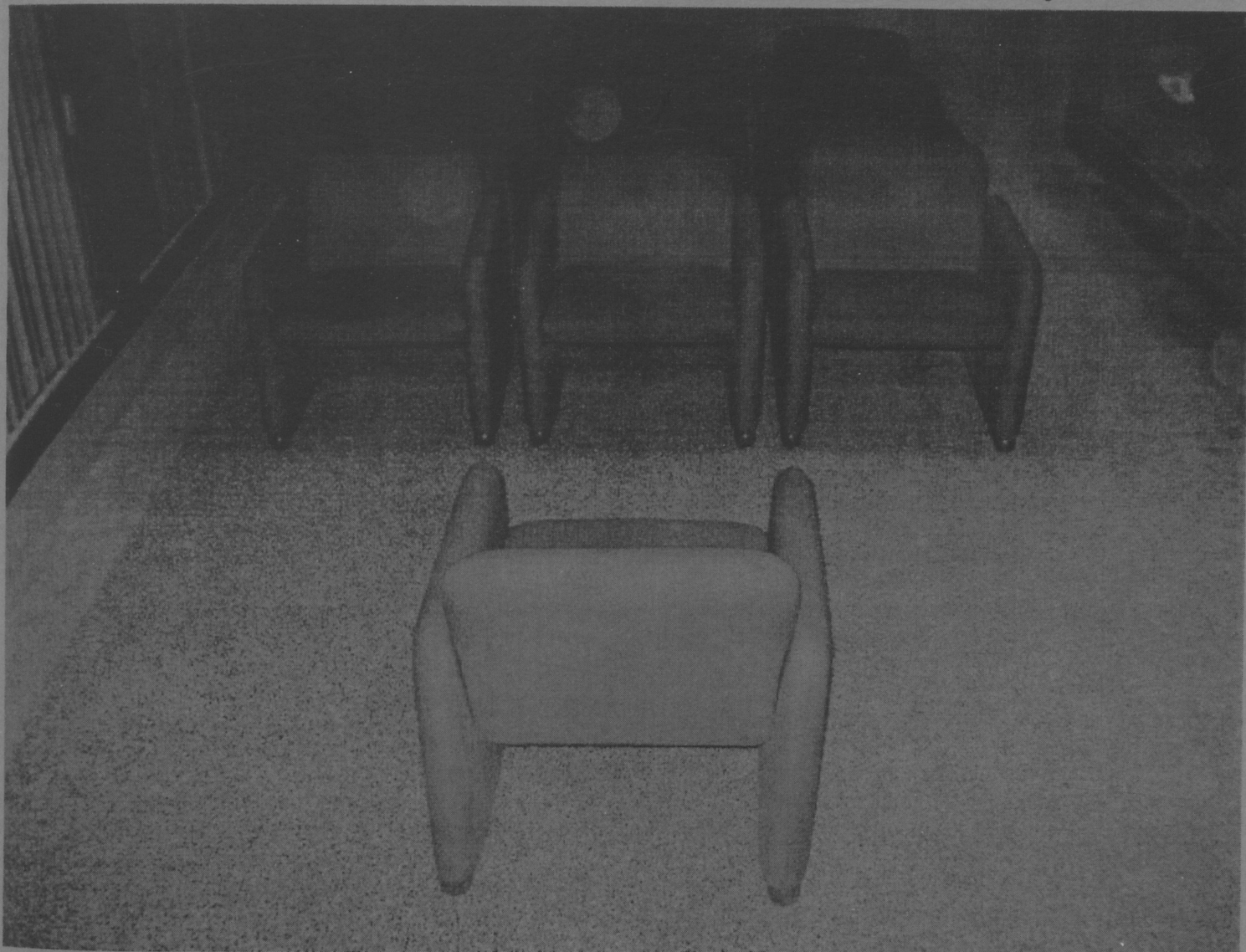


# *math* NEWS

Volume 94, Issue 2

Friday, January 30th, 2003



Maybe if I don't  
move, they won't  
see me...

...or maybe they're my  
backup...damn black and  
white publication...

**Green vs. Red. vs. Blue**  
the *math*NEWS Exclusive Story Inside!

**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

January 30	Issue #2 plays shinny on Columbia
February 9	Issue #3 Production Night
6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)	
February 13	Issue #4 breaks hearts everywhere

**Math Faculty**

February 19-20	Reading "Week"
February 20	Deadline for 50% Tuition Refund

**MathSoc**

Today & Feb 2	First Year At Large election
Today	SCUNT!
Thursdays	Movie Nights

**MGC**

Today	Last day to order a Yearbook
Wednesdays	Pizza Day
Feb 5	Karaoke Night at Silver Spur
Feb 6	Last day to apply for J. Alan George Award
Feb 15	Deadline for MGC Award Application
Feb 16	Brick Brewery Tour
March 5	Math Grad Ball

**Orientation**

Anytime	Apply to be an Orientation Leader
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**Co-op Workshops**

Feb 2	Making Job Fair Work for You
Feb 3	Interview Skills: Selling Your Skills
Feb 4	Job Fair at RIM Park
Feb 5	Are You Prepared to Work Outside Canada?
Feb 11	Letter / Resume Writing
Feb 12	Business Etiquette and Professionalism
Feb 13	RANKING DAY!

**HELP NEEDED!**

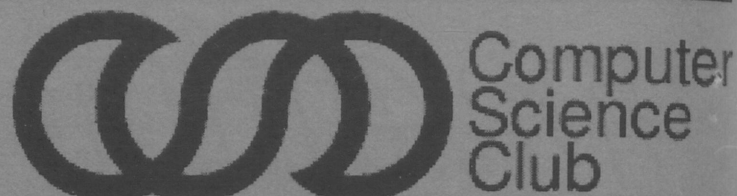
*You can help, and likely get more free food!*

Calling all writers, editors, web designers, web programmers, and help type people to help create a new Math Handbook and improve the *mathNEWS* system. If you are interested in writing information about Math, editing it, laying it out on the web or the page, or creating a system so all this can take place, e-mail me at [amjoconn@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:amjoconn@uwaterloo.ca) right away!

Albert O'Connor

**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. The editor(s): Chris Harasemchuk & Louis Mastorakos



**Computer  
Science  
Club**

A Student Chapter of the ACM

**CSC Flash***Elections*

The CSC elections were held last week with the following results:

- President: Julie Lavoie
- Vice-President: Fil Spacek
- Secretary: Stefanus Du Toit
- Treasurer: Lalit Jain

*Upcoming talks*

- Freedom for Hardware Too! — James A. Morrison

James A. Morrison

**ActSci Club Open For Business**

The ActSci Club has officially opened for regular business for the Winter 2004 term.

This term marks the 13<sup>th</sup> year since the creation of this club. We have many things to celebrate, being one of the best actuarial programs across Canada. Our newest project "UW Connection" is a mentoring program, which will serve to provide motivated students with one-on-one, email-based mentoring relationships with UW students/graduates from both industry and academia. We call it "UW Connection" because we believe that this program will create a bond between UW students that's stronger than ever.

If you would like to become a member and subscribe to our mailing list, please come by the office during our office hours and one of our helpful representatives will be there to assist you. If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved, please email us at [asclub@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:asclub@uwaterloo.ca).

Jenny & Xiao Xiao  
Co-Presidents, ActSci Club

**Careers in Math and CS Alumnae Panel**

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

*4:30 - 5:30 pm in MC 5136*

Meet graduates of the Faculty who will speak about their careers in Math and CS. ALL students are welcome. Refreshments provided.

Sponsored by WIM  
Patricia L. Cunningham

***mathNEWS* Production Night for  
Issue #3 starts at 6:30 pm  
February 9, in MC 3038  
\*FREE PIZZA\***



## Prez Sayz

### *Pi in the Sky*

Well, it's already a month into the term and it seems as though it started only yesterday. As always, there is much going on in the society, faculty and all over campus. One of the things we are looking at is continuing to improve the furniture and atmosphere of the Comfy Lounge and C&D Lounge. Our lounge space is a service utilized by many students throughout the course of each week and we feel it is important to continue to maintain and upgrade the facilities.

By the time this is picked up, I'll have been in office for less than two weeks and already I've begun to understand the daunting task that the job is. However, I wouldn't trade it for anything. Well, except maybe for being back tutoring CS 133 again; I had some really awesome students.

As president, most of the stuff I do is fairly boring, like going to meetings and working on policies. Occasionally something interesting shows up. Like today, I got an e-mail from someone telling me the MathSoc website came up #32 in a search for "ever quest porn" and wondering if they can link to our website from theirs. Are you confused? Me too. The first question that came to mind was "Why are you searching for everquest porn?" the second was "How did you *not* realize there was no everquest porn on our website?"

Well, if you've gotten this far, I've taken up enough of your time. If you have any questions, or any issues you think MathSoc should be aware of, please feel free to stop by my office during my office hours (posted on the door of MC 3039), or e-mail me at prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Lino Demasi  
MathSoc President

## What is an EngScunt?

An EngScunt, or a Havenger Scunt or a Scavenger Hunt is a great way to kill 24 hours, meet new people, get free food, stimulate the mind, and invigorate the body.

What occurs during an EngScunt, you ask?

- It all starts out with opening ceremonies, held by the gods (organizers), somewhere in the heart of the engineer jungle.
- Then there are events, ranging from frisbee, and capture the flag, to slumber parties and name that tune.
- There are awesome amounts of acquisition lists that are awe-inspiring
- And complex trivia that isn't entirely Google-able
- There are house visits where we bribe, entertain, feed and otherwise co-erce the gods into proclaiming us ultimate champions of the universe
- There are road trips that range from getting to know the Kitchener-Waterloo area, to as far away as exotic Sudbury, Montreal or even Smiths Falls.

The next one starts TODAY (Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004) at noon. The math team will be meeting around 11:45 a.m. to set-up for opening ceremonies. As per usual, our headquarters will be in the comfy lounge over the duration of the 24-hour scunt, so drop in, check it out, and see how you can have a blast!

If you've gotten this far, feel free to check out [scunt.org](http://scunt.org) for more information.

Eric & Erika  
Math EngScunt Team Co-captains.

## How to be a Frosh Leader

### *In three easy steps*

Do you wish you could do frosh week again? Are you looking for a way to get more involved? Do you believe that David Dodge should have lowered interest rates only 15 instead of 25 basis points? If your answer is 'YES' to any of these questions, you should sign up to be a Math Orientation Leader. It can be done in three easy steps.

1. **Fill out an Application Form** - Orientation Leader applications are now available outside the MathSoc Office (MC 3038). You can also go the non-amish route and go to <http://www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca> and fill out an application online.
2. **Hand in Your Application Form** - Once you've filled out your application form, you can submit it to the (occasionally) friendly office worker in the MathSoc office, they'll be sure it gets to the Orientation Directors. If you filled out the application online, this step can be achieved by pressing the 'submit' button at the bottom of the application.
3. **Sign up for an Interview** - On the MathSoc office door there are sign-ups for interviews. These interviews happen next week and probably for the next couple of weeks. If the signup form is full, or not there, be sure to check the door of the MathSoc office periodically for updates.

Wow, didn't you think that the Frosh Leader application process would involve more intense activities like, say, bull-fighting? Well, you were wrong, it's as easy as pi.

Ian W. MacKinnon  
2004 Orientation Director

## MathSoc Movie Nights

Nothing to do on a Thursday night? Fear not, I have the answer for you!

Every Thursday two movies are played for a low price of two dollars! Where is this miraculous offer being held, you may ask? Right here, in our very own MC, room 2066. So come on out, 7/9pm weekly and witness the goodness for yourself. Coming soon, to the MC near you - Couples night - 2 for \$3 (Feb. 12) - just in time for you to take your Valentine out.

Movies Director W04

## The Heap and the Stack

The following is a simple proposal to rename both the stack and the heap in order to aid in the learning of how these regions of memory interact. I propose that we rename the heap to the fan, and the stack to the shit. By renaming them it will allow those hapless CS 241 students to remember what happens when you forget to pop the stack. Saying the stack and the heap have collided don't quite get across the same message as saying that the shit has hit the fan, which is exactly what happens when the stack and the heap mix, why not just make it easier for all those unknowing students?

DanS

## MathSoc Council Welcomes New Executives, Councillors

### Election update

Shortly after the polling period ended on January 16<sup>th</sup>, the results of the elections for MathSoc President and Vice President, Activities and Services (VPAS) were announced — Lino Demasi was elected as President and Soo Go as VPAS.

"I'm looking forward to continuing my representation of and service to students in the math faculty," commented the victorious Lino. Shortly after the election was ratified, both he and Soo began working on the operation of MathSoc.

"Busy, busy, busy!" is how Soo described things since the election. She has considered applications for many Math Society directorships, and appointed the directors who will help her run the day-to-day operations of the society.

Also joining the executive team is Joscelyn Kleingeld, as the Vice President, Finances (VPF). She was acclaimed to the position, as she was the only candidate to be nominated.

A number of new Councillors recently joined Council as well. The election of eleven first-year class representatives was recently ratified, as well as the acclamations of various upper-year plan-specific representatives. A list of all representatives, as well as their contact information, is available online at <http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/resources.php>

Another Council position that is yet unfilled is that of **First Year At Large representative**. Elections for this position will be held Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> (that's **TODAY**) and Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The candidates in this election are Ahwaz Aftab Chagani, Alex Korotin, Kaitlyn Holman and Stephanie Simmons. All first-year math students can vote in this election by presenting their Watcards at the polling station on the third floor of the MC during the polling hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### On The Bubble

Despite being plugged as woefully inefficient and impractical, an informal study has shown that, compared to certain other sorting algorithms, BubbleSort is actually the most efficient way to sort pseudo-randomly generated integers.

This study, which may or may not consist of a program done in Turing 4.0, tracked the time taken for chosen sorting algorithms to sort a randomized list of 250 integers. Try as they may, no other algorithm stood a chance against BubbleSort's awesome presence.

BubbleSort's  $O(n^2)$  reign of terror began when it pulverized RandomSort (randomize the order, check if it's sorted. If not, randomize again). Similarly, RandomLinearSort, RandomSelectionSort, and RandomBubbleHybrid fell in its wake.

Detractors of BubbleSort were quick to point out that it was the only non-random algorithm in the study, but one supporter put their jealousy in perspective. "If this was biased for BubbleSort, why would we choose algorithms that beat it in the best case?"

Fresh off its victory, BubbleSort did note that it was moving up in the world. "This is definitely a victory I can be proud of," it stated. "Maybe one day I'll take on an opponent that doesn't need a seed to work."

A:dos

**Vote or Don't Vote  
Whatever is your preference.  
Now THAT's a total lack of bias**

### Funding for Mathie EngScunt team

On January 20, Council approved the expenditure of \$149.99 to fund a Math team entry in the Engineering Havenger Scunt (EngScunt). The event starts Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> (again, that's **TODAY**) at noon and lasts 24 hours. Erika Harrison and Eric Logan are the team co-captains.

The money provided by MathSoc will pay for expenses such as the team entry fee and standard scunt activities such as the house visits (in which our team will entertain the event organizers) and road trips. Erika commented on the value of this expenditure. "The scunts are well-attended by mathies, as the diversity of the event allows for everyone to find something they love to do," she said. "The EngScunts are excellent opportunities to expend vast amounts of energy, or unused brain power, and to get to know new people from both the Math and Engineering faculties."

Opening ceremonies for the event are today at noon. Math students who want to participate can visit the Math team headquarters in the Comfy Lounge to find out how to participate in various aspects of the Scunt — acquisitions, trivia questions and hourly events.

### New appointment to C&D management board

At its January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Council selected Albert O'Connor as its appointee to the C&D Management Board. Albert will join President Lino Demasi and Vice President Joscelyn Kleingeld as the three math students who sit on this committee, which oversees the operation of the Math Society's coffee and doughnut shop (C&D).

Albert commented that he would like the board to gather student input on the future of the C&D. "The direction of the C&D should be decided upon through student consultation, and be managed by Rita [the C&D manager] and the Society," he said. "I think I can start this process by my position on the board."

Students who wish to provide input to the C&D management board can e-mail Albert at [amjoconn@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:amjoconn@uwaterloo.ca), or contact MathSoc President Lino ([prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)) or MathSoc VPF Joscelyn ([vpf@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpf@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)).

Craig Sloss

### Top Ten Sorting Algorithms Worse Than Bubble Sort

1. Random/Shotgun Sort - while not sorted randomize list
2. Destruction Sort - replace data with new sorted data
3. Slacker Sort - Doesn't actually switch entries just compares them
4. Paradigm Sort - Creates new number system where list is sorted
5. Poorly Implemented Bubble Sort - Like bubble sort, just not as good.
6. Hit & Miss Sort - only switches entries half the time
7. Time Sort - wait for cosmic radiation to sort the data
8. Artsie Sort - let an arts student come up with a sorting algorithm. Bubble Sort is better.
9.  $O(n^3)$  Sort - We're not quite sure how it works, but it's  $O(n^3)$
10. Quick Sort - Think about it, they have the same worst case, and Bubble has a better best case

DanS, A:dos, Sheep Nine



## Attention Grads of 2003

Our final winter term is quickly moving along and there is a lot happening with your Grad Committee. Here is the information you need to be informed.

### Yearbooks

Today is the last day to order a yearbook. Yearbooks are \$35 and are filled with valuable memories of your time here at UW. Yearbooks will be on sale from 10:30 am till 2:30 pm at the table across from the Math C&D.

### Grad Ball

Math Grad Ball will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Tickets are currently on sale now until Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. They are on sale on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of MC across from the C&D. Tickets are \$40 per person, 8 people to a table. This may seem like a lot of money but think of what you get for that \$40: 3 course meal, wine, photos, a small gift and endless memories. This is the last chance as undergrads to have a formal party with you fellow grads. There will be a DJ and songs can be requested at the time of ticket purchase as well as at Grad Ball. This is your celebration ... you don't want to miss out!!

### J. Alan George Award

Nominations for the J. Alan George Award are now available in the MGC office (MC 3029). The J. Alan George Award is awarded to the grad who best satisfies the following criteria:

1. Enhanced the profile of the Math faculty on campus.
2. Fostered communication between students, faculty, staff, and administration university-wide.
3. Contributed to the social aspects of the Math faculty.
4. Improved the academic environment of the Math faculty.
5. Showed an ongoing effort in university-wide activities and groups.

Applications are due Feb. 6, 2004 by 4:30 pm

### J. Alan George Award Selection Committee

Selection Committee Nomination forms are now available in the MGC Office (MC 3029). The selection committee is made up of 4 students (1 — stream 4, 1 — stream 8, 1 — regular, 1 — MGC representative) as well as 4 faculty members. If you are graduating in 2004 then you can apply to sit on the committee that selects that recipient of the J. Alan George Award. Selection Committee forms are due Feb 6th, 2004 at 4:30 pm.

Tyler Slijboom

The Mr. T of the Math Grad Committee (I pity da foo')

## Winter 2004 EngScunt

The Math Team Wants  
**YOU**

to participate in EngScunt  
**TODAY**

For those who can make it to opening ceremonies, drop by the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor around 11:45am. Otherwise, the math team will be setting up headquarters in the comfy lounge shortly thereafter (eg. around 1pm) for the remaining 24 hours. Feel free to drop by **WHENEVER**. Just check out all the cool things that are happening during it (maybe even get some free food at the house visit).

For more info, see [www.scunt.org](http://www.scunt.org).

## MGC Social Event Update

Due to the overwhelming throngs \*snicker\* of attendees at the last MGC social event (Movies and Family Guy) held in MC2066 on Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup> it has come to attention of the social events co-ordinator that YOU a student graduating from Math in 2004 might have some ideas regarding events you wish to see happen in your final term at Waterloo. If you have any ideas please send them to [mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca).

Upcoming events:

### Karaoke Night at the Silver Spur

Thursday February 5th 2004

- Prizes will be given to anyone courageous enough to sing
- Prize for the BEST performer
- Prize for the performer with the best attitude ;)

### Brick Brewery Tour

Wednesday February 16th 2004 7:00-9:00 (AKA: Day before Reading Weekend)

- 65 Spots, Graduating Students will be given priority
- Transportation to the brewery and back to the school
- A tour of the facility
- Reception after the tour includes samples, coffee, tea, and Morty's wings and other snacks

If you would like to purchase tickets for the brewery tour e-mail [mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca), remember, only 65 spots available and graduating students get priority.

Craig D'Amelio  
MGC Social Director

## We Want To Give You \$500!!!

*Yes it's true!*

Are you in your second to last year of study (most likely third year)? Then you may be eligible to receive one of the at least three awards, valued at minimum \$500 each.

The MGC Award was established by the Graduating Class of 2001. This award is to recognize students who will be entering their final year of study in an Honours Math program and have demonstrated leadership and involvement in the community while maintaining at least a 70% cumulative academic average. The awards are being presented for the first time this year.

So if you are the 3A Activeness And Academic Acrobat, the 3B Boombastic Baron(ness) of Bountiful Terms, or the 3C Caring and Creative Crazy Person, fill out an application!

Nomination forms are available in the MGC office (MC 3029) or outside the MathSoc office (MC 3038). Instructions are on the form as to what is needed to apply. Applications are to be submitted to the student awards office in NEEDLES HALL.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Thank you and have a nice day,

Tyler Slijboom - Math Grad Committee Chair

### Math Grad Committee 2004

Office: MC 3029

Tel.: (519) 888-4567 x6659

Email: [mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca)

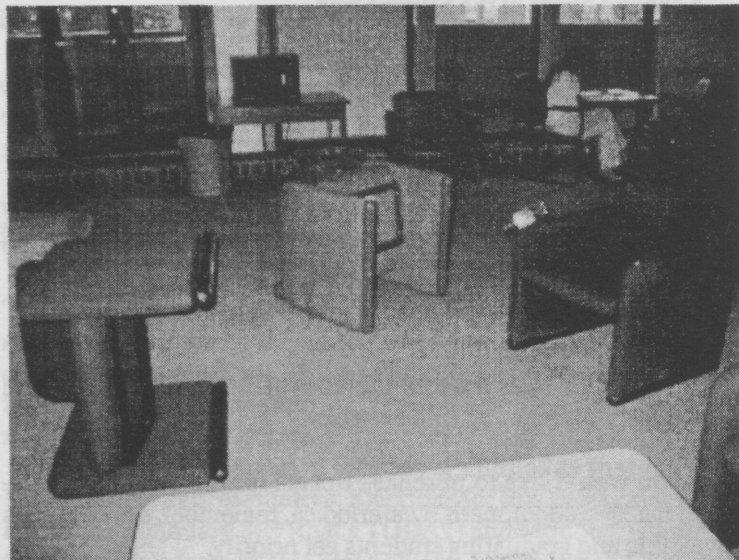
URL: <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc>



## Green vs. Red vs. Blue

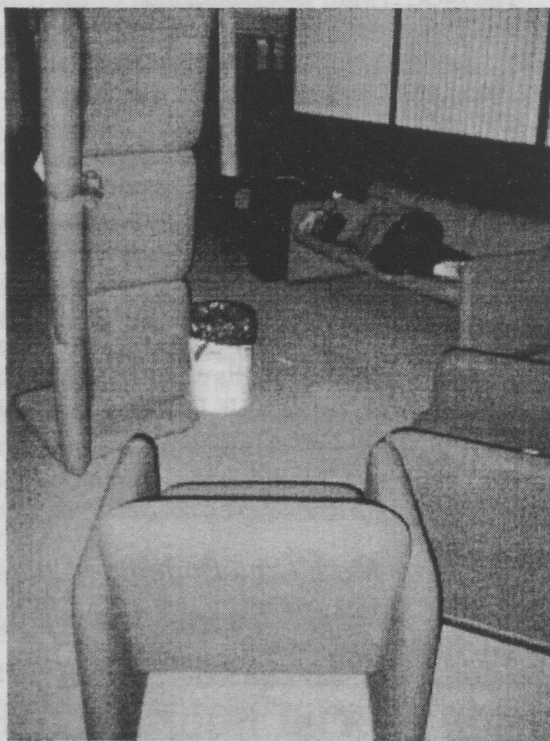
### The Battle For the Comfy Lounge

The normally tranquil Comfy Lounge erupted into violence last night when the Red Chairs attempted a hostile takeover of the area. The home of the Green Chairs since 1995, and the peace-loving Blue Chairs since 1998, the Comfy Lounge has been a hotbed of potential conflict since the recent arrival of the belligerent Red Chairs. War was inevitable.



At 11:35 p.m. last night, the inevitable occurred. One of the Red Chairs, now known as the infamous "Rogue Rouge," triggered the conflict by engaging in a brutal, unprovoked massacre against Green and Blue. His weapon, a CO<sub>2</sub>-powered AKoke-47, was one of many readily available in the Comfy Lounge at street prices as low as \$1.75. *mathNEWS* immediately sent in war correspondents Chris Harasemchuk and Craig Sloss.

Green immediately mobilized their Mammoth Couches to meet the Red threat. Although also only armed with a single AKoke-47, their advantage is their intimidating size. In this startling photograph, one of the Mammoth Couches reared up on its hind legs, causing the Red troops to halt in their tracks. The Green Army quickly gained an upper hand through the efforts of these courageous chesterfields.



In response, Red created a new, elite army consisting of modern genetically engineered clones. Manipulating the Red Chairs' DNA using radiation from the Comfy Lounge's rich microwave deposit, the New Red were designed to be sleeker, stronger and softer than the average Red Chair. The New Red quickly took over all operations of the Red Chairs' war efforts.

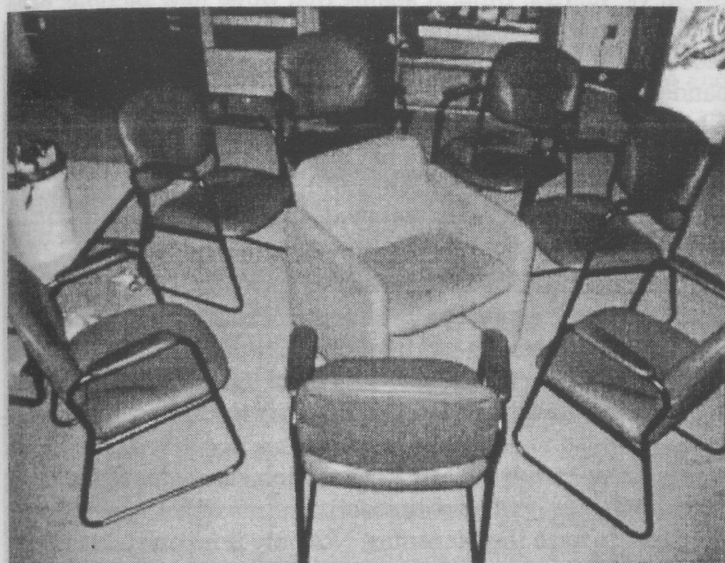


The New Red were unleashed like an (insert meteorological metaphor here) on the battlefield, attacking not only the Green and Blue, as instructed, but also their Red predecessors as well. The New Red proved to be more ferocious than anything before encountered in the Comfy Lounge, even the dreaded 7/7 Lord of the Pit, with trample.

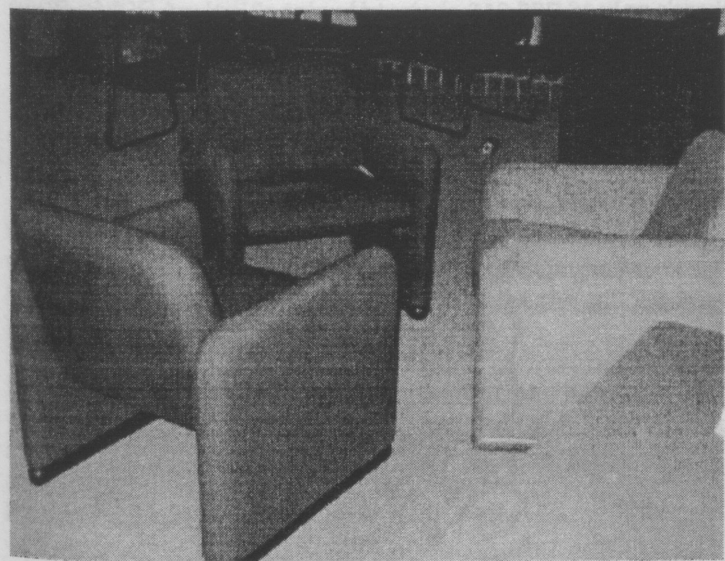


## Green vs. Red vs. Blue

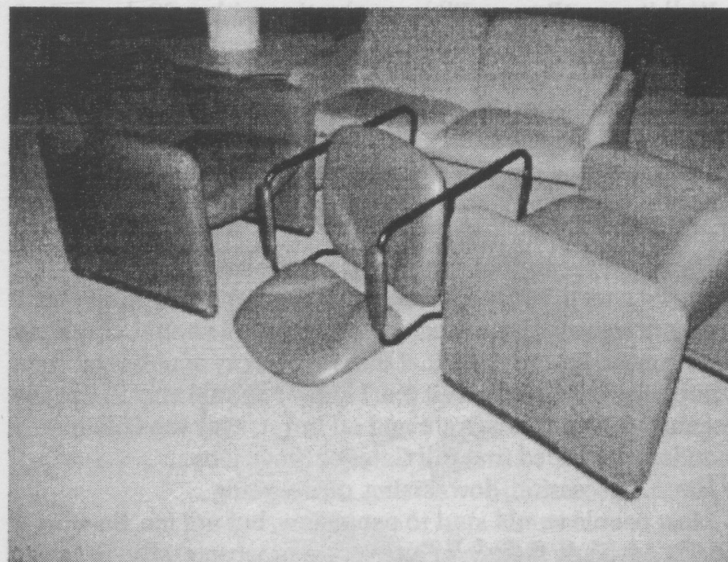
*The Battle Continues*



The New Red developed into a cult, worshipping the microwave that gave them life. They began travelling in packs, capturing members of the Old Red in an attempt to convert to the new ways them by beating the stuffing out of them. A minority of Tall Chairs was officially deemed to be an affront to the new god, and were exiled to the neighbouring C&D lounge. Despite the religious overtones of this phenomenon, it is widely believed among members of the Old Red that it is in fact a cover for a more sinister purpose — namely, the elimination of political opponents of the New Red regime.



In order to preserve their freedom, the leaders of the Old Red met with their Green and Blue counterparts in a last-ditch attempt to defeat the New Red and throw off the yoke of slavery. As *mathNEWS* correspondents, we could not be happier with this development, as in our black-and-white publication, we couldn't tell the sides apart anyway.



Faced with the combined might of the Green, Blue and Old Red, the New Red was able to offer little resistance. Losing much ground and fearing expulsion from the Comfy Lounge, the New Red soon surrendered and agreed to share the Comfy Lounge on equal terms with all chairs — well, except for those freaky Tall Chairs that got sent to the C&D. Peace has at last returned to the Comfy Lounge.



Unfortunately, war is not without its casualties, even among the innocent bystanders. My fellow correspondent and dear friend Chris Harasemchuk was caught in the crossfire of a Green-Red skirmish, and was pinned to the field of battle by a Green loveseat. I tell you, you don't really know war until you've watched a friend being brutally overrun by a herd of stampeding furniture. I... I... *sniff* I'm sorry, I just can't go on... YOU BASTARD ASS-SUPPORTERS! What did he ever do to you???

Chris Harasemchuk and Craig Sloss  
On location in the Comfy Lounge

*Voice of reason:*

*"Even if we win, we'll just have another fort in a cramped and smelly room...Woop-dee-fuckin doo!"*



## Reflections of a Soon To Be Graduate

Well its my 4B term; I'll be graduating with a CS degree in 3 short months. I entered this 6th floor lab about 4-5 years ago and I think its about time now I came out, took a break to reacquaint myself with the Real World and reap the rewards of my grueling hard work and seclusion.

I wonder how my JDS Uniphase stock are doing. I bought a whole bunch before starting university. I bet I don't have to worry about retirement anymore...

Hmm... it seems that I've lost all my life savings.

Oh well not to worry...I'm sure I can make all that money back with my signing bonus once I start work... I should check my phone messages. I'm sure that there are plenty of messages from companies trying to recruit me. I know I should stay in Canada because of that Brain Drain and all but its way too cold here. I wonder who called first Bill Gates or Steve Jobs...

Hmm... recession, downsizing, outsourcing...

Most people would start to panic now, but not me. So what if I don't have any money, or any future prospects, at least I have love. I'm getting married to this girl who I met in my class. I met her after saving her life from a bunch of goons. Her parents didn't like me, so we had to run away to the gardens of Switzerland to dance, and then come back to get married.

Hmm... wait a minute, it seems that I was remembering a Bollywood movie. Apparently there never were any girls in my class, and all girls think CS students are nerds and annoying.

Well at least I have my health...right?

Oh no! Where did my toes go? Oh no! Where did this belly come from? You mean typing in front of a computer doesn't burn calories??

Aaaaaaah! Well there must be some silver lining somewhere! These 5 years of all-nighters with JLEX, Nachos, Fox and Geese, SpyMaster, IP Phones, must have been worth something!

Hmm... Umm... Ahh... (thinking)

"Just about graduated" Faraz

## Yellow vs. Cyan vs. Magenta

Further developments have just been reported in the battle of Green vs. Red vs. Blue. It seems that three new factions have vied for domination on the battlefield. These factions, called the secondaries, each contain members of opposing sides that have banded together for their common man.

Members of the Red and Green factions have joined forces to become the Yellow faction. They support such ideals as creature beatdown and direct damage, and have a penchant for mountains and forests. Also, April O'Neal is doing the PR for their side. The old one. Not that crappy new version.

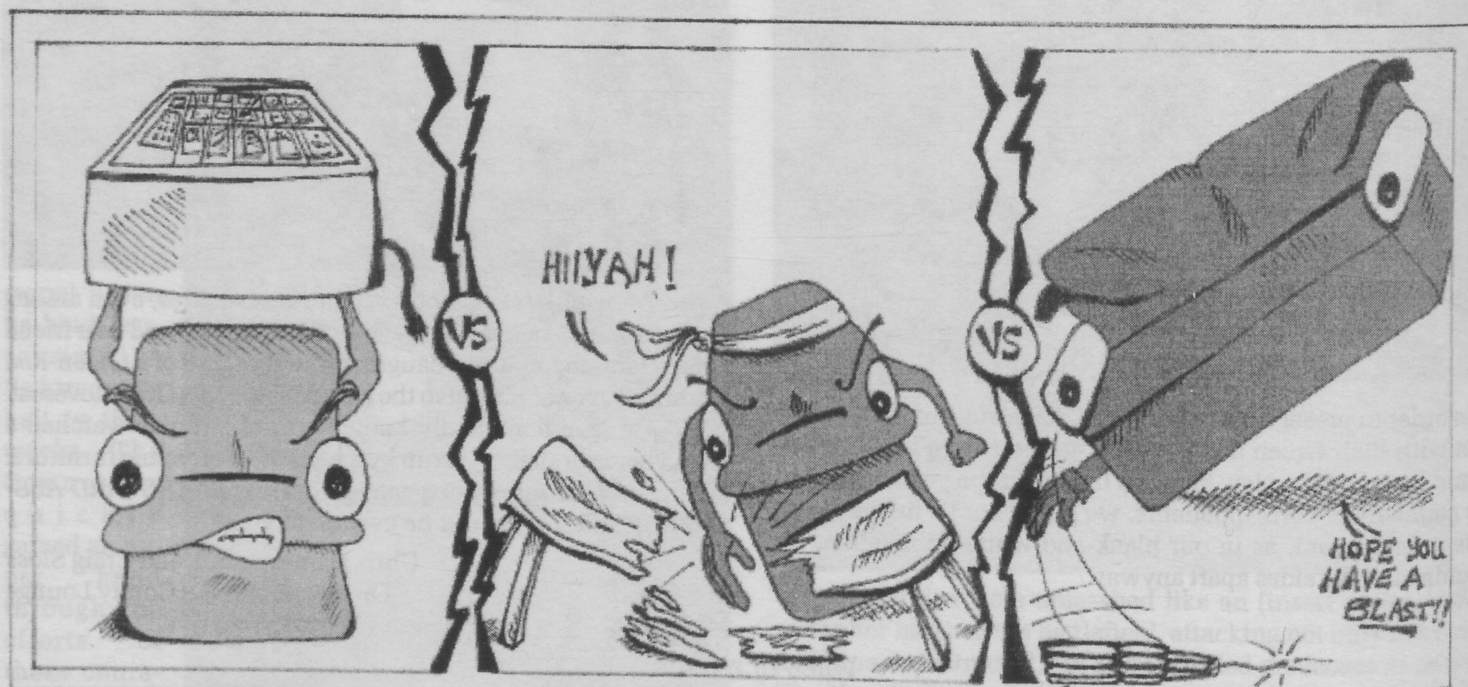
Other openminded Green warriors have made camp with the Blue forces to become the Cyan force. Though they claim to be fighting for democracy and freedom, in reality their real motives of conquering the world, leeching all of its resources, and leaving the planet to scour the universe of life is really very transparent.

Some Blue forces are appalled at their comrades teaming up with the Greens, and have thus joined arms with their enemies, the Reds, to form the Magentas. Not only is no one taking them seriously for wearing pink armor, but fights have recently broken out in the camps over soldiers complaining that it's too hot while others complain it's too cold.

Those warriors that are weary of the war have banded together to form the White peace corps. So far their quest has been going very badly, as members of the black ops have been actively hunting them down. These black ops consist of the most depraved members of the armies that have chosen to break away and kill everyone they find, even their own team.

Army analysts claim that before this is over, the armies will have broken down into 16,777,208 other groups. Seeing as how there's only 16,777,216 chairs to begin with, they predict a giant, sprawling battle royale by the time the war is over. For those of you taking bets, they're giving favorable odds to (233, 105, 67). They claim that that particular faction "just sort of wants it more."

Sheep Nine



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## Pink Tie Pledge 2004

### What is the Pink Tie Pledge?

The Pink Tie Pledge is part of the UW Grad Class Challenge, in which the graduating class of each faculty is challenged to donate money to help make UW a better place for current and future students.

The Pink Tie Pledge is our opportunity to leave an indelible mark on Math. Many UW alumni have contributed to the quality of our education at Waterloo. Let's do the same for the students who will follow.

### Why should you participate?

You may be wondering why you should give more of your money to the University. Well, here are a few reasons:

#### Your donation will go directly to students

Unlike your tuition fees, your donation goes directly to helping students, and you get to decide exactly how it will be used. (So don't worry, you won't be paying to renovate the Dean's office. Unless, of course that's how you want your donation to be used!)

The most common choices are:

- **Descartes Scholarship Endowment:** to reward the achievements of talented incoming students, and help attract them to the University of Waterloo.
- **The Math Endowment Fund:** to fund academic improvements for the benefit of undergraduates.
- **The Math Tutorial Centre:** for providing individual assistance to first and second year students.
- **The MGC Award:** to recognize students who have improved student life in the faculty.

You may also direct your donation to other groups/projects on campus, such as a club that you were involved with.

#### Protect the value of your degree

Over the past few years, we have all seen the effects of underfunding. Due to government cutbacks, the faculty is becoming increasingly dependent on alumni donations to fund upgrades of teaching equipment and to assist the scholarship program.

Many of you were attracted to UW Math because of its excellent reputation. As grads, it is important that we help keep the programs strong and uphold the reputation of the faculty so that a BMath degree continues to be highly respected, especially by employers.

#### Don't pay a cent until May 2005!

Like me, you probably are too broke to donate to the faculty right now. But if you make a pledge, your contributions won't begin until one year after graduation (May 2005) and are spread over three years. Plus, you will receive a tax credit for your donation.

#### Prizes and other free stuff!

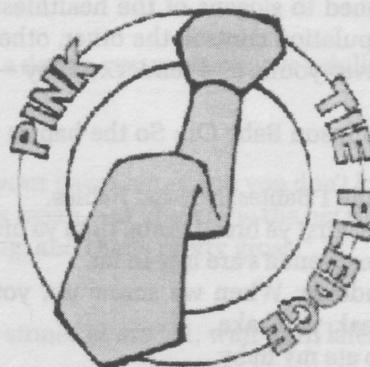
As a thank you to those who pledge, we will be holding draws for great prizes, including Grad Ball tickets, yearbooks, and gift certificates! The first draw will happen on **Wednesday, February 18th**, so be sure to get your pledge in by then.

There are also other perks for making a pledge, depending on the amount. (Visit the website for more information.)

### Pledge levels

There are four standard pledge levels, or you can choose your own amount.

- **The Deans Challenge:**  
Year 1 - \$104 Year 2 - \$900 Year 3 - \$1000



## GRAD CLASS CHALLENGE

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

The Dean of Mathematics is personally offering a challenge to each graduate to donate a total of \$2004 over 3 years. Sure this sounds like a lot of money, but we pay more than that in tuition every term. This time you have *three years* to pay!

- **$\pi$  Pledge:** \$10 $\pi$  per month for three years
- **The Ralph Stanton Pledge:** \$20.04 per month for three years
- **The Dean's Prime Number Club:** \$151 per year for three years.

Remember, no matter what size donation you make, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have made a good investment in the faculty.

### How to make a pledge

Simply fill out the pledge card included in this issue, and return it to the MGC office (MC 3029).

There is also an online pledge form on the website: [www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/ptp/](http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/ptp/)

### The goal

The 2004 goal has been set at **\$80,000**. We have already raised over \$10,000, but need as many pledges as possible in order to make it all the way!

Please make your mark. The total amount pledged will be displayed on a chart outside the Math C&D. Watch the pledge drive heat up!

For more information, visit the Pink Tie Pledge website at [www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/ptp/](http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/ptp/), or e-mail me at [ptp@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ptp@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

### Pizza served by the Dean!

Be sure to come to MGC pizza day on **Wednesday, February 4th**, when Alan George, Dean of Mathematics, will be serving pizza to help kick off the 2004 Pink Tie Pledge Campaign!

Yolanda Dorrington  
Pink Tie Pledge 2004 Director

## Babies are Tasty

There have been some great meat slogans over the years: "Where's the beef" from Wendy's, "Stop Testing on Animals and Start Eating Them" from the EAT an Animal for PETA day campaign (I'm not making this up), "Pork, the other white meat," "Beef, it's what's for dinner," "I feel like chicken tonight." But what ever happened to slogans of the healthiest of all foods, Nature's own population control, the other, other white meat, that's right, the ever young and tender... Baby — it's what for dinner.

- Johnson & Johnson Baby Oil: So the babies won't stick to the grill.
- Certified Grade 1 Babies: No Mad Babies.
- Shake'n'Bake: First ya breed them, then ya bread them.
- Lean Quisine: Premie's are low in fat.
- Trojan's Condoms: When we screw up, you get dessert. When we break, you bake.
- CECS: Co-op ate my Baby.
- McDonalds: Kids Happy Meals aren't just for kids, they are kids.
- Gerber's Baby Food: Our new flavour is cannibalicious.
- Pizza Pizza: Nine months or its free.
- Jello: There's always room for B-A-B-Y
- Blood Services: Baby, it was in you to give.
- M&M's: Melt in your mouth, not your uterus.
- Pullups: Mommy wow, I'm a baked kid now.
- C.O.R.: Babies, they're kosherrific.
- Smarties: When you eat your babies do you eat the red ones last?
- Kodak: Share a meal, share a life.
- VIA Rail: People eating people.
- East Side Mario's: A taste of really little Italy, Ay Budda Boom Budda Baby.

- Buckley's: It tastes awful, but it squirms.
- Mr. Christie: Mrs. Christie, you make good babies.
- Teenagers, I can't believe it's not baby.
- Transformers: Babies in disguise.
- Secret: Strong enough for a man, made from a woman.
- Lays: Bet you can't eat just one.
- Pringles: Once you pop you just can't stop.
- Timex: Takes a lickin', keeps on kickin'.
- KitKat: Give me a break, give me a break, break me off a piece of that baby.
- Chunky Soup: The child that eats like a meal.
- Santa Claus used to bring presents to children, now he brings children as presents.
- EA Baby: It's in the mouth.
- Dofasco: Our company is steel, our product is baby.
- Reeses: There's no wrong way to eat a baby.
- Virginia Slims: You've come a long way baby (just to end up in my mouth).
- Arby's: Satisfy your grownup taste.
- Pizza Hut: Baby stuffed crust.
- Oreo: How do you eat your baby?

Not worrying about angry letters cause babies can't write.

All your babies are belong to us.

Baby eaters feel pain too (like hunger pains).

rlogin bacon? No, rlogin baby.

For bonus points identify the 4 slogans that are unchanged, for extra bonus points, determine what the points are for.

GetInMyMouth@hotmail.com because IEatBabies@hotmail.com was already taken, as was BabiesAreTasty@hotmail.com — wow, there are some really sick bastards out there.

## How Mathies Reproduce

### A Physicist's Thesis

Two weeks ago, Keslen wrote an article complaining that the Male:Female ratio in math was 3:1 (If he thinks that's bad, let it be known that my class has exactly *one* girl in it.) My own troubles aside, that begs the question, "How do Mathies Reproduce?" Well, last week, I think I may have found the answer.

I had half an hour until class, and I needed to sit somewhere to touch up my assignment. I decided the only place I could go was The Infamous Comfy. So I walked in, and the place was almost full. I didn't know anyone, so I sat at the lone abandoned table. That is to say, I *almost* sat at the table, until I looked at the chairs.

"Eww, they're all covered with cream coloured spots!" I thought to myself. I pulled up a clean, friendly plastic chair, and set to work. That is, I *tried* to start my work...

There was this one group in the corner, having a particularly loud conversation about their adventures with condoms. (If this seems familiar, and you were in the comfy at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, yes, I *am* talking about you.) "You turn the condom inside out, stick a banana in there, work it, work it, work it... work it, work it, and then you put it on the door-knob!" Laughter followed.

I decided to stop and take a look around - Keslen was right, there were very few girls. And of all the girls I could see, they were sitting quietly studying or reading. I also spotted one guy sleeping on one of the couches (gross.) And then it hit me - I know how mathies reproduce.

I call it the "Comfy Orgy Intercourse, with Taboo Unprotected Sex" theory, or COITUS for short. You see, that guy who was sleeping in the Comfy was obviously exhausted from the orgy the night before. And all those quiet, studious girls - you know what they say about quiet people, right? (Well, someone does, because that expression keeps getting used.) And the guys in the corner - they obviously don't know how to use contraceptives properly.

Let's leave the spots on the couches out of this.

Anyway, if you've never heard of this, maybe the other mathies don't invite you. Or, maybe it just seems to ME as if mathies reproduce this way, and only the comfy regulars do. I'm on to you. And next time a mathie tells me they're going to the Comfy for a "Settlers Tournament", I'll know what they actually mean.

It's a plausible theory, right?



## profQUOTES

"When I proposed to my wife, I told her: 'You're as beautiful as the exponential function!'"

Metzger, STAT 340

"We don't have slaves anymore, we only have TAs."

Deklerk, C&O 350

"The answer is  $2b^2$  ... modulo my arithmetic, which is quite bizarre sometimes."

Collins, AM 231

"If you do not use pair programming for these assignments, YOU WILL SUFFER!!!"

Pretti, CS 133

"I thought it would be a great irony if I died by gravy on my foot rather than in my arteries."

Reimer, RS 100k

"Don't call me unless something really really bad happened, i.e. you died."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Let me pretend to be an engineer for a second so I can prove it by example."

Vasiga, CS 241

"It turns out that this assumption has the teeny tiny flaw that it is always wrong."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I can tell a computer what to do in other ways, some involving my fist and a sledgehammer."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I think that's the first time I've ever been introduced with 'He should be dead by now.'"

Alfred Aho, Guest Lecturer

"We have  $0 = 6$ , which doesn't work for most values of 0 and 6."

Oldford, MATH 136

"Does anyone know the significance of the  $Li_2$  molecule? They're the lithium crystals in the Starship Enterprise!"

Power, CHEM 129

"Back when I was in school, we were told that kissing was a mortal sin and we'd go straight to hell. I think times have changed since then."

Musynski, SOC 200

"You are merely a clog in the wheel! Clog? Cog? Clog? Cog! Don't clog the wheel."

Vasiga, CS 241

"Every worker who was squashed by a machine was replaced."

Smith, ECON 102

"Don't laugh at those in the US for being dumb. We need them to be dumb and employed!"

Smith, ECON 102

"You're Canadian, you celebrate victory only on ice!"

Smith, ECON 102

"I check my stock portfolio before coming to class to see if I should be happy or not."

Smith, ECON 102

"If I give you a dollar, you must receive a dollar, unless one of us is an idiot."

Smith, Econ 102

"You look at your paycheque, and you don't know what all those abbreviations mean, but you know the net thing is smaller than the gross thing, and that's pretty gross!"

Smith, ECON 102

"Don't throw stones at me yet, wait until later."

Smith, ECON 102

"Our dollar goes up relative to theirs, theirs goes down relative to ours. You can understand that if you took a counting course. Not an accounting course, a counting course. If you missed grades one through six, you might not understand this."

Smith, ECON 102

"In Paris, a city devoted to fine food, you will find a McDonald's! How it survives I'll never know."

Smith, ECON 102

"George Bush's policy: 'I can't count and I'm proud of it!'"

Smith, ECON 102

"I'll have to have my TA stand there and every five minutes hold up a sign reading 'WRITE THIS DOWN.'"

Smith, ECON 102

"When I hear the term housewife, I can't avoid getting the image of a woman standing in a church saying 'I take this house as my lawfully wedded...'"

Smith, ECON 102

"You want the stupid solution to be the only one."

McKinnon, MATH 146

"For those of you who didn't care about that, go ahead and continue not to care, your mark will not suffer."

McKinnon, MATH 146

"That's what I was groping for last class!"

McKinnon, MATH 146

"This is the C-section of the course where we give birth to a compiler."

Vasiga, CS 241

"'I was once a zapalach' is not a valid English sentence."

Vasiga, CS 241

" $2\pi/6$  does not equal  $\pi/6$  unless  $3=6$ , which it doesn't because it's Wednesday."

Vanderberg, MATH 148

**profQUOTES - Yes, there's more**

- "It's not EFFing Finite!"  
Vasiga, CS 241
- "Sometimes it's fun to just assume things are true and then pretend that they really are."  
Vanderberg, MATH 148
- "If you say the word union, expect the answer to be wrong."  
Lawrence, PMATH 346
- "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
- "If you try to use l'Hopital's rule in the multivariate calculus, you will end up in l'hospital."  
Collins, MATH 237
- "One of the things you must ask when designing a database is ask yourself 'Why do I need a database?' And you must ignore the fact that you get marks for it, because that's not a good reason."  
Brown, CS 338
- "Okay. Get close to her! You are intimate with her!" [Class laughs]  
"Wait...let me rephrase that. You KNOW about nuclear war."  
Brown, CS 338
- "We won't call it sex. That can be confusing. Yeah, sex can be confusing."  
Brown, CS 338
- "I am doing things wrong deliberately here...this is unusual."  
New, MATH 138
- Someone in this class will be a multimillionaire in ten years...just remember who taught you.  
Bishop, SE 141
- "China... how do I say this delicately... is well covered by my spies."  
Smith, ECON 102
- "You're like Pavlov's dog. If I wave a dollar bill in front of your face, you will smile."  
Smith, ECON 102
- "Now, I know it's Friday and you're all on drugs, but I don't solve linear equations on a Friday after noon."  
Best, MATH 136
- "This is the standard notation for isomorphism. I think it's standard. I mean, I use it."  
Lawrence, PM 346
- "We [Actuaries] are a dark and morbid people."  
Hardy, ACTSCI 331
- "My wife gets really mad because I come home late at night and start integrating."  
Metzger, STAT 340
- "Some of you might not have seen this in a year. I haven't seen it in ten years... maybe thirty years for any other prof in this department."  
Metzger, STAT 340
- "Psychiatrists tell me I'm okay, but I don't believe them."  
Metzger, STAT 340
- "I tell you, sometimes it isn't a good idea to take a drink of alcohol before coming into class. [referring to self]"  
Metzger, STAT 340
- "Have you taken a vow of chastity ... or poverty? Which would you prefer?"  
Panjer, ACTSCI 363
- [trips for second time] "Anybody sell insurance here?"  
Ennis, Psych 101
- "Little Suzie, don't worry about that poor mark, you're just stupid."  
Ennis, Psych 101
- "The origin is Memphis — I don't know what the analogue in Tennessee is for the x and y axes."  
McKinnon, PMATH 464
- [Writes a theorem on the board] "Let me say a word about this."  
[Pauses] "'Later' is the word I will say."  
McKinnon, PMATH 464
- "'ord' is short for 'order.' Whoopee!"  
McKinnon, PMATH 464
- "It's probably displaying the plots on some server in Afghanistan."  
David Brown, CS 338
- "When I talk about a plain website, I mean there are no dancing elephants. There are no annoying pop-up ads that offer you medicines that do strange things to your body."  
David Brown, CS 338
- "So, stand up and wave...[girl in the back corner stands and waves her hand]...you're with her group. She is your lord and master."  
David Brown, CS 338
- "We're very lucky all these people have 2 arms. If they only had one, this example wouldn't work."  
David Brown, CS 338

Wow, we've been getting a lot of *profQUOTES* lately (I'm almost afraid to ask for more...keep them coming - email them to us at [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca), or drop them off in the BLACK BOX between the Comfy Lounge and the C&D.



# HorrorScopes

*It Defintely Makes No Sense*

We rearrange the stars in the sky and try not to break anything.

## ACC

Your tuition is late. Instead of paying it, bring a "Get Out of Jail Free Card" from your monopoly box and convince the drones at Needles Hall that it's a free pass for your current study term.

After you're done with the card, pass it on to CS. Their tuition is pretty high too.

Your lucky number is \$0.

## ACTSCI

Start your own fortune telling agency in the MC, no psychic abilities necessary! All you have to do is to calculate the decay rates of relationships in Math. You'll have brisk business with endless clientele who are just dying to know when their significant other is going to expect them to pop the question... or dump them.

SCI will catch wind of your venture. Charge them double.

Your lucky number is \$20/fortune.

## AM

You feel you can do a better and faster job than NASA at sending people to the moon and Mars. Resist the urge, however, to send monkeys into space as test subjects, for they are too smart and cunning. Instead, advertise a free "once-in-a-lifetime" vacation on the Brock campus.

You may need a getaway vehicle. You will be unstoppable if you have honed your GTA skills and borrowed ENG's Midnight Sun VII.

Your lucky number is 1 test subject.

## BBA/BMath

You grow tiresome of tedious assignments from your business courses. Hire a lackey to do your bidding, and pay him in pencil shavings. Use your marketing skills to convince the lackey that pencil shavings are accepted as legal tender in all major supermarkets, just like food stamps!

AHS are gullible. Make them your first priority.

Your lucky number is 1 pencil.

## C&O

No matter what your peers tell you, discussing network flows in a bar setting is NOT an effective way of picking up. Conversations on the Peterson graph or the 4-colour theorem are also not suggested dinner date topics.

Go to Remedial Picking-Up 101. You may find STAT there as well.

Your lucky number is a 4-hour class.

## CS

Your anticipation for the World of Warcraft BETA has spilled onto the streets. To speed things up, you may want to consider marching a mass mob, armed with copies of Everquest, and demand the immediate release of the beta or the mob will subscribe, en masse, to Sony Online Entertainment.

BBA/BMath knows to be militant. Conscript their service.

Your lucky number is 500meg ISO file.

## MATHBUS

Your uncontrollable urge for pain has manifested itself in the gym. You must, however, make it very clear to PAC regulars that you're there to work out, and not there as a bench towel.

Take UNDECLARED with you. They have experience at not being particularly anything.

Your lucky number is a 5-hour workout.

## Operations Research

Your desire to join your friends in Realtime will see you breaking into the train lab late at night, pretending to be a train conductor.

When you are being hauled away, belligerently claim that you're there to meet C&O for the midnight train.

Your lucky number is 1 count of indictable break-and-enter

## PMATH

You found a practical use for Pure Math this week. It's the second coming of Christ.

MATHBUS sells end-of-the-world insurance. It'll be a good investment.

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

## SOFTENG

You've reached the breaking point of monotony. The fact that you are contained in a single classroom all day is making you insane. Instead of going on a rampage, go on a Martha Stewart rampage and decorate your room with some nice curtains and puffy pillowcases. You'll be surprised how simple touches can brighten up a drabby classroom.

C&O can make Petersen Graph throw pillows. It's a good thing.

Your lucky number is 5 fewer depression-related self-inflicted wounds.

## STAT

Your significant other tells you that she has increased her sample size and now knows the true average size. Fear Statistics.

Consult Bob Dole for the little blue pill.

Your lucky number is an average of 8 inches.

## UNDECLARED

You are undeclared, unmarried, unattached, uncaring, united nations, unruly, and unpasteurized. Complete the set and get undressed!

PMATH is just like you, completely unknowing of what the hell they are.

Your lucky number is untwelve.

## ARTS

You finally figure out the rumours of magic apples growing on invisible trees in the DC are completely false. You continue your search for the three headed unicorn grazing in the fields of the DWE toilets.

Invite UNDECLARED to join your search. It's not like either of you have any work to do.

Your lucky number is 48, like your admissions requirement.

## ENG

Your extra six courses you have to complete your co-op degree makes you angry. Show them what professionalism is like when you turn into a large green monster and rampage through CECS.

ACC will run in fear. Take their ledger books.

Your lucky number is ENGINEER SMASH!

## SCI

People like skating, so you will oblige. "Misappropriate" a few canisters of liquid nitrogen and turn the Columbia Ice Fields in actual fields of ice.

Find some cute figure skaters to do triple axles to test your new ice field. I suggest checking AHS.

Your lucky number is 6.0.

Amadaeus and Snuggles

## Mysteries of the MC

### The Natural Log

**What it is:** The Natural Log is a half wood, half plastic symbol of the Math Society (the "lamination" occurred when it was left, accidentally, in the men's washroom for a number of years).

**Origins:** In the early 1600's, while Descartes (the mathematician, not the server, or exam), was campaigning with the Bavarian army in Bohemia, he ate a soup of oak seedlings, as dared by some of his fellow soldiers. Time passed, as did the seeds, and nurtured by the excrements of such a great mathematician, one of the seedlings grew tall and strong, mysteriously developing perfect fractal branching.

In 1969, when Bohemia was integrated into the Czech Socialist Republic, Thomas Hopper, a lover of mathematics and a distant relation to the notorious tech genius, Grace Hopper, discovered this perfect, then-300-year-old tree. Of course, at the time, he was a wanted criminal, and was being hunted by the KGB. To keep a long story short, he chopped down the tree, and used it to float out of the country, and escape into freedom.

As a sign of remembrance to the tree that had saved him from certain death, Thomas carved the definition of the natural log into the tree, and pushed it out towards the Atlantic Ocean. The tree, not wanting to be eaten by sharks, but feeling unwelcome in Europe, made its way over to North America, and down the St. Lawrence into the Toronto harbour.

There it was discovered by a group of UW mathies, who were on a road trip to Toronto for the first-ever EngScunt. They decided to bring the tree back with them to impress, if not the scunt gods, then at the very least, the rest of the math team. Unable to bring the entire tree with them (as it wouldn't fit in their 4-seater beetle), the students reduced the tree to the 1.5m that it is today, and further engraved "math" onto the side of it.

The log was then left accidentally in the comfy lounge, and forgotten, only to be discovered by a lone mathie, while he was postulating about a new theory he had. (The theory, still to be published, will hopefully earn the anonymous mathie millions of dollars in grants, fame among his peers, and some action.) As a thanks to the society that he had abused photocopying from, he donated the natural log to it.

**Now-a-days:** The Natural Log travels a fair bit. Often brought along on MGC pub crawls, and frequently stolen by those evil cretinous Engineering students, the Log seems to never rest. Urban legend has it that the log presently rests in the remains of the mysterious Red Room, that is supposed to have held back-up records to the American secret service during the cold war.

~ Platypi

## Oui Knead Prufreederz

U kan sea, oui knead prufreederz two ficks are payper. Are mane consern iz four are prufreeder, they're ownly won. Their ovur werked. Additicionally, oui hear, our ouful spellirz. Oui knead you to cum oot to are produckion knights two reed are artickles ovur two ficks are payper. Butt, u muss bee aware ov sum consikuenes ov yore ackions. U wil sea y peple ov y oui desided two goe intwo mathematiks insted ov sumthing lse. Bee fourwarned. Iff u cum oot two produckion knights, u wil yurn two mame and butchur are artickles.

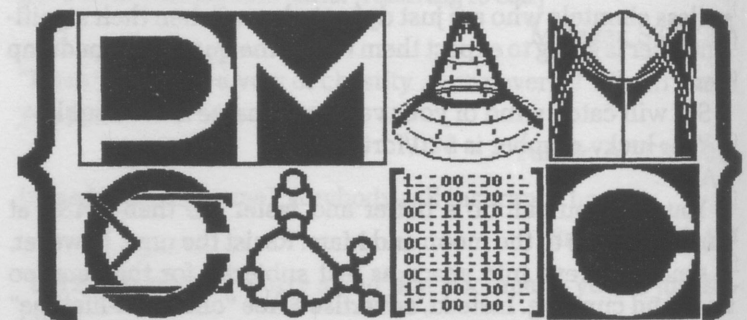
Sinseerly,  
Adamn Feelicks

## Short Attention Span Math Seminars

### Call for Speakers

Are you delighted by derivatives? Astounded by algebra? Bored by bijections? Are you in math because you think it's cool and interesting? Then share your love of math at the Short Attention Span Math Seminars (SASMS).

The SASMS are an event held each term by the Pure Math, Applied Math and Combinatorics and Optimization Club (PMAMC&OC). They are a series of short (i.e. 20–25 minute talks) given by math students on a variety of topics, and directed at undergraduates of all levels. This term, the talks will be held the evenings of Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.



If you're interested in giving a talk, then send an e-mail to [pmclub@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pmclub@student.math.uwaterloo.ca). You'll be put on a list of potential speakers, and will receive more information as we approach the date of the talks.

If you can't think of a topic but still want to give a talk, then send us an e-mail anyway — you've still got two months to think of a topic. Some suggestions of where you can find topics include:

- talking about a cool book you read (there are lots you can look at in the PMAMC&OC office)
- presenting a talk that you gave in a class
- summarizing a paper you've read
- talking about your favourite branch of mathematics — why is it your favourite?

If you have any questions about the SASMS, you can also direct them to the e-mail address above.

Craig Sloss, Steve Corkey, Lalit Jain  
PMAMC&OC Ministers of SASMS

## Bacon and Lassar

### In the tune of *Badger Badger*

Bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon  
bacon bacon LASSAR LASSAR

A Bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon  
bacon bacon LASSAR LASSAR

A Bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon  
bacon bacon LASSAR LASSAR

A Bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon bacon  
bacon bacon A CRASH A CRASH... Ooooooo... A CRASH.

[Check out <http://www.badgerbadgerbadger.com> to understand the madness. It's another silly Flash cartoon. — KreasEd]



## Frosh Cornered

### Attack of the Killer Muffin

With all of this talk of Green vs. Red vs. Blue, we have all missed a key element of our survival. We need not worry about the battle of the comfy chairs, we all know that eventually the tall tables will conquer all anyway. Our concern must with the diabolical, unstoppable force of the muffin!

While the force of the comfy chairs has only three variations to threaten us, the overwhelming force of the muffin has an almost infinite variety to draw from: bran, oatmeal, raisin, chocolate chip, blueberry, raspberry, cream filled, not to mention any different kinds of dough or combinations of the above. Trying to list all variations of the muffin threat would be futile.

I have taken it upon myself to help the people (particularly the frosh, as I am the cornered frosh) to defend against the muffin threat. However, what I can do is limited; I cannot hope to outline every possible variation, but I will try my best.

First, the most common of the muffin population: the nefarious chocolate chip. The reason why this muffin is the most common is the incredibly complicated method of destroying it. There is no muffin more difficult to kill. First, you must meticulously remove the wrapper from the bottom of it. But use caution, one false move, one flinch of any finger would bring certain doom. You must not allow the muffin to gain the upper hand!

After the chocolate chip muffin has been stripped of its defensive lining, you must take paramount precaution in what follows. While there is a slim possibility that the muffin may not yet be aware of you, it will most certainly sense its nakedness, and it's instincts will spur. If the muffin is not yet aware of you, it most certainly will be after you take the next step required to vanquish it. You must deftly remove the secondary defensive layer from the muffin — the crust. Every muffin has this on its crown — it is the hard layer that protects the soft, pillowy insides from harm. It cannot be removed all at once, but rather must be torn away, strip by strip. Be especially cautious while removing the upper most layer, as it will not come off with any of the strips, and since it must be removed last, the muffin will no doubt be aware of you and ready to strike back.

If the muffin has not destroyed you by this point, you should now see before you the true form of the muffin, void of all outward appearances. It is a beautiful sight, but do not let it fool you, the evil of the muffin is unsurpassed. You must especially beware the venomous excretion. Through every pore of every muffin flows vile, oozing zapalach. Do not let its sweet taste fool you, if you ingest even a microletre of this substance, you will be dead within the hour. It is also not unknown for zapalach to seep its way in through your skin, so be doubly caution when handling muffins after their shell is removed. Now for the next step, the most critical of all!

The muffin must be destroyed at all costs! If left unchecked the evil would sweep through the known universe, converting all it comes across to its ways. There is only one known method that will truly rid the world of the nefarious muffin. For thousands of years muffins reigned free on this world. Swords would not kill them, fire only made them stronger. Even when they were incinerated beyond recognition, they grew back; their numbers

increased, each member stronger than all that came before it. It was not until the heroic Franda Dugal found their weakness in 1432BC that the evil finally subsided. But it would never be completely eradicated.

The only way to destroy a muffin is to ingest it whole, but this is not a task to be taken on lightly. One missing crumb would spell your doom. The zapalach sees to it. However, unknown to most, the muffin also carries within itself the antidote to the very poison that kills its enemies. The best theories as to the reasoning behind this antidote is so the muffin itself is not snuffed out by the very essence that protects it. However, the antidote exists in very small portions within the muffin, and any less than all of it will be insufficient to save a human life.

So be swift, and do not delay! Given enough time, the zapalach would wipe your existence from our realm if not blocked by the antidote. Persevere, and you shall be victorious! Other muffins can be defeated in the same manner, but none is so deadly as the chocolate chip. It is up to you, you are the only one who can bring peace to our realm. You must eradicate the muffin population.

And now I have said enough. *[Finally! I was beginning to wonder if you were channelling the original Cornered Frosh and the pounds of ink required to print his articles. — KreasEd]* The zapalach will take me soon. Yes, I attempted to eradicate the muffin population from the earth, but I was foolish. In my confidence I neglected to feast on every last crumb of the muffin, and the resulting lack of antidote in my system was enough to allow the zapalach to take me. I am thankful I was able to get this message out to you in time. May you have more success than I.

Keslen

Cornered Frosh v3.0

## HorrorScopes mail/BAG

### Dear HorrorScopes

I like reading horrorscopes, but why do you always leave out bioinf and CM? Respect ALL math programs!

Andrew L

Dear BioInfo/CM double major,

Thank you for your letter. I would like to say that I forgot, but the reality is that the Horrorscope stars, also known as the halogen lighting in our labs, only showed me the horrorscopes published. I can't just make them up as I go along.

Certain... accomodations... can be made to persuade the stars to be a little forthcoming. These accomodations may include:

- A can of Schweppes Cream Soda
- A person who can recite Pi, backwards
- My own personal source of inspiration, preferably female
- Conclusive proof that STAT231 is completely and utterly useless
- Pocky. Any EDIBLE flavour
- An iRiver iHP-120

These accomodations should be made available to the Horrorscope god(s) next mathNEWS production night, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Amadaeus

*I don't want to throw up, I'm an alcoholic. There's a million beers at Beers R Us that I can go drink!*



## Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Says, but Simon was in a car accident involving only himself and the car, no trees, no barriers, no other cars... explain. It's a smack-your-head version of the locked room murder mystery. Oh, and did I mention it happened to me (I'm fine, although the car was not, so you're allowed to laugh at my misfortune without feeling bad). Hey everybody, it's been a while since I've written one of these (the Snuggles Issue aside), a basic summary of what I've done in the past while is take Graphics last winter, do nothing and be very happy about it in the Summer (although I did convocate, 'visit' camp for a total of eleven days and attend a friend's wedding (resulting in more amusing references comparing me to a certain messiah)), run for election in the Fall, then disappear off the face of the planet (well, actually I was in Costa Rica for my sister's wedding).

I'm so independent I get into car accidents with myself. You see, I was driving home from the airport when I realized I had run out of windshield washer fluid, my first thought was "I can make it", then I realized I was on the 407 and I couldn't see, so I decided I couldn't make it and pulled over. After filling the tank with my blue fluid (ummmm... no comment), I closed the hood (for future reference we suspect the latch broke at this point). Flash forward 2 minutes and I'm going 120 in the middle lane of the 407 with someone annoying me by being in my right hand blindspot. This was the point where the latch decided that it was happier blowing in the wind than holding my hood down, this was most unfortunate, and this is where my hood slammed into my windshield, smashing it, and reducing my visibility to looking at my hood which was wedged up to directly in front of my face. I took my foot of the pedals (better then slamming on the brakes and having the hood hit me again) and made my way over to the shoulder (after looking through the bottom inch of my windshield where I could see past my hood to make sure the bastard in my blindspot made it past me. Amusingly when I called CAA their first response was "Didn't you call two days ago" (no, that was my sister, with a flat tire).

Will Hamilton is running in the FedS elections, this is the same person who caused the live goat at a forum last year. I wanted to get photoshopping (reliving the happy Team Photo Evidence days... \*wave to Sana'a\*) and have Will's head on a goat with one of his ticket-mate's milking him and another as Little Bo Peep. Unfortunately it seems much easier to find pictures of goats then pictures of candidates due to the suckiness of time matching between the FedS election and *mathNEWS* (the next issue comes out after the vote, this one was produced before the campaign period). I'm not sure if the picture I did do up made it in, but we'll see. Go out, get educated, vote, feel free to ask me what I think (although what I think is Vote Becky/John/Jeff, go team yellow... oh man, I so want them to dress up like chickens for a forum, but I don't think that'll happen, I'd settle for Big Bird...)

I managed to scare myself the other day, my roommate was saying something and mentioned Thai Prostitutes (that in and of itself is not that unusual, and was probably encouraged by my Bangkok T-shirt... hehehehe, bangkok...), except what I heard was Tie Prostitutes, and my vivid imagination went spinning about the illicit Pink-Tie Prostitute ring, about the unexplained income MathSoc would suddenly start generating, about the escort service possibilities for Charity Ball (never mind the selling of people that did actually happen there, er, perfectly above the board, and yet so much badness potential), about the mathSOC

socks being worn as they should be (think about that one).

Costa Rican money is funny. There's just something about hearing the phrase "Do you have change for a ten-thousand" that makes me giggle (which is almost as good as a town called Nottawa, which makes me squeel with glee). And there's the fact that the money is called Colones, which is pronounced very similar to Cahone (which caused an amusing mistake on my part). And finally the funniest part of it all is what the equivalent to a penny is, one Colon (this being worth less a third of a Canadian penny), so I have a Colon in my pocket, and every so often I ask people if they want to see my colon (this goes over better if they're not strangers on the street), and it gives me something to hold up and admire when I'm missing a semi-colon in my code (cause a colon has to be worth at least two of those little things that we all invariably miss at one time or another).

Well, that's it for me for now, if you want to see more Snuggles Sez this term I could always use encouragement/entertainment, email works (and now you don't have to figure out how to misspell my name, snuggles@alumni now gets to me) as does the occasional snuggle.

Bachelor Snuggles

## My Little Theory of Inheritance

*Genetic, not in CS*

Most people wonder at one point in their lives: why, oh, why am I in some aspects like my parents, and in others you would think we are from different planets? Well, the way I like to think of it is using a little analogy.

So, let's start with a "base" couple. Say this man has blonde hair, and the woman has black hair. Now, say they have a child. This child, I claim, will be entirely composed of a mixture of the mother and father's genes. Let's examine a specific quality the child will inherit, namely hair colour. Let's pretend the child has black hair, like the mother. Here is my claim: these genes can be looked at like code. The black hair is the actual code that is executed, while the blonde hair is the commented out code (it's there, but is never executed). So, the child inherits both the mother and father's genes, although only one of the two is visible.

Now, we repeat the cycle. The base couple's child (let's pretend the child was female) is all grown up, and she has a child of her own. Now, let's say the father has brown hair, and the commented out part of his hair colour gene is red. Say the kid has red hair. One may wonder: where, oh, where, did this child get red hair from when his parents have black and brown hair? Well, my claim is that the child inherited the father's comment as his code. Also, say the child's commented out portion of his hair colour gene is brown. He inherited his fathers code as his comment. So, yes, a child can inherit both the comment and code from a single parent, or one from each. So, if you examine all the possible genes a child could inherit, my claim is that my theory explains why some qualities in a child come from the father, some from the mother, and some from apparently out of nowhere.

Naturally, one may wonder: where, oh, where did this lunatic come up with this stuff? Does she have any concrete proof for her crazy babbles? Well, actually, I do...not. I'm pretty much pulling it all out of my ass. Or brain. Whichever makes me look smarter.

Lil\_Duck



## Orientation Week 2004

Sign up Today!

www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca

# Math Frosh Week

## Applications Now Available



Applications and Interview Sign-up  
Available Outside MathSoc Office

## Microsoft on Lookout for Copyright Infringement

*Mike Rowe loses control of his website*

The Canadian Press recently reported that the Microsoft corporation has threatened legal action against seventeen-year-old Mike Rowe. Rowe's crime was little more than to incorporate his own name into the domain for his website — [www.mikerowesoft.com](http://www.mikerowesoft.com). The problem, of course, is that Rowe's website and the corporation's name have the same pronunciation.

A legal battle loomed on the horizon after Rowe rejected Microsoft's initial offer of \$10 to stop using [mikerowesoft.com](http://mikerowesoft.com). (A \$10 offer? It's nice to see they take Rowe so seriously. Did they think they were paying him a week's allowance or something? I'm surprised they didn't throw in car privileges as well.) The two eventually reached a settlement, which involves Rowe using a new name for his website. Now that Mike Rowe isn't able to use a website name based on his own name, one wonders if Microsoft's zeal for protecting its trademark will extend further.

Given the wide array of Microsoft products and their associated trademarks, just imagine how often these copyrights are infringed upon. You may do it without realizing it. Windows, Office, Word, and a host of other Microsoft trademarks are carelessly abused day after day, causing great damage to Microsoft's reputation. By making an effort as individuals, we can end this injustice against this noble multinational corporation. Watch as I effortlessly describe a typical day, without infringing on

Microsoft's rights:

*Today I went to my fifth-floor, uh, working-room so that I can hold a working-room hour for the course I'm TA'ing. Since it's early in the afternoon, I sit near the win—er, glass-covered wall-hole so that I can enjoy the sun shining through. Picking up a copy of the newspaper, I turn to the... um, outer sheet to read the top news stories of the day. Because the newsprint is slightly smudged, I can't make out all the wor— Oh BLOODY HELL — collections-of-letters-into-units-of-meaning. After my working-room hour is over, I go out for lunch with a friend. I end up having to pay royalties to Microsoft, because I asked my friend, "where do you want to go today?"*

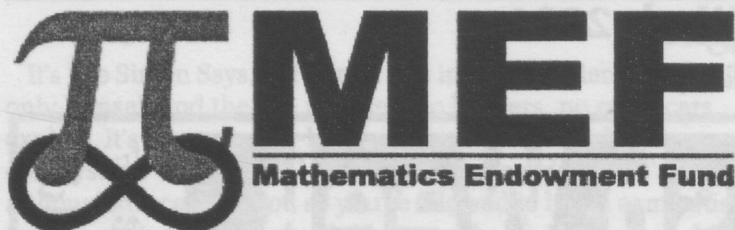
See? It's as easy as that! I suggest you start a habit of avoiding Microsoft trademarks in your speech, as it will likely save you thousands of dollars in royalties and fines in the long run.

Craig Sloss

## Bunnies and Seals

Bunnies are red,  
Seals are blue,  
Penguins aren't green,  
Green loses!

The Bunny Master



## Money, money, money, MONEY!

The Math Endowment Fund has over \$50,000 to spend on academic projects this term.

If you want a piece of this sweet pie, consider submitting a proposal. Application forms are available from [www.mef.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca), and are due by **March 5, 2003**.

MEF also has funding available for students who want to participate in conferences, workshops, and other professional development activities. Applications for this are also due **March 5, 2003**.

If you want to have a say in how the money is used, sign up for a spot on **MEF funding council**. The time commitment is fairly small, and you even get free food! Nomination forms are available on the MEF website, and are due by **Friday, February 27th**.

Finally, if you have an idea for how MEF can help improve your education (for example, if you are taking a course that requires new equipment, or improved course notes), send me an e-mail at [mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca), or drop by the MEF office, MC 4046, during my office hour (Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 pm).

Yolanda Dorrington

Math Endowment Fund Director

E-mail: [mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca)

Web: [www.mef.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca)

## mastHEAD

### How much can you eat?

I hope you all enjoyed the snow day we had on Tuesday; I spent it negotiating with my internet connection to let me put together *mathNEWS* from home. Needless to say, I got it working (or you'd look pretty silly reading this pile of blank paper you're holding).

So we celebrated *mathNEWS*'s 31<sup>st</sup> birthday this past production night with a little eating competition. It seems that East Side Mario's (in the University Plaza) is having an 'All-You-Can-Eat Pasta' special until mid-February, and you get free cake with it. Filling ourselves to the breaking point, we asked our writers "What are you going to do for your 31<sup>st</sup> birthday?" Keslen (June 20, 1983 - Light all my candles in 3.1 seconds or less), Craig (April 23, 1980 - Ian's sister), DanS (Oct 23, 1985 - Play games & slack off), Ian (April 20, 1982 - Convocate), Yolanda (July 1, 1980 - Celebrate the independence of my country by blowing up a small piece of it), Marshall (Sept 2, 1981 - Skip class), Diana (June 13, 1983 - Go skydiving), Raymond (Oct 22, 1981 - graduate from CGNU. Go Dumpsles!), Soo (Oct 11, 1982 - Get laid... umm, I mean...), Eric (Sept 27, 1984 - Celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of my 29<sup>th</sup> birthday), Aaron (March 2, 1984 - Try to figure out Math 135), Snuggles (May 15, 1978 - Stop showing up to production night), Jim Morrison (Oct 2, 1981 - Sleep with someone twice my age), David Goldsmith (May 22, 1981 - Take Stat 230... again), Adam Felix (April 15, 1982 - Take over the world... oh right, that was a secret).

Special mention goes out to Chris from East Side's for putting up with our shenanigans and keeping our plates full, and Graphics Services for putting our words on their paper for your viewing pleasure.

Chris 'Krease' Harasemchuk (Sept 28, 1980 - Ian's Mom)  
Louis Mastorakos (Oct 13, 1980 - Give the monkeys a day off)

## Pink Tie Pledge

### I pledge to donate:

	Year: 1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Dean's Challenge	\$104	\$900	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> $\pi$ Pledge	\$10M per month for 3 years		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ralph Stanton Pledge	\$20.04 per month for 3 years		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dean's Prime Number Club	\$151	\$151	\$151
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			

to improve the undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Mathematics

I understand that the first installment of my pledge is payable May 2003 (one year after graduation). Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Use my gift for:  Math Tutorial Center  MGC Award Endowment  Other  
 Math Endowment Fund (MEF)  Descartes Scholarships

Your gift to the Pink Tie Pledge can be claimed for tax credits on your income tax return.

Class of  
2004

Many companies will match your gift. Please write the name of the company you will be working for or contact the Math Alumni Officer at (519) 888-4567 ext. 3638 for information. Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

see page 9 for more information on the Pink Tie Pledge



## “Ideas From My Morning Fog”

I like to call it my “Morning Fog.” You know, that period in the morning where you don’t quite know what’s what, because you haven’t actually gotten up yet. I mean, you’ve literally gotten out of bed, but your mind has not yet come into the state of “being awake.”

So when I was eating my breakfast of champions (Honey Nut Cheerios with more milk than most people like to put in), I was staring at the box, not fully comprehending why I had just woken up so early. Staring at the box of cereal is my morning pastime (fun AND educational!) So on the back of the box, there was a game where kids can race against the bee to get the cheerios treasure chest on some desert island.

First, I felt sorry for the bee. I mean, in all the commercials, he’s clearly faster than the stupid kids, but the world conspires against him and those jerks beat him to the cereal. It never fails. He must practice so hard to get to be so fast, but always fails because some whale eats him or a manhole cover opens on his face. Lesson learned? Don’t race for the cereal!

Who wants to be stranded on some desert island anyway, with some cereal and some disgruntled “friends” for comfort? When you run out of cereal (the cereal you won by being there first), the two or three other people who came there with you are going

to be starving, and you’re going to be a plump, juicy, honey-nut meal ticket in their eyes.

Which raises the question: why do all cereal commercials involve either stealing, racing, or questing for the cereal? The Sugar Crisp bear has to steal his sugar crisp, Toucan Sam used to bike race for it, the Honey Comb Kid (capitalized, because I think that was his actual name) had to go through Indiana Jones-esque treks to get his cereal... I think this is sending kids the wrong message. Sure, outdoor activity is fine and dandy, but there’s a certain level of stupidity here. Why jump off a waterfall to get Froot Loops when you can go to the corner store and pick up some for a fraction of the price of finding a waterfall that just so happens to have some Froot Loops under it? Or for Sugar Crisp, why risk your life breaking into a high-tech facility with a 6-foot tall, upright-standing mutant dog for a security guard when your breakfast cereal salvation lies less than a kilometre North-North-West of your house?

Since I am not an idiot (and also extremely lazy), I choose to go with the option that involves the least activity on my behalf. If someone else wants to team up with the Cap’n to make my breakfast hap’n, then by all means go for it - but do so at your own risk.

by The Dutch Sheep

## The Philosophy Behind Red vs. Blue

So, by now you’ve read through some of the articles in this issue, wondered what the source material is, gone to [www.redvsblue.com](http://www.redvsblue.com), downloaded it, watched it, had a good laugh, and gone on with your life. But I ask you, have you ever really stopped to think about the deep, philosophical meaning the authors of Red vs. Blue put into their work? I didn’t think so. No, I don’t care that you said yes. I’m going to elaborate on them anyway.

Take, for example, episode 2, where the red team gets the delivery of their Warthog. When Griff voices his opinion that it “looks more like a puma”, he is ridiculed and his very life is threatened by his commanding officer. This is a direct reference to conformity of society, where any deviance is met with hostility by the parent culture. Other cultures, however, are fine with this, as evidenced by the Blue team’s initial impression of the vehicle as indeed looking like a puma.

Next, there is the portrayal of women in the series. The two female characters, Church’s ex-girlfriend Tex, and Shiela, the Scorpion Class Main Battle Tank, share many similarities. For one, they are both portrayed as killing machines, with black armor.

This can be related to the recent attacks on the White peace corps from the Black ops, and the only conclusion that most if not all of the members of the black ops are female. Also, the plight of women today can be directly related to Shiela’s short, and rather sad existence. She is sent to a planet full of men, penetrated by Caboose, driven around (controlled) by him, made to do violent attacks on other men, and finally blown up by an orbital bombardment. One can easily draw a parallel between this and the orbital bombardment of women in North America. [WTF? — *AbsentEd*]

One final reference to today’s society is the stealing of the blue flag. If one replaces flag with music, private Donut with Kazaa, and Church’s high-powered rifle with the RIAA, the current turmoil over media copyright laws is made crystal clear. The symbolism goes even further when Tex goes into the red base, nearly kills Donut, and steals the music back. This is Red vs. Blue’s portrayal of the RIAA scandal where they charged the 12-year old welfare girl. It even points out the guns.

So, the next time you watch Red vs. Blue, take a closer look at the social commentary behind it.

Sheep Nine

## mathNEWS Exclusive: War on Java

### C++ Bypasses ACM, Unilaterally Begins Offensive

In a precedent move, C++ began an assault on Java which proved to be fatal for that language and the programmers who code for it.

C++ opened the battle with a “shock and awe” campaign using an arsenal of classes derived using multiple inheritance. Java retaliated by attempting to simulate multiple inheritance with interfaces. Unfortunately it was quickly overwhelmed by the incoming volleys of overloaded bang operators.

Java’s offense was quickly neutralized. Due to the bloat of the virtual machine, no damage was sustained by any strategic non-terminals.

In an effort to overthrow the Java regime, C++ decided to unload one of its weapons of mass deletion (WMD): the delete[] operator. Java, overwhelmed by daunting task of garbage collecting circular references, was obliterated. Java programmers, profusely hemorrhaging memory, surrendered.

What is the moral of this story? Don’t develop a dependency on Java. It will make you hemorrhage. This message has been brought to you by the Committee for Biased and Blatant Programming Language Promotion.

Aaron Klotz

I hate Java. Java sucks.



## mathNEWS Article

Hey Chris/Louis.

Too bad I couldn't stay for the entire Production Night this time, but I'll be there next time for sure.

I have attached an article, in text format... i haven't learned LaTeX as yet. I hope its ok, if not let me know.

Faraz

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[-- snip out about two pages --]  
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gcGFyZW50cyBkaWRuKnQgbGlrZSBtZSwgc28g

### How to email an article to mathNEWS

1. Put mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca in the 'To' field
2. Put the word 'article' somewhere in the 'Subject' field
3. Put the article in the body of the email, **not** as an attachment. If you have the article typed up in a text file or something, copy and paste it into the body of the email.
4. Send the email

Simple, isn't it? If you send us an article as an attachment, well, you see the results... (I think the best way is to come out for Production Nights every other Monday evening, where you can also partake in free pizza. The next Production Night starts at 6:30 pm on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, MC 3038.)

Your Friendly Neighbourhood mathNEWS Editors

## Students Injured, Video Games Blamed

Two students, roommates, are in critical condition in what critics are calling the worst case of video game mimicry in the history of video game mimicing.

It began innocently enough on a crisp January morning. Due to the cold weather, neither student was interested in going out, least of all to class. Looking for something to kill their boredom, they began digging through some old boxes one of them had kept from high school.

Their search turned up a most interesting artifact, Pong, a game from the late 70s. The game of Pong involves two paddles and a ball. The object is to bounce the ball between the opposing paddles. Points are recorded every time your opponent misses the ball.

After several intense games, the boys decided to up the stakes. Wagers were made, bluffs called, and tempers flared. Neither can remember who offered the original challenge, but the end result was that the two left the house despite the cold, interested only in proving their own respective points.

Their trip found them at the PAC, setting up to play a real life version of Pong called Squash. What transpired that afternoon can only be describe as brutal. The two were found nearly an hour later, breathing heavily and covered in a thin, colourless liquid. Their odor was described by a random witness as "worse than comfy."

Despite their insistence that they would be fine, a first aider was called to the scene. The boys were given a clear, odourless, caffeine-free medicine called water, and were told to rest.

The two students eventually recovered, but neither will ever forget their nearly fatal brush with death.

Davey James

## mathNEWS's Mid-Aged Crisis

As some of you are aware, mathNEWS has turned 31; this is a remarkable achievement especially for a publication that is very short on both math and news.

After mathNEWS turned 30 last year, it was quick to embrace the quiet mid-aged lifestyle in suburbia. mathNEWS was happy and even spawned a son in csNEWS, a publication whose life was tragically cut short after only one issue. As it's always harder for a parent to outlive a child, mathNEWS was sent spiraling into depression.

After a bout with alcoholism where all the little things came out, mathNEWS had to enter rehab and take on an introspective look on its life. It noticed how it was getting older and older... the things that were so easy before are near impossible tasks now. Its ink-line is starting to fade, the pages are starting to become more and more wrinkled, and even its typeset is becoming outdated.

To fix these fears mathNEWS got a new printing press, a page-lift to make the pages crisper, and even found itself a flashier typeset. All these attempts to rejuvenate its youth, which were as pathetic as a bald man getting a toupee, took away from the original mathNEWS and made it something it wasn't. Something was missing. After realizing this, mathNEWS went back to its roots and packed itself with filler, which is the purpose of this article.

Sivji



## mathNEWSquiz #2

Now with 37% more hastiness!

Hi everybody! Your friendly Squizmasters Craig and Eric are here with another friendly round of exciting trivia fun! Let's begin with the answers to last issue's squiz. **Buildings:** 1. MC 2. Grad House 3. ML 4. Physics and the William M. Tatham Centre for Cooperative Education and Career Services 5. This is clearly true. Why else would there be a moat around it? (kidding, kidding — it's false) **Last Words:** 1. Neo, in *The Matrix* 2. The Narrator, in *1984* 3. Jean-Luc Picard, in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 4. Alex, in *A Clockwork Orange* (The movie, NOT the book) 5. Prince Fortinbras, *Hamlet* **MathSoc Elections:** 1. January 15th and 16th 2004 from 8:30AM to 5:30 PM 2. Daniel Redelmeier and Lino Demasi 3. Soo Go and Eric Logan 4. Lino and Soo Bonus: 1979, as far as we can tell. **Limerick:** *A mathematician named Paul / Had a hexahadronical ball / The cube of its weight / Times pi minus eight / Is the square root of nothing at all.*

Here are the results from submissions from the last squiz: With a score of 16 were Tyler Slijboom and Liz Neff. Tied at 13 apiece were Travis Willard and Adam Felix. Beating them all, however, with a mighty score of 17, is Michael Tersigni! Congratulations, Michael! You can pick up your fabulous prize, a \$5 C&D gift certificate, from the MathSoc office.

**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 make the squiz into a boring, pointless exercise. So, if you want to have fun, then do the squiz without Google's help, and if you want to do a boring, pointless exercise, then go do your CS homework. Do not submit your CS homework to the BLACK BOX [Unless its for a class that I'm in... that would be nice — KreasEd].

### Inclement Wet Weather

1. What differentiates a hurricane from a typhoon?
2. What is the name given to a tornado that occurs over water?
3. What is the most common cause of tidal waves?
4. What's the record for snowfall in Kitchener-Waterloo?

### Music Theory

Some day I should put my RCM Grade II Theory to use and take MUSIC270. I haven't thought of another use for it yet.

1. What time signature is referred to as 'cut time'?
2. How many half-tones in an octave?
3. When drawing notes on the staff, which direction is the stick drawn when the notes lies in the first space above the middle?
4. When I begin a composition with a pickup note, where am I borrowing this extra beat from?
5. How many semiquavers in a crotchet?

### Stuff in Craig's House

Being snowed in on the Tuesday, the day I was writing the squiz, I quickly became bored and lost all inspiration. So, I wrote some questions about random crap lying around my house.

1. I have a plastic version of what toy, originally metallic, whose name comes from the Swedish word for "stealthy, sleek and sinuous"?
2. I have a stuffed toy based on a character from what Australian T.V. series about nightware-clad fruit?
3. In my basement is a twelve-pack of what wheat ale, brewed in Alberta, which is often served on tap at the Grad House?

4. "I will lift up my eyes" is the english traslation of a Gaelic motto that appears on a glass I brought back from what Canadian university?


### Stuff in Chris's House

I wasn't completely snowed in on Tuesday; I managed to make the trek over to Chris's place to help him work on mathNEWS. So, I also have questions about stuff in his house.

1. A poster for the SNES game F-Zero features a character sharing a name with which Unix text editor? (Hint: It's **not** Captain Falcon.)
2. A stack of DVD's has inspired me to ask: "PC load letter" is the frustratingly baffling error message displayed by a printer in what movie?
3. Who played manager George Newman, in a movie about a television station that broadcasts on an ultra high frequency?
4. In *The X-Files*, what board game did Fox Mulder play with his sister right before she was abducted?

Entries are due no later than 6:00PM February 9<sup>th</sup> by email to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or in the BLACK BOX. The winner gets the fabulous prize we mentioned earlier!

Craig and Eric



**Are midterms getting you down?**  
UW & the FEEDS would like to invite you to an  
**International Celebration**  
In the Student Life Center

**Friday February 6th ~ 7pm - 1am**

**International Fear Factor Food Challenge ~ 9:00pm in the SLC**  
Are you up to the challenge of eating exotic delicacies from around the globe? Bring your friends to win awesome prizes!  
Movies ~ **Bend It like Beckham** starting @ 7:00pm  
Unlimited play at **Campus Cove** ~ 7:00pm - 1:00am  
Free Gym time @ CIP ~ 10:00pm - 11:30pm

**Saturday February 7th ~ 7pm - 1am**

**American Pie Trilogy** ~ Come check out "Stifler's Mom" in all three American Pie movies starting at 7:00pm, 9:00pm and 11:00pm in the SLC

**Salsa & Meringue Dance Lessons @ 7:00pm & 9:00pm in the SLC**

**Broom Ball Tournament ~ 9:00 - 11:30pm @ CIP Ice Rink**  
Sign up begins @ 8:30pm.

Learn how to make **Origami** ~ 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Various demonstrations throughout the evening performed by the UW CASA club

**[www.warriorweekends.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.warriorweekends.uwaterloo.ca)**

Warrior Weekends are brought to you by: Student Life Office, Federation of Students, Residence Life, OCC, the Imprent, UW Kozumiwa (Kozji) club, UW Spanish club, UW CASA club and the Math Orientation Committee.

## gridCOMMENTS

I promised myself I'd never do this, but The Girl is home in a state of recuperation, so here I am! Welcome to the fabulous description of *gridWORD*. You probably remember from last issue, but if you fancy yourself an intellectual type, flip to the last page of *mathNEWS*, and fill in those lovely little boxes with the right letters (as opposed to the left ones.)

Once the answers are written down to your satisfaction, simply place the sheet in the marvelous BLACK BOX between comfy and C&D where it will be judged by The Girl in her infinite wisdom (or if you so desire, you can email your answers in to us at [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca).) This week, the following intellects have been recognized by the *gridWORD*: Bryan Coutch (conventional), and Greg Maloney (cryptic), [*That means you won - you can pick up your \$5 C&D Gift Certificates in the MathSoc Office — KreasEd*] with honourable mentions to Cerebral & Sturmin (conventional), Gerry T. (cryptic), Bradley T. Smith (cryptic) and Adam Felix (conventional and cryptic).

So there you have it, congratulations to those who won! Now, before I forget, here's the *gridQUESTION* for this issue's *gridWORD*: What would you do with a newly acquired pair of nunchuks?

So that's it, please join me in wishing The Girl a speedy recovery so I will never have to do this again. Happy Gridding!

*[We're a bit unorganized in relation to the grid for this issue; this was our last one that we had sitting around, and it doesn't have any conventional clues...you can still submit a conventional solution if you want, and you might even win - especially your answers might be right... - KreasEd]*

Keslen

## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

## Across

7. Delicate caregiver (6)
8. Quick cue (6)
9. Stay clear of dachshund midriff (4)
10. Guests add it to eyeshades (8)
11. Where Who is in the beginning? (2,5)
13. Seventy-five percent dance (5)
15. Fires out chips (5)
16. Conference in Lebanese minaret (7)
18. Old goat I smoked: meat (8)
19. Cut back surge (4)
21. Harder tree starts maple emergency (6)
22. One canon, more or less (6)

## Down

1. Gilga, finish with net (4)
2. I do my anecdote about surgery (13)
3. Improvisor's hidden clause (7)
4. Contraction of separatism (5)
5. Cad contrition? Phoney paradox (13)
6. Silly to repeat musical (8)
12. Earthen brooch of a turtle (8)
14. Renovated medical base (7)
17. I am in the barn, baby (5)
20. Scat! Dunderhead antelope acts up (4)

## Wisdom fo' the Ages

We all do not like spam, but recently, I have come across a bunch of emails with a single line containing some profound statement, like that wise man from the film "Mystery Men." I thought that you all would benefit from the wisdom I have learned from those emails, and I have included them here:

- All your Western theologies, the whole mythology of them, are based on the concept of God as a senile delinquent.
- I believe if we introduced the Lord's Prayer here, senators would propose a large number of amendments to it.
- On earth there is nothing great but man in man there is nothing great but mind.
- I forget what I was taught. I only remember what I have learnt.
- Too humble is half proud.
- Classical music is the kind we keep thinking will turn into a tune.
- Canada is not a blanket woven from one thread, one color, one cloth.
- When you're nice to people, they want to be nice back to you.
- First we have to believe, and then we believe.
- Princes and governments are far more dangerous than other elements within society.

Now if you excuse me, I have to honour a business request from my good friend Mr. Okon David from Nigeria. He needs me to claim the consignments on his behalf from the Nigerian Government and place the value in my bank account. Then I get 25% of the value to keep and he gets the rest. So long suckers! 25% of \$35 Million, here I come!!

Tyler "Spuer Vagira" Slijboom

