

math NEWS

Volume 90, Issue 6

Friday, November 29, 2002



Nothing says 'I hate you'
like the smack of a pretzel ...

mastHEAD

Fly away butterfly, just fly away

So the pretzel place has parmesan pretzels now. What will be their next flavourful move? We asked the staff exactly that question. Chris (Greg Taylor (educational issues?)), Jason (Hard cheese), Kay (My-so-called-pretzel-shop), and Lino (Fresca). Thanks to them for the treats (and the free sauce) and to Campus Pizza for the dinner. Thank you Margaret, Jason, and Jesse for reading things over the next day. And thank you, for reading this far down a mastHEAD. Yes!

Bradley T Smith (Herbs and crack)
Albert O'Connor (Butterscotch and Reese's peanut butter)

Soft Pretzel News

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

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

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

mastHEAD

The Movie, based on a popular publication

Once we left the Soft Pretzel Bakery this week, we noticed something funny. According to the store hours on the door, the Soft Pretzel Bakery was already closed. We just had to know what could the owners of the Soft Pretzel Bakery be doing during the evenings in the summer to close shop at 8:30? Here is this week's production staff and their answers. Kresse (Star wipes), Emerald (Damn, he got to it first), Ian (My mom), Jason (Dancing with the unsold pretzels), Dave (The shadow knows), Pi (Making pretzel enemas for Ian's mom), Laymond (Hitting someone over the head with a large carbonated-liquid container), Meagan (Reading mathNEWS for pretzel references), Soo (Uhh ... nothing you and I wouldn't do ... right? *scared*), Dan (Pretzel porn (starring Ian's mom)), Louis (Malcolm Jamal Warner), and Jim (I hear they trade underwear).

Bradley T Smith (The Twist)
Albert O'Connor (The same thing we do every night, Pinky ...)

PRETZEL SHOP BUYS CN

From Waterloo snack start-up to multinational in 4 months: *Page 23*

Don't Give Up on Pretzels!

In the wake of the recent events in the United States, I felt it was important to discuss my favourite salty treat.

First off, don't assume that just because they're deadly, pretzels can't be delicious too. I've sat down with whole bags and eaten most of half of them before my heart gave out. I started choking, and passed out. I mean, that could happen with clementines or those new feeling drinks in the C+D just as easily, but their not even that scrumptious.

Very important, there is a safe alternative: the soft pretzels has opened up in Waterloo. They have salted, sugared, sesame seeded, and poppy seeded, so you don't have to worry about your sodium intake (or your opium intake). And let's not forget the 50-cent dipping sauces. So good. Go there and buy a soft pretzel.

Toronto Pretzel Place a Disappointment

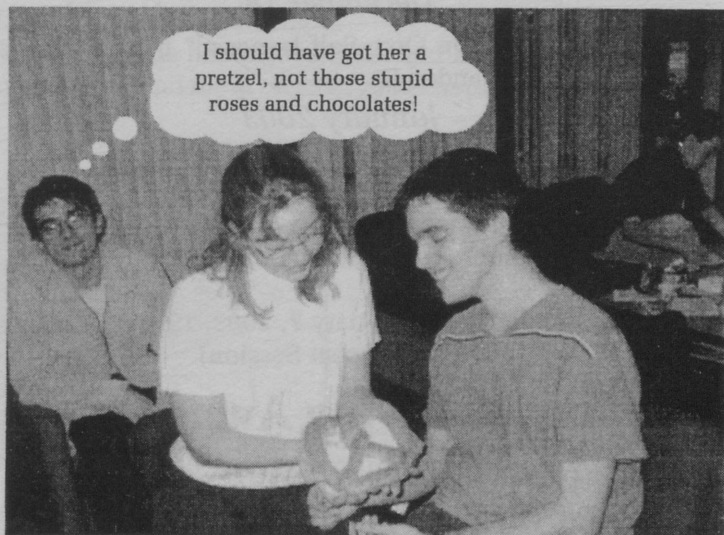
I'm worried about the condition of pretzel sales in Toronto.

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!

Nothing says 'I love you'
like the gift of a pretzel ...



SOFT PRETZEL BAKERY

"A Tasty Twist To Make Your Day!"

Good-bye

We miss you

Cement Solution Consortium

Clubs to take over:

1. UW-DIG, University of Waterloo Debian Interest Group. We can control this group by, nevermind, it's already done.
2. UW-GIG, University of Waterloo Guinness Interest Group. We can control this group by getting a keg of Guinness in the CSC office. This would also be a very profitable venture.
3. uwfs, it looks like a new filesystem, but it's actually the Free Software group on campus. Wait, I haven't started this group, how can the CSC take it over? (This question is left as an exercise for the reader)
4. IEEE student chapter. This group is easily controlled because engineers are too busy or too apathetic to notice that a bunch of CSers have taken over their underused group.
5. MathSoc, they have more money than us, and we want a bigger office, so they are the obvious target to take over next. How? That is left as an exercise left up to next terms Executive.

Notice, I mentioned next term's Executive. Well, I mention that because we want to see many new and old faces out to the next term's elections which will be held near the beginning of the term. Even better than simply coming out to the elections would be to be nominated (you can nominate yourself) for an executive position. *[Is that like the secretary position? — DirtyEd]* Please email cro@csclub.uwaterloo.ca to be nominated for your favourite position.

Yeah, I shouldn't be publishing this, but what the hell, it's the last mathNEWS of the term, and the last mathNEWS CSC Flash I think I should write.

James A. Morrison

One term without being impeached

Important Dates from CECS

December 4

MISSION POSSIBLE: All day "fair" of job finding support and advice. Begins 10 am, RCH 101.

December 18

Status changed to "On Own-Self Imposed" if no Continuous Registration form handed in.

January 2003

INFO SESSIONS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

- discussing the graduating interview process
- developing a personal career goal
- using the resources and services offered by Career Services

Humanities Theatre, HH, January 7, 2003, 10 am – 12 pm and January 9, 2003, 1 – 3 pm (Repeat Session)

Imprint Giving Away Stuff

Shhh, it's a secret

Hey, haven't you heard? You can win free stuff just by filling out an Imprint survey. I know! There're the paper ones, or just go to <http://imprint.uwaterloo.ca/rs/f02/> and do it online. The prizes include movie tickets and gift certificates. C'mon, I double dog dare you to fill it out.

Fun with FASS

Hey folks! Want something fun to do this winter? Want to meet some great people and be invited to all the cool parties? Here's your chance — FASS is back!

UW's favourite theatre group for Faculty, Alumni, Staff and Students will be holding auditions in January. We need actors, singers, dancers, musicians and techies; no experience necessary! Auditions are totally pain-free — just show up in comfy clothes ready to have fun! (Yes, techies come to auditions too, (not to audition though, silly) you need to meet the Tech Director and tell him what you want to do.)

Auditions are January 8, 9, 10 from 7:00 - 9:00pm (that's right, come on in right up until 9pm) in HH 378! Come out and help keep FASS more than 50% Mathies!

For more information, check us out at www.fass.uwaterloo.ca or email fass@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca.

Heather MacDonald
FASS 2003 Producer

VPAS' Epitaph

Well the term is almost over. Fortunately I didn't explode, but that's because my fuse burnt out. In between coding parts of my last assignment and coding the rest of my last assignment I intend largely to sleep.

But the term isn't over. There is still one more event for everyone to enjoy. Pints with (a) Prof(s). Tuesday the 3rd of December, also known as the last day of classes, at the Bomber from 5:00 to 8:00 there will be Profs and students and you in the Bomber. Enjoy the free food (free WINGS) and maybe some pints if it is your sort of thing. Come by any time.

We are also getting some funky new photocopiers in the MathSoc Office, sorry for any inconvenience during the week, hopefully they are up and working by the time you pick up this issue.

I would like to quickly thank everyone who helped this term in any way. Without all of you, there would be no activities or services. Thank you.

Albert "Pht" O'Connor

Directorships Available

MathSoc Director applications for both the Summer and Winter/Fall terms are now available outside the MathSoc Office. Applications are being accepted until December 14th. If you have any questions, e-mail lmдемasi@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

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mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. Last issue of the term... We're going to rock this joint! Yeehaw! Heehaw! mathNEWS is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or mathNEWS. Current and back issues of mathNEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

All-stars in the dope show: Louis Mastorakos, Albert O'Connor, Bradley T Smith and Chris Harasemchuk

MathSoc Fee Breakdown

Each term, Math undergraduate students pay \$10.50 to MathSoc. Here's a breakdown of where the funds go.

MathSoc	\$7.50
mathNEWS	\$3.00

MathSoc collects \$3.00 each term on behalf of *mathNEWS*, which has editorial independence from MathSoc.

The remainder of your fee, \$7.50, is spent by MathSoc. After fee refunds, this amounted to approximately \$26,200 this term.

18.4%, or \$3540, goes to MathSoc clubs — the Accounting Students Association, the Actuarial Science Club, the (new) Bioinformatics Club, the Computer Science Club, the Pure Math, Applied Math, and Combinatorics & Optimization Club, and the Teaching Students Association. The clubs are each open to all students in the faculty; they run activities and talks oriented to their respective programs and also provide services to their members.

9.1%, or \$1750, goes to MathSoc committees — Orientation and Math Graduation. Both of these committees also receive other forms of funding.

18.1%, or \$3500, goes to charitable donations and the MathSoc Charity Ball. This year's ball, attended by 160 guests, supported the Grand River Hospital Foundation. Additional donations have been made in memory of a member of UW's faculty, Ron Scoins, who passed away earlier this term.

14.7%, or \$2830, goes to support MathSoc Council and the executive. This includes expenses related to academic events, the term kick-off event, end-of-term volunteer recognition gifts, photocopying, and other general services (like telephones).

23.1%, or \$4440, supports MathSoc's computing facilities. MathSoc will be making two capital purchases this term — a new switch and a new server. Old machines will be recycled for use by all students in our office and clubs.

0.5%, or \$100, goes to events organized by and for first-year students. In November, first year students ran a spirited Pink Day as well as a pub night and other activities.

12.7%, or \$2450, goes to social events and activities, including movie nights and Mathletics sports teams. Social events that have been run this term include Campus Cove night, Cotton Candy days, LaserQuest, Quiz Bowl, Whose Line is it Anyway, and a candy casino.

3.5%, or \$670, goes to support the office and publicity.

Many of MathSoc's services and activities are self-sufficient. Our novelties sales, exam bank packages, and photocopy services all run on a break-even basis.

Based on the expenses above, about \$7000 of funds collected this term will go unspent. MathSoc Council, at the beginning of the term, originally budgeted to spend all of this money. Not all expenses were realized, and some expenses came in under budget. There were also more students paying fees and fewer refunds collected.

MathSoc has an outstanding debt to the Federation of Students related to funds taken from the Math C&D up to the Fall 2000 term, and the excess funds received this term will go to pay off some of the debt.

Douglas Stebila, MathSoc President
Kevin Fong, MathSoc Vice-President, Finances

Rendez-vous à Paris

Math's fifth annual Charity Ball, Rendez-vous à Paris was a great success! The Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, stars, streamers, and lights created the atmosphere of a ball in Paris for 160 guests who enjoyed a night of dinner and dancing.

I would like to thank all my volunteers who helped build set pieces and decorate Fed Hall. From hammering nails and sawing wood, to hanging streamers and blowing balloons, your work made this ball happen.

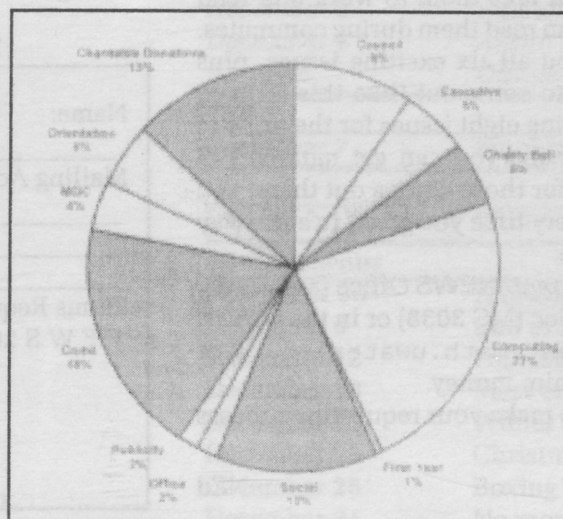
Through the generosity of the following sponsors, we raised over \$2500 for the Grand River Hospital Foundation.

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The Princess Cinema
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Right Angle Café (C&D)
Sana'a Hayat
The Silver Spoon
Sobey's
Sportsworld
The Still Bar and Grill
UW Drama
Wycks & Wyshe

I would also like to give special thanks to auctioneer Ian VanderBurgh and ballroom dance instructor Sandy Johnson for making this a memorable night.

I hope everyone had a good time, and if you have any comments please email me at charity@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Tracy Chou
Charity Ball Director 2002



Silly Putty for Sale

\$13 per pound.

Contact Dave.

To contact Dave email:

jo2nicho@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Does MathSoc Matter?

In my last *mathNEWS* article as President of MathSoc, I wanted to write about the challenges that I believe face MathSoc. These all revolve around one question: is MathSoc relevant?

An easy way to answer the question would be to look at the Objects of the Society in its Bylaws: "to promote ... student participation in athletic, cultural, social, academic, and recreational activities; to provide services; encourage inter-student communication; and to aid in and give a forum for student representation within the faculty of Mathematics."

Let's first take a look at what the Society does well.

For many terms, MathSoc has offered some key services — office, photocopiers, exam bank — and continues to do so.

This term, VPA Colin Davidson and myself have worked hard on improving the quality and quantity of student representation. Students have been able to participate in lecturer hiring interviews, curriculum discussions, and academic planning. Academic representation is one of the things that MathSoc does best, and unfortunately few people realize it.

Through its clubs, the Society encourages students to participate in non-classroom academic activities. Many of the clubs run talks and information sessions, and some run professional development events. Our Social, Movie, and Charity Ball directors have been very active this term and have run social and recreational events for students.

So for the most part, MathSoc is keeping itself busy running events and services. But are we truly meeting our mandate? No. MathSoc is only reaching a small portion of the students in Math, and this is the key challenge facing us in the future.

There are about 3400 members of MathSoc this fall term. Consider each event that was run this term. If we assume that the sets of students attending each event are disjoint (which is hardly the case!), MathSoc social events would still have reached only about 1200 students. Our academic services would have reached about 700 students. And these numbers are high — many events are attended by the same set of students.

Subscriptions!

mathNEWS the home game

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 commutes.

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), drop it in our mail slot at MathSoc (MC 3038) or in the BLACK BOX, email mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or track an editor down and give him money.

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

MathSoc needs to move from serving the interests of its active members to the interests of all its members. This new approach needs to be adopted at all levels of the Society. The executive need to constantly keep this objective in mind and ensure that they make every effort to attract students not regularly involved. This means searching for people outside the organization to serve as directors and councillors. MathSoc directors need to plan events and activities that reach out to all students. The organization also needs to make better use of Council for communication. Another major challenge is to effectively manage the organization's volunteers. All of this requires competent and hard-working leadership.

These changes will be met with resistance. Those currently involved may not want to see the office changed from a social environment to a business environment. It will be difficult to change mindset and to find new ways to reach students. The organization will require a number of strong executive teams to get these things done. I hope that our current students will step up to the challenge.

The Society isn't at a critical point where one mistake will destroy the Society. In fact, I believe the Society is in as good a position now as it has been in the past few years. Rather, the Society risks becoming stagnant and stale, indeed, MathSoc risks missing out on all the ways it can benefit students in the Faculty of Mathematics.

Douglas Stebila
MathSoc President

Proof of the Infinitude of Composites

Assume there are a finite number of composites, say n .

Then let the set of composites be (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)

If we take the product $(c_1 \times c_2 \times \dots \times c_n)$, then clearly this is a composite number since the product of composite numbers is composite.

So long as $n > 1$, then $c_1 \times c_2 \times \dots \times c_n$ is not in the list (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)

Proving $n > 1$ is left as an exercise to the reader.

mathNEWS Subscription Form

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1. F W S 20__ 2. F W S 20__ 3. F W S 20__

Canada: \$7.50/term, \$20/year

USA: \$10/term, \$25/year

Overseas: \$15/term, \$35/year

mNEd

Screamer's Believe It or Not

Lawsuits are very trendy these days. Gigantic ones too. From ownership of a baseball to the deserved winner of a MVP award to obesity caused by eating McDonalds for all meals. It seems that suits are all the rage. Anyway, let's see what weird things happened in the not-so-distant past.

Tasteful Music

Many musicians today are being criticized for bringing down society. Maybe it is their lyrics, their lifestyle, or the cost of going to their concerts. When you go to a concert, often you have to pay sky-high prices for concessions. This is not the case at an Austrian band's concerts. This unconventional band plays its music using instruments made of vegetables such as carrots, cucumbers, eggplants, pumpkins, etc. After the concert is finished, the vegetables used during the concert are cooked and the attendees can have a taste of what the performers played during the show. I guess the parents of the band members forgot to tell them that they shouldn't play with their vegetables.

Family Likeness

There are many stories about identical twins separated at birth having very similar lives. Relatives have battled against each other in elections, sporting events, and talent searches (not likely in the Kennedy or Bush families) numerous times, but seldomly does the outcome indicate that both come up winners (or losers). In an election in Northern Greece, two cousins received the exact same number of votes for one position in council. The people in the village said that they supported the cousins evenly and had a hard time deciding who to vote for. The winner would be decided by a coin flip, but the result wasn't published (thanks a lot). If you read this column regularly (which is odd because it is an irregular column), you would know how I feel about important decisions being based on coin flip. A better way to determine the winner is a rock-paper-scissors match. That way, we would know whose mind is better.

I Dated a Criminal

The dating scene is like a rough voyage in the sea. More often than not one has a bad experience. One rarely knows what to expect from one's date, but I think none of you have ever been handcuffed on a date [Unless you're into that kind of thing... — KreasEd]. A German man committed a crime but left his phone

number at the crime scene. The police discovered it during their investigation and a policewoman devised a plan to catch the criminal. She phoned the criminal and claimed that she had the wrong number. However, a conversation developed and the two agreed to meet each other for a date. The man even dressed up for the date, thinking that he had gotten away with the crime, and a good-looking date to boot. During the date, the police, who posed as other patrons, took action and arrested the criminal. So the next time you pick up the phone and some stranger is on the other end of the line, make sure you do a background check before doing anything.

Commercial Town

News about companies offering money for people to change their names after their products is not as unusual as it was a year ago. Now companies are going one step further and try to persuade cities and towns to change their names. One such instance happened in northern California. The California Milk Processing Board offered a sum of money to any town that would change its name to "Got Milk?" to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the slogan. Twenty towns considered the offer. Biggs, a community of about 2000 people, was one of them. The plan was rejected by the officials of the community. One may think that the town is absurd to turn down the offer, but it would be strange for a rice-growing community to be called Got Milk? Besides, it would be quite a chuckle if it is revealed that the people of Got Milk? don't drink milk.

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Do I need to find something else to do?

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

November 29	Issue #6 eats the leftover turkey
December 4	mathNEWS EOT Marathon
January 25	mathNEWS's 30 th birthday

Math Faculty

December 3	Lectures End
December 6-20	Fall Term Exams
January 6	Winter Term Lectures Begin

MathSoc

November 30	Settlers Tournament
December 3	MathSoc EOT
December 3	Pint with a Prof
December 5	Austin Powers trilogy
Anytime	Online Exambank ready to serve you

PMC

December 7	Putnam Contest
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Co-op

January 2	Winter Work-Term Begins
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Miscellaneous

November 30	Hanukah Begins
December 6	End of Ramadan
December 12	Poinsettia Day
December 18	Mass emigration seen on Albert St.
December 21	Winter Solstice
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Boxing Day
December 31	No more palindromes for 110 years

Bunny Action

Bunny #1

- Out the MC
- Off of Dana Porter
- Into the Earth Science (through a window)
- Out of the Physics building
- Nothing but Co-op madness

Bunny #2

- Power up at scoops
- Beer at the Bomber
- Launch off the new Patio
- Into the girls wing of St. Jerome's
- Off to the V1 Great Hall
- Bounce towards MacKing village
- Nothing but Blood on the windows of E4 101

The Bunny Master

Star Trek Nemesis Preview

The details of the upcoming movie *Star Trek Nemesis* have been kept secret from me, until yesterday! Here is a report I received on just some of the excitement we can come to expect from the newest installment in the famous series.

First of all, the story revolves around a Romulan space station and the recent return of a long-since missing NASA shuttle: Discovery. However, Discovery has had a run-in with another alien shuttle, but only after an asteroid scrapped against its side, damaging it and distorting its name. Discovery now believes it is on a mission of Disco (having lost the 'very' from its name) and plans to destroy the Romulans for their ungroovy ways.

The movie will also introduce a new ship after the Enterprise E undergoes saucer sep' and collides with itself. The ship will be the same class as the Defiant, so will actually just be the Defiant model with the numbers changed. Features on this new ship (rumoured to be called one of Reliant or Valiant or Audaciousant) will include work stations that don't explode when the ship is hit by phaser fire and a new type of warp drive powered by Tachyomen (a recently discovered species made entirely of faster-than-light particles) in hamster wheels.

Among the crew, we can expect to see the sudden unexplained return of Worf, Data battling someone really strong (but eventually beating them), Geordi diving under the blast doors right before engineering is sealed, Crusher being there, Troi rescuing the ship from doom by sensing that the Romulans are lying about the nearby spacial anomaly being safe, and Picard being dashing with his even-shinier head.

A special plot twist will involve Bill Riker, Will Riker's transporter accident twin Tom Riker's evil twin from an alternate universe Thomas Riker's genetically enhanced clone Willy Riker's hologram being impersonated by a changling, and Lore.

And finally, can we expect to get any resolution to the Voyager cast, or learn more about what happened to Sisko and the rest of the DS9 crew? No, of course not. How will they attract more viewers to the franchise if they fill the movie with tidbits fans will enjoy?

Anybody seen *Trekkies*? You did notice that the kid with the mullet wrote *Nemesis*, right? I'm scared.

Bradley T Smith

Shoot me out of a cannon

I'm going to DisneyWorld

Co-op rocks! Anyone who can't get a job sucks, or is frosh.

I can't rant worth shit, but Chronic can swear better than my maid after an Aussie Rules Football match.

Blue Balls is not a problem for guys that paint them green before a date.

Mickey Mouse has bigger ears than Prince Charles (has he been living for half a century as a prince?).

Back at DisneyWorld: I realized that there are some amazingly fun things to do @ DisneyWorld.

1. Mickey Mobbing
2. Donald Donuts
3. Tasty Water, I mean, American Beer
4. And the best thing of all: Kiddy rides

That's all folks

Grand Theft Auto 3: UW Mathie

Following the phenomenal success of Grand Theft Auto 2 and GTA3: Vice City, Rockstar Games is releasing a new GTA3 expansion: UW Mathie.

UW Mathie expands on the non-linear story line of the GTA3 series. It also follows up on a similar concept. Once again the game has incredible graphics with every building of the UW campus, and even a few buildings off campus.

When the game starts, you are a lowly frosh, living in either V1 or REV. You can't save any transportation methods there, except for roller blades or skateboards. Beware, though, if the Campus Cops catch you roller-blading on campus they will attempt to chase you down and arrest you.

You start out by doing missions for your Village house Don. At the early levels the missions are pretty mundane, such as executing a hit on your neighbour in a game of 'gotcha' or trapping another Don in a game of Don's Gotcha. After the Don missions, you move to 1B and unlock the SLC. You can now live in Mac-King or CLT. You now do missions for the Turnkeys, which progress the main story-line — help you graduate with a BMath degree. Also at this stage, you get the Feds missions open to you. After completing the turnkey missions you unlock the MC. You are now in 2A and can't live in villages anymore, but you can now live in either "UW Apartments" or WCRI or Philip St. Townhouses. You can also steal bikes and park them near your house.

Unlocking the MC is a key part of the game, as you can now wrest control over the mathie part of campus. For example, by winning enough Settlers games one can acquire the Comfy Lounge. Another target is MathSoc. In order to acquire control of MathSoc you need to do a few MathSoc missions such as, "Publicity Director" or "Office Manager". After being a director you can advance to become an executive. But first you need to run for an exec position, and naturally you don't want an election. In a very imaginative mission, you have to 'convince' the other potential candidates to withdraw, in order to get acclaimed. Once you are an exec you move to 3rd year. You can now live on Cardill Cres and Lester St. One of the missions you can do at this point, which doesn't advance the story line, is to convince your parents to lend you their car. Getting a car is timely since living on Cardill or Lester gives you driveway space to save your car. You can of course steal your roommates or their neighbour's cars.

Just like in the other GTA3 games, there are side missions. For example you can work in the Math C&D to earn more cash. Being a MathSoc office worker seems like it will earn you cash, but it won't. It will however let you intermittently meet girls, and as we all know they make your health go up.

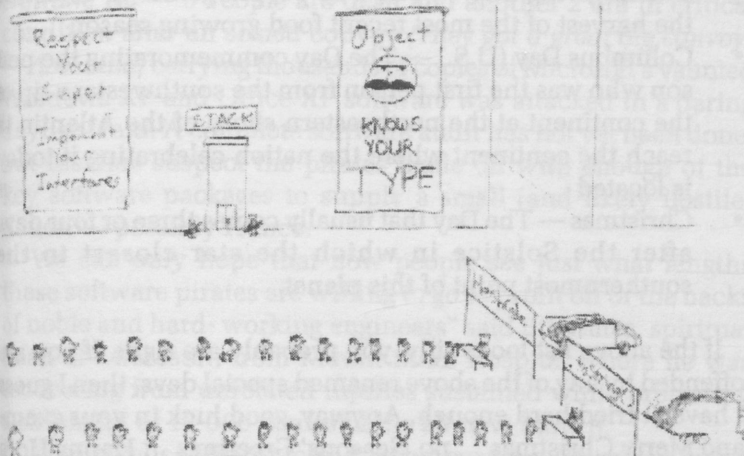
While playing GTA3: UW Mathie you will come face to face with many villains and gangs. For example the comfy lounge is guarded by the Loungers gang who will try to defeat you by offering to play Settlers or cards or Magic with you. Every once in a while you will have to fight off gangs of Engineers or Artsies. You will also have to face the gangs of Co-op, Needless Hell and MUO.

As you gradually gain control of the MC you will get to see a lot of great eye candy that Rockstar Games threw in. This game is a sure keeper.

Anton "zer0man" Fedorenko

The Perfect Society

Inherit, Implement, Invoke



Workers flock to receive hashcode & toString generously given out by Object.

Greetings, capitalist exploiter friends from the greedy and fat-bellied West. I now report on the terrific success of the new Jayviemistianian government, based on SDK 1.2.

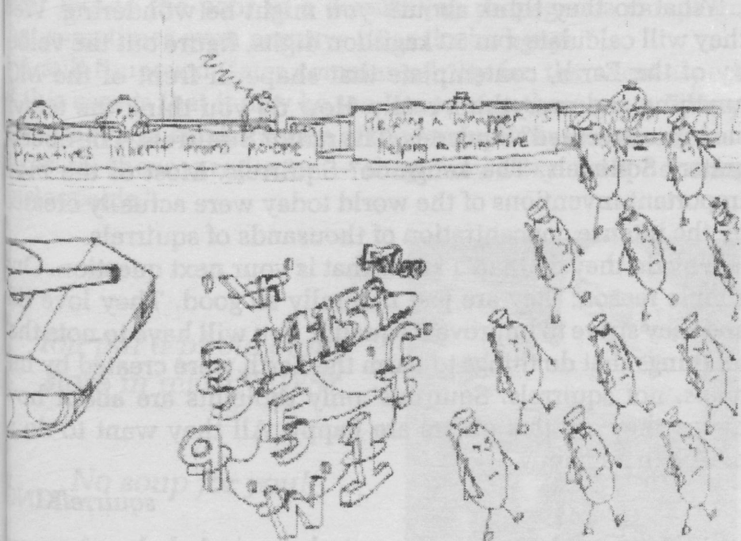
Our society is a productive one. Everyone is assigned to the interface where they will do the most good. Workers who live on the same thread are encouraged to pool, in order to save our environment. Productivity is enforced by a Garbage Collector, who weeds out those who are not working toward the common good.

Presiding over the working classes there is the grand Object, who showers us with love, hashcodes, and equality.

Some would point out that though our society is productive and memory-leak free, there is a loss of efficiency. We simply ask of them, "Is *your* government more efficient, no matter what the reigning party's platform? Our society is platform independent!" This statement typically confounds the capitalists who would wag fingers at our way of life.

So from our paradise of Jayviemistan, I bid farewell, and leave to method unimplemented!

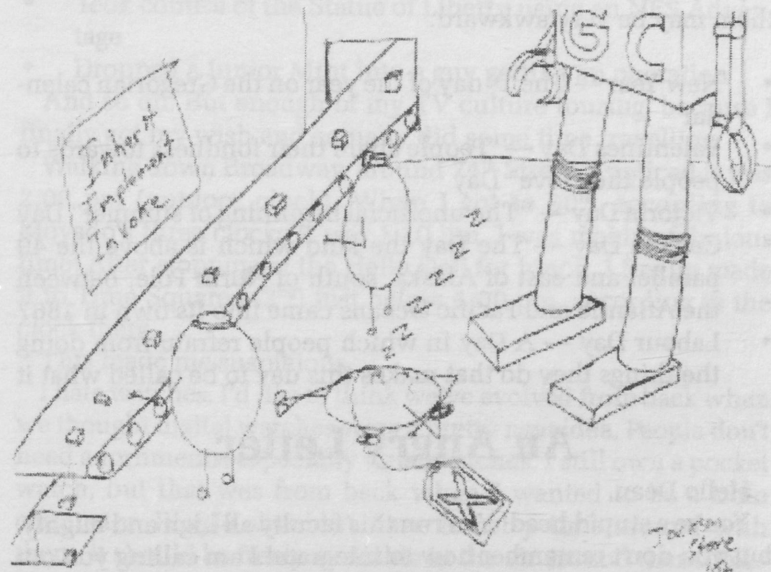
PrintWriter.toString(), Jayviemistan



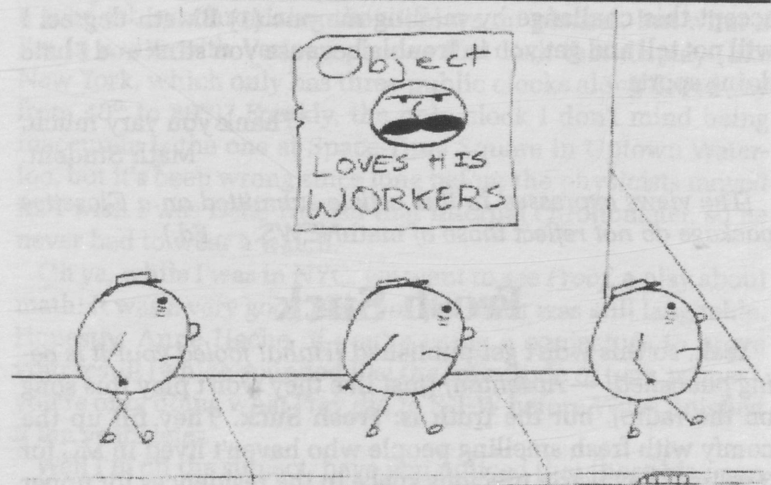
Aliant heroes march triumphantly after another victory over the primitives.

For many generations since the dawn of man, man has sought the perfect society. While many westerners do not feel that the enlightened communist governments of the East have found it, sighting such minor concerns as corruption, widespread poverty, human rights abuses, and rampant inflation, we believe otherwise. We have been politely silent for many years, but at last feel that a retort is necessary.

The perfect society turned out not to be possible until the computer age. With the new power of the Slobnik-8 (which, not to do our own horn-tooting, can compute over 1 million additions per second), the perfect society has been realized and implemented in the small country of Jayviemistan. The tool was right under your capitalist noses: Java. How, you ask? Allow me to introduce Comrade PrintWriter, a worker for the Jayviemistan newspaper agency.



Those who are unproductive are tagged and removed, as to not burden society.



Happy workers bask in Object's love.

Perhaps you all should take a lesson from the morally minded East, and look to computers not as a thing to be feared, but a new tool to be embraced. Farewell and good grubbing, money loving pigs.

Jackson Stone

I'll be home for err ...

I don't know if it's just me, or if it's the air in Nathan Phillips Square, but once again Toronto city officials have made an odd decision. The tree that stands in the square for the remainder of the year is now called a "Holiday Tree". I know the officials are trying not to offend anyone, but by renaming the tree, it just isn't the same. The last time I checked, Christmas is an official holiday. If we can't call a Christmas tree by name, then technically Christmas decorations should not be allowed in any government building.

The thinking that language should be all-inclusive is well-intentioned, but sometimes with the wording of festivals, the meaning can be lost during that pursuit. I am not saying that we go back to the 1950's, but there are some things that are better off left alone.

Maybe I offended someone in the earlier paragraph, so I decided to try to devise names of special days that don't offend anyone. Remember that this is a crude attempt and some of them may be very awkward.

- New Year — The 1st day of the year on the Gregorian calendar
- Valentines Day — "People share their fondness towards to people they love" Day
- Victoria Day — "The unofficial beginning of summer" Day
- Canada Day — The Day the land which is above the 49 parallel and east of Alaska, south of North Pole, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans came into its own in 1867
- Labour Day — A Day in which people refrain from doing the things they do that makes this day to be called what it

An Angry Letter

Hello Dean,

You're a stupid head! You run this faculty all high and mighty, but you don't remember how to integrate! I am calling you out for a little friendly wager: I bet I can write a lot nicer than you. I think my grammmer is more better than you know. Please accept this challenge by mailing me one (1) BMath degree. I will not tell and get you in trouble because you stink and I hate doing sports.

Thank you vary much,
Math Student.

[The views expressed in this article submitted on a Glossettes package do not reflect those of mathNEWS. — Ed.]

Frosh Suck

Yeah, so this won't get published [Haha! fooled you! It is being published! — AbsentEd] (just like they won't play this song on the radio), but the truth is: **Frosh Suck**. They fill up the comfy with fresh smelling people who haven't lived in MC for 3 years. They waste precious space in the residences for upper year students who don't know how to cook, clean or take care of themselves. They also give profs the impression that people should go to, and even stay awake in, class. [What a bunch of maroons! — AbsentEd]

In conclusion, yes the english major's are crying that I had to put that in, **Frosh Suck**. Yes, that's right he said **Frosh Suck**.

Sucker

is in the first place

- Thanksgiving Day — The Day people gather to celebrate the harvest of the most recent food growing season
- Columbus Day (U.S.) — The Day commemorating the person who was the first person from the southwestern tip of the continent at the northeastern shore of the Atlantic to reach the continent where the nation celebrating it today is located
- Christmas — The Day that usually comes three or four days after the Solstice in which the star closest to the southernmost point of this planet.

If the above list looks silly, you probably are right. If you are offended by any of the above renamed special days, then I guess I haven't tried hard enough. Anyway, good luck in your exams and Merry Christmas ... no, Seasons' Greetings ... Happy Holidays ... I don't know what to say. Maybe "Enjoy your between-term Break."

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Hibernation

It is not what it seems.

A little known fact about squirrels is that they are telepathic. They can all communicate to one another through their thoughts. They can also pick up the 'life force' waves from other living things. How else do you think that squirrels know where that nut they buried is? They focus in on the life force of that nut, as if with a divining rod, then they dig it up and eat it. The nut's life force is then added to the squirrel's. They are in a way like the Borg, and as such they need to recharge.

Hibernation is what we call this phenomenon. It is said that the squirrels are in a state of deep sleep and their metabolisms are working very slowly. The truth is quite the opposite. The squirrels are truly using up extra life force to keep their mind fully active. The squirrels all shut their bodies down so they can tackle very complex problems. This is a very efficient way of solving problems, thousands of minds linked together working on one problem simultaneously. Like a super squirrel computer, all working for The Squirrel¹.

'What do they think about?' you might be wondering. Well they will calculate π to 50 kagillion digits, figure out the velocity of the Earth, contemplate that shape in front of the MC, anything and everything really. How do you think the television was invented? Squirrels. The radio? Squirrels. The cheese grater? Squirrels. The kangaroo? Squirrels. Most of the most important inventions of the world today were actually created by the intense concentration of thousands of squirrels.

Why do they do that? I know that is your next question. One simple reason: they are just naturally so good. They love life and they strive to improve its quality. You will have to note that all things that do things to harm the Earth were created by humans, not squirrels. Squirrels' only thoughts are about how happy they are that others are happy. All they want to do is make others happy.

squirrelKING

¹ — go to www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~dwhelton for more information about The Squirrel.

3 Dead in Daring Software Robbery

Newark, NJ — 3 People are dead and another 2 are in critical condition after an armed convoy [*They got a great big convoy!* — *AbsentEd*] carrying thousands of copies of Microsoft's vaunted Windows XP and Office XP software was attacked in a daring daylight raid. A complete software audit has not yet been done, but insiders suspect the pirates made off with enough of the key software packages to supply a small (and likely hostile) nation — possibly France.

"We can only hope that now people see just what lengths these software pirates are willing to go to profit off of the backs of noble and hard-working engineers" said Bill Gates, spiritual head of Microsoft, from Mount Sinai Hospital where he was recovering from unrelated injuries sustained while protecting a shipment of 12 000 copies of the all new MSN 8.

Veteran Police Officer John Roseberry added "Recently, we've seen an increase in the amount of violence used by software pirates in their disparaging attacks on the nation." Though stopping short of outright labelling them terrorists, Sgt. Roseberry said of the as yet unidentified group, "These guys are clearly pros, organized through the Internet; they are parasites preying on small businesses with no regard to the damage they wreak on society." Adding, "Without a licensed Microsoft operating system, a computer can't run software — essentially becoming a paperweight."

Also notable was the televised plea by Gertrude Olander, whose husband Henry was among the slain. Between sobs, she pleaded for the violence to stop, and for us all to remember the other victims, such as the children of Microsoft employees who will go hungry because their parent's wages will be delayed or cut.

The shipment had a street value of almost 3.2 million dollars, and will force Microsoft to further scale back employee dental plans. Public relations manager Simon Tisket explained that since Microsoft isn't a monopoly, (repeatedly asking reporters to write that down) the loss dramatically threatens profit margins. "Once something is stolen, it is gone, it doesn't exist for honest citizens anymore," Tisket explained. "What's worse is the public perception that this behaviour is victimless. This ludicrous view is often reinforced by these same pirates giving their loot to the poor in a devastating propaganda campaign that sometimes even portrays us as the bad guys."

A still flumoxed Gates commented "By far, the worst aspect of this case is that it may be too late to stop these guys. If they harness even a small fraction of the productivity enhancing features in those products — they may very well become unstoppable."

You put a photo of my
store in mathNEWS?

No soup for you!



I Heart N Y

Culture, Time, and Language

It's true, I do. I took my first trip to New York City last week. A good friend (who is now an even better friend) is on work term there, so I went for a visit.

I did as much of the Seinfeld, Ghostbusters, etc. tour as I could:

- Got lunch from the Soup Nazi (had money ready, placed order, paid, moved to the extreme left)
- Went to the library where the first ghost was sighted
- Order lunch from Rupert Jee at the Hello Deli
- Got bagels from H&H bagels where Kramer worked
- Climbed the Empire State Building in an ape suit
- Told a fancy cab's horse to wait for the signs when all prisoners will be released
- Checked copies of *Love in the Time of Cholera* for Kate Beckinsale's number
- Took control of the Statue of Liberty using an NES Advantage
- Dropped a Junior Mint into a guy getting an operation

And so on. But enough of my TV culture touring, because I finally got my wish and actually did some time travelling.

Walking down Broadway, around 74th Street, I noticed it was 2:00 pm (outdoor clock). When I got to 60th, according to Movado's three clocks it was 1:10 pm. I was making fabulous time! After stopping at the Hello Deli for lunch, I finally made it to Time Square (42nd) just before 1:00 pm, according to the clock there.

This made me suspicious.

I hate watches. I'd like to think we've evolved from back when we thought digital watches were a pretty neat idea. People don't need adornments, especially wrist watches. I still own a pocket watch, but that was from back when I wanted to be a train conductor. People shouldn't have to carry time around with them, it should be freely available in the air around them: Public clocks.

My only request is that public clocks be maintained. Bell does a good job synchronizing the displays on phones, but what if I'm in a city with Verizon phones that lack that display (like New York, which only has three public clocks along Broadway from 40th to 80th)? Frankly, the only clock I don't mind being inaccurate is the one at Space-Time Square in Uptown Waterloo, but it's been wrong since long before the physicists moved in. I wish I was Data. He had that internal chronometer, so he never had to wear a watch.

Oh ya, while I was in NYC, we went to see *Proof*, a play about math! It was a very good play, but the math was still laughable. Honestly, Anne Heche, if you're using a conjecture to prove your result (which sounded like the infinitude of twin primes), you're only doing what Frey did to S-T-W before Wiles finished it ten years later.

Well I'm off the subject, have you noticed that those big neon signs are missing letters? I went around my neighbourhood and took note of what was stolen in the hopes that the absent letters might form a message. I collected an A, a K, an I, and either three or four Ls (lost count in my head. Rearranging the letters I get the messages KILL AL or KILL ALL. I'm a little reluctant to just do what they both say, so I'll kill Albert and then recheck the number of Ls missing.

Bradley T Smith

A Modest Proposal...

...for preventing the students of the double cohort from being a burden to their parents or professors, and for making them beneficial to the University.

It is a tragedy for those who walk the halls of this great University to see students crowded into classrooms and labs. It is unbearable to know that there are students unable to find housing in this magnificent town. It is a misfortune that in this prodigious province such a fear has arisen among our leaders that the current quality of post-secondary education may not be sustainable.

The unfortunate situation in which our institution finds itself is not without explanation. There has been a real-world decline in the basic operating grant that this establishment receives. Additionally, the number of students admitted for studies has increased markedly in recent years, with ever more students (some 300 more, at last count) expected to enter our hallowed halls in coming the year. At the same time, many of our esteemed faculty have retired or found positions at other institutions. In short, there are have more students seeking an education with fewer resources available to provide it.

I shall now propose most humbly my thoughts on resolving the aforementioned problem, which I trust shall be liable to none but the smallest objection.

It has come to my attention, via a wise scholar at the University of Oxford, that a university student of age 19 or 20 can be prepared as a most tasty and nourishing food, either stewed, roasted, baked or boiled. The organs can be sold at great profit to those in such medical need, the hair made available to wigmakers, and the other corporal elements offered to appropriate purchasers as well. One can reasonably estimate that such a sale shall net in excess of ten or twelve thousand dollars of Canadian currency.

We can expect that student's flesh will be in season throughout the year, though will be most tender in May or June, when the body has recovered from the stresses of lectures and exams. The flesh of an average student will easily serve a dinner party of ten, and can be prepared and frozen to provide a week's worth of food for a family of four.

The University will see great benefit from this scheme. In their first year of studies, when competition for places in upper year classes is intense, the freshmen shall not take unfavourably to less opulent living quarters. They can thusly be housed in barracks and stables on North campus, leaving the main campus residences open for upper year students. Moreover, since the basis of selection for commoditization would be that of low course marks, we can expect the quality of graduates produced by this fine institution will improve and that the research output shall be commensurately advance. Any distress over larger upper year classes can be dismissed since the size of the upper year population can be strictly controlled by the university administration. With greater financial resources distributed among fewer students, we can expect increased financial aid and bursaries for students. As well, there will be less competition for co-op jobs; a return to the 100% placement rate of days of yore is very likely.

We should not overlook the benefits to the public at large of the barter of this commodity. Firstly, the taxpayer can be as-

sured that his dollars are providing a top-quality education to the best minds of our province, ensuring our ability to innovate and advance in the international marketplace. Secondly, the private and public sector employers will find that graduates have demonstrated motivation and that they understand the need to perform in a so-called "dog eat dog" world. Lastly, and perhaps most obviously, a new source of food shall become available, one from which we can expect a diverse set of culinary delights to be prepared.

Now, dear reader, you might still harbour a few reservations over this proposal. I pray you to allow me to address them straight away. You might be apprehensive that such strict academic expectations might frighten away some high school students from our great university. I have been repeatedly assured by my colleague Mr. Lee-Wudrick that the market welcomes such competition and that the quality of the degree obtained by successful candidates will far outweigh any potential drawbacks, financial or otherwise. One might also worry that the city or the region and the landlords therein shall be disadvantaged by more students living on campus and fewer students living in the community. It is my understanding that those parties shall most certainly be able to adapt and that there are by-laws in effect to prevent the off-campus housing market from under-saturation.

I should take this opportunity to welcome from those in the community any proposal that resolves the problems laid out in this treatise as inexpensively or efficiently with as many direct and indirect benefits. I also declare that I put forward this simple suggestion without the slightest bit of personal interest, instead being concerned solely with the good of this institution, this province, and this great country; indeed being concerned only with the public interest.

Douglas Stebila
with apologies to Jonathan Swift

Pints with Profs

I bet you're all excited about the end of classes (finally) right? Well what better way to celebrate your impending freedom (not counting finals, of course ...) than to chill in the Bomber and have some food or a few drinks with your profs! This will be an all-ages event, so feel free to drop by the Bomber in the SLC anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 on December 3rd. It'll be awesome, so come on out!

Pink Monkey

You Thought I was a Farce ...

The Miss World pageant has pulled out of Nigeria after riots erupted last week. All hell broke loose after a Nigerian newspaper suggested that the Prophet Mohammed might have chosen one of the contestants as a wife. That's all fine and dandy, but any contestant that pulls the "world peace" card during the contest, now relocated to London, ought to be on the receiving end of an ass-whoopin'.

Mr. Canada

Ceci n'est pas les *prof*QUOTES

- "Well, that's life. Life is cruel sometimes. You can watch cartoons when you get back home."
Bissouette, CHEM 121
- "Does everyone know what 2's compliment is? Good, so I don't have to do my job."
Brock, CS 241
- "The offset needs more calculation and I apparently have a drinking problem."
Brock, CS 241
- "If you run over a cat with your car, and it's not dead, then you back up and drive over it again."
Brock, CS 241
- [After learning that there is no entry of him in *prof*QUOTES]
"This is a boring class."
Crippin, MATH 235
- "I'd much rather solve integrals than do linear algebra."
D'Alessio, MATH 115
- "This part's just screaming to be done by partial fractions... if it could speak, it would say, 'DO ME BY PARTIAL FRACTIONS!!'"
D'Alessio, MATH 115
- "It's true because God sent us Gauss."
D'Alessio, MATH 115
- "... if we do things intelligently, which is why you're at this university rather than Queen's or Western."
Furino, CS 134
- [In an 8:30 class] "Do me a favour, take two fingers, put them on your wrist. Is there a pulse??"
Furino, CS 134
- "This is the sort of thing you can take home and impress your parents with, because, you know, it's hard to impress your parents with a proof in algebra."
Graham, CS 133
- "We make a helper method to do this step, but we don't write the code for it yet. That's what stepwise refinement is all about... putting off until tomorrow what you can do today."
Graham, CS 133
- "If anyone wants to go to see Harry Potter, but is too embarrassed to go on their own, I've got a seven or ten year old child to lend you, as long as they come back in one piece, and well fed!"
Hewitt, AMATH 250
- "This is where you want to stay real for as long as possible and not get spaced out, man."
Hoffman, PMATH 345
- "You get the suspicion that I'm not saying anything... and in a way, I'm not."
Hoffman, PMATH 330
- "If you don't like group theory, you should like it, so to hell with you."
Hoffman, PMATH 345
- "I never thought of myself as a muscle-bound individual, but here I am, breaking chalk."
Jackson, C&O 330
- " $4 + 5 = 11$ today; integers are so confusing."
Jackson, C&O 330
- "The proof is by glorious revelation."
Jackson, C&O 330
- "How does one dequandrify one's-self?"
Jackson, C&O 330
- [On final exams] "You are to regard yourselves as little butterflies who are to be stapled to the display case."
Jackson, C&O 330
- "The fundamental theorem of algebra isn't really algebra, and it isn't really fundamental."
Lawrence, MATH 145
- "That is mathematically dishonest, but its the proof I'm going to use."
Lawrence, MATH 145
- [When asked why $\rho(x)$ is equal to rank] "It's a definition! You do not ask me why my last name is Li."
Li, MATH 115
- "I just had this flash, as if this was from Fisher-Price, Baby's First Isomorphism Theorem."
McKinnon, PMATH 334
- "If you've ever used the 'if' function in Excel ... the spreadsheet, not the chewing gum."
Morland, CS 241
- "It's okay to be weird, just be consistently weird."
Morland, CS 241
- "What? You mean the solution isn't that? Bummer. Sorry to all of you taking notes in pen."
New, MATH 135
- "The bad news about your midterm marks is that they're pretty high, which means that if you thought you had a good mark, it may turn out to be just average."
New, MATH 135
- "Wait, how many 'o's in 'prove'?"
New, MATH 135
- "Anyone know this? No? That's good. We'll learn something today."
New, MATH 135
- "Does anyone know how to do this? If you do, please tell me. I don't know either."
Newman, MATH 137
- [During a messy example] "Let's just write 'yikes!' here."
Newman, MATH 137
- "...and after all this, you go, 'Man, I should've had a V8.'"
Newman, MATH 137

The Lord of the Drug Rings: The Fellowship of the Reefer

Okay, so another Lord of the Rings movie is coming out on Dec. 18. I have an exam on the nineteenth so I guess I will be failing that one. Anyway, I thought this might be the perfect time to reveal some of Tolkien's more humorous mysteries behind his epic.

After reading the Lord of the Rings I was curious about Tolkien's world and decided to read *The Silmarillion* and *The Unfinished Tales*. *The Silmarillion* was a great book if you want

The New Co-op Building

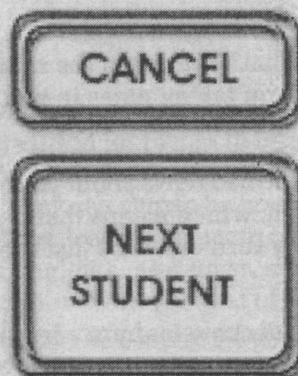
... is made of glass ...

So last Friday I got to take a tour of the new co-op building. It's been scheduled to open during "summer 2002", then "September 2002", and now "December 15th 2002". Well, it's cost us \$10.8 million, and we're going to start seeing the cost of it in our January fee statements. Of course, that's not just for co-op students; the building is expected to provide a welcome environment that can be used for working, studying, or whatever else you can do in a room.

It's definitely bigger than Needles Hall, boasting 102 wired (not yet wireless) rooms for interviews, as compared to the 30-something "rooms" in Needles Hall. It's also going to have a "Co-op Student Office". Don't ask me what that is; I don't think even co-op knows exactly what it will be yet. It also has more parking, more lights, more stairs, and more windows. In fact, I'd be willing to bet there's more windows in there than anywhere else on campus. Yes, including the Science greenhouse. I think there was some kind of quota that had to be filled here; there are entire walls made of glass, and not just the outside ones. About half of the interview rooms have a glass wall, and there's a glass wall between the girls & guys change rooms. (During our tour, we could see the guy's urinals from the girl's room through the glass wall.) The clincher came when we saw a glass wall cutting halfway through the hallway, apparently for the sake of being a wall.

Let's get back to the interview rooms. In case you haven't heard about this yet, there's a button panel in each room that says "Cancel" and "Next Student" (take a look at the artist's depiction if you're having trouble picturing this). Being brought up on Simpsons, I expected a trap door to open up somewhere when this button was pushed. You can imagine my disappointment after being informed that it would just be part of the new system — no more paper resumes, no more bins, no more paging desk (okay, so the paging desk will stick around as a backup) — everything will be completely online. Instead of being paged, you'll keep your eye on the overhead airport-style monitors. According to Bruce Lumsden (who gave us the tour), the "bin burning party" won't be until next summer term, when this new online system is to be implemented.

One more detail about the new building: it doesn't have an official name yet. If you feel like donating a lot of money, you could probably name it whatever you wanted.



to get the history behind Tolkien's masterpiece and it really puts *The Lord of the Rings* into perspective.

On the other hand there is *The Unfinished Tales*. Now this book is precisely what you would expect. A bunch of tales that have no ending and for the most part no point (this is not entirely true as some of the stories were quite interesting until, of course, they abruptly ended). This book was very frustrating and took me 9 months to read because it was so bloody boring. Towards the end, however, it started to pick up and it wasn't a total loss. There is a chapter in particular in which a few very interesting details were revealed which I would like to share.

We all know by now that Gandalf enjoys his weed, but did you know Saruman does too? In fact it is revealed in *The Unfinished Tales* that Saruman is a pot smuggler! Apparently he trucks in tons of the stuff from the Shire for his own personal use as well as selling it for a nice profit. So now we know how Saruman funded his war effort.

So where did Saruman pick up this nasty habit? Well apparently from none other than Gandalf. While at one of their mandatory meetings Gandalf was smoking up a joint during the proceedings and Saruman chewed him out for it. Gandalf remarked that it helped to calm him and allowed him to think clearly and suggested that Saruman try it too. Well, Saruman did, thinking that Gandalf gained some kind of special powers from engaging in said activity. He has never revealed his habit to anyone, not wanting to appear a hypocrite and give Gandalf something to gloat about.

All this business really makes you wonder what Tolkien was up to in his spare time. He must have been smoking something really fierce when he thought up Tom Bombadil!

Alesh

The Experienced Female Perspective

Recall: last *mathNEWS*, a few inexperienced frosh (are they really?) put forth the following claim:

Theorem 1.1.2

Suppose there is a girl for which there exists a guy with facial hair, then $\text{guy intersect girl} = 0$. $\text{guy intersect girl} \neq 0$ iff guy = shaven.

We, the experienced female perspective, have put together a few counterexamples:

Counterexample 1 to Theorem 1.1.2:

Kristin and Jim ...

Mmmmmmmmmmmmpuah ...



Counterexample 2:

Sana'a and Mark ...

Oops, wrong twin, but just as good ...



Counterexample 3:

Dani and Snuggles ...

All Snuggles, all the time ...



We'd like to apologize to Buddy for not featuring him (and that sexy goatee of his) in this article — the *mathNEWS* camera went on vacation with another one of MC's bearded studs ...

Do Me Once and Do Me Twice

Krease

[More counterexamples at girlygirl.ca/articles/]

Have You Got a Name For It?

And so my time here is coming to an end. When I started five years ago, I was a not-very eager, and probably naive, frosh. It has taken a long time to make me into a bitter and cynical individual and then unmake me into whatever it is I am now. Wait, I'll lighten up. I promise. Throughout this term I have been remembering things from the past (witness the UW Mathie Seniority Quiz), and so, I present a list of things that I learned:

1A — Fall 1997

1. School isn't too hard
2. 8:30 classes suck
3. Don't take an elective course that is a required course for another major program
4. *mathNEWS*

1B — Summer 1998

1. School is hard
2. Night classes suck
3. Living in a V1 house with all your friends doesn't make for a good study environment
4. StarCraft, 4 on 4, can go all night
5. Co-op is stupid

2A — Winter 1999

1. Snow, Snow, and more Snow
2. Co-op is *really* stupid
3. A mark of 50% means you got a mercy pass

2B — Fall 1999

1. WD is your friend
2. You can get marks in the 30s
3. A mark of 51% means you earned a credit for real
4. MathSoc

So You've Decided to ... Live

This week I had too few ideas for all my "So You've Decided to..." headings so I decided to combine them into an all encompassing Live title that may or may not be a list of good ideas and bad ideas for life. I hope you learn something, or not.

- Sleep is good. In large quantities.
- Alarm clocks are good. Girlfriends are more effective.
- Sense of humour does not come guaranteed with the purchase of a body.
- When angry about something, make sure you understand it fully.
- When understanding fully, don't get angry.
- Moo is a valid answer.
- Irrational hurt is still hurt. Fix it, or be a jerk.
- Never chain someone down, unless...
- Don't leave assignments to the last minute.
- Play at Weaver's.
- Just because you have freedom doesn't mean you should use it fully.
- You will get stuck with a job you hate. The key is to like the other people around you.
- Always trust the devil. Only he can teach you how to have fun and get out of trouble properly.

e.

3A — Summer 2000

1. Being a MathSoc Exec is exhausting (and I was a VPA during the summer!)
2. Getting off probation is hard
3. Being saved by a few percentage points on some assignment is a relief
4. Being a MathSoc exec doesn't mean you get all the girls (or any for that matter)

3B — Winter 2001

1. You can live not in Village
2. FASS can interfere with school
3. CS 354 (OS) can interfere with watching Law & Order
4. Going to class is optional

4A — Fall 2001

1. You can live in a rat hole (or a crappy basement apartment)
2. Cynicism can be a lifestyle

4B — Winter 2002

1. Classes are really, really optional
2. It's quite possible that you don't fail when you are in fourth year, you just don't fail
3. Don't start relationships during finals

5N — Fall 2002

1. Yes, there is a 5N
2. Grand Theft Auto 3, Madden, Vice City, and so on can make school more fun
3. Your friends are the people you miss the most when they are not around
4. The best time you can have is when you share it with someone who you care for, and who cares for you in return

Did I really learn all that? On top of 40-something courses that I had to take, and I probably passed? My father once told me that education is what you remember a few years after you leave school. If that's true, then I won't remember the Central Limit Theorem or the runtime for a Divide and Conquer algorithm to solve some contrived CS 341 problem (Divide and Conquer? I bet it has something to do with $n \log n$). And I will probably be a better man for it. Five years down the line I won't remember classes, but I will remember sitting in classes and talking to friends. I will remember randomly staying up until 6 am and arguing either philosophical questions or a Starcraft game that we just played. I will remember walking through the cool tunnel (SCH to AL) and talking about throwing a trippy rave there. I will remember walking around Village 1 at around 8 am on a beautiful summer Monday and hearing all sorts of alarm clocks going off in different rooms. I will remember being on campus when there was no construction going on. I will remember calling Ron Eydtt Village "V2."

Do I have any regrets? Yes I do. I sometimes regret not paying enough attention to classes. In my weaker moments I regret not living my life as its portrayed in beer commercials. But I don't regret where I ended up and I don't regret where I started. I can honestly say that the past 5 years or so were really great.

"... and in the end, the love you take, is equal to the love you make."

Anton "zer0man" Fedorenko

Strange Rash

Undergrads is the second most offensive show on TV

"You're Greedy"

Jen

It's on your genitals and the doctors aren't sure what it is. But you've been good. You've been wearing protection. You had better be good, because if you aren't, you are really going to regret it when you see that swab as smooth as stucco that the doctor is about to slide up your urethra. It could be worse; it could be a leech.

Is it ok to say masturbation on TV yet? Sure, Seinfeld had lots of fun making an entire episode about the topic without naming it. It really is just another crumbling social taboo. Now that I think of it though, euphemisms are kind of fun. Not the part where you have to be in the know to get them, but just in the way you can twist words around to change the context, usually in a sexual way. It adds a level of silliness to some required conversation that can otherwise be hard to take. For example, match up these suggestive terms with their meanings.

Spank my monkey	Sex
It	Vagina
Sample Space	Masturbation
Banister	Sexual Organ Size
Endowment	Penis
Self enjoyment	Masturbation (male)

See wasn't the left column more entertaining and easier to read? I am a fan of innuendo, you can spread it around. But sometimes people should just say what they mean.

I was shocked when I first read that apparently per unit time *Undergrads* is the second most 'dirty' show on television, next to *South Park*. Compare the two. *South Park* is blatant in its offensiveness and, largely, that is the point. The opposite is true of *Undergrads*. In fact, I never find *Undergrads* offensive. Then I thought I about the show and, between Cal and Rocko, there is a pretty high number of references to sex and alcohol. I guess it makes sense that *Undergrads* would hold this position, but watching the shows feels so different to me. I guess it comes down to intentions. *Undergrads* is just telling a story, with some absurd stereotypes for characters, while *South Park* intends to be offensive. I think being offensive is all about intention. I have none, so surely I can't be offensive.

uncouth

Theme from "Profs"

Who're the funny talking folks that only tell bad jokes?	Profs!
You're damn right!	
They've got no groove	
What're are they trying to prove?	Profs!
Can ya divide it?	
Who're the people that won't stop when they think they're a laugh riot?	Profs!
Add on!	
You see, Math Profs are bad at multi— But I'm talkin' about Profs!	Shut your mouth! They can divide it!
They're confusing people and no one understands them, but their...	
Nope, no one understands them!	Math Profs!

I MacK @ UW

How To Pad Your Resume

We've all heard how the economy is slowly recovering and it'll be a while before co-op jobs pick up again. So it looks as though Mathies will have to wait for a while before they get that dream job with some company that expects no actual output right? Wrong! A few of those cushy jobs still exist, but they are going to our best and brightest. Given that you, the reader, are probably not the smartest and most ambitious person in Math, you need help, so let's pad your resume to make you look like a better potential employee.

- Instead of saying you were in 'quality assurance', say you were a software demon exorcist. "By the power of Unix Source, I command the bugs in this software, OUT!"
- List SL from CS241 as one of the programming languages you are competent in.
- Claim you worked for CSIS on your last co-op term, but there is no record of it due to national security issues.
- Give all of your marks on your transcript in base 9.
- Take random letters, throw them together in a acronym and put them on your resume. If the interviewer challenges your knowledge of the database language RJW, counter with 'You DON'T know about it?'
- Attach a \$20 bill to your resume as a 'Service Fee'.
- Find out how many words a minute you type, then double it and put it on your resume; it's not like they're going to bring a typewriter to the interview anyway.
- Include a photo of a supermodel with your head superimposed on it in your package, claim you were a model in your past work term.
- If there was a term where you could not get a job, claim that you were trying your hand at the field of superhero crime fighting.

Ian W. MacKinnon

Miserable Squirrels

Have you ever seen squirrels licking thrown-away muffin paper? I've seen it twice, and felt quite sympathetic. Do they not have anything better to eat? They can't eat our leftovers! If they do have better food and just want to have a taste of muffins out of curiosity, then there wouldn't be any issues raised. But this is not the case. There is a lack of food available to squirrels. I even thought of intentionally throwing muffins in those squirrel- concentrated zones (living in one of the colleges, I enjoy the advantage of taking unlimited food ;). Some people will point out that squirrels could become over-populated if I did anything like this, and consequently we, human beings, may one day turn out to eat leftovers of squirrels! But if you see a squirrel licking muffin paper, don't you feel sympathetic? What should we do?

Merciful Cong

Beware the Ides of *prof*QUOTES

"Learning Scheme is as good as it gets in CS. It's right up there with your first bong hit and first keg stand."

Philips, CS 241

"Words have gender. People have sex. (Some more than others.)"

Ragde, On uw.general

This is the pirouette function [does a fancy twirl]... If you guys missed that, I'll do it again on the table later."

Rehder, CS 133

"What math has an application?? That's not what gets me up in the morning."

Richter, C&O 103

"Give me your UW e-mail address instead of something like sexy@hotmail.com — how do I know if you are really sexy and hot?"

Russell, ACC 131

"It must be the voices in my head ... they rarely tell me to kill someone."

Shallit, CS 462

"I've gotten email from people years later saying this exam was their last experience at Waterloo... [class laughs] ... it's true, they were writing it from a mental hospital."

Shallit, CS 462

"This proof is hard, especially when I forget to prove the lemma."

Shallit, CS 462

"You can't buy a McFlurry in Seattle? Oh! The decline of civilization!"

Smith, ECON 101

"Most of you have few, if any, siblings because those siblings you don't have are in your parents' garage!"

Smith, ECON 101

"This is a proof by contradiction that you should use a proof by contradiction."

Wagner, MATH 239

"This proof is long, not very difficult, just long, which means that by the time you get to the end of the proof, you've forgotten the beginning."

Wagner, MATH 239

[Having only a red marker available] "This is like demon math now, it's all red, like blood on the whiteboard."

Wood, MATH 137

[Having just filled three whiteboards with notes] "I hope this marker isn't permanent." [looks at the marker] "I'm in trouble."

Wood, MATH 137

"Even if I write it down wrong, write it down right in your books and humour me."

Younger, MATH 135

"I brought for the first time a calculator, which I borrowed from my wife."

Younger, MATH 135

Mark gets Kneed in the Groin

by Mark Cook And Soo Go



Harry Plotter and the Davis Center

The Grande Finale

"So what do we do?" Ellie asked. They had made a hasty retreat from the catacombs under the DC and were catching their breath, sitting on a park bench outside.

"I don't know, Ellie," Harry replied. "We could tell some MagicSoc official. They could print it in *magicNEWS*."

"Have you seen what they've been printing in *magicNEWS* lately? No one would believe us. They'd think it was just a joke."

"Well, I'm not just going to sit back and let them do... whatever it is that they're planning!"

"I realize that you're trying to be heroic, but sometimes there's just nothing you can do."

"You're right. But this is not one of those times."

"Harry, try to be reasonable—"

"No, Ellie," Harry interrupted. "I'm through being reasonable. There are times for thought and there are times for action. This is no time for thought." Without another word, Harry stood up and walked away.

"Harry!" she called after him. "You don't know what they're planning. Maybe it's not some evil conspiracy..."

He didn't hear the rest.

* * *

The dripping noise was beginning to get on Harry's nerves. He had been crouching in a damp alcove in the DC catacombs for hours, and was chilled to the bone. It was about 11:30 at night, one week after he and Ellie had last infiltrated the secret heart of the Davis Centre. So far, there had been no activity. All was quiet, except for the endless dripping.

A quiet voice began to register in Harry's mind. It was just on the edge of perception; perhaps even a hallucination. Slowly, it grew louder and louder, until Harry could actually hear what was being said. Two people were discussing some technical matter in great detail. They turned a corner, and Harry could suddenly hear their footsteps. Harry's heart jumped into his throat when they walked past his hiding place, but he still forced himself to leave the safety of the alcove. He could hear his pulse in his ears as he tip-toed after them.

They turned another corner and came to the door into the Control Unit. Harry slowly peeked around the corner and saw that one of them was fumbling with the keys. Both of the conspirators were wearing strange, black robes that stretched down to the floor. As soon as they entered the control unit, Harry quickly and quietly moved around the corner and caught the door before it closed.

Inside, there was a huge conference table with about thirty plush chairs on either side. The two people in robes were writing on a chalk-board on one side of the room. At the far end of the conference room was a computer on a pedestal. Harry pulled the door open a bit more and slipped inside. He crouched down behind the conference table and crawled silently towards the computer at the far end of the room.

He reached the head of the conference table and looked up at the screen from the floor. Only one program was running: "Transmission Controller." The program was counting down to midnight, with about fifteen minutes left.

Just then, the door to the Control Unit swung open. "How goes it?" the new arrival asked. Harry recognized the voice; it

was Professor Xema.

"The countdown proceeds as planned," one of the others replied. Harry decided that it was time to make his move.

"With one complication," Harry added as he stood up at the computer console.

"You!" Xema exclaimed. One of the figures in black robes began moving towards Harry.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you," Harry warned, grabbing the mouse. "If you come one step closer, I'll open up Solitaire. And as you know, Windows can't possibly tolerate running two programs at the same time without crashing."

"You wouldn't dare!" Zima hissed.

"What makes you say that?" Ten minutes remained on the computer's countdown.

"If you were going to crash the computer, you would have done it by now."

"The only reason that I haven't crashed the program is because a friend of mine convinced me that I shouldn't act without knowing the full implications of what I'm doing. I want you to tell me what this is all about. If you try to stop me, I'll crash the program. If you refuse to tell me, I'll crash the program. If I think for one second that you're lying..."

"I get the idea."

"So get to it."

Professor Xema stood unmoving, staring straight at Harry. His expression was resolute, but Harry could tell that he was thinking it over. "Very well," he said at last. "The Davis Centre is not a computer, it is a unified field generator. We built it to project its field through the camouflaged antenna in the courtyard on the 5th floor of the MC. At midnight tonight, an alignment of the planets will allow us to project the field in such a way that it will blanket the entire planet!"

"But what will this field do?" Three minutes until midnight.

The professor paused again. Xema didn't want to talk, but with Harry at the controls, there were no other options. "This field will turn everyone in the world into Mathies!"

Harry gasped in astonishment. "But why?" he asked. "To better protect the human race from the evil computers?"

Professor Xema shrugged. "Not really. It's just because Engineers suck, and Mathies are better than everyone else."

The computer chimed. The countdown had reached zero, and a message box had popped up which read, "Running this program will turn the whole world into Mathies. Are you sure?"

Harry's mind raced. He was suddenly gripped by terrible uncertainty. Was he doing the right thing in foiling their plans? Would he ever know for sure? But then Harry realized that he already knew the answer. Professor Xema was right. Mathies really were better than everyone else.

Harry clicked on 'Yes.'

THE END

Bradley N Smith

prezQUOTES

"Any other comments, useful or otherwise?"

UW President David Johnston, at a Senate Meeting

Nothing like your very own White Elephant

Now available at Auction...

With slight embellishments for a better story...

So, our story begins at (the excellent) Charity Ball in the middle of the Live Auction. The players: Lino Demasi, your truly, and Ian Vanderburgh, autioneer extrodinare. The item: Webhosting and domain name registration for a year. Begin the auction.

Ian Vanderburgh: "Our next item is web hosting for a year. Who knows, maybe we'll see `linodemasi.com`"

Lino: "Hey! I owned that for a year!"

Says I to me: "Well, it could be interesting. Maybe I'll throw in a couple of bids near the low end, just for fun. I don't think I'll win."

Ian Vanderburgh: "Bids begin at \$75..."

The bidding begins. Two hands are up. My own, and Lino's. Lino is selected first, but I am fast behind. The bidding goes up in \$5 increments, and it's at \$90 before long.

Lino bids again. The price is now \$95. The next bid will be a nice round \$100. How can I resist? I raised my hand.

Ian Vanderburgh: "\$100 in the back. Any more bids? Any more? Going once..."

Lino raises his hand.

Ian Vanderburgh: "\$105 to Lino."

mastHEAD

Woo! It's over!

I like that my officemate's children get their Hallowe'en taken away from them when they're bad. Mostly I like it cause then he shows up to work with bags of candy for me! Yay!

So *mathNEWS*, oh *mathNEWS* how will we all survive the holiday break without you? I know I will personally do it by sleeping a hell of a lot more every 2nd Monday ... well at least until next term.

Exciting happening in the lair of *mathNEWS*: for the 2nd term in a row, an editor leaves *mathNEWS*. This time it's "former" editor and current "Production Manager" Albert O'Connor. He is retiring from *mathNEWS* production for the silly reason of being named MathSoc President for next summer. This of course led to the obvious *mastHEAD* question: "What should Albert do now?" Here's what our intrepid production staff came up with (along with their year and program): Diana Chisholm (2A ActSci, Me!), e (2A CS, Me!), Simon L'Avier (4A CS, Me! Twice!), Jim (2B CS-DHW, His VHDL assignment), Ian W. MacKinnon (2A CS, America with Beavis), Eric Logan (1A CS, Me as well), as? Aaron Klotz (2B CS, Two words: Zoology lab), Anton Fedorenko (5N CS — Graduating!!!, Absolutely, positively not me. Get away from me! I'm serious! And don't look at Catherine that way. Shoo!), Jason C. Y. Lau (Finished C&O, The Dew), Stephen Benn (2B ActSci, Give the mast head), Chris "Krease" Harasemchuk (3B CS, Get a job!), Bradley T Smith (-1A Post-degree, Become a Past-Editor like me and continue to work as an editor), and Albert O'Connor (2B CS, Whatever he tells me to).

Thank you to the earth for the plants and animals that went into our pizzas. We only wish we could have had pretzels with them.

Louis Mastorakos

(soon to be 3B CS, Funnel MathSoc funds into *mathNEWS* — what good is power if you don't abuse it!)

I rise out of my chair and raise my hand. I'm hoping to bait him to a higher price. It appears to me like he wants it; I'll be able to squeeze him for a few more dollars, just for fun.

Ian Vanderburgh: "\$110 in the back."

Lino exhibits mock indignation and bids again. He rises and hits his chest, as if to say, "Go on, I dare you."

Thinking that I can still get him in the end, I raise my hand as if shocked at his gall.

Ian Vanderburgh: "\$120 in the back. Going once... Going twice..."

I'm suddenly worried. What if I win? Shouts I across the room: "Take it, Lino! You know you want it!"

The only reply: "HA! I baited you, boy!" It would seem that the price has become too rich for Lino's blood, and he has instead stuck it to me.

Ian Vanderburgh: "Sold to the gentleman in the back!"

I can only sink into my chair as the tort that binds me to my bid is brought to the back. "Well, crap. What now?"

The auction has ended. I go to face my opponent to congratulate him on his victory. I was well and truly baited.

"Well done, Lino. You got me good."

"What!? You didn't want it either!?"

Eric "ink_13" Logan

<http://www.ink-13.com/>

Secondhand Stogies

Episode II: Attack of the Assclowns

I love buying groceries at stores with organic aisles. Whenever the store is busy, I always know that if I am in the back of the store, and need to weasel my way to the front, I can push my cart o' genetically-modified goodies through the deserted organic aisles to get there. How do you like those (genetically modified) apples?

Clinton took the whole "Head of State" idea too far

I don't know why I enjoy taking shots at Clinton. I actually sort of like ol' Tubby. I guess he's just more enjoyable to make fun of than Dubya. After all, there's only so many ways to say, "moron," as Uncle Jean's aide put it (Hey, she said it, not me).

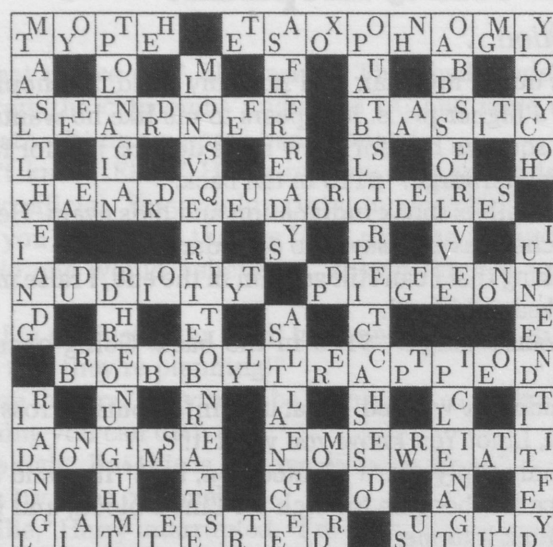
Star Trek Nemesis

A confession: I love *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. It is one of my all-time favourite TV shows. I don't know if it's because I share a birthday with Captain Picard, or if it's because I can't control my excitement during saucer separation. I already own a substantial portion of the *TNG* DVD collection, and I hope to have it completed by the new year. All I know is that it's awesome, and if I didn't have an exam the night of the premiere of *Star Trek Nemesis*, I would be waiting in line all day in a Starfleet uniform. Well, maybe not. I don't want to get beat up again, like that incident at the *Insurrection* premiere. *Ahem* Anyway, I expect to see you all there, Friday, December 13, to show your support for the crew of the *USS Enterprise NCC-1701-E*.

Good luck on exams, watch *Star Trek*, watch *Lord of the Rings*, watch *Star Trek*, and have a great holiday. See you in 2003!

Aaron Klotz

Watch *Star Trek Nemesis*.



gridCOMMENTS

Good-bye Palendromic Year!

Wow, those twenty issues went fast. And to think, I've been GridMaster for all of them. What a lovely year ... and a perfect time to announce my retirement.

That's right, no more GridMaster Bradley (or Simon). I've been holding too many others back from reaching their true potentials as GridMistresses or GridMasters. I'll train someone new in the fresh year and step aside gracefully (unless I trip over that power cord again).

So, on this saddest of happy occasions, I would like to now review the cryptic puzzle from last issue. There were four completed solutions, so please, allow me to list them with their authors' current or desired wizard powers: Adam Weatherhead (The ability to teleport from place to place. Especially now that it's getting cold out), Matt (the hobo) Tucker (I can touch my toes), Dan Rosart (Free play at the Campus Cove. (That's a wizard power, right?)), and the SJU Crew (1. The ability to create and read page 20 and 21 (want); 2. The ability to sleep through anything (have); 3. The ability to scare the shit out of anybody (have).) And after much deliberating with my new random number generator, Adam Weatherhead is declared the winner!

Who let the conventional *gridWORD* out? I did! Now let's look at the three submissions: Bryan Coutch (The ability to convert to radians), Catherine, Eric, and Kyle (Ability to gain or lose weight at will), and Michael Huang (The power of congruency). And what's that random number generator? The second one? Now you're not just taking the average of first, second, and third in a list are you? No? Okay, then Catherine, Eric, and Kyle, you can pick up your C+D gift certificate from the *mathNEWS* mailslot in the MathSoc Office at your leisure.

And that's all she wrote, where she is defined as me up to this point. I'd like to thank everyone who enjoys the *gridWORD* for making this feature possible, but most of all, thanks to Linda Carson who writes every cryptic and conventional for *mathNEWS*! Good-bye 2002!

Linda et Simon

Super Easy Quiz!

Well, last week I had ONE submission to this quiz. Yay! Unfortunately this person was only correct because of a typo in the original quiz. I suspect this typo has caused countless other people to refrain from submitting a solution because I see no other reason why people wouldn't answer such an easy quiz. :D

Anyway, so the quiz should've read (for the bullet I'm sure you can all point out): (746-3746)*(746-2746)/1000000

But since he did technically get it right, and I said I may give a reward, the reward is getting his name in *mathNEWS*. So, props to Robert Kottelenberg. If I spelt your name wrong it's your own fault for having messy writing and the guy who's name I spelt right obviously deserves the props.

On with the SEQuiz of this week. Find the thing that doesn't fit.

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| • :D | • =:{ |
| • :(| • BD |
| • 8o | • O) |
| • : | • GL |
| • : | • XQ |
| • ;) | • :7 |
| • .) | • :S |
| • :::) | • .. |

Submit an answer if you'd like. I'll see about rewards. It may or may not happen. I am certain of that.

e.

Refoooorm Osama!

It's interesting to listen to all the news reports talking about that new Osama Bin Laden tape that's flying around. Apparently US authorities are almost positive that it's authentic. This is very interesting. However, there still is a chance that it is a hoax. I mean, remember those two DJ's in Quebec that posed as Jean Chretien during an April Fool's call to Bill Gates? Hell, I've even been told that I can do a really good Preston Manning voice (Talent or curse? You decide). Besides, if NASA can fake the Apollo moon landings, they can fake videos of Osama Bin Laden.

The Champ
Trust me, I know what I'm doing.

*mathNEWS*Quiz #6

Yay

So last week's Squiz was a little messed up... but here, in no particular order are the answers. 1) 22 2) What 3) Mary Walsh, Cathy Jones and Greg Thomey 4) 60 5) Elizabeth II 6) Wasn't a question 7) widdyfow 8) mine 9) 4 10) that one 11) Evan Brown 12) Public Display of Affection 13) the Honda has twice as many seats 14) Yes, it is 15) Open Book 16) your mom 17) Not 2B 18) Colin Mochrie replaced Rick Mercer who is on Made in Canada 19) Paul Gross, Men With Brooms, 20) Right there 21) 1/60 22) None.

The winner this week was Catherine with the only submission and a score of n. Well done.

Happy exams!

8013-2

π & Teddybear