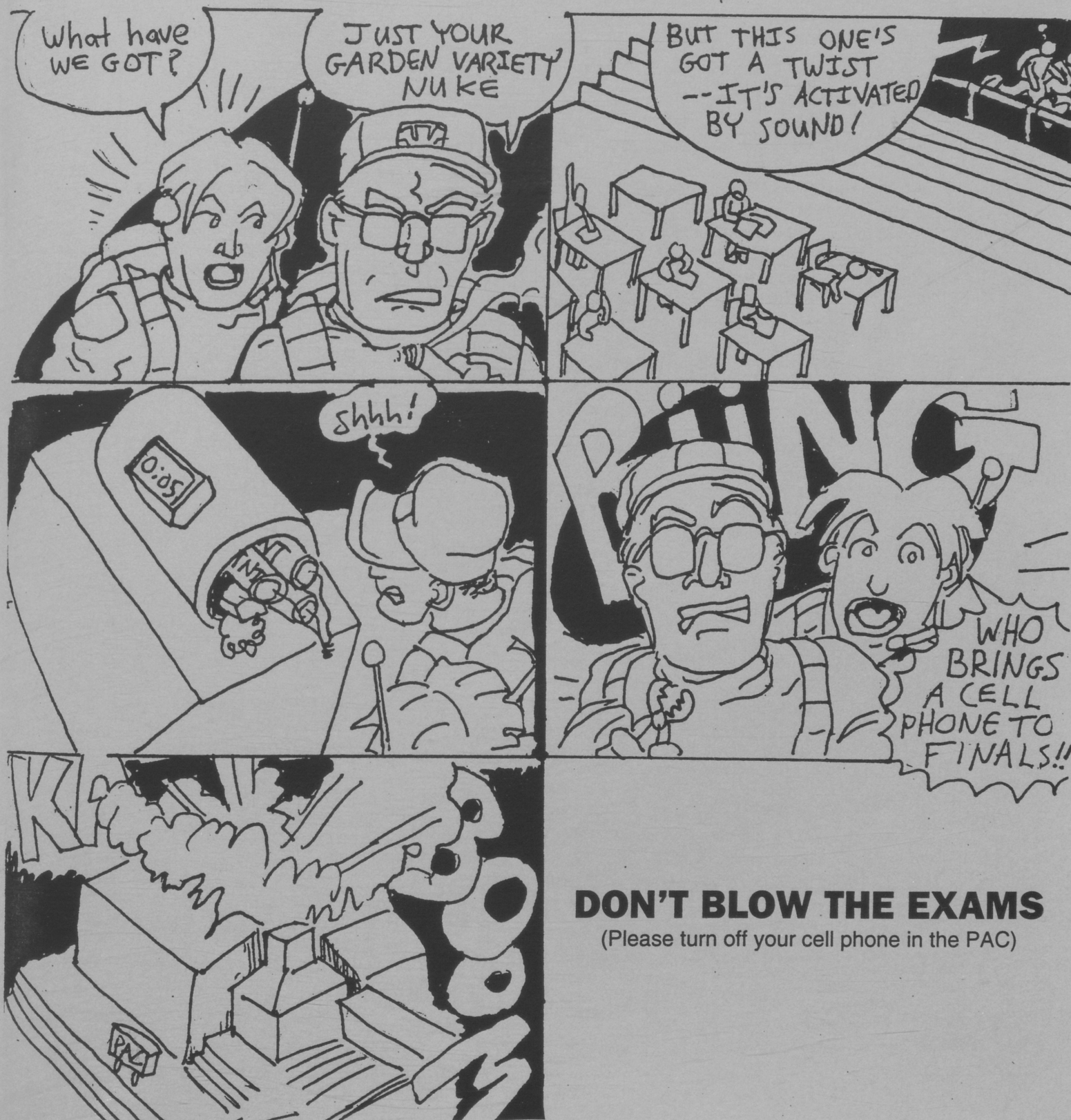


# math NEWS



Volume 77, Issue 7

Friday, July 24, 1998



**DON'T BLOW THE EXAMS**

(Please turn off your cell phone in the PAC)

## mastHEAD

*We thought of something really funny to put here while we munched on pizza, but we then forgot it*

It's the last issue of the term! We hope you had as much fun reading our crap as we had in crapping it.

Most of us here will still be around in the Fall, and we'll have the other stream's mathNEWS staff, plus any new froshies that we can recruit. Just think about what you may miss if you don't read us on the web or subscribe!

In case you were counting, this issue is the 499<sup>th</sup> issue of mathNEWS ever, not including frosh issues (which don't count for anything). The first issue in the Fall will be our big Issue #500, and we've got lots of great stuff planned for that one.

Here's the regular mathNEWS gang, along with their answer to the question *What's the real reason we switched back to pizza this week?* Brian Fox (Pitas weren't dolphin friendly), Greg Taylor ('T' key broke on keyboard used to make up order form), Michael Thorsley (To stick with pitas would've involved changing the "come to production night" signs that no one reads), Gigi Garbett (Oh, but I thought the pizza we had tonight was so [gag] delicious [puke] that I think we should order more [groan] next time [running for the nearest sink]), John Swan (Delivery for pitas was just too expensive), and Chris McGuire (When it gets to the point where people start putting razors, acid, etc. into Greg's pita, you know we've gone too far ...).

After a long term of mathNEWS, we give our thanks to the Graphic Services gods. We'll sacrifice a few (kentucky fried) chickens in their honour tonight. Thanks also to Marco Pedrosa, for the fabulous art on our last cover of the term. And, finally, thanks to Viet-Tam Luu for his work on mN/WWW, our website, which looks great! (Say, Tam, when will the Numb be online?)

Chadwick Severn (The edge missed us)

*This filler, which is an integral part of the Sheppard subway line, has been cut by the City of Toronto. Sorry for the inconvenience.*

ISSN 0705-0410

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 [userid.mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:userid.mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet.

Noticing the hole in the wall for the first time: Chadwick Severn

## Beastie Boys

*Hello Nasty*

So whatcha watcha watcha want? I know what I want. Imp'tint to get a decent CD review section. It's acceptable for them not to like a CD, but when the review is factually wrong, it makes you wonder: What are they smoking? (and how much do they charge for a gram?)

According to Imp'tint, The Beastie Boys previous DJ was Money Mark. Wrong-o Imp'tint, it was actually DJ Hurricane, I also have his first solo album, so if you guys want to review that, just call me. They also have a new DJ. Mix Master Mike, from the Invisible Skratch Pickles. Actually he's a turntablist, not a DJ, but as for Imp'tint, they'd never be able to tell the difference.

So who is Money Mark? Well, in the previous issue of Imp'tint his new album was reviewed. He actually just played keyboards and helped to write some of the Beastie Boys songs. He's damn good too!

However, Imp'tint article says that there are "some seriously weird songs on this album," ranging from the mellow "And Me" to the reggae beats of "Instant Death". I'm no reggae fan, but instant death does not have a reggae feel to me (maybe they meant the previous track, Dr. Lee, PhD). Oh well, you never can tell with Imp'tint. Also, why is it that a mellow, or reggae song is weird? Hmm, no guitar, doesn't sound like commercialized Canadian Indie, that's tragic(ly hip).

Imp'tint also says "Who knows what the band was thinking when they put this album together." I personally like that. The Beastie Boys keep putting out music that is new, creative, and original ... it's experimental. However, I notice that the Imp'tint review of the new 'Hip' (what a contradictory name) album mentions how the 'Hip' (gag, what a name) do some musical experimenting. Too bad that only the 'Hip' (gag) can do that.

As to advertising the album, I must say the B-Boys are quite original here as well, for those of you that watch a lot of T.V. the Boys have put together an infomercial to sell the album, that pokes fun at the entire infomercial spiel. As to the cover, ha, amazing. The B-Boys in a sardine can. Smells like fish, not Pork.

As to the mistakes of Imp'tint, they embarrass me. I'm considering telling people that I go to WLU, since the Cord (as bad as it is) does review new music a touch better than Imp'tint (admittedly, so does my ass).

Peter "The best hair care in K-W, don't forget to put me in the Imp'tint survey" Lizak

Found on the MGC Door At  
4:00am on Wednesday,  
July 22, 1998

*A sign reading "Back in 15 minutes."*



# Three Opinions on MathSoc



## Prez Sez

### *What Has Your Prez Done For You This Term?*

As the term draws to a close, the question has to be asked: what have I done this term to improve your life as a Mathie? It's easy to see if the VPAS is doing a good job ... you just go out to a social event and see if you like it. Since my work is more behind the scenes, I thought that I would tell you about some of the accomplishments that I am especially proud of:

### *C + D*

I have worked closely with Jeff, the C+D Manager, to bring in a few changes this term. We have raised the food allowance for staff to reward them for the great work they are doing. We have purchased a Granita machine and started selling Granitas. And finally, we have started having MathSoc barbeques every week.

### *VP-Academic*

I have been acting VP-Academic this term and have worked to define the responsibilities for this new position. The VPA is responsible for the Academic side of MathSoc. In the future, look to your VPA to be there to pass on your concerns to the administration and to represent the interests of students.

### *Photocopiers*

One of MathSoc's most popular services is 5 cent photocopies. This service will get even better in the fall, when we get brand new photocopiers. We have been working on a deal for several months now and the photocopiers should be arriving in the next few weeks.

### *Office*

MathSoc is always short of volunteers, and over the Summer this is especially true. I wanted to ensure that, in spite of this, the office was still open for most of the week. I'd like to thank the great volunteers who made this happen.

Those are some of the big projects that I have worked on. On top of these, there is the day to day work of the President in keeping the Society running ... meeting with the Clubs, meeting with the Committees, talking to students.

So what have I done for you this term? Well, I would say that I have done a lot, and I think that, after reading the above, you would probably agree.

Good luck on exams and next term. Hope to see you all again in the winter,

Your Prez,  
Dan Mader

## Xavi Sez

### *No really, What Have Your Exec Done For You This Term?*

Have you tried the new terminals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lab yet? Beauty, eh? Thank you MEF, I guess that \$31.42 wasn't a waste of money ...

Summerfest is always the biggest party of the term. It's a great time and you always bump into lots of people you haven't seen for a while. This past weekend, it was billed as a retro 80's party. So I figured I'd get to hear all sorts of great music: Duran Duran, New Order, Pet Shop Boys ... So when I got there and I heard the DJ playing beats, I knew it was going to be a long night, but I figured he'd have to play some quality 80s tunes. Apparently not, there was only one short set of 80s music and even then it was a mix of Michael Jackson followed by a mix of Madonna followed by ... So, while myself and a number of other people were expecting a great party, all we got was Hip Hop Hooray(1992). Can we sue the Feds for false advertising?

At the beginning of the term, I wrote an article about MathSoc. The good news is that the new exec talked to me and asked me what they should do to turn it around. My answer was simple: "Avoid politics and do stuff." Unfortunately, they didn't take it to heart. The winter term MGC ran more events than the Winter and Spring terms of MathSoc combined. So far, all that they've done this term are Movie Nights and their participation in the Canada Day Celebration at Columbia Lake. Oddly, both things were run by the same person. So while Mike is doing a good job, he isn't even an exec. *[He's a pimp daddy! — Latrell.]* I guess the exec are too busy looking for things in the society that work so that they can screw them up too. Hopefully, MGC and Orientation will be able to avoid being absorbed by this.

Question for the Exec: When is Math Pub night? Or have you decided that pub nights promoted the use of alcohol and the Math Society will no longer be a party to that kind of behaviour?

Beyond that I don't have a lot to say ... except that I'm outta here in 2 and a half weeks. To all the friends I've made: thanks, if not for you I probably would have been done last term, but I would have had a lot less fun. To all the profs that gave me a 50 or 51: if not for you I would not be getting a degree, so thank you. To anyone else, why are you reading this? Is class that boring? Why don't you just leave, the Bomber is probably open by now.

Xavier 'X-Man' Aburto

## Typical Math Student Sez

MathSoc? Who gives a fuck? I never go over there.

Typical Math Student

## The ACTSCI Club Announces

Well, well, well ... it seemed like yesterday when I wrote the first article for the ACTSCI Club and now I'm writing the last one for this term! So one more week of lectures and we can all kiss yet another term goodbye! The only dreadful thing about that is the fact that finals are just around the corner ... good luck to all on those finals!

For the ACTSCI Club, all of us on the executive wish we could have had more events this term. But with the amount of time we had, we got what we could in! Nobody could forget the Towers Perrin sponsored pub night ... hopefully it can become an annual tradition!!! We had a couple of very informative talks about the upcoming conversion rules and Mathcad. And now, we have one last event before the term ends. The executive committee has unanimously decided to have the ACTSCI Club sponsor a pool night tentatively scheduled for Tuesday July 28 at 9:00pm. A pool tournament has been planned and there will be a prize for the best team of the night!!! The place hasn't been confirmed yet, but by the time you read this, posters should be around MC so keep your eyes open!!! But like the Towers Perrin night ... members will get in for free, non-members must pay a \$3 fee!!!

And that is it from the ACTSCI Club. Even though it was a short term, we all had a lot of fun. I had a great experience writing these articles to the VERY FEW people who actually read these things, if any at all!!! But that's besides the point ... let us all count down the days we have left in this term!!!

Albert Na  
Publicity Director, ACTSCI Club

## lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
July 24	Issue #7 surfs in
August 2	mathNEWS EOT Party Gee, wish you could come ...
Math Faculty	
July 27	Fall schedule posted
July 30	Last day of classes
July 31	Last day to file Intent to Graduate forms
August 4	Exams start
August 15	Exams end
MathSoc	
July 31	MathSoc exists
Miscellaneous	
August 3	Civic Holiday
August 4	Locker Hooligans open all the lockers in MC
August 16	We all get in a big circle and sing the night away
August 30	Boy, is it hot.
September	Nearly a thousand fresh frosh faces show up

## gradNEWS

Well, the term is coming to a close, putting us that much closer to the end of our university career. So what's up with MGC these days?

1. **SOFTBALL** : By the time you read this we will have played our game against the faculty. We probably got our butts kicked but maybe we got lucky. If you really want to know for sure, mail us.
2. **GRAD PHOTOS** : We held times last week and this past week for people to come select their grad photo that will go in the yearbook. If you haven't done so, contact us ASAP or we will select it for you.
3. **COMPUTER** : This past week MGC bought a pretty decent WinNT machine with lots of stuff. We haven't mapped out guidelines for use, but it will be something like Yearbook has priority, followed by Financial, followed by general usage by committee and grads. Opinions on the subject are welcome.
4. **MAILING LIST** : If you wish to remain on the e-mail list for the fall or wish to be reinstated on the mailing list when this stream of co-op returns in the winter, mail us to let us know.
5. **COMPOSITE STUFF** : Just to update on the current state of things, there is now the option for Business students in the Systems Management option to have SysMgmt instead of Info. Mail us if you want this option. For Computer Science students in the Software Engineering option, contingent on approval by the fall stream, your option will now be listed as SoftEng instead of CS/SE. For all computer science students, contingent on the fall stream approval, your composite will be done in the larger size.

That's it for this term pretty much. Good luck on your exams and we'll see you in the home stretch in the winter. Mail address as always is [mgc@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mgc@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca) for those that have questions, comments or other.

Amy "I can't believe I made it" Green  
Math Grad Committee 1999  
MGC 99 - Prime Time

## Rant & Rave #1

### Shoppers Drug Mart

What do you do if you need something from a pharmacy after 9:00pm? Nothing! Waterloo, as you may know, comes to a screeching halt at 9:00pm, and no late-night pharmacies are needed in these here parts. Back in Brampton, we had Shoppers Drug Mart's open to midnight or 24 hours! But in a university town like Waterloo, not a chance! I dare you to try to find a thermometer to see if someone has a fever at 10:00pm. Sheesh!



## profQUOTES

"... Oh, this doesn't work out at all ... yes it does ... yes it does ... no it doesn't."

Atlee, CS 246

"I may be messing up my brackets because there's water pouring in my basement."

Hoffman, PMATH 330

[Overhead switches off then on for no apparent reason] "I think I saw this on the X-Files once ..."

Kates, CS 342

"The assignment is a little longer, well not that much longer, although it looks longer; I guess it's kinda longer."

Hoffman, PMATH 330

"There are only finitely many possibilities, so please guess. We won't judge you."

Tunçel, C&O 350

"Does everyone understand this? ... Yes? ... No? ... Please let us out of here? ... Well, I'm sorry, I won't!"

Mendevil, MATH 138

"I get to decide which proofs we do, and I declare this one boring."

Morris, AM/PMATH 332

"... and perhaps I will back this up later."

Ng, MATH 136

"This time of day I get very hungry, seeing you guys, having your lovely sandwiches ..."

[later]

"Oh sorry, did I erase that? it's all in the course notes anyways ... it's just that I can't get my mind off food ..."

[even later]

"At this point my stomach is completely ruling my brain, so I'll just stop there."

Sivaloganathan, AM 250

"This is probably insulting you, but it's in the course notes ... so let's review the inverse of a  $2 \times 2$  matrix."

Sivaloganathan, AM 250

"Does anyone know how to solve this without doing the two integration-by-parts?"

[silence]

"... maybe for a pint of beer?"

Sivaloganathan, AM 250

"Let's stop here, I'm boring myself to tears ..."

Sivaloganathan, AM 250

"We forgot about sex!"

Welsh, STAT 231

"Have you ever wondered how the 'e<sup>x</sup>' button on your calculator works? It's not like it pushes the 'e<sup>x</sup>' button on another, smaller calculator inside."

Mendevil, MATH 138



## Quantum Loop

"An aliquot is a number which can be divided evenly into another number!" shouted Hal and Rick Ursion concurrently.

"OOP!" Sham recalled. He quickly set the denonator's timing device to a suitably large prime number, giving them time to defuse the situation before the counter hit '1'. It was all over in record time.

"Congratulations, Sham," Hal remarked. "Got out of a heap of trouble with minimal Risc." He knocked his hand against the calculator as Rick led Lynn Kedlist away.

"What happens to them?" Sham queried in reference to the others.

"Uhmhm, looks like Lynn reveals the identities of some CPU members ... the CPU gets locked away ... oh, this is good though. Rick Ursion changes the ALU to RAM, Rick's Amusing Mathematics. Talks a lot about interesting principles and inspires a lot of students."

"Great!" Sham declared. "... so why haven't I looped?"

"Well, if you recall, things were already going to work out before you changed them and made them better," Hal reminded. "Helping the ALU wasn't your reason for being here."

"Then what?"

"Uh, we're still working on it," Hal admitted.

Sham threw up his hands. "There must be a hex on me."

The afternoon of July 20th found Sham grading C papers when Hal suddenly appeared. "We've figured it out!" he pronounced. His handlink made a noise. "Okay, BigE's figured it out," Hal relented. "You know, I think the E stands for Ego, darn computer sent an interrupt as I was having a private moment with Xina ..."

"Hal, can we settle arguments after I've looped?" Sham pressed.

"Oh, sure Sham. Well, it seems you looped in on a mathNEWS publication day, which should have tipped us off. Maybe you've

seen it around? Anyway, you just need to include an article which will inspire the whole idea of RAM that eventually leads one student to unparalleled greatness."

"You're kidding. Like what, information about divisibility ...?"

"No, no, that's been done to death. Something like ... 'the first number with the letter 'a' in it is one thousand'."

"That will inspire someone to great heights?"

"I'm just reading suggestions off the link. Or how about that the only number with all it's letters in alphabetical order is for ... for ..."

"The birds?"

Hal hit the link. "Forty."

"This is ridiculous."

"This is mathNEWS. Just write some things down and do some BLACK BOX testing on the third floor. You'll be inspiring someone to a Nobel Prize in Mathematics!"

"Hal, there is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics," Sham observed.

Hal shrugged. "You get the idea."

Sham sighed, pondering for a while before finally jotting down some options. He proceeded downstairs and started dropping paper into the box. Hal watched as '8 pints in a gallon' and '69 is the same upsidedown as rightside up' went in. "I hope the last one's more unique," he noted.

Sham grimaced, dropped in his final sheet ... and looped away in a blue haze. Sitting in the box was a slip of paper containing some simple words: "Take a number between 6 and 12. Square it. If the number you have is odd, add one. Add all digits in your number until there is one digit left. Subtract one. Take this number modulus 4. The result is how much sense this series was intended to make."

Greg "hologrami" Taylor





## VCR In My Head

I have a VCR in my forehead. Each morning I pop in a tape and head out to face the world.

Some time ago, I decided that dealing with the world, and its stupid people, isn't worth my time, so I automated the process. After the tape goes in, I flick the auto-pilot switch and head off to classes.

You may see me about the MC, but please understand that it's not really me, just my AI responding to external stimuli using a database of acceptable responses. Somewhere inside, I could be doing my homework, playing games, or sleeping. The AI only breaks out to get me when something important happens (friends, speeding trucks, fat chick avoidance, etc.)

The AI unit is really quite handy. It can control all bodily functions (hence I get regularly showered and my teeth are brushed daily), it has a lecture filter (looks like I have a good attention span, eh?) and it can handle the rudiments of social interaction (which is all you really need in this faculty.)

At night, I revert back to manual control, pop the tape out of my forehead, and review what happened during the day. If I don't review the tape, I won't know what I 'learned' or who I 'met' during the day, or if the AI mishandled anything - like it did last week.

When I check the AI logs, I always look for encounters with new people. Something caught my interest - a girl in my economics lecture was flagged as being intelligent and pretty. Definitely uncommon; I'd have to check the tape for more information.

Usually, I just fast-forward through the tape unless something exceptional is flagged in the logs. (Like "faculty announces algebra profs now required to take ELPE" or something). This time, I queued up to the economics lecture and played it through at regular speed.

She was conservative in dress and demeanor, beautiful, and clean. I watched the conversation intently ... intelligence! Spanky!!! (It's things like this that could almost make a guy want to be conscious during the day.) I rewound the tape and paused it - the flickering of the paused frame was like shimmering angelic light refracting through the streaked and dusty glass of an old cathedral window. I was awestruck by her ungodly image and must have sat in front of the TV, unblinking, for several minutes thereafter.

I had never considered that I might encounter a girl like that during the day. Shit! The damn AI decided that the professor had a higher priority, killed the conservation and began attentively taking notes.

Here's part of the log file:

```
[11:35:03] Person_Identify(stdin) : Person_Unknown
of type Unknown
[11:35:04] Person_Record(stdin) : Person_Unknown was
added to database1
[11:35:04] Person_Unknown was reassigned handle
Hot_Chick1
[11:36:06] Conversation_Init() : Initiated by
Hot_Chick1
[11:36:06] Conversation_Buffer(buffer1, stdin, stdout)
[11:36:06] Conversation_SmallTalk was spawned; thread
003A [low priority].
```

```
[11:40:32] Interrupt recieved: Lecture Starting
[11:40:32] Thread 003A terminated
[11:41:32] Record_Lecture(econ.102.dat, stdin)
```

The morning of the next economics lecture, I disabled the AI and went to meet the world on manual control. It's been a while since I've done that and I'll admit that I was weak and couldn't handle the shock. Before restarting the AI, I modified it such that the damn thing would break and notify me during the next event with the girl.

```
[11:32:41] Person_Identify(stdin) : Hot_Chick1 of
type Chicks
[11:33:42] Conversation_Init() : Initiated by
Hot_Chick1
[11:33:42] Interrupt Recieved :
Special_Exception_Handler
[11:33:50] Shutdown requested by
Special_Exception_Handler
[11:36:50] Conversation_Buffer(buffer1, stdin, stdout)
[11:36:50] Conversation_SmallTalk was spawned;
thread 002F [low priority].
[11:36:50] Shutdown is waiting for thread 002F to
terminate
[11:37:01] ERROR: page fault; thread 002F
[11:37:02] STOP: fatal error in module
INTERACTION.EXE
[11:37:03] Dumping all contexts to 'stdout'
[11:37:31] Control returned to the console
```

I snapped into consciousness. Why had the conversation started? Why am I babbling incoherently? Why does she have that disdainful look starting to scour the smooth porcelain of her face?

My heart fluttered up in my chest. I began to quiver obsequiously in her goddess-aura. She turned away from me. <BOOM> My heart burst into little gooey chunks of slime and crashed down into my gut. What had transpired before the AI exited? After the lecture, I rushed out to check the tape ...

She caught me off guard; I bloody well GPF'd and core dumped right there in front of her. (And we all know what sits at memory address 0000:0000 too, don't we gentlemen?)

That evening, briefly, I considered turning off the internal control unit and ending it all right there. However, my ROM self-reservation routines kicked in and forced a reboot.

When I came about, I just leaned back, sighed deeply and said quietly aloud, "mabye next time."

Darik "Rusty Laroo" Horn

## Rant & Rave #2

### Kitchener Transit

Does Waterloo all of a sudden come to a grinding halt at midnight on Tuesdays? Why the hell does Kitchener Transit only have late-night service a few days a week? I can see why they might not be able to afford all-night service like Toronto, but no service after midnight? Argh!

## Frozen Nails, Lemonade Sales, and Lost Messages

*Signals cross, love gets lost and time past makes you plain*

I once read a quote somewhere. "Anyone can hold the helm while the sea is calm." Good call, whoever that was. That was certainly good advice for me. Things got rough and suddenly I was bailing water, the mast was broken and the helm was spinning wildly.

I love those sayings that use sailing as a metaphor, because I love sailing. Almost as much as I love climbing. I climb just about anything I can get a hold of. I remember a few weeks ago trying to climb a tree outside the Grad House. It was a tough climb, and I didn't make it up. The next day, I was walking to my night class and that same tree I had tried to climb had been reduced to a stump.

I just stood staring for a while. Then I looked around for someone, someone who could answer, why? I bent down and counted the rings. 85. 85 years chopped down, just like that ... b'bye. I could hardly believe it. A tree, alive, nearly climbable yesterday, that had been standing for 85 years was now a stump and some sawdust.

There was an article in Imprint one day: "A tree falls on campus - does anyone care? Or notice?" I notice. I care. That perplexed me ... one less tree in the world, why did it upset me so.

I guess I just care about everything so much. I worry when my friends don't return phone calls. I get upset when I read stories about Chiquita (the banana company) spraying chemicals which are poisoning children, when I read stories about Hyundai (the car company) supporting violence to suppress workers rights. I feel a loss when a single tree vanishes.

So there I was, my ship was being seized by storm, and I felt helpless. Can't see a damn thing in a storm, so every step is a risk. I was honest, but I guess people need time ... so like in any storm, all I could do was hold on tight and wait it out. Honesty is often not beneficial for oneself (i.e. marks on tests, etc.), but it's what I believe in.

Speaking of honesty, something has been bugging me for most of the term: I am sick and tired of people criticizing, insulting and cursing Chris Buchanan behind his back. If you have a problem with someone, you go and you talk to them about it - you deal with it. Otherwise, you shut up. I mean, I have enough faults of my own that I need to worry about; I cannot imagine a person who is so well-perfected that they could justify continually, repeatedly insulting others. Yet it seems like so many people are upset, and all I see is people lashing out in anger because they seem unable or afraid to deal with whatever situation is at hand. He's become kind of a scapegoat, a target for daily insults. It's enough. I don't pretend to know the issues, but I do know how it feels to have people insulting you behind your back. So give the guy a break, or better yet, work things out.

The other day, I was standing outside the C+D. Class had started five minutes earlier, and I was trying to decide what I wanted to eat. This guy I know came up to me, and asked what's up. I told him I was trying to decide what to get to eat. He looked at me and nearly yelled, "Guy, every time I see you, you're stressed out ... yesterday it was Calculus, today it's

what you want to eat?!? Go in there, get the food you want and relax."

Nothing like a good kick in the ass to wake you up. That guy was right. I try to do too many things, and then one goes wrong and suddenly I feel like the world is ending, the sky is falling, my ship is sinking. So I took his advice, and to my surprise, discovered that outside it was a gorgeous day, so I took some time to enjoy it.

Well, things started to get better, but I was still uneasy, until Thursday night, when I saw Good Will Hunting for the second time. I finally realized what I'd forgotten: I needed to lighten up. A wise person has told me time and time again to do so, but still I'd forgotten. So I burst out of DC 1302, ready to take on the world on my rollerblades. What a ride! Word of warning though - Weber is so dangerous at night, the terrain is junk, it's two lanes at points, and the drivers are in a big hurry. I ended up at some movie theatre, so I stopped to watch Armageddon. Great movie. Some American prop(aganda), but mostly just great effects, lots of action and several interesting subplots.

Looking back, this past few weeks haven't been all that horrible. I ran a trip to Algonquin Park, and I helped with Math Frosh Leader Retreat Weekend. I had a great time, and thought the weekend was wicked. But I also made my decision not to be a frosh leader next year. The reasons are rather personal, and it was not an easy decision, seeing as how I much I enjoy and believe in Frosh Week. So I wanted to send this message to everyone involved: I watched as you interacted, monitored your teamwork, and evaluated your communication. My conclusion is that I'll be missing a chance to work with an excellent team of people. You are all awesome! So I'm hoping that you'll all do me a favour. Keep the enthusiasm I saw this weekend flowing! Remember that someone, somewhere, is working hard to see Frosh Week eliminated from UW. People are finally starting to agree with me, but still no one wants to do anything about it. So it's up to the leaders, the ice-breakers, and everyone involved to make Frosh Week what it is. Make sure that the University will not be able to justify cancelling it. Remember that you're not only going to be giving these Frosh the time of their lives, your going to prove by example the benefits and the necessity of a Frosh Week. So make this one the best!

Today I saw this girl I know. Well, I kinda know her. But every time I see her, her smile is so bright it makes me smile. So today I said, "Wow, you're so happy every time I see you." And I thought to myself, if I could just work at being like that, teach myself to remember why and what I have so much to be happy for, I'd be closer to fine.

Jesse Bergman

## Rant & Rave #3

HMV

Those fucking buy-ten-get-one-free cards are so annoying! The CD has to be \$16.99 in order to get a stamp, so every CD you find is priced \$15.99. And \$36 double-CDs get only one stamp! Argh!

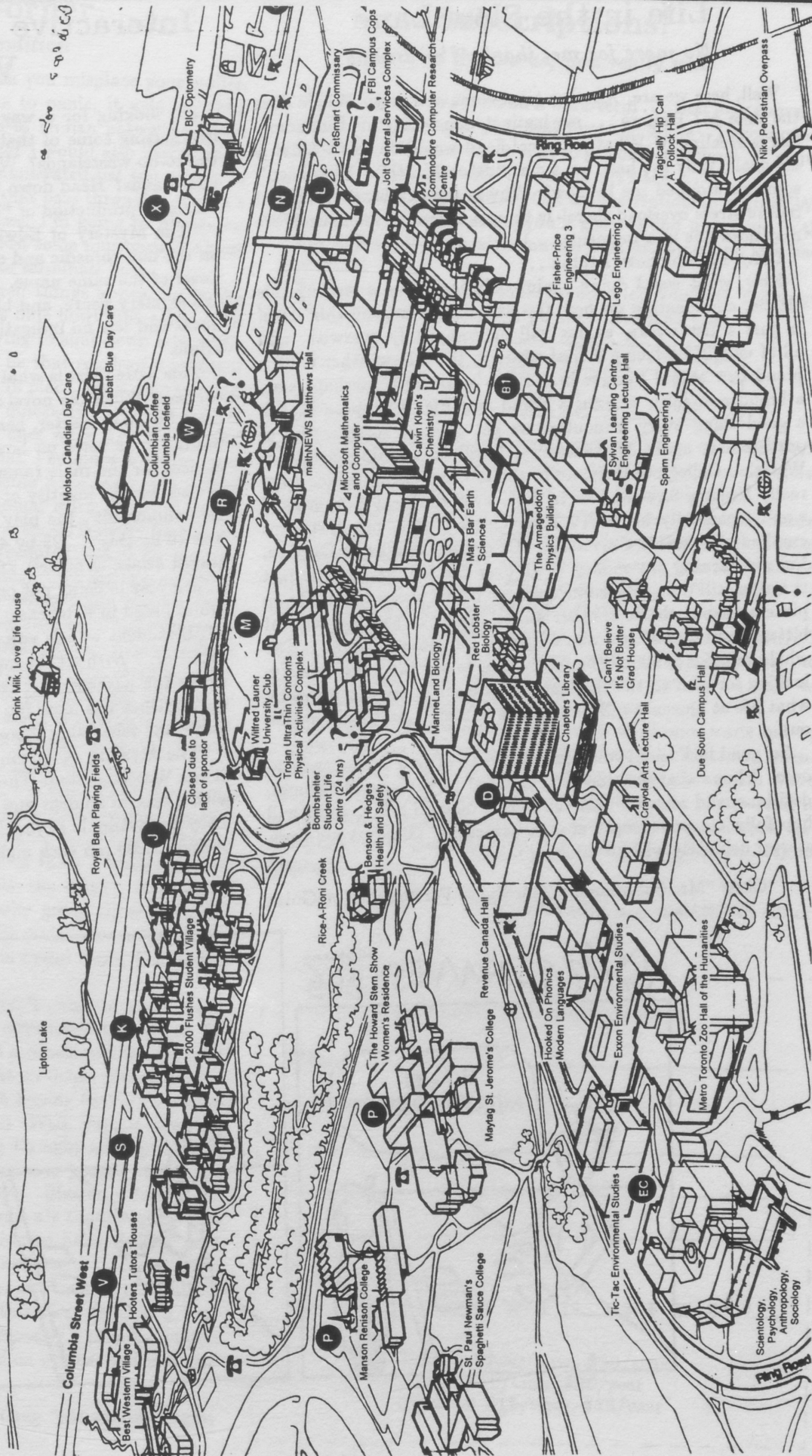


# Corporate Sponsorship of $U(W)$ 's Buildings

*It's bound to happen, folks*

Everywhere you look, buildings new and old are getting corporate names. The O'Keefe Centre is now the Hummingbird Centre. Pantages Theatre is now the AT&T Centre for the Performing Arts. So what would happen if companies sponsored and renamed U(W)'s buildings? Let's find out...

CasEd



## Life in the Slow Lane

*No more for me, thanks—I'm driving*

Well, here we are. Another term come and gone. Where does the time go? Hmmm ... my instincts are telling me that someone is stealing it! What maniacal fiend would do this? What is his goal? Why the heck am I carrying on like this? Why hasn't someone stopped me by now? Why is the sky blue? (WHOA! Severe stress overload there! Is there a doctor in the house? We may need one in a moment ... ).

Okay, I'm fine now, I think ...

Now, what was I doing again? Oh yeah! I was writing this article, commenting on how fast the time has gone this term! In just a few weeks, exams will be completely overwith, and all of us will be facing a fresh start in the fall—whether it be a brand new school term, a brand new work term (perhaps even a brand new job), or even a brand new life. I suppose that is a good thing—every 4 months, we get to start some aspect of our life over again. For instance, I will be teaching classes at Waterloo Collegiate Institute in the fall, something which I am really looking forward to. In fact, over the next 8 months, I won't technically be a U(W) student anymore, but a student enrolled at Queen's University. (Of course, thanks to Queen's, I'm not earning any money at all over the fall, despite the fact that I'm still doing the same thing as if this was a U(W) Co-op placement—but that's another story. And I'm sure as hell not bitter about it—oh, you don't believe me either. Good.) The whole experience should be interesting to say the least, and I'm looking forward to the challenge. I'm even interested in seeing what life at Queen's will be like this winter. Can't wait to find out.

So, good luck on all your exams, and all of your future endeavors. I hope that you too look forward to the new challenges, decisions, and rewards that the next 4 months bring, and I will hopefully see you people around sometime. Enjoy your fresh start—I definitely will be enjoying mine.

Chris "Mr. Subliminal <This Space For Rent>" McGuire

## Interactive Theatre Comes To Waterloo

So, looking for a way to blow off some exam stress? Feel like getting some of that 'kulchure' stuff before heading off to the co-op wastelands? Want to hold the fates of puny actors in your hands? Head down to the Waterloo Stage Theatre for this summers production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"!

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" is a musical comedy based on the non-comedic and certainly non-musical) Charles Dickens novel of the same name. This was Mr. Dickens' first foray into the mystery genre, and his last - he died before completing the novel and left no indication as to how he planned to solve the crime.

This little twist is what sets 'Drood' apart from regular musical fare. When the novel runs out, so does the play - the actors come out of character, head out into the audience and start tabulating your votes on how you want the story to end. With 5 choices for the male romantic lead, 4 for the female, another 5 choices for the identity of a mystery character and 7 candidates for 'whodunnit', the play has the possibility of (quick, I know how to do this ... 25 by 4 ... carry the 2 ... argh, should have stayed awake in finite!) 700 different endings.

The play is being put on by JM Drama, a community theatre group based in Kitchener. Directing is Peter Speckner, a former WLU student who is now studying theatre at the University of Windsor. "With all the musicals out there, I wanted to pick one where the audience got to be involved," he said. "I just hope the audience has more fun voting a new ending every night then we've had rehearsing them all!"

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" runs from August 11 to 15 at the Waterloo Stage Theatre on King Street. Tickets are \$12, with a special student and senior price of \$10 on opening night. They are available at the door or by calling 741-0642. The door opens at 7:00 pm each night.

Margaret Milne





## Cynic's Corner

### Terminal Condition

Well, tad hard to be cynical when you misplace your wallet, but before you even have a chance to panic, it gets returned to you via a third party. My faith in human nature has been restored, so thanks to those involved! I would also like to apologize for the tacky way I used an enumerated list last article to fill up a column. (Weird the things that pass through a person's mind after midnight.) But regardless, I'm going to plunge on again this week with a topic I've heard some murmurings about recently, which is the current state of terminals here.

Yup, I speak of those new coloured things appearing in the labs! My background actually looks blue now! But along with this comes the slight problem of having to shut down labs while they get installed. Which wouldn't be that much of a problem IF the things worked once they were in place. Or if a sign saying 'out of order' could be fixed with a 'quicksort'. It seems a little peculiar to me to be installing new ones when 1/4 of the ones just installed aren't totally operational. I suppose it's deadlines, which leads to the tip: get assignments done early this end of term, there's often not a terminal around when you need one.

The other terminal oddity I've come across is really long xlock times. Just today I came across a terminal locked for over 45 minutes, and another for over an hour. Can anyone enlighten me as to what on earth people are doing while they're away for so long? Can't be to see a tutor, this wasn't during peak times. Have they popped out for a pizza? Did they forget where they were? Are they missing somewhere on the sixth floor? I don't get it. It also seems that tapping the keyboard and mouse randomly on an xlocked terminal to see if it's really xlocked or just not in use, can make the terminal reboot. This I have seen. So don't trust your xlock, and use an xlock wisely.

I also don't get the matter of chairs. I find it terribly annoying when that wire holding them to the desks gets wrapped around the legs, but on the other hand, people do seem to be actually removing chairs. What's the appeal? Is there a black market? (Maybe it's the same people who take the bikes.) Actually, I have a feeling it's related to people who group three around a terminal. I think I'll just close off this section by noting it's a good idea to put things back where you found them. Unless you found them in the wrong place.

And just when you thought this wasn't going to make a column, there's an amusing sign on my computer that advises "If the air conditioner (don't ask me what a conditioner is, maybe it controls printer shades) above this system drips, please get the Operator in MC3015a ASAP". (Here's hoping that isn't a typo for 'drops', that would freak me out.) Well, yup, it dripped, so yup, I did. Drips didn't last long though, and apparently the problem is that when the maintenance people come, it's stopped, and they can't find the cause. Bizarre. Personally, I think some areas in MC have too much air conditioning right now, like MC2065. So if you're planning on being in that part of the building, make sure you have a sweater.

Anyway, that's all I have to say for now. And hopefully I haven't come across as complaining this term (MC is a nice building generally ;), I just felt like expressing a pseudo-opinion for once. So until next time, good luck on exams, and may the force of Mercury be with you!

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

## Subscriptions!

*You'll miss us, you really will*

Just think ... you're off on a work-term ... that long commute every day ... sitting at your desk for seven hours ... occasionally you hit a key ... just can't wait to get back to school ... or just get some semblance of U(W) school life back ...

Well, here's your chance! Get a subscription to *mathNEWS*, and every two weeks or so, you'll get a brand new issue in the mail! Bring it to work with you the next morning, and kick back and relax!

Is there a catch to this amazing scheme? You bet! You've got to fork over some money for postage. Brilliant, eh?

	Canada	US	Overseas
One term	\$7.50	\$10	\$15
One year *	\$20	\$25	\$35

This is the cost of 6 (per term) exciting issues of *mathNEWS*. All prices are in in Canadian funds. And if we happen to publish more than 6 issues, then you get them absolutely free!

\* The "one year" indicates 3 terms that are not necessarily consecutive. That is, if you're at U(W) for the Spring 1998 term and off on a work term for the Fall 98 and Spring 99 terms, then you could get a year subscription for Fall 1998, Spring 1999 and Winter 2000. You could pick up the Winter 1999 and Fall 1999 issues in person!

If that doesn't make sense, come by the *mathNEWS* office to subscribe some time and we'll explain it to you! If you're a bit far off, then send us e-mail to [mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca).

Subscription forms (along with cash or cheque made out to *mathNEWS*) can be dropped off at the *mathNEWS* office whenever one of us is around or slipped under the door when we're not. If you are mailing us a subscription form, please send it to the address listed in the ISSN along with your cheque. (F = September to December; W = January to April; S = May to August).

Your silly, silly *mathNEWS* editor

### mathNEWS Subscription Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address to Which to Mail Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Terms Desired:

1. F W S 19\_\_ 2. F W S 19\_\_ 3. F W S 20\_\_

Canada: \$7.50/term, \$20/year

U.S.: \$10/term, \$25/year

Overseas: \$15/term, \$35/year

## gridCOMMENTS

*Sick of this life, not that you care  
I'm not the only one with whom these feelings I share*

Good morning, everyone! Some G'N'R lyrics to start us off today. Yes, sometimes it feels like I'm beating a dead horse. Not just any horse. A DEAD horse. And it's a HORSE, not a COW. Got it? All straight with you? You dig what I'm saying?

Okay, on with the comments. After a stellar showing last time with TWO submissions, we've somewhat rebounded with a total of THIRTEEN!

Whoa.

Gigi Garbett. Claire Bilodeau. Gina Brown (with the help of Anish & Duan). Warren and Maria D'Souza. Shaft and Johnny Blaze.

These are all the people who submitted incorrect responses. And because your attention spans this morning are probably short and very likely you don't care, I won't go into what mistakes you made. But trust me, you made at least one error.

Margaret Milne. Templi Resurgentes Equites Synarchici (I guess T.R.E.S. for short). The FLC. Ian "The Word Guy" Facey. Blue. Robert & Rowena Bridson. Sko "the starting shortstop" & Lisa "the super fan". Arlie Peters.

These are all the people who submitted correct responses. But unfortunately, the prize can only go to one submitter. And the winner of that prize (by random draw) is T.R.E.S. (for short). You can pick up your prize in MathSoc anytime.

Well, here we are at the end of YET another term. What does the future hold for Latrell? Not sure. I'd like to travel but that's not in the cards right now. Perhaps save a damsel in distress? No, wait! That's only led to misery and suffering. They say you can never go home, but maybe I will. Yes, back to the ol' house in Ashburn. Sitting on the porch with the folks. A beer and some barbecue. That's until winter sets in. Anyways, that's looking too far ahead.

But let me say I think I've almost had enough of this job. I'm thinking I will retire from this and slowly fade away. I know I'm burnt out with regards to the gridWORD.

Regardless, good luck on all your exams. I've got one last gridWORD for you this term. No prize ... just something to do to kill time before those exams start. Enjoy and see ya some other time!

Latrell "GridBoy" Fox

## Solution to this issue's gridWORD

*Don't look! Go to the back page first!*

A	R	I	Z	O	N	A
T		N		A		L
L	I	D		S	E	A
A						B
N	I	L		B	O	A
T		O		A		M
A	L	B	E	R	T	A

## Spermatikos Logos

*It's all over, folks!*

We received an amazing nine submissions for last issue's logic puzzle, which was the last one for this term. Andrea and Gigi will be back in the fall to dazzle mathNEWS readers with more logic problems (and in fact had one ready for this issue, until we informed them that the last issue of each term doesn't have any real puzzles in it). Away on a work term in the fall and can't get enough of these puzzles? Well, subscribe, damn it! Or just read them on the web!

We received submissions from Ian "The Word Guy" Facey, Greg & Jennifer, Jonathan Beverley, Jing, Greg "Hologrami" Taylor, Andrew Frank, Scott Reynolds, Claire Bilodeau, and the Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada. And they were all correct! Thus, the winner is randomly drawn from Peter's big-ass hat ... and it's Andrew Frank! Pick up your prize in MathSoc.

The solution to last issue's puzzle is:

- Amy bought a Muffin, Large Chocolate Milk, and a Fruit Salad (\$3.05)
- Beth bought a Samosa and Ginger Ale (\$1.95)
- Calvin bought a Donut, a Cookie, and a Jamaican patty (\$2.10)
- Dave bought a Bagel with Cream Cheese and Chicken Noodle Soup (\$2.20)
- Edmund bought a Chiana and a Twix Bar (\$4.20)
- Fiona bought a Meatball submarine (\$3.50)

Thanks to everyone who enjoyed the logic puzzles this term, and thanks to Andrea and Gigi for creating them for us!

CasEd

## Attention Please!

Please note that this issue was laid out by CasEd from 2:00am to 7:00am on Wednesday morning. Should you get any headaches, chest pain, or experience dizziness, like CasEd did from 2:00am to 7:00am on Wednesday morning, please accept our apologies.

Should you, while reading this issue of mathNEWS, get the urge to scream at the top of your lungs and curse the morning for arriving with not a drop of sleep at your fingertips, as CasEd did while laying out this issue from 2:00am to 7:00am on Wednesday morning, please accept our most humble apologies.

Also, should you, while reading this issue of mathNEWS, lose all sensation in your feet and hands, as CasEd did at 7:01am on Wednesday morning, please accept our deepest apologies.

And finally, if you, while reading this issue of mathNEWS, suddenly black out and fall unconscious to the floor for three and a half weeks, like CasEd did at 7:03am on Wednesday morning, please accept our most sincere apologies.



## mathNEWSquiz #6

*Parting is such sweet sorrow ...*

Howdy, folks! How are things going? Hard to believe that another term has come and gone so quickly. Thus, being the last mathNEWS of the term, we present the traditional end-of-term Squiz—with a twist! For those of you gearing up for exams, I threw in a bit of a “warm-up” for you (especially for those of you taking Arts courses). If it helps even one person pass their exam, it will have been worth it.

Anyways, you people sure made my day! I received 12 (yes, count them—twelve) submissions to the Squiz!! Who will be the lucky winner this week? Stay tuned ...

So, here are the solutions to the last Squiz:

Music Lyrics: 1) “We Will Rock You,” Queen; 2) “Like a Rock,” Bob Seger; 3) “Loves Me Like a Rock,” Paul Simon; 4) “Rock On,” Michael Damian; the theme was “rock” songs.

Roger Clemens: 1) Randy Winn of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays; 2) 10 other pitchers; 3) Nolan Ryan; 4) 20 strikeouts; 5) Ugeth Urbina. Presidents: 1) William McKinley; 2) John Adams; 3) Grover Cleveland; 4) James Buchanan; 5) July 4.

Advertisements: 1) Sprint™; 2) Kellogg’s Pop Tarts™; 3) Bad Boy™; 4) Lipton Brisk Ice Tea™; 5) Dorito’s™.

And now, here are the 12 (wow—I just can’t get over that) people who submitted their solutions, and the score each received: Somebody Else (whoever you are) managed to get 3 points (plus mega style points for your solutions—I thought they were quite hilarious), Blue scored 4 points, the tag team of Sko & Lisa received 6 points, Ian “The Word Guy” Facey got a 15 count, Claire Bilodeau scored 16 points, the Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada were in contention with 17 points, Lukas Kamps, Jason Smulevitch, and Cindy Weston all were heartbreakingly close with 19 points, and Gigi Garbett, Greg “hologrami” Taylor, and Andrew Lechner each managed to score a perfect 20! Way to go, everyone! For the first time this term, I must pull out my complex algorithm for breaking ties, and it tells me that the last winner of the term is ... oops, gotta fix this error ... get back here, you stupid monkey ... ah, here we are—the winner is Andrew Lechner! Congratulations, Andrew! Your prize can be picked up in the MathSoc office.

And so, for the last time this term, I say unto thee, “It’s time to play the Squiz!”

*Music Lyrics*

2 points for title OR artist, screw the theme

1. “I get knocked down  
But I get up again  
You’re never going to keep me down.”
2. “I got my head checked  
By a jumbo jet  
It wasn’t easy  
But nothing is, no.”
3. “Is this the real life?  
Is this just fantasy?  
Caught in a landslide  
No escape from reality.”
4. “You can dance, you can jive  
Having the time of your life  
See that girl, watch that scene  
Dig in the dancing queen.”
5. “You’ll have to excuse me, I’m not at my best  
I’ve been gone for a month, I’ve been drunk since I left  
And these so-called vacations will soon be my death  
I’m so sick from the drink, I need home for a rest.”

*The Squiz Warm-Up Multiple Choice Exam*

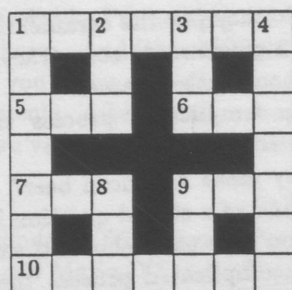
1. Just how do they put the caramel into the Caramilk™ bar?  
(a) It’s all a government conspiracy, I tell you  
(b) You mean that’s caramel?  
(c) a long, complicated process that involves chocolate, sugar, and Krazy Glue
2. How do they make American beer?  
(a) What kind of a stupid question is that?  
(b) They don’t—no one’s shown them how yet  
(c) a long, complicated process that involves a funnel, a moose, and a vat of Labatt Blue
3. How is the President of MathSoc determined?  
(a) In a true display of democracy, with many skilled and enthusiastic candidates, an election is held where all the Math Faculty is inspired to speak out and vote.  
(b) A Ouija board  
(c) a long, complicated process that involves several slips of paper, a hat, and many Mafia hitmen guarding all the exits (HINT: If you picked (a), you automatically fail the exam. Oh, and your transfer to Arts forms can be picked up at the MathSoc office.)
4. Fill the blank: “C is for \_\_\_\_\_, that’s good enough for me.”  
(a) Cocaine  
(b) Caffiene  
(c) Celibacy  
(HINT: If you chose (c), you are lying.)
5. Just how much will tuition cost next term?  
(a) I don’t know, but Curtis Joseph’s signing bonus oughta just cover it  
(b) one hundred billion dollars  
(c) the current value of the National Debt, give or take a couple of cents
6. What annoying, pesky, and otherwise unnecessary K-W publication could everyone do without?  
(a) the Imp’tint
7. “Short” is to “little” as “King and Weber Streets” is to:  
(a) quantum singularity  
(b) engineer  
(c) What the hell were they smoking?
8. True or false?  
(a) True  
(b) False  
(c) -1 (by De Moivre’s Theorem, the Buckingham-Pi Theorem, and the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem)

Well, that’s it. Good luck on your exams, and enjoy the fall term, wherever you might be. By the way, submissions to this Squiz are NOT expected, nor will they be judged for prizes, so you can actually worry about what’s important—the long week-end! (And you may want to study for exams as well. Maybe.)

Thanks again for everything. It was a pleasure being your Squizmaster this term, and perhaps we’ll do this again sometime.

Chris “The Subliminal Squizmaster” McGuire

# GRIDWORD



## Grid Clues

### Across

1. North American jurisdiction
5. Cap
6. Body of water
7. Zero
9. Scarf
10. North American jurisdiction

### Down

1. North American city
2. Near Ill.
3. Western Hemispheric group
4. North American jurisdiction
8. Toss
9. Pub

## Solution to last issue's gridWORD

S	T	U	B		T	H	U		M	I	S	T	E	R
H	A	R	E		H	A	S		O	C	T	A	N	E
A	R	A	L		E	L	F		R	E	O	P	E	N
H	E	L	L	S	B	E	L	L	S		T	I	M	E
			C	O	E				E	E	L		R	A
C	A	P	A	B	L	E			S	L	O	B		
A	V	O	N		L	O	S	T		R	E	B	U	T
G	A	L	A	S		P	O	E		E	L	O	R	A
E	R	O	D	E		H	U	R	L		L	O	S	S
			A	W	R	Y			B	A	N	A	N	A
M	T	V		N	E	T			R	I	A			
A	R	E	A		G	E	O	R	G	E	B	E	L	L
J	I	N	G	L	E		L	E	E		Z	E	M	I
O	B	T	A	I	N		G	A	S		U	R	N	S
R	E	S	U	L	T		A	R	T		G	O	O	P

## Attention Please!

*A Note To All Those Who Frequent The Bomber*

Please be advised that the staff of mathNEWS cordially disinvite you to the Bomber on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>. It is our hopes that Brian will see that the Bomber is empty, and will instead spend the weekend partying with us. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

With Love,

The Staff of mathNEWS

*Gig* see ya next term!

*John D*

*May 'hologram' Taylor*

*Michael D Thorsley*

*Chris "Mr. Subliminal" M. Lewis*

*Alfred*