Prez Sez

Hi everyone!

Welcome back for a new term. I have been busy over the past week attending numerous meetings. What do you know, I get to go to more this week. Here is an update as to what Soc is doing for you.

• Looking into getting new bulletin boards ordered.

• Organizing social activities

• Discussing course changes with the faculties

• Talking to other Societies

• Setting up a volunteer base for office hours this term

I am going to keep this short and let you read the stuff that the rest of the exec is writing about various activities coming up in the near future. If you would like to discuss any concerns about what is going on in Math please stop by the exec office and let me know or drop me a line at prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. Hope to see you at the next event.

Jennifer Cote
MathSoc President — W00 & F00

VPF

Hi everybody!

(This is where you say, "Hi Doctor Nick!")

Ok, I'm not a doctor. I'm a CS student. I'm also your VP:Finances this term. I was told I didn't need to write an article, and in all honesty I don't have much to say. However, I wanted to write an article for *math*NEWS. So, off to important stuff.

Fee refund forms are due in the MathSoc office today. This doesn't really belong in here, because $3 of your $10.50 goes towards *math*NEWS. Isn't this worth $3? The forms are available outside the Soc Office, if you still want one. Other stuff that MathSoc funds from student fees are cheap photocopies, colour scanning, Orientation, movie night, lockers, online and physical exam banks, Math club funding, MGC (Grad Committee), the C&D, various social events, and lots of other stuff that I can't think of off hand.

In other news, our budget for the term should be nearly finished by now. Council is holding a meeting some time next week to go over it and make sure I haven't made any huge mistakes.

Coming up next weekend is the Eng Scunt. It starts Friday at about midday, and will go on into the night, ending some time Saturday. Hopefully with people cleaning up my house (HINT, HINT), which is going to be headquarters. If you want information you can contact our captain, Dan Pollock (djpolloc@uwaterloo.ca), or either of our co-captains Mike Froh (msfroh@uwaterloo.ca), or myself. The theme is caveman games or something of that sort. It is going to be amazingly fun, so you should come on out for at least a little bit of the Scunt.

I think that's all that I have to talk about today. Have fun in your classes the next couple weeks — I know I will.

Nick Page

The New and Exciting VPA!

Greetings! For those of you who don't know me, I am the relatively newly acclaimed VPA. I hope this term to bring to Soc my proven academic talents that I have demonstrated in the past year. In between my classes I will endeavor to be the best representative that I can be.

I suppose when I look ahead to this term in the wonderful world that is MathSoc, I approach it in two different ways. There are my goals as a member of Soc Council, and my goals as VPA. My goals as VPA are slightly less serious so I have listed them in another little blurb.

My goals as the VPA for the next two terms are still being formed. I will freely admit that I don't have an exact idea of what I'm going to be doing yet. However, the most important thing that I want to emphasize is that I am always open to be talked to. I am *technically* still in 1N, so I don't know exactly what needs to be fixed academically. The only way I will learn is if you guys tell me. So, when you find something academic that you think should be reexamined, please tell me. So far, I am trying to establish a dialogue with all of the clubs in Math, and I am investigating the possibility of a first year restart program. But, if you know of other things you think I should be doing, let me know.

Lovingly yours,
Andrew Drummond,
VPA and future Stats major

Now Ready: The MathSoc Online Exam Bank

MathSoc has recently expanded its offerings of old exams to students by offering copies of of old exams in a variety of electronic formats, *freely* downloadable from the MathSoc server at http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/exambank/

The bulk of our exam bank is still stored in hard copy in the MathSoc office (MC 3038). If the exam you're looking for isn't online yet, drop by the MathSoc office during regular office hours. Chances are good that we'll have a copy there.

We'd appreciate any donations you can make to the Exam Bank. If you have any old exam papers lying around, come by and donate them to MathSoc. (If you want to keep the original, we'll photocopy it for free.) As well, we're looking to expand the online exam bank, so if you're willing to scan or type up old exams (in LaTeX, plain text, or PDF) or have any electronic copies of exams on hand, please e-mail resources@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Steve Forrest
Resources Director

It's too DAMN cold out!

So MathSoc is giving away hot chocolate.

Between classes (8:20–8:40, 9:20–9:40 … up to noon) we will be set up outside the C&D TODAY (Friday).

Free if you have your own mug, otherwise 10 cents.

See ya there

Your friendly neighbourhood social director,
Snuggles

MEF Sez

Here's a quick update of what's going on with MEF this term.

MEF Projects

MEF funded three proposals in the fall, which are outlined below.

1. PMAMC&OC: Funding for books for the club library.

2. ActSci Club: Funding for ActEx study manuals.

3. MGC: Funding for GRE study manuals.

The number of proposals submitted has been dwindling each term. If you have a project that needs funding, submit a funding proposal to MEF.

Funding Proposals

MEF has over $45,000 to allocate this term. If you have a project that you'd like to see funded, submit a funding proposal. Forms and information are available on the MEF website (`http://www.undergrad.math/~mefcom`), as well as on the MEF office door (MC 4046). The deadline for submitting proposals is February 23 at 5:00pm.

Funding Council

If you want to help decide how to allocate the $45,000 available this term, join the funding council. Nominations for the funding council are open until February 23 at 5:00pm. Nomination forms are available on the MEF website and the MEF office door.

Fee Refunds

Today (January 21) is the last day to refund the Student Endowment Fund fee. The MEF office will be open from 1:30 to 2:30, and 3:30 to 4:30 today. In order to receive your refund, you must bring your fee receipt and your Watcard.

If you have any other questions or concerns, feel free contact MEF at extension 5757 or e-mail MEF at `mefcom@undergrad.math`.

John Poole
MEF Director, Winter 2000

MGC News

Hello to all you potential grads out there! There are a couple of things to note. Firstly, a new info card is available for pick-up outside the MGC office with all the important dates. Secondly, the requisite First Night Out this term is at Weaver's Pub tonight. Lastly, we still need volunteers! Openings include Pink Tie Pledge Director, and Grad Ball, Merchandising, Yearbook and Publicity committees. For more info, swing by the MGC office, or e-mail `mgc@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca`.

For the most up-to-date info, check out the newsgroup `uw.math.mgc` or the webpage `http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc`, or sign up for the MGC mailing list!

Smile!

Rebecca Liu
MGC Communications Director

New Linux @ UW CDs available

The Linux @ UW project has produced Linux packages of the software needed for courses such as CS 134, CS 246, CS 241, CS 240, CS 342 and CS 354. Most of the software is available in Debian, Red Hat, and tar.gz formats. You can get the packages from the web, or on a CD which also contains the Red Hat 6.0 distribution of Linux. The CD can be borrowed or purchased from the Mathsoc office for $4. If you do not wish to keep the CD, you may return it to Mathsoc within a week of purchase to get your $4 back. For more information about the Linux @ UW project, please see our web page at `http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/u/uw-linux/`.

Regards,
The Linux @ UW team

Welcome to the Year 2000

Well this is the first *math*NEWS of the New Year. I would just like to introduce myself: I am Daryl McEachern, the VP Activities and Services for MathSoc. My goals for this term are simple: have fun and run lots of events. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the cotton candy and hot chocolate. We have many more events coming up. There will be study cram sessions organized before the Math 136 and Math 138 midterms. Look for more details on these cram sessions in those classes. There will also be a pub night coming up in February. As of yet there is no theme but it is sure to be a blast as always. If you have any ideas that you think would be good, e-mail `social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`.

Back by popular demand is Pint with a Prof! For those of you who do not know, this is a social gathering of both students and faculty. It is a great forum to discuss ideas and share drinks. This event will be run in the ICR Lounge, DC1301 (The Fishbowl) on March 1st from 4:30–8:30pm. There will be a fully licensed bar and other refreshments/food available. Invitations will soon be available in the MathSoc office (MC3038) so that students can fill them out and give them to their profs as a personal invitation for the prof to come. Any questions e-mail `vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`.

I wish everyone good luck on their search for jobs. Just a reminder that MathSoc has resume paper available, 8 sheets for 25 cents. Plus, we still have 5 cent photocopies.

As always we are continuing the movie night tradition. This Thursday coming up we will be showing *The Matrix* and *The X-Files*. The following Thursday (February 3rd) we will be showing *Fight Club* and another movie. For the *Fight Club* movie night, admission prices are $2 per person, $1 and one food donation, or 2 food donations. All proceeds from this night (food and money) will be donated to the FEDS Food Bank. Any questions please e-mail `movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`.

For those who are interested the Engineering Scunt is next weekend (Friday – Saturday). This is an amazing event for mathies as we defeat all other teams each term. However, since we are not allowed to win as it is the Engineering Scunt, our goal is to be #2. If you are interested in joining the cause e-mail `mathies-subscribe@onelist.com` to join the mailing list or `djpollock@uwaterloo.ca` for more information.

Always remember to check the white board, across from the C&D, for upcoming events. If you would like to add an event to the board please e-mail me at `vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`.

Daryl 'Teddybear' McEachern
VPAS W00/F00

Sex and Ninjas, Scouts and War, FASS Has These and A Whole Lot More

The Year 2000 FASS Production is well underway and we can guarantee hilarity. We've got some oldies but goldies, along with some fresh FASS meat. We all know that the new year came and went, and that the millennium actually starts next year, right? Well, what if some of the apocalyptic prophecies had come true on New Year's Eve? What if the world suddenly got hit by a comet? What if aliens came to start a telemarketing scam? What if the ducks and squirrels on the UW campus united to take all of us down? Wait, that was last year's play…

In *FASS2K: The ProFASSy: The Last FASS Ever*, UW has fallen onto hard times and must renovate the Dana Porter Library, but what could they possibly put into the building to make it a campus hot spot? Can't give that one away, but we at FASS can guarantee you will practically soil your pants from laughing so much. February 3rd at 8pm, February 4th at 7 and 10:30pm, and February 5th at 8pm in the Humanities Theatre, located in Hagey Hall. Tickets will be $8 each or $6 each if 6 or more tickets are purchased together. Call the box office at 888-4908 for ticket information.

Rick Fazekas
FASS Producer 2000

Australocalculus: The Missing Pink

Once again the Engineers are organizing a Havenger Scunt. Why a Havenger Scunt? Well, Scavenger Hunts have been very much banned at this fine institution. So, the engineers decided to throw a Scunt every term. Shortly thereafter, the Mathies decided to come "second" every term. This is the fine tradition that we wish to continue.

Do you like adventure? Romance? Staying up all night? Jell-o? Road trips? Badgers? (well… no… we don't need no stinkin' badgers.) How about trivia? Acquisition lists? Cotton candy? (Yes, cotton candy.) Bribery? If you answered yes to any of these questions or any questions at all, then you may be suited to join our team.

The Scunt will be taking place for 24 hours, starting around noon on Friday the 28th of January. And the theme is Caveman Games, so come on out and bring all of your good old fashioned cro-magnon spirit. (Please forgive all misuse of names of branches of the family of hominids. No offense intended.)

If you're interested in participating, either e-mail `djpolloc@uwaterloo.ca`, or `mathies-subscribe@onelist.com` to add yourself to our action-packed e-mail list. Or just show up to an informal meeting today (Friday the 21st) at 3:30 in the comfy lounge.

Remember, Scunt is not the answer. Scunt is the question. "Oh yeah!" is the answer.

Your Scunt Captains,
Dan "Ringmaster" Pollock
Michael "Pimpdaddy" Froh
Nick "Kitchen Sink" Page

Frosh Week 2000

Hi there, I'm Nadia V. Ursacki, Orientation Director for Frosh Week 2000. I am looking for people who are interested in being a part of the week as a Leader, Icebreaker, Coordinator or any of the other needed positions. If you are interested in any of these things, or just in helping out in general, or you want more information, or you think this sentence should be shorter, e-mail me at `orientation@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`. There will be information meetings and interviews at the beginning of February. Everyone who intends to participate in the week and didn't go to the meeting last term should come to one of these meetings. I will be announcing when these meetings are in the next issue of *math*NEWS.

I am currently really busy being Technical Director for the FASS play. It's plug time: Come see The ProFASSy Feb. 3, 4 and 5 in the Humanities Theatre. Tickets only $8 each or $6 each if 6 or more are bought at a time. Phone the Humanities Theatre box office for tickets. For more info see the website (`http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~fass`), of which I am also the webmaster (see I like being busy).

Those who would like to be involved in orientation also have to fill out an application form that can be found outside the MathSoc office. I will try to have these forms available by the time this issue of *math*NEWS comes out. They may not be there (see above paragraph), but they should appear there within a week. The forms should be returned to the Orientation mailbox inside the MathSoc Office.

For you those of you that need to be PACO trained, the training sessions are starting soon for this term and they will also be run in the Spring. If you have been a leader in '98 or '99, then you have been trained. If you were not a leader in those years then you need to be trained or you can't be a leader. Get these done as soon as possible! Even if you haven't had your interview with me yet or even applied yet, if you want to be involved in Frosh Week you can and should start the sessions now. The website to sign up for these sessions is: `http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosa/Orientation/train_form.html`.

See you at FASS and then in February,

Nadia V. Ursacki
Math Orientation Director 2000
FASS Technical Director 2000

!!MOVIES!!

Hello. I'm "little" Liam and I'm one of the movie directors this term. The other two (Ed and "Green eggs and Kam" Pam) couldn't be here right now. They're doing what I should be doing … Work. Anyway, on to the important stuff. Here are the movies for the next four movie nights.

Jan. 20: *Mickey Blue Eyes* and *Sense and Sensibility*
Jan. 27: *Matrix* and *X-Files*
Feb. 3: *Fight Club* and *The Devil's Own*
Feb. 10: *Chill Factor* and *Blue Streak*

We're sorta stuck for ideas for the next movie nights after this, so if anybody has any good suggestions e-mail `ljdorey@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca`. If we use something I'll buy you a cookie or a fruitopia from the C&D.

"Little" Liam Dorey

Exciting Ideas for MathSoc

Part 1

As a member of council, I hope to implement some of the amazing ideas I have heard floating around out there. First and absolutely foremost, I hope to implement the SocCam. This was an incredible idea from last term that has yet to be implemented. The idea, I believe, was to have a digital camera in the MathSoc office hooked up to the web, so now you wouldn't have to go to the office and find a closed door — you could look up on the web whether someone was there! If we publicized it well, we could even make the SocCam rival the popularity of the BomberCam. Isn't that an amazing goal for us to have?

Another great idea is for MathSoc to purchase a school bus or minivan and paint it shocking pink. As some of you may have noticed, there is a lack of spirit some days in MathSoc. Would it not be a great idea to have a great shocking pink bus driving all around campus? Then, all students everywhere would be able to say "Look at those mathies! They have spirit. I wish I could be more like them…" Also, as a more practical purpose, we could use the bus to ferry students from MC down to their elective on the south side of campus! This way, we wouldn't have to deal with the cold! We could be financially responsible and resourceful at the same time.

And lastly for my council ideas, we have all heard a great deal about how deregulation has affected the lowly ones among you (CS majors). What some of us have been thinking is, "Why is this deregulation only restricted to tuition? Why shouldn't it extend to MathSoc fees as well?" Maybe I listen to the government too much, but I *honestly* believe that a CS major has a much brighter future ahead of them than say, an OR major with a CS minor. So, because you guys will make all this money later on in life that the rest of us won't, I for one think that your MathSoc fees should go up by 10%. 'Cause we all know MathSoc needs the money.

Andrew Drummond
Future stats major…

Yo

Do you write more than grocery lists and assignments? How about prose, poetry, fiction, anything creative? We're looking to bring together a group of people for the purposes of sharing writing and getting feedback.

Don't worry if you're shy — there's no pressure to share. Just come to a meeting and try out our vibe.

We aim to meet weekly in the SLC. This term's meeting day has not yet been set so send an e-mail to `asklo@uwaterloo.ca` including the times that are convenient for you, or if you have any questions at all.

Aylwin Lo

Sign a Postcard to Freeze Tuition!

Between January 24 and January 28, several students will be distributing postcards across campus asking for your signature. The postcards are your opportunity to voice concern about rising tuition, and your desire to see a one-year tuition freeze. The postcards will be sent to the University of Waterloo's Board of Governors to let them know that we have had enough with increasing tuition! If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact Veronica Chau at `fedvped@feds.uwaterloo.ca`.

Restaurant Review

The Pita Factory

Fresh vegetables stuffed tightly into an overstuffed pita is The Pita Factory's *pièce de resistance*. The enormous pita is large enough to satisfy any mathie's hunger. Add a pleasant atmosphere, service with a smile, and a reasonable price and there is no doubt that The Pita Factory provides a pleasurable dining experience.

Ladies and gentlemen, your restaurant critic is back after a year long hiatus on the other side of the world. While abroad, I enjoyed goose, ostrich, snake, chicken's feet and kangaroo, but it is a pleasure to be back in Waterloo. Since my last term, I have notice a cornucopia of new restaurants itching to grab a piece of our ever-expanding discretionary income. In some areas, things haven't changed. Still no Thai restaurant; *c'est domage*. However, the dramatic increase of competitors in the pita niche market has forced my bushy eyebrows high atop my head.

As I sit here typing this review, I am still reminded of the enormity of my pita (yuck). Not only do I feel like I've been fed for the next three days, but I was happy to see that all of the vegetables were in their proper colours. Moreover, I found the selection of sauces pleasantly overwhelming. With a coke and a student discount my meal came to a mere $5.75. While not the cheapest meal in town, the Pita Factory definitely provides good return on investment.

The service and atmosphere were above average. The dining area has a sports theme with hockey posters adorning the walls. The room looks pleasant and the chairs are quite comfortable, an often overlooked but important consideration. The music is hip and thankfully, it is played at a volume that permits casual conversation. The staff recommended some options for me and were patient during my moments of indecision. At a fast-food restaurant, the staff are rarely noticed for doing well and are frequently noticed for pissing people off. At the Pita Factory, the clientele seemed quite content.

My only beef is that there wasn't enough beef. I would have preferred it if I had tasted more meat and less cucumber but I suppose it is the veggies that give a pita it's impressive girth. Due to the large veggie content, my pita eventually became cold, and the last few bites were disappointing. Moreover, I think I did a poor job of mixing sauces which contributed to the pita's slow and painful death.

The Pita Factory is an example of the "Mongolian Grill Phenomenon". You have to go a few times to figure out what you like. In the process you may have a few disappointing outings. For those who dine frequently, I recommend perfecting your pita. With fresh toppings, good service, and great value, the Pita Factory is worth it.

Asterix Rating: ****** (out of seven)

Jonathan Ezer

Tackle Football

If you are interested in playing games of tackle football for fun, e-mail `football@colormail.com`.

Stephen "Anarchy" Gaal
Organized Sports Director

Millenia Numb

Or "Naught again!"

There are two mistakes that are commonly made when speaking and writing about the millennium. The first is that the word is not spelled "millenium", no matter what any other campus publications may try to tell you. The second is something you've probably all heard before: That the millennium doesn't actually start until next year.

So who cares? Well, I don't, but I was curious. Initially, I figured the error was propagated due to the Y2K roll-over blowing everything out of proportion. But apparently there have been blunders in the past centuries relating to it as well. The root of the problem is, of course, that there is no 0 A.D.; the calendar we use starts at 1 A.D. (Hence our calendar is inaccurate because it lacks nothing.) A '0' didn't even mean zilch to people back then… unless you were a Mayan or something, in which case you had your own calendars to figure out. So someone declared that we go from 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. — and it *almost* makes sense, until you talk with the historians who have figured out that Jesus was, in fact, born sometime around 4 B.C. (Quick, do the math — this means we hit 2,000 years since his birth in 1996? Nope, 1997 actually; already you've forgotten there was no year 0!) Therefore the millennium hype is already off by three years — plus a day: the missing year 0 was a leap year.

Now speaking of leap years, it was Pope Gregory who declared that the leap days would only be added during centennials divisible by 400. (So 2000 is a leap year, but 2100, 2200 and 2300 won't be.) Most people are calling for February 29th this year to be the next problem to watch out for on account of that. (Recall: 1900 is not a leap year despite divisibility. Though why people would have coded that in, given that the year had occurred several decades earlier, is somewhat beyond me.) Either way, I think such a problem should have been expected: remember, we're talking about the same Pope who declared that October 5th through October 14th in 1582 didn't exist. And when some non-1582 compliant countries didn't take to the system, the time machine came into being. Forget moving across time zones (which also didn't exist), from 1582 to 1752 you could cross a few borders and end up in the middle of last week! So don't worry too much about February 29th this year — it's January 32nd that you don't want turning up on your computer. (Plus it's not for a lot more years that UNIX machines run out of seconds in their counting, right?)

At this point, we have firmly established that: a) the millennium starts next year, b) the millennium started over three years ago, c) we don't have anything to worry about this year, and d) the Pope is really smart. (Wait, no, my mistake, that last one is mentioned in this year's FASS. Come on out and see "The ProFASSy" the first week in February!) Anyway, at this point a sane person might feel like it is a good idea to start looking for some other calendar. An alternative I stumbled upon is the Julian day calendar. It begins counting time in 4713 B.C. (Why? Well, isn't it obvious?) and counts on a day-by-day basis. We're somewhere over 2 million. I leave it to you to figure it what it is exactly. The main advantage of such a system would be that any discussions about the millennium are neatly avoided. We don't have to worry about naming a year that looks like "00". What are we calling that? The naughts? The zips? The oh-ohs? Double or nothing? Not that it matters I guess… just think, in another 500 years or so people will probably be recalling this year using some totally different system. I wonder what the chances are for "Year 27 A.M." — 27 years anno *math*NEWSi?

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

*mast*HEAD

Pledge Break

Lorraine: Isn't this a great issue? I feel more erudite and articulate already. We'll have more of our feature issue in a moment, but first let me ask you this: would you like to see more quality issues of *math*NEWS like this one? We want to bring them to you, but we need your support to do it. Isn't it worth a few hours of your time to help keep *math*NEWS in print, to keep the fine work of math students in the hands of people across campus and even around the world? Here's Jim to tell you more.
Jim: Thanks, Lorraine. Yes, those wacky *math*NEWS folks are back for another term, but they need the help of readers like you to keep the presses going. After all, articles don't write themselves. If you're reading this, you're benefiting from the work of people just like you who wrote the articles and puzzles, proofread them for spelling and grammatical errors, formatted them for publication, took the pictures, drew the art, and helped with all of the little things that make *math*NEWS what it is.
Lorraine: That's right, Jim, but it's not all selfless labour. They get to see their names in print, and they get the satisfaction of knowing that they've contributed to the campus's longest running student publication. And they get free pizza. Lots and lots of free pizza. Just for spending a few hours with us, every other week. In fact, our next production night is January 31 at 6:30 pm in the MathSoc office.
Jim: It sure is, Lorraine, but even if you can't come out you can still take part. We accept paper submissions of articles and art in our **BLACK BOX**, mounted on the wall opposite the comfy lounge. You can send us articles through e-mail too — just send them to `mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca`, with a subject line of "article". It's that easy.
Lorraine: Before we show you the rest of issue #1, we'd like to salute the people who helped make this issue possible, along with their answer to the question "What happened to all of our volunteers from last term?": Michael Thorsley (They woke up on Jan. 1 hung over and in bed with Anton and died of horror), Jesse Wilson (The sign said "*math*NEWS" which was misleading — had the sign said, "Pizza for nonsense," the masses of crazy frosh would have been ours).

Thanks as always to Marion and the rest of the cast and crew at Graphic Services. Good day and good reading!

Richard Bilson (Not Y2K compliant)
Greg Taylor (Went on strike for better wages)
Chadwick Severn (They loved it so much they quit U(W) and went into Journalism. Suckers.)

Dear Sparkle

Dear Sparkle,

There used to be conversations full of pauses and that was fine. It was good even, because it always felt like the conversations were balanced and that there didn't always need to be talk.

But lately, I've been gripped by the fear that I no longer know what to say. To anyone. In any context. I have this feeling that, one day, conversations will pause and I'll be unable to recover.

We'll just sit there, unable to move because there are no more words. And it will be my fault.

And it scares me, when I reach for the next word and there is nothing but grey. Or worse.

What do you do when the next word always seems to be panic?

When I am sitting and listening to people talk, I look at my fingers, my tea, their hands. But I look up when people pause. I look across their faces when they don't finish sentences.

Most people do, I think. It is a human reflex: a defence. Because everyone knows that the next word could always be panic.

And everyone wants to understand the source of the panic, if only to decide whether they need to run away.

When you pause, you feel your audience probing your panic, looking for you to come up with the right words for the silence. You want mostly for the person to stop expecting more. You almost wish that they would find cause to run away, and then you could too.

The best solution to the pauses in conversation is fill up the greys and everything worse with little bits of glitter, or colour… little bits, though. Of something. Bend down for the broken bottle glass, or the stray staple, or a tattered yellow blade of grass, a small chunk of gravel. Or just look somewhere you would never look: a corner, a hill, a cloud, the sky.

You might not find a next word, or any solution to panic, love. But at least when the world follows your eye and asks what you see

you can tell them.

Dear Sparkle,

….hung over the next morning, I rummaged through my pockets. Left pocket contents: $15, a kleenex, and a piece of borrowed paper.

The paper read, in my handwriting:

"(a) she was in leather pants as though it was a cure for the common cold. it was, after all, the onset of winter."

It was the romance of liquor, of course, but it did make me wonder. Can costume be cure? It is allowed to be distraction, modesty and pride… can it be my solution?

Can I go shopping?

Costume is always more important than we think. Why do you think the notion of disguise gets as much discussion as it does? The man in the false moustache is always more interesting conversationally than his neighbour.

Because humans have always felt that the outer self was a reflection of the inner, it is no surprise that we will often resort to shopping as if the perfect shade of red will fix the cold spot in your chest.

And it sometimes does. Just be sure that in the quest for new you don't end up with orange and green plaid.

Arch-villains always need fabulous wardrobes. Every new scene must be a new fashion pinnacle. Black cloaks, silver and crimson trim.

The Hero, on the other hand never needs more than one uniform that gets progressively more tattered as the story goes on. So it depends on who you'd rather be, dear.

Dear Sparkle,

Do you ever feel like there are explanations that you'll only ever be able to make years in the future? Like maybe ten years, and that's being generous with your estimate?

And even then it would have to be after you'd returned from a six month trip to, like, the mountains of Tibet and had been out of contact with civilization for the duration?

Or am I alone in this?

You certainly are not alone, love. I think that heaps of forever silent explanations are daily things. There are so many good reasons for most of the things that people say. There is so much understandable justification that lies so close to the surface that you can often see it pushing against people's jaws as they speak.

The explanations get really hard when you decide that people need explanation. That they deserve them, or something. And you try to comfort yourself by thinking that they will have them someday, when they have forgotten everything, or at least left everything behind.

Most people understand that not everything can be shared, love. Think of all of the things that you can't say… things that the sun and the moon hang on are silent and unspoken. I know that those things I am better off not knowing. Though we often wish that the things that push on people's jaws would just come out, we all know that we can never get them back in once they come out.

Queen Sparkle is a syndicated colonist.

Workreport Angst

I had a pleasant workterm,
I wrote some funky stuff.
But now I'm done my workterm —
you'd think that'd be enough!
It seems they want a work report,
to show that I can write…
But I don't want to do one,
and I think that's alright.

My boss doesn't want to mark it,
he's much too busy for that.
I can't think of a topic
that isn't utter crap.
I sit here at my keyboard,
my brain begins to shrivel.
I could be learning something
but instead I'm typing drivel.

Why am I still in co-op,
do I really need employment?
Should I quit now while I can,
for the sake of life's enjoyment?
I think I'll just say "screw it",
and go do something else.
Perhaps this poem I have writ'
will save some mental health.

Elliott "I hope the advisor doesn't kill me" Noel

*prof*QUOTES

"Have another cup of coffee, or whatever substance helps you visualize these things."

Willard, MATH 136

"It'll be a non-nice curve, because of air resistance. Non-nice means not nice, all right?"

Goodman, AM 250

"$y = x$ is a straight line. This is the sort of stuff you should know before you're born." [a few minutes later] "These are my own techniques, which I developed in the first few months of life."

Goodman, AM 250

"How do we know the curve joins up smoothly? Well, we just hope for the best."

Goodman, AM 250

"Do not differentiate any curve unless asked to by some idiot. The last thing any function wants is to be differentiated. I know because I talk to these functions and they tell me."

Goodman, AM 250

"It could well be that your question makes sense, I just can't figure it out."

Cormack, CS 444

"It took me a long to time to answer your question because I had to write a small program in my head, compile it, and run it."

Burr, CS 342

"Polymorphism: from the Greek, poly for deep fried, morphism for running shoe…"

Buhr, CS 342

"It's not the kind of stupid hack you'd want to include in your commercial compiler that you wanted to sell — well, unless you lived in Redmond, Washington."

Cormack, CS 444

"341? Oh, that's that silly simple algorithms class."

Cox, CS 442

"Those silly C people never knew anything intelligent."

Cox, CS 442

"Try for a while, and if you get tired, conclude that it's too hard."

Cormack, CS 444

"Niklaus Wirth loves draconian syntax restrictions just to piss you off."

Cormack, CS 444

"I'll just make time run backwards."

Hoffman, PMATH 467

"I'm insulting your intelligence here."

Hoffman, PMATH 467

"Its called the stickingfunctionstogetherlemma, translated directly from the German."

Hoffman, PMATH 467

"Theorem 5 is actually the same as theorem 4, except a little different."

Hoffman, PMATH 467

"There is no theorem 8 in this course — no theorem 8."

Stewart, PMATH 441

"Let me give you a proof you might not have seen before — a one-line proof. You've probably seen the two-line proof… maybe even two lines."

Lu, PMATH 352

"f circle lambda sharp f circle mu… pardon all the brackets"

Hoffman, PMATH 467

"Functionality is bloody important! This is tremendous!"

Hoffman, PMATH 467

"Every time you see the axiom of choice involved you should have your hair bristle. Woooo! That set might not be measurable."

Hare, PMATH 451

"The blackboard is a Hausdorff space. This is why I can always draw this" [Draws some points and dotted lines around them.]

Hare, PMATH 451

"You can't pull that one, Donny. I taught you calculus. You know what convergence means."

Hare, PMATH 451

"We need… the Law of Conservation of Paint."

Nica, PMATH 354

"I just couldn't commit that sin."

Stewart, PMATH 441

"You have two friends — one of them gives you the I_ns the other one gives you the epsilon."

Nica, PMATH 354

"If I have to start this again next lecture, I'll probably just cycle, and do this proposition for the rest of the term."

Nica, PMATH 354

"Point-set topology — boring topology."

Lu, PMATH 352

"We're not wrong yet."

Godsil, MATH 146

"If you can't read my handwriting, the notes are in the Library."

Richmond, C&O 351

"Is that correct? Luckily, I don't have to write the final."

Hare, PMATH 451

"You people need to get a life."

Forrest, MATH 148

"I've got hair in places I've never had it before."

Burris, PSYCH 257

"Some people get the runs, some become psychotic."

Burris, PSYCH 257

"Bud, you gotta drive like everyone on the road is nuts."

Burris, PSYCH 257

"I need to be crazy so I can get out of my current situation."

Burris, PSYCH 257

"Most of us want to touch naked people from time to time."

Burris, PSYCH 257

"It's like Tony the Tiger with five cups of cappuccino in his system."

Burris, PSYCH 257

"That is the character for woman, which has nothing to do with the one for good."

Niu, CHINESE 101

"Let me just make sure it's wrong here. I might have actually gone and done it right."

Cox, CS 442

"Life is not as simple as this book makes it out to be... it is simpler."

Zima, CS 487

*look*AHEAD

*math*NEWS

January 21	Issue #1 greets the New Year
January 31	Issue #2 production night
	6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
February 4	80 percent chance of Issue #2

Math Faculty

January 18	Course Add Deadline
	You missed it, you're stuck
January 25	Last Day for 100% refund
February 1	Course Drop Deadline
February 28	Course WD Deadline

MathSoc

January 27	Movies: *Matrix* & *X-Files*
February 3	Movies: *Fight Club* & *Devil's Own*

MGC

January 21	First Night Out
Jan 26&27	Ring Sales
January 26	Photo retakes (not for composite)
Feb 3&4	Yearbook Sales
Feb 3–9	Valentine Kiss & Hug-O-Gram sales
February 10	J. Alan George Award nominations due
February 21	Valedictorian Award nominations due

MEF

February 23	Deadline for Winter proposal
	submissions and Council nominations

Co-op

January 31	Interviews begin
February 3	Job Fair 2000

Miscellaneous

January 20	Full Moon
January 30	Full Sun
January 31	Well, it might be special

Top 10 reasons to avoid the comfy lounge

10. Crazy Frosh
9. RPGs and the "RPG Bunny"
8. The sticky white stains
7. "And that makes you the imbecilli"
6. You're female and Tushar is there
5. The instant gag reflex
4. Drool from the sleepers
3. "Good God! Get a room people!"
2. Dead Dan jokes
1. Absolutely no work has ever been accomplished there! EVER!

Top 10 reasons to frequent the comfy lounge

10. Lots and lots of available male "hunks"
9. Nuclear mutant risk
8. It's better than Linear Algebra
7. It's better than Intro to Vaseline
6. Peer pressure
5. Forts!
4. "Nobody's going to hide a chair on top of a physics machine"
3. You're too lazy to go anywhere else
2. Calculus assignment parties
1. Absolutely no work has ever been accomplished there! EVER!

Lists compiled by an arbitrary subset of Crazy Frosh

Nuclear-Mutant Risk

Here's a quick summary of the play of Nuclear-Mutant Risk for everyone who has been wondering why people have been yelling "NUKE!" in the comfy. First, the game requires between three and five foolish (or crazy) people who are willing to thoroughly waste a couple of hours. The game is played the same as Risk except for a few variations. The red pieces are used to denote nuked countries.

The variations are as follows:

1. Countries can be nuked, which means that a red token is placed on the territory and all of the other armies are then removed from it.
2. Players may attack through a nuked territory but then their armies will be cut in half.
3. At the end of a player's turn if he has taken a territory the top card of the card pile is turned over and that country is nuked. If he has not conquered a territory a country is denuked.
4. Countries are also nuked if double or triple sixes are rolled.
5. When a country is denuked two green armies are placed in that territory.

Mutants: One player acts as the mutants and while there are green pieces on the board they collect armies like a normal player would collect reinforcements. Mutants have the mutant ability to move their armies freely across nuked territory without losing half of their armies.
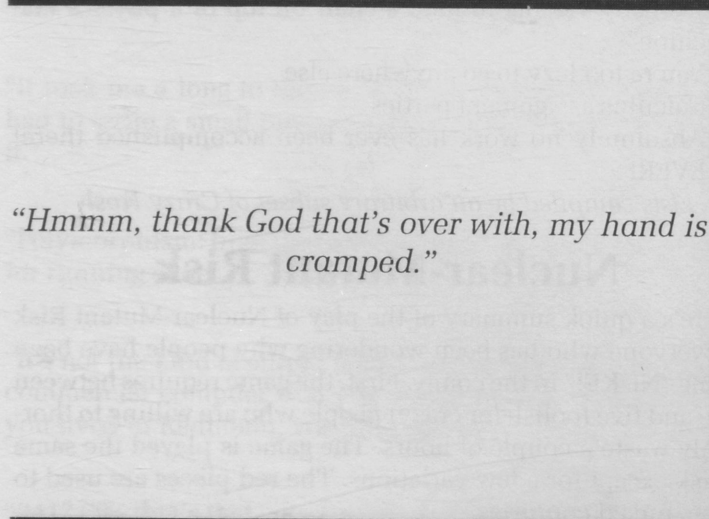
Skarp Boy

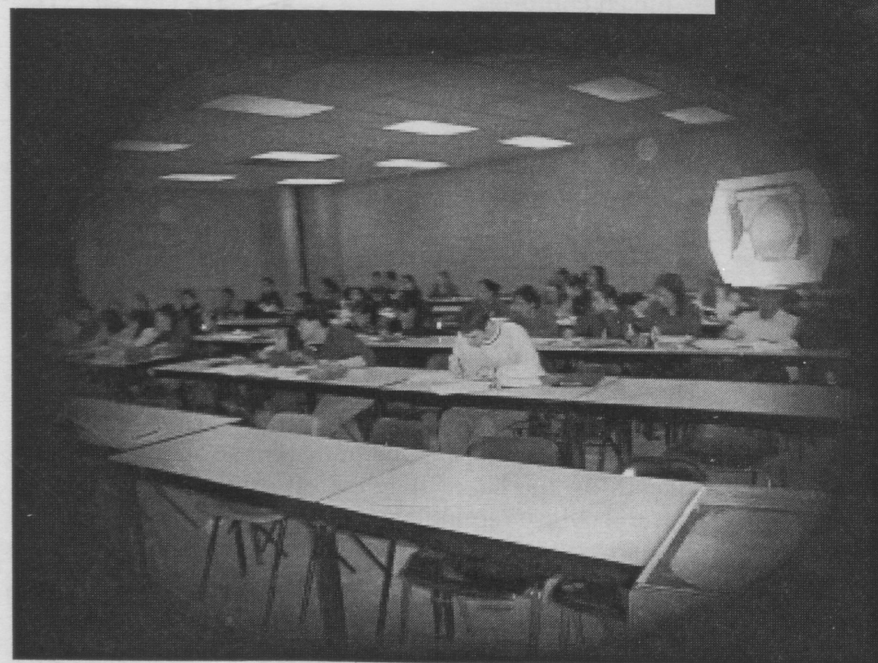*From the people who brought you "Being John Malkovich" comes:*

Being Byron Weber Becker
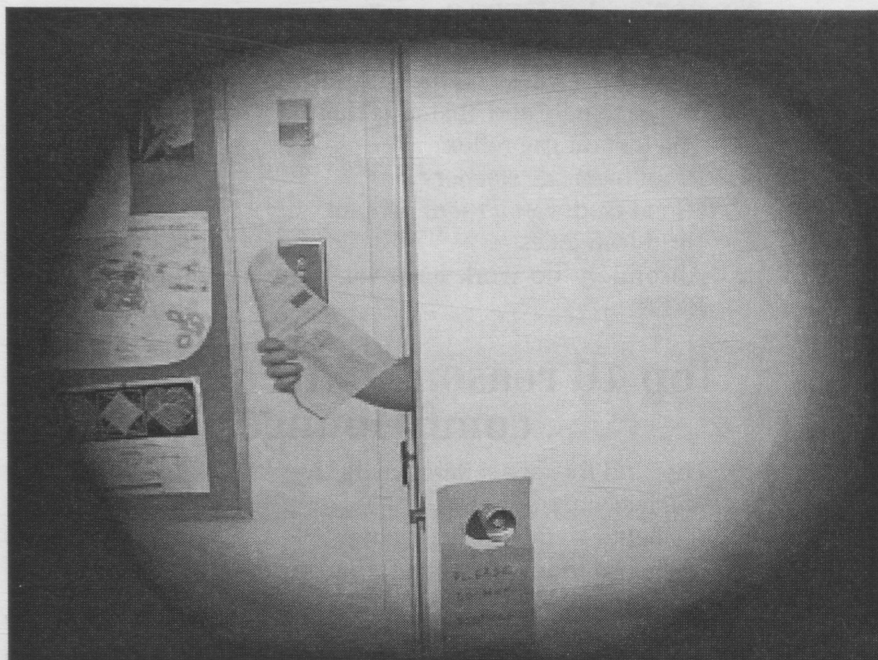
"Yes, I can understand that you really want to drop CS 492 and add CS 100, but I think instead you should add Real-Time, Graphics, Aritificial Intelligence and Computer Vision."
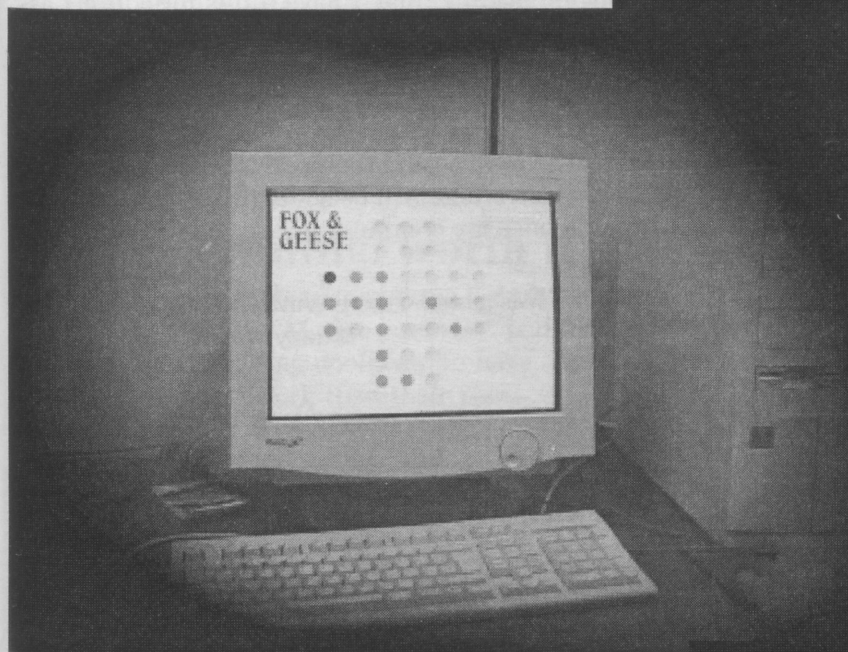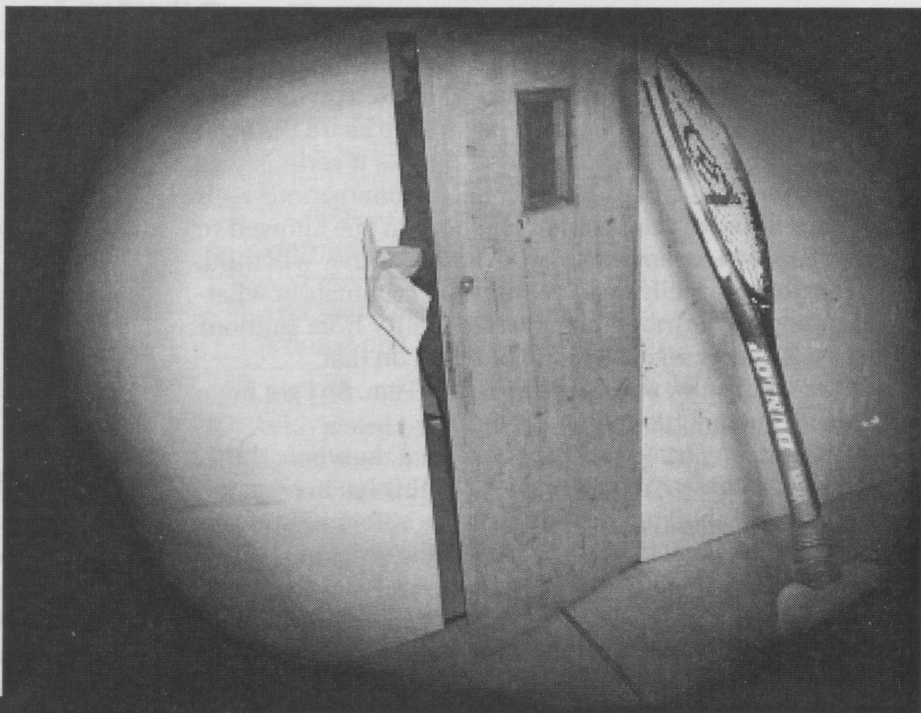
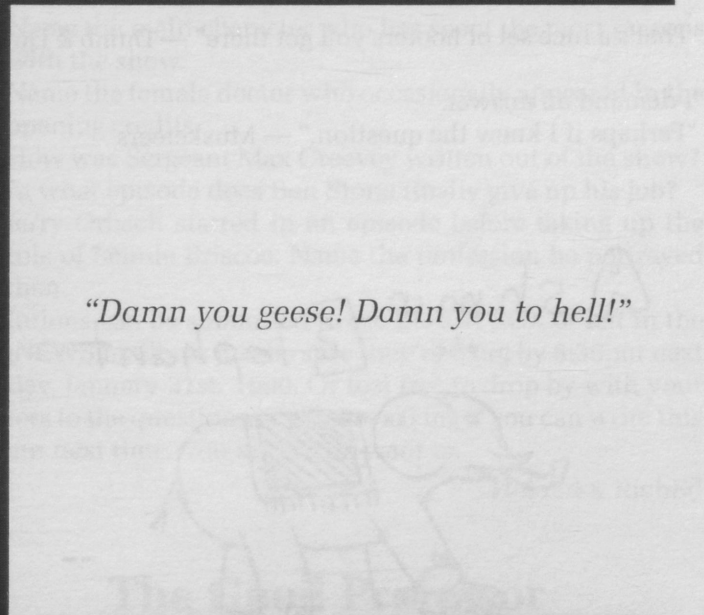*"Hmmm, thank God that's over with, my hand is cramped."*

*"The point is not robots! Repeat after me! The point is not robots! Write that down!"*

"Yes, I know you want to drop out of CS 492 and move to General. But, there are other CS advisors who aren't playing squash this very moment. And you caught me without my signature-writing pen."

"Damn you geese! Damn you to hell!"

"Yes, I can understand that you really want to get out of CS 492 and transfer to Arts, but surprising as this may sound, this is not my office hour, and this is not my office."
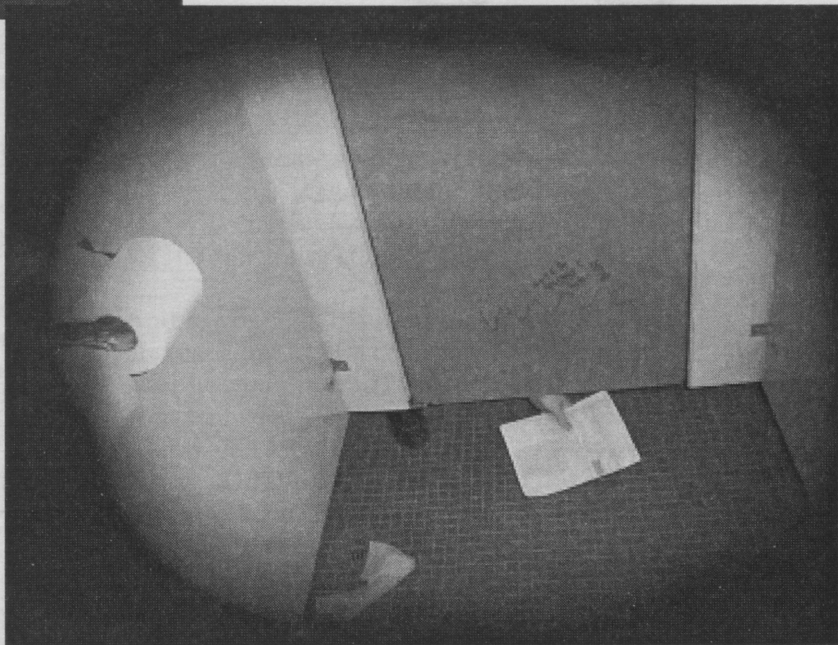
Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez but Simon sells sea shells on the sea shore. Haha, no disclaimer, my term is over, so there. Anyone who reads a humour column in a humour paper (I've heard the term the student rag but that sounds silly) and takes it seriously as the opinions and values of the author, needs some serious reality training. These are the people that shouldn't be allowed to watch television or see movies because otherwise they will think particular actors are really dead or are really criminals or whatever. Jeez people, learn how to separate reality from humour and fantasy. Anyway, that's enough of a rant on that.

It was Pam's birthday. She is Green-Eggs & Pam. So I got her a green egg and spam, I thought it was funny.

I'm upset cause my computer died. Well, not the whole thing, just parts, I don't know. Anyway, because of this I'm in no mood to write an article and I am already past the submission deadline (hoping it'll make it in anyway) so I'll just write in some of the quotes I've been collecting lately.

"It's not like she worships the devil.
She doesn't have to, he worships her." — Frasier

"That's a nice set of hooters you got there" — Dumb & Dumber

"I demand an answer."
"Perhaps if I knew the question." — Musketeers

"Women aren't the only ones, men also use sex to get what they want."
"That's impossible, sex is what men want" — Frasier

"Hey, no-one messes with my brain until I get sprinkles" — Intel commercial

"All for one and more for me" — Musketeers

"I'm going to sue the pants off you."
"You don't have to sue me to get my pants off, rrrr..." — Simpsons

"I desperately want to make love to a schoolboy" — ???

Actually I can't remember where that last one comes from, it is written on my sheet of quotes, but not in my writing; I don't know, I think someone is having some fun with me.

Sigh, gotta go study for a final (I have one on Thursday, yesterday for anyone reading this). I have 9 this term, don't ask, maybe I'll tell next issue. Since I'm in OS this term I have been married to Tom & Jer. And if that doesn't scare you, after the first big assignment we are going to have a BYOBND (Nachos & Dip) and group marriage counselling. This is probably only funny to those who have been through OS, so don't worry about it. I promise my next article will be better (I'll spend more than 15 minutes on it once my computer lives again).

Snuggly - Wuggly
Fuzzy-Wuzzy was a bear, Fuzzy-Wuzzy had no hair, Fuzzy-Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?

Ashmir the Elephant

CRACK
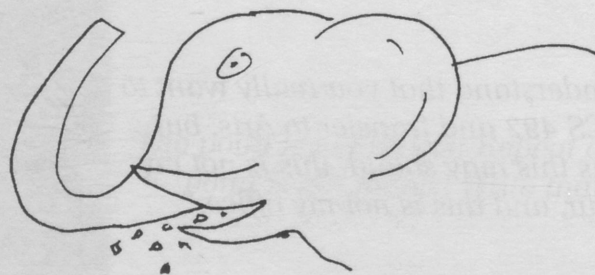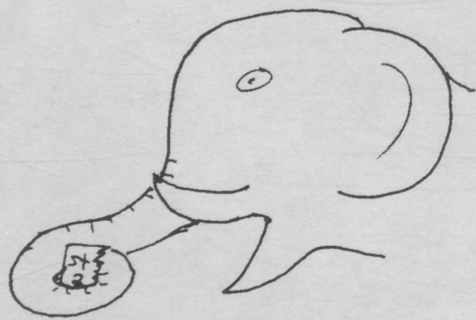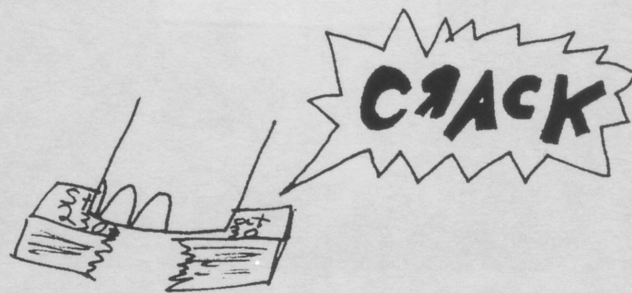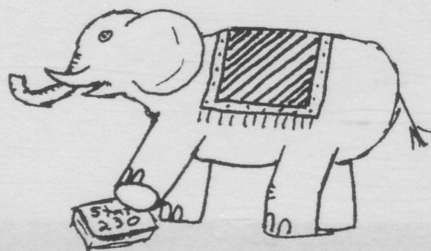
Moral: Stats isn't useless after all

*math*NEWSquiz #1

Squizmaster wanted

Do you know lots of useless trivia? Do you play a lot of "Trivial Pursuit" or "You Don't Know Jack"? Uh, do you know lots of useless trivia? Then you could be writing this column next issue! Dazzle your friends and confuse your enemies! Qualifications are few and rewards are many! At the very least I'm sure many of you can do a better job of this than me. It's not hard, really. Plus there's pizza on *math*NEWS production nights. But anyway, until we get someone permanently, here are a few categories and questions for all of you to mull over — submit answers and you may already be a winner! (Because even if you only get 3 answers right, that's more than the guy who got 5 right but never bothered to drop off their submission!)

Song Lyrics

One point for title, one point for composer
Bonus point if you get the overall theme

1. And then there suddenly appeared before me
    Someone my arms could really hold
    I heard you whisper "Darling please adore me"
    And when I looked the moon had turned to gold
2. Lord I guess I might as well a-go back over yonder
    Way back down across the hill
    'Cause if my baby don't love me no more
    I know her sister will

3. I never wanted 2 be your weekend lover
    I only wanted 2 be some kind of friend
    Baby I could never steal u from another
    It's such a shame our friendship had 2 end
4. They took all the trees
    And put them in a tree museum
    And they charged all the people
    A dollar and a half just to see 'em

20th Century Math

1. Who posed the Entscheidungsproblem?
2. Name the female mathematician who studied at the University of Gottingen near the turn of the century.
3. In what year did Godel publish the results of his Incompleteness Theorems?
4. On what date did Andrey Kolmogorov die?
5. Name the mathematician who, in the last decade, completed a proof for Fermat's Last Theorem.

Law & Order

1. Name the main character who has spent the most seasons with the show.
2. Name the female doctor who occasionally appeared in the opening credits.
3. How was Sergeant Max Greevey written out of the show?
4. In what episode does Ben Stone finally give up his job?
5. Jerry Orbach starred in an episode before taking up the role of Lennie Briscoe. Name the profession he portrayed then.

Solutions can be submitted to the **BLACK BOX** or left in the *math*NEWS mailbox, just be sure they're there by 6:30pm next Monday, January 31st, 1900. Or feel free to drop by with your answers to the questions in person, asking if you can write this column next time. You know you want to.

HoloEd & RichEd

Running: worth it?

Maintaining coolness is something we're all concerned with in the Math Faculty. "Mathie coolness" is different from arts coolness or engineering coolness. To have coolness, arts students do less homework than their peers. Cool engineers do more homework than their peers. To be a cool mathie, you gotta do little schoolwork alongside lots of work that is similar to your homework but much more fun.

Recently I've come across an important issue that is degrading the coolness of mathies everywhere. With the semicold weather upon us and a general lack of time, being late for stuff is turning into an epidemic! The lateness problem has become so bad for some people that they have to run to their various destinations. When these time-deprived people run down the paths across campus, a metaphorical billboard hangs from their back screaming, "I'm disorganized!" Should someone be forced to run while indoors, they are not only advertising their lack of punctuality but creating a hazard for other students.

There are alternatives to this sacrifice of coolness. The most obvious is to slow your pace to a cool walk and arrive late. By arriving late your peers will think you are busy and therefore very cool. Another option involves a flying car and remixed folk music; I will discuss it in an upcoming issue of *math*NEWS. The best replacement of a disorganized run is an "active person" run. When running late, the disorganized person leaps into a nearby phone booth and changes into a track suit. From there, they can run at will and people will actually think of them as cooler for running. Upon arrival at the destination, the person would change back into standard issue clothing and proceed as scheduled.

Jesse Wilson

The Good Professor

Well now that you've come this far dear
Where do you plan to go from here
And how do you plan to get clear
Of the regret that you must suffer
As they all come back to you
all the things you so wanted to do
and which you so arrogantly threw askew
for the "good life" that you chose to pursue

And as you look behind
and can't justify in your mind
your wasted life, your wasted time
your lost youth — now impossible to find
I guess you have come to know
Just how things must go
For those who choose to follow
The Good Professor's Promised Tomorrow

Aziz Ebrahim

GRIDWORD

Grid Clues

Across

1. Kind of cuisine
5. Change
10. ____ Facto
11. Make him less a man
14. **Actor in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH**
15. Beers
16. Character in Pulp Fiction
17. Student Life Hates Imprint (Abbr.)
18. Removes lime stains
19. Exist
20. Dash dot, in morse code
22. As ___ my instructions
23. Knockout (Abbr.)
24. Conservatives
26. Anger
27. **Actor in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH**
29. Word representing what was actually wrote
31. Makes you cry
32. Big owner of fish store
34. Dynamite
35. Doctor (Abbr.)
36. Promotion
37. Women's Medical Association (Abbr.)
38. Sheppard who went into space
40. Math Faculty group
42. TV Show: Iron ____
43. **Floor in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH**
45. Organizes
46. "I cannot tell ___"
47. Sound a snake makes
48. Backend

Down

1. Take over an airplane
2. Movie: _____ 13
3. Person who seats you
4. "I have ____ of work"
5. Absolut Toronto (Abbr.)
6. Modern streetcars
7. Centre in spindle of turning lathe
8. Person who draws
9. Takes back a fired employee
11. **Actor in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH**
12. Song: Prince ____
13. Four-wheeled mobility devices
19. Chest
21. Mail something electronically
24. Toronto Realty (Abbr.)
25. Common filename extention for Windows programs
27. Around eight tones
28. TV Show: __ The World Turns
29. You're put in this on cross-galazy trips
30. Smalls arms off large lakes
32. Earhart who flew
33. Larry of Leisure Suit fame
37. Moby Dick
39. Never Eat Mussel Stew (Abbr.)
41. The Ex
42. Blacken
44. Sounds certain knights make

gridCOMMENTS

I'm too tired to say anything about this gridWORD. If you manage to wrap your head around some of the more obtuse abbreviations and solve the damned thing, toss your solution in the BLACK BOX or to our email account. We've got fabulous gift certificates for the C&D just itching to be spent.

Entries due by Monday, January 31, 1900 at noon.

The unfortunate gridmaster

The *mathNEWS* Y2K Sweepstakes!

What's your perfect way to celebrate the new millennium? A trip to Bermuda? Climbing Mt.Everest? Or just cold, hard cash? Let us know, and with the *mathNEWS* Y2K sweepstakes one lucky winner will see their dream come true! Just drop us a line, but be quick – contest closes January 31, 1900.

ISSN 0705—0410