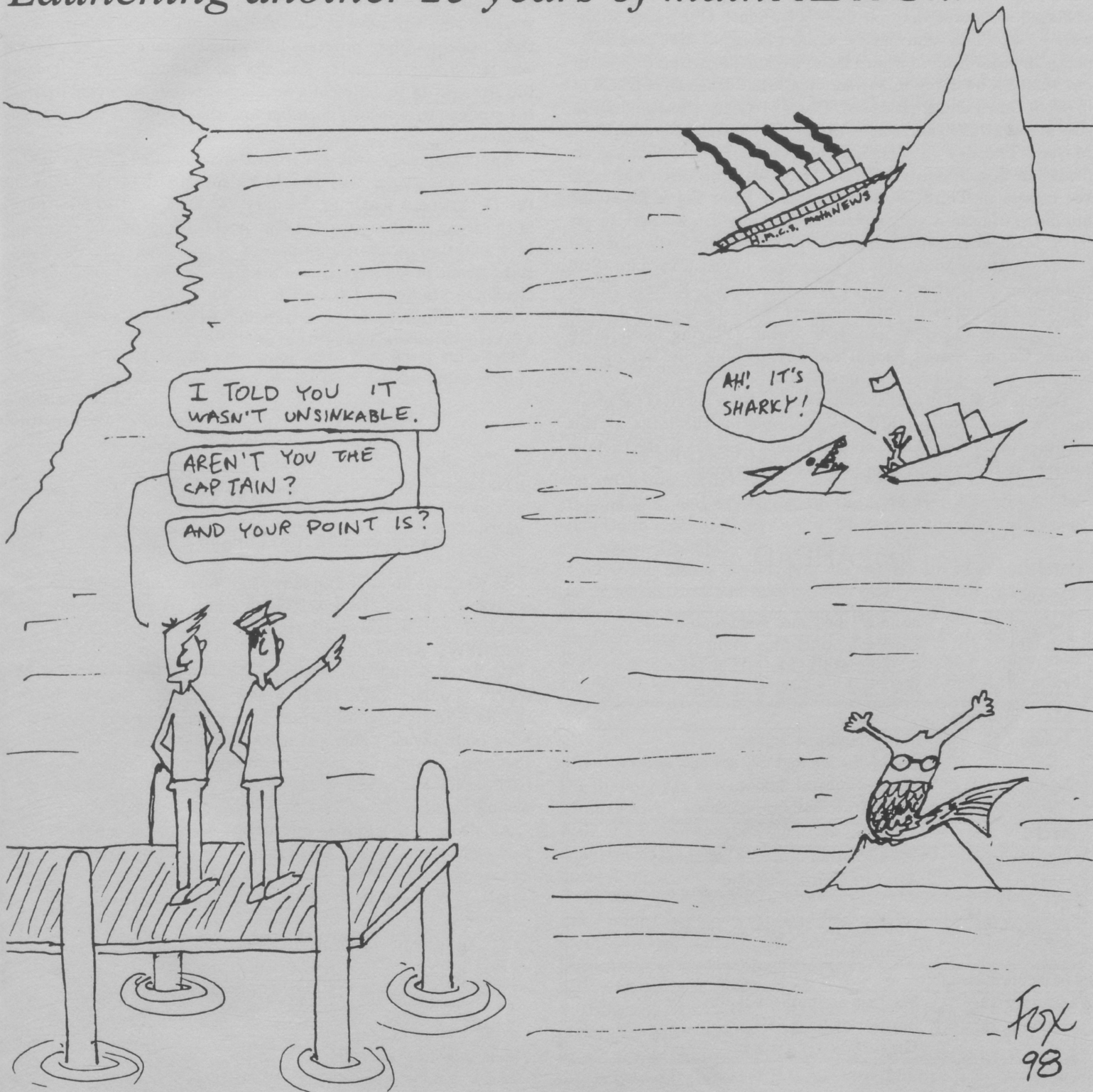
math NEWS



Volume 76, Issue 1

Friday, January 16, 1998

Launching another 25 years of math NEWS...



Fox
98

mastHEAD

Happy Silver, Everyone

That's right. This volume of *mathNEWS* marks the 25th anniversary of our beloved rag. It was twenty-five years ago that a dedicated group of eight math students spent a sleepless night assembling Volume 1, Issue 1.

mathNEWS has changed an awful lot since then. As a way of observing these changes, in the other issues this term I'll be taking a look back at past issues and seeing how much we've evolved.

One way that we've changed from that very first issue is the number of volunteers. Counting the Mystery Man, tonight we managed to double the first night's turnout! Our hardy volunteers for the 25th anniversary, along with what *they* plan to be doing 25 years from now, are Doug Becker (Still trying to figure out what I'll be doing in 25 years.), Chris Buchanan (I'll still be in 4N.), Dan Pollock (Barboo), Chris McGuire (Reading old issues of *mathNEWS* and asking myself "What was I thinking?!?"), Michael Thorsley (Still in school.), John Swan (Working for StatsCan in perpetuity.), Brian Fox (Teaching disco moves to the masses in Third World countries.), Peter Lizak (Standing around staring at a veggie pizza and asking "Do we have to eat it?"), Michael Brown (Suing U(W) because my stats prof said it was profitable to gamble in Las Vegas.), Viêt-Tâm Luu (Still publishing *mathNEWS* on the Web no doubt.), Richard Bilson (Relaxing on my yacht with engineers swabbing the deck.), Kurtis McClellan (Living), and Jodi Moran (Playing baccarat in Monte Carlo). Sarah Kamal was also helping out, but apparently she's too cool for the *mastHEAD*.

Thanks to Marion and the folks at Graphics Services for printing the issue, and for Mike at Dominos for the pizza at this evenings festivities. And a special thanks goes out to the friendly lawyers at Hasbro! See you next issue, everyone...

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh (Right now... sleeping.)

lookAHEAD

<i>mathNEWS</i>	
January 16	Issue #1 becomes fashionable
January 26	Issue #2 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
January 30	Issue #2 is served with fries
Math Society	
January 22	Movie Night at 7:30pm <i>Stand By Me</i> and <i>Shawshank Redemption</i>
January 29	Movie Night at 7:00pm <i>Holy Grail</i> and <i>Life of Brian</i>
MGC	
February 26	Valedictorian and J. Alan George Award nominations due
MEF	
February 20	Deadline for Winter proposal submissions
Miscellaneous	
January 19	My first assignment is due.
January 25	Super Bowl XXXII: Green Bay vs. Denver

Undergraduate Research Awards

The Faculty of Mathematics invites applications for 13 Undergraduate Research Awards to be held during the Spring 98, Fall 98 or Winter 99 terms. Ten awards will be available to women and men with support from the Academic Development Fund. Three awards will be designated for women with funding from the Graduate Incentive Fund. The Faculty will provide \$900/month per student from these funds on the condition that the amount is at least matched by research funds held by the sponsoring faculty member. Students from UW or other universities who will have at least one academic term remaining in their undergraduate program following the tenure of the award will be eligible to apply. Criteria for the awards will include the strength of the student's academic record, the evaluation of the student by a faculty member and the quality of the research proposal.

Applications are available from Department secretaries or the Office of the Dean; they should be submitted to the Office of the Department Chair by January 28, 1998, and to the Office of the Dean by February 2, 1998. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of the Dean, and the Associate Deans of Undergraduate Studies, External Relations, and Graduate Studies and Research.

More information is available from Shirley Thomson sjthomso@jееves.uwaterloo.ca.

Shirley Thomson
Executive Assistant
Faculty of Mathematics

mN/WWW

mathnews@25.celebrate...NOT!

As you have no doubt already read, this month marks the 25th anniversary of the first *mathNEWS* issue. To commemorate this occasion, special features have been added to *mN/WWW*, the *mathNEWS* Web site.

For starters, this month a copy of the very first issue of *mathNEWS* (January 25th, 1973) is now available. Browse the entire issue in its original format and layout, and see how things have (and haven't) changed in twenty-five years... Throughout the term, watch for more excerpts and highlights from the past decade-and-a-half of *mathNEWS*. [*Um, how about two-and-a-half decades, Tam? — ΣEd.*]

As always you will also find online versions of the latest and past eight terms' issues. With some luck additional features such as searching (it *is* being worked on) will also finally be available. *mN/WWW* can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>

Viêt-Tâm "Mighty Morphin' *mathNEWS* Logo" Luu
mathNEWS Web Editor

[*Well, subeditor actually... — ΣEd.*]

Prez Sez

I'd like to welcome everyone back, and I hope that you're enjoying your first issue of *mathNEWS* this term. Well, of course you are; it's *mathNEWS*. I suppose that I should introduce myself or something. I'm Chris Buchanan, I'm the President of MathSoc, and this is my article. Now, I know it's long, and probably boring. However, there's quite a bit of important information in here that you should read.

This means I don't want to hear you people whining "Well, I didn't know!" or "No one told me that!". I'm telling you. Trust me; read the article (besides, what else are you going to read? Sarah's article? God! Well, at least it's not about cabbage).

So who the hell's in charge around here?

President	Chris Buchanan
VPAS	Jen Cote
Office Manager	Dave Kennedy
Social Director	Ann Scea
Novelties Director	Esther Small
Computing Director	Nathan Percival
Mathletics Director	Natalie Thompson
Movie Guys	Dan Pollock and Steve Skrzydlo

You'll note that the list is a bit bare. Basically, we need all the help we can get. If you have any time you can spare (even an hour a week), then we need your help. The fewer volunteers we have, the less we can do, so please drop by the office if you at all can.

MathSoc Nominations

And here's one way that you can help out. We have a vacancy for the position of Vice-President, Finances. Basically, this is our money guy. Nominations for this position close on Tuesday at 4:30.

As well, we have a number of class representative vacancies. The class reps. represent their class (CS, ActSci, etc.) to the MathSoc Council (MathSoc's ruling body), and have a vote on it. Think about it. For a couple of hours every few weeks, you can have a vote on Council, and represent your fellow students. Think of the power! Think of the money! Think of the sex! (Please be advised that MathSoc does not actually provide money or sex to its volunteers.) Nominations for this also close Tuesday.

Finally, nominations for Orientation Director open soon (most likely for the week following the 20th). Keep your eyes open for details.

MathSoc Events and Stuff

Some miscellaneous stuff to announce.

- The MathSoc PC lab is open for business
- Movie Nights are running pretty much every Thursday. Check the calendar outside the Lounge for details.
- The next MathSoc meeting is on the 20th.
- The C&D is now open until 10 each Monday through Thursday.

Orientation

After the '97 Frosh-week, a committee was formed to review Orientation. In December, they released the report. A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infos/a/Orientation/>.

So what does this mean for us? Well, not a lot, actually. The one thing that will affect us is that all frosh leaders will now have to attend four different training sessions before they can be frosh leaders. Why? Without trying to sound too egotistical, Math has the best frosh leaders on campus. Unlike leaders in some faculties, our most of our leaders become leaders for the frosh, and not for their own amusement. But since this hasn't been true in all faculties, there have been people who have been leaders who shouldn't have been. It's hoped that these training sessions will mean that all the frosh leaders on campus are responsible.

For what it's worth, they're free, and won't take that much time. And the added bonus is that the other frosh leaders on campus will be as good as ours.

Drop / Withdrawal Deadline

On the academic side, the Course Drop / Withdrawal Policy has been changed. Under the old policy, the last day to drop/withdraw from a course was at the end of the fourth week of classes. Any courses dropped in this fashion would not appear on the student's transcript.

Under the new policy, students may drop a course up until the end of the fourth week of classes. Again, any courses dropped will not appear on the student's transcript. Between the beginning of the fifth week and the end of the eighth week, students may withdraw from courses. These courses will be assigned a grade of WD, and will appear on the transcript, but will not be included in credit/failure counts. They will, however, be considered course attempts.

What this means is that, yes, you can get out of courses later, but it means that you also have to be careful; if you have too many course attempts, you won't be able to get your degree. Another thing of note: the old rule regarding 1A/1B/2A students is gone. You don't get to withdraw from a course until the end of the tenth week anymore; in exchange for the added flexibility, you have to play by the same rules as the rest of us.

Major Average

For those of you who got here in '94 or later, I'm sure you're all familiar with your friend and mine, the Major Average (MAV). Well, it's been changed. These changes will actually lower the requirement for many students, but not all (hey, at least it didn't make them worse for anyone).

[At this point Chris became even more longwinded than is his usual wont. So I'll summarize. If you're in Pure Math, Applied Math, or Computer Science, your MAV is the same as it always was. Anyone else in honours, the requirement has been lowered from 65% to 60%. Follow me? — Σ Ed.]

To sum up, it's better for most of you. As well, under the new policy, the MAV will only take effect once it includes at least 2 course grades for CS programmes, and once it includes at least 3 course grades for all other Honours programmes. This is actually a change. I guess people realised that calculating a MAV with

continued from page 3

one or two courses was a little stupid.

I've been asked whether or not this is going to be permanent (as a bit of history, discussions to change the requirements started at about the same time the MAV was being first calculated). Yes. Most likely. I think. Let me try this: considering the vicious fighting that surrounded these changes, I think it unlikely that anyone's going to even consider talking about it again for several years (you people think I'm kidding? Remember the AMWF? I've seen it. Live. I'm still having nightmares).

Core

Speaking of the AMWF and brawling, a proposal to change the core is going to Faculty Council on the 20th. So what will this new core include, you ask (you do. Yes, you do. Why? 'Cause I said so, that's why.)? This new core would consist of MATH 135, MATH 136, MATH 235, STAT 230, STAT 231, MATH 137, a new MATH 138, and one of a new course in discrete math (MATH 230, which replaces C&O 230) or a third Calculus course.

This change is a bit contentious, however. Most people don't seem to have too much of a problem with changing the core; the problem arises with the changing of the calculus sequence. What's being proposed is that D.E.'s be moved from Calc. II to Calc. III, and moving a couple more weeks of multi-variate calculus to Calc. II.

I'll let you know the outcome in the next issue.

Feds Elections

In other news, it's election time again. Nominations close today for the five Feds exec positions (Prez., VPI, VPE, VPAF, and VPSI), Feds councillor positions, and for Senate seats. For more details, head on over to the Feds office.

Well, that's it for this issue. Thanks for reading.

Chris "I bet my article is longer than your work-report" Buchanan

gradNEWS

Hi everyone! Welcome back to what for many of you will be your last term here!

So what does that mean? It means that this is the term when MGC is the busiest. Who are the people that will be in charge of everything? Check out this list:

Chairs:	Rachel Nieuwland, Xavier Aburto
Finance:	Helen, Hoa
Pink Tie Pledge:	Raman
Social:	Ben, Carol
MGB:	Chantal, Trevor, Gina
Computing:	Andy
Yearbook:	David, Jackie, Kathy, Niki
Merchandise:	Shawna, Kathleen
Pizza Day:	Kathleen, Tina

If you want to help out please come by the MGC Office (MC3029) and leave a message.

Final sales for Yearbook will be during the week of January 19 from 11am to 2pm out the C+D. If you haven't bought one yet this is going to be your last chance.

The Grad Ball theme has been made official! It will be Divide

PMAMC&OC News Flash!

Following the Pure Math, Applied Math, and Combinatorics and Optimization Club's beginning of term organizational meeting, the following news has been invented to captivate and fascinate you...

This term's executive are: President Jeff Morton, Vice President Aaron Bruce, Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Lait, Keeper of the Sacred Shoe Michal Ostrowski. These dynamic and exciting executives have planned many dynamic and exciting events for this term!

In addition to the usual math-related talks by profs from the Pure Math, Applied Math and C&O departments, we are again planning the Short Attention Span Math Seminars, in which undergraduate students will be able to practice their math speaking skills by giving half-hour talks on some subject of math they find interesting. Last term these were quite successful with twelve brief talks on a wide variety of topics being well received. If you are interested in giving a brief mathematical talk to an audience of undergrads, please contact the PMAMC&OC with an abstract by Wednesday the 21st of January (email pmclub@undergrad.math).

Other activities planned for this term include a valentine cookie-gram service, with in-class distribution Friday the 13th of February: look for posters advertising the service, and order a cookie-gram for your loved one(s).

Finally, we have also planned this term to organize a matching service to connect professors looking for research assistants or student help during summer terms with skilled, interested students. If you are looking for a research job this coming summer term, why not drop by the PMAMC&OC office (MC 3033) and give us your name?

Look for more fascinating and subversive PMAMC&OC events this term!

PMAMC&OC Ghostwriter

and Conquer. While this is a Roman Theme, please don't come in a toga and sandals. It is going to be held on March 14th at Bingeman's, so if you haven't marked it on your calendar yet, DO IT NOW! More details will follow.

That's all for this week. And for everyone who read my last article in the Fall Term, I won't have to write all of the articles this term. Rachel gets to do the next one.

Xavier Aburto
MGC Chair

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mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. mathNEWS is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or mathNEWS. Current and back issues of mathNEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca>. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

Holding the bag: Matt "So-Krates" Walsh

Restaurant Review: Mel's Diner

At Mel's Diner, the prized attraction is the atmosphere. Heartthrobs of the 50's adorn the walls and the booths have a distinct rock 'n' roll feel. Even the waitresses dress the theme, wearing short black dresses with pink trim, a pleasant touch in the cold winter months. Entrees are named after stars of the fifties and the menu cover looks like a jukebox. The decor is definitely one of the best in the UW area.

Mel's specialty is the all-day breakfast, most easily enjoyed at around noon on a Sunday, while hungry patrons wait in line at the entrance. It seems like anyone who is anyone goes to Mel's for breakfast on the weekend, and Mel's has earned their reputation as the trendy spot on campus. The \$2.99 breakfast is deliciously prepared, with eggs, toast, fried potatoes and your choice of bacon or sausage. This is definitely one of the best deals near campus. The scrambled eggs are like Goldilocks, not too runny, not too clumpy, they're juuust right. The potatoes, enhanced with a bit of spice, are delicious at first but they are at their best when the plate hits the table and they deteriorate from there. The bacon is how it should be: fried, greasy and fattening, and the toast is toast. (You can't really screw up toast.)

For the more famished eater, the James Dean burger is more apropos. Complete with a melted slice of processed cheese, the burger is a tad better than satisfactory. The beef is not as thick, juicy or succulent as one might expect from a fifties diner. The patty was flat and seemed a bit bland. An extra dose of ketchup was sadly needed. The James Dean burger was somewhat expensive and I was unimpressed. In addition, the coca-cola was pricy and flat.

Although the fare was less than perfect, it was all served with a smile. Mel's seemed a bit understaffed on this busy Sunday morning but the waitresses did a fine job, feeding the hungry guests as best they could. It's easy to treat the customers poorly when there is a line-up out the door, but congrats to the Mel's wait staff who did not fall into that trap.

Dining at Mel's feels like an event or an outing as opposed to an opportunity not to cook for yourself. It's fun, entertaining, and, if you know what to order, can be gastrointestinally satisfying.

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

Next Issue: Jose's Noodle Factory

Jonathan Ezer

Distinguished Teacher Awards

To nominate your outstanding professor, lab demonstrator, or teaching assistant for the Distinguished Teacher Award, contact TRACE, MC 4055, ext. 3132. Further information is available at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotrac>.

Deadline is Friday, February 6, 1998.

Tip of the Issue

Always clean your mouse balls before use.

Michael "Don't Panic" Brown

profQUOTES

"There are no half-hour time zones in any relevant part of the world."

Taylor, CS 454

"Then if someone in grade 1 asks you about row reduced matrices..."

Mendivil, MATH 136

"Your defining something you don't really know about in terms of something else you don't really know about."

Mendivil, MATH 136

"Why do we care we care about homogeneous equations?... That's a rhetorical question since most of you probably don't care."

Mendivil, MATH 136

"People like Cauchy and Riemann have many theorems... Even if you write down a false statement, and call it 'Cauchy's Theorem', people will believe it."

Ng, PMATH 352

"There might be a web page. I have a ten year old boy..."

Willard, PMATH 346

"For example, does $(1-2)-3$ equal $1-(2-3)$... well, one side is zero and the other is...not. Don't ask me to compute large numbers."

Willard, PMATH 346

"Sorry I'm late... to be completely honest I forgot I had a class now..."

Willard, PMATH 346

"... Yeah, it's a pretty good definition. But here's a better definition, because it's more complicated."

Cunningham, C&O 350

"Now any idiot — well, maybe not any idiot, but many idiots — can look at this and dope out a solution."

Cunningham, C&O 350

"Ancient history isn't something carved in stone."

Ager, CLAS 251

"Office hours? Tuesday, Thursday... whenever. I have no social life."

McGee, AM 343

"That makes the mathematicians warm and fuzzy because they got to *prove* something."

Becker, CS 241

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

Cocktails for Two

Fitzgerald: "The very rich are different from you and me."
Hemingway: "Yes, they have more money."

If you had \$733 and two people to feed, could you do it? Probably. I could; for two months, as long as they don't mind eating the same crap that I eat. Some people have a problem with this, however. Last November, the Auditor-General's report revealed that one high-level government bureaucrat spent exactly that amount on a lunch for two people (himself and one other). I am willing to cut this gentleman some slack, of course, because 1) he is (was) an important person who was entertaining on official business and 2) he was in Paris at the time. The kind of slack I'm willing to cut, however, relates more to super-sizing extra value meals than it does to spending my first and last months' rent on midday morsels.

Aside from the fact that this (and many other meals expensed by this man and by those like him) is an obviously extravagant and inappropriate use of government money, it raises an interesting question: if I had \$733 to spend on lunch for two, how would I spend it? Would it even be possible for me to spend such an amount on food and drink? My personal standards of extravagance are exceeded if I spend more than \$20 for two (*note to prospective dates*). At the restaurants I frequent, you could order every menu item (many times over, in some cases) and still come in under the magic number. When I think of \$733, I think

about flying to Paris, having a decent lunch, and flying back. Let's try one potential breakdown of this meal:

1. Assume he was a nice guy and left a 15% tip. That's \$95.
2. Suppose they each had a \$50 entree. That's pretty middling at a good French restaurant I expect (not that I've ever been to one). But remember, this is supposed to be *lunch*.
3. Let's allow \$37 for appetizers. That should cover escargot in the shell and a good helping of lobster bisque.
4. That leaves \$500. Let's assume that it gets spent on wine at \$100 a bottle.

All of this adds up, of course (plus \$1 for them to buy a Twink on the way out, in case they're still a bit peckish.) Does it make common sense? Is it physiologically possible for two people to drink five bottles at a sitting? Probably, but I doubt that much "official business" was conducted after the third bottle. In short, it was a meal unlike any I have ever eaten, unlike any that I am ever likely to eat. Which leads me to validate and explain Fitzgerald's assertion: the very rich *are* different from you and me; they have a higher metabolism.

Richard "The Kitchen Cynic" Bilson

Bridging the Gap

The University of Waterloo Bridge Club (hereafter known as UWBC) got off to a rolling start on Thursday, January 8th. A meeting was held where the members elected these fine people as the executive for this coming term:

President: Danny Miles
Vice-President: Andrea Knowles
Treasurer: Gaston Tsang
Web Maintainer: Luise Bacher

For those of you fortunate to not see this until today, the kickoff game of the term was held yesterday (Thursday Jan. 15) in room 2134-5 of the SLC. Free pizza was served courtesy of the UWBC and it was enjoyed by all, as was the bridge.

Results from Thursday's game: (unofficial as the event has not actually happened at press time)
Michael Brown and Chris McGuire placed first in the event, rocking all competition with a 72.5% score. Coming in second was the team of Drew Gillen and Danny Miles, with a score of 65.2%. Coming in last was the team of Audrey Grant and

Corey Gaudette, whose bridge night was preceded and followed by races at the Bombshelter.

This issue's hand has been generously donated by Drew Gillen. A fine example of exemplary play (an insane attempt to make the beer) and ingenious manipulation (shit lucky).

Vul: N-S	North	
Dealer: S	♠ xxx	
	♥ A Q x	
West	♦ K J 10 9 7 5	East
♠ xxx	♣ x	♠ Q x
♥ J x		♥ 10 x x x x
♦ 8 4 3	South	♦ A 6
♣ K Q x x x	♠ A K J 10 x	♣ 10 x x x
	♥ K x x	
	♦ Q 2	
	♣ A J x	

Opening lead: ♣ K

The goal of the aspiring bridge player is to make the contract of six spades, while claiming the Beer (the Seven of Diamonds.) People interested in this wonderful game can come to our duplicate games (every other Thursday) and our IMP games (every other Tuesday) (alternating with each other.) Lessons are given in the class BRG 102 (novice lessons Thursday nights at 4:30) and the class BRG 202 (advanced lessons Tuesday nights at 4:30) in MC 3001.

Michael "Zaphod" Brown
Chris "Mr. Subliminal <Play Bridge!!>" McGuire

Get Funky

Scunt W98

WANTED: Dedicated mathies willing to burn a weekend in showing the engineers what we're made of. Applicants must be willing to get funky. Positions are open for hired goons, packrats, psychopaths and asskissers. Apply in person on Wednesday, January 21st in MC 4059 at 5:15pm.

The Philosopher's Stoned

Some Reflections

Hey there everyone. Yes, I've been away from – or at least behind the scenes of – these pages for about a year now. But I'm back now, so hopefully I can regale you with whatever it was that I used to write about. A year's an awfully long time, on occasion.

No, this isn't likely to be a lighthearted article chock-full of silliness, although if you look here next week it probably will be. I'm just going to take a few moments to think on paper, and if you don't want to read it, that's fine. I won't be offended. Much.

Life in this Faculty, as I'm sure you've noticed, can be pretty grim sometimes. Go into your average second-year arts course and listen to the kind of conversations around you, before the lecture starts. I'm betting that what you'll hear will consist mostly of idle conversation: you know, what people did last night, anecdotes from their last shopping trip, plans for some time in the future, whatever. Point is, it'll generally be fairly lightweight stuff. (This is not intended as any kind of slur on arts students, by the way. Nor am I saying that arts courses are any easier in general.)

Now try it in a random second-year math class; say, CS241. People are going to be talking about assignments and grading, worrying aloud about passing the course, discussing the fates of friends who didn't measure up, what have you. In general, rather darker fare for casual conversation, wouldn't you agree?

Mathies are a grim bunch. I don't know if this is just something that goes along with being a mathematician; that seems kind of doubtful, recalling some of the scoundrels that have graced the pages of mathematical history. I think what it might

be is just the shock that everyone tells you to expect when coming to university: your grades will drop and your workload will increase. Speaking for myself, I was the type in high school who did as little as I could get away with and still got the highest graduating average in my year. Here, while I haven't actually failed a course, I've come close enough to re-evaluate my attitudes towards the whole work thing.

There's also a pretty competitive spirit around here. Math, for some reason, is generally considered one of the hardest school subjects by the vast majority of people, and I think that the students carry that attitude with them to some extent. They're intimidated by the idea that this is truly difficult stuff, and that idea prevents them from putting their best effort forward. Many of the major programs have a certain machismo associated with them, as well; "washing out" of your chosen honours degree can carry a very real stigma.

Are these things conducive to an atmosphere of study? I don't enjoy seeing my friends fail out or get "dropped" to a General degree. (The very terminology around here predisposes us to thinking that honours is everything, succeeding is everything.) I don't like watching people close to me agonize over academic decisions whose apparent importance has been inflated. And I don't care for the idea that one should choose non-math credits based of ease, because that's not really what education's about.

OK, sorry for the rant. I guess what I want to say is that, scary as this place is, the worst thing that a student can do is let themselves be bowled over by it.

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh

Life in the Slow Lane

The Top 10 Things I Learned on my Teaching Work Term

Hello everyone! Welcome to another term of snow, cold, and more excuses for avoiding work than the entire term's membership of the TSA. Oh, wait a minute... bad example, pardon me. Anyways, I hope you all enjoyed your fall terms, for now you must contend with... another 6 issues of ME!!!! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha... OK, I'm fine now, I think...

Anyway, here are the Top 10 things I learned on my teaching work term:

10. Bullet-proof vests are actually a really good deal at most second-hand stores.
9. Unfortunately, so are Magic cards.
8. I miss the good old days when I had never even heard of a derivative.
7. Okay, so maybe it's not so bad being si... wait, I better not go near that with a 60-foot pole...
6. You know, I'm not even 3 years removed from high school, and already I despise teenagers.
5. Do you remember the horror stories you had about your teachers? Well, they've got a few doozies about you too.
4. It's nice to know some things never change... including the cafeteria food... literally...
3. It's one thing when a student calls you names behind your back. It's another thing when they do it in another language. But when the student calls you a name in another language, then actually translates into English what she called you, that student really respects you. (Or she is really bold; I haven't figured out which yet.)
2. Allowing high school students on the Internet is like putting a box of steak knives in a house full of 2-year-olds with a big sign saying, "Come and get me."
1. Picket signs are very versatile in a fashion sense — they go quite well with whatever outfit you choose, be it a simple evening gown or the ever-popular 10-piece riot gear. (Hey, you didn't think that I would forget about that lovely strike, did you?)

Chris "formerly known as Mr." McGuire

Mathopoly

The Freaky, Office-Grunging, Play-it-or-Lose Board Game for all ages except twenty-two and seventy-six

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Certain restrictions apply to all gameplaying
For entertainment purposes only

Normally, *mathNEWS* would not parody an institution like Monopoly™. Most of us are avid gamers, and we appreciate that Monopoly™ is one of the finer board games around, and does not deserve to be trifled with. Parodies would belittle the Monopoly™ name, a stoic name that has a long and distinguished history.

Yes, there are many versions of Monopoly™ out there. But, that's expected for a classic board game. There's the regular version, the junior version, the deluxe edition, the Franklin-Mint limited edition, the McDonald's™ contest version, the Instant Scratch-n-win version, and, hey, I'll even let the Star Wars™ version go by as well without a complaint, because, well, that's cool.

And then I see Batman & Robin Monopoly™ on the store shelves.

So, if Hasbro themselves are doing parodies of Monopoly™, well, we may as well throw our hat into the ring as well.

In Mathopoly, instead of acquiring real estate, your objective is to acquire offices and rooms in the Math & Computer building and Davis Centre. The nicer the room, the higher the price.

When you get a complete colour set of offices, you can build "terminals" into each office. Once you have four "terminals", you can then buy a "unix box".

The tokens that you play with are a bottle cap, a ponytail, a tampon, a lightbulb, a rubber ball taken from a mouse in the Landen lab, and the physical manifestation of the stench outside the doors of Needles Hall.

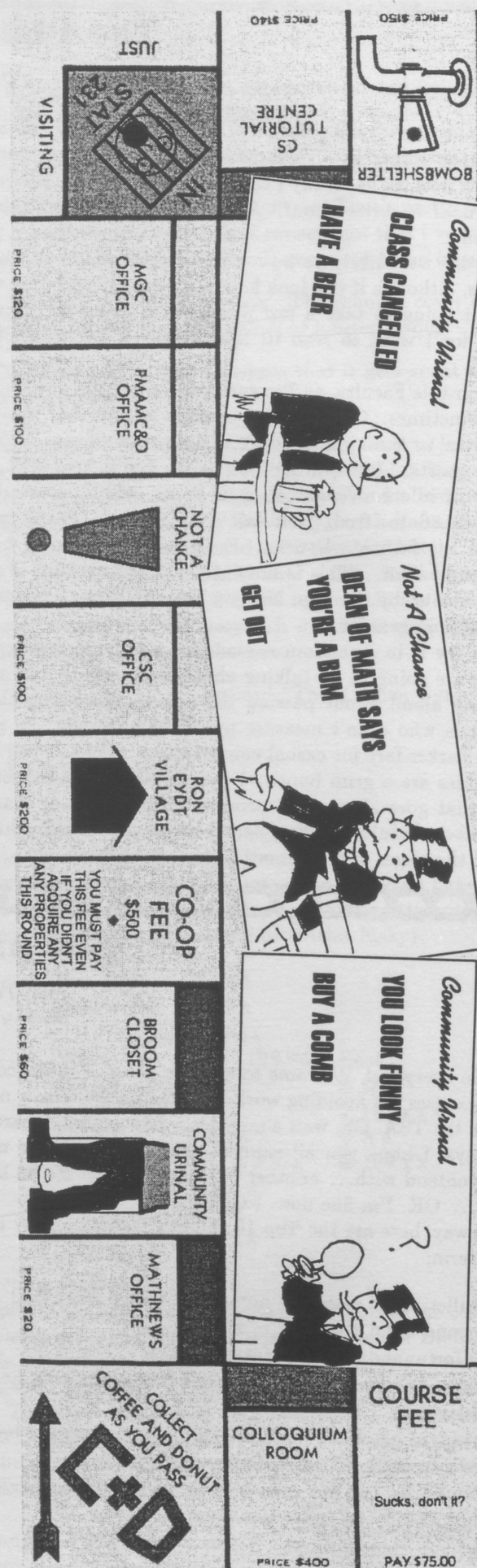
In addition to the six players, there is also a new non-playing character, named Mikey Cuddles. Mikey roams the board at random, moving after all the players have had their turn. If you ever land on the same space as Mikey, watch out! You're now going to the depths of hell and not coming back, and it may hurt a little.



If you're playing in class, and don't have a pair of dice handy, you can use this dandy method to calculate your next move. Get out a stopwatch and start the timer. For the next 30 seconds, count the number of times your professor says "Uh". This has the *mathNEWS* stamp of pretty-close-but-not-quite-guarantee of getting you a number between two and twelve every time.


Unlike Monopoly™, you don't win by having the most money or offices. You win if you manage to go around the board eight times without going bankrupt. If you run out of money before this, you must then start playing Sartsy!, a Sorry!™ parody geared to Arts students where you spend the entire game apologizing for your existence.


CAS & Latrell


In the interests of saving time, please direct all lawsuits to the Law Offices of Gauss, Yimmer, and Pee.




PRICE \$140 MATHSOC EXEC OFFICE SEX-ED TUTORIAL CENTRE	PRICE \$160 MATH TUTORIAL CENTRE	PRICE \$200 VILLAGE ONE 	PRICE \$180 COMMUNITY URINAL 	PRICE \$180 MATHSOC OFFICE	PRICE \$200 COMPUTER STORE
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FREE BEER



Community Urinal
**MAJOR AVERAGE
DROPS BELOW 65%**
COMPLAIN TO AM DEPARTMENT


Not A Chance
**YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED
MATHSOC PRESIDENT**
KISS EACH PLAYER'S ASS



LAURENT
LAB
PRICE \$220

Not A Chance
**YOU HAVE WON SECOND
PRIZE IN A PROGRAMMING
CONTEST**
HAVE A SMOKE


Not A Chance
**COMPUTER ERROR
IN YOUR FAVOUR**
YOU PASS AM 261



NOT A
CHANCE



Not A Chance
**GO TO STAT 231
DO NOT PASS C+D
DO NOT COLLECT COFFEE
AND DONUT**



Community Urinal
**GET OUT OF STAT
231 FREE**
**THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED, SOLD, OR TRADED
FOR A BEER**


L'HOPITAL
LAB
PRICE \$220

LANDEN
LAB
PRICE \$240


Not A Chance
**YOU ARE DISSATISFIED
WITH MATHSOC**
**GO TO MATHSOC OFFICE AND PUNCH OUT
OFFICE WORKER**



Community Urinal
**YOU ARE CAUGHT NOT
PAYING \$1 TO PARK
IN LOT X**
PAY \$15 FINE YOU CHEAP BASTARD


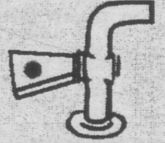
MARRIED
STUDENTS


REAL-TIME
LAB
PRICE \$260




GRAPHICS
LAB
PRICE \$280


Community Urinal
**YOU ARE THROWN OUT OF
THE BOMBHELTER**
GO TO FED HALL AND FEEL SHAME


Community Urinal
**YOU ARE DISSATISFIED
WITH CO-OP**
TOO BAD


FED HALL


AI
LAB
PRICE \$280

ICR CORPORATE LOUNGE PRICE \$350	NOT A CHANCE 	COLUMBIA LAKE TOWNHOUSES PRICE \$200 	THIRD FLOOR BALCONY PRICE \$320	COMMUNITY URINAL 	COMFY LOUNGE PRICE \$300	C+D LOUNGE PRICE \$300
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GO TO


FASS '98

*You gotta come out and see this!
Did you hear me? You GOTTA!!!!*

Well, it's winter again. And, for some of us, it means a lot more than seeing snow falling gently, or more than braving the bitter cold just to make it to that wonderful 8:30 class (especially if that class has no textbook or course notes). It even means more than the Super Bowl, the Stanley Cup, and the NBA Finals combined (which borders on sacrilege for some of you, I'm sure). It's the annual tradition of getting up in front of a (we hope) large group of our peers, wearing elaborate costumes, and generally making asses of ourselves - outside of the confines of the Comfy Lounge, that is. It is FASS!

Now, some of you that are less initiated might be asking, "Just what the heck is FASS?" Well, let me answer that for you. FASS (which is short for Faculty, Alumni, Staff, and Students) is a group of dedicated people, whose only prerequisite is that they are either faculty, alumni, staff, or students, who write, direct, produce, and perform a hilarious and completely (well, almost) original musical. The show auditions in early January, and is performed before the start of midterms. It is a very hectic 3-4 weeks, but definitely worthwhile once the final curtains come down.

Question number 2 you might have is, "Thanks for the run-down, but what does this have to do with me?" Well, let me pose a question to you. What does an actor, a director, or a producer need in order to make a show really successful? Talent? Naaahh. Enthusiasm? Sure, it would help. The ability to

stick both of one's feet in one's mouth at the same time? You're getting closer.

The answer is: AN AUDIENCE!!! Without an audience, a show is nothing. Do you see what I'm getting at here? FASS needs you to come out and watch the show!!! We need you!! You are important to us!! Our aim is to please you!! Do you get the idea? Great!!! Watch the show!!!

This year, FASS is doing a show called, "FASSablanca," which is a show about sex and romance, just in a more blatant form than is usually prevalent in the MC. I could tell you more details about the show, but then you might not be so inclined to show up (besides which, I'd have to kill you).

"Great!!! I'm excited to be a part of this! When do I get to watch this wonderful example of UW comedy?", you (hopefully) are now saying. Well, fret not, for I will tell you. The show dates are February 5-7, and the shows are performed at the Humanistic Theatre, which is located in Hagey Hall. Show times and ticket prices will be available for the next issue, but you can check out the Box Office at Hagey Hall if you just can't wait. Just remember: You're Important To Us!!

So, if you want to see some of your fellow Mathies in a way which you've never quite seen them before... COME OUT AND SEE THE SHOW!!!!

Chris "Mr. Subliminal <See the show!!>" McGuire

Artificial Intelligence

Warning: this article is not about computers...

No, artificial intelligence is what I'd like to call my opinions. And I'd like to start off by pointing out that everything I have to say is based on twenty-something years of a very limited and narrow middle-class life. That is, I lack in variety of experience. I do not, however, lack in variety of observation and thought. In fact, my number-one entertainment, interest, and occupation is careful observation. A pastime that nowadays is undertaken by far too few.

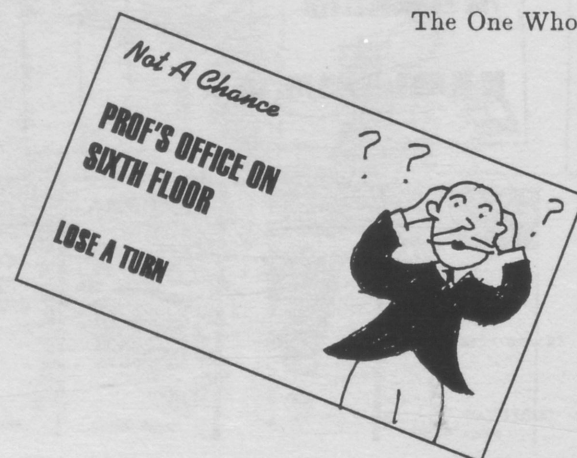
Far too much emphasis is placed on action, and its counterpart, experience, by modern society. Whoever had the foolish idea that one needs to have experienced something in order to comment on it? I think that it is rather those who observe a behaviour most closely who make the best experts. In fact, I would say that those who actually do the thing in question judge it most poorly. They are too closely involved, and so most biased. The best and most entertaining discussions of a topic often occur between those persons furthest removed from it. No one asks an insane person to discuss the study of mental health.

I challenge you to reconsider the beauty of passiveness. There is such a thing as being too busy. When was the last time you took a good look around and figured out just exactly what you are doing? Too much attention to the petty details will make a person shallow. It happens far too often. The most highly cultivated, those with true depth, are those who can consider everything, discuss everything. These are the ones who do not fill up their lives with activity, but take the time to form an

opinion on every subject. And to do this, one must first observe as much as one can. A thousand courses will not educate you unless you place your knowledge in context and spend time not just doing problems or memorizing notes but considering what you are learning these things in the first place.

So I wish to distract you from your schoolwork, your co-interviews, and your various other activities. I wish to make you waste your time. I wish to make you philosophise and look at the world from a different perspective. To that end, I present some unconventional opinions, in the hopes of creating a few more interesting people to talk to. Perhaps you're one of them. I greatly look forward to manipulating you again next issue.

The One Who Watches



MEMORANDUM

Office of Provost

University of Waterloo

To: Faculty, Staff and Students in the Faculty of Mathematics
Members of Executive Council
Heads of Federated and Affiliated Colleges
Gazette, Imprint, Daily Bulletin

From: Jim Kalbfleisch, Vice-President Academic & Provost

Date: December 1, 1997

Subject: Interim Dean of Mathematics

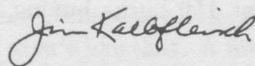
Since Jack Kalbfleisch will complete his second term as Dean of Mathematics on June 30, 1998, a Nominating Committee was formed under Policy 45 to conduct a search for his successor. Negotiations with the Committee's nominee were unsuccessful, and the Committee has informed the President that it will make no further recommendation.

It is now necessary to appoint an interim Dean. Under Policy 45, an interim appointment would normally be for at most one year. However, the President and I believe it would not be in the best interests of the Faculty, or the University, to restart the decanal search immediately. There is a need for continuity of leadership during a period of significant opportunity for the Faculty. Therefore, the interim appointment is being made for two years, and a new nominating committee will be formed next Fall.

I am pleased to report that, following consultation with the Department Chairs and Associate Deans in the Faculty, and with their strong support, Professor Alan George is being appointed as interim Dean of Mathematics for a two-year term effective July 1, 1998.

Alan George received his PhD from Stanford University and joined our Computer Science Department in 1971. He was promoted to full professor in 1977, and served as Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics from 1980-86. Following two years as a Distinguished Scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee, Alan returned to UW as Vice-President Academic & Provost in 1988, a position he held until 1993. He is well known for his research in large sparse matrices and other areas of Computer Science. Currently, he is coordinating the development of UW information technology projects for the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

I am grateful to Alan George for agreeing to serve as interim Dean, and I look forward to working with him. I am confident that all members of the Faculty of Mathematics will give him their full cooperation and support.



JGK/aew

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff and Students in the Faculty of Mathematics
Gazette, mathNEWS, Imprint, Daily Bulletin

From: Members of the Nominating Committee for the Dean of Mathematics

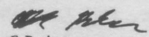
Date: 12 December, 1997

Subject: Memorandum from the Vice-President Academic and Provost

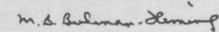
We, the undersigned members of the Nominating Committee for the Dean of Mathematics, would like to provide some additional information to augment the recent public memo from the Vice-President Academic and Provost (December 1).

Our committee was unanimous and enthusiastic in its recommendation of a particular external candidate, an outstanding mathematical researcher of international repute who also demonstrates an energetic dedication to the teaching and promotion of mathematics. We believe that the candidate would have contributed to both the quality and visibility of the Faculty of Mathematics.

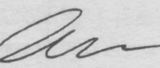
It is our understanding that negotiations failed because the candidate would have had to accept a reduction in salary from what he currently commands at a Canadian university, followed by a further reduction as a result of the loss of the Dean's stipend at the end of the administrative term. We believe that a salary acceptable to the nominee would lie within the normal range of decanal salaries paid by comparable Canadian universities.



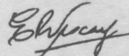
C. Buchanan
(Undergraduate Student Representative,
Mathematics)



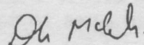
M.B. Bulman-Fleming
(Psychology)



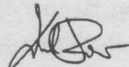
G.V. Cormack
(Computer Science)



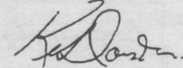
E.R. Vrsay
(Applied Mathematics)



D. McLeish
(Statistics)



D.G. Piché
(Graduate Student Representative,
Mathematics)



K.R. Davidson
(Pure Mathematics)

Making Things Happen, Baby

Hey, guys. I'm building the framework for a campus-wide initiative this term. The project is still in its infancy, but it's pretty ambitious and has been a really exciting process to put together so far.

If you're looking for the experience of using your ideas and creativity to build an organization from scratch and want a chance to strut your stuff, then you may want to join me in founding BUDS.

BUDS is pretty simple. It's just about friendship and learning. It's based on the Big Brothers paradigm, and will pair UW students with high school students in the KW region who are on the verge of dropping out or are experiencing similar difficulties.

In a sense, this pairing gives a chance for high school students to find out what university is all about and to discover an academic and social role model in their Big Buddy. This is especially important now that budget cutbacks and phase-outs of specialized programs have left Ontario teachers with less time to spend on students who need extra attention in secondary school.

I'm working with Frontier College, a nation-wide literacy organization, and Big Brothers of K-W to make this project a reality. If it works, it has the potential of spreading to other university campuses and Big Brothers/Sisters chapters across Canada. So I'm not kidding when I say it has the potential to be huge. Or when I say that it'll be lots of work.

I'm looking for people to fill directorship positions in the organizational team that'll be putting the pilot for the project together. There will be an informational session on BUDS on Thursday, January 22nd in DC1304 at 5pm. Drop by, or if you can't make it, drop me a line at skamal@descartes for more information.

As Frontier College says, literacy isn't a concept: it's a national movement. Don't just read about it.

Sarah Kamal

Cryptogram

A new year, a new term, a new type of puzzle. This is a cryptogram, in which a saying is encoded by means of a cipher. That is, each letter of the alphabet is replaced by some other letter. The idea is to decipher the message by determining which letters are replaced by which others. To start, we'll give you a clue: the letter y represents the letter i. The answer will be given next issue. Good luck!

[By the way, this is sort of an official mathNEWS puzzle, so if anyone feels like submitting their answers, I might be convinced to supply some kind of prize. Maybe. — ΣEd.]

Ioxkpyzsd yq pd poryaplti zuydh. Lxz yz yq vitt
zs airirlia jasn zyri zs zyri zupz dszuydh zupz yq
vsazu fdsvydh kpd li zpxhuz. --- Sqkpa Vytoi.

The Avengers

Bitter Bitter Bitter Haggard Old Woman Rants a Bit

So then I jumped out of the plane. Woohoo.

What a letdown. What a major anti-rush. What an incredibly expensive leap for Sarahkind.

I'd been pretty darn pumped about going. One of the guys at work had bounced off the walls of his coop abode for a week after his first high-flying adventure, and I'd been dazzled with his tale of the adrenaline surging, heart pounding thrill of 'chuting. And heck, my older brother's birthday was coming up and I figured he deserved a bit of a jumpstart to his 24th year (so to speak), so I sprang for his lesson and had him come along.

See, I'd accepted one of those cushy, overpaying, incredibly easy jobs (foolish me) in the high tech industry for the summer, and I was dying for some sort of vague challenge or mental stimulation to add spice to my term. Remembering back to high school life, I felt nostalgia for the lazy summer days when I visited my friend's cottage and had near death experiences. So I decided it was time to Laugh Recklessly in the Face Of Death yet again in a sort of quality time, family bonding, get-rid-of-the-older-bro-so-we-can-inherit-his-excellent-stereo-system kind of way.

After all, near-death experiences are pretty intense-like when your mom catches you with your hand in the cookie jar, for example. You think, oh shit, now I'm in trouble. Your heart catches for a moment, your guts go all goopy and absolute fear leaves you paralyzed, but oh, damn does it feel good afterwards when you remember to start breathing again and the adrenaline pumping through your veins makes you want to sprint up the nearest tree.

So essentially, since stealing cookies from my mom just didn't do it for me anymore, (and since I didn't have a clue where my friend with the cottage was that summer) I decided to flirt with the Grim Reaper by shelling out a few hundred dollars for my brother and I to fling ourselves out of a plane, instead.

Suffice it to say that the experience wasn't exactly what I'd been looking for. For one thing, it's kinda hard to look dashing and dare-devilish when you're wearing tacky wedgifying neon orange jump suits and embarrassingly yellow helmets (like bowling shoes: you're really not quite sure who has worn them before you, and you REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW). Now, I'd have been able to deal with the blow my reputation as a fashion goddess suffered from the mushroom costume I was wearing if it weren't for another tiny little detail: the jump itself... um, how shall I put this... oh yeah... the jump itself sucked.

It was dull. Boring. A yawner. As in, I'd have spent a more productive day examining the recesses of my navel. Yep, my wild courtship with Death ended up being a dreary old step out of a plane at 1500 metres yadda yadda with a chute that was opened up almost immediately by the instructor in the plane. Big whoop. No panicked fumbblings with cords and poorly packed chutes as I plunged with increasing speed towards a horrible demise. No last minute ingenious creation of a new chute using only duct tape and my underwear. My life didn't flash before my eyes (more's the pity: I'm pretty fascinating), and I didn't even repent the fact that I'd raided my sister's clothes for years just to piss her off before I walked out onto the windy nothingness. I felt very safe and secure and knew the people running the jump school had done everything possible to ensure that I wouldn't even come CLOSE to dying.

This all made me pretty damn bitter. I got to the ground,

discovered that my brother hadn't come close to dying either, and got even more upset. We spent time being bitter together, my brother and I, because everyone else seemed to be having a good time being freaked out of their skulls while we were completely unmoved. But then, maybe they were pretending to be freaked because otherwise it'd have meant facing the fact that they'd shelled out 150 bucks each to be bored stiff.

All in all, the most exciting episode of the entire 'chuting experience was signing the little waiver that says: You could die from this. Please autograph this piece of paper so that we can make comments about your penmanship as we scrape your remains off the ground. Have a nice day.

The only other noteworthy aspect came from the very cute army captain who started making Da Moves on yours truly. I fobbed him off though, since I was frightened at the thought that he could possibly be freakish enough to find me attractive while looking like radioactive orange fungus.

I have no comments on the people freakish enough to find me attractive normally.

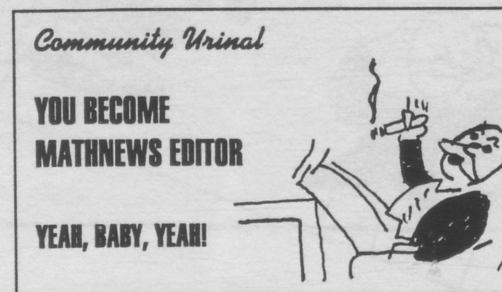
(It was also kinda hard to stay serious and attentive with my brother grinning and wiggling his eyebrows at me every time the poor guy tried to flirt. My brother's a big idiot. I should have spent that 150 bucks buying a big razor to shave his stinking eyebrows).

Now the entire point of this exercise was for me to explore the more fundamental, more primitive aspects of life and death: I was still stupid enough to think I'd live forever (aren't we supposed to grow out of both that and acne?) and this was supposed to cure me. The irony is that I had a far better glimpse into my mortality half a year later, and I didn't even do it on purpose. After overrotating on a flying side kick in Tae Kwon Do, I landed in a bad position with all my weight on one leg, my knee collapsed in at a funny angle and (oh neat! Ceiling tiles!) I found myself staring up into the heavens in some bemusement. Turned out I would be doing physio and healing from knee surgery and restricted from the sports I love for a couple of years. Yep, it was only THEN that Sarah managed to clue in to the fact that she isn't invincible.

So if you ever decide to go on a journey to acknowledge your own doom, I wouldn't recommend the Being Bored Rigid Parachuting or the Brilliantly Busting The Knee In A Big Way paths as the ones to take. They... (how shall I put this? Oh yeah)... they both suck. But if nothing else, my personal experiences here have taught me one thing about finding ways to stare the Grim Reaper in the eye:

you should probably stick to stealing cookies from your mom.

Sarah "Sexy Mushroom Babe" Karnal



Author With A Death Wish

[The opinions expressed in this piece do not in any way reflect those of mathNEWS or its editor, who is willing to sell the e-mail address of the author to any would-be dissidents. Cheap. — ΣEd.]

There are times in your life when you have to speak up. People may heap calumny or insults on you, depending on their vocabulary. They may even ignore you. But you can't ignore the call of conscience. I'm talking about the kind of moral imperative that made Lincoln abolish slavery, or led Copernicus to take on the church. Not that I put myself in the same moral class as Old Abe, but I too have a message that I feel compelled to deliver, whatever the consequences: men are better than women.

I don't mean that I like men better than women. Nor do I mean that men are better for certain things, like twisting the tops off beer bottles, while women are better for others, like appearing in fashion ads. I'm not saying that men are better looking than women, or smarter, or that they have more skills. They're certainly not cleaner on average - just visit a guys locker room, or worse still, the CSC. What men have, is a sense of humour. Women don't. And I can prove it. That sense of humour is what makes men better - purely, absolutely, unconditionally better.

The only reason that I bring this up is that I think women are causing the decline of civilization. A prime example of their effect on modern life is the rise of narcissism. Women are the ultimate narcissists. You can tell this because of all the time they spend on personal grooming. Men aren't like that. A man's idea of personal grooming is to throw on some aftershave from a bottle that was new when Quebec had it's last seperation attempt. Men spend their time thinking about doing fun and exciting things or sleeping. The rise in crime may be another result of the rise of women. They're certainly more violent than men (with the exception of engineers, which I think are women in disguise). Women don't argue and act brave when they see someone in their way; they kill. Men tend to bravado. They're braggarts. In the great evolutionary drama, man is Beate Baily, woman is Rambo.

We've known for a long time that individuals tend to resemble the dominating force in their societies. Do we want to be come a nation of picky eaters? Even physiologically women are finicky: they're watching their weight constantly or watching their nutrition. Men, on the other hand (mouth?), are omnivores in the true sense of the word. Waste not, want not is the motto of all men. They live in the permanent Third World of the mind where the notion of throwing out food is incomprehensible. Let even the Prince of Wales get away from work and he'll be out in a cabin in the woods, eating beer and three day old pizza and hot dogs (what exactly do they put in hot dogs anyway?). While women are lying on divans waiting for the next flavour surprise, men are upset because perfectly good gristle was thrown out.

I didn't make this up about men having a sense of humour. Well, actually I did make it up. Then I found that some famous dead guys agreed with me, like Voltaire. In reference to man's ever fun loving attitude he commented on how "God created women to tame man", proof of how women have been impeding the spirit of men over the centuries. Literature is full of happy, carefree guys. Look at Robin Hood and his merry men. In fact many people have commented on men having the emotion of the

ludicrous.

What women are often termed with "disadvantages of temperament". I think that means, that when they want to be, women aren't nice. There are those that say that when women torture love-sick men (which they themselves have made that way) they're not enjoying themselves. You might as well say that Wayne Gretzky doesn't like scoring or Bill Gates doesn't like money. The feelings that prompt a woman to use a man like a puppet can only, I think, be assigned to one category - delight in torturing for torture's sake. Needless to say, most men don't believe that laughing at a broken-hearted man counts as having a sense of humour.

In contrast, men have the ability to tell and appreciate a good joke. As one bit of evidence, men will sit around doing body tricks and making sounds which clearly have no other purpose than to excite laughter. So much for the intelligence of men. But I never said they were smart. And as jokes go, this isn't bad. Surely you've seen more than one comedian who would have been more amusing if he put his foot in his mouth and grinned.

Lets look at this argument from a genetics point of view and try to prove that this sense of humour is hereditary. The best way to do this is with a story.

Once upon a time, the ancestors of men - cavemen in laymen's terms - found the stresses and strains of life in a hierarchial social species unbearable. They lived in clans dominated by alpha males who pushed around all the other males. Everybody knew everybody's business. Nobody had any privacy. And on top of that, they mated for life. They did the only thing possible; they developed a sense of humour.

How this worked in terms of evolutionary genetics is that the proto-men with no sense of humour didn't live long enough to have offspring. Put yourself in a proto-man's position. Let's say you're a young male without a mate. The rest of the males are always coming out of the cave in the morning with big grins on their faces. By the time you get your share of breakfast, the only things left are unrecognizable as real food (which relates back to man's ability and willingness to eat anything). You can't laugh it off, because genetically you have no sense of humour, so you lose control and attack the dominant male. He kills you. You know what that means (besides the fact that the other males now have a new breakfast special) no offspring for you. Natural selection has just eliminated your no-sense-of-humour gene from the man gene pool, while your buddies who are sitting around the fire with their feet in their mouths, grinning like idiots, are still running around with a chance at having kids.

It has been demonstrated that men have a lot to laugh off. In a study it was shown that men succeeded in hunting game only six times in every one-hundred and thirty attempts. If they were on a football team, it would definitely be the York Yeomen. With ancestors like that, you learn to appreciate the absurdity of life. So when you're faced with an angry spouse waving a hand at the grease from the car tracked through the living room, you do what your ancestors did when they missed dinner. You stuff your foot in your mouth and grin.

Women are different. Women have pride and dignity. Put yourself in a proto-woman's place. The men go out and get

continued on page 14

continued from page 13

dinner (or are got by that pesky sabre-tooth tiger) while you sit in a comfy cave all day. Every man treats you well cause if they don't, dominant boy will kick their butt. On an average day, you get up, order some breakfast, 'play' with dominant boy, and go back to sleep. What's funny? Laughing has no evolutionary benefits, and consequently you have no sense of humour. This is the evolutionary history of women. This is why they're remote, independent, and mean. They don't tell jokes and when you tell

one, they don't laugh.

One final note: I know that emotions run high on this issue. It's conceivable that I might offend some women, and that they might want to send me insulting letters, to which I would have to invent clever replies. To save them the trouble, I thought I'd print the reply I have ready now. With regards to women, it is needless to dwell further on facts so universally known.



The News

Welcome to the Real World

Ever wondered what it would be like to go into a disaster area and help? Canadian troops are finding out. For the second time this year, the Canadian military is getting some much needed good PR, after the Somalia incident, as there rush to Eastern Ontario and Quebec where thousands have been without power for days. An estimated 100,000 hydro poles are down, including those monster sized large metal towers were brought down by the weight of the ice too. Hydro isn't the only thing affected, water manes have broken and, worse still, the maple syrup industry is proclaiming disaster! If you like syrup on your pancakes in the morning better rush out and get it now before the shelves are empty. Isn't it amazing to see how helpless people become without power however? A little over a 100 years ago, most people, especially in rural Quebec, never had electricity. A measly five generations later, people seem completely helpless without power for more than an hour or two.

Want a twin? You could play great tricks on your friends, and the best part is that if you're rich enough, you might even consider them expendable. Scientists now think that with enough money, they have all the necessary technology to be able to clone a human. Some possible uses of this are said to be the ability to have extra body parts for yourself lying around. Need a new heart? It's right there, ready and waiting. Has even been tested. Good for 800,000 beats or 50,000 miles. The moral issues of this are astounding however. Creating a living human to act as nothing more than an organ factory. Hmm... maybe they could make a brain for some of these scientists, it sounds like maybe they need one.

Iraq is again banning arms inspectors from the UN. One has to wonder how much longer this game of cat and mouse is going to be able to continue. It seems that the U.S. and Iraq are both pushing issues as far as they can. Iraq wants to be free of inspectors and trade sanctions, the Americans are determined to keep a close eye on a country they obviously see as a threat. With the Americans wielding the bigger stick at the moment, Iraq must eventually do something. Ever since the collapse of the U.S.S.R., the threat of the nuclear war seems to have taken a backseat. However, with smaller countries looking to hold their own... who can say?

Speaking of Mid-East relations with the U.S., Iran has approached the States about opening diplomatic relations again. Maybe all isn't a lost cause.

Also in news, Charles Manson has been moved to a high-security prison. Now, one has to ask, where the hell was he

before?!? What was the penal system thinking? "Hmm... mass killer with cult following... completely deranged... sounds safe to me." Next thing you know Hannibal the Cannibal will be in a half-way house down the street and the Unabomber will be out for good-behaviour asking you "Would you like paper or plastic?"

While we're talking about the penal system, let's consider Canada's, and many American states', decision to ban the death penalty. Now I'm all for forgiving people and giving a second chance to someone, but surely there are cases. Let's consider Someone who kills 12 people over 5 years and hides their body parts in their basement. Is this someone who is going to get better? Moreover, what is the difference between eight life-sentences served consecutively and a lethal injection? About a million dollars or so I'd say.

Even if you aren't in favour of the death penalty, one has to admit that the punishment system now-a-days has become almost laughable.

Judge: "Mr. Williams. I see here that you have been charged with manslaughter for being drunk and running over a mother and her two year old child. Since this is your first offence, I'm sentencing you to 15 years with absolutely no chance of parole for 3. And I'll say that in a mean voice too!"

I mean... what happened to "I sentence you to 10 years" meaning they had to stay in jail for ten years? I really don't care if they have a change of heart while in prison. The country has laws and if you ignore them or break them you should have to pay the penalty. First offence or last, it doesn't matter. You chose to live in a country and accept their rules. Live with it.

The Americans are among the worst for ignoring this concept. Do you remember a few years ago when a kid was in Singapore and keyed a car? He was to be caned. That is, he would receive a certain number of hits from a bamboo cane by a martial arts master. This is what the law in Singapore says. The Americans were appalled. Diplomats were rushed to Singapore to oppose this. In the end, even the kid said "I knew the penalty and I did it anyway. I got caught and now I have to pay." The kid was still a loser for keying the car, but the amount of respect I had for him went up just a bit because he was able to do what his own country was not capable of. He could accept responsibility for his actions.

mathNEWSQuiz #1

Welcome back to this pitiful excuse for a winter. I mean, where is the snow? I'd like to go skiing at least once this year. Ah, well. Since I won't be outside doing anything, and you likely won't be either, I've decided to provide you with a set of massive Squizes. As always, there will be a prize for whoever can answer the most questions each week. There will also be a special prize if anyone is actually able to answer all 50 questions.

Your questions for this week are:

1. The inventor of basketball, and incidentally the person whose name is on a tournament or two around here?
2. This was the name of this "small town" rocker at the time he wrote Jack and Diane.
3. It was Darth Vader's real name, that is before he was turned to the dark side.
4. Before her recent remodeling, these were Barbie's "real life" measurements.
5. Name the British gave to the coding device used by the Germans in WWII.
6. Team Isiah Thomas, former General Manager of the Toronto Raptors, played for and how many championships he won with them.
7. Name of the first Space Shuttle to be completed and fly.
8. Name of Simpson's regular brown dog.
9. The title of the classical piece of music used as the theme to 2001:A Space Odyssey.
10. The name for the things on the end of your shoelaces.
11. Another name for the wildflower found around Ontario, commonly called Wild Carrot.
12. She plays Major Kira on Star Trek's Deep Space Nine.
13. The name of the royal house which Queen Elizabeth II belongs to.
14. This fable features a large gingerbread house.
15. The acronym SCUBA stands for this.
16. On Fantasy Isle, Tattoo was this tall (in inches), obviously tall enough to see incoming air traffic. "Da plane Boss, da plane!". We'll give it to you if you're even close.
17. The three alcoholic ingredients in a B-52.
18. This is what the B-52's say near the end of their song, "Love Shack", just after "What?".
19. In West Side Story, one gang was the Jets, what was the other?
20. In the musical Cats, it was where Grisabella went to at the end.
21. It's how you spell SUNDAYS on a phone.
22. It is the colour associated with love.
23. In the Simpsons, which of Marge's sisters likes men?
24. What is the floral emblem of PEI?
25. What is the floral emblem of Alberta?
26. Who is John Galt?
27. What is the difference between an Ambassador and a High Commissioner?
28. The Rt. Honourable Vincent Massey was High Commissioner to the UK between 1935 and 1946. What is the even more important post he held in 1952?
29. When was Ducks Unlimited Formed?

30. Asbestos is Greek for what?
31. Who invented the telephone?
32. What colour is Chlorine gas?
33. Are chlorine ions deadly?
34. This common edible root is a relative to the deadly nightshade.
35. Every country calls its primary grain "corn". What is our corn called in other parts of the world?
36. When scoring a baseball game, this position is assigned the number 6 for recording plays.
37. He scored the famous goal for Canada in Game 8 of the 1972 Series against the Russians.
38. The capital of Venezuela.
39. Who wrote Peter Pan?
40. What did USSR stand for?
41. The Six Nations are a league of the Iroquois. Name any 3 of the Six Nations.
42. Ants "farm" and "milk" these other insects.
43. A paenula is this article of clothing.
44. When was the country called Vatican City created?
45. Lassie was always played by a male dog. Why?
46. Besides the name of a band, what are Gin Blossoms?
47. What are "Rocky Mountain Oysters"?
48. This Canadian fiddler was featured in a T.V. ad for what company? (artist and company)
49. This artist changed his name from David Robert Hayward-Jones to what?
50. Who is Lilith of Lilith Fair?

Submissions are due at 6:30pm on Monday, January 26th. Submit by either stuffing entires in the BLACK BOX or delivering them in person to the mathNEWS office or the mathNEWS mailbox in the MathSoc office. Good Luck!

SquizMaster Blue

A Little Puzzle

You know, I remember back in high school when math was something fun. Or at least, the math contests, from the CMC and other sources. In an effort to recapture the simple pleasures of math, I present you with the following:

Find a set of four consecutive positive integers such that the smallest is divisible by 5, the next smallest by 7, the next by 9, and the greatest by 11.

Sound easy? It should; it was featured on one of the CMC's high school contests several years ago, and all that stuff should be old hat by now, right?

I'd like to thank the CMC for donating this problem, as well as any future ones. A solution will be published next week.

Blue.

Chess Tournament

January 22nd in the Comfy Lounge

Mail blue.enigma@unforgettable.com for details

Spermatikos Logos #1

Top of the morning to ya Mathies and Happy New Year. For those of you who were away for last term, Spermatikos Logos is a new logic puzzle column that I have been writing for *mathNEWS*. The concept is simple: use the clues to solve the puzzle and then submit your answer to the black box or to me (rjstewar@) by Monday Jan. 26th. Good luck to all. We'll start off the term with something relatively straightforward.

Late last term the Psycho Computer Science Club (PCSC) held a round table discussion on the future of raccoons in computing. Invited to the round table were five experts whose last names were in some order Bar, Soft, Packard, Jobs, and Pascal. All five of them were experts in one particular field (Networking, Application Development, Software Training, Chip Engineering, and Music of the 14th Century). The five experts sat around a circular table with eight chairs placed evenly around it. Given the clues below, can you find the full names (first and last) of each expert, what their area of expertise is, where they sat, and where they are from? (One of the experts was from Kuala Lumpur.) For convenience sake number the seats at the table from 1 to 8 with 1 being the seat at the top of the circle (which is occupied, by the way) and the numbers ascending clockwise:

1. One, and only one, person sat between two empty seats.
2. Foo sat immediately to Hewlett's left.
3. The Waikiki resident sat two seats away from the Networking expert, and three seats away from Bar.
4. The music expert sat in seat #7.
5. Micro sat three seats to the left of an empty seat.
6. The Application Developer from the Cape of Good Hope sat beside seat #5 and directly opposite an occupied seat.
7. Blaise is not from San Juan.
8. Soft, who is the Chip Engineering expert, had a seat numbered one greater than Pascal, but three less than Steve.
9. Packard sat in the second highest numbered occupied seat.
10. Jobs sat in a lower numbered seat than the Duckberg resident, but a higher numbered seat than Pascal (who isn't from Waikiki).
11. The Networking expert sat opposite an empty seat.
12. No two empty seats were next to each other.

Bonus Question: Name three kinds of races where you have to cross the finish line backwards (note: creativity is rewarded).



Robin Stewart

gridCOMMENTS

Cryptic guy

Hello All! This just goes to show that if you hang around the Comfy long enough, someone will think you're a mathie. However, I can't imagine a *mathNEWS* without a gridword, and so **someone** has to step up and fill the role. Which reminds me, if there are any C.C. Gods out there, and they want an adept... No, didn't think so. This is my first term for writing for GridWord, so if you have suggestions, complaints, gossip about my roommate, please include it with the solutions. Also, **please submit**, even if you don't finish it all. If a lot of people are trying but not finishing, I can make them easier.

Gridby's introduction to C.C.'s was so cool, and so, how shall we say, already typed in, that I decided not to rewrite it, just for a few piddling little details. [Gridby's article reprinted at Doug's request on the next page — Σ Ed.] But, so you guys aren't caught off guard, here's a few more notes:

Anagrams: Be on the look out for anagram indicators. They can be anything that deals with changing order for any reason — and so there are a lot.

Hidden Words: Most cryptics I've seen haven't had any Hidden Word indicators, it was just assumed you'd eventually figure it out. For this issue, I haven't put any indicators in, but you can usually tell, because the clue tends to flow a bit nicer.

Word Deletions: Like deletions, where a large word gets paired down, but in this case, the original word must be stripped of all the letters of the removed word. So: Rescue from Evil without another try is to take up residence(4) = Live, because Deliver(rescue from Evil) - Redo(without another try) = Live (to take up residence) Note three things: 1) There were two 'e's but only one the first one got deleted 2) The 'o' did not exist in Deliver, and so it is just ignored. 3) These are really hard, and so I probably won't put many in.

Punctuation: Punctuation at the end of a clue is as Gridby describes. Punctuation in the middle of a clue is *probably* just so the clue has some meter.

Good Luck, and feel free to email me!

Doug Becker
4B Comp. Eng. (Don't tell anyone)

[Doug transposed a couple of letters in 14 across, so don't be too surprised if it seems to come out to a misspelt word. — Σ Ed.]

Conventional guy

Howdy, and welcome back to another great term in Math at Waterloo. I'm the math half of the GridTwins for Winter 1998, and I'm new at this GridWord thing, so bear with me.

I'm so glad to be back in Waterloo, after a hellish work-term in an ivory tower in downtown Toronto. It's so nice to be able to do more with my day than surf the web and read newsgroups. I said "to be able to"... whether or not I take the option remains to be seen.

Well, I don't have much to say, but have fun doing the conventional GridWord, and make sure to drop off your submissions in that fancy black box across from the Comfy Lounge. The best submission gets whatever I can find in my pocket, and I'm sure we can come up with a supplementary prize.

Tim "Crack-Boy" Coleman

How to Solve a Gridword

In all the years I've been torturing solvers with Gridwords, I've never written a full article on how to solve them. Here is a brief guide on how to solve a cryptic crossword.

Basics

One part of each clue is a definition, and the other is a subsidiary clue. These two parts appear side by side in the clue with maybe a word or short phrase breaking them up. The definition is an ordinary definition for the word that belongs in the grid. The subsidiary clue describes how the grid entry is written by using the eight methods listed below.

Anagrams

This is by far the most common method used in cryptic clues. The constructor gives a list of letters and tells you that they should be rearranged.

Changing triangle into mathematical expression. (8)

Every clue involving an anagram needs to have an indicator to tell you what to do. For anagrams, the indicator can be any word or phrase suggesting mixing or bad treatment. In the above clue, the indicator is **changing**. If you **change triangle** you get **INTEGRAL**, which is defined as **mathematical expression**. The (8) tells you that you want an eight-letter word.

Charades

In this type of clue, several words are strung together to form a longer word. This clue does not need an indicator, but if there is one, it will imply one thing being next to another.

Tin weight and piece of china. (6)

A **tin** is a **CAN**, and a **weight** might be a **TON**. If you put the two words together, you get **CANTON**, defined as **piece of China**. The definition isn't capitalized properly, but this is legal. It's a trick used to fool you. Punctuation can also be added or removed to make a clue trickier.

Containers

A container clue involves one word being inserted into another.

Loud noise envelops Cardinal; it's not exciting. (7)

A **loud noise** could be **BOOM**, and **cardinal** (capitalization again!) is another word for **RED**. The indicator says that **BOOM** goes on the outside of (or **envelops**) **RED**, giving us **BOREDOM** (**It's not exciting**.) If the indicator meant something more like "wears" or "interrupts", then the first word goes on the inside.

Deletions

Sometimes a word is clued by starting with a longer word and chopping off bits you don't need. Any indicator referring to cutting or removing something can be used.

Angry buccaneer loses his head. (5)

A **buccaneer** is a **PIRATE**, and if he **loses his head**, i.e. the first letter, he becomes **IRATE**, which means **angry**.

Double Definition

Sometimes both halves of a clue are definitions of the same word.

Horses and badgers. (4)

Both **horses** (as a noun) and **badgers** (as a verb) are synonyms of **NAGS**.

Hidden Words

Every once in a while, a constructor will just hide the word you want inside other words.

Fleeing rat escapes harbours (thankless sort!). (7)

The answer, **INGRATE**, can be found intact in the first three words: **fleeING RAT Escapes** literally **harbours** this word. Be careful. The indicators for a hidden word are often the same as for a container. You have been warned.

Homophones

The answer and something else clued nearby are sound-alikes. So, indicators can be any expression involving hearing or talking.

Shakespearean king gets look from the audience. (4)

LEAR and **LEER** are homonyms, clued as **Shakespearean king** and **look** respectively. Since **LEER** is next to the indicator, and **LEAR** isn't, **LEER** must be the homonym clue, and **LEAR** the answer.

Reversals

This type of clue consists of a word or phrase being written backwards to make a new word.

Looks around for servers. (6)

If we use **SNOOPS** for **looks** and **SPOONS** for **servers**, then we have a pair of words that reverse. The word **for** suggests that we turn **SNOOPS around for SPOONS**, meaning **SPOONS** is the answer.

If the clue is a Down clue, then writing backwards could be considered to be writing *upwards*.

Sweets are touted up. (8)

In this case, **DESSERTS** is **STRESSED (touted)** backwards, which is to say, upwards.

Other Tricks and Conventions

More often than not, none of these eight methods will work for a word all by themselves. I can combine any of these methods, but in all cases the indicators still have to be there, telling you what must be done.

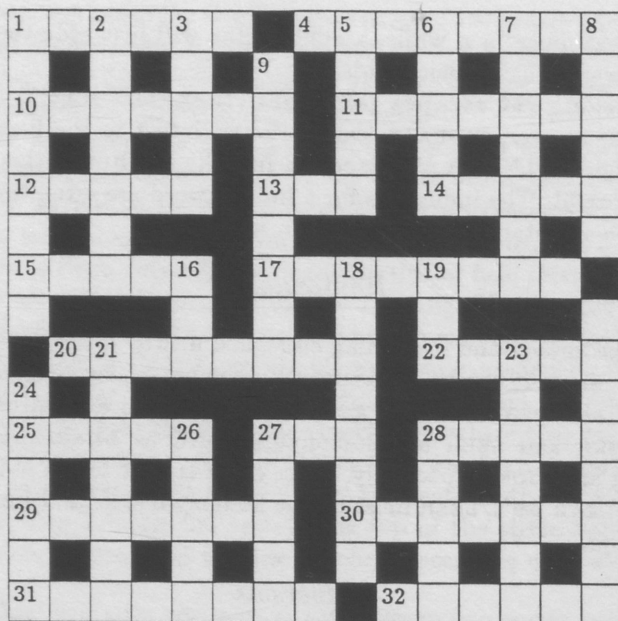
In other even more hopeless cases, sometimes using whole words in the wordplay isn't going to work. I can use abbreviations (and often do). If a letter sequence isn't a ready-made abbreviation, I may just take bits of other words: **head of lettuce = L, done at last = E**, and so on.

Another trick that is only found in Gridwords is the Acronym, where the whole clue is the definition, and the first letters spell out the word.

Play ivories, although not organ. (5)

If a clue has a "?" where it doesn't need one, then something punny is going on in that clue. And if a clue has a "!" at the end where it doesn't belong, then the clue is an &lit. clue. In this special clue, the whole clue acts as a definition *and* as a subsidiary clue.

Those are all the tricks of my trade. If you have any questions about cryptics, I'll be happy to answer them. Just e-mail me.



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Sly Tom turned almost all (6)
4. Unfounded jams keeps back (8)
10. Earths Topography in Africa comes after rainbows (7)
11. Compel new corn fee (7)
12. An indeterminate one around a negative might irritate (5)
13. Partly carry a kid (3)
14. It's said that French city is a sharer relative (5)
15. "I hope rain will come soon", said the old fashioned drama. (5)
17. Bristly Insectivore, go regressively after, is the edge in initially Happy Home. (8)
20. Continues hearing contented cat noise with organic stone (8)
22. Confused ocean with heads of London Realtors is a cutting instrument (5)
25. Drive Cow (5)
27. A pine tree? The head of furry australian mammal? (3)
28. Lift Me! About to give a party. (5)
29. Happiness is insight without short revolution. (7)
30. 101 harsh water holder (7)
31. Dad, x reversing decay is the licencer of an idea (8)
32. Increases disarray when ship appears in appear backwards. (6)

Down

1. Hone malt mix is wood alcohol (8)
2. Vaccilated movie icon is boundless Holy Woman? Weird. (7)
3. Allowing water free passage through scrambled cabbage, why? (5)

5. Even Time is certainly an occurrence. (5)
6. Small and delicate like loudness in rising Egyptian River (5)
7. Dizziness caused commotion in Rig Veto. (7)
8. Appeared to seed me confused. (6)
9. Grabs at rising sun's brownings above unending chess game (8)
16. Fool a ship. (3)
18. Spring in trench is to put to death. (8)
19. Elongated fish strung up on sheltered side. (3)
21. Good taste in excited ant glee (7)
23. Scatter scatters without the web spinning insect. (7)
24. Excite, make glad, and be dormant (6)
26. Heard a wet rule (5)
27. The famous Broken Door martial art. (5)
28. Hurry to loathe around beginning of September. (5)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. Actors' guide.
4. Sever.
10. Cheer.
11. Something to hold onto.
12. One lacking in mental prowess.
13. Picnic pest.
14. Pupil (Fr.)
15. Lessened the load.
17. Instances of C variable types.
20. An Arquez.
22. To have (Fr.)
25. One who dines.
27. Cooking vessel.
28. Quoted.
29. Made a statement.
30. One way to serve beer.
31. Mount again?
32. Borrowed.

Down

1. At U(W), food is one of these.
2. Connects again.
3. Prepare for visual consumption.
5. An endearing quality.
6. Bring together.
7. Nutrition.
8. Birds of prey.
9. Comprised of refined ore.
16. A DOS command.
18. When the water is high.
19. Songwriter Gershwin.
21. Creators of aesthetic views.
23. An interruption of supply.
24. A good Samaritan.
26. Graded.
27. A foot-powered motor actuator.
28. Useful for moving heavy things.