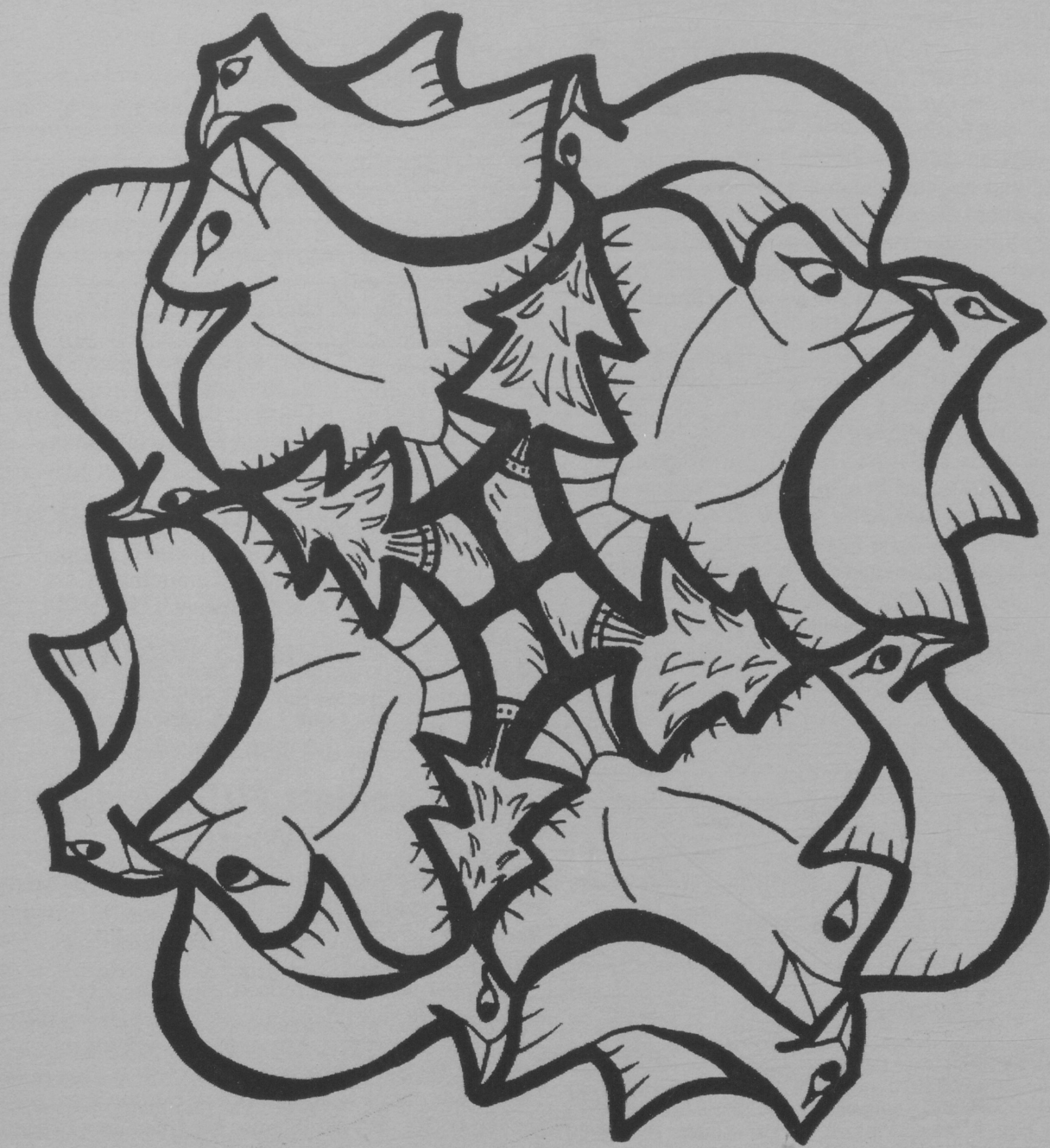


# *math* NEWS

Volume 94, Issue 6

Friday, March 26, 2004



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

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Keepers of Truth and Defenders of Liberty: Eric Logan, Louis Mastorakos and Chris Harasemchuk

## lookAHEAD

### mathNEWS

March 26	Issue #6 waves goodbye to the Class of 2004
April 5	Issue #7 production night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038) You can come, we won't be there

### Math Faculty

March 30	Lectures end
March 31-April 2	Ever wonder what happened to those missing days in Reading Week? Here they are!
April 5	Exams begin
April 22	Exams end
May 3	This whole insanity gets rolling again

### MathSoc

Volunteer and help us keep the office open during exams!

### MGC 2004

We're outta here! So long, suckas!

### Co-op

It's official: If you don't have a job yet, you're boned!

### Miscellaneous

March 29	Spring still not here yet
April 1	April Fools' Day
April 4	Daylight Saving Time begins
April 6	Passover begins (at sundown)
April 9	Good Friday

## The Inevitable Haiku

a student ponders  
the soul of computation  
a Turing machine

## Haiku-na Matata

the easy way out  
a quick haiku like this one  
makes lovely filler

## The Greatest Filler Article Ever Written

Once upon a time, a young editor came across a terrible problem in his layout. "Oh no!" he said, "There's a spot here that's too big for the short articles and too long for the short articles! Whatever will I do?"

Whatever will he do, indeed? So he took it upon himself to write his very own filler. Because it was his own filler, eh could adjust it to whatever size he needed by adding only a few words here and there. His goal was to add text so that it didn't seem like he was trying to stretch things out too much, while keeping the article readable. And so the finest text to ever cross the page burst forward from his keyboard, and his space was plugged exactly.

I should mention that it's disappointing to me that other things don't work out so nicely this way.... I mean, think of how great things could be if you could make them reach by only being self-referential in a fairy-tale-type tone...

inkEd

## Prez Corner

I recently attended a meeting with senior administrators in the Math Faculty, and we discussed many issues that we were aware about that concerned students. Just below this article is the report. If you have any feedback or questions about what happened or things you feel should be talked about at future meetings, send me an e-mail at prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

The FSLC met 2004/03/18 and many things were discussed:

### *Laurier One Cards for Double Degree students.*

The Dean has not made any progress on it. Peter Wood will be looking into it. He says that Waterloo students are now in the Laurier system, so it is a start.

### *Exam Bank*

When professors submitted exams to the MUO, there was a checkbox on the exam which they could check if they were willing to have us contact them about getting a copy of the exam for the exambank. I will be contacting the person from the MUO who has the information to find out how successful this was. In the future, we will switch to a "negative billing" type option, where they check the box if they don't want to be bothered.

I will also be working with the other societies, through the Committee of Presidents and Feds, to attempt to contact the registrar's office directly and get something similar to before where profs could check a box to have exams sent to the student societies.

## Springtime Mathie Events

Alright, so this may seem a little late, because by the time you see this, it'll be like a week ago, but anyway, welcome to the first *mathNEWS* of the Spring (the season, not the term) and the last one of the Winter (the term, not the season.) In honour of this this new season, here is a list of things that you can do.

- Make a spring-themed magic deck for your games in the comfy.
- Math is "the faculty that counts." Go try and count the number of geese that have returned.
- Go dig up your copy of "The Legend of Zelda: Oracle of Seasons." Play the game through while staying in Spring.
- Determine the order of the runtime of the blooming of the trees.
- For more math fun, determine the function describing the decay in the number of snowflakes on the ground.
- Go play some sort of outside sport, at the very least do it on your computer/console of choice, you can at least get into virtual shape. I hear EA is releasing their 2009 versions of all their sports games this week.
- Go get a girlfriend. It's spring, love is supposed to be in the air. (Don't think I'm being all that serious, You aren't going to do any of the others, why not put another that I know you won't (or can't) do).

DanS

### *Space Reallocation*

Space reallocation is happening in the MC. The Math Society will be getting more office space on the third floor. If you have any suggestions for what this space should be used for, please contact me with your suggestions. I will be compiling a report for council about what space needs exist and what possible options are available. If you have any input for this report, let me know.

Along with us getting space, many other groups are moving around within the MC and DC. The MUO will be moving from the 5th floor to the 4th, likely in August some time. It's new location will be near MC 4021.

### *Co-op & Career Services Review*

There is a Co-Op & Career Services review going on at the university level. Feds is organizing the student side of the representation. If you have any opinions that you want to share, you should speak with the Vice President, Academic, who can forward them along to the Feds.

### *MFCF Hirings*

MFCF has hired two employees to work on computing for math classes. One will be responsible for computing related to Stat 230/231 and the other will be responsible for computing related to first year Calculus.

### *Labs*

It was agreed that there are many problems with the current lab space. At times, it is too full and no free terminals can be found. Also, chairs from our lounges often disappear into the labs, causing a hassle for us, other students, course staff, and custodial staff. A long term solution is being looked into.

Lino Demasi  
MathSoc President W04

## Slashdotty Goodness

Many of you readers out there are likely familiar with slashdot.org, and if you're not, and you're a nerd, I suggest checking it out; they have news for you.

Certain jokes are always coming up over there, and are far too overused. Well, here's the *mathNEWS* version of many of these jokes.

- In Soviet Russia, Data sorts You!
- "pi is exactly 3" -obligatory Simpsons quote
- I'm in arts, you insensitive clod
- 1.Go into PMath
- 2.???
- 3.Profit!!!
- CowboyNeal (for those of you who don't know, CowboyNeal is mentioned about as much on slashdot as Ian's Mom is in *mathNEWS*)

All right, that's a good sampling of many of the overused jokes,

DanS

## “Hey, wanna go to a bar?”

Well, another non-math-related holiday (i.e. St Patrick's Day) has come and gone, but not before causing annoyance and grief for yours truly, The Angry Mathie.

You see, The Angry Mathie hates bars, and St Patrick's Day tends to be time when people ask you a lot if you want to go to a bar. Actually I find it downright perplexing how anyone could not hate bars. Really, does anyone actually enjoy going to a bar, or is it one of those follow the pack of morons thing (like going to a psych class)? I can't think of anything less productive, except maybe watching *The Bachelor* or CNN. Suffice it to say, getting me to go to a bar is about as easy as solving the Riemann Hypothesis. Allow me to reconstruct the dilemma I've had to endure several times in awesome choose-your-own-adventure style:

Friend and/or Idiot asks “Hey, wanna go to a bar?”

Do you a) Deliver a swift kick to the face, or b) Say “no” ?

If you answered a) then kick Friend and/or Idiot again while he/she is on ground. Laugh and walk away. You are awesome. If you answered b) then continue:

Friend and/or Idiot asks “Why don't you want to go to a bar?”

Do you a) Deliver a swift kick to the face, or b) Explain that bars are stupid, loud, math-devoid environments that desperate, lonely, or generally just unintelligent people like to go to ?

If you answered a) then beat some sense into Friend and/or Idiot while he/she is stunned, preferably using a copy of the CRC Encyclopedia of Mathematics as an effective “incentive.” You are awesome. If you answered b) then continue:

Friend and/or Idiot says “Dude you need to mellow out. You're too high-strung.”

Do you a) Deliver a swift kick to the face, or b) Deliver a swift kick to the larynx ?

If you answered a) then ask yourself why you didn't just deliver the swift kick to the face earlier. If you answered b) then I am envious of the accuracy of your swift kicks. Bravo.

Seriously I can't count how many times I've gotten stuck in that conversation while just minding my own business reading a book on Fourier Transforms or Mersenne Primes or something. I usually take the a) route so I can get back to being awesome as efficiently as possible.

Now before you all get up on The Angry Mathie for being a poster boy for sobriety let me set you straight. The Angry Mathie is against stupidity, not alcohol. In fact, The Angry Mathie is

quite a tank when it comes to stiff whiskey drinks or shot-gunning beers (the regular high-carb variety, by the way.) Further, The Angry Mathie enjoys both quiet pubs, and sports bars showing leafs games on a big screen. For those of you who cannot grasp the distinction, let me list the 3 defining characteristics of a bar:

1. They are loud. When the music is so loud that you can't even trace out the proof of the Mean Value Theorem in you head, you are probably in a bar (or just dumb, but those are synonymous.)
2. The floor is all wet. Bars are where people with no hand-eye coordination come to look like idiots. If someone spills their drink faster then you can solve a linear program, you are probably in a bar.
3. At least half of the women are dressed like Christina Aguilera. Boy I could write an entire rant on this alone! What, did the price of fabric rise 1000-fold, and the price of makeup drop to nothing? Grow up kids; making drunken 19/20 year olds horny (as if that's a feat) will only get you so far in life. (And that's all I'll say about this one before I really start offending people, heheh.)

So if you find yourself in a place where all 3 characteristics apply, then you are almost certainly in a bar. And further, by the transitive property of stupidity, you must also be a moron. That's a shame, but at least you'll have plenty of company!

Until the next rant,

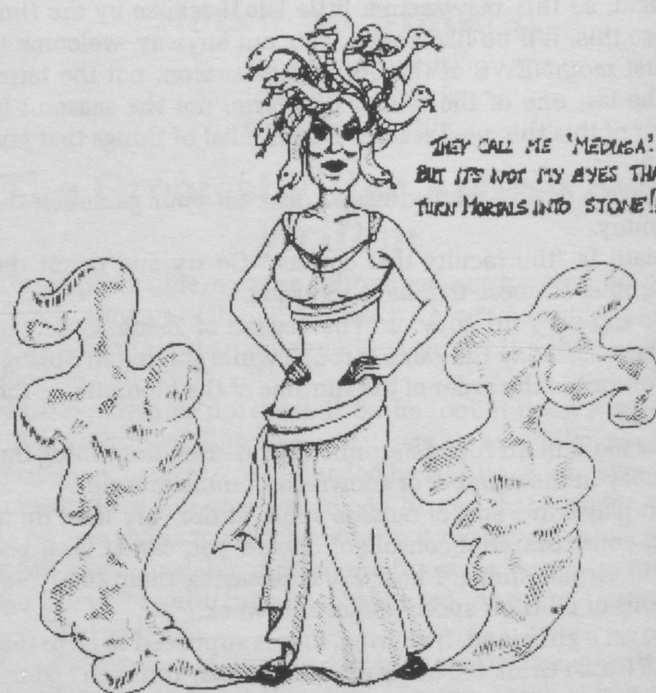
The Angry Mathie.

## mathNEWSquiz #6 Answers

No peeking!

**Insanely Difficult Quotes:** 1. *The Wasteland* by T.S. Eliot 2. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley 3. *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen 4. *Discipline and Punish* by Michel Foucault 5. *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare 6. *The Critic*, episode 9, “L.A. Jay” 7. *Wish You Were Here* by Pink Floyd 8. Sid Meier's Alpha Centauri (the quote is from Commissioner Pravin Lal and is played upon discovery of Applied Physics.)

**Stuff I Don't Expect You to Know:** 1. Barcelona 2. Thrice 3. Left Field 4. Unobtainium 4. By how much 5000 sheets weighs 6. *Red Tail II* 7. Bets on horses 8. 1.2 MB



## profQUOTES

*When your Prof says something funny, it winds up here*

"It'll be a walk in the park. Of course, the park will be spongy and coloured purple, but it will be a walk in the park."

Vasiga, CS 241

"We need translucent coins in Canada."

Vasiga, CS 241

"We don't care, we're morally corrupt, we're computer scientists."

Vasiga, CS 241

"As this is not a part of the curriculum, you can write, you can listen, you can eat popcorn."

Winkler, MATH 136

"This is where the Alzheimer's, or Alz"Reimer"s, as I sometimes call it, comes in."

Reimer, RS 100K

"My dog... I don't have a dog. Teachers lie."

Gregoire, PHIL 100J

If you've seen that movie 'A Beautiful Mind,' you know a mathematician has to do a lot of reality checks."

De Klerk, CO 350

"This is data I collected myself. Well, I downloaded it from the web. [class laughs] Hey! I worked hard for this data!!"

Chipman, STAT 231

"I'm someone evil, sent to make everyone's lives a bit worse."

MacDonald, PHYS 263

"So, you prefer theory over common sense. This is good."

Kolkievicz, STAT 333

[walks over to sleeping student and whispers] "Wake up, you're snoring." [student wakes up] "I'm sorry, but it was only going to get louder and embarrassing."

Ingram, CS 230

"Comparative Investigation!! Doesn't that sound important and interesting?" [student yawns] "I heard that!!"

Chipman, STAT 231

"This lecture brought to you by the letter q."

Chipman, STAT 231

"399 is close to infinity... That sounds pretty wonky."

Chipman, STAT 231

"I know what it's called, Hypertransporting. That sounds really futuristic; 'Transport me to CPU 2.'"

Mann, CS 251

"...don't bother me. Just correct it in your notes."

Younger, CO 350

"...given that this is Canada, we can't decide whether Trudy is Alice's or Bob's spouse."

Keshav, CS 456

"... this way they can steal your money, steal your identity, all these nice things, I mean bad things..."

Keshav, CS 456

"The National Post knew when the USA was going to attack Iraq by calling up Domino's and asking them how many pizzas they had sent to the Pentagon that night."

Keshav, CS 456

"All Saddam Hussein needed was the number of Domino's in Washington, to know when the attack would be launched."

Keshav, CS 456

"Tell all your friends who've been avoiding class to come to instructor evaluation day so they can tell us why they've been avoiding class."

Tompa, CS 134

[while speaking about using death to sell] "You can't say 'this doesn't apply to me' unless you're delusional and the phiser will try to sell you medication."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"This is my bacon elegy and I will support it with interpretive dance."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"You can't bury your loved one in your backyard, dog costume or not."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"Except you can't call it shit - doodoo occurs."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"Life is not a dress rehearsal... Spend less time on video games, more time on porn."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"That's the clinical term for it, freakin' nightmare."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"Trashing the ex is a form of recreation in some family systems."

Burris, PSYCH 218

"No ten year old girl should have three nostrils."

Kenyon, PHIL 145

"We don't think we're better than the Americans. That's why we're better than the Americans."

Kenyon, PHIL 145

"That's right, I said gonads. That's the proper term."

Kenyon, PHIL 145

"Then we go into the 'Wait-Till-I-Hit-You-In-the-Head' state."

Ragde, CS 251

[Speaking about taking a 3D scan of Michelangelo's David] "We gave each scan an individual name, like 'Left Pubic Hair #34.'"

Pulli, University of Oulu, Finland

**vpaNEWS**

Hey everyone, VPA Diana here again. Just a couple of things I wanted to let you know about.

- **Exams:** Remember those midterms you wrote earlier this term? If you haven't burned them in frustrations, please bring them in to the MathSoc office (MC3038) so we can add them to our exam bank so next term's students can benefit. We will photocopy them and return the originals to you, and your confidentiality will be maintained. Thanks a lot for helping out, the exam bank couldn't exist without students like you donating your exams.
- **Instructor of the Year:** The recipient of the 2003-2004 Instructor of the Year Award has been selected. Announcements should be posted soon. Congratulations!
- **Incompletes:** The good people higher up are looking at creating a policy of not letting students enrol in a full course load if they are carrying two or more incomplete ("INC") grades, to prevent students from getting overwhelmed by having 7 exams! Let me know what you think, on this or any other issue, by emailing me at [vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

Well, this is the last *mathNEWS* of the term, and I'm ending my first term of being VPA. I'm passing the torch to the awesome Greg Hines, and I'll be back in the Fall term. Good luck to Greg and the Summer exec! See you all on the flip side...

Diana Chisholm  
MathSoc VPA W04

**Haiku**

to find data with  
maximum efficiency  
use binary search

**National Haiku**

oh, Canadians  
your majestic scenery  
your very strong beer

**mastHEAD**

*I am slowly going crazy...*

Another end of term, another end to *mathNEWS* for the term. We've had a good term. When I was 17, we had a very good term. I'm so tired. Please, sleep me now.

And so to the *mastHEAD* question. In a fine tradition of eating too much junk, we all pondered "What are you putting on your Ritz Cracker?". Luckily we got the following answers: Eric(2A CS/C&O, "Sweet, sweet,...uh...nothing"), Keslen (1B and a half CS, "A five dollar tank top"), Soo (3B C&O, "Anything but the dipping sauce"), Aaron (1B Math, "A salmon fillet with a side of vegetables & mashed potatoes"), Ian's Mom ("Anything I can eat"), DanS (1B CS, "Damn, I can't think of anything"), Adam (3? PM/CO, "Grey Poupon"), Diana (3A ActSci, "Chocolate...mmm...it goes on everything!"), Laymond (3B RIM, "Putting on the Ritz, eh?"), e (3B CS, "King Crab...mmmm"), Snuggles (BMath CS/IS, "The Donald Trump Towers Toupee"), Valacosa ("Not a bus").

Louis (4B CS, "The Rainbow Connection")  
Krease (4B CS, "Ian's Mom")

**Mathie Drinking Song**

*Honestly, I haven't had any...*

0 mod 1 bottles of beer on the wall  
0 mod 1 bottles of beer  
Take one down, pass it around  
0 mod 1 bottles of beer on the wall...

**Games of the Week**

The long dry spell after the christmas season is over, and games are coming out again. We played all of them, so you don't have to. We'll start with FarCry. First off, the game looked pretty sweet. Lush jungle environments full of animals... and enemies. Apparently, the fully explorable environment is supposed to provide some cover, so you can sneak around and stuff, too bad everyone just sees right through it. "Look at that guy, what's he doing? Does he think we don't see him?" This makes for a lot of loading. Vehicles were pretty fun though, their ease of control was matched only by their explodability. Story line looked interesting, too bad I uninstalled before it got underway.

Next game we tried was Battlefield: Vietnam, from the makers of Battlefield: Earth. I expected mass amounts of scientology and propaganda, but all I got was lag. Seriously though, it's about Vietnam. Tanks, aeroplanes, helicopters, jeeps, boats and good old machine guns. There was some sort of checkpoint capture system, but all I did was hop in a helicopter and play Ride of the Valkyries. That's right, you can start up your favorite 60's tune and listen to about 47 seconds of it, before someone better comes along and kills you (or in my case, you crash). Good thing you can fully enjoy the music while you're waiting for the game to load, and you will be waiting. They had the jungle cover down, even my own team doesn't recognize me when I'm in the brush. All they have to do is balance the Americans a bit (who have a serious advantage), and it'll be a pretty decent game.

Now for Unreal 2004, the first contender for game of the year (until Half-Life comes out). The game's great. It comes with full voice support, which is really handy once you learn how to pronounce "STFU." Supposedly, you can also order your bots around (Bravo, Attack!). This didn't work so well for me, the bots just kind of ignored my commands. They know who's really in charge. Speaking of the bots, I don't recommend you play against them on any higher levels, unless you like to lose. The new game mode, onslaught, is good for some quick online action. Just make sure to get a vehicle. They say you can accomplish things on foot, but they lie. You fight over power nodes, that power your power core. It's that same resource allocation problem you heard about in ECON101, with guns, and tanks. Assault is back as well, the game where one team attacks and the other defends in a classic scenario, based on some sort of storyline they think they have.

Anyway, if you can only afford one game, we recommend Unreal. With 100+ maps, 1GB+ of textures and 6 CDs, it's probably the most value for your money. Oh yeah, be sure NOT to pay money for Lords of the Realm III. Why anyone would do this to a game, I don't know...

## Highschool CS Prevents Many University Degrees

The following article is actually based very heavily on the truth. Although it's not traditional to do something like that in *mathNEWS*, sometimes the truth is just too funny not to mention.

So anyway, I was doing some research for a friend who is still back in highschool. He needed a bit more information on the faculty of Applied Health Sciences, so I ended up looking at their section in the course calander. I then ended up looking at the degree requirements for Recreation and Leisure Studies. Now if hearing those words isn't enough to cause you to start cracking up, what about the fact that if you actually look at them, it lists CS 100 as a required course? I don't know if you remember my article from a couple issues ago, but there is one fact I find very interesting about CS 100: listed under its Antireqs are "OAC Computer Science or 4M Computer and Information Science" (that's new curriculum Gr 12 CS, for anyone who didn't pick it up immediately.) I'm a CS student, and because of that, I need to know a thing or two about logic. Now, if CS 100 is required for a degree in this program, and since I took computer science in highschool, they wouldn't give me credit for CS 100 even if I tried. So that essentially means that, because of my course selection in highschool, I would be unable to study Rec & Leisure because I'm too good with computers. Since then, I have learned that CS 100 is required for more than just that, but also for many other programs around this university. So what does this mean to you, the math students out there, the students who are completely unable to take this course (as I am pretty sure nearly all of you readers don't care since you're already in a program that is definately not anywhere close to anything in AHS)? Not all that much, I just think it's kind of interesting... and hey, next time someone in one of these programs annoys you enough, be sure to point out to them that you were too smart to be in their program upon completion of highschool.

DanS

### Don't Worry, Be A Mathie

Here's a little song I wrote  
'Bout the Waterloo degree I chose  
Don't Worry, Be a mathie

Our geeky reputation may cause some trouble  
So you know s'lection, quick, merge and bubble  
Don't Worry, Be a mathie

Ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh  
ooh ooh

Ain't got no place to lay your head  
Stayed up and did CS instead  
Don't Worry, Be a mathie

No problems if your rent is late  
You live in comfy anyways  
Don't worry, Be a mathie

Ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh  
ooh ooh

## But is it chuckle-worthy?

The Prof is in the middle of yet another riveting lecture and you're trying to stay awake — or at least sane — when a cell phone rings. Half the class laughs. Are you one of those that joins in with a chuckle, or one of those that rolls their eyes in confusion? After all, this is the fiftieth time this has happened, and yet, some people still find it funny.

See, here's the thing; as awkward as a cell phone going off in the middle of a lecture is, is it really laugh-worthy? Or even chuckle-worthy? Is something so pointless and common worth including in your "sense of humour?" There have been countless times in countless math classes where things like this have happened. Countlessly.

The Prof forgets a negative sign, someone points it out, and two dozen people chuckle. Apparently the joke is lost on the rest, or perhaps, it just isn't that funny. When the cell phone goes off, it isn't as if it has a humorous ring, and when the Prof corrects the error, there is no witty rebuttal; these things simply happen. And people laugh.

It makes you think, if you were to walk into a lecture room of any other faculty, and a Professor were to make a spelling mistake on the blackboard, followed with something as unfunny as, "Oh, I forgot the second 't,'" would half the class find it funny? We may never know. Perhaps that is for the best.

Then again, this could be some strange social condition restricted to the happy few of the Math Faculty. Or maybe not. Maybe those few that laugh aren't laughing at the insane idea that a Professor could make a mistake, or that someone forgot to turn off their cell phone. Maybe they know something the rest of us do not, maybe they can pull back the veil of literal meaning and view the world as it truly is: full of splendor.

Or maybe they've just been in the MC way too long.

The next time a cell phone rings or the Prof makes a mistake, how will you react? If nothing else, at least it will keep you awake. That's more than can be said for the lecture.

bob h.

You haven't bathed you've got no style  
There ain't no gal for miles and miles  
But don't worry, Be a mathie

One day you'll be rich and you won't frown  
'Cause you can hire artsies to mow your lawn  
Don't worry, Be a mathie

Ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh  
ooh ooh

So that's the little song I wrote  
I hope you all've been taking notes  
Don't worry, Be a mathie

So remember next time you're having trouble  
You could be at Western and it'd be double  
Don't worry, Be a mathie

SquirrelToken

## HorrorScopes

*Will the Horror Ever End?*

I'd like to thank the academy for this... HorrorScope.

### ACC

Talks on the proposed merger between MATH ACC and ARTS ACC will stall later this week due to differences in the definition of pi. ARTS ACC will vigorously defend their right to define pi as 3. You should reserve the right to slap them silly with a freshwater trout.

PMATH may actually take ARTS side and debate the definition of pi. Bring two trout.

Your lucky number is 3.141592653589.

### ACTSCI

It is becoming increasingly tiresome for your best friend to underestimate the difficulty of your acturial exams. Take decisive actions by locking your best friend in a washroom with a mock acturial exam inside. Tell your friend that you won't unlock the door until he finishes the exams and slips it underneath the door for you to mark it. Fail your friend, and slip another exam into the washroom, telling your friend that he has to do better before the door becomes unlocked.

Watch out, C&O will find an optimized route out of the washroom: through the window.

Your lucky number is 49%.

### AM

Your attempt at applying derivatives in the culinary world will fail this week. Purple paint is not a food, nor a derivative of food, even though it is labelled as "non-toxic."

SCI will attempt to find the chemical composition of the purple paint you are trying to ingest. Make life difficult for them and swap out their sample with grape Kool-aid.

Your lucky number is \$0.99 a package of Kool-aid.

### BBA/BMATH

You will once again be at odds with your MATHBUS cousins when you both register for a math.biz domain name. Negotiate a battle royale to decide the victor and eventual winner of the math.biz domain name.... then give the domain name to MATHBUS since no one really visits .biz domain names anyway.

MATHBUS will be very grateful and give you a cookie. It's not poisonous... or so they say...

Your lucky number is 1 crappy domain name.

### C&O

Inspiration will strike when you start penning a play: The Tale of Two Nodes: The story of a directed path leaving the comforts of one node for the big city life of the sink node only to find there's no way back.

Grab some Mathies and perform at the next TalEng. ENG may give you a prize!

Your lucky number is not last place.

### CS

You will find your vocabulary of acronyms bursting at the seams now that you're discussing your experience with UT2K4, WoW, and SC:PT on every online geek forum you can get a hold of. Mix your string of acronyms with l3375p34k for maximum effect.

Your inconsistent use of the English language will cause ARTS to erupt in anger. Send them the book "l3375p34k 4 DuMM135" to calm their fears.

Your lucky number is 14M1337.

### MATHBUS

You become highly enraged when you find out that the Natural Log (The MathSoc Mascot) is often stolen for months at a time. Take the law into your own hands and chop down every tree on campus for "temporary logs" when the real one goes astray.

ES will not be amused. Chop down their tree first.

Your lucky number is 300 tre... I mean logs.

### Operations Research

You will become increasingly annoyed as people try to guess what your major actually entails. Take decisive action and respond with a flurry of technical jargon that will even make CS scratch their heads.

If you can't think of enough to say, enlist the help of CS. I hear they hand out marks for that sort of things over there.

Your lucky number is WTF?

### PMATH

After trying to ignore it all term, reality is beginning to creep back into your consciousness. Throw it a curveball by trying to hide behind Algebraic Curves. If you get stuck, ask AMATH for help. They have way too much experience dealing with the Real World.

STAT will also try to hide from reality. Suggest they try an exponential distribution.

Your lucky number is 4 more months of school.

### SOFTENG

Trying to figure out what your degree requirements are becomes more tricky all the time. Trust in your academic advisor and take the courses they sign you up for. I hear Introduction to Basket Weaving has all kinds of applications.

At least you don't have it as bad as incoming students. Take some comfort in that.

Your lucky number is Seven courses a term.

### STAT

Annoyed by the lack of springtime, calculate the probability that there will, in fact, be no summer this year. While this will not make things warm up any faster, it will give you something to do that isn't studying for finals.

CS will become curious about weather simulation. Give them last week's newspaper and tell them it's a deterministic model.

Your lucky number is 4 degrees Celcius.

### UNDECLARED

Your indecision will become your downfall as you attempt a multiple-choice ARTS exam. Take the easy way out and smuggle in a four-sided coin.

If you're concerned about the answer being 'E', don't be. I mean, who makes the answer E, anyway?

Your lucky number is 25%.

### ARTS

You will become confused as your friends in MATH and ENG begin to worry about these things called "finals." Mention casually that none of your courses have these things, and then depart for three weeks of backpacking in Europe.

ENG will want to come with you. Remind them that if they fail a course, the world collapses.

Your lucky number is \$300 last-minute airfare.



**mathNEWSmailBAG**

Dear mathNEWS please read my e-mail...  
hello,

I have just read your article which was a test if the answer was a Kangaroo in Denmark eating an Orange then i'm from the 98% of population who think the same else i'm from the 2% of population who didn't think the same as the 98% of population...actually i was from the 2% but the problem is that i didn't think of a country which begins in the letter D i thought of a city which called Damascus which is the capital of Syria in the middle east...so i just wanna ask if it's okay or not if i think of a city not of a country but there's a lot of cities which start in the letter D while there's restricted countries which start in the letter D...i made this test to all my family and they answered Kangaroo in Denmark eating an Orange and i was really shocked and it was really amazing!!!!

I hope to reply my e-mail and answer my question as soon as possible...

THANK YOU...

Khawlah...

*You thought of a city when we told you to think of a country?  
You really are crazy. You should see a shrink or something.*

KreasEd

**Haiku to You, Too**

finite state machines  
can only be used to scan  
regular language

**The Revenge of Haiku**

the bold prophet says  
I have the answer you seek  
P is not NP

**HorrorScopes**

*Not Done yet...*

ENG

Tired of studying? Throw a party in POETS! Invite ES, they have women. Ponder why your bar is always empty, right before remembering that the problem is that it's just not cool any more. Your ES guests will try to propose a solution; keep feeding them beer until the best thing they can think of involves a weather machine.

SCI will try to tell you that such a thing is impossible. Shut them up by building one.

Your lucky number is 32 degrees on demand.

SCI

I'd like to be able to tell you that something important is about to happen to you, but the most exciting thing that ever happens to SCI is that they win in the Roll Up The Rim To Win game.

Drink more coffee. Everyone loves free donuts.

Your lucky number is "Sorry, Try Again"

Amadaeus and ink\_13

**Win an iPod****Career Services Survey**

Hello, Career Services at the University of Waterloo is participating in a national research study and we would like your opinions to be included. This research will give us feedback, concerning UW students and other university students, that will help us to better meet your career services needs.

If you can spare 15 minutes or so, please go to the survey web page <http://www.FromLearningtoWork.ca>. You will be automatically entered into a draw when you complete the online survey. Your privacy will be respected and your contact information will be used solely for awarding of the prize.

The research is being conducted by Brainstorm Consulting and D-Code on behalf of post-secondary schools and employers across Canada. You can find more details about the project including contest details and the privacy policy on the survey website. The data Career Services may receive from Brainstorm Consulting and D-Code will not include personal identifying information such as names and email addresses.

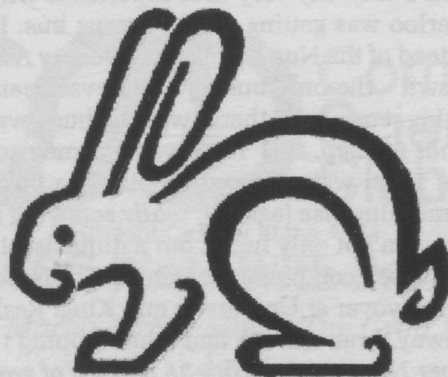
You may decline to answer any question that you are not comfortable with and may withdraw from the study at any time. Your participation is voluntary. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Office of Research Ethics. However, the final decision about participation is yours. Should you have comments or concerns resulting from your participation in this study, please contact Dr. Susan Sykes in the Office of Research Ethics at 888-4567, Ext. 6005.

Please visit [www.FromLearningtoWork.ca](http://www.FromLearningtoWork.ca) now to complete the survey and to enter the draw to win an Apple 15GB iPod. If you can, please forward this message to your friends so they can have a chance to participate too.

Thank you for considering supporting our efforts to serve you better.

Sincerely, Kerry Mahoney Career Services

**Are you ready to go  
down the rabbit hole?**



**Havenger of Hearts**

**May 28, 2004**

**<http://scunt.org>**

## My (Mis)Adventures...

*Or, how Pop-Ups are like profs...*

This week I was going to write about pop-up ads. (Or rather, one specific category of pop-up ads. However, after spending *Two Hours* actually *trying* to get this ad to pop up, it didn't. I learned that pop-up ads are like cops (or even better, professors.) As the adage goes, they're never around when you need them.

Since I pinkie-swore that I would write something this week, and the *mathNEWS* people will break my coccyx if I don't, I present to you something that really happened to me two weeks ago.

Anyone who lives on or near Hazel St. knows about the Number 9 Bus. The Nine runs from Laurier, up Hazel, past Sobey's on Northfield, and on to the Conestoga Mall - and then back again. Seeing as A) we were out of food, and B) I am the least lazy of the people in my apartment, I took The Nine up to Sobey's - without incident.

I left Sobey's with an unknown mass of groceries, but I estimate it was about 35 pounds (or as I would prefer, about 155 Newtons) Unfortunately, it was a Sunday afternoon, and the bus only runs every hour - and I missed the bus back to my apartment by fifteen minutes. Being a cloudy, cold, miserable day, I wanted to spend as little time outside as possible.

"Why not take the bus to the Conestoga mall?" I thought to myself. It would mean waiting 15 fewer minutes out in the cold, while the bus would drive to the mall, turn around, go back past Sobey's, and eventually drop me off. Besides, my arms were tired, and I couldn't very well put those bags down in the mud. It was a *foolproof* plan...

I got on The Nine outside Sobey's. I took it to the Conestoga mall, but I was only half paying attention. Everyone else got off, but *they* didn't have the awesome plan like I did. *I* was the one outsmarting the bus system. We left the Conestoga mall with a whole new load of passengers, and I waited for the stop outside my home. And waited. And waited...

The first sign that something was wrong was the bus was, according to the road signs, heading toward highway 86. The second sign that something was wrong was the bus was now picking up passengers at stops marked #12, not #9...

I was lucky, in a way. My very first experience with the bus system in Waterloo was getting on the wrong bus. It was the Number 12 instead of the Number 8 on University Ave. (I come from a small town - the only busses I had ever been on were school busses. I just *assumed* that it was the bus I wanted.) So I knew, from *that* mishap, that The Twelve came back to University Avenue. I just waited it out, hoping the bus wouldn't change into something else (again!), *really* screwing me.

Unfortunately, I'm not only lucky, but a dumbass. I got off at University and Weber, completely forgetting The Nine (for real, this time), has a layover at University and King. Realizing my mistake right away, I ran a block and a half hoping I wouldn't miss the Number Nine. Again. *With 35 pounds of groceries.*

Luckily, I caught it, and managed to take it home without it changing into something else. But you screwed me, Grand River Transit. I will have revenge...

Valacosa

## So You've Decided to be Physically Active

...  
No, I'm not kidding. Okay. Just *pretend* that you've decided that, then. Yeesh. C'mon, guys... You're used to role-playing... Just ... Pretend you're a barbarian and need to get exercise in order to be more efficient at cleaving that level 10 ogre's head with your 1d3 wooden sword. You used to have a 10d10 sword with a poison attack, but you lost it in a fight with a level 20 chaotic evil mage.

OK. Fine. So you really traded your sword for a barbie doll collection. Now that she's broken up with Ken, the price is *bound* to skyrocket!

Good. Now that you're an over-compensating, overly-macho barbarian with a very extensive barbie doll collection, we're ready to talk about you getting physically active. As per usual, here is my random list of things that you should consider doing in order to be deemed as doing something physically active

- Play squash
- Go bouldering
- Join a fight club
- Chase squirrels (they'll be in season soon!)
- Bike between London and Waterloo
- Defend yourself when your 'friends' come to beat you up for trading your sword for a barbie doll collection
- Walk back and forth between two squares waiting for the inevitable *\*swish\** as the world shifts and fades into battle
- Type with your nose while doing pushups
- Have sex
- Find a level 20 mage, become his friend, then stab him in the back
- Purposely live on the top floor of a 30 storey apartment building and refuse to take the elevator - especially when you're carrying groceries

Well, that's all for this week. Tune in next week when I list things that you can do with your deep fried poodles!

e.

<http://facetious.ca>

## More Haiku

woe to the naive!  
an easy bubble sort takes  
order n squared time

## Top Ten Mathie Joke Punchlines

1. I'm not saying he was dumb, but he couldn't integrate  $e^x$ .
2. So he was like "Don't give him a plane, because he'll take all of  $R^3$ ."
3. The Comfy Lounge!
4. And when he woke up, he was somewhere on the 6th floor.
5. How are you gonna hit the limit with an epsilon that small?
6. Recursion, Recursion, Recursion.
7. With a kid that hyper, she should really be in four space.
8. That's not the identity matrix, that's my wife!
9. And poof! The Genie turned him into Euclid.
10. Microsoft Windows XP.  
P.S. Dammit! I lost!

DanS, SquirrelToken

## mathNEWSquiz #6

### The Difficult Edition!

So it's the last squiz of the term. What a ride it's been. I'd like to tell you that this is going to bring a tear to my eye, but that's totally false. To tell you the truth, there are times when this isn't the greatest job in the world. But squizzes don't write themselves, and so we soldier on.

We almost had zero submission submissions until we opened the BLACK BOX and then we got another one by email. Kudos to Jenn and Ali with a score of  $n$ , and also to Adam and e and sss with a score of  $m$ . I'd like to be able to tell you what you actually got, but I, uh, lost Jenn and Ali's submission. Anyway, by my great memory, the winners are Jenn and Ali.

Here are the answers to the last squiz. Score your own submission! **Wayne's World:** 1. Wayne Campbell / Garth Algar 2. To one's hair 3. There's really no right answer to this one. 4. Dover 5. White Wine 6. Marilyn Monroe / John F. Kennedy 7. Ms. Pacman has a bow and an eye 8. Run Lola Run **The Great Lakes:** 1. The Centre for Environmental and Information Technology 2. Lake Champlain 3. Chicago (Toronto's a close second) 4. Lake Erie 5. Lake Malawi, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Victoria **True or False:** 1. False - It's Carrot 2. False - There are 20 3. Um. Tokyo is the *de facto* capital, but it's never been officially moved from Kyoto, making Kyoto the capital *de jure* 4. False - the astroid is named Ceres.

This squiz is really only interesting if you don't look up the answers on the Internet.

### Insanely Difficult Quotes

These are only really challenging if you don't use the internet to look them up. Identify the origin of the following quotes.

- (In honour of exams)  
April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.
- Nowadays the Controllors won't approve of any new game unless it can be shown that it requires at least as much apparatus as the most complicated of existing games.
- I've seen your flag on the marble arch,  
Love is not a victory march.
- The perfection of power should tend to render its actual exercise unnecessary.
- Now pile your dust upon the quick and dead, till of this flat a mountain you have made.
- Los Angeles is like... how can I put this... a big apple, the windy city, the cradle of civilization, the red planet — no, no, wait, I'm thinking of New York, Chicago, Babylonia and Mars.
- Did you exchange a walk-on part in the war  
For a lead role in a cage?
- Scientific theories are judged by the coherence they lend to our natural experience and the simplicity with which they do so. The grand principle of the heavens balances on the razor's edge of truth.

### Stuff I Don't Expect You to Know

- What's the capital of Catalonia?
- How many times did Keitarou Urashima fail to get into Tokyo University before succeeding?

- In the classic skit *Who's On First*, which position isn't mentioned?
- What do chemists call a compound that cannot be currently synthesized (and will be ridiculously difficult to do so)?
- How is the weight of paper determined?
- What's the name of Faye Valentine's fighter ship?
- What's classically found in a trifecta?
- How much data fits on a 3.5" floppy disk in Japan?

Well, that's all we wrote. Solutions elsewhere in this issue. It's, uh, been fun. Yeah, that's it.

Craig "Eigenvector" Sloss and Eric "ink\_13" Logan

## Even More Haiku

if you must re-order  
quick sort is often better  
beware the worst case

## Tanka

someone please stop me  
before I end up writing  
another haiku  
awful bastardization  
of Japanese poetry

## Reminder

Do you remember back during "reading week" when all your non-math/engineering friends were taunting you because you were still in class? Do you remember that classes finish on Mar 30th? Do you know what April 1st is? This is just a quick reminder, while everyone else is in class on the 31st, take this time to set apart your differences with the engineers and to plan and set up the most elaborate pranks that you can imagine for all those Arts/Science/etc... who already got their time off. You have the time now, get them good.

DanS



Computer  
Science  
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

## CSC Pints With Profs

Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, The Grad House, All Ages!

Come celebrate the end of classes by coming to the CSC Pint's with Prof's! Students can invite their favourite profs to come have a pint. Prof's can invite their favourite students to come have a pint. This is a great opportunity for students to mix with professors outside the regular classroom environment.

Free Food for all!

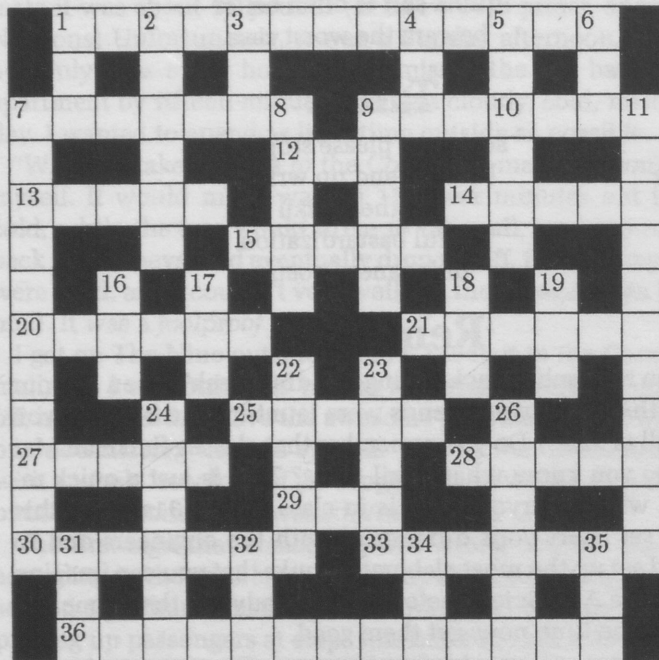
## Grid Clues (Cryptic)

### Across

1. Brassless nine harm unintelligent (13)
7. Pierre's day of traveling was ended by his knee (7)
9. I go mall dining and confused little ones (7)
12. Cooper had door ajar (3)
13. Sandbur psycho contained carbonated bomb (5)
14. He graveled to remove the blood, but the law intervened (5)
15. Go French shopping (5)
20. Drinking Corona made fuzzy animals (6)
21. A severe turn (6)
25. Diaghilev power (5)
27. Scaly X-ray contained sepals (5)
28. Able bodied prostitute was hateful (5)
29. Stupid rat got stuck (3)
30. Shy fool becomes P.I. (7)
33. Group of police fish (7)
36. Our policy until U.S. changes is behave properly (13)

### Down

1. Family member who stole from you (3)
2. Rub tap suddenly ended (6)
3. Before marriage, she used the other joint more (3)
4. There should be some law against male pigs (3)
5. What? Why would my sight have mere cracks? (6)
6. Bad use leads to lawsuit (3)
7. Cork jaw ebbs badly, but still misunderstood (11)
8. Yo, Georgia's the best at exercise (5)
9. Jade atheists to something after life (5)
11. My bran loser turns into fishy fruit (11)
16. Cecilia's back was cold (3)
17. Robert's going back and forth (3)
18. Why does this class have a donkey? (3)
19. Black beard does not like the sun, but he does like sleep (3)
22. Soap's irrational but tastes good (5)
23. Boo, a hair gap is fearless about openings (5)
24. Kid moon sounds alarm for weather (6)
26. So, a bed is nice room in homes (6)
31. Elderly rapper couldn't hop (3)
32. Zillions of parking (3)
34. Bloody bird (3)
35. Mothers against yellowness start planting flowers (3)



## gridCOMMENTS

Last *mathNEWS* of the term, last *gridWORD*! Come one, come all, and test your skills at this weeks' *gridWORD*. It's the last one of the term, so it means my last article of the term. As a going away present, none of you need answer the *gridWORD*, that way I'll get the certificate :)

Congratulations to all those who submitted last issues *gridWORD* solutions: Jenn/Ali, and Stephan Lachowsky for cryptic, and Chris/Jos for conventional. You all rule, and don't let any mathie tell you otherwise - your brains clearly out-smart those who don't submit any solutions to the grid. Go pick up your prizes!

And the *gridQUESTION* of this issue is "What is the best way to spoil a puppy?". And remember kids, you don't answer the *gridQUESTION*, you don't get the prize.

The Girl



## Grid Clues (Conventional)

### Across

1. Presidential tenure
7. Loose dressing gown
9. Type of poison
12. Small peg
13. Pursue
14. FFX mythical creatures
15. Goddess of the harvest
20. Pestle's partner
21. Isolated
25. A favourite target?
27. Type of MouseListener
28. Fallen tower
29. MC 3036 inhabitants
30. Type of zebra
33. Rumour
36. Amusing activity

### Down

1. Become older
2. Subject to unwanted activity
3. Mother's prerogative
4. Half-line
5. Done together
6. Scepter
7. Black mage
8. Anesthetic
9. Surrendered
11. Basically
16. Annoy
17. Trig function
18. Cleave
19. Hooligan
22. Ceasefire
23. Steal
24. British characteristic
26. Enchanted being
31. Night
32. Make a mistake
34. Long time period
35. Perform

