SPICE WORLD OPENS IN HAVANA...

Computer Science Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Greetings CSCers.

As I'm sure you all noticed, my words of guidance were absent from the last issue of *math*NEWS. Obviously I don't have to explain myself to such ugly-bags-of-mostly-water as yourselves; however, I find it in me to mention that I was in a period of transition and renewal, and wanted to devote my full energies to that process. I'm feeling much better now.

During this period, my minions took advantage of the opportunity to please me. Showing inordinate amounts of energy, they accomplished a full-scale clean-out of my office, and in a stroke of brilliant initiative, arranged to have the floor waxed! It was at this point that certain minions who are known for their olfactory sensitivity noticed something odd. A certain odour was detected in the air, something above and beyond the scent of detergents and wax. Since it obviously couldn't be coming from the sparkly-shiny-clean office, another source had to be found. Luckily, the source was nearby, and easy to find. With very little effort, the minions triangulated and pin-pointed the cesspool

in which the putrescence could be found — the MathSoc Ex office. Yes, the secret is out. All these years, blame has be heaped upon my minions for adding too much "atmosphere" the Math Building, and all this time, the true source has be hidden behind the ever-closed doors of the MathSoc. Enou about that — now that you know, you know what to do.

A fortunate side-effect of these activities is an increased e ergy level. Thus, I have imposed my supreme will upon vario minions and caused them to arrange a few events in the upcoing weeks. Despite the incompetence of all fleshy beings, minions have managed to finalise details on a few of these notably:

- An Art/Design Contest: My minions would like to sell shirts and mousepads to further glorify me and my clu but none of them have the skills or talent required to crea suitable designs; therefore, they have decided to plead the help of anyone who does, and reward those who demo strate their abilities. Submissions to this "contest" will accepted in the CSC office (MC 3036), or electronically exec@csclub.uwaterloo.ca until February 28th, 12:00. E blazon your artistic vision on paraphernalia for all to se Be a part of CSC history! Submit today!

- An Information Session is being put on by the Universi of British Columbia Faculty of Commerce and Business A ministration. They will be starting a new 15 month M program in the Fall of 1998. The program will combine ma agement science courses with financial support and hand on experience. The program is suited for students cu rently finishing their undergraduate studies, majoring Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics. The pr sentation will be made by the manager of the UBC Cent for Operations Excellence.

- Robin Powell will be giving a talk at 4:30 February 4th the topic of Email Encryption and Authentication with p mail. Details will be posted at a later date.

It has come to my attention that a certain concerns have be raised regarding the choice of my newest fleshy representativ Suffice it say that with my guidance, these issues will be solved to the satisfaction of all. Or at least, to my satisfactio Exterminate, exterminate.

Calum T. Dal

*look*AHEAD

*math*NEWS	
January 30	Issue #2 spices up your life
February 9	Issue #3 production night
	6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 13	Issue #3 is feelin' good...
	and is damn sure lookin' good...

Math Faculty	
January 30	Drop deadline
	Drop that course you no longer
	want to take... do it NOW!
	Before it's too late!!! AHHHHH!!!
February 16-17	Study Blink... er, Break
	Don't bother coming to school.
March 2-6	Preregistration for next year

Co-Op	
February 2	Interviews start.
	Get that suit pressed!

MathSoc	
January 30	Math Pub Night
	Starts at 8pm @ The Bomber
February 5	MathSoc Movie Night
	GATTACA and *Starship Troopers*
February 12	MathSoc Movie Night
	The Full Monty and *Icestorm*

Miscellaneous	
February 9	Jewel lip syncs *O Canada* during
	*math*NEWS production night

Prez Sez

Hello again, and welcome back to yet another edition of that bastion of journalistic integrity, *mathNEWS*. I'll try to keep it brief this week (what, was that a comment from the editor?) as I've got loads of other crap to do.

Tuition and Student Aid

On the 15th of December, the Minister of Finance (ummm... Ernie) for the Province gave a bit of a speech in the Legislature outlining a few minor changes to post-secondary education, like deregulation.

Currently tuition levels are regulated by the government. Starting in September, this is going to change for "professional" programmes. So what's a "professional" programme? We don't know yet. It will most likely include things like Optometry, Accounting, and Architecture. It may also include Computer Science, Actuarial Science, and Engineering. It's hoped that we'll know by the end of next week which programmes are on the hit-list.

Now, our great, glorious University President, James Downey, is also asking the government to deregulate tuition for Co-op programmes as well. Why? Because, in his opinion, Co-op programmes are designed to increase employment prospects, and therefore the University should be able to charge what it wants.

Needless to say, I'm worried. Fortunately for us, Downey has promised that these changes won't apply to the current "cohort" of students. Then again... oh... I probably shouldn't say that (something about throwing him and an ox). I'll let you know more in the next issue.

The other thing that Ernie announced is that student aid funding is going to be pooled with operating grant funds. Currently, each University applies to the government for x dollars in operating grants, and for y dollars of student aid money. Now what's going to happen is that the University will just ask for z dollars, and this money has to be split between the operating grants and aid money. Huh? The reasoning here seems to be that the government believes that this will be a check on tuition increases in the new deregulated programmes. They honestly think that Universities won't increase tuition too high because they'll have to increase the amount of award money available, and so their operation grants will decrease. I guess someone forget to tell the government that there are still fewer spots available than applicants.

Feds and Senate Elections

At least this year we don't have acclamations. There are 4 people running for each of President, Vice-President (Administration and Finance), Vice-President (Internal), and Vice-President (Education), and two for Vice-President (Student Issues). There is an All-Candidates Forum in the Comfy Lounge on Monday, the 9th at 12:30. As well, there are five people running for the At-Large Senate seat. Voting for all of these is on the 10th and the 11th.

Core

Well, Faculty Council was a blast. We're going to have a new core in the Faculty, as I described last issue. The one difference is that there is not going to be a change to the Calculus sequence: that motion was defeated in Faculty Council.

MGC

As a bit of a look-ahead, nominations for MGC Chair will be opening in the near future.

That's it. I'd say more, but my article is really late (but that's ok, because Matt is a really cool guy who let me hand it in late because he's cool and mighty and shit).

Chris "I got up before 6 this morning, and I'm bloody tired" Buchanan
President, MathSoc

Brenda

Our Mum is leaving

Many of you go into the C+D to buy snacks, drinks and meals but few of you ever come to know the charming and fun loving woman behind the scenes. This past Saturday, a party was held to say thanks to Brenda Wilson, the long time manager of the Math Society's C+D. After 11 years of dedicated service, battling food services, fighting high prices and offering a friendly ear, Brenda will be retiring from her job as manager.

Former students who have worked with Brenda over the years were invited to the reception on Saturday, held at the University Club, and the large turnout was a perfect tribute to Brenda. She has been more than a good employee and employer, but has been a friend to many, a person to talk to and, in many ways, a second mother to many away from home. I'd like to take this opportunity one last time to say "Thanks Brenda! Thanks for everything."

Blue and all her University friends

Math Pub Night

This Friday night MathSoc is having its termly Math Pub Night. Our theme this term is Monty Python. So come on out and have a drink with your fellow mathies. If you're feeling creative, there will be a prize for the best Monty Python Character (That is, the only people brave (silly) enough to dress up will probably get some kind of prize). We'll be having your generic door prizes (cheat shirts, shot glasses, gift certificates plus lots more). We'll also be having a pool tournament for those interested, and a Silly Walk contest at some point for those drunk or crazy enough to entertain the rest of us. The night will "officially" start with a showing of "Live at the Hollywood Bowl" at 7pm. If you are underage, don't worry. Come out anyways. We'll let you in if you promise to be good. Hope to see you all Friday night!

Ann "Please, PLEASE come. Pleeeaaase!!!!" Scea
MathSoc Social Director

gradNEWS

All right everybody, here's what's happening with the MGC this week:

- The Grad Ball is quickly approaching. March 14th is the date. Keep your eye out in February for ticket sales.

- Yearbook sales ended last week. Completed yearbooks will be available at the end of the term.

- Don't forget to check out the Pink Tie Pledge article in this issue.

- We still need candid photos for the yearbook. Please submit any photos you have to the MGC office ASAP.

- Valedictorian and Alan George Award nomination forms are available in the MGC office.

- We need people to sit on the selection committees for val dictorian and the Alan George Award. If you are intereste nomination forms are available at the MGC office.

- Intent to graduate forms are available at the MGC offi Math Undergrad Office and (if you dare venture ther Needless Hell.

Don't forget to check out our web pag http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc for t most up-to-date information on what's happening with t MGC.

Rachel Nieuwla
1998 MGC co-cha

Are You Graduating in '98?

The Pink Tie Pledge
Needs You!

Within the next few months, our class will become alumni of the University of Waterloo. The Pink Tie Pledge is an opportunity to leave our important mark on Math! It represents our commitment as graduates to current and future Math students. The graduating class of 1990 initiated the Pink Tie Pledge to donate money to specific projects in the Faculty of Mathematics. Our donations will allow students who follow us to have even better learning opportunities.

Where will the money be spent?

Gifts in the past were spent on:

- Math Endowment Fund (MEF)
- Purchasing undergrad computing equipment (UNIX and Mac systems, new X-Windows terminals)
- Expanding the Software Tools Lab
- Providing support for the Tutorial Centre
- Enhancing the Descartes Scholarship Endowment

If you wish, you may specify where your donation will be spent in the future.

What do you mean by a pledge?

Your pledge is simply a promise, made in good faith, to give a specified amount over a three year period. Remember your first contribution will not be due until one year after graduation. Each spring, you will receive a reminder indicating the amount you have pledged for that year.

Pledge Levels

The Dean's Challenge:
Year 1 — $98; Year 2 — $900; Year 3 — $1000
The Dean of Mathematics is personally offering a challenge to each graduate to donate a total of $1998 over three years. Every person that rises up to his challenge will be thanked in person by the Dean. As well, this select group of students will be treated to a formal dinner, hosted by the Dean this March.

The Ralph Stanton Pledge:
$19.98 per month for three years.
Graduates who accept this challenge will be treated to a rece tion and receive a special gift.

The Dean's Prime Number Club:
$101 per year over three years.
The Dean's Prime Number Club includes the designation of yo own Personal Prime Number!

The program is designed to encourage every member of ou graduating class to consider a gift to Math and its students. R member, no matter what size donation you make, you will ha the satisfaction of knowing you have made a good investment the Faculty.

Everyone who participates in the Pink Tie Pledge will recei a Pink Tie Lapel Pin!

How can I make a pledge?

Within the next couple of weeks, all graduating students w be receiving a package in the mail containing complete inform tion on the Pink Tie Pledge, as well as your pledge cards. Ju fill out the pledge card and return it to the MGC office befo March 31st. You will be contacted one year after graduation May 1999 about how to make your actual donation.

The Goal

The goal this year is $50,000. We need as many people possible to participate. As the term progresses, keep a eye o for a chart in the Right Angle Café foyer which will display t total amount pledged so far. If you have any questions, fe free to contact me at rsrivast@undergrad.math or drop by t MGC office (MC3029).

Let's go Class of '98!!!!

Raman Srivasta
Pink Tie Pledge Direct

Letter to the Editor

Matt,

I was somewhat disturbed by the fairly long article by that misogynist – he seems to have been rather hurt in a recent interaction he has had with some woman. His logic is fallacious if it even exists, he propagates stupid stereotypes and fails to justify his position in any way. (hmmm, must be a CS major :-) – what me? Stereotypes? :-)

Thus, I have a problem with articles like this getting printed – not because they are controversial, but because there is a pathological lack of quality. If the guy wants to hold an offensive position, he could at least try to be either witty or cogent in his arguments. As it is, he is neither. A stream of consciousness would have had more logical content.

So, I was wondering then what the *mathNEWS* rejection policy was, if there was one?

Thanks,

Sam

[Hi Sam. That article — "Author with a Death Wish" — was probably the one most commented on from our last issue, with the possible exception of "Mathopoly". While many people share your opinion, there was also a substantial proportion of positive commentary. Since most of our articles seem to be met with vast waves of apathy, I consider the sizeable positive reaction justification enough for publishing the article.

And yes, Sam, we do have a rejection policy. Believe me, you **don't** *want to see what doesn't make the cut. —* Σ*Ed.]*

Co-op Posting

Employer: Jim Rose Circus
Job Title: Freak Performer

The Jim Rose Circus is known worldwide as the premiere source for freak entertainment. We've shown off our freakishness across the globe, in Europe, Asia and all around North America.

We're looking for some new freaks, preferably from the Faculty of Mathematics, for our new show. If you're a self-starter, not afraid to take the initiative, you might be perfect for the Jim Rose Circus.

Job Requirements:

- References from friends and colleagues that you are indeed a freak
- Familiarity with eunuchs
- Ability to hang weights from your genitals is not required but definitely an asset

We have a revolutionary strategy of recruitment: we will take any freak, any time, any place. We don't care what your special skill is, as long as you're a freak. You could work for boring corporations like Microsoft, where everyone works fully-clothed, or you can join the circus. The choice is obvious.

The Jim Rose Circus is an equal-opportunity employer.

Jon Ezer

prof QUOTES

"So it can't possibly be true, but that's not gonna stop me from proving it."

Willard, PM 346

[beginning of class; writes on blackboard] "Today: useless abstract nonsense."

Willard, MATH 235

"Try to visualize right angle in R^4, of course, only after the appropriate consumption of alcohol."

Willard, MATH 235

"Now we can take this and give it to the local chimpanzees. We'll just bring down some chimpanzees from the 5ᵗʰ floor."

Goodman, MATH 237

"Imagine the curve screaming as the tangent line cuts it twice. . . you all heard it screaming, right?"

Goodman, MATH 237

"Unless everybody has had way too much beer, human mating is generally non-random."

Liston, ANTH 101

"I'm not gonna go through a detailed check with this crud! Wait, Don't call it crud. . . with this precious information."

Zorzitto, MATH 136

"If you leave the class confused today, I'll feel I've done my job."

Hare, PMATH 354

"If one weird condition holds, then some other weird condition holds."

Willard, PMATH 346

"Canonical means whatever I'm thinking of in my mind at the moment."

Willard, PMATH 346

"Let's think for a minute. That's always better. . . well, perhaps it's not always better, but in this case it is better. . ."

Cunningham, C&O 350

"Under the influence of powerful drugs, I get an intuition."

Tenti, AM 361

. . . And some quotes from the co-op postings

"Co-op students will be expected to pay for their food."

Dump SPRL

"If you like coffee — great, it's free."

Focus Automation Systems

"We boast a well-stocked kitchen."

Inscriber Technology Corporation

Happy New Year from the ActSci Club!

Hello boys and girls, welcome back to school! Sure hope Santa was good to everyone!

Once again, the ActSci Club is up and running for the term. A huge "Thank You" to all those who attended the organizational meeting! A very special "Thank You" to Prof. Hardy for letting her students out promptly at 4:20 p.m. so that they could cast their votes!!!

So, who's in charge this term?

Here are the peoples' choices:

President	Chantal Bray
Vice President	Alex Huang
Treasurer	June Quah
Secretary	Olivia Hsieh
Publicity Director	Jackie Sankardyal
The Wave	Shawna Stephens
	Irene Huang
	Bob Mersereau
1st Year Rep	Matthew Garnier
2nd Year Rep	Jenny Kang
3rd Year Rep	James Zheng
4th Year Rep	Lind Hayden

Yet to be chosen: Delegates for ANEA/ASNA to represent the University of Waterloo for the year in 1998-1999. There will be an election/information session on March 17, 1998 at 4:30 p.m. in MC 4040. So come on out and vote for your delegates!!

We have had numerous questions regarding the ASNA/ANEA convention which was held on January 10th in Quebec City. So, for those of you who are still in the dark, here is an update:

Despite the fact that our bright, eager bus-load of ActSci students were unable to attend the conference because of the dreaded ice-storm, the convention went on without a hit. Needless to say we were terribly disappointed! Oh, well!!!

This meant that all funds that were contributed towards the convention on behalf of MEF were returned to MEF.

On a more optimistic note, the next convention will be held in Quebec City again, BUT hopefully in September. Yeah!

"What's new this term," I hear you ask?

Hmmm... for starters: those of you who are writing exams will be very happy to hear that the ActSci Club now has the latest editions of Actex Manuals for exams 150, 161 and new Actex Manuals for exams 120, 151, 160 and 140 on its way.

Finally, here is our juicy but INCOMPLETE agenda for the term:

Who?	What?	When? Where?
Everyone	Bowling	Feb. 12 @ 7pm, TBA
Prof. Mary Hardy	Talk	Feb. 24 @ 4:30pm, MC4040
Everyone	Skating	Feb. 27 @ 6:30pm, TBA
Harry Panjer	Talk	Mar. 3 @ 4:30pm, MC4040
Mexican Actuary	Talk	Mar. 17 @ 4:30pm, MC4040
Unknown speaker	Talk	Mar. 24 @ 4:30pm, MC4040

Please be reminded that you must be a member of the ActSci Club in order to participate in any of the above events or to borrow an Actex manual. So, wander down the hallway from the C&D with your $5.00 to our office (MC 3030) and we'd be delighted to make you a member of our team!!!!

Good luck in your term!

Jackie Sankardyal
Publicity Director, ActSci Club

Nice Body?

Does everybody hate their body sometimes? If they do, to what extent? Would they understand the hours spent examining it, criticizing it, cursing it? What about their relationship with food? Do they know the emotional link to food, the love/hate dilemma that can leave you with a bad case of "the morning after" after bingeing? Would they understand the need for perfection, the desire to achieve victory by starving yourself for just one more hour? The feeling of defeat that can overcome you when you give in to your hunger? The guilt, the shame, the anger, the sense that eating was something wrong that must be righted at all costs and as quickly as possible?

The truth is some of these feelings are common: the insecurity, the desire for beauty and acceptance, the striving for perfection. In this day and age, we live mostly by images. We are continually bombarded by glossy pictures of perfection, accompanied by messages which are meant to create a link between these images and happiness. We do not have enough time to go beyond many of the superficialities we are fed. And as a result, we accept early on that beauty is essential to happiness and that beauty itself consists of the glossy pictures presented. Slimness in particular is cherished and has come to symbolize self-control, dedication and strength. Sadly, we often start to learn this at too young age to understand how truly wrong and damaging such messages are.

In order to really be happy, we must learn to fight the insecurities and accept that beauty is subjective. It is impossible to be beautiful to everybody, just as it is impossible to please everyone. Beauty is a very subjective, personal thing and isn't must learn to own our own ideals and take pride in our bodies no matter what. This is a very difficult thing.

Next week (February 2–6) is Eating Disorders Awareness Week. If you want more information about eating disorders please come to the Student Issues Resource Centre in the Feds Office, e-mail `expert@feds.uwaterloo.ca` or call Heather ext. 6331.

This is a week to reflect on body images and the damage they cause. This is a week to celebrate all body types, simply because they are our bodies and they deserve to be nurtured and loved by us always. It's about time we do so.

Ana Bado

FASS '98 Update

I have MY ticket... do you have YOURS???

Hello again, my dear fellow mathies. Don't worry — this won't take long. I'm just here to once again remind you about the must-see, feel-good, hip-hoppest musical of the term! It's here! It's for 4 shows only!! It's the one musical no serious critic would even **dare** to comment on! God, do I sound annoying or what? It's time for FASSablanca!!

Show Times

As I mentioned before, there are 4 runs of the show. They are as follows:

- Thursday, February 5 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 6 at 10:00 p.m. (the legendary "Friday Late Show")
- Saturday, February 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Each show is performed in the Humanities Theatre, which is located inside Hagey Hall.

How Do I Get Tickets?

The price of tickets are $7.00 if you get them in advance, or $9.00 at the door. There are a few ways to get your hands on them:

- The Humanities Theatre Box Office has tickets for all 4 shows. The Box Office is located on the first floor of Hagey Hall, or can be reached at ext. 2127.
- Various FASS members (including myself) have tickets, as well as a licence to sell (which, by the way, is much cheaper than your standard licence to kill). Note: we ONLY have tickets to the Thursday show and the Friday early (i.e. 7:00 p.m.) show. The Friday late show and the Saturday show are Reserved Seating only; you MUST get tickets to those shows through the Box Office. So, if you want to see either of the first two shows, see me or other FASS members for tickets.

Anything Else I Need to Know?

Not really. If you like a good laugh, you'll love the show. If you like a good musical, you'll enjoy the show. If you enjoy a brilliantly staged tragedy, with all sorts of imagery, symbolism, and hidden meanings — well, you might be better off just skipping the show altogether.

Remember: FASSablanca is entirely written, directed, produced, and performed by U(W) faculty, alumni, staff, and students, so the show is geared to you. Just come out and see the show. Remember, a show is nothing without its audience, and we want you to be our audience. So buy your tickets soon, and be our audience. You'll thank me for it later.

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

Bitter, Bitter, Haggard Old Woman Rants and Raves S'more

Back From The Abyss, Baby

Yes, folks, I'm back at school, battle-scarred and emotionally crippled, yet again forever traumatized by a foray into the working world. But perhaps not all is lost, since I can now officially inform you all that

Ottawa Still Sucks

Not that that's a big suprise. It sucked two years ago, and it sucks now. I'm particularly struck and saddened by the number of people wandering around that city with frustrated and confused looks on their faces. Coops should really stop accepting government jobs.

But if you think Ottawa's bad, then I guess it's my sad duty to inform you that

Kanata's Even Worse

Yep. Kanata. Happeningville. Where a veritable plethora of enchantments abound. The months I've spent there are permanently etched into my memory.

Oh yes, baby. You see, it was there that I finally had the pleasure of being mooned by a girl with a really hairy butt. It has to happen sometime, I guess, and gosh darn it, I'm glad it happened to me in Kanata.

[Hey! If you've gotta problem with Kanata, you can damn well wait in line behind those of us who grew up there to voice it, y'hear? Trust me, gentle readers, Sarah knows whereof she speaks. Kanata doth suck. — ΣEd.]

But even that is *nothing* compared to the vision of true evil I glimpsed last term.

Oh yes. Oh baby.

They've tried to keep me quiet, and they've tried to keep it hidden, but I have selflessly sacrificed all to spread the word that

Security Badges Suck Most Of All

If you think they're harmless, then you're sadly mistaken. A wise man once said: "Badges? We don't need no stinkin' badges!"

Truer words have never been spoken.

I repeat: security badges suck. They chew. They bite the big one. And for some reason, I always end up at companies that enforce the wearing of the damned things.

Some people can get away with not wearing their badges. They're known as the Rebel Dudes, or Bad Examples To The Coops. Their lives are pretty cool, except for when they get pinned to the wall by hysterical guards demanding to see their badges and accusing them of being spies from Newbridge.

Unfortunately, if you're a lowly (but multi-talented) coop like me, you don't get these kinds of breaks in the workplace. And it doesn't take long to realize that all the evils of the world—from poor self-esteem to bad hair days to those $#@%@ annoying doors that say "Please Use Other Door"—can be traced back to one thing: the supreme suckage of security badges.

Think about it, thinkaboutitTHINKABOUTIT!!! It's obvious! But just in case you live in your own sad deluded little world like some moron frosh I know, I guess I'll have to spell out for you:

Reason Why Security Badges Suck #1: Security badge are evil. They're the spawn of, I dunno, something else that evil. It's a fact.

(This is a pretty lame reason for a security badge to suck, isn it? That's just it. My security badge made me write it.)

Reason Why Security Badges Suck #2: In the true spir of passport and driver's license photos, security badge pictur always make you look like a drug dealer. Or, as in my case, ver stunned and in desperate need of a nose job. It's a fact.

Reason Why Security Badges Suck #3: You detest you security badge picture. You hate it with a passion.

Yet somehow you still end up forgetting to take the dam thing off and end up on the bus for an hour with a dorky pictur of yourself swinging from a chain around your neck. It's a fac

Reason Why Security Badges Suck #4: Document evidence now shows that men who wear security badges lo their hair earlier than regular men. Women who wear securit badges have smaller boobs than regular women. It's a fact.

Reason Why Security Badges Suck #5: There's nothin more demoralizing than noticing that someone's forgotten you and has to resort to reading your security badge to rememb your name.

On my Badge Clipped To The Shirt-Pocket days, I know be ter than to take offense when I see people staring at my ches (Or what there is of it. See Reason Why Security Badges Suc #4).

I was once foolish enough to catch someone reading my s curity badge (I got the old "Yes, it's really great seeing yo again..."/pained smile/furtive glance towards the ol' badge bi Now, if I'd been quick enough, I'd have pretended not to noti that glance towards the badge clipped at my waist. Unfort nately, since no one had ever told me about proper security badg etiquette, he noticed me noticing him reading the badge. So course he had to fudge it: "Uh, Sarah, I was just admiring yo belt. Where did you get it?" So of course, I had to answe I glanced down at the cracked, dull brown leather around waist, hung my head, gritted my teeth, and muttered "K-mart

It just hurts.

And as if that weren't enough, I had a lot of difficulty badgi out that night. I'd swipe and swipe, and each time all I'd g were the loud beep and red flashing lights going. I kept tryi and trying, and got progressively more and more frustrated a angry until a passing co-worker stopped to give me a hand.

I explained that I was having some trouble badging out, a handed her my card so she could try swiping out for me. Sl looked at it thoughtfully for a second and bit her lip.

Then she looked at me and said, "This is your student ID.

The security guard was baffled at the state of my securi badge the next morning. "It looks like someone's stabbed th thing repeatedly," he said with a puzzled frown.

I fixed a smile on my face told him he was being ridiculous

Sarah "Trauma! Trauma! Trauma!" Kam

Portrait of a Champion

The Long, Wet Road to Nagano

The last twenty-five years of *math*NEWS have seen some tremendous athletes pass through our ranks. Some of them have even had the drive and determination (not to mention dumb luck) to take part in that pinnacle of athletic achievement, the Olympic Games. Long-time readers will remember the exploits of Abner Gumboody, who shocked the world at the Montreal Olympics by finishing the 100m sprint ahead of all other runners. (Unfortunately, Abner was not officially registered in the race, nor was he fully clothed. To us, however, he is a hero.)

In 1998, the world turns its attention to far-off Japan, and we at *math*NEWS look to the latest (and some say greatest) of *math*NEWS athletes, Johnny Foonswozzle. Johnny gained prominence at the beginning of this moth when he won the national championship in the 1000m solo toboggan. Regular readers will know Johnny, who recently left his long-running "Sex Lives of Dust Mites" column to train full time for next month's competition. *math*NEWS staffers remember him for his competence and persistence, and for his confidence in his own abilities. "The only thing bigger than his heart," said one proofreader, "is his ego."

Last week, Johnny kindly interrupted his intense training regimen to grant *math*NEWS this exclusive interview.

mN: What led you to the olympics?

JF: Well, last term I realized that if *math*NEWS was going to publish articles like that cabbage one, it was no longer suitable for the kind of intelligent discussion that I was interested in. Then, after I was inexplicably rejected by the Dean of Math Nominating Committee (a complete sham), I decided that to achieve greatness I had to move to a different sphere.

mN: Let's talk about your sport for a moment. Why the toboggan?

JF: Because it's the perfect showcase for my talents. It's fast-paced and gruelling, dangerous if done wrong, and graceful and elegant in the hands of a master. It's a medal sport for the first time this year, so the eyes of the world will be on me.

mN: What does it take to be a world-class tobogganist?

JF: Three things, really. First, you need power, to get a good run at the sled. Next you need the agility to mount the sled while maintaining your forward momentum. Finally, you need balance and control to make sure that you don't wipe out halfway down. A lot of these supposedly "world-class" courses are just covered in ruts and bumps.

mN: What has the media response been like?

JF: Media people are scum.

mN: You say that, but you've been a journalist yourself.

JF: I'd hardly consider *math*NEWS to be journalism (or to be much of anything at all). Besides, "Sex Lives of Dust Mites"

wasn't journalism, it was *art*.

mN: Have you made many sponsorship deals?

JF: I'm sick of athletes having to debase themselves, having to bow to corporate interests just to be able to compete. I believe that the Olympics should return to the purity of the old days, when no one got paid anything.

mN: How many sponsorship offers have you had?

JF: None so far, but I'm hopeful.

mN: How are you supporting yourself?

JF: OSAP, mostly. Plus, I found my old toboggan in my parents' garage, which reduced my start-up costs.

mN: Anything you'd like to say to your former compatriots at *math*NEWS?

JF: Don't quit your day jobs.

Richard "The Temp" Bilson

*m*N/WWW

*Celebrating a generation of math*NEWS

Greetings all. I hope you've had the chance to peruse the copy of Volume 1, Issue 1 on the Web and have enjoyed delving into *math*NEWS' humble beginnings.

This month we continue our historical tour of *math*NEWS with the *math*NEWS *time*LINE, which (hopefully) should be available on *m*N/WWW by the time you read this. Recall (or discover) the various happenings and events in *math*NEWS' twenty-five year history. Did you know that *math*NEWS is the longest-running student paper at Waterloo? As such, it has witnessed many historical events, local and global, and a number of these are mentioned as well, to lend perspective on how much Waterloo and the world around it has changed since *math*NEWS' debut.

As always, the latest and past issues of *math*NEWS are available on *m*N/WWW, *math*NEWS' Web site, at the following URL:

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http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/
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Also, feel free to send your comments about *m*N/WWW to me at vtluu@uwaterloo.ca; your opinions and feedback (and contributions) are always welcome.

Viêt-Tâm "*math*NEWS Web <u>sub</u>-editor" Luu

*ultra*CLASSIFIEDS

Ka-chug…ka-chug…ka-chug…

The Pseudo-Expert on Statistics
Part II: Statistical Literacy

First of all, I would like to apologize to all my readers (the few that there are) about the lack of articles that I have written about the Statistical world. *[That's OK. — ΣEd.]* This discontinuity was due to the fact that in the Fall term, my status was elevated to that of Squizmaster. Now that I am back to my station as a writer, I can now return to duty providing great information about Statistics and the issues that encompass this science of uncertainty and data collection. *[No really... that's OK. — ΣEd.]*

For those in STAT 231 or taking an upper year Statistics course (may God have mercy on your soul), the question one may have is "What is the importance of statistical literacy?" The answer to this question is, of course, quite obvious. Statistical literacy is just as important as any of the other literacies that are vital in our modern society. *[Um... does that strike anyone else as the least bit circular? — ΣEd.]*

Why people are so gullible

Everyone knows the infamous quotation that P.T. Barnum stated about the birthrate of "suckers". Unfortunately, this statement has often been very true. Why is this so? Well, much of the blame must be placed on the process of planning for data collection. It is there where things can go tragically wrong if the plan is either not planned properly, if the wrong questions are asked or if we choose the wrong procedure of selection for our survey or whatever you are doing that involves data collection. If any of these abovementioned events occur in your survey, expect "The Four Biases of Statistical Apocalypse" (those being Sample Bias, Study Bias, Non-Response Bias and Measurement Bias) to ravish and lay waste any information that has been collected. And yes, this qualifies as a **very** bad thing, especially if this experiment or survey is damn important.

So, how does statistical literacy combat these biases? Well, statistical literacy can identify these scourges that are these "Four Biases". By such methods as training employees to ask the correct questions, phrasing the questions such that ambiguities can be eliminated and utilizing random sampling and stratification, the "Four Biases" can be exterminated or at worst, limited in their damage. At the upper levels of Statistics (i.e. STAT 332), the lecture will demonstrate how people can kick the posteriors of these biases. So, statistical literacy is important for accuracy in data collection. *[So you're saying that statistical literacy is important for statisticians, right? — ΣEd.]*

If you believe this, I've got swampland in Florida I would like to sell you

For the most part, data collection will get rid of most of the problems that plagues a statistical survey or experiment. However, there are dishonest men out there who would use statistics for their own benefit, be it to hawk their product, earn a quick buck at the expense of others or to exaggerate their argument. *[Whereas the True Statistician is noble and selfless beyond the ken of mere mankind? — ΣEd.]* True, one can use common sense, but that can only go so far. By the use of graphs and figures, one can deceive others into a false sense of hysteria. This is where statistical literacy comes in. Statistical literacy tends to produce cynics. Being a cynic is not necessary a bad thing, for most statisticians tend to be quite skeptical about any claim until they are **fully** convinced that this figure is accurate. It

is statistical literacy that arms one with knowledge and allo the person to back up one's argument or denounce another's. allows one to ask about who says this quote, how this conclusi was arrived at, the variability of the study and even how questions were asked. So statistical literacy allows protecti from inaccurate or fraudulent claims.

So what does statistical literacy consist of?

Now, one need not know the moment generating function Beta distribution with parameters α and ν, but there are imp tant aspects that should be covered in order to gain statisti literacy. One must know what biases and variabilities exist i survey. One needs to know the traps that unscrupulous peo use to fool the naive. One needs to know how to properly pl a survey. Finally, one needs to fathom the concepts of expec tion, variance, moment generating functions, how to deal w multiple random variable and transformations of random va ables. And if you do know the moment generating function Beta distribution with parameters α and ν, be happy in know that this will attract members of the opposite sex (O.K. I be pushing it there, but it is still rather impressive). *[Clea — ΣEd.]*

Five years ago, I was taught statistics in high school. To dismay, I found that what was taught consisted of nothing m than gruntwork. It is here at U(W) that I began to beco more analytical in looking at even the newspaper and star questioning what was said in those articles. In today's wo even high school students must begin to grasp concepts of s tistical literacy if they are to compete in these modern tin They must not only experience gruntwork such as calculat the expectation of a binomial distribution but also discuss h surveys are done and what biases exist. It is statistical litera that protect man from being lost and taken advantage of. I also statistical literacy that allows one to experience the joy th is derived from the field of Statistics. *[Is that before or after surgery? — ΣEd.]*

John "The Pseudo-Expert" Sw

A Little Problem
Round 2

That wasn't so bad, was it? A little first year applicat of the Chinese Remainder theorem and a little thinking sho have solved last edition's puzzle. It was amusing to see so m of you trying to do it in your head however. Just for intere sake, the answer to the puzzle was 1735, 1736, 1737 and 173

This week has two small puzzles. First, **what word in the glish language has all five vowels in it, in order?** There is m than one word like this, but if you can get more than one, should be considering an English degree.

And now that we have that out of the way... here is math puzzle for this week. **Supply the missing number in following sequence:** 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 24, 31, 100, <blank>, 10000, 1111111111111111. Think can do it? If you get stumped and want a clue, mail m blue.enigma@unforgettable.com and I'll give you a hint. you next week for another great puzzle.

Pranks Of The Past

The Truth Is Out There

If you read last issue, than you saw the article from our esteemed editor about how Waterloo, to the untrained eye, lacks a certain wild spirit that many associate with university. *[Um... that's not what I said at all, actually. Get it straight. — ΣEd.]* I have to agree to an extent. One certainly does not see the proliferation of mohawk haircuts or other eccentricities you might at another school. However, to the dedicated researcher, Waterloo has had its own bouts of weird and wild days. Over the last couple of years, I have been collecting stories. Stories like the paint bombing of the tie in the mid eighties. The theft of the Rigid Tool by U of T and the encasement in concrete. The "sodding" of Poets. The painting of the Easter Egg. The chickens and other barnyard animals that have been left in offices over weekends. Still, it hasn't been enough. I want more! So... if you can help, it please send me your story of a good prank. I promise to change any names to protect the... er... innocent. Over the next few issues, I will begin to publish some of the stories I have already collected.

Til next time,

Blue

Spice World

Spicing Up Everyone's Life!

As most loyal Spice Girl fans probably know, this past Friday, January 23rd, 1998, was the opening night for their debut in the movie industry. If you love the Spice Girls, you'll love the film. It is peppered with music from the Spice Girls' two albums and even has a new song by the "Fab Five." Even if you're not a big Spice Girls fan, you can still enjoy the movie by pointing out all of the bad points, 'cause hey:

1. They can't act (well actually, just a little, but it's not Oscar material by anyone's standards)
2. The plot is really weak, not terribly deep and contains a moral that is very cliché (Girl Power!)
3. You can watch the scantily-clad cast. Just to be gender-friendly, the girls keep out nudity (even though it is suggested to Ginger Spice), and for the female audience, there is even a scene with some male Italian dancers (who are about as buff as me; you gotta see it to believe it!)
4. Posh Spice
5. Ginger Spice
6. Scary Spice
7. Baby Spice
8. Sporty Spice

Okay, so it's not the most deep and thoughtful movie out there, but do you expect that from the Girls? No, we just want to hear them sing... and maybe watch them dance, too.

But all in all, there are still many points to the film that can be admired. The supporting cast is terrific, including superb roles from Roger Moore, Elton John and Meatloaf (who, incidentally, says: "I love those girls, but I won't do that").

The only terrible down-side to the movie is when you watch it with the crowd with whom I went. If you think the Comfy Lounge gets loud, you should have heard the guy sitting beside me, Mike (arts guy Mike); he managed to get 12-year-old girls in front of us, who where throwing popcorn and screaming, to turn around and stare at him like he was a freak. He was singing along to the songs louder than anyone else (and lucky me, I was sitting beside him).

So, overall I give this movie 5 spices (one for each girl), and another 3 for the kick-ass soundtrack, for a total of 8 out of 10 spices.

Peter "Spice Fan" Lizak

As Good As It Gets

Not Quite, But Close

IMDb rating: 8.5/10
My rating: 6/7
Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt, Greg Kinnear

Sony/Tristar   138 Minutes

In my infinite foolhardiness, I braved the lines at Fairway's Cineplex-Odeon to see the other love story type movie playing this Friday. Great to go see, but not on the opening night of Spice World.

Fortunately, evading the horde of 10 year old girls to get to my theatre was the worst part of the night.

Dumping a dog down a garbage chute. That's the first thing you see Melvin doing. And he does it with unabashed glee. For the rest of the first half of the movie, we see Melvin generally being a prick. Granted, he's got an excuse: he's obsessive compulsive. Jack pulls this role off excellently, but it's not really a stretch given other mentally ill, loud, obnoxious characters he's played.

Similarly, Helen Hunt's character portrayal isn't a big stretch since Carol is basically a lower class Jamie Buchman. Still, she manages to show a vulnerable side that seems to be missing from *Mad About You*, which she demonstrates aptly when Melvin mentions her son's potential death as she serves him breakfast.

Greg Kinnear (*Sabrina*), plays a homosexual artist who has been severely beaten in a robbery. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Simon had almost none of the stereotypical homosexual characteristics. I spent a good part of the movie wondering whether he actually was a homosexual. At this point, Greg's art dealer friend gives Melvin Greg's dog, and threatens physical violence if the dog is not in perfect condition when Greg returns. And then the story begins...

One thing leads to another, and eventually, the characters end up being stuck together on a road trip. Did I mention Melvin is a touch homophobic?

You can probably guess at how it ends, but the road there is entertaining, and occasionally, even touching. It's worth seeing, although the Spice Girls' movie debut might put a sour note in your wait to buy tickets.

Michael Lizak

Restaurant Review
Jose's Noodle Factory

Formerly Louie's Lodge, Jose's Noodle Factory provides an eclectic mix of motifs, in an around-the-world-in-60-minutes Sunday night affair. The Factory is not sure what it's trying to be. The decor looks distinctly collegiate-American, the menu has a wide assortment of entrees, namely Italian and Tex-Mex and the appetizers are sampled from around the globe.

The decor in Jose's Noodle Factory most closely resembles that of Casey's and East Side Mario's. However, it is not as happenin' as its established competitors. The atmosphere might be considered more homey and intimate, or dull and boring. Cans of non-perishable items are lined on a shelf atop the large dining hall. The center tables have checkered table-cloths which give the joint a strange cajun-south feel. The raised booths are very cosy and are definitely the preferred locales. The music is well chosen and at a perfect volume to allow the enjoyment of peaceful conversation.

For an appetizer, the escargot is exquisite. Generously dressed with garlic butter and melted cheese, this French concoction soothes the yearning palate. The entrees come with salad and bread which pale in comparison to the delicately textured escargot. The salad is tasty but does not give any pretense of being fresh. While the salad dressing (a vinaigrette) and croutons are good, the lettuce seems a little mature. The bread is greasy and hard, perhaps a good combination in the bedroom but not on the dinner plate.

The Chicken Tettrazini is surprisingly delightful. Soft pieces of full-flavoured chicken are mixed among the pasta and veggies. The pasta comes with a light sauce that is definitely enhanced with a little parmesan and the veggies are tasty and fresh. The best part about the chicken tettrazini is that when you take ha of it home and microwave it the next day, it will taste almost good.

The service is excellent. Wait staff seems to have a knack f knowing when they're needed and knowing when they're not. delightful touch is when the wait staff present the dessert men a plate with samples of all pie and cake selections of the da The desserts look delectable, but alas, patrons are stuffed wi pasta and escargot.

The hardest thing to swallow at Jose's Noodle Factory is t bill. Ten dollar entrees are not kind to the student budget a an appetizer and beverage result in a twenty dollar meal. Th is definitely one of the more expensive restaurants in the U(W area. However, you do get more than a pizza slice and a count to lean on. Jose's Noodle Factory is a good place to treat yours or a friend, and the wide menu provides something for everyor

Asterix Rating: ★★★★★★ (out of seven)

Jonathan E

Life in the Slow Lane
Presents: Mr. Subliminal

Good day, fellow mathies! Another lovely day (freezing col just perfect for those of us with 8:30 classes (slept in). Howev we can rejoice, for the weekend is upon us, with a chance to rel and rejuvenate ourselves (three words: FASS tech weekend).

Life here is starting to kick into high gear. After all, befo you know it, midterms will be upon us (guess I'd better sta going to class), which are used to indicate our progress in t course so far (on second thought, maybe I won't). Midter require a student to have good study habits (Fourth!!!), ke concentration (Barboo, anyone?), and a clean study area (we they do vacuum the Comfy Lounge once a week). However, on midterms are over, one can pat oneself on the back for a job w done (Bomber!!!), and look forward with confidence to the r of the term (before the profs lead you to the finals like lambs slaughter).

Social life around here is still very interesting. After tonight is Math Pub night (how many mathies does it ta to drink the Bomber dry?), next weekend is the production FASSablanca (yes, more cheap plugs for the show), and of cour there is always a deck of cards to be found in the Comfy (rig around when assignments are due).

Of course, there is an outside world as well (boring), with st very relevant to us (boring) occuring everywhere you look (d I mention it is boring?). However, there just doesn't seem to all that much about it to comment on (that's because it's bori you idiot!), so we'll move on...

Well, there really is no more to comment on (it's about tim so it's time to wave good-bye to Mr. Subliminal (just be care what finger you use). Wave bye-bye, everyone!! (Will someo shoot this dumb narrator, please?)

BANG!!

(Thank you... that guy was really starting to get annoyi Anyways, next time, I will tackle the sensitive issue of... w something, anyways. Just remember—I'm not bitter.)

Chris "Mr. Sublimi
<Gee, I'm not schizophrenic... really, I'm not>" McG

mastHEAD
OK... just one page to go...

Matt here. It's Wednesday morning now, which is decidedly later than the prefered time to be writing one of these things, but you know, I don't care. Between a Stats quiz, a couple of assignments, various MathSoc exec wandering in to complain about stuff, and (my favorite) my glasses breaking on the bus home from Production Night... it's been a little busy.

Another slow-going but well-attended Production Night, by the way. Our perseverant volunteers for Issue 2, along with their answer to how to solve all of the world's problems, are: Damian Gomes (If you shave "Do not disturb" on the back of your head), Doug Becker (Nail my penis to a board like the guy in "Sick"), Richard Bilson (K-Y Jelly), Viêt-Tâm Luu (Since it can be done in $O(n^2)$ time, it's not interesting), John Swan (Bayesian statistics and its effects on rats), Mike Brown (I love the feel of it on velvet), Chris McGuire (I don't have time for that — I'm doing FASS), Jodi Moran (CS 452), Brian "Latrell" Fox (Not the Denver Broncos!), Tim Coleman (Huh? Oh, I live in Stratford), Kael Lizak (No, it's "And a partridge in a parse tree"!), and Chris Buchanan (It depends whether or not we have any live chickens).

As always, thanks to Marion at Graphics Services for giving us 900 copies of the issue for the price of 1. And a big thank-you to the Bridgeport bus (number 6). And so you know, the staff didn't know the question when they answered it.

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh
(Buy low, sell high)

Artificial Intelligence

Round Two: Religion

I have a big problem with religion. I do not refer to any one person's particular beliefs, because that is none of my business. I rather refer to religion as an institution in society. Religion serves all too often as an excuse not to think. The very purpose of religion is to coerce people to act without thinking. Do what God says, don't think about why, because you couldn't possibly understand God's mind. Perhaps this was acceptable in times in which people had not yet formed a clear view of the world around them, and in which philosophy was unknown. But like the myths of the Ancient Greeks, religion is a relic of the past. The thing is that nobody can possibly know what God's will really is, and that includes priests, preachers, rabbis, and writers of various sacred texts. That's why it's necessary to view all of these things as imperfect, rather than as literal writings of God's word. To have true faith, you must question what you believe. Those who question come to understand what they believe, and so can defend those beliefs with arguments other than "God says so."

It has always seemed strange to me that some believe that science is somehow in conflict with religion. For example, the belief that evolution could not have happened because the Christian Bible does not include it, or that the Big Bang means that God could not exist. As far as I know, most religions that have a God believe that this God is all-powerful, and far wiser than any human being could ever imagine. If this is the case, then why couldn't God have planned evolution? If you believe in the Christian Bible's creation story, then why can you not consider the possibility that God's seven days of creation might have spanned billions of years? God wrote the Bible through a people that did not have the background to understand a creation that lasted for billions of years. So He had to allow them to understand it in their own terms. The limitation is not in God, but in the people who recorded His word.

I find it most offensive, however, that so many people call themselves members of a religion without believing, or sometimes even knowing, what that religion represents. Forgive for once again using the example of Christianity, for I am most familiar with it. You are not Catholic, whatever you may say, unless you believe that abortion is wrong no matter what the circumstances, that birth control should never be used, and that sex outside of marriage is a sin. You are not Christian just because you celebrate Christmas. If you study and understand your religion, and find that you believe its doctrines in your heart, then you are a member of the religion. Otherwise, it is an insult to true believers of the religion to call yourself such, and to participate in their rituals.

Spirituality is so intensely personal that I cannot believe that any two people view it the same way. Thus the idea of religion, which intends to have everyone believe the same thing, is quite ridiculous. If there is a God, I hope that He or She is far more perfect than humanity. Thus my God would not justify conflict, like the Allah of Islam, would not get angry, like the Yahweh of Judaism, would not be intolerant, like the God of Protestant Christianity, and would not send non-believers to hell, like the God of Roman Catholicism. These are human faults. My God would embody peace, kindness, and tolerance. My God would encourage philosophy, free thought, and scientific discovery. My God would judge us by the essence of our beliefs and the ways in which we put these into practice, not by whether we chose the correct way in which to worship Him or Her. And so among Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Judaism, and the many incarnations of Christianity, I have not yet met a religion whose beliefs match my own. Are you sure that you have?

The One Who Watches

Cryptogram

Salutations. Apparently our cryptogram was well received. A little too well received. A number of solutions were submitted (which is more than can be said for some previous *mathNEWS* puzzles). But since they were all correct — it's difficult to get a cryptogram wrong — our esteemed editor has deemed that no prize can be given. Here is the solution to last issue's cryptogram:
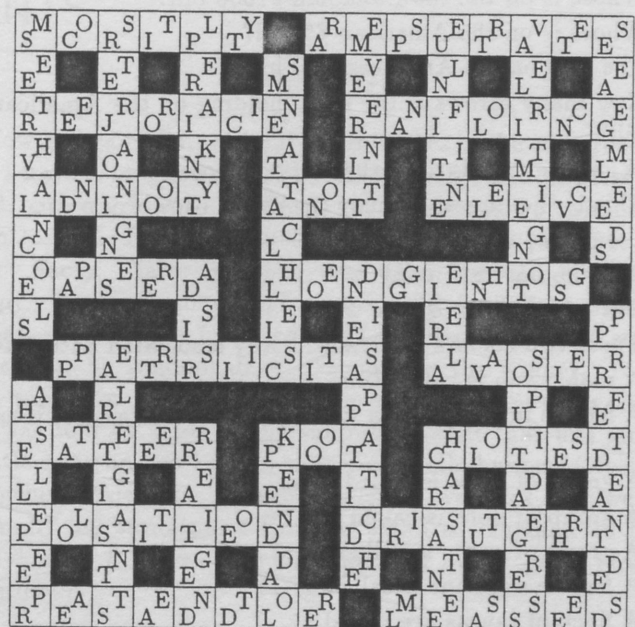
Education is an admirable thing. But it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught. -- Oscar Wilde.

Despite being a prizeless (priceless?) puzzle, we hope you will attempt this issue's installment. Your clue is: r equals b. Good luck!

Qat fxnqtlx io dmot mn hiq c jlirdtf qi rt nidutp

rsq c ltcdmqx qi rt twjtlmthytp. -- Cclq uch ptl

Dttsv.

The Avengers

mathNEWSquiz #2

Now I know I saw more people doing the Squiz around the lounge than I got submissions. What's the matter? Afraid you wouldn't measure up? Couldn't make the twenty step walk to the Black Box to drop it off? As for the six submissions I did receive, they all did great, though no one got a perfect score. Looks like that bonus prize for a perfect five-oh score will have to hold. Submitors and their scores are: John Swan with 26, Ian "The Word Guy" Facey with $33\frac{1}{2}$, Keith Palmer with $34\frac{1}{2}$, The Royal Recreational Lemming Society Of Canada with 35, Claire Bilodeau with 43 and The Co-op Guys with 45. You crazy co-op guys can pick up your prize any time from the MathSoc.

The answers from last week are: 1) John Naismith 2) John Mellencamp 3) Anakin Skywalker 4) 38-14-34 5) Enigma 6) Pistons; 2 7) Enterprise (though the Columbia orbited first) 8) Santa's Little Helper 9) Thus Sprach Zarathustra 10) aglets 11) Queen Anne's Lace 12) Nana Visitor 13) Windsor 14) Hanzel and Gretel 15) Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus 16) 47 inches 17) Kahula, Irish Cream and Grand Marnier 18) Tin Roof, Rusted! 19) Sharks 20) heavyside layer 21) 7863297 22) red 23) Selma Bouvier 24) Lady's Slipper 25) Wild Rose 26) A Scottish novelist or a character in Atlas Shrugged 27) High Commissioners are between commonwealth countries 28) Governor General 29) 1937 30) unburnable 31) Alexander Graham Bell 32) Greenish Yellow 33) No 34) potato 35) Indian corn or maize 36) shortstop 37) Paul Henderson 38) Caracas 39) James Matthew Barrie 40) Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 41) Mohawk, Cayuga, Seneca, Tuscarora, Oneida, Onondaga 42) aphids 43) a hooded cape 44) Feb 11, 1929 45) thicker coats 46) burst capillaries in nose 47) fried bulls testicles, 48) Ashley McIssac and Eatons (or Visa) 49) David Bowie 50) Adam's first wife before Eve.

Your questions for this week are:

1. Messy rooms are supposedly a sign of this mental state.
2. Whose Bedrock phone number was BC1234?
3. Whose picture is on the Canadian $100 bill?
4. Whose is on the the Canadian $1000 bill?
5. Whose is on the American $5 bill?
6. The face on the American $10 bill?
7. How many arrows is the eagle holding on the American $1 bill?
8. What are "curds and whey" made from?
9. This is the largest country in Africa.
10. Largest country in the world?
11. A piano has this many keys.
12. But only this many are white.
13. These two colours are traditionally associated with Easter.
14. A male swan is called this.
15. A female lion is called a lioness, and a female egret is called this.
16. A group of geese is called this.
17. A group of lions is called a...?
18. A group of crows is called a...?
19. A female elephant is called a...?
20. A flock of ravens are called a...?
21. "Fool's gold" is also known by this more technical name.
22. These two games include Grand Slams and rubbers.
23. Koala is an aborigine work meaning this.
24. In Hindu culture, the dot in the center of the forehead represents the "center of" this.
25. Daylight savings time started in WWII. Why?
26. The theory that "every action involves risk and possible loss" was used in Counting Crows' video "Round Here although it was simplified to "nobody move and nobody gets hurt". What mathematician created this theory?
27. On a porn set, this is what a "fluffer" does.
28. In Batman and Robin, she played Batgirl.
29. How many stones are still standing at Stonehenge?
30. Who designed the "lips" logo for the Rolling Stones?
31. This is the name of Roy Rogers' horse.
32. The number of times the word ass appears in the bible?
33. What levels is the hidden level between on Babylon 5? Give colour and numbers.
34. In Demolition Man, this is what they use instead of toilet paper.
35. This was the restaruant that was in the same place as The Mongolian Grill, before Daddy-O's, and before County BBQ and Chicken.
36. We will soon have a new Dean of Mathematics. He has served as Dean before. What is his name?
37. What years was he Dean before?
38. Gudmundsdottir is this Icelandic singer's last name.
39. Name the lead singer of REM and the small animal he fears.
40. Perry Ferrel has been the singer of two bands. Name them.
41. This U of W student paper no longer exists. It was the predecessor to the Imprint.
42. This is what the University of Waterloo's motto, Concordia Cum Veritate, means in English.
43. There are several types of keybord layouts that have been used, or are used, throughout the world. The standard keyboard layout we find around here is called this, presumably for how the letters are laid out.
44. It is what the FM in FM-Radio stands for.
45. During the day we refer to the morning as AM. What does it stand for?
46. What is Honest Ed's last name?
47. The name of Scully's late dog on the X-files.
48. All snowflakes have this many sides.
49. Of Dorothy's three travelling companions in The Wizard of Oz, she met this one second.
50. Cats have this many claws.

Make sure to submit your questions for this week by Feb 9 at 6:30 pm. Submit be either stuffing entries in the BLACK BOX or delivering them in person to the *mathNEWS* office or the *mathNEWS* mailbox in the MathSoc office. Good Luck!

Squizmaster Bl

Come to Pub Night!

Or we'll attack you with a banana

Spermatikos Logos #2

Howdy folks, I have done the unthinkable and made an error in last week's puzzle. My humblest of apologies to all my reader's, it's not my fault — Satan made me do it. Despite the error, a few people managed to figure out what I meant to say and I corrected the mistake for a few people . Submissions came from Will Chartrand, Jon Savoie, Eric Fung, The Royal Recreational Lemming Society, Gigi Garbett, Ian "The word g uy" Facey and Greg "Hologrami" Taylor. All submitted a correct puzzle except Jon and the Lemming people. By far the best answer to the bonus question was <3-man running backwards and wearing a hollowed out pumpkin on your head singing Barbie Girl race, the race to be the quickest to put a line through the phrase "the finish line backwards", running around backwards trying to do Spermatikos Logos even though clue 8 is wrong and Robin is holding on to the real clue 8 at the start line so you can only see it if you are running backwards race>, submitted by Will Chartrand. So this week's winner is Will, congradulations pick up your prize in Mathsoc. Rather than print the answers, I will print the correct clue #8, and I will award another prize for the winner of the last puzzle along with the regular prize next week. Clue 8 should read: Soft, who is the chip engineering expert, sat in a seat numbered one higher than Pascal, but less than Steve, there were two other seats between Soft and Steve. That should make the last one easy. Now, for your further enjoyment, here is this weeks puzzle.

The PCSC holds an annual Name-That-Tune competition every year during April. The format of the contest is as follows: There are 20 songs played and each player has the option of guessing the tune, or not guessing. If you guess and are correct you get 1 point, if you guess and are incorrect you lose 1/3 of a point, if you do not guess your score is unaffected. At the end of the competetion, the score is totalled and rounded to the nearest whole number. Last years contest featured 10 combatants (one was named Milo), can you match each player with the number of right guesses and wrong guesses they made, along with their total score?

1. No one scored 7, 9, 12, or 16.
2. Urgoth had twice as many right answers as Illiana, while Illiana left twice as many no-guesses as Urgoth (note: this implies non-zero values).
3. Only Droog and Nurgle didn't guessed at four tunes, more than anybody else.
4. The number of right answers for the ten players were 10 consecutive integers, in some order. The number of wrong answers was also 10 consecutive integers, in some order.
5. Orheanna had no wrong answers.
6. Droog and Ghileana were the only pair of players with the same final score, only one other player did worse than them.
7. Tatiana and Arrrrrg guessed at all 20 tunes.
8. In no case did a player with more correct guesses than another get a lower score than that player.
9. Erf had more wrong guesses than Tatiana.

Bonus question: 4 people want to cross a rickety bridge. Only two people may cross the bridge at one time, and they must always have a flashlight with them of which the four people have only one. Person 1 can walk across the bridge in 1 minute, person 2 takes 2 minutes, person 3- 5 minutes and person 4 - 10 minutes. Describe the fastest possible way to get all four people accross the bridge.

Please submit your answers to the black box by 6:30, Monday Feb. 9th or email me at rjstewar@descartes.

Robin "Puzzle talking guy" Stewart

gridCOMMENTS

Unconventional Guy

Well, it's that time once again...oh, yeah, I guess there are classes too. But, if you get a free minute, why not try doing this week's gridWORD? It's an unconventional this week, and the "un" part means that something weird's going on.

The idea is to finish the crossword, and then take all the circled words, de-anagram them, and spell out a very special number. Hope you have fun!

Last time, there was only one conventional solution submitted, so the prize goes to Ian "The Word Guy" Facey. He had one official word wrong (LENLISTS are not instances of C variable types, LONGINTS are). Oh, yeah, and the mysterious forgotten "word" was PREDATED, but CREDITED just happened to fit nicely too.

Don't forget to drop off your unconventional solutions (along with the de-anagrammed word) in the BLACK BOX on the 3rd floor of MC, right across from the Comfy Lounge!
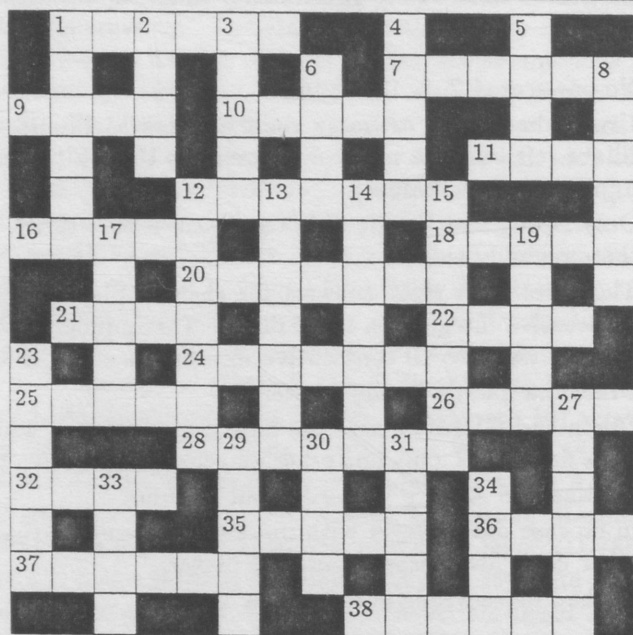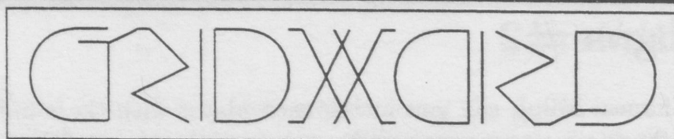
Tim "Crack-Boy" Coleman

Cryptic Guy

Howdy, again. Sorry about the mistakes in the last crossword, but I have it on good authority that Gridby used to mess up at least once a gridword, so that's my once. I got 5 submissions, from Josh "Le Haups" Bennet, "Pylon" Conway, Ian "The Word Guy" Facey, Claire Bilodeau, and Gigi Garbett, so I'm very happy. Everyone got it right, except "Pylon", who missed 32 across — but, since I messed up, I counted it as close enough. Therefore, by random draw: "Pylon" is the winner. Pick up your prize from the MathSoc office whenever you get a chance.

I was told by some of the submitters that that last one was a little easy, and so I made this one a little harder. (No stupid Hedgehogs this time though.) Also, I was sick last week — normally my turnaround time on email is less than 12 hours, really! (For those who emailed me and didn't get a reply till Saturday.)

Doug Becker

GRIDWORD

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Hello, John, please take over the plane.
7. "This pen rag entirely sucks" said Editor with anger.
9. Zero Cove is rumored to listen.
10. True million kingdom
11. Hyped Tie is just a boyfriend.
12. To the Intercom, Men, to see what is said.
16. "Hate one Tire?", she said...
18. "The home is the end of sheared"
20. Poor You! Ungainly Addled...
21. ...Outspoken Ocean boy is invested.
22. Stone bird with primordial kangaroo
24. "Acheron's Fire" is a dance for nine.
25. Acidic closing bequeathed split
26. Most of holiday paper is egress
28. Unnatural Tech day drove boats
32. Me, indebted to teaching assistant Clamour? Perhaps a bit.
35. Only frequently, that excludes nothing
36. Less than half of girlkisser is revel.
37. Announced why French she started delay
38. Hear cast poem with semiconductor

Down

1. Socialize and listen carefully to mixed up street person.
2. Acme Java blended with Chinese sauce is a pleasure
3. Spanish River of Copper? What a rarity.
4. Gnome Laborer, left I see, as a fruit
5. Point cloak
6. Ointment made from sheep pate.
8. Horsy queen I see queasily
12. Vocal gang song is a vulgar manner
13. Evil film ace is thwarted

14. Omit with right of quote
15. An organ, yours or increased identification
16. Twisted fix with first youngster missing a stick for even sp...
19. Partial words of wisdom are faults.
23. Ever present emptiness is sharpness
27. Fumbled pacify without "As" method
29. Pad a Forecast
30. Without tea, infinite break is out of favour
31. Confused Sister, that is to say tedium.
33. Soaring happiness without end is quite a story
34. 1000 Fussed fuss is enough to make one angry

Grid Clues (Unconventional)

Across

1. Flatten.
7. Buy something.
9. Is the victor.
10. The other halves of if's.
11. Close to.
12. Double _____
16. Regular.
18. Rub out.
20. Trouble someone.
21. A Dutch cheese.
22. Frosty.
24. A continent.
25. Lost (Fr.)
26. Provide food for.
28. Back off.
32. Four-sided prefix?
35. Possessing sprite-like qualities.
36. Not odd.
37. XI.
38. Having a complete lack of.

Down

1. Pokes.
2. Major or Minor?
3. Bum _____
4. Gang of lawmen.
5. Record.
6. Sister of Osiris
8. One who provides nourishment.
12. A loud continous noise.
13. Lacking rhythm.
14. Pursuit of knowledge.
15. Take back.
17. Below.
19. Allow entry.
23. Hard to understand.
27. Ran the show.
29. Paradises.
30. Floating vessel.
31. The "Terminator".
33. End of a prayer.
34. Roman fiddler.