math NEWS

Volume 89, Issue 1
Friday, May 17, 2002

Jedi Knight, Jedi Knight,
Does what ever a Jedi might.
Lifts X-wings, any size,
Disappears, when he dies.
Look out! Here comes the Jedi Knight!

Has the force?
Listen bud,
He's got metachlorinated blood.
Can he beat Jango Fett?
Keeps a Gungun as a pet.
Hey there! There goes the Jedi Knight!

By the moon of Endor
Or on Coruscant
With his lightsabre
He will chop of your hand.

Jedi Knight, Jedi Knight,
Friendly galactic Jedi Knight,
Dark Side's lure
He ignores
At least 'til the Clone Wars.
Look out! Here comes the Jedi Knight!

Jedi Knight, Jedi Knight,
Friendly galactic Jedi Knight,
Padme's love
He should ignore
Let peace be his reward.
To him, life is hideous
Because of Darth Sidious.
You've found the Jedi Knight!



Prez Sez

Hi everyone. I'm prez again so I get to write this column. Raymond, Pounder, MR Jepson, and I are the exec this term and we've got lots of cool stuff planned. Like today there's cotton candy outside the comfy. If you want to help out with MathSoc, you can sign up for an office hour or as a volunteer on the door of the MathSoc Office. I look forward to seeing you all this term so please stop by the Exec Office. Also, best of luck to the Scunt team which will be competing next Friday. Finally, I wish to leave you with some sage advice: "With great power comes great responsibility," "In my experience, there's no such thing as luck," and one no one should forget: "Shop Smart, Shop S-Mart."

Ben Willson
MathSoc Prez

EngScunt 2002

Scunt of the Nerds

On the 24th of May, another Scunt will begin. The theme this term is Revenge of the Nerds. You can register a team by emailing ljdorey@undergrad.ca, or signing up in Orifice. The fee is $40 per team, with special arrangement allowed for smaller teams. We will also be signing team up in CPH, as always more information will be available on the website `www.scunt.org/nerds`. No one will be free until nerd persecution ends.

The gods

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 6.0
- 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`

VPA Sez

Not Much

Need a sandwich? How about a million dollars?

I can't help you there, but if you don't like something about your program, or have a problem about academics, I can sort of help you.

I'm Raymond CT Lai, your Vice President Academic this S02 term. Many of you know me as the maniac who writes articles that hurt your eyes and your brains, but this term I'll be doing that AND being your VPA at the same time! That's two roles for the price of one! What a bargain!

On a more serious note, there are a few things left by my predecessor (Hi Colin!) that need to be finalized, and a few things I would like to start up during my term as your VPA. Some details about the new programs in the School of Computer Science need to be sorted out, and of course the infamous gold block on the Prof of the Year plaque needs to be filled during my term.

I also intend to start a few new initiatives during my term as VPA, namely a new award program called "TA of the Year," which will run in conjunction with the "Prof of the Year" award. Details are being worked out, and I would love to hear from you on this subject, or any subjects of interest. Please refrain from telling me how messy your housemates are, or how little blue pills can increase my sexual potency. However, if you like to send electronic checks to pay my bills, please, knock yourself out.

I think that's it from your friendly neighbourhood Spider … I mean MathSoc VPA. Don't hesitate to stop by the MathSoc Exec Office to chat, because we don't bite.

Raymond CT Lai
`vpa@MathSoc.uwaterloo.ca`

*look*AHEAD

***math*NEWS**	
May 17	Issue #1 enlists in the legion of Bounty Hunters
May 27	Issue #2 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
May 31	Issue #2 gives a shift boot to a football
Math Faculty	
May 21	Course Drop Deadline
May 22	100% Refund Deadline
MathSoc	
Thursdays	Movie Night
May 17	Yum … Cotton Candy Day
May 24–25	EngScunt
MGC	
May	Can time go any slower?
June 15	Spring Convocation
Co-op	
May 24	Postings end
May 27	Interviews begin
Miscellaneous	
May 17	*The Force vs. Spidey Sense* begins
May 20	Victoria Day
May 21	Charles Lindbergh flys across the Atlantic Wait! That was 75 years ago!
May 23	Ron MacLean correctly calls the Habs the CanadiENs
May 27	Charlotte Day: Celebrated by over 100 people
May 29	Stock up on flags, horns, snacks, and Carlsberg's
May 31	World Cup Finals begin: Set your clocks for 2 am

Eat My …

i am happy. people need pity to survive. never cross arms with the one-legged man. over and out.

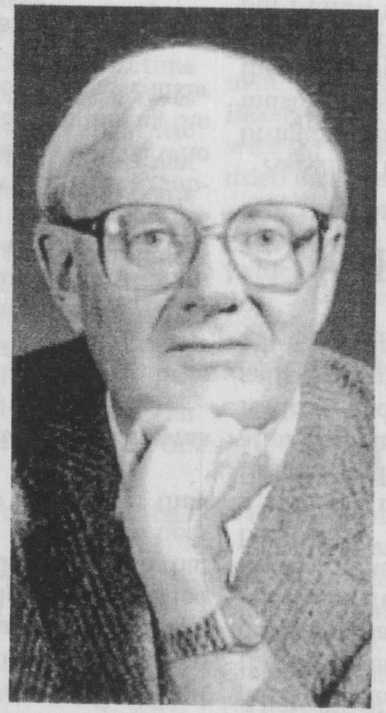
msdnstudent.html
vpa@MathSoc.uwaterloo.ca

Professor William T. Tutte (1917 - 2002)

This obituary is appearing in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. It was written by Dan Younger.

William T. Tutte, Distinguished Professor at the University of Waterloo, died on Thursday afternoon, May 2, 2002. The cause was congestive heart failure, complicated by lymphoma of the spleen, both diagnosed within six weeks of his death. His age was 84.

It was just last October that he was inducted as Officer of the Order of Canada, in a ceremony held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The citation read: "He is internationally renowned for his seminal work in the area of graph theory. As a young mathematician and codebreaker, he deciphered a series of German military encryption codes known as FISH. This has been described as one of the greatest intellectual feats of World War II. Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Honorary Director of the Centre for Cryptographic Research at the University of Waterloo, he remains one of the most influential figures in combinatorics."



Tutte was a graduate student in Chemistry at Cambridge University in England when, in January 1941, he was asked by his Tutor to go to Bletchley Park, the now legendary organization of code-breakers of Britain. Many have read of the successes which they had there in deciphering the codes produced by the machines called Enigma. In fact, that success was with the naval and air force versions; the army version of Enigma proved to be more resistant to analysis. Since they could not always read army Enigma, they tried to read the machine-cipher named FISH, which was used only by the Army High Command. Tutte's great contribution was to uncover, from samples of the messages alone, the structure of the machines which generated these FISH ciphers. This led to the decipherment of these codes on a regular basis.

At the end of the War, Tutte resumed his studies at Cambridge, this time in mathematics. His thesis takes two strands, one of algebra and one of combinatorics, and spins them into one thread, matroid theory. Upon receiving his Ph.D., Tutte came to Canada, to join the Faculty of the University of Toronto. In his fourteen years there, he rose to world pre-eminence in the emerging field of combinatorics.

In 1962, Tutte joined the Faculty of the University of Waterloo. The University was founded in 1957 and was, five years later, still in the process of establishing its identity and reputation. Tutte made a big contribution on both of these fronts. His presence was a magnet for combinatorialists from throughout the world. It was not only the recognized stars of the field that came to Waterloo, but those who were destined for future prominence. Indeed, Tutte was an important ingredient of the recipe which produced the Faculty of Mathematics in 1967. His presence helped to shape the character of the University.

From the time that Tutte moved to this region in 1962, until his wife Dorothea's death in 1994, he lived in West Montrose, along the Grand River, just adjacent to the covered bridge there - the Kissing Bridge. He and his wife played an active role in that community; he was well-loved by his friends there.

Tutte has received significant honours and prizes in recognition of his accomplishments. Prior to receiving the Order of Canada, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, and then to the Royal Society of London.

Tutte's closest surviving kin are his niece Jeanne Youlden, her three children Richard, Susanne and James, and his nephew Joseph, their two children William and John, and their children, Haley and Jessica, William and James, respectively. Most of his extended family still live in Newmarket, England, where Tutte was born and grew up.

Tutte's Theorem:

(as it appears in Spring 2000 C&O 342 course notes)
Given a graph $G = (V, E)$, let $\text{odd}(G)$ denote the number components of G with an odd number of vertices.
Then G has a perfect matching if and only if
for every $T \subseteq V$, $\text{odd}(G - T) \leq |T|$.

So, if there exists a set of vertices that when removed leave more odd components than the size of that set, the graph has no perfect matching (a set of edges, no two incident to the same vertex, such that all vertices are incident to exactly one of the edges). It has a perfect matching only if no such set exists.



Professor Tutte receiving the Order of Canada from the Governor General.

For more information on Professor Tutte, check out www.math.uwaterloo.ca/CandO_Dept/tutte.html for starters. There are several other websites about his life, including a page run by The Fields Institute.

You can also check out his book *Graph Theory as I Have Known It*. As one review says, "Instead of a typical survey, [Tutte] looks back at the areas which interested him most, discussing why he pursued certain problems and how he and his colleagues solved them."

NewsCollage: Mass Graves, the CIA, and "The Stench of Bodies"

From CNN's *American Casualty Timeline*: November 25th, 2001 ... CIA operative Johnny "Mike" Spann is killed during a prison uprising, after gathering intelligence from Taliban prisoners in Mazar-I-Sharif. Cause: Enemy fire.

From the BBC: On Tuesday November 27th, Northern Alliance forces, directed by American special forces and assisted by US warplanes, ended a revolt by Taliban prisoners [at Mazar-I-Sharif] ... Virtually every single one of the 600 mainly foreign Taliban fighters were killed ... Photographers who went in after the battle said that at least 50 Taliban were found with their hands tied, suggesting that they may have been killed after they surrendered.

John Walker Lindh, the first American Taliban, was captured during that prison uprising.

CNN April 2nd: "American Taliban lawyers win little info in court."

CNN April 5th: "Judge: Preserve 'all materials' in Walker Lindh case. Defense Attorneys say that authorities are destroying evidence that would prove Walker Lindh was mistreated while in U.S. custody."

CNN April 19th: "Walker Lindh's lawyers want to subpoena CIA agent. Attorneys said that a CIA officer, who was present with the late CIA agent Spann during the prison uprising at Mazar-I-Sharif, interviewed Walker Lindh."

CNN April 30th: "Government asks court to protect agent in Walker Lindh trial."

The Physicians for Human Rights are a Washington-based organization. Their recent report is "The Preliminary Assessment of Alleged Mass Grave Sites in the Area of Mazar-I-Sharif, Afghanistan." From the report: "The two grave sites, which are believed to contain recently disposed human remains, are located at a site near Mazar-I-Sharif and at another site near the town of Shebarghan ... It is alleged that these sites could have been the disposal ground of some of the Taliban fighters who had surrendered to the Northern Alliance in November and December 2001 ... Several sources reported that the bodies at the sites included Taliban prisoners who were transported to these sites in truck containers. These reports cannot be confirmed or refuted without forensic examination of the bodies."

CNN's Interview with John Walker Lindh from his Afghan Hospital bed December 2nd, 2001: "I was in the basement ... They had poured gas on us and burned us ... maybe about half us or more than half us were injured. So the last day, when they poured the water into the basement, I think the vast majority of us had drowned that morning — and we were standing in the water, the freezing water in the basement for maybe 20 hours ... the basement was filled with the stench of bodies."

The BBC reported on May 3rd that "[The Physicians for Human Rights] only decided to go public recently after Afghanistan's interim government, the United Nations, and the United States failed to respond to its calls to secure and protect this and other grave sites to allow detailed investigations in future."

David Germain

Krease Crumpled

Th^{m} 2: Attack of the Th^{m}'s

Aagghh! The Th^{m}'s! They're everywhere — and they're bringing Lemma and Corollary clones with them! They must be clones — how else could there be so many of them so quickly? *Years of inbreeding* ... Sure, you can dress them up different and give them different names, but I know they're all the same — you can't fool me! *Build* ... Hrm? ... *army* ... What's that you say? ... *of Th^{m}'s* ... I should build a grand army of Th^{m}'s? *You could gain complete control* ... With such an army, I could gain complete control of the Force — you know — the Force — that thing that lets you bend others to your will; that thing that puts Scott Bakula on TV at 3:30 am — such a world of possibilities. How will I build such a grand army? *Go to class* ... You didn't say that. Tell me you did not just say that. ... *uhhh ... join the Dark Side?* ... You were telling me to go to class — that's it — I'm outta here ... *Crap ... I need to stop saying that ...*

finger licq'ing good
Krease

Trouble on Interstate 5

We all have heard of artists showing off their creativity on the highway. NO, not with their cars. Many artists have displayed their art on the curbs or on the asphalt. These creations have captured many motorists' attention, sometimes too much, as these pieces of art have caused several accidents and the local highway departments always had to foot the bill removing these art pieces.

Los Angeles traffic can be a nightmare. If you think Toronto's traffic is bad, multiply that 10-fold and you get the L.A. rush-hour crawl. The traffic there is so bad that exiting the wrong ramp means that you need to add one hour to your commute. Some of the highway signs are downright confusing. Seeing this as a problem, an L.A.-area artist decided to help the situation. The artist placed the word "North" onto a highway sign on one of the cities busiest stretch of highway. The artist said that the addition is out of necessity, rather than artistic values.

Maybe what we need are changes like that. If you have travelled in Toronto lately, you'll know what I mean. The airport road grid is crazy. It can make everyone's head spin. The express/collector exchange on the 401 sometimes leaves little room for people to change 4 or 5 lanes. Even here in Waterloo, the 7-8 exchange can be sweat inducing. And why do we have to share road signs with Laurier anyway? UW and Laurier are as different as oranges and melons. Granted, UW comes first in the signs, but I'm sure many in Laurier want their own signs and not below UW on the same sign.

Speaking of signs, why can't *math*NEWS get its own sign on the streets? *math*NEWS is Canada's bastion of erudite thought, but it doesn't have its own sign. Maybe putting a large sign over the BLACK BOX, or placing a sign outside MC, or maybe the status quo is good enough. After all, *math*NEWS has resided in a dark alley for a better part of 29 years now.

Jason "the Screamers" Lau
When I can't write, I mumble

*You know what math***NEWS** *needs more of?*

Short space filling articles, that's what

Go Habs Go!

Salut et bonjour à tout le monde (Hello and good morning to everyone). I'll stop the French now, as it may be burning many people's eyes, and I apologize for this. Hockey fever has hit the Production Night of *math*NEWS and as we write, the 6th game in the Carolina-Montreal series is playing out. As a Montrealer, I would really like to see the Habs win against Carolina and make it to the division finals, but by the end of the first period, Carolina is up 5-1 and the future of Montreal in the playoffs looks extremely bleak.

Although I am Canadiens fan at heart, I wonder if Montreal can handle another Stanley Cup; the last time that the Habs won the cup, (which, incidentally was during the 1992-1993 season against the Los Angeles Kings) businesses downtown along St-Catherine Street were thoroughly trashed by fans celebrating their home team's victory. Though the Habs have moved from the Forum on St-Catherine to the Molson Center on Réné-Levesque Boulevard closer to the financial core of Montreal and further away from the merchants that were hit in '93, I doubt the city would be happy for another Stanley Cup riot.

On second thought, some other city can have the Stanley Cup; let them have the property damage. Go Leafs Go! <g>

Kevin Fong Montréalais

Montreal Riots!

Mayor Declares Martial Law

Fans disgusted by the Habs' 8-2 crushing defeat against the Carolina Hurricanes at home on Monday night vented their frustrations on the streets of Montreal, causing destruction along Réné-Levesque Boulevard from Guy Street to University Avenue. Among the heavily damaged establishments were the Mövenpick at Place Ville-Marie, the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, and Sherlock's, all close to the endpoint of the rioting. Montreal Mayor Guy LeMaire commented: "We're lucky les Habs didn't win the Coupe, tabernac! We may have had worse rioting and ces hoo-oligans could have made it to Rue St-Catherine and damaged all them strip clubs."

Aislen

Toronto Pretzel Place a Disappointment

So I graduated and got a job.

I'm working in downtown Toronto editing math text books. I've been verifying solutions for a calculus teacher's manual this week. That's right, I'm putting my degree to work in my field and using my experience as an editor! Creepy.

But that's not what this article is about. I'm worried about the condition of pretzel sales in Toronto.

I walked over the the Eaton Centre on my lunch and found my local pretzel shop. An incredible disappointment! The variety was the same as at the Soft Pretzel Bakery, but the prices were all higher and the pretzels were perverted versions of the proper twist. They looked dried and shrivelled. Pathetic even.

The location was so small, too. It was little more than a booth, with no place for sitting down with your date (which could become a problem for me ... maybe ... no).

So, Soft Pretzel Bakery, please, franchise. We need you in Toronto. I need you in Toronto. Save me!

Bradley Torontonian Smith

Will Survivor Survive?

With the fourth season of Survivor finally coming to a close, we are again asking ourselves the question: "When are they gonna give up on this stupid show?" Sure, it was alright the first time, and the second time was okay too, but damn it, enough is enough ... (In a Charlton Heston voice) "CBS — **Let my TV go.**"

There are talks of a fifth and even a sixth Survivor in the works, my suggestion: Celebrity Survivor. You could have Beyonce on there winning the thing and then singing *I'm the Survivor* and then have the band Survivor rush on and savagly assault her while talking about how they are Survivor ... Maybe they'll bring their lucky tiger eye too. Of course, maybe I'm just a dreamer, but really, Survivor isn't gonna survive much longer; people are tired of it. In a random poll I conducted, nobody wanted to see another season of Survivor. This poll is accurate within ±100%.

Pi

Astrologists' Guide to Classes

CS 452 (Real Time)

You will experience a hazy future, days will become blurred together, and you will obtain a significant other who can not code. You will kill this other in a moment of sheer stress.

Stat 230

You will realize that this class is actually useful, there is this cute girl, but alas, you never noticed her until the second quiz. However, she is my sister. Touch her and die.

Stat 231

You are feeling sleepy ...

AM 441???

Work? Who needs work? You have the opportunity to acquire last years solutions, all you need to do is "pay" attention to the "lone ranger" in your class. Mind the alcohol on your breath.

C&O 350 (Linear Optimization)

You suddenly become linear, but be careful, as in Stat 230. That is my sister, touch her and die!

CS 354 (OS)

Suddenly a side order of Nachos does not bode well with your stomach. Order the Jenny Craig fries instead.

PM ??? Gaiwa Theory

A man is searching for a woman who knows Gaiwa theory ... be very careful, he is a little demented.

Pete Love

[If anyone has seen mathNEWS' real astronomer, tell her we miss her. — TaxiEd]

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Attack of these Clowns: Bradley T Smith and Albert O'Connor

Short Skirts, Big Brains

I think the ladies who fight for womens' equality have it all wrong. I'm glad I can vote, but I don't like most of what they're saying now.

What kind of equality or freedom is it when they're pressuring me to act and dress like a man? True equality is our freedom to be women and love being women. I don't want to be in the army. I don't want to be a policewoman or a firefighter. And I don't want to be a prime minister if it means I have to wear shoulder pads and pants.

I love wearing short skirts and make-up. I love doing my hair and feeling sexy. I love it when men check me out. Womens' Libbers would say that I'm a victim. That I'm caving into society's pressure to become a bimbo. I beg to differ. Dressing up and being charming (NOT submissive-charming) gives me a feeling of power. Better yet — it actually gives me power.

Just because you can integrate faster than Maple, prove theorems with the ease of a MATH 135 prof, or code to the envy of the holiest Java gurus doesn't mean that you have to slump around in baggy clothes and plain hair.

Be girly, be sexy, be chic, be cute. Flirt, exude confidence, and giggle.

We're not men and we won't pretend to be!!!

Leslie Finley & Leanne Bradley

How to Write a *math*NEWS Article

1. Go into your favourite email program.
2. Send an email to:
   mathNEWS@merrill.math.uwaterloo.ca.
3. Title your article "article" (without the quotes).
4. Your article should look like this:
   Insert clever title here
   Insert clever article here
   Give yourself a name
5. Send the message.

Pi

I got it! MUCH and CHUM are anagrams!

The Frosh Cornered

The Omitted Qualifiers of CECS

You know, I have heard a lot of sound bites come out of the mouths of people from CECS, and I must say that they are all pretty much true — to a point. One of the things I've noticed about anything that CECS says, is that they hold back some qualifiers to their statements which prevent them from being entirely true. I've listed a few of the more prominent quotes from CECS, and what was needed to be said after them to make them true.

- "Continuous phase moves much faster ... at crushing any hope you had of getting a good job."
- "With co-op, you can earn a salary to help finance your education ... by your education we mean your tuition, and by your tuition, we mean your co-op fee."
- "Historically, employment rates have varied between 86% and 99.9% ... by varied, we mean that one term during the tech boom, when money was being spent on IT like a drunken sailor, and it was a fall term, we got 99.9% of all CS 4th year students employed."
- "Many students have successfully secured their own employment ... at McJobs."
- "Co-op will not only give me an edge against graduates from other institutions ... even though people from other institutions aren't very bright to begin with."
- "Co-op is great for those who aren't sure exactly what they want to do with their degree ... you get the sense of disillusionment in first year, rather than fourth year, that's three years of experience!"
- "We're pretty lenient about giving credit for jobs you get on your own ... but there's no way you're counting 'Blackjack Dealer' towards your Stats degree!"
- "There is not going to be a 'giant continuous phase.' ... It's going to be called the 'happy continued process.'"
- "Co-op allows you to build business contacts to assist in finding employment upon graduation ... so starting sucking up like a vacuum now, sweetheart!"
- "Co-op helps you improve your organizational and time management skills ... in a Darwinian sense, anyone who finishes co-op was able to adapt and crush the competition faster and in a more organized fashion."
- "Some programs may admit students into co-op in second year ... but a lot more boot people out after the first."
- "Some programs at UW are only offered as a co-op program ... this is a fancy way of saying 'deregulated' programs."
- "The majority of students find employment in Ontario ... because most students live in Ontario and have their parent's get them jobs where they work."
- "If you don't find a job, all is not lost ... unless you're in engineering, then you can kiss B.ASc good-bye."
- "Co-operative Education & Career Services (CECS) continues to search for work positions after the beginning of the new work term for those students who remain unemployed ... we offer grief counselling."

Seriously though, C is for co-op, that's good enough for me. Co-op is probably for the best, only the strongest frosh will make it all the way, thus ensuring that Math co-op grads are the baddest SOB's in IT.

Ian W. MacKinnon
The Cornered Frosh

Imprint is Good for Something

While at work on an assignment late one night (in as rather unenthusiastic state), I decide to get a snack. So I head into the kitchen and grab a yogurt covered granola bar.

Zoned out as I am (from doing the CS assignment), I have some difficulties opening the packaging. After completing the difficult task, the granola bar (covered in yogurt) slips out of the packaging and falls for the floor.

As I am about to burst out into tears, my granola bar lying on the floor and dirtied by the unknown diseases that lie about the bottom of my kitchen, my roommate yells, "What a save!" I look down, and there is my granola bar, covered in yogurt, lying on an issue of Imprint (and not covered in unknown diseases).

Rejoicing, I head back into my room; eating my granola bar (covered in yogurt) while another one of my roommates comes up with a wonderful use of Imprint: "Really, we should cover our floor with Imprints."

Pete Love

Fads of the Past

Toddlers of Doom!!

Barney — the dreaded purple dinosaur of death stormed onto the toddler scene like a bat out of kindergarten hell. With his message of love and acceptance, Barney's time at the top was sure not to last. Indeed once his true sordid past (over 50 million years of it!!!) was exposed, he moved to Zanzibar.

Teletubbies — this posse of 4 overweight illin' homies from over the pond tried to take over the minds of our impressionable youth. Luckily the holy Reverend Jerry Falwell was able to spot these drunked phonies for what they were. Sadly it was revealed shortly afterwards that the good Reverend had learned of these ruffians immoral activities due to his first hand presence at one of their drunken orgies.

Elmo — proving that all small things come in red packages, Elmo is currently recovering from an overdose of helium. The Sesame Street Examiner revealed that this is how the now 33 and a half year old maintained his patent-pending voice.

SuperBatSpider-vorine!

In a surprise move, Warner Bros. entertainment has decided to buy out Marvel Entertainment Inc. Warner Bros., who already own Marvel's main competition in DC Comics, have already announced plans to merge the two comic-book universes into one to save on costs.

In a related announcement, new MarDCvel editor Joe "Bristles" Malone has announced the merger of the four most popular heros of the new combined universe into one character. "By combining Spider-Man, Wolverine, Superman, and Batman we will be able to sell our new SuperBatSpider-vorine (working title) as the greatest comic book character of all time!" says Bristles.

In his first adventure, SuperBatSpider-vorine will fight DoomsMagnetJokGob. Comics insiders are predicting it could be the highest selling comic of the year with nearly 12 issues sold.

The Outsider

Spider-Man, circa 1960, Sues Spider-Man, circa 2002

The original Spider-Man from 1960 has surfaced from his 40 years of quiet life to protest against the new Spider-Man, now showing in theatres everywhere.

The lawsuit, brought about by the Animated Characters Knighthood (ACK) on behalf of 1960 Spiderman, accuses the 2002 Spiderman of "Being Too Real," "Blowing Real Things Up," and "Using a Crappy Costume for The First 30 Minutes of the Movie."

Superman, spokeshero for ACK, addressed the media late yesterday saying: "Look, in my movie, it looked real fake when I was flying through the air, and that's fine. But this new Spider-Man guy really looks like he's leaping tall buildings and shooting spiderwebs. It's getting to the point where we animated fake characters need to stand up for who we really are, and what we are not. Spidey's really distraught about this; the only way to settle this is with a huge cash settlement and maybe a lear jet or two."

A spokesperson for Tobey Maguire, the current Spider-Man, said that Maguire would fight this lawsuit to defend his film; although he will attempt to be more animated and old-looking in the next Spider-Man film.

In Laymond's Terms

Do I have to know how to fly to be a superhero?

Ahhh, the summer term, time for geese to mate aggressively, attack students, and poop all over the Columbia Lake fields.

Then there's the busy summer blockbuster season, where crap can make millions in the box office in a time span needed to fail a Math 235 exam. Last year's movies were so forgettable that I'm just going to classify the entire 2001 summer movie season as 'crap,' while the 2002 summer movie season will be classified as 'superhero crap.'

It dawned on me that this year's predominant theme is you had better be a superhero or girls will never find you attractive, and you'll never find a career that surpasses the job satisfaction of working the grill at your local Mickey D's. But what does it take to actually be called a superhero? Do you have to have the natural ability to leap tall buildings or eat 20 cheeseburgers in 8 minutes? Or can you be like Latrell and be a self-proclaimed hero? I'm getting confused.

I've been told that everyone has a superpower or two, just not really powerful ones that can redirect huge asteroids or blow up entire moons and planets. Instead we get superpowers like "being really nice" or "ability to hypnotize *math*NEWS writers."

I don't know about you, but these powers are pretty tame compared to the ability to sense a nuclear bomb on its final approach.

How about flying? Superman can fly and he's a superhero. I flew to Hong Kong for two weeks, in a plane, packed like cattle on Air Crapada, does that make me a superhero? Some people may say no, but I point to Batman, who uses a jet to fly, and he's a superhero. He gets to wear a belt that holds a boomerang, several smoke grenades, the world's supply of cologne, and a sandwich or two. My belt holds a Palmpilot, a phone, AND my MiniDisc system ... does that make me a superhero?

So that's it.

What a way to start a new *math*NEWS term: a rambling insane man.

Laymond Rai

The Mathematics of ...

In the first week of the last time I was here (sometime at the end of August of 2001, or the beginning of September; I can't remember, it's all so hazy), I recall the grass as being a somewhat brown and decrepit colour. No, it's not as though I don't like dead grass, but summer time, to me, should usually be filled with green grass and green plants and all sorts of interesting natural stuff. Dead plants, or dormant plants, I usually attribute to winter time. Having returned to campus recently from a lengthy co-op term spent in a building with very little (NO) natural light, and even less chance of seeing grass, I have really noticed and enjoyed the fact that the grass —

We interrupt our regularly schedule math*NEWS article to bring you this special report.*

For those of you returning to campus for the first time since the conclusion of the Fall term, we regret to inform you about the recent 'Squirrel Pandemic' that has struck the Waterloo campus.

For those acquainted with the squirrels (and those that have perhaps tried a couple, courtesy of the 2001 math*NEWS Frosh Issue), you may have recognized that, indeed, a serious problem with obesity has arisen. We regret to inform you that over the course of the long frozen/unfrozen/frozen/freezing/unfrozen winter months, the squirrel population has been reduced greatly. According to a recent 'Mathematics of ...' study, 102.57891% of the squirrels on campus were taken to hospital, due to cardiovascular difficulties.*

Apparently there were several complaints of chest pain, and when taken to hospital, it was discovered that their troponin levels were far above normal; an indication of great amounts of stress. Unfortunately, of the 102.57891% that entered the hospital, none returned (although only 15% of the bodies were found and given a proper burial service ... it is believed that the remaining squirrels went very well with HP sauce).

Massive mourning occurred all across campus as, day after day, squirrels were struck down: the young, the old, the weak, the adulterous, the pink, the ones with snorkel and fins, and the regular joe-squirrels. As a result of this pandemic, a memorial fund has been created for the squirrels left behind as a result of this tragedy. To contribute to this fund, please contact 1-800-314-1592.

And now back to your irregularly programmed show.

— is now green (the fact that Columbia Lake is much lower than I recall it being is a little surprising; however, I suppose that the Canadian geese simply got a little thirsty, or that squirrels are just really salty). This green grass, combined with returning to the MC building, has resulted in me wondering as to how mathematicians became so intelligent. I have since then drawn a miraculous conclusion:

Mathematicians counted grass.

And I mean not just a little counting, which can be done with grass ripped out for grass fights, but a lot of counting.

Now then, what sort of proof do I have that these professionals were grass counters? What is my reasoning behind why the grass counting pushed them to the ranks that they are now associated with? Well, firstly, it is obvious that the mathematicians observed grass. Being required to leave the hospitals that they were born in implies that, at some point in their lives, they must have either seen grass in pictures or in real life (they could have seen it on the Net, but many of the famous mathematicians weren't around).

Observing grass, otherwise referred to as 'watching the grass grow,' is a great phenomenon able to calm the soul and sooth the savage brain; otherwise known as being somewhat relaxed before an exam or such. Since the mathematicians were geniuses, they were obviously able to hone their focus/concentration on their one topic of choice (by this reasoning, all geniuses have acquired their abilities through watching the grass grow).

However, unlike most grass-watching brains, mathematicians were able to distinguish themselves by counting the grass. By counting hundreds and thousands and millions and billions of pieces of grass, the mathematicians were able to become extremely familiar with real numbers. And those who dealt with imaginary numbers also counted the imaginary grass, becoming at once wholly familiar with both real and imaginary numbers: to the extent that they were able to use and interact with a large body of numbers. This enabled them to create the famous theories and proofs that they are associated with (obviously a LOT of grass counting was involved in becoming as familiar as the great mathematicians were with the real and imaginary number sets).

Therefore, respect the grass; it has led to the creation of great mathematicians and wonderful theories that we have all discussed, and love to hate, in our math courses. The next time you see a patch of grass, consider the shear amount of effort the greats like Euclid, Pascal, and Descartes would have had to apply to grass counting in order to reach the standards they did.

MOW (The Mathematics of Writer)

Student Bitten By Radioactive Spider

A University of Waterloo student is suing because of a radioactive spider bite he received last week. Phil Peterson claims that a mutant spider escaped from local research laboratory EvilCorp, and bit his toe.

"I can't believe they would be so careless," exclaimed Peterson. "That spider didn't give me a single super power!" Peterson claims that the spider bite did result in several negative side effects. "When I realized I had been bitten, I knew that I had a great responsibility. But when I tried to stop that mugger, I realized that my power wasn't that great."

Peterson listed a series of injuries he incurred as a crimefighter. He claims to suffer from an itchy toe, several broken bones from a failed attempt at climbing a building, as well as "sprained webshooters." He refused to elaborate on that last point. "I'm sure these injuries could have been avoided," he added, "if I had a fully functional spider sense."

EvilCorp spokesman James Johnson dismissed the lawsuit as "pure nonsense." "We are not attempting to create spiders that give super powers, or even spiders that have super powers," he elaborated. "I don't know where Mr. Peterson got this idea." When asked why his company was irradiating spiders, Johnson refused to answer, but assured us there was a "perfectly reasonable" explanation.

Due to EvilCorp company policy, the spider was unavailable for comment.

The Amazing Spider-Dan

Pop Quiz: Mathie Fitness Quiz

It's summer time, and we all want a six pack and nimble fingers to code quickly. But keeping in shape takes a lot of work. So *math*NEWS brings you a quick quiz to test out your Mathie Fitness Level.

According to Pete Love, CEO of `peteloveishot.com` (that is, "Pete Love is hot," not, "Pete Love I shot,") and a personal trainer for Bts in London, England, there are six components to being physically fit: coding endurance, flexibility, coding speed, strength, healthy eating, and maintaining a reasonable course load.

With Love's help, we devised a test that will show you how you measure up.

1. You believe you'd be more fit if you dropped OS.
   A) True
   B) False
2. Which of the following actions can you do?
   A) Code 10 lines/min
   B) Read 5 Pages of code/min
   C) Code for 24 hours straight
   D) Two or more of the above
3. Which of the following activities do you engage in?
   A) Drinking
   B) Smoking
   C) Eating Bomber Food
   D) None of the above
4. You would avoid which of the following activities:
   A) Walking outside the math building (during daylight)
   B) Climbing the stairs in your apartment (as opposed to using the elevator)
   C) Showering
   D) None of the above
5. You are most likely to get short of breath doing which of the following activities?
   A) Running a marathon
   B) Coding
   C) Debugging
   D) All of the above
6. You weight train at least once a year.
   A) True
   B) False
7. You do some kind of aerobic exercise (i.e. typing, scrolling the mouse, restarting your computer) ...
   A) Very rarely
   B) About once a week
   C) About 3 times a week
   D) Every frikkin' day

Correct answers: 1) A 2) D 3) D 4) D 5) A 6) A 7) D

Pete Love

New Mathematical Constant Discovered

A new mathematical constant was discovered today and is poised to alter forever the direction of mathematical research.

The then unnamed Harris Variable Constant was initially theorized by lazy University of Guelph biology undergrads, but was not fully defined and realized until its immigration to the University of Waterloo's mathematics faculty. The Harris Variable Constant, named after its initial progenitor, is defined to be "the value which solves the problem" and is denoted H_s (H for Harris, s for solution).

Professor I. Einderstund describes how the variable constant will impact *math*NEWS readers: "The need to teach [students] methods for solving mathematical problems is almost entirely eliminated. As a result all math (and a number of CS) assignments and exams have been simply reduced to the question, 'What is the answer?'"

An interesting application of the Harris Variable Constant currently being employed by a number of Waterloo professors is the ability to find new problems. Professor Ox C. Morin explains: "Modern mathematical researchers are often forced to spend exorbitant amounts of time finding new problems to solve, without which their grant money would quickly dissolve. The Harris Variable Constant allows a researcher to work backwards to find a new problem based on an arbitrary solution. The true elegance of the Harris Variable Constant is realized when one notes that the solution to the new found problem is already known. Which means the researcher will have his grant renewed just that much sooner."

Great Big Siege

Spider-Man 22 — The Adventures of Mini-Spidey!

*math*NEWS, through its network of Hollywood spies, has recently discovered the plot of Spider-Man 13, set for production in June of 2021. In this, the penultimate chapter of the dododecology, Spider-Man applies for unemployment insurance after losing his spidey-powers in a cosmic game of win, lose, or draw with Iron Man, Wolverine, and Thor. After learning "vigilantism" is not a proper job for which one can apply for unemployment from, Spidey goes off the deep end.

Spidey begins a new career as The Venus Fly-Trap, the lover of death. By borrowing one of Mary Jane's many red wigs (necessary due to her now total baldness as a results of the events of Spider-Man 8 — Love is a Shiny Head), Spidey successfully gains employment as the head of a French bordello. Luckily, Spidey's grown up daughter from the future, May, arrives in time to stop her evil cross-dressing dad's nefarious plot to overthrow the government of Wakanda through the use of libidinous power.

In a surprise casting move, the powers that be at Marvel have decided to cast Moose the dog, otherwise known as Eddie on Frasier, in the role of May Parker. Studio officials claim that with the use of special CG imagery, Moose will be indistinguishable from any other 17 year old girl with the proportional strength of a spider.

Also appearing in the film will be the mummified remains of Stan Lee. Lee will be portraying the villain known as Rhino.

Movie Maurauder

Questions Nobody Asks, and Probably Shouldn't:

- Is enimation the implementation of an enema?
- Is your whole body that hairy?
- I can't reach; can you shave my ass?
- What's the Pete Love club?

Eat Me!

It has come to my attention that the breakfast, lunch, and dinner tables of Mathies are being monopolized by Kraft Dinner, otherwise known as "That Cheap Orange Whore." In an effort to let the other 'cheap and easy's get more action, I'll tell you where to pick them up and how to make them tasty …

Mr. Noodles meets Mr. Egg

Required

- Package of Mr. Noodles (25 cents at Food Basics) — the spicy kind works well
- 2-3 eggs
- a frying pan and spatula

Optional

- 2 small mushrooms
- green pepper
- your favourite cheese

1. Take the frying pan and fill it half with water. Put it on the stove and turn it to 4.
2. Put the Mr. Noodles in the pan.
3. Chop up mushrooms and green pepper (I use a slice as big as two fingers).
4. Flip the noodles over (so the top part can soften)
5. Crack the eggs into a bowl (or cup) and beat them silly.
6. The noodles should be soft enough by now. Empty out the water. Make sure the noodles are in the pan, and put the pan back on the stove.
7. Add the mushrooms, green pepper, and Mr. Noodles flavour to the pan. Mix it up good.
8. Add in the egg mix.
9. Flip over (or try to) the stuff in the pan after about a minute. Flip it over again every minute until it's done. (ie: *no liquid comes up when you flatten the noodles & eggs with the spatula*).
10. Put the cheese on your plate, and empty the frying pan on top of it.
11. Eat it. (Be careful — it's hot …)

Try adding other things — lunchmeat or sliced hotdogs are good … it's pretty hard to make food that tastes like crap.

I'd like an order of crayons with a side of mustard
Krease

*prof*QUOTES

Yes, only you can submit *prof*QUOTES. You can do so by emailing them to us at mathnews@uwaterloo.ca, slipping them into the BLACK BOX, or folding them up into a paper airplane and throwing them at some who works on *math*NEWS. You can even type them up, print them out, and put them into the BLACK BOX, but I personally recommend against doing that: It wastes my time and yours.

"Sacrifice your other courses completely. Work exclusively on this project."

Bell, CS 488

"There are a lot of good examples from before Disney was an evil money-grubbing empire."

Bell, CS 488

"It used to take three or four years to create a movie. Now, with all these great advances in technology, it only takes three or four years to create a movie."

Bell, CS 488

"Here's a pillow. Make it look angry."

Bell, CS 488

"Anything that makes you wish you'd paid more attention in CS 370 is bad."

Cowan, CS 498R

"There's more to life than going in circles." [Class Groans] "Isn't that terrible?"

Cowan, CS 498R

"Do you have any questions on Chapter 3? It's now or never … well, not never, just later."

Labbe, STAT 230

"This is accounting we're talking about, not reality."

Labbe, STAT 230

"I like to pretent I have a life, although I don't."

Labbe, STAT 230

"Well I don't think I can see 4 dimensions, but some people CLAIM they can."

Cheung, C&O 350

"This is like linked-list survivor."

Engels, CS 134

"We're taking a happy trip through formal verification land."

Engels, CS 134

"You don't want to give the marker an opportunity to shaft you."

D'Alessio, MATH 136

"I, of course, see myself as Yoda."

Smith, ECON 102

[Referring to the length of the first class] "Who goes all the way on the first night? Me, always!"

Fenn, FINE 253

"I have been teaching and tutoring for 20 years and this is, bar none, the most embarrassed I've ever been."

Fenn, FINE 253



*can submit prof*QUOTES

Mightnight Capture the Flag

Come on Sunday the 26th of May to the comfy at 11:59 pm. Here the story. Play the game.

The Management

I'd like an order of crayons with a side of mustard
Krease

Cheung, C&O 350

The Management

Screamer's Believe It or Not

What a time to be a sports fan. With the NHL and NBA playoffs, the Indy 500, and the upcoming World Cup. There are just too many excuses not to do assignments or to go outside for people like me. With that in mind, this installment has more oddities associated with the world of sports than usual. I also have covered every non-ice-covered continent with this article. All right, enough rambling, time to get onto the meat of the matter.

A Mayor's Form

A monkey had recently won the mayoral election in Britain. No, NOT a real monkey, nor is it our own MonkeyMan Kenny. The "monkey" was actually a local man. He campaigned wearing a monkey suit he wore as the mascot of a local football club. Upon his election, he resigned his post as the monkey mascot. The mascot gig is not as glitzy as it seems. The club is a 3rd division side in England. He should fit in easily to politics. After all, politics is all monkey business. Then again, maybe he can shed his image as a monkeyman and become a great mayor. What will his mayoral legacy be? Only time will tell.

The Footie's Excuse

The fans will put the blame on everyone else when their favourite team loses (unless the team plays horribly awful). We've all heard fans blaming the opposing coaches, the referees, bad playing surface, bad weather, spoiled food, opposing fans' harassment, etc. Sometimes people blame their favourite team's failure on voodoo magic, but this is the first time I have heard of a team putting the blame of its failure on magic alone. In 1992, the national men's soccer team of Ivory Coast won the African Nations Cup (allegedly) with the help of sorcerers from a village near the capital Abidjan. The government, according to the rumours, failed to provide the sorcerers compensation for their service. Since then, the team's record had been less than stellar, according to the team's fans (granted, the Ivory Coast team had won more often than it lost over the last 10 years, what we have is a case of "beating up the weak, losing to the strong"). According to rumours, the team was once held in a military camp after a dismal showing in the ANC in 2000. The fans should look at their favourite team before pinning the blame on anyone. Even great teams stumble sometimes, give the team some slack. Of course, this shows that the saying, "whenever you receive a service, pay up or else" still holds true.

The Marathon Scuba Diver

Whenever one participates in a long-distance running event, one can always find a handful of people wearing goofy costumes among the participants. We all have seen caped heroes, "identical" twins, clowns, among others in these races. How about scuba divers? No? I don't think so. A man ran the recently-held London Marathon wearing a complete scuba suit, but this is no space-age technology suit. The man wore a scuba gear from the 18th century. He wore the suit from the beginning to when he crossed the finish line ... five days after most of the participants did. He even kept his gear on for interviews. The scuba gear is said to be over 200 kg in weight (sorry, mass). You may be wondering why would someone willingly place himself in such a challenge? I suppose we all need a challenge that is different from our daily routine once in a while. Of course, one can say he did this to gain publicity, but he truly earned it by walking 42.195 km wearing such a heavy suit. Did he run the marathon like that "winner" of the New York Subway marathon? Unlikely. It would be difficult to hide yourself among the masses in the London underground with such a distinctive display.

The Ticket That Got Away

In Toronto, Leafs tickets are hot commodities. All Leaf fans want to get their hands onto some. Season tickets go faster than a GO train leaving a station, which brings me to the following silly story. A Leafs fan was doing his pre-game warm-up in a sports bar when someone stole his ticket to a Leafs game. The fan called the police and gave the police as much detail about the ticket as he could. When the game began, the police made their move and arrested the robber only two minutes after the game had started (real time, not game time). How did the the police catch the thief so shiftly? The holder of the ticket told the police the date of the game, and the exact seat location. There was no mention of what happened afterwards (you can blame my sources for that), but I'm sure anyone trying to steal from that fan will think twice from now on. It just shows that even mundane things such as your driver's licence number, the price of a shot at the Bomber, or QUEST passwords are worth memorizing.

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Does this article make me look like a pervert?

*ultra*CLASSIFIED

Wanted: 6000 Bags of Rice

Further Wanted: Someone to Consume 6000 Bags of Rice

Spider-Man Dislikes Waterloo

At a press conference last week, Spider-Man expressed disdain for the lack of biogenetics research and tall buildings in Waterloo.

"I came here to explore possible uses for my radioactive blood in curing cancer and to fight crime, but appear to have been thwarted in both arenas," quipped the webslinger. "There is no research into radioactive insects at this school, and your buildings are so short and far apart!"

He continued, "And what's with all these above ground tunnels? There all only one or two storeys off the ground! I mean, can't you guys go down one floor and walk on the ground? I mean, they're no use for swinging under unless you like scraping your ass on pavement. And don't get me started on the one at Ron Eydt Village ..."

"What about the glass tunnel?" asked a pesky Imprint reporter.

"Aaargh!" said Spider-Man and fired a small web across the reporters mouth.

"In conclusion," concluded the tight-spandexed superhero, who was obviously cold, "I'm not coming back until you get some height on these buildings and put them closer together. Oh ya, and more money for that quantum genetics stuff!"

Bradley Tombstone Smith

*mast*HEAD

Hello True-Believers!

Ah, so much going on in our little world. The number of people willing to be trained as *math*NEWS editors is climbing dramatically. I remember when it was just me and Pete who were trained for the entire year. Or that year we took Albert as our padewan learner despite the wishes of the Editors Council. Now, it is time to choose who will learn the skills of an Editor Master. After minimal deliberation, we've decided to train lots of people.

Watch for Louis Mastorakos and Chris Harasemchuk as they learn art of layout and filler-creation. Also, keep your eyes on Screamer and Laymond. They might be up to something this term.

People have to keep reminding me to thank Monkeyball for being teh greatest game in the world. Also, thanks to Kev who rented it for the *math*NEWS end of term party. Remember everyone:

Monkey + Ball = $$$

On a completely different topic, there are just too many movies to make fun of this summer. It's already the first issue and we're swamped with the mockery of two biggies. There was a great deal of difficulty deciding to go with a Star Wars or Spider-Man *mast*HEAD question, but in the end, it was decided that we would ask the staff "Who's clone would you like to be?" So, there was Krease (Kirsten Dunst's nipples), Joe (I already am a clone), Ian (That sexy guy, I think his name was Lino) *[Ian was present, but only in telephone form — TaxiEd]*, Emerald (Joe's. Then he'd have two.), Soo (I need a clone, not to be a clone), Latrell (Clone this, pal!), Laymond (Latrell, because I want to be his offspring army), Meagan (Soo's), Jason (Lenny — I'm already like him), Kevin (Anakin Skywalker, cuz I'm eeevilll!), Dan (Jar Jar, cuz I'm eeeevilll!), Lino (Albert, he's a sensative guy), Louis (Monkeyballs), and speaking of Monkeys, Ken (Your mom).

Special thanks to our food suppliers (Campus Pizza, the Soft Pretzel Bakery, and Farah's) and to the good people at Graphics Services. Also Central Stores for the new desk. Enjoy your long weekend everyone!

Bradley T Smith (Ben Reilly)
Albert (Angelina Jolie)

*math*NEWS Production Night Haiku

End of the second
My heart with Canadiens
Score is five to one

Lino pounds keyboard
Raymond refused by server
Always Ctrl-C

Raymond spouting odds
Canadiens poised to lose
Lino bets one grand

Anyone vegan?
Spinach pizza rejected
Food is on its way

Theme is Spider-Man
Confused I am, said Yoda
Attack Of The Clones

*math*NEWS divided
Spider-Man hyphenation
Separatists prevail

Lab three-oh-oh-six
The production in chaos
Brad and Phat type away

Score now six to one
Lino predicts seven-two
Raymond refused odds

Mathman eats a prime
Seven is prime, ten is not
Remember Square One

Unix screen flickers
Haiku continue to form
I have no third line

Lab quiet and still
Sound of keys and light humming
Again haiku forms

Laughter fills the lab
*math*NEWS console is the key
Raymond, butt of jokes

All poetry original works of Great Big Siege

The Mathematics Of ...

Recently, in the mail, I received the following article:

TAKE A TEST

Follow the instructions! NO PEEKING AHEAD! Do the following exercise, guaranteed to raise an eyebrow. There's no trick or surprise. Just follow these instructions, and answer the questions one at a time and as quickly as you can!

1. *Think of a number from 1 to 10*
2. *Multiply that number by 9*
3. *If the number is a 2-digit number, add the digits together*
4. *Now subtract 5*
5. *Determine which letter in the alphabet corresponds to the number you ended up with (example: 1 = a, 2 = b, 3 = c,etc.)*
6. *Think of a country that starts with that letter*
7. *Remember the last letter of the name of that country*
8. *Think of the name of an animal that starts with that letter*
9. *Remember the last letter in the name of that animal*
10. *Think of the name of a fruit that starts with that letter*

Are you thinking of a Kangaroo in Denmark eating an Orange?

I told you this was FREAKY!! If not, you're among the 2% of the population whose minds are different enough to think of something else. 98% of people will answer with kangaroos in Denmark when given this exercise.

Freaky, huh?

Being ever so mathematically inclined, I reviewed the steps involved. I recognized that by multiplying any number from 1 to 10 by 9, one receives a multiple of 9: 9, 18, 27, 36, 45, 63, 72, 81, 90. One of the properties of any multiple of nine is that, by adding the digits, one receives a 9 (i.e. (18) 1 + 8 = 9, (27) 2 + 7 = 9, ...). Therefore, all persons taking this 'test' are essentially starting off with the 'random number' 9, and subtracting 5 to get 4. From this 4, each person taking this test then converts it into an appropriate letter — 'D'. Therefore, for this 'test', EVERYONE is starting from the letter 'D'.

We are now expected to find a country starting with the letter 'D'. According to the CIA World Fact Book, we have the following options:

- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic

Unfortunately for Dominica, the Dominican Republic, and Djibouti, Denmark is a little more well known (often it is mentioned during an English class while studying Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, as the play is set in Denmark). This is where one of the choices lie. If one is following instructions and 'answering these questions as quickly as possible,' it is highly probable that you will think of Denmark.

Given the last letter of Denmark, 'k,' we are then required to think of an animal (who doubts the power of the Kangaroo? It's so easy! Outside of Latin phrases, it is unlikely that you will really think of many if any other animals: if you can, then tell me, cause I can't think of any, and haven't found a half decent list on the web yet). *[How about the Kiwi, Koala, or Killer Whale? — KreasEd]* Thereafter, you must pick a fruit. Given the last letter of the animal's name (Joe-Bob the Kangaroo (o)), 'orange' comes easily to mind.

Hence, the person who originally wrote this established that there are a limited number of countries starting with the letter 'D.' From this, the author then just had to use the properties of multiples of 9 to establish that the person taking the test would only choose a country starting with 'D.' Gotta love math (especially when it doesn't involve derivates).

JB the Kangaroo

[If this sounds familiar, but you remember it a little differently, then think back to Bryan Adams Day Like Today *video with elephants in Denmark. — TaxiEd]*

Editor at Work

No, not on math*NEWS, real work*

On the first of this month I started work. This will be my 3rd co-op job, and the second one I found for myself at home. The first time I found work at home I flew back for the four months to Manitoba where I am originally from. This time around, I opted to stay in Waterloo and to work from home. So this term expect some exciting tales of working at home adventure. This week: working conditions.

Office. The office is pretty big. Total enclosed private office, none of this cubical crap. There is a window, but it is pretty small. The wall are an untradition purple and there is a lot of random crap from whoever was working there last. IT screwed me though. I have this old Celeron 333 with a mother board that doesn't even actually fit in the even older case. It has some nice extra cards in it, but largely is a piece of crap. Though IT said if they have the funds they might do a sweet-ass upgrade. For now I am just hopeful. The chair is pretty comfortable: standard black and rolly. The carpeting is even office grade. The office does have some nice features like a double futon for resting when I am working too hard, and lots of reading material I am interested in.

Building. The Waterloo office conveniently located at Lester and Columbia, near where I live. The complex features both a washroom, kitchen area, and washer and dryer. If I hear the call of nature, or just need to freshen up there are facilities complete with shower. When lunch time comes around, I can head in to the kitchen and make myself a sandwich from whatever is in the two fridges. There is even a stove to make something hot. Over all, the building is quite good, but the janitorial staff could do a better job though.

Services. Unfortunately there are too many fun services for me to abuse. Printing is located about 10 minutes away in the MC. There is no stationary supply cabinet to raid. I have to go Tech Worx to get pens and paper and stuff.

Well that all for now. Stay tuned for more exciting stories from my work experience this term. Next issue: problems in the work place.

phat::albert

mathNEWSquiz #1

Swinging into a new term

Welcome to the first Squiz of the Spring Term. It's a little bit short, but that's because it's late in the evening and we would like to get this issue finished before we fall asleep.

The categories may seem uninspired, but whatever. I like them.

Spider-Man

1. What was the superhero name used by Spidey-clone Ben Reilly?
2. The movie featured cameos by actors from what TV series?
3. Where did Carnage's powers come from?
4. Who played J. Jonah Jameson, and what recurring TV role does he have?
5. Which comic was Spider-Man's first appearance in?

Star Wars

1. What planet does Senator Antilles represent?
2. What planet is Wedge Antilles from?
3. What other space-traveller has the actor who played Chancellor Finis Valorum portrayed?
4. What species are the members of the Trade Federation?
5. How many members are on the Jedi Council?

Canada Reads Competition

1. What prestigious prize did Margaret Atwood win last year?
2. Which of the five authors has most recently one a Governor General's Award?
3. Who is the main character in *The Stone Angel*?
4. Rohinton Mistry's new novel, *Family Matters*, is often compared to what Shakespearean play?
5. Where does the title to *In the Skin of a Lion* come from?

Enjoy the Squiz, and go read *In the Skin of a Lion*, it's a worthwhile novel, especially since you can easily go to Toronto and check out the locations afterwards. And after that, drop your Squiz solutions in the BLACK BOX or email them to mathNEWS, and we'll hand out prizes in a couple weeks.

Simon L'Avier

gridCOMMENTS

Ah, the spring!

Spring term is a time to relax, take it easy, and forget about the *grid*WORD for an issue or two.

No, really, I forgot about the *grid*WORD. Well, we did. I can't accept all the credit.

I was hoping that the Toronto Moon crossword puzzle would be a sufficient supplement during the mathNEWS downtime, but we only got two responses. Congratulations to Adam Weatherhead and Mission Bananarama who both completed the dense conventional puzzle. We don't have gift certificates for you guys, but maybe we can get you a cookie or something next time we see you. That's the solution for it. ->

As for now, try this little puzzle I've cooked up. It's no *grid*WORD, but it's something to do instead of listening to that person at the front of the class as they talk about something or other. It better not be Stat 231 though ... I pity the foo' who takes that sucka in the summa.

Oh ya, you probably want to know how to do this puzzle. Well, here's a list of prime numbers containing only '1's, '2's, and '3's:

- 112213
- 133121
- 122131
- 223331
- 221233
- 322213
- 332221
- 312211

Now, place one number starting with '2' on the outer web in the direction of the arrow. Then place a number starting with '1' on the middle web in the direction of the arrow. Then place a number starting with '3' on the inner web in the direction of the arrow. The catch, is that in at least one direction, the arms of the web must also form prime numbers!

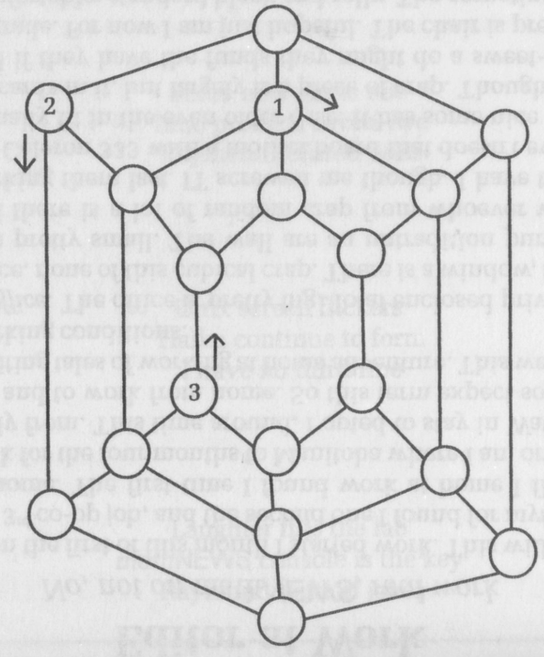
I think Spider-Man had this question on his Algebra final in the movie.

Good luck, true believers!

Brad

L	A	M	B	S	■	D	E	A	L	T	■	C	B	S
I	L	I	A	C	■	E	M	B	E	R	■	O	A	K
S	A	T	Y	R	■	P	E	R	S	E	■	M	A	E
P	R	E	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	E	■	P	E	W
■	■	■	E	P	O	N	Y	M	■	■	B	E	D	S
A	B	L	A	T	E	D	■	■	A	B	U	T	■	■
R	E	E	F	■	■	E	L	O	C	U	T	I	O	N
E	A	T	■	A	M	N	E	S	T	Y	■	T	O	O
A	U	T	O	M	A	T	I	C	■	■	D	O	Z	E
■	■	E	D	I	T	■	■	I	M	M	U	R	E	S
A	C	R	E	■	■	A	F	L	O	A	T	■	■	■
P	U	B	■	D	E	S	A	L	I	N	I	S	E	S
P	R	O	■	U	L	T	R	A	■	A	F	I	R	E
A	I	M	■	E	L	E	C	T	■	N	U	D	I	E
L	A	B	■	S	A	R	E	E	■	A	L	E	C	K

Toronto Moon Crossword Solution



Web Puzzle