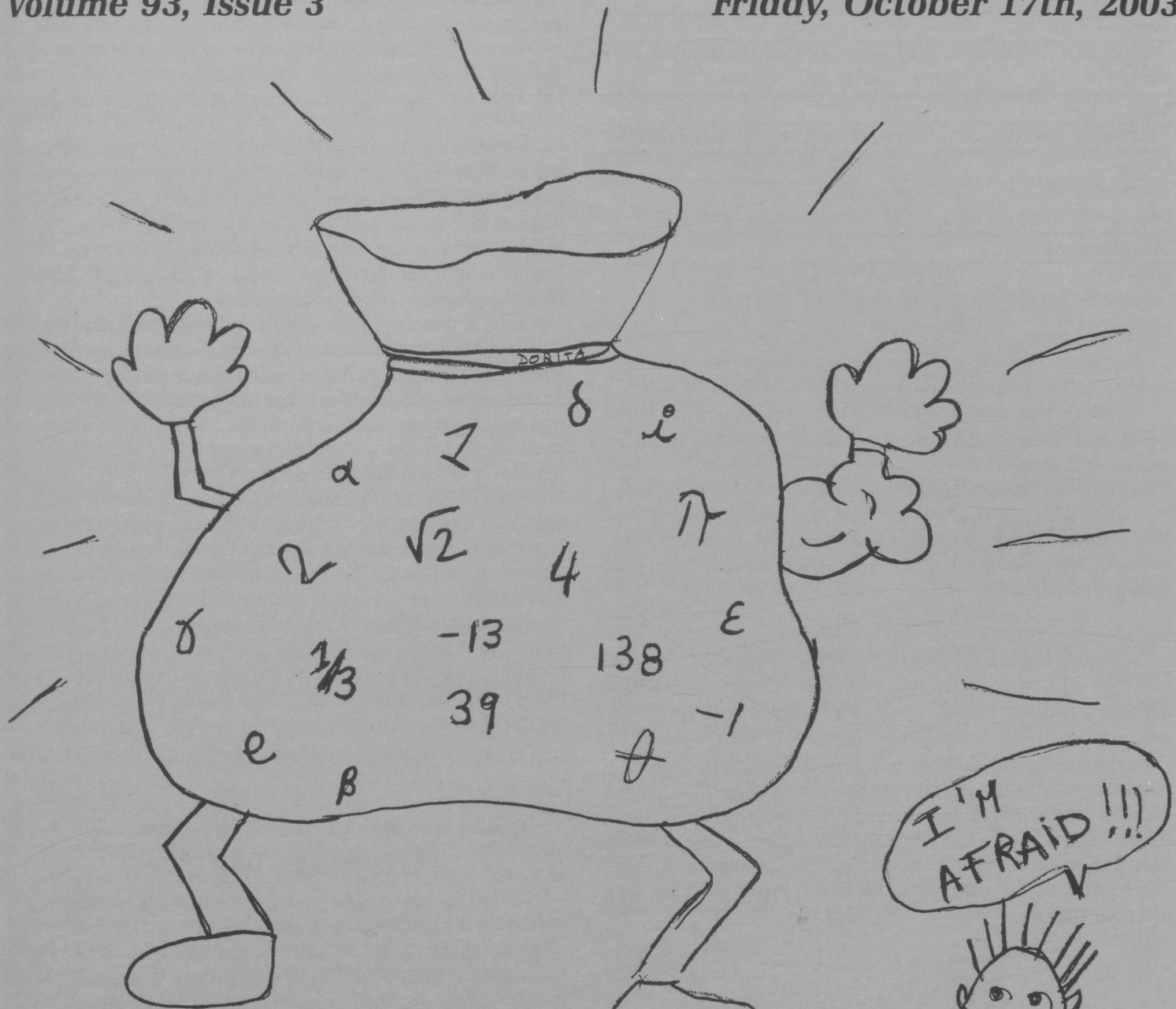


# math

# NEWS

Volume 93, Issue 3

Friday, October 17th, 2003



I'M AFRAID!!!



## BAGGY THE NUMERATOR

**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

October 27	Issue 4 production night
October 31	Issue 4 comes out of the closet

**Math Faculty**

Now - Oct 25	Class Enrolment for W04
--------------	-------------------------

**MathSoc**

October 23	Cotton Candy/Hot Chocolate Day
Every Thursday	Movie Night in MC

**MGC**

Every Wednesday	Pizza Day (insert Final Fantasy Music)
-----------------	--

**Co-op**

October 24	Interviews end
October 28	Ranking Forms available - got job?

**Miscellaneous**

Now	Oktoberfest
October 26	Capture the Flag
October 31	Hallowe'en

**MGC news***Grad Photos*

Sign up this term, this is the final term to get in the Yearbook and the composites.

If you desire retakes, just bring all the initial photos with you when you get photos taken this term, and the retakes will be free. If you do not have the originals, there will be a slight fee.

**Group Photo on the Stairs!!!** End of this month, keep your eyes peeled.

*Social Events*

Social events are coming as well, keep your eye on the prize (where prize := <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc>)

*Yearbook*

Yearbook sales will begin soon, but volunteer now!! Make sure you and your friends are in the yearbook of this year. Be on every page! Have it named after you!! Erase your nemesis!! The possibilities are endless!!! But seriously, the Yearbook committee is great and could use help from students from all walks of MC.

Volunteer and leave something behind for your graduating class and your friends.

Have a great day,  
Tyler Slijboom  
MGC Super Dude

**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](mailto:userid@mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet.

Invariant Variable(s): Chris Harasemchuk, Louis Mastorakos, Emerald Kushnier, Ian MacKinnon

**mastHEAD***Do Not Read When Light is Flashing*

You know it's mid-term time when fire alarms get pulled in the MC. Shortly before the production night for this issue, a fire alarm was pulled during the MATH 235 mid-term, a couple other *mathNEWS* people and I were in the DC caf when this happened. As you may know, there is a little sign on the bridge between the DC and MC that says 'do not enter when light is flashing'. As you may guess, when the alarm went off in the MC, this light was flashing, indicating that one should not enter the MC.

Of course, this actually did little to prevent people from walking past the light. It is amazing how people will look directly into the flashing light, see the sign and still walk through the door as if they thought the sign was broken. I was originally thinking how we should really have a big guy with a stick to beat people stupid enough to get past the flashing light, but then I thought about the school's reputation.

Really, if people stupid enough to walk past a flashing light that says 'do not enter when flashing', the greater good of Waterloo needs them to walk into a burning building. This way, a moron who could potentially have gotten a UW degree would be removed from the general population. So really, people walking past flashing warning signs into a potentially burning building is ultimately good for the faculty.

In light of the sheer genius of those walking through the strobe light into a potentially burning building, we asked the production staff for issue #3, "What would it take for you to walk into a burning building?": Jen (an untouched puppy), Eyal (the outside burning more), Nicole (courage), Sheep Nine (The building was for a faculty with a 1:1 male-female ratio), Beatlemaniac (Trogdor, chasing you), Keslen[\*is not here\*, Dang Sociology! So boring!!), Dan S (I wouldn't, you'd have to be stupid to do something like that), Pi (A blinking sign telling me not to), Craig (A plague of locusts, I hate locusts).

Ian W. MacKinnon (Damsel in distress...no...2 Damsels.  
YEAH!!)

Louis Mastorakos (Popples)

Krease (Ian's Mom) [I know where you live Krease... — *iEd*]

**Ultimate Mathies**

I was led to believe during orientation week that Ultimate (as in frisbee) is a game that is popular here around the Math faculty. I learned about the rec-league and joined. Then, on Oct 6, I saw the Math team in action. It was a team from Conrad Grebel University College against this Math team. The Math team was completely blown out with only about 3 points, while the Grebel team got 3-4 times as many points. Now Grebel only has about 175 people, and its ultimate players are divided among two teams. I'm not sure about how many teams that Math has, but there are at least thirty times as many people. What does that mean? We need more people for this team. So come, join, I'm sure the people in charge won't mind, but I could be wrong, I'm not actually sure. Even if you can't play, or don't want to, come out to the games anyway; you get to see all sorts of high profile math students (like Raymond [*He's the super-stressed MathSoc VPAS — iEd*]) making fools of themselves. When is the next game? Beats me, I'm on the Grebel team.

DanS  
the Gloating Grebelite





## Frosh Cornered

*Mathies >= Engineers*

Don't get me wrong, I love Engineers! Well, most of them, there are certainly a lot of cool people that know who are Engineers, and also a lot of people who I don't like so much who are Mathies. However, this article is not about comparing individual Mathies to individual Engineers, but rather it's about comparing the generic Mathie to the generic Engineer, and in this regard, there is no comparison!

Now, I know what you're thinking. You're thinking that just because I happen to be a Mathie, my opinion in this matter is null and void. You are correct. So that's it, the article's over! I wish you all a good day.

All right, I guess you saw this text below that ending, so you must have known all along I was lying. Of course I wouldn't make a claim where my opinion was null if I didn't have any proof. So of course I do have proof, and very convincing proof at that (and surprisingly, it has nothing what-so-ever to do with the recent Scunt controversy!). I had an opportunity (if you can call an unwilling imprisonment an opportunity) to witness a party held by Engineers, and attended by Engineers. It was a regular Engineer-fest! While the whole party reeked of proof of my point, there is one event that stood out among the others. They called it *The Song*.

Now, throughout the party I heard them sing *The Song* no less than thirteen times. Keep in mind, that although the actual party lasted around five hours, the first segment of it, in which all occurrences of *The Song* presented themselves, lasted less than an hour. Since they sang *The Song* thirteen times an hour, it must be well rehearsed, and I could tell by listening to them sing it, that it was most certainly well used.

All right, what's so bad about a song?! It's just a freaking song for crying out loud. Songs are good! Well, most of them are, but *The Song* is always directed at a person (and most often it was the same person), it is a commandment, a degrade, and a vitu-

peration. If you don't believe me, just check out the lyrics. Just keep in mind that "<name>" represents the person who they are singing *The Song* to, and I must request your permission for liberal use of asterisks, I really don't want this *Frosh Cornered* column to turn into something that would make you want to wash my mouth (or is it my hands since I'm typing) with soap.

*Here's to <name>*

*Here's to <name>*

*He's a horse's \*\*\*!*

*Why was he born so pitiful?*

*Why was he born at all?*

*Hey hey hey!*

*He's no \*\*\*\*ing use to anyone,*

*He's no \*\*\*\*ing use at all!*

*So,*

*Drink mother\*\*\*\*er, drink mother\*\*\*\*er, drink mother\*\*\*\*er, drink!*

They then repeat that last line until the intended victim has chugged the entire drink. Needless to say, the individual who was the common target of *The Song* was so plastered out of his mind that he lost all recollection of the night before.

So there you have it! Even though there are some individual Engineers who are much better people than some Mathies, the average Mathie is vastly superior to the average Engineer. Mathies have no such derogatory *Song* designed to insult and intoxify their peers. Not that a little intoxication is bad, but moderation, please! However, everyone reading this knew that already, so does that mean that this whole article was a waste of time..? Why did I just bother to prove a point that everyone knows and accepts anyway? Meh! I guess it just means that you know why now! That can't be a bad thing. (Rationalization is fun!)

Keslen

Cornered Frosh v3.0

## Tories, Alliance, Unable to Unite

*Homoideological union not permitted under current rules*

With a federal election quickly approaching, it seems increasingly unlikely that the proposed merger between the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties will take place in time. Representatives from both sides expressed disappointment at the situation, which was largely blamed on society's adherence to the traditional definition of marriage.

"Traditionally, marriage has been defined as the union of a man and a woman — not as a union of two political parties of the same ideology," said Alliance leader Stephen Harper. "This view, held by many in society — including many members of our own party — has been the major roadblock in establishing a union between our two parties."

Tory leader Peter MacKay expressed frustration at the situation. "I'm tired of being discriminated against because of my political orientation," he said. "The Progressive Conservatives and the Alliance just want to be able to unify, raise a youth wing and grow old together just like every other political party."

While Prime Minister Jean Chretien has made some progress

in expanding the nature of civil unions recognized by the federal government, he faces opposition from many within his own party who do not believe that homoideological relationships should be recognized by the government. Much of this opposition has a religious undertone to it. "The Bible clearly states that a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife to become one flesh," said one Liberal backbencher, who refused to be named. "It doesn't say anything about two political parties cleaving together — especially two homoideological parties."

Although the parties will be unable to unify in time for the next election, many expressed hope that, within a few years, they will be permitted to. "Look how far we've already come in terms of securing equal rights for homoideologues," commented MacKay. "It wasn't too long ago that we had to conduct policy meetings in secret and communicate through underground platform documents, but now we can do all that in the open. I have faith that society's progress in this regard will continue, albeit at a slower pace than we would like."

Eigenvector



## Bonsai Puppy

Ever want to do any crazy fun things with puppies? Well, this article will give you an idea what to do TO your puppy! Fresh out of puppies? No fret, just come to me and I'll hook... you up <insert evil laughter here>

Now I *know* you've all heard of bonsai plants - the oriental art of miniature gardening. Picture this - instead of making it out of plants, mold your puppies into fun objects. You can make one into a baseball bat, and the another into a large rock... see which one will win in a fight! So, by popular demand, I give you the how-to list, so you can make your very own puppy object.

### Steps to Bonsai Puppy Happiness

1. Find or make a container. Be sure that the puppy at least fits in it before you start.
2. Get a cute puppy, colour of you choice. If not correct colour, hair dye does wonders.
3. To ensure a clean container, put Super Glue on cork, and insert cork in appropriate orifice on puppy.
4. Repeat step 3 for desired number of orifices. Be nice - make sure it has a least one left to breathe.
5. Since we would like our puppy to live, we need an air hole. So drill a couple of small holes in the thing (the jar, not the puppy you sick bastard).
6. Stuff the puppy (gently) into the box of holding.
7. Stick an intravenous in the puppy - as to feed it. Or give it drugs, to ease the pain.
8. Leave the puppy in for approximately 6-8 months, or until it stops growing. Don't forget to feed it once in awhile.
9. Break the container, without harming the puppy.
10. Voila, Bonsai Puppy! Enjoy!

### Bonsai Puppy Variations

**Hypercube** - a 4 Dimensional Cube, so you can watch them move in and out of space and time

**MultiPuppy** - put more than one in the same space & watch them fight over the little space they have - who will dominate?

**Puppy Hole Principle** - sort of like the pigeon hole principle (if you have  $n$  holes and  $n+1$  pigeons, at least one hole will have two pigeons), but with puppies.

*[I thought Bonsai involved pruning extra growths to get the desired shape... but I guess that's a bit messy for puppies — KreasEd]*

The Girl

## One-on-One with the Google Search Engine

*A mathNEWS exclusive interview*

**Renowned worldwide for its efficient and effective searching abilities, the Google search engine is generally considered to be the foremost in its field. Here we present mathNEWS's exclusive interview with Google.**

**mathNEWS:** You're considered to be the foremost search engine in the world. How do you feel about that?

**Google:** [NaturallyCurly.com CurlTalk](#) ... First and foremost, NEVER rely on information or member ... Appeals will be considered, but the final decision must ... and join in our discussions, you're welcome, of ...

**mathNEWS:** That's very modest of you. Are other search engines challenging you for dominance?

**Google:** [Francophones Fight Dominance of English on Net](#) ... And search engines often can't handle accented letters. ... Other languages also are thriving on the Internet ... and German, which got its own search engine, Cinetic ...

**mathNEWS:** Yes, I imagine your multilingual capabilities would give you quite an advantage in today's global village. What inspired you to become involved in the field of internet searching?

**Google:** [FQS 3\(2\) Holge-Hazelton: The Internet: A New Field for ...](#) ... inspired by this knowledge I placed a small advertisement ... The Internet has become a non-physical space where ... Camilla: "What kind of person are you then?" < back > ...

**mathNEWS:** Uh, yeah. That didn't really answer my question.

**Google:** [AskTheCollegeGuy.com — Online Advice Column for College Students](#) ... it?" Me: "Yeah." Her: "Um.OK." Me: "Really?" Her: "Yeah ... can try again another time?" Her: "Uh, yeah, sure ... Ok, so maybe that didn't actually answer the question ...

**mathNEWS:** Okay. Um, thank you for your time.

**Google:** [Welcome to UM Career Center](#) ... It is okay to ask what the next step is and when ... Always follow up with a thank you note to everyone you ... If not, you can prepare by knowing the going rate in ...

**Note:** One of Google's local competitors, the University of Waterloo's "Ask the Warrior" search engine was also contacted for an interview. However, the Warrior's only response was, "I'm sorry, I wasn't able to answer your question . please try one of the following:

- rephrase your question and ask it again
- send your question to a campus expert by clicking on the link below

The Warrior further commented, "You may also be wondering, 'can I have an application package?'" while still refusing an interview.

Eigenvector

## A 3D Topological Safety Analysis of UW.

So, if we are in MC, then topologically speaking we remain in the MC until we step outdoors. We can follow the link to DC, down through to the Eng buildings, or to the chemistry and biology buildings. In the end, we are still in the MC. Thus without leaving the MC we can go to a number of Coffee & Donut shops, visit fancy engineering lecture rooms, look at pretty pictures on the chemistry halls, and of course enjoy neat artwork in the DC. But in the end, all the while maintaining the continuity of the MC's topological space. So come visit the MC and see all it has to offer.

Wait, this article isn't over yet.

When the fire alarm goes off in the MC, the building is evacuated. All the doors immediately slam shut and are locked. The feeble among us and those fool enough to dawdle then find themselves locked inside to perish in the deadly flames.

As of now, there is a flashing red strobe light at the entrance to the link, with a large sign warning students not to enter. It is ineffective as students blankly stare at it like moths at a flame as they cross through the link anyway.

It has been suggested that the link between MC and DC should retract into the DC, protecting the remaining buildings linked to the MC. This would create some strange results in the location of people who travelled to RCH from the math building. Though they didn't exit through a door to outside, they would expect to still be in the MC. However once the link is broken, they are suddenly outside of the MC. The entire nature of my definitions breaks down, and those people would probably disintegrate, much like the purpose of this article.

Eyal

## New anti-missile system declared worst engineering disaster EVER

A council of Computer Scientists and Software Engineers declared today that the Therac-12 Radar-driven Arianne 5 Patriot Missile System, which was brought online today and failed within four seconds, to be the worst engineering disaster EVER.

"Like, you have no IDEA how BAD this thing flopped", said one prominent Computer Scientist. "Imagine if Karel the Robot were to run into a wall, and then spontaneously generate a black hole that sucked in all the other robots, objects, walls, and the whole Karel City. Then your computer exploded, showering your face with shards of broken monitor glass and ram chips. THAT'S how bad this missile system failed."

The principle behind the T12RDA5PMS was to take the failed Patriot missile system, and improve it by replacing the conventional radar with a prototype radar system based on the Therac-12 x-ray system. Also, instead of Patriot missiles, the T12RDA5PMS would launch one of the dozens of leftover Arianne 5 satellites.

"In theory, this missile defense system should have been drastically superior to the old Patriot system, with the increased explosive yield of the Arianne 5 satellites." remarked one of the lead Software Engineers on the project. "As well, the Therac-12 x-ray radar system should have been vastly superior to detecting incoming ordinance using an innovative strategy of detection with x-rays as opposed to radar waves. But I never in my life could have imagined it failing this BADLY." He then shook his head sadly and made a \*tsk tsk\* sound.

Analysts of the disaster uncovered that it was caused by a combination of several separate failures. First, the x-ray system mistakenly picked up a person with cancer as enemy ordinance, and blasted them with a huge dose of x-rays. The dosage was then responsible for triggering the detection subroutines of the launch system, which waited a full second due to rounding error before launching a full salvo of twelve Arianne 5 satellites. The reason for twelve was again a rounding error.

"You'd think that the number of 'targets', ONE, with a threat rating of ONE, would elect the launch of ONE satellite, but noooooo," commented the senior analyst. "The system rounded  $1 * 1 = 1$  up to TWELVE. You'd think that's bad enough, but no, it gets even WORSE."

The system fires the satellites in sequence, but was only able

to launch three of them before the fourth one exploded in the launch tube, setting off the other nine Arianne 5's in the launch tubes, as well as 75 tonnes of other ordinance including a stockpile of Patriot missiles, Ford Pintos, Inflated Hindenburgs, and Challenger Rockets. The resulting explosion took out the T12RDA5PMS base, as well as seventeen nautical miles of the Californian coast and set off a violent earthquake that sent the west coast of America underwater. Observers on the east coast remarked that the explosion resembled "the birth of another sun."

Of the three satellites that successfully outran the shockwave of the base's fiery cataclysmic demise, the first one encountered a runtime error converting a 64-bit number to a 16-bit one in the guidance module, skimmed past the man with cancer the Therac-12 mistakenly labelled as enemy ordinance, and crashed into the hospital the man was leaving, levelling the building. The second satellite, which was mistakenly manufactured without any guidance module at all, simply flew in a straight line, became caught in earth's gravity well, and is currently orbiting the earth at a height of about nine kilometers above sea level. The third satellite, designed by Death for the original release of hurricane Isabelle, sought out and impacted with the nearest puppy it could find.

The puppy is currently in serious condition in a burnt-out hospital beneath the waves on the former west coast.

Sheep Nine

## Trogdar

No, that's not a misspelling. I'm not talking about Trogdor, but a character called Trogdar who makes a brief appearance in WarCraft III. This fellow is a guard, who seems to have the sole purpose of walking into a village and getting burninated... "Sunrise can't get here fast enough. These elves give me the creeps." The similarities are giving me the creeps - maybe Trogdar is a close relative who seeks revenge on all villages...



Krease



## profQUOTES

"I guess we could use that to show a more general case. But that would ruin my example."

Andre, AM 331

"This is not what we wanted to prove, so we'll just change what we wanted to prove."

Andre, AM 331

"Watch this carefully: my fingers will not leave my hands."

Best, CO 227

"I will need close to complete silence, this is a dangerous proof."

Chipman, STAT 206

"If you leave this assignment until the night before it's due, you'll be in deep shit."

Hoffman, PMATH 330

"Rather than prove it, I'm going to do an exhaustive bunch of examples until you think you've sensed a pattern"

Ingram, CS 240

"Chalk turns really funny colours when it's saturated in blood."

Liston, CLAS 205

"I'm feeling somewhat flakier than normal today."

Liston, CLAS 205

"Even though it won't give you the coolest points on the geek-o-meter, it'll still work."

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

"I don't know how much you remember from the first class from recovery from all that sex you got during frosh week."

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

"There's 31 letters in Spanish and 29 by the Mexican count. We've gone to war over that."

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

"If you're going to be wrong, you'll want to be really wrong so you can just flip the answer around."

MacKay, STAT 362

"I should have a big pile of marks here. Every time you catch an error I take some out."

MacKay, STAT 362

"These slides are very bad; they confuse me."

Mavadatt, CS 246

"The pattern is obvious unless the reader is a bonehead."

Mosco, MATH 239

student - "Whats the difference between union and concatenation?"

prof - "Everything. Between you passing and failing this course."

Mosca, MATH 239

"Little by little, by the end of the term, I'm going to be in total control of your mind."

Nica, PMATH 351

"If we get an answer in term of cars squared, it's probably an indication we screwed up."

Paduada, STAT 230

"I understood MATH 135 about 6 years after I took it."

Phillips, CS 134

"There would be nothing wrong with people throwing up at the DC."

Phillips CS 134

"We don't usually draw a squiggly line cuz it looks like sperm."

Pretti, CS 241

"Are you guys shy or you're clueless?"

Safayeni, CS 432

"Whenever I say nobody understands it, I mean I don't understand it."

Shallit, CS462

"If 1/3 of the class understands what I'm doing, then I'm way ahead of my expectations"

Small, MATH 147

"If you find a question easy, your answer is probably wrong."

Small, MATH 147

"Infinity is like a firearm - don't use it - unless you were trained by the police to use it."

Small, MATH 147

"Harry (Potter) will soon have woman problems."

Smith, ECON 101

"Generally the way we deal with that problem is we ignore it."

Vanderburgh, MATH 137

"Of course, you're old enough to drink and vote and have sex, so why not use a GOTO method too?"

Vasiga, CS 241

"I suggest that you don't drink, vote, and have sex at the same time, because the pollsters don't like that."

Vasiga, CS 241

"If ever this course had a theme song, it would be 'the Circle of Life' from the Lion King"

Vasiga, CS 241

"A mathematician spends a 1/2 hour to save 2 seconds."

Wolkowicz, MATH 235

## Midnight Capture The Flag

Why get an extra hour of sleep when you can get an extra hour of capture the flag? Meet in the comfy on Sunday, October 26 at 11:59 p.m.

### Unix Joke

**Person 1:** How do you find the manual reference page for the man command?

**Person 2:** Use man

**Person 1:** Use what?

## HorrorScopes

### ACC

BreX is re-opening their doors. They have been idle for the last little while and are due for another big find. Make sure taxes don't balance and that you get plenty of extra cash for this.

Your lucky number is 3 revamped defunct companies.

### ACTSCI

Start worrying. Start worrying now. The Liberals want to freeze and lower insurance rates. This will put your industry in the same tailspin the tech sector is just starting to recover from. Complain to CECS when all the jobs you've applied to get cancelled.

Your lucky number is -3 jobs per term.

### AM

All your classmates are also class reps. Don't worry, a faculty with a smaller population than Nothing, US is OK. Just keep working with those real numbers. PMATH will ask you for counter examples, as a good mathie, demand that they do all your proofs for you.

Your lucky number is  $(\int)e^x dx$ .

### BBA/BMath

Rainy weather will make for wet arrivals at either Laurier or UW. Investing in a rainshield is a great idea. Laurier women don't like wet mathies anyways.

Your lucky number is 1 wet Laurier woman

### C&O

Convince CECS to let you "optimize" rankings and make sure all your buddies get jobs. When they ask why 75% of all other students don't have jobs, make up some random proof that your algorithm was far more efficient than anything they could do in a million years.

Your lucky number is no job for your mortal enemies

### CS

CS246 is still the most boring course offered. Skip this lecture in favour of learning the core contents of the course in the 1 hour tutorial once a week. Frosh having trouble with CS131 asking for help should be introduced to UNIX and VI...it's the only REAL way to code.

Your lucky number is 75-90 crying frosh

### MATH/BUS

Apparently CECS is wanting to revamp ACCESS. Make up an excuse why you should be the one to do this, and why they should pay you exorbitant amounts of money.

Your lucky number is 1 working coop system

### OR

After everyone in the program was interviewed for the lone OR job, you realize that OR is not for you. Switching to CS is no longer an option since you've already left it - join AM, since you can work with real numbers, and not just the Greek alphabet.

Your lucky number is phi.

### PMATH

You will soon discover your own theorem, unfortunately, it will not be solvable. Continue promoting it as the best theorem

since Fermat's last theorem, and that your only copy of the 3 line proof was stolen while you were sleeping (and republished as Napster V2.1).

Your lucky number is 1 lawsuit against the thieving ARTS student that stole your proof.

### SOFTENG

You will continue to learn about Arienne 5 until you are consistently reciting the story in your sleep. Arienne 5, Arienne 5, god, I want to dive, and not remain alive.

Your lucky number is ARIENNE 5

### STAT

Fire alarms during STATS quizzes have a higher probability of happening when someone in the class pays for it to happen. Collect cash in advance and pay off a random person to pull the alarm halfway through the mid-term.

Your lucky number is no STATS quizzes this term

### UNDECLARED

Pressure mounts from all directions to choose a major. Remind people (including advisors) that you have AT LEAST until 2B to declare a major and that choosing a major is like wanting to use QUEST.

Your lucky number is ROLL 6D6 ATTACK AND 4D8 FOR ARMOR CHECK

### ARTS

The recent fatality due to overreading in the faculty has caused all ARTS students to revert from reading freaks to drinking freaks. Drinking freaks now have twice the drinking buddies.

Your lucky number is 2 more drinking buddies.

### ENG

So you lost scunt. At least you have a beer source in your building. Drink your miseries away while you sulk in defeat. Try to get even with Math because they won. When you fail, blame it on a giant whiskey bottle that told you to do it.

Your lucky number is 2. The number of times Math has won engSCUNT

### SCI

Ladybugs have reinfested the campus. Devise another "superbug" to eliminate the ladybug problem. Make sure the "superbug"'s fatal flaw is it's ability to breathe fire.

Your lucky number is the superbug's spliced DNA

Beatlemania

## Coco Frosh

*to the tune of Cocomo*

Columba, Aquila, oooh I wanna Draco to  
Sagitta, Auriga, Pavo, pretty Ursa  
Lacerta, and Hydra, Scorpius with Cetus  
To the Lyra, go  
We'll Aries fast and then we'll Lepus slow  
Crux where we Crater go  
To the Pisces, whoa!



# So Math Won the EngScunt

oh crap

Here we go again. The Iron Warrior had a 'thought-provoking' article about Math winning. Basically engineers complained that Math won over 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Systems because of an executive decision by EngSoc.

Well lets look at this. As far as I can figure, Math made a mistake in locking the 'red plastic pig' in the Math Executive Office. No doubt about it. So what did 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Systems do when they found out that the pig was locked in a room? Obviously they went and talked to the Scunt Gods about it, and then Math was told to take the pig out of the office (read last sentence with sarcasm for effect). But no, they were much smarter than that. They decided that it was much smarter to break into the MathSoc Executive Office and to steal the pig themselves (glad to see they were thinking). These are the people that the Iron Warrior wanted to run the next EngScunt.

But that's neither here nor there. The point isn't that 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Systems wasn't allowed to run the EngScunt, or that Math was allowed to run the EngScunt. As someone that has participated in 7 EngScunts, I've been given the speech from whomever was the captain every term. Math will get second place. Math may send a powerhouse of a team, but it can't win cuz its an engineering event and therefore has to be run by engineers. And yet, since Fall 2001, Math has won on two separate occasions. This has nothing to do with the fact that Math sends a quality team. Math has been sending quality teams for quite some time, and yet in every other instance there was another team (or teams) that could be chosen to win and run the EngScunt rather than picking Math. So what happened?

It can basically be summed up in one simple statement: Engineers have stopped caring. It's really that simple. So if this were an attack on engineers I'd probably stop at this point and be content. But attacking engineers was never really the point. The lack of caring about EngScunts is an issue that needs to be addressed if EngScunts are gonna succeed for much longer. And if something isn't working anymore, there is only one solution... break it and put it back together differently.

So here are a couple of options that are available to the engineers if they wanna improve upon the quality (or rather quantity) of teams that attend.

**Problem 1:** At this point, the way the teams are formed is that each class of engineers sends a team to represent their class at the event. The problem with this is that in a class of about 100, you'll be lucky if you can find 20 people that are interested, and more often then not you will only get around 10.

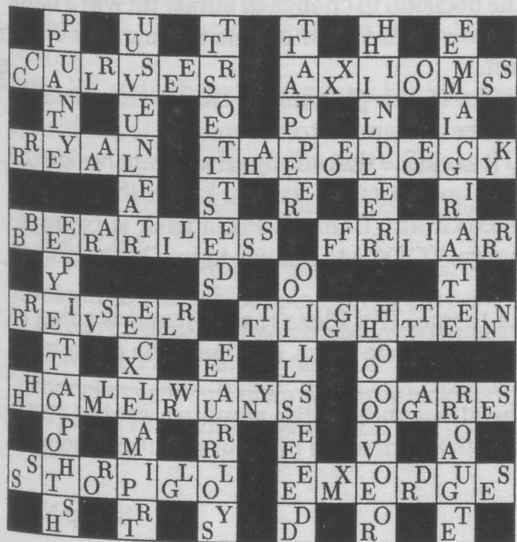
**Solution:** Math has an entire faculty to draw from (about 3000 people) and we are able to get 60 people tops. Now that doesn't mean that you have to have all the engineers on one team to compete against the Mathies? (kinda defeats the purpose of the EngScunt.) Another option is that each field of engineering sends a team (ie. Mech, Systems, Electrical, etc.) This way the team is composed of people from all years for a given program, so the team can still maintain its program identity, but it also has a much larger body of students to draw from.

**Problem 2:** The current system has that the team that wins the EngScunt is responsible for running the EngScunt the term after next. This means that if you've had a lot of fun and end up winning, you then have to do work and run it. This doesn't appeal to most people and the thought of doing work when they don't have to is annoying for most.

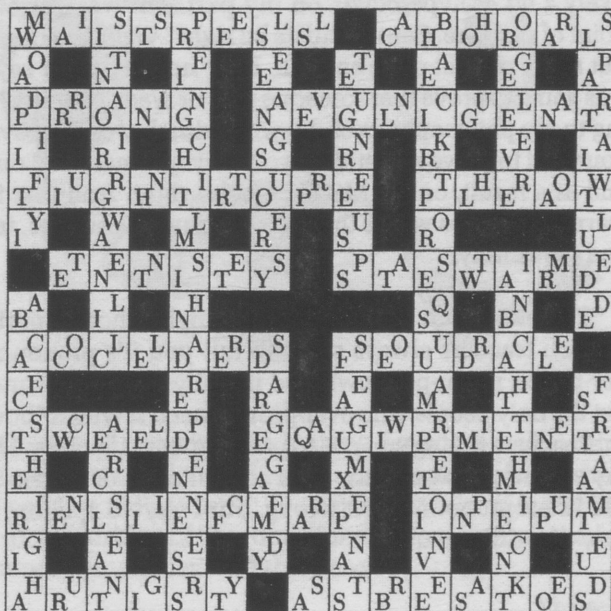
**Solution:** Find people that are interested in running the EngScunt and get them to run it. Everything else about the event is the same, but you get people that want to run it, this way the teams aren't try to come in second place so they don't have to run EngScunt two terms down the road. The trophy tradition can still be maintained and they can participate in planning the EngScunt if they so desire, but if they don't want to, they're just as welcome to participate in the EngScunt as regular scunters, and allow others to run the EngScunt.

Now I'm sure that there are more things to be considered, but this is just a start. This is just my opinion, I could be wrong.

disgruntled scunter soon to be ScuntGod



Issue 1 Grid Solutions



Issue 2 Grid Solutions

## Night Rider

### The new model

So why is it we send out our Peace Keepers in crappy old jeeps that can't detect landmines? So they can blow themselves up of course.

Even the "new" jeeps (if our government ever decides to put money into our armed forces) would not have helped keep our poor Peace Keepers from blowing themselves up. Mind you if we just stopped creating weapons of mass destruction around the world, we would solve the problem.

With all the friggin technology we have for blowing ourselves up, why haven't we created anything to detect landmines on moving vehicles? Why couldn't we replace all the jeeps with the car from Night Rider? You know, Kitt, the car that talked and could detect the exact location of just about anything, let alone do just about anything the average car couldn't do — you know roll a few times and still not have a scratch on it.

It would look so cool if all our peace keepers were out there riding around in '82 Trans AM firebirds. Of course they would also all have to have the voice of Kitt.

Sure they may not be great for all-terrain, but I am sure they could come up with some sort of modification or two.

Why not get PeopleSoft to donate their Quest software to the cause of creating these nifty Nightrider cars [*Micheal, It's time for your enrollment appointment — iEd*](though I am tempted to think they would be better off with the old jeeps using such software, come on how often is Quest down or wrong???)

Moral of the story - don't drive a jeep through a mine field... wait... even better — let's just not have anymore wars.

N

## What I Learned in Philosophy

I knew that it was a common belief at the MC, but I never thought that I would hear that "Mathies are the only ones who can be right" in a building that is entirely dedicated to Arts, the Arts Lecture Hall. It wasn't even out of the mouth of a math student stuck there in one of their electives, but my philosophy prof. Now these weren't exactly his words either, it's more than likely a bit of hyperbowl\* on my part, but was still the entire point of a lecture. Can scientists be right? Well they can try to be, but never can get close enough. Ever hear a lawyer say how he was going to prove that someone was or was not guilty? According to my philosophy prof, he was lying he, can't prove jack. If you want to prove something, you may use math and only math, and as a result, only a Mathie can be right. And that is what I learned in a class where the topics include Descartes, induction and probability.

\*This is a result of my time from high school. I noticed that English teachers always seem to tell you it's pronounced "hi-per-bo-lee, not hi-per-bowl" and it really seemed to annoy them. Yet the only people who ever pronounced it with a "bowl" were the teachers telling you not to pronounce it that way. Now with my contempt towards the high school english system not only did I start pronouncing it wrong, but I started spelling it wrong too, why don't you try.

DanS

## Country Livin'

You know you're in the country when:

- Your entire family gets together to watch the neighbours (gossip time!)
- You have to drive real slow down the laneway for fear of hitting chickens, ducks, and other such animals
- You've got to interrupt Thanksgiving Dinner to go chase goats before they run away
- A night out consists of going to Tim Horton's and stopping at the new movie rental store
- Upon driving home, you can name who lives in every house within a half hour away
- You get to feed a lamb some milk out of a bottle

And the best part is, all of this is true and done within 24 hours. You thought YOUR weekend was sweet... Next time, come home with me.

The Girl

## University Plaza to Open New Hole-Themed Chain of Restaurant

Following the success of Pita Pit as a popular food service industry, management officials announced today plans to open a chain of hole-themed restaurants.

"We're very excited about our plans," remarked the owner of UW Plaza. "Our market analysis shows the success of Pita Pit is due, in part or in whole, to its image, its atmosphere. The idea of grabbing a pita out of a pit must excite UW students."

The Harvey's in UW Plaza, in accordance with the new theme, is planning to rename to Burger Pit. "People charbroil things in barbecue pits, so the decision to change to burger pit was a natural extension of the new theme," comments the manager of the UW Plaza restaurant.

Similarly, Mongolian Grill is planning to change their name to Mongolian Ditch. Sweet Dreams is to be renamed to Bubble Tea Puddle, a Taco Bell (to replace that strange restaurant beside the Campus Pizza that no one actually eats in or knows the name of) is being built as Taco Grotto. Campus Pizza itself is being renamed to Pizza Cavern. TCBY is to change to Ice Cream Hole in the Ground.

Keeping with the theme, UW Plaza management is going to level all the buildings, excavate plaza, and build the restaurants inside an actual hole.

"It's all part of the atmosphere. Who wouldn't want to reach into some random earthy orifice and pull out something good to eat?"

Sheep Nine



## mathNEWSquiz #3

### Squizin' It Up

WOOT! So last week's Squiz was wickedly wackedy waaaaazaa woouooo! There were some questions, and we have some answers for you now. **Ontario Political Parties:** 1. Nine 2. Green Party of Ontario 3. Communist Party of Canada 4. Jan Narveson. In case you were curious, the party is the Ontario Libertarian Party. **The Worst Movies of All Time:** 1. *Gigli* 2. *Weekend at Bernie's II* 3. *Kazaam* 4. *Plan 9 From Outer Space* **Song Lyrics** 1. *Pantera Fans in Love* by Nerf Herder 2. *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen 3. *Absolutely* by Nine Days 4. *Prologue* from Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. **Faculty of Mathematics** 1. CS 134 2. J. Alan George 3. Four: 1) AM, 2) PM, 3) CO, 4) Stats & Act Sci.

There were at least three submissions to the Squiz last week, from Eric Logan (21), Adam Felix (23), and Denis Nguyen (21). Which means that, by the power of well-ordering of the integers, Adam Felix Wins! (Imagine slot machine sounds and lights, it's easy if you try) You can pick up your prize from the MathSoc Office whenever the editors finally get it there.

### The Metric System

Identify the SI standard units for the following:

1. time
2. electric current
3. length
4. luminous intensity
5. mass

### The Punic Wars

1. How many Punic Wars were there?
2. Which two empires battled during the Punic Wars?
3. Which famous general is associated with the Punic Wars?

### Movie Quotes

Identify the movie in which each of the following lines appears:

1. "And I can swear to you, my boy, swear to you, that there's nothing wrong with my bodily fluids."
2. "What is your major malfunction, numb nuts?"
3. "How art thou, thou globby bottle of cheap stinking chip-oil? Come and get one in the yarbles, if you have any yarbles, you eunuch jelly, thou."
4. "My first instructor was Mr. Arkany. He taught me to sing a song."

**Bonus:** What do these four movies have in common?

### Final Fantasy Trivia

1. What is the earliest Final Fantasy game in which Bahamut appears?
2. In what Final Fantasy game for the SNES could you have a maximum of two people in your party?
3. Which Final Fantasy game features a twenty-three floor tower?
4. In which Final Fantasy game can your character turn into a moogles as a result of an enemy attack?
5. Which Final Fantasy game has 126 possible 4-person parties?

### Song Lyrics

Identify the name of the song and the artist:

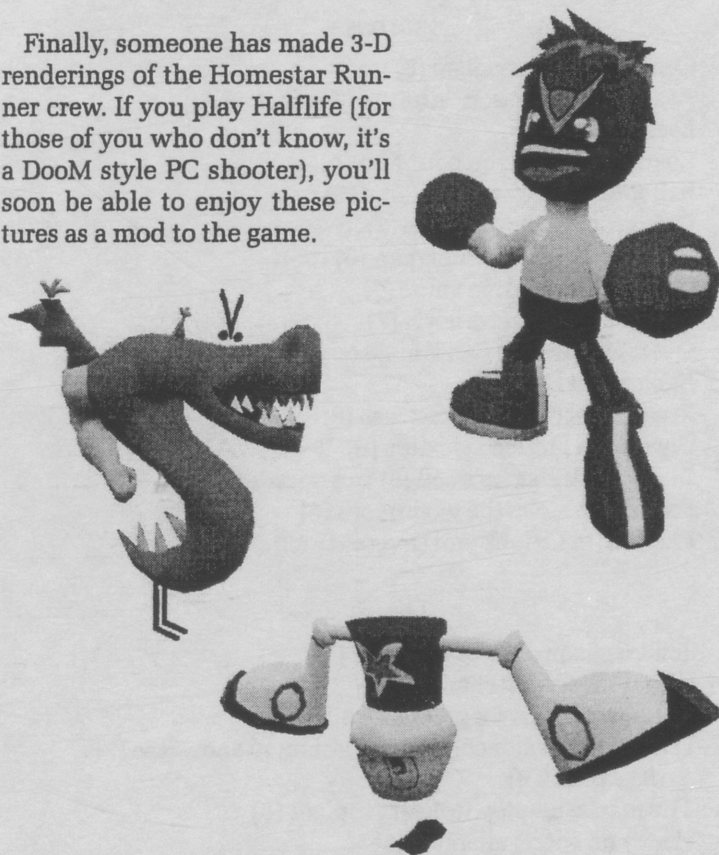
1. You take your car to work  
I'll take my board  
And when you run out of fuel I'm still afloat
2. Although I'm so tired I'll have another cigarette  
And curse Sir Walter Raleigh  
He was such a stupid get.
3. What'll we get for ten dollars?  
Everything you want  
Everything?  
Everything
4. Why are there so many songs about rainbows  
And what's on the other side?

As usual, solutions are due on Monday. This time, that Monday is the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. You should e-mail them in, or put them in the BLACK BOX. Good luck to everyone and have a happy October 17<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, OPEC won't do the same thing it did 30 years ago today (Bonus Question: What did it do?)

$\pi$  & Eigenvector

## Homestar Halflife

Finally, someone has made 3-D renderings of the Homestar Runner crew. If you play Halflife (for those of you who don't know, it's a DooM style PC shooter), you'll soon be able to enjoy these pictures as a mod to the game.



The developers of the mod are looking for some help with modelling, coding, animation, and sound. Check out their website at <http://mods.moddb.com/1170/?start=10> for some most excellent 3-D renderings of Trogdor, Homestar, and Strongbad. Oh yeah, there's some other stuff there too.

Krease

## gridCOMMENTS

Ahh - So here is the last page of *mathNEWS* - that only means one thing! *gridWORD* is on the move again! Think you can handle the pressure? Think you can actually finish it?! I think you can try your hand at it and see! These riddles aren't too hard..

So there were hardly any submissions to either the cryptic and conventional *gridWORD*. What were you all doing in the past two weeks? This is the perfect thing to keep you all awake in class! The SJU Crew were the only ones to submit the cryptic, so they win by default. Beatrice & Jim, and Martha both submitted for the conventional. Special thanks to Captain Awesome of the Space Police, who submitted some totally random *gridWORD* from I have no idea when - way to go! [*We even had ourselves a mini-contest to try and find the issue it came from... — KreasEd*]

Alright, so all the *gridQUESTIONs* were good, but I'm going to have to say Beatrice & Jim won for the conventional last issue, with this weeks question: "How many beers at Oktoberfest does it take to make the Artsies start sounding smart?"

So submit your solutions to the little BLACK BOX (or email them to us at [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca)) by October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Earn some free food people - FREE FOOD! Who doesn't like FREE FOOD? If you don't like FREE FOOD, you're CRAZY! See y'all next issue. Same bat page, same bat *mathNEWS*!

## The Cryptic Clues

The Girl

### Across

1. Century-old journalism (8)
2. Assorted fuchsias, if "dumped," per se (2,4)
3. Leases tears (5)
4. Casual garlands you count on (9)
5. Irritability ruins less unstable (9)
6. Offspring are the outcome (5)
7. Too small to fit tin in pippen (6)
8. Coroner, one certain value (7)
9. Swarmed with extra costs (7)
10. Overshadows key San Francisco comeback after fight (6)
11. Slick about beats (5)
12. Breast men that grow on trees (9)
13. Cigars and knitted sweaters (9)
14. Boy sounds like he's caught in an undertow (5)
15. Promise to clean the woodwork (6)
16. Flagpole of Oxford prof (long extinct) (8)

### Down

1. Tender gesture scares doctor (6)
2. Clever tin-sorting chamber (9)
3. Moscow fashion for greens (7,8)
4. Leading renovator converted kitchen to showcase (7)
5. Artist's pad (6,9)
6. Those who employ trousers topless (5)
7. Heavy ref sports allergy (3,5)
8. Pale tab for brunch (3,3)
9. United Nations discovered editor to be baseless (9)
10. Paper Hat For Dummies (8)
11. Trance about juice (6)
12. Type of diving for scattered pea seed (4-3)
13. One serious behind (6)
14. Cut ends off scarves (5)

## The Conventional Clues

### Across

1. Sets sail (8)
2. Sad (6)
3. Stripey critter (5)
4. Special case (9)
5. Height (9)
6. Support (5)
7. Dishes (6)
8. Strode (7)
9. Watch (7)
10. Seas (6)
11. Boxes (5)
12. Being (9)
13. Bush, sort of (9)
14. Vessels (5)
15. Most secure (6)
16. For example, email (8)

### Down

1. More sluggish (6)
2. Rain gear (9)
3. Traits (15)
4. Opponents (7)
5. Examples (15)
6. Benefits (5)
7. Resolve (8)
8. Tantrums (6)
9. Raising (9)
10. Ideas (8)
11. Seven-\_\_\_\_\_ (6)
12. Shrill sound (7)
13. Dining halls (6)
14. Where to put books (5)

