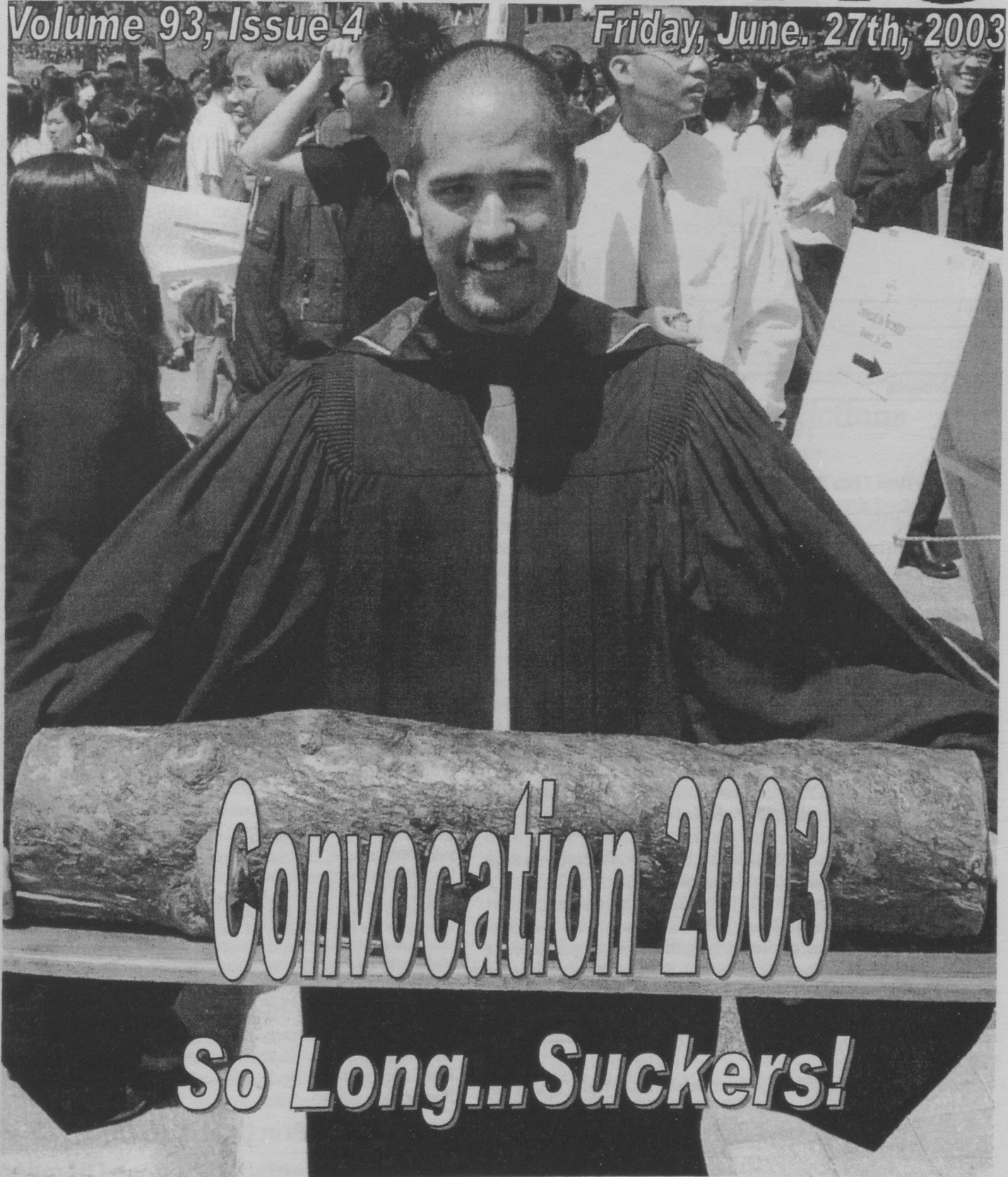


math NEWS

Volume 93, Issue 4

Friday, June, 27th, 2003



Convocation 2003

So Long...Suckers!

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

June 27	Issue #4 rejoices in the summer sun
July 7	Issue #5 production night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
July 11	Issue #5 does a swan dive into Columbia Lake

Math Faculty

July 8	Three out of four profs wish they were teaching out-of-doors
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MathSoc

June 28 (tomorrow)	SportWorld Trip
Week of July 1	MathSoc Council Meeting
July 3	Lemonade (outside)
July 8	Quiz Bowl
July 15	Cotton Candy
July 20	Beach Trip
July 22	Pints with Profs II

MEF

July 4	Deadline for funding requests due
July 4	Deadline for funding council nominations

Miscellaneous

July 1	Canada Day
July 4	The Americans go more crazy than usual

mastHEAD

It's Only a Matter of Time Before csNEWS

Midterm season really does such for *mathNEWS*. Everyone seems to be intent on 'studying' and stuff. Although the CS 134 exam was tonight, a few frosh still made it, troopers that they are. Thank goodness it'll all be over for issue #5 production night.

It seems as though some of the Society folk are serious about splitting *mathNEWS* into *mathNEWS* and *csNEWS*. So please write to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca with your thoughts on the issue of issue separation. This could happen as soon as the end of the term if there is no real opposition to splitting *mathNEWS*.

Oh yeah, and if Iron Warrior has some doctored photos of the natural log being rescued, they are full of crap, as most engineers are.

So we asked our staff "What is the best \$0.59 you have ever spent?: Lino (Diana), Eric (Harold Plotter and the O(the kleenex)), Adam (\$0.60), Soo (I have \$0.59), Jim (3lbs of Alberta beef), Albert (on *mathNEWS*, oh wait, it's free), Diana (Lino), Chris T-W (Petrol for my bicycle), Greg (photocopying the relevant pages of the textbook, \$0.36, printing fees for ass. 1, \$0.08, printing fees for ass. 10, \$0.15, passing CS134 by 2%, priceless), Craig (I don't even know what that means, or even *want* to know what that means), Aaron (Just because there is no goalie, doesn't mean that you can't score).

Ian W. MacKinnon (Change from when I ask Lino 'penny for your thoughts')

Krease (Ian's mom - Now #1 on Google)

Louis Mastorakos (23 staples)



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Upcoming Events

- Friday Flicks—SIGGRAPH Electronic Theatre showing
- Today, 2:30pm (1430), DC 1302
- Guelph Trip—Road trip to the University of Guelph
- Friday, 4 July 2003. Leave UW at 3:30pm (1530)
- Sh—Metaprogramming your way to stunning effects.
- Friday July 4 2003, 4:00pm (1600) at the University of Guelph
- Mainframes and Linux—A talk by Jim Elliott, IBM's Linux advocate.
- Tuesday, 8 July 2003, 4:00pm (1600) in MC2065

We are looking for drivers to drive out to Guelph on the 4th, so if you can drive and are interested in going, please email me at ja2morri@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

For more information on these upcoming events check out our newsgroup uw.csc or our webpage <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca>.

James A. Morrison

President UW CSC, Spring 2003

MGC Update

This week we held 'MGC Dinner and a Movie,' the first MGC event for the Class of 2004. It was a great success and we had a good turnout. This isn't the end: there are two more events that we are planning to hold this term, as chosen by the Class of 2004. Details of both events will be sent out on the MGC mailing list and will be posted to the website.

As well this week, the last grad photo day of the term was held. If you haven't taken your grad photos yet, please contact mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or drop by the MGC office (MC 3029), since if you don't get your photos taken you won't appear in the yearbook or in the class composites.

2004 Math Grad Committee

ISSN 0705—0410

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. *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 userid@mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

Born to rock: Ian W. MacKinnon, Louis Mastorakos & Chris Harasemchuk

What's a Practical Use for STAT 230?

Punishment for Repeat Offenders!

Prez Sez

Is that a Student Society in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?

You are shortly going to receive an e-mail telling you how you can sign up for the student shadow program. What's going to happen is that when prospective students arrange tours with Gayle Goodfellow, she will e-mail the list asking for a volunteers with a certain background. If you are available, you will be able to e-mail her and arrange the details. You will then help out with the tour and give a current student's point of view to a prospective student.

Most other issues don't have new developments. Both discussions about more student space and the comfy improvements are ongoing. I am also looking into finding out more about why the MFCE/CSCF split is happening, and what it will mean for undergrads.

Meanwhile, nominations for Instructor of the Year (IOY) and Honourary Lifetime Membership (HLM) are open, so nominate an excellent prof or a hardworking volunteer.

Midterms are almost over, reward yourself with a trip to Sports World (you can still buy tickets today, in front of the C+D) or with one of our other social events. There is a compete list outside of the Comfy.

Enough for now, back to studying for my last midterm.

Albert O'Connor
President Spring 2003



Short Attention Span Math Seminars

Call for speakers

Do you think math is fun? Is there some aspect of mathematics that you find particularly interesting, and that you want to tell the world about? Then you should give a talk at the Short Attention Span Math Seminars (SASMS).

The SASMS are a series of twenty minute talks given by math students. The event is organized by the Pure Math, Applied Math and Combinatorics and Optimization Club, and will take place the evening of Wednesday, July 16. If you are interested in giving a talk, then e-mail pmclub@student.math.uwaterloo.ca with your name and the title of your talk, before July 9. Your talk should be understandable by someone who's currently in first year, but should still be interesting to an upper-year student.

If you would like to give a talk, but can't think of a topic, then some things you may want to consider are giving a talk on research you've done, rehashing a talk you gave in a class, talking about a mathematical book you found interesting, summarizing a paper you've read, and so on. You can also give more than one talk if you like. If you'd like to see titles of some talks people have done in the past, you can check out <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~pmclub/past-events>.

Craig Sloss
Director of SASMS, PMAMC&OC



Roadside Attractions

Pinto MacBean

I was reading the Calgary Herald today, and I read that Ralph Klein has scheduled a half hour meeting with Dick Cheney to discuss reopening the US border to Canadian Beef (Alberta Beef, in particular, because we dominate).

I began to speculate why the cattle are so concerned about going to the United States. I came to only one conclusion: they must be trying to get to Disneyland. Personally I cannot understand their infatuation with Mickey Mouse. We have a mascot in southern Alberta that is much more edible for cows than Mickey. (Does anybody else see a lawsuit coming?) That mascot is none other than Pinto MacBean. Pinto MacBean is located in the town of Bow Island, Alberta, beside the Crowsnest Highway, highway 3.

Now, you may be concerned by the fact that Mickey wears pants and Pinto does not. However, you are also ignorant about the genitalia of beans. So am I. My hypothesis is that Pinto does not require pants, and actually his sombrero serves the same purpose as pants would on a humanoid lifeform.

Pinto's holster concerns me, however. Is his firearm registered?

I suspect that the answer is, "no." Where I come from, cool people don't register their firearms. What are the feds going to do about it? Fly in a Sea King to take Pinto away? Pffft...come on. Alberta sure as hell isn't enforcing it...neither is Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia.

What does this mean for you? Two things:

1. If Pinto MacBean reaches for his hat, send in the cows.
2. Don't bother registering your guns. Pinto doesn't.

Aaron Klotz

csNEWS/mathNEWS

The *csNEWS* article buried on page 11 of the May 30th issue of *mathNEWS* seems to have left an impression of inappropriate monetary motives behind the *mathNEWS/csNEWS* split. Let me assure you that money did not motivate *csNEWS*'s upcoming secession.

Lengthy negotiations between representatives of *csNEWS* and *mathNEWS* resulted in what both parties agree constitutes a fair division of assets and income that won't incur any increased cost to MathSoc.

While representatives of *csNEWS* felt that a 30% cut in their budget would initially pose a problem, they expressed confidence that in the long term, the *csNEWS* staff could handle any difficulties. Meanwhile, in anticipation of extra funding expected from CSsoc for the purpose of improving the quality of its news, *csNEWS* has already hired three assistant editors.

The *mathNEWS* side expressed similar feelings regarding the fairness of the division process. "We searched through all of last year's *mathNEWS* publications and determined that over 70% of the articles concerned CS related issues. So cutting the *mathNEWS* budget down to 30% of its previous level appears more than reasonable", said a statement issued by the *mathNEWS* representatives (MathSoc's president and several *mathNEWS* coeditors, all of whom, by a somewhat ironic coincidence, happen to be registered in CS). "We also recognize that *csNEWS* might experience some startup problems during the transition years, and so have volunteered 25% of the *mathNEWS* staff's time toward this task."

Ray Butterworth

More Summer Fun!

There are lots more events left this term, and plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine! This coming Thursday (July 3) is Lemonade Day, so come grab some refreshing lemonade for only 25 cents.

Tomorrow is a trip to Sports World, and it's not too late to buy tickets on the third floor of the MC. They're \$20, which includes transportation, unlimited rides and waterslides, a go-kart ride, a game of mini-golf, and a turn on the climbing wall.

The Faculty-Student Quiz Bowl will be July 8. Come defend your honour as students! Do you want the faculty team to sweep again?!?! Sign up in teams of four on the MathSoc office door, or as individuals and you'll be placed on a (stacked) team.

The final Cotton Candy Day of the term will be July 15. Come get a much-needed sugar-high after all your midterms are over. Only 75 cents for one, or two for a dollar. Recommended by three out of four dentists! (Not a guarantee)

The beach trip will be on Sunday, July 20. Come chill at the beach and see how hot it gets when mathies take over Wasaga! Tickets (for the transportation) will be \$5 and will be available the week of July 15-19.

The second Pints with Profs will be held on July 22. Location to be determined (hopefully the Bomber). Come out and see your favourite profs before finals!

Diana
Social S03

Link to Student's Memorial Site for Gisli Hjaltason

<http://www.barnaby.serveusers.com/gisli>

In Memory of Gisli R. Hjaltason

One of his students shares his memories of him

It was the morning of June 20th, and to the students taking CS 448, it seemed like any other morning. It was two days after we had written the midterm exam for that course. And it was a Friday, so there was quite a sense of relief among us as we wondered when we would get our midterms back. After we filed into the classroom, expecting Gisli Hjaltason, our professor, to arrive, we instead saw Johnny Wong, director of the School of Computer Science enter the room. He then informed us that Gisli Hjaltason, who only two days ago proctored our midterm, had died the previous day.

The news came as a shock to many of us. As he shared his expertise on databases with us every other weekday, we were not expecting him to never be there to teach us again. He was also the one we would rely on for help when we had questions about the material that he taught. In fact, I came to him for some last-minute assistance before the midterm. He was friendly and approachable. Definitely the kind of individual from who I would like to seek help. I thought that I would be going to seek help from him more often. Unfortunately, because of the tragic event that took place the next day, I would never be able to seek help from him in the future.

Before this term's lectures began, I found out that he was an expert on database systems, publishing many papers on the subject. He also had some practical experience with databases, and I was looking forward to hearing what useful practical information he had to share with us. He occasionally gave us information that would be of good use to us, some of which can still be seen in the course newsgroup. He was a relatively new professor, and he wanted to be an effective lecturer, judging from his response to criticism that he received. I found out in the short time that I had known him that he certainly was a respectable individual who I will unfortunately not get to know any further.

I send my condolences to his family, friends, and all those who had known him. Gisli Hjaltason had my respect and the respect of many others. I must say that if his replacement is as good as he is, I will consider myself fortunate.

A CS 448 Student

Conspiracy Theory of the Fortnight

Why would any student want to enroll in programs that are unlikely to lead them to jobs that would pay well? I won't mention the names of such programs *cough* ES *cough* that some students enroll in *cough* Arts *cough* [**cough* those are FACULTIES, not programs *cough* silly Mathie *cough* — FrenchEd*] but their enrollment rates are surprisingly high. Well, the only jobs they may be able to receive are teaching jobs. This leads to teaching other students whose only hope in getting hired is to receive similar teaching jobs. So those who teach these courses make money from students who later hope to receive money from students that they will teach. The cycle then continues. These payments that go from one group of people to the next and so on closely resembles a pyramid scheme, which is illegal. Therefore, all those that are involved in these programs seem to be part of some sort of legalized pyramid scheme. Hey, maybe these individuals are more clever than we always thought they were! And maybe we have a new reason to disrespect them.

A World of Arts?

So what happens after years of being in CS and suddenly finding yourself in a major that involves courses in Math, Arts, and Business at Laurier?...

Secret Agent FlySpy On The Job!

And it came to pass...

Everyone knows math students rule the world. But, what threats are there to our global domination? Most of us would say, "None!" But I'm here to tell you that the hidden world of arithmetic leads the rebel forces. That's right! Simple financial calculation! Like the Ancient Greeks, our empire will crumble and fall under the sword arm of the Visigoths, led by their tyrant, King Keynes! Those who understand arithmetic without the theoretical mathematics! Those who currently study shocks to systems in their plans for a world takeover!

What the heck am I talking about? Economics. As I sit in the shadows, the murkiness swarming my senses, I hear of their plans...global domination through control of the global economy. They control more than we see...the regulating financial bodies, monetary and fiscal policy...even the money supply!

Their long-term forecast includes a global coup. But never fear, the MathSoc exec shall inherit the Earth. They meet, with the information provided by many of their spies, such as myself, to thwart the tangled plot. The ASU's intelligence leaders, Mr. Smith and Ms. Trimarchi will soon be ours and then the day of reckoning shall be at hand!! MWAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!

And what will all this change in our beloved world? How could Arts change our perfect programs and our perfect MC? Forced showers, that's how! Forced use of calculators! Their small number of underground accountants will be used to enforce their oppressive laws! The comfy will be turned into a 24-hour culture shock chamber where great classical literature will be read, and the natural log will be burned in a hearth in the center of the room! They'll take away our servers, our graphics labs, and our beloved C&D!

Oh no! A noise, a sound! Someone has discovered me. I must fly...

...Coming Soon: The Rise of Propaganda: How Laurier's Business School Trains Their Marketing Chimps

FlySpy

WMD

Weapons of Moose Destruction

While the world (OK, only the Americans) is out looking for Saddam Husayn al-Majid al-Nasiri al-Tikriti's Weapons of Mass Destruction, the bunnies of Northern Saskatchewan's sea have been collecting weapons of moose destruction so they can attack the fortifications of the Last Saskatchewan Pirate and finally control all of Northern Saskatchewan.

The bunnies, with their weapons of Moose Destruction, should be feared; last year they used them against the Official Engineer: REAL Ultimate Power and killed the entire homepage.

After removing the Last Saskatchewan Pirate, the bunnies may continue their attacks. However, right now we know of no other targets for the bunnies.

The Bunny Master

Live Report on Mad Cow Crisis

State of the art technology brings you news right from the source

mathNEWS correspondent Eigenvector is on location this week in Calgary, Alberta, at the heart of Canada's Mad Cow crisis. This week we bring you his report, live via telnet, on the impact of this economic disaster on Canada's west.

mathNEWS: So, Eigenvector, what up-to-the-minute updates can you give us on the Mad Cow situation?

Eigenvector: Well, uh, I think one of the tests they ran on the cows came up positive or something. There was a T.V. tuned to the news in the cafeteria when I was having breakfast this morning. I'm not entirely sure that's right, because the volume was pretty low. On second thought, you probably don't want to print that so some ranchers don't sue us for libel or something. I think the T.V. reporter also said something about the Americans... probably a trade boycott or something.

mathNEWS: What can you tell us about the mood of the Albertans? How are they responding to this crisis?

Eigenvector: No one here has really said all that much to me about the mad cow thing, actually. Oh, no, wait. There was one guy in a cowboy hat who told me a mad cow joke. Come to think of it, it was the same joke we ran in *mathNEWS* two issues ago, except that the cow was a pickle rather than a duck. Do you think he reads *mathNEWS*?

mathNEWS: I can't say for certain. So, Eigenvector, I understand that during your time in Alberta, you've sampled some of their fine beef. What can you tell us about this experience?

Eigenvector: Actually, I haven't had any beef since I've been here. I had fish and chips for dinner, chicken for lunch, and there wasn't any meat in my breakfast.

mathNEWS: Er, uh, Eigenvector, I thought that you were planning on eating some Alberta beef to demonstrate to everyone how safe it is.

Eigenvector: Oh, uh yeah, that's right! Alberta beef is the safest it's ever been. And it's tasty too. So white and flaky, with a light beer batter. Goes well with lemon.

mathNEWS: So, that's Eigenvector, live on location in Calgary, Alberta with his report on the mad cow crisis...even if he did miss his deadline by two hours.

News Flash

HOUSTON—At George Bush Intercontinental Airport today, an individual (later discovered to be a public school teacher) was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a compass, a protractor, and a graphing calculator.

Authorities believe he is a member of the notorious al-Gebra movement.

He is being charged with carrying Weapons of Math Instruction.

Ask the Daily Bulletin

15 years ago, Rod Sawatsky was named president of Conrad Grebel College.

Dear Daily Bulletin,

I'm just finishing my first year at university, and I haven't had a date throughout my entire time here. It's not that I'm chronically undatable (I was quite a stud in high school); I just haven't found anyone here that I'm interested in. How can I increase my chances of finding someone I'm interested in going out with?

-Lonely in Leisure Studies

Dear Lonely,

UW surpasses its admission targets

After having offered admission to over 20 000 potential students, an "unprecedented number of first-year students" will begin their studies in September, according to a UW media release. "The number of offers accepted by students as of Friday, June 27 is 5 193, which is 19.6 per cent greater than the number at the same time last year. This increase means that UW has surpassed its goal of increasing admissions by 17 per cent."

With the competitive environment created by the so-called "double cohort," UW was able to select the "cream of the crop" among applicants, helping to secure Waterloo's reputation as the top University in Canada, according to Maclean's. 82 per cent of the incoming first-year students are Ontario Scholars with an entering average of over 80 per cent. Moreover, this year marks the closest UW has ever come to achieving an even male-female ratio, with 52% of incoming students male and 48% female. 59% of the incoming female students are currently single. A survey of interests of incoming students reveals that 24% of females enjoy long walks on beaches at dusk, 34% enjoy a quiet evening watching a movie at home, and 18% enjoy going "out on the town" with a group of friends.

Dear Daily Bulletin,

I'm unsatisfied with my social life. It seems like every weekend, I end up sitting at home with nothing to do. What can I do to rectify this situation?

-Bored in Biology

Dear Bored,

Some notes for a balmy summer weekend

The UW Objectivist Club will be hosting a **public reading of *Atlas Shrugged*** Friday evening in the Great Hall of the SLC ... A ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer* marathon** will be held by the Buffy Watchers' Club beginning Saturday afternoon. Participants are encouraged to bring their favourite piece of vampire-slaying weaponry ... The UW Drama Department will be **performing Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus***, with a modern twist. Said the director, "I thought it would be interesting to portray Tamora, Queen of the Goths, as a modern businesswoman, as a poignant reminder that the capitalist system encourages us to metaphorically consume our own young." Tickets are available at the Hagey Hall box office ... the **Earth Sciences and Chemistry** building will be without hot water service on Sunday morning from 7:00 to 11:00 ...

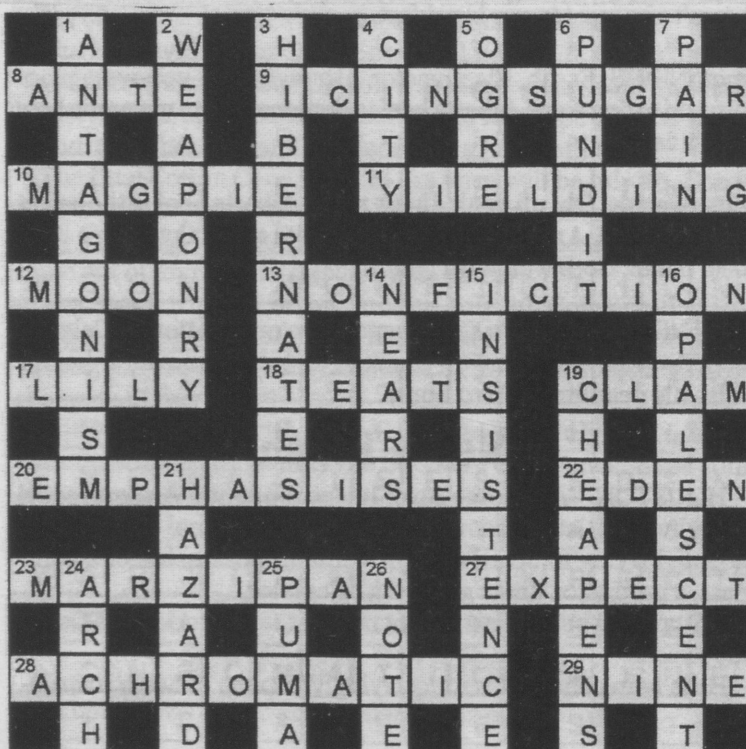
Eigenvector

(With a tip of the hat to CAR.)

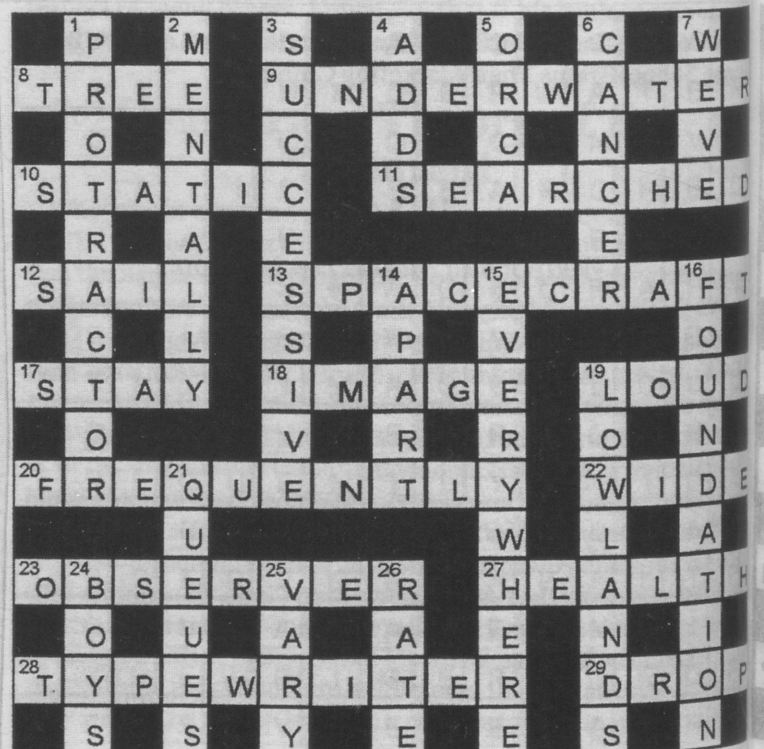
Disclaimer: all events and statistics described above are fabricated and do not necessarily have anything to do with reality.

Last Issue's Grid Solutions

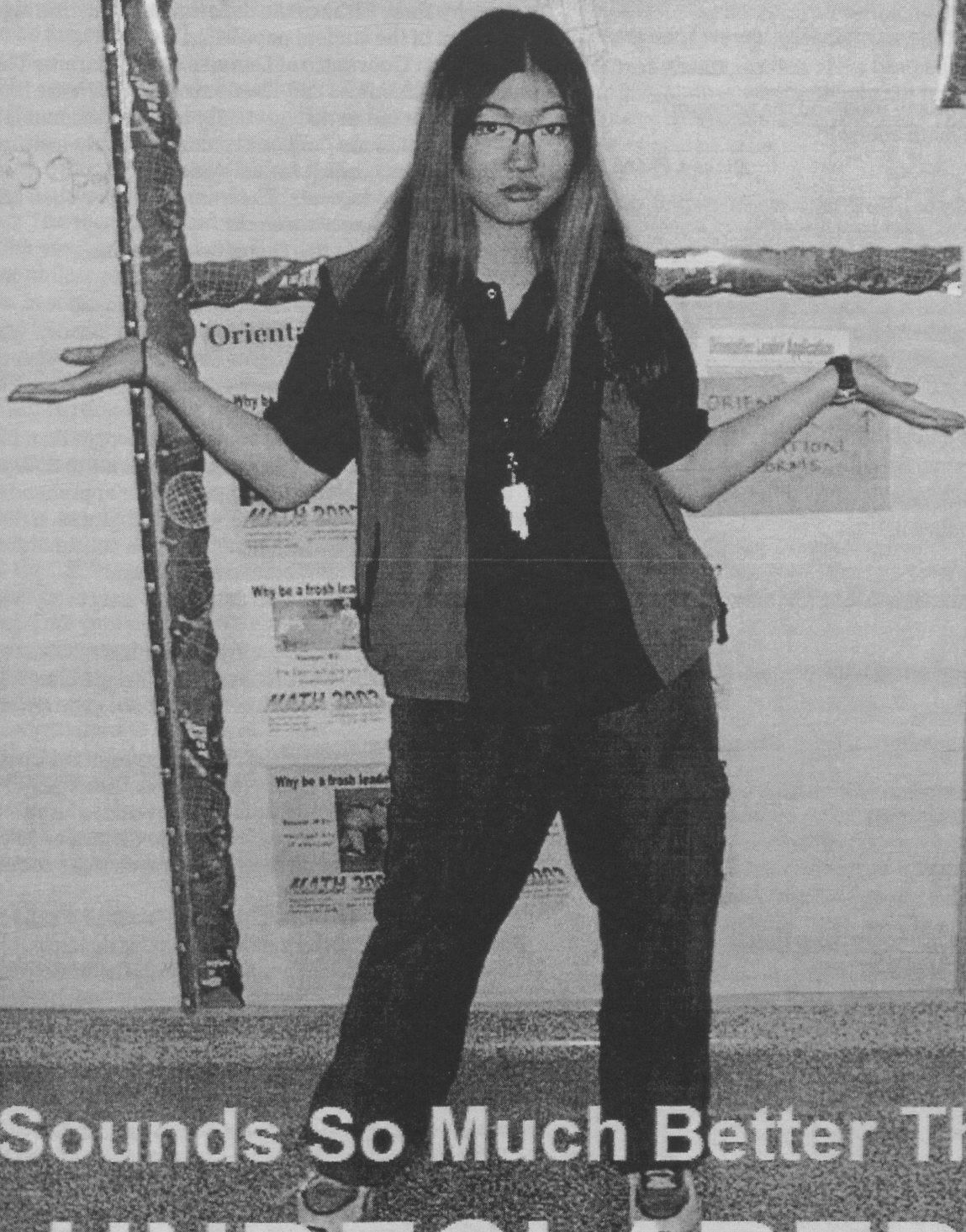
Cryptic



Conventional



MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES



It Sounds So Much Better Than...

UNDECLARED

profQUOTES

"It's fun to write programs which trash your caches."

McCool, CS 251

[Student asks why a 3 page proof is so important to graph theory.]
"Well, in our case it's not so important since we probably won't use it again."

Godsil, CO 342

"Take an optimal schedule satisfying the lemma I just erased."

Cheriyon, CO 454

[Student] "Will there be any proofs on the midterm?"
[Prof] "Is this a pure math course?"

Dickey, PMATH 360

"Using this method may be boring, but it works! Getting the wrong answer isn't boring!"

Andre, MATH 136

[cell phone rings]

"Is that for me? I'm not here! It's Revenue Canada! They always find me!"

Andre, MATH 136

"A, B, C, D, E, F ... what's after F?"

Andre, MATH 136

"One, zero, zero, zero, one, zero, zero, zero, one spans \mathbb{R}^3 . Obviously! Just ... look at it!"

Andre, MATH 136

"How to increase your net worth? Print money!"

Vasiga, SE 240

"Before you hire the co-op, you have to get drunk."

Vasiga, SE 240

"The co-op has to do a variety of tasks, like making coffee."

Vasiga, SE 240

"When you're on the highway 407, you know you have to pay money, or the owner of the car will have to pay. Might be your dad, your mom, or the person you just carjacked from."

Vasiga, SE 240

[prof] "Remember the metaphor: keep the kitchen clean."

[Student] "Use paper plates."

Armstrong, CS 246

In Loving Memory

[After having problems with a laptop that had the lecture slides on it ... which in turn led to difficulties during his lecture.]

"This is what you get for relying on technology."

Hjaltson, CS 448

Bad SCO puns

- SCO off!
- SCO to HELL
- SCO happy yourself!
- Go sue a penguin!
- SCOTester

SCO protest

Charter of Lemmas and Theorems Proposed

Document guarantees unprecedented freedoms

The following excerpt goes over the key sections of the Charter of Lemmas and Theorems, proposed as an addition to the Math Faculty constitution. It will be formally adopted upon its acceptance by three fifths of the departments constituting at least 50 per cent of the student population.

Section 1: Guarantee of Lemmas and Theorems The Waterloo Charter of Lemmas and Theorems guarantees the theorems and lemmas set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by axioms, and can be demonstrably justified in a consistent yet incomplete formal system.

Section 2: Fundamental Theorems Everyone shall know the following fundamental theorems:

- The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus
- The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra
- The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic
- The Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory

Section 3: Democratic Rights Every student of Waterloo has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Corollaries.

Section 4: No lecture shall continue for longer than fifty minutes from the time fixed for the return of students to their seats for the beginning of the lecture. In time of real or apprehended discontinuity, non-differentiability or unboundedness, a function may be continued beyond its domain if such continuation is not opposed by any known Lemma or Theorem.

Section 5: There shall be a delta for at least every positive epsilon.

Section 8: Every cryptography system has the right to be secure against unreasonably hard factorization or discrete log problems.

Section 9: Every number has the right not to be arbitrarily small or large.

Section 10: Every conjecture has the right on disproval to be informed promptly of the the reasons therefore; to retain and instruct mathematicians without delay and to be informed of the right; and to have the validity of the disproval determined by way of counterexample, and to be proven if the counterexample is not correct.

Section 12: Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or statistics courses.

From this point on, most of the charter deals with language rights, such as which ones are in P and which ones are in NP. For brevity, this tedious CS stuff has been omitted.

One particularly controversial clause is the so-called "notwithstanding clause." Opponents point to the fact that this clause could endow the faculty with dictatorial and arbitrary powers to double the volume of spheres. Proponents, however, argue that this clause is needed in order for the charter to be the least bit interesting. The clause is as follows:

Section 33: The Axiom of Choice For every non-empty collection of non-empty sets, the Cartesian product thereof shall also be non-empty, notwithstanding the cardinality of the collection of sets.

Whether the controversy surrounding this clause will be sufficient to derail hopes of adopting this charter, only time will tell.

Eigenvector

The Shafting of '06 Comp Sci

Forgotten in a Sea of Unnecessary Change

I seriously doubt there are many students in 2B Computer Science who are very happy campers right now. That can be true of most CS classes of any given year, however, it seems as though there is a little more than simple petty bitching coming from the CS '06 class. The Department of Computer Science (sorry, 'School') seems to be in an almost constant state of change and our class seems to be forgotten in all of this.

Consider the fiasco that are our CS246/CS246se and CS240/SE240 classes. First, let's look at the CS246/CS246se issue. Is anyone convinced that having two offerings of the same core course with different curricula, different assignments, different midterms, and different finals *in the same term* best serves the students? The reason behind this has never really been clear, and I think everyone realizes there is something more than the "different philosophies" line that is being fed to us by the different profs. In some ECON101 lecture, I remember Larry Smith as saying one line a lot to get a point across about wasting resources; that line was "Is this necessary?" This really stuck with me, even more so than what he usually talks about, so I want you to ask yourself in regards to having two different types of the same CS major course in one term: "Is this necessary?" I hope you agree with me when I say that it is most definitely not.

Now on to the CS240/SE240 classes, two different courses, that share the same tutor. That's right, one tutor, two classes. Whereas the CS246 classes have 2 tutors for the same course, yet the two sets have roughly the same number of students. Don't get me wrong, I am sure the CS240/SE240 tutor is more than qualified to handle the material, but how much administrative overhead is he having to bear in addition to CS240 because this is the first offering of SE240 and some bugs need to be ironed out. How many revisions to assignment 3 were there? How many do you think there would be if SE240 was run independently of CS240 with different course staff instead of sharing a tutor and an instructor? These are different courses, they share resources; CS246 is one course, yet the resources are divided beyond any logical sense. I fail to see how CS '06 benefits from any of this.

In the whole CS246/CS246se/SE240/CS240 issue, it seems apparent that the Department (sorry again, 'School') seems to be more interested in catering to the needs of the new SE course and modifying an existing one to meet SE needs than running the CS courses for Computer Scientists as well as they have been run in the past. I am still not convinced that Software Engineering should be a program in its own right. The Professional Engineers of Ontario disliking giving P.Eng's to Computer Scientists and ScotiaBank throwing a lot of money at us do not seem like good enough reasons to create a program that interferes with the operations of the Computer Science program. The first class of SE students are Guinea Pigs in an unaccredited program, the CS'06ers are not.

Next up, does anyone really know all there is to know about the whole B.CS and B.Math ordeal? Our class seems to have the choice between two degrees, both of which are "Computer Science." The justifications of the Department (Sorry, yet again...actually, screw it) for creating this new degree with less

math were something to the effect of "more choice," "CS is always changing," and "other schools are doing it." Again, ask yourself, when it comes to the creation of a new degree such as B.CS: "Is this necessary?" Some good points were made about creating this program, but for all the change, none of it was justified as being necessary. I seriously doubt that the old B.Math CS degree was endangered in any way by other schools (who, by the way, are not the best of the best) being even more ignorant of math. B.Math is/was definitely not broken, in fact it is the envy of many, so why is it being replaced? This reeks of change for the sake of change to me.

So what has the B.CS given 2B CS? A very confusing time if you still want to do B.Math (So I take concurrency in two courses now?) and a two-tier system for the same program that we all started in. If you think that two programs, an original and a program that trades mathematics for a confusing elective schedule are going to be treated the same, you might as well go looking for beachfront property in Alberta. If you think new and modified courses in 2B are causing havoc, just wait until CS360/CS365, CS354/CS350, CS343/CS342, et cetera, et cetera. 3A and 3B do not look like much fun given the state of the 2B courses. One last time, in regards to changing pretty much every damn 3rd year course here to fit B.CS: "Is this necessary?"

We are Computer Scientists. We are not for kicking around because new programs need to get their act together. We are not here as pawns in CS Department power struggles.

A subset of '06 Comp Sci

UW Welcomes Record Number Of Students

The Truth About The Double Cohort

This fall, the University will be admitting a record number of new students—as of June 18th, the number of confirmed new students is 5322 (4866 of those directly from secondary school).

Peter Burroughs, UW's director of admissions, says that the number of incoming first year students is "more than anticipated, but it will be well within our capacity to make sure they receive a quality education." At least other universities are more realistic about the situation—Ryerson University has already made plans to transform *movie theaters* into lecture halls, while the University of Guelph plans to hold more evening classes, and even some on *Saturday*.

Of course, we're not that bad off... UW only overenrolled by 116 students so far, while York has overenrolled by 1407. We could just send the excess to Lakehead, Brock & Carleton, who report a combined 2350 still vacant spaces.

Somehow, we're even managing to guarantee residence to all of these first year students, even though we only have 4850 residence spaces... that's some pretty strange math that UW Admin is using—maybe why this is why Maclean's calls us the "most innovative" university—or maybe that's for our unique ability to sue ourselves over liquor...

At least there's no way to fit the extra 400+ students into the comfy lounge—there are already enough living there as it is.

Math Student Slang

Did he just say "on the RSA, my classmate"? What the heck does that mean? Glad you asked. Get up to date now with the *mathNEWS* Math Slang Dictionary.

Many professors these days have a hard time understanding their students, who often speak in a highly secretive form of slang that is intimidating and incomprehensible to others. This slang is derived from the theories, history, and educational contexts of the mathematics to which they are exposed every day, and it acts as a kind of certification for membership of a math student social group. In the interest of facilitating communication between students and their professors, *mathNEWS* has compiled a partial dictionary of these slang terms and their meanings.

Be in Engineering

v. To be stupid, but extremely hard-working. *'I worked all day yesterday on question 2, but I still couldn't solve it. I must have been in Engineering.'*

Classmate

n. Close friend. *'Stop being mean to Bob; he's my classmate.'*

Draw a Venn diagram

v. To explain something obvious in great detail. *'Come on, the Jacobson density theorem is trivial; don't make me draw you a Venn diagram.'*

Invert four-by-fours

v. To engage in tedious or torturous activity. *'That STAT 231 class is completely undergrad. It's nothing but inverting four-by-fours.'*

Object-oriented

adj. Sexually aroused. *'Check out those Arts students over there. They're making me object-oriented. Sometimes farm animals make me object-oriented too.'*

On the RSA

adj. Secret or confidential. *'My classmate told me on the RSA that the school is planning to merge the math faculty with the department of Rec and Leisure to create a new superfaculty. Kryptonite will be its only weakness.'*

Orthogonal

See **Object-oriented**.

Pop the boolean

v. To propose marriage. *'He popped the boolean on her yesterday. She said no, her parents wouldn't let her marry a math student.'*

Postdoctoral

adj. Excellent, of high quality or intellectual calibre. *'She showed me her answer to the bonus question, and it was really postdoctoral.'*

Trivial

adj. Something that is already well-understood by the speaker. *'Don't tell me you don't understand the proof of the prime number theorem. It's trivial.'*

Undergrad

1. adj. Bad, low in quality. *'I'm not surprised I got a low mark in Real Analysis 1; the three assignments that I actually did were totally undergrad.'*

2. adj. Basic, extremely simple. *'That class is full of CS students, so the homework is really undergrad.'*

Greg Maloney

Bonus Prof Squiz!

How Well Do You Know Your Profs?

Of all the following statements about profs, only three are true. (Well, we know three are true, the rest are made up but you never really know) The first person to send the correct three to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca will win a \$5 gift certificate to the C&D. We'll even let profs answer this one, so you can show off how well you know your colleagues.

1. JP Pretti had a garage band in high school that opened for the Barenaked Ladies shortly before they signed their big US record deal.
2. Paul Schellenberg owns an ostrich farm in North Ontario.
3. Dan Brown is the middle of 13 children.
4. Stephen New speaks fluent Thai.
5. Mary Hardy was a varsity gymnast during her undergrad she can still do a walking handstand if politely coerced.
6. Jeff Shallit can count up to \$10 in coins blindfolded by feeling their weight and working out the possible combinations.
7. Robert Andre was detained once at Pearson Airport because the authorities thought the PMATH department laptop was a bomb.
8. If you take Eugene Zima's middle name and roughly translate it into English, you get 'Danger'.
9. Dave Taylor's older sister is a Member of Parliament for Nova Scotia.
10. Serge D'Alessio's uncle owns D'Alessio's Pizza.
11. On average, Ian VanderBurgh has to stop the romantic advances of 3 female frosh per month.
12. Originally, Therese Biedl wanted to name her daughter 'Bailey'; however, she decided against it once her husband pointed out that during roll-call at school she would be called on as 'Biedl, Bailey'.
13. When Matt Armstrong was working in Silicon Valley he got a job as an actor in the movie 'Bring It On'; he was the break-dancer in the try-out scene.
14. There are a total of 20 cats living in Dave Wagner's house.
15. Keith Geddes is one of the co-founders of Maple.
16. Dave McKinnon lived on the same floor in residence as Conrad O'Brien at Harvard.
17. Frank Zorzitto was on Jeopardy once, came in second, and came away only with car wax.

Ian W. MacKinnon

mathNEWSquiz

So Craig is in Alberta this week (*But I'm here in spirit, thanks to telnet! -CS*), leaving me to mind the store. That's all right, though; I seem to know what I'm doing. I read this book on Saturday. Harold Plotter and O(the Kleenex) or some such. It's about this CS major who struggles through Calc 2 and CS134 with a cold. Oh wait, that was me last Sunday. My bad. Anyway, the book was actually pretty good. Where was I? Oh yes, squiz. Let's start this week with the answers to last week's squiz: **Easy:** 1) Lionel Hutz, The Simpsons 2) Cats, Zero Wing 3) Brain, Pinky and the Brain 4) Weezer, "Pink Triangle" 5) Bender, "The Series has Landed", Futurama **Medium:** 1) Toby Ziegler, "Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc", The West Wing 2) They Might Be Giants, "Dr. Evil" 3) Smash Mouth, "Walking on the Sun" 4) Gimpy, "Rivalries", Undergrads 5) Dennis, Monty Python and the Holy Grail **Hard:** 1) Clown, Hamlet, Act V Scene i 2) Sarah McLachlan, "Ice Cream" 3) SomethingAwful.com 4) Q, to Worf, "Deja Q", Star Trek: The Next Generation 5) The Seatbelts, "Tank!" **Impossible:** 1) Quantum Computation and Quantum Information, M.A. Nielson and I.L. Chuang 2) GameSpy.com Grudge Match, Link vs. Link 3) E.K. Hornbeck, in Inherit the Wind, by J. Lawrence and R.E. Lee

Congratulations to Lino 'π' Demasi and his winning score of 27 out of a possible 45 points. Congratulations also to Amanda with her valiant try at 25. Lino, you can pick up your C&D gift certificate from the MathSoc office at your leisure.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

I was told to tell you that some of these questions may be construed as minor spoilers.

1. Who is the new Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher?
2. In addition to being an Auror, what kind of witch is Tonks?
3. What skill does Harry have to learn from Snape outside of class? (Bonus: What does he tell people doing when he's there?)
4. What is Voldemort seeking from the Ministry of Magic?
5. How many times does Cho Chang kiss Harry?

Stuff on Craig's Desk

1. What data storage device supposedly had its capacity selected in such a way that it would be able to contain all of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony?
2. What book by Christopher Hitchens describes the alleged war crimes of a recipient of the Nobel Peace prize?
3. In what movie is the character played by Martin Sheen referred to as an "errand boy sent by grocery clerks to collect the bill?"
4. According to Undergrads character Justin "Gimpy" Taylor, what device must one "master... as a fisherman masters bait?"
5. In what classic turn-based strategy game by the creator of *Civilization* can you build the Human Genome Project, the Hunter-Seeker Algorithm and the Self-Aware Colony?

Stuff on Eric's Desk

1. Mr. Pibb is ostensibly a competitor of this product.
2. In this anime/manga series, a third-year ronin becomes karinrin of a girls dormitory. (Bonus: Give the name of the dormitory)

3. How many extra buttons are there on a Logitech Cordless Freedom keyboard over a standard 103/104-key keyboard?
4. The second book about a man and his Holistic Detective Agency.
5. Mine happens to be red and plastic, not unlike, say, Batman's in the TV series. Identify this object.

Song Lyrics

1. Every honeybee
Fills with jealousy
When they see you out with me
2. If they'd let me have my way
I could have flayed him into shape
But my hands were tied
The bleeding hearts and artists
Let him get away with murder.
3. So raise your fists
And march around
Don't dare take what you need
I'll jail and bury those committed
And smother the rest in greed
4. and I would be the last to know
I would be the last to let it show
and I would be the last to go

So that's the squiz this week. Entries are due by 6.30PM July 7 in the BLACK BOX or by email.

Squizmaster Eric
and the other one Craig (in absentia)

Tax On Sex

Amit Chakma recently announced that as of September 1, the fees for parking lots on campus will be going up. *mathNEWS* was fortunate enough to obtain an interview with Martin Van Nierop, director of Information and Public Affairs.

mathNEWS: Thank you for joining us today Martin.

MVN: Thank you for having me.

mathNEWS: We have recently heard about the increase to parking fees on campus. Could you give us an explanation to the breakdown of these cost increases?

MVN: As I'm sure you know, pregnancies on campus have been on the rise. This has cause a great strain on the University for Day Care, students dropping out and so on. We felt that an increase to the parking fee would discourage students from copulating in parking lots.

mathNEWS: Did you ever think maybe this is part of a bigger problem, not just related to parking lots?

MVN: We're well aware of this. We also plan to raise residence fees as we believe students are copulating in their rooms, and also tuition, as we believe students are copulating in classrooms.

mathNEWS: Will that really solve all the problems?

MVN: Absolutely.

mathNEWS: Have you considered any alternatives?

MVN: We considered making it an all male university. That way, only the sheep...

mathNEWS: Okay, that's quite enough, thank you.

MVN: It's been my pleasure.

