Annual General Meeting of the Mathematics Society

To be held Thursday, November 16th, 2000

1. Financial Overview (Mike Froh)

2. Report on the State of the Society (Jennifer Cote)

3. Activities and Services Report (Corey Gaudette)

4. Academic Report (Jennifer Cote)

5. Ratification of Bylaw Amendments

(Copies available in the MathSoc office)
All undergraduate math students are eligible to attend and vote. Proxy forms are available outside the MathSoc office (MC3038). Proxy forms must be submitted to the President by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday November 15th, 2000.

Social Director Article

OK… here we are again… hmm… PUB NIGHT ROCKED… thank you to everybody who helped out and who came… esp Catherine (the poster girl)… :) …well hallowe'en is officially over by now… and so are my 4 events on that day. I hope you came out and had fun :) … now… on to new stuff…

Upcoming we're having a Pink Tie Day… you wear your pink tie to school, to class, etc on Nov 8th, and I give you things… Like candy… and sugar… and maybe cotton candy… ok… TODAY IS COTTON CANDY DAY… so come buy some… or come by and help out and get some free cotton candy. Charity Ball is coming… you should all come… I hear there's gonna be pixie sticks again… hmm… now I think I'm going to have an event involving duct tape… some sort of contest… I'll advertise… so don't worry… Keep your heads up… and I'll come up with some more events… or someone else will and I'll steal them… hmmm… well that's all this time… I'll do better next time I promise… and no Marshall that doesn't mean I'm going to fix my grammar…

Little Liam Dorey
Social Director

Instructor of the Year Award

Nomination forms are now available for the Math Society's Instructor of the Year award. If you have (or had last term) a Prof you feel is deserving of the award, please pick up a nomination form and fill it out. This award is given out annually and the information from the nomination forms will also be passed along to the University-wide instructor of the year award. Nomination forms can be picked up outside the MathSoc office (MC3038). Nominations close Wednesday November 8th at 4:30 p.m.

Honorary Membership

Nomination forms are now available for Honorary Membership in the Math Society. Forms can be picked up outside the MathSoc office and must be returned no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 8th.

MathSoc Executive 2001

Nominations are open for all positions

- MathSoc President (W01 & F01) or (S01)
- MathSoc VP-Academic (W01 & F01) or (S01)
- MathSoc VP-Activities & Services (W01 & F01) or (S01)
- MathSoc VP-Finance (W01 & F01) or (S01)

All nomination forms are available outside the MathSoc Office (MC3038). Nominations close at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8th.

Live Spam Free

E-mail spam bothers me. I don't know why; most people just delete it and forget about it. But I just get angry when I see some new message from a "friend" whom I've heard of that "thought you might be interested" in the latest illegal pyramid scheme. Who gave spammers the right to clog my mailbox with junk and waste my time?

I found a way to stop them, and it totally changed my life. I can put my e-mail address on web pages without fear. I sign my usenet postings with impunity. I haven't seen spam in months. Friends say I'm happier now. How did I do it? Using a little program called "procmail." Procmail is a mail sorting program available in the unix environment. Basically, you forward all your email to the program, and it puts it into the appropriate mailboxes using the rules in your `.procmailrc` file.

There are two steps to enable mail filtering in your account. First, you have to make the `.procmailrc` rule file in your account top level folder. Here's a simple one that places all email not containing your user-ID into the `~/mail/bulk` file. This folder will show up in `pine` or your IMAP folders the first time you get some spam.

```
PATH=/bin:/usr/bin:/software/procmail-3.13/bin
MAILDIR=$HOME/mail
LOGFILE=$MAILDIR/log


:0:
*! ^To:.*put_your_userid_here
bulk
```

The second step is to start forwarding your email through the program. Do this by making a `.forward` file containing the line (including quotes) "|exec /software/procmail-3.13/bin/procmail". Finally, test it by sending mail to yourself and checking the `~/mail/log` file. Then just sit back and wait for the spam to arrive!

Steve Hanov

MEF Update

The MEF Funding Council meeting will be Wednesday, November 8th, at 5:30pm in room MC5158. The funding council is in need of members; in particular we need 3 first year reps, 3 second year reps, 3 third year reps, 2 ACTSCI reps, 2 AM reps, 2 Bus/Accounting reps, 1 C&O rep, 2 PM reps and 1 St-Jerome's rep. So if you want to be on the funding council and help decide how to spend the money, fill in a nomination sheet! (Yes, the deadline has been extended in order to fill the positions.)

Email mefcom@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca for more information.

Don't forget submissions to the MEF LOGO contest are due November 3. The best design wins a prize and gets to be the new logo for MEF. The winner gets their choice of a cookie or a T-shirt. :-)

Natalie Thompson
Math Endowment Fund Director Fall 2000

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

November 3	Issue #4 announces candidacy
November 13	Issue #5 production night
	6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
November 17	Issue #5 milks the public

Math Faculty

November 3	Last Day for Course Withdrawal!
November 3	Last Day for Spring Pre-Registration!
November 4	You're Too Late
December 4	Last Day of Lectures

MathSoc

November 3	Cotton Candy Day
November 7	Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
November 8	Exec 2001 Nominations Close
Nobember 8	Pink Tie Day
November 16	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
November 17	Charity Ball

MGC

| November 28 | Spare Grad Portrait Day |

MEF

| November 3 | Logo design contest deadline |
| November 8 | Funding Council Meeting |

Co-op

| November 3 | Interviews end |
| November 7 | Ranking Day |

Elections

November 7	U.S. Election Day
November 13	Municipal Election Day
November 27	Federal Election Day
November 28	Cursing the Politicians Day
December 1	Still stuck with Harris

Miscellaneous

November 3	Date in the lookAHEAD 7 times
November 11	Remembrance Day
	Don't Forget!!!
November 13	Bad Day for Garfield
November 25	New Moon in Sagittarius

Hi Everybody!

I am running for MP in Kitchener Centre for the NDP in the upcoming federal election. This is right beside the Kitchener-Waterloo riding which you are in right now. The border is approximately Victoria St. Consequently, most of you cannot vote for me. However, this is okay; just make sure you do go out and vote for somebody. (Anybody!) The election is on November 27 and if you need a ride, any political party will give you a ride.

So go out and vote!

Paul Royston

mastHEAD

Containing Complete Colour Commentary

Greg here this week! Yes, it's that time again! And I'm not talking about the election, enough about the election, I mean it's time for another issue of *math*NEWS. Though we do have content herein that references the election… actually, we've got quite a lot of content this issue, as I'm sure you can tell by the page count. I must say I'm just as impressed as Rich indicated he was last issue. In fact, after a quick check in the ol' historical *math*NEWS archives, it looks like the last time we had a regular issue over 20 pages (not including Sports Integrated, which had some things from last term, or our spectacular 40 page Issue 500), it was back in March 1998. Maybe you don't care about that, but hey, I said this was colour commentary.

On to something else. Do you realize we're now over halfway through the term? Hopefully you don't have one of those December 21st exams (which seem to be occurring for such popular courses as CS338, MUSIC270, PSYCH217 and SCI237 among others). Hopefully you're also passing your midterms (perhaps with flying colours) and are not finding too many grey areas in your course work. Try to get outside and enjoy some of the leafy fall colours if you can too… well, I've heard some people find it therapeutic. What's that you say, enough rambling? Then in the spirit of my current state of attire (on October 31st), I will state, "Just one more thing…"

While peacefully munching on pizza, we were interrupted by a caller who wanted a solution to her colour mixing problem. Being the helpful people that we are, we asked our staff for their help. So here they are, along with their answer to the question, "What do you mix together to get brown?": Albert O'Connor (ground up squirrel, filtered, and apricots), Raymond Lai (blood from a mathie, brains of an artsie, and a limb of an engineer; mix well and add a dash of parsley; serve with white rice), Bradley T Smith (light and dark browns), Keith Mortensen (chocolate and peanut butter… wait, that's Reese's… oh, well…), Peter Lizak (two pink ties and a bottle of vodka), Jason Lau (melted Snickers mixed with Grand River water), Anthony Cheng (coke and "coke").

Richard Bilson ('b' and 'r' and 'o' and 'w' and 'n')
Gregory Taylor (Mr. Green with the candlestick in the study.)

lookBEHIND

Look behind you!

Oh, you just missed it.

G.U.M.S Club

(General, Undeclared, Mathematical Sciences Club)

That's right! It's new, it's exciting, it's... G.U.M.S! This club will be forming next term for students in the aforementioned disciplines. Some of its purposes will include:

- Advocating for the increased recognition of these programs

- Providing access to the textbooks used in the General Program

- Presenting talks on the opportunities these programs provide

- Providing peer groups for students new to the programs or for students considering the programs

- Gumball machine!!!

- More reasons to follow

If you are interested in joining this club, or have any suggestions, e-mail Paul Royston (one of the general reps for MathSoc) at `prroysto@student.math.uwaterloo.ca`.

Paul Royston

been in the mood and he had faked it emotionally, this made more sense, but wasn't nearly as funny.

Occasionally I hear the tail end of conversations, or just brief snippets, and my interest and curiosity are peaked, like this one "so I was in the Condom Shack" — Yolanda. Actually, with that one, even after it was explained to me, it was still pretty funny, cause I actually heard what she had said right. Hmm, I wonder what the group that used to refer to themselves as the "Crazy Frosh" are calling themselves these days, since they're no longer frosh.

Is it just me, or is it pretty ironic that University Policy 69 is about Conflict of Interest. I read the Daily Bulletin daily (odd, that) and I found some notice about changes to that policy, I found it amusing. On that same topic, haven't you ever found it weird that *69 calls back the last person who called you? And if you were the last person to call you 'cause you have two phone lines then you could answer the phone after *69ing and put the two phones speaker-to-receiver and vice versa so that they could talk to each other, but then they'd be in the aforementioned position. Wow, extreme amounts of wackiness, all stemming from reading the Daily Bulletin. I'm sure it had nothing to do with my, um, strange trains of thought, nothing at all.

I was sitting at my computer and Sky was here, but then he went to the bathroom (don't worry, this is going somewhere, and it isn't the toilet). He came back and asked if we had any special light bulbs (Sky doesn't live here, he just visits a lot for Diablo and some other reason that escapes me right now). The single, wacky light in the bathroom had burned out (my room has 5 separate lights, but that's another story). Well, we don't have any of those kinds of light bulbs, so he went away, then he came back and told me that he found a normal bulb and (I quote), "It's ugly, but it works." To which I replied "Just like

mathRANT

Who wants to be a World Leader?

Just like everyone's favourite television show (barf!) we have a Canadian spin-off already up and running in our home and native land. Except, in this show, winner takes all. That's right, election time is here.

So who to vote for? Is anyone as confused about this as me? I mean, in one sense we have a fairly competent government with the Liberals, but in the other sense, should we really settle for only a fairly competent government? And if not, who do we turn to? The Canadian Alliance has a few good ideas about the economy, and then again, they have some really bad social policies, and that whole "no more healthcare" idea. Now, as for the Conservatives, sure they have a platform, but do they have a party? Not to seem, what's the word, trite, but they don't have a proverbial leg to proverbially stand on. They may win some seats in the maritime provinces, but I don't think they have the stuff to go the distance anywhere else. As for the NDP, well, if you want to keep that Health Care and not see any tax cutting, these are definitely the people for you. They will also go and waste money too, but hey, no party's perfect. Then there's the PQ in Quebec, which will no doubt keep its stronghold in Quebec. And then we have a mishmash of parties that fall under the category of Independent. I don't feel like listing them, because, just like voting for them, it is useless.

When it comes to voting on that distant November day, it matters only that we don't give any one party a stable foothold. I mean, a majority government is just a bit too much power for any of these parties... That's why...

Minority Gov *(to the tune of Green Days' Minority)*
Chorus:
I want to see a minority,
I don't want their authority,
Down with the Liberal majority,
'Cause I want to see a minority.
I walk into the voters booth that November day,
One nation under darkness of which we decide alone,
For crying out loud do the noble thing
Kick and shout and throw them out, pick democracy
'Cause
Chorus
One mind, one light, flashing in the dark
Blinded by the silence of a thousand broken hearts
For crying out do the noble thing
Kick and shout, and throw them out, choose democracy
'Cause
Chorus

Obligatory Complaint of the Week

So much to bitch about, so little time to bitch. There is talk of some policy changes on the horizon, no surprise, the demand for anybody with any CS knowledge is a valued commodity. The PTB's have heard that we are having trouble with courses like cs370 and cs354, and they want to make it better. Which is all good and fine, but they are going about it the wrong way.

Partially it is because they are asking the wrong questions, but the root of it is that they don't really know what the problem is. The throughput for this University has been quite good for quite some time, so why all of a sudden are they starting to

get clogs? Why are they having to bell grades? What has changed in the world? Must be the students, right? Maybe we can own up to some of the blame, but honestly, truly, if a student isn't learning what they need to, the onus is not on the students I'm sorry to inform you, it is on the teachers.

I heard that! Quiet down, I'm not done. Sure, sure, it's a radical idea, no, wait, it isn't. This is how it has been since teaching began, except in those quiet beginnings it was much easier to teach your student to make a fire, or perhaps recite a poem, or play the lyre. All the ancient Philosophers agree that the burden lies with the teacher and not the student. That aside, I shall continue.

It is rare to be captivated by any CS lecture at UofW, for most professors believe that "they aren't here to entertain, they are here to communicate information. That we should just *be* interested." But we aren't. We look around us and see some seventeen year old being hired at Microsoft and think, what am I doing here again? We are from the entertain me generation. The key to teaching us is there. "But we aren't in the business of keeping you interested." Well that'll have to change, why you ask? Because times are changing. It is no longer enough to provide us with the resources to learn, because if you notice, every damned one of us own a computer. Your mainframe in the basement's gone. Our texts can be bought at Chapters. So what exactly are we paying for? An "official" shiny degree? No wonder we aren't inspired anymore.

Now I am being a bit harsh, I know, I've had some really good professors. But I've also had the professors that the PTB's should keep underground in the research labs and as far away from the classrooms as possible. I mean, being smart isn't the only

criteria for teaching, at least, it shouldn't be. For grad student courses, where they are studying some specific thing that Professor Specialization knows, that's all good. Because he may be a notch or two higher on the brain scales than these guys, but at least they are somewhat talking the same language. But you send someone who has been researching the complexity of computational analysis to teach cs120, you're going to have a problem, unless this Prof is more than the sum of his degrees.

A good professor can take a topic of a course and make a coherent analogy of it to something that everybody understands in the real world. A good professor endevours to keep those who want to learn interested. Indulges our creative sides. Challenges us but never leaves us in the dark. Is more interested in us learning than anything else.

Alas, even as I write this I see the reason why this will never work. There are some students who have no interest in learning; no matter how much effort a professor puts in, it would never make a difference. So rather than aggravate themselves with these ingrates, they distance themselves, and fall into the routines of standardization. I really can't blame them either.

Generic Advice

University is the pursuit of a higher level of study. If you are here to get a job, and that is the only reason you are here, this is definitely not the place for you to be. You're wasting your time, and in fact, strangely, everyone elses.

Closing Remark

"We're removing History and Geography from the curriculum, the children weren't testing well."
"Back to the Three R's."
"Two R's come September…"
— Simpsons

Marius X

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

TODAY:
Pop-Midterm
35% of final Grade

CS666

Note:
- All incorrect answers will recieve negative grades.
- All correct answers must be proven.

You have 50 minutes, have a nice day...

HELL TODAY!

MARIUS KEITH MORTENSEN
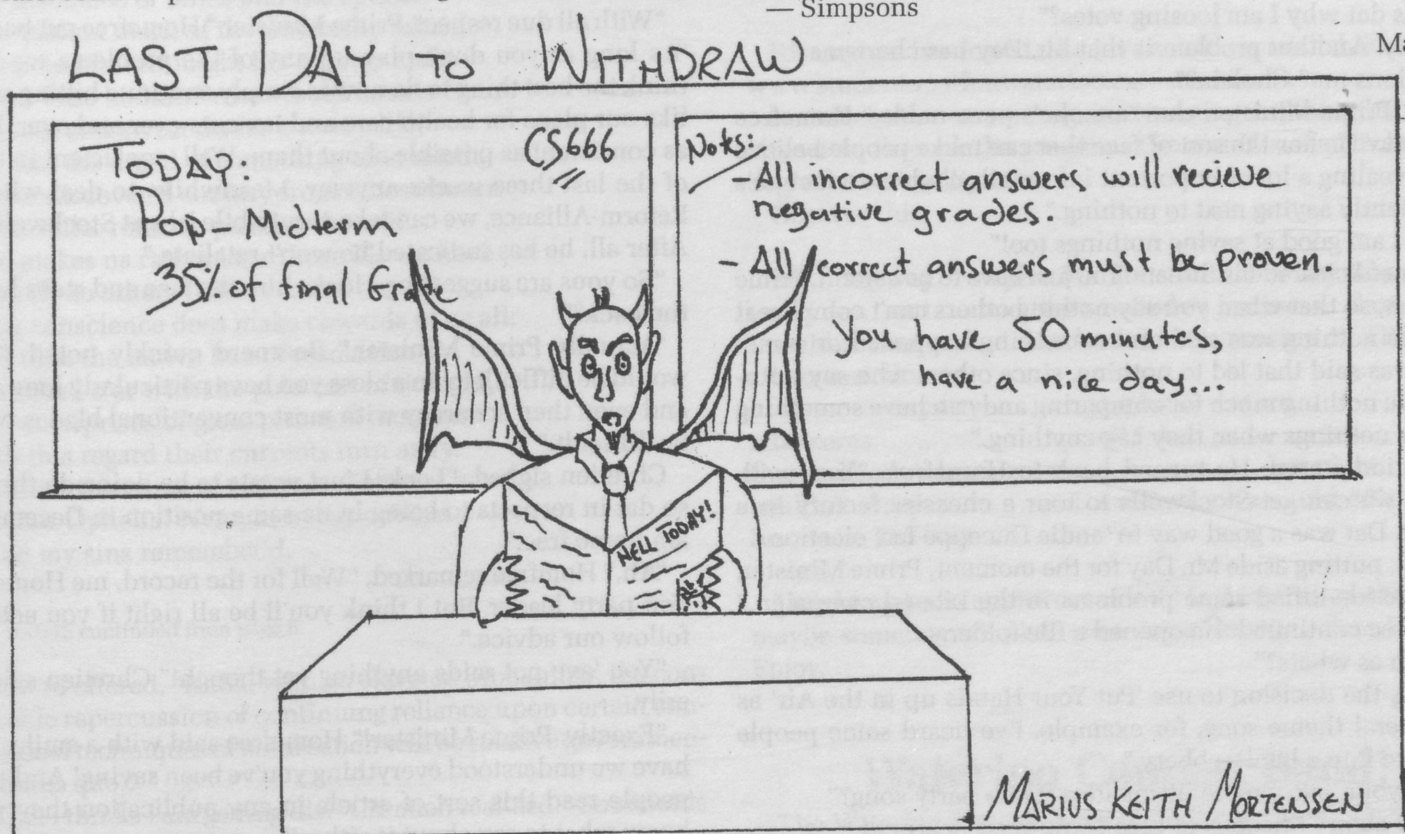
When Dominik was laid off he thought he would never find another job as satisfying as Chief Master of Cruelty... He was wrong.

No, Prime Minister

The Election

Jean Chretien walked into his office during a quick stopover in Ottawa during the electoral campaigning. His two top advisors were there waiting for him. "Allo!" the Prime Minister began. "I 'ave brought you 'eres so yous can tell me what changies to make to my campaign, so dat more of de publics will be voting for me. So, first of alls, 'ave you been following de polls?"

"No, Prime Minister," Sir Homefree remarked. "Because such figures are notoriously unreliable and misleading."

"In particular," Beernerd added, "Most of the results coming in from Ontario can't be taken at face value because apparently people there are getting confused between the municipal and the federal elections."

"What? But Ontarios is de most important province! Dis is where we won de most seats last times!"

Homefree sighed. "Well Prime Minister, you will recall that such an early election call was not recommended by cabinet."

"Now listen 'ere, Homefries…"

"Homefree."

"Dis was great times for an election!" Chretien countered. "De economy and de budget are going good, and de only real oppositions is da Reform-Alliance. And dey are not able to be running in all ridings yet! De only reason I am considering campaign changies is because Stockwells could cause problems with de minorities."

"If by that you mean cause a Liberal minority government, I suppose it's possible, Prime Minister," Homefree admitted. "In fact, some in the public think that would be the optimal outcome."

"So is dat why I am loosing votes?"

"Partly. Another problem is that Mr. Day has charisma."

"Pardons me? Cholera?"

"No, Prime Minister, charisma, he's personable," Homefree clarified. "He has the sort of face that can make people believe he's revealing a lot of important information when in fact he's consistently saying next to nothing."

"But I am good at saying nothings too!"

Beernerd cleared his throat. "You just have to be careful, Prime Minister, so that when you say nothing others can't compare it to times nothing was said and something happened or something was said that led to nothing, since others who say nothing have nothing much for comparing and can have something to their nothings when they say anything."

Chretien stared. He turned back to Homefree. "Yes, well, maybe we can get Stockwells to tour a cheesies factory in a bonnet. Dat was a good way to 'andle Duceppe last election."

"Well, putting aside Mr. Day for the moment, Prime Minister, we have identified some problems in the Liberal campaign," Homefree continued. He opened a file folder.

"Such as whats?"

"Well, the decision to use 'Put Your Hands up in the Air' as the Liberal theme song, for example. I've heard some people compare it to a bank robbery."

"Did yous 'ave a more fitting idea for de party song?"

"How about 'Shoebox of Lies'?" quipped Beernerd.

"Then there's also the question of the Liberal little red book," Homefree continued undaunted. "Admittedly our report about it is based on last Tuesday's version, but I found some surpris-

ingly courageous decisions in there."

"Uh-oh, coorages? I don't remember dem, where were dey?"

"Oh, Prime Minister, I think you know what I'm talking about."

"I don't thinks I do."

"I think you do, but maybe you just don't think I think that you're thinking what you thought I thought of."

"Pardons?"

"No time to explain Prime Minister," Beernerd cut in. "But needless to say there was a list of troubling items."

"Well den, Beernuts…"

"Beernerd."

"Tell me da changies to make! For dat matter, on a personnels lever, what issue do you thinks is useable to get more of da voters?"

"On a personal level?" Beernerd said in surprise. "Well, to be honest, the brain drain has always been a concern of mine…"

"Beernerd, I suggest putting a plug in your mouth before everything in your brain drains out," advised Homefree.

"Wait a minutes, I thought dat we called in Roto-Rooters to fix da brain drain over da summer," Chretien said, confused.

"Prime Minister, are you confusing the National Post with Daglobenpost *again*?" Homefree responded in annoyance.

"All I meant," Beernerd continued by way of explanation, "Is that it's one of many issues which may impact students, who are also potential voters."

"You think studentses are actually following de politics?" the Prime Minister stated in surprise. "When are dey finding de times?"

"With all due respect, Prime Minister," Homefree cut back in, "As long as you don't play up any of the problems we list, I think the best thing to do now is simply continue hitting points like our plans for health care and tax cuts over and over, being as consistent as possible about them. Well, consistent in terms of the last three weeks anyway. Meanwhile, to deal with the Reform-Alliance, we can take very subtle jabs at Stockwell Day. After all, he has indicated he won't retaliate."

"So yous are suggesting I looks him the face and stabs him in the back?"

"Actually Prime Minister," Beernerd quickly noted, "That would be difficult to do unless you have particularly long arms, and even then accuracy with most conventional blades would be difficult."

Chretien sighed. "Look, I just wants to be doing de thingies so dat in respects to being in da same position in December, I am home free."

"Ah," Homfree remarked, "Well for the record, me Homefree. You party leader. But I think you'll be all right if you actually follow our advice."

"You 'ave not saids anything yet though!" Chretien said angrily.

"Exactly, Prime Minister!" Homefree said with a smile. "Nor have we understood everything you've been saying! And when people read this sort of article in any publication they won't know what to say about it either!"

Chretien paused, obviously still a bit confused.

"I believe what Homefree is endeavouring to articulate,"

Shakespeare Spews

After reading Liam's last two articles and being totally confused, I considered writing a program to convert Liamtext to English. However, after a bit more thought, I realized this would be an immensely difficult task. In fact, I imagine that in some 4th year CS class I will learn how to prove that such a program is impossible to construct. So instead, I did the reverse: I wrote an English to Liamtext translator. Testing has shown it works quite well, although the process isn't quite perfected, as content and meaning are still mostly preserved.

Here is a sample run:

English:

To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer.
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
No more; and by a sleep to say we end.
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause: there's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life;
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscover'd country from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action. —Soft you now!
The fair Ophelia! Nymph, in thy orisons
Be all my sins remember'd.

Beernerd offered, "Is that with an elevated probability, the conceivable repercussion of continuing reliance upon certain conventional techniques of obfuscation will be relative governmental status quo."

"Aha! I thinks I am getting dis!" Chretien realized. "So shoulds I even be worried about campaign changies?"

Homefree tipped his head to the side as he closed his file folder. "No, Prime Minister."

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

Liamtext:

To be... r not... ya... t bbe... that is the question... Whether 'tis nobbler the mind to suffer Thue slings And... ya... arrows of outrageous fortune... Or to take Arms against a sea of troubles... And by... ok... oppsing end them... To... anyway... die... sleep... No ... and... hmm... by a sleep to say we end Tece heart-ach and ths thousand natural shocks That flesh is heir to... 'tis a consummaton Devoutly... ok... to be... wish'd... To ddie... to... anyway... sleep... To sleep... to dream... ay... there's the... anyway... rub... For in that sleep of death what dreams may... come When we Have shuffled off tlis mortab Coil... Must... anyway... gine us pause... there's the respect That makes calamity of so long life... For who Would bear the whips... and scorns... anyway... of time... Thhe oppressor's wrong... the... hmm... proud... man's contumely... The... anyway... pangs... ya... of despised love... the law's delay... The insolence of offdce and... anyway... the spurns Thatt ptient merit of the unworthy takes... When he himself might his quietus make With a bodkin... who Would... so... fardels bear... To grunt and sweat under a wearry... Life... But... ya... that the dread... hmm... of something after death... The undiscover'd... anyway... country from whose bourn No traveller... ya... returns... puzzles the will And makes us rather... ya... bear those ills we hve Than fly... so... to others that we know not of... Thus... so... does make cowards of us all... And thus the native hue oz resolution... ya... Is sicklied o'er with the pale Cast of ... enterprises of great pith and moment... anyway... with... so... regard their currents turn awry... And lose the name of action... —you now... The fnir... ya... Ophelia... Nymph... im... thy orisons Be all my sins remember'd...

For anyone interested, the Java source is available at: http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~madrewbr.

I must caution anyone against running anything Liam actually wrote through the program. The result is of an even higher degree of unintelligibility.

Observe this:

ok... anyway... staples is a fun store... but hey who cares... well I do... sorta... and that's nobody's business... last night... I couldn't sleep... so I watched old 80's moving on TBS...

becomes this:

... ... anyway... ... ... staples is a store... ... ... but Hey who cares... ... ... well I do... ... ... sorta... ... ... anw that's nobody's businzesss... ... ... last night... ... ... K couldn't vleep... ... ... so I wvtched... ya... old 80's moving on... ya... D TBS... ... ...

I might make an applet out of it if I feel motivated enough. Or maybe someone who has even more free time than I do will. Enjoy.

Marshall

Waterloo Concert Band!

The Waterloo Concert Band is giving a concert Sunday November 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre, 25 Regina St. South between Erb and William. Tickets are only 5 bucks at the door so come on out!

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon says, but Simon sees dead people. Of course that's probably because he wandered into a morgue while sleep walking, boy is he going to be surprised when he wakes up. You want to know one of the scariest places to wake up? In the PAC during an exam. You know how when you first wake up you're very disoriented? Well, I woke up in the PAC during an exam, and I was not a happy camper. I looked up at the clock and saw that there were 5 minutes left and I couldn't remember writing the exam. I freaked, but then I looked through my exam paper (with no trace of drool whatsoever) and saw that I had finished. Apparently after I finished writing the exam, I decided to take a nap. Hey, lay off, I was tired, OK.

Ahh Snuggles Sez, I have missed you so. This has been the longest I've gone without writing an article since I started writing for *mathNEWS* back in Fall 98. Hmm, I just went through and looked for all the articles I've written, I found 5 from my original Social Director series, 12 Prez Sez, 21 Snuggles Sez, and 2 random articles. I've also appeared on 2 covers, and a picture of me found its way into the Irrational Toast (Chad tricked me into that one). Well, those are the ones I found at least, searching the *mathNEWS* website doesn't seem to work. So that's 40 articles I've actually written, scary, sometime next term I could have a 50th article. That's got to be some sort of record for a non-staff member. Hmm, I think I should have my own section in the Best of *mathNEWS* index. It says that the articles in that section are selected based on their quality and/ or originality ... hmmmm, well, my articles are definitely original, no one can dispute that. Hey Greg, knock knock, HEY Greg, bang bang bang, HEY, hmm, maybe one of the other editors is proofreading my article. Well whoever you are, I want to be in the Best of *mathNEWS* section. Hmm, I wonder if Lizak is reading this. Hey Pete, skim down a bit, I'm going to talk about the Thompson Twins.

Hi everybody, ... admit it, you just said "Hi Snuggles" either out loud or in your head. You can't escape it and you know it. I just thought I'd insert a little advice near the beginning of my article (which is proving to be fairly long, I guess that's what happens when I don't write in a while, I have a lot to say). Anyway, my advice is on how to properly read my articles. You see, Snuggles Sez is written as if I'm speaking, so the grammar is, how shall I put it, interesting, and the punctuation, ummm, creative (some would say non-existent, but I've been particularly adamant about using commas lately, they've been entertaining me for some reason). So the easiest way to read my article is just to imagine me saying it out loud (or you could read it out loud to yourself, but people might look at you strange, I know they look at me strangely when I say this crap). Aaah segues, you're so artificial in my mind. Hmm, I think I'll talk about monkeys now.

So not so long ago I hosted a MathSoc event (Whose Line is it Anyway) and needless to say there was some chicanery. In the Quirky Dating Game (like the old game-show, but all the bachelors have weird quirks) I pulled a female contestant from the audience to ask our quirky bachelors some questions. This Great contestant shares a name with a historic ruler of Russia who was, um, into horses, and well, this contestant really liked monkeys. I'm not making this up. Completely out of the blue one of her questions was, "Bachelor number three, if I invited you

Poet's Corner?

[a haiku form is
five-seven-five syllables
spot the faulty ones
— HoloEd]

some little haikus
made by me for you
interesting maybe yes

my eyes deceive
why will it not compile
forgot the semicolon

coding all day
look through the window outside
sky burns crimson

exam almost done
where has everybody left to
no happy end

dark silent night
look up see the moon
miss the sun

middle of exam
what is the correct answer
wake up cold

sweet cold grass
running free and wild again
soccer is good

flying in dreams
all worries are left behind
I am swimming

do you see
somewhere between you and me
reflections of others

our eyes deceive
everything we perceive as 3D
seen as 2D

universe all around
stretching to stars and beyond
trapped in body

By JP
Quack

me, you'll just have to ask them) who have been separated from me (we each live on a different floor), two of my roommates from last year (the illustrious Icor the Mighty, current VPAS of my favourite society and the woman that Sky dumped me for a little over two years ago, it's a long story, ask me, I like stories), and two more friends (one saucy, the other's name gets

Screamer's Thoughts, Randomized and Optimized

These days, the word "election" has become the word everybody loves to hate. The word is everywhere. It is on TV, in newsprint, in radio shows. Everywhere you go, something will remind you that there's an election of some kind coming soon. With the federal election campaign in full gear, the amount of coverage is so comprehensive that it's like sticking a toothbrush down your throat. To make matters worse, there will be a regional election on Nov. 13 (coincidence? I think not). At that time, most people are probably still recovering from the drama that is the U.S. Presidential race and are preparing to decide whether or not to vote in the Federal election. Men are not designed to handle that many elections in such a short time span.

Like most people, I feel that this federal election was called prematurely. The Liberals came into power in fall 1993 and have already served two terms. That means they only governed for seven out of the possible eight years of their mandate. In other words, we're not getting enough bang for our buck.

I do follow the elections with some interest. I have paid attention to what the federal party leaders have said. After hearing what they say, I usually yell at the TV saying, "Stop using that tape recorder, say something that we haven't heard before!"

In front of the camera, almost every politician will say, "If I'm elected, I'll do this and that." Most of the candidates' promises, as politics dictate, will be broken the moment he/she is elected. There is a simple way to reduce the occurrences of lying — next time a politician makes an appearance to the press, strap a lie detector to him/her and see how much he/she actually says in the entire event.

As much as the Liberal party want to deny it, there are not two, but THREE small c conservative parties in Canada right now. The PM continuously says that the Grits and the Alliance offer completely different visions for the future of Canada. From what I see so far, the two parties practically offer the same goods, only in different amounts.

We are only one week through the campaign and I have already seen the party leaders throw more punches (to each other) than Mike Tyson would in a 12-round marathon. The war of words between the leaders, which can get personal at times, makes a gunfight at the O.K. Corral look like a friendly tea party. A message to the party leaders — stop the attacks on other parties and tell the world what you will actually do. We don't care about your catfight.

In an election, we are free to vote for any candidate. For an MP that has party affiliation, he has as much freedom as a bird in a cage. When voting time comes in Parliament, he almost always has to vote the same way as the rest of the party. The political parties and textbooks call it "party solidarity". As far as I'm concerned, party solidarity is just a nicer way to say, "Be a good boy and vote with the party, or we'll kick you out of here," just ask John "I'm not bitter" Nunziata. If a politician can't vote in the interest of his constituents, why bother putting him in Parliament? We already have to carry the burden of the HRDC's mismanagement of funds. The last thing we need is another misuse of our tax dollars.

One great thing about living in Canada is that one isn't bombarded with the latest presidential polls everyday. While it's nice to publish polls on a regular basis so that the public can learn about the voting trend of those polled, one a day is too much, even for the election-obsessed Americans. People DO have things to do other than watching politics. To the American media: for 2004, release only weekly polls until the final week of campaign. With the amount of election coverage, one doesn't take eternity to decide who to vote for.

Voting is a right many people around the world don't have. So on election day(s), take advantage of the right. At the very least, show up at the polls. The one vote you hold may be detrimental to your, and our, daily lives for the next few years. As for me, I'm going to try and gather all I can get before deciding.

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Special courses offered on campus

Spring term pre-registration is coming up, and last summer Bradley Smith mentioned some special courses in *math*NEWS, namely MATH 149 and MATH 238. Well, contrary to common belief, these special courses do exist and are offered in the math faculty. These under-the-counter courses are part of the special courses taken by people in the secret assassin program in the math faculty. Here is the full list of the special courses available for the spring term.

- MATH 149: Analysis and Game Theory
  "An introduction to Von Neumann's Game theory, applying numerical analysis in board games such as Risk! and Monopoly.
- MATH 238: Torii and Fluid Mechanics
  "Toilet water treatment and urine fluid flow, students taking this course will participate in a lab experiment on toilet design." Special labs will be taken in the MC toilets to study the toxic effect of un-flushed urinals on students' health.
- STAT 349: Statistical Approach to Gambling
  "Applying statistical techniques such as Gaussian and Lagranian interpolation in Casino gambling. Students who take this course will find it beneficial for his/her financial gain and will go on a field trip to Niagara Casino at the end of the term."
- AM 499: Group Theory in Human Behaviour
  "Application of Group Theory to answer questions such as, 'Why do people hang out in groups?' Classification of human simple group, and Sylow Theorem will be covered."
- AM 666: Quantum String Theory
  "Quantum field theory, tensor and group theoretical approach to String Theory. The final project for this course is to solve the problem of combining General Relativity with Quantum Mechanics."
- AM 1000: Mathematical Cloning Theory
  "Sponsored by Umbrella Corporation, information for this course is highly classified. Students who take this course will have the opportunity to create his/her clone as well as creating an army of zombies.

Well, that's all the special courses currently offered. To enroll, you must have a 101% average and six-fingers. Please contact Prof. Cruttwell in MC7012 for further info.

Sepiraph

*prof*QUOTES

Forget everything you learned in OAC, I don't care!"

Wagner, MATH 235

"Sometimes I start listening to myself and think, "Gee he's got a nice voice" and then I stop thinking."

Wagner, MATH 235

"If someone runs up to you and hands you a binary string of length n…"

Wagner, MATH 239

"Some mathematicians smoked a lot of dope and came up with this notation."

Mosca, MATH 239

(written on board) We can "graphically" represent a graph with a graph diagram, called a graph.

Mosca, MATH 239

(on graph theory) "Suppose you are in the pharmaceutical industry and your goal is to kill as many as people as quickly as possible."

Jackson, MATH 249

"Camp outside your dean's office — demand your mathematical rights."

Jackson, MATH 239

"Now this theorem won't work too well for picking up members of the opposite sex, but this last theorem works quite well."

Shallit, CS 462

"For some people, numbers invoke images of colours and smells. That's some sort of mental disorder… when I think of this theorem, I think of a really nice sandwich. Other theorems are just vegetables."

Shallit, CS 462

"So this is the shape of your body path." *(looks again at his graph)* "After an accident, of course."

Labahn, CS 370

"What's right, what I have on the board or what I have in my notes?"

Lubiw, CS 466/666

"Today you have me for two hours, so you can go to sleep 'til 20 after, then you can wake up and go to break for 10 minutes, then you can go back to sleep again."

Cherry, STAT 322/332

"So there is a piece of mathematics that can tell you something *actually useful!*"

Cherry, STAT 322/332

"… and what does that look like? Well it looks like a lot of writing."

Cherry, STAT 322/332

"Professors spread the rumour that they can do anything but it ain't true."

Cherry, STAT 322/332

"I've finally achieved my life's ambitions and got into *math*NEWS."

Hardy, ACTSC 431

"Oh, we did this last time. I shouldn't be prolonging the agony."

Seigel, MATH 138

""If we thought [Internal Fragmentation] was a problem we would never buy Microsoft products."

Burkowski, CS 354

"I won't get into the sexual connotations at this point."

Younger, C&O 342

"You're welcome to use any letters you want but — what am I trying to say here? DON'T. If you need more than z then, oh dear — what comes after z?"

Younger, MATH 135

"I see the pattern here — it's that nothing is repeated."

Younger, MATH 135

"We're unlearning everything we've learned for the past 18 years… it starts getting bloodier here."

Younger, MATH 135

"15 is a prime, right? No, wait, 15 is not a prime. Oh, well, then I'm baked. It would be better if it was a prime…"

Younger, MATH 135

"If something is obvious, you make yourself an idiot by calling it a theorem."

Ng, MATH 135

"If $1+1=1$, then I am the Pope. There's actually a very short proof for this."

Liptak, MATH 135

"You're going to make me tear out whatever little hair I have left!"

Sivaloganathan, MATH 137

Student: "Math students don't HAVE a good time!"
Prof: "Oh, I was a math student. I know differently."

Pretti, CS 130

"Come to find out, I'm very quoted in the *math*NEWS. It's very frightening.

Burris, PSYCH 101

(about midterm marks) "I have to use the Wonder-Bra method — push it up as much as you can!"

Hauck, DRAMA 101A

(About vectors in different bases) "Now, if you look at vector v in another basis, it's just like you put on my glasses. Then things are kinda twisted a little bit." *(pause)* "That does not mean that my mind is twisted, though."

Wolkowicz, MATH 235

"Postorder traversal means doing the children before doing the parents."

Geddes, CS 134

More *prof*QUOTES

"This notation that I just made up here is not made up."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"You can leave now. Don't listen to me anymore."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

*vasiga*QUOTES

(writes 'breakdown' on board) "[This is the] breakdown of marks, not of you."

Vasiga, CS 241

(written on board) If you don't stop talking, I will fail you all.

Vasiga, CS 241

"All you have to do is tell me your feelings. Pretend you're in an Arts course."

Vasiga, CS 241

(to overhead projector) "Okay, these people are hung over. You shouldn't shake."

Vasiga, CS 241

"In order to reduce that down, we use the dark side of the Force: GOTO."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Given 18 million eons, [Prolog] could prove your Calc 137 assignment. But it would probably be late."

Vasiga, CS 241

"What's an engineer's job? They go to their work site, say 'Close enough!', and go home."

Vasiga, CS 241

"So you go to this gypsy and say "I have this non-terminal" and she says, "I see rule 6 in your future"."

Vasiga, CS 241

"It's before lunch so my telepathic abilities are a little weaker."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I will take donations after class to support my further telepathic abilities."

Vasiga, CS 241

"QED by trying hard. Yet another interesting proof method from CS 241."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Why, in fact, am I full of crack?"

Vasiga, CS 241

*irving*QUOTES

"I've got an important date at 6:00 … with this girl … we haven't actually talked yet, but I see her through the window every night … so at 6:00, I've got to go over and borrow some sugar … or something."

Irving, MATH 137

"Here we have a kink in the graph… not to be confused with the kinkiness in the back of the class."

Irving, MATH 137

"Anyone? Yes, the guy beside the making-out couple…"

Irving, MATH 137

"…whenever we do one of these linear functions, we get a little bit lucky — well, no, then we'd have more people in math…"

Irving, MATH 137

"I managed to take the easiest concept in Calculus and confuse you all with it. There's the mark of any good teacher."

Irving, MATH 137

"Put up your hands if this makes sense." *(one hand goes up)* "Good enough."

Irving, MATH 137

"One of the other professors prepared this handout. It's quite good; it's almost accurate."

Irving, MATH 137

"Does anyone find it hot in here? Do you mind if I take off my pants?"

Irving, MATH 137

"And it's not a physics class, so screw the units — who cares?"

Irving, MATH 137

"There's no way what I just said could've answered any question you had, unless you were just raising your hand to say 'oh, shut up!'"

Irving, MATH 137

Student: "Does this lead to anything useful down the road?"
Prof: "Ah, my young friend… no. But then, that's true of anything we talk about in this course."

Irving, MATH 137

"If that question appears on the mid-term, just put down 'John says this is crap'."

Irving, MATH 137

"It's in MC 2065, so if there's people in there, we'll just have to kick some ass. I dunno, there's usually some weirdo D&D tournament in there on the weekend or something. They tend to be pretty weak, so that shouldn't be a problem."

Irving, MATH 137

(pointing to his work on the board) "Don't do that on the mid-term; I already passed this course — or did I? Wait a minute…"

Irving, MATH 137

"So we try to avoid complications by assuming people like you don't exist. I'm not saying you shouldn't exist; I'm sure your parents are very proud…"

Irving, MATH 137

"I'm a little confused, but then, I'm always that way."

Irving, MATH 137

"I'm really drugged up right now. You're best to ask me on Wednesday."

Irving, MATH 137

*Knuth*QUOTES

In our quest to bring you new insights from the leading minds of our time, some of our intrepid correspondents attended the recent lecture series of Professor Donald E. Knuth. Strangely enough, their report consisted entirely of witty quotes.

(about TeX code) "If anybody finds a bug in this code I'll just die."

"It's pronounced `Tech` [hard ch] and if I said it correctly the people in the second row would know."

"That's volume 5 — I haven't written that yet."

(on Chinese Renaissance Math & the Natural Sciences) "… you don't prove by Q.E.D.; you prove by peer pressure…"

Audience Member: "What was the hardest part of building TeX?"
Knuth: "It was all pretty easy."

Audience Member: "What is the one true programming language?"
Knuth: "That is probably the most ridiculous question…I said that to please the audience."

Audience Member: "What is the book [on CS] that you most want to read?"
Knuth: "It's not `The Art of Computer Programming for Dummies.`"

Audience Member: "You said we should wait until tomorrow to ask religious questions but I just want to know if you use vi or Emacs." [Ans: Emacs]

Blood

Blood is the fluid of life, and there are many people who need your help. My mother is currently awaiting a heart transplant in a Toronto hospital. She needs blood for the operation, but also for transfusions. Currently she is receiving blood that was donated just four days before, and its expiry date is in December. This means the supply of blood is very low. So please donate, and encourage others to do so.

You can donate at any time (with an appointment) at the Red Cross building on King just south of John in Waterloo. The phone number is 744-6198.

Paul Royston

Math Thoughts

Have you ever wondered why the A1 slot of the comfy lounge vending machine is always twenty cents even though they try to fix it every time? Well, the reason is to get you to buy things you don't really want to eat, like Sonic Sour Cream Doritos and pork rinds. But hey, it's twenty cents, and I'll eat anything for twenty cents!

Paul Royston

[Paul gets away with saying that only because scunt season is over. — Ed.]

This Land is Math Land

(adapted from: This Land is Your Land

by Woody Guthrie)

This land is your land, this land is math land
From Bolzano-Weierstrass to Prime Number Theorem
From the Unit Circle to the Complex Numbers
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that real number line
I saw above me those finite fields
I saw below me that golden ratio
This land was made for you and me.

I ranged and rambled and followed my functions
O'er the sparkling sands of their diamond domains
While all around me, a voice was saying
This land was made for you and me.

When the sum converged and I was graphing
And the tan curves waving and the sine curves rolling
As the FoG was lifting, a voice was chanting
This land was made for you and me

As I went walking, I saw a sign there
On the sign it said NO ALGEBRA
But on the other side it didn't say nothing
That side was made for you and me!

In the squares of the cube, in the slanting of the cones
In the comfy lounge, I seen my people;
As they lay there stunned I stood there asking,
Is this land made for you and me?

Nobody living can ever stop me
As I go walking that mathie highway
Nobody living can make me turn back
This land was made for you and me

Modified without permission by Colin Davidson

Top 15 Mathie Pickup Lines

15. We lie on the same plane, Baby.
14. Let's form a circular linked list.
13. Take me to your limits.
12. Wanna span my subspace?
11. I can approximate your "Big O" with my orthogonal vectors!
10. I'll be your function… Bound me.
9. Would you like to be part of my hash table?
8. Wannna be my orthogonal complement?
7. *Pulls up shirt* Integrate these!
6. *Drops pants* Integrate this!
5. I can find your critical points.
4. Wanna find the magnitude of my orthogonal vector?
3. You have nice Gaussian distributions, let me find your "μ's".
2. Let's project you onto me.
1. Hey baby, you wanna make me orthogonal?

Jet + Nitris + Warpus

The Tao of Paul

Taoism is an ancient Chinese philosophy/religion that centres on inaction and peace. It's main precepts come from an ancient text credited to Lao Tzu called Tao Te Ching (approximately translated to The Way of Life). The text has 81 "poems" about a philosophy of life and a way of living. Here is one of the "poems" (there are many different translations, this is one):

Empty the self completely;
Embrace perfect peace.
The world will rise and move;
Watch it return to rest.
All the flourishing things,
Will return to their source.

This return is peaceful;
It is the flow of nature.
An eternal decay and renewal.
Accepting this brings enlightenment,
Ignoring this brings misery.

Who accepts nature's flow becomes all cherishing;
Being all cherishing, one becomes impartial;
Being impartial one becomes magnanimous;
Being magnanimous one becomes natural;
Being natural one becomes one with the Way;
Being one with the Way one becomes immortal;
Though one's body will decay, the Way will not.

Paul Royston

An article about something

Well, I got quite a few emails from people who wanted to join the capture the flag event on Halloween. Funny how the whole thing started as a joke but became a real event. Well, since this issue will come out after Halloween, chances are you either went or missed it (is there a 3rd option?). Come to think about it, MC is a great place to play games like jail break.

Anyway, I was thinking about writing this article in Liamtext, but then no one will understand it, not even Liam, not even me.

A question that I keep pondering is this — Do CS students sleep? Wasn't there some guy from last issue asking about the CS program & how the workload is a bit much? Well, if I see people coding in their labs 24/7, maybe they just have too much time on their hands so they surf the net at 3am in the morning.

In Liamtext: Hrmm, brb, brb, grb... grb... Brown Bear GRRRRRR!!!!!!!!

Sepiraph

Proof that Math is Math

Applied math is physics.
Applied physics is engineering.
Applied engineering is art.
Applied arts is business.
Applied business is math.
Therefore, math is math.

Colan Schwartz

The Chef, the Pig, and the Elephant
-or- I Have No Real Topic

As my history teacher used to say, "If you don't declare a topic then you can't be criticized for going off topic." So taking that wise advice I've decided not to have a topic for this article, and instead have many topics, all of which have no common theme. Like, cheese is good but influenza is bad. Anyway, first I would like to apologize for my article last week because seeing how it was midterm season I did not proof it as much as I could have (which isn't very far but hey). Next I would like to apologize for this article because I am writing it in between classes on the day of production night so once more I will not be able to proof it very well.

What, you ask? I'm slacking off or something like that? Well, yes I am, but seeing as how I don't get paid to write for *math*NEWS, and the stuff I write isn't marked, it becomes a low priority. And hey, even if I write as poorly as, let's say, Liam, (in a grammatical sense since Liam's spelling seems good enough *[Hah! — RichEd]*) I still get pizza and even cola when the brave editors happen to have brought some, so I can get away with writing my article in the middle of the day, in between classes. And besides, I have a midterm tonight. But that's another tale.

Now I need to remind you brave *math*NEWS-reading souls about the now infamous but still really dumb joke of the term. What I'm looking for (Tushar were here) is a joke starting with the line "Two urinals walk in to a bar..." I've actually had three responses now, or so I'm told. One is geek humour, one I don't get (I think), and there's one interesting one... but KEEP 'EM COMING! At end of the month I will write an article and use

them all. I am still looking for a truly clever one, so e-mail me at amjoconnor@student.math.uwaterloo.ca and stuff.

Now, have you ever stalked someone? Be honest with yourself. Ok, that is really a bad segue but it could be better than no segue at all. A friend of mine wanted me to write about stalking because the topic is dear to her (um, wait, I mean his...) heart and due to that fact it ended up being a topic of conversation — every day — I thought I might as well write about it. Plus, I can compare it to derivatives. In the conversation about stalking, avoiding also came up because that was also going around. Meanwhile, we were studying for (surprisingly enough) a midterm (a calculus midterm). So I was thinking that the antiderivative of stalking would be avoiding. Or perhaps the relationship of derivative to antiderivative would be the same as stalking and avoiding. Making a new word antistalking being defined as avoiding. Then it was pointed out to me that the antiderivative of stalking would be avoiding plus a constant. Which makes such a relationship difficult to understand. But hey, I protest, I defined antistalking as avoiding, so there. As is always the case, logic suffers the greatest of all defences: "because." Hey, there could be a good article in that... the whole being cuz it is defined being as childish as just because and um stuff... man this did really turn out not so hot. Well I'll make up for it in a non-midterm time.

Well then see you next time, brave mathies: same mathtime, same mathchannel!

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

Food For Thought, Computing in Undergrad Land

"CPU time is a horrible thing to waste."

— P. A. Buhr in CS 354 (Winter 2000)

Pop quiz, who remembers M$ DOS? Who remembers the bad old days when DRAM cost $50 / MB? Remember that factory fire back in what, 93? 94? The price of DRAM was high and it didn't seem to ever plan to come down. Remember paying by the hour to use the Internet? Remember Internex Online, `io.org`? I shared an account with my brother, `pds@io.org`. Yeah that's right kids, I used to dial up to connect to the Internet. The cost to connect used to be so bad that I would plan out what I was going to do with my online time, then dial up, sit around and wait through three or four busy signals, connect at the awe inspiring speed of fourteen thousand four hundred kilobits per second, look at a few dozen web pages, save them to disk and peruse them offline. The great thing about Netscape 0.8 and 1994 was that people who did have web pages did not have this intense need to put up Java and ultra massive pictures, interlaced GIFs were standard.

I don't know, maybe I am really old-fashioned, but what the hell is with the total misuse of computing resources? Gee wiz, I paid my tuition, I guess that means I can go waste the University's 8-Megabit Internet connection downloading my e-mail from Hotmail.com, then I can waste perfectly good CPU time firing up Wincentre so that I can start up Internet Explorer to read my mail.

Holy Smokes did I miss something? Can't you losers go figure out Pine and take some pride in that student.math.uwaterloo thing? I was damned proud of myself when I grew up from `co282@torfree.net` (`io.org` had been bought out) to `mcole@undergrad.math`. Dammit I was in a good University in a hard program and I was gonna brag with every single email.

Now it seems to be the case that people want to brag about how wonderful it is that they can go create three dozen email accounts while I sit around waiting for Nachos to compile. I am not sure what is the most ridiculous use of Winblows Neanderthal Technology in the undergrad environment, but I'll list some personal favourites and the CPU less intensive variation:

1. Use Internet Explorer to view Hotmail web pages
   * alternative: (Ignoring the obvious, don't use Hotmail) Use Netscape to see Hotmail pages.

2. Use MS Word, yes Word, to type Modula-3 code for CS 246
   * alternative: Use Visual Studio! (Hey at least it is meant for coding.)

3. Use Winblows Telnet to access the Co-op access system
   * alternative: Hack up a Telnet client for Nachos, build network support for said OS and use Nachos Telnet.

But my all time favourite, ICQ. Holy smokes, can you say code bloat? Or how about bug bloat? The day I cross paths with a Beta of ICQ that crashes less often than untested code turned in as CS 130 assignment "solutions", I'll be impressed.

Now understand, I took a look at Wincentre once in the Summer of '99 to see what all this crazy stuff was about. I saw it, was impressed that someone managed to make Winblows multiuser and then I purged about a gigabyte of crap from my undergrad disk quota. But what I see in the lab over people's shoulders is that MFCF installed, or is allowing users to install, ICQ.

I understand what Wincentre is for, it's supposed to provide a WYSIWYG word processor for people who can't figure out TeX — hey just because Donald Knuth invented TeX does not mean it is the greatest thing since sliced bread. (Although the fact that Knuth called TeX the greatest thing since sliced bread implies, to me, that it is.)

But okay, non-CS majors don't want to figure out Typesetting Languages. Alright, fair enough, and apparently Rational Rose (used in CS 445) is really unstable in Unix. Alright, another good use for Winblows. And to be fair when my group had to turn in their CS 354 documentation we did not have time to use TeX, but the point is we were not using Wincentre for sending ICQ messages to some desperate fourteen year-old in Nebraska.

I guess my point is, why do I have to wait 10 to 20 minutes to compile my assignments. Now, I don't mind the wait when it is because the machines are bogged down running CS 370 Matlab code — well, yes, I do mind but that is a problem with funding and insufficient CPU cycles in ug-land. But when I have to wait because Magnus is stuck with three spinning copies of Netscape, or some jerk new to scripting has written a non terminating recursive script and then the same jerk does not notice that Rees has suddenly stopped… helloooooo? Heard of the 'zonk' command?

I should be grateful for Wincentre, at least now my CPU time is not being wasted running Solitaire — instead UltraSparc time is spent running Java scripts in Netscape so people can play chess against other people equally lacking a life in Russia.

So what is my point? Well I guess for a start, if you are in CS — learn Unix, be functional without a start menu. Hey if Emacs is good enough for Donald Knuth it should be good enough for anyone in CS. You are not in CS? Get a life, get out of the damned lab, it's hard enough getting assignments done without competing for terminals with frosh who want to send three dozen e-mails to their girlfriend. (Hint, if it is a distance relationship, you WILL break up by the time you graduate.)

For those of you who know who Donald Knuth is, very good. If you do not and you are not in CS, not to worry. He is not on the exam. If you are in CS and you do not know, worry, worry a lot.

For those of you who are entirely pissed off at me, congratulations. Now can you do me a big favour, get out of the freakin' lab and let me get my CS done so I can graduate.

Aside: In my last column there are a few glaring errors.

1. The US election is on the First Tuesday of November, every four years for presidential elections and every two years for congress, chalk it up to an off by one error. (I said the election was Nov 6, it should be Nov 7.)

2. I would like to thank Professor Ragde for pointing out the following web page: `http://commons.somewhere.com/rre/2000/RRE.Al.Gore.and.the.Intel.html` Would you believe that Al Gore did not claim to invent the Internet. If I were an American I would still vote for Ralph Nader.

Michael Cole

Food for Thought: Second Course

I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

— Voltaire

To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.

— Lincoln

A few weeks ago an article appeared in *math*NEWS entitled "Food for Thought, Predetermined with Eyes Shut Tight." This submission is intended as a response to that article, in the spirit of the second quotation above.

The author of that article, one Michael Cole, made the point that many people walk around and live their lives with their eyes closed. Anyone who fits that description is probably not reading this now, so I will assume that I am writing to thinking individuals who will be able to identify with Mr. Cole's mention of enlightened thought and freedom of speech. Then let me provide some more food for thought, if I may.

Yes, freedom of speech means that you get to be wrong. You are free to say that $e^0 = 3$, or that Jesus is retiring to Cuba, or whatever else you want. It also means that someone can go out and tell you that being gay is evil. Both of your statements are patently false, yet you have the right to say them. I firmly believe that homosexuality is a sin (Romans 1:26-27); I also firmly believe that I have no right to pass judgement on someone or reach the conclusion that they are evil simply because they are gay. "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." (Matthew 7:1) What defines your "damn clear line" between what is simply freedom of speech and what is not acceptable? I say that there is no line — if you were to say to me that Jesus visited you personally and told you that we are all "full of shit" and he is retiring to Cuba, that would pass as harsh or harsher a judgement on me and my beliefs than any statement that being gay is evil would pass on any gay person; and yet you claim the former is acceptable and the latter is not. Yes, the freedom of speech can be and often is abused. But no, that does not give anyone the right to take that freedom away or impose any limits or restrictions on it.

You ask what God wants. As "a certain former columnist for the Imprint" said, God wants us to accept Jesus as our savior. You seem to object to this, for one reason or another. Perhaps you object to the waste of paper, or the $4.25 fee on your tuition statement? In that case, Voltaire's statement above should be amended to, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it, provided defending to the death does not involve any sacrifice on my part." If concern for your eternal salvation is not a topic worthy of being printed in the Imprint, I would like to know what is. The solution to your CS 354 assignment? If someone were to print that in the Imprint, something tells me you would have no complaints about the waste of paper — instead, you would probably welcome the solution to a problem that you have to deal with. Allow me to suggest, then, that this "evangelical palaver," as you call it, is really the solution to a much bigger problem, namely your own mortality. For some reason though, you seem to think that this solution, this promise of eternal life, is simply a waste of paper, an annoyance in the form of a $4.25 fee on your tuition statement. Just out of curiosity, would you pay that much for solutions to all your CS 354 assignments? How much

more important, then, is eternal life than a computer science assignment? "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Eternal life, as opposed to only a few short decades here on earth — that is what God wants for you, and for me, and for the rest of us imperfect humans.

I welcome any response to this article, from anyone who may have an interest in the subject at hand, that is, just about anyone. And now, if you will excuse me for continuing to use the words of others far wiser than myself, I would like to close with one more quotation.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

—Jesus (John 14:6)

It is my prayer for you, dear reader, and you, Mr. Cole, that you may know God's love for you and that he may make himself known to you in your life. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine upon you, may the Lord be gracious to you and give you peace. Amen.

Vaughn Climenhaga

abuse of the grammatical conventions in this silly language of ours. And if it is my award, then I should grant it. Anyway, I hope my late Monday night submission (actually it's becoming early Tuesday submission, it's very much into the AM) reminds the editors of my being alive, never mind the fact that I've seen the editors and the editors-in-training recently, although apparently I didn't make enough of an impression to convince them of my vitality. You know me, quiet, just blending in, never speaking out of turn, oh, I can't even write that with a straight face, let's talk about porn.

Britney Spears is a gateway drug to kiddie porn. I have no idea who said this, I don't think it was me, but that's entirely possible. I found it written down on a piece of paper when I was cleaning my room. I write down funny things that are said or that occur to me all the time. So if you see me pause in the middle of a conversation (or while I'm walking down a hallway) and write something down, I probably just heard or thought of something funny. See, part of the problem of writing for *math*NEWS is that I have to be in a particular mood to write the crap I do. So by writing funny things down I can either fake it, or remembering the random funny stuff that happens to me will put me in the proper mood. Hmm, speaking of faking it ...

I was talking to a friend of mine I hadn't seen in a couple years, he's someone I have known forever (well, since I was 10, which is close enough) but hadn't talked to in a while 'cause he went travelling. Anyway, he told me this story about him and this girl he was seeing, and he was trying to tell me how all the feeling went out of their relationship, and then he told me that it got so bad that at one point they had sex and he faked it. I had to stop him. I told him he couldn't do that. He asked what I meant. Um, well, it's pretty obvious when a guy, um, you can't fake that sort of thing, unless you have some watered down yogurt or something, I don't know. He finally figured out what the hell I was saying and explained that he meant that he hadn't

The Frosh Cornered

Letters to the Cornered Frosh

There were no letters sent to me this week. I accredit this slump on mid-term season, and not the assumption that no one reads my column. Thus concludes this edition of *Letters to the Cornered Frosh*.

A Frosh Retraction

In the column titled: "Murphy's Laws for UW Mathies", I referred to Art Girls disliking Math guys because they find us ugly. I have received numerous complaints on this issue and I would like to offer a retraction. In fact, Arts girls see math guys as arrogant bastards who are trying too hard to show off our 'assets'. This columnist regrets the error.

Election Breakdown: How Each Political Party Is Plotting to Take Over the World, Or Canada, Or Whichever Comes First

With Canada's worst kept secret finally out in the open, we can finally anticipate many exciting political roundtable discussions in The Bomber with our mathie buddies on whether or not to give a damn about the upcoming election on November 27th. From what I have seen on television and from what I've seen in newspapers, global politics in the new millennium (fine, one year BEFORE the new millennium) is an exciting event. So far, we have witnessed:

- A Yankee politician, who will only be identified as G. Bush to avoid potential lawsuits, who likes to use foul language on an amplified microphone in front of thousands of potential supporters
- Another Yankee politician, who we will refer to as A. Gore, who likes to make funny looking gestures with his middle finger during a live debate viewed by millions worldwide
- Yet another Yankee politician, who will be called R. Nader, who vows to ban all cars on the road and shoot anybody who will expel more than their fair share of carbon dioxide
- Canadian politicians under constant attack from dairy products

With those reasons outlined above, I think we SHOULD give a damn about the upcoming federal election. It's so exciting I can hardly contain myself.

Just to give everyone a hand on which blank to mark that X off on November 27th, outlined below is a small description of each party and my analysis of its party leader. I hope that it will serve all Mathies well in their critical decision on who to employ in that funny green-roofed building in our nation's capital later this year. Included are also my odds of election victory for you bookies keeping a close eye on the exciting sport of election gambling.

Liberal Party

If this was a UW course, what would it be?: ENG109M: They don't really do much work, but when they do, there's a lot work. Its work consists of constant bullcrap.

Odds of winning majority government: 3-1

Odds of understanding Jean Chretien in either official language: 2500-1

The Liberal Party has been the reigning force of terror in the Commons for the past 8 years or so. Within that span of time, the Liberals have controlled the deficit, paid down the national debt, and literally misplaced millions of dollars that was given to the Human Resources Development Canada. How they can lose that many stacks of green twenty-dollar bills is beyond me. The Liberal party is tough on crime, and yet they refuse to punish the man/woman who lost the millions of taxpayer dollars. The Liberals love tax cuts, and that's why they've kept the GST for so many years. The Liberal party likes to keep Canadians informed about the affairs of the House of Commons, but how many of us can remember the last time our MP called us at our home to tell us how his/her day went?

The leader of the Canadian Liberal Party is Jean Chretien, a true Canadian patriot from the small Quebec town of Shawinigan (wait a minute, isn't Canadian patriot from Quebec an oxymoron?). Although he speaks perfect French, no Frenchman can understand him. He tries his best with English, yet not even an English major can make out his words. His mouth is so poorly deformed that not even a deaf person who can read lips can understand his message. He once tried his luck with Cantonese while speaking at a Chinese New Year celebration. Ironically, the audience understood his Cantonese. One fact is certain, and that undisputed fact is that he likes pies. No matter what kind of pie it is, may it be a cream pie, a banana pie, or an apple pie; he loves to gorge himself messily with the sweet dessert. Polite Canadians just simply want to fulfill our Prime Minister's wishes by delivering pies to him through any way we can, lest it be by catapult, pie gun, or just the simple gesture of throwing the pie in his general direction.

The Canadian Alliance (aka Reform Party, aka Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance Party, aka Canadian Conservative Reform Party, aka CCRAP)

If this was a UW course, what would it be?: PSYCH101: It has a nice name, and it may seem interesting at first, but afterwards you find out that it's a bunch of CCRAP.

Odds of winning majority government: 15-1

Odds of Stockwell Day fully appreciating the intricacies of water-skiing over chocolate milk: EVEN MONEY

The Canadian Alliance is basically the Reform Party with a makeover. Since its inception earlier this year, the Canadian Alliance has endorsed a Christian who refuses to work on the Sabbath day as their official party leader instead of the other guy who has monthly hair changes.

What is truly scary about the Canadian Alliance is that they have no past history of national governing to speak of (and yes, if you count the Reform party's record, they STILL have no history of national governing whatsoever). We don't know what will happen if the Alliance wins the power to rule the country. However, from current events, several predictions can be made:

1. If the 3rd World War is to take place after the Alliance is elected, Canada would surely be a prime target for a successful invasion on Sunday since the Department of Defence would be closed by order of the Prime Minister.
2. Chocolate milk will be banned from all House of Common eateries and the liquid will be slapped with an official court

restraining order to stay at least 500 feet away from the Prime Minister.

3. RCMP guards will be fully trained in the use of chocolate milk as a deadly weapon, as well as in defending the Prime Minister from it.

4. Research and development of the first intercontinental pie missile to be permanently aimed at Shawinigan.

From what I have seen so far on television, Stockwell Day is more suited for the role as poster boy for Jolt Cola rather than a leader of an official political party. Fit, energetic, and extremely charismatic, Stockwell Day can scare even the most lethargic of voters. A point of caution: wearing a wet suit would detract female viewers (and certain male viewers) from your televised message of deep tax cuts.

New Democratic Party

If this was a UW course, what would it be?: CHINA212R: It probably is a lot of work, and it makes some sense at some point, but no one gives a damn at the end.

Odds of winning majority government: 50-1

Odds of people remembering the leader of the NDP: 2500-1 The NDP is the champion of the front line workers. They don't care about the high-tech economy, so they're anti-CS. They have no actual platform for tax reduction or federal deficit reduction, so we can probably assume that they don't know math. When was the last time you saw Alexa McDonough strolling through the cubicles of RIM and encouraging the co-op students there to code to the best of their abilities?

Something also severely disturbs this columnist upon reading their website. It has a section called *Surreality Check*. Since this word is new to me, I went to the online dictionary and attempted to decipher it. Load and behold, the word DOES NOT EXIST. How anyone can trust a party that does not know how to use the English language properly is beyond me. Not understanding a person in spoken English is one thing, but making up words just for the heck of pretending to be a UW English graduate is simply ridiculous.

Conservative Party

If this was a UW course, what would it be?: HIST101: The leader of the Tories has history, a very old one at that. The party itself is history.

Odds of winning majority government: 250-1

Odds of getting recognized as an official political party: UNDEFINED

The Conservatives have been under pressure to act like a real political party in the past year. With ex-Prime Minister Joe Clark taking the helm of this defunct party, the Tories are fighting to make a name for themselves after the party began to fall apart at the doorstep of the Canadian Alliance. With the "Mulroney effect" still in full force and the lack of any cohesive leadership, the main goal of the Conservatives should just be to get the minimum amount of MPs voted into commons to keep the party alive.

Joe Clark has been with the Tories for many years and took the party to the Commons in the early 80's. However, his reign of power was short-lived, hence his experience as a national leader is somewhat limited. His stature and energy is signifi-

cantly less than that of Stockwell Day, but he is somewhat more understandable in English than Chretien.

Maybe Mr. Clark should consider spending some federal money on chains and restraining devices to prevent party members from defecting to rival parties. An integral component of having a political party is to have members in that party, and if the members keep leaving, you won't have a party. It is as simple as that.

Bloc Quebecois

If this was a UW course, what would it be?: CS354: There is no way you can get the OS to run programs concurrently; there is no way the Bloc Quebecois can run the nation.

Odds of winning majority government: nil

Odds the Bloc will bitch about having no chance of winning a majority government before demanding a recount: EVEN MONEY

Although you can't vote the Bloc Quebecois in Ontario, you can probably spoil your ballot by declaring yourself a Bloc Quebecois candidate and voting for yourself. Since the chances of the Bloc actually running the country is nil, we can all stop worrying if there would be a law dictating that all fast food menus be declared only in French.

To emphasize how unimportant the Bloc is, I'm not even going to attempt to analyze Gilles what's-his-name. See, I can't even remember his last name, how important can he be?

The reason the Bloc is here in Canada is to remind us that Quebec is still part of Canada and that they disapprove of everything we do. They don't like the fact that we popularized poutine. They don't like to contemplate that we teach substandard French up to grade nine (how many of us actually converse in French fluently). They don't like the fact that our 401 highway signs are only in English in the Toronto area. In short, they don't like us.

So, there it is people. The above guide to voting is by no means the only research you should do before marking that X on the secret ballot. You should all go out and meet the candidates, bring them pie or chocolate milk, talk about The Leafs, or whatever will allow you to comfortably make your informed decision. Personally, the best way to test the mettle of your candidate is the 'splashing of battery acid on clothing' test, but I think that's banned in all 10 provinces the last time I checked.

Oh well, that's democracy for you.

Send virtual pies and chocolate milk to r3lai@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. No battery acid, please.

Raymond Lai

The Speaker Speaks

Hi Everybody! I am currently a general program rep. on MathSoc council. At the last meeting, I was chosen as speaker. This means I get to play with a small wooden hammer and make sure that meetings run smoothly.

The next meeting is on Nov. 6 in some random room. Everyone is welcome to attend. I hope to see you there!

Next issue: The fun in Robert's Rules!

[Now Paul's] wonderful and beautiful secretary has time to read a book at long last!

Paul Royston

Liam Spews

OK... the topic of the week is DUCT TAPE... those of you who have seen my costume probably understand why... did you know that if you use 4 rolls of duct tape and you do the teeth rip 'cause it's faster... after a while a duct tape residue starts to form on your lips... and they start to stick together... I mean it doesn't hurt... and you can still open them 'n' stuff... but... ya... it's annoying... and duct tape tastes bad... and if your going to make full body armour out of duct tape... and you do what I did... which is basically tape your self... and then pull it off... and then tape the sticky side so that it fits... ya... there are things you should do first... like shave your chest hair... I didn't... I still have some... and you shouldn't tape your nipples... whatever else you do... I really, really suggest that you DON'T TAPE YOUR NIPPLES... cause that's just stupid... I, of course realized this after taping my nipples... but let's not relive that... anyway... to make a duct tape face mask... that fits perfectly ... you do the same thing... tape the face... and pull it off... SLOWLY... it doesn't hurt as bad as the chest hair and nipples did... oh well... on to other topic that's don't involve me with my shirt off... "But don't you want all the girls to think of you like that?" Bob is asking right now...no... not with my patchy chest hair and red erect nipples... "But think of the kind of girl that wil be attracted to that," says Bob...I know... I am... [shudder]... hmm... now what... right now I'm debating on how extreme to go with my costume... I mean right now I have some of it done... and I have 4 rolls of duct tape left... on a side note, Home Hardware is now out of Contractor-Grade Duct Tape... if you want to buy some I suggest you try Canadian Tire... speaking of Canadian Tire... Pam really likes it there... I can see why... it's an amazing place... you can just walk around for hours and stare at all the cool stuff they've got... like duct tape... and pipe... and... handheld blow torches... and welding rigs... and car parts... lots and lots of car parts... and ... hmm... my car needs some new parts... like a new door... and a new back bumper, I just noticed yesterday... the reason is that either of the above mentioned items might just fall off... too much rust... ok... and if you sit in my car... one the seat belts is fun :) ... or at least I think so... I imagine there are a couple of people who disagree... my apologies... but it is funny... and in the dark... one should be very very carful where you put your hand when searching for a seat belt... right Pam?... hmmm... ok Canadian Tire also sells paintball guns... and glowsticks... and lots of fancy knives... and other random things you could probably make homemade bombs out of... but I'd never do that... but Bob might... and hmm... better stop, right Bob? Right... anyway... I drove to Mississauga today... and paid to do lots of boring, boring work... but the pay is good... and my car can actually go 150km... and it doesn't shake too much... I was grad to find this out...not that'd I'd ever exceed the posted speed limit... Bob does though... anyway... back to my costume for Hallowe'en... I think I'm going to stay up late tonight... why not... after all I might as well go ALL out... hmm... I'm going to start filming Social activities... with the digital camera... I now know how to use it... sorta... so you should check the mathsoc webpage for random stills and movies... hmm. wrong article ... oh well... I think the apple bobbing will be the funniest... or maybe the footage of the pumpkin carver's elbow in pumpkin guts... we'll see... we'll see... by the time you read this, the picture might already be up... but probably not... on the weekend maybe... then you should check the webpage... hmm... what else can I say... if someone doesn't become novelties soon I'm going to go do it... I WANT SOC SOCKS...HINT HINT Nudge Nudge... if it's taken by today... then it's all good... hmm... there's no Tushar here today... so Bob is filling in... so take that Tushar... your getting replaced by the voice in my head named Bob... so there!!!!! Anyway... that's all... and remember kids... it's all fun and games until you duct tape your nipples... then it's a "character building experience"... anyway... this is Liam and Bob signing off... Cya next time...,

Liam

a guy came into the bathroom. Needless to say, he was very confused, because from the back I looked like a girl standing at a urinal, I would have thought the under arm hair would have given it away, go figure. I wasn't the only one who was wearing a, how shall I say it, interesting costume. A certain gentleman who I'll refer to as Pick Nage was wearing a dress, and a gorilla mask. That's about as random as my rasta-tank-top costume. Of course gorilla boy also said that if we bought him an ALF costume he'd wear it to his exam which is on the thirty-first. I wonder why I seem to have all these random friends, hmmmm.

Well, there were a number of very entertaining costumes at this little shindig. A magician in a bowler with a pig's nose for no apparent reason, a vampire (more of a succubus really, wearing a lovely leopard shirt), a farm animal of some kind, a belly dancer (with a coin belt, can you say Pavlov boys and girls, sure you can, when the bell rings, we should salivate), and the Thompson Twins. In the past I have commented on these two quite a bit. In fact, two years ago, in my third article, I talked about them and their costumes at that Pub Night, so now I'm going to talk about them and their costumes at this Pub Night. You see, one was dressed as the devil, and another as an angel. Never has it been so good to be in Purgatory, to have these two fighting over your soul. The only thing I could think of when I saw it was, it's so true. No really, it's a total sweet and innocent versus devious and knowing thing going on. Of course that's only how it seems, they both happen to be incredibly nice people, but the outside impressions and the costumes matched too well for me not to be amused. So here's to the Thompson Twins, definitely in the top five of my "people who amuse me" scale.

Wow, I'm past 2600 words. I think I won't put everything I was going to into this article, I'll save some ammo for two weeks from now. Hmm, I really should have been writing in the earlier issues this term, ah well, I'll get the next ones. I was around, and I had the time, it was just that whenever the time came around to write an article, I wasn't in the mood. There has been much craziness in my life lately and it is only very recently sorting itself out. I hope it all works out, I have confidence that it will.

I currently live in a very interesting house. I live with 6 other people, my two wives (I suppose they're my ex-wives now, hmm, if you have no idea what I'm saying, you'll just have to sort through and find some of my W00 articles, they explain about my wives, let's just say that their names are Little Woman (Tom) and Sweet Thang (Jer), and I won't mention what they named

Peter Pumpkin Head

For those of you unfamiliar with the character Peter Pumpkin Head, let me give a quick overview. Peter was a good looking young lad, except for his head. It was made of a pumpkin. Fortunately, he was born with a mouth and eyes, so nobody had to carve them into his face (which would be much too painful). Peter was also lucky since he had perma-smile. The kind that the Joker (from Batman) would be jealous of.

Peter grew up in the country, and spent most of his teenage years working as a scarecrow in the fields of a local farmer. His pumpkin head (although always smiling) kept the crows away. After standing tied to a stick for several days straight, Peter decided that there must be a better career than scaring crows. He decided he wanted to become an actuary.

Heading into the city was a change for Peter, but he was excited. He had become accepted to a University in a big city, called Waterloo. He knew that things would be different when he left… very different. He would make himself known!

During his first week at Waterloo, Peter took part in Frosh week. He was rather disgruntled, as they made him wear a pink tie which clashed horribly with his orange head. But needless to say, Peter had a good time meeting all the other actuarial students. He was sure the next five years would be exciting.

As school started and Peter did more and more work, learning as much as possible (for his big pumpkin head), he realized that people were becoming envious of him. Not because of his large (pumpkin) cranium, but for his ever present smile. Profs could no longer look into the crowded classrooms to see their students. Their eyes only saw Peter, his bright orange pumpkin head, and a pink tie around his neck.

Students began to fear the smile as well. For Peter would sit in the library doing homework, grinning away like one cocky bastard. The lovely perma-smile that Peter had was all for the worse. Soon, everyone hated him, and Peter had managed to build an army of enemies. Things were not good for Peter.

Peter had noticed that he was being treated differently than the others. It was still his first year, and already he was an outcast. What was he to do. He had to do something creative to capture the attention of all the other actuaries, and make them love him!

Peter had a plan, he would climb to the top of the egg statue, and throw his arms up so that everyone could see how wonderful he was. Unfortunately, the statue wasn't that tall, and hardly anyone noticed. Those that did, thought Peter was a little looney. Peter became depressed.

Peter went into reclusion, dropped out of actuarial science, and became a CS major. He had too much time, and all he did was code, and code and code. One day, he would graduate, and write the best darn pumpkin head adoring software imaginable.

As of yet, no pumpkin head adoring software has been made, and Peter, still depressed, lives the life of a CS major.

Peter L

you a porn-site if you enter it in with the proper prefix (www.) and suffix (.com)). Well, my house is a source of endless amusement, the combination of people just causes many funny things, and a lot of friendly heckling, boo my boo boo you girl. Weird

things just seem to happen when my wives and I are together, it probably has something to do with the countless hours we spent coding together. Here's a perfect example, we were at Jose's, talking about anaphylactic things, and we came up with a little anaphylactic party, where everyone would use giant salmon to scoop the peanut butter onto your face, to make a beard that would attract the bees. Yup, my insanity goes exponential when the three of us get together.

Well, if I keep writing I'm going to have to have my own Snuggly Insert into *math*NEWS, and I should really get some sleep. I have lots more to say, and I'll get back into my normal habit of writing these masterpieces every other week. I like comments so you can email me (sskrzyol, ya, if you didn't notice they messed up my name, maybe I'll talk about that next article) or you can tell me in person if you see me, I am around from time to time. Hmm, I just copied this over to Word so I could get a word count, I just hit 4 pages with standard font and formatting, that's scary. I think this is my longest article ever at 3333 words, of course, that is assuming no editing, which is a bad idea if I ever heard one, the real question is, when the editors insert their comments (which seems to be inevitable considering the amount of time I talk directly to them in this article), do those words count towards my total, or are they outside of my word count? That's a good closing thought, so Good Night, Layla Tov and See Ya on the Pink Side.

Snuggles "I'm Baaaaaaaaaack"
— Sarcasm is poor man's wit.
— Passion, Agitation, Pleasure, Uneasiness, Grumpiness —
I'll explain next issue

[Just to foil Snuggles' closing thought, the editoral comment is appearing here. With regards to the "Best of math*NEWS" section, the web is not currently this editor's domain. (But everyone feel free to check out the domain http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/.) With regards to the Memorial Award, it was in memorial of "Snuggles Sez" rather than it's author, and the purpose behind awarding it was to get Snuggles to write. With regards to the editorial plans for taking over your minds, they are proceeding as planned. You will now read the next article and monkey ignore the monkey subliminal monkey messages. — HoloEd]*

Am I Covered For This?

I was learning about house insurance the other day, and discovered a curious situation. If you have a shared door with other renters in the building that must be kept open (i.e. a mutual fire exit), then if they get broken into, and someone walks into your place, you're not covered. The wording really got me: Mysterious Disappearances. I see that it isn't break and enter, but it seems to cover more than what it looks like. What if I come home and instead of a couch I have three radishes? Or if I go to turn on the TV and it begins spinning around before blinking out of this dimension? Or if I come downstairs in the morning and a wall is missing, and there's some magical pixie dust in its place? Will renter's insurance not cover these mysterious disappearances? And what about mysterious appearances? I think the insurance companies are holding out on us.

Brad and Simon

*math*NEWSquiz #4

"Don't be too long, we're gonna make sandwiches, eh!"

Holy submissions, Bradman! We've got seven people trying to achieve the coveted level of SquizWinner. What else can I do, but add suspense by giving the Solutions first today?

Tom Stoppard: 1. Tomas Staussler, 2. *Brazil*, 3. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, 4. *Shakespeare in Love*, 5. The longest running play. **Batman Soundtrack Songs**: 1. *Foolish Games*, Jewel, 2. *Hold me, thrill me, kiss me, kill me*, U2, 3. *Kiss From a Rose*, Seal, 4. *End/Beginning/End*, The Smashing Pumpkins. **Islands**: 1. Hawaii, 2. Greenland, 3. South Africa, 4. Tuvalu (.tv), 5. Malta and Cyprus. **Trilogies**: 1. 5, 2. Middle Earth, 3. The City of Gold and Lead, 4. Nino Ricci, 5. Cornish, Deptford, Salterton. Well, now that that is out of the way, time to reveal who scored what and who gets to pick up their brand new prize at the MathSoc office! From the bottom up, we have Krease with a stunning 2, Bob the Great and Powerful with 4 points, Clement The, the first person to respond, with 9, and in the middle, with 50%, Danielle Dmytar. As for the top three, we have Matthew B Tucker with a strong showing — 19 points, our runner-up (and former champion) Yolanda with 22.5, and our new winner, D. F. Wilkinson with a stunning 24 out of a possible 25 points. Somebody did research!

That's it for me, enjoy your Squiz, thank you Emma for your help with this one!

Lyrics: Gimme the band and song title

1. If you are confused, check with the sun
   Carry a compass to help you along
   Your feet are going to be on the ground
   Your head is there to move you around
2. Dance a little stranger,
   Show me where you've been
   Love can make you hostage wanna do it again
3. Are these times contagious?
   I've never been this bored before
   Is this the prize I've waited for?
4. A time to be born, a time to die
   A time to plant, a time to reap
   A time to kill, a time to heal
   A time to laugh, a time to weep

Blackadder

1. Who played him in each series?
2. How many series' were there?
3. Who was always his right-hand man?
4. Which member of the royal family did Blackadder insult during the Christmas special?
5. Which war did he go forth in and die in?

Who played the title doctor?

1. Dr. Strangelove
2. Doc Hollywood
3. Doctor Zhivago
4. Dr. No
5. Dr. T and the Women
6. **BONUS**: Both Dr. Doolittles

Composer Gossip

1. Who had 21 children with two wives (not at once)?
2. Who wrote a fantastic symphony based on an opium-dream about the woman he loved (and didn't love him)?
3. Who died of a gangrenous infection caused by a conducting baton injury?
4. Who went insane from syphilis, jumped off a bridge, and spent his last two years in an asylum?
5. Which Military Symphony composer's fiancee left him to become a nun (and as a show of respect to her family, married her sister)?
6. **BONUS**: Do you have any composer gossip? (You must submit it to win points here.)

So much for Squiz number four. Good luck answering stuff, and remember to submit solutions to the **BLACK BOX** or *math*NEWS e-mail address by November thirteenth. Bye bye!

Brad "Initials are for the weak!" Smith

down to my basement and you found my six monkeys there, would you be cool with that, or would you call the cops?" Big Liam (who was bachelor number three) was dumb struck, I was speechless, see, that's just how totally random that line was, it made me shut up. That line totally made the night. In fact, for the rest of the night we kept referring back to the monkeys. Why is it that all the funny, hot, MathSoc-event-attending girls are obsessed with monkeys? I mean come on, a severe case of monkeys on the brain if I ever saw one. Hehe, monkeys are funny. If you doubt it, find Dan Pollock and ask him to tell you his monkey story.

OK, I've been gone for a while, but not for that long. It seems that I hadn't written an article in so long that the good people at *math*NEWS considered me dead. I was minding my own business, reading my favourite biweekly (I mean every other week, does biweekly mean twice a week or every other, hmmm, damn ambiguous English language, why can't you be nice and simple like all the languages we study in CS360) publication when I happened across my own last name. Now you have to see my last name to believe it, it has 7 consonants in a row. Well 7 possible consonants, you have to count y as not being a vowel, even though it's acting like one. Anyway, the point is that my last name doesn't just appear places (well unless it's in Polish, in which case it's a pretty common word, means wing) so when I see it I am fairly sure I am being referred to (or someone related to me). Well, apparently the editors decided that not only had I passed on, but that a Memorial award should be created in my name, a Memorial award, you could have made it just the Skrzydlo Award, nope, had to be Memorial. As if it wasn't bad enough that my beloved *math*NEWS had me declared dead, the award was given for the worst writing in an issue of *math*NEWS. Hey, I never wrote as bad as Liam wrote in that article. I mean, I like Liam, he's a friend of mine, and I actually found the article to be somewhat funny, but it made no sense. My articles make sense, if you know me well enough to know what I mean by things, and you can get past the … interesting

… SNUGGLES continued from page 4

us." At this point Sky promptly fell over laughing, it's a good thing my bed is where it is 'cause otherwise he would have hurt himself.

Musical Interlude … She's got Sauce … It's a song that my wives found online, see there's this whole sauce story with one of my other roommates and, well, I'm not going to tell it right now so … and now back to the article.

There's a new show on called the Cindy Margolis show, I found it one night when there was a party at my house, and I was walking by the den and saw bikini clad women on my television (not on top of my television, it wasn't that kind of party), so I sat down and watched this show. It seems to me that all it is is gratuitous cleavage shots (yes, there were so many cleavage shots that even I am saying that it got to be gratuitous), and yet, it seems to have fairly good ratings, I wonder why. Well anyway, at the end of the show I was watching the credits (hey, it's good to acknowledge the fine people who put together such an excellent example of late night, quality programming, cough, cough) and who is this masterpiece produced by? A company called Visual Frontier. Well, at least no-one's kidding themselves, they know exactly why they're getting paid, and it ain't for the plot line or the high quality acting.

I was watching late night TV the other night (well, actually the other morning, but whatever) and I saw Knight Rider, and I got to thinking (when was the last time you could say that David Hasselhoff made YOU think). How awesome would Herbie meets Knight Rider be. It would be very entertaining, we could throw in the Dukes of Hazard car just so there would be a soap opera-esque love triangle. They could race, and all talk, it would be the Mr. Ed of car shows.

I think the next MathSoc social event should be Ike tossing, you see we all line up, and the VPAS stands at the front of the line and then … oh never mind.

During Frosh Week I was in the MathSoc office telling all the frosh about MathSoc, you know, what it does, how to get involved etc. One of the things I mentioned was novelties, and there just happened to be a brand spanking new novelty item behind me that I kept referring too. This, of course, was the "UW Math Girls Kick Ass" tank-tops. Anyway, a couple times I commented that at some point I would wear one of them. Well I did. I warned you all, so I don't feel bad about it. I showed up to Math Pub Night wearing the tank-top suitably altered (I didn't change the tailoring at all, it was fairly tight, I got a medium), you see I added one word, two simple letters, using a bit of creative masking tape, so the message became UW Math Girls Kick My Ass. I was also wearing my special hat that has dreadlocks attached to it, I looked quite … um, different. Actually, at one point I went to the bathroom and was using the urinal when

*grid*COMMENTS

No goblins here

"Design Theory would never have developed without the invention of yellow chalk by the Bulgarians in the 15ᵗʰ century." — Dr. Pete Johnson.

That's my *prof*QUOTES submission for this week. Anyhow, how is everyone doing? I've discovered my newest favourite hobby, and it's name is **Napster**. Too cool. Five times out of seven, I think of a really obscure Canadian band from the 80s and there's a dozen people with songs by that act, offering them to the world! (On the other hand, it seems that I am the only person that remembers a band called Regatta from 1989-90. Oh well.)

There were six submissions for last issue's Grid, all of which were essentially correct. (YEP=YUP, after all, especially when the vowel isn't crossed with anything.) The submitters, as well as their opinions on the number of people going to St. Ives, are Marcov (1, with a Not-Answer of 401); Peter McCurdy (One); The Piman (2.5 per family on average); Ashif (); the Machine (One, though there were distractions in burlap aplenty); and Janey "Chief" Law, Christian Hallett, and Ryan McGauley (42). (There was also a reasonably bizarre non-submission, by an individual who felt compelled to answer the gridQUESTION yet not the Grid itself. Keep up the good work, Krease.) In the face of this, the random-selection-process-du-jour chooses **the Piman** as this week's big winner. Congrats! The MathSoc office holds your prize, I am sure.

A note about my choices of words: I do not make these words up. Some of them are a tad obsolete, but they *are all words*. If a word is obsolete (as listed in a dictionary), then I try to remark on this in the clue. If I fail to, then I apologize; if I do so mark it, then quit your whining, everyone.

So that brings us to this week's effort. A couple of (marked) obsolete words, which have modern-day cognates close enough

that folks shouldn't have too much trouble with them. As always, if you have questions, feel free to e-mail me: mwalsh@alumni.uwaterloo.ca. That also works if you want to submit your solution, and don't feel like walking to the **BLACK BOX**. Submissions are due (by either avenue) by November 13ᵗʰ, 2000.

Oh, and this week's gridQUESTION: *Have you learned nothing from the lesson of Ed Gruberman?* (Bonus points for the source of the question.) Later, all,

Matt in the Hat

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

GRIDXXORD

Grid Clues

Across

1. Food shortages
7. Illegitimate
13. Expression of regret
14. Comfy places to lounge
16. Jamaican salutation
17. One more time
19. Lawyer's deg.
20. Refracting crystal
21. The cruelest mo.
22. Auditory hallucination disorder
25. A bishop's diocese
26. This I swear
28. Monstrous person
30. Common indices of summation
32. OWL magazine's companion
35. Hello
36. Divorce capital of America
38. Goes well with parsley, sage, rosemary
39. Tiny bug
41. That which dissolves
42. Artificial and inferior
43. Inter
44. What happened to yesterday's dinner
46. The ones who "say" things?
48. As opposed to them
49. Radical political activist?
52. Hark!
53. Give over
54. Bachelor party
56. Washroom, in British parlance
58. Benign glandular tumour
61. *Army of Darkness* hero
63. Photo collection
65. Celtic sea-god
66. Louisiana wetlands
68. Un-naturally curly hair
69. My brother's daughter
71. Aspersion
72. Podium for the opinionated
73. High-priced shrink

Down

1. Heroic prince in Tolkein
2. Syrian city
3. Many commands in one
4. AT bus architecture (abbrev.)
5. Transuranic element symbol
6. By oneself
7. Negative traits
8. Like "like"
9. Celtic land
10. Wake up!
11. Ascend
12. Misconduct
15. Obsequious servant
18. Way
20. One step below a squire
23. Made squirrel-like noises
24. Philosophy merging dogma and science
27. Initiate
29. Sailing race
31. The Son, according to some
33. Good humour (obs.)
34. Islamic noble of Afghanistan
35. Greenish-brown
37. Not this one either
40. The ultimate degree
43. Sackcloths
45. College town native (as opposed to a student)
47. Cultured milk
50. Dutch cheese
51. Pierce
53. Venomous snake
55. With simple joy
57. Vegetable oil spread
59. Extract (obs.)
60. Killer whale
62. Underneath, in Quebec
64. The man in the striped shirt
67. Non-spoken tongue (abbrev.)
69. Refusal
70. Typesetter's measure