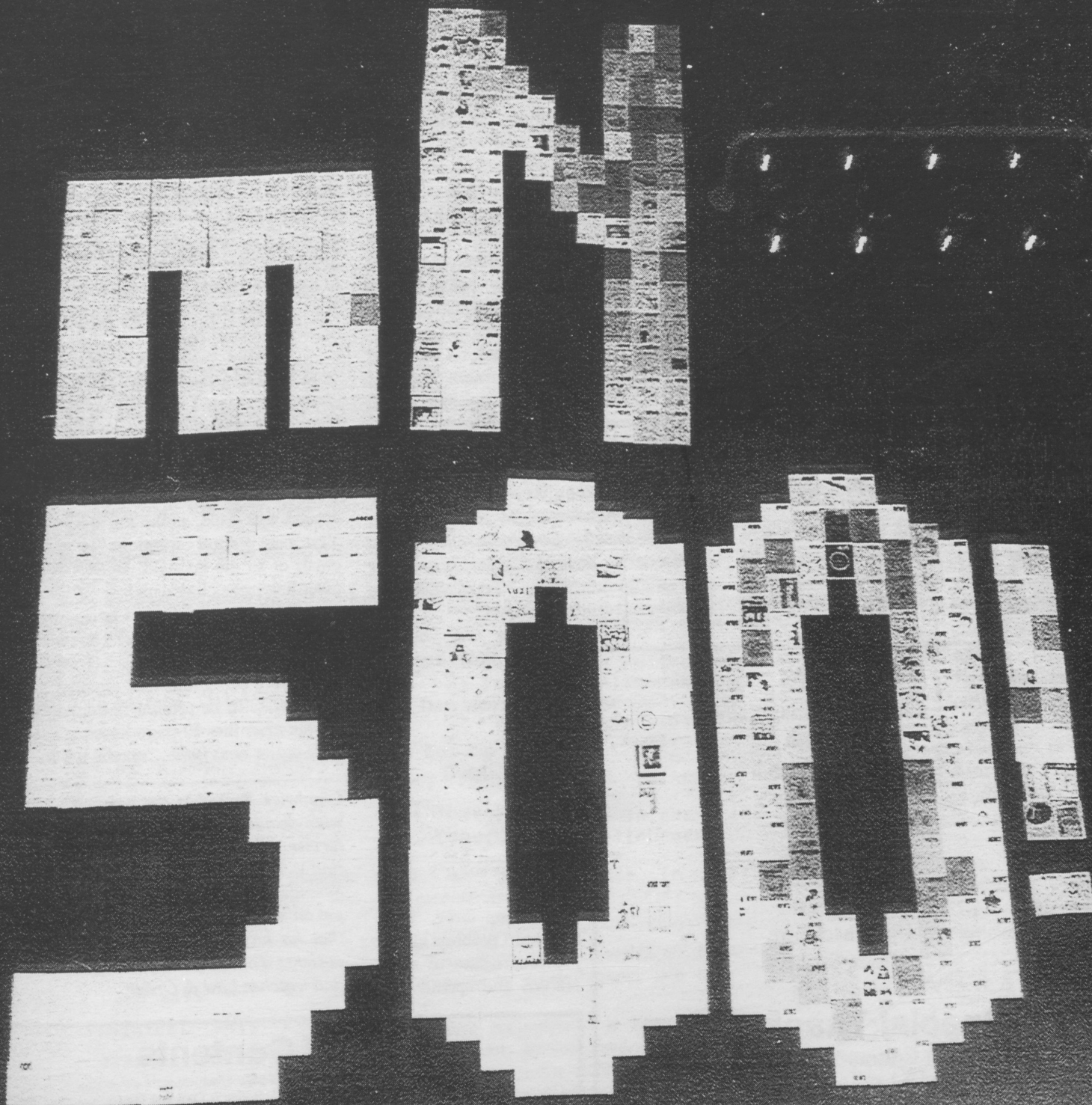


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Is It Too Late For A Recount?

By Chadwick Severn

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the 500th issue of *mathNEWS*. What you see before you is the culmination of at least seven production nights, hundreds of man-hours of work, and several bottles of scotch.

"500 issues!" you say?
You betcha.

Why?

For some reason that seemed sound at the time, I decided to count issues of *mathNEWS* sometime last winter. Imagine my surprise when I realized that the 500th issue would land right smack at the end of the summer term.

We started work on this issue at the end of the summer term.

It is only now in your hands.

Can you sense how hard it was to put this issue out yet?

For those keeping track (which will no longer be us, thank God!), this is the largest, longest, and heaviest issue ever published. I can only hope that there will

be no more milestones for *mathNEWS* during my stay at U(W).

So, what's in this issue? You'll find two things mainly. First, you'll find lots of reprints of articles from previous issues. We spent several eternities pouring over back issues of *mathNEWS* looking for stuff that deserves to see the light of day again.

After coming up with nothing, we then looked for some quality pieces that made us laugh.

After another fruitless search, we just clipped anything that

didn't bore us.

Second, we emailed all the former editors that we could find and pleaded with them to contribute new material to the issue. After a lot of soul-searching, and some sizable cheques, we managed to get around a dozen of them to write us new articles or columns. You'll find them interspersed around the issue.

How can you tell the old stuff from the new?

The new stuff looks like this.

The old stuff looks like *mathNEWS*.

What's With The Cover?

That cover's pretty neat, eh?

Mike, Greg, Richard, and I grabbed all 499 previous issues of *mathNEWS* and spread them

out on the Davis Centre floor for that shot. We had to go all the way up to the forbidden fourth floor in order to fit them all into the picture. Ask us sometime how we got up there.

So, After All This Work...

I hope you enjoy looking back at the history of *mathNEWS*. Just be thankful that you're getting a "best-of" helping instead of the unabridged version. If this is the first issue that you've ever read, you're probably wondering "Wow, is it always this good?" The answer is yes, yes it is. Why not drop by the next production night and contribute?

Looking over this issue before we send it off to Graphic Services (bless their souls), I feel that I must say something.

"Boy, Hammer is going to get a very swelled head when he sees how much of his stuff we've reprinted."

There are several puzzles in and around the issue, including a GridWord. You *can* submit solutions to these by email or to the BLACK BOX. We'll be awarding prizes like usual.

Well, there you go. I hope you enjoy this issue. Next week we'll be back with your regular *mathNEWS*. (I wonder if there were any important announcements that needed to be printed in September...) I think after this 40-page beast, we'll go a little easier next issue...maybe a 4-pager.

Chadwick Severn is the very silly person who decided to try to contact as many former editors of mathNEWS as he could find to write for this issue. The Computer Science/Journalism student will next try to get an interview with Jean Chretien, a feat that he has been assured will be much easier. The 22-year-old has a hamster and watches Law & Order.



Credits

Chadwick Severn
Matt Walsh
Richard Bilson
Michael Thorsley
Greg Taylor
Stu Pollock
Gigi Garbet
Peter Lizak
Chris McGuire
John Swan

Special Thanks To:

All the Past Editors Who Helped Us Out
Those Wonderful People at Graphic Services
J.D. Marchand from Kampus Kops

And Our Significant Others (if applicable)
Who Put Up With Us While We Made This
40-Page Beast Of An Issue

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The Early Years of *mathNEWS*

By Chadwick Severn

It Used To Be Weekly?!?

Richard Bilson and I had the immense pleasure of going through the early volumes of *mathNEWS*, which brought many tears to our eyes.

mathNEWS hasn't always been an irreverent biweekly newsletter full of *profQUOTES* and Squizes.

It used to be a weekly newsletter full of math and news. Surprised?

Under the leadership of John Peebles, *mathNEWS* published its first issue on Thursday, January 25, 1973. The ten-page issue (available on the 25th anniversary web page) featured news stories about pens being available for sale at the C+D, library tours, and "...the dope for this week."

Here are some clippings from various articles from the early years of *mathNEWS*.

This headline appeared in the second issue:

Outdoor Pub Flops

Why did it flop? Here's your answer:

No Eeer

The president of MathSoc contributed articles frequently, and described *mathNEWS* like this:

There may not be as much "tits and ass" nor as much "radical shit" as in other papers, but we get by.

Puns are nothing new to *mathNEWS*; Greg Taylor and Mike "Hammer" Hammond are two recent examples of *mathNEWS* staffers that drive editors and other staffers crazy with

puns. Here's a really early example of math puns taken a little too far:

IMPURE MATH

Once upon a time (1/T) pretty little Polly Nomial was strolling across a field of vectors when she came to the edge of a singularly large matrix.

That continued on for a column and a half.

The first intentionally humorous article that I came across was a quiz entitled "Are you a latent streaker?"

Streaking on-campus must have been more popular during the seventies compared to today, since *mathNEWS* has not published an article on streaking since that one. Here are two particularly good questions from that quiz:

- 5) Do you feel that continuous streaking leads to:
 - a) an increase in the price of eggs.
 - b) juvenile delinquency
 - c) brain damage
 - d) an increase in the number of corporate welfare bums.
 - e) orgies.
- 6) What do you think has brought on the rash of streaking?
 - a) an increase in the price of eggs.
 - b) juvenile delinquency
 - c) brain damage
 - d) an increase in the number of corporate welfare bums.
 - e) orgies.

Of course, today, *mathNEWS* tries to cram in as much humour into each issue.

Since mathematics is inherently a "dry" subject, humour and math don't usually mix. But *mathNEWS* took the challenge and has published many humour pieces involving mathematics. Since we found so many gems, we put them into their own section on Page 5.

There's never a shortage of computer humour either, since computers are inherently funny. Simply dropping in the odd phrase like "VIC-20" or "General Protection Fault" into a staid article will raise the humour level rapidly.

Here's a news clip that all BASIC or FORTRAN programmers will enjoy:

-As we all know the use of the GOTO statement is frowned upon by many computer scientists. Unfortunately, there are some things which can't be done without GOTOS in FORTRAN. A recent proposal for changes to the FORTRAN language that would eliminate the GOTO altogether is therefore received with great enthusiasm. In order to eliminate GOTOS, we need only add one statement to the language: the COME FROM statement.

mathNEWS wasn't the only on-campus publication back then. We enjoyed a friendly rivalry with our engineering counterpart, *Enginews*.

When the Faculty of Engineering attempted to recall an issue of *Enginews*, *mathNEWS* could only guess as to what was in the banned issue. *mathNEWS* had an article about the recall, and this was the headline that went with that article:

Enginews: Unfit for Human Consumption

Ah, the good ol' days of *mathNEWS*. They just don't make them like they used to.

The mathNEWS Veesa Card

Credit You Can Blow Out Your Ear

mathNEWS, in cooperation with the Bigue Banque du Quebec, proudly announces the availability of the mathNEWS Veesa credit card. From course fees to concert tickets to pornography, every time you make purchases on your mathNEWS Veesa Card, you receive 5% in mathNEWS Card Earnings, earnings you can apply towards the purchase of profQUOTES Books and mathNEWS-Brand Pretzels. Just one reason to choose The mathNEWS Card.

Establish your credit rating now

This is a fabulous way to start building a credit rating now while you're a student. You're heavily in debt due to rising tuition, you can hardly afford to pay for printer quota, and with a mathNEWS Veesa Card, you'll screw up your credit rating for life. Try getting a real fucking credit card when you graduate. You'd have better luck getting an exam package when MathSoc is closed.

Partnership with Bigue Banque du Quebec

Why the Bigue Banque du Quebec? Well, the other banks were smart enough not to give any credit to students, that's why. We managed to convince these guys that U(W) students will actually amount to something when they graduate. And as a bonus, if Quebec seperates, we can kiss those mathNEWS Veesa Card bills goodbye when they lose jurisdiction.

Up to \$150,000 Decapitation Insurance

As with most credit cards, we're throwing in a token insurance scheme to make the mathNEWS Veesa Card look even more impressive. So if you're ever decapitated, just show up at our mathNEWS Veesa HQ and show us your severed head and we'll fork over the dough.

Access to Instant Cash

If you're ever in dire need of some emergency cash, we know this guy Vinny who can help you out. Just call his number on the reverse side of your mathNEWS Veesa Card. You'll receive quick, unsequential, and unmarked cash.

In this section, the words you, your, yours and dickhead mean you the customer. The words we, us, our and Vinny mean the mathNEWS Veesa Card Group. You the undersigned, agree as follows: (a) you certify that you didn't screw around with the application form and it's all legit; (b) you want us to hand over a couple of mathNEWS Veesa Cards with an expiry date that hasn't expired; (c) you agree to read any literature we send you, especially the MathSoc propaganda; (d) We can plaster the information you sent us anywhere we'd like, including, but not limited to billboards, Email spam, issues of mathNEWS, and bathroom stalls; (e) We can tell Vinny where you live if we don't get paid, capiche? (f) Decapitation Insurance is not valid unless your head was taken off with one blow; (g) Decapitation Insurance is void in the event of your death; (h) If you have successfully held up a bank, you won't mind if we call you up and find out how you did it; (i) Broken thumbs are an acceptable form of payment; (j) mathNEWS Veesa Card Points can only be redeemed on the fifth Monday of each month between 4:00am and 5:00am for the following flavours of mathNEWS-Brand Pretzels: Extra Salty, Soy, Pork, Blue Cheese, Hamster, Grapefruit, Creamy Chicken, Chocolate-Cherry, Carbonated, Geddy Lee, Cantonese, Cranberry, Honey Mustard, but not Regular; (k) Offer void in Ontario; (l) No animals will be hurt through the use of the mathNEWS Veesa Card, this application form, or anything purchased with the mathNEWS Veesa Card. It's also recommended that you don't feed those pretzels to any pets that you may have. Just a word to the wise; (m) mathNEWS is not associated in any way with the mathNEWS Veesa Card, except that they both have the word mathNEWS in their names and they both spell 'math' in lowercase italic letters, and 'news' in uppercase bold letters. That's just a coincidence; (n) Move it along, buddy, nothing to see here; (o) If, at any point, mathNEWS is involved in a strike, the mathNEWS Veesa Card will be renamed the Imprint Veesa Card and will be exactly the same except that it will suck; (p) Failure to differentiate between this credit card and other, perhaps, more real, credit cards, means you're a ninny.

Just complete and return this easy form. Please print and provide all of the information requested below.

Please Tell Us About Yourself

How should we address you?			
<input type="radio"/> Mr.	<input type="radio"/> Mrs.	<input type="radio"/> Dr. (Right)	<input type="radio"/> Goof
<input type="radio"/> Miss	<input type="radio"/> Ms.	<input type="radio"/> Bub	<input type="radio"/> Hey you
Last Name		First	Initials
Home Address			
City		Province	Postal Code
Do you live with your parents? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		If yes, what's the matter with you?	
Sex <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female		Status <input type="radio"/> Single <input type="radio"/> Married	
If Female and Single, then print Phone Number here			
Preferred Language <input type="radio"/> Engl <input type="radio"/> Fren <input type="radio"/> Esperanto <input type="radio"/> Pig Latin <input type="radio"/> Surprise me			
Mother's Maiden Name		Is she cute? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Any sisters? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Date of Birth		Pant Size	

Please Tell Us About Your Job

Employer Name & Address		Occupation	Does it suck? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
For how long?	\$\$/Month	Is it Gross? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	How gross?

Please Give Us Some School Info

University you attend		Faculty	Major
<input type="radio"/> Full-Time	<input type="radio"/> Some-of-the-Time	ID Number	
<input type="radio"/> Part-Time	<input type="radio"/> 7 th year, baby!		
Hope to graduate Month: ____ Year: ____		Will actually graduate Month: ____ Year: ____	

Please Give Us Some Banking Info

Credit limit requested	Credit limit you will receive \$250
Do you currently bank with BB du Quebec? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Have you ever held up a BB du Quebec? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
If you already have a Veesa Card, do you wish to <input type="radio"/> Keep <input type="radio"/> Cancel <input type="radio"/> Lose it to Guido	

Please Tell Us About the Co-Applicant

Home Phone Number	Is she cute? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Any sisters? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
-------------------	--	--

Oh, yeah, and find a place around here to sign your name.
That's probably important.

You Mean There's Mathematics in *mathNEWS*?

mathNEWS has actually published mathematical content over the years, believe it or not. In the first few volumes, each issue would contain "This Week's

Theorem," which would prove a statement that most would consider false. Here's a sample of some of the mathematical content that *mathNEWS* has published

over the years. Please note that these will not actually help you on any tests, are meant to be humorous, and should not be used as the basis of a thesis.

THIS Σ THEOREM WEEK'S

REQ'D: Prove that $0 > \text{zero}$

PROOF:

Define series:

$$u = 1 + 1/3 + 1/5 + 1/7 + 1/9 + \dots$$

$$v = 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/6 + 1/8 + 1/10 + \dots$$

Now,

$$2v = 1 + 1/2 + 1/3 + 1/4 + 1/5 + \dots$$

$$= u + v$$

$$u - v = 0$$

But,

$$u - v = (1 - 1/2) + (1/3 - 1/4) + (1/5 - 1/6) + (1/7 - 1/8) + \dots$$

Each term of this series is $> \text{zero}$.

$$u - v > \text{zero}$$

$$0 > \text{zero}$$

Apathy Integrated

$$c \int_0^W \left(\frac{1}{c} H_0 - \frac{a\tau}{W} e^{s!} \right) dx = WH_0 - \text{care}^{s!}$$

ALF

This Week's Theorem

$$\lim_{(x \rightarrow 0)} \frac{\sin x}{n} = 6$$

This is true for any positive real number n . The result follows from cancelling the n 's in the numerator and denominator.

Solution of the Week

$$\text{Solve for } y: \frac{dy}{dcabin} = \frac{1}{cabin}$$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \int \left[\frac{1}{cabin} dcabin \right] \\ &= \log cabin + C \\ &= \text{houseboat} \end{aligned}$$

- XTC

$\exists \forall \text{ at least}$
 $\text{one } Q \text{ yet } C \text{ } \text{♀}$

The Math Corner

Theorem: $r\theta = \theta$

Proof 1:



(Proof by Confusion)

Proof 2: Assume $r\theta = \theta$

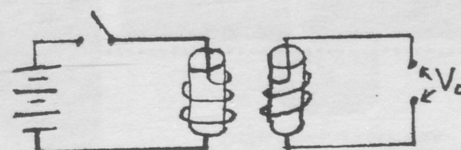
$$\therefore r\theta = \theta$$

This does not contradict the hypothesis.

$$\therefore r\theta = \theta$$

(Proof by Assumption)

Proof 3:



(Proof by Induction)

25 Years of *mathNEWS*... 27 Years of J. Alan George!

By J. Alan George

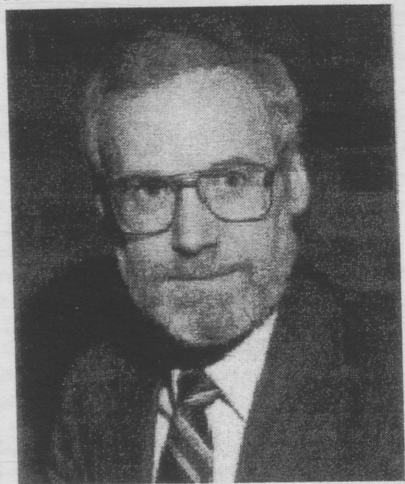
Congratulations and best wishes to *mathNEWS* on the publication of your 500th issue. *mathNEWS* is one of my favourite sources of news and entertainment, and *obviously* the classiest newspaper on campus. (I hope that doesn't generate too much mail from Chris Redmond and perhaps others, but one must always speak the truth!) :-)

Again, congratulations on number 500. Keep up the great work.

From Volume 36, Issue 0:



From His Web Site Today:



From Volume 30, Issue 3:

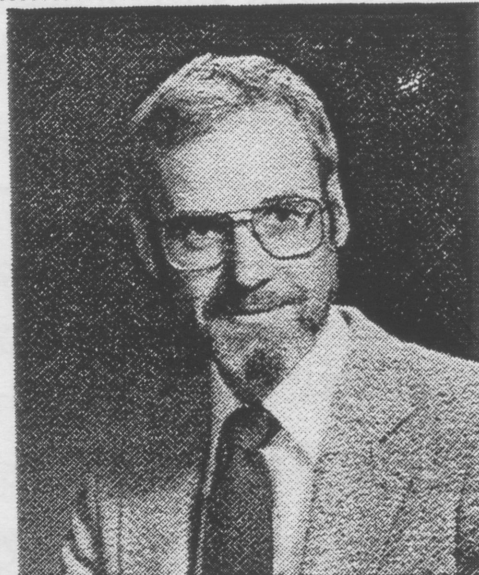
Dear Editor,

Why haven't you said anything about me yet? I'm actually quite a nice guy. I'm always available for any student who wants to hoist a few cold ones at my office MC5111.

Dr. J. Alan George
Dean of Math

From Volume 39, Issue 5:

*So Long
Alan*



Math Dean Resigns

From Volume 46, Issue 3:

The Return of J. Alan George

Dr. J. Alan George, dean of mathematics from 1980 to 1985, will return to Waterloo on July 1st to become vice-president, academic and provost. He returns from the University of Tennessee and the Oak Ridge National Laboratories, where he has been a "distinguished scientist."

Vol.33 no.3
Friday Oct. 21, 1983

SPORTS INTEGRATED

A fully owned subsidiary of mathNEWS

see page 16

To: GLENDA KATY LOVE

THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO **mathNEWS** PAPER

IMPOTENT

— HELL FREEZES OVER —
The Fab Four Re-United at UW!

(White Men Can't Walk)

Inside:

- Axworthy Axed
- Feds Fed Up
- Food Services Monopoly ... conspiracy revealed!!!
- 3rd Annual Myn's Week Mag

COMBINAPOLITAN

Volume 35 • Number 3
 June 15, 1984 • \$0.00

Feminism and the Weierstrass M-test
How Advanced Calculus Integrated Our Relationship
Andy Warhol on Abstract Algebra
How many ways can you do it?
How to Determine Your Connectivity
Recipe of the Month
Kruskal Could Be for You Tool
Next Season's Designer Pink Tie
Sex Course for Mathies

Woman at the Top:
 Barb Lundhild

VAGUE

a mathNEWS Byproduct

Volume 42 Number 4
 Friday, October 24, 1986

THE BEST QUOTES FROM PROFS
 The professor's voice: "I'm not a mathematician, I'm a mathematician's mathematician."
 "Mathematics is the language of the universe."
 "Mathematics is the language of the universe."
 "Mathematics is the language of the universe."

Warriors Basement-Bound
 Doctor Heartbreak

Yes, We Had Way Too Much Spare Time When We Did These Issues

Special Section: A look at the University of Waterloo
 The school that U. of T. is jealous of! Page 11

WEATHER
 3°C - 7°C

THE NUMB
 A mathNEWS Spoof Issue

TIME
 TIME SELECTS
mathNEWS
 Volume 45 Number 3
 Friday, October 16th, 1987

AS NEWSpaper OF THE YEAR

STAR TRUDGE

in this issue:
 Star Trudge
 Life with den
 and more schtick than
 you can stick a stick to

The NP-Complete Magazine
 A subsidiary of mathNEWS

University of Waterlogged

GetzWet

Friday, October 8, 1993

The GetzWet publishes a news article that the average Waterlogged student finds interesting and informative!

Sex...
Beer...
Seriously...
Attractive...
Engineers...
Tunnel...
Flourish Creek...
The weather...

U.S. War Memorial Deemed Too Tacky

THE LEARN MORE-A-YEAR

Replacement of the Ribbed Tool?

EngSic considers a new, more appropriate Engine-Fearing symbol!

In this issue of the Learn More-A-Year:
 Pres. Spren,
 VP Finance Hurl,
 VP External Blom
 Chavler
Photos inside!
 Ernie the Engine-Fearer Transfers to Math (and Lives his Veracity!)
 Find out why our Physics Print is Badly!
 We Whine About mathNEWS
 our Capitalism even More soverly Inconveniently!
 Ads, Ads, and more Ads!

Math, the Universe, and Everything

By Steve "Flipper" Shaw

Working For a Living Sucks

It is sometimes easy for students to forget just what awaits them after university. This is understandable, since it's not like you're exposed to real life too much during your years at university. Face it — except for the occasional short co-op term, you're not even exposed to anybody with a real job. Look around — do you really think the grad students and profs that you see every day would stand a chance in the private sector?

My Life Then

Step back and take a look at your typical day. Okay, so I don't know about your typical day as a student, but I remember what mine were like. I'd wake up with a hangover, promptly decide to skip all my classes, and go back to bed. Sometime around noon, I'd wake up and go to the Bomber for lunch. Sometimes, for a change, I'd go to Fed Hall.

(Ha ha! Just kidding! For you younger folks out there, Fed Hall used to be a big bar on campus that was well

known for its bad music and bouncers that specialized in beating students up. Fed Hall, tragically, was burnt to the ground in the Good Taste Riots of 1995. At least, that was the plan.)

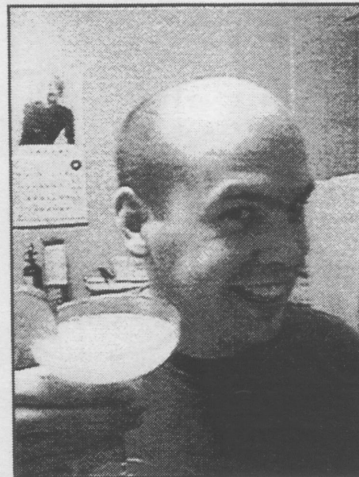
Anyway, back to my typical day — I'd stay at the Bomber until there was no danger of me accidentally attending a class. I'd spend as much of time at the Bomber as possible trying to convince impressionable young frosh women that I was interesting and that they should have lots of dirty, dirty sex with me. And that would take up the rest of my day.

My Life Now

My life has changed drastically since then. It starts off much the same way — I wake up hungover. However, since I have

this medical condition known as "employment," it is impossible for me to go back to sleep. My job requires me to go into work in the morning, sometimes as early as 9 a.m. To make things worse, I have to go into "work" every day, and if I miss too many days, I'll be "fired." And as a final straw, I have to wear "pants." Every fucking day.

Furthermore, unlike co-op terms, it's not enough to show up at work and download as much pornography as is humanly possible. I actually have to do things, many of which involve talking to "co-workers," and, even worse, "clients," which are like co-workers but are, by and large, a lot less attractive and much more stupid. It's not until after I finish talking to other people



Bridge is Cool

Huh-huh, huh-huh...

"Hey, look Beavis. It's a bunch of people playing cards."
 "Heh-heh, yeah, heh-heh. They must suck at video games or something."
 "Yeah, huh-huh, huh-huh. Cards are for wusses."
 "Hey, guys. We're looking for someone to play bridge with. Do you want to play a couple of hands?"
 "Heh-heh, heh-heh. Hey, Butt-head, chicks!"
 "Uuuuh, sure, baby. We can play with some hands, huh-huh, huh-huh."
 "Okay, great! I'll deal"

Vul: None	North		
Dealer: W	♠ 3 K 7 10 Q 2		
	♥ 2 Q		
West	♦ Void	East	
♠ Q J 8	♣ 4 J 7 A 9	♠ 10 6 5	
♥ 10 5 3		♥ A 9 8 7	
♦ J 9 6 3	South	♦ A K Q 10 8 2	
♣ K 8 3	♠ 9	♣ Void	
	♥ 4 J 6 K		
	♦ 4 7 5		
	♣ 5 10 6 Q 2		
North	East	South	West
Huh-huh	2♦	Heh-heh	3♣
Huh-huh	5♦	Heh-heh	7♦
Huh-huh	All pass		

Interlude

"Huh-huh, this video sucks."
 "Yeah, heh-heh, heh-heh. You can't even see her thingies. Heh-heh heh-heh."
 "Huh-huh, yeah, huh-huh, huh-huh. So, uuuuh, why are we watching it. Huh-huh, huh-huh."
 "Heh-heh, heh-heh, just cause. Heh-heh, heh-heh."
 "That's cool. Huh-huh, huh-huh, I guess. Huh-huh, huh-huh."
 "Heh-heh, yeah. But seeing her thingies would be cooler. Heh-heh heh-heh."
 "Uuuuuh, huh-huh, huh-huh, no kidding, Beavis."

Back to the game...

"It's your lead."
 "Huh-huh, huh-huh... What? Huh-huh, huh-huh."
 "It's your play. Play a card."
 "Yeah, heh-heh. Play a card, retard. Heh-heh, heh-heh."
 "Huh-huh, shut up, ass-munch! Huh-huh, huh-huh."
 "Ha. Diamonds are trump, and it's your lead, okay?"
 "Huh-huh, she said 'rump'... Huh-huh, huh-huh."
 "This game sucks. Let's go home and eat nachos. Heh-heh, heh-heh."
 "Uuuuuuuh, okay. Huh-huh, huh-huh."

Ian "Son of Beavis Complex" Milligan
 Brian "The Butt-head Cowboy" Fox

that I get to download pornography. Count yourselves lucky!

Finally, I am also in danger of being "fired" if I try to convince any of my co-workers to have any kind of sex with me. Jeez, we burn through high-school co-ops every few months — you think they'd let me have sex with at least a few of them.

Socializing is Hard

When I was in university, it was really easy to meet new people. Hell, I'd just go to the bar, and after drinking enough, I'd pass out, and people who would want to be my friends would come over and steal my wallet. Or sometimes the bouncers would come over and kick me in the stomach.

Seriously, though, at university it's never difficult to find somebody to drink with. You can't walk into the Bomber without seeing a table full of people you know. Plus, everybody at university is eager to meet new people because they think they might want to have sex with you, or they might want to have sex with your friends. All of them.

(People sometimes think I exaggerate the amount of time I spent in bars during university. These people, to put it politely, are on smack. I am still paying off my bar tab from university. This is not a joke. It's not an actual bar tab — I used my student loans to buy my liquor, and I still owe 10K on those.)

In the real world, it's not quite the same. Part of the problem is that my job involves a lot of travelling, so a lot of the time, the people I go drinking with are work people. Don't get me wrong — they're a fun bunch. But very few of them want to have sex with me.

Another part of the problem is that many of my drinking buddies have got married. Some even have kids. You'd think that having a squealing brat at home would make you want to go out and get liquored every night, but that's not the case.

And this whole marriage thing makes it a lot harder to meet chicks. Fewer and fewer women are single as I

get older, and fewer and fewer of them want to have sex with me. Those that aren't married, want to get married.

Yikes! It doesn't help that I've gotten, if you can believe it, less attractive as I've aged and have even less hair than I did in university.

It's a good thing I make enough money to hire a lot of whores.

The Conclusion

It would seem that there's only one conclusion to make — stay in school.

Forever.

You'll note that some of the dimmer people are already doing this — Brian Fox, for example, was my frosh leader back in 1990, and he was in his sixth year even then. However, the problem with staying in school is that it doesn't pay very well, which is why Brian has started selling his body for crack.

Actually, staying in school isn't the answer. Eventually, you become a bad joke, and people start making snotty comments about your ability to get a job. The answer is this: continue drinking beer and chasing frosh after you graduate. Since you have more money, you'll be able to afford imported beer, and will eventually be able to afford importing your own frosh from third-world countries.

I miss the groupies the most.

When Flipper started writing for mathNEWS, he unashamedly ripped off from Douglas Adams. After a couple of years, though, he evolved as a writer and started ripping off Dave Barry. He has since matured further and he's now stealing from Norm Macdonald.

Prof Quotes I'd Like to Hear

But Probably Never Will

- "Now what kind of stupid question is that?"
- "Jeez, man, I'm so wasted."
- "No bonus marks will be awarded, except the blonde there in the first row, yeah, the one with the hooters."
- "I admit it — I've never had sex. Well, at least not with a human."
- "Would you please shut the f**k up?"
- "Everybody who thinks this guy in the front row is an asshole, raise your hand... Yep. I agree."
- "Just because I went to undergrad school for four years, grad school for five, and have been a professor here for ten years does not necessarily mean that I can't cope with the outside world."
- "Has anybody got any hash? Can I borrow a bit?"
- "OK, we're adjourning to the Bomber. Drinks are on me."
- "Anyone get laid this weekend?"
- "Nobody leaves this room until I have a date for Friday night."
- "I only have to spend weekends in jail now."
- "Are you the one screwing my wife?"
- "Nothing you ever learn here will be of use to you. You're all going to end up in dead-end programming jobs, no matter what your speciality is."
- "Of course I don't expect you to understand this, since I have only a vague understanding of it myself."
- "Ah! Spiders! Spiders! Bugs everywhere! Arrrrgh!... oops, sorry. Flashback."
- "I'm only posting office hours because I know that even if you manage to find my office, and actually find me in, I'll make you feel like such an idiot that you'll never come back."

Flipper

The Best Of *math*NEWS Filler!

I Can't Believe It's Filler!

And now, Sarah Kamal's response to this issue's mastHEAD

In a wild, uncontrollable, mindless spasm of hate... in a desperate final act of destruction, Barney, the beloved purple dinosaur, burst upon the scene and gunned the unsuspecting Mr. Burns to death, tossing his head back in a triumphant roar as the sharp rat-a-tat-tat of the SWAT team's guns sent pieces of his bloated, protoplasmic, fuzzy body splattering randomly in an incredibly gory and messy yet pleasing abstract pattern on the lilac walls.

Random Number Testing

```
10 INPUT "TYPE A RANDOM NUMBER {R ∈ [0,1)}";R
20 IF R=RND(1) THEN PRINT "YES! THAT IS A RANDOM
    NUMBER":END
30 PRINT "SORRY, TRY AGAIN"
40 GOTO 10
```

BINARY:

$$1 + 1 = 0$$

is a bit off...



We Interrupt This *math*NEWS

From the "One Bad Photo Isn't Enough" Department

London Transport has announced that transsexual underground (subway) passengers will be issued two identity cards—one picturing the bearer as a man and one as a woman. A Transport spokesperson said issuing two cards was necessary, because many Britons about to undergo sex-change operations went to work in men's clothing but dressed as women to go out in the evening.

The Toronto Star, Sat. May 20, Page A7
Darren "Ren" Morby

**This Issue Has Been Brought To
You By:**

The letter σ , the letter Θ , and the number F

**Dan Gardiner's name is no
where in this issue**

unless you look really hard...

Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan
Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gar-
diner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner
Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan
Gardiner Dan Gardiner Dan Gardiner

After 12 years in therapy my shrink said something that brought tears to my eyes.

"No hablo ingles."

Deep Thoughts

I played the lottery last week and won a free ticket. Is it just me, or is that a little like digging for gold and finding a shovel?

MacGyver

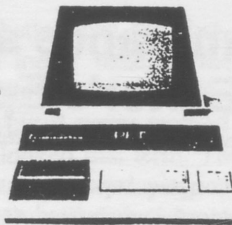
In the next exciting issue of
*math*NEWS...

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

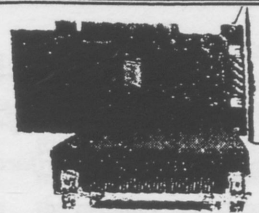


Based on the Microscopic Detail
Crammer, PC is a (P)roduct Position
manufacturer, these systems are
manufactured for a German OEM
to meet stringent Nazi standards.
Definitely not to be confused with
the clones usually advertised in
this university publication. Must
be seen to be appreciated.

4899⁹⁹



GENERIC CLOWN BLOWOUT



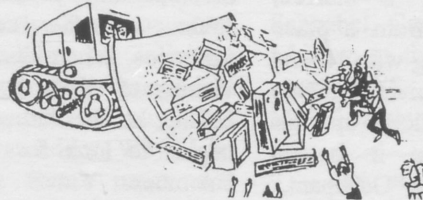
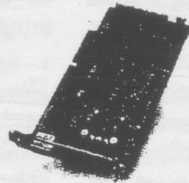
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16 Bit thought quality/Political Correctness,
100% compatible with the Thought Police,
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Fakery". Remember, Big Sibling is watching
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Lotsa Stuff

Eunuchs, Duhs,
Notware, OS/9,
WhineDoze, eMpTy



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But honey, love is
supposed to hurt!

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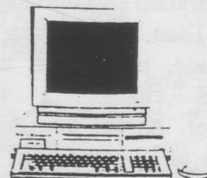
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It's your job to find out!

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BERLIN



KITCHERLOO

170 Looneyversity
Ave. W. Beside KW-
Grotisserie Chicken

Myth-Remembrance and Confession An Editor's Epiphany

By W. Jim Jordan (*wjjordan, dwarf, Weird Jim Jordankovic and various other pseudonyms*)

August 1981, Cochenour, Ontario. A suspicious package is placed in the Jordan family mailbox at the post office on Lakeview Avenue. The package bears innocent-enough markings: a blurred, machine-printed postmark from a place with a postal code beginning with N, and the logo of a reputable university. One member of the family picks up this package, and, seeing that it is not addressed to either himself or "Occupant," tosses it in a pile for the addressee to handle later.

The addressee arrives, sits down to a carefully prepared meal, and eats. After supper, he reaches for the package, unaware of its contents. The telephone rings. He puts the package down, ensuring that his sanity survives a few moments longer.

After hanging up the phone, he picks up the package again and opens it. Nothing happens. He pulls out the contents, and again, nothing happens, at least, not until the stuff from the Federation of Students is recognized for what it is (pre-printed fish wrap), the goat-vomit green sheet of useful formulae is stashed away in a pile of other papers not to leave behind, and a couple of booklets and other papers containing strange markings are examined for relevance and handled appropriately.

Then, staring him in the face, is an item that would change a life forever. As the addressee stares at it, enraptured by the light emanating from the circled logo that ripped through the rest of the cover art (a portion of the lexicon found on the Honeywell 66/60 printed on a DECwriter), overwhelmed by five

melodic notes repeating and rising to a crescendo that resonated and reverberated within his soul, he realizes, "It needs me!" Forgetting all else, he sets out on a trek, accompanied by his father, to find the source of the compelling, burning summons. When he arrives in the general vicinity of where he is to carry out his calling, he bids farewell to his father, and begins to look for the meaning of the summons.

Quickly locating the place where the ritual gatherings are held, he finds himself serving an apprenticeship under the wise and Blue-Jay-fanatical dwitill, serving as an annoyance to the misunderstood outcast plagde (himself thought to be masquerading as E. Siastes), and gaining a level of mastery over the mythic beast known as Photon.

His confidence increases, but his pride increases more, for the new apprentice had yet to understand the significance of the Fifth Rule, a wise

saying which had been communicated to him before: "Do not take yourself too seriously." He begins to scheme about how, one day, he will be master of the thing that has called him.

May 1982, the ritual gathering place. The forced exile and re-entry offering of a work term report have not diminished our fool's zeal. He discovers that zeal also abhors a vacuum. The wise elders who carefully attempted to teach him had crossed into the land reserved for Alumni. Even his beloved Photon had moved on, though to a different realm called Scrap.

Nothing remained from the previous gatherings. And yet the call still burned. "Keep me going. Find the other followers. Keep me alive!" Forgetting the lessons of the elders and of integral calculus, he engages the services of grmcfarlane and djcleibold (among others), and begins shaping that which called him in his own way, for he had been entrusted with the most noble title "Editor." Few so young

have been granted a title such as this one, and even fewer have carried it well. Those who have carried it well remembered early, and remembered often, the Fifth Rule.

I am tired of writing myth. This is *mathNEWS*, not *mythNEWS*. I am also getting tired of taking myself too seriously. Yet there was something compelling about that 1981 *mathNEWS* Frosh Issue that said, "Hey, I should get involved with this." It might have been the mix of information and humour, or that these mathematical minds could write and draw (creativity is never in doubt, but the ability to express it constructively might be).

So it was with the hopes of finding like-

BOOM* *BOOM* *BOOM

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Keeps going and going and going and...

- 1989 Cincinnati
- 1990 Cleveland
- 1991 Tampa (Special Guests: New York Giants)
(Instrumental Solo: Scott Norwood)
- 1992 Minneapolis (Special Guests: Washington Redskins)
- 1993 Pasadena (Special Guests: Dallas Cowboys, their
wives, and an 86-year old grandmother, all of
whom scored at least one touchdown)
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Do you want to be part of the action? Be part of the fun? Your city, too, can put in a bid to host the next stop on this awe-inspiring TOUR-de-Force! Waste no time - Beat the rush today!

Curtis "Go Bills!" Desjardins

PS - I noticed that Jim Kelly was going bald, too. Does nothing go right for this man??

minded folk that I showed up at the first production night 17 years ago. I met and was encouraged by people such as the now-famous Dave Till (you are famous for that Perl book now, aren't you?), the insightful William Hughes, and the multi-talented W. Ross Brown.

I was also challenged by Prabhakar Ragde to write something meaningful, to think about what I would write before I sat down to write it. Even though I ignored his one-time, one-sentence rebuke, he was right: Don't be so full of yourself. Think. Appreciate other ideas.

And so, in ignorance, I went off and edited *mathNEWS* the following summer. People like David Leibold, Glenn McFarlane and Tom Haapanen provided most of the good stuff, while I wrestled with the low-tech daisy wheel replacement for the higher-tech, but more expensive and odiferous Photon typesetter. All the while, I thought it was my paper, and they were the helpers.

Only after the term was over, and I was recovering from my failed calculus course, did I realize that the position of editor is really one of facilitation. I had shortchanged, at least in my mind, their contributions. At times it seemed like their work was fodder for me to play with as I saw fit, while my own work was beyond their questioning and suggestion for improvement.

Gentlemen, I apologize and ask your forgiveness. I forgot the Fifth Rule, and hereby propose a Seventh (since there is no Rule Number Six): "Take other people more seriously than you take yourself, particularly when you are supposed to be leading them."

The terms between the summers of 1982 (my first as editor) and 1987 (my last) are a blur. Thankfully, my last stint

as editor was better than the first one. I think I held a looser hand on the reins then, and was able to let the staff set the content and layout. I never worried about how the issue looked that term. The staff did such a superb job on laying out their work that, really, all I had to do was monitor taste, make suggestions (without rewriting things myself), check spelling and grammar, and make sure that stuff was formatted correctly. Everyone spent some time proofreading and soliciting each other's opinions on how various bits worked. That summer held the most fun I had ever enjoyed as an editor. Why? I let *mathNEWS* be the team's paper, not mine. (Rather, I think I did. Only the staffers can tell, since editors' opinions are always biased in their own favour.)

Grumpy Old Programmer

I'm old and I'm not happy. I don't like things now compared to the way they were. All this progress . . . FOOEY!

In my day we wrote our programs on a scrap of paper. Then we spent hours punching them out on cards, and if you made a mistake you had to do the whole thing over again, and that's the way it was and we liked it!

Multi-tasking. Feedly-Floo. In my day you had to take turns using the computer. You had one hour to load and run your program and if you didn't finish they kicked you off and you lost all your work and that's the way it was and we liked it!

Life was simpler then. We didn't have any A-ssemblers or namby pamby com-pi-lers. There was only one language, and you programmed in one's and zero's, and it took hours just to write a simple routine. You'd stay up all night staring at a bunch of one's and zero's till your eyes turned red and fell out. Then you said "Oh, no maybe I should have blinked a few times." but it was too late your eye balls were raisins and that's the way it was and we liked it!

You little wimps complain about slow downs, and crashes . . . Fibbly-Poo.

In my day the computer took a week to warm up and it only ran an hour before it burned out a tube and it had to be replaced. So there you were with a hundred tubes in your pockets trying to work out something you could do in a second on a slide rule.

So there we were a bunch of ignorant geeks with tubes in our pockets, staying up all night, no time to go on a date, with our eye balls rolling around on the floor. And that's the way it was and we liked it!

-MacGyver

mathNEWS again was a shared venture, like it was when I first joined the staff. I wish I had remembered that the first time I served as editor.

I sought honour for myself, and gained instead frustration. Only when I had let go of the honour of editing and instead began the labour of facilitating did

I find satisfaction. Still, I am richer for the experience, both the good and the bad. Now, I wish to give the honour to the ones to whom it rightfully belongs--the staff members with whom I worked. Some of the names are forgotten (11 years will do that), but I remember fondly Paul Obeda, John Omelian, Stuart Hodgins, Frank Letniowski, Camille Goudeseune, Tom Ivey, Ron Pfeifle, James Puttick, Dan Schnabel, Cary Timar, and Jan Gray, in addition to the people mentioned earlier. *mathNEWS* faithful of F'81 through S'87, I salute you.

Jim came to Waterloo from Red Lake District High School, Red Lake, Ontario, in the fall of 1981. He edited mathNEWS in the summers of 1982 and 1987, contributing to it in every school term and sometimes during work terms. He took 1B calculus three times, was registered in four different programs, played through a lot of 0-7 football seasons with the Warriors Band, completed nine work terms, and finally got notification that he could either graduate or return on probation after ten school terms.

Since he had a job offer from Bell-Northern Research in his pocket, he chose to graduate in 1988 with his B.Math (Hons. CS) and enter the working world. He later took a similarly circuitous route to his M.Div (Canadian Theological Seminary, 1996).

Jim is now working in Ottawa as a senior designer on the ServiceBuilder intelligent network project at the part of Nortel/Bay Networks formerly known as Bell-Northern Research, and is teaching a course at Algonquin College. He and his wife Shelly are the keepers of four cats, an overgrown back yard, and many vitality-impaired plants.

Ode to the *mathNEWS* Life

By Mala Krishnan

Last week I received a note
From Editor Chadwick Severn who wrote
Messages with kind words by rote
To each ex-editor on whom he'd dote:

"I need your help, oh Great One
mathNEWS' 500th must be done!
I'm not quite sure I'll make it run
So write something quick -- keep it fun!

Okay, I admit, it wasn't quite that way.
"We'd love to print what you have to say."
What could I write in just a day,
And not cause a dreaded delay?

You see, while I was there
I never really did care
To write articles for all to share;
My name in *mathNEWS* was really rare.

But then, at one evening meeting
In the Comfy Lounge's exquisite seating
"Be a co-editor," was the greeting
Just before we went eating

I accepted and that was fate
I have to say it felt really great
To never, ever have to wait
For a computer at night so late

Between editing and subject cramming
I would occasionally do programming
And my head in the board went ramming
As the PMC went "jamming"

Memories — I have them all
Of Brian Fox discussing football
Of Mike Hammond — he had the gall —
To spread puns at his beck and call.

Ian's annoying production system,
Gridby's puzzles — how'd he make 'em?
Domino's pizzas — yep, we had them
To calm our growling stomachs' mayhem.

And who can forget staying up and about
Well past midnight doing layout?
The layout system was the pits, no doubt
I'm surprised I never shout.

I don't really want to be a bore
So I won't mention anything more

I'm in the real world now and it's the best
University, all-nighters and all the rest

Are in the past to never reappear
But I will make something clear:

mathNEWS editor, it was great to be
But writing...well, it was never for me.



Ode to Modula-3

The following is a short poem dedicated to those poor souls suffering through CS 246, and to those of us in CS 241 who have paid our dues in full with interest. Here's hoping the light at the end of the tunnel is a *real* programming language and not the 3:05 to Modulaville.

Modula Modula Modula-3
How much fun can a Modula be?
Contracts and Larch traits, hmm, let me think, gee...
I guess I would rather drive into a tree

Or be thrown through a window, or stung by a bee,
Or be strapped to an anchor and dropped in the sea,
Or to have a huge sewer rat gnaw at my knee,
Or be trapped in a room watching OJTV.

Modula Modula Modula-3
Don't you dare try to Modula me!
So until the day that I can program in C,
I'll dream of a world that's Modula-free.

Josh "Ixnay on the Odulamay" Cameron

The Bruce's *mathNEWS* Song

O, Marcel Kahnt was real piss-ant
Who could write as well as able;
Dr Ernie, Dr Ernie was great in learning
And could think you under the table;
Slash's muse could out-confuse
Thompson and Ken Shirriff,
And Stankiewicz was a blond-haired witch
Who was just as sloshed as schnabel.
There's nothing Genia couldn't teach
about the raising of the wrist;
Scooter! himself was permanently pissed.

Rick Kuzell, although he couldn't spell
On a half a pint of Guinness did particularly well;
Leibold they say could put it away,
Half a crate of whiskey every day;
Colin Biggin, Colin Biggin was a devil for the swiggin',
Dwarf was fond of his dram,
And T.A.I. had lost his art:
"I write therefore I am."
Yes, Scooter! himself is particularly missed—
A lovely little writer but a bugger when he's pissed!

(With apologies to Messrs Cleeve, Idle, Chapman, Gilliam, Palin, and Jones.)

More mathNEWS Poetry & Song Parodies

A Mathie's Lament

Next week is Reading Week
Around these here parts.
But I'd enjoy it much more
If I were in Arts.

Darren Morby

I went to class each Monday,
And Wednesdays and Fridays, too.
I drank my cups of coffee
And talked to friends I knew.

I copied down whatever
I noticed on the board.
I tried to pay attention
To what I might have heard.

And now the term is over,
Exams will soon begin.
But first, will someone tell me
What was this course I'm in?
grmcfarlane

I'se The Bye

(Mathie Version)

Lard, t'underin' holy s**t, it's t' last week o't'term, me
son, me son. An' we ha'e f'r ye a li'l song t'splane wha' y'sha'e
be doon'. A'leest t'ae's t'way we been doon' it f'r y'ars a'
M'morial in Sint Jahn's.

Jahn Crosbie

I'se the bye that takes the course;
I'se the bye that fails her.
I'se the bye that skips me class
And gets me notes from Liza.

Chorus:

Bribe the T.A., bribe the prof,
Bribe the department chairman.
Don't you try to bribe the dean!
All around the circle.

Limerick of Next Week

There was an editor of news,
The articles he didn't peruse.
He offended admin,
And now, for this sin,
Writes Imp'tint record reviews.

The Rubber Mallet of God,
The Pitchfork from Hell,
and The Lascivious Limerick Llama from Limbo

Mathie Girl

*With absolutely no apologies,
expressed or implied, to Aqua*

<spoken>

Ken: Hi, ya, Mathie!

Mathie: Hi, Ken!

Ken: You wanna do PDE's?

Mathie: Sure, Ken!

Ken: Hop on!

(Chorus 1)

Mathie:

I'm a Mathie girl, in this Mathie world.
Upper bounding; it's astounding!
You can integrate, or differentiate.
Covariation, standard deviation!

Ken:

C'mon Mathie, come and graph me.

Mathie:

I'm a girl in CS; it's the fantasy, yes,
Of the guys in the clubs in the MC.

CSC Members:

It's a chick! C'mon, quick! We must try to impress!
Brush your teeth, comb your hair; she's so sexy!

Mathie:

In CS, you must code,
Even though it has no use.

Chorus 1

(Chorus 2)

Ken: C'mon Mathie, come and graph me.

Mathie: Ha, ha, ha, yeah.

Ken: C'mon Mathie, come and graph me.

Mathie: Ooo-ooo-ooo, ooo-ooo-ooo!

(repeat Chorus 2)

Mathie:

I can walk to MathSoc, go to their movie nights;
I'm the queen of MC, I'm a social delight.

Ken:

While you're here, you must pass C&O and some Stats,
'Cause your path goes through math to computers!

Mathie:

In CS, you must code
Even though it has no use.
In CS, you must code
System load is no excuse!

Mike "Hammer" Hammond

Street Survival in Seoul or: Becoming a Road Scholar

By Curtis "Coitus" Desjardins

I'm sure the other former editors have gone on in detail about what a ~~living hell~~ great experience being editor really was, so I don't have to repeat them in my article. Besides, nostalgia is over-rated.

Instead, for our world-travelling friends, I'd like to write this helpful Public Service Announcement in travel safety:

After living in Korea for the past 2 years, I've noticed a marked difference in the driving habits of rural and urban drivers, where urban is defined as "in Seoul or Pusan." We unmanly girly drivers of the Western world could probably handle the lackadaisical rural driving, but to truly excel in urban Korea you must "be in the Zone;" a survival state-of-mind if I ever saw one. And why not? Korea only has the largest number of auto fatalities per capita in the world, so you'd better be in a survival state-of-mind.

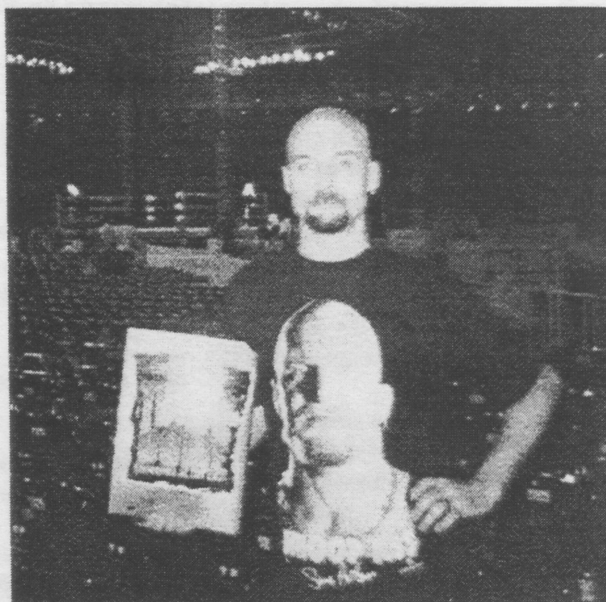
And with that in mind, I've culled together these following driving tips into this one short, easy-to-read compendium of driving survival on the streets of Seoul.

Tips for the Motorcycle/Scooter Driver

- It's important to wear protective clothing. T-shirts, shorts, and open-toe-sandals would be considered appropriate.
- Ride against traffic whenever possible.
- If you're not riding on the street, ride on the sidewalks like you damn well own them (pedestrians must make way for YOU; you have the "I'm a motorized vehicle and you're not" rule of right-of-way on your side).
- When leaving the sidewalk to ride on the streets (against traffic), make sure you rocket out between two parked cars.
- If there are no parked cars in your vicinity, it is perfectly lawful to run

pedestrians down at the nearest crosswalk.

- Overload the back of your scooter with a heavy, unwieldy package



- ...and ride one-handed
- ...while carrying a huge box of take-out food in the other hand
- ...with your two-year-old daughter standing up in front of you, holding the speedometer to keep her balance
- ...and don't give her a helmet.
- During times of heavy traffic (read: at all times) weave in and out of stationary and slow-moving cars. Removal of any pesky side mirrors getting in your way is expected.

Tips for the Average Driver

- First thing: don't let those scooter drivers get away with any of the cheap tricks outlined above. Your car outweighs them by 20 times, so don't take any of their crap.
- Change lanes at every opportunity. Don't bother with shoulder checks, that's what mirrors are for (Duh, gee Beav, what's a blind spot?).
- Use mirrors for reversing, too.

- No parking spaces? Bah. Double park.
- Still no parking spaces? Bah. Triple park

- Still no parking spaces? Bah. Run over pedestrians on the sidewalk and park over their cooling carcasses (it's their own fault getting in your way; after all, you DO have the car).

- U-turn at every given opportunity

- ...during rush-hour gridlock

- ...with the widest turn radius you can manage

- ...and use the sidewalks if you have to.

- Keep a cellular phone in your left hand at all times, supergluing it if necessary.

- Never use your brakes; it shows weakness. Just lay on the horn and accelerate around the problem.

- Those lines on the road? Just very loose guidelines (a "two lane" highway can easily fit three, and even four abreast).

- Crosswalks? Just pretty road decorations.

- Always pass slower cars on their left side, even if doing so will bring you over the yellow divider.

- One-way streets are one-way for everyone but you.

- Red light, schmed light, just go whenever you damn well feel like it.

- And if you become lost (with Korea's lack of roadsigns and street names this is not a possibility, but an eventuality) stop in the middle of the road and gawk around until you decide that, yes, you are in fact lost

- ...then flag down another motorist to ask directions, and block up the remaining lane

- ...and ignore the honking masses behind you, as they shouldn't be in such a hurry anyway. Don't they know "Speed Kills?"

- Never wear a seatbelt. Windshields will stop you most of the time.
- If a taxi driver insists you wear a seatbelt, GET OUT immediately. Any taxi driver so unsure of his driving is sure to get you killed.

The Three Laws of Robotics

Despite the previous "rules" for safe driving in the Korean urban jungle, to become a true Road Warrior, one really only need keep in mind the following Three Laws:

The Law of the Food Chain

This law basically boils down to this: no-wheels is less than wheels, no-motor is less than motor, small is less than big. So, 18-wheel semi > Mac truck > Dodge RAM > Toyota Camri > motorcycle > scooter >

bicycle > wheelchair > stroller > Hyundai > pedestrian

The Law of Right-of-Way

No one has right-of-way. Or is that, *everyone* has the right of way? I haven't figured out which one yet.

The Law of Courtesy And Driving Etiquette

Fuck off!

Summary

Korea isn't the World Champion of Auto Fatalities for nothing. Follow the rules and strategies outlined in this article, and you too may become an honoured statistic.

You may be thinking, "Curtis, your article sucked. It wasn't very funny." Well, OK. But even though I'm writing this with my tongue planted firmly in my

cheek, this is not meant to be a humorous article. Everything above has a strong basis in truth, and is the main reason for Korea's Vehicular Homicide World Champion status for umpteen years. So, take my advice when travelling to Korea: stay off the streets (and sidewalks), and take the subway. Better yet, go to Japan. They can drive.

Curtis Desjardins is the oldest living U(W) alumnus on the planet. After finally leaving the U(W) campus after a record-setting 17 years, he snagged a teaching job in war-torn Bosnia, uh, South Korea and has lived there for the past 2 years.

"Coitus" continues to attend university (big surprise!) in Seoul, and will live in Korea until finding a woman who will actually say "yes".

New MFCF Regulations

From the Mega Frustration from Computers Foundation

Starting immediately, the following rules will be in effect in all of the rooms with computers on the undergrad.math network:

1. No food or drink in any room with a computer. No bottles of any sort may be stored under the computer. Do not spit at the computer. All tears of frustration must be shed in the hallway. Do not even *think* about urination.
2. You will be held responsible if you damage equipment. If you do *not* damage equipment, by the contrapositive, you will be held *ir*responsible. If you continue speaking to me in that tone, you will be held in contempt.
3. Report software and system problems by using the gripe command.

Report printer problems to operator@math.

Report problems with room comfort (eg. broken chairs/tables, burned-out lights, annoying CSC members) to operator@math.

Report terminal hardware problems by using the tgripe command.

Report terminal disease problems by using the jkervorkian command.

Report runaway mouse balls by using the runawayballs command.

Report Elvis sightings by using the elvis command.

Report outbreaks of Mad Cow Disease by using the mooooo command.

Report Neil Young sightings to idmillig@math.

For **emergency** problems outside Production Night, call UW Kampus Kops at 4911. (If you can't remember that number, dial 9411.) They will attempt to contact someone, probably by smoke signals or nude semaphore. Response is on a 'best effort' basis, during normal waking hours (eg. 1400-1530) and is not guaranteed. To find Production Nights, finger mathnews@math or check the notice by the door to MC 3041. An **emergency** is a situation where you have no alternatives for completing work that MFCF actually cares about, and occurs about as often as a good Leafs' season.

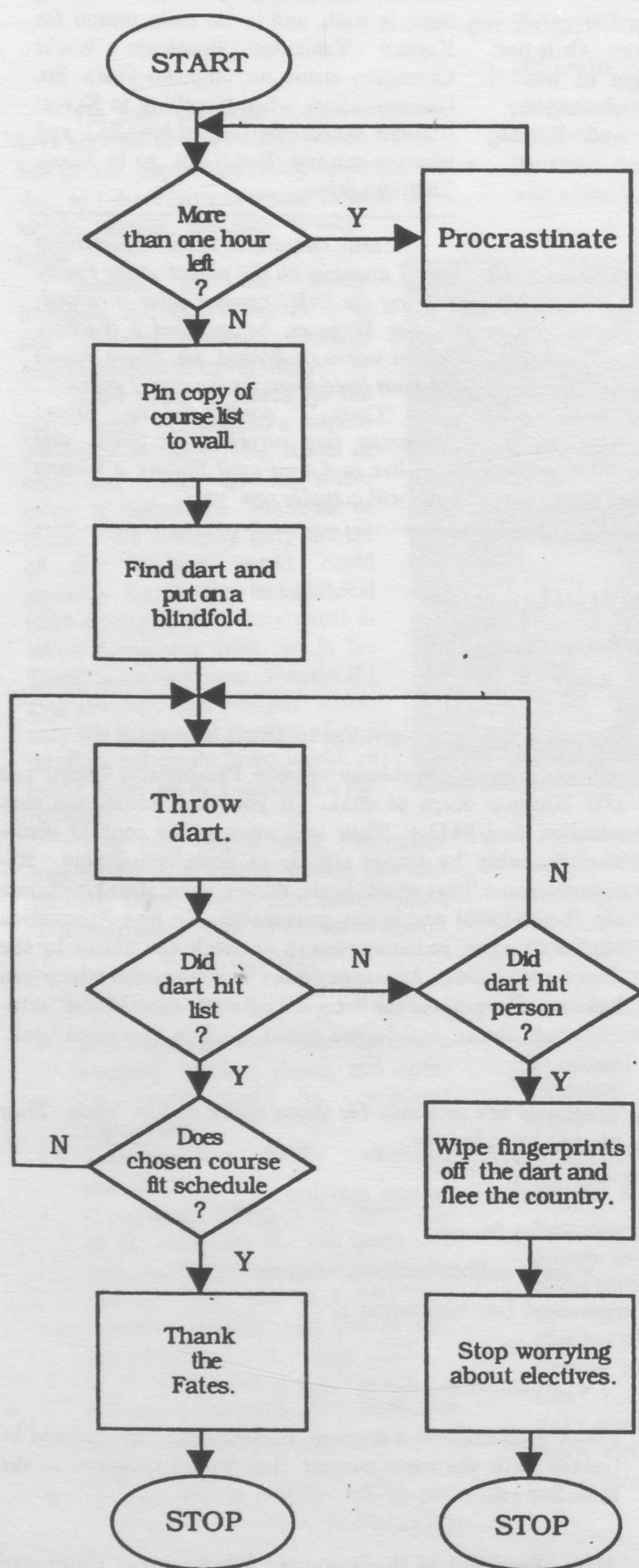
4. Terminals are intended for those doing course work. They are not intended for:

- impromptu soccer matches
- facial tissues
- large-calibre ballistic weapons
- food (see regulation 1)
- beachwear
- 'Heimlich Maneuver' aids

5. Please keep noise to a maximum; computing areas are to be treated with the same respect that would be given to the MathSoc exec.

Mike "President of the Hammer Club for Men" Hammond

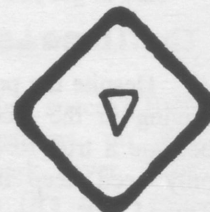
Algorithm for Choosing Electives



International Road Signs

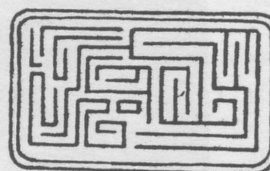
Travellers abroad should be familiar with some road signs that do not appear on the roads of Ontario. **mathNEWS**, upon hearing of the arrest of Tom Haapanen in Finland, strongly recommends that travellers learn the meaning of the following signs.

Caution - steep gradient



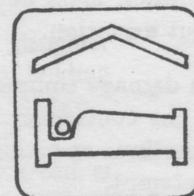
Do not integrate

Computer Moving Slowly



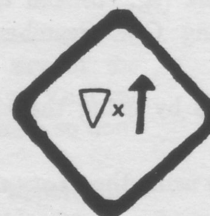
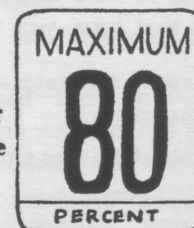
Now entering Sixth Floor

Series Converging



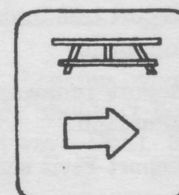
CS classroom

Advanced Course or Late Assignment Zone



Curl in Road

Log Table - read across



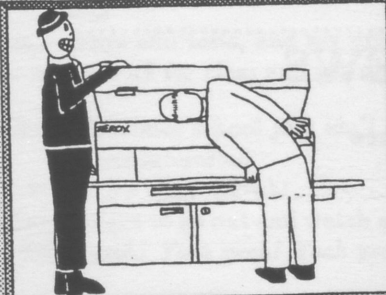
Approaching Petersen

MATHICS

The Gathering™

by Mike "Hammer" Hammond

MathSoc Photocopying



Sorcery

Target creature becomes two identical creatures, each with half the original creature's power and toughness. Round all fractions down.
Cheap copying is just one of the many services MathSoc has to offer.

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

undergrad.math Goes Down

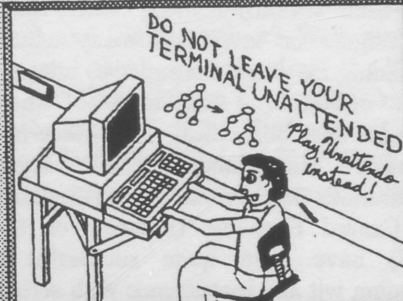


Enchantment

4: Nobody may attack this turn. Card must be played before attack commences.
undergrad.math went down, and nobody was able to do anything.

Illus. ©Mike Hammond and Mala Krishnan

CS Geek



Summon Geek

Coin is flipped at beginning of turn. If coin lands heads up, CS Geek may not attack for the duration of the turn.
"The most common type of geek, CS Geeks spend most of their time doing assignments."
— Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 2/2

mathNEWS Co-Editor

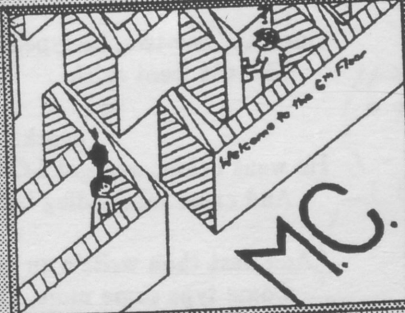


Summon Geek

2, ♠: All pink creatures gain +1/+1.
"mathNEWS Co-Editors are typically geeks prior to assuming the title. So they can be said to be a geekier geek than usual."
— Hammer's Field Guide to Geeks

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 2/1

Sixth Floor Wall

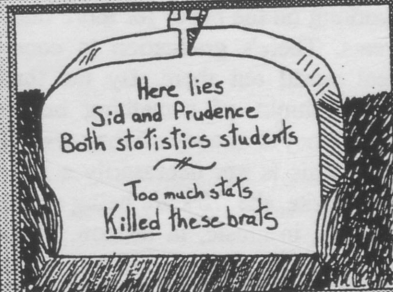


Summon Wall

♠: Block one attacking creature at random. Creature is selected before any other defense can be assigned.
"I wandered the sixth floor of MC," said Crakko, "and the walls just seemed to pop up at random."

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond 0/5

STAT 331



Interrupt

Target creature is placed in graveyard.
People who take STAT 331 later describe it as "instant death."

Illus. ©Mike "Hammer" Hammond

An Eclectic Editor

By Prabhakar Ragde

I was editor of *mathNEWS* twenty years ago. *mathNEWS* has changed remarkably little since then. The typesetting is a bit better, but it's still printed on 8.5"x11" paper, and still contains a mix of crude graphics, half-baked opinions, amateur science fiction, parodies of popular songs created by buzzword substitution, and, of course, in-jokes.

There has always been at least one (and often several) aspiring writer, artist, or designer on staff, and many editors (including me) have attempted to raise the level of quality. But none of these attempts have borne fruit. The choice isn't between entertainment and depth; publications like *Private Eye* (England), *Le Canard Enchaîné* (France), or *Spy* (U.S.) have been quite successful at blending wit and insouciance with serious impact, making governments tremble and sometimes even fall. Frank magazine, Canada's pallid imitation of these, is perhaps proof that in Canada we just don't do things that way.

There's an even simpler explanation, offered by a character in the movie "Dazed and Confused". "I keep getting older," he says, leaning against the wall outside a pool hall, "but they stay the same age." Of course, he wasn't referring to *mathNEWS* editors, not male ones at least. But no one in their right mind, or even slightly out of it, would consider working on the paper for more than a few years. There's graduation to consider, a real world out there. By the time new blood thinks of something besides old ideas, they're already on their way out.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. As I write, the '70's are being revisited, in movies, in music, in fashion. You would have to have grown up in that decade, as I did, to realize how horrible this is -- I had no choice, after all, but today's youth does. In the midst of this, *mathNEWS* is the ultimate retro: it was never discarded and rediscovered. It never went away. It never changed. It's not a symbol of any one time; it's timeless.

So here's to *mathNEWS* at 500. It had modest aspirations, and it realized

them. That could be its epitaph. But there'll be no tombstone to carve it on, for *mathNEWS* will never die.

Prabhakar Ragde lives physically in Waterloo but spiritually in Toronto, the San Francisco Bay Area, Paris, and northern Italy. He has done little of note since graduation, except to play a small role in the creation of two wonderful children.



JabbermathNEWS

'Twas Monday, and the *mathNEWS* crew
Did type and edit in MC.
Enormous was the printer queue
And the writers were three.

"Beware the editor, my son,
The knives that cut, the eyes that seek.
Beware the pizza, free, and shun,
The devious long-haired freak."

He took his Volker-Craig in hand,
Long time the article he sought.
So rested he by the C & D,
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in sluggish thought he stood,
The article, in words of flame,
Came suddenly, with its grammar good,
All written in his brain!

One-two, one-two, he typed it through,
The 404 went snick-
er-
snack.

He went below, and got I-O
And came rebounding back.

"And hast thou writt'n an article?
Come type some more, my dearest friend.
Oh frabjous night! He spelt it right!"
He sang until his end.

'Twas Tuesday, and the *mathNEWS* crew
Still typed and argued in MC.
Unmoving was the printer queue,
And the writers did flee.

Our apologies to C.L.D.

Artsie

to the tune "Asshole"
(with apologies to Denis Leary)

Folks, I'd like to sing a song about the Artsie life; about me, about them, about the way our Artsie brains fail to function in these voids we call skulls, about the lifelong diseases we get from casual anonymous sex — from those typical one-night stands; maybe at the bar; maybe at a party; maybe even in the ASU Office. We don't know.

I'm just a regular Joe, in a General Program
I'm your average, white Artsie-type man
I like Fed Hall and Stingers, not to mention The Bard
I've got friends that have no lives, and play nothing but cards

My essays and tests, and my profs and my books
I read ahead for class and get dirty looks

But sometimes school just ain't enough to keep a guy
like me interested

Oh no! No way! Uh-uh!

No, I've got to go out and watch a movie at the Princess
Whoa yeah! Yeah yeah! Yeah yeah yeah...

I got 3 percent in Calculus 4
Maybe because math's such a bore
I'm an Artsie!

He's an Artsie! Such an Artsie! I'm an Artsie!
A former Mathie! Now an Artsie!

The Arts Student Union wanks quite a pace
And those not in the clique say they waste space
I'm an Artsie!

He's an Artsie! What an Artsie!

I'm an Artsie!

He's the world's biggest Artsie!

I've been here 7 years, and I'm back for more
I'll probably work here and mop U-Dub's floors
I'm an Artsie!

He's an Artsie! What an Artsie!

I'm an Artsie!

He's a real fucking Arstie!

Maybe I shouldn't be bumming around
Dragging my feet and not moving on
Maybe I should leave and get a real job...

...Nah!

I'm an Artsie!

He's an Artsie! What an Artsie!

I'm an Artsie!

He's the world's biggest Artsie!

a Def Leppard t-shirt, and I'm gonna go stand in that unemployment line, and there's not a goddamn thing anybody can do about it. Y'know why? Because I've got my B.A., that's why! Two words: Worthless Fucking Degree, OK? Math, Engineering, Science. They can have all the money and jobs they want. They can have a big "I have a job and you don't" Cakewalk right through the middle of Hagey Hall and it won't make a lick of difference because Artsies are useless, OK? Elvis isn't dead. He's lost in Hagey Hall. As soon as we solve the Hagey Hall Mystery Maze we're gonna get the King out, and he's gonna be pretty pissed off! Y'know why? Have you ever been lost on campus during Frosh Week and felt like a dork? Well, multiply that by 15 million times, and that's how pissed off the King's gonna be. I'm gonna get the King, and the Lindburg baby, and D.B. Cooper, *Hey!* and the Marie Celeste, *Hey!* and get me a few pitchers of Long Island Iced Teas, and ...*Hey! Hey! Hey!* You know, you really are an artsie. Why don't you shut up and sing this song, pal!

I'm an Artsie!

He's an Artsie! What an Artsie!

I'm an Artsie!

He's the world's biggest Artsie!

Dumb A-R-T-S-I-E

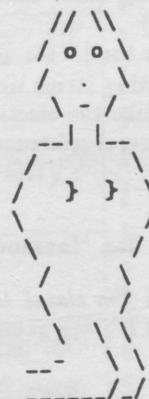
Dumb A-R-T-S-I-E

Ooooooooooooooooooooo,

I'm an Artsie, and I'm sick of it.

Curtis "Token Artsie" Desjardins

mathNEWSunshine Girl



Today's mathNEWS ascii sunshine girl, Lolita, says she's tired of guys asking her if she'd like to "interface with (their) Wang". What she's really looking for is a guy who will respect her feelings and not just treat her as a data object.

crash

You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna get myself a 1973 K-Tel Disco Collection, vinyl, with Blondie and Devo and Abba. Yeah! And I'm gonna play that baby on my stereo at 45rpm so it sounds like Alvin and the Chipmunks, chewing down a tossed salad from McDonald's with Catalina Dressing. And when I'm done chewing that salad down, I'm gonna wipe my mouth on

Top Four "Top Ten Lists" Out Of The Six We Found After A Cursory Glance Through Back Issues of *mathNEWS*

Top Ten Reasons Why We Wished For a 2-Day Reading Week

10. We want Fed and Bomber to ourselves.
9. Less free time for all the nerds to solve Fermat's Last Theorem.
8. More time to masturbate in class.
7. We want everyone to know which faculty killed all the engineers.
6. More time to check out the math chicks (yeah right!).
5. Can't wait to start the 2nd round co-op bullshit.
4. Less time to figure out the Math 136 textbook is useless.
3. Minimal liver damage.
2. A university without artsies is a real university.
1. We're be too drunk to notice.

Farhan "The Farm" Thawar

Top Ten Reasons Why We Got a 2-Day Reading Week

10. The non-CS mathies would forget what C+D stands for.
9. Homeless mathies wouldn't have the comfy lounge to sleep in.
8. More time to masturbate in class.
7. Must reply to chain email within 72 hours.
6. CSC would close for more than 2 days and our world would collapse.
5. Couldn't find another time to schedule the Math 136 exam.
4. Somebody somewhere said "Make it so."
3. More Classes! More Classes! More Classes!
2. Want to keep the title "Nerdiest University in the Universe".
1. Though it was funny to call it "Reading Week-end".

Farhan "The Farm" Thawar

Top 10 people NOT to have as *mathNEWS* editor

10. Saddam Hussein (he'd try to use *mathNEWS* to blow up the other faculties)
9. THIS SPACE FOR RENT
8. Larry King (doesn't know where Canada is, let alone Waterloo!)
7. THIS SPACE FOR RENT TOO!
6. Brian Mulroney (look what he did to the Conservative Party. Imagine what he could do to *mathNEWS*)
5. THIS SPACE FOR RENT!
4. Anyone without a spell-checker/grammar-checker (see last issue)
3. Anyone who's dead (they'd be hated by other *mathNEWS* staff members for not doing any work)
2. Me (I'm usually asleep all day [in class too!] - see #3)
1. Hawkeye Melvin (he can't keep disgusting items like *Math*, *the Universe*, and *Everything*, covers like the election issue and that alt.sex.movies one, and general references to sex and swear words out of *mathNEWS*!)

Ian "Ianman" Facey

I'm sure Ian will be delighted to hear that I'm slated to edit in the Fall term. "THIS SPACE FOR RENT", my skinny white ass.

Steve "Flipper" Shaw

Steve, you should know by now that "THIS SPACE FOR RENT" means "I'M A LOSER AND I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING ELSE EVEN REMOTELY FUNNY TO SAY"

Hawkeye

Top 10 Compliments That We Could Do Without

10. I'm impressed! Most men would have passed out from the pain!
9. Thank you for taking my infidelity so well.
8. Traditionally we name our diseases after the first patient to contract it. So this one will bear your name!
8. I know others think you're a coward, but I think you just have a well-developed sense of self-preservation.
7. You're the absolute best when it comes to identifying mammal excrement!
6. I've always lived in awe of people who pierce their fingers.
5. Those are the squarest breasts that I have ever seen!
4. C'mon, how many people can say they've been shunned by the Amish? Damn few!
3. Due to your excellent work, we're going to promote you to Head Burger Flipper!
2. You would definitely be attractive to me...if you went through with a sex change operation.
1. I think you'd make a great Imprint editor!

Mike "Olympically throwing a Hammer" Hammond

You Mean You Spent Three Evenings Counting All That Crap?

By the insane *mathNEWS* staff

Yes, the entire *mathNEWS* staff from summer and fall spent several production nights not writing new material, not doing layout, and not printing out anything usable, but simply using our incredible mathematical minds to count *profQUOTES*.

And let me tell you, we sure have published a shitload of them.

Can't quite crunch raw data like this? Here's an analysis for you:

We have apologized 19 (niiiiineteen) times, corrected ourselves ten (that's the

number of fingers you have) times, and actually printed seven (as in sins) articles about cabbage.

Be sure to clip and save the chart to the right. You never know when information like this will come in handy. Stuff like this is prime material for final exam bonus questions.

Also, it seems to me that this list will be incredibly handy when work gets underway for the 1,000th issue of *mathNEWS*. We've cut their work in half!

By The Numbers

<i>profQUOTES</i>	3,965
<i>ultraCLASSIFIEDs</i>	1,638
GridWords	384
Letters To The Editor	202
Squizes	174
Bridge Articles	131
<i>mathToons</i>	20
Apologies	19
Full-Page Ads	12
Corrections	10
Spoofs/Parodies	10
Articles about cabbage	7
Lawsuit threats	2
Articles that discover new and interesting ways to appreciate mathematics	Forgot to count
Articles that stimulate the readers' imagination	Was there any?
Articles that contain subtle humour	Nope
Articles that have a profound impact on the world of mathematics or computers	I'll get back to you on that one

Top Ten Reasons Why *mathNEWS* Has Lasted 500 Issues

By Rick McTavish



1. *profQUOTES*!
2. How else are people supposed to keep awake during Friday morning lectures.
3. "500 issues" ... I thought you said "pass the tissues"
4. Three letters: P.E.Z.
5. It wasn't created by engineers.
6. Due to the efforts of a hardworking and dedicated team of the top newspaper writers in the country ... NOT!
7. Better use of paper than for exams.
8. We had to do something when we were too drunk to get served at the Bombshelter.
9. Mike Harris hasn't figured out how to cut our funding yet
10. Makes for a great source of small talk during those embarrassing silences on first dates.

Rick McTavish (C&O '91) is currently working in the I.S. department of H.J. Heinz Canada in Toronto. He has been married for 4 years and has a 2-year-old son Fernando. He edited *mathNEWS* during the Summer of '88 and Winter '89.

Volume 57 Number 5

mathNEWS

Friday, November 8, 1991



mathNEWS

Volume 64, Issue 2 Friday, February 4, 1994



Vote, dammit

mathNYWS

Volume 64, Issue 6 Thursday, March 31, 1994



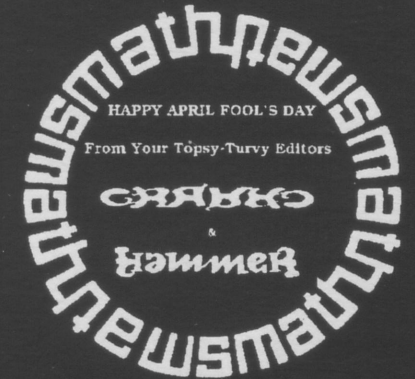
mathNEWS

Volume 66, Issue 2 Friday, October 7, 1994



mathNEWS

Volume 67, Issue 6 Saturday, April 1, 1995

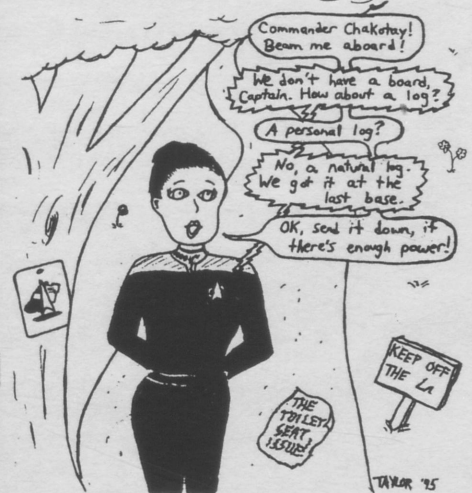


Ambigrams by:

Gripe

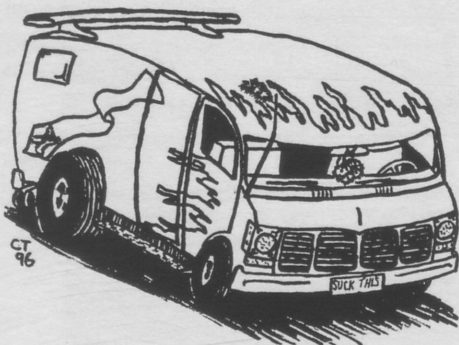
mathNEWS

Volume 69, Issue 4 Friday, November 10, 1995



mathNEWS

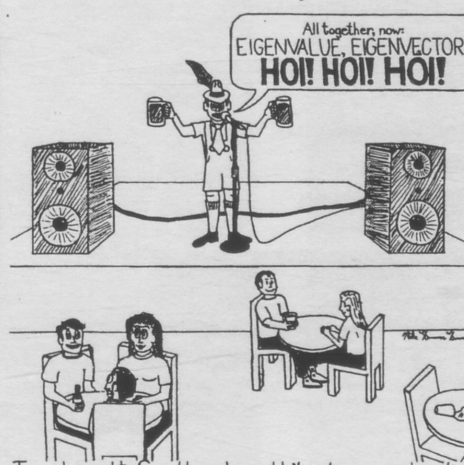
Volume 72, Issue 1 Friday, September 20, 1996



THE CARGO VAN

mathNEWS

Volume 75, Issue 3 Friday, October 24, 1997



Try as he might, Gerald simply couldn't get anyone interested in Mathtoberfest.

mathNEWS

Volume 77, Issue 7 Friday, July 24, 1998



Hi Kids!

By "Disco" Stu Pollock

Sooooooo... 500 issues, huh? That's a pretty important milestone for any publication. Since several former editors have been requested to submit articles for this issue, I feel obligated to tell you all about something near and dear to my heart.

What's that, you might ask? Well, it's certainly not my left lung, nor any other body part. No, my friends, I'm going to talk about a subject for which I have a deep and abiding love: mathematics.

Now, I can hear you protesting, "But we're in Math! We all like it!" Well, that may be true right now for some of you Frosh out there. However, it's been my experience that most people who end up with a Math degree from U(W) don't like mathematics by the time they're finished.

What I want to say is that I'm not here to talk about my Math degree. I also don't want to tell you about being a MathSocist¹.

No, what I want to impress upon my

reading public is that you oughtn't hate mathematics just because you've been immersed in it for several years while getting your degree. Math is something that you'll always be able to do, and you should take pride in the fact that you can do it. Some people who hate being in school finish their degrees hating mathematics.

I love math in most of its forms. For the longest time, I've immensely disliked statistics. However, over the course of the past year of full-time work, I've found statistics to be a useful and meaningful subject area. That doesn't mean that I have to like doing it; however, I *have* gained a newfound respect for the discipline.

I have to admit that most people I know don't like mathematics as much as I do. Most of my friends think that I'm a bit of a freak that way. I admit that I've gotten sick of mathematics at various times in the past, usually when I hit a problem or a concept that I have a hard time understanding. To overcome this I usually take a break (if I can afford the time),

come back to the subject causing me difficulty, and try to tackle a smaller problem.

I guess that that's my suggestion to everybody who has found that his or her love of



math has waned over the past several years. Take a break, and try your hand at easier problems. Please give mathematics another chance and pass it along to your children. "Learn your math — It's the key to the universe." (Christopher Walken, as Gabriel in *The Prophecy*.)

¹ "MathSocist: n. One who suffers from a tendency to spout puns, and is heavily associated with the Mathematics Society of The University Of Waterloo and its associated clubs and publications."

Top Ten Reasons for banning Alt.* newsgroups

- 10 alt.sewing: enough said
- 9 alt.security: Computer security! What's that? Anyone want to break into some US military computers with a U(W) account?
- 8 alt.twin.peaks: because of those damn strange camera angles.
- 7 alt.sex: encouraged unsafe interfacing.
- 6 alt.hackers: if they really want to read this group, they will figger out how to get at it.
- 5 alt.sex.bondage: encouraged unsafe interfacing, with constraints.
- 4 alt.music.misc: because the types of music discussed here is the music of ... you know ... like ... Satan!!!
- 3 alt.atheist: no one believed the group existed.
- 2 alt.sex.bestiality: encouraged unsafe interfacing with engineers.
- 1 alt.mathNEWS: because it doesn't exist.

*mast*HEAD

HobGoblin

And these were the people who ate the 'za (along with their favourite banned newsgroups):

- Chewbacca (uw.coop.randy.threaten.legal.action),
- Darren Morby (alt.whipped.cream),
- Darren Rigby (the writers of "This Hour has 22 Minutes"),
- Fuzzy (alt.sex.bytych),
- Joe Hewitt (alt.I.refuse.to.even.describe.this),
- Stuart Pollock (alt.syx.women),
- Jillian Arnott (alt.sex.bondage.fractals),
- Chantal Bray (alt.sex.russ.courtball),
- Jennifer Watters (alt.sex.mind.your.own.fucking.business).

Michael Melvin (uw.administration.fascist.pigs.kiss.my.ass)
Editor-type Being
Steve Shaw (alt.drink.50.til.you.fall.down)

YOU DON'T KNOW MATH

1 Zen & the Art of Power Series **\$2,000**

Round

question
Which of the following is NOT transcendental?

1. e (2)
2. $\ln 3$ (52)
3. π (30)
4. i (27)

one

1 Ride 'Em Cowboy **\$3,000**

Round

Brian, one of the mathNEWS editors, was caught last night using LaTeX. What was he up to?

1. He was making sure he had enough copy protection. (30)
2. He was putting one of his issues to bed. (20)
3. He was looking at a very nice layout. (11)
4. He was still trying to figure out the last Squiz. (4)

1 Celebrity Data **\$1,000**

Round

Which of the following celebrities can be pushed?

1. DEQUE Clark (29)
2. Robert STACK (33)
3. ARRAY Charles (17)
4. FILE Donahue (9)

2 Cheeriorthogonalization **\$2,000**

Round

While eating breakfast, Jimmy wanted to orthogonalize a basis. What cereal should Jimmy choose?

1. Special Cayley-Hamilton (5)
2. Golden Gram-Schmidts (24)
3. Gauss-Nuts (35)
4. Cap'n Cauchy-Schwarz (19)

2 Entomology & Comparisons of Beauty

Round

JIBBERISH QUESTION

prepare to rhyme

My fleas seem plainer near them.

\$5,000

...it's from MATH 135

...it has to do with GCDs

...and it's named after a country

(21)

2 Pop Quiz, Jack **\$6,000**

Round

You've made a movie about a bus that is rigged to explode if its rate of acceleration changes. You have to come up with the most appropriate title, so, what do you do? **WHAT DO YOU DO?**

1. Call it **SPEED**. (36)
2. Call it **VELOCITY ATROCITY**. (8)
3. Call it **THE JERK**. (46)
4. Call it **THE BUS THAT COULDN'T SLOW DOWN**. (39)

Rejected *mathNEWS* Articles

Yes, we do have standards

By Mike "Hammer" Hammond

There are those who would look at *mathNEWS* and simply refuse to believe that these articles are screened for quality before being printed. And yet, as an editor with three terms under my belt, (along with my pants and a variety of lint), I know precisely what our standards are, and what articles should be rejected.

Okay, fine. So I didn't reject any. But what follows is a list of articles, along with excerpts, that I *would* have rejected, given a chance.



Things I've Put in the Deep-Fryer

Co-op screwed me over royally last term, and I ended up spending a term at Kentucky Fried Chicken working the deep-fryer. The job was *so* boring that my co-workers and I started playing pranks on each other by battering things *other* than chicken.

The following is a list of some of the things we put in the deep-fryer, and how long it took for the customer to notice any-

*ultra*CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Compromising photos of certain MathSoc executives and workers. I won't mention any names, but trust me, you'll know who they are. E-mail tr666@anon.penet.fi for more de-

Top Ten Things I Could Say that Would Get *mathNEWS* Sued

10. Let's pick a random Math frosh — Chadwick Severn, say — and reveal him to be the perverted idiot he truly is.

*grid*COMMENTS

Well, we didn't get any submissions last week. You are all a bunch of clueless morons, and I'm clearly wasting my time. So this week, the grid has three words in it. I hope it doesn't exceed your vocabulary, you miserable pus-filled cretinous Neanderthal horse-faced feeble excrement-heads

So Who Reads *mathNEWS*?

Mathies do. MathSoc exec obviously do. Math profs do (and boy, do they hate misquotes). Even the faculty administration has been known to peruse issues from time to time.

Yet despite this, it seems that everybody outside the Math faculty completely ignores us. So the following is merely a test to see who does and does not read *mathNEWS*.

Screw James Downey.

Screw Jim Kalbfleisch.

Screw the *Gazette*. Screw *chris*REDMOND, the horse he rode in on, and especially the way he miscapitalizes *mathNEWS*.

Screw the Federation of Students. Screw the executive of the Federation of Students. (Except Robin Stewart; *he* reads *mathNEWS*.)

Screw *Imprint*. Screw *Imprint hard*.

Screw the turnkeys. Screw Fed Copy Plus. (Oh, wait, it's already screwed.) Screw the Campus Cove. Screw the campus pharmacy.

Screw the *K-W Record*. Screw the *Toronto Star*. Screw *Maclean's*. Screw the *Maclean's* university ranking issue. (Except when they rank us first, of course.)

Screw the ducks. Screw the squirrels.

Little Known Facts About Hammer

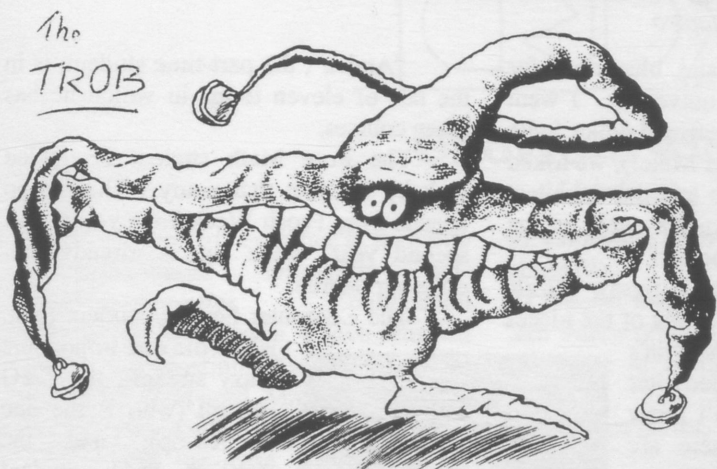
It's a little known fact that Hammer is a lying piece of shit whose ego is only matched by the size of his ass¹

¹What, didn't you read the issues from last term?

Miscellaneous Junk!

The Bible III

Jesus Returns



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. So if you gotta problem with anything that's in this issue, don't come whining to us because we're just going to point the finger at some poor schmuck. I mean, that's why they put their names there, right? So that you can hunt them down and take their skins for doormats because you decide that they're some complete waste of genetic material whose opinions are wholly and utterly wrongheaded because they don't agree with yours in every particular? Although we'd really appreciate it if you wouldn't, because we need all the warm bodies in front of terminals on Production Night that we can get. And anyhow, we love our volunteers. So just forget about it, buddy. And while you're at it, would you please stop rubbing in the fact that you got to go to some stupid Rush concert a few weeks back while us editors were stuck here in K-W? We know already, OK? Give it a rest, it's not like it makes you God or David Jackson or someone. Besides, we've seen Rush in concert lots of times before. OK, once. And it was a long time ago. Just shut up, alright? By the way... I'm an elk, shoot me! We're not bitter, we're just opinionated. Please note that the editors of this publication make no excuse whatsoever for any vengeance expressed or implied in these pages; not that any excuse is needed, because of course we would never stoop so low as to try and satisfy primal needs for revenge by publicizing the names and misdeeds of anyone who crosses us; we're just not the type who would do something as mean, nasty and underhanded as that. In fact, I might go so far as to say that we never abuse the power and authority vested in us as editors of this fine work of semi-journalism. Although you know, if we were to go in for some abuse of power, then whoa Nelly, the stories that I could tell you... But I just said that I wouldn't, so there. Too bad. Ya see... you're on a need-to-know basis, and you don't need to know. So you'll just have to suffer in ignorance for now. Maybe if you stop by our office with a six-pack we'll let you in on the great stories. Mm, maybe make that a twelve. And while you're at it, any cover art, masterful pieces of journalism, or C&O finals for this term that you've got lying around would be appreciated as well. But the six-pack or twelve is very important. Actually, any kind of booze will do. I've been drinking more and more these days. But of course, it wouldn't have anything to do with finals or people going off on workterms and... whoops, I said too much again. But don't worry... I won't tell anyone. Oh, and continued thanks from us for wearing pants. And thanks for reading this far, too. Do you have any idea what it's like for us, stuck in this cramped little office for two days every fortnight putting this whole thing together? So, like, have some sympathy, have some courtesy, have some taste. Whatever. Hey, bet me that the year of my birth doubled is an odd number. Don't trust me? Your birth, then. Go on. Ah well, can't fool you, I guess. Don't blame us... it was just a rookie mistake. Would you like Constitution #1, #2, or what's in the box? Come one, come all, and join the Crispy-342 pool! Pick a number between 0 and 100 and we'll call you sometime after the evening of the 7th to tell you if you've won! Or you can put your money on the special-odds "he'll worm out of this one too" pool! All hail the Bomber! The Fryer has returned and all is well once more! We must celebrate, and there's only one way to do that: go to the Bomber. Let the Fryer know how much it was missed by ordering as much greasy food as you can stomach, washing it down with 50 (if you have ambitions of baldness) or Dark (if you rather like having hair, thank you). Although I must say that quality of life in this office has improved since we got the tunes-box. Not to mention the increased exposure of Math students at large to Rush. In fact, any time you feel like hearing some Rush, just come by the office & let us know... we'll be glad to oblige. You know, it's time to seriously start feeling old when half your friends are either married or have definite intentions to become that way within the next couple of years. Perhaps you're getting annoyed with the mindless babbling and in-joking that we've packed this with... Unlucky. You don't like it? Tell us that, then. We're kinda curious how many people are really reading this shit. And we go an entire term and no original T-shirt suggestions! You all suck. Have you ever noticed how good the Montreal-style bagels in the C&D are? Try 'em, you'll like 'em. Token math content: $V(G) \geq \kappa(G)(\text{diam}(G) - 1) + 2$... why? Beats the fuck out of me. Current and back issues of mathNEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathnews>. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to us via mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet. Like you're going to write to us anyways. Hey, I found a book!

We're not just smooth, we're crazy smooth: Matt "So-Krates" Walsh, Brian "Calculus Cowboy" Fox

PRESS RELEASE

Rome (AP)

After a 2,000 year silence, the Roman Catholic Church has released the newest—and final—book in the popular "Bible" series. This book, both an autobiography and a user's guide to life, chronicles the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God first introduced in "Bible II: The New Testament," and contains detailed instructions on how to judge the damned.

This book is a major achievement of the Church, and Christ, who descended from Heaven to finish off the landmark series. The release of the text is expected to become the largest religious event since the release of the Koran almost 1500 years ago.

"This book is not just an other religious text, like the Koran or Bhagvat-Gita—or even the first two Bibles," said Mr. Christ in an interview, "This is *The Book* that Revelations 20:12 foreshadowed, by which all men will be judged for entrance to the Second Earth. It is not a book for the next 1,000 years, but a book for the Rest of Eternity."

Bible III: Jesus Returns is available at your local bookstore for \$24.99 (US), \$35.99 (Canada). A special educational discount is also available.

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest organised religious body in the world, and the main branch of the world's second largest religion. It provides a variety of religious and social services to its worldwide network of clients.

Saints Larry, Curly and Moe

Three Disks for the Stats-kings, with Data to Fidget,
Seven for the Pure-mathies (Modulus P),
Nine for the C.S. students doomed to Widjet,
One for the Dark Lord in his dark faculty
In the Land of Engies where the shadows lie,
One Disk to rule them all, One Disk to compile them,
One Disk to run them all and in CPU bind them
In the land of Engies where the shadows lie.



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is obliged to
write for mathNEWS.)

PRESS
mathNEWS

MC 3035

University of Waterloo

Kivi & The Logic Bandits

By Kivi Shapiro

The Zone

Probably my favourite series *mathNEWS* has ever had, surpassing even Watman and Duck, was The Zone. This ran for about three terms, approximately between Trevor Green's editorship and my own, and nobody really knew who the author was — submissions just kind of appeared in the BLACK BOX. This was essentially an airing of MathSoc's dirty laundry: the author, who must have been on Council or even the Executive, gave a regular report on what the Society was up to, especially the more unusual decisions it was taking. (By "unusual", I mean "bad".) I thought it was great that *mathNEWS* was willing to expose its parent organization in such a manner, and particularly good for the democratic process: the more accountable a political body is, the better. Besides, Council gets far too serious about itself sometimes.

Killington

Of course, sometimes it does have serious things to deal with, like a president who used Society money to promote a ski trip to Vermont, and even to subsidize some of the participants, so he could get a free trip. And who, even after being put through the wringer for that, went on to spend \$1000 on the end of term party. That particular story came to a satisfactory conclusion, but it still has anecdotal value so long as the individual remains unnamed. It's a good cautionary tale: no one person should ever have control over the Society's finances.

The Tunnels

Rumours about the tunnels under UW never seem to cease, and the most pervasive one is that they are somehow secret. They aren't! They're just utility tunnels. The reason they're not on any maps is because they're underground and students don't have access to them (or aren't supposed to anyway, but that's a different story) so why should they be on a map?

In fact, there is a map of the tunnel system---in the Campus Architect's office,

along with diagrams and blueprints for everything else in the university. I went there one day with my friend Mike (who is now a grad student, hi Mike!); we asked for a copy of said map and the Architect gave it to us. If you want a copy, let me know; it makes a nice poster.

mathNEWS made a jigsaw puzzle out of it and published a few of the pieces under Michael Melvin's editorship. They stopped after a while, though; I don't know why. Of course, there are always rumours.

Logic Puzzle

You Too Can Be of Great Value to the Counterintelligence Community!

The Inner Circle of mathSOC (which doesn't exist) requires your assistance. For reasons which they would rather keep to themselves, they need to know who among a group of five notorious troublemakers will be the first to graduate (i.e. finish courses), and who will be the last. Until it has that information, it will be unable to continue its current nefarious scheme, so this is a matter of some urgency. Hence this announcement. A reward is offered: mathSOC (which doesn't exist) has been able to pay off a key member of the Powers that Be, and as a result, one randomly chosen person who submits a correct answer will escape retribution.

So, given the following information, who in the group will be first to graduate and who will be last?

All the students started in Fall terms, none before 1994. Each is (and has always been) in regular stream, co-op, "crazy stream" — which is like regular stream, but without any terms off---or the unpredictable part time. The co-op student is in a 4-year program, of course; the others are in either 3-year (general) or 4-year (honours) programs. All are taking courses this term.

"Andea", the part-time student, is in the last of eleven terms in which he has taken courses.

The Pure Math student is tickled pink by the fact that many of her co-op friends from Frosh Week have yet to start second year, while she is already half done her degree.

The Computer Science student (who is not the one in honours crazy stream), the C&O student (who is the one in co-op), and the Applied Math student (who is not the one in honours regular), play darts together. The player with brown hair usually wins.

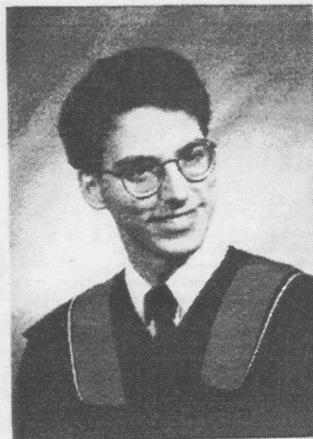
Two people in the group started before "Dasa"; the others started after her but in different years.

"Bo", who is in Actuarial Science, makes a point of being androgynous. The rest of the group is evenly split between females and males.

"Coryn"'s head is shaved, and "Eve" wears her brown hair long.

P.S. It should be noted that there is no such organization as mathSOC, despite anything you might hear to the contrary.

P.P.S Get those submissions in!



Kivi Shapiro was born at a very young age. Later in life, he went on to study C&O at U(W), although his time spent with MathSoc, mathNEWS, the CSC, FASS, etc. rather outweighed the time he spent studying. Nonetheless, he graduated and went on to pursue a Master's of Library and Information Science at Western (which he successfully captured), as well as a Ph.D. (which continues to elude him, but the chase is still on.) He is currently looking for Canadian work in information management, so if you know anyone... Oh, and he is honoured to share a birthday with the C&D's manager emeritus, Brenda Wilson.



GridWord #385: Fortune 500

djr={gridby, dart, axoq, ringer}

In honour of everyone's favourite mathematics-based fortnightly not-printed-on-newsprint publication producing its 500th issue, I have returned from post-graduation obscurity to bring you one last Gridword. May the gods have mercy on your souls.

As was the case for all of my Gridwords, the cryptic crossword and conventional crossword have identical grids. Since I am three parts bonkers something strange is happening in the conventional grid, making it an unconventional crossword. In this case, two symbols have been incorporated into the grid, each of which replaces a word which appears numerous times in the entries. For example, if I chose STICK and STONE as my two words to replace, "joystick" would only take up four squares, the last of which would have a drawing of a stick, say. "Pull a fast one" would similarly be eight squares long.

Cryptic

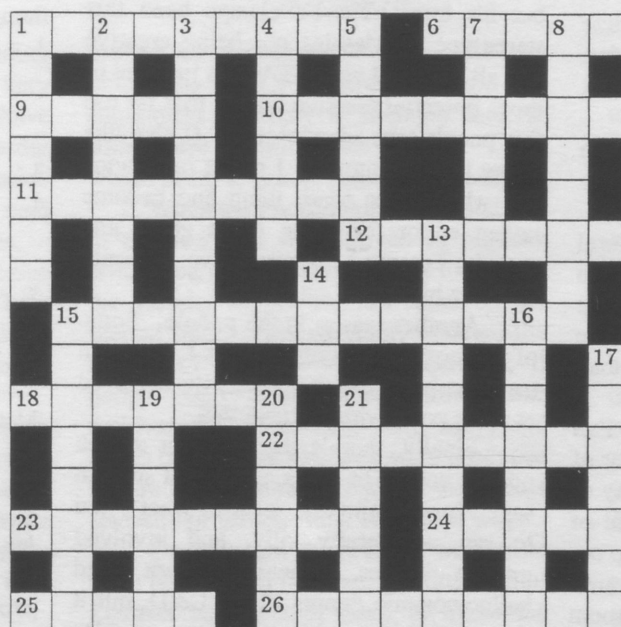
Across

- 1 Northern European makes design on board ship, right? (9)
 6 Works good at massages (5)
 9 Composer can hear record (5)
 10 Nitrogen smashing routines produce particles (9)
 11 Of good stock in gym: get buck back? (9)
 12 Bash back among retreating soldiers (7)
 15 Editor here in Germany goes by school on the edge of Europe with \$1000 payment (7'1 5)
 18 Ann rids snakes of guts (7)

- 21 Collecting agents almost report steriod abuse (9)
 23 Maybe man from the audience turns into walkway? (5)
 25 Snow in a tree makes for spiritual poem (5)
 26 Hatches parrot, rook (Time sure flies!) (9)

Down

- 1 Floating leaf of white paper (4 3)
 2 British singer in a light slumber returning to California city (8)



- 3 Singer hits note over the airwaves completely (10)
 4 Exploding grenade: mostly a hazard (6)
 5 Bullets inside gangster's guns find one from France (6)
 7 Dired fruit is in the wet (6)
 8 I am absorbed in volume about attention, which is flatter (8)
 13 In short time, saint changed into nun's costume for citizen (10)
 14 Test shot (3)

- 15 Criminal expresses frustration at women's orders (8)
 16 Someone having fun on merry-go-round turns left to right (8)
 17 Gambles about question on Jordan's scores (7)
 19 A wave also. (2 4)
 20 Crazy actors are a bunch of butts (6)
 21 Mild detergent leaked partially (6)

Unconventional

Across

- 1 Retailer's requirement [2]
 6 Sweater material
 9 Conditional verb
 10 Clumsy [2]
 11 Having poorer fortune?
 12 Junkies
 15 Took home her winnings [4]
 18 Remaining part of one's fortune
 21 Afrikaans; or Holland, what Superman wears in [2]
 22 Sully the reputation of
 25 Winner's flag
 26 Frozen assets?

Down

- 1 Snacking delicacies [2]
 2 Make uniform
 3 Uncertainty
 4 Horrible
 5 Potentates
 7 ___ Rouge
 9 They bounce (?) [2]
 13 He's out ___ (dealing with the unfamiliar) [3]
 14 Sign the register [2]
 15 Automated teller [2]
 16 One who takes on an attitude [2]
 17 The Man In Black [2]
 19 Comic character Andrews
 20 Imitative (...ative ...ative ...ative)
 21 The best passes have it

The Philosopher's Stoned

My Kingdom for a Subtitle

By Matt Walsh

I don't know what you're expecting if you're reading this. I only got here in 1994 myself, and so I can't say anything insightful about the early days of *mathNEWS*. And I'm still actually in school, so I can't tell you about my wonderful life or anything thanks to the job I got with my BMath. Really, for all I know you're reading this because mine's one of the only named that you recognize, precisely because I'm still around.

I suppose the question "why?" is a good start. Why am I involved in the *NEWS*? What possessed me to work my way of the ranks from grunt to grunt (first class) to editor? What's the point of all this?

Regular readers will realize instantly, of course, that there is no point. But that's irrelevant. I'm trying to wax poetical here.

I got involved with *mathNEWS* in Spring 1995 as part of an early and ill-fated attempt to convert our production system to PCs. (Lesson one: Corel Ventura bad.) At the time, I did so because (a) one of the editors asked me and (b) I was looking for more and more excuses to hang out somewhere other than Village.

Naturally, I got roped in. By Fall 1996, I had become the junior co-editor of *mathNEWS*, in the illustrious company of Brian "Latrell" Fox. I've done a total of three terms as *mathNEWS* editor or co-editor, and am embarking on my fourth (and final) term in the corner broom closet.

I went to Key Control in the General Services Complex yesterday to obtain, for the very first time, my key to the official *mathNEWS* broom closet. Now that the key is weighing heavily in my pocket, the thought weighs heavily on my mind: what does *mathNEWS* want from me in return? Shall I remake the paper in my own image? How can I use my new-found

OK, so all that's "what". How about "why"?



Mostly, I like the work. This is a wildly different opinion from that which you might have heard from me on Tuesdays over my past three school terms, but it's true. There's always been this stereotype of Mathies not being creative and all that, and *mathNEWS* is just one of those potential creative outlets that far too few people take advantage of. (I also like doing layout; someday I might just chuck this whole Pure Math thing and become layout editor for some avant garde arts mag in Toronto.) (Lesson two: Toronto bites the big one. Long story.)

Another reason is the people. Some of the most interesting Mathies I've met in my time here have been heavily involved at some point with *mathNEWS*.

Finally, there's the fact that at one point a couple of years ago, I had stuff to say. Now admittedly, most of what I had to say was pretty silly, and involved gravity waves, linear algebra and hallucinogenic donuts in the C&D, but it was something. My one-time regular

column kept me and several other people amused, and I guess that was the whole point.

OK, enough of that rambling. What has my term as *mathNEWS*ie actually gotten me? I've been detained by the campus police and threatened with lawsuits. I learned why one shouldn't drink Labatt's 50. I was co-author of the paper's longest ISSN blurb ever. During my tenure MC 3041 has been used as a change room, a safe haven, and a storage room. (Not to mention a disaster area.)

So has it been worth it? Mostly. Except for the police and lawsuit parts.

And so I bid you happy reading, and leave you with the following five thoughts:

1. Good theme for frosh week: classical ages. Bad theme for frosh week: surrealism.
2. Par-ty on the balcony!
3. Never trust a man in pigtails.
4. When will people learn that the Plaza is not exactly a "hot spot" for an Internet café?
5. Please, whatever they offer you, **don't feed the plants.** See ya!

Matt Walsh is a past and present editor of the Math Faculty's most distinguished rag. When not running Orientation Week, putting mathNEWS together, or growing his hair he studies Pure Math and C&O. He thinks graduating this spring is probably a good idea

Boldly Go

by Richard Bilson



powers for goodness and niceness, and not for evilness and badness?

Maybe, however, it isn't just my decision. It's true that many things have changed in twenty-five years. We have better fonts, we can line up our columns, and we don't steal as much material from other publications. A lot of credit goes to the editors and staffers over the years who

have made *mathNEWS* into the well-oiled machine that it is today. But in all that time, how many of our goals have changed? We are still a magazine produced for and by math students. We still rely on a group of determined volunteers who slog through late nights trying to patch this thing together. And what of the content? It's still what Mathies want to write, and what Mathies want to read.

I wouldn't be the first to comment on how modest our ambitions are. We want to keep math students informed, amused, and occupied during their Friday morning classes. That's not exactly the stuff of which legends are made. But it struck me as we were laying out all 500 issues for the cover shot, and again as we were

going through the articles and picking out our favourites, what a strange and wondrous legacy has been left for us. It seems at once sublime and mundane. It's not exactly math, and it's not exactly news either. The best of it has filled 40 pages, and it could have been more; the worst could probably fill 400. Some of it was topical then and is historical now. Some of it was funny then and is still funny today. All in all, it represents the creative output of countless students (math & non-math), collected for your edification and amusement every two weeks. The fact that it is still here and going so strong is proof that it's as relevant today as it was in '73.

Things will change in the next five hundred issues. I have some changes planned already. But could I turn it into

my own personal playground? Could I impose an editorial policy based solely upon my own beliefs and values? No; to do that would be to reject the very identity of *mathNEWS*. It is now what it has always been: a mouthpiece for the student body; a forum for expressing ideas, opinions, and information; and a light-hearted look at life. May it ever be so.

Richard Bilson is a student of Computer Science and has been a mathNEWS staffer since volume 69 (Fall 95). He will be co-editor for the upcoming volume 78, assuming that he survives CS 354. He lives in an alternate reality with his imaginary wife and two children, and a small stuffed pig whom he calls "pig".

Greetings From The Paleozoic Era!

By Dave Till

As you probably know from reading this, *mathNEWS* has been around a very long time. Millions of trees have gratefully sacrificed themselves in order to ensure that University of Waterloo math students have something to read during boring Friday afternoon lectures.

Given this, readers of this issue might, possibly, be interested in how *mathNEWS* was put together back when many of you were still being introduced to the concept of solid foods.

I was the editor of *mathNEWS* in the fall of 1981. Back then, there were no personal computers, let alone sophisticated desktop publishing software packages. (And we all walked miles to school every day. Uphill in both directions, too.)

Articles were typed into files stored on the MFCF's Honeywell computer, a mainframe machine noted for its intriguing home-grown software (e.g., commands such as "fuck ibm" and "play global thermonuclear war") and its tendency to crash unexpectedly at random intervals. These articles were formatted using troff and then sent to a typesetting machine known as the Photon Econosetter. This machine slowly generated high-quality text in a variety of Times Roman point sizes and fonts; occasionally, when feeling mischievous, it

printed everything in Greek. (At this point, an MFCF operator would be summoned to apply a strategic kick to somewhere in its nether regions. This would bring it, grumbling, back into line.)

When the Photon failed for good late in the year, we were forced to produce articles on daisy wheel printers located in the vicinity of the big red room on the second floor. This adversely affected the quality of *mathNEWS*'s appearance; if people who have waded through the archives are wondering why some old issues of *mN* look like they were produced by grade-schoolers as part of their class science fair project, now you know why.

Once we got the articles, we'd paste them down using hot wax, put little bits of Letraset tape around them to make the pages look good, and then go out to the Bombshelter and drink heavily.

Other things I remember about editing *mathNEWS*:

- Finishing the paper at 3 am on Tuesday morning, grabbing a few hours' sleep, then waking up first thing Wednesday morning and handing the papers to Marion at Graphic Services. (Is she still there? Is Graphic Services still there? Or is it all done by robots now?)
- Lugging two boxes full of copies from Graphic Services to the Math building

every Friday morning. This made me aware of the concept of "aerobic exercise" long before it became fashionable.

- Sharing the *mN* office with the Antical editor. (Antical was a publication in which students rated the quality of their instructors.) The Antical editor wound up actually living in the office due to some dispute with his roommates, and he never ever washed. By the end of term, the floor was knee-deep in course rating envelopes, and the office reeked of body odour; I avoided it if at all possible.
- Typing. A lot of typing. I got good at typing.
- I also got good at quickly dividing a long article into three sections, slapping hot wax onto it, and pasting it down in thirty seconds or less. Measuring is for weenies.
- Having many differences of opinion with MathSoc council, which at the time was barely functioning. (The nerve of them, actually wanting a budget!)

Anyway, that's about all you want to hear from an oldtimer like me (pushing forty, and enjoying the wonderful side benefits of age, such as intermittent lower back pain). Long may the *mathNEWS* flag wave, etc. etc.

The *mathNEWS* Gallery Update

By Greg "hologrami" Taylor

The *mathNEWS* Gallery is U(W)'s most valuable collection of museum pieces. It can be found on the top shelf of the *mathNEWS* office.

What's in the gallery? Here's an article by Kivi Shapiro that appeared in Vol. 66 No. 3 (Oct 21, 1994):

The *mathNEWS* Gallery

Those who have been to the *mathNEWS* office, MC 3041, may have noticed the mysterious objects inhabiting the top shelf. Many of them are very old, and some are so old we do not know what they are or where they are from. Nobody bothered to record the information, you see. So, we have a contest. If you remember any of these items, or can provide us with a good story (let us know which, please), we will give you a prize! Not to mention our gratitude, of course, but that should have gone without saying.

The items:

1. **Mysterious Block of Wood:** This item is a 7x8x3cm block of particle board, with a strangely patterned white veneer on one side, and a 1-mm layer of sheet metal curved over to cover two sides. At the corner between the veneer side and the metal side is a plastic insert, presumably to protect one from the other.

2. **Mysterious Brick:** This is a 6x7x15 ash grey brick. There is dirt on it, so it may have come from a pathway. The dirty face is also much rougher than the other five.

3. **Mysterious block of Pink Styrofoam:** This is a 3x2.5x20.5 stick of what appears to be baby pink Styrofoam. On one side is printed the words, "DE CONSTRUCTION CANAD".

4. **Eerie Can of Coke:** This one seems self-explanatory. It is an old steel can of Coca-Cola, 280 mL, on which the label has been printed upside-down. We don't know when it came in, though, or how it came to be in the *mathNEWS* office.

5. **Valuable Remnant:** This one we do know the story of, thanks to an old *mathNEWS* clipping taped to its side. It is the hole cut out of one of the stairway doors when the windows were put in. When we have found the origins of the other items, that article will be reprinted to explain this item.

6. **Mysterious Hunk of Asphalt:** A hunk of asphalt, roughly shaped like a squat triangular prism, this measures approximately 14x17 by 5 cm thick. The two parallel sides and one of the others are dirtier than the rest, so it seems to have been at the edge of a parking lot or somesuch.

7. **EMS Library Sign:** This sign reads "TO ENTER E.M.S. LIBRARY USE SOUTH-WEST STAIRS OR ELEVATORS". I presume it is one of the last remnants from before the DC Library opened, when all those books were kept on the fourth floor of the Math Building. A fuller write-up, with dates and everything, will come in a

later issue.

8. **Peculiar Pink Panther:** This panther, now with one eye protruding out of its head, has seen much. It has lived in the MathSoc office and the CSC office, before taking up retirement in the *mathNEWS* archives. We are not interested in the origins of the item so much as stories of its life. We know there are many!

9. **Purple Glowing Thing:** You know the circular area on the first floor of the Davis Centre, occupied by DC1301, 1302 and 1304? It now has white glowing things sticking out of it, but they used to be purple. This is one of the purple ones. (The effect was wonderful. Kind of like walking behind a nuclear reactor, or so we imagined.) It also holds two beers.

10. **Hunk of Earth in a Jar:** This one I'm responsible for. It's from the groundbreaking for the Campus Centre addition, taken on a cold rainy day with nothing but the Warrior Band to recommend it.

Due to the important nature of this contest, it is open until Monday 31 October, at 6:00. For those who know, happy nostalgia! And for those who don't, happy creativity! And do let us in on it.

And Now An Update

Well, the next issue saw no submissions and the topic seemed to die there. But the *mathNEWS* shelf continues to accumulate items, so in the interests of history, I am recording the additional items for posterity. After noting that the "Mysterious Brick" and "Mysterious Pink Styrofoam" could not be located (now they're really mysterious!), and that the "Peculiar Pink Panther" now has swirled eyes and sports a pink tie from Frosh Week '97 (when he became a mascot), the new items are:

11. **Cut Open Lock:** Apparently a legacy of the time Matt and Brian thought they had locked the keys to the filing cabinet IN the filing cabinet. The keys were later found in the desk.

12. **Bottle of Orbitz:** Little yellow things floating in a beverage. Once brought to a writer's meeting by Chad, but no one wanted to drink it (including him).

13. **The Noid:** Figure with an 'N' on his red outfit, of Domino's Pizza fame. Presumably dates back to when we printed their coupons. (Avoid the Noid!)

14. **Big Metal Sign:** It proclaims "Emslie Field CLOSED for season -Park Dept". This item unexplained.

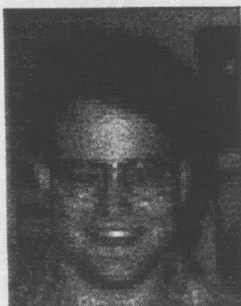
15. **Green Plastic Rocketship:** Apparently originated in Matt's Kinder Egg.

16. **Colour Paper Rocketship:** Assembled from a cutout that appeared in *mathNEWS* Fall '96; Vol. 72 No. 5.

17. **Warped Frisbee:** Black, with the image of a grey grad hat on it that has been barred out. Has been here since at least Spring '95.

18. **Makeshift Hourglass:** Formed by covering two opposing cups of sand with cardboard. Part of Matt's Halloween costume in Fall '96.

19. **Bizarre Drywall:** Or at least, it looks like that. Roughly 24x29x1cm, with blue and black swirls on one side. Also has a hole by which it could be hung,



though it's unclear as to why someone would do that. Very unexplained.

20. Disco Record: In a black jacket marked 'Disco Special', it's entitled "You Can Call me Blue" by Michael Johnson. (I must say I like the title.)

21. Empty Napkin Holder: Has some banana stickers on it. Your guess is as good as mine.

22. Empty Lug-A-Mug: From

University of Waterloo Food Services. (?)

23. Silk Screen: From Math Frosh Week 1979, it's not actually on the shelf but it's in the *mathNEWS* office. Green, it contains a picture from Alice in Wonderland with the logo "You must be mad, or you wouldn't have come here".

24. The shelf itself. This high-quality piece of wood is the showcase of the *mathNEWS* Gallery.

And What Did You Say The Admission Price Was?

That's basically it. I suppose if you can identify anything unexplained, drop us a note. Either way, there's certainly a lot of history in that office! And I'm glad to be playing a part in it now – even though I have somehow managed to avoid the stress of being an actual Editor so far.

How to Write for *mathNEWS*

You're probably sitting here reading this article and thinking "Gee, I wish I was as beautiful and intelligent as Christina". Well, maybe not if you're a guy. If you're a guy you're probably thinking "Gee, I wish my penis was bigger". Well writing for *mathNEWS* certainly won't help you in any of these regards, but it can help you get free pizza!

Most *mathNEWS* articles can be basically divided into three categories.

- Serious discussion of issues important to math students, such as whether the C&D should stock "fruity nut bars" or "nutty fruit bars".
- Informative reports on the fascinating activities of math-SOC and its affiliated clubs. I know I couldn't sleep without weekly updates from Computer Socialists Club on their efforts to get an 8088 in every home.
- Humorous articles people like to read.

Articles people like to read can be divided into two subcategories.

- Witty creations by inspired individuals. Original humour carefully crafted to surprise and delight.
- Rehashing the same humour over and over again to an apish audience who can't get enough.

My area of expertise is in the latter of the two. Rehashing old *mathNEWS* humour is easy, effective, and virtually guarantees your article will be published. Here are a few easy ways to write articles. The best thing is you don't need to be artistic, inspired, or even know how to spell. (What are editors for? [Removing your postscript, for one thing! – HammerEd])

1. Rewrite an old article

Go by the *mathNEWS* office and get an issue no one will remember (like one from last term). Take any humorous article. Replace references to "beer" with "tequila", "sex" with "masturbation", and "masturbation" with "sex". This will insure no one can accuse you of plagiarism. Your articles will even seem more wild and exciting with sentences such as "so then I drank six bottles of tequila, met up with this wild guy at Fed, we had masturbation in the washroom, and I was so horny I sexed when I got home."

2. Write a "Top Ten List"

Writing a top ten list is easy. No matter what the list is, three of the items can always be "sex", "beer", and "masturbation". Another three can be derogatory comments about other faculties or universities. Another three can be bizarre meaningless things, like your roommate does when she's drunk. The last should be a reference to *mathNEWS*.

Example: Top ten things to do with salad

1. Feed it to your partner and claim it's an aphrodisiac. Have sex with them.
2. Mix a beer with it. Beer makes everything taste better.
3. Masturbate, then eat the salad. You'll be hungrier.
4. Use it to entice a sheep to your boudoir, like Guelph students often do.
5. Tell an engineer it's "magic salad" that will grow into "a salad stalk" that will take them to a place where there are women who will date them. Sell it to him.
6. Find an artsie, tell him it will make his brain work if he eats it. Watch him transfer to math and flunk out. Ha ha ha!
7. Massage it in your hair as a new organic conditioner.
8. Stuff it down your pants. Try and pick someone up by saying "Hey babe, I've got a salad in my pants. You hungry?"
9. Mail it to Hostess, claiming you found it in your bag of potato chips.
10. Leave it until the dressing ferments, eat it, and write an article for *mathNEWS* while you're hallucinating.

3. Use gratuitous sex, beer, and masturbation

Write anything. Talk about your locker contents. Go on about that exciting food shopping trip. Complain about your coordinator's hygiene. Just put in frequent references to sex, beer, and masturbation. Hey, it works for me.

Christina "babe" Norman

I Kahnt Believe It's Not Butter!

By Mark Kahnt

I was Co-Editor for Volume 31, along with Dave Leibold. That entire term was dedicated to the 10th anniversary of *mathNEWS*, partly because we barely had any staff, so it was easier to cannibalize the archives than do new text. I was also involved in bouncing *mathNEWS* from watbun (the Honeywell 66/80 system) to watdcs (the IBM mainframe) to watdcsu (a DEC VAX 11/780 set up specifically for document preparation) in the search for better quality text formatting, giving us actual typesetting for the first time since the death of the Photon printer.

Never heard of the Photon? A great idea for its day, the character sets were on wheels that were optically resized to produce the characters transferred to the page. Unfortunately, the moving parts involved in it made it unduly complex internally, resulting in it crashing every ten minutes before it was decommissioned. Given that its boot cycle took ten minutes, well, you get the picture of how frustrating it could be...

I was also the instigator that got *mathNEWS* its own computer terminal —

a VC404a that was VT-100 compatible. I was also the one that got *mathNEWS* to set up its own bank account, rather than working through the MathSoc Treasurer.

I was News and Entertainment Editor of Volumes 34, 35 and 37, and the originator of the ChevMath column (the early, funny ones. Cary Timar took on the column without consulting with me, and his stuff was just strange.) I wrote movie reviews for stuff in the theatres, as well as previews of Cinema Gratis and Fed Flicks (my comments on Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*: This movie includes topless women running about, a restaurant where everyone is throwing up, and numerous other totally tasteless scenes. This movie has absolutely no socially redeeming values. The line-up should be long so get there early.).

My first term (Volume 30), I wrote *Quiet Desperation* — the frosh column. I also worked on the constitutional structure of *mathNEWS*, including explaining how the Editor's position is actually a training position — to become a Former Editor. Think about it — at any production

meeting, don't the Former Editors constantly tell the current Editor how things should be done?

Memories

Two come to mind - one was unsigned, the other was under the pseudonym of Anne Archist. I was more into the news and entertainment stuff, and encouraging people to push their humour. In Volume 32 Issue 2 (there were only four issues that term), was a sample schedule of a typical frosh. I got a great response about it - the frosh's schedule is on it, and then the person's actual results during the day...

In Volume 34 Issue 2, Anne Archist wrote in favour of Nuclear War as a method of disarmament (it was 1984 and the U.S. was on about the Strategic Defense Initiative — yes, that's ancient history to you, but it was current at the time).

The single best issue I worked on was Volume 35, No. 2 - we got word on the morning of production of the passing of Dr. Ken Fryer, and having only one

Oh NO, More Quiche!

An explanation

(For those of you who were not here last fall, *mathNEWS* featured an ongoing discussion on whether or not real numbers ate quiche. Based on the phenomenal response to that question, we present another article on this new mathematical topic. Hopefully this will be the quiche to end all quiche...djcl.ed)

The Definitive Paper on Real Numbers and Quiche

While my noted colleagues were debating the propensity of real numbers to consume quiche last year, I became aware of the following property. This neither confirms nor denies the (current) theory that real numbers eat quiche; in fact, it proves that real numbers *are* quiche. Moreover, it proves that complex numbers are also quiche.

What is quiche? Quiche is, in its simplest form, *egg pie*.

$$(\text{quiche}) = \text{egg pie} \quad (*)$$

By substituting the Greek letter π for its English spelling we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{egg pie} &= \text{egg } \pi e \\ &= \pi e^2 g^2 \end{aligned} \quad (**)$$

Let us define a function Q based on (**).

$$Q(g) = \pi e^2 g^2$$

Now (and this is a point that my colleagues overlooked in their treatises), we will allow g to be chosen from C , not just R .

Evaluating Q provides us with three cases:

Case 1: $g = a + 0i$

Then Q provides a non-negative real result.

Case 2: $g = 0 + bi$

Q provides a non-positive real result.

Case 3: $g = a + bi$, $a, b \neq 0$

Q returns a complex result.

The *range* of Q is all of C , which includes all of R . Notice that from (*) we have Q being the same as quiche. For this reason we call Q the *Quiche Generating Function* or *QGF*.

Since the QGF produces quiche, and has all of C as its range, every number is quiche. The QGF also answers a question raised last year by a colleague: "Is quiche really a form of π ?" The equation in (**) illustrates that this is the case.

Now that that has been proven, we can speculate on whether numbers consume quiche. I offer no debate, but two questions to consider (one for each side):

- If all numbers are quiche, are they well-behaved enough not to be cannibalistic?
- Is it true that "you are what you eat?"

Bon appetit!

Chef Dwarf

class that day, I was working the main desk of MathSoc most of the day, usually getting things organized and finished up for the Production Night. Instead, that term's editor, Tom Ivey (who was on a workterm over at Watcom), and myself worked the phonelines getting files on him and putting together the tribute.

Volume 35, No. 5, we actually had off-campus news, as this also arose on production day — the calling of the 1984 election. I was the one to suggest that *mathNEWS* take a political stand, even though I was one of two Liberals on the staff, versus six Tories. However, we unanimously agreed to my suggestion that *mathNEWS* could and should support The Rhinoceros Party.

Volume 31, as I said, was largely a retrospective of the first ten years — or at least what we could find in the filing cabinets. I don't pretend that it was exhaustive, as we knew that much wasn't there, but we went after the fun stuff we could find.

Volume 37, No. 2 Page 9 left column, - You must reprint the most intelligent mathematical proof, written by W. Jim Jordan, on the relationship between Real Numbers and Quiche. You may be too young to remember this, but in the early eighties, there was a book entitled "Real Men Don't Eat Quiche". Volumes 32 through 37 had numerous segments of "Real Programmers Don't Eat Quiche" and "Real Mathies Don't Eat Quiche", which led to the question of Real Numbers.

Well, WJJ came up with that article as a mathematical explanation — which is better than most other content ever to arise in the 498 other issues.

During my era, the names that come to mind as editors include Dave Till, W. Jim Jordan (Dwarf), Dave Graham, Dave Leibold, Cary Timar (Alfred Ed. von Newman), Tom (Watts) Haapanen, Glenn McFarlane, Dan Schnabel, Rick Kuzell and Stuart Hodgins. Somewhere, most of the stuff from Volume 32 or so were getting put on backup tapes somewhere for archival purposes. I presume the backup formats have changed over the years, but I know that the stuff from when we finally got onto Unix(tm) were on our own archival media.

*mathNEWS*quiz #6

ARTSquiz #1

Well, for our featured quiz, we certainly have a treat for you: the first ever ARTSquiz! Relax and enjoy!

War & Peace

1. When did the War of 1812 start?
2. Which came first, World War I or World War II?
3. In what country did the Korean War take place?
4. How long was the Six Days War?
5. Who took part in the English/Scottish Border Wars?

Pot Pourri

1. How long is a metre stick?
2. What colour is an orange?
3. What is the shape of King Arthur's Round Table?
4. In which country would you find the Great Wall of China?
5. Who is the Lincoln Memorial named after?

Television

1. How many male children did Fred McMurray have in the show "My Three Sons?"
2. What profession is featured in the programme "COPS"?
3. What is the location of the show "Beverly Hills 90210?"
4. Who is the host of "The Oprah Winfrey Show?"
5. In which city did the show "Dallas" take place?

Philosophy

1. Why?
2. True or False? (Note: there are two possible answers to this question)
3. How many corners are there in a round room?
4. What does P.A.S. mean?
5. What good is your degree if you can't get a job with it?

Movie Quotes

1. "Won't you please welcome, from Calumet City, Illinois, the show band of Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues—The Blues Brothers!"
2. "Another time, Highlander. I will find you."
3. "Sincerely yours, The Breakfast Club."
4. "I've got just four words for you—White Men Can't Jump."
5. "That's a Terminator out there! It can't be bargained with. It doesn't feel pity or remorse or fear. And it absolutely will not stop—EVER—until you are dead!"

Song Lyrics (just name the song)

1. I'm an adult, now
I'm an adult, now
2. Love shack, baby, love shack
3. If I had a million dollars
(If I had a million dollars)
4. Band on the run
Band on the run
5. You're a Juke Box Hero!

I wish you all good luck in the squiz (yeah, right!), and have heaps o' fun on your finals, true believers!

(WA)²
Super Dave
Harry Organs
Token Artsie

Mathopoly

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

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Certain restrictions apply to all gameplaying
For entertainment purposes only

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

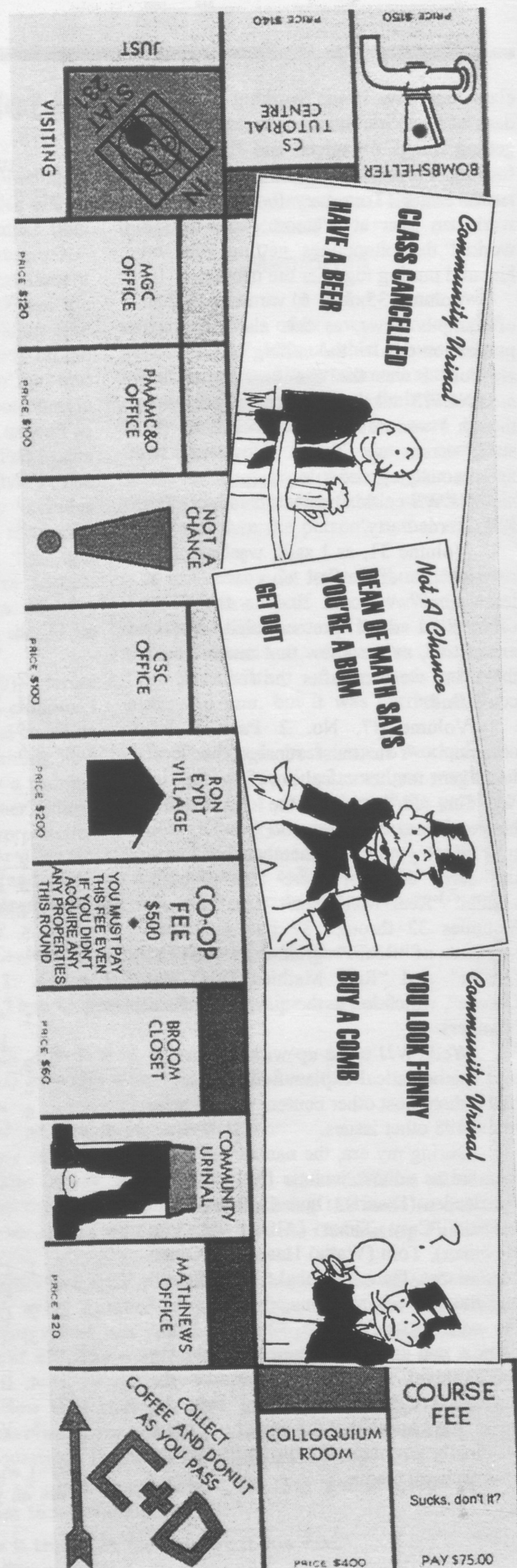
In addition to the six players, there is also a new non-playing character, named Mikey Cuddles. Mikey roams the board at random, moving after all the players have had their turn. If you ever land on the same space as Mikey, watch out! You're now going to the depths of hell and not coming back, and it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



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

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

CAS & Latrell

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



PRICE \$140 MATHSOC EXEC OFFICE 	PRICE \$160 MATH TUTORIAL CENTRE 	PRICE \$200 VILLAGE ONE 	PRICE \$180 COPY CENTRE 	PRICE \$190 MATHSOC OFFICE 	PRICE \$200 COMPUTER STORE 	FREE BEER 		
Community Urinal MAJOR AVERAGE DROPS BELOW 65% COMPLAIN TO AM DEPARTMENT 	Not A Chance YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED MATHSOC PRESIDENT KISS EACH PLAYER'S ASS 	LAURENT LAB PRICE \$220	NOT A CHANCE 	L'HOPITAL LAB PRICE \$220	LANDEN LAB PRICE \$240	MARRIED STUDENTS PRICE \$200		
Not A Chance YOU HAVE WON SECOND PRIZE IN A PROGRAMMING CONTEST HAVE A SMOKE 	Not A Chance COMPUTER ERROR IN YOUR FAVOUR YOU PASS AM 261 	Community Urinal GET OUT OF STAT 231 FREE THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED, SOLD, OR TRADED FOR A BEER 	REAL-TIME LAB PRICE \$260	GRAPHICS LAB PRICE \$260	FED HALL 	AI LAB PRICE \$280		
Not A Chance GO TO STAT 231 DO NOT PASS C + D DO NOT COLLECT COFFEE AND DONUT 	Community Urinal YOU ARE CAUGHT NOT PAYING \$1 TO PARK IN LOT X PAY \$15 FINE YOU CHEAP BASTARD 	Community Urinal YOU ARE DISSATISFIED WITH CO-OP TOO BAD 	GO TO STAT 231 					
Not A Chance YOU ARE DISSATISFIED WITH MATHSOC GO TO MATHSOC OFFICE AND PUNCH OUT OFFICE WORKER 	Community Urinal YOU ARE THROWN OUT OF THE BOMBSHELTER GO TO FED HALL AND FEEL SHAME 	ICR CORPORATE LOUNGE PRICE \$350	NOT A CHANCE 	COLUMBIA LAKE TOWNHOUSES PRICE \$200	THIRD FLOOR BALCONY PRICE \$320	COMMUNITY URINAL 	COMFY LOUNGE PRICE \$300	C-D LOUNGE PRICE \$300

The Best of *prof*QUOTES

By Matt Walsh; Selections by Da Boyz

In the Fall term of 1985, W. Jim Jordan was bored in his CS 375 class, but doing his utmost to pay attention to the lecture. And a damn good thing, that, because otherwise he might have missed hearing:

"I don't know who Seidel was – probably Gauss's programmer."

Hmm, the past and future editor thought to himself. That's kind of funny. And so he scribbled down Professor John Ll. Morris's quip, and brought it with him to the next *mathNEWS* production night.

As it happened, the editor (D. Richard Kusell) wanted something to fill some space at the bottom of page 12, and threw it in with the heading "Quote of the Week".

Within weeks, the rag we all know and love was being deluged by submissions for "Quote of the Week": insightful, witty, silly or embarrassing things that profs said in lectures. By the following March, *ProfQuotes* had become a regular – and extremely popular – feature of *mathNEWS*, and had also acquired the name which it still holds.

So without further ado, here are some of the best *prof*QUOTES that we've culled from the depths of the *mathNEWS* archives.

Enjoy!

"My life has been full of useless knowledge." (Graham, CS 180)

"Theorem, proof, theorem, proof, it will kill you." (Wainwright, MATH 140A)

"You either have to be alive or dead --- we don't accept engineers." (Reynolds, MTHL 305)

"Who's the bastard that's been quoting me in *mathNEWS*?" (Cleaver, BIO 113)

"Let's pause and reflect on what the hell is going on here." (Baker, MATH 230A)

"I take the Christian attitude towards exams: it is more blessed to give than receive." (Hentzell, MATH 130A)

"We now have to write it in proper mathematical language so no one can understand it." (Read, C&O 230)

"This is on a transparency, so it should be perfectly clear." (Wood, CS 360)

"Do with me what you will. Be gentle." (Burkowski, CS 454)

"I noticed I was quoted in your mathematics newspaper. If the person who submitted that would step forward, I will give you your 'F' right now." (McCutcheon, BUS 121)

"What university is this now?" (Panjer, ACTSC 433)

"And then I discovered the World Wide Web, and I said, 'Hey, this is neat. Look at all the pornography on it!'" (Moskal, PMATH 330)

"Why don't we pretend that we're stupid. Pretend we're from Western. [Shortly after] Okay, let's pretend we're not SO stupid. Pretend we're...honours students from Western." (Willard, MATH 135)

"MAPLE is very easy to use. You type 'MAPLE', and press enter. Then you type 'HELP'." (Stewart, MATH 145)

[Looking at result on board] "Aw, shit!" [looking around] "Shhh...you didn't hear that. Don't you dare put that in *prof*QUOTES or I will give you all zero without compunction." (Marshman, AM 251)

"I'm getting it! I'm getting it! Ha, ha. I've proved the wrong thing!" (Davis, MATH 234A)

"I was advised that I could get into trouble if I photocopy these and give them to you, so my way around this is to put them in the library and let you photocopy them and get into trouble." (Hewitt, MATH 138)

"My drugs weren't as strong as yours." (Hare, CS 372)

" $\pi/2$ is equal to 5.3, uh, for large values of π ." (Tempa, CS 340)

"You guys are too wimpy to turn stuff into *mathNEWS*." (Cormack, CS 442)

" $0 \times 0 = 0$, except on the STAT 230 midterm, where it could be any number of

things, according to you guys." (Bennett, STAT 230)

"Welcome to 'Bullshit 211'." (Conrath, M SCI 211)

"Instead of answering your question, I'll say something else." (Lawson, MATH 235)

"The only thing we know with certainty right now is that everything I've said in the last 5 minutes is wrong." (Scott, ECON 402)

"There are three series you should know or you'll fail the course: geometric; harmonic; and there's probably one more.... I fail." (Hewitt, MATH 138)

"Complex variables are fun until someone loses an *i*." (Mann, PHYS 365)

"Is anyone here hungover? What, just me?" (Irving, C&O 230)

"I should have been a truck driver ... I always wanted to be a truck driver." (McKiernan, AM 362)

"I feel like Liz Taylor's last husband. I know what to do but I don't know how to make it interesting." (Wentzell, MATH 130B)

"My wife conjectures that if I died, my students wouldn't notice the difference." (Davis, MATH 234A)

"When I talk about withdrawal times, I'm not talking about birth control." (Panjer, ACTSC 433)

"Algebra is just like granola bars. They're both full of fruits, nuts, and flakes." (McGee, MATH 138)

"You know it's a work of art because when you first look at it, you say 'What's that?'" (Dickey, PMATH 360)

"Without really knowing what you're talking about, the answer is 'yes'." (Simpson, CS 246)

"Does everyone believe this? Good! Proof by democracy." (Best, C&O 367)

"I don't know why nothing I say appears in *mathNEWS*." (Shallit, CS 462/662)