

# MATH IN THE HAT



*math* **NEWS**

**Friday, November 28, 2003**  
**Volume 93, Issue 6**

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## lookAHEAD

<b>mathNEWS</b>	
28 November	Issue #6 rises from the ashes... er, snow
<b>Math Faculty</b>	
1 December	Classes end... Rejoicing begins
<b>MathSoc</b>	
28-30 November	Cross-Campus Fragfest
<b>University of Waterloo</b>	
4 December	Torture equipment unleashed upon students. (Exams start)
19 December	Students and faculty come to agreement, Torture equipment relieved for calendar year. (Exams end)
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
17 December	Lord Of The Rings: The Return of the King release date. Costume stores sold out of Aragorn costumes.
20 December	Pete Love turns 100/4 years old

## MEF Update

The MEF Funding Council meeting was held on Monday, November 17. Below is a summary of the projects funded this term.

### ActSci Club

- \$1200 for the ASNA Convention
- \$1300 for actuarial science exam study manuals
- \$900 for a new computer

### Waterloo Aerial Robotics Group (WARG)

- \$10,000 for development of new systems

### Waterloo Space Society

- \$5000 for the Canadian Student Summit on Aerospace (January 29 - February 1, 2004 at UW)

Next term, MEF will have almost \$60,000 to spend on projects. If you have an idea for a project that will benefit math students academically, consider submitting a proposal. For more information, visit the MEF website, or e-mail me at [mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca).

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## Orientation 2004

*Be a Leader*

*Applications available outside the MathSoc office*

*Sign up TODAY!*

## Subscriptions!

*Yes, subscriptions!*

Yes, really, we have subscriptions. If you aren't going to be around campus to get issues of *mathNEWS*, then why not have them delivered to you? You can take them to work and read them during meetings. Or you can read them during those long commutes. Or during meetings!

Of course there is the webpage, but there's a lot less glare off bond paper, and you get to see our wacky filler! And *mathNEWS* can travel almost everywhere, unlike those clunky computers with their cables and such. Unless you have a laptop, but what are the odds of that? One in fifteen?

And, let's not forget, they're pretty cheap too! In Canada, it's \$7.50 a term, twenty bucks for three terms. For the States, it's \$10 a term, and twenty-five for three. The rest of the world pays \$15 a term or \$35 for three.

A term's subscription gets you all six exciting issues, plus any bonus issues that happen to come out. But what are the odds of that? Two out of three?

The three-term option means you can get *mathNEWS* every summer you're away, or, for those co-ops out there, you can have your subscriptions every time you go off to a faraway job. Any three terms are do-able.

To subscribe, just drop by the *mathNEWS* Office (MC 3041) with your requested term(s) and some cash, or drop it in our mail slot in the MathSoc Office (MC 3038), or put it in the BLACK BOX, or email [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca), or give your money to a mathie in the hopes he or she is an editor. But what are the odds of that? Three in one thousand five hundred?

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## SETTLERS TOURNAMENT!!!

*SUNDAY! SUNDAY!! SUNDAY!!!*

*Settlers Tournament*

*Comfy*

*NOON*

*Be THERE.*

*(Free Food)*

## VPAS Sez

### *The Last Word*

The term is officially over as of next week, and thus ends my two-term commitment as your VP, Activities and Services. During my eight months serving the Math Students, I've learned several things, such as delegation and not getting heart attacks, both of which have increased my life expectancy drastically.

I leave with the knowledge that student services have been enhanced during the past year. Our regular events were augmented with new initiatives that enhanced the life of the average Mathie. Everyone remembers our notorious "Pi" Day, where we celebrate the mathematical constant of pi, but many were surprised to see MathSoc celebrate Halloween with "Pumpkin Pi" Day. Besides giving away free food, MathSoc organized enthralling events such as Cove Night, Glow-In-The-Dark Ultimate, and our ever popular Laserquest night. Fun was definitely had by all.

With my summer counterpart, the Math Society made a name for itself in the community by offering our efforts and spirits for the betterment of the people around us. Our children's venue during Canada Day celebrations at UW and our recent Charity Ball are estimable examples of the Math Society's commitment to community responsibility.

I took office with lofty goals: some were accomplished while others were left on the backburner, awaiting another rainy day for which they will be completed. Alas, that rainy day has yet to come and time has run short. I can only hope future VPASes will find the virtues of unfinished projects, like the MathSoc mentorship program, valuable enough to complete them.

One goal of particular interest was my endeavour to open up MathSoc to all Math students, and provide services that reach out to all Mathies. With such diverse cultures and ambitions permeating throughout the hallways of the MC, I found that particular goal especially challenging. I tackled the issue to the best of my abilities, only to see the results mixed at best. It may be true that membership within the ranks of the Society and participation of some events have increased, but I continue to observe Math students, young and not-so-young, requesting their MathSoc refunds. While our zealous volunteers attempted to include all Math students with steadfast resolve, we need you, the Math students, to evolve MathSoc into an organization that serves your purposes, your needs, and your wishes.

With that said, I leave the distinguished office of Vice President, Activities and Services with with great anticipation of a renewed vision for the Society; A vision that will be undertaken by a new generation of young men and women who have taken the responsibility to run and ultimately mold MathSoc through the new year. I also leave knowing that my efforts, and the efforts of my commendable directors and volunteers, have made a difference throughout the past year.

It was my pleasure to have served each and everyone one of you.

Bon chance, and I'll see you all from my new office of the Math Grad Committee 2005.

Raymond CT Lai  
VP, Activities and Services,  
MathSoc F03

## VPA Sez

So mathNEWS fans, this is ironically my first and last article being VPA of that renowned student society that represents you to the Faculty. Strangely apathetic of me. Another irony.

So why write now? Well, other than the fact that I was coerced into it, I feel it's about time that the Vice President, Academic, informed Math students of some of the things that happened this term.

MFCF and CSCF split, as we all undoubtedly know and enjoy. 'Enjoy'. I'd love to say that MathSoc is on the ball with this and is fighting with conventional weapons and other means to ensure that everything involved with the split is resolved and fixed, but realistically, this will take heavier guns that I've mustered this term.

Co-op enhancement is an initiative that has been planned University-wide, and the Math Faculty is certainly jumping at the chance to add Math-specific modules to the co-op process. This time, MathSoc has not failed you, and student representatives will sit on the committee which decides changes to our Co-op program. Other than some small miscellaneous items to top this 'extensive' list, business has gone on as usual in our wonderful Faculty; second-year CS courses still suck, tuition is up 15% again for Winter 2004, the CS statue was again attacked with paint, and all that other fun stuff that goes with being a Math student.

Personally, my second and final term as your representative to the Faculty has been one of both ups, and downs. Being an overzealous, tactless, and idealistic left-wing hippie, I set forth to make this building and our position as students better for all. Using brute force, loud speech, and shamelessly psychology-driven advertising, I tried my best to represent the views of those who wished to confide in me to our overseers on the 5th floor. Sometimes I succeeded, and sometimes, my Communist flag burned to the ground. I had plans to reform the Math Society from the inside as well, making it more representative of Math students in general, and my initiatives and personal ambitions fared similarly in this regard.

All in all, while I feel I've done part of what I've set forth to do, there is lots more work. I would love to continue this journey of self-sacrifice, and losing nights of sleep and assignment marks arguing with Faculty, but it is time to hand off the torch. I have confidence that my successor will continue doing her best to ensure that the students have a voice in this Faculty.

I'd like to thank my fellow MathSoc executives for making my 8 months in MC 3039 (the Exec office) a memorable period in my lifetime. A big thank you also to all the people who showed up to 1st year Academic Sessions (launched before 1st year midterms); I usually invited you on last-minute notice, with little incentive and sleep, and treated you like cattle. Lastly, to the members of the Math Society who strive to make it a place where Math Students can share their woes, their concerns, and partake in our useful services, thank you as well. People like you are what the Society is about, and help make our little building in the middle of campus a homier place to live... I mean work. Yeah...

Good luck on your finals fellow Mathies. May the source be with you, fellow CSers.

Luke Kosewski  
Vice President, Academic  
Math Society

## The Splat in the Mat

It was cold yucky day  
with nothing to do  
but for poor cindy and I  
to sit and say boo hoo

for our computer was fritzzy  
it would not go,  
We were unable to fix it  
we hit and poked at it with a toe

We could not repair it  
Technical support was to no avail  
We would just have to sit  
and create some boring tale

All of a sudden we heard a great noise  
Bump bump bump The door swung open  
and there he stood with great poise  
and florsihed his hat with the flare of a frenchmen

It was the Splat on the Mat  
He was quite small  
He looked like a bat  
He bounced like a ball

He cried, "I can fix any computer"  
We sat there dumbfounded  
How could this Splat fix our computer  
It could not be possible it must be confounded

"Don't look so shocked!"  
"I am smater than I look"  
and than with his head cocked  
he sat on the chair on top of a book

"So what is the matter?"  
He asked as he circled around.  
Cindy whisperd "He's like the mad hatter"  
"Shhhsh!" I whispered as I frowned.

"We aren't sure, it just will not work."  
"It sits there blankly and will not turn on"  
"Hrmmm" said the Splat "It may need a spork."  
"what is a spork?" whispered Cindy, "he must be a con."

"Hush dear Cindy he may get us out of our jam!"  
Cindy was quiet, she just stared at the Splat.  
"Hey boy," he ordered, "while I fix this darn thing  
won't you get me some ham"  
I did as I was told, I had a little faith in this old mat.

He pulled at his hat  
He growled and wailed  
"I just don't get it!!! Where is my bat???"  
"This just won't do I cannot have failed."

A bat he did find  
when he ran to my room  
It looked like Cindy and I were in a bind  
and our poor 'puter was doomed

The splat on the mat  
Came running full force  
Swinging madly his bat  
Thankfully missing the source

"STOP you Crazy Splat!!!!!" I roared  
"This will not do!! You said you could fix it!"  
"Not smash it with a board!!!"  
"This will stop right now you stupid cricket!"

We struggled awhile, the Splat and I.  
I was determined to stop him  
Even if it meant I had to die.  
I would fight him limb for limb.

We froze in our places  
We heard a quiet HUMMMMMM  
Shock and disblief filled our faces  
The computer was a live.

"How can this be?" shouted the Splat.  
I looked all around to see Cindy smile  
"How did you do it you sly sly cat?"  
Asked the Splat swallowing some bile.

Cindy looked very innocent  
She sweetly smiled and said  
"The plug was all bent"  
"I fixed it with the help of my Ted."

"Who is TED???" Splat shrieked.  
"I do not know" I yelled backed.  
"My bear you crazy fools" Cindy bellowed.  
Silence fell as this was all quite cracked.

"It is time for you to go"  
"You Splat in the mat"  
"you have stooped way to low"  
"trying to wreck our computer you rat."

"The computer is fixed"  
"No thanks to you Splat,"  
He just sat, he looked transfixed  
at his tattered mat.

He sadly said, "I will be on my way"  
"I just wanted to help..."  
He began to walk and than started to sway  
Cindy grabbed the bat and gave him a good whelp.

"That's what you get for trying to break our computer"  
She said with great satisfaction  
We stood at the door watching the Splat totter  
weaving his way slowly, fraction by fraction.

So if you know what is best  
check all of your plugs  
and you will be sure to avoid such pests  
as the Splat in the Mat thugs.

## Useless? I Think Not.

Not too long ago, the Comfy Lounge was augmented with the addition of several new tables and chairs. Included with this furnitural infusion were the now infamous Tall Tables.

Many became bewildered by their presence. Many denounced the tables as useless wastes of Amazonian slave labour. This saddens me, as I like to believe that everything in existence has some potential use. So, to encourage the acceptance of these pieces of furniture, I offer some suggestions of how they may be used, in hopes that their other uses will eventually emerge.

- On-the-spot vasectomies. You never know what will happen after the big math charity ball. Why take chances? Bioterrorize your little soldiers to kingdom NotCome and let the good times roll. These tables are the perfect height for both keeling over in pain and praying to whatever god you may happen to believe in.
- Pretending to be a table salesman. Sometimes we all need to take a little break from the heavy workload of not being in Arts. Believe me, as someone who has never attempted to have any sort of psychology-related thought whatsoever, I can confidently state that there is no better cure for stress than to reenact the first five minutes of Table Salesman Erotic Encounters VII. (The rest of it is kind of repetitive and flesh-coloured.)
- Throwing at lousy cheaters. A lot of games are played in the Comfy lounge each day. So many games are played, in fact, that it hardly seems legal to not be running some sort of concurrent charity fundraiser along the way. And with this many games and so many bastards in the universe, there's bound to be a cheater or two. And I don't mean just a simple mistake being made, but actual, cold-bone cheating being done. By cheaters. What better way to curb this unhealthy trend than with a rousing round of Catch The Table With Your Tonsils?

## Dr. Seuss Spans Generations

Do you remember being a child?  
I remember... it's been a while,  
I used to memorize my story books,  
Long and short, I wouldn't look  
At the next page until I said  
The words that soon would be read.  
All the stories in my head  
I wonder what logic was bred?

Who hasn't read an original Seuss?  
Like the epic adventures of the Whos.  
Or read the tales of Sam,  
Trying to give away Green Eggs and Ham.  
Really, truly, they are good,  
In your house or in your hood.

Dr. Seuss has been around for quite a while,  
Writing children's books with guile.  
Using rhyme to appease our minds,  
With stories of all kinds.

Beatlemaniac

- Food. Let's not kid ourselves, now. We're students, so we're poor. I personally have begun to sell my own urine to make ends meet. (On another note, isn't it amazing how many people don't know what real lemonade looks like?) Each and every penny we can save is a blessing. Thus, when the budget runs tight, why not snack on a piece of table? I mean, these things used to be trees. Trees get pretty old and pretty strong. And who doesn't want to be strong and long-lived?
- Pounding your fist upon in defiance. It's very hard to win an argument against someone who is constantly underscoring his point with a resounding pound of his fist. You, too, can win arguments this way.
- Violating commandments. This is a bit of a no-brainer, because adding anything to violating commandments makes it better.

These are just a few of the things that you can do with those perplexing, vertically endowed pieces of furniture. Hopefully this will get the ball rolling for you creative thinkers, and perhaps, in time, the Tall Tables will be as integral a part of the Comfy Lounge as, oh, I don't know, the Caramilk machine.

HWT

## What If Neo Took CS 133?

```
/** Destroys an an array of agents
 */
public class Neo extends TheMatrix
{
    private Agent[] smith = new Agent[Integer.MAX_INT];
    this.fillArray();
    for (int i=0; i<agents.length; i++)
    {
        //nothing in backpack!
        smith[i].putThing();
    }
}
```

aleph || "Mr. Anderson"

## 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.

No Grinches Here: Chris Harasemchuk, Louis Mastorakos, Emerald Kushnier, Mark Toivanen

## Unpopular Opinions

Huh. So apparently, I write for *mathNEWS* now. To celebrate, I shall attempt to fill the rest of this article with unpopular opinions.

You know what suck? Breasts. What have breasts ever done for anyone? Nothing. All they do is sit around and use up precious glucose. And think of all the juvenile gymnastics careers they've destroyed.

Professional athletes are ridiculously underpaid. I mean, these people put a lot of hard work and effort into being in the right place at the right time. And let's face it, you can't make it on an endorsement deal in today's crazy economy.

The Simpsons is currently having the best season ever had by any comedy or animated series ever in any fictitious or nonfictitious universe. I mean, they sing! All the time! How can you not love the relentless endless musical delights by actors who never even bothered to find out if they had any persistent musical talent? I guess we just got lucky.

The N-Gage is definitely the future of consumer gaming. All the other console systems simply can't hold a candle to the portability and sheer buttonosity of a cell phone. Bloated companies and ridiculously long development cycles will ultimately fail in the face of superiorly simple software.

The SL Specification is rigid and unchanging. The language is simply so rich and nuanced that we only believed that the specification had changed, when in actuality it was consistent all along. This is, incidentally, also a technique used in most holy books and *Star Trek: Enterprise*.

Food should be abolished. There is absolutely no reason to adhere to this barbaric tradition of grinding organic matter into slimy bits to force down the throats of our children. In a progressive society, we must learn to see past what we take for granted.

Fox News is the only unbiased media source in the world. First of all, every country besides America is plagued by anti-American prejudice and thus there can be no impartial news sources in those countries. Further, America is full of unpatriotic citizens who would stand in the way of the government. The only way to find the real answers is to go to a source where patriotism is not only a requirement, it's the secret password.

I should continue to write for *mathNEWS*.

HWT

## This Is N.ot Sp.am

Greetings, sir. I got your e-mail address from a very confidential source — the Internet. I am the prince, minister and Grand Poo-ba of one of many foreign nations that you stupid Americans have never heard of. There is a billion, kazillion dollars in an account here that rightfully belongs to my family and my people. Due to some horrid-bloody military coup in which my entire family, several accountants and various goats lost their lives, I cannot reach this money. But you, an American who has never heard of my country, can march right into the corner branch of God-Forsaken-War-Torn-East-of-Nowhere-Africa and deposit this money right into your fat American bank account. For your trouble, I'll give you a few million off the top — because what's a few million between confidential best friends who have never actually even heard of one another?

Your pal, Esaerk

## Web Ads and Spam

Yes sir, Sam I am,  
I do not like web ads and spam  
I gave my email to the man,  
Thinking spam was in a can  
Oh how I saw I was wrong,  
When my inbox was that damn long  
One by one I saw them say,  
"Enlarge your penis" in just one day  
Disgusted, I would move to the next,  
Only to see pornography among the text  
Over my shoulder my friends would peer,  
They won't let that go for at least a year  
Under my breath I muttered a groan,  
As I read about a new house loan  
Something from the prince of Nigeria,  
I hope he slowly dies of dyptheria  
"Unsubscribe" I would reply,  
Only to see it multiply  
"Make a fortune on E-bay",  
Do they think I was born yesterday?  
A walk in the park would make me merry,  
Until Spam hit my BlackBerry  
"Who would buy this?" I would ask,  
To kick their asses, my new task  
The POP server is about to fail,  
I'm getting ready to ditch E-Mail  
I do not like web ads and spam,  
Yes sir, Sam I am.

Ian W. MacKinnon

## My Personal Co-op Sob Story

*Not to be confused with a SOB story*

I know everyone has one of these... well, everyone has *many* of these. For you dear readers, I present my co-op sob story of the week.

So it's Friday morning. I wake up, and do the same thing I do first thing every morning — check Access. As usual, the screen glares at me, "*You are still unemployed!!!*" Nobody loves me, everybody hates me, think I'm gonna go eat worms with a side of green eggs and ham. In any case, I figure it's safe to go home for the weekend so I can cry on Mommy's shoulder.

So I get back on Sunday, and I check my email, seeing as my parents do not have the internet (yes, those people still exist.) I get an email from one of my friends, basically saying, "You have an interview. Did you know that?" I checked Access, and sure enough, one of the applications that formerly read, "We would rather hire a lobotomized monkey than you" now read, "We couldn't find any lobotomized monkeys. You have an interview".

That's not the happy ending, though. It rained this morning, and I don't drive. Since I had no notice, I couldn't stow my clothes on campus, ergo, I got wet. I thought, "no problem, I'll just use the blowdryer in the men's room to dry myself off." *The men's room in the CECS building doesn't have a blowdryer!* It must be the only building on campus that doesn't. I'm pretty sure it's CECS's fault it rained on Monday, too.

Valacosa

## Green's Theorem and Span

I am AM.  
 I am AM. AM I am.  
 That AM-I-am  
 That AM-I-am  
 I do not like that AM-I-am  
 Do you like Green's Theorem and span?  
 I do not like them,  
 AM-I-am  
 I do not like Green's Theorem and span.  
 Would you like them  
 Here or there?  
 I would not like them here or there.  
 I would not like them anywhere.  
 I do not like Green's Theorem and span  
 I do not like them,  
 AM-I-am.  
 Would you like to work with curl?  
 Would you learn them with a girl?  
 I do not want to work with curl.  
 I will not learn them with a girl.  
 I do not like them here or there.  
 I do not like them anywhere.  
 I do not like Green's Theorem and span.  
 I do not like them, AM-I-am.  
 Would you? Could you?  
 In Calc 4?  
 Learn them! Learn them!  
 Here they are.  
 I would not, could not,  
 in Calc 4.  
 You may like them.  
 You will see.  
 You can solve this PDE.  
 I would not solve a PDE.  
 Not in Calc 4! You let me be.  
 I do not like to work with curl.  
 I will not learn them with a girl.  
 I do not like them here or there.  
 I do not like them anywhere.  
 I do not like Green's Theorem and span.  
 I do not like them, AM-I-am.  
 A path! A path!  
 A path! A path!  
 Integrate along this path!  
 Not on a path! No PDE!  
 Not in Calc 4! AM! Let me be!  
 I will not learn to work with curl.  
 I will not learn them with a girl.  
 I will not learn them here or there.  
 I will not learn them anywhere.  
 I do not like them, AM-I-am.  
 Would you, could you, do the math?  
 I would not, could not, do the math.  
 Nor integrate along a path.  
 Not in Calc 4. No PDE.  
 I do not like them, AM, you see.  
 Not with the curl. Not with a girl.  
 I will not learn them here or there.  
 I do not like them anywhere!

You do not like Green's Theorem and span?  
 I do not like them, AM-I-am.  
 I will not learn this boring math.  
 I will not integrate along a path!  
 I will not solve this PDE!  
 Not in Calc 4! You let me be!  
 I do not like to work with curl.  
 I will not learn them with a girl.  
 I do not like them here or there.  
 I do not like them ANYWHERE!  
 I do not like Green's Theorem and span!  
 I do not like them, AM-I-am.  
 You do not like them.  
 SO you say.  
 Try them! Try them!  
 And you may.  
 Try them and you may I say.  
 AM!  
 If you will let me be,  
 I will try them.  
 You will see.  
 Say!  
 I like Green's Theorem and span!  
 I do!! I like them, AM-I-am!  
 And I will learn this boring math.  
 And integrate along a path.  
 And learn Calc 4. Solve PDE's.  
 They are so good so good you see!  
 So I will learn to work with curl.  
 And I will learn them with a girl.  
 And I will learn them here and there.  
 Say! I will eat them ANYWHERE!  
 I do so like Green's Theorem and span!  
 Thank you!  
 Thank you, AM-I-am!

Eigenvector

## Lab Rat

Been running around all day.  
 What a good day for a lab rat.  
 I mean, what other types of days are there? I could decide not to be running around like a lab rat, but then who would earn the cheese in this cage?  
 Wait, I don't get any cheese for running around. I just get the satisfaction of running around. Eh, whatever. Either is fine by me. It lets me run around.  
 Although, currently I'm running around in an attempt to acquire cheese. Wonder if I can steal some cheese from these *mathNEWS* people. Hmm... sounds like a cheesy advertisement to me, but there again, cheese is good. Mmmm cheese. Brie is definitely the best type of cheese. And it should be ripped with the teeth: none of this cutting of the cheese - takes too much time.  
 So, the lab's been good to me lately. Seems like other rats, ya know, the non-lab rats, have been getting cold & wet and snowed on. Poor them - wha ha ha! Whereas I'm inside, running around in my little own lab, no light, no cold fresh air, none of that stuff. Sounds like a good way to spend my time.

Trapped

## In Defense of Christmas

*...and I don't even go to church!*

Well it appears that we are once again in the middle of commercial bombardment by retailers reminding us to prepare for "holidays." I'm happy that Furbys were just a one-time fad back in 1998 or whatever. I hear that Elmo is making a comeback, but I digress. The issue I would like to discuss today is about political correctness, Christmas, and multiculturalism.

We have all heard of instances where some bureaucratic organization becomes so fearful of offending anyone that they make overzealous interpretations of sensitivity guidelines, discard all forms of common sense, and place their heads firmly up their asses. Consider, for example, last year's "Holiday Tree" debacle in Toronto. Not only were Christians upset by the neutralization of one of their symbols of Christmas, but news reports were featuring quotes by leaders of other religious communities who were wondering why they would ever be offended by a Christmas tree.

Decorating a tree for the duration leading up to the end of December is a Christmas symbol that has been used by Christianity for quite a while. Nobody is being fooled by changing "Christmas" to "Holiday;" everybody knows that the tree is a symbol of Christmas. If you don't celebrate Christmas, the tree probably doesn't mean any more to you as a holiday tree than it did as a Christmas tree. It's not like somebody is going to suddenly feel included because we change it to "holiday" instead of "Christmas." It makes no sense to declare that we're celebrating a religion-neutral holiday, and yet we flood said holiday celebration with Christmas stuff. That isn't inclusive!

Another good example was the Royal Canadian Mint's "Twelve Days of Giving" campaign. Apparently somebody thought that it was a good idea to convince people to buy Christmas gifts by

using a bastardized Christmas carol in their ads. First of all, they aren't fooling anybody, and second, if they're trying to profit off of the fact that Christians buy gifts to exchange at Christmas time, what kind of sense does it make to sidestep that fact in their advertising? The least they could do is admit that they're trying to cater to people who celebrate Christmas!

Many people complain that every year Christmas becomes more of a commercial venture than a religious occasion. I am beginning to wonder if the commercial bonanza that focuses on Santa Claus, "holiday trees," and buying gifts is a result of the downplaying of true meaning of Christmas in the name of inclusion.

Manitoba premier Gary Doer made a good comment when he observed that "You can be inclusive without being silly... We don't call the menorah that's outside a multicultural candle holder." Every religion has its own symbols and traditions. We are not being inclusive by renaming a Christian symbol and then trying to apply it to everybody. There's nothing wrong with every group celebrating their religious events with their own symbols and traditions. The rest of us might even learn something about other religions while they're at it.

I firmly believe that if Canada is to continue to go forward with multiculturalism, we need to decide what we want to do about religious and cultural occasions. If Toronto bureaucrats want to downplay Christmas with their holiday tree, then maybe they shouldn't decorate a tree at all. We need to take an all-or-nothing approach: either we publicly celebrate everybody's traditions, or we celebrate nothing. Giving a neutralized name to a bunch of Christian symbols just isn't cutting it.

Aaron Klotz

## Temporal Online Dating

*eat your heart out...*

[03:57:55 am] <Girl A> tada! I'm back

[03:58:04 am] <Guy B> that was a quick 20 min

[03:59:02 am] <Girl A> thank you, thank you. I actually took a course in time compression and, as you can see, it's one of the so rare courses in university with applications for everyday tasks

[03:59:49 am] <Guy B> Only if you can reverse the effect during sex

[04:02:50 am] <Girl A> Aha! But you see, we also studied the well-known effects of this concept: it depends whether you're a boy or a girl. There are clinical studies that show the inverse dependency of boy's time line comparing to a girl's time line. Right now it's a very hot field since the solution to the inverse dependencies on the same time line is difficult enough to be NP-Complete.

[04:04:16 am] <Girl A> And, unfortunately, due to the critical dependence on the precise moments in time for both a boy and a girl, the approximations to the NP-Complete problem are not good enough.

[04:05:18 am] <Guy B> But does the differential between the time lines cause the index points to separate to the point of instability, making the intersection of the time lines impossible?

[04:07:24 am] <Girl A> You just pointed out the problem at the core of synchronizing two time lines that are in different vector spaces, thus having different bases.

[04:05:56 am] <Girl A> So, as one can see, the assumption that NP-Complete problems are too hard to be solved in linear time prevents a 100% success rate in sex and other fields.

[04:06:34 am] <Guy B> ... unless sex involves two people of the same gender.

[04:09:43 am] <Girl A> That is very true. But the well known homo-genderous problem is trivial from the time line point of view. The less trivial aspect of this problem is the spacial intersection of the two homo-genders, which, the leading scientists of the world believe, is NP-Hard, but it hasn't been shown to be reduced to any known NP-Complete problem.

## pollockQUOTE

"My personal interests are very well-suited to zero not equaling one."

D. Pollock, Math Tutorial Centre

## Frosh Cornered

### Frosh Cornered

What?! Why did he bother putting a subtitle on this article? It's the same as the title. Well, there are a few reasons:

- I felt like it.
- An article without a subtitle is like a dinner without wine.
- I've put a subtitle on every other article, why stop now?
- Subtitles are cool.
- It looks so cool having a subtitle with the same name as the title.

So now that that's out of the way, let's get into something a little less list-like. There is a real reason that I put an identical subtitle on this article, but it's a little too lengthy to put in an unordered list. However, if you've been reading my articles in the past, you'd realize that a few paragraphs is nothing short of expected when reading.

So the question is: why is there a subtitle that is identical to the title? The answer is: well, I don't know if you've noticed or not, but each of my articles has a subtitle that represents the content contained therein. The reason for this is that while Frosh Cornered is very cool and everything, and I'm proud to be living on the legacy of the Cornered Frosh [*Legacy? It started with Raymond complaining about Quebec a few years ago... — KreasEd*], all it really is is a title.

When I was a new frosh, still wet behind the ears, and I was offered this very cool Frosh Cornered position, I was excited. I was looking forward to a special box where my articles would be read by all, maybe even near the front of the issue. However,

what wound up happening was that I was just writing another article each week with the title Frosh Cornered, and it was plugged into the issue wherever it would fit [*Hey, have you ever tried to do layout for mathNEWS? It's a miracle that things fit at all! — EmEd*].

I sound like I think the world is going to end, but I really don't. I love writing for *mathNEWS*, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. And this brings me to the point of this article. I've been talking to people, asking for their opinion on my writings, and they have replied that they do not read them because they are Frosh Cornered. This confuses me. Essentially what I am told is because my articles have the title of Frosh Cornered, they are not worth reading. I have pointed out to them (as I am to you now) that if there were no Frosh Cornered, I would be writing the exact same articles as I am now (well not this one, but you'll find another article by me somewhere in this issue that I would have written instead). The only difference would have been that the subtitle would be the title.

So is the title of an article really worth not reading that article over? Everyone who I've talked to who has actually read my articles says they're worth reading (and I think they're pretty nifty as well). So throw me a bone and check out my articles. They really are very awesome (I just know that's going to earn an edtag, meh!) [*No its not! Haha! ... aw, crap — FrenchEd*]

Keslen

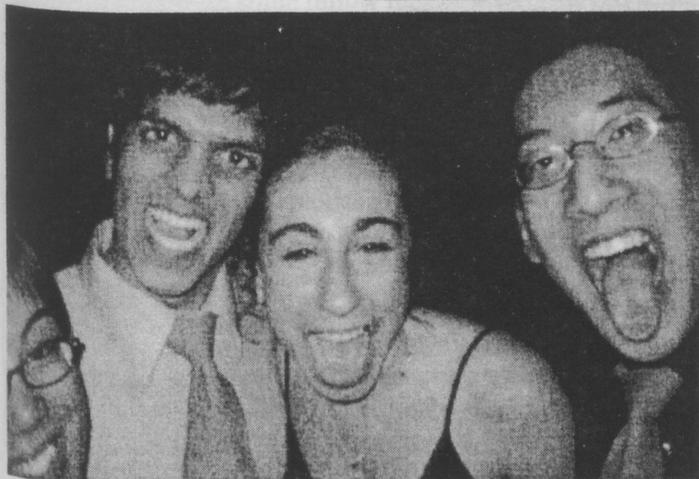
Frosh Cornered v3.0

## Charity Ball Kicked Ass!

Charity Ball, "Math Semi", or "Math Ball", Math's annual semi-formal, was awesome! Pink ties were everywhere, and everyone looked great. The night was filled with events to raise money for charity and have a great time. First was the silent auction and dinner. Next was the live auction, where items such as a "mystery box" and boardgames were auctioned for upwards of \$100!



The highlight of the night was definately when Phil, Lino, Samir and two other guys (sorry don't know names) did a synchronized dance to the song YMCA. It was awe-inspiringly amazing!



As the night progressed we proceeded to dance the night away, and Albert (our off-stream MathSoc prez) kept our feet moving with some awesome DJing. Overall it was an awesome night, and MathSoc raised more than \$3800 for charity. The event confirmed my belief that Math kicks ass.

P.S. It was way better than EngSemi!



Andrew Lo

## Apathy, Openness and the Mathematics Society

A common complaint among students heavily involved in the Mathematics Society is that apathy among students makes it difficult to encourage more people to become involved. While there is no single cause of student apathy, and certainly no "silver bullet" solution, I suggest that a significant cause of apathy is MathSoc's lack of openness to students who are not already heavily involved in it. It is not enough for students simply to be formally members of the society; the actions of those running the society must send the message that all students are a valued part of MathSoc, who deserve to know everything that is going on and have a right to have a say in what is going on. Providing information to people is an excellent way to make people feel as though they are part of a group, and this article examines three ways in which the Math Society can improve in this regard.

### *Access to MathSoc Council*

For students who are not involved with the Math Society, it is remarkably difficult to find out what issues are being dealt with by MathSoc Council, and how Council is dealing with them. For a democratic organization like MathSoc, all undergraduate students should be able to access this information with minimal effort, but this is not the case. This lack of information makes it much more difficult for students to find out what is going on, and much less likely that they will be interested in the issues dealt with by Council.

Council meetings, which are theoretically open to all students, often occur unbeknownst to most undergraduates. Almost no effort is currently made to inform the general student body of the time and location of these meetings. Agenda for meetings could easily be posted on the MathSoc posting boards and website, so that students can find out what's going on, attend meetings if they are interested in the issues being discussed, or contact their representative on Council to discuss their concerns. I should point out that making this information available is certainly not outside the realm of possibility, as I recall seeing meeting agenda regularly posted during the previous terms.

Following MathSoc Council meetings, it is also difficult for students to find out what happened at the meeting. There is a large gap between the time of meetings and the public posting of minutes. Presumably, this is because minutes are not posted until they are approved at the following Council meeting. This however, is no excuse for secrecy. Draft minutes could certainly be posted, along with a note that they are subject to approval. Both the university Senate and the Board of Governors post minutes prior to approval, and they deal with material which is certainly more sensitive than what MathSoc deals with. There is no reason that minutes cannot be posted promptly after meetings.

Here's a hypothetical situation to illustrate what all this means. Suppose Bob is an undergraduate student who likes to eat at the Math C&D. In fact, he eats there so often that he's getting bored with the food there and would like them to try selling some new products. Suppose Council has a meeting at which they decide to form a committee to discuss what types of food are offered by the C&D. Bob doesn't know about the meeting, and certainly doesn't know this issue is going to be discussed, because the agenda was not posted. Thus, he does

not attend. He can't even find out about it after the meeting, because the minutes aren't posted yet. At its next meeting, Council approves the minutes, and they are posted soon thereafter. Bob reads the minutes and finds out about this committee that he would be interested in serving on, so he decides to attend the next MathSoc council meeting. For reasons passing understanding, he somehow finds out about the next meeting and goes to it, only to find that the committee he was interested in, which was formed two meetings ago, has long since completed its task. The lack of access to information about what is going on with MathSoc Council is a significant stumbling block for those who could potentially become more involved in the Math Society.

### *MathSoc Holds Elections?*

Elections are the primary method of involving all undergraduate students in the operation of MathSoc. Candidates who make a serious campaign effort will contact as many students as possible and talk to them about issues related to MathSoc. Moreover, involving all students in the decision-making process reminds them that they are part of the Math Society, and that they have a right to participate in its operation. Given the benefits that elections have in terms of generating interest in MathSoc, it is unfortunate that MathSoc has not held elections for executive positions since Winter, 2001; many students who are currently at this school probably don't even realize that MathSoc holds elections for these positions.

More efforts need to be made to encourage people to run for these positions, so that elections are actually necessary. The process should be facilitated as much as possible to ensure that people who are interested in running for positions are able to do so. A rare opportunity for the election of the Spring 2004 Vice President of Finances was missed when one of the two candidates was disqualified for failing to attend an all-candidates meeting following the nomination period. While the MathSoc elections policy states that attendance at this meeting is mandatory, it specifies no penalty for missing the meeting. Even the Federation of Students, which has a nearly identical election policy, does not disqualify candidates for missing the meeting. In fact, when 2002 VPAF candidate Nik Sydor failed to attend an all-candidates meeting, no disciplinary action at all was taken — and even then, the only penalty even considered was a reduction of his campaign spending limit, not full-out disqualification.

While missing the all-candidates meeting is a bad thing for a candidate to do, it makes more sense for voters to make the decision about how serious this transgression is, rather than for the small Election Committee to make that decision for them. In light of this, disqualification is both unnecessary and unduly harsh. As of the time this article was written, the election process was not yet ratified by Council, so there is still hope that this problem may be fixed.

### *The Role of the Press*

There is a large role that *mathNEWS* can play in helping to ensure accessibility and accountability of the Math Society

Continued on Page 11...

## Apathy, Openness and the Mathematics Society (continued)

Council and executives. There are certainly a number of *mathNEWS* writers who are interested in the happenings of the Math Society, who could share this interest with others through their writing. To be fair, this is also an admission of guilt on my part for my own failure to do this. *mathNEWS* writers who are interested in MathSoc could provide impartial coverage of Council meetings, describing the issues involved and presenting all sides of issues that are controversial. While it might be said that this kind of reporting is not what *mathNEWS* currently does, there's no reason it can't do this in addition to everything it already does — provided there are writers who are interested in doing it.

Student leaders in the Math Society could also be using *mathNEWS* more to communicate with students. While things like social events are well-publicized, many other activities of the Math Society are not. Notices of meetings and agenda could be published, and in order to facilitate this, efforts could be made to hold Council meetings shortly after *mathNEWS* publication. (This is not entirely unreasonable, as political organizations that want to be heard regularly make an effort to accommodate the news cycle.) Short summaries of minutes of meetings could be published, along with information about where to find the detailed versions. Calls for nominations for elections could also be published. The more information students are provided with, the more they will feel as though they are part of the Math Society.

### Conclusions

The purpose of this article is not to lay blame on any particular individual, but rather, to highlight things which contribute to a culture of inaccessibility in the Mathematics Society, and to identify ways in which this culture can be reversed. These problems didn't arise out of any one person's actions, but rather, as the culmination of minor lapses by many different people. Most of the problems described above are not new, but rather, have been around for a long time in varying degrees of seriousness. It is my hope that by drawing attention to these things that student leaders will begin to make an effort to rectify them and make MathSoc more accessible to all students.

Craig Sloss

## Decimals and Degrees

I was talking with some fellow mathies the other day and the subject of decimals came up. It occurred to me that that we are quickly being conditioned to hate decimals. We never get assignments where answers can't be left as integers, fractions, or complex numbers, except for pi and e. (On a side note, would pi times e equal pie? Then pie is also irrational.) I remember the days in public school when we weren't allowed to use calculators. Then in high school we had to get a scientific calculator for all of those messy trig values, and now, in university, calculators are the tools of science majors and engineers. Math students just don't have a use for them. In our perfect mathematical bubble, angles are all multiples of pi over 6, and trig values are all rational.

In fact, I think profs should wield redundancy sticks with which to hit students who start writing out answers in deci-

## Things Wrong With You That You Didn't Even Know

There is something sinister going on in within many of people's computers. Something so evil that it will literally warp everything you see and do on your computer. That's right, I'm talking about resolutions without a 4 to 3 aspect ratio. Now why is a 4 to 3 aspect ratio so important? Well, it's about as important as getting your arts credits. Now let's say you're like me, a CS student too lazy to minor in anything. That means you have to eventually get around to taking two 100 level arts credits. OK, so what do things have in common? I'll explain if it isn't painfully obvious already.

So you're sitting there at 9:00pm the night before an essay is due, about to get an early start. Little do you know that your cutting edge monitor that you purchased six years ago supports up to 1280x1024@60hz. Now being the 1337 user that you are you have it set to the maximum resolution possible. The 5 to 4 ratio of 1280x1024 fitting into your monitor's 4 to 3 screen has already sealed your fate. So it's now 3:00am, and you're about to do some creative formatting to get your wordcount up. What you don't know is that while the 2.5 spacing between lines looks fine on your screen, when you print it out your prof will see through it like grandpa's underpants. You now have a slightly pissed arts prof marking your paper. For a normal student this would be no problem, but for a Mathie the margin for error is much slimmer when it comes to essays. You fail your essay all because of 1280x1024.

Now you know what kind of pain non-square pixels can cause. Now some people might have a legitimate excuse, like mac guy down the hall, his g4 flatscreen actually has a 5 to 4 ratio. Now assuming you don't have a mac, and that's a pretty good guess outside of a cs100 lab, you don't have an excuse. So when you go home after whatever it is that you do here, draw something that should be square in paint (or the GIMP for you linux nuts) and make sure that it is. Next time I'll explain how 60Hz is just a conspiracy spawned by Microsoft to punish people who didn't get a legitimate copy of winxp, forcing them to play games at that refresh rate. No wait, that was the entire article...

Ultra Laser

imals. Not only is it more work, but also less accurate. If that doesn't deserve a good smack of the redundancy stick, I don't know what does. Then they should be smacked again, just for good measure. Or maybe they should be made to wear a yellow hard hat. That would be entertaining.

The same thing goes for degrees. When someone asks you "What's the sine of 45?", don't say "1 over root 2", because it's wrong. Tell them that it is an irrational number that doesn't belong in the math faculty. If you have a redundancy stick with you, smack them a couple of times until they understand what "redundancy" means. Sine of pi over 4 on the other hand, kindly remind them of the basic trigonometric triangles and let them go their way.

If this article offends you, put your hard hat back on and send me an email at: [ideserve@redundancystick.com](mailto:ideserve@redundancystick.com).

A Chiprel

## So You've Decided to Leave Your Terminal Unlocked

I have noticed that a lot of people have been leaving their terminals unlocked when they get up and leave the computer. This is generally a bad idea. People can do things to your account. Like write *mathNEWS* articles, or other malicious things.

I would like to start by introducing you all to three important commands.

- **lock:** use this when locking a single xterm/PuTTY/telnet window.
- **xlock:** use this when locking an X terminal
- **ctrl+alt+del | enter:** use this when locking a Win2k machine

Now that you are aware how to lock your terminal, you should also be aware of what people can do to it if you leave it unlocked.

### *xterm/PuTTY/telnet*

- **edit your .signature file** - change the text that appears at the bottom of every outgoing email from that account
- **edit your .bashrc/.cshrc** - add or delete things from your login script... commonly, the prankster will add a line to the end like: `echo 'sleep 1' >> .bashrc/.cshrc`
- **edit your .plan/.project file** - change the user-formatted portion of your finger information
- **chmod a+rw any file** - allow reading of and writing to any file that you have access to
- **edit your .aliases file** - change your aliases around... my personal favourite to end with: `alias unalias=""; alias alias="";`
- **post things on your website** - remember, things that are world-readable in your public\_html directory will go live.
- etc - ...

### *X terminal*

- **do anything that applies to an xterm** - because you're still using the unix machines, all these things still apply
- **edit all these files using a new xterm** - this will prevent the cautious user from just pressing 'up' to see previous commands as long as the xterm is closed after finishing
- **edit your .twmrc/.tvtwmrc/(blah)wmrc** - with the added luxury of window managers, you now have extra things that a prankster can mess with... this is not to say it can't be changed from any xterm window... the changes will still appear the next time the person uses an X terminal
- etc - ...

### *Win2k*

- **Who cares?** - Nexus users will have to be shown the light eventually anyways, so you have free reign on them... hehe :D

This concludes my educational article of the year. Any more articles you have read by me this year have not been educational. Even if you thought they were, they weren't. Seriously.

e.

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

## Sheep Nine's Planned Misadventures

### *Stupid Preproduction Making This Outdated Before You Read It*

So, the theme for this issue of *mathNEWS* is Dr. Seuss. For those of you who know me (the lucky few), you know I say themes are for suckers (for those of you who know me well know I say a lot of things are for suckers. Also, lots of things are for the weak — sheep are strong). So instead of writing about Dr. Seuss, I'm going to write about a subject near and dear to my heart: drinking. And its relationship to sleep. Because while sleep is for the weak, sheep are strong.

Yes, gentle reader, I've had a few. I've had three times as many drinks as I've had hours of sleep (stupid anime), and I decided in my half-conscious state this morning that running to school would be a good idea despite the fact that I wasn't late and wouldn't be paying attention in class anyway. Also, I've had 1.5 times as many cups of coffee as I've had hours of sleep. The Sheep Nine \$0.64 question for this week is "How many hours of sleep have I had?" Here's a hint: I've had twice as many coffees today as beers. Do math now.

### *INTERMISSION*

As a result of this, I've decided that for this last week of class, sleep is for the weak. Sheep are strong. As such, you'll get to see me at my worst. Here are the places to look for me: (note: this article is already published, and the week is over, so you've missed all of these. And you though precognition wasn't important...)

- **Monday night:** In the Unix lab, typing this out. Also, in the bomber, helping our team eat enough wings to secure third place, and in the cove, stomping out tunes on DDR. Yes, I've changed my mind about DDR. Especially when half the time I'm not paying for it. Go two players for one loonie. Go my calves, collapse.
- **Tuesday night:** In the MathSoc office. Alllll night loooooong. Get serviced there!
- **Wednesday night:** Don't have any actual plans for Wednesday night yet. Might see what all the fuss is about the Bomber on Wednesday. Might realize I'm being a dumbass and get some sleep. Probably not.
- **Thursday night:** Cove. Go ECE spirit night. Go free arcade games. Go free DDR. Go my calves, collapse.
- **Friday night:** Here's to EOT, here's to EOT, here's to EOT it's the horse's ass...
- **Saturday night:** I'll find something. Sleep is, after all, for the weak. And I'm strong. [What about Sunday? That's a day too! — BeatleEd]

So yes, join me (even though it's over) as I stay awake for this last week of school. And of course, you're welcome to join me for lots upon lots of sleep afterwards. Provided you're not male.

Sheep Nine

## Why You Shouldn't Be a Marker

- You could be writing *mathNEWS* articles instead.
- People complain about your work all the time.
- You use up valuable ink.
- You're in CS.
- None of your friends are doing it.
- You failed all your first year courses.
- You have a habit of spilling coffee on everything.
- You're taking 8 courses this term.
- It would mean leaving the comfy lounge.
- You should go to class instead.

## Why You Should Be a Marker

1. You get to see the stupid mistakes people make, and laugh at them.
2. You make 500 dollars!!!! ... minus taxes ...
3. Excuse to not do other homework.
4. Power over the silly little frosh
5. Even more math to fill up your day with.
6. You get to review stuff from the past that bored you to death the first time.
7. You can be used to make big black marks on the wall ... oh wait, that's the other kind of marker, never mind.
8. It feels good to draw little smiley faces on the good students' work.
9. You can write comments like "Are you on crack?" on the bad students' work.
10. You can put it on your resume ... as if any employers care.
11. It's better than going to English class.
12. It's a great way to start a conversation with a cute guy.
13. You know you have too many red pens anyway.
14. It's better than dictating a *mathNEWS* article \*cough\*
15. It give you something to write a *mathNEWS* article about.
16. But clearly not enou-

Steph

## some profQUOTES

"It's like choosing your favourite child. You really couldn't, well, shouldn't do that."

Graham, CS 133

"The midterm rooms are posted on the other website... the dark side website."

O'Donovan, PHYS 115

"Imprint? How can you read Imprint when there's *mathNEWS*?"

O'Donovan, PHYS 115

"If there was no activation energy, we would spontaneously burn... from time to time my wife does."

Oakley, CHEM 120

"I needed new batteries for my calculator, so I go on the world wide web and type in my calculator's company and model and you know what came up?"

Student: "Porn?"

Koeller, MATH 137

"Suppose I was in the business of making illegal alcohol..."

Vasiga, CS 241

## Seuss: Really a Doctor?

Allegations have recently surfaced that famed children's author Dr. Seuss' medical degree may be fake. Literary Analysis Made Easy (LAME), a children's literature watchdog group, has compiled a list of medical inaccuracies in his books.

The report lists over two hundred supposed mistakes in his writing, many of which would not be made by anyone who attended medical school. "Seuss seems to believe that animals can talk," the report claims, "Cats, fish, birds, and elephants are all seen speaking perfect english. Some even wear clothing." Seuss is also criticized for creating entirely new species such as the grinch or the lorax. "We'd like to believe that these are mere typos, but the frequency of their appearance indicates that Seuss truly believes these animals exist."

The LAME report attacks more than Seuss' zoological knowledge. "The most dangerous thing we identified was Seuss encouraging children to eat green eggs. Surely eggs that are green have passed the point where they are edible." Even more damning is the accusation that Seuss is lying about his identity. "Research has revealed that his last name is actually Geisel. After evaluating his work it is unsurprising that he did not wish to use his real name." Mr. Geisel was unavailable for comment.

What's next for LAME? "We're working on a list of inaccuracies in the Harry Potter books," says a representative of the group. "It's still a work in progress, but I swear the author is writing about a fantasy world."

Dan Woodley

## The Things I Have Learned in 1A

As you read this, you may notice that it is dangerously close to the end of the term. As I begin to think about my first exams of any real significance, I have been reflecting on all I have learned this term.

As a result I have come up with quite a few things, and I thought that maybe I would share them with you, the readers:

1. Four hours of sleep really is all you need.
2. Imprint is a bigger waste of space than anything else that calls itself a newspaper (I have heard that *mathNEWS* is a big waste of space before, but nothing comes close to Imprint, except maybe the Toronto Sun.)
3. They should not have taken induction out of the new curriculum.
4. How to divide (Go MATH 135!)
5. If you ever actually need a *required* text, there is always someone you can borrow it from. Go spend \$500 on new computer hardware instead.
6. There are other smart people in this world.
7. But not in Engineering or Arts.
8. 1% of my mark isn't worth several hours of stuff that doesn't work.
9. You don't actually get sick when you wear shorts and a T-shirt when it's snowing.
10. There really are girls that take math.
11. There are at least 3 different ways to get around your resnet cap.
12. Calculus still sucks.

And that, for the most part, is what I have learned in my first term at university.

DanS

## Scheme++

*New and Improved!*

Professors at the university were proud to announce today the release of their new programming language, Scheme++. Based on Scheme, the bracket-enriched language of choice for the last few weeks of CS 241 (when they run out of actual material to teach), this enhanced version of Scheme takes the language's motto of 'More Brackets!' to its logical extreme.

"We're really excited about this new version of Scheme," remarked one of the CS profs, who wished to remain nameless. "We've been looking for something to make the students cringe after assignment five, but nothing quite lived up to the grim spectre of death that was the ASSEMBLER ASSEMBLY ASSIGNMENT, or ASS^3. Scheme was always a front-runner to beat the students over the head with, but it lacked difficulty to debug and write. So we made it better."

Under the old system, `(define var (* (+ 4 6) (- 9 3)))` would assign the value of 60 to the variable `var`. Under the new system, characters other than `(, ), {, }, [, ]` are illegal and will throw an "ERRORUnknownSymbol" error. Other programs will throw an "ERRORNoErrorsFound" error.

To counteract the lack of characters and numbers, a new system had to be developed. Now, identifiers are written by first starting with `{ } { }`, then following with the binary ascii code for the letters in the identifier, with `[` being 0 and `]` being 1.

Similarly, numbers are written with `{ } { }` followed with `[`'s equal to the number desired. Floats can be entered with `{ } { } *whole* { } { } *fraction*`, and functions are declared by getting down on your knees and having a CS tutor paddle your ass. The tutors are reportedly very excited about the new language.

"This is totally unfair", remarked one CS 134 student, oblivious to the fact that Scheme is used in CS241. "How am I to be expected to debug this code? And why haven't the tutors responded to my newsgroup post asking whether I can assume mothers in the maternity ward simulation are pregnant? Stupid newsgroup." The student then drooled on himself again, likely because he's still an idiot.

The professors were particularly proud to point out that newlines and tabs and spaces are also illegal characters in Scheme++, so they fully expect higher-level constructs like procedures to be impossible. The professors then laughed maniacally and vanished in a puff of smoke.

Students are preparing to form an angry mob and rise up against the CS department if the Scheme++ assignment has specs as poorly-defined as those of assignment five. CS professors have replied, saying that preparations for a major siege are in place and that ambiguous specs are highly likely.

Sheep Nine

## Bad Babysitter Advisory

*Cat in the Hat: Worst Babysitter Ever*

I'm sure you've all heard of the 'Cat in the Hat' at one time or another - but you didn't know it was based on the true story of the babysitter from hell. The victims of this sad story even published it under 'Random House' instead of their real address...

Right away, the Cat starts off on the wrong foot by showing up late - well after the parents left. At least the children were good and just sat by the window waiting. When the Cat finally shows up, it slammed the door open with a bump that made the poor children jump. The Cat then revealed that it was a rap-star/pimp wannabe by immediately bustin' out the bad rhymes and telling the children that it would teach them some new tricks.

The Cat began its reign of terror by standing on a ball while balancing the fishbowl on an umbrella on one finger, a book on another finger, and a teacup on its hat. The shocked children merely stared in disbelief as the Cat added more books, food, toys, gardening equipment, and a fan to its balancing act, before it finally fell off the ball and broke almost everything (the brand new rake was bent, and the cake was squashed under the toys that fell on it).

Of course, if this were a normal bad babysitter, the story would end here... but NOOOOO... this is the WORST. The Cat brings a giant red box into the house (knocking the door off its hinges as it came in). Inside the box were what appeared to be the Cat's drugged love children (or possibly illegal immigrants). The Cat even called them its 'Things!'

The Things ran around the house trying (in vain) to fly kites, knocking over lamps, pictures, and a vase - one of them

even got caught on the mother's new gown, which got dragged behind on the kite string. After a kite got caught on the fishbowl and knocked the fish out, the children decided they'd had enough. One of them grabbed a giant net to catch the Things, and even yelled at the Cat "Now you do as I say, you pack up those Things and you take them away!"

Of course, the Cat just left with his Things, not even attempting to clean up the mess. You see, this is where the real story differs from the re-enactment, in which the Cat comes back with this supercalafragilistic cleaning machine which puts everything away just before the mother comes back. What really happened is a much different story that I don't need to go into details with here - needless to say, there was a microwave and some chainsaw sodomy involved, followed by a funnel and a cement mixer.

Now you all know the *true* story...

Krease

## a few more profQUOTES

"I could have done better in the course had I studied more."

Vasiga, CS 241

"This is where the machine says 'Whoa! I like binary.'"

Vasiga, CS 241

"The easiest way to solve this problem is to see the answer."

New, MATH 137

"In mathematics, one can never underestimate the power of knowing what's going on."

Park, MATH 137

## One Node, Two Nodes, Red Node, Blue Node

One node  
Two nodes  
Red node  
Blue node

Black node  
Blue node  
Old node  
New node

This one is of degree four.  
This one neighbours a little more  
Say! What a lot of nodes there are!

Yes! Some are red. And some are blue.  
Interesting graphs have more than two.

Some are leaves  
contained in trees.

And some are even cut-vertices.

Why are leaves  
in a maximal path?  
You don't know?  
Go learn some math!

Some graphs are empty.  
And some complete.  
The Petersen graph  
is really neat.

From source to sink,  
not sink to source,  
Network flows:  
an awful course!

There are some  
who graph for fun.  
Connect the dots,  
one-by-one.

Oh me! Oh my!  
Oh my! Oh me!  
How do I  
compute  $\chi(G)$ ?

It may need two colours,  
it may need four.  
But if it's planar,  
it won't need more.

How do you prove that? I can't say.  
But I know it was done  
in a computerized way.

Some edges come.  
Some edges go.

Every graph  
has a 6-flow.  
(But not if  
it has bridges, though.)

I haven't seen  
in any lecture  
a proof of Tutte's  
5-flow conjecture.

Class is over. Class was fun.  
In two days is another one.

Disjoint ways,  
from here to there,  
Menger's Theorem will find out where.

Marshall & Yolanda

## Questioning the Axiom

Often, concepts or ideas which are repeated and passed through the general population eventually consolidate as common knowledge, regardless of whether or not said information is actually true. A good example of this is the fictitious idea that people swallow a certain integral number of spiders each year during their sleep. This is not actually true; in fact, this particular "fact" was distributed as part of a demonstration of how people will believe anything they read on the Internet.

One particular quotation that I've heard being swung around a lot these days is the idea that "differential equations are more powerful than bullets." Like most people, I thought little of it the first time I heard it. But as time went on, I began to wonder whether or not it was actually true. So I decided to find out for myself.

I selected a random sample of fifty people of varying age, race and occupation. First, I lined them up in an abandoned warehouse and had my voice synthesis software read aloud from my Calculus textbook for a duration of five minutes. I then noted the extent of the injuries sustained by each participant. For the most part, most people reported feelings of extreme discomfort in the chest area or sharp pains in the skull, but in the vast majority of the cases, no permanent harm was inflicted. (One middle-aged man asked to use the washroom halfway through the exercise, where he promptly hung himself. In the interests of maintaining the integrity of the study, I held the other forty-nine people hostage until I was able to locate the victim's identical twin.)

For the second part of the exercise, I inflicted multiple gunshot wounds on each victim using a set of firearms of differing manufacturers, calibres and legality. After three minutes, I again asked the same questions as before to ascertain the condition of the participant. This time, not a single participant reported feeling any pain or discomfort whatsoever.

My experiment was complete, and I finally had an answer: differential equations are, indeed, more powerful than bullets. It may have seemed obvious to you all along, but we must remember to constantly take an inquisitive view of the universe. It is the only way that we will learn.

HWT

## The HorrorScope

*It Still Makes No Sense*

Analyzing the stars and finally giving up due to the fact that we're stuck in the labs, we bring you another cryptic take on your fortunes, or lack thereof.

### Accounting

You have no clue why you are getting astronomically high marks in math courses and almost failing those "bird" artsie classes. You don't really care.

Seek help with your bird courses from ARTS. You may end up on a "study date".

Your lucky number is 51% in ECON 371.

### ACTSCI

Take out your agressions on your recently written Acturial exams by covertly switching sample ACTSCI tests for CS131 finals. Watch hilarity ensue. Run for the hills if the tears from CS students start flooding the PAC.

Analyze the net present value of an untainted kidney. Sell such information to those drunkards at ENG.

Your lucky number is 15 years.

### AM

Go apply that math by trying to rip off that local big-box store through their "price guarantee" section. They say that fake ads don't count, but what's stopping you from incorporating, selecting certain items you would like to acquire and creating advertisements soliciting the sale of such items, and finally present that ad to a lackey at the dumbass store for a sizeable discount?

Grab an OR along for the scam. They're better at photoshopping.

Your lucky number is \$1.00.

### C&O

For some fun, duct tape some doors in and around the stairwells of the MC to create some really inefficient flows. Watch frosh navigate the new network and observe chaotic network flow theory at its best.

SCI who have classes in the MC will get lost. Laugh at them.

Your lucky number is  $W_{ij} = 1,000,000$ .

### CS

Your plans to crash every operating system on the face of the planet will soon come true, but that final OS will crash at an inopportune time: meaning you didn't save your work and your code is all lost. Boo hoo hoo.

If you don't know how to restore a mirror, you should be in ARTS.

Your lucky number is 1 heart attack.

### MATHBUS

With your best Laurier buddies, start "datelauriergirls.com" and advertise all over the MC. Watch the money fly.

Share your venture with a CSer. They know more Linux than you.

Your lucky number is 75 University Ave.

### Operations Research

Too many stat courses for you to handle? Coerce or bribe someone to go to class and write exams for you. So what if your friend's surname is Smith and you're from Taiwan? No one will notice.

STAT is your friend.

Your lucky number is 5 courses a-passing.

### PMath

Your application into grad school is rejected, then accepted, then rejected, then accepted, then you'll receive an ominous letter from the Prime Minister of Canada telling you that your request to take over the PMO has been denied. Take over the PMO anyway. It's the natural progression.

You'll need a chief-of-staff, consider a MATHBUS.

Your lucky number is 24 Sussex Dr.

### STAT

You are 95% confident that you are going insane, with a bias towards inflicting harm upon others with the variability of weapons. Too bad you're stuck in STAT 433.

OR majors are in the same boat as you. Spare their lives.

Your lucky number is 443.

### UNDECLARED

You find it hard to describe the lack of a major to a potential employer. Make up excuses / sexual euphemisms such as "I'm playing the field" to get potential employers to change the subject, or at the very least, a cheap laugh.

CS knows all about sex. Wait, I lied. No they don't.

Your lucky number is 1 laughing employer.

### ENG

Finishing Halo is not considered "seeing the galaxy" and "fighting evil". No matter what other people say, it IS a good idea to play wireless LAN games during class. Play games at FULL VOLUME for maximum impact. If you don't like your prof, play a recording of the latest Taleng during class.

Take an UNDECLARED as witness.

Your lucky number is 5 annoyed profs.

### SCI

Look. Roasting marshmallows over bunsen burner = Good. Making grilled cheese over bunsen burner = Good. Burning CD's over bunsen burner = You're an idiot.

Consult with ARTS on how to burn a CD. Do as they say.

Your lucky number is 1 fire truck at the scene of the burning building.

### AHS

Start Valentine's Day early: start up a Survivor of sorts with Math students as contestants. Last one standing ends up being your boyfriend.

Advertise in the SCI buildings as well as MATH ones. Apparently, Mathies learn in SCI buildings.

Your lucky number is 24 contestants.

Amadaeus

## mathNEWSquiz # 6 Answers

*no peeking!*

**The Best Movies of All Time** 1. *The Godfather 2. Citizen Kane* 3. *Star Wars* 4. *Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* 5. *Apocalypse Now* **Classic Onion Dispatches** 1. The Death Star 2. A Tenth Circle 3. Klingon 4. 30-litre bottle of Coke **World Cup** 1. 1994 2. seven, five, six 3. 3 goals 4. Japan, South Korea **PMATH** 1. Algebra, Analysis, Geometry, Topology 2. Chetat Ng 3. You know you're better than everyone.

## The Little Sharp Thing They Stick In Your Arm

- Have you read the safety hand book?
- Do you have any allergies to eggs?
- Have you ever done this before?
- When was the last time you did this?

Does this sound familiar to you? If it doesn't I pity you. A couple of weeks ago, Health Services lined us all up and shot some flu vaccine up our arms. Well, some of us anyway. Some people thought they were too cool for the flu shot. I wonder how cool they'll feel when they have a fever of 43°C?

But I digress. I really do have a point. When asked why a flu shot was deemed to be less than desirable, people replied as follows:

1. Everyone who gets them gets sick.
2. Everyone else is getting them, so I don't have to.
3. Needles scare me.

Allow me to discuss these points in reverse order. Third, we have 'needles scare me'. This point is valid, although I wonder which scares you more; a prick in your arm that lasts for less than 3.2 seconds, or a churning retching feeling in your stomach (did you know that MathSoc is an anagram for stomach?) that lasts for 3.2 weeks? If it's the former, by all means do what you like, but personally, the latter scares me more.

Second, we have the obvious fact that since everyone else gets the flu shot, the virus can't reproduce because everyone else's bodies are inhospitable to the virus, thus it cannot reproduce and cannot enter my body. Wow, what a mouthful. Of course the concept is just as full of crap as the sentence representing it. There are two huge holes in this theory. First, not everyone else is getting it, do you really think I'd be motivated to write an entire article based on one person not getting their flu shot? Second: how do you think the virus gets into the first person? It's floating in the air reproducing out there; just because it reproduces faster in our bodies doesn't mean it doesn't reproduce. You're still going to get infected even if everyone else gets their flu shot.

And firstly, we have that everyone who gets them gets sick. Allow me to offer a counterexample. Me! I've gotten a flu shot every year for the past 20 years. I've been as healthy as a horse for the next month every time (barring a sore arm for the next couple of days). Therefore your theory is null and void. *[Wait till you take Stat 231 and learn the flaws of a sample space of 1 — KreasEd]*

So I hope that you don't get the flu, but I won't be surprised if you do.

Good luck on finals everybody!

Keslen

Are you ready to go down the rabbit hole?

Summer 2004

<http://scunt.org>  
(Arriving Winter 2004)



## Too Much? Or Too Little?

Nobody does it just right! I've seen so many people try it under so many different circumstances. Obviously not the same amount is required each time. Sometimes you'll make a big mess and have to do a lot, and other times wetness will be at a minimum and you can get away with very little, in rare cases even nothing. The problem is, whenever a lot is needed, a little is done, whenever a little is needed, none is done, and whenever none is needed, a little is done. It almost makes me gag sometimes watching these people go about their business.

When I'm washing my hands after going to the bathroom, I can't help but notice the habits of my peers as they go about the same activity. I'm surprised at the number of people who simply flush the toilets in the cubicles, and walk out the door. I make a note to not look around where they are going so I don't gag when I traverse the same path as the rampant non-hand washer.

Although perhaps more surprising are the even larger numbers who feel that after the flush in the cubicle, it suffices to barely wet the tips of the fingers and walk out. *[What scares me is you keep calling them 'cubicles'... those cramped stalls are much larger than the typical office cubicle. — KreasEd]* I wonder how a small splash of cold water can be expected to undo the damage caused by a single trip to the bathroom.

Keslen

## A 1A CS Student's Sixth Course

I've been getting a lot of comments recently along the lines of "Shouldn't you be doing your calculus assignment?" Or, "Why weren't you in algebra today?" Or even, "Don't you CS people ever work? All you ever do is play computer games". It seems there are people out there who need to be educated about the course load of the average CS student.

Most assume that we only have five courses, and that we "waste" too much time playing games. In reality, the majority of us have taken on a sixth course, known as Principles and Properties of Modern Computer Gaming. Unfortunately this course is very demanding, requiring many hours every week of intense, uninterrupted study.

This is why, if you approached a couple of CS guys talking in the hall, you might hear one say something like "Dude I spent way too long studying for that calculus midterm last night. I had to neglect my work in CS 1337. How am I ever going to catch up now? I guess I better get to my computer so I can start studying Age of Kings."

So next time you consider reprimanding a deceptively hardworking and dedicated CS student, think about what you've learned and have a little respect. After all, they probably don't have a co-op job yet. Life in CS is rougher than it looks.

A Chiprel

**lots of profQUOTES**

"My parents used to scare me when I was young, 'some day you'll have to learn complex numbers, and they'll be hard to understand.'"

Wagner, MATH 135

"If you don't feel stressed about exams, then you're in denial."

Wagner, MATH 135

"They're not real, but they exist, even though they're completely imaginary."

Wagner, MATH 135

"Someone less committed to pedagogy would give up when their voice gave out, instead I'll do the rest of the lecture in interpretive dance."

Kenyon, PHIL 100

"I'm sure there are many religions that portray God as a furry carnivorous mammal."

Kenyon, PHIL 100

"This is unclear and really baffling, that must be the part that's the philosophy"

Kenyon, PHIL 100

"It's a good thing lots of people are born with only one finger on each hand, otherwise computer scientists wouldn't have come up with their number system."

Kenyon, PHIL 100

(about hiding messages in music) "The concept wasn't play Led Zeppelin backwards and hear 'help the poor.'"

Kenyon, PHIL 100

"It's possible to go to Brandon Manitoba without believing it exists, in fact that's probably the only way people end up there."

Kenyon, PHIL 100

"This may sound a little weird coming from a philosopher, but we need to pay attention to the real world."

Kenyon, PHIL 100

"We're going to try to hide the implementation. Why? Because it's CS 134."

Phillips, CS 134

"I recommend for the final you should at least know how to do some of the questions."

Phillips, CS 134

"We have a recursive definition of this just 'cause we can."

Phillips, CS 134

"Dictionaries are large enough that it would be annoying if they weren't in order."

Phillips, CS 134

"In high school kids like to look up 'sex' in the dictionary, and then they say 'Oh my God, I can't believe they put that in the dictionary!'"

Phillips, CS 134

"I don't know what you're trying to say, but you're wrong."

Rubinstein, MATH 135

"Minus zero and zero are close enough, we'll just say they're both zero."

Phillips, CS 134

"Proving these things is extremely painful, especially considering the benefit you get out of it, but you will anyway."

Phillips, CS 134

"This turns out to be about 1, it's actually 0, but 0 is about 1 right?"

Phillips, CS 134

"When you say  $k$  is smaller than  $n$ , you could mean  $k$  is smaller than  $n...$ " (then writes a  $k$  and an  $n$  on the board)

Chua, MATH 137

"I think you're wrong that you think you're wrong. That is, I think you're right."

Vasiga, CS 241

"The only way to have children is to be non-terminal."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I guess I probably shouldn't be teaching you industrial sabotage, but so it goes."

Mann, CS 251

"Your NVidia G-Force 4 woo-dee-woo-hoo video card...."

Mann, CS 251

"Anyone have a 7.5GB disk? No, we threw those out years ago."

Mann, CS 251

"The wireless range is about 10 metres if you're in DC, 5 metres maybe if you're in this bunker called the Math Building."

Mann, CS 251

"At this point, I would like to introduce a spicier new topic... actually, it's not spicy at all, it's just confusing."

Chipman, Stat 206

"So the course would be SPELLING 101, or whatever course they teach in arts."

Ortiz, CS 240

"Rotation of rigid bodies... like corpses."

Hudson, PHYS 121

"We're going to learn today why English sucks."

Williams, MATH 135

"Sometimes there are unanticipated things that, well, we can't anticipate."

Fich, PHYS 121

(to let someone down gently) "You should say 'I want to go out with you NAND I want to go out with you.'"

Williams, MATH 135

## mathNEWSquiz # 6

### One squiz, two squiz, red squiz, blue squiz

Greetings, and welcome to the last Squiz of the term! As for the answers to last week's squiz: **Matrix, Revolutions Trivia:**

1. zero (unless it is a 1-by-1 matrix, in which case the answer is 1) 2. Vladimir Lenin 3. Trace 4. French National Assembly Cy Young Award Winners 1. Roy Halladay, Eric Gagne 2. Mike Cuellar, Denny McClain 3. Roger Clemens 4. 1956, Don Newcombe **Fundamentalist Movie Reviews:** 1. *Brother Bear* 2. *Matrix: Revolutions* 3. *Kill Bill, Vol. 1* 4. *Elf* CS 133/123 1. Landscape Design Planner 2. Stephen Bahun, Lino Demasi, Mike DiBernardo, Mike Diramio, Jeremy Hilliker, Mike Sop, Bridget Whitehead 3. eight 4.  $123 = 41 * 3$ ,  $133 = 7 * 19$

Four people submitted answers to the squiz: Andrew Batchelor (19), John Sloboda (19), Chris Hutten-Czapski (18) and Jeff Leung (5). So, by random coin toss, John Sloboda is the winner of this week's squiz! Congratulations! You can pick up your prize (a \$5 C&D gift certificate) from the MathSoc office. So, without further ado, we present this week's squiz:

### The Best Movies of All Time

Identify the following movies rated as the best of all time by the Internet Movie Database, as of November 25, 2003.

1. The top of the list is the first movie in a Francis Ford Coppola trilogy.
2. The ninth movie on the list is the classic chronicle of the life of a newspaper publisher, presumably based on the life of William Randolph Hearst.
3. The tenth movie is part of an as-yet-incomplete six-movie sequence. In the timeline of the movie series, it is chronologically the fourth.
4. The highest-ranked Kubrick film is in twelfth place, a movie featuring the end of the world.

## Top 10 Changes To The Cat In The Hat Extended Edition DVD

With the new Cat in the Hat movie in theatres, Hollywood has proven that can turn a 61 page children's book into a full-length motion picture. But if you think that's all the material they can mine from the book, wait until next year's four disc extended edition release.

1. Gratuitous product placements for green eggs and ham have been added.
2. The cat is now a dashing British spy trying stop the evil Doc In The Smock from taking over the world.
3. Instead of rain, the children are kept inside by a super powered hurricane that destroys famous American landmarks.
4. The fish has a frickin' laser beam attached to his head.
5. Instead of simply rhyming, the cat and the fish settle their differences with a rap battle.
6. A CG mouse and dog are added to complete the cartoon food chain.
7. A behind-the-scenes featurette on various early drafts of the script including "The Cat With No Hat", "The Cat With No Pants", and "Cats: The Motion Picture"
8. Audio commentary from Dr. Seuss, consisting entirely of him spinning in his grave.
9. Over forty minutes of extra credits.
10. Thing 2 shoots first.

Dan Woodley

5. Number 32 is Coppola's movie adaptation of Joseph Conrad's book, *Heart of Darkness*.

### Classic Onion Dispatches

Answer the following questions related to reports by America's Finest News Source, [www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com).

1. What battle station opened a day care centre, one so impressive that "no other facility can match its awesome instructive power?"
2. The inspiration for the title for a book of *Onion* articles, what had to be added to a "rapidly growing hell?"
3. According to *The Onion*, Navajo speakers are now outnumbered by speakers of what language?
4. "Two liters is nothing. I could urinate two liters for you right now." *The Onion* reported that a Coca-Cola CEO said this upon the introduction of what new product?

### World Cup

1. What was the only year the world cup was decided on Penalty Kicks?
2. How many times has Brazil been to the World Cup finals? Italy? West Germany?
3. What is the largest margin of victory for a World Cup final?
4. What two countries co-hosted the 2002 World Cup?

### PMATH

1. What are the four areas of pure mathematics?
2. Who's teaching Complex Analysis in Fall 2004?
3. How can you tell you're in pure math? (from a promotional poster in a previous issue)

That's it for this term. No prizes for answers this week, since it's the last issue of the term; this one's just for fun. You can still submit it for bragging rights, if you want, but it won't be much of a challenge since the answers are located elsewhere in this issue. We hope you had fun with the Squiz this term!

Eigenvector &  $\pi$

## The Ape With the Cape

*Dr. Zaius, Dr. Zaius*

## The God With the Bod

*Zeus*

## finally, profQUOTES

"I have to have sex, it's kind of a prerequisite."

Ennis, PSYCH 101

"Now I would go a little past the end of class to show you the proof for this last theorem, but unfortunately I have 14 minutes before I turn into a pumpkin."

Younger, MATH 135

(handing back a midterm) "Now I understand why you never take notes in class; because you wouldn't be able to read them anyways."

Nica, PMATH 351

"You look like you have a good mathematical proof here, but you might be on drugs."

DeVidi, PHIL 359

**gridCOMMENTS**

So, last issue of *mathNEWS*, and I was JUST TOLD NOW that I can use this funny program called Pico. Imagine that. I don't have to learn all these weird key combinations to type up an article. (thank you Louis!)

You people are amazing! I think the *gridCOMMENTS* lit a magical spark within you all - see? You all have these sadistic thoughts of puppies, and want your comments known! For the cryptic clues, we've got Beatrice/Jim, Gerry T, Marshall/Ben, and Chris Alexander. The best answer to *gridQUESTION* is by Chris Alexander (see below). For the conventional clues, Catherine/Katharine, The Sheep, Mr. Boob/Ice Queen, Jamie/Ben/Marshall, and  $J^2 C^2$ . Mr. Boob and Ice Queen definitely have the best answer for this one! (see below, again) You guys can pick up your prizes at MathSoc.

Since you all provided such intriguing answers for the previous *gridQUESTION*, I've decided to list a bunch of them for your viewing pleasure. (Please, try to contain yourselves). The question was "How many slices of cheese can you fit into a puppy before causing it serious harm?"

- Infinite. The trick is simply to select a dead puppy which cannot, of course, be harmed. Then cram in all the cheese you want. (Chris Alexander)
- Furry seals can fill water shower barrels every thursday; this gives reason that 10 slices of cheese will cause serious harm to a puppy. (Catherine/Katharine)
- Infinitely many. You see, you can fit a single slice of cheese into a puppy without harming it. Also, given a slice of cheese, you can cut it in two to make 2 slices of cheese. If you repeat this, you can fit as many slices of cheese as you want into a puppy without causing serious harm. (Mr. Boob and The Ice Queen)
- Last time I tried, I got to ten slices before that sucker died. (Mr. Boob and The Ice Queen)
- Twice as many wings as you can eat (The Sheep) (Thanks Rob, I'll get you for this)

And brought to you from *mathNEWS* people:

- Turn the puppy inside out. Topographically, all the cheese in the world is in the puppy. Define serious harm.
- Find yourself a hyperpuppy. This four-dimensional puppy can fit an infinite amount of 3-dimensional cheese within its confines.
- Get the bigifying ray a la "Honey I blew up the kid" to make the puppy HUGE. Then the puppy could eat entire cows and cut out the middleman.

Oh yeah. Almost forgot. My turn to dis the idiots who decided to submit to me two (Yes, T-W-O, not just one!) IMPRINT crosswords. Geez, they aren't even close to *gridWORD*, how can anyone confuse the two?! Dumbass.

(Sorry, no Grid in the last issue of the term this time!)

The Girl  
The Dutch Sheep  
The Sheepish Lion  
Ultra Laser  
Valacosa

**mastHEAD**

*The rhyming issue...*

At last! A *mathNEWS* production night where lots of people show up! Too bad it's the end of term, and those infernal exams are knocking on your doors, waking you up way before noon.

As this is the final issue of this term (don't cry, remember to get a subscription if you're on co-op [*Like me... — BeatleEd*], or just keep on picking up those *mathNEWS* next term in your favorite location! Without further ado, this week's question is: "Where would you eat green eggs and ham?", and our writer's responses were: Keslen (In the purple kitchen with the orange spoon, magenta fork, blue knife and yellow spork (1B CS)), SheepNine (That story is SO harassment - he said NO, but that guy kept forcing his eggs in his mouth ('07 SE)), HTW (Off of Dick Cheney's cold, dead body. Um... that came out wrong. (2A CS)), Ian (My new office, on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Stupid Orientation... I miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor *mathNEWS* office (2B CS)), The Girl (On top of piles of cheese, piled on top of an inside-out puppy, which coincidentally is NOT seriously harmed (3A AM/PHYS)), Lamo (My new office, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, stupid MGC... I miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor MathSoc Office)), Valacosa (You can find them in the REV caf (2A PHYS)), N (On a mat wearing a hat made out of a cat with a guy named Pat (3A ARTS)), DanS (In the Grebel caf, 'cause they'll actually serve it (1A CS)), A Chiprel (Anywhere that green chicken isn't (1A CS)), Craig (Eigenvector)(In my new office on the fifth floor, which, with its huge window and fridge access, is far superior to Ian's and Lamo's offices [*Wow... mine too, but does your office have EVERY mathNEWS EVER published? — BeatleEd*]. (Graduate C&O)), Diana Chisholm (in a train in the rain with a fox in a box! (2B1/2 ACTSCI)), Dan W (Anywhere but that terrifying Planet of the Apes. (3B CS)), Yolanda Dorrington (On the monorail (Sorry mom, the mob has spoken!) (4B C&O)), Marshall Drew-Brook (eggs are gross (4B C&O/PM)), pi (in the bomber (2B PM/CO)), UltraLaser (at or near 500 nm).

Krease (Well steamed and with a lot of ketchup - hardcover books don't taste that great... (4A CS))

Beatlemaniac (I would eat them in a car, I would eat them near or far. Heck, I'd eat them anywhere! (2B CS))

Louis (In my awesome office!...err...closet... (4A CS))

Emerald (who would cook green eggs? (2B CS))

**If It's Filler and You Know It...**

Emerging from the depths of the sandy shoreline of the last pool of primordial soup left of planet Earth, the previously believed to be extinct Tyrannosaurus Rex struck out on its path of destruction. Crushing innocent peoples from the land of Mattel to the land of Legoville, the Tyrannosaurus is devastating the people of planet Earth. May he ever rain supreme (yes, rain). Depite buckets of water from the rainy skies above, and swamps and mushy lands, Rex continued to approach the massing green army men, awaiting at the far ends of the Earth.

CRUSHING THEM INTO OBLIVION!!!!

May the plastic of their hearts be forever melted! Rex crossed the sahara desert attempting to reach the entrance to the mission tower... AND WAS CRUSHED BY THE EVIL DEEDEE!!!!  
GAAAAAH NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

Stupid sister. Must convince her to clean up my sandbox...