

# math NEWS

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Friday, March 15, 2002





## MathSoc Space: VPAS Sez

Salutations my fellow Mathies!!!! This is your VPAS writing to you all about recent events that have yet to happen here on campus.

Well, there are two major events happening this coming week (March 18-22):

### Charity "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

This event will be March 20<sup>th</sup>, from noon until about 2:00 pm in the SLC Great Hall. How does it work? Well, all 6 faculties have selected one professor and one student to represent them by competing as a team in a game of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Then the Faculty selects a Charity to play for. So one question comes to your minds right away: "Who is representing the Mathies? Who has the wit, and head full of otherwise useless trivia to represent the Mathies?" Well, MathSoc has selected Stephen Skryzdlo, Snuggles as you may know him by. Troy Vasiga will be the Math team's professor (you may know him better as "That guy who taught me about Finite Automata"). These two trivia giants will be playing for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, a non-profit organization helping out the hungry in our community by distributing food to 49 community food programs.

How can you help? Simply by donating to the team's Charity! How do you do that? You can fill out a donation form at the MathSoc Office or at the donation booth that will be at the event. To add some spice up the donations, we have made available three ways to donate:

- **Regular Donation:**  
This is a conditionless donation. We ask that these donations be paid immediately.
- **Per Question Donation:**  
To help motivate Snuggles and "Finite Automata" man, you can fill out a pledge for a Per Question Donation. You will donate a set amount of money for every question our team is able to correctly answer.
- **Challenge Pledge:**  
Now, if you want to REALLY motivate our heroes (Troy and Stephen) you can fill out a Challenge Pledge. You will donate a certain amount provided that our team is able to reach a certain level on the scoreboard.

Come on out to be part of the audience that may be asked to help out on the life lines or kiss up to either of our team members and they just might pick you, yes YOU, to be their phone a friend.

The final question that might be at the back of your mind, "Who will be our host?" Why, that will be none other than Brenda Slomka, our very own upcoming FEDS president!!!

SLC Great Hall, Noon till 2 pm, Wed March 20<sup>th</sup>. BE THERE!

Well, what is that other event upcoming this week? Why, ElectrOnica my friends!!! This event will be Friday evening, during which our own C+D and Comfy Lounge will be converted into a RADICAL (remember that word we all used in the early 90's?) Discotheque with the latest music. [For more information, check out the article on page 6. — Ed.]

### Future Events?

A Settlers Tournament where you could win your own copy of this assignment-procrastinating, class-missing game!!!!

Also, what would you do to help relieve some of the term's stress? What better way than to take it out on the Engineers in a blaze of Laser Fury!! Laser Quest tournament near the end of the term!!

Have a wonderful day,

Tyler Slijboom

MathSoc VPAS, winter 2002

## Lost Ring

I lost my engagement ring at the Math Grad Ball on Saturday night. It has a gold band and alternating black stripes and diamonds on the front. If you have any information, please contact me at: [keseburn@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:keseburn@uwaterloo.ca). A reward is being offered.

## lookAHEAD

### mathNEWS

March 15	Issue #6 gets slammed to submission
Coming Soon	A surprise from mathNEWS
March 25	Issue #8 production night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
April 1	Issue #8 makes fools out of all of us

### Math Faculty

March 4-29	Spring Term Course Enrollment
April 1	Lectures End (for math courses)

### MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Night
March 18	Cotton Candy Day
March 20	Charity Millionaire
March 22	ElectrOnica in the MC <sup>2</sup>

### MGC

Wednesdays	Oooh! Pizza
March 19	Brick Brewery Tour
Today	Contribute to the Pink Tie Pledge

### Co-op

March 18	Continuous-phase Postings end
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### Miscellaneous

March 17	St. Patrick's Day Watch out! The drunks are coming.
March 21	Vernal Equinox
March 21	The Aud transformed into rowdy central
March 23	Mike Harris sleeps through the whole day
March 26	David Letterman traded to ABC for Dennis Miller and the MNF crew
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Why not Norther or Wester?
April 1	April Fools Day Just kidding? Not really



## The Pink Tie Pledge Continues

The Pink Tie Pledge is heating up as the tie turns pink on its way to the top of the tiemometer and our goal of \$60,000. Information packages and pledge cards are still available on the tie, so pick one up, fill it out, and return it to the MGC office. You can also fill one out online at <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/ptp.html>.

Just a quick reminder that there are 4 pledge plans. There is the Dean's Challenge which is a pledge of \$2002 over 3 years and you're invited to have dinner with the dean (please submit pledges ASAP to be at the dinner). There is the Ralph Staton Pledge which is a pledge of \$20.02 per month for 3 years and recognized at the Wine and Cheese (Please submit by March 22 to be recognized). There is also the Dean's Prime Number Club which is a pledge of \$151 for 3 years. And if none of these suit you, you can make up your own pledge.

You also get to decide what your pledge will support. Possibilities include the MGC Award, Descartes Scholarships, MEF, the Tutorial Centre, and anything else that you can specify.

As a side note, it has been pointed out that the pledge cards look like fish when held sideways. Pick one up and see if you agree. You may also want to fill it out while you are thinking if it is a fish or a tie.

Any questions can be sent to:  
mjhenhoe@uwaterloo.ca.

Mike Henhoeffer  
Pink Tie Pledge Director

## Declined Racks up Votes in Feds Election

In its strongest showing at the polls in years, Declined came third in the presidential race and actually took the Senator position in the recent elections.

Declined, who ran a campaign for under \$30, appeared to be very pleased with the results, having gained more votes than some of its human competition. A spokesperson for the Declined team expressed excitement in having received more votes than Stacey Watson and Dave Ellis, despite the fact that Dave Ellis doesn't actually exist.

There was some disappointment in the Declined camp about the VPed and VPSI races. "We thought we might have been able to finish third in at least one of these races. It really hurts to lose twice."

The victory over Nik Sydor was well received though. "I think it was Declined's promise to bring 'balls-to-the-wall rock and fucking roll' back to Fed Hall and the Bomber that really won it for us." More people want that than hip hop, and that's what the VPAF position is really about," said one student observer.

Despite finishing a close third to mathie candidate and mathNEWS writer Dave, Declined wasn't too worried about losing the councillor seat. "Declined still took the senator-at-large," said a spokesperson. "And it's about time we have someone with absolutely no opinion in the senate!"

Declined declined to comment on its recent success, but was happy to report that it fully intends to run again next year for all available positions.

Bradley Turndown Smith

## Italian Dressing to Head Federation of Sauces

The results are in, and Italian Dressing (favourite condiment of Brenda Slomka), with 42% of the total votes cast, will be the next president of the Federation of Sauces (Feds). Joining it on the executive are VPed-elect Educational Issues (Ryan O'Connor's favourite condiment), VPSI-elect Red Pepper Relish (Mike Kerrigan's), and VPAF Green Mustard (Chris Di Lullo's).

Green Mustard is the only member of the new executive who did not run as part of Italian Dressing's ticket after defeating team RICE member Cheez Whiz (Rob Robson's favourite condiment) for VP administration and finance.

The results of the Feds election came as a surprise to many. Ketchup was shocked that a whole ticket did not win, but said, "I wouldn't have expected two tickets to be divided like that. If someone was going to break up a group running together, I would have at least expected it to be an independant candidate like Salsa." He then unscrewed his head and poured part of his insides onto a grilled cheese sandwich.

Salsa (David Huynh's favourite condiment) was disappointed not to get in, but figured that his platform of "chunkier and spicier" might not have gone over too well.

Another condiment who may have been too spicy for the Feds was Tobasco Sauce (Albert Nazareth's favourite). Green mustard, who he ran along side, offered that medium heat that was more palatable to the general populous. Also from their ticket were Cheese (Melissa's Alvares' favourite) and math condiment Jam (Liam McHugh-Russell). Both of whom are delicious.

Without representation in the Federation of Sauces election were the members of the collective (Stacey Watson, Stephen Lockwood, Julian Ichim, and Nik Sydor) and Dave Ellis, who does not exist.

In the math regular councillor race, Dijon Mustard (Ed Schmitt's favourite) brought in almost 50% more votes than opponent Sauerkraut (Dave Nicholson's favourite).

When ask to comment on the results, Wasabi said, "You are all weak! I am strong! I am WASABI!!!!!!!"

Bradley Toppings Smith

**VOTE  
HERE**

**9:21 - 4:12**



*Sauces, like these four young ladies, anxiously awaiting the opportunity to cast their ballots at a laptop made available by the Vinegar Club*



## Soft Pretzel News

This just in! Parmesan cheese soft pretzels are now available at the Soft Pretzel Bakery! In a freakish coincidence, within an hour of thinking that there should be cheese pretzels and pizza pretzels, I purchased two parmesan pretzels with pizza sauce dip. Weird.

Hot news item! Soft pretzel lady is rather nice. Not recognising the *mathNEWS* Editors, those two guys who walk into the shop with three pizzas every other Monday, she gives them an extra dipping sauce to try with the cinnamon-sugar pretzel. This sauce turns out to be the same one they have bought for the last two months.

FACT! *mathNEWS* loves the Soft Pretzel Bakery, and despite having recently seen Woody Allen's *Small Time Crooks*, I do not believe that they are merely a front for a burglary operation or any kind of smuggling.

Yes!

Bradley Tunnelling Smith

## Wouldn't it be Loverly?

*(with apologies to My Fair Lady)*

All I want is a job somewhere  
Far away from UW air.  
But life just won't be fair ...  
Oh wouldn't it be loverly?  
Lots of projects for me to do,  
Networking with a whole new crew.  
Good pay, bad pay, some pay?  
Oh wouldn't it be loverly?

Oh, so loverly workin' in a grey cubicle.  
I would never budge 'til spring term's very last fudgicle.

The word "Matched" on my LCD.  
Mean's not doing another CV.  
Someone has hired me? [Spoken: "No"]  
Oh wouldn't it be loverly?

Leander

## Dial F?

After seeing all those posters, shirts, and stuff, I was curious about FASS. Having some questions I wanted to ask them, I decided I would try dialing F, for FASS ... So I went to one of the free on-campus phones, dialed F (3), and waited ... and waited ... and waited ... and after about 10 or 15 hours I decided that I had been duped ... or that maybe it wasn't an on-campus extension. So I went to a pay phone, stuck in my twenty five cents, and dialed 3 again. This time I got a response. Bell Canada told me something about entering a valid phone number. I guess the FASS people have the wrong number. By the time I found someone who was part of FASS, I realized I had forgotten all my questions so it didn't matter anymore, anyway. But to all you FASS people out there, remember that without the faculty, you are just a bunch of ASS.

Pi

## Dear Employers

Based on my personal experience as a tortured co-op student, here are a few tips for the new employers:

Dear new co-op employers,

Here are a few tips of how to torture the co-op students you've hired.

1. Give them whatever you don't want to do, and let them do it. For example, give them that file that has been sitting on your desk for the past 5 months, the one you still haven't figured out what to do with it. Let them clean up your mess and pull their hair out while you keep the last few on your head.
2. Sneak up on them from time to time, especially after lunch-time when everyone's had a little too much to eat, and are either dozing off or downloading MP3s. This will give them a nervous breakdown for sure. Not just from the fact that you're sneaking up on them, of course, but also because of the way you look in their nightmares.
3. Forward all your calls to them when you don't have an answer for the person on the line, or simply just forward ALL your calls to them. Their guesses are just as good as yours, so might as well let them take the screaming and shouting from the other end while you head out for a smoke.
4. Stay at work till 10 pm every night (you don't have to be working, though) and expect them to stay and work till you leave. Since you don't have a life, your co-ops don't deserve one either. At least you get more human interaction if they stay.
5. The worst torture of all time is to talk about your boring pathetic personal life with them. You're 45, single, and still live at home. So go ahead and whine about how your mother made you sing during that family party, and how whoever's daughter refused to even dance with you. You know you have to let it out, so go on and tell your co-ops.

Last word of advice: your co-ops are only going to be there for 4 months! So torture them while you still can, which is until you get the next shipment of eager and desperate students.

Yours truly,  
CEE

## cat vs. mental hospital

on coming to grips with the fact that you may never be loved. it's not an easy topic. I'm leaving and i don't ever want to see you again. three strikes and you're out. out of the game, out of money, out of time. Remember the times we spent together? strolling aimlessly or on a deadly dangerous mission for chocolate late at night. and going to the movies with friends is nice, but it's better to do it alone. well those times are over. i'm leaving. you'll have to find your own way home. when you get there let me know and i'll come back. you should get a cat. for real. or start breaking shit. one or the other. I'm sorry you had to hear this from me, but you will never be loved.



# Cynic's Coronary

## Teaching Life

So, you may ask yourself, what's this guy doing at a production night? (At least you might ask that if either you semi-recognized the title or you happened to check who's the author of this article and recognize the name.) Well, seeing as it's now March Break, and I'm a high school teacher, I have this time available to do anything I want. That is, anything which isn't going to make me out as a bad role model for impressionable young minds. So naturally I came out to see what was up with *mathNEWS*.

Now, some among you may be thinking, "Gee, what a lucky guy, gets a week off work." Hence, I am writing to explain the true story. See, the reason I get the week off is because I don't get any time off in the evenings or on weekends. I take my work home with me: I don't have a choice. With that in mind, I present to you an only slightly exaggerated day in teaching life. (Those of you in the teaching option may know of what I speak; I don't know, I never actually took the teaching option, but at a private school they don't ask for niggling little details like a teaching certificate. As long as you haven't broken any laws, it's all good.)

6:30 am — Wake up, morning routine.

7 am — Leave house for commute, eat breakfast en route.

8 am — Arrive at school. (I would live closer, but who has time to look for an apartment?)

8:05 am — Photocopy quizzes and other materials to give to students.

8:10 am — Use photocopier in the other end of the school when first one breaks down.

8:15 am — Retrieve chemistry materials for lab demonstration. Discover there is no Iron (III) chloride left.

8:17 am — Attempt to make Iron (III) chloride.

8:30 am — First bell. Decide to deliver an impromptu science lecture instead.

8:40 am — Tell students to hurry up and get to class, darn it!

8:44 am — *O Canada*. Tell students to stand at attention, darn it!

8:45 am — Teach math. Try to make factoring understandable without worrying too much about being about 2 weeks behind where you need to be in the "new grade nine curriculum" in order to finish by May.

9:40 am — Free period (no study hall today). Check mailbox upstairs, discover message from a parent.

9:42 am — Attempt to figure out which student named 'Bob' that this person is calling about.

9:45 am — Phone irate parent.

10:05 am — Off phone, come up with some good example questions to use in afternoon classes.

10:15 am — Finish marking assignment to hand back to students that afternoon, record grades.

10:35 am — Teach science. Pretend you know what you're talking about.

11:30 am — Cornered by student after class. Start eating lunch while answering questions from students.

12:05 pm — Hall duty, patrol halls while finishing lunch.

12:30 pm — Teach a math class at a higher level than that morning.

1:25 pm — Teach a science class at a lower level than that morning.

2:20 pm — Teach a math class with the same amount of en-

thusiasm as you had at 8:45, but again the grade level is totally different.

3:15 pm — Bus duty.

3:30 pm — After school tutoring.

4:30 pm — Clean chalkboards. (Custodians only sweep away the chalk on the floor.)

4:35 pm — Check mailbox upstairs, reminder about department meeting at lunch the next day and report cards to complete over the weekend. Attempt to escape school.

4:37 pm — Answer some questions from students who just finished band practice/swimming meet/random extracurricular event. Then attempt to escape school.

4:48 pm — Encounter another teacher and talk about troublesome student(s), what can be done with him/her/them, why detention isn't helping. Or about excellent student(s), what extra material they should get or contests they could enter. Then attempt to escape school.

5:00 pm — Pretend not to hear people around you. Escape school, buy gas on the way home.

6:00 pm — Arrive at home. Find and eat food. Make mental note to find time to shop for more on the weekend.

6:30 pm — Draw up a test to give students tomorrow.

6:50 pm — Draw up an assignment to give students tomorrow.

7:10 pm — Mark science labs. Record marks.

8:15 pm — Start marking math assignments.

9:10 pm — Decide roughly what you'll need to teach next day. Generate some examples if possible. (Three day lesson plans? Who has time for three day lesson plans? Just don't get sick.)

9:15 pm — Realize you lent one of your textbooks to a student who never returned it. Decide to deliver an impromptu math lecture instead.

10:15 pm — Finish general organization for courses. Check personal email, make mental note to answer some of it when feeling more conscious (gambling it'll happen that weekend).

10:30 pm — Take quick scan of newspaper, discover that some Ministry is now making new teachers take a mandatory test on April 27<sup>th</sup> this year in order to be allowed to teach (ie. certification not enough), this test not currently being required for people from out of province, and it being one which will only be available in certain designated places — meaning people will have to commute to them in the midst of the school year. (And when exactly is there time to study? By the way, I am NOT making this up.)

10:45 pm — Set alarm, face plant into bed.

Okay, so that's maybe a worst case scenario (I'm not always giving tests or assignments on a particular day, etc. ... though it's surprising how quickly marking can pile up). And of course, it IS worth it in the end for those moments when the eyes light up as the kids catch on to what you're babbling about, or the little Christmas cards some of them give, and so forth. Still, I am hoping to use this free week to catch up on my email and take a stab at some recreational activities (teachers can't hold business meetings on golf courses). So ... wait, why HAVE I started it off by coming out to *mathNEWS*? Beats me. But I'm going to get to try a spinach pizza free of charge, so I guess that's something.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor



**profQUOTES**

"There is no Slimy Green Monster widget in Java."

Cowan, CS 498r

"This is a complicated way of raising 1 to a high power."

Bell, CS 488

"With non-symmetric matrices, you can't eat the cake and have it too. We're gonna eat the cake and not have it."

Forsyth, CS 472

"Maybe you've got a Mac, so n can be as big as 10."

Phillips, CS 360

"My first year stats course [for convenience] set infinity = 5, I've been a little doubtful of stats people ever since."

Ledet, PMATH 340

"If we chopped off all your fingers, this is what you'd use."

McLeish, STAT 340

"If you have a choice on the final exam, do it the easy way, okay?"

Ragde, CS 341

"What I have just done, waving my hands and speaking rapidly, is the if and only if part."

Ragde, CS 341

"What took me five minutes flapping like a duck somebody had written down in one paragraph."

Ragde, CS 341

"When you do this you will probably screw up because you're students — that's your job."

Best, C&O 370

"Suppose you're all students ... now, by definition that means you're broke."

Best, C&O 370

"How many people understand this?"

(6 out of about 85 raise their hands)

"That's good."

Best, C&O 370

"I'm not perfect. Although I have my PhD. and that's close to perfect."

Vrscay, AM 343

"I once had a friend tell me that I got higher marks than him because I was too dumb to realize the difficulties he had to deal with."

Springer, STAT 231

(Student)"Where do we that value from?"

(Prof)"I'm just making it up."

Springer, STAT 231

"When I read this lab I felt like you guys when you read the midterm, I had no idea what it was talking about."

Mu Zhu, STAT 231

"You can date my computer if you want."

McLeish, STAT 230

(Shining a laser pointer at a graph on the board) "Oh you can't see the laser ... it's the blackboard lights, that's the problem." (Turns them out) "Oh ... now you can't see the graph."

McLeish, STAT 230

"Lecture are not that long, it just feels this way."

Pretti, CS 241

"If I was in CS 241 and was trying to get perfect on this exam ... well, in theory I should be able too."

Pretti, CS 241

"You might be better off buying yourself a donut and drawing on the donut."

Schellenberg, MATH 239

(On empty sets) "Well if I said that all the super models I slept with were blonde, it would be a true statement, as well as if I said they were not blonde."

Irving, MATH 239

"If you perform this algorithm, they'll think you are completely on crack."

Irving, MATH 239

"On any reasonable computer. I'm not talking about Star Trek."

Armstrong, CS 134

"Formal verification is quite expensive because it requires people, people with brains, to perform."

Day, SE 112

"Fecal Material' is a polite word for 'shit.'"

Curchin, CLAS 202

"Tell your parent to invest any money before you come home for the weekend."

Smith, ECON 102

"What is food? ... It's something you put in your cakehole, dumbass!"

Burris, PSYCH 257

"I did my undergrad in a small college in the US in the 80's, when the hair big and the music was good."

Burris, PSYCH 101

**ElectrOnica in the MC<sup>2</sup>***Back by popular request*

Looking for some end of term fun? ElectrOnica in the MC is back! Six straight hours of UW's own electronica artists playing House, Jungle, Trance, Hardcore, Breaks, Drum 'n' Bass, Hardcore, and more. Come on out and find out what electronic music is all about! March 22, 8 pm to 2 am, in MC 3001 and 3002. Electronica in the MC is free and everyone is welcome. If you want to help make this event happen more volunteers are always need. Also there might be one or two spots left for people who want to perform. If you are interest in doing either e-mail [phatalbert@scunt.org](mailto:phatalbert@scunt.org) or visit the website at [www.electronicainthemc.org](http://www.electronicainthemc.org).



## Carleton University profQUOTES

Don't you feel bad for people at Carleton? Every other Friday they come to school in the hopes of finding a humorous publication waiting for them, but, no, it's never there.

The lack of *mathNEWS* not only prevents them from staying awake on Friday mornings, but it also denies them the right to publish the funny things their profs say. And without the inherent competition to make *profQUOTES*, their profs aren't particularly funny.

So, as a service to Carleton, in the hopes that they may some day create a publication of *mathNEWS*'s calibre, here are some of the best *profQUOTES* to come out of CU. Special thanks to Heather Simmie for collecting them and to her sister Anne Marie, who's in CS here, for delivering them.

"This is our first interesting ... no, wait, this isn't interesting ..."

Lalonde, CS 95-302

"You can't go down on terminals, they don't have the right parts."

Lalonde, CS 95-302

"But because I'm an idiot, I decided to go to state 5."

Oommen, CS 95-285

"Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your function grow?"

Oommen, CS 95-285

## Krease Crumpled

WHAATAAAAAHHHH!!!

This is one busy month. It started off with one of my teeth coming out, which is a good thing since it was a baby tooth ... that's all I'm going to say about that. The next day, I awoke bright and early (ok, so it was still dark out) at 5 am to go skiing at Blue Mountain. You might not know this, but there's a little town called 'Nottawa' on the way there. Despite my squeals of glee, we just drove right through ... supposedly there was nothing to do there either. So we got in, went up and down a couple of times (slow, then fast), and with all of us going at once, we lasted for over 7 hours. Needless to say, we were covered with white stuff when we were done. Yup, what a great ski trip.

Saturday night was the post-midterm party, so naturally I wrote my only midterm Sunday night. I'm never going to take a course during my work term again — I remember why I never went to class when I had 5 of them ... I should just stay home and play Final Fantasy all day ... why didn't I think of that sooner?

If you're thinking of going to Toronto this weekend, be forewarned ... St. Patrick's Day and WrestleMania X8 are both on Sunday. They say it every year: "This WrestleMania is shaping up the best ever!" Well, I'll just watch it from Philthy's like always, and let you spend \$650 for a ringside seat and "WHAT?" t-shirt. What? You don't know what "WHAT?" is? What? What? What? That's what: bloody annoying. And they'll probably be chanting it all over Toronto this weekend ... I only have one thing to say about that: "Would you PLEASE shut the hell up!"

Doggies eat applesauce 'cause kumquats give them gas  
Krease

## Opinions on World Issues

I was really struggling to come up with a topic for a *mathNEWS* article this week, so I decided to ask people about their opinions on some of the hot moral topics in society today:

What do you think about world hunger?

Ian MacKinnon [*Ian's Note: this article is truly an example of how truly petty Lino "pi" can become when it comes to yo momma jokes gone too far*], the always compassionate *mathNEWS* staffer had some rather controversial comments. "It sucks" says Ian "[that there are still some people in Africa who have food]. If we took Africa off the map, we could just forget about the problem, and [maybe they] would go away."

When asked about his opinion on the "War on Terrorism," Ian thought that "it wasn't really a war until [the Canadian] Congress declares war on somebody. There are many technical issues about it that make it not a war. They have to pass [gas] too."

On more local issues, Ian is also very opinionated:

When asked what he thinks about the Federation of Students election, Ian thought "there were results, [but was not too sure about that]."

Ian had a few choice words for this *mathNEWS* writer when asked about his recreational habits.

Pi: "When was the last time you were high?"

Ian: "I don't do that kinda stuff, I'm pretty mellow."

Pi: "And when was the last time you were drunk?"

Ian: "2 nights ago ... My mom is fine [looking], thank you."

Opinion question: Is Ian's mom really fine looking? [*Ian's note: I'm going to try and be the bigger person when it comes to bringing a stupid argument into mathNEWS, so if I'm more mature than Lino, and he's older than I am, what does that say about his mom?*] Submit your results with a reason supporting your choice to the BLACK BOX or e-mail them to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) with subject Ian. In a future column, the results will be discussed.

Pi

## Smile, You're Not Dead Yet

I have a favour to beg of you: Whatever it is that you are passionate about, FIND A WAY TO DO IT.

Don't just accept the position you are in; if you're not happy, do something about it. And don't believe for a second that you can't do what you want. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't, because they're wrong. All it takes is hard work. You will find that hard work is its own reward, but only if you are working towards something personally meaningful. Not only this, but when you focus on your goal you will find solutions to other problems in life much easier to come by. Never take the easy way out, for this teaches you nothing; in all probability you will be bad at whatever you do for a long time before you get good, so accept it and learn to laugh at yourself.

The last part of this favour is to be sure to stop and have a tonne of fun along the way. Life is a gift, enjoy it.

Matt Sheehan

"If you know what life is worth, you will look for yours on earth."

Bob Marley



## The Land Beyond the Internet

Once upon a time, a great army of CSers was marching across an open and fertile plain. Conquest was easy, and what was not devoured was rendered irrelevant. But eventually the grassland gave way to stony ground and the army found itself on the edge of a vast desert. The army hesitated, not knowing what to do, until a troll appeared out of the dust. He told them he was on his way to a land beyond the desert a land that held unimaginable treasures. He offered to lead the way, telling them there was an oasis halfway across where they could stop to take on supplies for the rest of their difficult journey.

And so, the army set off into the desert. After much struggle, they reached the oasis named Internet Springs. To their surprise, the soldiers found that the food was richer than on the plain, the water sweeter than they had ever tasted, and golden nuggets lay on the bottom of the spring within easy reach. The soldiers danced, delirious with joy.

But the great army continued to pour into the oasis, soon overwhelming it. The food was exhausted, the spring was drained dry, and the last of the nuggets found. In desperation the soldiers dug into the dry soil, hunting for the motherlode of wealth they were sure lay beneath. But the ground yielded no treasure and the army, now turned into a mob, fought among themselves, hitting each other with their pails and shovels. The rear of the army, stranded outside the oasis, fell in the thousands.

The troll shouted to the army as loud as he could, Don't stop. Don't stop here! We are on our way to the land beyond. But, he could not make himself heard over the tumult around him. Fearing all the mathies would perish, he called out again and again. But it was to no avail, and the milling mob kept circling the oasis.

### Grad Ball Memories

Grad Ball was a great night, whether you got engaged or plastered. Here are some favourite memories:

(To the emcee, DE Dan) "We love you Dan ... STRIP!"

Table 3

(About music) "Linkin Park could be AC/DC's kids and not even know it."

*mathNEWS* folks

"I don't know where my date is, she can get her own god damn ride home."

Tex

"What the fuck are the cops going to do to me?"

Tex, smoking inside

"You're an asshole."

Dude to cop on his way out

"Maybe I want you to bust my butt."

Laurier girl, to cops

"Don't worry, Tex, we'll get your coat."

"Don't fucking tell me what to do Downs!"

Tex and Downs

"You're leaving me with a fist ... full ... of empty memories."

Downs to me (Brad) because I wasn't going to the Spur

Finally, in sad resignation, the troll turned to continue his journey alone. Still, hoping a few might be brave enough to follow, he buried his magical scroll in the sand near a rock which he marked with his characteristic sign. For those who could understand, the scroll would reveal the way across the desert to the land beyond Internet Springs, to a land of mighty mountains where lay the keys of the empire and from whose peaks one could discern the mysteries of life. The troll then pulled his blue cloak tightly around his shoulders and tottered off into the cold dark desert night.

You may preview the magical scroll at [www.beyondtheinternet.net](http://www.beyondtheinternet.net).

Larry Smith

### *mastHEAD*

*Fly away butterfly, just fly away*

I verclemt. Talk amongst yourselves. I will give you a topic. *mastHEAD* is neither mast nor head.

But seriously folks another production night has gone by, and soon to appear is a special treat from the closet that some refer to as that closet by the MathSoc office or to others the *mathNEWS* office. No, not this issue, not that it isn't special, all the issues are special in there own special way, after all, special. It's something else. You will know when you see it, or maybe you will be confused. Then you will think back to that filler err *mastHEAD* you were reading a week back and go, oh, that's what he was talking about. Cool. At least you had better think it is cool. With suspense like this we had better make it cool.

What else is on? Well I don't like tomato sauce. This bugs some people because we get the good pizza (in some people eyes) as the sauceless pizza. What wrong with the sauce you ask? Is it the tomato? Maybe the fact I am just too damn picky? (I am getting better — actually I recently had this chicken covered in a sauce that could be described as tomatoey, and it was good. The taste of the chicken and sauce just complimented each other so well I felt like I was flying through the clouds on the back of a golden — sorry Iron Chef moment. Maybe it just the cheese with the tomato sauce. Time to end this parenthetical statement.) Who knows what wrong with it. Apparently though, Campus Pizza is the only place with a truly vegetarian pizza. All the rest tend to have sardines in their tomato sauces. Maybe that is what is wrong with the sauce.

I'm down, and almost out, time to tag off with my fellow editor.

Bradley in, but I don't want to write anymore (I seem to have half a dozen article this issue), so I'll just leave the readers with their fists full of empty memories.

So the pretzel place has parmesan pretzels now. What will be their next flavourful move? We asked the staff exactly that question. Chris (Never odd or even), Latrell (Montreal steak spice), Ian (Cinnamon XP), Greg Taylor (educational issues?), Jason (Hard cheese), Kev(o) (My-so-called-pretzel-shop), and Lino (Fresca). Thanks to them for the treats (and the free sauce) and to Campus Pizza for the dinner. Thank you Margaret, Jason, and Jesse for reading things over the next day. And thank you, for reading this far down a *mastHEAD*. Yes!

Bradley T Smith (Herbs and crack)

Albert O'Connor (Butterscotch and Reese penis butter)



## mathNEWS Last to Report on Feds Election

### Di Lullo Ruins Acronym

Well, Waterlude beat us to the results by nine days, but here, finally, is our report on the FEDs election.

Team ORKS almost swept the four executive positions, having Brenda Slomka as president, Spikey Mike Kerrigan as VPSI (which may undergo a name change to Internal), and Ryan O'Connor (Imprint's De-educator) as VPED. The only elected FedS executive not from team SKOR is Chris Di Lullo, who provided an interesting challenge for acronymization.

Using the D and L from Chris' last name we can get words such as SKOLD and KOLDS, while only a D gives us DKOS, which is essential to install on your computer to play Donkey Kong.

The next step is to try using first names. Since Ryan's the only one contributing a vowel, the O stays, but we can spell COMB (Chris O'Connor Mikey Brenda) and SOCK (Slomka O'Connor Chris Kerrigan). The first is somewhat useless, and the second would lead to all sorts of confusion within MathSoc and all other university societies who use 'Soc as an abbreviation. [If only Albert Nazareth had one, then there would be an Albert and an O'Connor — PhatEd]

Perhaps FedS is the best short form we have for these four folks.

Bts

## Pi Day (March 14<sup>th</sup>)

Do you like Pi?  
Do you like Pie?  
Did you have Pie?  
Was it good Pie?  
Can you recite Pi?

Pi

## Yo Editor, What's the 411?

So you want some info, eh? Well how about this neat little fact: From the middle entrance of MC to the front door of Dana Porter is 411 steps. Yes, I actually counted (by 20s, three hundred seventy-eight is a bit of a mouthful while you're trying to move quickly). I even got stopped and asked for directions to Beatles Hall. Must be an awesome place for a class ... "And for today's lecture, we have ... Sgt. Pepper!" I'd love that place (ya ya ya).

That reminds me of one of the moms I talked to on Campus Day. She was so excited to see Bon Appetit because she thought it might be a bar. Also, on the way to the washroom (to which I had directed her and her daughter), she asked her daughter, "Do you have to poop, honey?" Man that girl is lucky to have such an attentive mother.

I also talked to one kid who was really excited: "Man, university life is awesome ... nobody controls you!" Wow, does he have a shocker coming.

And that reminds me, I'm running super late with this issue and it's time to take this puppy to the printers. Stay calm. Be brave. Watch for the signs.

Bradley Totally Smith

## Grad Most Likely To ...

May I have the attention of the class. mathNEWS is looking for a list of "Grad Most Likely To ..."s. They can be funny for everyone, or inside jokes, we'd just like to see more than four of them come in. To get you started, here's a list of potential lines:

- Most likely to always celebrate  $\pi$  Day.
- Most likely to still be working on his/her degree in five years.
- Most likely to wind up in a drunk tank.
- Most likely to fail to take over the world.
- Most likely to find a K/W job to be near the Bomber.
- Most likely to become a professional poker player.
- Most likely to keep his/her stylish UW jacket on.
- Most likely to wear a pink tie to work regularly.

You get the idea, just like high school. Email your lines to mathnews@student.uwaterloo.ca or drop them in the BLACK BOX. Get them in before the 25<sup>th</sup>, as we'll be all out of mathNEWS issues after then.

TaxiEd

## The Class of 2002 Song?

When I was 19, I was in first year  
At the bomber I drank many a beer  
Calculus induced fear  
I could not get a co-op job  
Back in first year

Then came 2A and 2B  
Troy Vasiga tried to kill me  
I took STAT 231  
No, it was not fun  
Oh yes that was second year

And then I was 21 in third year  
I never, ever slept  
I just sat there and wept  
As I tried to do my assignments  
Third year was really fun

And now here we are in 4B  
I almost flunked out in 4A  
Because I sat in the C+D  
I just want to graduate  
And not come back for 5B

Lyrics written (and occasionally sung) by  
DE Dan Morel

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Looking inward: Bradley T Smith and Albert O'Connor



## The Frosh Cornered

### Where Do Your Student Fees Go?

I was recently doing my taxes, and I was looking through my finances on Quest, when I noticed that we pay a lot of fees that cannot be written off for tax purposes. Take a look at your financial statement from the University and you will notice that you pay a lot of little fees that seem very small compared to the huge-ass tuition. I've done some "research" and found out where your (parents') hard earned money goes. Take a look.

1. \$4.10, Imprint: Divided among 28 pages, that's 15 cents a page for a whole term; let's break it down, because you really have to feel what you pay Imprint for over the course of a term.

- \$0.15 Covers: Cool enough, need to let you know that you can use this to line your cat's litter box.
- \$0.75 News sections: The major purpose of a newspaper is to deliver news. That may sounds like a blinding flash of the obvious, but it does make sense that roughly a fifth of your fee for a newspaper goes toward, you know, news.
- \$0.75 Opinions: There is as much opinion in Imprint as there is news, so one can easily come to the conclusion that people at Imprint are better at bitching than reporting. So before you ask someone "penny for your thoughts," just remember that you're already forking over 3 quarters a term for thoughts you don't even read.
- \$0.60 Features: This is where Imprint puts the "fun" stuff in, like fashion advice from some first year guy in Math (see that one last week). I bet you wouldn't listen to a male mathie in person about fashion, so why would you look through something that will get ink on your hands? Besides, UW leather jackets and overalls rule. The author may take his \$400 and buy a Playstation 2, but it's the only thing that he'll ever be getting play from.
- \$0.30 Science: This section would be a lot cooler if it had stuff in it that we heard of in "Fight Club," like making napalm out of orange juice and gasoline. That's what science should be all about.
- \$0.60 Sports: Nice to hear about how our men's teams are getting licked, how our women's teams are doing great, and how they still don't have "Yo mamma" contests as a varsity sport.
- \$0.60 Arts: Well, I guess we do have to hear about local bands and films that are about gay cowboys eating pudding (not that there's anything wrong with that).
- \$0.30 Classifieds: Gotta find a date somehow, or maybe you need to sell that chair that smells like SPAM.
- \$0.05, Rounding: Ok, it's not exactly \$0.15 a page per term. That just shows how there's an extra 5 cents of yours that Imprint has to build its evil doomsday device.

2. \$31.42, MEF: Well, someone has to fund things like the Professional Institute of Mathematics and Problem Solving. It acts as somewhat of a sugar-daddy for the Faculty of Math.
3. \$27.31, Federation of Students Fee: Pays for things like the exec and those great voting systems for the exec. I think it also pays for posters about the exec, and meetings for the exec.
4. \$7.50, Federation Hall Fee: Fed Hall was quite useful in 1A when it served as a great frosh meat market. However, a lot of us have discovered places off campus, so this should really become the Louie's, Weaver's, or REV fee for 1B and higher.
5. \$4.75, WPIRG: I've never been involved in anything really political or had an absolute opinion in my life, and have no such desire either, but I don't feel guilty about it 'cause I pay my WPIRG fee. At first I thought this was a radio station, but it turns out it does great things for ... ummmmm ... people who need to be researched in terms of public interest.
6. \$4.50, Radio Waterloo: It's nice we have a radio station on campus. I never listen to it, but it's nice we have one. [*Flight is Impossible: Thursdays 2-5, number one best show on CKMS — TaxiEd*]
7. \$10.50, MATH Student Society: These great people fund *mathNEWS*, so it is truly an honour to pay this fee, in fact, when you pay this fee, you put a smile on the face of every child in the world. [*And me! — TaxiEd*]
8. \$14.00, Work Report Marking Fee: This is one of those fees that could be obsolete if people ran their work reports through a spell-checker. [*Or if there wasn't this stupid grammar requirement in work reports ... misuse of a hyphen my ass. — TaxiEd*]
9. \$400.00, Co-op Fee: We all pay the fee, yet last time I checked, less than half the frosh have jobs for the summer and they encourage students in continuous to "look on your own." They should really turn this into more of a contest: If you find a job on your own, you get half of the co-op fee of the person who takes it next. Or maybe in order to encourage CECS to find jobs, you get refunded \$10 of this fee for every day you don't have a job after ranking day.

I hope you understand where your pile o' dough goes, or at least where your parents' dough goes. Keep in mind that you can get these fees back, but if you do, then you don't get to bitch about them. So don't get a refund (that's for wimps). I hope you all had a merry  $\pi$  day, and try not to get obscenely hammered on St. Paddy's Day; remember, you have school the next day.

Ian W. MacKinnon  
The Frosh Cornered



# mathNEWSquiz $\pi + 1$

*You try counting in Greek letters*

Congratulations to everyone who entered last issue's Squiz. It was well answered, with two people getting perfect scores:

Jamie Wheeler: 25

Mission Bananarama: 25

Lauren Bridges & Lynette Lau: 23.5

Katerine Chen: 20

Tex: 4

Seeing as Mission Bananarama have been cleaning up in the Squizzes this term, I'm going to use my SquizMaster powers to declare Jamie Wheeler champion for the issue.

For those interested in the solutions to the last Squiz, I just happen to have them right here:

**LYRICS:** 1) Shakira, *Whenever Wherever*; 2) The Calling, *Wherever You Will Go*; 3) Puddle of Mudd, *Blurry*; 4) Beatles, *I Am The Walrus*; 5) The Vandals, *Get A Room*;

**SPORTS:** 1) Kitchener; 2) Joe Sakic; 3) Toyota; 4) Jeff Gordon; 5) March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Australia;

**GEOGRAPHY:** 1) Luxembourg; 2) Israel; 3) Belgium; 4) Tunisia; 5) Cyrus;

**WHAT SHOW ARE THEY ON:** 1) Scrubs; 2) The Associates; 3) Futurama; 4) Boston Public; 5) Alias;

I apologize for the spelling mistake in the TV questions, but I think at least one of the editors should have caught the error. [Jerk — *TaxiEd*] And now on with the show: I've picked some massive yet impossible lyrics for this Squiz. There may even be a theme to them if you look really hard ... good luck. Submissions are due in two Mondays.

## Lyrics

- How can I replace the smile upon a face  
Of a lover that I can never be  
How can I begin to make you love again  
And try to make you see  
And he won't be back  
Can't you realize that?  
And he's laughing at your sorrow  
How can I explain  
Your love is all in vain  
While he wastes your precious hours  
I could fill your days with flowers
- By definition from grade school to English 30  
We quietly become strong so early  
Take it or leave it they can't believe it  
They go from kindergarten to killing sprees  
They go from heartache to inner peace  
100 foot ceilings 100 percent deceit  
He said let's leave this between you and me  
My cats watch my stuff leave my house  
Between you and me the cat burglars are  
What did you see what did you steal  
Tell me baby how does it feel

- This world is either spinnin' way too fast or way too slow  
And you gotta keep your head above confusion  
Gotta get a job, guess it'll be Ontario  
From the quiet bays to endless noise pollution  
You're caught up in a brain drain  
Can't live your life like a plain Jane  
And you hear the ghetto war blastin' on the radio.  
It's Yonge St. from Burkes Lane  
Gotta put 'er up one more time before we go
- Well Mountie Bob he chased me, he was always at my throat  
He'd follow on the shoreline 'cuz he didn't own a boat  
But cutbacks were a-coming so the mountie lost his job  
Now he's sailing with me and we call him Salty Bob.  
A swingin' sword, and skull n' bones,  
And pleasant company  
I never pay the income tax and screw the GST  
SCREW IT!  
Prince Albert down to Saskatoon, I'm the terror of the sea  
If ya wanna reach the Co-op, boy, you gotta get by me!
- Well have you ever heard of dialectics  
One sure way to get some perspective  
Of course every action is an elective  
I wonder what my horoscope has to say, today  
You say your moon's in the seventh house  
But your butt's been three days on my couch  
You've eaten me out of home and house  
You nearly drank up all of my beer  
Ya, I'm out of here

## Carl & Ray

### (The Blockbuster Spokesanimals)

- What are Ray and Carl's last names?
- At what address do Ray & Carl live?
- In what year were Ray & Carl born?
- Who bought Ray thinking he was a miniature poodle?
- Who gave Carl his first big break?

## St. Patrick's Day

- How many practice days are there in 2008?
- How many leaves on Fry's (Futurama) lucky clover?
- Why is March 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day?
- How did the mayor of Chicago commemorate St. Patrick's Day in 1965?
- Why was Whiskey invented?

## Mystery Category

- Hoover cleaning tool?
- An air mover?
- Blood Thirsty Undead?
- Not a girl, not yet a woman?
- What is the theme of this category?

Get your submissions in. You can drop them off you-know-where or mail them to you-know-who.

Daryl McEachern



## gridCOMMENTS

How did everybody like that *gridWORD*? Pretty fun? I enjoyed it a lot too. Nothing better than cutting and pasting other people's work.

The cryptic was well received, judging by the three submissions. Everyone answered it correctly, so a three-sided coin was tossed deeming Big Banana and Little Bitch the winners. Here are the others with their name for the combined Euclid-Descartes test: Chris Marks (Fred), BB and LB (Bastard Love Child), and what I'm guessing is a PMC-based team made up of Ben, Daniel, Mark, and Mike.

The conventional was a bit trickier. There were five submissions, three of which were complete. INDIRECT (10 across) seemed to be the stumper word while everybody got MULLIGAN, which I thought was the trickiest. So among the correct solutions, the three-sided die (what, it was a coin, wasn't it?) selected Chris Downs (his name for the new test was "The René, screw Euclid!"). The other solutions were from Tex (call it the Euclid, screw René), Mallory and Trent (Blue), Mission Bananarama (Dave's Insanity Sauce), and Sana'a Hayat. Speaking of Tex, I should apologize for omitting his answer to the *gridQUESTION* last issue. His favourite Feds write-in candidate was Mr. T, foo! Also special mention should go to him for being the first person I know of who has answered the *gridWORD* orally.

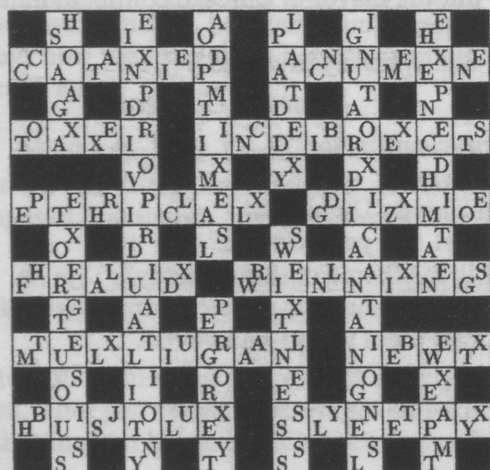
There was also the issue of A. Aaransan's submission, which was entirely 'A's, who said he'd name the test the Abel. Well, I don't know which he was answering, but I wish the guys on the block by the Comfy Lounge would stop wasting *mathNEWS*s.

I hope you enjoy this issue's puzzle. Linda's been experimenting again (see issue 86.5 for her previous, most excellent divergence from traditional puzzles) and we have an all numbers puzzle. The clues are only a little bit cryptic, so there's only need for one set. Maybe we'll have two prizes, though.

The trickiest part of a number puzzle is what to ask for a *gridQUESTION*. I had the speed of sex suggested, but everybody knows it's 68 (you turn around at 69). And how much wood would could a wood chuck chuck was in the summer term. Even a skill testing question like the prime factors of 2002 is easy (2, 7, 11, and 13). So maybe I should avoid numbers. Or maybe not: *What was the most important year in math history?* Remember, I wanna laugh when I read these so give a really good reason.

Drop your solutions in the **BLACK BOX** or email them to *mathNEWS* (or orally submit to me ... your solutions). Ta ta.

TaxiEd, on behalf of GridMaster Linda



## Grid Clues (Numeric)

### Across

1. Sweet square (2)
2. Talk about a slice of pie (1.5)
7. Grand total of 17A - 5D - inverse(18D) (4)
9. Palindrome with square digits (4)
11. 13D taken up by nine (4)
13. No German heard after square one (4)
15. Even odds (2-2)
17. When Star Wars (and I) debuted in Waterloo (4)
20. Pythagorean triple (2,2,2)
21. See 14 Down

### Down

1. Binary blackjack (5)
3. High time (2)
4. Disgusting quantity (3)
5. Two odd numbers to call in an emergency (3)
6. Book 'em, Dan-o (1-1)
8. Bonded agent (3)
10. Highway 191 hexed (3)
12. One for nothing (3)
13. Countdown (3)
14. (With 21 Down) Toronto Pizza Pizza (3-2-2)
15. Has Levis (3)
16. Prime whose sum of digits is also prime (3)
18. Some bottles of beer for the Great One (2)
19. Baker's dozen (2)

