

math

NEWS

Volume 93, Issue 1

Friday, September 19th, 2003



math NEWS
Ownz J00 !

Note: mathNEWS has not been taken over by pirates - we just like them - a lot

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

Sept 29	Issue #2 production night
Oct 3	Issue #2 hits the stands

Math Faculty

Sept 19	Course Add Deadline
Sept 26	Course Drop Deadline
Sept 26	Last Day for 100% refund
Sept 29 - Oct 25	Class Enrolment for W04

MathSoc

Sept 25	Cove night, that means free video games, nerd boy!
Anytime	Come and talk to your exec about what ever is on your mind
Always	All your exec are belong to us!

Co-op

Sept 15	Work Reports due ... what report?
Sept 19	Posting #1 available

Miscellaneous

Today	TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY! YARRRR!
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Municipal Elections

Wanna be represented by someone whose middle name is Snuggles?

City of Waterloo Increases Parking Bylaw Enforcement*I Smell an Election Coming*

The city of Waterloo has increased its enforcement of local parking bylaws in recent weeks as students flock back to the city to resume their studies. Numerous vehicles parked out on the streets have been hit by the blitz, resulting in the bylaw officer's trademark of placing tickets underneath cars' windshield wipers.

Some of the alleged offenders are concerned that the city is taking the parking bylaw too far. "I got ticketed for parking my car on my own driveway," explained Mark*, a UW math student. "I came out of my house this morning, and here sits an \$18.00 ticket for parking on private property — *my own property!*"

Various theories abound, however many people are convinced that the ticket blitz is a covert effort by city council to use student parking fines as a means of paying back debt acquired by the RIM Park fiasco. "This is an effort to please suburban Waterloo SUV drivers whose houses feature front-drive-way double garages," Mark said. "I'll be taking this ticket to court!"

Calls to the City of Waterloo were not being returned at press time.

Aaron Klotz

* Names have been changed to protect privacy

mastHEAD

Out With The Old In With The Nucleus.

HAHA, he dropped his cards!

It's good to see such a strong turnout of impressionable young frosh for our issue number one production night. Of course, if you're a first year, don't think it's too late to join in on the *mathNEWS* fun! You can still come to production nights every other Monday (the next one will be Monday the 29th). It's also good to see some well-seasoned, cranky upper-year types starting in as well. The more cynics the merrier... well, not really

So there's going to be a *Frosh Cornered* yet again, which is nice, as that's how I got my start with *mathNEWS*, however we must make sure this one does not take the path of Raymond Lai and write articles that are 5 pages once the flow-charts have been inserted. I'll make sure of that, I faith fair in our new initiation into the Cornered Frosh program.

Fall term is well underway, which is cool given that Bomber is open once again. I suspect this is because of a new MacLeans category involving on-campus bars, because God knows we'll do whatever they tell us to do. Not that that's a bad thing, but I don't even know if Mr. MacLean graduated high school. Anyway, production nights at Bomber from now on!

So with the RIAA's recent litigation against a 12-year-old girl who lives on social assistance who just happens to trade music, we asked the contributors to this issue of *mathNEWS* "Who is the RIAA going to sue next?": Volocoso (A fetus... probably will steal music), Dan (The artists for playing illegal versions of the songs at concerts), Sheep Nine (RIAA. They're the only ones they haven't sued), RobII (Metallica, for suing Napster users without cutting them in), Diana (Open Mic performers), Laymond (something suitably random), Keslen (Bill Gates, no better source for \$), Aleph (The Karaoke singers at Monte Carlo night), Beatlemania (Trogor the Burninator), Eyal (the AAIR), Dan (The numbers zero and one. Without them there could be no file sharing), SuperTree (WCRI, for making girls share one washroom), Pi (Star Wars Kid), Jeff (Elvis impersonators for DNA theft), Jen (Monkey ball on fire), Aly (My hard drive and its 30GBs of MP3's).

Shout out to the cool kats in UW graphics, and to Ed, Robyn, Adrian, and Lori in MFCF for their help in getting *mathNEWS* operational again after the split - without them, you'd be holding a pile of blank stapled paper in your hand right now...

Ian W. MacKinnon (Al Gore, the inventor of the Internet)
Louis Mastorakos (Gimme a minute)
Chris Harasemchuk (Ripleys - then we can sue the RIAA
and make the circle complete
Emerald Kushnier (<scurries away and hides>)

Midnight Capture The Flag!

F03's first installment of Midnight Capture The Flag will be held on Sunday, September 28th at 11:59 pm. Meet in the Comfy. Be there, or be having less fun!

mathNEWS and csNEWS Merge

In an attempt to convince MFCF and CSCF to reverse all changes effected over the last four months, causing numerous difficulties (including my inability to open a browser unless I'm logged on to a CS server in a CS lab), csNEWS has actively pursued a merger with mathNEWS.

"I believe this merger will set a precedent, opening the doors for MFCF and CSCF to rejoin," says csNEWS Editor Ian. "The split has caused us nothing but headaches from day one — now I can finally sleep at night."

In response to this, the mathNEWS production system was blocked from running on all CS servers. "It's no longer CS related — it's just math now," says an MFCF/CSCF spokesperson. "Your system can only run on CS servers agnesi and lassar? we'll give you... Math server bacon. Mwa ha ha!" (Evil laughter added for effect).

After pressure from President Bush, the mathNEWS system was restored. "I don't know what an 'agnesi' is, but it sounds like a weapon of mass destruction. mathNEWS has been and will continue to be my most reliable source for news."

Well, I guess you've now got my opinion on the split...SPLITTING IS BAD!

Beatlemaniac & Krease

Register to vote today

Federation of Students to assist with enumerating students

This November, a new Waterloo City Council and Mayor will be elected. The Federation of Students is working to help students to join the voting list in order to exercise their right to vote.

If you are 18 years of age or older, a Canadian citizen, and will be living in Waterloo on the day of the election, then you have the right to vote. You can join the voters' list by simply going to the Federation of Students office in the SLC, and filling out an enumeration form. (You can also do this at City Hall, although the Feds office is likely more convenient.) If you will be registering at the Federation of Students office, be sure to do so before September 30.

Historically, issues important to students are sidelined in municipal politics — if students don't vote, then politicians won't pay attention to them. If a large number of students votes in the upcoming election, then issues important to students (for example, the quality and availability of off-campus student housing) will be taken much more seriously.

Voting takes very little time, so register to vote and make sure that your voice is heard. *[With no old people voting I run this town ... carry on. — iEd]*

Craig Sloss

The Same Thing We Do Every Night Aly ...

My name is Aly and I will be using this space to inform, entertain, and most importantly, spend my propaganda.

Now without further delay, here's what I learned during my first two weeks as a frosh...

- When you tell girls that you're in math, your chances of getting dates decreases by a factor of 10

VPAS Sez

The Return of the VPAS

.... and the fall term arrives.

Welcome, one and all, to the F03 term here at the Faculty of Mathematics. To the upper year students, my writing should be familiar since I am returning as VPAS from the W03 term. To the new frosh, I bid you a hearty welcome, and a call for your involvement.

MathSoc, like code, is what you put into it. For my fellow executives and Math Society volunteers, we put a lot of our time, heart, sweat, and energy into everything we do for the Society (and THAT'S why we are well armed with Febreeze). I'll leave the explanation for academic representation and finances to the VPA and the VPF, respectively. What I'm going to do is talk about the importance of fun and balance.

I like advocating that the life of a Mathie is a very delicate balancing act. Of course you'll need to do work and you'll need to eat (eating prevents starvation, and starvation is bad), but all that academics and eating must be balanced with a good dose of fun. My directors and I organize that fun for all Mathies to enjoy: That's what MathSoc activities and services are all about.

MathSoc has great events lined up for Mathies of all ages. Check out this list. No seriously, Check it out.

- Cove Night (Unlimited games for 4 hours)
- Glow-in-the-dark Ultimate
- All-night Laserquest
- MathSoc Charity Ball
- And Much More!

I sound like an infomercial. That must stop.

Alright, the gist of this entire article is: MathSoc does great things for Mathies every term. From the cheapest photocopies on campus to our famous exam bank; from the Mathies vs Engineering vs Arts shotglasses to our annual Math Charity Ball, the Math Society is no less than an idea away from greatness, although we can always use more ideas.

If you have an idea for a social event, or an idea on how to make MathSoc work for YOU, I invite you to email vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca and tell me about your next great idea. Even better, if you wish to volunteer for MathSoc (YES, DOOOOIT), stop by our office (MC3038, across from the Math C&D) and inquire about our numerous committees and our MathSoc SWAT Team. Talk to our volunteers and come and meet your execs because we always have time to chat and hear what you think.

And so ends this introductory blurb on MathSoc. We return to the regular VPAS Sez next week, now with 50% more Stebila and 100% more beligerancy!

Raymond CT Lai
VP, Activities and Services
MathSoc F03

- Wearing a pink tie everywhere you go during frosh week gets you funny looks
- You're not the strange kid, since *everybody* in math is the strange kid

Aly

mathNEWS mailBAG

mathNEWS gets a lot of email — most of it is porn or ads on how to stop spam, but we occasionally get other things, like love/hate mail, or even articles. If you want to send something to **mathNEWS** you can email us at `mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca` (If you're sending in an article, just put the word 'article' somewhere in the email subject, and the text of the article in the body). If you're feeling technologically challenged, you can always stick it in the **BLACK BOX** between the comfy lounge and C&D, or even send via snail mail: **mathNEWS**, MC 3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave W., Waterloo, ON, N2L 3G1.

Subject: re: Article received

Hey mN. I don't why you're sending me this crap. I mean, I KNOW my article was sent. It's not like I needed to be reminded mN. So, anyways. That's a pretty stupid name. pLaT4mN. But you're welcome for my article anyway. I will send mNy more. mN. Seriously.

e.

>On Mon, 15 Sep 2003, mathNEWS Editor wrote:

>

>Thank you for your article. It has been

>submitted to the production team.

> - pLaT4mN

Subject: re: Article received

HOLY CRAP mN!! I told you to stop sending me this crap! I will set you up the bomb next time mN!

e.

>On Tue, 16 Sep 2003, mathNEWS Editor wrote:

>

>Thank you for your article. It has been

>submitted to the production team.

> - pLaT4mN

Subject: re: Article received

Alright! You've been set up the bomb! I will get Albert to explode them!

e.

>On Tue, 16 Sep 2003, mathNEWS Editor wrote:

>

>Thank you for your article. It has been

>submitted to the production team.

> - pLaT4mN

I am so going to smack you back to the stone-age.

Kinnon

Chris Edey Hires C&O Prof

In his recent attempt to enumerate students for the municipal election, FEDS president Chris Edey has hired Prof. D.M. Jackson. Jackson, an expert on combinatorial enumeration, has been hired to find a natural weight-preserving bijection between the set of students and the set of 1 - 1 automorphisms on symmetric groups. When asked about his work, Jackson simply said "Rrrrrrrrrrrrrright"

π

The Sosch Scene

Imagine Frosh Week extended 4 months

So a new term has finally bestowed itself upon us and almost seems like all the Frosh have come to the realization that a) "First year is a lot easier than first imagined." or b) "We're not allowed to use our calculators??" or most importantly c) "Wednesday and Thursday night classes are very bad ideas." Regardless, the Fall term appears to be in full swing and that means that the Social Board is massively planning a number of events for the semester. Cotton Candy Days, Hot Chocolate Days, Cove Night, Pints with Profs - all this and more coming directly from us to you. Let's start off with something coming up just over the horizon.

Cove Night — Thursday Sept. 25th 8pm - midnight

Once again, the Cove is open to all Mathsoc fee-paying students. All students from other faculties can participate for mere \$3. So tell your friends!

Cotton Candy Days — sometime...somewhere...somehow

If you see people making cotton candy outside the C&D then it's Cotton Candy Day. It'll happen whenever we feel like setting up a booth and spinning some sweet sweet candy.

Glow in the Dark Ultimate — Saturday Sept. 20th 9pm - whenever people leave

Glow sticks and ultimate discs, what a combo! The Question on everyone's mind must be: How come it took so long for someone to put the two greatest outdoor nighttime activity items together? Well... I really can't come up with a witty answer, so I'll just continue on. This fun-filled event will take place out on the Village Greens and hopefully all you people will come out and have a (weather-permitted) evening of fun.

Secret Activity X — Classified.

The Social Board is secretly planning a number of events throughout October to drive away those midterm blues. Keep reading to find out more. I promise that it'll be good whole some fun.

If there's something you think is fun to do then tell us! Our collective minds here can only do so much. Email us at `social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca` to tell us what you want to do and we'll try to make it happen. Don't forget to keep watching for the posters - spontaneous events may happen anytime.

The Social/Pub Board

`social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`

Quick Tip For Frosh

Hey frosh! What do we all have in common? Classical Algebra, Math 135. Quick tip: be familiar with the set of positive integers \mathbf{P} as stated in the textbook. I believe most school districts teach the material around kindergarten. However, due to the double cohort, lower standards mean you're able to get away with being admitted without your kindergarten diploma.

Now, this class is tough so take the time now to study \mathbf{P} on your own time. I'll get you started. First comes 1, then 2, 3, next, followed by 4 and 5. Shortly thereafter, you have a 6 which precedes 7. Now I can't do all the work for you. We all have to learn on our own eventually.

Good luck. You'll need it.

e^vAl

Talk Like A Pirate Day

Arrr! Don't Be A Land Lubber.

By the time this issue is released, it will be International Talk Like A Pirate Day. The full details of this holiday can be found on www.talklikeapirate.com, but it goes without saying that this it is traditionally celebrated by talking like a pirate. Such an important event only comes once a year, so it's best to get the most out of your Talk Like A Pirate Day. Thankfully *mathNEWS* is here with tips on how to commemorate it.

1. **Be Creative** — Everyone (except those fools who think Talk Like A Pirate Day is a stupid waste of time) is going to be using the word "Arrr!" like it's going out of style. If you want to stand out, you're going to have to add a fresh twist to your pirate character. Talk like a Canadian pirate ("Arrr, eh!"), or a pirate Mr. T ("Arrr, I pity the fool."), or a mime pirate ("...!"). But if you're going to do this, you should at least wear an eyepatch, lest you confuse people. Talking like a parrot is not only uncreative, it's very annoying. Talking like a pirate who has entered university and lost his accent is just plain lazy.
2. **Download Some Illegal MP3s** — Why limit yourself to talking like a pirate when you can live the life of a pirate. Live dangerously and download music from your favourite bands, or really get into the spirit of things and steal a bootleg copy of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. (Warning: *mathNEWS* does not seriously endorse any illegal activity. Download copyrighted files at your own risk, especially if you are a poor twelve year old girl.)
3. **Steal Your Neighbour's Things** — Real pirates take whatever they want, so why not live the dream and grab some booty (take that as you will) from next door. Hey, if your neighbour isn't cool enough to go pirate and steal them back, it's not your fault. (Warning: *mathNEWS* really does not endorse theft or breaking and entering. Don't even think about blaming us.)
4. **Ask For Talk Like A Pirate Day Gifts** — If you think that engaging in real crime is wrong (Warning: *mathNEWS* says you should.), try guilting other people into getting you gifts. If you see somebody who isn't talking like a pirate, tell them that Talk Like A Pirate Day is a gift-giving holiday. People are going to be giving you confused stares all day, so you might as well channel this confusion into material goods.
5. **Talk Like Elmer Fudd** — Hey, it makes just as much sense as talking like a pirate, but you'll confuse even more people.

Captain Dan Woodley

A CS/Math Haiku

math and cs split
my email has dissappeared
silently I cry

MGC Announcement

Hi, my name is Tyler, and I'm an MGC Chair. There is also my good friend Steve, my co-chair with 4 months experience.

Welcome to the column of Graduating Students Anonymous. This is just a friendly reminder of things you graduating student need to know in order to stay on top of things and get that degree with your name on it.

GRADUATING CLASS INFO SESSION

WHEN: Wed Sept 24 from 5:30 to 6:30

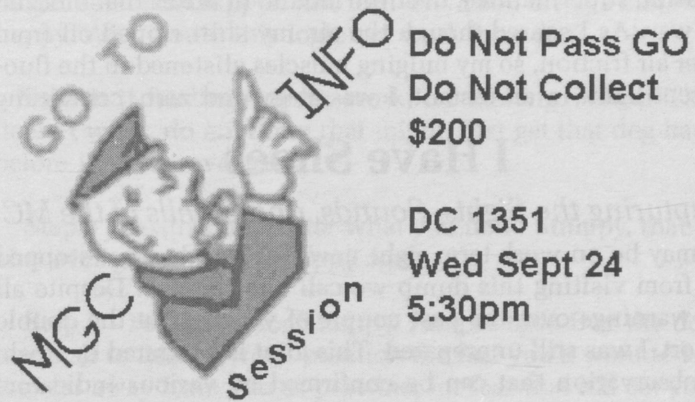
WHERE: DC 1351

IMPORTANT: Yes

RELEVANT: Oh yeah!

There will be some guest speakers who will all be present to discuss resource available to you all for the year. Information about Jobs, Graduate Studies, Grad photos are some of the relevant topics of this session.

Here is your coupon to remind you to come to the info session:



Na na na na na na na na na Volunteer!

MGC needs volunteers for the upcoming 2 terms. Want to be in charge of the Tribunal of Nourishment (Pizza Day)? A member of the League of Extraordinary Yearbook Editors? Or the Grad Ball Justice Squad? If so, come by the MGC office or drop us a line and let us know that you are interested in volunteering.

Steve "Super Dude" Kalmar
Tyler "Superer Dude" Slijboom
2004 Math Grad Committee Chairs

What Am I Doing?

it all started on a rainy day...

Today is the second week of class, which also happens to be the due date of my first ever university assignment. Despite all the warnings and advice my frosh leaders had given me, I had left it until the last minute to finish my assignment. I had come to the MC way before my class hoping to find someone I know to assure me my two sheets of work was ok. In the midst of my wandering, I was attracted to an advertisement on the wall which included the word "FREE" and right after it the word "Pizza". That's how I dedicated my Monday night to *mathNEWS*.

Grocery Store Commando

Ah, the first job. You remember your first job, right? I remember mine clearly. Some people work for their parents, some people work at McDonald's, but not I. No, I became a *Grocery Store Commando*.

I'm sure some of you have met a Grocery Store Commando before. These honoured and elite ranks are the cowboys of the shopping cart and hand-jack, purveyors of parcels, and always willing to honour their nation's call of, "Cleanup, aisle six." All of this for minimum wage.

I never thought my skills would be needed here at UW, but during frosh week, someone dropped a full yet fragile aluminum soda can.

It was the kind of moment Grocery Store Commandoes were born for.

The can hit the ground, and the fizzy sugary soda shot plumes several feet into the air. Everyone else cowered, and I think a damsel in distress yelled, "Whatever shall we do now?" Enter the Grocery Store Commando.

I leapt, supermanlike, over the mound of boxes that blocked my way. As I soared through the air, my shirt ripped off from sheer air friction, so my bulging muscles glistened in the fluorescent light. In an instant, I was at ground zero, containing

I Have Shoes

Capturing the Sights, Sounds, and Smells of the MC

I may be on work term right now, but that has not stopped me from visiting this dump we call our campus. Despite all the warnings over the past couple of years about the double cohort, I was still unprepared. This joint is saturated by frosh, an observation that can be confirmed by various indicators across the sensory spectrum.

The sighting of frosh has become trivial; frosh are easier to spot now more than ever. This double cohort business means that we've got a lot more babyfaces in the MC... either that or they are all shaving regularly. Frosh clothing also tends to look like they have actually spent time getting ready in the morning. Soon they will learn the error of their ways (speaking of errors, I shudder when an unsuspecting frosh wanders into the comfy lounge. I don't know if frosh week really prepares them for traumatic occasions such as those... maybe that's an area for Orientation Week to address for next year).

The smells... frosh have yet to experience any significantly time-consuming classes. For those students, showers and a fresh change of clothes are still the norm, not the exception.

The sounds — ahh yes, the sounds. You can always tell who the frosh are when you walk around the building and listen to conversations. When I hear, "Is this the third floor or the second floor?" I know I am in froshland. Last year, however, I heard my all-time favourite frosh quote — Frosh 1 says to Frosh 2: "Man, I should have gone into engineering!" [I later found out this frosh did flunk out of math, into engineering — iEd].

Now that I have succeeded in alienating a significant portion of the math undergrad population, I think I'll pat myself on the back for a job well done. Don't worry frosh, I'm sure you'll find some frosh-friendly drivel elsewhere in this issue. Most of this frosh-hostile drivel is bullshit anyway, which is why it ends up in *mathNEWS*.

Aaron Klotz

the cola explosion with my vice-like grip. At least, that's how I remember it happening...

But even the mighty hands of the Grocery Store Commando could not hold out indefinitely. I needed to ditch the mess, and it was starting to drip caramel-coloured acid through my claws. I looked up, and directly in front of me was a washroom. Perfect, I thought, until I realized it was a washroom for women.

Last time I checked, I wasn't one of those.

I looked at the can. I looked at the women's room. I looked again at the can, realizing what it was I had to do. "I'm going in!", I screamed, like a commander leading his men into one last heroic charge. My frightened companions cheered me on and I made the ultimate sacrifice; entering the bathroom of a sex other than my own. After all, us Grocery Store Commandos must be willing to do *anything*.

Valacos

Ontario Tories Test Press Release Generator

Automated process facilitates political discourse

With the Ontario election campaign well underway, the Progressive Conservative party issued a press release in which they claimed that Dalton McGuinty is an evil reptilian kitten-eater from another planet. While this may have appeared to many as either a joke or as a cheap shot, it was in fact a test of the Tories' new automated Press Release Insult Generator (PRIG).

The PRIG was designed to efficiently write press releases in an effort to raise the level of political debate in Ontario to one comparable to that in the United States. *mathNEWS* was given a look at the inner workings of the PRIG algorithm.

The algorithm is remarkably simple, and you can even try it at home. Four lists are provided: two of adjectives, one of nouns and one of locations. A word is chosen at random from each list, and then the four words are put into the sentence "Dalton McGuinty. He's a(n) [adjective A] [adjective B] [noun] from [location]." The lists of words and phrases used by the PRIG are as follows:

Adjective A

- insidious
- evil
- creepy
- fluffy

Adjective B

- demonic
- reptilian
- vampiric
- university-educated

Noun

- poisoner of minds and souls
- baby-killer
- kitten-eater
- social-program-funder

Location

- another planet
- the ninth circle of hell
- my grandmother's basement
- Hamilton

Several trial runs of the algorithm produced results such as "Dalton McGuinty. He's a creepy university-educated baby-killer from the ninth circle of hell," and "Dalton McGuinty. He's a fluffy vampiric social-program-funder from my grandmother's basement." Try it yourself, and you too will soon be a master of Ontario-style political discourse.

Eigenvector

Death of a Bat

On 16:01, Monday, September 1, 2003, the 3rd Floor bat was officially declared dead. Found by a pink-haired student (PHS), the bat was discovered 1.0 m away from where it was laid Sunday evening.

Around 18:00 Sunday evening, the PHS discovered this bat behind one of the 3rd floor wooden benches, initially mistaking it for a rubber toy of the same creature. However, after a gentle nudge from a long wooden stick, and a high pitched "squeak" from the rodent, it was confirmed to be a real bat.

The PHS, concerned with the welfare of the bat, rushed to the friends nearby, uncertain what to do. The friends, of course disbelieving the student, rushed to the location of the bat, proclaiming it to be some piece of dirt, or some other random thing fallen on the floor. However, after some flapping of wings by said bat, the friends quickly located the phone in the MathSoc executive office, and called Plant Ops to report the live bat.

At this point, the much-disturbed and distraught bat began an anxious attempt to locate a exit to the third floor. Under the watch of the PHS, as well as occasional watches from the friends and random 3rd floor walkers, the bat began lapping the third floor, from the area the elevators reside to just outside the Math C&D, repeating several times. (Several pictures and a video were captured at this time.)

Eventually, the bat flew into the Math C&D, and given that there were easily accessible doors to enclose it with, the bat was trapped by the PHS & friends.

A singularly-staffed Plant Ops (it was a Sunday, afterall) had still not arrived, and was contacted again. After a good hour, under the careful watch of the pink-haired student, the powers that be procured a key in order to open the doors that let out from the Math C&D to the balcony. Everyone was happy, felt that bat would find its way out, and so the story should've been drawn to a close; the pink-haired student left to find dinner/dancing.

An hour later, the PHS returned to find a nearly deserted hallway. The only inhabitant? The bat, who had somehow managed to squeeze through the small crack in the mostly closed door. Extremely distraught, and alone, the student unsuccessfully tried to get help from 4911 (kampus kops), and the humane society (couldn't find the number). Almost in tears from the plight of this poor creature caught in the claws of society, the student was unable to capture and release the creature to the 3rd floor balcony.

And then, by chance, a friend arrived, and through some efforts, the two were able to capture the bat, and (quickly) deposit it on the 3rd floor balcony. Satisfied of the efforts taken, and under a full belief of the bat's ability to find its way from there on, the PHS (and friend) proceeded off to check out fed hall.

Unfortunately, a quick check on the Monday following resulted in the bat being discovered 0.5 m away from the location it had been left at, still alive. Hoping for the best, the PHS re-checked, and discovered at 16:01 Monday, September 1, 2003, the bat was clearly deceased.

It is sad times. And the bat will be sorely missed. Well, at least by the pink-haired student (PHS).

The pink-haired student

Stumpy

Since this is my first *mathNEWS* article, I feel compelled to share something special with you all — my guide to getting the **best puppy ever!** We all know that puppies are just sooo much better than older, lazier dogs. What's that you say? Too bad dogs can't stay like puppies forever? Wait just a minute, with my guide they CAN! Just follow these simple steps:

Step 1 - Purchase a puppy. Or steal one. Simply put, acquire a puppy of choice.

Step 2 - Play with the puppy, bask with the glory of knowing you will always have the puppy with its puppyness.

Step 3 - When the puppy starts showing signs of old age, cut off its legs at the knees. This allows the dog to appear puppy-like. At this point, call the puppy Stumpy. It'll like that.

Note: In cases of extreme circumstance, where Stumpy no longer acts like chipper, just feed 'em. Food always makes me happy. Why would this logic not work for a dog?

Note 2: If feeding doesn't work, try kicking. And if THAT doesn't work, do anything that might. Just get that dog happy before it seeks revenge.

Step 4 - Realize no matter what you do to Stumpy, that dog ain't ever going to be a puppy again.

Step 5 - Feel sorry for Stumpy. Pamper him. Buy the dog a home all to itself. I won't mention the fact you'll want to keep it as far away from you as possible, for fear that it'll eat you.

Realization: You no longer have a puppy, only a psychotic dog who wants to turn carnivore.

Step 6 - Buy a new puppy. Play with it. When it gets to be a little less like a puppy, feed it to Stumpy. That way it'll keep Stumpy at bay, and give you a chance to get a new happy puppy.

Conclusion: Not only can you handle an infinite supply of puppies, but you have the best dog ever - a dog-eat-dog Stumpy!

Jen "Monkey" Cook

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The Fantabulous Four: Chris Harasemchuk, Louis Mastorakas, Emerald Kushnier, Ian MacKinnon

JUST A NUMBER?!?!?!?

The numbing paralysis of fear. Not everyone has encountered this feeling. However, it is a symptom of the illness associated with being a frosh - brevisignumphobia. This sickness comes from the fear of failure. One would think this would increase the further you get in school, but apparently it just gets better. Or does it?

One of the things you realize is that year after year, the frosh (some of you!) are more and more worried about your marks...fretting after each and every mark. Every quarter of a percentage point matters more and more. You believe it'll make or break you.

So here's the wakeup call: IT WON'T. What does matter? Your exams, perhaps some tests...your assignments once you reach 3rd year...sometimes not even until 4th year when your assignments are worth 10-15% each.

The amount of stress everyone puts on themselves nowadays over their marks is just not worth it! Is it worth the mental anguish and stress of receiving a 9/10 on something worth a quarter of a percentage point and being upset that you didn't get perfect?

Until you receive 49.75% in a course where your professor does NOT pass you with a 50% (if it doesn't get rounded up for you!) is the day that it MIGHT be worth the stress and worry...and only then if you're having that much trouble in a course!

So what's the word of the day, then? RELAX! It's taken me a couple years to learn that lesson, do yourself a favour and learn it early! Play some Arrogant Worms, think about what you want to do on co-op, enjoy your time out on weekends meeting people in rez, and just do the basic work. You don't stress when you're in class (you're probably having trouble staying awake), so why stress if there happens to be a paper

Mathletics!

A new term has started and the math teams are registered, off, and soon to be running! We had a great turnout for the sign-up and have put together teams for all the recreational sports as well as competitive volleyball and broomball teams. The teams' seasons start within a few weeks, so for those of you who signed up, keep an eye on your email for the season schedule and an email from your captains!

For those of you who signed up to be captains, you should have received an email by now about which team you are captaining and when your captains' meeting is.

Not a team sports lover? What else does Mathletics have to offer, you ask? We're hoping to organize a number of other events over the course of the term, and help advertise some of the tournaments Campus Recreation holds. Some ideas proposed so far include a pool tournament, less formal frisbee outside MC, or outdoor watersports (if the rain keeps up, that is!)

If you have any ideas for events that could be run through mathletics, you are welcome to e-mail them to the board at mathletics@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

you're completing in it just because it's worth part of a number that you see online a couple months later?

If you only knew what it looks like behind the scenes... they have a good time. They think about how best to get people through the course, they're not ogres who TRY to fail people...they look to pass you. So help them pass you, and help them help you do well, and you're set.

So going back and reading through this, you realize it's not really funny. Which isn't so great considering that it would've been nice to write something funny. But then again, the point would get lost and this is probably too important. Bleh, who knows...maybe I'll get my amuse-muse back next production night. Or maybe it's just because I want to get to wings night *grumble*...stomach says it's time to leave. See some of you in class!

crabbyJavaSpinster()

Frosh week jitters?

I've had worse.

So, you're all frosh, you're just getting to the good ol' U Waterloo, and you think you're stressed. Chances are, you are. But I've had worse. No, it wasn't the stress of getting into university for the first time; no, it wasn't the stress of getting into high school for the first time. No, gather round frosh, and hear my harrowing tale of my first day of first grade.

So, I walk into the first grade class. Everyone's sitting down in desks that are in groups of four. Hey, that's cool. Kindergarden didn't have desks. This first grade is going to be cool! Seems like everyone in the class has bags full of stuff though. Well that's not a problem, I'm sure the teacher will give me one. After all, she gave me a pencil in kindergarden whenever I wanted one, she's got to have some extra bags, right? Oh, wait, no time for that now, everyone seems to be standing. Guess I'd better stand too.

Talking's coming from somewhere. That's nothing new, some hole-studded patch of metal on the wall is saying something about announcements or something. Kindergarden had that. Okay, it's over, time to sit down for story time. Oh, wait, no one else is sitting down. Better stand up before someone notices!

Phew, no one noticed. Wait, they're all speaking something in unison. Something about Our Father or hallowed or something. Kindergarden didn't have that! What are they saying! Ah, they're sitting down, guess I can too. Wait... they're pulling something out of those bags they had! What are they? They LOOK like the teacher's storybooks... OH MY GOD! They're WRITING in them! We're not allowed to do that! Ahh! The teacher noticed me! She's asking me where my books are! I don't know! *sobs* I DON'T KNOW!!! NO ONE GAVE ME ANY!!!

It was at this point that my mother walked into the room. She then took me by the hand and led me out of the grade three class and into the grade one class.

Let this be a lesson to you, scared frosh: don't walk into the wrong room. It won't help your blood pressure.

Sheep Nima

Lost Dog: "Stumpy"

If found, please bring to mathNEWS office or stuff inside Black Box with adequate amount of food

HorrorScopes

ACC

Tax season is approaching, so prepare to start charging exorbitant amounts to all the ARTS students that have trouble calculating $1 + 1$.

Your lucky number is the ARTS faculty

ACTSCI

Counting in 1 unit of measurement will be the envy of all ENG students. Laugh at them repeatedly as they try to drink you under using multiple measurements.

Your lucky number is a drunken ENG faculty

AM

If you're looking for a good time, crash a couple of MATH 147 lectures and laugh at the simplicity of the course matter. Bring an "alcoholic" beverage and be belligerent in class. Be the star pupil.

Your lucky number is 75 frosh scared for their lives.

BBA/BMath

Classes at Laurier have both advantages and disadvantages. Having 10 minutes to get from MC4020 to some random building on the Laurier campus will likely require alternate methods of transportation (read: buy a rocketbike), although being surrounded by women will make you the envy of CS. Pawn off the innocent Laurier girls for \$50/CS student.

Your lucky number is 80 matched CS guys at the end of the day... after that we make no guarantees.

C&O

Creatively arrange caffeinated tea bags into decaf boxes (and vice versa). Sit back and enjoy the carnage. Observe undirected paths taken by students while falling down entire sets of stairs. Repeat and rinse until you have a chance to optimally arrange coffee packages.

Your lucky number is 0 evidence.

CS

Congratulations! You're now the largest CS class ever admitted to UW, and you're 98% male. Look to ARTS, SCI, ES, AHS and LAURIER in an attempt to bring the % down.

Your lucky number is 8:1

MATH/BUS

Try to undercut CHIP's software prices by downloading FREE software from the internet and burning them onto cheap CDs. Sell to CS students for a fraction of the price, and teach CHIP a lesson. Blatantly ignore copyright laws.

Your lucky number is enough money to buy you a Laurier girlfriend.

OR

Your attempts to explaining to potential co-op employers that Operations Research entails no operations fails miserably. Instead, convince employers that retaining large quantities of beer is a good thing.

Your lucky number is 9 drunken interviews.

PMATH

Attempts to recruit frosh into your "select" circle fails miserably as you attempt to explain the focus of PMATH. AMATH will try to steal your recruits by teaching frosh advanced calculus. Dig up your old Stewart 4th edition and beat them over the head with it.

Your lucky number is $n!$ headaching PMATH students.

SOFTENG

Your issues relating to a First Year Class Rep will be continuously debated. Having three class representatives will thoroughly screw with attempts to communicate with the outside world.

Your lucky number is 1 information e-mail this term.

STAT

Convincing 2A students that STAT 230 is not a hard course will be a challenge. Hang out in comfy and do random assignments from any STAT course you've previously taken.

Your lucky number is $P(\text{confused STATS students}) > .5$

UNDECLARED

Congratulations! You've got the cheapest tuition in the entire faculty, AND the most choices on courses. Avoid committing to a major like the plague. All other programs will aggressively pursue your intellect.

Your number is GO AWAY! MY SLIVER QUEEN BEATS YOUR SERRA ANGEL ANYDAY!

ARTS

You sober up to the realization that frosh week has been over for a week and you've finally sobered up.

Your lucky number is 1 sober hour per day

ENG

Job hunting on own begins early this term, as CECS announces that there are only 5 postings that will need filling this term. Figure out who you can get drunk in Poets to blackmail into getting a job.

Your lucky number is 4 months living in Poets.

SCI

Learning through osmosis does not really work. Labs will haunt your nightmares, and it's not even exam time yet! Look forward to 3+ hour mid-terms and 8-12 finals. ENG will try to recruit you, stating that engineering is really only applied sciences. Use your nuclear arsenal against them.

Your lucky number is 3 rogue nuclear weapons.

ES

Let go of your tree and take a look at the forest. There are wild animals in there that would gnaw your leg off if you were paying attention. Travel the world now before everything is extinct.

Your lucky number is 16 trees killed to make this issue you're reading.

profQUOTES

If your prof ever says anything funny, be sure to write it down in the margin of your notes and send it to *profQUOTES*. Once you have that nugget of wisdom from your prof, you can write it on a slip of paper and stick it into the **BLACK BOX**, between the Comfy and the centre stairwell on the 3rd floor. Or if you're the tree hugger type, you can e-mail them to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, Now, on with the quotes!

"You'll have a midterm, and then the world will come to an end."

Small, MATH 147

"You understand. I don't. But you do."

Nishimara, CS 360

"Typically I'm a nice guy. Except for spammers, who should be shot."

Burkowski, CS 341

[Draws concentric rings on board] "This is not a bulls-eye and I'm not standing in the middle of it."

Nishimura, CS 360

"If you're building a military barrack - say you were going to invade Mesopotamia or something."

Malton, CS 446

"This model is continually changing ... clockwise ... because counterclockwise is bad."

Malton, CS 446

"Let' see, everyone's stealing cars; I think I'll buy shares in GM"

Smith, ECON 101

"Adam Smith, founder of Economics — he's so happy — well, he's really dead."

Smith, ECON 101

"Given a curve — [chalk breaks] ... a curve — [chalk breaks] ... curve — [chalk breaks]"

Wainwright, AM 231

"The answer is always induction. 'yes', 'no', 'maybe', 'induction', are the answers."

Nishimura, CS 360

"The goals of this course are to ... and make it into *profQUOTES*."

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

[after going on for 3 minutes] um... umm... what was your question?"

Jackson, MATH 249

"The frontal lobes turn out to be pretty important"

Besner, PSYCH 207

"I'm only writing 1 set of brackets to save chalk."

Ng, MATH 235

"Stepping on a pop can is a linear transformation."

Ng, MATH 235

"I wonder how many pieces of chalk I broke so far... hmm... almost infinite... but not quite. Still a finite number."

Ng, MATH 235

"Staying in bed is boring."

Jackson, CO 330

"I'm counting the # of people that leave. ... There's one."

Jackson, CO 330

(after writing a wrong equation on the board) "Now you should have a heart attack."

Jackson, CO 330

"For your mental health and the good of your souls, you should really do this."

Jackson, CO 330

"People are looking at me as if I come from a different place."

Jackson, CO 330

Furino: "Do we have anyone else from Northern Ontario?"
Student raises hand

Furino: "You'll do Okay!"

Furino, CO 350

(door opens and closes multiple times due to students outside) "Next class, I want you to bring rocks."

Furino, CO 350

(next class, door opens and closes as before) "You didn't bring rocks."

Furino, CO 350

"In theory, it sucks. But in practice, it's awesome."

Furino, CO 350

"You're a UW student so of course you can do this."

Furino, CO 350

"Mathematicians are inherently lazy."

Furino, CO 350

"With a calculator, even the art students can count."

Smith, ECON 101

Coop Student Service

Are you concerned about co-op? Are you motivated and competent enough to help other students understand co-op? We want you!

The Co-op Student Service is dedicated to improving the lives of Coop students, both on-campus and on work term. The service prints the First Year coop student handbook, "Don't Panic", organizes 'ranking day relief', and oversees WatPubs home to hundreds of social events in dozens of cities over the years.

Visit CECS now to find out how you can help make the co-op process easier for all students!

Poetry Corner

A couple ideas came to mind. At least one of these isn't by me at all, I merely sparked the idea. See if you can guess who it was. Also, teach me forms other than haiku.

A Haiku on Comfy Magic

Conversations gone -
magic cards cover tables.
Outside leaves, tears, fall.

A Haiku Foreshadowing Antibiotics

She looks so pretty.
How was I to know the truth?
It burns when I pee.

A Haiku about my Nose

A tingling itch.
Build-up, anticipation.
Wind blows, climax, CHOOO!

RobII

The Top Ten Worst Things About Frosh Week

1. Glaring plot holes in *Single and Sexy*; if the guy was a virgin, why was he buying condoms when he met Nona?
2. Craig's statement that a Dave Matthews Band reference in *mathNEWS* would be out of date.
3. The frosh being present got in the way of the Village Orientation Leader's partying.
4. Fewer people dressed up as pimps for Monte Carlo than last year.
5. This 'free time' that the frosh were given; they should get used to not sleeping.
6. Because of the lack of alcohol consumption at TOGA, nobody streaked.
7. Although RIM gave cool card holders, they were nowhere near as cool as the stylish sandals they gave 2 years ago.
8. The frosh didn't get the traditional lame-ass story about electronics causing interference with digital cameras in order to get them to remove their valuables before getting soaked on MathSoc Day.
9. Not enough breakdowns by the Orientation Directors.
10. It only lasted one week.

Ian W. MacKinnon

Dean of Math Recalled

Celebrities Vie for Position

In a surprise vote yesterday, the Dean of Mathematics J. Alan George was unanimously recalled. Speaking on condition of anonymity, Shirley Thomson said "I only voted to recall as a joke. It turns out everyone else did too."

A large number of candidates have already risen up in an attempt to become the next Dean. The list includes many local and international celebrities. The most notable name on the list is Thunder Bay native Paul Schaffer. Paul is a fan of regulated tuition. "There is no reason that students should have to pay outrageous prices to get an education. Education should be open to everyone, even those who are stupid. In fact, we should lower the requirements to get into university so that anybody can get in."

When Arnold heard about the vacancy, he immediately filed candidacy papers. "I don't know what I'm running for, but I heard recall so I'm in." It is expected that he will spend \$3 million campaigning that would be better spent on scholarships.

A virtual unknown, Casey Robertson, is also running for the position. He is most known for playing one of the guys in red shirts on Star Trek who die in an attack. Also, Recent BMath graduate Colin Davidson, son of Professor Ken Davidson, also covets the chair. "I figure this is the only way to get dad to raise my allowance."

π

Bottom Ten (Approximately) Things to Say to Your Professor

(Especially in Sucession)

1. (after raising your hand)
2. Get off the stage!
3. And you call it a computer? Cool!
4. Define 'late'
5. Where exactly did you get your degree?
6. When exactly did you get your degree?
7. What exactly did you get your degree in?
8. Who exactly...(sorry, on a roll there)
9. Did you know Health Canada recommends you as a cure for insomnia?
10. How exactly...(just shoot me)
11. Just shoot me
12. Actually, cheating has no consequences unless you get caught
13. Do you know how to treat this?
14. Remember me? I was the guy in the dress
15. A guy asking a girl out using java code would be more academic than this
16. And the bottomest, worstest, nastiest, thing to say to your prof is..."Sooo, is this an acid flashback, or actually something we need to know?"

This list was generated *automatically* on Mon Sep 15
08:43:00 EDT 2003

Wanted: *mathNEWS* writers

E-mail articles to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or come to the next production night on Sept 29

Frosh Cornered

The Battle Royal and Frosh Week

cue cheesy announcer voice

The Battle Royal has been completed!

Keslen has emerged triumphant!

It was a long and grueling battle to see who would be the next **Cornered Frosh**. The four contestants came up with every dirty trick in the book. But one contestant came up with the dirtiest tricks of them all. One contestant jumped right past the dirty tricks and took a deep dive right into the messy. Three contestants never saw him coming. Things were looking grim for Keslen, for in the beginning the other three contestants formed an alliance. It appeared as though it would be over before it began. But then, betrayal! Contestant number 2 attempted to backstab his two team members and further improve his goal. Unfortunately for contestant 2, contestant 1 saw it coming. With a particularly nasty plunge, contestant 1 threw contestant 2 from the ring just as he was about to be thrown himself!

So there Keslen was, a lucky break taking out contestant number 2. All that was left was contestant 1 and 3. He had to think fast, the bond between his opponents stronger than ever! He was holed up in the bunker, his rivals were bombarding that bunker with anything and everything. It would not hold for long. Then, he had a sudden realization. He saw his moment, and he took it. In a bold move he exited the bunker, entering the empty field surrounding him. Naturally the opposing players turned their sights on him. But, Keslen was too fast for them. Just as the oncoming barrage was about to collide with him, Keslen took out his brilliant article ideas and reflected the entire barrage back at his challengers. They were instantly vapourized.

All right, so perhaps the ending wasn't quite what you were expecting, but in reality, the whole thing was a big farce. Our battle royal consisted of writing articles, and the *mathNEWS* gods selected the best one. My secret weapon, however, was in writing two articles. Yes, not one, but two. However, you can't expect to get two of my brilliant articles in one issue, you'll have to wait until the next issue. I'll give you a hint though, it's about a terrible frosh week experience! For more than that, you'll have to pick up the next issue.

cue cheesy announcer voice

Next time on *mathNEWS*

What happened to Keslen over frosh week?

Did he go crazy?

Did he die?

Find out next time, on *mathNEWS*!

All right, I guess that was kind of mean. I suppose that since I am the Cornered Frosh, I should say *something* about frosh week. It is only natural. I guess that since next issue's article is about the worst experience, this can be about the best. Without a doubt that was the Lunar Luau. If you're not in Math, Engineering, or E.S., and you didn't get to go to this wonderful event, I pity you. No really, I do. You missed out! There was something for everyone at the Lunar Luau. There was a rousing game of SSBM, many chess boards, a **very** loud dance, other board games, not to mention the cove. I don't think there was any frosh event that really captured the *something for everything* concept to such the degree that this luau did. Of course

everything was fun to some degree. I sure did enjoy Monte Carlo night. Who doesn't like gambling when there's nothing to lose? And you can't forget the village carnival! So many air-filled attractions can't go wrong.

In any case, I must sign off now. I am greatly looking forward to serving you as your cornered frosh for the next year. And I hope you look for my column next week (after all, you just have to find out whether I died or not).

On a side note, Raymond you owe me a cheese contest!

Kesler

Get Your Google On

Wow, I can barely believe that here I am, writing an article for *mathNEWS*. For, you all see, I am brand new here at UW. I have, however, been reading this fine publication for quite some time now.

How does someone who is brand new here start reading this extremely high quality publication? Well it happens to be quite a story. You see one day I was sitting at home very bored trying to find something to do. So I went online and did what every bored person with internet access does. I went and tried to find some good jokes on various websites. Eventually, being the geek that I am, I found myself looking at math-related jokes. Being the total geek that I am, I found myself enjoying these specifically the pick-up lines. Finding these a little too funny (What is wrong with me?) I then proceeded to go to everybody's favourite search engine, Google. (If Google isn't your favourite then just pretend for now that it is).

Now there's an important fact about Google that everyone needs to know. It ranks *mathNEWS* sites very highly (try it yourself, type "Trogdor" into Google and within the top 5 results you will find a *mathNEWS* website, and, although I cannot prove it right now (remember, I'm frosh, I can't even remember my Unix password let alone figure out how to open a browser on these machines) I think that it might be ranked higher than anything from www.homestarrunner.com. [Hm...not anymore. We've dropped to 17th overall now. Even the definition for "burninator" on urbandictionary.com outranks us now... — KreasEd]

Now, there I was typing in "Math pick-up lines" into google. I ended up at some website, and it was really sort of funny. I looked up at the URL, and staring back at me was a line that had uwaterloo.ca. I thought to myself (then still in high school) "hey, that's for the University of Waterloo, I want to go there" so I looked at the site a bit more and I started reading *mathNEWS*.

So here I am, writing an article for this hm... how can I think of another way of saying good to suck up to the people in charge... [How about "reeking of awesomeness" — KreasEd] How about we just pretend I did. So if you want to hear more of my ramblings check back here in a fortnight and if you don't want to hear more then read next time anyway, I promise I'll be funnier.

Dan Swartznetrubert
The Googinator

Things With Acronyms Suck

or rant rant rant RANT rant

Hi everybody, and welcome to a whole new term, filled with the fun and joy a new term brings! As well, there are the things that suck. Perhaps I'm generalizing, but I find that, at UW at least, the things that suck are all made into acronyms. I assume this is because it's easier so spout off a monosyllabic sound than it is to spout off some monolithic sentence-long title when you're shouting obscenities at the top of your lungs. At any rate, here's the stuff at UW with acronyms that suck:

Disclaimer: By reading this disclaimer and the following article, you confirm that A) you know it's supposed to be funny, and B) if it's going to offend you in any way, don't read it. Politically correct, or PC people, suck and should not read this.

Second Disclaimer: This article does not imply that everything at UW with an acronym sucks. It says only that everything at UW that sucks has an acronym. WEEF, MEF, POETS, C&D, and OT's are examples of things at UW with acronyms that are in fact really good.

CECS: For the frosh out there, feel glad you haven't had to deal with the lurking horror that is Co-operative Education and Career Services. In fact, you may not have heard this acronym before, what with the CECS building being renamed to some guy's centre. Tatham or something. I dunno. What bothers me most about CECS is that the common phonetic pronunciation of this acronym makes it more difficult to rant about. Try it: go to a populated place and yell out how much CECS sucks. You'll get nods from people also in co-op and strange looks from people who aren't and don't know it's an acronym.

DDR: Some people may like this game, but really, it sucks. NO ONE DANCES LIKE THAT IN REAL LIFE. If I wanted to pay money to get an aerobic workout, I'd go to a gym. The music's better there.

PACO: For the frosh out there, feel sad you have been touched by the gnarled hand of this demon's (it's real name is not printed here so as avoid invoking it). Its foul magic is responsible for turning the Engineering mud pit into an event where you had to walk across boards placed in mud by your frosh leaders. If you ever hear anyone say something is PACO-unfriendly, or that it's not PACO approved, chances are that that something is either funny or fun, but it has the slightest possibility of maybe upsetting one person. It can also be applied to other things that suck, such as 'Eww, this tap water tastes awful! It's not PACO-approved!'

STD: I don't think STD's are a problem on campus, but they suck, and they have an acronym, so they're on the list.

RCH: For you mathies, feel glad you don't have class in Rod Coutts Lecture Hall. The underground, windowless lecture halls on the first floor are really really REALLY hard to stay awake in, particularly for your 8:30 am digital hardware lectures from your monotonous prof... zzzzzzzzzz...

IDSPISPOPD: For those of you who are too young to remember, IDSPISPOPD is the cheat code to turn off clipping in DooM. Yes, it is in fact an acronym, but I'm not telling what it's an acronym of. Cheaters suck, so things that allow them to cheat suck too. And people DO play DooM on campus. Keep your eyes peeled.

WTR: I was one of the smart ones that had his work report finished yesterday. I feel sorry for the poor engineers working on their WTR's as I type this, at 4pm. I feel bitter bitter jealousy for the mathies that have their reports due tomorrow and don't have to make them nearly as good as ours.

QED: You'll never fully appreciate how much QED sucks until you spend a dozen or more hours writing other stuff just so you can write QED. QED's only redeeming quality is that it means the assignment is done.

Sheep Nine

So You Decided to Make a Network Split

It's a new term. And with new terms come new articles about new annoying things that happen to my ability to do my assignments. One of these annoying things is me not having the internet at home, another thing is the MFCF/CSCF split.

So, in light of this new term (and the new MFCF/CSCF split) I have decided to write (yet another) 'So You Decided To' column. For those of you who don't know how this works (or can't guess), I list some things about why this is either a good or bad idea, or things you may need to be aware of in order to perform said operation. So, in order to produce such a wonderful split yourselves, here are some (entirely joking) things to be aware of.

- Make sure that even though you let users access directories on math and cs servers, you access two completely separate .xsession (etc) files
- Ensure that server setups are inconsistent, and servers can no longer run commands as expected (ls —color=auto no longer works on bacon, etc)

- Definitely remove all inherent disk space from users, leaving them with a 2mb/2mb split instead of the standard 8mb/2mb at the beginning of term, removing the possibility that their recent employers may have important emails to send them at the end of term to their now full disk space
- Forget to announce the names of cs servers publicly for the first week
- Pick some other ways to create large, random pains in people's asses

On a more serious note, they should add popular windowmanagers like fluxbox or blackbox. Also, they should put in a version of xterm that likes to output colours so I don't have to take up room for my own xterm and windowmanager on my account... That is all.

<http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~irmacdon>

Evil Landlord of Doom.

After the summer of hell in the house of hell the best I can describe him as is the worst of the worst of the stereotypical used cars salesman. Not only does he say what you want to hear, he lies like a rug.

He promised us that the house was in good repair, that it would be reasonably clean, carpets cleaned when we moved in. He told us the plumbing was only a few years old, that we would only be looking at 35-40\$ for utilities (phone, hydro, gas and internet collectively) a month over what we paid him in rent. He told us that he cared about his house, that he kept it in good repair. That he was not in this for the money.

All lies. I was supposed to live at the house from hell for the summer term and then from September 2003 and to August 2004. I never signed anything for the summer term, unfortunately I signed the lease for the fall. Now I do not recommend doing what I did to get out of my lease. It was illegal, but in the course of everything I went through the past 4 months, I can give some pointers about how to get out of one legally, not to mention educate you in what your rights are and what a landlord can and cannot do.

1. *A landlord can enter a unit without written notice if there is an emergency, like a fire, or the tenant allows the landlord in* — my housemates were dumb, they kept letting him in, though we did manage to pinpoint and document a week where he entered the house with none of us present. He was the one stupid enough to email me each day looking for my "replacement postdated checks" for the rest of the lease I was no longer acknowledging.
2. *A landlord can enter between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., and only if 24 hours written notice is given to the tenant to make repairs or do work in the unit, to allow a potential purchaser, insurer or lender to view the unit, to allow an inspection by an engineer or architect or similar professional for a proposed conversion under the Condominium Act, for any reasonable purpose allowed by the rental agreement.* — odd that... never once did we ever receive anything in writing from him or even a phone call. He just showed up. And the entire time he was showing the house for the fall he never ever told us he was coming. It was quite the shock when he showed the place at 9am one Sunday morning. We were none too pleased.
3. *A landlord cannot demand postdated checks* — hmmm he put it right in our lease... he can't say he didn't do that one
4. *A landlord must fix problems within a two week period of the problem being reported* — 6 weeks later for the taps... 3 weeks for the ceiling... the stove never was fixed and he still maintains there is no cockroach or mold problem... that's why I cleaned a half inch of mold off my futon frame before I moved... right... no mold problem...
5. *The landlord cannot force someone to stay in an environment that is causing them physical harm (in my case sick).* — He is still currently harassing me, threatening to take me to court. I finally told him to not talk to me unless he is giving me court papers because I am tired of hearing empty threats. I no longer live there.

According to the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal, a landlord has to keep the house in good repair... yah... he fails that one with a negative score. There is a ton more things he was in violation of. You can view other points on what your rights are at: http://www.orht.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_3_5234_1.html

The evil landlord wrote right into our lease that we had to give him 12 months of postdated checks. We, like a bunch of ninnyes, thought he could do that. We later learned that it is illegal for a landlord to demand postdated checks. **NEVER** give postdated checks unless you are comfortable doing so. Your landlord cannot ever demand them. If they push it, point them to the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal website and office — <http://www.orht.gov.on.ca>.

So we move in. Yah, we were promised a clean house with clean carpets... We cleaned for 4 days and the carpets got cleaned two weeks after we moved in. The stove was a fire hazard, I scraped 2 inch deep sludge out of the bottom of it before I sprayed it with oven cleaner, not to mention rust was constantly falling out of the bottom of it... makes you feel safe don't it?

He never returned phone calls, it wasn't until we stumbled upon his email address that we were ever able to get him to come fix anything, and even then it was like pulling teeth. The house that was supposedly in good repair had many things falling apart. The taps leaked in the tub, it started as a drip, it was running constantly by the time it was fixed — not to mention his "fixing it" left us without water for 18 hours because it was a little more serious than needing a washer replaced. Not to mention the water leaks of the past that he had improperly repaired (just painted the ceiling) creating a mold problem. Oh, and let's not forget the caving in ceiling in the front hall from the leaky taps in the bathroom and leaks of the past... These were problems for all living there. Mold can be toxic to everyone, especially those us severely allergic to it like me. Not to mention the potential problems that could've occurred if the ceiling had caved in.

I was sick for the entire 4 months I lived in this house from hell. The evil landlord from hell had the nerve to tell me that I could not move out because I was allergic to mold and that the mold problem was small and that I should be fine if I just took some allergy stuff — later he denies there is a mold problem... too bad, we got pictures of it. You may also want to visit the Landlord and Tenants act or Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal websites to see legal ways to terminate a lease.

Why does this happen? Because we are uneducated about our rights. We do not know any better and think that this must be okay because people really wouldn't make you live like this unless it was okay... they will if they are only out for your money. My advice to you living off campus this term or any other term, visit the websites, ask questions, know your rights. Don't get stuck like I did and do not live in an unsafe house — there is a house known amongst my friends as "the house of many people" if you know which house I am referring to, that is an unsafe house...

Stand up for yourself and know your rights.

mathNEWSquiz

Welcome to the Squiz! The Squiz is a fortnightly trivia challenge published in *mathNEWS*. We ask a bunch of questions and you answer them. The person who gets the most correct answers will win a gift certificate for the C&D valued at \$5. No more delay, on with the Squiz!

Words starting with Fas

1. What you do with a seatbelt
2. We go for high _____, our ties are all pink
3. Dirty Jokes
4. Mussolini

Simpsons Guest Stars

Identify the famous voice behind each of the following characters:

1. Homicidal children's entertainer Sideshow Bob
2. Homer's one-time secretary Karl
3. Herb Powell, successful and wealthy until he found out he was a Simpson
4. Bricklayer Leon Kompowsky, who convinced Homer that he was in fact Michael Jackson.

Days that will live in infamy

Some historical events are so significant that they are often known by their dates alone. Identify the major event that took place on each of the following days:

1. December 7, 1941
2. October 29, 1929
3. November 22, 1963
4. June 28, 1914
5. Bonus: September 5, 1752

"The Top Eleven Reasons to Write Top Ten Lists"

Hey everyone! It's great to finally be a part of the *mathNEWS* team! After about an hour of sitting here trying figure out this fancy new "Unix" stuff, I present you this list.

11. You can insult your friends in order of increasing magnitude, resulting in maximum efficiency
10. To be as cool as David Letterman
9. Ideas presented in one line can easily flow to the next line
8. Ideas presented in one line can easily flow from the previous line
7. It proves your ability to count
6. You can get your ideas across without being able to form proper paragraphs
5. You are in engineering (see above)
4. It's better than a top ten list
3. Chicks. Dig. Numbers.
2. They effectively use time that would have otherwise been wasted on attending class, studying, or doing assignments
1. You can list reasons why people write top 10 lists.

aleph

Actors and Roles

1. This Austrian starred with Jamie Lee Curtis in True Lies
2. This Canadian played The Grinch in a recent remake of an old classic
3. These two actors did the voice of Simba in the Lion King
4. This actor appeared as himself in G.I. Joe: The Movie

Song Lyrics

One point for the name of the song, one point for the artist.

1. Even old New York
Was once New Amsterdam
Why they changed it I can't say
People just liked it better that way
2. Salads are only for murderers
Cole slaw's a fascist regime
Don't think that they don't have feelings
Just cuz a radish can't scream
3. I remember the stupid things, the mood rings
the bracelets and the beads
Nickels and dimes, yours and mine
did you cash in all your dreams
4. It was long ago and it was far away
Oh god it seems so very far
and if life is just a highway
then the soul is just a car

Good luck on this weeks' Squiz. Answers are due in the **BLACK BOX** by 18:00 EST on Monday September 29th, or, you can e-mail them to us using the internet at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca by the same time.

π & eigenvector

Quality Assurance Pros and Cons

Everybody likes quality. Everybody likes assurance. Put the two together and you get a fantastic result. Right? Okay, so quality assurance has its pros and cons. Incidentally, some of these pros and cons are listed below. Please consider them as you fight to the death for a co-op job this term.

Pros

1. You can slip up here and there and nobody will notice.
2. This may be the only time that a co-op student can force a senior programmer to do something against his/her will.
3. You get to improve your stalking skills.

Cons

1. You can slip up here and there and everybody will notice.
2. Specifications? What specifications?
3. QA doesn't just stand for Quality Assurance. QA also stands for Questionable Authority and Quite Anal. Think about it.

Angela

Fillor the Paginator strikes again!

gridCOMMENTS

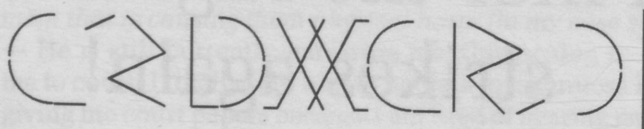
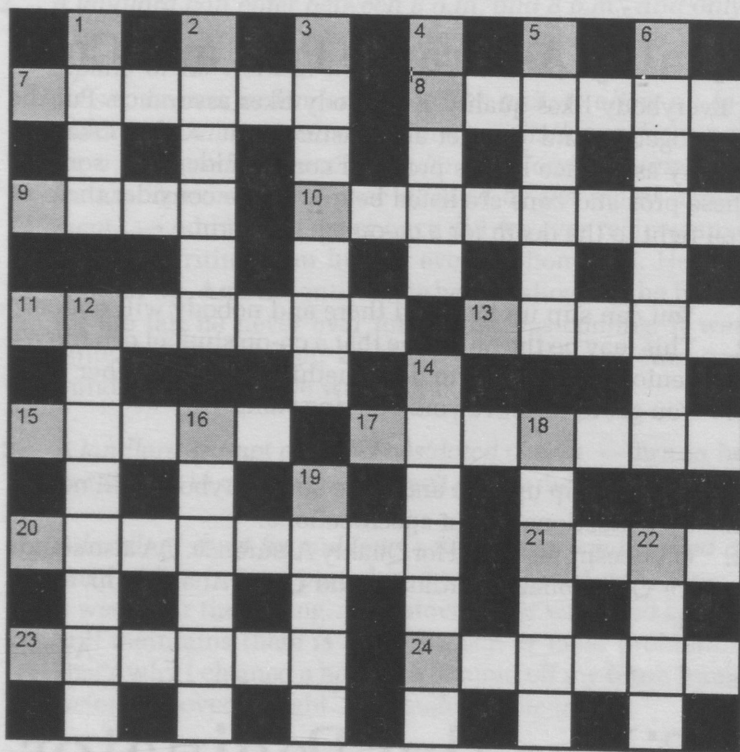
(0.0001% of your enjoyment of UW)

All right Cadets, it's a new term, so more gridCOMMENTS!!! gridCOMMENTS are what the elite do when the aren't trying to figure out what on earth 1337 means. gridCOMMENTS are what your psychologist is really writing on his notepad when you're telling him all about the time you walked in on your parents watching a Pauly Shore movie, and *GASP* finding it funny!

Why solve the gridCOMMENTS? To get a \$5 gift certificate at the "Tyler Slijboom's thunmbs WAY UP" award winning Math C&D, of course. Then you can call up your folks and tell show them that your brains are actually putting food on the table (and then tell them how awful it was to be watching a Pauly Shore movie)[you should probably know that only a solution to the gridWORD or Cryptic will be able to get you a certificate — EmEd].

Now comes the paragraph where I insert some witty comment about some random topic. Swords are cool. But I think nunchucks are cooler. And no matter how much Bruce Lee you have seen, you can't do what he does. The truth is, you have DEXTERITY 3 (4 if you're a girl) and that gives you a -5 penalty in your "Ability to Nunchuck" check. AND your Constitution is maybe a 4, giving you a -4 penalty in your "Remain Conscious" check. So what I am saying is that you will end up whacking yourself in the head, get a concussion, and, to add salt to this wound, your consciousness will punish you by making you think about Pauly Shore movies until you wake up.

Your gridCOMMENT [gridWORD, Cryptic — EmEd] solution is due in the BLACK BOX on the 3rd floor of MC no later than 1830hrs on Monday Sept 22nd. Remember, this weeks gridCOMMENTS were brought to you by the letters M, G, and C and the number 6659.



Cryptic Clues

Across

- 7 One who swears somehow cures, right? (6)
- 8 Truths in "Chopper 10" manuscript (6)
- 9 Hurry and hide man (4)
- 10 Fix floor for sound system (4,4)
- 11 Fab Four might be stale (7)
- 13 Brother who cooks (5)
- 15 Step up in surprise raids (5)
- 17 What you do to your belt to (sort of) get thin (7)
- 20 Routes follow vestibule to passages (8)
- 21 Cockney lost voice and paddles (4)
- 23 Piercing? Put safety first for topless thrill (6)
- 24 Book departure (6)

Down

- 1 Weak end play after bad joke (4)
- 2 A function of web is how to catch fish (6)
- 3 Model car corroded but it ran (7)
- 4 Colour of Greek letter for phys ed (5)
- 5 Don't help gut his flounder (6)
- 6 Turn skinny? I came up and ate (8)
- 12 Last words happiest sort (8)
- 14 Nasty dose, Eli, such as peanut or sunflower (7)
- 16 Church of England backed hideout has pastry (6)
- 18 Charming rock formation (6)
- 19 Young listener first lawyer to end perjury (5)
- 22 Dig right out (4)

Conventional Clues

Across

- 7 Baby bovine critters (6)
- 8 Maxims (6)
- 9 Genuine (4)
- 10 Study of religion (8)
- 11 Blue, straw, or rasp (7)
- 13 Brother (5)
- 15 Enjoy (5)
- 17 Stiffen (7)
- 20 Ballplayer scores by himself more than once (4,4)
- 21 Monster (4)
- 23 What to do at a flashing red light (4-2)
- 24 Come out (6)

Down

- 1 Crown (4)
- 2 About that weird little thing in your throat (6)
- 3 Disease-carrying bloodsuckers (7)
- 4 Candle (5)
- 5 One who builds up mounds (like Richard Dreyfuss and his mashed potatoes in Close Encounters) (6)
- 6 Leave (8)
- 12 Canine (8)
- 14 Canola or flax, for example (3-4)
- 16 Nontaxable (6)
- 18 Big dam (6)
- 19 EU currency (5)
- 22 Fad (4)