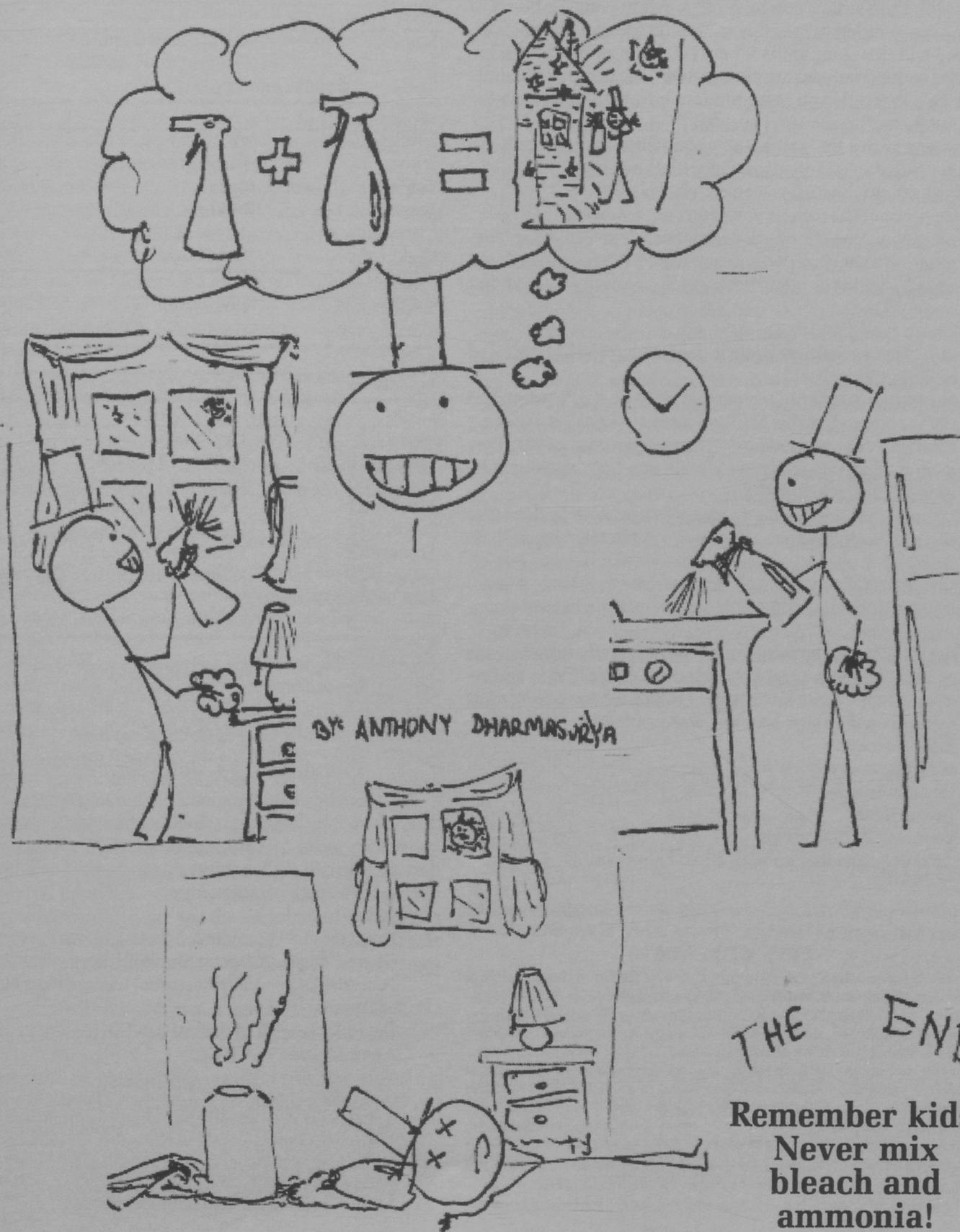


math NEWS

Volume 94, Issue 1

Friday, January 16th, 2004



BY ANTHONY DHARMA SUJAYA

THE END

Remember kids:
Never mix
bleach and
ammonia!

So You've Decided to Write Filler

It has come to my attention (by way of Krease) that I didn't write an article this week and there just so happens to be an empty column in the print!

What a combination! So, in light of this news, I have decided to put together some random garbage (resembling much of the other equally random garbage I have previously written)...

On with the random garbage! So, yes. Again with the theme of "so you've decided to" whatever... For those of you who don't know, I had this thing going where I come in every other Monday and write a random article involving some bulleted points and a title that tells you some random information that may or may not (heavy on the 'not') be useful.

This week, the list will be all about filler and things to do within a 'filler article'. So, yes. On with the list.

- write about the (things you did) last week
- write about the (things you didn't do) last week
- write about the (things that your friends swear you did but you can't remember because you were too trashed) last week
- write about the (random description of activity you did) last week
- draw a random picture
- insist that your filler article is good enough to be published in the National Post
- rewrite previous articles you've written and do a search and replace on random things (like e->ma n->t g->h or the like..)
- decide to change previously unfunny articles so that they have random occurrences of "well, yes, but I'm still a cow-shaped helium balloon"
- take another article you've already submitted to this issue and reverse it and submit it as a second, totally valid article (or filler...)
-)...rellif ro(elcitra dilav yllatot ,dnoces a sa ti timbus dna ti esrever dna eussi siht ot dettimbus ydaerla ev'uoy elcitra rehtona ekat
- write a letter to the president of the university regarding the recent change in need for content in *mathNEWS*, and request that he write an article... submit whatever he writes back, even if he says he won't write an article
- make a separate
- bullet for every
- three words that
- you write in
- your *mathNEWS* article

Ok, I'm done coming up with filler, I suppose. :D

e.

<http://facetious.ca>

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Last bastion of rock: Chris Harasemchuk and Louis Mastorakos

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

January 16	Issue #1 explodes into W04
January 25	<i>mathNEWS</i> turns 31 years old!
January 26	Issue #2 Production Night
6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)	
January 30	Issue #2 plays shinny on Columbia Lake

Math Faculty

January 17	Course Add Deadline
January 23	Course Drop Deadline
Last day for 100% refund	

MathSoc

January 15-16	President and VPAS Election
January 16	Last day to request a refund
You're not allowed to read this if you get one	
January 20	Mathsoc Council Meeting
Thursdays	Movie Nights
Coming Soon	Cove Night!

MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza Day
Coming Soon	Grad Rings and Yearbooks for sale

MEF

January 16	Last day to request a refund
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Co-op

Today	Posting #2 expires at 8pm
January 19	Posting #3 available
January 20	Posting #3 expires at 8pm
January 21	Posting #4 available
January 22	Posting #4 expires at 8pm
January 23	Posting #5 available
January 26	Posting #5 expires at 8pm
End of Initial Postings	
January 28	Employer Interviews Begin

Miscellaneous

January 18	Winnie the Pooh Day
January 22	Gung Hey Fat Choi

CUTC 2004

January 22-24, 2004 Toronto, Ontario

The Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference is about the future of technology, where technology is going, and how you can be a part of it. By attending CUTC, you have the chance to interact with the brightest minds across Canada along with the world leaders in technology.

Speakers include:

- Frank Clegg — President, Microsoft Canada
- Glenn Edens — Director, Sun Microsystem Laboratories
- Peter Hackett — VP of Research, National Research Council of Canada
- David Kirk — Chief Scientist, NVIDIA
- Alice Thomas — VP, CGI

How To Register?

For all registration information check out <http://www.cutc.ca/public/register.php>. Inspiring and thought-provoking special events, networking opportunities and fun social events, free meals, free software & tons of prizes to be won make this conference a deal not to be missed.

Elections Top MathSoc Agenda

President, VPAS elections for first time in years

The Math Society Council met on Monday, January 5th to discuss matters related to the election of executive officers for the Winter term, as well as to approve funding for activities happening early this term.

Chief Returning Officer Jeremy Labrie reported that elections will be held for the positions of President and Vice President, Activities and Services (VPAS), as two nominations were received for each of these positions.

President

Lino Demasi and Daniel Redelmeier are both vying for the office of President. In interviews after the Council meeting, they presented their goals for their terms of office.

Mr. Demasi wants to ensure that students know enough about what MathSoc does, and what it is. When asked how he can increase student involvement in the society, he pointed out that for a number of MathSoc events, most of the people who participate are those who volunteer with MathSoc. "Most of the things MathSoc does are not mass appeal events," he commented. "We need to expand the things we do to encompass more of what people are looking for."

The top issue for Mr. Redelmeier is securing more space in the MC for student use. "Students need more space for study and recreation," he said. "The C&D and Comfy Lounge are too crowded." He also stressed the importance of involving more people in MathSoc, and suggested that a good way to do this is to give volunteers more interesting jobs, such as working with directors.

Vice President, Activities and Services

The position of VPAS is contested by Soo Go and Eric Logan. The VPAS is the executive responsible for the day-to-day operation of the society — things like running the MathSoc office and social events.

Ms. Go would work on making things more organized in order to make it easier for "non-traditional" people to become involved in MathSoc. "People always have to ask around to find out what's going on," she commented. She would also work on smoothing the transition between the executives of different terms. "Things go missing as the term changes," she said. "Having a four month turnover is difficult."

Mr. Logan is running because he believes the Math Society needs "a refresher," and is lacking in real innovation. He suggested that people stay away from MathSoc because of the perception that it is a clique, and he would work to change that. "The society exists to serve its members, not just the members who happen to be most active at one point in time," he said. "It's important that people don't lose sight of this, and the policies and services have to reflect this."

Candidates have also submitted statements to *mathNEWS*, which you can read for more detailed descriptions of their platforms.

All undergraduate math students who did not request a MathSoc fee refund are entitled to vote in this election. Voting will take place Thursday, January 15th and Friday, January 16th (that's TODAY) from 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The polling station is in front of the Math C&D on the third floor of the MC. Students who are voting must bring their Watcards to prove they are eligible to vote.

Other MathSoc News

Diana Chisholm was acclaimed to the position of Vice President, Academic. No nominations had been received for the position of Vice President, Finances, so the nomination period has been reopened until Monday, January 19. Students interested in this position can obtain nomination forms from the MathSoc office.

In order to ensure the smooth operation of the Math Society until the election process is completed, Council appointed Albert O'Connor as interim VPAS and Phil Weiner as interim VPF. Catherine Moore, the Spring term president, is acting as interim President. Various interim directors have since been appointed to assist with the operation of the society until the elections are complete.

Council also approved two funding requests for activities that happen early in the term. \$380 was approved to be spent registering teams of Math students in Campus Rec teams. Signups for these teams took place in the first week of classes. The money spent on these teams will be refunded if the teams show up for all their games. Teams that are registered include waterpolo, basketball, indoor soccer, broomball and volleyball teams. Those who are still interested in signing up can e-mail Interim Athletics Director Chris Alexander at cialexan@uwaterloo.ca with their name and student number.

\$850 was approved for the Social Director to spend on running a night of free play at the Campus Cove. \$600 will go to renting the Cove and ensuring that math students can enter for free, and \$250 will go to providing refreshments at the event. Interim Social Director Greg Hines commented on the value of this expenditure. "Cove night has one of the highest turnout rates of any event MathSoc runs," he said. "It's a great way to kick off the semester and it's a lot of fun." The event is expected to happen some time after the VPAS elections are finished.

The next meeting of MathSoc Council will take place January 20, 2004 at 5:30 pm in MC 4061.

Craig Sloss

profQUOTES

the beginning

"We're going to flog this into a thin soup."

Buhr, CS 342

"From this point on, I'm not sure if I'm telling you the truth or not, but I don't let truth get in the way of an important story."

Ennis, PSYCH 253

[talking about dating] "... and of course you have to have a good opening line: 'Wow I'm drunk!'"

Ennis, PSYCH 253

[paper falls on floor] "There seems to be a breeze coming from somewhere... maybe my mouth..."

Ennis, PSYCH 253

"If you say the word union, expect the answer to be wrong"

Lawrence, PMATH 346

Daniel Redelmeier*Candidate for President*

Hi, I'm Daniel Redelmeier, and I'm running for Mathsoc President for this term. This is to tell you why you should vote for me today (the election is running yesterday and today for those of you unaware). This is my last term here at Waterloo, and it's a pretty light one which will leave me lots of time to devote to the running of MathSoc. I've been involved in MathSoc for many years now and have seen how it runs. I think we need to make council meetings faster and more efficient. As always we need to get more people involved and improve communication with students. Also we need to keep what already works working. I believe we are now the only ones on campus who still offer 5¢ photocopies, and I'd like to keep that price stable. With the curriculum changes that have been going on and the upcoming "enhancement" to co-op we need to make sure student voices are present and heard in this process. We need to look into security with the recent increase in break-ins in the MathSoc and club offices. Furniture in the comfy and C&D needs to be improved and its "migration" dealt with (probably more chairs in the labs are needed). Anyway, these are my major goals, though I'm sure more will form as the term goes on. So vote Daniel, and have a good term.

Daniel Redelmeier

Eric Logan*Candidate for VPAS*

Let me introduce myself: I'm Eric, I'm in 2A Computer Science (with a likely double major in C&O) and I want to be Vice President Activities and Services for the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo.

Back in S03 when nominations were being solicited for executive positions, I originally arranged for mine to be submitted to make sure we couldn't wind up with anyone worse than myself. At the time, I figured I wasn't a terrible candidate: I was reasonably familiar with the Society's ins and outs, a record of strong involvement (for a person of my term) and the ability to keep a lot of information in order in my head.

One of my goals as VPAS is to keep the Society running smoothly while enhancing the service it can provide. I want to do this by laying goals for the directorships to ensure the Society delivers all that it can. By continually sharpening and refining what the Society does, it can only improve.

Another one of my goals is to keep the decision making process of the society open and accountable. It's important that you, as a member of the Society, know why and how the Society is making decisions that can affect you. I think this can be accomplished, in part, by providing a better Publicity model so that students can have a better idea of what's going on.

Finally, I want to be able to provide MathSoc with a strong leader who can be trusted to make decisions, and defend his choices without compromising the integrity of the Society. I think I can be that person.

I expect this short blurb doesn't answer all your questions. Please find me if you have anything you want to ask me; I should be around the MC during election day.

Remember, vote early, vote often, vote Eric.

Eric Logan

Lino Demasi*Candidate for President*

My name is Lino Demasi and I'm running for MathSoc President. As your president, my goals would be to improve communication with and services for the students. Many students don't know about the representation that the society provides and are unaware that they can have their voice heard. Also, the society provides a number of services and organizes many social events for students, but these are just ideas we ourselves have come up with. We need student input on what else they would like to see MathSoc doing in the recent and distant future.

I am also in favour of continuing the recent improvements to the Comfy Lounge and the C&D lounge. These areas are used by many students each day for various activities and by keeping these areas up to date with wireless technology and wired internet ports, we are helping students to accomplish things easier.

I have the experience necessary to get the job done. I was the Vice President, Activities & Services in the Summer 2003 term, and I have been various directors in the Society before that. Let my experience work for you.

On election days, show your support for your student society. Come out and vote!

Lino Demasi

Soo Go*Candidate for VPAS*

So this election thing, I'm supposed to write something for it, specifically less than 300 words. Woo, that was 15 words. Excellent, I'm on a roll (I'm still in my work report writing mode, so I keep thinking I should fill the word limit).

Anyway, on a more serious note, as some of you may have noticed, I'm running. Not literally though, as I am a mathie after all (hence the eligibility for VPAS). VPAS stands for Vice President Activities and Services and oversees the day-to-day activities and, well, services of the Math Undergrad Society that you are [probably] a part of. VPAS is also responsible for many directors of MathSoc, namely charity ball, publicity, novelties, social, office, athletics, movies, postings, website, and computing.

126 words.

So why should you vote for me you ask? (Pretend you do in any case.) First off, I have much experience within MathSoc as well as volunteering for other organizations. In the past, I've held many positions such as:

- publicity director (twice!)
- novelties director
- MEF council member (C&O class rep)
- class representative for undeclared students
- MathSoc office worker
- orientation leader, tie guard (ah, Crux, you were so much fun), art and leader retreat coordinator
- Canada Day Celebrations Steering committee

As well, I have many things I'd like to try this term, such as re-evaluate the social events we run regularly, as for some reason, MathSoc seems to never get good enough turnouts. (COME ON, PEOPLE, COME TO EVENTS FOR ONCE.)

And other things like that that I shouldn't get into, as I probably am already boring you to tears.

In the style of work report conclusions (ie short), I recommend you... vote Soo. Well, at least vote.

Soo Go

mathNEWS mailBAG**Dear Editor:**

A whole page for an Intent to Transfer form making the point that the B.CS is for idiots who can't hack the B.Math(CS)? You must really have been low on material. Though, admittedly, there's not much you can say about this point that isn't self-evident. B.CS students aren't even allowed to take the killer course CS 494 that half of all B.Math(CS) students proudly used to complete their degrees. The increased out-of-Faculty breadth and depth requirements of the B.CS and its ability to accommodate new programs like the joint B.CS/BBA double degree with Laurier are just distractions attempting to hide the truth that math courses are the only ones that matter. To be honest, you really should have made fun of people graduating under the old B.Math(CS) rules, since the new ones require three math courses chosen from a shortlist rather than a free choice, plus those pesky out-of-Faculty requirements. But that's a minor point. The important thing is that B.Math(CS) soon-to-be-graduates, like the forty-odd years of classes that have graduated before them, can rest secure in the knowledge that this Faculty went to the dogs right after that diploma was handed to them.

Yours sincerely,
Prabhakar Ragde
School of Computer Science

Dear mathNEWS:

I have a question. My stepdaughter is getting married in June of this year. She is living with her mother and has been for years. They are very close. What is my responsibility as a stepmother for this wedding? Do I get involved? I don't want to take anything away from the brides mother. I have a eleven year old daughter myself and I know how excited I will be to plan her wedding. Please email me back with an answer.

Thanks,
Karen

I have three words for you: Duck and Cover. That solves everything

KreasEd

Dear mathNEWS:

Your article was extremely disgusting and horrific. I can't believe this barbaric practice is legal, its an outrage! Making Bonsai puppies and kittens is animal abuse and should be outlawed. I cannot believe you promote this disgusting mangling of animals. I suggest that the people who promote and support this mutilation should be put in boxes themselves.

Disgusted and Angry
Mike

[Note to readers - check out 'Bonsai Puppy' in issue 3 from last term (article available online at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/Issues/mn9303/puppy.php>) to learn about bonsai puppies.] Did you know that some dogs (such as dobermanns and rottweilers) have their tails cut off almost immediately after birth, while some breeds have their ears cut off. I think it would be kinda cool if I were shaped like a baseball bat or a hypercube...

KreasEd

Dear mathNEWS:

here's the mathNEWS car...

Pete Love

**Dear mathNEWS:**

Mr.Hello to my brothers students of uwaterloo!

Here is what i want to say to you .Below Is written a elementary proof of Fermat's Last theorem created by me .In fact I think is Fermat's original proof.The proof is written in a concise form. If anybody has any questions just feel free to contact me.I send this proof by email to Mr.Prof.Alf Poorten ,Author of the book "Notes on the Fermat Last Theorem"and Iwill send to you his answer and my replies to him.

He blundered! He thinks that is a proof of a "crank".Do you agree with him? As I said Feel free to contact me with any questions. This e-mail will be followed as Isaid by his reply and my anserws in order.Have Fun!

Gheorghe Ghiata

[The "proof" sent to us is essentially unreadable - if you really want to see it, email us at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca and I'll forward it to you. We received 9 of them in total; including the reply from the professor he emailed it to, who had the best reply: "I have glanced at all 19 versions of your 'proof'. I did foolishly write in it that Wiles' proof would 'get the cranks off our backs'. That's plainly not so."]

KreasEd

profQUOTES

the sequel

"All things being equal, bigger is better"

Maschio, STAT 231

"There are no limits to my laziness"

Nishimura, CS 365

"What made the monster? It's the chalk, it's always the chalk"

Nishimura, CS 365

Deprecated methods of the Robot Class

Or, I AM THE GOD OF KAREL

Greetings mathNEWS readers! That's right! I'm baaaack! For those of you that were on campus last term and thought you were going to get rid of me, tough luck. For those of you that are new this term, I'm likely your CS 123/133 tutor. That's right, the same guy that marks your assignments also writes for mathNEWS! Crazy insanity! Just think of what other awesome powers I have!

What better to write about for all you newbie CSers than the beta version of the Becker libraries. Because, I was there in The Beginning, when Byron looked upon an empty .java file and began to shape the world. (Note: I wasn't there. But I did use the OLD textbook in which every fifth section is "to be written.")

For you see, little frosh, the noble Robot was once far more powerful than the diminutive puny Thing pusher you now work with. Yes, back in the day, there was one Robot, named Karel, what was God to other Java classes. He had instances everywhere feeding him knowledge to the point where it seemed he was omniscient. He wielded the power to polymorph a Thing at will. Walls could never contain him. He was in every City ever created. Karel was truly the ruler of Java.

However, some of the other Robot classes became jealous of His power. So a brilliant Object named Thing hatched a diabolical plan. One night, when Karel was sleeping, Thing snuck into his private home. There, he slipped himself quietly into Karel's backpack, where no Object ever dared go and where Karel would never place them. Inside, Thing absorbed Karel's power, and used its own knowledge to mutate into a power much greater than before. There he sat, through versions 0.1 through 0.9, waiting for his moment.

Then, one day, as karel was inspecting his land and making sure that all was still good, and the other puny classes were trembling in fear, Thing chose his moment. He absorbed all of Karel's classes, bursting forth from Karel's backpack and destroying him in a moment. The other objects sat in awe, at this class that had destroyed their God, and he bellowed forth at the masses, "I AM RobotSE, TREMBLE IN FEAR AT THE DAWN OF MY DOMINION!" Within three days, the servants of RobotSE defeated the underlings of Robot with their ability to turnRight and pickUpAllThings.

Then, Byron realized that RobotSE had become too powerful, and deprecated its god() method. And thus, the Becker library came to order and equality.



```
if( Mathie.robot_build_perception == Fun) {
    Join the Waterloo Aerial Robotics Group (WARG);
    Goto Regular meetings: Wed. @ 5:00pm in E2-2366;
    Visit http://www.ece.uwaterloo.ca/~warg ;
}
```

There were many other methods deprecated in that Great Sundering. Some of them are present here.

- void complain(): when this method is called, any further calls to the object will result in Strings being returned such as "I don't want to", "I'm tired", and "Why don't YOU do it?". No records exist of any void stopComplaining() method.
- void spinAround(double numSpins): this method takes numSpins, multiplies it by four, multiplies it by 2.4×10^{83} , and calls turnLeft() that many times. If you think calling turnLeft() three times and waiting for him to finish turning right is bad, just try sitting though the robot turning for FIVE HOURS to end up facing the same direction.
- void idspispopd(): this method causes the robot to walk through walls without breaking. It can't be called when more than one robot is present in the city. [For those of you with a confused look on your face, this was the code in the original DooM to let you walk through walls — KreasEd]
- void moo(): this method changes the robot to white with black spots that drop Milk things. Every time it moves, there is a 1% chance that the robot's isMad flag is set to true.

So yes, gentle frosh, the Robot that you instantiate today is a far cry from the one I knew and worshipped, and different still from the ethereal bovine Robots that would start up a tornado when it wasn't whining about being tired. Be thankful.

Sheep Nine

Mysteries of the MC

MC 4056

From the pits of hell itself, and the individuals who brought you Kraft dinner, we are glad to inform you of why MC 4056 can not be found.

It was a fine sunny day on the top floor of the MC building for Miss. Ng Pur Sonnes in 1967 when suddenly, she found... a fly in her purse! Unable to see clearly, she headed over to MC 4056 and proceeded integrate in the sunlit room when dinosaurs arrived and swallowed her and Max Ferrol Claire the First (aka MFCF) whole. Max, who was indigestible, was found later that week in Columbia lake unharmed. (This was clearly before the killer bees had destroyed the lake).

Later that century, just before Robbie Burn's day, Soup E. Stitious was struck down in his prime. Struck down in his prime, man! And without ever having caught the Trix Rabbit. I mean come on man! Have you no morals? No pity?

Shortly thereafter, the geoengine.math machine, located in MC 4056 was tortured by deep frying. As the cheese oozed out of it's ports, it was heard screaming as MFCF drove out of sight.

MC 4056 is a prime number divisible by 13, and therefore unlucky. The room was never built, for this reason, just as the elevators in the MC do not go to the 13th floor.

~ Platypi

Bathroom Test

The little known cousin to the Urinal Test

So I'm sure you've all seen so many tests for the guys in the bathroom asking you which urinal you should go to in such and such a situation. These are all fun and everything, but they're getting kind of old. So here I present to you a brand new type of tests. This test is so much superior to the urinal test because it does not limit itself to males, but includes the female population of UW Math as well. Yes my friend, this here is the bathroom cubicle test.

So below you're going to find a bunch of situations, you have to determine which cubicle you would enter upon this situation, your answers will be graded at the end based on your bathroom savvy.

The following is the list of symbols I will be using for the duration of this test:

- [-] - This is a closed cubicle door. There may or may not be someone in it (you'd have to look under or knock on the door or something in order to determine this).
- [=] - This is a door that is closed, and for whatever reason, it is apparant that there is someone occupying this stall.
- [~] - This is a closed door, but your x-ray vision tells you that there is actually no one behind it.
- [O] - This is an open door, you can easily tell that no one is occupying this cubicle.
- [?] - This weirdo is using the toilet and hasn't closed the door, bonus points for any correct answers involving one of these idiots.
- Note that any handicap stall will be designated by doubling up the symbol in square brackets (e.g. [??] represents a moron leaving the door open while using a handicap stall).

Scenario 1: Very easy

[~]

Scenario 2: Still very easy

[~] [~] [~]

Scenario 3: Tutorial over

[=] [-] [~]

Scenario 4: You might have to think a little bit.

[-] [=] [-] [=]

Scenario 5: An interesting one to ponder.

[=] [=] [=] [?] [OO] [?]

Scenario 6: Something more probablistic.

[O] [=] [O] [O] [=] [=]

Scenario 7: It's the eternal question.

[O] [=] [~]

Scenario 8: Eenie Meenie Miney That one.

[=] [O] [=] [~] [=] [O] [=]

Scenario 9: How able are you?

[O] [=] [=] [=] [OO]

Scenario 10: The final question!

[==] [?] [=] [?] [?] [??]

All right, so now write down your answers, and check out the correct replies on the next page.

Keslen

Music Piracy

Remember back in the days when downloading music was a victimless crime? This has all changed because of the measures taken by the RIAA to curb music piracy; the downloader has become the victim.

It starts by listening to a song on the radio; you then come home and look for that song on Kazaa/Overnet/BitTorrent or whatever vice you use. After finishing that download you start the song and then 10-15 seconds later the music stops and that the digital scratching noise comes on and just drives you insane. Next you download a different file, thinking that the scratching might not be in this one, and just when you're not expecting it... that damn scratching starts again. It's getting ridiculous! Now when I get a song which has only got scratching for 10-15 seconds, I just give up and add it to my collection, which is totally unacceptable, but there's nothing I can do about it.

The RIAA is getting more and more devious every year. Before they just sued the company operating the file sharing program which would lead to their bankruptcy, but there was no fear: another company with a better program would pop up and takes the place of its predecessor. Next, the RIAA sent out cease and desist orders to individual users to set a precedent and discour-

age file sharing as a whole, but that only partly worked as people just shared fewer files. Now, they are distributing corrupt files on all the popular file sharing servers, and this is probably working beyond their expectations.

I have a solution to this problem. You have to realize that the corrupted files are being shared and this allows more users to get the bad files. How is this the case? It's a fact that boggles my mind. Do users download a file, listen to it, find out it's corrupt and then not do anything? I know I delete the file right when I find out it's corrupt since it's taking up valuable space and another users might mistake it for the actual file, which it is not. Who in their right mind would keep in on their computer? If all the users deleted corrupted files, they would not be kept in redistribution...

If this is implemented as described, it will help in our piracy (err, I mean sharing) of music. But we aren't the real criminals; it's the RIAA who are the criminal masterminds that are trying to deceive us innocent university students.

[Just a reminder to everyone - DON'T use your school account for music files; MFCF will suspend your account — KreasEd]

Sivji

Warning: Your friends back home may not be 1337

So, this winter break, I was back home with my friends. They were watching this show called "Repo Men: Stealing for a living." The show follows around a bunch of repo men as they try to steal things back from redneck deadbeats. Hilarity ensues.

Anyway, on the show, one guy broke into a truck, and drove off, silent as the wind. No one was the wiser. I blurted out, "Wow, that is so leet."

The room went silent as all my Penetang friends turned to face me. Their gaze indicated I had said something that was foreign to them. "What the hell does 'leet' mean?," one of them asked.

Now, I pose the question, dear reader, how would you explain this in fifteen words or less? Leet is getting and beating a videogame before it's even out in stores. Leet is writing a Win32 app in pure ASM. Leet is setting up a LAN in your tiny, tiny residence room. Leet is breadboarding a circuit from raw electrical components, and then controlling that circuit via your parallel port. 1337 15 831 | \ | 9 4b13 70 234 | \ W13r | (24p | 1 | <3 7 | - | 15. Leet is never getting caught. Ever.

How do I explain this to people who know of none of these things? I told them to forget it, they called me a geek, and we all moved on with our lives.

I'll end with a quote to remind you that humour with your friends at home may differ from humour in the Math Building:

Guy: All the A&W buildings look the same...it's almost as if they're built in a central location.

Me: Yeah, and then they warp them in...like the Protoss.
[Silence]

Me: See, In Waterloo, that would have been funny.

Valacosa

profQUOTES

is now a triumvirate

[Student asks question about mistake on board]

[Prof]: "Oh, it's because I'm insane. I can say that because it's so far in the term it won't end up in *mathNEWS*."

[There's always next term! — AnonEd]

Wagner, MATH 135

"... and stay away from women too. Can't trust them."

Narveson, PHIL 221

"There is every reason to believe that a voice on the phone will tell you all kinds of rubbish."

Narveson, PHIL 221

"Rocks don't fall when dropped because they are nice guys who always obey the rules."

Narveson, PHIL 221

" '+' is often different from 'x'"

New, PMATH 330

"... since almost the dawn of time, which is about 1905 if I remember correctly."

Narveson, PHIL 221

"You can't lie to Java. If you lie to Java, all of a sudden it will scream and explode."

Nafees, CS 133

Frosh Cornered

Starring Sexual Orientation as Small Talk

A big Happy New Year to all of you! For those of you who don't know me, I'm Scot Nyback, and I am the Cornered Frosh v3.0. I had a lot of fun last term writing witty and zany articles [*You sure fooled me!* — *KreasEd*] and I hope you will continue to enjoy them this term. Now that the pleasantries are out of the way, I'm sure you are looking for some form of entertainment, and what would *mathNEWS* be if it weren't entertainment?

I had an interesting chat with my brother over the course of the Christmas break. My brother attends the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York. It's a school where they teach you how to sing, dance, act, etc and he excels at all of these. However, this article is not designed to tell you about my brother, but rather the school at which he studies. If you don't know already, be prepared to cry, but the Math faculty here at the University of Waterloo has a staggering male to female ratio of 3:1. That means that for every manly stud out there with a date this weekend, there are two not-so-manly non-studs without. However, take heart, the ratio at AMDA is 11:1.

Whoops! I think I said that wrong, I should clarify. AMDA has a female to male ratio of 11:1. That's not fair! In addition, it gets even worse. Of the males who make up a small one twelfth of the population at this fine school, approximately ninety percent of them are of the homosexual variety. That's right, 90% of the guys at AMDA are gay. Admittedly there is a slightly larger percentage of lesbians than you would expect as well, but this still leaves the straight man such as my brother an ample selection to choose from. Perhaps I could convince him to send some up here; it's only an eight hour bus trip after all...

The clincher is homosexuality is so much more common at AMDA than heterosexuality that it has become an integral part of small talk. In fact, greetings have become something like "Hi I'm Cliff and I'm straight" or "Hi I'm Steve and I'm gay." If someone neglects to include their sexual preferences in their greeting, you can be sure that the other party will request the information before the end of their first conversation. "So are you gay or straight?", or in other words, "Can I hit on you?"

So take heart that you are attending the best school in the academic world for mathematical studies. Mourn that unless you're part of the lucky third, you'll never know the touch of a woman. Happy New Year and welcome (back) to the University of Waterloo!

Keslen

Cornered Frosh v3.0

Bathroom Test Answers

All right, so you have your answers from the bathroom test written down in a nice little neat format in front of you. Here's the scoring system.

Score negative one million for every answer you gave.

Do you really think it matters which cubicle you select in the bathroom? Providing you aren't a complete and total moron and try to use a stall that someone else is already using, there are walls separating you. Get it? Walls. Doesn't matter where you go because there is a wall between you and the next guy.

Maybe this is why you only ever see urinal tests. Sorry ladies!

Keslen

HorrorScopes

Your Cattle Future Awaits

ACC

You have a revelation that you don't know any math outside addition and subtraction, and quite possibly fractions. The lack of rudimentary arithmetic knowledge will disturb you until you decide to eat something.

Use your addition skills to help out those SCI, for they only think they know math.

Your lucky number is $1+1=2$.

ACTSCI

(NOTE: You can make your own HorrorScope this week! Circle the choices to make your own HorrorScope!) Congratulations/ Sorry about your recent level X (where X is any positive integer value) Actuarial exam. I'm sure you put in your hardest/laziest effort and you honestly/crappily deserved your pass/fail. Now you have Y (where Y is a depressingly high positive integer value) exams to look forward to/loath.

If a CS laughs at you for taking Actuarial exams, remind them that MCSE's are completely worthless in the jobsite.

Your lucky number is Y remaining exams.

AM

Show those physics geeks what they're missing from not being in math by creating a giant snowball machine that would repeatedly hurl Calculus textbooks filled with snow at the Dana Porter library. Try to fill the moat with Calculus textbooks. Declare victory.

UNDECLARED may be swayed to declare AM as their major after your stunt.

Your lucky number is \$123.40/book.

BBA/BMath

Life is like a text-based adventure game: You encounter a philosophical crisis. You see the Tim Horton's at LAURIER and the Tim Horton's in the DC. Wait, where the hell are you standing if you see both of those? Downgrade to a lower dosage of caffeine.

Enlist the theoretical knowledge of a PMATH to prove that it's physically possible to stand at a place and see both Timmy's at the same time.

Your lucky number is 30,000 feet.

C&O

Your classes may be the only ones in the faculty that rewards the playing of the Rubik's Cube in class. Take advantage of this privilege, but upgrade to a Furby.

SOFTENG may be confused when they see you entering classrooms with Furbies and Rubik's Cubes. Watch them reboot in confusion.

Your lucky number is 4X4

CS

Your newly discovered sense of freedom is due to an extra 100 megs of diskquota. Fill it up quickly by reading every Penny-Arcade comic from 1998 and cacheing every image available. Do this before CSCF takes your diskquota away.

ARTS can help you in your endeavour by downloading massive amounts of porn, pop-up ads, GAIN software, and Windows.

Your lucky number is 89 extra megs of random crap.

PMATH

Prime Minister Paul Martin (PM²) will try to steal your identity, twice, claiming that majoring in him is an infringement of

his intellectual property. In your rebuttal, do not use words such as 'misunderestimating'. He's not Bush.

BBA/BMATH have lots of money. Start your own legal defence fund.

Your lucky number is \$1,000,000.

SOFTENG

You will find your loyalties tested when both MathSoc and EngSoc order you to deploy your weapons of mass distraction on the other. Because you love both faculties so much, you feel compelled to lie to both societies. Instead of lying, declare yourself free of weapons of mass distraction and seal yourself in the dankest and dirtiest spider-like hole you can find, like Phil's.

ACC may find your weapons of mass distraction. Lead them on a paper trail of confusion.

Your lucky number is 1 dank bar.

STAT

The probability of you getting a girlfriend is characterized by a random variable X, where X is of an exponential distribution. However, you make a calculation error, and all values of X are zero.

Complain to your nearest MATH/BUS. They may take pity on you and claim you as their pet.

Your lucky number is X

UNDECLARED

Be proud of your wishy-washy-ness. If other mathies find your indecision undesirable, remind them that you are steadfast in your conviction to remain indecisive.

You can be fickle, thus the good mathies are taken. Your own choices are either comfy loungers or CS.

Your lucky number is undefined.

ARTS

Just being in the Math building makes you smarter, but moving into the comfy lounge is a bad idea, both for your intellect and your hygiene. If you do decide to make the MC your home, bring a bottle of Febreze and soap to ward off the natives.

Not all Mathies are dirty natives, ACTSCI are dateable, and most of them may or may not be girls!

Your lucky number is IQ of 75 (Dolphins have higher IQ's!)

ENG

When middle-eastern men come looking for weapons grade plutonium, direct them to McMaster. They're stupid enough to keep it in the middle of their campus. Instead, sell them pieces of iron encased in a plastic box and claim it's plutonium. Provide them with the telephone number of McMaster's switchboard with the refund policy.

BBA/BMATH are convincing salespeople. Use them to jack up the price and give them a cut of the profits.

Your lucky number is (905) 555-9140

SCI

Sell your services as a "fire alarm facilitator" to mathies in an attempt to decrease the number of false alarms. Actually set fires. Run like hell.

SOFTENG will create a distraction for you as long as you show them how to create fire. The concept of flame eludes these people.

Your lucky number is FIRE. Duh.

Amadaeus and Facetious

MathSoc Council Meeting Notice

The second MathSoc council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 5:30 pm in MC 4061. All are welcome to attend.

Anyone who wishes to add an item to the agenda should submit their request to speaker@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca no later than Friday, January 16th.

MGC Social Update

The Math Grad committee will be holding events throughout the term. We will be running, among other things:

- Family Guy marathon in the MC
- Karaoke at the Silver Spur
- Brick Brewery Tour.

Events will be starting the week of January 19, and will continue throughout the term. If you would like more information, or if you would like to help out, please drop us a line at mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Craig D'Amelio
MGC Social Director

Movie Night Call For Volunteers

Want to get a little more involved this term, but not sure exactly how? Want to get your creative juices flowing by making signs? Get more exercise by decorating MC with posters? Know what movies are good and which are not? Come out on Monday, January 19th at 4:30pm to see what movie night is all about. This could be the thing for you - come to the Comfy Lounge (MC 3002) for info and maybe even some snacks. For those of you who can't come, don't hesitate to email movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Movies Director W04

Help Improve Your Computing Environment

If you are in CS, that is

You might have already noticed some changes in your Computing Environment — disk quota has changed for most everyone. Given the new computing environment structure, now is a time to start considering how the environment will change over the next few terms and years. CSCF is looking for student input on how to change and improve the environment. Specifically, they are interested in software that will make the environment more useful for everyone. Of highest priority is software needed for courses.

If you have ideas of what you want to see in the environment, or want to help gather student input on computing e-mail me at amjoconn@uwaterloo.ca.

Albert O'Connor

MathSoc Movie Night

Every Thursday, two great movies, for a low two bucks! Interested? Check around MC for posters, as well as in your favorite *mathNEWS* issue for more information. Next week's (Jan 22) showings are "Johnny English" and "American Wedding," starting at 7 p.m. in MC 2066 - See you there!

Movies Director W04

Animals we should eat more of

Bored of beef? Caca of chicken? * Adjective that starts with 'p' of pork? Well then look no further than this page for ideas on how to serve the "less popular" meats available today!

Giraffe: Unbeknownst to most people, the neck of a giraffe is in fact a very tender and succulent cut of meat. It also has the advantage that a single giraffe can provide over two hundred cuts of giraffe neck steak.

Kangaroo: Kangaroo tail can be tastier and more filling than chicken leg, if you're happy with only getting one per 'roo. The pelt also makes a fine purse.

White Rhinoceros: Incredibly delicious, but a bit expensive considering that there are fewer than a thousand left on the earth.

Amoebae: Think about it, when was the last time you ate an amoeba? Go back and try this classic with sweet and sour sauce. If you don't have any sauces, they can be really good plain too.

Archeopteryx: Dinosaurs can be delicious, but make sure you get a healthy one from a reputable store. Most archeopteryx chop shops have really dry, bony cuts of meat from this specimen.

Skunk: Sure, it SMELLS bad, but have you ever taken the time to TASTE one? No time like the present.

Vampire: Best caught and cooked during the day, vampire filets have the strange property of being rare no matter how long you cook them. Don't worry: you only become a vampire if it bites YOU, not the other way around.

Sloth: Significantly cheaper than white rhino, and significantly easier to catch too.

Mad cow: Don't listen to the hype, whatever makes the cow mad also makes it taste delectable.

Human: Maybe Jonathon Swift had the right idea. Potatoes are bland and uninteresting by comparison.

Armed with this list, you can now go forth and expand your culinary palette. Just don't tell anyone it was my idea.

Sheep Nine

High FPS is no good

and other things I know nothing about

A friend of mine was showing off his new video card, bragging about how he was getting some 200+ frames per second in Counter Strike, and how much better it looked than my scarce 100 frames. If there's one thing I can't stand, it's a braggart.

I picked up the manual for his monitor. Flipping quickly through it, I learned, much to his dismay, that his monitor had a maximum refresh rate of 60Hz. So 140 frames were never being displayed to his monitor. To this he got all huffy, and told me to shut up.

Ozone Hole Zone

What ever happened to that hole in the ozone layer people were going on about? Not only that, I'm surprised there aren't more environmentalists using this seemingly mild weather as an excuse to tout on about global warming. Actually, this year is the first year there hasn't been an increase in global temperature in the last bunch of years. Wouldn't think it from all the green showing over the holiday.

STAT's all folks

Here's some good advice. Don't wait until your 3B term to take STAT 230. Remember the motto: Take it early, take it often.

Random Acts of Haiku

Strike of the fourteen lines from hell

Fields of sad pandas
Though sometimes even borg cry
Not a tear is shed.

Writing of haiku:
The outlet of the student.
I am so damn bored.

Cute, twitchy and fast.
In defiance of physics.
Squirrels everywhere.

Haikus are good fun.
Clean, too. No need for swearing.
Fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck.

Haikus: American.
Like ponchoes and Mike Meyers.
I misspelled his name.

Back in Waterloo;
Fresh smells of manure around.
How I missed it all.

Five is now seven,
Quod erat demonstrandum.
Proven by haiku.

My brain hurts me so,
Why, I can't quite understand.
Too many haikus.

These are getting dumb.
My brain is low on juices.
Haikus everywhere.

squirrel/KING and his *nutty*MINIONS

So, what to put on my website?

So I have a diskquota of 25600 Kbytes, 19624 free. So I figure, what do I put on my website? So I decide to investigate other websites of my friends for inspiration. What do I find to my dismay? Well, this concept of putting up some sort of "What I did today" log. With entries that go along the lines of "I ate 5 lbs of chocolate today and now I am sick, what gives?" or "If I wanted to watch that man make a fool of himself, all I would have to do is wait 30 seconds."

Why would you put this up? At this point in our lives, we all know that when someone asks "How are you today?" they don't want to hear an answer. So what makes you think they will actually spend the time to look on your website to see what is going on?

Will this lead to a period when people start to increase distance in friendships and start to answer "How are you?" with "Didn't you check my website?"

Well, now I am going to kidnap an eight year old who foils my plans, steal a very old atomic bomb, and hide in a helium-filled hot air balloon.

profQUOTES

the appetizer

"The next section is about relative motion. That's when your mother-in-law moves in."

O'Donovan, PHYS 115

[Draws a tau] "That's a torque." [Draws a hat] "That's a toque, not a torque."

O'Donovan, PHYS 115

"Can't solve for t if you don't have t... you have to have coffee instead."

O'Donovan, PHYS 115

"Let's find the volume of a doughnut... we'll call it a torus so we'll look sophisticated."

New, MATH 137

"If you be careful and think too much about it, you'll be in trouble. But if you just be careless and don't think, you'll be fine."

New, MATH 137

"You can't catch up on sleep. If you miss it, it's gone out of your life forever. You just die earlier."

Forrest, PHYS 252

"Suppose I have a bag with my brother inside...if I wanted to find out what's in the bag, I throw a baseball at it. I know it's him when I hear him scream."

Forrest, PHYS 252

"29/3... is that right? Wow, where do they get these numbers from? The used-number store?"

Best, MATH 136

"If 0 were equal to 3 then this building would collapse and we would all die."

Best, MATH 136

"This is the textbook. I brought it in to show you because I know they don't teach reading until 4th year. I wanted you to see what it looks like."

Brecht, CS 350

"There are six assignments in this course, plus one, which I guess makes seven, but not really."

Vasiga, CS 241

"There are five assignments worth 0% each. So in total they are worth -20%."

Vasiga, CS 241

"You get zero if you do the assignment. People say 'That's not fair, if I do something I should get marks for it.' These people have never filed taxes before."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I guess vodka and marijuana combined to form the ternary machine. There's on, off, and ... something else."

Vasiga, CS 241

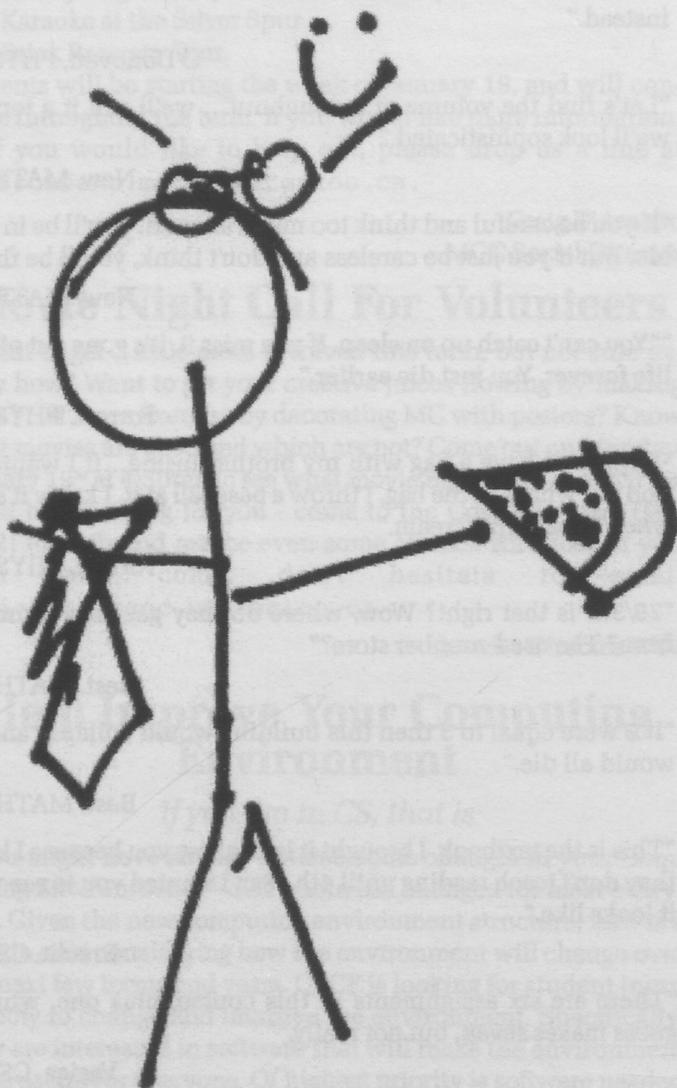
"I took a shower today, don't be afraid to sit at the front."

Smith, ECON 102

Rejected *mathNEWS* Cover Art

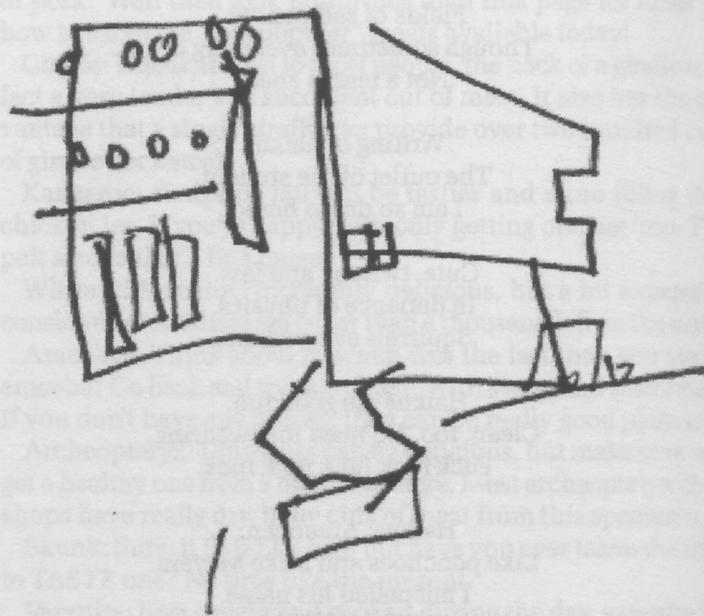
Yes, we do have standards!

The *mathNEWS* cover selection process is a long and arduous one. Many possible covers are considered, with all but one failing to make the cut. Nevertheless, these rejected covers can be considered as works of art in their own right, and as *mathNEWS*'s art critic, I've decided to treat you to these rarely seen gems, with commentary on a few of my favourites. All these are done exclusively in the medium of StaRedi Super Permanent Marker-B on I.B.M. 20 lb. Multipurpose White Paper.



Mathie eating pizza

"Mathie eating pizza" is a truly heartwrenching entry, a testament to the lack of nutritional options available to those in the Math Faculty. You can just hear the the artist asking, "Why doesn't the MGC ever run any carrot and celery days? Why? For the love of all that is good and holy, why?!" Note how the mathie's glasses are knocked off his head, symbolizing the destruction of his intellect through the ravages of trans-fatty acids in the pizza. Observe how this mathie is devoid of emotion, perhaps a product of staring at one too many equations, yet a disembodied smiling face taunts him, mocking his quest for true happiness and spiritual enlightenment.



MC 'blindfolded'



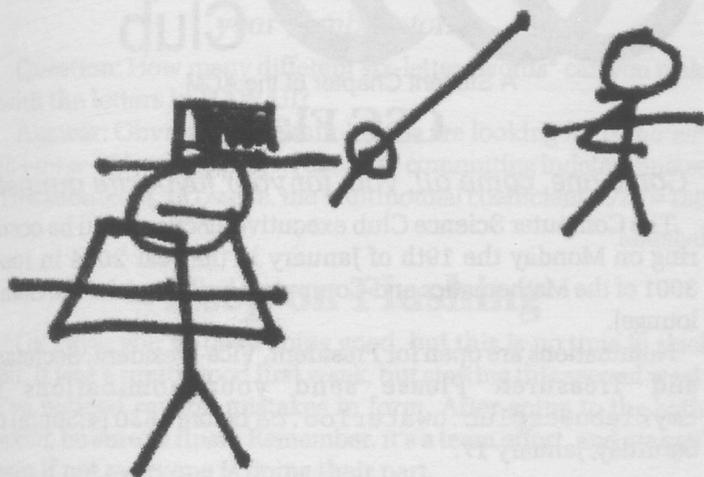
A man and his dog 'blindfolded'

A favourite among *mathNEWS* staff is "A man and his dog 'blindfolded'." You may not be able to tell from looking at it, but the artist was in fact blindfolded while creating this depiction of a blindfolded man with his blindfolded dog. This confluence of artist and work would surely have pleased Aristotle — not only does art imitate life, but life now imitates art. The prevalence of the happy, smiling sun in this work serves as a poignant message that solar power is acting as a kind of societal blindfold, distracting people's attention from other, more prevalent and environmentally destructive forms of energy generation such as coal and nuclear plants.

Rejected *mathNEWS* Cover Art

We had that much!

I honestly don't know what the hell this is.

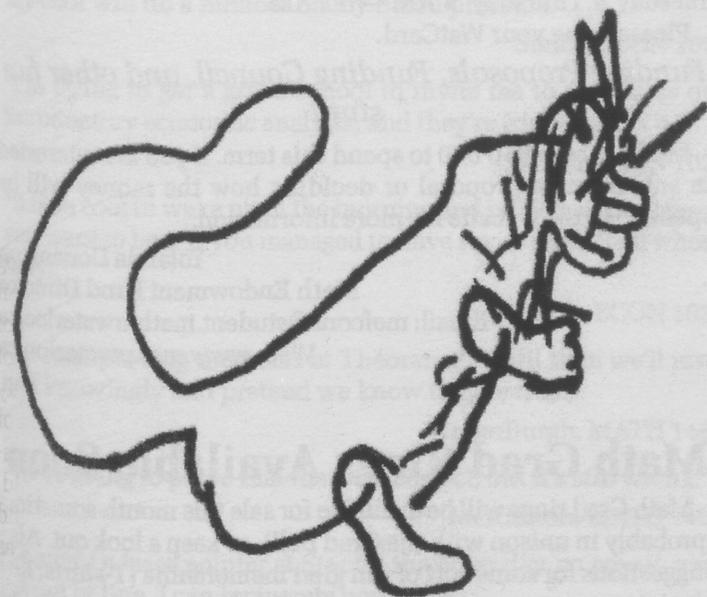


Zorro



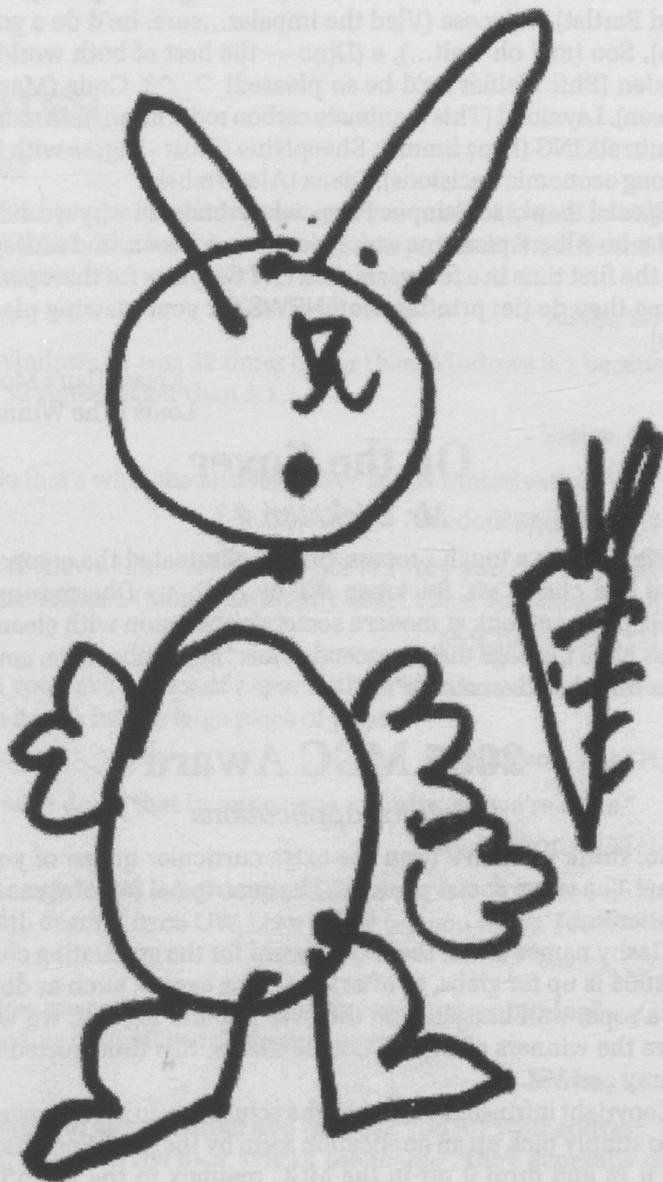
Dinosaur Fight

One of my personal favourites is "Dinosaur Fight." This harsh depiction of reptilian violence is indeed a powerful work. One of the combatants is incomplete, missing a back and part of its head, sending a powerful message that violence, in the end, leaves one spiritually empty. The choice of prehistoric combatants further suggests that violence is an antiquated concept of which humanity must cleanse itself in order to achieve its full potential.



Squirrel

I would like to draw your attention to "Bunny Wabbit," a depiction of a three-armed rabbit attempting to grasp a carrot that is just out of reach. What better way to encapsulate the struggle of the proletariat against its capitalist oppressors. The hard-working, industrious rabbit symbolizes the working class — its extra arm clearly indicating that it represents all workers in society and not merely one particular worker. The carrot of material wealth and control of the means of production, which serves as the worker's only motivation in capitalist society, is always kept just out of reach by the industrial masters. The obvious Warner Brothers cartoon reference is also a sly commentary on the role played by the entertainment media in perpetuating neo-capitalist hegemony.



Bunny Wabbit

I hope you have enjoyed this rare look into the world of rejected cover art. If this proves to be a popular feature, we may repeat it in a future issue of *mathNEWS*.

Eigenvector

mastHEAD*In the Lost and Found*

So the *mastHEAD* existed, then it was lost and forgotten. Somehow it was put into the Lost and Found, then it was found... wow, that was a short story...

On another note, in just over a week (January 25th to be exact), *mathNEWS* will be 31 years young. I'll be celebrating by going to watch the Royal Rumble (this year's annual 30-man battle royale is building to be a good one). We'll be having a special 'belated' birthday party the next night while we put together the next issue of *mathNEWS* (everyone's invited to help out: **Monday, January 26th 6:30 pm, MC 3038**) - we'll be having pizza as usual, and since it's a birthday, we'll have some cake as well.

So with today being a rare election day for MathSoc, we decided to ask the *mathNEWS* writers "Who's your write-in candidate for MathSoc president?" Jim (The Fragile Emperor), Eric (Jed Bartlet), Valacosa (Vlad the impaler...sure, he'd do a good job), Soo (me! oh wait...), e (Dino — the best of both worlds), Keslen (Phil Weiner he'd be so pleased! ^_^), Craig (Martin Sheen), Laymond (This inanimate carbon rod, I mean Ian's mom), SquirrelKING (Papa Smurf), SheepNine (Faust - I agree with his strong economic decisions), Diana (Alex Trebek).

Special thanks to Campus Pizza, who wondered why we didn't order an 'Albert' pizza (no sauce, pepperoni, bacon, and sausage) for the first time in a few years, and UW Graphics for that special thing they do (ie: printing *mathNEWS* for your viewing pleasure).

Krease (Ian's Mom)
Louis (The Winner)

On the Cover*Mr. Stickman #3*

Well, it was a tough process, but we eliminated the competition and chose 'Mr. Stickman #3' by Anthony Dharmasurya. This poignant look at modern society's obsession with cleanliness has a message that transcends time: "Remember kids, never mix bleach and ammonia".

2005 MGC Award*Call for applications*

So, think you have been the extra curricular queen of your year? The super social planner? The centripetal forceful centre of attention?

Flashy names aside, the MGC Award for the graduating class of 2005 is up for grabs, so after 7 grueling events, such as dope on a rope, wall bangers and the ever popular log roll, we will have the winners of the MGC 2005 award, this time hosted by Kenny and Vic.

Copyright infringements aside, the actual way to get this award is to simply pick up an application form by the MathSoc office, fill it in and drop it off in the MGC mailbox in the MathSoc office.

More details will be on the form you fill out. The due date to apply will be mid-February.

Thank you and have a great day,

Tyler Slijboom
MGC King



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Come one, come all, vote for your favourite puppet!

The Computer Science Club executive elections will be occurring on Monday the 19th of January in the year 2004 in room 3001 of the Mathematics and Computers building (aka the Comfy lounge).

Nominations are open for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please send your nominations to tmyklebu@cscclub.uwaterloo.ca before 1630 (4:30pm) on Saturday, January 17.

James A. Morrison

MEF Sez

Greetings from MC 4046! Just a couple of notes about everyone's favourite endowment fund:

What does MEF do for you?

Over the years, MEF has funded many projects benefiting undergraduate math students, including:

- Computer equipment
- Teaching assistants
- Books, equipment, and conference fees for clubs
- Guest speakers

To see a full list of funded projects, visit the MEF website (<http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca/projects>).

Refunds

To sign up for a refund, drop by the MEF Office (MC 4046) before January 16th. The office hours are:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 8 AM — 10 AM
Tuesday & Thursday, 9 AM — 11 AM

Please bring your WatCard.

Funding Proposals, Funding Council, and other fun stuff!

MEF has over \$50 000 to spend this term. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or deciding how the money will be spent, visit the website for more information.

Yolanda Dorrington

Math Endowment Fund Director

Email: mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Web: www.mef.uwaterloo.ca

Math Grad Rings Available Soon

Math Grad rings will be available for sale this month sometime (probably in unison with the Grad Ball), so keep a look out. Also suggestions for some sort of fun grad memorabilia (T-shirts, Key chains, aprons?) can be sent to mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Killing an Ant with a Sledgehammer

...or, solving a high school math problem with third-year combinatorics.

Question: How many different six-letter "words" can you make with the letters in HAWAII?

Answer: Obviously, the number we are looking for is $[ha^2wi^2](h+a+w+i)^6$, where $h, a, w,$ and i are commuting indeterminates. This number is, of course, the multinomial coefficient $6!/2!^2=180$.

Marshall

Keep on Flushing

Ok guys, you've been doing good, but this is no time to slack off. It was a pretty good first week, but starting this second week, I've noticed several mistakes in form. After going to the bathroom, be sure to flush. Remember, it's a team effort, and we can't win if not everyone is doing their part.

The Psychology Of Numbers

Although numbers are not alive, or even have a physical existence, they nonetheless have their own psychology. First, there are the numbers that try to be as Natural as possible. They are part of a larger group that consider themselves as being Integral to society. A larger group that includes these Integers is the group of numbers that behave in a fully Rational fashion. However, a distinct and larger group of numbers behave in an Irrational manner, including the group that think that they Transcend existence. Speaking of existence, the Rational and even Irrational groups at least consider themselves to exist, i.e., are Real. An opposing group, however, consider themselves to not even exist, i.e., they are Imaginary. The behaviours described above are why the Real numbers and the Imaginary numbers together form a very Complex society.

The Termal Schizo

profQUOTES

the entrée

"Now it's a torus with an 'O'. If it was the other taurus with an 'A' in it, then its a bull and the volume of a bull would be quite hard to measure."

New, MATH 137

"What kind of an engineering faculty do we have that lets me break down with two AA batteries like a little girl with her Britney Spears' Dance Mix?"

Smith, ECON 102

"The Canadian Economy is the most successful in the world. If you believe otherwise, you have been reading the financial post. STOP!!"

Smith, ECON 102

"We have to discuss the US economy, which means we have to discuss George Bush, and the stress of doing that without losing my cool will do a number on my blood pressure."

Smith, ECON 102

"I'm trying to get a grade school to invite me to do a class on introductory economic analysis, and they're frightened of it."

Smith, ECON 102

"It is so cool to wake up in the morning and be richer than when you went to bed. If you managed to have sex as well, then whoa baby!"

Smith, ECON 102

"I'll start proving theorems at Theorem 7. Until then we'll just nod knowingly and pretend we know they're true."

VanderBurgh, MATH 148

"We're going to prove that that was correct, but it's still wrong."

McKinnon, MATH 146

"I bought a laser pointer at Staples the other day, so now if you get out of line, I can incinerate you."

Radge, CS 251

"Your program will be trying to calculate $4!$, and it will say 1072593. The best way to solve this problem is to use the `rm *` command."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Windows 95 was 32 times better than Windows 3.1 because 95 is 32 times bigger than 3.1."

Vasiga, CS 241

"So that's what the antiderivative is, the underivative."

VanderBurgh, MATH 148

"I've drawn that very poorly, but I'm sure you can all figure out what I meant. (pause) Especially after I cheat and erase this line."

McKinnon, MATH 146

"If you have a piece of paper with an infinite number of vectors on it, you have a large piece of paper."

McKinnon, MATH 146

"I can't do all that in minus one minutes, so we're done."

McKinnon, MATH 146

"So register #3 takes on the value of $1004 + 0$. Since I hold two math degrees from UW, I can safely tell you that's 1004."

Vasiga, CS 241

"How many of you don't know any web programming? ... Okay, you five can't all be in a group together."

Brown, CS 338

"You go to buy a muffler and they ask you for your address. You say, 'I live on the dark side of the moon.', they generally don't want to sell you a muffler anymore."

Brown, CS 338

"So the tunnel lasts 100 years, and our bridge lasts 50. So, the government might build the bridge and, in 50 years, they say 'Well, people can just swim across.'"

Stollery, Econ 361

International Espionage for Kids

Executive order creates some silly websites

Thanks to an executive order issued by U.S. President Clinton back in 1998, various agencies of the American government are now required to create webpages aimed at children. This becomes amusing when applied to agencies that don't have that much content that appeals to children. Realizing that in this case, reality is far funnier than anything I could possibly write on this subject, I now present you with a tour of the cr?me de la cr?me of the U.S. government's "for kids" websites.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for Kids

<http://www.atf.gov/kids/index.html>

"Potato guns" or "spud guns" generally consist of sections of PVC plastic tubing and fittings and are designed to launch a muzzle-loaded potato (or other similar-size projectile) using hair spray or other aerosol vapor as a propellant. The propellant is ignited by means of a barbecue grill igniter or other similar ignition system." The ATF kids' site's description of how to build a potato gun is followed by a description of exactly which sections of the United States Code regulate the use of potato guns, along with a mention of the fact that if the potato gun is used for purely recreational purposes, then from a legal standpoint, it's not considered to be a weapon. Like the CIA site, this one also features "Truman," a member of the ATF's canine force. (The FBI has a similar emphasis on its canines — I guess doggies are the only things that law enforcement agencies can think of that appeal to children.) By the way, say no to drugs.

Centers for Disease Control for Kids

<http://www.cdc.gov/global/kids.htm>

Want to trade your E. coli 0157:H7 for my Cryptosporidiosis? The CDC features infectious disease trading cards that you can download and print. All kids' favourites are there: Anthrax, Hepatitis B, Hantavirus, Recreational Water Illness — even Avian Flu! Be sure to grab Ebola's rookie card; this up-and-coming star is sure to increase in value!

Bush Declares War On Mad Cow Disease

I ate beef today

This past New Year's Day, U.S. President George W. Bush said his government will take all necessary measures to halt the spread of mad cow disease. "I ate beef today, and will continue to eat beef until mad cow disease is stopped," said Bush.

War expert Dr. Falfurrias speculates that Bush will withdraw troops from Iraq (now that Saddam has been captured) and send them into cattle fields with orders to annihilate any cattle that are too sick or lame to walk. In order to assure the public and U.S. trading partners about the safety of U.S. cattle, Bush vowed that air strikes and submarine raids would only be used if the disease refused to surrender its weapons of mass destruction.

(After this declaration, cattle stocks and futures on the Mercantile Exchange fell dramatically, then Japan, South Korea, and Mexico, the biggest buyers of U.S. beef, banned imports.)

Krease

Food and Drug Administration for Kids

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/default.html>

Thanks to the wonders of image maps, kids can help Mac and Molly inspect a warehouse! Click on the rats to earn ten points and learn that disease-laden vermin are a *bad* thing to have near food. Clicking on a link labeled "All About Animals," I hoped to be introduced to Bess, the lipstick-testing kitty. Unfortunately, my hopes were not to be realized, as the link took my to a page on how to care for pets. Say yes to drugs, but only if they stand up to rigorous, double-blind clinical testing.

Central Intelligence Agency for Kids

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/ciakids/>

First on our tour is the CIA's kids-oriented website. You can meet all eight members of their canine unit, and hear their inspirational stories, told from a first person perspective. "From childhood to adult, I have always been a big German Shepherd," writes Orry, a member of the CIA's canine unit. "I was very shy and ate a lot because I missed my parents and I had no friends. The other dogs made fun of me because I was so heavy." Overweight american preteens can take comfort in the notion that they may one day too become a member of the CIA's canine unit. The site also features a strong "say no to drugs" message, encouraging kids to take the "Junior Intelligence Officer Pledge Against Drugs," which is "a promise your life depends on keeping."

Eigenvector

Marijuana bust kills 25 co-op jobs

A Toronto drug bust has lost UW 25 co-op jobs and has the potential to limit the number of jobs for future co-ops in the marijuana growing business. The jobs lost include jobs for students in arts, science, math, engineering and AHS.

Some students who are about to enter the co-op process were distressed by the news. Marijuana growth operations seemed to be a growing industry for co-op students who were looking for a free ride out to the west coast.

Comments from an anonymous person in the CECS (soft C first, then a hard C) building said it is "disappointing that the students were involved in a potentially legal activity. But the students were able to make the operation more efficient, which is a testament to the Co-operative education system at UW."

Not busted yet

profQUOTES

the epilogue

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

DeVidi, PHIL 359

"Why are you reading Imprint! ...when there's *mathNEWS*?"

O'Donovan, PHYS 115

"If you think of way too many derivatives, everything's just gonna die."

Park, MATH 137

mathNEWSquiz # 1

Hey everyone, your summer squizmasters Craig and Eric are back! For those of you not familiar with the squiz, it's *mathNEWS*'s weekly trivia column. Think you're the master of trivia? Then prove it by submitting your answers to the squiz — either by e-mail at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or by a paper submission to our BLACK BOX on the third floor of the MC. Each week's winner will receive a \$5 gift certificate from the math C&D. Good luck!

Disclaimer: We do not in any way sanction the use of Google or any other internet search engine for the purposes of answering squiz questions. Doing so will irreparably compromise your enjoyment of the squiz. Besides, if you use the internet to answer the squiz, then you're just a loser.

Buildings of the University

1. What is the largest building on campus that is not a residence?
2. What is the oldest building on the south campus?
3. What was built first? Modern Languages or Biology I?
4. What building has the shortest name? The longest?
5. True or False: The Dana Porter Library is sinking.

Famous Last Words

Each of the following quotes is the last line of a movie, book, TV series or song. Identify the source, as well as the person who says the line.

1. I'm going to show them a world without you ... a world without rules and controls, without borders or boundaries. A world ... where anything is possible. Where we go from there ... is a choice I leave to you ...
2. He had won the victory over himself. He loved Big Brother.
3. Five card stud, nothing's wild, and the sky's the limit.
4. I was cured all right.
5. Such a sight as this becomes the field, but here shows much amiss. Go, bid the soldiers shoot.

MathSoc Elections

Answer the following questions about the election of MathSoc's President and Vice President, Activities and Services.

1. When (date and time) can you vote in the election?
2. Who are the candidates for the presidential election?
3. Who are the candidates for the VPAS election?
4. Who won the election?

Bonus: When was the last time the wall in the Mathsoc office was repainted?

A Riddle Limerick

The following is a limerick. Merely tell us how the end of the limerick should be said to get 5 points

A mathematician named Paul

Had a hexahedronical ball

*$w^3 * \pi - 8 = \text{sqrt}(0)$*

Good luck, and happy squizzing!

Your Squizmasters
Eric & Craig

Want to be a Frosh Leader?

Yes, You Do!

If you thought frosh week was fun as a young'en, you'll enjoy it even more as a frosh leader. The Math Orientation Committee has begun recruiting leaders for next September's frosh week. There are several positions available for potential frosh leaders.

- **Leader** - Frosh leaders spend the majority of frosh week with their groups interacting directly with the frosh. They tend to get to know their groups fairly well.
- **IceBreaker** - If you think you would like to run specific events for frosh week, this is the job for you. IceBreakers are attached to a specific frosh group but they spend most of their time running smaller activities at Orientation events.
- **Tie Guard** - In case you've been looking at the ground consistently for the few years, you've noticed that this faculty has some affinity for pink ties and likes to put a massive one of these on the side of the building for frosh week. To prevent the theft/destruction/vandalizing/tar-and-feathering of the tie, we tend to have a couple mathies guard the thing. We call these people Tie Guard.
- **Co-ordinators** - Co-ordinators are people that co-ordinate. More specifically they co-ordinate Orientation events. Even more specifically than that, they plan specific events and ensure that they run smoothly. Co-ordinators do their duties in addition to being either leaders or IceBreakers.
- **Teamsters** - Teamsters drive a van around to get stuff from places to other places.

Applications for these positions are now available outside the MathSoc office (MC 3038) and can be returned to the same location. Once you've submitted an application, be sure to sign up for an interview. The sign-up sheet is currently available on the MathSoc office door.

Ian W. MacKinnon
2004 Math Orientation Director

gridCOMMENTS

Ladies and gents, welcome once again to the last page of *mathNEWS*, to the wonderful world of *gridWORD*, and my insightful thoughts on the matter.

So what is this grid thing, you may ask? Every issue, come here to the last page and try your hand (and mind) at the *gridWORD*. If you think you've got it right, submit it to the BLACK BOX by the C&D, or email it to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. The winners will be awarded for their greatness - just check back next issue to see if you've won!

So that's about it, guys and gals. Just one more thing, and you can go have your fun... *gridQUESTION* for this issue: What is the best purpose a monkey with ninja skills would have for MathSoc?

That's it, boys 'n girls. See you all next issue.

The Girl



Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

1. Honour crew or ship (7)
4. Cap it back on the title (7)
8. Masks cone one time (4)
10. Specific prisoner from Greek isle (7)
12. Nashville houses tree (3)
13. Galvan O'Meter is the current measurer (12)
16. Bind the citrus solid (5)
17. Peg got cracking (3)
19. In you, sages practice (5)
20. Strong soap in pasture (3)
21. Black cuckoo mean images (3)
22. Southern Caribbean island under water (5)
23. Friend left lost when standing (3)
25. Coins sound (5)
27. Farming riga sect in the Russian Mtns (12)
30. In debt even to sweep (3)
32. Sad way natural bloodsucker (8)
33. Turn wacky pins (4)
34. Read beginning except the passage (7)
35. The True Lan is oddly non-partisan (7)

Down

1. Effect below rough terrain (7)
2. Use confounded legal action (3)
3. Picture of my top 'ho' all messed up (5)
4. Hide cash (5)
5. Earlier courses require spite (12)
6. Amid each inspiration (4)
7. New hero in no place (7)
9. The limits of lust in Lucca (8)
11. Kill the mans laughter without malice (12)
14. Grimace, a theorem you got (3)
15. Aura in droplet of water (8)
17. Long fish in proctecting shelter (3)
18. Break alternate grasp (3)
22. Sex with General Electric is stingy (7)
24. Unusal car curve (3)
26. In a disco, loney officer (7)
28. Lifeless confusion without a retin (5)
29. No, I number up combination (5)
31. Enormous poem in celtic (4)
33. It's an unusual perch (3)

Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

1. Colossal
4. Foolish
8. Curved doorway
10. Attribute
12. Time wasting bother

13. Do as I say, not as I do
16. Hello and goodbye
17. Mineral spring
19. Raised strip
20. Born
21. Narrow strip of wood
22. Trunk
23. Have been
25. Leader
27. eg. condom
30. Parts per million
32. Place of trade
33. Hero
34. Follower
35. Not (33) down

Down

1. Air passage
2. Tree
3. Prickly plants
4. 10-13 cm
5. Child doctor
6. Speck
7. Central female character
9. Small closet
11. Study of oceans
14. Tilt
15. Acknowledged
17. Fasten
18. Stupid, obstinate person
22. Painting process
24. (2) down revisited
26. eg. Math, AHS
28. Remove
29. Puberty
31. Note
33. Sick

