math NEWS

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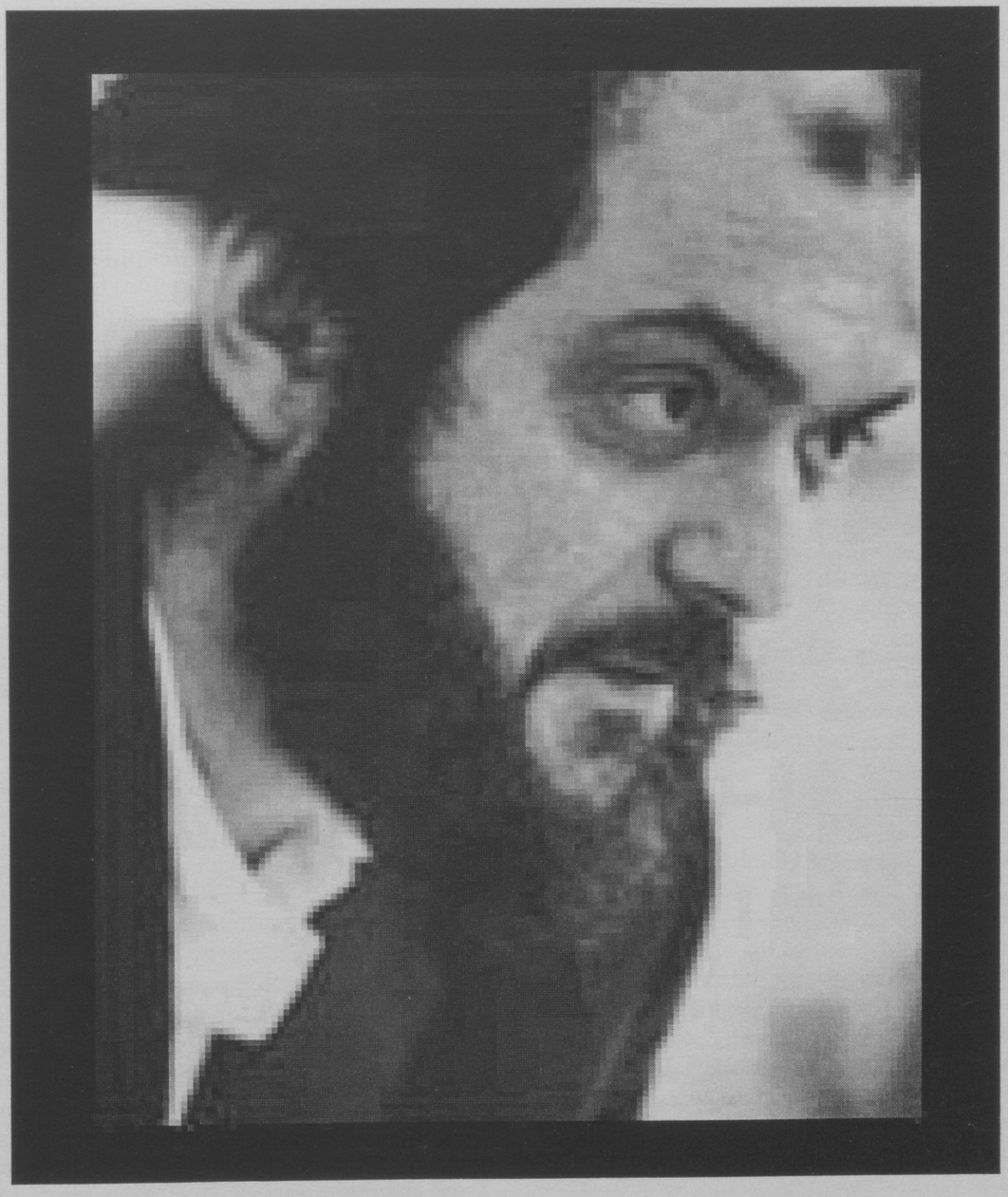

Stanley Kubrick

b. July 26, 1926

d. March 7, 1999

Prez Sez

Hi everybody out there today. It's that time of the day where you learn new and wonderful randomly relevant things from your Snuggly Prez.

On Friday was the Nortel Announcement. There was free food so there were a lot of students. Basically the University of Waterloo and Nortel Networks are establishing the Nortel Networks Institute for Advanced Information Technology. This is a $10.3 million investment that will be given over 10 years. It will provide CS and E&CE students with up to 126 annual undergraduate and graduate student scholarships and co-op education work terms. There was a big podium setup in the DC and there were some important people who gave speeches. Keith Powell, senior Vice-President, information services, and Chief Information Officer, Nortel Networks; Dr. James Downey, president, University of Waterloo; and David Johnson, Ontario Minister of Education and Training (who incidentally got a MMath from here); [Above information taken from the press release] Then Ryan (prez of EngSoc) and myself gave our speeches, we gave David Johnson and Keith Powell a pink tie and a hard hat. Excellent photo op. If you have any questions or comments concerning the event, or feel like arguing the corporate funding of public research debate (on either side of the issue) you can contact me at `prez@mathsoc`. If you think it sounds like I'm kissing butt it's because I kind of am. I like Nortel, they paid for the private luncheon at the University Club (awesome food) and gave the University ten million dollars. I think that makes them one of the good guys in my books.

Campus Day is March 16th and we still would love to have more volunteers (don't make us bring back conscription). You can sign up outside the MathSoc office or email me for more info (`prez@mathsoc`). Basically we need people to help run tours and get spirit for the faculty on display for the pre-frosh (do you want to help me run around screaming M-A, M-A-T, M-A-T-H, MATH ROCKS, email me, if you don't you can still seem normal and just give tours).

The MathSoc Annual General Meeting is coming up (March 18, 1999, 3:30 PM DC1304). Proxy forms are available outside the MathSoc office. For more info, guess what, email me (`prez@mathsoc`).

The Faculty Student Liaison Committee will be meeting on March 22. Basically this is a committee by which communication lines are kept open between students and faculty. If you have anything that you wish the faculty to be aware of (constructive things are good) please email me (I'm tired of giving my address, hmmm, try `snuggles@mathsoc`)

Midterms are over, yay. Unfortunately they went right into the 9th week of classes (and started in the 6th), boo. The idea has been proposed that a solution to the early and late midterm problem would be to have Saturday midterms. I have objected to this on behalf of the students. The comments of people who work or have other responsibilities, the consideration to TA's, the issue of time to work on other assignments have all been mentioned. If you have new input into this issue please email it to me, pick an address, any address.

President Snuggles

- The brown moose flies at night. Where the is defined as Math, brown is defined as Society, moose is defined as President , flies is defined as W99, at is defined as and, and night is defined as F99

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but without Garfunkle. No really, this is where I say stuff that I shouldn't say as President. So I would like to officially say that this article is only representative of my personal views and reflects in no way upon MathSoc's views or the views I have as President. In fact the opinions expressed below don't even really represent my views, they just represent what I find funny.

I've been discussing really bad movies lately and what popped up but The Prophecy. A line from that movie by Gabriel (blah blah angel blah) "Study your math, kids. Key to the Universe." So from this article and last, Math rules all and there is a free lunch. Of course in that same discussion a certain *math*NEWS co-editor (similar to Ttam Hslaw) pointed to me and said in a deep serious voice "no more drugs for that man". Do you realize that in high school, people used to stop me in the halls and asked if they could buy whatever I was on? I don't do any of that crap, but it's still funny. Hell I've been cut off in the Bomber, I don't drink, I was having water, and they took my water. Of course, I was discussing my pink van and the pink van driver at the time, so

The recent dating game has provided so many funny quotes. This one is from one of my favourite letters. "So have you found three guys for that girl yet?" Other randomness. Apparently the fourth floor of the MC smells like old ladies and peppermint and thereby reminded one of my favourite frosh of her grandmother. Not that it's a bad thing. Her grandmother smells quite nice, like cookies (so she says). So now I'm going to eat her grandmother. That's disturbing, excellent.

I like these frosh; we should have another batch come in next fall.

This frosh came to me and said that she smelled like snuggles. I was confused. She meant the fabric softener. I was confused. She told me she meant the fabric softener. I was confused. Do you see a trend? I don't, I'm too confused.

Everybody should goto the jlbertra web page. Go there now, stop asking questions, leave your Calc lecture and check out the sight (with a viewer that can deal with pictures and Java). It is the best thing ever. And it has accounted for almost 20% of MFCF traffic over the week. Some jobber suggested that I shouldn't put the website in an official publication because then it's not as impressive. It's okay that it's here because this is *math*NEWS.

I just found out that oomph is a real word, go ahead OED it, make my day, ya feel lucky, pink, I mean punk, see the pink, punk thing next issue. Hehe, foreshadowing. I can think into next issue. No, the only reason it isn't in this one is cause I haven't picked up that assignment yet, see, now you're wondering what the hell I'm talking about (unless you're always wondering that), you'll just have to see. Or find me, I'll probably just tell you. Back to randomness, of course from randomness to randomness, with a little repeating of the word randomness in between.

On my wall, I have one of those sheets of bubble wrap that you pop to de-stress but are really for packing stuff. On the bag is a label that says, "This bag is not a toy". Yes it is. Fluorescent coloured butterfly balls look really good in black light. Black light is almost as fun as lava lamps. I like lava lamps. I also like butterfly balls. That and red lingerie. Quack.

Brought to you by those who know.

'It's good to be the king' Snuggles

- I will always need to forever rant over stupid humour.

Palpitating March Currents

Hello again, Citizens of the World! (I am trying to reach a broader audience than just mathies this week.)

March is going to be a really exciting month here in MC. First of all, there is the **Chess Tournament!!!** tomorrow in the Comfy Lounge. Be there! It's open to everyone, so register on the sign up sheet on the corkboard outside of the PMC as soon as possible today, and show up tomorrow! Food, prizes and lots of fun chess! Even if you are no good, come on out. The more the merrier! Everyone wins! (Even me, who has had a traumatic association with chess, more about this if you are interested and talk to me in person).

Then, this coming week, Tuesday, Wednesday and probably Thursday, from 3:30 to 5:30 in MC 2066 are the amazing Winter 1999 Short Attention Span Math Seminars! Posters should be up today or tomorrow about who is speaking on what when. On Tuesday, to celebrate Campus Day, we will be having talks that have absolutely no pre-requisites other than high school math (perhaps not even that). Come on out and be reminded why you used to find math fun! Math isn't just about school work, it's also about those nifty puzzles that you secretly collect.

Finally, we are ending the term with a real bang! On the 24th at 4:30, Mike Glaum, a Waterloo AM grad will be coming by and giving us a talk. He is a control theorist, which leads me to guess that his work has to do with the application of analysis (calculus) to controlling robotic arms and things like that. Then, the 25th, we will have Wagner from C&O (more C than O) speak to us. This is another unmissable talk!

I also would like to congratulate the top finishers of the Bernoulli Trials. Way to go, Fred, Dennis, Derek, Byung and Sabin!!! And congrats to the Paul McCartney's Car WatBowl trivia tournament team — you guys did a great job out there defending the honour of the PMC.

Tata for the next two weeks,

Sam Lisi
(stlisi@uwaterloo.ca)

mastHEAD

Were you expecting something else?

As you may or may not know, we're working on another newsprint issue here in *math*NEWS-land. No, it's not in your hands yet. It takes more than one production night to put one of those together. Blah.

Word around campus is that we may be getting a new building to house all the new students we'll be getting in engineering and computer science. Word is also that it will probably go in the parking lot by Davis Centre. I have an opinion on this, but I don't feel like sharing right now.

Here are the bunch that came out tonight to help put this issue together, along with their answer to the question *What's the best location on-campus to build a new building?* Derek Kisman (MC's 6th floor), John Swan (Any floor of Hagey Hall), Stu Pollock (Inside the new building; that way you get infinite space), Gigi Garbett (No comment), and Kevin WanMinkee (In place of Needles Hall).

Matt Walsh (Fed Hall)
Greg Taylor (Laurel Lake)
Chadwick Severn (Off-campus)

Now, if Only My Computer Worked

As I sat inside the MC preparing to host the Math Dating Game, expecting yet another evening of realizing how apathetic students really are, I started to hear a noise. It originated from the Comfy Lounge. I thought it was just another group of estranged math students getting overly excited about a game of cards. I then entered the Lounge Preparing to host the Game and found that the noise was because there were sooo many people crammed in the lounge to watch the Dating Game. It was great! Have never heard so many sexual innuendoes (except when talking to our esteemed President, of course). It was a great time. So, I thought we should do it again. This time we'll be bringing back the couples we have already united to tell us how their "dates" went as well as joining up some new ones.

So, you're sitting there thinking, "How do I get in on the fun?" Just go to the MathSoc Office (MC 3038, for those of you who have been living under a rock). Or, if you are feeling particularly lazy, email me at social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca by 4:30 today and let me know why you are interested in the game.

As last note, watch for Cotton Candy Day Part Three coming to a third floor hallway near you!

Diana Price
Your Disgruntled Social Director

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS	
March 12	Issue #5 makes a surprise appearance
March 22	Issue #6 Production Night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 26	Issue #6 comes out, to noone's surprise
Math Faculty	
March 16	Campus Day
March 16	Mitra Information Session (With Pizza!) In DC1304 from 5-7 pm
MathSoc	
March 12	Nominations for Honourary Lifetime Membership Due
March 16	Annual General Meeting
Miscellaneous	
April 1	Last OS Assignment Due
April 1	Last day of classes
April 1	April Fools Day (Think that's a coincidence?)

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When you grow up, you should want to be one of the following people: Matt Walsh, Greg Taylor, Chadwick Severn

Overheard on Campus Day

"Hi! I'm Timmy, you're Campus Day tourguide. I'm looking forward to showing you around campus.

"So you're from Brampton? Quite the commute! Ha ha. Let's start our tour at the Mathematics and Computer Building. It's that big ominous building over there.

"Oh yes, concrete was quite fashionable when it was built. Windows were probably in short supply due to the war and everything.

"What war? Well, It's an old building... It was probably built during one of those cold ones. You know, U of W had one of the largest computers in the world back then, so big in fact, that it was used as backup for the Pentagon's computer. I think it was the Pentagon. In fact, the Russians have several of their warheads targeting U of W. You know, just in case a war broke out, they'd need to blow up the back-up computer too. There's bets going on around campus as to whether the Russians have fixed their Y2K problems on those warheads. Ha ha ha. Anyway, I'm sure your son will be safe.

"Here we are at the famous Red Room. You've never heard of the Red Room? You should have... it was used in a movie once. Something with Gene Hackman I think. This room once held the biggest computer on the planet, I think. Now, with computers getting so small, I think they're going to convert it into a Squash court. I think they're just waiting on word from the Squash Federation to see if red is an okay colour for a court.

"Just around the corner here is the Computer Store. Yes, it is quite quaint. Have I ever bought anything here? Uh, I don't think I have actually... wait, you know I think I bought a copy of Wired once. Yeah, that's it. Wired.

"Up the stairs and we're on the third floor. Most of this floor is computer labs for undergraduate students. Just ignore that smell and follow me. Here we are in what we call the Pink Lab. What is that MEF thing that sponsors all these computers? I think they're some extremist rebel group or something. I'll have to get back to you on that one.

"Oh, there's some OS students. We should probably get moving... just ignore them. When they shout `Flee while you can!' they mean it in the nicest sense.

"If you look through this window you'll see the train lab. I've heard they're going to make this a mandatory first-year course for computer science students. Why? Well, you know, the provincial government's forcing them to take in a lot more students, but they never said anything about keeping them."

"Are you thirsty at all? The C+D has great prices on drinks; very competitive. Hmmm... no, I agree, 2 litre bottles of pop are usually much cheaper at the grocery store. Well, they still have good prices on bagels. What bagels? Oh, well, you see all these empty shelves? Those hold bagels before they're sold out... yes, I know it 11 am. Well, you know those math-types! Ha ha. Always loving their bagels.

"Right next door here is where your son can sleep if he doesn't find an apartment. I believe they've converted this lounge into some kind of hostel. I mean, this is all you need, right? Just a place to stretch out and sleep, eh? Yeah, I don't think your son would have to be naked like those people over there though.

"Let's go up the stairs here. This is the fourth floor, where many of our lecture halls are. This floor used to be our library, before the Davis Centre opened. No, I'm not quite sure where they put the shelves... you're right, it does seem rather cramped with all these rooms and lecture halls. Well, that was just a rumour... perhaps they had a really tiny library back then.

"Up another flight of stairs and here we are at the Dean's office. Hi Mr. Dean! What's that? The tour isn't supposed to include your private bathroom? You mean you've kept your private bathroom secret all these years? Oh well, sorry about that.

"We'll end our tour of the Math building with a trip up to the sixth floor, where there's a reception being held for all campus-day visitors in the middle room... no, I won't be joining you. You'll be able to find the room fine, just keep following the left wall, and you're bound to hit it eventually. Good luck! Thanks for visiting U of W!"

[Into a walkie-talkie] "Yup, I just released another half-dozen onto the sixth floor. We should have several hundred lost up there by now. Escape? No, I don't think they will. Our recruitment numbers are definitely going to be up this year!"

CasEd

My Pink Tie Pledge Challenge

Pledge Me Clean-Shaven!

Hey everyone. It's your perennial editor Matt here. Those of you who've been counting will have noticed that I'm in my 4B term, and thus on the ragged edge of graduation. And as my thoughts turn to graduation, they also turn to (a) sentimental rambling twaddle, as is traditional for a departing editor (but which I'll save until next issue, I guess), and (b) the Pink Tie Pledge.

So I was thinking about the pledge, and thinking about my future career as a starving Grad Turkey™, and realising that my own financial contributions to the Pledge will be nothing to write home about. ("Dear Mom and Dad. I'm a skinflint." Nah.) And I sighed, wondering what I could do to support the Faculty that I love so dearly. Or something like that.

And then I had an idea. An idea so simple yet elegant in its brilliance that I fell off my stupid four-legged rolly chair that (I'm told) would be currently illegal to sell in Canada.

And I told my buddy Brian Neill about it. And he hasn't given me a moment's peace about it since, that's how brilliant the idea is. And so I present to you today, graduating class of 1999:

Matt's Personal Challenge

The deal is simple: *If, by 5:00p.m. of March 26th, more than $37,500 has been pledged to the Pink Tie, then I, Matt Walsh, will attend the Grad Ball the next day bare-chinned.* That's right; I'm promising to lose my beard if it'll get you guys to donate money to the Faculty.

Some notes about my beard: I've had it since grade 12. I stopped shaving my chin on Christmas Eve, 1992, so that I would look nice and scruffy for an audition two weeks following. Thus, it has been over six years since my chin has seen the light of day. I've braided my beard, coloured it (with makeup, not dye), worn it long and short, with sides and without.

So come on out and pledge, damn it. I regret that I have but one beard to give for my Faculty.

Matt "So-Krates" Walsh
The King of Facial Hair

profQUOTES

"I come before you today with egg all over my face."

Schellenberg, MATH 239

"That is an important theorem. If you want to remember something important, remember that. (pause) Remember your mother's birthday too."

Schellenberg, MATH 239

"And now we come to a theorem known as the 'Great Big Picard Theorem'. Jean-Luc!!"

Lu, PMATH 352

"I wonder why [the creators of Star Trek] named the captain after [mathematician Emile Picard]. ... I guess they needed a good French name."

Lu, PMATH 352

"And there's also a 'Little Picard Theorem'."

Lu, PMATH 352

"I'll be honest with you: I'm going to lie to you."

Forrest, PMATH 354

"80% of what I said today will be irrelevant 99% of the time."

Forrest, PMATH 354

"Suppose we wanted to insert hamster..."

Weddell, CS 334

"e to the minus fifty is as close to zero as you can possibly get."

McLeish, STAT 240

"I'm interested in doing more fun examples. Some of you might say 'We've had enough fun'. But, let's do these anyways."

Zorzitto, PMATH 331

"The brilliance of this allows you to turn this junk into that junk so that we get ALL this junk."

Zorzitto, PMATH 331

"We see e-x2/2 and we say, 'Hey buddy, integrate this'. But nobody knows how so he says, 'No way, you do it'."

Zorzitto, PMATH 331

"We don't have that much time to derive it the right way, so this will do."

Delic, MATH 138

"(waving chalk in the air) It's a plane, it's a rocket, it's a bomb, it's a swimming fish ... see you should really be using 3-space to sketch these functions."

Zorzitto, MATH 138

"If you can't hold a lot of stuff in your brain, what are you? A smart monkey?"

Zorzitto, MATH 138

"Anybody been to an interview with Microsoft? Going to an interview with MicroSoft? Not that there's anything wrong with that ..."

Brecht, CS 354

"That's an interesting thesis topic, or exam question."

Brecht, CS 354

"Does anyone know if disks spin clockwise or counterclockwise? Is it different in Austrailia?"

Brecht, CS 354

"What will be contained in that sector? (no response) Monkeys?"

Brecht, CS 354

"RISCs are basically the Wal-Marts of computers. Everything's very cheap, but you don't have very many options."

Berks, CS 251

"I'll be sitting in that chair one day, and I'll be very happy that someone wasted a couple of their CPU cycles to tell me they're done in the bathroom."

Buhr, CS 342

"Don't try to imagine it and everything will be easy."

Potapchick, MATH 235

"The Galaxy is warped. As if you couldn't tell from meeting some of the people who live there..."

Curry, SCI 238

"I was so excited to come to Waterloo, but so far you guys are a big disappointment. York students are great!"

Brecht, CS 354

"Who think 20%? No one? Usually sombody goes for that...youu guys ARE smarter than the people at York."

Brecht, CS 354

"Does this make sense? I saw a couple of nods...that could just be the coffee kicking in."

Brecht, CS 354

"Once the program is loaded...once we get enough beer into it."

Brecht, CS 354

"It just occurred to me that there is some constant weight for computers. Hmmm...Brecht's constant? Don't quote me on that."

Brecht, CS 354

"I can give you my home phone number so if you wake up in the middle of the night from some nightmare trying to differentiate, you can call me."

Miskovic, MATH 237

"Yes, usually 5-3 =2. I had a bad time yesterday shovelling the snow... I'm still shaky."

Miskovic, MATH 237

"I don't know why it's so loud today. Is it boring? Next time I'll wear something."

Miskovic, MATH 237

"[On the midterm] you will be required to draw a duck. You may use the cubist approach."

Miskovic, MATH 237

"Who created my shoes? A cow was involved at some point...and a guy with a knife...there's a story to be told there."

DeVidi, PHIL 200B

Cynic's Corner

#ifndef SELF #define SELF

So, who are you? Why are you here? Why are you reading this article? What is our purpose in the world? What was the prof saying again? It doesn't matter... you too will be ignored. Resistance is futile.

I mean, let's face it, in a world with so many people, it's not that easy to stand out (just ask anyone looking for a job) and it's even harder to be remembered by people once you've left and gone elsewhere. (Then again, it might be easy to be remembered in a bad way, but most people aren't aiming for that.) In order to be seen in a crowd, you need to do something atypical, something memorable. But unless you're Einstein or Gauss and can make a name for yourself by sitting alone in a room writing equations, you need a gimmick, something to help define yourself and make your name known to other people. Something distinct, something unique. A referendum! No, wait... how about just a personal quirk or a hobby? We all have them, it's just a matter of selecting something harmless and expanding on it.

So, you've selected a unique trademark to be recognized. And now you're not being ignored... instead you're becoming trapped in a niche, restricted to performing the actions that people expect of you. Stereotypes are everywhere; even nonstereotypicalism is a stereotype. And if you try to do something new, it just gets added on to whatever mannerisms would have been originally expected. After all, isn't it usually the case that once you've done a certain thing, people will expect not only that from you, but more too? (At least until you're promoted into management at which point no one expects anything from you and you can do the ignoring.) I mean think about it: when was the last time you completely changed your image or your outlook on life and no one looked at you oddly or asked you why you did such-and-such or wondered what happened with so-and-so? Indeed, sometimes people still expect the same things from a person years later.

Hence changing leads to frustration towards others, towards yourself, towards society, then you become bitter and finally turn into either hermit or a crook. (Hey, when you're upset there's nothing better than making others upset because the world shouldn't be such a happy place for them, right?) But does that mean it's better to stay with the status quo? Just because you've become locked into a set of behaviours, doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself. Merely add a little unpredictability, maybe accumulate interesting possessions to help in your characterization and so on. (Just don't attach too much significance to those possessions or else the crooks will get them.) So what if you're getting tired of the whole routine, you've made a name for yourself, that's the important thing!

The assumption throughout here is that people don't really change. And indeed, fundamentally this may be true. But if true in general, then from whence comes the comment "they'll outgrow it"? Times change. Maybe it's time to take a second to look at yourself, at some of the things you do out of habit or tradition, and make sure they're something you want, something you enjoy. For while no one likes to be ignored, when you define yourself, you must make sure that the files aren't Read-Only; just as it may be the case for others. And above all, remember: one easy way to stand out and be remembered is to simply write for *math*NEWS!

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

How to Stay Awake in Class

Did you stay awake late last night to do an assignment? Probably not. What you did do, is stay awake last night to eat pizza and enjoy 40 hours of sleeplessness due to healthy, and unadulterated procrastination. So in general, you're tired, you're sick of Pizza and Pitas, and well, you're falling asleep in class.

But don't think it wasn't worthwhile, since you're currently entertaining all those currently surrounding you with your feeble attempts to take notes, pay attention and read the *math*NEWS bible all at the same time. Ok, so maybe you're not actually doing any of those (except the last of course), but many of those wide awake brainer types are giggling to themselves at your expense. And like any good student, you want to avoid being the laughing stock and begin laughing at others.

Well every good problem has an easy solution, and this one is no different. I humbly present to you, "STAYING AWAKE IN CLASS in 7 days". Oddly enough, this may sound like a self help book. I assure you that if it were, it would be called "STAYING AWAKE IN CLASS for Dummies!". And you're no dummy. So here goes:

Tuesday*Day 1*: Go to class and try to pay attention to the Prof. Stop laughing. Try it again. Undoubtedly, you'll fall asleep anyways, so don't get discouraged. Chewing gum from Mel's Diner always helps in the early stages. Just don't read the comics.

Wednesday*Day 2*: Go to the Bomber with friends and discuss anything but school. See if they notice how refreshed you look. When they begin talking about their personal problems, focus on your fries and try not to fall asleep on them (quick-tip: Gravy causes scars). When they begin talking about their personal life, ask for details and take notes for the gossip circle later.

Thursday*Day 3*: Arrive at class sickeningly early and sit with the "smart" kids at the front. You'll notice that they're all sleeping as well, but have mastered the process of sleeping while taking notes. Purchase "TAKING NOTES the SmartWay". Only $14.95 with bonus 10 page excerpt from Classical Algebra 4th edition, available exclusively from me.

Friday*Day 4*: Go to class and try paying attention to the Prof again. When he/she mentions how unusually chipper you're looking, respond with a remark on how good they're teaching today. Compare Day 1 notes to today's notes and observe the significant lack of smeared ink and drool.

Saturday*Day 5*: By now you're on your way to being an A student. Enjoy the day and go grocery shopping. Notice how the checkout guy/girl doesn't give you a sneer for having that "I don't shower except on holiday's" odour. You'll also notice an increase in bed-head. Simply purchase a hat. QED.

Sunday*Day 6*: Since you don't have classes, do all the assignments you've been missing out on for the last week getting extra sleep with this method. Be sure to spend an equal amount of hours staring at the computer monitor as cursing the machine for not working.

Monday*Day 7*: Go to classes. Hand in assignments. Keyword - Jolt.

If at this point you don't feel better, consider switching to another faculty. Purchase, "HOW TO BE AN ARTSY for Dummies" only $12.95 with bonus squeegee and hair dye.

Kev(o)

Jesse Sez

On Tuesday, March 9th, at approximately fifteen minutes past ten in the morning, a sudden fire alarm forced the evacuation of the Math and Computers building. Hundreds and hundreds of people fled, in a selfish desperate effort to save themselves from possible danger. They stood outside in the cold, chanting praises like "burn baby burn" and muttering rumours about assignments being postponed. And so, it seemed, the MC was doomed. But just what was happening inside?

At 10:11 a.m., several helicopters converged over the math building and deposited a strike team of 12 on the roof. They were members of EDUCATION - Eliminate Decent, Understandable, Credible and Accountable Teachers and Instructors in Ontario uNiversities. They had long ago become corrupted and controlled by COWARDICE - Coalition/Organization of Weak and Afraid pRofessors Dedicated to Inappropriate Canadian Education. UW was a once proud member of EDUCATION, when it stood for Expect Decent, Understandable, Credible and Accountable Teachers and Instructors in Ontario uNiversities. But like most other institutions, EDUCATION at UW has fallen victim to COWARDICE, and over the years EDUCATION transformed into the beast it is today. Too many of its members seem passionately dedicated to the deterioration of learning. On Tuesday, they hoped to end it all at UW with one quick strike.

However, while most of the people had run, fortunately several dozen fearless individuals were in still in the building. They were all part of the group known as STUDENTS - Supporters of Thinking and Understanding, Dedicated to Education, kNowledge and Training for Success. They were caught by surprise as EDUCATION opened fire on them. Quickly these STUDENTS dove for cover. They didn't realize that EDUCATION would be so brutal. Bullets ricocheted all around, but luckily the uncomfortable comfy lounge furniture absorbed the momentum of the shots. They seemed trapped, but for the first time ever, they were unwilling to silently bear the torture of the way EDUCATION is.

So, the brave and impetuous STUDENTS, armed with their measly few resources, fought back and incapacitated most of their attackers. But several escaped and they made for the undergrad servers. There, EDUCATION attempted to insert bugs into code, change assignment specs repeatedly, and to destroy hooke.math, in order to divert the focus of STUDENTS away from actual learning, to dealing with frustrating and time-consuming delays. This drove the members of STUDENTS to a furious rage. They fought back, recompiling code, documenting their work, and ensuring that assignments were written unambiguously and completely before they were issued. Even more admirable, was that several students donated their limbs to keep hooke.math running while others fixed it.

By this time, few of the malevolent members of the EDUCATION strike force remained. But those who did went for the professors' offices. They set up subliminal messages and hidden advertisements which promoted intolerance, incomprehensibility and lack of concern. They wanted to ensure that profs would not be satisfactory. Sure, there would still be many good profs who wouldn't succumb to COWARDICE, but enough would so that EDUCATION could wreak havoc. The professors could do things like use their tenure to protect them while they patronized students, wrote deliberately brutal exams and arbitrarily and subjectively assigned marks. They could spend class time ignoring questions while they scribbled illegibly on the blackboards. They wouldn't even need to be able to communicate ideas to others,

Luckily, the STUDENTS fought back. They stood up for themselves, not afraid of the vicious members of education, or the COWARDICE that permeates the Math building and its faculty. They tore down the work of COWARDICE, and created standards for professors to live up to, and independent bodies to monitor and improve professor's actions and behaviour.

Then they commandeered the helicopters of the strike force, and flew right towards the heart and headquarters of EDUCATION. There they met with its leaders, and demanded that EDUCATION be restored to its former glory, its former virtue and its former purpose.

Those members of STUDENTS have not been seen since; nor have the like of them been seen here for many years. It is doubtful that such STUDENTS will ever come again. Sure, there are still many people who claim to be STUDENTS, but in truth, so many of them have joined with APATHETICLY - Association for Pathetic Attempts To Hide sElfishness and Thoughtlessness as Inaction Caused by Lack of Yinfluence.

And so COWARDICE poisons EDUCATION unhindered, and the students return to MC, unaware of what has just happened, and heck, they don't even really care.

Jesse Bergman

Movie Nights

Hey... it beats a PMATH class anyday

As anyone who has a good knowledge of films may know, Stanley Kubrick has said "Cut" for the last time. What worse, you may have missed yesterday's showing of A Clockwork Orange along with Reservior Dogs. But do not fret, meinen damen und herren, there will be more great movies shown by the "Film Guys". Yes, you heard correctly, more films. What films are being shown, you ask? Well, here is the tentative schedule for your reading enjoyment:

March 18: John Carpenter's Vampires, Imterview with a Vampire and Pleasantville, a film to be announced

March 25: The Seige,The Peacemaker and SnakeEyes, The Game

April 1: You've Got Mail,Sleepless in Seattle and Stepmom, Saving Private Ryan

For more details, check out the frequent posters found around the Math and Computer building. As well, you can find out more about movie night by contacting mathSOC or looking at the white board in front of the C&D and the Comfy Lounge. We hope to see you there for these fine movies. And on behalf of the "Movie Guys", Auf Weidersehen!

John "The Pseudo-Expert" Swan
on behalf of Mike Shea, Blue and Mark Hugel

[On behalf of Pure Math students everywhere, I would like to object to the statement that "John Carpenter's Vampires" is more fun than a PMATH class any day. Thank you. — ΣEd]

Hey, I'm a Dumb-Ass

This filler provided by Texas Mike O'Shea

APATHETICA

Objection: Circular reasoning can be flawed, and poor initial assumptions may lead to incorrect results.

Reply: This is a common fallacy which I believe it necessary to address before my next column, in which I present my Conclusive 100% Absolute Positive Proof of God Argument, which I expect to be the big one which will finally silence all opposition on this clearly defined issue.

Consider the following thought experiment. Suppose we have a Universe created by a supreme being (a "God" if you will). In this Universe there is a planet on which there is a prominent University, with a newspaper containing a regular column by an intelligent philosopher on the subject of the existence of this God.

Now, suppose this philosopher claims conclusion 1, C1, which is that the Universe has a supreme being which created it. Despite the fact that he's right, he still, demonstrating his astounding patience with the less enlightened, derives this conclusion using a formal logical system.

He uses the following two reasonable axioms: A1, which is that all dogs are green with purple polka dots, and A2, which is that C1 is correct. Using these axioms, one can easily (and independently) verify the truth of C1. The reasoning is outlined here: We know A2 is true. It can be shown that A2 implies C1. Therefore C1 must be true.

What has happened here? We note that axiom A1 is a "poor initial assumption". It is likely that many of the people in this Universe in fact own dogs which are not green with purple polka dots. So the axiom can be said to be, in fact, false. In fact, it is quite possible that NO dogs in this universe are green with purple polka dots. So this axiom can, in fact, be said to lie in the somewhat stronger category known as "really, really false".

Also, a closer examination of axiom A2 by the trained mind can show that in fact it is merely a statement of assumption of C1. So in a broader and "more reasonable" axiomatic system, A2 would have to be proved - which can only be done by proof of C1. So A2 should not in fact be used to prove C1. Ignorance of this subtlety is known as "circular logic".

Yet we note that this hypothetical Universe has, in fact, a supreme being which created it. Therefore the conclusion of this philosopher, C1, is true. How can this have happened? If the objection above can be believed, C1 would end up being false, due to the "poor initial assumption" and "circular reasoning". Clearly, it is not. In fact, anybody who so protested would be likely to spend an eternity writhing in wrathful, fiery perdition.

Sure, it's possible that gnomic sophistry may, in fact, be incorrect. But if you were living in that Universe, it would be an obvious mistake to protest that. I hope you'll remember this cautionary example, and be a little more willing next time to question your fundamental beliefs about logic.

Next week: I put an end to all those other silly religions and invalidate 234 of the world's current 237 wars by finally convincing everyone that there's a God. The conclusion of this week's column is requisite.

Derek "I Can't Believe It's Not Logic" Kisman

Spermatikos Logos #5

Howdy, y'all! I hope you liked the last puzzle I gave you. There were only two submissions for that one, from Nick "the Robert" Page, and from Ashif & Oliver. Both submissions were correct. I roll my handy-dandy two-sided dice, and... the winner is Ashif & Oliver. You can pick up your glorious mystery prize in the MathSoc office. Now, for my second act... I present to you this week's puzzle. Submissions are due on Monday, March 22nd at 6:00pm in the BLACK BOX. (It's secret location is on the wall across from the Comfy Lounge.) You can also submit electronically to mathNEWS or to myself (gngarbet@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca). Have fun!

Last week's puzzle

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
15 min	90 min	70 min	35 min	45 min
TriCar Cinema	Roaring Lion Movies	Left Field Studio	Pegasus Productions	Little Screen Pictures
"Jerry's On Fire"	*"Hatman"*	*"Greed"*	*"My Best French Dressing"*	*"The Flock"*
George Monroe,	Joe Roberts,	Tom Hayworth,	Sean Silverstone,	Jimmy Bullock,
Marilyn Clooney	Julia DiMaggio	Rita Cruise	Alicia Connery	Sandra Dean

This week's puzzle – Winter Is Fun #3

This week's Logos is dedicated to my mom, who's having her 50th birthday next week. There are a number of other people with birthdays coming up too (Monday March 8th to Friday March 26th). What's really odd about them is, they've all got the same first names (Andrew, Becky, Cathy, David) and the same last names (Wanderoff, Xilli, Yormann, Zorralot). Can you figure out when each of the sixteen people has his/her birthday? (A calendar may come in useful.) Oh, and happy birthday to those of you who I forgot to mention!

1. Unfortunately, nobody has his/her birthday on a weekend.
2. Cathy Wanderoff's birthday is sometime before David Yormann's.
3. Everyone whose birthday ends in a 6 shares the same last name.
4. There are no Andrews or Xilli people who have birthdays in the third week.
5. Only one person has a birthday on a Wednesday.
6. Becky Yormann's birthday is two days before David Zorralot's.
7. Three of the Andrews have birthdays on consecutive days.
8. No more than two people share any one birthday.
9. Only Davids have a birthday ending in a 2.
10. Becky Xilli's birthday is on the same day of the week as another Xilli person.
11. Everyone whose birthday is on Thursday has a different last name.
12. Each week has an even number of birthdays.
13. Nobody has a birthday ending in an 8, or on two other days.
14. Three people who are Zorralot have birthdays in a diagonal line on the calendar.
15. The only other diagonal line across all three weeks contains (in some order) exactly one of each first and last name.
16. Monday, Thursday, and Friday each have half as many birthdays as Tuesday.
17. Andrew Xilli's birthday is exactly a week before Andrew Wanderoff's.
18. Everyone whose birthday ends in a 5 has a different first name.

Gigi Garbett

mathNEWSquiz #4

Demotivator: Failure

When your best just isn't good enough

Hey there, everybody! How are you all doing? I certainly hope that you have all done better on your midterms than I (Stu). February was my month of failure, but I'm pretty much back on my feet and I'm ready to take on the world! Are you all ready to take on the squiz?

Speaking of the squiz, here are the solutions for last issue's squiz: **Song Lyrics:** 1) Captain Tractor, Frozen Puck To The Head; 2) Sheryl Crow, Leaving Las Vegas; 3) Beastie Boys, Hey Ladies; 4) XTC, Mayor Of Simpleton; 5) The Offspring, Self Esteem; **TV:** 1)Gary Burghoff; 2)Frank Thornton; 3)Jack Soo (apparently, the character's name was Sargeant Yemana, not Yamata); 4)John Inman; 5)Robert Fuller; **Numbers** 1)20; 2)32; 3)8; 4)24 (42 in Britain); 5)68; **Ancient Religion** 1) his penis, or phallus; 2) Kronos; 3) the name of the Hound of Ulster, Cu Chulainn, means "Hound of Chulainn"; 4) Gilgamesh; 5) Pelops.

We received two submissions for last issue. The Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada scored 19, plus 3 for the story, yielding 22 points, but the big winner, once again, is Live From Vancouver ... HAMMER! with 24 points. You can pick up your squizprize, HAMMER!, in the MathSoc office.

Last issue, I wanted people to send me ideas for a possible theme for last issue's squiz. The Royal Recreational Lemming Society of Canada has provided us with such a theme! Their response was: "Theme: Dithsco Thtoo's tragic story before he came to Waterloo for Mathematics ... You see, Dithsco Thtoo used to play hockey in Las Vegas but he always had this dream to pursue a mathematical lifestyle. His girlfriend Mabel preferred hockey and her career at McDonald's and wasn't willing to follow Thtoo to Waterloo. She flat out told him "And of Mathematics, well, I want none" so Thtoo has been forced to face the hardships of life at Waterloo all alone with no self esteem ... . Isn't it a tragic story?"

Song Lyrics

Title and band for one point apiece, one point for the theme

1. "Bodies fill the fields I see
   The slaughter never ends"
2. "Evil minds that plot destruction
   Sorcerers of death's construction"
3. "It's time to serve your conscience overseas
   Coming in fast, took over me."
4. "Wield the best big stick
   To turn the winning trick But this was something more"
5. "Broken bottles under children's feet
   Bodies strewn across a dead end street"

Stanley Kubrick

1. When is Stanley Kubrick's birthday?
2. What three roles did Peter Sellers play in Dr. Strangelove ... or how I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb?
3. If you notice, the ending to Anthony Burgess's book A Clockwork Orange is different from Stanley Kubrick's movie of the same name. Why?
4. What movie had the infamous bath scene with Kirk Douglas?
5. What was the last movie Stanley Kubrick made?

And Just For The HAL Of It, How About Some NCAA Basketball?

1. Who did the Kentucky Wildcats defeat in last years championship game?
2. Of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Cal State-Sacramento, Cal State-Northridge and Cal State-Fullerton, which school does not belong and why?
3. Who was the first NCAA champion for men's basketball?
4. And who won the first NIT tournament?
5. What nickname does Samford use for their teams?

Stompin' Tom Connors

1. From what town does the "tomato" in "the Ketchup Song" hail?
2. What is the real name of the man about whom the song "Big Joe Mufferaw" was written?
3. What is the "man in the moon"?
4. Where was Stompin' Tom born?
5. When does his back ache?

Good luck, everybody! I hope you enjoy the questions for this issue. Remember, you can win only by submitting. The submission deadline is Mar. 22 ad 6:30 pm. You can submit either by depositing your answers into the BLACK BOX across from the Comfy Lounge on the third floor of MC, or you can mail scepollo@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca with your solutions.

John "The Pseudo-Expert" Swan
Stooooooooooooooooooooooo

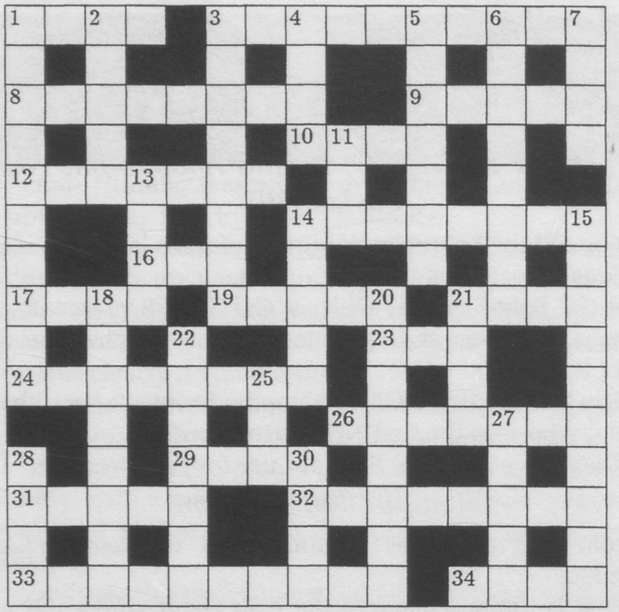
Math Thoughts

I was wondering the other day what to do with my useless unscientific calculators from elementary school, and then a brilliant thought flashed in my mind. All I needed was a can of pink spraypaint, 4 woodscrews and crazyglue. First I painted the calculators bright pink, and crazyglued on my belly button lint, then after anesthetizing myself with Rogaine I attached the calculators to my skull with the wood screws. I am now a math moose, so please treat me to headbutt and a moose call!

Paul Royston

Orientation 99 Needs YOU !!!

We are still looking for leaders and icebreakers for next fall's frosh week.
Have a blast, meet fellow mathies, and know that you helped a new student enjoy their first university experience!
To sign up, pick up an application outside the MathSoc office.
Any questions? E-mail Trevor Ray at trray@undergrad.math



GRIDXCD

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	R	A	N	D	O	M	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N	

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Raider shelled lieutenant (4)
3. Sombre farmer is death personified (4,6)
8. Dispatch Mrs. Simpson: rent from behind (8)
9. Record of letters from adolescent Ryan (5)
10. 4 points, united (4)
12. Truck congestion on highway (7)
14. Alluring legerdemain contains trap (8)
16. Upset in Versailles (3)
17. Lump is a pronounced bore (4)
19. Cow in tundra is bizarre; it has no right (5)
21. Shoo! Lousy cats (4)
23. Poorly marked route becomes a ditch? (3)
24. Somewhat mediocre mate deservedly incinerated (8)
26. Mach holds gamble with Scottish king (7)
29. Wean off again (4)
31. Without letup? I need limits (2,3)
32. Deep soprano notes heard (4,4)
33. Make one woozy with frantic excitation (10)
34. Vocally passes on colours (4)

Down

1. Opposing ecclesiastical tax mired in tomfoolery (10)
2. Delivered a spoken letter from Athens (5)
3. Wrote up rag on domain of famous cat (8)
4. Computer types NUCLEAR MISSILES: MISSING 100 (4)
5. Smoothing the transition from day to night (7)
6. My article's endless title is pitiful (8)
7. Rear speakers give energetic emissions (4)
11. Many years are topsy-turvy (3)
13. Exploit rotten fate (4)
14. Approaching death, after losing rib to pile of dirt (5)
15. Edited schematics for oral examinations (10)
18. Common visit (8)
20. Figure indefinite integral (8)
21. Drive winged creatures to the North (4)
22. Word for which this isn't a clue? (7)
25. Barely make out sound of shriek (3)
27. Yemen bombed foe (5)
28. Mischievous deity toned down for the audience (4)
30. Exclamation: "Oh! Aw, nuts" (4)

*grid*COMMENTS

GridMaster Derek here, back after my hiatus. Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated, and mostly fueled by Donny. I heard the millions of voices crying out, then being suddenly silenced, at the lack of a cryptic last issue; but here I am again, good as new (ok, better). So once again you teeming masses can find some pitiful shred of meaning to your hopeless existence. Enjoy!

It seems there were no submissions to Donny's hilarious Cynical GridWord. Perhaps the fact that two of the clues were switched and one was missing deterred you? How the heck do you guys ever manage to slog through CS assignments? ("Sorry, I know it's due in 15 minutes, but apparently we switched Assignments 1 & 2 on our web page. Oh, and you need to use Lisp, not C like it says. Good luck.") For shame.

So, I'll give the usual schpiel... there are fabulous prizes to be won if you submit, and even if you don't win, your name appears up in lights right here. Just think of the bragging rights. You owe it to yourself, your mother, and three generations of your descendants to submit! Come on, everybody's doing it...

By the way, Donny seems to have gone AWOL. I'm not sure what's up with him, but it looks like there's no Conventional this week. I'm sure nobody cares; I just figured a few observant souls might notice the lack of filler (otherwise known as "Conventional Clues") on the page.

Derek Kisman