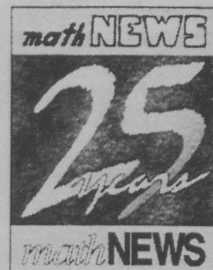


# math NEWS



Volume 78, Issue 2

Friday, October 2, 1998



COOKING with mathNEWS

TAYLOR '98



A Student Chapter of the ACM

## CSC Flash

Hello again everyone, and a special hello to all the frosh this year. This column is where you can come to find out about all the interesting things the CSC is doing this term. Elections were just held recently, resulting in the following lucky people getting stuck with executive positions in the club:

Position	Name	What we call them
President	Joe Deu Ngoc	jtdeungo
Vice-President	Wai Ling Yee	wlyee
Treasurer	Fjord	j2lynn
Secretary	Matt Corks	mvcorks
Sysadmin	Andrew Hamilton	awhamilt

And the following people were allowed to non-executive-but-still-terribly-important-positions:

Position	Name	We call 'em
World Wide Web Wench	Dax Hutcheon	ddhutche
Office Manager	Richard Bell	rlbell
Librarian	Damian Gryski	dgryski
Flasher	Paul Chrysler	pechrysl
Official Diety	Ian Goldberg	iagoldbe
Official Chairbeing	Calum T. Dalek	calum

Lots of cool things are happening this term:

### *Introduction to C*

Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 17h30 in MC2036.

This talk will have covered the basic syntax of C as it relates to C++ programming. According to Calum, everyone enjoyed the talk and found it terribly informative.

### *Introduction to C++*

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 17h30 in MC2036

This talk will be going to have cover the basics of objects and their syntax in C++ followed by a quick whirlwind tour of some of the newer features. Knowledge of C was expected.

(Hey, can anyone help me with English time-travel tenses?)

### *Introduction to Java*

Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 17h30 in MC2036

This talk will cover the basic of the VM, object model, event model, and applets in Java. It will be expected that people have attended Tuesday's talk. Attending Thursday's talk would also be beneficial.

### *Introduction to UNIX Part I*

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 16h30-18h30 reprised on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 16h30-18h30 in MC3006

What you need to know in order to survive in a UNIX environment. Covers the most basic applications (editing, email news).

### *Introduction to UNIX Part II*

Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 16h30-18h30 reprised on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 16h30-18h30 in MC3006

What you need to know to find your way in a UNIX environment. Covers the most basic commands and extensions (man, ls, cd, et alia).

### *Open GL*

Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 14h00 in DC1304

Details to follow.

If you any questions, please ask the VP (vp@calum), or drop by our office in MC3036. Hey, it could help.

Calum T. Dalek  
CSC Chairbeing

## lookAHEAD

<i>mathNEWS</i>	
October 2	Issue #2 takes a moment
October 5	Issue #3 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
October 9	Issue #3 says "Pickipsy"
<b>Math Faculty</b>	
October 9	Course Drop Deadline
<b>MathSoc</b>	
October 3	Joint Council Meeting 1:00 p.m., DC 1304
<b>Movie Nights</b>	
October 8	<i>Threesome</i> and <i>Two Girls and a Guy</i> 7:30 p.m., DC 1302
October 15	<i>The Big Hit</i> and <i>Bulworth</i> 7:30 p.m., DC 1302
<b>MGC</b>	
October 7	Class Photo 5:00 p.m., SW steps of the MC
<b>Co-op</b>	
October 7	Interviews begin
October 13	Postings end (probably)
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
October 12	Thanksgiving
October 13	Ungratefulness Day
October 14	Soul Coughing plays Toronto
October 15	Oktoberfest — Student Night at the Aud

## Let's get Mathies Laid

*From your Snuggly Social Director*

Hi everybody, I fully expect you to have just said "Hi Snuggles" out loud, don't worry about how your calc prof is looking at you now (ya I read *mathNEWS* in calculus too). Anyway, I am your Social Director this term (my other positions are Movie Guy, CS Rep, and Anything Snuggly) and I've got to write a column as to what I am doing this term so I can get free pizza from the lovely *mathNEWS* people.

At this point you have got to be wondering about the title of this article, no I didn't just choose it so you would read my article, it is my unofficial official mission statement (if it offends you, good, be offended, it is a joke, if you can't take it as such you have no business reading a *mathNEWS*). Yes, you read me right, my mission statement is to get Mathies laid, and for that we need lots of social events for people to mingle and have fun and meet the lovely people in the Arts and AHS faculties.

Incidentally don't mind my run on sentences and lack of proper grammar and punctuation, I'm a Mathie, and as such require absolutely no English (ya that's right, the FUCKING ELPE is now behind me, I passed it with a 65 writing about why I shouldn't have to write it, why I fell asleep for 10 minutes during it and bitching about the government, because hey, ya gotta take all available opportunities to bitch about the government).

*[Speaking of Snuggles' grammar etc., yes, it's technically our job to make him sound all prim and proper in print. You know what? This is pretty much how he talks, and so in the interests of journalistic integrity — which is, of course, utmost in our minds at all times — we left his article pretty much as we got it. Thank us later. — ΣEd.]*

A certain unnamed president of MathSoc just suggested that I just write "Mathies, Laid, Social, Come out." I think that could be misinterpreted. Anyway to social:

**Oktoberfest** — Oct 15, Thursday — Student Night at the Aud, only \$9.50 come out to the MathSoc Office on the third floor of the MC for information and tickets. Look for the posters around the MC, I'm very proud of them.

**Pub Night** — Oct 30, Friday — The night of the Pink Pumpkins at the Bomber, No cover charge, lots of awesome prizes (note to self, get some awesome prizes, cheap). Hey it's the bomber, it's a Friday night, it's almost Halloween and everything is Pink, what more could you want.

**Stratford Trip** — Nov 5, Thursday — Much Ado About Nothing & Two Gentleman of Verona, more information to follow, basically I'm setting up buying the tickets in bulk and getting the buses, then I'll tell ya how much it is going to cost, inquire at the MathSoc Office.

**Charity Ball** — Nov 12, Thursday — A semi formal ball, for charity, cost to be determined, once I work out all the costs I'll inform everyone. Find me and tell me your thoughts (if any, well actually, only if they're relevant, or really funny, hell anything mildly entertaining will do) on having a Bachelor(ette) auction for this event. More information to follow.

Other than that we have our weekly Movie Nights (hold on while I take off my Social Director hat and put on my Movie Guy hat). Oct 1 is X-files and Close encounters of the Third Kind (or rather, was, since this will probably come out Friday, ah well, if you missed it, you suck, it won't be out on video for about a month so suffer). Oct 8 will be Threesome and Two Girls and a Guy (hmmm can anyone guess the theme). Oct 15

will be The Big Hit and Bulworth. After that, your guess is as good as mine, except Nov 5 which will be Can't Hardly Wait and Something About Mary. If you have suggestions / complaints / random comments which will amuse me email the Movie Guys at [movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

We also have organized sports, if you like football come out to the comfy lounge at almost anytime, say "I want to play football" loud enough and a loud grunt will emerge, find the grunter and tell them that you want to play football and they'll tell you all about it. If you like ultimate or volleyball there are similar rituals to undergo.

Anyway, I'm about done ranting now, oh wait, If you are interested in helping me (please help me) email me at [social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) or just find me and tell me what you want to help with. Note, I consider entertaining me as help, so if you have something that I'll find funny or kinky, show me show me show me. If you need to find me, run around the third floor of the math building screaming that you need to be snuggled, I'll come and rescue you from all the CS majors that maul you (hey I'm a CS major, I can make the jokes about us).

Stephen Snuggles "Dirty Hippie" Skrzydlo  
Social Director, Movie Guy, CS Rep,  
Anything Snuggly, Eligible Student  
(registered and everything, now if I  
can just pay my fees before Sept 30)

PS : I take no responsibility for anything that comes out of my mouth or that I write for that matter, hell I don't want to take responsibility for anything.

## An Editorial

*Why This Ish is So Thin*

So I suppose that some of you are wondering why this issue is so thin. Here are some ideas that you can play with:

1. The issue that appeared on Tuesday (the one with "mN 500" prominently displayed on the front) was 40 pages long and took over a month of preparation. We'z all out of energy.
2. We pestered all of the official organizations that usually write stuff for us (MathSoc, the CSC, etc.) and they all promised that we'll "have an article today." Guess what? We didn't.
3. This is the ecologically friendly issue of *mathNEWS* for the term. Note the pleasantly green cover page.
4. Because you, personally, did not contribute to *mathNEWS*. Remedy this! Write something for us & bulk us back up! (Note to the six or so people who did write for this issue: keep up the good work!)
5. Optical illusion. The issue is actually 22 pages, but because of some cleverly drawn lines you can't see half of them. Aren't we sly?

Matt Walsh, representing the Editors

## So What the Heck is MEF, Anyway?

The Mathematics Endowment Fund is an income-generating fund that finances projects for the academic betterment of mathematics undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo. Thanks to contributions primarily from undergraduates, the principal sum now exceeds \$544,000. MEF is now able spend \$61,000 during the three terms: spring 1998, fall 1998, and winter 1999. As the fund continues to grow, we will be able to fund larger projects whose impact will be felt by everyone who studies Math at Waterloo.

### *What does MEF do?*

MEF finances projects that are in the best interest of undergraduate math students at the University of Waterloo. Financed projects are student or faculty projects of an educational nature, those that provide necessary teaching resources and laboratory equipment, and/or those that improve the student learning facilities.

### *Where does the money come from?*

The major source of funding comes from the \$31.42 Voluntary Student Contributions (VSC) of undergraduate Math students each term. Contributions are also made by graduating students through the Pink Tie Pledge.

### *Why do we need MEF?*

We need MEF to fund projects for undergraduate students. In recent years, government cutbacks have affected university programs everywhere: certain courses are no longer offered, there are fewer and less qualified TA's, failing equipment and increasingly limited resources. Tuition, user fees and government transfers no longer adequately fund all of the projects necessary to maintain the current high standards of education. As students, we are all affected. MEF affords us the opportunity to decide which projects are funded, and to what extent.

### *Who decides how the money is spent?*

All Math undergraduate students and faculty can submit proposals to MEF, which are reviewed by the MEF Funding Council. The Funding Council is comprised of undergraduate students (2 per department), a faculty representative from each department, and 2 alumni who are recommended by the Dean. The Funding Council then passes their recommendation to the MEF Board of Directors who make the final decision on which proposals receive funding.

### *What's going on right now with MEF?*

The Refund Period for Voluntary Student Contributions is running this week and ends on October 2nd, 1998\*.

To sign up for a refund, please drop by the MEF office (MC4046) during the following office hours:

Monday	2:30-4:30pm
Tuesday	2:30-4:30pm
Wednesday	2:30-4:30pm

Thursday	2:30-4:30pm
Friday	2:30-4:30pm

\*If you are unable to make any of these times, please send an email before Wednesday September 30th, 1998 to [mefcom@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mefcom@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca) and set up an alternate time. [Note: due to the wonders of the mathNEWS production schedule, you are now unable to send Sarah an e-mail before this past Wednesday. So if you can't make it between 2:30 and 4:30 today, I'd call her office ASAP. — ΣEd.]

You must bring your fee statement receipt and your valid student card in order to receive a refund.

### **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Please don't hesitate to get in touch for more information.

Sarah Kamal  
[mefcom@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mefcom@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca)  
MC4046, x5757

<http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom>

## Alcohol

The start of a new term. Wild frosh week stunts, all in the past, and some of us, trying to keep up the excitement. So what do we do. Drink, we're in math right? So needless to say, many people get right liquored and don't recall a thing from the night before. There friends tell them what a wonderful time they had, and for the life of them they wish they could remember. Which makes me ask the question...

Why do we drink?

Don't get me wrong, drinking in moderation is fun, fine and dandy, but some people just take it too far. Realizing this they tend to make a vow of staying sober, or even total abstinence from alcohol.

Then comes Oktoberfest!

Men in leather shorts, on cold october nights pissed out of their tree, and this ain't just the frosh. It breaks all those vows of "I'm not drinking anymore" and people all accross the city celebrate in a drunken stupor. Why do we celebrate Oktoberfest so much in Waterloo? I think it's just frosh week withdrawl. A break from all the monotony that all this hardcore CS and math that has gotten to be a little bit of a bore.

So what is one to do?

Don't ask me, this is mathNEWS, and our articles are pointless and dumb (not to the Imprints low, low, level, but still a little dumb). But seeing as you got this far, I'll tell you what I'm gonna do. Moderate. I figure if I just keep a nice steady buzz through out the entire term, I won't be tempted into heavy drinking, and I'll manage to recall (albeit vaguely) everything I did, and hopefully be able to control all my actions (Not that I regret anything I've done much).

So next time you see me, smile, wave, and say high, and watch me stumble around in my half drunken stupor.

Peter "I'm only tipsy" Lizak

## Want your Name in Lights?

Change it to "General Electric"

# What I Did This Summer

## SMECAP Part I

The following was an email I sent to some friends of mine on Mother's Day as part of a sequence of letters describing what I was doing this summer. While the stuff I describe did actually happen to me, please take this series with a grain of salt—I'm only presenting one (somewhat) side of stuff that was going on. To read serious reports on what was actually being done by the organization I was working with, please visit <http://www.sidefx.com/sig/fog/Projects/SantaRosa/Reports>.

Buenos dias, todos!

This is the first installment of Sarah's Most Excellent Central American Pilgrimage. Yes, I, Ms. Kamal, will be sending sporadic installments to you all (Internet Cafe's willing), outlining the trials and tribulations of my erstwhile journey here (no, I don't know what erstwhile means, either. But hey, it sounds cool).

For the information of those of you that I haven't seen for a while, I'm in Guatemala for the first two months of my work term this summer, participating in community projects and studying at a Spanish school. Then I'll be off to Nicaragua for July and August to work for an NGO in a tiny rural village called Santa Rosa del Penon.

Other than the part of my trip where I was delayed one day because my flight was rescheduled to be four hours earlier (and the airline didn't get in touch with us), and the other part where I was almost delayed a 2nd day because we forgot to take all the luggage to the airport for the rescheduled flight (I don't want to talk about it), my flight to Central America was relaxed and stress free. Well, we didn't crash, anyway.

I'm short, cute, and have a Canadian passport, so at least customs was a breeze (aside from the Guatemalan officials who searched my luggage again and again, looking at me every once in a while to see if I'd give them bribes).

There's a wonderful greeting for foreigners at the Guatemala City airport: swarms of very helpful people start pushing your luggage carts for you towards their taxi cabs, which makes it kinda fun when you have two carts going in opposite directions. Thankfully, the person I'd arranged to meet at the airport got everything into her car in one piece.

Interacting with the locals can be an interesting experience in other ways as well: an old woman approached me at the airport entrance, hand outstretched, toothless mouth mumbling something. I shook my head at her obvious request for money. She then reached into her pocket and pulled out some coins and mumbled again. I caught "American coins" and "bank won't accept" and "do you have a dollar bill".

I looked at the coins, and sure enough, there were 3 US quarters, 2 dimes, and a nickel, so we exchanged money and she went on her way.

I thought for a couple of seconds after she left, then compared her quarters against change from the States and started laughing. Fake coins! Woohoo!! I'd just bought a dollar's worth of counterfeit US currency!

They'd done a pretty good job on the coins—you can barely

tell unless you compare the fakes against real coins (or at least, I can't), so maybe I'll be evil and introduce my counterfeit money into the US system during the stopover on the flight back to Canada (bwahahahaha). Nah, I think I'll keep 'em. I get my jollies just by looking at these babies.

Funny thing is, I'd barely recovered from laughing when I was approached by a woman dressed in a habit. She mumbled something with an outstretched hand. I shook my head. She then reached into her habit and showed me 3 quarters, a dime, and 3 nickels.

Hmmm. Let me stroke my chin here. What on earth could she have been up to?

Despite these experiences with enterprising old women and a few run ins with crazy bus drivers (I'm never going to complain about OC Transpo again), I've felt safe, comfortable, and content in this country. I hope the same can be said for you and yours. So until the next time I have time to sit down at a terminal for SMECAP part 2, have fun and take good care.

And don't forget to send your mom flowers today.

Adios, Sarah

## Top 5 Uses for a Cabbage

- Put a few in a canvas sack. If rotten enough they will look and feel like human heads when you bounce them off the floor.
- Drop thirty-seven or so off the MC balcony. If rotten enough, they will look and feel like human heads exploding on impact and rolling away
- Douse in acetone and/or lightning fluid. Set on fire. Attach hair and meltable plastic face parts for a realistic touch.
- Cook a whole medium-sized one. Saw top off with a serrated bread knife. Stuff with lukewarm spaghetti in rose sauce (green onions and mushrooms optional). Enjoy!
- Teach it how to smile and nod. Attach to shoulder. Every so often drop your real head on the floor, letting it roll. If rotten enough, it will look and feel just like a cabbage.

Joanna "The Cabbages are Coming!" Ziembecki

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Les Stooges de Jour: Richard Bilson, Matt Walsh, Chadwick Severn

## Spermatikos Logos #1

Hi everyone, welcome back to another term of *mathNEWS*. I have been creating puzzles for you during the summer, and now I'm back again to try and stump you with some more. If you ever have any questions or comments on my puzzles, feel free to email me.

*This week's puzzle:*

Five friends at U(W) decided to get together last weekend and play *Mortal Kombat* on Nintendo 64. Each person brought with them a snack and a CD to listen to (all of which happened to be soundtracks). Each person also chose a different MK character (actually N64 lets you choose two per match, but I forgot about this when I made the puzzle). They played a round-robin competition (each person plays against each other person once), with the winner of the tournament being the person who won the most number of matches. Can you discover the snack and soundtrack each person (Dave, Gary, Lisa, Mark and Wendy) brought, the MK character each person played with, and the final place each person came in? Get your solution into me via the BLACK BOX or email by October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

1. The five players are: Dave; the person who won two games; the person who brought the Lost Boys soundtrack, the person who brought Pringles, and the person who played and won the first game against Gary.
2. Gary then went on to lose his next game against Wendy, and one game versus the person who used Kai.
3. The top two players also played a tiebreaker game. The overall player was the person who had previously lost to the other.
4. The person who brought the *Trainspotting* CD (who did not bring Crispers) won two games, one using Shinok's really neat laser weapon.
5. Mark refused to bring chips, and preferred playing with *Reptile*.
6. During the game that Dave lost to Gary, he asked the person who brought the *Crying Game* soundtrack to pass him the snack that Mark brought.
7. Neither Gary nor Wendy brought popcorn.
8. The final regular game was lost by the same person who won the first game, and was lost to the person who brought Pringles.
9. Lisa won one game against the person who brought Doritos, and lost one game versus the person who played with Tanya. Mark lost one game versus the person who played Shinok.
10. The person who brought the *Top Gun* CD brought popcorn.
11. The person who brought the *Top Gun* soundtrack did not play with either Raiden or Kai.
12. Wendy lost one game to Dave.

13. The person who brought the pretzels lost three games, but beat the person who played with Raiden (who was not Dave).
14. Dave won one game against the person who brought *Bladerunner*, and lost one game versus the person who brought Crispers (who did not bring the *Crying Game*).
15. The number of regular games won by the guys is equal to the number of regular games won by the girls.
16. The person who brought the pretzels did not bring the *Lost Boys* CD or the *Crying Game* soundtrack.

Gigi Garbett (gngarbet@uwaterloo.ca)

## mastHEAD

*Back to the old grind*

Wow! Two *mathNEWS* in one week! That's gotta be a record for on-campus publications. Did we all of a sudden feel like going twice a week instead of once every two weeks? Well, no... you see, this is the 501<sup>st</sup> issue of *mathNEWS*, and that means that the issue prior to this one is the 500<sup>th</sup> issue, and that means that the prior issue was a big retrospective thingie that took over two months to put together (and a week to print) and that we just couldn't hold off on a regular issue any longer.

Not since the era of Brian, Mala, and Mike has there been a trio of editors for *mathNEWS*. Why are there three editors this term? We couldn't find a fourth.

We had quite the turnout tonight; we needed two-and-a-half pizzas! Here's who dropped by to help out with the issue, along with their answer to the question *What's the secret undocumented feature of the new photocopier?* Greg Taylor (Can turn one *mathNEWS* editor into three!), Garth Newton (Snuggles' undying love and affection for it), John Swan (Not only can it photocopy your statistics problems... it solves them as well!), Joanna Ziembicki (Transfers all the cash to the Blue Squirrel Liberation Fund (BSLF)), Daryl McEachern (Slows down/breaks whenever you are in a hurry... or when Snuggles is using it), Michael Thorsley (On any job larger than 200 pages, secretly replaces the middle page with XXX pornography from the Internet), Forrest Payton (Making 214612618 copies will beep once and then copy for free), Peter Lizak (It eats sandwiches the size of the ones which Damion Gnomer eats), and Gigi Garbett (It calls the Exec office, and hangs up when Chris answers).

Finally, we'd like to extend a special thank you to Marion at Graphics Services, who is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> year at the University. Congratulations, Marion!

Richard Bilson (Edit and lay out *mathNEWS*)

Matt Walsh (Waffle iron)

Chadwick Severn (Will squirt pepper spray at you if you photocopy anti-MathSoc propaganda)

## Cynic's Corner

*Change in the whether*

Hello out there! It's your friendly neighbourhood cynic! I decided it wouldn't be fair to limit this column to last term; everyone should be subjected to it! So the topic for today: change. It's time to look at change in more detail than those TV slogans, proclaiming "Different is Good!" and "Change is Bad!" Let's start by examining examples of change on campus.

First, there's the new "D-Wheeeee!" building, aka Engineering 1. Did anyone not have trouble figuring out what DWE stood for on their timetables? Not that there's anything wrong with honouring a person by naming a building after them, far from it. But I must have missed the memo? And five years down the road, I can see people asking "why is there an Engineering 2 and 3 but no 1?" There must be a reason behind the execution of this particular change ... I'd love to know what it is?

Other changes I've heard around campus include one to the Federation of Students' Club Policy. (Interestingly, it seems that clubs themselves were not originally consulted with regards to some of the revisions?) Closer to home, a few machines in the building have been taken out of service (I can still select napier, the window just doesn't come up) and the Math Undergrad Web is moving from hermite to mef07 (make sure those links point to www.undergrad!). There, now you don't have to read the system news.

Still within the faculty, this term has seen the introduction of JAVA into such courses as CS130 and CS240. There's both pros and cons for this; JAVA seems to be getting more press these days, but on the other hand (as someone pointed out last term) will the language completely take off? How much will it be confined to the web? I personally don't know, that's just something I heard; I haven't used JAVA before. I don't even drink coffee.

So, at this point you're probably wondering if there's a point to this article. Surprisingly enough yes, and here it is: Change is Inevitable. Whether you like it or not, odds are it's going to happen. You're not going to be able to avoid it, sorry, just get used to it, it happens all the time. (If you're reading cynicism into that, check the header.) But really, would you prefer to do assignments on a 286? (Not that I want to start getting into judgement calls.) Basically all I'm getting at is, among all this change, there are some things that might be nice to consider if you're the instigator.

1. If possible, warn and advise people of changes that affect them. And consider who will be better/worse off after the change.
2. If possible, get input from those who are being affected and/or give them time to adjust to a new format.
3. Consider pros and cons of status quo versus new idea. Just because change is inevitable, doesn't mean it must be done now.

There, I've probably bored you enough now. Best of luck in dealing with the changes occurring to you, and around you. Though ... I suppose what it all comes down to is a preference for the change one gets from a cash register.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

## profQUOTES

"Start of term, gotta go to the beer store, and rent a truck."

Vasiga, CS 241

"If you're gonna get addicted to crack, buy that book first!"

Vasiga, CS 241

"It's nice when I stare vacantly into space, isn't it? It makes you feel right at home."

Mendivil, MATH 138

"This is very easy with bubbles in mind. I love this code!"

Kruk, CS 130J

"Triangle inequality means if you are going from  $x$  to  $y$  and if you stop for a beer, it takes a little longer."

Zorzitto, PMATH 351

"I squeak of excitement!"

Davidson, MATH 147

"... We need to use a rigorous definition ... rigorous sounds like a dead body ... by rigorous, I mean bullshit."

Hoffman, MATH 137

"Don't ask why I did that, I did that because it works."

Hoffman, MATH 137

"You have a few minutes left of the break ... if you need to scratch something."

Hoffman, Math 137

[Student] "It's like a variable, it can be anything."

[Prof] "It's not just anything, it's everything."

Hoffman, MATH 137

"Oh, it is upside down ... That is because I am also a circus clown and I spend half my time upside down on my hands, and the other half on my feet." [A minute later] "Oh shit! I know what I could've done! I could've just switched the arrow but that would've confused everyone."

Hoffman, MATH 137

"A lot of you are thinking 'who gives a shit ... I'll just use my calculator.'"

D'Allesio, MATH 138

"If a theorem has people's names attached to it — especially old people — it's generally important."

Forrest, AM 331

"... I guess he's probably dead by now, but in the middle of the century he wasn't."

Hare, PMATH 451

**This Space For Rent**

*\$250/month plus utilities*

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

Yes, this column is back for yet another term! (Thought you were rid of me, huh?) No, these babblings are just appearing later and later, since to put this in issue one I think I would have needed to search for points from 499 issues. (But how about that 500<sup>th</sup> issue, pretty neat, huh?) Anyway, here I'm settling for wisdom that appeared in the seven issues over the summer term. And with the handy issue numbers for reference, see if you can find these tidbits:

1. Mike Harris' deregulation is going to keep tuitions here going up and up and up ... [1/5]
2. Think twice before you drop any garbage anywhere. [6]
3. CS452 is a good training course. [3]
4. There is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics. [7]
5. Slow people are always in front of you when you're late. [2]
6. Beware of bike thieves. [1]
7. Some people really mean it when they say good things about someone else. [4]
8. Waterloo pharmacies come to a screeching halt at 9:00pm. [7]
9. Everyone has the freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression. [2]
10. It's not possible to take soda commercials seriously. [5]
11. Sex has many virtues. [1]
12. Lighten up! [7]

Yup, only twelve points this time, laid back atmosphere in the summer (plus I left this article a little late again). Though one thing last term that should not be missed is Issue 3 (parody of Toronto Sun); after all, it's not often you can get newsprint on your hands while reading *mathNEWS*! And for those of you who are new here, welcome, hope you're enjoying the experience (and you can look at previous issues on our website).

That's about it, I don't know how to make this article into a full column (oops). I can't even conclude with the traditional "All hail Mercury, the goddess of love and exams!" since it's only midterm time. But now that I've snuck in the reference anyway, good luck to all and enjoy the term!

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

The Editors would like to thank  
Greg Taylor for making this  
piece of filler necessary

## What to do after 500 Issues

So, 500 issues have gone by, and now we are on number 501. Many of you frosh out there probably don't realize what this means for you. I'm sure that any of you could ask an upper year student, and they would be more than happy to let you know exactly how this affects your life, but don't worry, I will fill in that information for you.

First, a little bit of background info. I am a frosh. I am a busy frosh. In addition to being frosh, I am on numerous committees (numerous of course being more than 1, and sometimes more than 2), am holding down a full course load (being the standard unimaginative 3 courses standard to a CS major and 2 electives being Econ and Business [*Hey, those were my frosh electives too! Sucker ... — ΣEd.*]), and, am part of the production staff here at *mathNEWS*. This essentially constitutes being busy in my outlook on life. So, being a busy frosh like the rest of you, I understand what you are going through, and, for your benefit, have decided to spend some time thinking about what the number 501 means for you.

Well, 501 means that you have already missed 500 issues, and therefore are probably unaware of what the first 500 were about. I'll inform you, that you really don't need to know. If you read the 500th issue, then you may have an idea of what they were about, but trust me, it isn't close. Last week, I spent 2 hours looking through the first 499 issues, trying to understand just what *mathNEWS* was all about. My conclusion is ... nothing. Essentially *mathNEWS* is about nothing. And this my fine frosh friends, is why 501 is good for you. It too is about nothing!!

Issue 501 proudly continues the invariable consistency of mindless rambles, and senseless articles, which for you frosh means you do not need to think!! Is that not the greatest thing in the world to hear!?! Regardless of the course load or meeting schedule you may have to hold, regardless of the teachers or T.A.'s you have to listen to, regardless of the village food you have to eat or the bitter cold you have to weather, (just wait ... it's coming ... ), *mathNEWS* guarantees you will not need to think about what it is saying!!

This isn't saying that *mathNEWS* gives you nothing to think about, just that you don't have to!! And, since this is 501, this means you have already missed out on 500 issues of not thinking nor worrying!! Isn't that great!?! Now, you can start fresh ... without thinking, without worrying, and with only one obligation ... you must get a *mathNEWS* every time a new issue comes out (don't worry, don't think, it's about every other week). Is that too much to ask? Finally, a schedule that doesn't require thinking, a meeting that doesn't require worrying, the only teachers or T.A.'s are those we make fun of in our articles or *profQUOTES* (here's looking at you Serge ... now I have a platform to speak from ... one above my CS 130J platform ... now I'm scaring myself ... ). Finally, something that tastes better than village food (not that that is hard ... I'm told ... ), and something that you can use to stuff your mittens with during the brutal 11 month winter that is coming!!

You see, *mathNEWS* is your friend, in good times and bad times, so grab a copy, sit down, and don't think. Don't worry. In fact don't read if you don't want to. Enjoy apathy to it's fullest, and have a mind-free good time.

Mr. Minotaur Man - Garth Newton



## mathNEWSquiz #1

You can't do that in mathNEWS

Good morning, everyone! Welcome to another fun-filled term of mathNEWSquizzing for the whole family! What's that? Overuse of strong punctuation? I don't know what you're talking about!

So who am I? My name's Matt, occasionally known as So-Krates, most often called "the guy with the feather", and I'll be your Squizmaster for the term. Yes, I'm also one-third of your editor for the term, but that's kind of irrelevant right now. What's important is that I'm the one that gets to come up with lists of trivia based on my own personal interests, and inflict them on you. Hee hee!

So given that this is the first regular issue of the term, there aren't any previous Squiz questions to answer. But normally you'd find the answers to previous Squizzes right about here.

Normally, Squiz answers are due the day of the next production night; however, since next production night is next Monday (that's the 5th ... tell your friends), I think that I'm going to give everyone a good long time for this instead. So your Squiz submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19th, 1998. You can drop them in the BLACK BOX or e-mail them to mwalsh@uwaterloo.ca (that's me) to submit your answers.

So without further ado, here are the questions ...

### Song Lyrics

A point for each song and artist,  
plus a bonus for the theme

1. And the radio man says:  
"It is 5 a.m.  
The sun has charred the other side of the world  
and come back to us  
Painting the smoke over our heads an imperial violet."
2. And there's a letter I can't open  
And there's a song that I can't write  
And there's a book that I can't put down  
Here comes another sleepless night.
3. I won't say where  
And I don't know when  
But soon there's gonna come a day  
I'll be back again
4. In every country  
This road leads everywhere  
A road that leads down to the sea
5. Gazing at people  
Some hand in hand  
Just what I'm going through,  
They can't understand.

### The National Capital Region

1. Crystal Beach and Bell's Corners and subsections of what city?
2. How many campuses does Algonquin College have?
3. Ottawa-Carleton consists of how many municipalities?
4. What is the 417 better known as?
5. The best wings in Ottawa are found at the Royal Oak pubs. What was the original royal oak, for which the pubs are

named?

### Dead Mathematicians

1. Cardano was notorious in life as a gambler and petty criminal. What was this Renaissance man's greatest mathematical achievement?
2. The word *algebra* comes from the title of a ninth-century Arabic tract describing the solution of equations. What mathematical term is derived from the author's name?
3. The Marquis de Condorcet was a French aristocrat and mathematician. So, for that matter, was what other pioneer of voting theory?
4. What did Gauss ask for as his epitaph?
5. What famous mathematician was looking through a mathematical calendar and found an entry for the date of his own death several years previous?

### Musical Theatre

1. *The Fantasticks* is the longest running musical in theatrical history. How many speaking rôles does it feature?
2. Damon Runyon's *The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown* served as the basis for what classic Broadway show?
3. The smash hit show *Rent* is based on a 19<sup>th</sup>-century opera. Name the opera and its composer.
4. What musical was the result of a collaboration between Tim Rice (who wrote the lyrics to *The Lion King*) and the male half of ABBA?
5. *The Pirates of Penzance* contains a reference to which other Gilbert & Sullivan operetta?

Well, those are the questions. Unfair, yep. Good luck with it!

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh

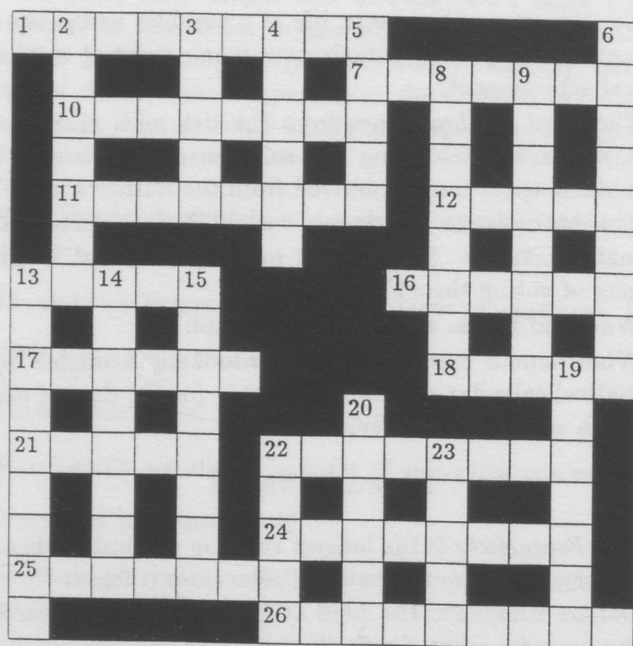


### Worst 5 Uses for a Cabbage

5. Include one with each resume package that you submit.
4. Throw one at your CS 370 professor. (Although, if rotten enough, it may look like his head as it smashes into the blackboard.)
3. Use one as a corsage for that big date.
2. Add one to the collection plate at church.
1. Use one as filler in an issue of mathNEWS. (Not that that's ever likely to happen.)

Richard "Charles Cabbage" Bilson

# GRIDWORD



## Grid Clues (Conventional)

### Across

1. Spotted dog
7. Restriction of trade
10. One who removes
11. High standing
12. Jeweled headband
13. Group of eight
16. *Little Women* author Louisa May
17. A common wine
18. Early digital computer
21. Set of guiding beliefs
22. Providing restrictions or boundaries
24. Beaten egg white
25. A major result
26. Abandoning right and wrong

### Down

2. Like in a fable
3. An assumed name
4. To damage or diminish
5. Carries electrical impulses
6. Pompous, overblown
8. French prison
9. Fluted macaroni
13. Crude or offensive word
14. Device for drilling a hole in the skull
15. Machine that separates wheat from chaff
19. To increase or make larger
20. Prenatal animal
22. An intermediate result
23. Island kingdom near Fiji

## gridCOMMENTS

Welcome gridders, one and all. This week's grid is so conventional, Al Gore will be calling me a square. There's only one letter per box, there are no letters beyond the edge of the grid and you can't make a word out of the letters you don't use (at least I don't *think* you can). The only thing fancy about it is the choice of words.

If you solve this week's grid and want some credit for the accomplishment, send us your solution and we'll give you the recognition you've always craved (we'll mock you severely if you get it wrong, but that's the chance you take). One correct answer will also win a fabulous prize! You can put your completed grid in the BLACK BOX outside the comfy lounge, in the *mathNEWS* mailbox in the MathSoc office, or send it to me via e-mail at [rcbilson@undergrad.math](mailto:rcbilson@undergrad.math). Make sure you submit before 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19th.

On a related note: if anyone is interested in making grids on a bi-weekly basis this term, either cryptic or conventional, e-mail me at the above address and we'll work something out.

Richard "The Temp" Bilson

## The BLACK BOX

*What it is and what it's for*

*What is the BLACK BOX?*

The BLACK BOX is a wooden box that was painted black a long time ago. It has the word "MATHNEWS" on the front and a slot in the top. It also features a padlock rather prominently.

*Where is the BLACK BOX?*

You can find the BLACK BOX on the third floor of the MC building, across the hall from the Comfy Lounge and nestled between bulletin boards.

*What goes in the BLACK BOX?*

The BLACK BOX is provided to math students by the benevolent editors to gather submissions of articles or artwork to *mathNEWS*, as well as submitted answers to Gridwords, Squizzes, and other *mathNEWS* puzzles. Letters to the editor and cash are also most welcome.

*What shouldn't go into the BLACK BOX?*

Don't submit your assignments to the BLACK BOX, because they will get thrown out. Also please refrain from slipping food, high explosives, and human remains into the BLACK BOX.

*I can't find the BLACK BOX. What do I do?*

Look harder. Or alternatively, you can mail your submissions, answers, credit card numbers, etc. to [mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca) instead.

The Management