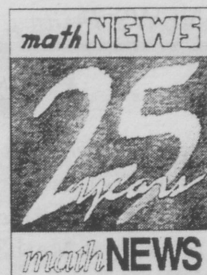


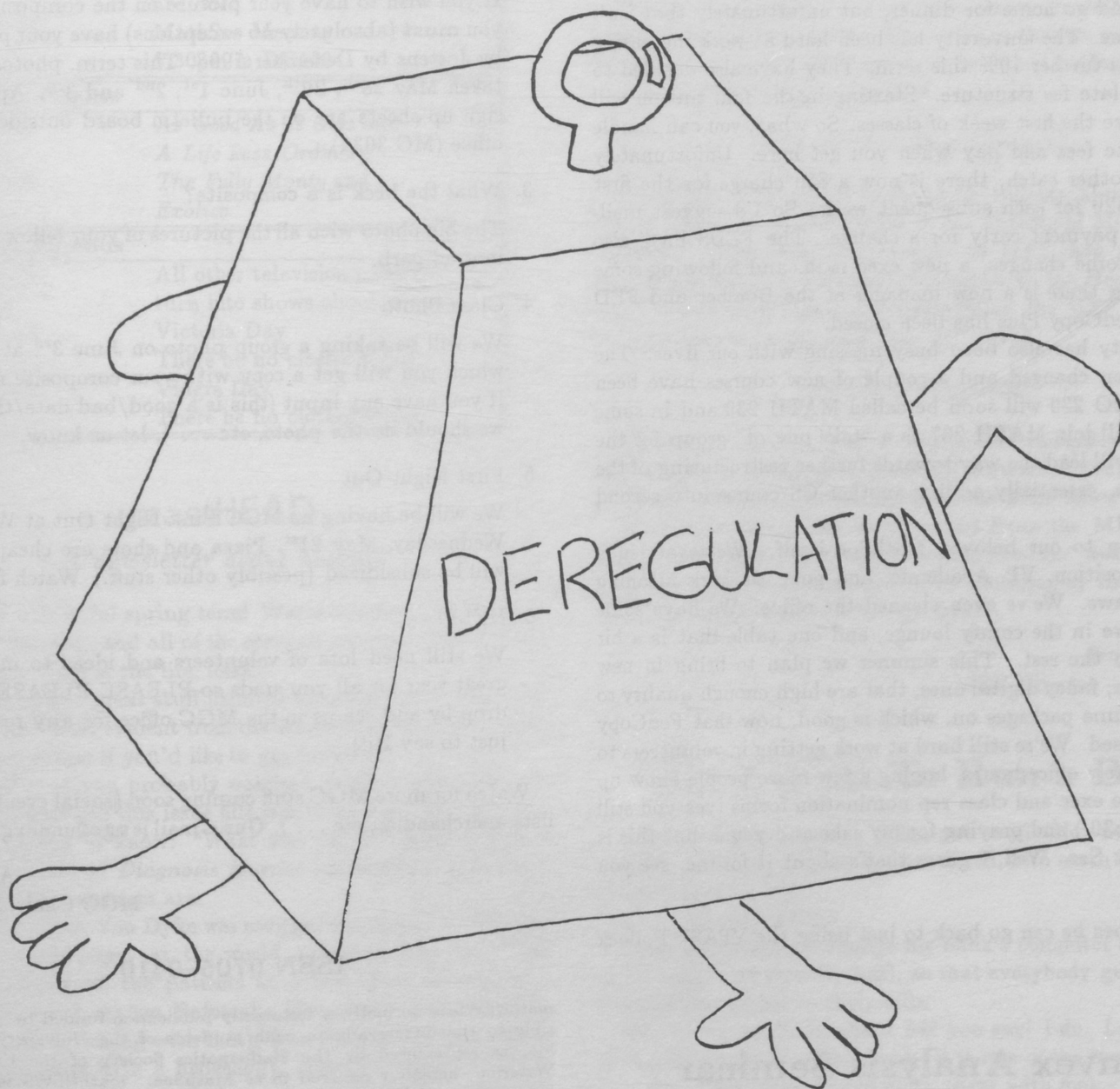
math NEWS



Volume 77, Issue 1

Friday, May 15, 1998

The Harris government drops something new
into university students' laps:



Please note that 30% of this crushing
weight will be used as student aid.
Feel better?

Prez Sez

Welcome back everyone, to another wonderful spring term. Who, you may ask, is this Dan Pollock guy, and why is he writing the Prez Sez? Well the truth of the matter is, at the moment, I'm the acting President of MathSoc. Mind you, I'm also the VPAS, the acting VPF and the acting VPA. This, in theory will be changing shortly. When this issue comes out, nominations will still be open for President, Vice-President Finances, and Vice-President Academic. As well, class rep nominations are still open until 4:30 Friday afternoon. So, seeing as I'm not really going to be your MathSoc President this term, (at least I hope not,) I'll try to keep this short.

So, you might be wondering what has happened around here in the last four months. Well, I'd like to say not much, leave it at that and go home for dinner, but unfortunately that isn't quite the case. The university has been hard at work increasing our tuition a further 10% this term. They have also decided to change the late fee structure. Starting in the fall, tuition will be due before the first week of classes. So what, you can handle a day of late fees and pay when you get here. Unfortunately there's the other catch, there is now a \$50 charge for the first week, and \$20 for each subsequent week. So I'd suggest mailing in that payment early for a change. The FEDS have also undergone some changes, a new exec is in, and following some restructuring there is a new manager at the Bomber and FED Hall, and FedCopy Plus has been closed.

The faculty has also been busy messing with our lives. The core has been changed and a couple of new courses have been created. C&O 230 will soon be called MATH 239 and in some programs will join MATH 237 as a "take one of" group for the core. This will lead the way towards further restructuring of the CS sequence, essentially adding another CS course into second year.

Moving on to our beloved MathSoc itself. We've added a new exec position, VP Academic, and gone to work cleaning out the bylaws. We've even cleaned the office. We have some new furniture in the comfy lounge, and one table that is a bit shorter than the rest. This summer we plan to bring in new photocopiers, fancy digital ones, that are high enough quality to do your resume packages on, which is good, now that FedCopy Plus has closed. We're still hard at work getting in volunteers to fill the last few office hours, hoping a few more people show up to take some exec and class rep nomination forms (yes you still have until 4:30,) and praying for my sake and yours that this is my last Prez Sez. Well, I guess that's about it for me, see you next issue.

Dan "hopes he can go back to just being the VPAS" Pollock

Convex Analysis Seminar

- Meetings on Thursdays
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- MC 4064
- Be there, or be concave!

gradNEWS

Calling all Grads of '99!

It's Prime Time!

OK, you're in 4A but you're probably not even remotely considering the possibility of graduating. Well, unfortunately, you have to. Let's start with the basics:

1. What is a grad of '99?

Anyone who will finish their degree between September 1998 and August 1999 is a part of the graduating class of 1999.

2. Grad Photos

If you wish to have your picture on the composite for 1999 you **must** (absolutely no exceptions) have your photo taken by Jostens by December 1998. This term, photos are being taken May 28th, 29th, June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Appointment sign up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the MGC office (MC 3039).

3. What the heck is a composite?

The big photo with all the pictures of your fellow classmates in grad garb.

4. Class Photo

We will be taking a group photo on June 3rd at 4:30pm of which you will get a copy with your composite next April. If you have any input (this is a good/bad date/time, where we should do the photo, etc ...), let us know.

5. First Night Out

We will be having an MGC First Night Out at Weaver's on Wednesday, May 21st. Pizza and shots are cheap and pool will be subsidized (possibly other stuff.) Watch for details.

6. HELP!

We still need lots of volunteers and ideas to make this a great year for all you grads so PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE drop by and see us in the MGC office for **any** reason (even just to say Hi!).

Watch for more MGC stuff coming soon (social events, mailing lists, merchandise, etc ...). Our e-mail is mgc@undergrad.math

Amy Green
MGC Chair, Spring '98

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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.

Feelin' Fine: Chadwick Severn

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
May 15	Issue #1 does that thing it does so well
May 25	Issue #2 Production Night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
May 29	Issue #2 kicks Issue #1 in the ass
Math Faculty	
May 15	Course Add Deadline
May 29	Course Drop Deadline
MathSoc	
May 15	Class Rep and Exec nominations are due
May 19	MathSoc Meeting 5:30pm in DC1304
Movie Nights	
May 21	<i>As Good As It Gets</i> and <i>A Life Less Ordinary</i>
May 28	<i>The Fully Monty</i> and <i>Exotica</i>
Miscellaneous	
May 15	All other television programs turn into shows about nothing
May 18	Victoria Day There be no classes today
May 20	Viagra Day There be no clothes today

mastHEAD

A newsletter about nothing

Another wonderful spring term! Warm weather, Scoops has a reason for existing, and all of the services on campus have really shitty hours. This is the life, folks.

We've got some great stuff planned for mathNEWS this term, even if it's not that evident from the contents of this issue. Drop us a line sometime if you'd like to get involved.

Since many of you probably watched *Seinfeld* last night, the mastHEAD question this issue fills you in on what you probably have been dying to know: "What was the action-filled plot of the season finale of *Diagnosis Murder* last night?" Our crew, along with their answers are:

Brian Fox (Dick Van Dyke was mugged outside a 7-11 by some punks, becomes angry at the world, starts packing heat, and ends up holding all the patients at a foot clinic hostage in a great cliffhanger), Anton Fedorenko (Somebody died. Not like there is anything wrong with that), Dan Pollack (Sorry, I missed it. I was gargling with a hedgehog), Mike Thorsley (Dick Van Dyke's moustache gets caught in an electric can opener. He gets decapitated. None of the other characters give a fuck), Chris McGuire (*Diagnosis Murder*? Is that show still on? Never mind, I'll be over in the corner, drinking a cafe latte), and Greg Taylor (I won't spoil it for you, but it was a killer episode).

Thanks goes to Marion at Graphic Services, as always.

Chadwick Severn (Nothing happened)

MEF Dispenser

The TMU is for Math, Money, and Meaningful Causes

Over the past four years, undergraduate and graduate math students have been donating money to the principal endowment fund. Each year we spend the interest on meaningful projects that help undergraduate math students. The Math Endowment Fund (MEF) sponsors educational conferences and talks, course development, and new learning facilities specifically for undergraduate students.

MEF needs your help!

This is a new term and we have approximately \$25,000 to spend on students projects. The catch is that we need you help to spend the moneys. You can help by either joining the funding council or submitting a proposal!

Join the Funding Council!

The Funding Council is made up of students, alumni and professors from various disciplines in the Faculty of Math. Council members review proposals brought to MEF then recommends those with which it feels are worthwhile to the Board of directors. Nomination forms are available on the MEF office door. Nominations close Tuesday May 31st, 1998.

Submit a Proposal!

If you have an idea, that would benefit education in the Faculty of Math, bring your proposal forward. "Submission for Funding" forms will be available on the MEF office door.

More information can be obtained from the MEF web site <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom>, by e-mail (mefcom@undergrad.math), by dropping by the office (MC 4046), or by calling the office (x: 5757).

Jeremy Scheffel

MEF Director - Spring 1998

Why I Want To Run a Bank

I want to run a bank. Why, you say? No, not because I want to look, act, or even be associated with math biz, or math accounting students.

I want to scam people.

I want to be able to change my bank's computer system (just as my own bank recently has), so that everybody gets computer errors of 94¢ added to their bills.

Who gives two fucks about 94¢ you say! I do. Let's say 20% of Canadians bank at this bank (it is one of the major banks of Canada). Now some simple math (bear with me):

If Canada has 26,000,000 people, then the bank has $26,000,000 \cdot 0.20 = 5,200,000$ customers.

Now, if the bank can scam 94¢ off of each customer, that's $5,200,000 \cdot 0.94 = \$4,888,000$.

Now do you see why I want to run a bank.

Peter "They gypped me 94¢" Lizak

profQUOTES

"Now we know that I'm not awake, but at least two people are."

Tuncel, C&O 350

"Please feel free to ask silly questions. I'll probably give you a silly answer ..."

Sivaloganathan, AM 250

"Lecturing is a process in which words travel from the professor's lips to the student's notes, without passing through the brains of either of them."

Mendivil, MATH 138

"I understand that giving birth is one of the hardest things for a human to endure. I haven't had the pleasure of experiencing that. I have, however, dabbled in procreation ... not too bad."

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

Wow! Look at all them profQUOTES!

Be sure to make a note of any notable quotables uttered by your professor, and drop them in the BLACK BOX, or email them to mathnews@undergrad.

To fill up the rest of this column, here are some quotes that were not spoken aloud last week in our lectures:

NOTprofQUOTES

"We've decided to teach this statistics course in Russian this term to help you understand it better."

"Pure Math? What the hell is so pure about this crap?"

"I wonder if I'll get paid the same amount if I just babble on for the whole class about my sex life."

"Here are the questions that will be on your midterm. The trick is, we might not necessarily ask them in this order."

"I'm going to let this piece of chalk do all the talking. 'Hello, I'm a piece of chalk. How are you today?' Shhhh! The chalk is talking!"

"I fail to see how teaching you differential equations will make you a better person."

"If I make any mistakes, make sure to come up here and kick me in the ass."

"This is one of the most fundamental theorems in mathematics, however, we will only call it by the name Theorem 4.12."

"If I make this assignment easier, will you be my friend?"

Everything One Needs to Know in Life Can be Learned by Reading mathNEWS

Welcome to the Spring Term! Miss me in the final issue last term? Well, probably not, but I'll write this article anyway. The reason for the delay is that by the time I received copies of Issues 5 and 6, it was almost time for Issue 7 to come out. So the first thing to be learned is that, in general, mail is slow. That said, more wisdom in the pages of Volume 76 (and issue number indicated) include:

1. Scary as math is, the worst thing that a student can do is let themselves be bowled over by it. [1]
2. There is more to be learned than can be found in a textbook. [3]
3. Creativity is more important than knowledge. [5]
4. Kanata doth suck. [2]
5. Chaos versus order and change versus stability is a battle that still goes on today. [6]
6. February 14th is International Loneliness and Bitterness Day (by majority) [4]
7. A feeling of "incomplete happiness" is a normal, possibly healthy condition. [7]
8. In order to be really happy, we must learn to accept that beauty is subjective. [2]
9. It may be that those who observe most closely make the best experts, while those who do something judge it most poorly. [1]
10. Statistical literacy protects one from being lost and taken advantage of. [2]
11. Lucien Bouchard rants and raves all the time, not just when he seeks Quebec's linear independence. [5]
12. The Best and Worst of Campus Dining. (deal hint: Gino's Pizza) [6]
13. He who dies with the most toys ... still dies. [4]
14. Men are from Mars, Editors are from mathNEWS. [6]
15. A word in which all the vowels appear in order is facetious, while queue is a four-vowel-one-syllable word. [3/6] (Scrabble anyone?)

And then of course there was the troubles around Issue 5, to which I will only say it's important to observe judgement as well as maintain perspective. Some closing tidbits: Java will be phased into CS130/134, mathNEWS on the Web has a search feature, and Mike "Hammer" Hammond has gone west (oh no, who's left to appreciate Production Night puns ... !)

Incidentally, I may keep this feature in Issue 1's (assuming I continue it.) There's more material to work with, plus it must have made all you eager to seek out last term's mathNEWSes - right? Right? Ah well, either way I'll still close off with that traditional mantra ... All hail Mercury, the goddess of love and exams!

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

Cynic's Corner

Cycle Psychosis

Ah, spring. The time when a university student's thoughts turn to those of ... bike thieves. (Afterall, the title does say cynic.) My first experience with this side of society was a couple of years ago when an acquaintance of mine had his (thick!) lock clipped and bike swiped. I was rather aghast at this, but I thought that I was pretty safe since my bike was several years old, not in great condition. Well, I thought again after mine was swiped out of a locked enclosure last December. (Ironically, it happened shortly after I'd bought a new bike lock for it.) So why bother to mention this now? Well, my replacement bike was stolen a week ago Tuesday from outside the math building. (Ridden for about a week, ironically shortly after I'd replaced a flat tire. Fate is having fun with me.) So consider this article a warning for the rest of you.

I was told by the person who took my report that it was possible to break those "U"-shaped locks if you know where to hit, but that if you take some "T" piping from Canadian Tire as additional protection, they can't be smashed. Or something like that, I think I was in shock at the time. Check around if you're really curious. But anyway, since the incident, I've come up with some additional countermeasures of my own.

1. Don't leave your bike outside after dark. If you have to, leave it in the shadows where they can't see it, not under a light, where it's visible. (Make sure to bring a flashlight so you can read your combination.)
2. Bring a bicycle pump to campus. Let the air out of your tires when you arrive, and refill them when you leave. (Admittedly, this idea may fall flat.)
3. Run out to check on your bike every couple of minutes. (Hey, a valid reason to escape statistics classes.) Alternatively, set up a video camera. (Video camera thefts may be spoken of at some future time.)
4. Walk. Really; it's good exercise, and they can't steal what you didn't bring.
5. Stay home. Get a dial-up account and have a friend bring you lecture notes (and mathNEWS). Hey, it's a harsh world out here ...

Incidentally, I don't know that removing the seat works in the long run, since thieves could still use the parts to go along with the seat they took from someone else's bike. And while I'm on the subject of bikes, who's idea was it to make "EZ-release" wheels? This means that if you don't remove them, someone can walk off with your tires. But if you don't securely reattach them, I wager you could have a horrifying surprise riding down a hill. Presumably it makes maintenance easier, but it seems to me that it just takes up extra time while adding stress to our lives.

Of course, that's just me, and my opinions. And I'm no expert, just a cynic (on foot). So until next time, don't forget to buy those special bars for your bike locks, folks!

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

It is now time for Computer Science students to panic

Do you think that we should crack our heads open and feast on the goo inside?

Yes, yes I do Kent.

Surprise, surprise, the Mike Harris Common Sense revolution has done something wonderful for our post-secondary institutions.

The 'Deregulation Parade' will be marching through Waterloo later this year, allowing the powers that be raise tuition rates as much as they want for new Computer Science and Engineering students. Those of us already here in the CS program can only have our tuition raised by 20% each year, which could still lead to double the tuition for first year students.

The only catch is that the university must double the number of students it brings in each year in those two programs in order to deregulate them. That's a catch? Let's see, they can choose between:

The current rates

1800 current CS students x \$1800 tuition = \$3.2M
 + 700 new CS students x \$1800 tuition = \$1.3M
 = Total tuition revenue of \$4.5 million dollars

Or the new deregulated ones

1800 current CS students x \$2000 tuition = \$3.6M
 + 1400 new CS students x \$4000 tuition = \$5.6M
 = Total tuition revenue of \$9.2 million dollars

Ka-ching!

So, the school would be crazy to not accept deregulation. They would be able to double the tuition revenue right now, and they'd have to raise the total enrolment for next year by only 28%! Let's face it, the CS program is going to keep getting bigger anyway. This isn't a catch, larger enrolment was going to happen anyway.

By the time that we all leave, they'll have fully doubled the number of CS students, but they'll be able to charge all of them any price they want.

Where are they going to put all these new students? Well, being the geniuses that they are, they will either:

- Cram them all in MC and DC (continuing the screwing students policy)
- Or build another building, at the expense of the students

What can we do? Normally, articles like this would suggest that you speak with your Federation of Students representative, or for you to email your MathSoc class rep, or for you to attend meetings or rallies.

Instead, this article is going to tell you to panic. Run through the halls of the building screaming at the tops of your lungs. It's over, folks. The sky will be by any moment to flatten us.

CASed

AMWF MATHEMANIA I

Results

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to MatheMania I!! We are live, from a sold-out Comfy Lounge, to witness history in the making! Mathies from all over have come to witness the crowning of the first-ever Undisputed AMWF Heavyweight Champion of the World! And, with the recent establishment of the m.N.e as a force here in the AMWF, the stakes are higher than one could have originally imagined!

The title will be decided by a 16-man, single-elimination tournament, with the winner becoming the undisputed champion. Several of the top talents in the AMWF have qualified for the tournament; however, the m.N.e is here in full force as well. But first, a special triangle match has been signed between 3 of the top contenders, with the winner receiving a title shot on the next card!

Triangle Match-Winner to Receive a Title Shot
Sly "Joy Toy" Morolto vs. El Turd vs. Gold Patboy of Egypt

- Sly Morolto pinned El Turd after a power bomb. (0:20:25)
- Gold Patboy of Egypt defeated Sly Morolto by countout. (0:33:23)

Winner: Gold Patboy of Egypt

Tag Team Match-Hick O'Death/Windsprint vs. Pylon of Death/Stan Broderick

- Hick O'Death/Windsprint and Pylon of Death/Stan Broderick battled to a draw after the time limit expired.

Holy cow! Gold Patboy of Egypt wrestled the match of his career to earn a title shot after that impressive victory in the triangle match!! Just who will he face? We're about to find out, as Round 1 of the title tournament is about to begin!! Ladies and gentlemen, lllllllllet's get ready to rumbllllllllle!!!!

Elimination Tournament for Heavyweight Title-Round 1

- The DE-Master pinned "Stone Cold" Chad Severn after the Buckingham-Pi. (0:18:37)
- Icor the Icon pinned Smoking Buddy after the Hamster Wheel. (0:04:33)
- Jim "Hitman" Martin pinned Mike "Hammer" Hammond. (0:17:51)
- Rob Roy pinned Matt "Blackheart" walsh after the Flying Kilt Drop. (0:15:03)
- Snuggles the Dangerous pinned Lucky after a belly-to-belly suplex. (0:04:03)
- Whoop-Ass pinned The Gnome after the Can. (0:11:48)
- John "Ice Man" Winters pinned Supermathie after a spinning power bomb. (0:24:39)
- "Hollywood" Latrell pinned Dean Pylonko after a belly-to-belly suplex. (0:09:40)

Elimination Tournament for Heavyweight Title-Round 2

- Icor the Icon pinned the DE-Master after the Hamster Wheel. (0:08:37)
- Rob Roy pinned Jim "Hitman" Martin after the Flying Kilt Drop. (0:16:41)
- Whoop-Ass pinned Snuggles the Dangerous after the Can. (0:15:18)
- "Hollywood" Latrell pinned John "Ice Man" Winters after Latrell's Revenge. (0:19:08)

Elimination Tournament for Heavyweight Title-Round 3

- Icor the Icon pinned Rob Roy after the Hamster Wheel. (0:16:06)

- "Hollywood" Latrell pinned Whoop-Ass after Latrell's Revenge. (0:11:44)

WOW!! What a night! After being the only member of the m.N.e to survive the first round, "Hollywood" Latrell has made it to the final of the tournament. He will lock up against one of the key members of the AMWF, Icor the Icon. These 2 men do not like each other one bit, and tonight, they will battle one more time-this time, it will be for the AMWF Heavyweight Championship!

AMWF Heavyweight Championship Match-Icor the Icon vs. "Hollywood" Latrell

- "Hollywood" Latrell pinned Icor the Icon after Latrell's Revenge. (0:06:58)

Winner and Undisputed AMWF Heavyweight Champion of the World: "Hollywood" Latrell

Oh my God! It can't be true! "Hollywood" Latrell has won the AMWF title! The m.N.e is in control! We're out of time-see you next time! I can't believe it!

Icor "Come on, ref! Are you blind?" the Mighty
Special Guest Ghostwriter:
Chris "Mr. Subliminal <Just call me J.R.>" McGuire

AMWF Application Form

AMWF Application Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Wrestler's name: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____ Gender: _____

Name of finisher: _____

Description of finisher: _____

Pick one of:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Amateur | <input type="radio"/> | Top notch brawler | <input type="radio"/> |
| All rounder | <input type="radio"/> | Stiff martial artist | <input type="radio"/> |
| Basic highflyer | <input type="radio"/> | Basic brawler | <input type="radio"/> |
| Luchador | <input type="radio"/> | Submission wrestler | <input type="radio"/> |
| Aerialist/technically skilled | <input type="radio"/> | Technically skilled brawler | <input type="radio"/> |
| Daredevil flyer | <input type="radio"/> | U.S. standard worker | <input type="radio"/> |
| Brawler/technician | <input type="radio"/> | Brawler (aerially skilled) | <input type="radio"/> |

Distribute 200 points among the following:

Work rate _____ Stamina _____ Push _____

Distribute 5 special points among the follow ing:

Never submits (Costs 2 points if chosen) _____

Rarely submits _____ Difficult to pin _____

No sells moves _____ Gets a second wind _____

(You can use 1 special point for 10 attribute points above)

Little Known Facts About Skip

It's a little known fact that Skip is a lying piece of shit who's ego is only unmatched by the size of his ass. Yes, our current President of MathSoc only got the job because he rigged the ballot and shot the other contenders. So far, he has not attended any MathSoc meetings, has not had any office hours, in fact, he has not done one single thing to benefit any math student at U(W), with the exception of himself. Scumbags like Skip don't deserve to swallow the spit that should be expectorated upon him.

Continued below ...

Correction

Please note that the article that appears earlier in this issue, "Little Known Facts About Skip", in fact is entirely false. Skip does not have a large ass or ego, did not rig the ballot, and has, in the opinion of *mathNEWS*, done an excellent job as President of MathSoc. The editor regrets any confusion that this article may have made.

The Editors

Little Known Skip Facts Continued

That dirty piece of crap Skip even went so far as to say that certain members of the faculty should be hung, when it's clear that the only person on campus who deserves a painful and drawn-out death should be Skip himself. In the opinion of *mathNEWS*, every single member of the mathematics department should give Skip a slap in the face and a swift kick in the ass whenever they see him.

Continued below ...

Apology

The editors of *mathNEWS* would like to apologize profusely to Skip, President of MathSoc, for the article "Little Known Facts About Skip" that appeared earlier in this issue. What we thought was an even-handed and well-thought portrayal of an excellent leader of the students turned out to be spiteful and hurtful. This certainly was not our intention, although we can see how some members of the public may construe the article in that light. Once again, we apologize.

The Editors

Little Known Skip Facts Continued

That cheap son-of-a-bitch Skip steals money from beggars, students, and MathSoc too to pay for his tuition, and has never earned a penny in his life. That piece of shit laughs about the fact that he steals money, lives life grandly, and then doesn't have to pay any income tax, since he doesn't give his Social Insurance Number to any of his victims. One can hope that the next time Skip steps on the people he walks over, he trips and falls on his ass.

Continued above ...

Retraction

Some readers have pointed out that the article "Little Known Facts About Skip" that appears earlier in this issue may have depicted Skip, the President of MathSoc as a thief and an income-tax evader. We would like to apologize to Skip for surely what was a one-time slipup.

The Editors

Little Known Skip Facts Continued

Skip loves to spend time on the Internet looking at pornography, and used up all of last term's MathSoc budget on 1-900 conversations. That cocksucker beats up any frosh that he can get his hands on, and is the one and only reason that WalkSafe exists on campus. The University would love to expel Skip, if not for the fact that Skip would do bodily harm to many more people if he didn't spend most of his time on campus.

Continued below ...

Note from the Editors

It appears that some readers were confused by the article "Little Known Facts About Skip" that appears earlier in this issue. The article's intent was not to portray Skip, the President of MathSoc, as an advocate of pornography or violence. Please disregard any such far-stretched interpretations of the article.

The Editors

Little Known Skip Facts Continued

It should be little surprise that there is a movement happening behind the scenes, being organized by many students. A movement to oust Skip as President of MathSoc? No. A movement to kick Skip out of the University? No. A movement to kill Skip? Why, yes, actually, that is what we're planning. Suggestions on methods can be made to killskipco@undergrad.math.

Continued below ...

A Legal Notice

The Editors would like to point out that killing someone is very illegal in Canada, and we would never publish any endorsement of committing such an act. Any insinuations that the article "Little Known Facts About Skip" encouraged people to kill a real, live, human being, are grossly incorrect.

The Editors

Little Known Skip Facts Continued

And in conclusion, that bastard Skip, the President of MathSoc, can go straight to hell.

By The Editors

MathSoc Bites

Some things have changed over the past few years. The Bomber and the C+D are bigger than when I first got here. The Wild Duck cafe has become Ground Zero, and of course the Campus Centre has been expanded. Not all the changes have been physical; the Feds restructured and now there are 5 exec rather than 3. But the biggest change has to be what has happened to MathSoc.

When I started out in '93, I joined MathSoc as a way of meeting people, having fun, and of course, helping my fellow students. I had a lot of fun being involved, and I learned quite a bit about the way the university runs.

In the past couple years MathSoc has become a highly political organization. If something is not written in the Pink Book (MathSoc's constitution) it can't be done.

This is a problem since MathSoc exists to help students, not to live in its own little world of laws. MathSoc needs to focus on doing things again. It's more important to have events people enjoy. Now, they have a good start with the weekly movies and I'm sure there will be a pub night this term. But what about things like trips to Wonderland, Blue Jays games, and the like. Things people would look forward to. These are the things that MathSoc should focus on.

Of course, if I stop at this point, I will be told that MathSoc can't do these things because no one wants to run them. Why don't people want to run them? Simple, it's because they don't want to go to meetings where some people drone on for over half an hour about stuff that can be said in 2 or 3 minutes.

Until MathSoc loses the political bullshit, the number of volunteers will continue to decline. And if the current trends continue, MathSoc will be dead within a year.

Finally, if you want to know how bad its gotten, I've given up on MathSoc. After being involved with it for 9 terms, I can't be bothered with it anymore.

Xavier "I remember when MathSoc was fun" Aburto
Former VPAS, Class Rep, Internal Director, Publicity Director ...

Life in the Slow Lane

The Reader's Digest™ abridged version

Due to budget cutbacks, **Life in the Slow Lane** will not appear in this issue of mathNEWS. Sorry to disappoint all of my dear readers. (Hey, you in the back! I hear that cheering! Stop it right now!! This is bad news, remember?)

As I was saying, **Life in the Slow Lane** will be unable to make its appearance this week. In the meantime, why don't you enjoy some of the other aspects of mathNEWS, like the Squeeze, and the results of the latest AMWF card? As for **Life**, all I can say is, tune in next time, where hopefully yours truly will return to once again wreak havoc with those who would dare tick me off. (Yes, I do have to come back! Why must you heckle me? What have I done to you lately? Huh? Listen here, bud, I bust my butt to get together this thoughtful, witty, insightful—Quit your snickering!! I'm trying to make a point here!!)

... Uh, yeah. So anyhow, to conclude, there will be no article from me this week; however, I will return in 2 weeks time. Until then, have a great long weekend, and see you around the Comfy Lounge! (Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a couple of "friends" to visit with. Maybe I'll get to knock a little sense into them ... Yeah, you! Come here! I'll teach you to interfere with MY article! Take that! And that!! How's that feel, huh? Bring it on, punk!!)

Don't worry folks—the men with the white jackets are on their way. Just in time, by the look of things. Chris will be outfitted with a stylin' new offwhite button-fly jacket. It's only for very special people, and Chris will be able to spend all day hugging himself, and jumping around a room that is so much fun, that he can bounce off all the walls without getting hurt. He'll always be ready to ride a bicycle as well, since he will have a helmet permanently attached to his head. We'll let him loose next issue. Please have your goggles ready.

Chris "Mr. Subliminal <Hey! Get that straightjacket away from me!>" McGuire

Can Computer Games Help Children Learn Mathematics?

Don't miss this term's biggest Math event on campus (or the free food that follows!) On Saturday May 23rd, Dr. Maria Klawe of the University of British Columbia will be giving a talk entitled "Can Computer Games Help Children Learn Mathematics?" The talk will be held in the Theatre of the Arts, from 2:00-3:30, immediately followed by a fancy-dessert party sponsored by Waterloo Maple, Inc.

According to the talk abstract, "Many teachers and parents have hoped that playing appropriately designed computer games might help children learn mathematics. Computer games can enable visualization and exploration of mathematical concepts, provide access to a wide variety of mathematical activities, and increase interest and motivation for many students. Achieving these benefits, however, depends on how the games are designed and used. This talk presents recent research on these issues including demonstrations of games that have proved to be successful in helping children learn and enjoy mathematics."

Dr. Maria Klawe is a renowned computer scientist and is Vice President of Student and Academic Services at the University

of British Columbia. She is a very popular speaker, appealing to both computer science experts and the layperson. The last time that Dr. Klawe spoke on campus, her talk was advertised to members of the UW Math Faculty and approximately 140 students and faculty squeezed into DC 1302 to hear her. This talk is being advertised all over campus, all over KW, and to all the schools in the Waterloo region.

So be sure to get your ticket!! Attendance is FREE, but you must have a ticket to get in the door. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Humanities Theatre Box Office (x4908). Get your tickets by Tuesday, May 19th.

This talk is the finale of the Celebration of Canadian Women in the Mathematical, Statistical, and Computer Sciences, held at UW, May 22-23. This time next week, female mathematics and computer science researchers from all over Ontario (and many more from outside of the province) will descend upon the Davis Centre to celebrate the contributions women scientists have made to the mathematical sciences. UW students are free to drop in on the plenary talks (Friday and Satur-

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Quantum Loop

Theorizing that one could time travel within their own lifetime, Doctor Sham Breakit stepped into the Quantum Loop accelerator ... and vanished. He awoke to find himself trapped in the past, facing mere images that were not his own, and driven by unknown source code to arrange history for the better. His only guide on this journey is Hal, an observer at run-time, who appears in the form of a hologram that only Sham can see and hear. And so Dr. Breakit finds himself looping through life after life, striving to put right what once went wrong, and hoping each time that his next loop ... will be the loop Home.

As the blue glow faded, Sham found himself in a corridor. He wondered where and when. At least there didn't seem to be anything going on, so he might as well look around. Sham proceeded down the hall, only to find that it dead-ended in a doorway. He backtracked and took another passage. But a few doors later he discovered the same problem.

Sham stopped. Time to think logically. He looked up and started following the Exit signs. He turned down a couple more corridors, glanced behind himself and saw another exit sign pointing in the opposite direction in which he was heading. Sham frowned - wherever he was, it seemed to defy all logic. So maybe he had a map?

Sham turned out the pockets of the suit he was wearing and started looking over the contents. He was interrupted by the appearance of a white door in the middle of nowhere. Hal, decked out in a green jacket and pink tie, stepped through. "Sham! You'll never guess where you are!"

"In an experiment gone wrong?"

"Close, it's the sixth floor of the Mathematics and Computer Science Building at the University of Mizuloo. You know, I think my fourth wife graduated from here ... or maybe it was the third ..."

"Hal ..."

"Right, sorry. Your name is -"

"Professor Cal Q. Late, and it's around Friday, May 15th, 1998 according to this speeding ticket I found. Hal, just skip to why I'm here."

"I'm sorry, Sham. I can't do that," Hal intoned.

"You know, you're about as funny as a statistics class."

"Well, we had trouble signing and cosigning the new parts for your parallel hybrid computer, BigE. Had to seek out our csc head who was tanning on a cot."

"Sounds like you have all the angles covered," Sham said, arching an eyebrow.

"A cute line, Sham. But one thing we do know is that your main duty right now is to tea."

"Pardon?"

"Errr ... " Hal slapped the TI-85 calculator in his hand. "Oh, teaching. Your class was supposed to start five minutes ago."

"What? Where?"

"Two floors down." Hal glanced around. "You know, it would be a lot easier to get out of here if you could walk through walls ..."

"What subject am I teaching?"

"Beats me," Hal shrugged. "But with all your degrees I'm sure you can come up with something."

Sham sighed reflexively - Hal was being obtuse again. He hoped that his mission for this loop wouldn't fall flat, and that whatever he did would be right. "Maybe I'll give a talk about perfect numbers," Sham proposed.

"Perfect numbers?" Hal mused. "What are those?"

*What are perfect numbers? What is Sham doing in Mizuloo?
Look for an answer next issue ...*

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

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day mornings at 8:45 am in DC 1351), the education panel discussion (Friday night at 8:00 pm in the Great Hall, Ron Eydt Village), and the technical sessions held throughout the day Friday and on Saturday morning. See the Celebration's advanced programme for details on talks, times, and locations (<http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~cwim/English/rooms.html>).

Joanne Atlee

Department of Computer Science

The Editors of have decided that only those of you who have been infected with *mathNEWS* since 1986 will receive compensation for brain damage.

Anyone up for some JAVA?

Why is it that when talk turns to modern computing, everyone feels an obligation to use the term JAVA in every sentence? Why is it that everyone is so compelled about JAVA? I don't understand it, as far as I am concerned it is another slow programming language that is trying to combine both Visual Basic and HTML.

When I come back on campus from the depth of testing a C++ compiler at the Don Mills troll colony (IBM), the first thing I hear is: "Guess what! CS130/134 mathies will learn JAVA!"

I would like to point out there is some guy who lives in Washington State, who is not a fan of JAVA. This man pretty much controls the direction of computing today, so jumping into JAVA instead of old and trusted Pascal is a rather risky decision. Kudos to the university for taking a risk!

Nevertheless, I believe that the jump to JAVA has been done too early. I believe that JAVA is still an unproven language that may never take off, and will remain confined to web applets and university walls.

Anton "I got Visual C++" Fedorenko

The Virtues Of Sex

Good Clean Fun

This article has an AA rating. It is best read with an adult of the opposite gender (or whatever, depending on your preference.)

Wait! Don't flip the page! (Yeah, like you were about to with a title like this you sick, depraved, sex-hungry ...) You don't need to be embarrassed to be caught reading this. Although for years people have been telling you that sex is something best done in the secure privacy of your own home, that it's something best done discretely and not talked about with anyone, turning it into an impolite topic of discussion at dinner. The truth is that sex has many virtues. Don't be ashamed to stand up and yell out to the world, "I am a hot, horny, person and I want sex NOW!" Uh ... well, I didn't mean that literally, now sit back down before your prof takes you up on the offer. I mean, after all, they are a "math" professor, who knows just how desperate they are. Mathies have long been stereotyped as computer loving geeks instead of fun loving, warm hearted, sexy ... uh, well maybe I'd better not push it ... individuals who can enjoy the natural pleasures of life. Here are some explained in detail:

1. Exercise — Face it. Most Mathies spend far too long labouring over Calculus assignments and slaving to a cold heartless terminal. What do they do in their spare time? Play cards! Read books! E-mail their friends! What about EXERCISE? It seems the average person today finds it too hard to drag their overbloated butt off the couch it's become glued to to go and work up a sweat. Excuses like, it's too far, it's too crowded, it's too time consuming, fill the air at the first mention of a gym or pool. Well, sex is the perfect answer. You don't have to go anywhere. You can get a good workout right in the middle of your own home, although some people complain about the coffee table being too hard. You never have to worry about overcrowding. You can have as few or as many people as you like (standard issue is two, but instances of ten or more have been reported.) Not only that, your exercise session can last mere minutes, or with the addition of a warmup and training session known as *foreplay*, can be extended for a longer duration. More advanced athletes may prefer to run several sessions in one day, or compete in events such as the marathon. (Note: This form of exercise does not preclude other sports or games. gymnastics, hide-and-go-seek, golf, water sports and many others can be incorporated. Warning: Table Pool should not be incorporated since the object is to keep the balls OUT of the pocket.)
2. Study break/Stress relief — I mentioned earlier that Mathies spend HUGE amounts of time tied to computers and pencils and textbooks. What can we say about these things? They're cold, hard and unbending! These things are in no way conducive to the reduction of stress. In fact, most of these contribute to stress. If you want to get away from stress, what do you do? You use soothing heat, massage, soft comfortable full luscious lascivious ... uh sorry ... where was I again? Anyway, I think you get the drift. So the next time you're sitting there and are finding that you can't concentrate on your assignment, turn to the closest drop-dead-gorgeous babe/hunk and tell them that you're having a problem. Ask to borrow at least five minutes of

their time so that they can help you. After all, NOTHING relieves stress better and lets you clear your mind of everything else in the world for a while than sex. If they refuse? It just shows how unenlightened and uneducated they truly are. So show them! Afterward you'll be able to concentrate much better on your assignment. This may take several applications. But it works ... it *really* works! I'm really stressed out about this article and ... Wow! "Hey you! Yeah, you in the tight sweater, got about five minutes?"

3. An academic stimulant — Research has been done all over the world to show that people who expose themselves to new situations and new challenges on a regular basis often show higher I.Q.'s and also tend to be more resistant to the effects of aging and memory loss. Studies also indicate that there may be benefits in such constant stimulation for patients of alzheimers. I think the conclusions to be drawn are obvious. With a variety of positions and locations to choose from, not to mention a wide variety of people to choose to work with, sex provides the perfect stimulant. The creative juices required to explain your way out of situations when your roommate unexpectedly walks in. The challenge and thrill of finding a place that hasn't been tried yet. (five bonus points on the next Squiz for a convincing story of an event on campus - not including residence). With regular use of such good mental stimulation, it should be obvious that one could do better on finals. Caution: Overuse of this stimulant may cause one to miss lectures and other important events in one's life, such as that darn wedding ceremony.
4. Improved analytical/mechanical skills — This is an important task in our ever more technical world it seems. Yet even the simplest of people have required good skills for understanding instructions. When building barns years ago, a farmer would need to know how to fit the tongue on a wooden beam into the proper hole on another beam. Sounds easy but being able to follow simple instructions is not a thing to be taken for granted. Some people are clearly better than others. Why? Well, put simply, they have practiced. That's right! When your Dad helped you put together that toy you got as a child for Christmas, you didn't really think that was the first time he had followed the instructions "insert tab A into slot B", did you? If it is, then I have some bad news for you. You're adopted. Of course as anyone knows, one of the first problems any couple must overcome before they get to this stage in the instructions is the complex question of where do your noses go when you kiss?
5. Still not convinced that this is academic? Let's narrow it down to specific majors. English majors can learn an incredible amount of information from reading old texts. Let us not forget a classic book, The Kama Sutra, written by an expert in the field and still referred to as one of the most comprehensive works on the subject. Who can argue that a book which has survived several centuries is not worth study? I am told that for those interested in Film Studies, there is also a movie version available.

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mathNEWSquiz #1

Oh boy oh boy ohboyohboyohboy...

Hey everyone! How is everyone today? Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Chris, but you can call me Mr. Subliminal. (In fact, there are several things you can call me; what those things are, exactly, is somewhere I'd rather not go.) Anyhow, I will be your Squizmaster for the term. If you will kindly follow me, I'll lead you to your table...

Our menu for this evening contains a little bit of everything from the worlds of music, movies, and television. First, we have a little trivia tribute to the lovable schmucks of *Seinfeld*, since this week marks the end of a comedic era. Second, an old favourite — movie quotes. As well, we uphold the time-honoured tradition of presenting song lyrics for your entertainment. Finally, for the more high-society, upperclass, sophisticated among you, I present to you a category devoted to one of professional wrestling's most popular stars, Bret "Hitman" Hart. (I know you watch it — you can't fool me.) Scoring is 1 point per question (unless otherwise indicated), for a total of 20 marks. Those of you that earn the highest score will then be eligible to win a cool prize!! (All ties broken by random draw, somehow...)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is time to play the Squiz!!

Music Lyrics

1 point for title and performer and

1 bonus point for identifying the overall theme

1. But all her praying just ain't helping at all
Cause he can't seem to keep himself out of trouble.
So he goes on and he makes his money the best way he knows how
Another body laying cold in the gutter.
2. Me and Pete went swimming last night
He's my friend from Boy Scouts
All the fish were floating upright
We got scared and we got out.
3. I don't know why I go walking at night
But now I'm tired and I don't want to walk anymore.
I hope it doesn't take the rest of my life
Until I find what it is that I've been looking for.
4. I know it's hard to keep an open heart
When even friends seem out to haunt you.
But if you keep a broken heart
Wouldn't time be out to charm you?

So long, Jerry, and thanks for nothing!

1. What movie did George call Kramer's "movie phone" to find out about?
2. What famous actor's car did George think he bought?
3. What is Jerry's father's first name?
4. What was the name of the company that George claimed to have been interviewed by, so he could keep getting unemployment checks?
5. Which of Jerry's girlfriends had a name that rhymed with a female body part?

The best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be...

1. What Canadian city does Bret Hart call home?
2. Who was Bret's tag team partner during his "Hart Foundation" days?
3. How many times has Bret won the World Wrestling Federation Championship?
4. What Canadian city did Bret win his first WWF Championship in?
5. Who was the man that coughed up the gold to Bret on that occasion?

Movie Quotes

Name the movie that each of the following quotes came from

1. "Imagine me needing someone. Back on Earth I never did. Oh, there were women. Lots of women. Lots of lovemaking — but no love. You see, that was the kind of world we made. So I left, because there was no one to hold me here."
2. "Come on guys, by the time we get there the kid won't be dead anymore!"
3. "They invade our space, and we fall back. They assimilate entire worlds, and we fall back... Not again! The line must be drawn here!"
4. "Dr. Malcolm suffers from a deplorable excess of personality, especially for a mathematician."
5. "I have come here to chew bubble gum, and kick ass. And I'm all out of bubble gum."

Well, that's it for this issue. Please submit your answers to the BLACK BOX by 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 25, or e-mail them to me at cjm McGuire@undergrad.math by the same date and time. Good luck, and I look forward to serving your Squizzing needs again next issue.

Chris "The Subliminal Squizmaster" McGuire

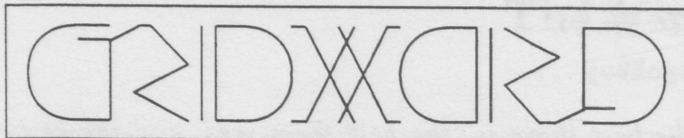
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Well, it seems I must go. The critics appear to have found my hideaway and are even now attempting to batter down the door. I hope to return to discuss the Environmentally Friendly aspects of sex and also its benefit as a meditation tool, allowing you to experience a moment of "oneness" with yourself and the world around you.

Til next time,

Blue

P.S. Be warned that standard gear for anyone intending on taking up this hobby should include a condom and/or other protection methods. After all, it's all fun and games until someone loses an eye... then it's just bad aim. If you have any benefits of sex that you'd like to share, please feel free to send idens to bluenigma@umf.org.



gridCOMMENTS

Well ... turns out nobody wants to do the *gridWORD* at this moment, so I have been suckered into it once more. Lucky me. Well, for those of you who don't know how I do grids, I don't do those Conventional or Cryptic deals. I just make a big crossword and hope that you, the reader, will have some degree of fun doing it.

Anyways, nothing much to say about the first *gridWORD* of the term ... just that submissions are due by Monday, May 25th at 6:30pm either in the BLACK BOX or you can email mathnews@undergrad.math. Good luck and happy gridding!

Latrell "GridBoy" Fox

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14				15		16		
17					18						19		
20								21			22		
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28	29	30		31				32			33	34	35
36			37				38	39		40	41		
42							43		44		45		
46				47			48			49			
50				51	52	53		54	55			56	
				57				58			59		
60	61	62			63						64	65	66
68					69			70	71		72		
73					74						75		
76							77				78		

Grid Clues

Across

1. Globes and spheres
5. A way to move the ball
9. Fine Cuban tobacco
13. Disputable
14. "— Gold"
16. A hot place, sometimes
17. Brainstorm
18. Headgear
19. Electric measure
20. Length of time
21. Neighbour to the south
22. Lots of female sheep
23. Stimulating device
28. Used to tell the computer to stop reading (abbr.)
31. Red or White
32. Coupling
33. Presidential monogram
36. Talk
38. Not out
40. Long glance
42. Used needle and thread
43. Youngster
45. Rear end
46. A big playpen
48. Soldier monogram
49. Iron
50. *Star Trek: TNG* character
51. Kind of music
54. Like a rd.
56. Pronoun
57. Next to the ocean
60. Section of the military
63. American TV maker
64. Flower holder
68. Spreader of false news
69. Soil
72. Actress Gray
73. Aleutian island
74. Presidential loser Stevenson
75. Roman ruler
76. Lose liquid
77. Sports channel
78. Russian news service

Down

1. Leave out
2. Drove
3. African war
4. Goes with the mail
5. Drinking establishment
6. Beer
7. Injected fluid
8. Playground staple
9. Tarp
10. River of Shakespeare
11. Soccer great
12. They live in hills
15. Peg
24. Question
25. Together, joint
26. To leave
27. Wood and Asner
28. Report
29. Musical drama
30. Less in number
33. The highway's got them
34. You do it to hair
35. Rev. Jackson
37. Actress Jillian
39. Bother
41. Black gooey stuff
44. To enter numbers on a phone
47. Residue
49. Goes with paper
52. It has a North and a South
53. Game place
55. It's not pico
57. Maple, for one
58. Nobles
59. Happening
60. Exclamation
61. Ceremonial act
62. Associate
65. Section
66. Winston Churchill and Paul McCartney
67. Deputy from Hazzard
70. Spout
71. Israeli measure of volume