

math NEWS

Volume 88, Issue ⑧

Thursday, March 28, 2002

Have we taken
this 8 thing too far?

YES
DEFINITELY

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

April 1	Issue #8 tumbles and sees infinity cubed
April 14	profQUOTES generator's scheduled service

Math Faculty

April 1	Lectures End (for math courses)
April 8-20	Final Exams
	Complete with collective moan

MathSoc

April 1	Pint with a Prof
24/7	Exambank ready to alleviate your exam anxiety attacks

MGC

April 5	Natural Log Pub Crawl
April 6	Elmira Maple Sugar Festival
April 20	Woo-hoo! No more exams!
April 20	The 56-day wait for the B.Math begins

Co-op

April 29	Spring work-term starting date
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Miscellaneous

April 1	April Fools Day
April 2	You still have elective classes? Ha ha!
April 7	Turn the clocks forward
April 8	Lewis-Tyson press conference attracts a crowd of 20,000
April 9	Memphis Grizzlies plays in front of crowd of 5000
April 11	50 days till the World Cup
April 16	The Force drives poeple to pay \$50 for places in line-ups for <i>Star Wars</i> tickets

CSC Flash*The Slide Rule Crashed*

After one of the longest uptimes in history, our beloved slide rule has crashed. The cause of the fatal error is yet unknown, although user error is suspected.

Control D

Control D was successfully pulled off this term at Golf's steak house, thanks to our treasurer Melissa. We had an impressive turnout, we weren't even sure if we would fit. Next time, we might even get people to dress up ;).

Graduates

Good luck to all graduating CSC members; we hope you stay in touch.

Microsoft

Microsoft sent another person with a 'cool' product, something called the xbox. Anyway, the Computer Science Club and the Engineering Computer Society got a free lunch from Microsoft and had a UW Comp Eng Graduate answer all the questions that Simon and Billy could ask.

Jim Morrison

See our live streaming webcam at:
<http://peri.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/webcam/web.html>

MSDN Academic Alliance Program

This is a program from Microsoft "designed specifically for academic labs, faculty, and students in the curriculum areas of Computer Science, Engineering, and Information systems to make it easier and less expensive to get Microsoft developer tools, platforms, and servers for instructional and research purposes." To this end, the University of Waterloo now has the following products available to students:

- Visio 2002
- Visual Studio .NET
- Windows XP

Other products may be added from time to time. For more details on the program and on how you can obtain the software please check out: <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/admin/msdnstudent.html>

Marj Kohli

Site License Coordinator, IST

Camp Out for the Cause 2002

Thursday, April 4th — Outside the SLC/Bomber

Different UW clubs and societies will be doing fundraising activities across campus all day. From bake sales to raffles, they'll be competing to see who can raise the most money for Amnesty International.

During the day there will also be outdoor entertainment provided by our own UW students and alumni. Cultural dancers, bands, singers and even the UW Breakers will be performing all day to help support the cause. Outdoor entertainment will take place on an extended (non-licensed) Bomber Patio.

And there's still more:

Maple Lodge Farms will be coming on campus to do a Charity BBQ Lunch. With a percentage of all the sales going to charity as well, delicious "chicken" burgers and hot dogs will be served outside the SLC from 12-3 pm.

The group of students that are able to raise the most money for charity on that day (through their own little projects, events etc. that must be submitted through an application form in the Feds office) will win the grand prize of an \$8000 Microsoft Gift Pack.

We hope that you can make some time to come and support this campus wide effort to make a difference in the world, and celebrate the enthusiasm and talent that UW possesses.

Visit www.feds.ca for more info.

Lukas Retires, mathNEWS Hires New WebMaster

Graduation is stealing another *mathNEWS* volunteer. Lukas Kamps has been our WebMaster since before I can remember. *mathNEWS* wishes him well with his post-UW endeavors.

He's not easy to replace. After months of begging people to maintain our website, we finally found a willing mathie. Jen Costello will be taking over from Lukas and will be updating and improving www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca as long as we can keep her.

Campus Day Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who helped out with tours, registration, lunch, presentations, demonstrations, organization, dispensing information, and so on. They made Campus Day, Tuesday March 12th, great this year. Hopefully this list covers everyone who came out to help with the day:

Christine Agur	Paul Fedory	Jenny Mecking	Ed Schmidt
Anis Ahmad	Barry Ferguson	Michelle Medina	Linda Schmidt
Randi Ash	Kim Fernandes	Tishan Mills	Tammy Schmidt
David Ashton	Kevin Fong	Calvin Mok	Salimah Shariff
Toni Aston	Brian Forrest	Kirsten Morris	Mike Shea
Joanne Atlee	Judy Fox	James Morrison	Michael Shepherd
Michael Bao	Rosemarie Fraser	Mehala Munnainathan	Andy Sherk
Gladimir Baranoski	Kim Gingerich	Becki Murrant	Brian Sibbitt
Mike Bauman	Ryan Gledhill	Bareen Naqvi	Doug Sibley
Byron Weber Becker	Gayle Goodfellow	Timothy Ng	Sukhwinder Sidhu
Ian Bell	Sandy Graham	Dave Nicholson	Milosz Sikora
Jesse Bergman	Sean Graham	Rohit Nijhawan	Stephen Snuggles Skrzydlo
Aleem Bhanji	Joan Hatton	Liz Neff	Bradley T Smith
Laurie Biro	Sana'a Hayat	Albert O'Connor	Maureen Stafford
Todd Boyce	Mike Henhoeffter	Martin Orwinski	Douglas Stebila
Yousif Braz	Conrad Hewitt	Harry Panjer	Tina Su
Peter Brillinger	Jason Hicken	Jonathan Parish	Lori Superina
Anne Broadbent	Catherine Hicks	Anna Parsons	Terence Tang
Andrew Brown	Cheng-Jung Ho	Brent Pittman	Pam Tatroff
Bob Brown	Kenneth Ho	Dan Pollock	David Taylor
Steve Brown	Stephanie Horn	Stuart Pollock	David Teo
Ian Bull	Xin Huang	Nory Prins	Philip Tilker
Jason Caerels	Benedict Hung	Chris Pummell	An An Tran
Colin Campbell	Petio Ivanov	Leander Quiring	Teddy Uttangi
Lori Case	Carolyn Jackson	Tourau Raguimov	Ian VanderBurgh
Nick Cave	Kamil Jiwa	Shaz Rahaman	Troy Vasiga
Pako Chan	Melissa Johnson	Ben Redman	Rod Walker
Krysta Chapman	Peggy Kam	Judy Reidt	Ken Walton
Joseph Cherian	Parvin Kamarujaman	Garret Rempel	Casey Wang
Winston Cherry	Lukas Kamps	Richard Ren	Leeland Watson
Tak Chijjiwa	Parambir Singh Keila	Caroline Rioux	Jamie Wheeler
Tracy Chou	Roy Kelly	Jessica Robertson	Holly White
Liyan Chuang	Aaron Klotz	Aaron Romeo	Rita Wiebe
Kenneth Chung	Ken Lai	Cary Rotman	Ross Willard
Michelle Clausi	Kevin Lamb	Lisa Rubini	Pam Williamson
Nancy Coles	Jason Lau	Wendy Rush	Chazz Wong
Lisa Corlett	Anna Ying-Wah Lee	Luigi Sorbara	Freddy Woo
Jennifer Costello	Karen Lee	Suzanne Safayeni	Peter Wood
Cecilia Cotton	Bruce Lee-Shanok	Rick Sahadeo	Annie Xu
Peter Crippin	Ralph Lei	Anna Sandink	Rizinan Young
Erin Crump	Joanne Lepiten	Parizad Satarawalla	Danny Zhang
Tu Vi Cung	Erin Lester	Paul Schellenberg	Joanna Zhou
Bill Cunningham	Trevor Leung	Kelly Schellenberger	
Pat Cunningham	Chermaine Li		
Luc d'Abadie	Herman Li		
Colin Davidson	Siyan Li		
Scott Davis	Mike Liang		
Lino Demasi	Susan Liu		
Anthony Dharmasurya	Vance Lockton		
Mike DiBernardo	Jock MacKay		
Stephane Doiron	Ian MacKinnon		
Yolanda Dorrington	Ruth Malinowski		
Marshall Drew-Brook	Jennifer Massie		
Arnie Dyck	Margaret McCarthy		
Rob Ewaschuk	Daryl McEachern		
Anton Fedorenko	Philippe McFadden		

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888888888888: Bradley T Smith and Albert O'Connor

News Collage: Guerilla Warfare and the American Military

On November 25th, the New York Times printed the following text: "... Law and Order Minister for Eastern Shura, Afghanistan, says Osama bin Laden was seen this week at the large and well-fortified encampment in Tora Bora; aides to [the minister] say as many as 2,000 'Afghan Arabs,' or foreign fighters, are at Tora Bora, armed with rifles, machine guns and surface-to-surface missiles."

On November 29th, Vice President Dick Cheney told ABC's "Primetime Live" that bin Laden was in Tora Bora. "I think he was equipped to go to ground there," Mr. Cheney said. "He's got what he believes to be a fairly secure facility. He's got caves underground; it's an area he's familiar with."

By December 17th, the battle for Tora Bora was considered complete. Two hundred of the original 2000 Afghan Arab fighters were confirmed dead and 21 captured. Bin Laden was not found. Haji Zahir was the commander of 600 Afghan mercenaries employed by the Americans to search caves after the battle. He complained to the Christian Science Monitor on March 4th, "The only ones left inside for us were the stupid ones, the foolish and the weak."

The Tora Bora strategy was a simple one. The American military hired approximately 3000 Afghan mercenaries to encircle the Tora Bora mountain region. Once this perimeter was in place, the American Air Force carpet-bombed Tora Bora for several weeks, after which Afghan forces were sent in to capture and kill the remaining resistance.

Bernard F. Trainor is a retired Marine Lieutenant General and is now a military analyst at MSNBC. The following quote comes from his March 17th Boston Globe article: "... At the battle for Tora Bora, we were told of great success using air power. It now appears that many if not most of the Taliban and al Qaeda soldiers survived the bombing and slipped away to fight another day ... the fact that enemy fire ceased under air bombardment does not mean that he was annihilated."

On December 30th, CNN correspondent Nic Robertson reported on conversations that he had with Afghan commanders: "... they say all the Arabs are gone into Pakistan and they say they believe Osama bin Laden's gone with them."

On December 11th, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld addressed the issue of the Pakistan border with the following public statement: "It's a long border. It's a very complicated area to try to seal, and there's just simply no way you can put a perfect cork in the bottle."

On March 2nd, Operation Anaconda began in the Shah-i-Kot Valley. This conflict would differ from Tora Bora because of the involvement of the Army's 10th Mountain Division. By March 3rd, 8 American soldiers had been killed and every helicopter involved in the operation was downed. After March 3rd, no American ground forces entered the valley. The carpet-bombing strategy was resumed with 2000 American and Afghan troops attempting to maintain a perimeter around 70 square miles of hostile mountain region.

On March 14th, the New York Times published the following: "In this 12-day operation, American warplanes have dropped more than 2500 bombs. After initially putting the count [of opposition] at 150 to 200 fighters, American intelligence officials now believe as many as 1000 were holed up in the battle zone."

On March 18th, Operation Anaconda was complete and con-

sidered a success. Fewer than 20 prisoners and few enemy bodies were found. Many Afghan commanders involved in the mission doubted its apparent success. In a March 19th interview with Reuters, the Deputy Afghan Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim said, "Only 50 to 60 were killed. Most of them escaped. Most scattered across the mountains and fled." Canadian forces played a key role in the battle. The same day, Reuters interviewed Canadian Commodore Jean-Pierre Thiffault who said there had been "few" direct encounters with the enemy or sightings of enemy corpses.

One reason for the apparent failure could have been the terrain. While Afghans have battled and beaten superpowers like the Soviets and British in this high altitude desert region, the American Army has no such experience. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Lester Grau, a scholar in Soviet-Afghan tactics and battle history, recently coauthored "Ground Combat at High Altitude" for the Military Review. In the article, he says "the U.S. Army has no experience fighting in truly high mountains," and that its mountain training has been conducted at lower altitudes.

Not only was there concern over the number of enemy killed, there was also concern over the identity of that enemy. During the Operation, a Los Angeles Times article noted: "There remains considerable ambiguity about how much of the force resisting the Americans is al Qaeda members and how much of it is simply local Afghans." Some of this concern comes from the source of American intelligence in the area, the Khost warlord Zadran. StratFor, the Strategic Forecasting group, describes the concern: "It appears to us that Operation Anaconda began after U.S. commanders received intelligence from warlord Zadran (also known as Badsha Khan), who controls much of Khost, the province east of Paktia. Zadran's information has proven questionable in the past, prompting U.S. forces to attack and kill innocent Afghans he had identified as Taliban or al Qaeda members. The biggest blunder occurred Dec. 20, when Zadran triggered the U.S. blitz of a convoy of Paktia's elders that killed about 65 people."

Former Commander of NATO forces in Europe, General Wesley Clark, is skeptical about success in Afghanistan. During a March 22nd interview with the UK Telegraph, he said there were "worrisome signs" that western forces were drifting into a position similar to that which assailed Soviet forces after their invasion in 1979. "They won big victories to start with. It took a year or two for the opposition to build up. We are a long way from this being over and it could still all go wrong."

George Tenet, director of the CIA, also warned the Armed Services Committee: "You're entering into another phase here that actually is more difficult, because you're probably looking at smaller units who intend to operate against you in a classic insurgency format."

There are those that feel the failure of the 10th Mountain Division at Shah-i-Kot and the fact that Marines were the first troops into Afghanistan, a landlocked country, exemplify the declining condition of the American Army. Bob Krumm is a West Point graduate and the captain of the Army's Training and Doctrine command. He posted the following statement on the military-reform web site Defense and the National Interest (www.d-n-i.net): "My Army is operating equipment designed to fight

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

One Man Road Trip

Have you ever had a dream with ten naked women who all look like Iggy Pop?

Neither have I. But it wouldn't surprise me if I did, since a co-worker showed us all edited pictures of good looking women with the face of good ol' Iggy edited in.

Ah, work. The bane of my existence, and the event which prevented me from writing about seventeen ways to pick up women while cleaning your pants. Work has definitely taught me a few things though.

There is nothing as uncomfortable as being hungry and having to pee at the same time. I said uncomfortable, mind you, not painful. Having a testicle split in half is far more painful than having to eat and pee. And no, it doesn't matter how I know that.

I've come to the conclusion that I drink more water in a day than most people drink in a year. I go to the bathroom at least six times a day. Not because I'm incontinent, but because I go through about twelve large glasses of water a day. Maybe more.

Last week I went to the washroom at work, and decided to enter a stall. To my surprise, I slammed the corner edge of the door into the occupant's spine as they stood there taking a piss. Let me ask you something, dear reader: Wouldn't it make more sense to CLOSE THE DOOR when you're using a stall? This person clearly expected me to go out of my way to look under the door of the stall to see his boots, instead of assuming, as most people would, that an open door means an unoccupied stall. This leads me to my third discovery from work:

News Collage Continued

Soviets and the stuff in the pipeline is just a more expensive version of the same. My Army trains to fight fictional forces in make-believe lands instead of focusing on real-world enemies and missions. My Army has one-half the number of generals as we did at the height of World War II, even though the force is one-tenth the size. The end result of all this is we get to watch the Marines perform Army missions because they can do them better."

According to the Center for Defense Information, the US spends \$589,802 per minute on the military.

According to a New York Times article, "murder and rape and robbery" at the hands of the American-backed Northern Alliance has caused northern Pushtun and Kuchi to abandon their villages. Since the Americans arrived, the UN says 50,000 Pushtun and Kuchi refugees have gathered on the northern Pakistan border.

The Strategic Forecasting group views Anaconda as a major turning point in the war effort. "Ultimately Operation Anaconda will not finish off al Qaeda or even the Taliban fighters. Instead it signals the beginning of a protracted guerrilla war that will allow Afghanistan to continue to serve as sanctuary for al Qaeda."

Dr. Scilla Elworthy is the director of the Oxford Research Group and author of a recently published report on the success of the anti-terrorism campaign. The report concludes that "unless core issues of marginalization and disempowerment are addressed, the end result of responding to terror with violence will be increased support for groups like al Qaeda, and an expanded cycle of violence."

David Germain

People are dumb. This isn't really a new discovery, nor is it one that surprised me. You reading this aren't dumb, you're university students. That makes you crazy by default (Mmm, good band). And I'm not stupid, I'm well known as a lunatic.

Not only are people dumb, but they get even stupider behind the wheel of a car. My brother and I sat down a few years ago and decided the average IQ of someone when they're driving is about 20 points lower than when they're not. I don't know how that guy in the bathroom makes it to work every day. I saw someone driving the wrong way on Yonge Street in the middle of morning rush hour, just to get to a gas station. Other drivers I see two full car lengths behind the car in front of them.

Now, there are stupid people, and there are jerks. I'm the biggest jerk in the world. I take great pleasure, when someone stops that far behind the car in front of them, in pulling up into the space they left. And believe me, there is no better feeling than passing a stupid person with your ass hanging out the window. And it doesn't matter how I know that, either.

My favourite stupid people are the ones who get upset when you don't break the law. Like those people who drive two inches off your back end because you're not going fast enough, and they want you to speed up. I take great joy in running at the exact same speed as the guy next to me when someone does this, to punish them for being stupid. I remember once on the 401 someone honked at me for only going 100, when they were taking THE NEXT EXIT.

A few weeks ago I was driving to my grandparents' place, and the person I was behind didn't go when the light was green. So I honked at him to make him go. He pulls up beside me at the next light and honks at me, then rolls down his window to try to scream at me. I dutifully ignored him. We both got on the 404 Southbound, and I decided to push him up to as high a speed as I could, since it was clear he wanted to stay ahead of me, then I backed off and let him get pulled over for doing 150 in a 100 zone. By total fluke I found myself behind him going the other way too, and when he was taking his exit ramp I honked at him. I didn't know honking your car horn at someone could actually make their head explode.

Told you I was a jerk.

Chris Marks

"I've heard of being unarmed in a battle of wits, but you don't even have a torso!"

Special Olympics Report

The Special Olympics recently took place in Salt Lake City, after all the people there to watch the real Olympics had already gone home. Correspondent Ian MacKinnon reporting on the games said that all the participants "gained self esteem."

I had the honour of interviewing the gold medalist in the one legged ice skating event. I asked him how he felt about winning a gold medal in the Olympic games. "It is a real honour to win a gold medal, nothing is better than that feeling."

But really, there is one thing better than winning a gold medal in the Special Olympics: winning a real gold medal.

Pi

Overheard on Campus Day

There's a select group of people who hang out in the Comfy. That's the Comfy Lounge. You can sleep there."

The Frosh Cornered

A Very Froshy Year

It's hard to believe that our year as frosh is drawing to a close. It's even harder to believe that it has been nearly 7 months since Frosh Week. Over the course of the past year I have made a few general observations about how things went and I shall list them here. I wouldn't take them too seriously, they're just observations from my own meandering experience. It is an amazing coincidence that there are eight of these big observations, and this is the "eight" themed issue.

1. **The Profs here are smarter than you will ever be.**

All of the Profs here were doing calculus long before you were even born (except for Vanderburgh, but we love him anyway). Keep this in mind the next time you feel the urge to vent some of your frustration by bitching about how a course was taught. We could probably lobotomize most of the faculty here and they would still get a higher Descartes score than you. In high school, it was the teachers' job to teach; here, it's your job to learn.

2. **Your ability to get along with your residence says a lot about you.**

If you don't get along with your floor or house, you should really ask yourself, is it more likely that the 50 odd people I live with are all morons, or that I'm a little anti-social? If you can't get along with those you live with, you really need to look at yourself first before blaming everyone else. It's easy to blame others for disliking you, but it's something extraordinary to take someone you never knew before September, and turn them into one of your best friends.

3. **Math girls are the best.**

No matter what anyone tells you, Math girls are the best in the school. The most intelligent, beautiful, friendly, and tolerant women I have met in the school have all been in Math. After all, it's really amazing that they put up with the Math guys like us and don't try transferring into AHS. The fact that there aren't many females in this faculty makes them all the more special.

4. **Never sweat a lone bad mark.**

In total, you will be here for at least 8 terms, in each of which you will take 5 courses, each of which will have many assignments and a midterm or two. One bad mark is like worrying about a can of pop that was poured into a swimming pool: it really isn't worth making a big fuss over. If a failing mark on a calculus assignment is enough for you to get into a bad mood, you should wonder where your priorities are. If you need help forgetting a bad mark, go see Dr. Jack Daniels.

5. **Phone your parents at least once a week.**

No matter what you think, your parent's are not glad that you left home. Much like you, they're getting on in years. You may be moving into a new phase of your life, but they are too. So at the very least, you can call them once a week and let them know what you've been up to. They may have never had you away so long, the least you can do is say that you miss them but you're doing fine.

6. **Get 8 hours of sleep a night.**

Not only is eight a nice round number, it's a good amount of time to sleep every night. One may say that they do not have time to sleep at night, but what will take you three hours at midnight will only take you an hour at noon. Your brain doesn't work well if it isn't rested, so don't try and force feed it Java code in the middle of the night. If you have to sleep 14 hours on the weekend to make up for lost sleep during the week, you aren't treating your body right and something is going to give way. If you can't sleep by midnight, it means you haven't gotten enough exercise during the day. So take a break from calculus in the evening and hit the treadmill for a while, it will help far more than you can ever imagine.

7. **Stop bitching!**

We all have hard times here, every last one of us. So other people do not need to hear about your problems, they have plenty of there own. It's doubtful you have the largest workload in the school and there are likely people with personal problems far greater than your own. I have not encountered any adversity that I did not know about long before a deadline, or could not handle by gritting my teeth and taking what I got. If you ever have a problem, first ask yourself how it could have been avoided, and how you can stop it next time. There really should be no reason you have to cram for a midterm the night before; you know about them months in advance.

8. **Sometimes, you have to stop and remember that you go to the best university in Canada.**

Remember the excitement that you got when you got your acceptance here and were able to tell Queen's where they could stick that giant grease pole? You should stop and think about that every now and then when things get tough. Maclean's has ranked this place number one for over a decade, so something has to be fundamentally right about this school. No matter how hard classes get, no matter how bleak your job prospects may be, ask yourself if you would rather be at any other university. There is more to school spirit than getting drunk or being super-hyper and yelling at the top of your lungs.

That's about the sum of my experience in first year. I may have missed a few things, but the important stuff is there. I don't have all the answers, I just pretend to.

As for *The Frosh Cornered*, I suspect there will be one or two articles over the summer depicting the joy of co-op, but there should be a new, improved cornered frosh come frosh week 2002. I don't know who it'll be, but neither did Raymond when he left it. Maybe there will be a gladiatorial combat match to decide who will be The Cornered Frosh V3.0. So, be sure to get a subscription to *mathNEWS* the summer, and good luck on your final exams (not that it helps, there is no salvation from Calc 2) and I will see you all in the fall under some other column title. Have a great summer.

Ian W. MacKinnon, The Cornered Frosh

Subscriptions!

A summer without mathNEWS is like a day without sunshine

No really, we have subscriptions. If you aren't going to be around campus to get issues of *mathNEWS*, they why not have them delivered to you? You can take them to work and read them during meetings. Or you can read them during those long commutes.

Of course there is the webpage, but there's a lot less glare off bond paper, and you get to see our wacky filler! And *mathNEWS* can travel almost everywhere, unlike those clunky computers with their cables and such.

And let's not forget, they're pretty cheap too! In Canada, it's \$7.50 a term, twenty bucks for three. For the States, it's \$10 a term, and twenty-five for three. The rest of the world pays \$15 a term or \$35 for three.

A term's subscription gets you all six exciting issues, plus any bonus issues that happen to come out (like this term ... those lucky subscribers are getting eight issues for the price of six).

The three-term option means you can get *mathNEWS* every summer you're away, or, for those co-ops out there, you can have your subscriptions every time you go off to a faraway job. Any three terms are doable.

To subscribe, just drop by the *mathNEWS* Office (MC 3041) with your requested term(s) and some cash, drop it in our mail

slot in the MathSoc Office (MC 3038), put it in the **BLACK BOX**, email mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or track an editor down and give him money (that's our favourite situation).

Here's a handy-dandy form to make your requesting process even easier:

TaxiEd

mathNEWS Subscription Form

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A Guide to Eating Sushi in Kitchener-Waterloo

"Sushi for any meal is a wonderful thing, but sushi for lunch helps you forget the horrors of the mornings and prepares you well for the horrors of the afternoon."

Laura Lemay

Already this sounds pretty pathetic, since there are about four sushi places in all of Kitchener-Waterloo. But as a transplanted Montreal sushi addict, I am determined to try all of them and report my findings.

Mr Sushi, University Plaza

Mr. Sushi has now opened his own sushi restaurant next to the University Food Market (his previous location). He also supplies the Math C+D on campus.

The Math C+D sushi goes quickly, so you can only usually get sushi there from noon to 1:30 or so. Prices are quite good; for \$4.25 you can get (8 pieces) [Eight! — TaxiEd]:

- Salmon roll
- California roll
- Vegetarian roll
- Eel roll
- California/Eel
- Salmon/California

All of these are quite fresh and good. It has happened twice (in about 70 times of eating C+D sushi) that I've had some salmon rolls where the fish tasted not so fresh, but every other time has been quite good.

At the restaurant itself, prices are pretty reasonable. You can usually eat your fill for about \$10 or so. The spicy salmon rolls are excellent, and Mr. Sushi is super nice. Once he was sitting down to dinner when I came in, and he offered me some soup

that he was having for his dinner.

Sushi from Vincenzo's

Vincenzo's is a gourmet grocery store, where it is quite easy to spend too much money. On the weekend, they have a sushi chef who makes simple rolls: tuna rolls, California rolls, salmon rolls and a few others. These are all delicious. I don't usually like California rolls, but I like these ones, and their spicy tuna rolls are amazing. Rolls are about \$4-6 for a tray of 12 small rolls. Definitely recommended.

Seoul Soul

Seoul Soul is a Korean/Japanese Restaurant in the University Plaza. I've only eaten there for lunch, since dinner there is quite expensive. Their lunchtime specials are small yet expensive. The sushi is good, but the portions are quite small, and I'm usually still hungry afterwards. One sushi plate is about \$15 at lunchtime, with tax and tip. Ok, but it's better to go to Mr. Sushi.

Sushi from V1

One word: Don't. I don't care how hungry you are and how much you want sushi, don't eat the sushi at V1. It is completely gross. The price doesn't matter, since you really don't want to eat there.

Sakura Island

I went there for lunch one day, and ordered their sushi special. The waitress and sushi chef were both rather gruff. I was completely disappointed with my meal: tiny nigri sushis with fish that didn't taste very fresh, boring presentation (the meal was supposed to be something like 10 pieces of sushi, but a lot of them were the same), and a \$15 or so price tag. Totally not worth it.

The moral of the story is that I really miss Montreal.

Julie

Random Numbers and π

Did you enjoy the pies MathSoc served on π day? Did you miss it? What is π day anyway? Π Day came and went and many enjoyed the pies. Over pie, someone asked why there is no e Day. Of course, it is pretty hard to have an event on February 71st.

The guy went on to say that we should have more π Days. He said that we should have one on July 22, since π is approximately 22/7. I then suggested that another good time for π Day is at 3:55 pm on November 3rd, since 355/113 is a pretty accurate approximation of π . He said that it would be easier to memorize the 1st 10 places of π . Now what is it? 3.141592653... or something like that.

After pie, we went our separate ways. For those who say mathies are horrible at starting conversations, you need to come to MC more often. (Wait, we ARE horrible at starting dialogues). What's the point of the article? None really. It just shows that anything that happens here can get into *mathNEWS*.

Jason "the Screaming Babbler" Lau

Harris Reforms!

Ontario Premier, Mike Harris, has announced publicly in the Toronto Star his mistakes from the past seven years. "Now that I've finally had a chance to take a step back from governing the Province," says Harris, "I can see the changes I instituted were not as ideal as I thought they would be."

Harris' new plan for the future is to remain in power as the leader of the Provincial Liberal Party, in order to remedy the problems which have arisen from his fast-acting ways.

"In an article printed in the Star on Wednesday, March 6, I was quoted as saying I wished I had made changes faster, because that's how large companies work. When I read that over, I realized how ludicrous it sounded, and vowed to repair the damage I've accidentally caused in the Province of Ontario."

Harris plans to start by taking a very active role in cleaning the water in Walkerton, and helping re-fund Health Care to assist in dealing with people who are suffering as a result of the poisoning.

After that, he plans to slowly phase out the standardized tests, as well as the four year high school plan.

Chris Marks

(I was printed in the Toronto Star on Saturday March 9 in response to the article on Harris. Check out page H7, I got a big spread and everything)

Grouch Protests Awards

In a surprising turn of events Sunday night, Oscar the Grouch made a rare appearance, coming out of Grouchland for the first time in 88 years. No, he didn't see his shadow; instead he high-tailed it to the Academy Awards where he started a protest because the Oscars looked nothing like him. "How dare they use my name as a promotional gimmick and not even make the statues look like me?" He was later joined by disgruntled cast members of Lord of The Rings after they lost the best picture award to A Beautiful Mind. (As reported by John Nash, nobody else actually witnessed this event. In fact, nobody has seen John Nash since then either.)

Pi

Life of a Co-op Student

To the tune of Celine Dion's new song, A New Day Has Come

I was waiting for so long
For a miracle to come
CECS told me to be strong
Hold on, and don't shed a tear

Through first round and continuous
I thought I'd make it through
And the world thought I had a job
But I was still unemployed

Hush now, I want my co-op fee refunded
Oh It's almost killing me ...
I can't believe I've not been ranked by RIM and IBM both
OooOOOoH

May the people from Microsoft hire me
Let them pay my rent and all my fees
Let me program till midnight and never sleep
The life of a co-op student

Where there was love, now there's only hate
Where there was faith, now there's only anger
Where there'll be jobs I'd kill to go, all for a co-op degree.

OooOOOoooH
Hush now
This is the life of a CoooooOOo-OoOOp Student ... OOOoOOh

CEE ^ _ ^;

Weekend Update

8, ± 8 for error, days since the world changed

Ernie Eaves decided an 8 digit salary just isn't enough; he had to come back and replace Iron Mike as Ontario's benevolent dictator.

Carly Fiona convinced enough people 8 digits is enough money for Hewlett Packard to waste on Compaq.

Ontario's (28-1)th Lieutenant-governor James Bartleman is sworn in. Goodbye Hillary, not Ms Clinton. Unfortunately Bartleman is a Western grad.

Stephen Harper ousted Doris Day as the leader of the Canadian Alliance. Apparently Al Gore's request to have this vote recounted has been denied.

David Hasselhoff hasn't been heard (no hurd jokes today) of in 2 years and 8 days, confirming what we all know. No one likes David Hasselhoff!

The Hurd core dumps and shares memory. I was wrong, there will be hurd jokes.

The Lord of the Rings takes 8/2 Oscars. Math also makes great movies, see 'A Beautiful Mind'

I saw one of my frosh pissed out of her head. This is actually quite amusing because I missed last term when all of my little froshes would have been here. Ahh well, g'luck Aquitaine, as you are almost not frosh now.

Jim Morrison

Pete Love Loves Merkley?

Being a keen observer of those that yield political clout on campus, I decided to hack the mail directory of the infamous Pete Love (former editor of *mathNEWS*, and one dashing young lad). Unfortunately, I found some secrets that I feel the general campus should be made aware of.

So, Pete Love gets this email, innocent enough. But apparently, Pete Love not only used to edit *mathNEWS*, but he worked for the dark side on campus: Imprint. The email:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

Imprint staff may nominate one person in the following categories: photo of the term, graphic of the term, article of the term and volunteer of the term. You may submit these anonymously by filling out a form in the Imprint office, or you may e-mail them to me (note that you will not be anonymous via e-mail). You may nominate yourself."

Innocent enough, and Pete Love, being the super star in the on-campus media outlets, decides to nominate himself. He responds with:

"I nominate myself for that one spell check I did on that one article in the last issue. I am the volunteer of the year.

Also, that picture I took of you (and used in *mathNEWS*) was pretty sweet, so maybe I should have the photo of the year award too.

While I'm on the ball, how about you nominate me for graphic of the term and article of the term as well, thanks :)

Pete

PS, can I nominate myself for best looking volunteer of the term as well?"

Note the incorrect spelling of "well" in the PS. Surely, since his term as editor of *mathNEWS* has ended, Pete Love has lost some of his spelling prowess.

I thought all was well and dandy, but then came the shock.

The letter back from Ryan Matthew Merkley (editor-in-chief at Imprint):

"P.

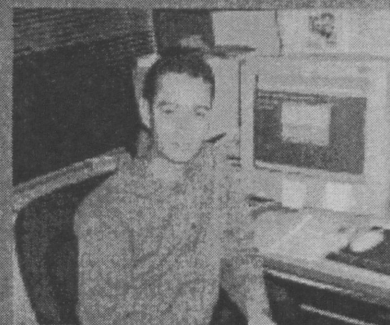
Sorry: it would be a conflict of interest to award you any of our prizes because of our sexual involvement. Maybe next year.

R."

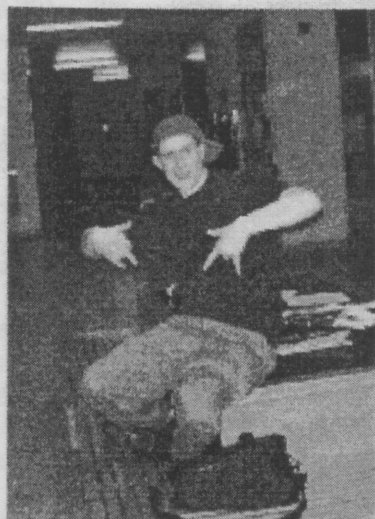
Truth be told, Pete Love does live up to his name, and only became a well respected member of the campus media by sleeping his way to the top.

And to think, we all thought he just had a thing for Bradley T Smith. Tsk tsk Pete, Love is not something you play with.

Anonymous



Ryan Matthew Merkley,
Love's lover.



Pete Love,
One low quality
chump

I'll Have The Special

I check the email once, I check the email twice, doo doo doo ... doo doo doo ...

Hello everybody. For my last article of the term, I have decided to answer some of the email I get from time to time. Now, most of the email I get is not related to the column I write. Well, actually, none of the email I get relates to my column. A good portion is junk. So I have decided to answer my junk in this column. So, uh, let's begin ...

Email #1:

Subject: Attention of Brian Fox

sorry to be trivial but I just wanted to say hello as my name is also Brian Fox..I live in England and for a giggle decided to look up my name on the net. And the rest is history. Hope having a nice day and find this amusing..

Brian Fox...Oh my middle name is victor...What's yours.....

For a giggle?!?

I didn't know what to make of this email at first. Then I decided to do a Google search for "Brian Fox" and here's a sample of what I came up with:

- Brian Fox, 1997 CALS Pound Research Award (www.wisc.edu/uir/galleppfox.html) I think I won an award while at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.
- B. Fox's Stupid Dope Homepage (www.duke.edu/~bcf/) Apparently, I'm a Miami Heat fan.
- Brian Fox performs The Official Archives of Brian Fox! (www.geocities.com/Athens/Thebes/1695/) I have no clue.
- Poetry by Brian Fox (www.ariztlan.org/poe/p82.htm) I think this guy needs some help.
- School of Pharmacy — Personnel details for Brian Fox (www.pharmacy.purdue.edu/directory/details.php?uniqueid=bfox) Graduate student? Purdue? Wow!

Now, if there was a living person with the name of "Brian Latrell Fox" or "Latrell Fox" out there, then I would definitely like to meet him. [Note: "Brian Latrell Fox" and "Latrell Fox" produced only 2 hits ... both of them to mathNEWS ... what a surprise.]

I Wish I was an Integral

A bunch of us at St. Jerome's wrote this little ditty late one night in the study room at Finn in Fall 97. We said that one day we'd get it printed in mathNEWS, so here it is:

[For those singing along, I believe this one goes to the tune of Pearl Jam's Wish List — TaxiEd]

Oh, I wish I was an integral

A big, long, skinny "S."

I wish I had to values to make me def-i-nite.

I had a buddy named Riemann,

That did some mad math dreamin'.

Now you stupid prof assigned me,

And now you're really screamin'.

Oh, I wish I was an integral ...

Repeat ad infinitum

Email #2:

Subject: Hey Fred ubnmndofoe

Fred,

It was nice to talk to you today I will send the proposal tonight.

Thanks,

Heidi

WTF? Okay, Heidi, let me ask you something. How the hell did you get 'Fred' from latrell@idirect.com? I just don't understand how this is possible. And don't bring up how I get 'Brian' from latrell@idirect.com. Don't try to change the subject.

But I definitely would like to know what kind of proposal you're talking about. Is it like the proposal in that movie with Robert Redford and Strip Tease woman and Woody from Cheers? Heidi, is it like you're going to go out with Fred for a million dollars? One night of passion with some guy for money? And then you and your husband will be financially secure for the rest of your life? That kind of proposal? Because I don't think it turned out so good for Demi and that bartender guy. Like, later on, he was this serial killer with that chick from Cape Fear. And then he ended up in jail with that Tommy Lee Jones guy as warden. He was so cool in The Fugitive.

Email #3:

Subject: new photos from my party!

Hello!

My party... It was absolutely amazing!

I have attached my web page with new photos!

If you can please make color prints of my photos. Thanks!

Wow, an absolutely amazing party? Hey, I gotta see photos of this! Okay, I'll just click open this attachment and take a look at these ph ... hey, wait a minute ... these aren't photos ... hey! What's going on? My computer! What is this email doing? Oh no! My address book! In the name of everything that is good and holy, please stop!

Control-Alt-Delete! Control-Alt-Delete! Control-Alt-Delete! Hey ... do I smell smoke? OH NO! The computer is burning up! Oh my goodness ... SOMEBODY! ANYBODY! Somebody help! PLEASE SOMEBODY HELP ME! My computer ... is ... ahhh ... won't you please ... please ... help ... me ... too late ... gone ... all gone ...

Gotta go.

Latrell.

[I hope he wasn't reading his email in the mathNEWS Office — TaxiEd]

Top 8 Signs You Don't Understand Calculus

8. You're in Arts
7. You're in Science
6. You're in Engineering
5. Your mark is less than ϵ
4. The second digit of your course number is 3
3. The third digit is still 7
2. You think a power series is something in baseball
1. You don't understand this list

I'm off to see the wizard ...

A great man once asked: "How do I get out of this chicken-shit outfit?" Well, maybe not a great man, but whatever. Anyway, hard work isn't the only answer. Here's to getting by with doing as little work as possible, and some other little tidbits I picked up over my five years:

10. If an assignment is worth less than 1% and takes more than an hour to do, don't do it. You can have lots more fun in that time. (Cost-benefit analysis, Econ 101)
9. Political parties, the church, and universities use the same recruiting methods as "cults" do. (The case against brainwashing, Soc 262).
8. Lying in the middle of a road at night covered by a black tarp is considered "art." So is cutting yourself with a razor. (Focus on body art, Fine 281)
7. Public speaking is much easier if you ignore the audience. (Drama 223)
6. Drinking is a pure leisure experience: there's lots of freedom, high psychological involvement, and you do it cause you want to. (Definitions of leisure, Rec 100)
5. Hookers in the hotel community lead very complex lives, and are harder working than I am. (Deviance as a community phenomenon, Soc 223)
4. Going out for "just one drink" is a bad idea. (The Bombshelter)
3. Wilfrid Laurier has a much ... friendlier student body. (The Turret and Wilf's)
2. 9 guys in one house = very bad idea. (126 Albert)
1. The days of the week. Today is a Friday, Friday is a fucking day. (The staircase outside the Turret)

And that's all she wrote. There's lots more wisdom buried somewhere in my head, but if it took me five years to dredge this up, you probably don't want to know what's left.

Van "Truck/Medic" Lee

SE Student Not Actually Studying Shannon Elizabeth

SoftEng student Tee Oh cannot believe that he was not studying Shannon Elizabeth in SE 112 this year. Tee Oh chose his major based on the premise that he would be studying S.E. in great detail. He has since entered a deep state of shock.

"The material we cover is so dry in SE class. *Requirements and Customers*. Yech!" cried an outraged Oh.

"What I *require* is more Shannon Elizabeth, and I'll be her customer any time," continued Oh.

Sentiment among the rest of the SE students was similar. Most were baffled that other students did not share their dismay.

"For one thing, how come AM classes don't study Alyssa Milano?" asked Yudub Yu. "I was really surprised that the Alyssa Milano with *Physiques Electives* program had such low enrollment. I mean anyone can do math like 36 - 24 - 36." explained Yu.

Finally, the majority of first year SE students also complained about the over abundance of David Hasselhoff in the halls of MC.

"We're just not used to this little Katie Holmes," said Oh.

Kev "Kaydot" (o)

Another Trip into the Washroom

Oh won't someone think of the monkeys?

One day, a day like all the rest, I was in the washroom. Like most people, I can usually be found in a washroom a few times a day. On this particular day in this particular washroom I found something interesting. I was bored while drying my hands and so I read the hand dryer instructions. Not that I thought I was drying my hands incorrectly, I was just bored. (Though I recall a previous time while reading hand dryer instruction it said one should rub their hand rapidly under the warm air. Now people complain how hand dryers just don't work. I largely agree with them, but I noticed upon rubbing my hands even more rapidly under the nozzle my hands did in fact get dry enough. So sometimes it pays to read the instructions.) The dryer read: "*Press butt and release. Rub hands lightly and rapidly under nozzle. Stops automatically — prevents chapping.*"

Prevents chapping, eh? I guess all those people who really don't like hand dryers and press the button a second time to actually get their hands dried are risking chapping. Do they make chap sticks for hands? Then I started to think about it. How exact is this automatic stopping? Do they test to make sure that the stopping time gives the maximum drying and minimizes the chance of chapping? Reading further on the hand dryer I discovered that they are distributed by Huntington Laboratories LTD. That answers that question. It apparently takes the R&D of a laboratory to develop the advanced technology of a hand dryer. (I recall seeing something about a hand dryer based on jet engine technology that made the skin curl.) Moreover, Huntington Laboratories are located in Bramalea, Ontario. The hand dryers are made in Canada.

I still wanted to know how they made sure chapping was prevented. So I visit the laboratories. They were unresponsive at my requests for an interview, but I managed to get a glance at their facilities. What can infinite number of monkey at an infinite number of hand dryers accomplish? Oh, won't some one think of the monkeys.

(Phat) Albert O'Connor

Infinite Ways to Kill an Easter Bunny

- Hanging: Hanging is the simplest way to kill an Easter Bunny. A hanging is a great public event as well.
- Digestion: Simply eating Easter Bunnies is a tasty and adventurous way to kill an Easter Bunny, but beware of the bunnies with big teeth.
- Quartering: Bunnies actually aren't very good to quarter; it's best to pull them into 8 pieces {ear, ear, head, body, leg, leg, leg, leg}.
- Rabbit's Foot: This method has two incarnations. One is to beat the bunny with a rabbits foot until it gets lucky. The second is to sell the bunny's foot as a rabbit's foot, but don't detach the bunny from the foot.
- Trent: Allowing/forcing an Easter Bunny to go to Trent is by far the slowest and cruelest form of death and torture in this list.
- Lazy: Allow your cat to kill the bunny, again beware of bunnies with large pointy teeth.

Fuzzy Bunny

<http://hurd.dyndns.org/bunnies>

profQUOTES

[referring to the abbreviation for Simplex Method] "Now that's S.M. — not S AND M."

Cunningham C&O 350

"How many of you are still confident in me?"

[7 students raise their hands.]

"How many of you were just joking?"

[1 student raises his hand.]

Cunningham, C&O 350

"I am going to show that even something as interesting as juggling, with the infusion of a little mathematics, can be made dull and boring."

Ledet, PMATH 340

"I don't think I could begin to remember how this works ... Oh my gosh, I got it!"

Vrscay, AM 343

"It is the 'or' of three literals. Some are 'nots' and some are not."

Brown, CS 341

"If I talk in a monotone voice its due to my cold, not my boringness."

Brown, CS 341

"CNF means conjunctive normal form. I'll tell you what the inverse is in case you want to impress people at really boring parties."

Brown, CS 341

"We're not going to use Turing machines to prove this 'cause Turing machines are stupid."

Brown, CS 341

"I know this guy, and this guy, but I don't know him. Kill him."

Kates, CS 342

Top 88 numbers

88. 88	66. 66	44. 44	22. 22
87. 87	65. 65	43. 43	21. 21
86. 86	64. 64	42. 42	20. 20
85. 85	63. 63	41. 41	19. 19
84. 84	62. 62	40. 40	18. 18
83. 83	61. 61	39. 39	17. 17
82. 82	60. 60	38. 38	16. 16
81. 81	59. 59	37. 37	15. 15
80. 80	58. 58	36. 36	14. 14
79. 79	57. 57	35. 35	13. 13
78. 78	56. 56	34. 34	12. 12
77. 77	55. 55	33. 33	11. 11
76. 76	54. 54	32. 32	10. 10
75. 75	53. 53	31. 31	9. 9
74. 74	52. 52	30. 30	8. 8
73. 73	51. 51	29. 29	7. 7
72. 72	50. 50	28. 28	6. 6
71. 71	49. 49	27. 27	5. 5
70. 70	48. 48	26. 26	4. 4
69. 69	47. 47	25. 25	3. 3
68. 68	46. 46	24. 24	2. 2
67. 67	45. 45	23. 23	1. π

"FORTH is what happens when we let Physicists design languages."

Tony Cox, CS 442

"Spring is coming up, so apple trees are a good example."

Cherry, STAT 231

"Scheme is too hard for average programmers, but you are not average programmers."

Pretti, CS 241

"I'm hearing a lot of people saying 'Error,' which either means you think it's an error, or your internal operating system has crashed."

Morland, CS 241

"The second half of this course IS on the final exam!"

Armstrong, CS 134

"Say you're walking down the street, and someone comes up to you, points a gun to your head, and asks you for the dimension of W ... say we're in America."

Willard, MATH 136

[Later, after making a mistake] "Did I do it right? Doesn't matter, because I'm already dead."

Willard, MATH 136

[Later still] "Maybe we all deserve to be shot."

Willard, MATH 136

"When you start on assignment 4 ..."

Zima, CS 354

Student Ejected from Big Cement Building

So ends another career of just another soul in the halls of MC. This term marks the end of my career at UW and this article, my last in *mathNEWS*.

As so many other students around here, I started to notice the daily quirks of MC. The things that bugged me or made me laugh. School, koosh balls, and iMacs. Hence my appearance in *mathNEWS*. What I hoped to bring out were the funny parts of being a kid. A kid in Math.

The reason I started writing for *mathNEWS* was peer encouragement, and the friendly, kooky personalities known as *mathNEWS* editors. Always a supportive bunch the *mathNEWS* crew was, and because of them I became what I hope was an inspirational writer for those that read my articles, and those that followed.

Even as my articles thinned with the upper year demands of CS, I never took *mathNEWS* for granted. I thank the editors for putting up with my continual and unwarranted criticisms and my lack of effort to correct them.

So here comes an end to yet another *mathNEWS* career. Many, many articles, 3 parody issues, and a few super models later, I'm sad to see it come to an end.

Kevin "Kaydot Kev Oh" Wan Min Kee

[Special thanks to Kev for getting me started with *mathNEWS* and being a driving force behind *The Toronto Moon*. He'll be missed. — TaxiEd]

Screamer's Believe It or Not

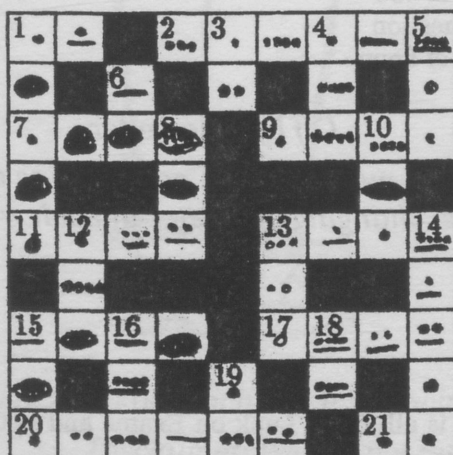
The Oscars have come and gone. As usual, I skipped watching them. I read about who won in the following Monday, nothing more. As usual, the Golden Raspberry, the Razzies, were awarded on the Saturday. In a Razzie first, a "winner" actually showed up and accepted the prize. I guess there are some people in Hollywood who need to be seen to survive (wait, ALL people in Hollywood are like that). At least the awards show season is now over, so we can return to our usual sane routine of oddity-searching.

City of Great Mix

Recently the City of London unveiled a slogan celebrating the city's diversity. It doesn't sound very exciting, does it? The slogan is only three words long, but it has sparked a long debate. The slogan is "All mixed up!" When one thinks about it, it DOES make some sense. It conveys that people of all types blend together well. Of course, the slogan can be interpreted in many ways. Some consider the slogan to be rather dumb and weird. Once again we have seen the best and worst of bureaucracy at work. One has to wonder that if this is the best the City of London has to offer, then how good (or bad) are the rejected slogans? I think the city would have found a better slogan if they had gone to the Western campus and ask a random passerby (or better yet, here in the MC of UW).

Sweater — My True Love

People will do absolutely anything to protect the things they love. Many are willing to risk their safety to save something they cherish. One can understand that if that something is the person's love ones ... but a sweater? A Swedish man was stuck in the garbage chute in his apartment building, all because his wife threw out his favourite sweater down the chute. The wife claimed that the man never washed the sweater and its smell was unbearable. The man was able to retrieve the sweater and did not suffer any injury. Lucky for him, no one threw garbage while he was in the chute. If someone did, it would give new meaning to the term garbageman. I suppose he will get the sweater washed this time. Otherwise, next time his wife will throw the sweater off the balcony. We all have our own favourite clothing, but please, wash it occasionally. Comfy smell all over MC is the worst thing that can happen to the Math Faculty (and UW).



What if Mayans solved crossword puzzles?

Fate on a Coin

Many things are decided on a coin toss — order of dessert, who gets the ball in football games, and Stat 230 examples. Who would have thought that a coin toss can be used to decide the fate of two people? A library in Hamilton recently terminated some of its workers. You probably are saying, "Big deal, so what?" In ordinary circumstances, this wouldn't make the Hamilton papers, but this is no ordinary case. The future of two library workers hinges on a coin toss, instead of performance or experience. The winner of the toss keeps the job, and the loser loses more than the toss. Obviously, neither were happy with the method and filed complaints. Strangely enough, there is a clause in their union contract that stipulates that such a move is legal. So before you sign up to join a club or for a job, check the contract carefully before signing it. Who knows what clauses are hidden inside?

Jason "the Screamer" Lau
Do I desperately need a life or what?

mastHEAD

Eighty-eight point eight

Wow. That was hard work, but we finally made eight issues in our eighty-eighth volume. Truth be told, I didn't even notice the neat number until five minutes before we started Production Night. But what a cool trick! It reminds me of Ecsher's infinite Mobius strips — they always looked like eights.

But enough of this yammering, I've got a tight space to fill here. So, here's a bunch of folks who were around for Production Night (not all of them, though) with their year, program, and what they were doing eight years ago in '88:

Jim Morrison (2A CS/DHW, Watching Transformers and wondering how to take steroids like Ben Johnson); Ian W. MacKinnon (1B CS, Watching Saturday morning cartoons); Latrell (Grumpy Old Alumnus, 1A Math (I think)); Jason C. Y. Lau (4A C&O, Rioting on Robson Street); Kevin Wan Min Kee (4B CS/SE, Showing off the soft hands).

Margaret McCarthy, our awesome proofreader, was there too, but she escaped without signing the *mastHEAD*. So, let's embarrass her with her own paragraph! Margaret's retiring from *mathNEWS* (aka graduating from Math), so this will be the last issue without any major grammar problems. Thank you for giving up so many Tuesday afternoons and evenings, Margaret.

Thanks to the other people who make these issues possible (like Graphics, Campus Pizza, and of course, The Soft Pretzel Bakery). Keep in touch.

Bradley T Smith (4B PM&C&O, Waiting in an eightrium?)
Albert O'Connor (2A CS/DHW, When I was five ...)

This Squiz Answers:

LYRICS: 1) Waterloo Mathie Song; 2) Drunken Sailor; 3) O Canada; 4) I'se The B'y; 5) The Night Pat Murphy Died;
QUESTIONS ABOUT 2: 1) Too; 2) Two; 3) Two Two; 4) Tutu; 5) To;
QUESTIONS ABOUT 4: 1) Fore; 2) Fore Score; 3) 4; 4) Four; 5) For;
OFF BY ONE LETTER: Just Change the 2nd letter to an 'A' in each word — How Dirty Was Your Mind? 1) Sax; 2) Pack; 3) Taps; 4) Rant; 5) Tack.

mathNEWSquizz Ω

Well Ladies and Gents, this brings me to the last squiz of the term ... some of you are thinking, "We're gonna miss you Squizmaster," however most are thinking, "Yeah! Now we can finally get someone decent writing the Squiz!" Either way, this Squiz should be enjoyed. As it is the last Squiz of the term, there will be no prizes awarded, so logically it should be really easy ... lets hope it is.

Before I get into the Questions for this week let me give you last week's answers:

CANADIAN LYRICS: 1) *Widow in the Window*, Great Big Sea; 2) *The First*, Tegan & Sara; 3) *Tear The House Down*, The Fables; 4) *The Last Saskatchewan Pirate*, The Arrogant Worms; 5) *Eternal Fatalist*, Lowest of the Low;

CARL & RAY: 1) Carl Floppyfeet & Ray Munchies; 2) 173 Jefferson Ave. (the pet shop); 3) 1998; 4) Mrs. Doris Weems; 5) The Amazing Doug;

ST. PADDY'S DAY: 1) 365; 2) 7 Leaf Clover; 3) It is the day St. Patrick died; 4) He poured emerald green dye into the Chicago River; 5) To prevent the Irish from taking over the world;

MYSTERY CATEGORY: 1) A vacuum; 2) A fan; 3) A vampire; 4) Britney Spears; 5) Things That Suck.

gridCOMMENTS

Back from the moon

Yikes this was a tight call. For the first time since I've started marking the *gridWORD*, I had to count correct boxes. Here are the contributors with their concepts of the most important year in math history.

- The guys on the block in front of the Comfy: Star date 2402.6, because that's when Goldbach's Conjecture was disproved. Perfect ... on a *gridWORD* from 1999.
- O. O'Orontos: 0 AD or 0 BCE or 0 CE or 0 BC. 11 right (all the zeros).
- Jessica Schmidt: 2 AD, the last time an even-numbered year was also prime. 49 correct.
- The SJU Crew: 2002, the year of the Soft Pretzel Bakery. 54 correct.
- A group of Mayans (they used Mayan digits to solve it): 0 Kukulcan and Ixchup. 55 correct.
- Mission Bananarama: -end Anno Descartes (and that's Dezc-art-ayz — You heard it from Arts!) [*Somebody watched Mike Kerrigan host Millionaire ... — TaxiEd*]. 55 correct.
- Robert Kitts: 1997, With the release of *Good Will Hunting*, the general public realizes that all Math guys look like Matt Damon. Perfect 56.
- Big Banana and Little Bitch: 1665, the date Fermat invented "Proof by proof too large to fit in margin." Perfect 56.

Thus, we have Robert Kitts taking home the prize. The prize being a C+D gift certificate that we really need to order so we're not turning away people because we're so damned lazy anymore. It'll be in the MathSoc Office today.

As for the crossword puzzle in The Toronto Moon, do it is you're not too busy. We only have one submission so far and the winner will be revealed in the first issue of the Spring term.

The *gridWORD*

Congratulations to Mission Bananarama who racked up 38 points to win the Squiz versus Robert Kitts who scored an impressive 6, including getting the lyrics theme without knowing any of the artists or titles.

Now on to this week's Squiz (if you want to check to make sure you are correct the answers are in the issue somewhere close by).

Lyrics

1. We're into high fashion
Our ties are all pink
Our profs are all boring
And that's why we drink
2. What do you do with a drunken sailor?
What do you do with a drunken sailor?
What do you do with a drunken sailor?
Early in the morning!
3. O Canada
We stand on guard for thee
True patriot love
In all thy son's command
4. I'se the b'y that builds the boat and
I'se the b'y that sails her and
I'se the b'y that catches the fish and
Brings 'em home to Liza
5. They stopped the hearse on George Street outside Sundance Saloon
They all went in at half past eight and staggered out at noon
They went up to the graveyard, so holy and sublime
Found out when they got there, they'd left the corpse behind!

Questions about 2

1. As Well
2. This Question
3. Jacob from Hooded Fang Fame
4. Ballet Skirt
5. Directions, Going Somewhere

Questions about 4

1. Golf Heads Up
2. 80 Years, Rhyming
3. 4th root of 256
4. This Question
5. A Type of Loop

Off by One Letter

(Give me the word I am thinking of by just changing one letter in each word)

1. Six
2. Puck
3. Tips
4. Runt
5. Tick

Well that is all. Good Luck on Exams and your endeavours next term.

Squizmaster Dary