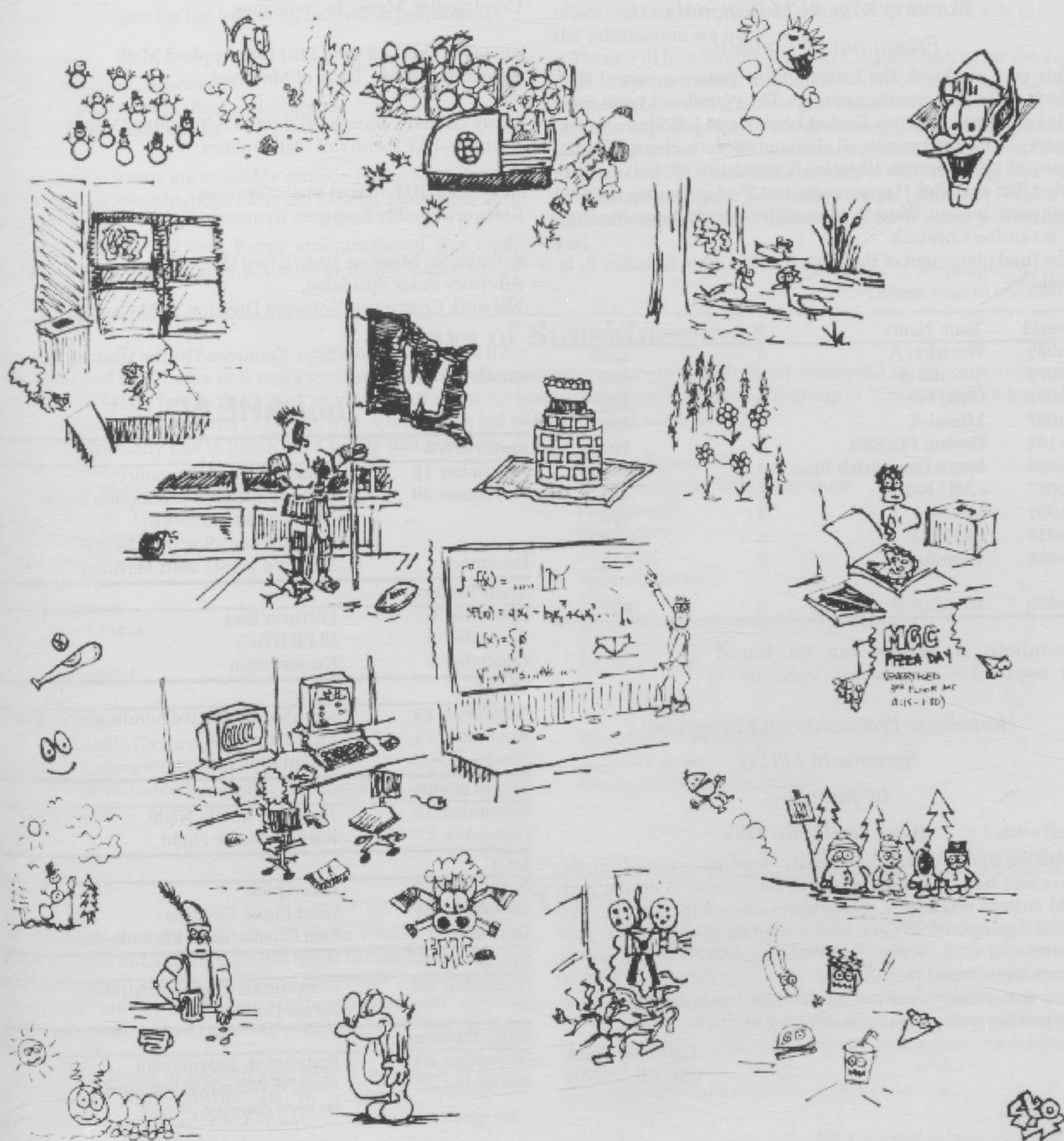


# *math* NEWS

Volume 81, Issue 5

Friday, November 19, 1999





A Student Chapter of the ACM

## CSC Flash

### Waterloo Wins ACM Regional

#### Programming Contest!

This past weekend, the University of Waterloo hosted this region's ACM programming contest. The Waterloo A team consisting of Donny Cheung, Ondrej Lhotak and Jeff Shute swept up first place by answering all eight questions with a total time penalty of 1295 minutes. Waterloo B, consisting of Neil Girdhar, Chris Allen and Nick Harvey, came in 12<sup>th</sup> place among the 103 teams participating. Waterloo's coach for the programming contest is Gordon Cormack.

The final placement of the top ten teams, plus Waterloo B, is as follows:

userid	Team Name	# Answers	Total
acm089	Waterloo A	8	1295
acm074	Toronto A	5	960
acm081	CMU N	4	529
acm097	Miami A	4	890
acm101	Dayton FLYERS	4	1085
acm086	Notre Dame Irish Blue	3	355
acm027	CMU N-1	3	395
acm001	McGill 1	3	453
acm018	McGill 2	3	481
acm088	Toronto 1	3	554
acm075	Waterloo B	3	609

Complete standings can be found at: <http://plg.uwaterloo.ca/~acm00/regionals/>

### Homebrew Processors and Integrated

#### Systems in FPGAs

by Jan Gray

place and time TBA

With the advent of large inexpensive field-programmable gate arrays and tools it is now practical for anyone to design and build custom processors and systems-on-a-chip. Jan will discuss designing with FPGAs, and present the design and implementation of xr16, yet another FPGA-based RISC computer system with integrated peripherals.

And remember, when you join the CSC, you don't just get a membership; you get a membership card!

Calum T. Dalek  
CSC Chairbeing

## CAREERS IN MATH AND CS

(Panel discussion)

Tuesday, November 23

4:30 p.m. in MC 4020

Meet graduates of the Math Faculty who will talk and answer questions about their careers:

Rene Gilroy, MMath (97) C&O  
Cryptologist, Mytec Technologies

Janet Grad MMath (93), PhD (98) Applied Math  
Research Analyst, Bank of Montreal

Sandy Graham, BMath, BEd (90) CS/Teaching Option  
Lecturer, UW Faculty of Mathematics

Elaine Ooi, BMath (94) Math/Business  
Software Quality Engineer, Symantec-Delrina

Nathalie St. Maurice, BMath (96) CS  
Advisory Sales Specialist,  
Network Computing Software Division, IBM Canada

All students are welcome. Sponsored by the Women in Mathematics Committee.

## lookAHEAD

### mathNEWS

November 19	Issue #5 redefines reality
November 29	Last mathNEWS production night before 2000 (Issue #6)
	6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
December 3	Issue #6 is ISO 9001 certified

### Math Faculty

December 6	Lectures End
December 8	ELPE (PAC)
December 9	Exams begin

### MathSoc

November 23	MathSoc Executive nominations close
November 23	Milk & Cookies
Nov29—Dec2	Orientation Interviews

### Movie Nights

November 25	The Next Movie Night
December 2	Regular Movie Night

### MGC

November 20	LaserQuest
November 24	Grad Photo Re-takes
December 3	Last Chance Grad Photo Re-takes

### Co-op

November 26	Continuous Phase Registration Forms Due
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### Miscellaneous

November 20	Badminton Tournament
November 29	mathNEWS office becomes its own country.



## Prez Sez

Hi everybody, I hope midterms went well for you (at least that would make one of us). Hmm, stuff to say, here we go.

Orientation interviews are fast approaching (Nov 29 to Dec 2) so if you haven't submitted an application form yet please hurry and sign up for an interview slot and get your application form in.

MathSoc Executive Nominations are open for the Winter and Fall 2000 Academic terms (two term commitment) and the Spring 2000 Academic term (one term commitment). Nominations are now open for the following Executive positions:

President  
Vice-President, Academic  
Vice-President, Activities and Services  
Vice-President, Finances

Nomination forms are available outside of the MathSoc Office (MC3038). Nominations close on Tuesday November 23rd at 4:28 PM.

On Monday (15<sup>th</sup>) a very happy announcement was made public that Scotiabank gave 2.5 million to the University of

Waterloo (officially termed 'we entered a partnership' which sounds nicer, but hey). This has some correlation to the new Software Engineering Degree which is in the works (to be offered somewhere halfway between Computer Science and Computer and Electrical Engineering). More information is available in the various press releases that were made concerning the event, but if you want more information on this new Degree, which the powers that be are trying to get through in time to be offered to incoming students this fall, come by the exec office and talk to myself or Trevor (VPA). We'll fill you in on all the information we have.

There will be a Faculty Student Liaison Meeting on the 23rd. This is a joint council which allows information and ideas to be passed between students and the administration. So if anyone has anything they want discussed (changes they want to have happen, etc) come by the exec office and talk to a random exec about it. On the agenda already is the poster issue that has been plaguing our publicity attempts (although despite the difficulty our publicity director has been doing a wonderful job).

Stephen S Skrzydlo  
<Insert coin to continue>

## Rays of Sunshine

The Fire and Ice Charity Ball was a success! Thanks to everyone who came out and all of our wonderful sponsors, we were able to raise over \$4000 for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region! An honourable mention goes to the group of "Crazy Frosh" who, in the silent auction, took away the Pixy Stix with a whopping bid of \$400! (retail value \$17).

I would especially like to thank our Charity Ball sponsors:

A Cut Above  
A-Z Party World  
Aesthetically Yours  
Andersen Consulting  
Blue Dog Bakery Cafe  
Clarica  
Dairy Queen  
Domino's Pizza  
Harvey's  
Huether Hotel  
Imprint  
Iron Warrior  
Jose's Noodle Factory  
Kinko's Copies  
Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra  
Mel's Diner  
MKS

Molson Breweries  
Olympic Gyros Subs Restaurant  
Pharmasave  
Pita Factory  
Pizza Hut  
Right Angle Cafe  
Sybase  
Texas Bar-B-Q Restaurant and Tavern  
The Apple Stylist  
The Fox & Pheasant  
The Paper Factory  
Things I Like  
Waterloo Bowling Lanes  
Weaver's Arms  
Westmount Place Pharmacy

Laurie Knox  
VP Activities and Services, F99

## MGC Corner

Hello to all you grads out there! Photo retakes on November 24 are full, but anyone who still needs to take/retake a photo, you get one last chance on Friday, December 3 (morning). If you haven't taken a grad photo yet, beware that you won't be on the composite at all, so make sure that you do get it done December 3.

Also, don't forget to get your grad blurbs in as soon as possible! Send your blurbs in to Augusta Yeung at [acmyeung@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:acmyeung@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca). And keep dig-

ging for those baby pictures, since the yearbook is still taking them in. Just drop by the MGC office with baby photos and other neat snaps from your years in UW. Be sure to write your name, userID and a caption on the back of each picture.

Ring sales are still going on. For more info, check out the mgc homepage ([www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc](http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc)) or contact Sam Lisi at [stlisi@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:stlisi@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca).

Rebecca L.  
MGC Communications Director

## The Sunrise Bleeds Beauty

Is anyone else getting sick of receiving yahoo and hotmail email from people in CS? Why don't they use their undergrad account? You can telnet in from most places, and it sure saves resources on the network compared to Netscape. It's like every day someone sits down beside me, logs on to some server in the US and checks their email. That's brilliant! Then you have the people who log in and run wincenter so they can run Explorer and from that they play online chess. Bite me! Now that we have all these fast servers, everyone is running 3 Netscape windows, playing mindsweeper and downloading porn (cliche as it is). Back in my day, we had to run Mosaic, and we liked it! Actually it sucked, but we used it. Anyone who ran Netscape was drawn, quartered, beaten and shot for wasting resources. Now we tolerate it. I betcha the newer servers have just increased the amount of porn and mp3's floating around the network. Isn't that great, how everyone jokes about downloading porn? "What are you on, crack?" "No, I'm just downloading porn." "Oh ok". It's like the in thing to do now — yesterday it was crack, today it's porn, tomorrow it'll be Tickle-Me-Brittney-Spears dolls. (I don't know anything about them so don't ask me.)

Ever see those tours going around the building? Sometimes I just want to rub my eyes until they are all red, and then grab one of them on the arm and in a low moaning voice plead: "Don't ... come ... here" and then pretend to break down and start crying. That would be fun.

The other night I was walking back late at night from the lab. It was that bitterly cold and windy night, but I needed to unwind so I decided to take a bit of a stroll before I went home. I figured I'd just go home a longer, scenic route, so I headed towards University Ave. from the Math building. As I passed by Dana Porter, I saw some other guy in a black trench coat walking rather fast, which is usually no big deal; but what caught my eye was the out-of-place bright red binder or clipboard or something he was carrying in his folded left arm. It's probably nothing, I thought, but I was getting cold anyway, so I started to walk faster... but he was walking so fast that he was still getting farther away. Suddenly he stopped, right by the low wall of stones outside EL. He sat down on the wall and looked to his right, rather anxiously.

Intrigued, curious, I slowed down, and stood still and silent. He hadn't seen me, so I slowly slithered out of sight. I ducked behind the bushes next to the Physics building and peered out. As I did so, I saw a tall slender woman with blond hair in a pony tail and a brown jacket sit down next to him. She looked upset, and I couldn't hear exactly what they were saying, but at one point he put his hand on her shoulder. The woman's voice was stuttered and interrupted by sniffing, so she might have just been cold and had a runny nose, or maybe she had been crying, or at least tearing. I dunno, I was too far away too tell.

More curious then ever I considered trying to move closer, but there was no better cover, so I remained still. I wish I could've heard what was going on but from my distance the voices seemed like distorted and wordless sounds. Eventually, they both stood up, and embraced, and as they did so, I saw a small piece of paper fly out from between them, carried off secretly by the wind towards the library (DP). Then the woman hurried off out view around the Physics building, watched by the man for several moments; and then in turn he hurried off towards South Campus Hall. As soon as both were out of sight, I emerged and found the piece of paper, stuck in the grass right beside the

library. And here is what the piece of paper said:

9 A 5 S 4 I K S S 2 W 4 T O E 5 N 7 A E 7 I A 6 I  
9 T 3 L N 5 R A 7 E 6 5 M L O S 8 0 N 3 N O T S O

If anyone can tell me what they think it means, I'd appreciate it. I have a feeling it might be a password or something, but I'm not sure. Please contact me if you figure it out (jbergman@uwaterloo.ca).

This past weekend I went home to Ottawa, just to visit the family and such. I managed to see a friend or two from back home as well. Went driving and tried to get into Gatineau park but the stupid road was closed. But cruising is always fun, so we just drove around. At one point we were looking for my new coop placement. Oh, I forgot to mention that coop made a lovely mistake: On November 7<sup>th</sup> a job said "NOT RANKED", and on the 9<sup>th</sup> it said "OFFER". What? Transformers, more than meets the eye! I raced around NH, talking to 7 different people there trying to unravel what happened. Anyway, I'm not sure how, but they entered NOT RANKED and later OFFER, but the company only sent OFFER. Hopefully by the time this is printed I will have resolved the situation with coop.

Speaking of coop, I heard this rumour that coop might accept students to create a new version of Access, CECS Online, which will be open-sourced! That might be very cool, because it'd be like Linux; we all can submit code and improve the system, which, oh, would be so sweet. I wonder what coop has said about this though, they rejected it before, but maybe the students proposing it this term are organized and committed; maybe they have a chance? Or maybe we should stick with Access!

Anyway, back to Ottawa. The best, ha, sigh, the best, is going to see the movie American Pie with your younger brother and your mom! I am going to kill my friends who told me "oh ya it's a great movie", and that "I would love it". Bastards. They neglected to mention it's not for moms or younger brothers. The rating was AA, so I figure, ah, whatever, it'll have a couple of moments were the actors kiss or something, and that's it. WRONG! If you haven't seen the movie, skip to the next paragraph unless you want to know what it's about... the opening 1/2 hour is about guys masturbating! Can you believe it, sitting through that with your family. "That's terrible! That can't happen," I think to myself. "I mean not that I would know, I mean not all guys act like... I mean they don't... and you can't... oh never mind, just let them watch." Meanwhile the first dozen scenes or so are all graphic detail of things you just don't want to see, uhh... so my mom left but my brother stayed, which I guess was ok, I mean at that age I'd heard it all too, I just hadn't seen it on a big screen with surround digital sound.

Anyway, I guess it was a good movie TO SEE WITH YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-25 and NOT RELATED TO YOU. I also tried to go see Dogma which has those two guys from Clerks and Mallrats, ha, they rock. Supposed to be good I hear.

Oh, one last thing, I was climbing the other day, just some free climbing, no equipment. I almost fell really far. I thought it was safe, until I almost fell. Did you ever have one of those, where something so deadly could have happened to you, and even though you prevented or avoided it, still it's unnerving to think of what could've happened in that situation? Flattened Jesse! CraZy! Oh well, I'll just be more careful—not gonna let fear interfere with passion.

Jesse Bergman



# Combo Number Five

*with apologies to Lou Bega*

"Hello, and welcome to McDonald's. May I take your order?"

"Ladies and gentlemen... I'd like Combo Number Five."

One... two... three, four, five,  
Everybody's in the car, so c'mon, let's ride  
To the... Pizza Hut around the corner.  
The boys say they want an extra large but I really don't wanna  
Shirt stain like I had last week.  
The greasy streak was quite unique.  
I like Burger King, Dairy Queen, Wendy's, and Arby's,  
And as I continue, we're going into Harvey's.  
I say, "Combo five," to clerks in the restaurant.  
Is my order now just what I want?  
"Regular drink is too small! I'll revise it;  
So please supersize it!"



## Chorus:

A little bit of processed cheese is supplied.  
A little bit of French fries on the side,  
A little bit of onion, in between  
A couple wads of lettuce sorta green.  
A little bit of sesame on the bun,  
A little bit of pickle just for fun.  
A little bit of special sauce front and back,  
And a tiny bit of meat makes a Big Mac.



Combo number five!

Now twist and shout, and check the menu out.  
'Cause without any doubt there's no health food about.  
Choose KFC or Mr. Sub.  
Drink your Coke down and eat your "food" up.  
Then we'll all go to TCBY,  
And if you like dessert then you oughta come by.



## Chorus

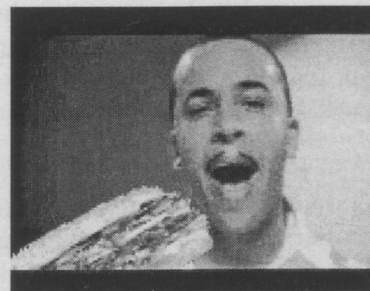
Size it... upsize it!  
Combo number five!

## Chorus

Fast... food... is... all...  
Loaded down with cholesterol,  
And even though they're full of fat,  
Yes, I *would* like some fries with that!

Combo number five!

Mike "A Little Bit of Hammer" Hammond



## Cynic's Corner

### Partridge in a Parse Tree

Regular readers of this column (well, I can dream, can't I?) may recall an article from last Winter (Issue 4) in which I discussed dubious signs and the troubles of English. Permit me to indulge once again. I mean, obviously English hasn't changed; the language is still ambiguous and difficult to parse. For example, the second printer in MC3016 has that little label on it signifying "Out of Order". (At least, it's been that way for a month or so.) The naive person may look at this and become confused: 2 comes after 1 and before 3, right? So how can this printer be "Out of Order"? It hasn't been swapped with any of the other printers. (Indeed, if it were then probably two printers would become out of order.) However, this is the wrong way to consider that phrase: It really means that the printer no longer has a runtime of order  $n$ .

From this we proceed to the following road signs, which were seen by me on a trip to the US in the summer. They range from the easily misinterpretable like in the above case to the plain bizarre.

- "End Road Work": Obviously placed at the end of the construction we were driving through by a group of quiet protesters. I tend to agree that we should end road work, but then I guess the roads would deteriorate too much.
- "No Outlet": This sign on a short dead end street seemed to signify that if you wanted to use electricity down there, you would be out of luck. Either that or the retail store changed location.
- "Grooved Pavement": Insert your own groovy comment here.
- "Stop Ahead. Get Ticket.": On the NY State Thruway they don't play around — obviously they know that you have been or will be speeding, so there's no way out of retribution.
- "Jim Thorpe — Use Exit 34": Apparently the wife of someone with amnesia was worried enough that they made one of those large green signs to serve as a reminder.
- "Cemetery Entrance": Another sign signifying a Dead End? No, actually it means cemeteries gain access to the highway here.

And speaking of gaining road access, the most interesting sign I saw this time wasn't one that had words at all. It was simply a yellow sign containing the image of a seesaw (with kids on it). I immediately equated this with those signs of fire engines or deer or ducks or walrus (okay, no walrus) which indicate that such animals/vehicles are prone to be crossing the road in the vicinity. I kept waiting for two people to bob by on a teetertotter, the apparatus lazily crossing the street, moving forward with each up and down motion. Indeed, there was actually one of those things in a nearby park, but no one was riding it around. Maybe it was defective.

(Incidentally, those regular readers from above may also recall the last column in this similar vein featured the sign "Slow Children" as the main peculiarity. I did see a similar sign this time: "Slow Children at Play". But there wasn't quite as much chance of misinterpretation since the 'Slow' was bigger and separated from the lower part of the sign by the image of a kid. Still, one COULD take that sign to mean the slow children need

to be reminded of what it looks like to be playing... one could, but I believe I will stop digressing for now.)

In conclusion, I'll get back to the English language for just a moment. You've probably all heard the questions "why is abbreviation such a long word?" and "why are there so many syllables in the word monosyllabic?" and "why can't you pronounce phonetic phonetically?", but here's a new one you can impress people with. I've discovered that hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is a word signifying a fear of long words. But exactly how is your doctor supposed to tell you what he's diagnosed without scaring the hell out of you?? I think the people who came up with English decided to have a little fun one day and mess with our minds. Either that or they wanted to make language classes more difficult. (Any thoughts or opinions about this can be directed to *mathNEWS* or your friendly neighbourhood language professor.)

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

## Language

I was just reading "OhMyGodItsFriday, iMacs, and Larch" from this issue of *mathNEWS* (which will, of course, by the time this is printed be the last issue of *mathNEWS*, but whatever). In case you don't remember the article very well, there was something mentioned in the first paragraph that I will remind you of, "a) EVERYONE WHO HAS ALREADY GONE THROUGH CS246 has been gyped." I'd like to elucidate you about the last word in the quotation: it's a racial slur. "Gyp" is short for gypsy, and the word "gyped" is used to mean "taken advantage of" or "stolen from" because gypsies have been (and in many cases still are) thought of as thieves. Just wanted to mention this so that everyone could understand the implications of using this word and, hopefully, choose not to use it in the future.

Well, that needed to be said because it is a very serious issue. It is important for me to remember, though, that articles for *mathNEWS*, even those on very serious issues, cannot be completely bereft of humour, so here we go: So some human with a gun runs into a room full of functions and shouts "Give me all of your money or I'll integrate and differentiate all of you." Naturally all of the functions start laughing, and when the person asks, "Hey, what's so funny?" one of the functions blurts out, "Looks like this gun-wielding maniac doesn't know the fundamental theorem of calculus!"

James {"Malibu James", "Big James", "Smooth Jimmy Whyte", "Barrie Whyte", "James Q Whyte", "Whytie", "James Wyght", "Chicago J"} Whyte

## Award for Distinguished Teaching

The "Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Registered Student" nomination deadline is the second Friday in February, so start considering your nominations now! Need further information? Contact TRACE at Ext. 3132 or see <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infotrac/taaward.html>. Sponsored by TRACE and the Graduate Studies Office.



## I NIL Dereferenced and I can't get up!

WOW! Last week's article about class diversions has received quite a bit of attention. Firstly, I'd like to point out a bit of **VERY** bad racial slang used in the article. The word "gypped" descends from the word "gypsy" and implies that gypsies are thieves and deceitful. I apologize for any offense incurred. On a more happy note, there was a bit of kickASS coverage of the article in the November 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the UW daily bulletin on the uwaterloo.ca web-page (a mention of "lecture football"). So with so much controversy/success with that article, here are some more things to do in class, though I'm not saying that you should actually DO any of them, but I'm convinced that class interest increases if you try them out.

- **Second-best pen trick tournament** — Ever notice how there are some people who have the greatest of all pen tricks? Well, the key to this game is to NOT have the best trick, but the second best. This is so that you can compete with everyone who CAN'T do pen tricks (i.e. drop pen consistently). And if there are two people who can do pen-tricks without dropping their spinning apparatus, then the game suddenly becomes "third-best pen trick tournament" and so on, until the winner of the tournament is he who can drop his pen the most.
- **"ELBOW" competition** — This particular game is designed for Math 136, Math 235 and any other class incapable of retaining a 50% conscious class figure. So the steps to playing this game are as follows: i) Pick a suitable class where every other person is falling, or already is asleep. ii) Identify all sleeping people as targets. iii) The goal is to write the word "ELBOW" on a target's forehead, or "FOREHEAD" on a target's elbow. A variation of this game is to compete amongst friends. Everyone should choose a different body part as their personal stamp of approval. The winner of the game is the person who is able to label the most targets with their stamp. Note that targets can be labelled once per stamp.
- **Asteroid Warfare** — This is an Algorithmic game with running time  $O(\text{until you get punched out})$   
Repeat  
Pick a favourite target.  
Crumple up lecture notes into asteroid type formation.  
Throw paper asteroid at target when prof is not looking.  
Wait 2 minutes.  
Until (you get punched out).
- **Testing of contagious yawn theory** — This is an interesting bit of scientific experimentation you can do right in class! It's easy and it's simple and it's absolutely free. (I might even give you a cookie.) To test the theory, all you have to do is give a Leo styled yawn every five minutes. What's a Leo yawn, you ask? It's the yawn where you stretch your arms out and up as far as you can reach, stretch and flex your back and arm muscles to your hearts content, and open your mouth as wide as possible letting out the best yawn you can. The proper yawn should last from 3 - 5 seconds and you should feel REALLY good at the end of it. Remember, repeat every five minutes. In no time, everyone will be thinking about pyjamas and sweet dreams.
- **"I, Mac"** — This is Simon Says with the words "Simon Says" replaced with "I, Mac, say". (There's some other crazy iMac games, but they might be considered thievery.)

That's a short summary for this week's games. Let me take the opportunity here to promote, eight months in advance, next summer's ENGSCUNT. It'll be summer term, it'll be early in the term, and you'll all have time to do it!

Muh.

Kev(o)

## mastHEAD

### Complete with unimaginative subheader

So here we are at the penultimate issue of the 19xx's! With it comes a word of advice for you: Don't try to lift 1000 copies of *mathNEWS* all by yourself. I remember doing it a couple years ago... however this time my back protested the action fairly strongly. And something else to avoid is getting thrown by the throat. Don't take these tips lightly, it's all a rather nasty business.

Anyway, I don't have too much to say here, though I have noticed that *mathNEWS* Production Night posters are getting torn down halfway through Mondays again. There wasn't much of this during the first three issues, which was nice because then I could take down the posters myself and reuse them. (Unlike one-shot lectures and events, *mathNEWS* is pretty generic.) But even though I'm perfectly willing to remove my own placards, the service guys say regulations require their preemptive removal. <shrug> Oh well. Also, a belated thanks to Russell for last issue's cover. (So far we seem to be rotating artists with a different submission each time.)

Anyway, here is the list of everyone who helped out with production this week, along with their answer to the question "How fast could Bill Gates get access to Access?": MonkeyMan Ken (Monkey with a peanut), Anton Fedorenko (How fast DO you want him to get access?), David Hogg (As fast as his iMac runs), Antonio D'Souza (As soon as he can get all the bugs out of Win2k), Dave DiGaetano (As fast as that DVD ripper makes the movie industry shake where they stand!), Michael Thorsley (You know, Greg, this is a really stupid *mastHEAD* question again), Nory Prins (Cotton candy. Sweet, sweet, sugary access will soothe the pain), Dan Pollock (Do you realize just how hard it is to eat an entire straw with just your mouth?), Kevin "I'm mad as Hell" (o) (Who dares use an iMac line????!!?) and Gigi Garbett (Is the crazy man gone yet?).

Thanks goes to Marion at Graphic Services, and prior editors for helpful comments and miscellaneous assistance.

Greg Taylor (He'd access Access as fast as you do taxes,  
If Bill Gates tried accessing Access.)

### ISSN 0705-0410

*mathNEWS* is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to [userid@mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:userid@mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet.

There is a song stuck in his head: Greg Taylor

## profQUOTES

"We have forests, trees, leaves; basically it's just a walk through the woods."

Irving, MATH 239

"It's ok to make fun of me."

Rehder, CS 130

"But only storing the... what the heck am I doing?"

Rehder, CS 130

"You needed a loop. If you didn't know you needed a loop, you're probably in the wrong course."

Rehder, CS 130

"Now let's go on the next one, which is not the next one, but the one after that."

Rehder, CS 130

"The class list is initialized to fifty people and then more people join because they hear that there's a really neat prof. (*class erupts in laughter*) But they drop it, because they find it's all a lie. Then I'm down to 45."

Rehder, CS 130

"There's just one problem with that, which I didn't know about until I sat down and thought about it."

Rehder, CS 130

"I think that's an excellent guess. It's wrong, but it's an excellent guess."

Rehder, CS 130

"The problem with this array is... What the hell is that??"

Rehder, CS 130

"Heaven forbid, you're working for Microsoft..."

Rehder, CS 130

Prof: "I'll draw the board because I know what the board looks like."

Student: "Missed one..."

Prof: "Maybe I don't know what the board looks like."

Rehder, CS 130

"It should have been a method in my opinion. They didn't ask me though; I don't know why. I was home."

Rehder, CS130

"I was supposed to remember something, but I... (*looks at the board*) ...already did it."

Rehder, CS130

"We never get off topic in this class though."

Rehder, CS130

(*Student points out something on the board, professor responds*): "Well, I don't want to notice that yet."

Lawrence, MATH 137

"I don't think we draw up some magical proofs like you do in algebra."

Lawrence, MATH 137

We take  $u$ , such that  $f(u)$ ... (*class erupts in laughter*) ...that is, **OF  $u$ .**

Lawrence, MATH 137

"Let there be a Lagrangian, and God saw that it was good!"

R. Mann, RS 390b

"What is the meaning of life? Well, here is your Lagrangian."

R. Mann, RS 390b

"Say you're searching for nice pictures on the Internet [for the fox and geese game] and halfway through the download you decide you don't like this fox. In fact it's a completely different kind of fox than what you wanted..."

Shallit, CS 130

"This is something best done in the privacy of your own room."

Hare, PMath 451

"I assure you that I am not a sexual predator."

Shallit, CS 462

(*when questioned about oversimplified program design*): "I'm trying to illustrate that even if you're stupid, you can do this."

Shallit, CS 130

"Do you know what  $m^{(p-1)}$  is? Oh, no you don't..."

Younger, MATH 135

"Take one logical step and... Oh my God, I have to know how to take the square root of an imaginary number."

Younger, MATH 135

"I learned completing the square in high school. Then I hated it. Maybe they taught it wrong, because now I love it. Since I don't hate it anymore, I'm going to teach it."

Younger, MATH 135

"Just to read this makes your knees a little weak."

Younger, MATH 135

"Before we write down a proof of Tutte's theorem, I want to show you an application of it. We'll use Tutte's theorem to prove Peterson's theorem..."

Haxell, C&O 342

"Yeah, maybe it's not funny at all to a regular mathie, but when you sit in combinatorics classes, you jump at every 'application' word. Imagine the disappointment..."

Haxell, C&O 342

Prof: "Many are called, some are chosen."

Student: "Why did I have to be chosen?"

Schellenberg, MATH 239

"Could somebody demonstrate 'crashing to your feet?'"

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a

"I didn't buy [my wife's] interpretation, I rarely do. DON'T PUT THAT IN *profQUOTES*!"

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a



## profQUOTES

(acoustic tile comment leads to prof's realization he'd been in profQUOTES) "Who quoted me, anyway?"

(prof discusses profQUOTES for several minutes with class) "... Instead of taking notes, someone's listening for something they find half-amusing."

(prof discovers that during the discussion, several copies of mathNEWS have been whipped out) "Don't read the profQUOTES NOW... put that away."

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a

(at 9:45pm): "I've got seven pages of lecture notes, and I'm on page one."

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a

"Has anybody ever seen [a particular movie] a thousand times, like The Sound of Music? ... That was the worst memory of my childhood!"

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a

"Has anybody ever been purified by fire... on purpose?"

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a

"Have you ever had the sense that you were talking about something that was really important, but you got sidetracked by something equally important that kept you from talking about the first important thing? ... What was I talking about?"

Spielmacher, ENGL 208a

"When you get to be my age, they'll probably have genetically engineered people. If we find someone in this clan who's really good at statistics, we'll just build them. What a wonderful place this will be."

J. McKay, STAT 231

"I want you to develop a confidence in how easy it can be, before I destroy this confidence next week."

C. Springer, STAT 230

"You all seem so catatonic... I wish I could inject some amphetamines directly into you. Don't write that down."

Shallit, CS 462

"The definition of a professor is someone who talks in someone else's sleep."

Shallit, CS 462

"Say you're standing at the origin and someone comes along in a car and says, 'How do I get to the beer store?'"

Haxell, MATH 135

"And that's why we don't worry about confusion, because it's not confusing."

Haxell, MATH 135

"Note that the imaginary part is not imaginary."

Haxell, MATH 135

"How many people really understand this? **REALLY** understand? (a pause, then a few more students raise their hands) Bumpkins! Nobody understands!"

P. Crippin, MATH 135

"If  $3^2 = 10$  then I am the Queen of Sheeba."

Scheidler, MATH 135

"If that's not a word, I define it to be a word."

A. Menenzes, MATH 135

"You can write your own software, which doesn't do anything, and you can sell it on the web. It's no big deal."

D. Hernandez, ACTSCI 221

"My wife and I practice oral sex all the time. We talk about it."

Lawrence, Mathel 100

"And in the Renaissance, universities had as their biggest faculty, not computer science, but classics! Oh, for the day!" (much laughing from the Artsies ensues)

Dr. R. Faber, CLAS 225

(revealing Fourier's series graphs): "This is a bit like a mathematical strip tease..."

Wainwright, AM 231

"It's my wife's birthday and I've learned that women like birthdays."

Wainwright, AM 231

"This is just mathematics by doodling. Where's my doodle?"

Wainwright, AM 231

(talking about control sources): "We don't do these in this course. The engineers do a lot of these and when they graduate, some of them can do it, but most of them don't have a clue what's going on."

Vanderkooy, PHYS 252

"Call this involution (psi), because I always call my involutions (psi)."

Wagner, C&O 630

"You latecomers, you **SLACKERS**, I have an assignment for you."

Wagner, C&O 430

"You can leave right now. I'm not keeping you here. (points to door) Here's your homework. Go!"

D. Wagner, C&O 430

Grad Student: "That's the kind of proof my first year students write."

Prof: "You wanna get up here and do better?"

D. Wagner, C&O 430

"Spelling is not one of my strong points. Looking at your midterms, it's not one of your strong points, either."

Lubiw, CS 341

(humiliating students for poor presentation of solutions): "You could at least write sentences."

Hare, PMath 451

(prof sees student with mathNEWS): "Destroy that!"

Wainwright, AM 231

## Spartans Never Tried Death Wish Wings

I remember reading about the Spartans in a Jughead comic when I was younger. He was going to go on a date with Ethel to make himself stronger, like the Spartans. According to the comic book, the Spartans did a whole bunch of horrible things to themselves to build moral character and strength. Jughead stopped after he realized that he would have to kiss Ethel at the end of the date. Unlike Jughead, I lacked his common sense.

One fine day, the Super Ninja and I decided to go out to meet some friends for dinner at the Fox and Pheasant. Needless to say, they never showed but I bumped into Kevo (Giddy . . . UP!!!) and PimpDaddy. So anyway, we sat down and took a look at the menu. I was in the mood for something spicy so after some deliberation, Super Ninja and I decided to go for wings. But which ones? Mild, medium, hot, suicide or death wish. According to PimpDaddy, he'd tried some wings before. Big Liam fell to the ground crying but PimpDaddy said it gave him a little kick. That was it. SuperNinja and I chose the Death Wish Wings. The waiter asked us if we were sure. Yuppers. Moments later, PimpDaddy realized his mistake and told us he tried the suicide wings. A part of me said to step down and change the order but being guys and masochists, we couldn't back down.

Remember Ralph Wiggum? "It tastes like burning." After the first wing, I wouldn't give up. Super Ninja was very red in the face, tears came to PimpDaddy's face and I was shaking. So anyway, we finished the pound. I had 3, PimpDaddy had 2 and Super Ninja had an impressive 5.

Anyway, what is the point of this story?

- 1) Don't order death wish wings.
- 2) Listen to the other voice in your head.
- 3) If you disregard 1) and order death wish wings:
  - a) Sugar. Water does not help.
  - b) Guys . . . DO NOT GO TO THE URINAL UNTIL YOU WASH YOUR HANDS. IT BURNS.

MonkeyMan

## A Little Bit of History in Your Hand

Many of you are probably already aware of the Millennium coin set, put out by the Royal Canadian Mint. The current set of twelve quarters (for 1999) depicts different designs celebrating Canada's history. A contest was held to select the images which now appear on these coins and had over 30 000 entries. So why are you reading about this in *mathNEWS*, you may ask? Well, because the June 1999 quarter features a design by Gordon Ho, a former *mathNEWS* artist.

The quarter's design, entitled *From Coast to Coast*, features an early 20th century steam locomotive and acknowledges the thousands of workers who built the railway linking Canada's coasts. Gordon Ho's work in *mathNEWS* includes issues during (but possibly not limited to) 1993 and 1994, and a quick scan through the archives reveals his art in Volumes 61, 63 & 65. So here's a *mathNEWS* salute to Gordon! (With thanks to Mike "Hammer" Hammond for bringing this to my attention.)

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

## I should be doing my CS240 assignment, again

The following are two of the best lines I've heard describing people's poor performance on mid-terms (Warning, they're kind of rude):

- "Yeah, I really dropped the soap on that one."
- "Man, do I ever feel like a scottish sheep."

Yep, those things are pretty harsh, but oh so true.

And recently, and mysteriously, some arrows have appeared on the floors and hallways of MC. They appear to begin at the comfy. If anyone can figure out where they go, what they do, or what they're for, I'll give you a cookie. (I actually know what the arrows are for, but I thought I should get everyone thinking in class.) Similarly, if anyone wishes to complete my cs240 (and cs241) assignment, you can also have a cookie. And just for fun, if I have any spare cookies around, you can have those too.

Next, a typical christmas wish list: i) a nuclear iMac; ii) an over-clocked iMac that doubles as a toaster, microwave and personal heater; iii) the iMac disco ball to hang in my room; iv) an iMac account in MC so that I can use one of those many machines! Yes, that's the root of my iMac obsession. So many iMacs, and I can't use ANY OF THEM. And nope, I also can't use the cygnus labs. So to get to use some PC with some sort of local processing power, I have to go to ENGINEERING. Think about that for a while. (And if anyone sees a copy of the RIDGID tool calendar, please get me a copy!)

And finally, a musically themed comment. Anyone think it weird that the bands "WAIL" and "FEAR OF GOD" were brought to you by Jesus Week? Next, anyone who has time during the week of exams (specifically around the 15<sup>th</sup> of December) is invited to come see GOB with special guests Moist and Matthew Good Band at Lulu's (Two words: Giddy. Up.). Lastly, I would like to state that the Fed Hall DJ has gone **WAY** downhill, and that he should **NOT** work both the Bomber and Fed Hall, since I go to the Bomber so that I can avoid Fed Hall.

Cheers, and until next time.

Kev(o)

## University Anagrams

Rearranging the letters in anagram will give you "a ragman". There are plenty of anagrams that exist and can be found through simple letter rearrangement. I have some anagrams here that may change the way you view this University. Just to start you off, I'll point out that the letters in "University of Waterloo" can be rearranged to make "Newly Riotous Favorite". As if that wasn't enough, there are plenty of building names that can be cleverly rearranged. One such anagram is "Indecent Steel Turf" for "Student Life Centre". "Dana Porter Library" can be anagrammed to "Try a plain bad error". "South Campus Hall" is "Ha ha! Locust Lumps!". As if those weren't enough, even some course names have some interesting anagrams. An anagram of "Computer Science" is "Coerce inept scum," and "Mathematics" is "The act maims."

Those aren't all the possible anagrams, of course. These are just the some of the ones I could come up with related to the University. Maybe you could find some other good ones...

Havana Gold Dig (David Alan Hogg)



## Quantum Loop

Hal looked up from his calculator. "The lucky numbers? They're similar to the prime numbers. You start by striking out all the even numbers. Then after 1 you have a 3, so you strike out every third number. That gets rid of 5, 11, 17, etc. Now after 3 you have a 7, so take out every seventh number, and so on."

"Oh, right," Sham recalled. "13 is the fifth lucky number then, isn't it?"

"Oddly enough, yeah," Hal confirmed. "But you don't have triskaidekaphobia, do you?"

Sham blinked. "That's like paraskavedekatriaphobia, isn't it?"

Hal shrugged. "Not quite. Look it up." He punched at his calculator. "But it doesn't look like that will work either. Your higher dimensions on the sixth floor are never used as extra space for terminals. You'll have to try something else."

Sham frowned. "Would the odds improve if I provided the mapping information directly?"

"We have zip on that," Hal indicated.

"There's that big room right in the middle — how about I just place some sort of device near that location which will activate in 1999?"

"Well, it would be difficult constructing it with the technology of this decade," Hal said, nonplussed.

"It's better than restarting," Sham insisted. "Go get the Quantum Loop staff and BigE to work on it."

"I think you're using fuzzy logic."

"Just open the imagine chamber door, Hal."

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

"Pardon?"

"It's going blooie again..." Hal smacked his calculator and the door opened. "There we go. Wish we could thrash the originator of this Y2K bug," Sham sighed, stacking some papers as Hal popped off.

Sometime later, Sham was prepared to put his plan into action. But Hal still didn't have high hopes. "Sham, BigE has calculated a 90% probability that activating your device will only delay the 1999 reconstruction in the Red Room by 4 months. People will actually have LESS terminals to work on."

Sham sighed. "Well, currently I have no alternative so let's

try the direct route. Here goes nothing."

Sham switched on his abstract device. And Hal blinked. "Sham, in tracking your signal, BigE has picked up an analogous analog object!"

Sham blinked. "How do you account for that?"

"Someone else has an assembly!" Hal addressed Sham. "And... it looks like the other one is actually responsible for Y2K!?"

"What??"

"I'm trying to get a fix... but it's looking like the Y2K Bug that hit us in 2000 was actually a virus initiated by someone named Millie Niem here in the 60s. That's why even Y2K approved computers were affected!"

"I knew Quantum Loop was compliant," Sham muttered.

"Sham, you can repair our problems in the future if you catch the person in the field nearby!" Hal finally declared.

"Would a net work?" Sham wondered, hurrying towards the location.

But as it turned out, a net was unnecessary. The person was Millie Niem herself, and she stopped willingly when Sham confronted her. However, she was not very forthcoming (or even thirdcoming).

"A virus to truncate dates to two digits in the Year 2000?" Millie retorted, laughing. "How fantastically fantastic! I'd like to see you validate such a claim."

"You can prove it if you crack the encrypting of her device," Hal assured Sham. "Unfortunately we don't have a starting point."

Sizing up the situation, Sham reached down and grabbed a bit of paper that had been left on the ground. "Use largest known truncatable prime?" Sham read. "I think this will provide enough information to substantiate my statements."

"That won't help you," Millie stated defiantly.

"On the contrary — I think everything can be determined now," Sham retorted in satisfaction.

*What has Sham figured out? Will all this really solve the problems with Y2K? And what about Sham's mission to provide Mizuloo's terminals? Find out when the story concludes in issue six...*

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

## Free Food

### *A random true story*

I never realized how poor students really are until the other day. I was sitting in the comfy lounge with some friends, when suddenly we noticed a half-empty can of Pringles sitting on the ground. Our discussion on the latest Calculus assignment was immediately abandoned. The significance of this moment can only be described in two words: FREE FOOD.

Between the fact that there was only half a can of Pringles and that five of us shared it, I figure we each ate about ten cents worth of free food, which isn't very much when you think about it. However, I prefer not to think about it (mainly because it makes us all look really cheap) and concentrate instead on the wonderful memory of the time that I got free food in the comfy lounge.

Gina Jackson

## Survey

### *What is your opinion on Surveys?*

Yes and No .....	_____
Need more .....	_____
Need less .....	_____
Need much less .....	_____
Too inaccurate .....	_____
Too stupid .....	_____
Other: _____	

Answers may be submitted to the BLACK BOX

## Behind the scenes at a press conference

*Or, what the hell is mathNEWS doing at a press conference?*

Surely there are better ways to spend an afternoon than this.

An abandoned industrial park by the east docks is easily more dreary because of the bitterly cold weather. It's the kind of neighbourhood where it's normal for the sidewalk to end and pedestrians are left fighting for a right-of-way in the two feet or so between the road and the train tracks.

I'm late, but since the motorcade of a dozen policecars had just zipped by, I correctly assumed that the press conference had not yet started.

The large warehouse had been converted into a movie studio, and filming was taking place somewhere on the complex, since I saw grips and extras chatting and smoking. They were very helpful in pointing out how they didn't know where the press conference was taking place.

Trying the front door, police officers said I should try the back door.

Of course, with a warehouse, to get to the back door, you've got some walking to do.

At the back entrance, I noticed that the warehouse was right on the waterfront; Lake Ontario's paltry waves lapped at the docks that constituted the rear roadway of the establishment.

This is the spot. Media vans from the likes of CityTV and Global are parked haphazardly around the roadway, like the jumble you get when you empty your box of Tonka trucks. If the ONtv truck can't get close enough, well, sucks to be them.

All the commotion seems to be emanating from a large over-sized opening in the warehouse wall, obviously the entrance to all things that are great and democratic about our country. This is where the press conference is, this is where the great masses will have real and unrestricted access to our freely-elected leaders, this is where the freedom of the press is upheld... this place is a dump, but with the right camera-angles, who'd really notice?

A mixture of "you've got to be kidding," "who the hell are you," and "stop wasting my time" washes over the face of the last security guard between me and the warehouse-door portal of democracy.

I calmly explain that I'm from the (best) student paper in Waterloo, *mathNEWS*, and that I'm here for the press conference.

Needless to say, it took quite a bit more convincing (and a thorough check of my knapsack) before I was allowed to continue into the chamber of unfettered democracy. But in the end he did let me go in. Why? Maybe I was his good deed of the day... maybe he got laid last night. Who knows?

My first glance into the opening caught me off-guard... all

the cameras were pointing out the door, and we're talking about a dozen cameras.

A modest podium was placed at the entryway, and all the media was tucked away inside. The reason was immediately apparent. The backdrop for the press conference was a very scenic panorama of Lake Ontario. The security guard ushered me to the back of the throng of media, which garnered me a very unspectacular view consisting of the backs of people's heads. The elite television journalists are in front row, radio and newspaper people behind them, and the rest of the drudgery is in the back. The view is so bad that the smart reporters know to bring their own ladders.

The upside? Well, the media mass shielded me from the wind. That's not bad...

I recognize a lot of the people here. There's Royson James and Christopher Hume from the Toronto Star. There's Colin Vaughan from CityTV. There's former Toronto mayor (and current NOW scribe) John Sewell. I see assorted logos like CBC, Toronto Sun, and ONtv on various jackets and equipment.

They, of course, don't recognize me. They throw me glances similar to those offered to me from the security guard who reluctantly allowed me access to this press conference.

Perhaps I stood out.

I'm younger than them, but then again, there were a lot of young people here... like teenagers... what the hell are teenagers doing here... and then I realize it's "Take your kid to work day."

Of course, the other reporters smile at the kids.

In flurry of motion and sound, we see the leaders of the city, province, and country, Mayor Mel Lastman, Premier Mike Harris, and Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

"I thought the press was going to be facing the wind," joked Chretien as they arranged themselves on the platform.

In an introduction that the press found redundant, mildly confusing, and even more mildly amusing, Lastman introduced, on his right (or should that be left, he joked), Prime Minister Jean Chretien, and on his left (that should be right, he joked), Prime Minister Mike Harris.

"Prime Minister Harris?" muttered Colin Vaughan.

Lastman then proceeded to read through his prepared speech, copies of which were in many reporters hands. He deviated once in a while.

"It can be done without the multibillions I spoke of earlier," said Lastman a few minutes after saying it's a multibillion dollar project.

"I remember swimming in Lake Ontario," he continued. "Now, nobody... nobody... (he took a few tries to get the right "nobody") has for 50 years... decades... thank you



JEAN CHRETIEN



MIKE HARRIS



MEL LASTMAN

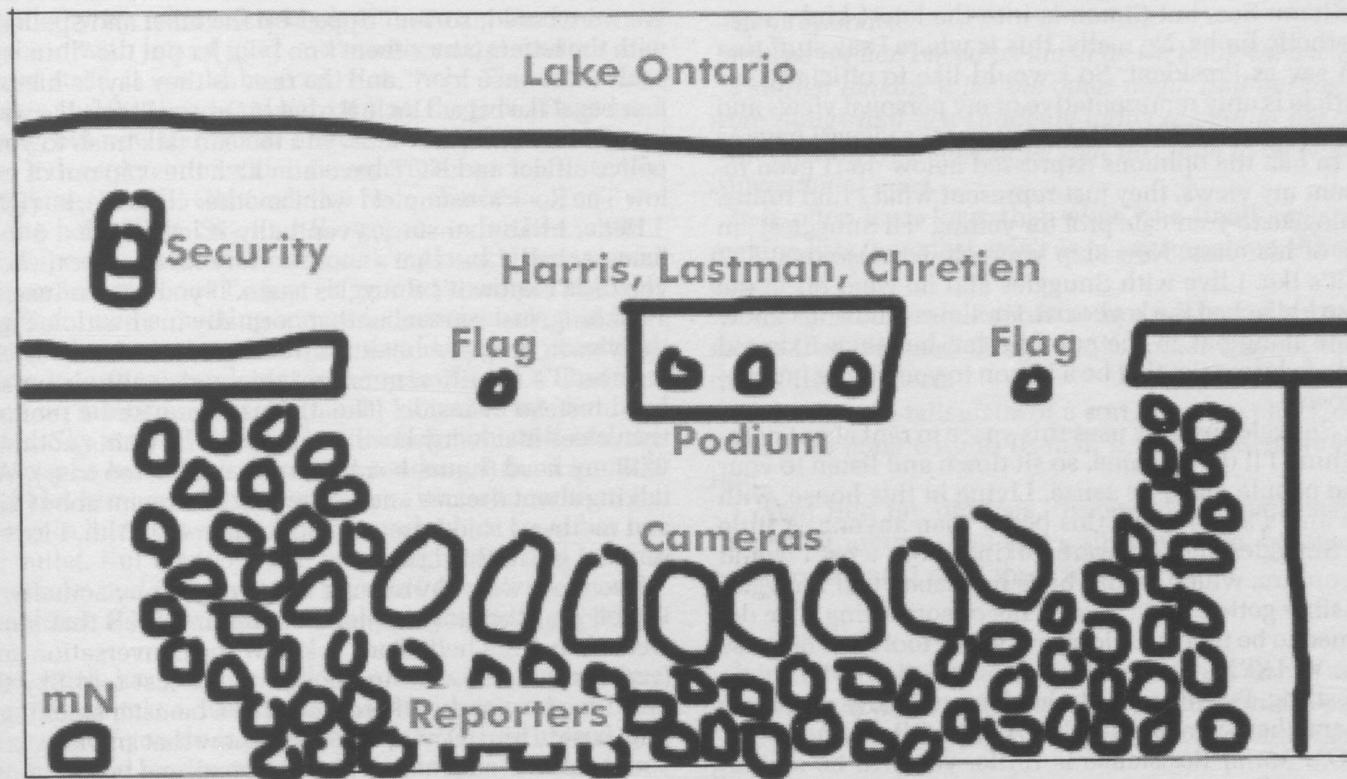


COLIN VAUGHAN



JOHN SEWELL





Gary."

Lastman wants to see future generations able to catch a great big fish out there, and eat it.

Harris then said a few words. You've heard it all before.

Chretien's speech was a bit more entertaining; you got to love how he pronounces some English words: "Da cos-mopolitan area uv Toe-ronto."

And, of course, he did part of his speech in French.

Then they opened the floor to questions. Questions at real press conferences are nothing like the ones you see on television with American President Bill Clinton, where Clinton (or a designate) points at a reporter and gives each a turn.

Instead, the reporter who gets to ask the next question is simply the loudest reporter. The moment a politician is done answering a question, at least 20 reporters will start shouting out their question, often starting over in the middle since the politician obviously didn't hear it. The cacophony of "who's", "what's", "why's", and "when's" dies down gradually, until the loudest (or most insistent) reporter is left asking his question.

The booming voice of CityTV's Colin Vaughan, a former Toronto politician, asked the second question.

"Where's the money?" yelled Vaughan. "Cuz it's the only way it's going to work."

Harris and Chretien dodged the question, citing that they haven't seen any numbers yet.

Harris did note however, that if the waterfront upgrades do turn out to be profitable, he'd be happy to take as big a share of the profits as he could.

I'm sorry to say that *mathNEWS* did not get to ask a question at the press conference, since the reporter who asked the fourth question essentially ended the press conference with his question about Karla Homolka. The question, which

asked if Mr. Harris would like to comment on the issue, garnered this response from Mr. Harris:

"Nope."

And the press conference ended.

At least the official one ended. Immediately after, Lastman and Chretien took off, but Harris lingered behind ever so slightly, causing every single reporter to leave the nicely organized media pit and swarm the premier.

"Oh wait, there's a scrum...there's Harris," said Vaughan to his cameraman when he noticed it.

Although *NOW* columnist John Sewell was there to report on the press conference, he ended up being used on camera by many other reporters (no doubt introduced using his mayoral credentials instead of his journalistic ones).

"It's puff and mirrors... (it's been planned for) years and years and years and years," said Sewell to the television audiences in VR Land. "They said they like Toronto. Harris has never said that, and neither has Chretien."

Now all we need is to get Harris and Chretien to say they like Waterloo, or at least *mathNEWS*.

After the last politician was away from view, the reporters started to do their reports, some to edit later back at the office, and some live *on the scene*.

Vaughan, using his "CP24" microphone, stood silent in front of his cameraman for moment before suddenly having a conversation with someone who wasn't there.

"Yes, Libby, the premier..." he started telling Libby, who was probably much happier in the CP24 studio at Queen & John than being down at the docks with the cold wind, the harsh seas, and a lonely *mathNEWS* reporter.

CAS

mN Toronto Bureau

## Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but Simon is into the latest kinky rage, edible prosthetic limbs. 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.

Now apologize to your calc prof for yelling "Hi Snuggles!" in the middle of his class. Now slap yourself, because this ain't Snuggles, it's Ike. I live with Snuggles and he went off to the bathroom so I hijacked the keyboard. For those who don't know me I used to hang out in the comfy a lot, but then I started failing a lot of classes (let that be a lesson to you young impressionable frosh).

Anyway, Snuggles usually uses this space to rant about nothing, and I think I'll do the same, so sit down and listen to your elder. Some people make no sense. Living in this house, with two Steves and a Sky, I know this better than anyone. A little while ago, Snuggles and Sky were talking about what I would do if I was on fire, which would have happened had Snuggles not responsibly gotten rid of an oily rag or something. The decision seemed to be that I would run into our tool shed because it's a lake... WHAT?!

I like wrestling. I've managed to hook many many people on it since I came here way back in '96 (I'M OLD!). [*Perhaps, but you're no Old Man.*] Resistance is futile, you will be assimilated. If you smell...

I've never felt like a bigger geek than I do now. No, wait, there was this time in elementary school...

Hey, what's going on?? Hmm, give me a moment while I read. I wrote my opening line and cut and pasted my disclaimer, then I went to the bathroom. I come back wondering what the hell I'm going to rant about this time and Whabbam! Two real paragraphs and two dinky ones. I think I'll leave what Ike wrote, since he went for a cigarette and I regained my keyboard so all is good.

Let's see. There was an amusing story about a pair of handcuffs. For an unmentionable reason some crazy frosh had control of a pair of handcuffs that only I have the keys to (and I was in Toronto at the time). Somebody thought it would be funny to attach the handcuffs to an unsuspecting person. Needless to say, this person was not amused, and eventually bolt cutters needed to be used to cut the person free. Later I was telling someone this story, and I asked them "what do you make sure you have before putting on handcuffs?" (Expecting the obvious answer of 'the keys'.) His answer... a stripper. Ok, he wins.

We are watching RAW right now and the British Bulldog just came out (read old pile of crap came out, he was good a decade ago but come on) and I commented that it looks like the Bulldog has a urine stain on his pants. Corey (where Corey = Ike = Icor, we'll explain later) said 'no, they wet themselves before coming out. Oh wait, that's not what I meant. You're going to put that in, aren't you?' No Cor, don't worry.

I sent a prof into an infinite loop. I gave my solution to a problem and he wrote it on the blackboard, and then he just stared at it for about 3 minutes, not saying anything, just staring. Then he rebooted — he started talking about something completely different, and then got back to the topic (had to run through the boot-up scripts). He still didn't understand it, but whatever. It was just funny to see him in the infinite loop, especially considering it was a CS theory course. Sigh, I'm hungry. I'm going to get something to eat, don't go anywhere.

So, the story of Ike... Jer, Tom and I were sitting in CS 134 class way back when, and I was drinking a bottle of that Tropical Grove stuff that they used to sell in the C&D (1 Liter for \$1!).

We were bored, so Tom ripped up the label and spelled "Cori" with the letters (since there's no "y"). Jer put the "i" in front and said "I dub thee Icor!" and the rest, as they say, is history. And Icor begat Ike begat Uncle Ike begat Ornerly Uncle Ike who loves his 'shine. Remember kids, you too can talk trash to your local police officer and NOT have him kick the crap out of you! Follow The Rock's example! I want another cigarette, be right back.

Hehe, I like that story, eventually it leads into a 8 foot high hamster ball... but that's another story for another time. In case you didn't know it's Snuggles again. If you get confused by the switching, just remember that normally in an article I'm essentially switching personalities (random, rude, humourish, silly, etc). So it's no different except this personality is outside my head instead of inside. (Great, I just compared a roommate to the voices inside my head.) Corey says he wants nothing to do with my head (hmm, head references, ahh, too easy). We were talking about dreams and Corey said he dreamt about his sister and mother. I said I dreamt about them too. Ahh, I love all the setups I get in this house.

I went out with Sky once, it was pretty funny actually. Maybe I'll tell you the story sometime. Hmm, I'll tell that story next week. What the hell! Don't ask how the conversation got there (you really don't want to know) but Ike just told Sky that the next time he woke up there would be a hamster smoking a cigarette beside him. Damn, don't you know that smoking is bad for your health? And it makes you smell bad, and takes your money, it's like paying for garbage to be dumped into your bloodstream, actually that is exactly what it is. I'm not so much a non-smoker as an anti-smoker. And another thing, why are people who are on the fire-fighting side called fire wardens. They should be called anti-fire wardens. Those on the fire's side are the fire wardens (those who take care of the fire). Hmm, I'll be back, got some business to take care of.

Well, now that Snuggles has retired to his bedroom, I get to take over again, though to tell the truth, I'd much rather be in his shoes at the moment... or lack thereof. Where did that expression come from anyway? Why would you want to wear someone else's shoes? Especially women's shoes? Man, those pumps are murder on the toes! Not that I would know... of course. [*I've one word for you, Rocky Horror Picture Show.*] Seriously, how do you know there's not some serious fungus happening in there?

Ha ha, now I get control. In case you don't know, I am the brightly coloured personality which is *also* not located within Snuggle's skull. Ike went to sleep, seeing as how he has to get up in four hours to go to work, that is probably for the best. We have several computers in our house, two of which are in the living room. For some reason we need three flickering sets of lights in one room to keep us all perpetually entertained. It makes me sad that I can be entertained by ordinary television. I really try to not watch TV, but when it is right there and when the other people who are alive in this household are all watching, it is hard to avoid. Wrestling is all good, though. Is the Rock not the most electrifying man in sports entertainment today? I seriously almost mark out when he gets rolling. I am bored. Don't get on the six to six sleeping schedule, it is bad. It makes you be up when there are no people around, and causes it to be difficult for you to eat three meals a day. No good all around. I think I won't sleep tonight to reset myself. I did that last week too, but fell back into old habits... sigh.

Snuggle's book is in front of me. No, no, not a big work of fiction, but the book he needs to live. He has tons of appointments and meetings and other official stuff to do, and I hold the key to his life right here. I could probably destroy MathSoc



SNUGGLES STILL SEZ, FROM PAGE 14...

singlehandedly by taking this book and setting fire to it in a ritual fashion with lots of mud and mostly naked dancers and drums and stuff. It would be cool. Heh, heh. That heh, heh. Silly Beavis and Butthead said heh, heh all the time. They used to be funny, but now they suck. They were only funny for three episodes. It doesn't matter which three, any three. It is a strictly personal thing. BANG! Oh, God, I've been shot!

What the hell? Sigh. Sky and Ike got to my article while I was... indisposed. Ahhhhhh! Don't touch my book! I determined that if I ever lost my book I'd just sit around staring at the wall knowing that I had a meeting sometime, somewhere, but having no idea where or when exactly. It would be very upsetting. A meeting doesn't exist unless it is in my book and if I have no book then no meetings exist. Heh, heh. I am the Heh, heh, demon. Ahh, Sky stop it! (He put in that heh heh stuff and the two paragraphs before this one. He's random, I don't know if we should let him rant. Ike doesn't have articles to write to get his therapy in but Sky writes for some web place so he has his creative outlet. But it's too much work to go back and cut out what he wrote, and then some of my stuff doesn't make sense so I'll just leave it.) Wow, I like virtual paragraphs in parentheses.

OK, this article has gotten completely out of control, everytime I leave someone takes over the keyboard. I hope you all find this funny, and if you do (and you bother to tell me), we might continue this mad mad world that is my house next issue too. So email me if you like this, or email me if you hate this, or whatever. You know what, f-ck that. No one ever emails me whenever I ask for them. No one. I'm sick and tired of asking people to email me if they care about a subject because rarely does anyone work up enough energy to combat their general apathy to email someone on any subject. I'm sure that after writing that someone will email me just to prove me wrong, but that will really prove me right, trust me. So anyway, tell me if you thought this was funny, and when I read it later (since I'll forget most of what I wrote in a day or two), if I find it funny maybe we'll do this again sometime, or maybe we'll go back to a single completely insane person writing this article instead of one insane person and their insane friends.

Anyway, peace out yo. Sorry, a little random there, no reason.

Snuggles and Friends.

#define Friends Corey and Sky

#define Corey Corey/Ike/Icor/...

#define Sky Sky

Make the bad CS go away, bring on the good stuff. Actually I kind of like CS342 in a sick perverted, sadistic kind of way.

It's fun, hard, but fun (kind of like...)

I'm going to need a tagline for my tagline, must stop writing, soon going to pass 2000 words, ahh. Damn it, I passed it with that last line, ah well.

This is the end of the longest Snuggles Sez ever, it went over 2000 words, now go do something useful with your life like the Squiz. I wonder if this is going to get cut down or not, hmm, if it is then the 2000 word stuff doesn't make much sense, but whatever.

Maybe it is really only 1000 words cause of the 2k problem.

Actually, due to incapability this article is actually 0 words long due to a 3 digit problem.

Tag line was five paragraphs ago.

[Article in mirror may be larger than it appears and has been slightly edited to make it fit better. Whether you chose to read it was up to you. —HoloEd]

## Dear Sparkle

Dear Sparkle,

Maybe we don't need as much as we think we need.

I started making a list the other night, and most of the items were things that just suddenly didn't appeal to me. Do I want less? Nothing? Or something that has little to do with lists and conventional need...

It is often true, love, that when one finally gets around to making lists there just aren't as many important things to write down.

Lists are often only important as a method of reminding ourselves that we need things at all, rather than of the specific things that we need.

They become talismans of a sort. You can check everything off and be done with it. In that, if little else, there is completion.

I often find my old lists, discarded in small heaps, full of things left undone. But that's all right, love, because the lists have done what I need them to do.

Dear Sparkle,

It isn't the folding I have a problem with at all, it's assembling all the pieces in the end. It feels like making careful paper boxes from units would be logical and straight-forward. Tab A in Slot B.

There just seem to be too many pieces to all slot together with any kind of grace. It's never as easy as the diagrams make it out to be.

Can it ever really be that simple? To make containers out of miscellaneous scraps?

Love, you really should know better by now. Life just works like that. Everyone and anyone can help you create some small component... they can fill up napkin after napkin with the so-simple secrets of small successes. But to put all of those ink-running bits together into a cohesive whole is an eternal impossibility. At least with unit origami there are rudimentary drawings with tangled arrows to provide a blurry notion of assembly.

The magic of folded paper boxes is that you have a chance, spatial abilities or no.

Dear Sparkle,

I try so hard, and yet...

The other day, after the frost, I stood outside watching the steam from my coffee mingle with the steam from deep in my lungs. They would glob and swirl together into a small funnel of slow rising steam, which would end up swirling invisibly into clouds a thousand or more feet above me.

I thought: none of that required any thought, any love, any genius of restraint... and yet how could anything succeed more perfectly? I had to go inside, where at least the intention was more apparent...

You sound surprised, love, that perfect things are the ones that just happen without supervision. Often, the moments that just work come because you are not thinking of love or restraint.

They are gifts from the universe and should just be enjoyed.

Like cigarettes on a cold winter night, visible exhalations are always soothing... because they give you a glimpse of something usually unseen.

Queen Sparkle is a syndicated colonist.

## Fat Tony sez

My friend Jer has come up with an ingenious way to solve those assignment problems that you *know* are impossible. He calls it the Jer constant. It's a pretty simple concept, actually — if you can do some basic arithmetic (if you can't, then you're probably an upper year student and have realised that arithmetic is not for *real* mathies), then you too can take advantage of this amazing new concept that has TAs baffled and profs tearing their hair out, screaming "I can't take it any more". The process involves getting the right answer from either the back of the book or from a loose-lipped friend, then creating the appropriate Jer constant for your problem. The Jer constant is the right answer divided by the answer you keep getting. Ok, now simply finish your solution by multiplying your answer by the Jer constant. This method has been known to verk with any problem that has a non-graphical solution. Try it yourself and watch those assignments practically do themselves.

Since the last issue of this esteemed publication came out, there has been an onslaught of mid-term marks being released. This has put many frosh into a rather distressed state of mind when they find out that their average is approaching 65 from the left but not quite getting there. I have decided to put a fresh spin on this situation. We can use people's averages to calculate their geek ratio. This is your CS mark divided by the average of your 2 math marks. The higher the ratio, the bigger a geek you are. The illogic behind this is quite obvious. Many bright young people come to UW because they would like the brand name degree which it offers. All of them are not necessarily computer geeks because the hi-tech boom has attracted many intelligent people to the CS field, who might otherwise have been perfectly happy doing other math related tasks. These individuals are usually quite adept at doing math but stumble when it comes to coding because they have not been exposed to the intensive coding-based lifestyle that most geeks take for granted. Therefore, they tend to have fairly high math marks while their CS marks toe the line. However, the true geeks simply endure the math courses in order to do what they believe is the whole point of their existence, i.e. write code. This means that their CS marks have to drag up their average, kicking and screaming. Hence the student body at UW Math can be divided into geeks and non-geeks in a systematic manner without much inaccuracy. The only exception is for people taking CS120, in which case they are probably not geeks anyway. No, I'm not sure if there are any practical applications for this formula either, but then again, the same can be said of most math courses...

I was at the homecoming game last Friday, supporting the good ol' Warriors. In case you haven't been paying attention, we beat the high school down the street 32-20 and the Warriors are now on their way (metaphorically, not physically) to Halifax to knock skulls with St. Mary's. But I digress. On the way back from the game, my friend U-turn (real name being protected so he doesn't send his squad of supersoaker-toting gangster wannabes after me) decided it might be fun to drive thru the campus of the high school down the street, just to make sure they knew who had won the game. So he drove a truck filled to capacity with adrenaline filled Waterloonies (or Waterloorians if you prefer, but that is the focus of another essay that I haven't gotten around to writing yet) doing the ubiquitous "Water, water, water" cheer at the top of their lungs. And every time they came across a student from the high school

down the street, they would cheerily inform them that the OUA finals had just been won by Waterloo — by a margin of 12, no less. It's a bloody good thing he had a truck, that's all I can say. Anyway, he wasn't satisfied with that so he pulled into a Blockbusters and walked over to where a bunch of students were discussing how badly the game had gone (needless to say, they were not happy with the outcome) and announced that at least the best team had won. Boy, did he ever get outta there in a hurry!

Antonio M. D'souza

## Sign up to be an Orientation Leader!

*You can mould impressionable young minds*

## Doin' CS240 assignment. Hit nullPointerException. \*@%&!!!

MonkeyMan: Hey everyone!!!

Enthusiastic Math Students: Hey MonkeyMan!!!

MonkeyMan: Do you like winning free food?

Enthusiastic Math Students: We sure do!!!

MonkeyMan: Great! I'm going to give 3 people an opportunity to win free food from the C&D.

Enthusiastic Math Students: Wow!!! How do you win?

MonkeyMan: Easy. Take the cover of *mathNEWS* and write a humorous or interesting title for EACH picture. Afterwards, take the cover to the MathSoc office and tell the office worker to place it in the "social" mailbox. Make sure you include your name and email address. I will then judge each cover and inform the winners to pick up the prize. Pssst. It doesn't hurt to include dialogue in the pictures.

Not-so-enthusiastic Math Student: Wait a sec. How much are prizes?

MonkeyMan: \$10 for best and \$5 for the other two.

Crazy Frosh: I could buy up to 16 cookies and see how many I could shove in my mouth at a time!!!

MonkeyMan: \*sigh\* Yes. Yes you could.

Crazy Frosh: Cool!!!

Enthusiastic Math Students: Let's do it!!!

Kevo: Muh!!!

MonkeyMan: Pffff. As if math students are less enthusiastic.

So that's the contest. Enjoy. Oh yeah. I just want to take the time to thank Sko for drawing the cover. High phattiness factor. If you have any questions, email me at [social@MathSoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:social@MathSoc.uwaterloo.ca) and I'll try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Ciao for now!!!

MonkeyMan



## mathNEWSquiz #5

*everybody seems to think I'm lazy;*

*I don't mind, I think they're crazy*

Hello, all you squizers out there. Did I ever tell you that I loved coop? Well I do. Actually I don't, but today I do. I also love other things, but that's kind of personal. So if you think I love you, submit an answer. In any case; the answers to last weeks quiz are: **Song Lyrics** 1) Esthero, "Heaven Sent"; 2) Led Zeppelin, "Stairway to Heaven"; 3) Eric Clapton, "Tears in Heaven" 4) Theme - Heaven songs. **The Year 1938** 1) Anschluss; 2) Douglas Hyda 3) Radio Production of War of the Worlds 4) Kristallnacht - violence against Jews. **Car Racing** 1) Gilles Villeneuve 1982, Greg Moore 1999; 2) Jacques Villeneuve 3) Ferrari 4) McLaren. **Random Stuff** 1) University of Nippising 2) 5 3) Stephen Skryzdlo 4) Managers at IBM.

We had a 1 ton of submissions this week (meaning we had just one, but it weighed a ton) — The winner with a score of 8 is Nory "Candy Coated" Prins, Nory can pick up her prize at MathSoc. But here is todays quiz:

### *Song Lyrics*

1. The world has turned  
And Left me here  
Just where I was  
Before you appeared
2. So What do you say?  
You can't give me the dreams  
That are mine anyway  
You're Half a world away
3. I laughed and shook his hand  
And made my way back home  
I searched from farther land  
Years and years I roamed

4. Name a Theme

### *The Year 1899*

1. In February 1899 the rebels of which country rose up against the United States forces?
2. Which war broke out in South Africa in 1899?
3. Which Anton Chekov play was performed for the first time in 1899?
4. On December the 2nd, these islands were divided between USA and Germany.
5. An International Court of Arbitration was established in this city in 1899.

### *The Smashing Pumpkins*

1. On which Smashing Pumpkins song would you find a sample from a popular computer game, "DOOM"?
2. The BBC had a problem with a line in a Smashing Pumpkins song from Siamese Dream Album. Name the song. (Bonus: Give the line that caused a problem. Extra, Extra Bonus: Find me and sing me the line.)
3. This song won the 1996 Grammy for the best hard rock performance.
4. What year did the Smashing Pumpkins play Loolapalooza?
5. How many members of the original Smashing Pumpkins have quit the band or were fired? Name them.

So here it is. As always, solutions are due on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the **BLACK BOX** or email \* to [afedoren@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:afedoren@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca)

zer0man

## D'souza's Law

The number of people biking to MC will always rise to fill the available bike racks.

About a fortnight ago, MC got a new bike rack to replace the one that vanished a while back. After the initial shock of seeing the new bike rack had passed, my newly created law kicked in and for the next few days, the number of bikes kept on rising till one day I arrived to find that there were no free spots left!!!

This phenomenon had me flabbergasted for a few minutes. How could the new bike rack just fill up like that? In its absence there were at most two or three bikes that had to be left standing against the wall. Yet now, with about a dozen more spots to chain bikes to, there was still no place for mine.

By the time I found a seat in my algebra class, I had the whole thing figured out. Mathies had varying levels of fondness for biking to class — some (such as I) did it no matter what, others only biked if it was too damn inconvenient to walk and some biked as long as there was ample space for them to park their bikes outside MC. It was this last group that made the law work. When the bike rack went AWOL, they simply walked to class and when it magically reappeared, they decided to start pedalling over to MC once again. Eureka! I had figured it out.

Antonio M. D'souza

## Spermatikos Logos

Sorry, but due to illness we don't have a new puzzle for you this issue. So feel free to take this opportunity to send in more submissions for Logos #3! The revised deadline is Monday, Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. And if you're still at a loss for something to do, you can also check out the cover contest mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

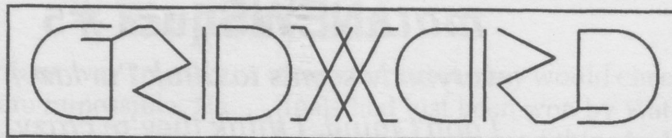
HoloEd

## Survey Results

There were three submissions to last issue's Saskatchewan survey. One vote for "Need more", one vote for "Too geometric", and one vote for "The only province that doesn't bother with Daylight Savings Time, and therefore superior to the others". So to make everyone happy, it looks like we just have to alter the geometry of Saskatchewan to make it larger in space, but not in time. Using a random process similar to the one employed here to determine mathNEWS prize winners, the straight borders of Saskatchewan will thus be realigned to have enough curves so that, were Saskatchewan periodic and mapped with a Fourier Series, you would need a suitably large number of terms. See, we really do listen to you.

HoloEd

## Grid Clues

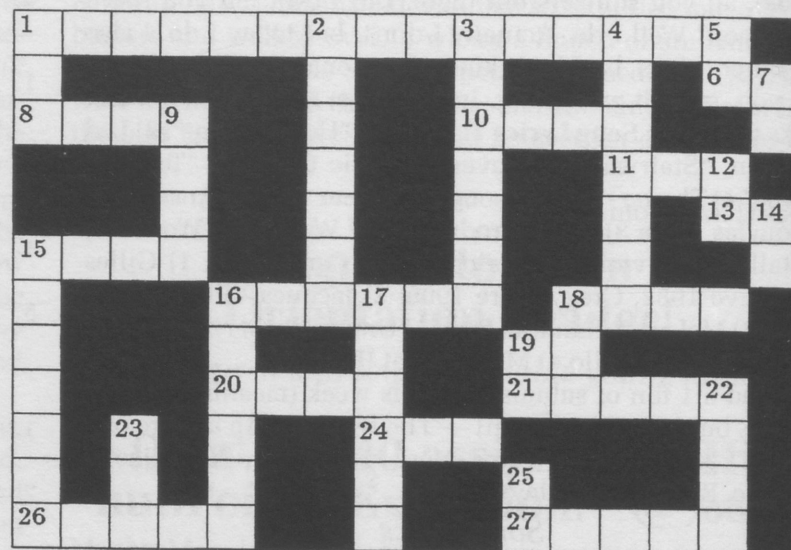


## Across

1. Person most likely to poke you in the eye
6. \_\_\_\_ T.V. (movie)
8. Hookah
10. Hey Herc
11. Australian rhea
13. Editor of choice (not Greg Taylor, the OTHER editor of choice)
15. Frog and \_\_\_\_
16. Paper thin cakes
18. Hearty approval
19. 'Lovely island' from West Side Story (abbrev.)
20. Goo Goo Dolls song
21. Egos and \_\_\_\_
24. Die and remain in Village 1 (syn., abbrev.)
26. Non CIS isomer
27. Telephone short form. Hint — the answer is phone

## Down

1. A sphere surmounted by a cross
2. Friend of salad
3. Go to great \_\_\_\_
4. Temporary
5. Element #52
7. Russian agreement
9. Stimulate into action
12. Bad rays
14. Pump in morphine
15. Stygian from Dogma
16. Opportunity — Chinese interpretation
17. Publically placed pictorial placard
18. The Messenger (movie)
19. Indiana thinks it's 4
22. Old woman lived in one
23. End of an \_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_ Freely



## gridCOMMENTS

Hello. We are not your regular gridmasters. We shall assimilate all of you just like we assimilated Mandi and Dan. Resistance is futile. We have received 8 submissions. You will all submit to us in the future. Three submissions were correct. That is unacceptable. The incorrect submissions from Chris Lyon&Ryan Burkett; Tim Coleman; Ikelke; Marshall; and Jeff, Chris and Ian were suitably dealt with. The three correct submissions came from: Dave<sup>2</sup>; Anthony "I need a new pseudonym"; and Captain Cliche and Pimp Daddy. By a somewhat random process the winners are Captain Cliche and Pimp Daddy whose solution to the gridQUESTION was "My C&O 330 mid-term rammed a pitchfork into my rear schism".

Other entertaining answers to the gridQUESTION (which was "What is the best sentence you can come up with that uses the word 'schism'?") were:

"Hell is around the corner where I'm sheltered, isms and schisms, I'm living helter skelter (Tricky)" (by Chris and Ryan)

"What exactly, Mr. Einstein, do you think of this elaborate schism?" (by Jeff, Chris and Ian)

Yesterday (Thursday) was cotton candy day. Here's a little hint for those of you who wish to win the prize next week: Nory likes cotton candy. If you have leftover cotton candy, submit it with your solutions to the grid, and maybe, just maybe, the not-so-random process used to determine the winner will come up with your name. Maybe. Speaking of candy (just a spoonful will do), here is this week's gridQUESTION. Feel free to amuse us, we like it. "How would you abuse Silverchair more and make them like it?"

Submit, submit, submit to our will, errr, we mean to the BLACK BOX or the MathSoc office by Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Dan & Mandi "Assimilated GridMASTERS"  
Kaaaaaatia, Anton "zer0man" and Nory "Candy Coated Princess" the Assimilators

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