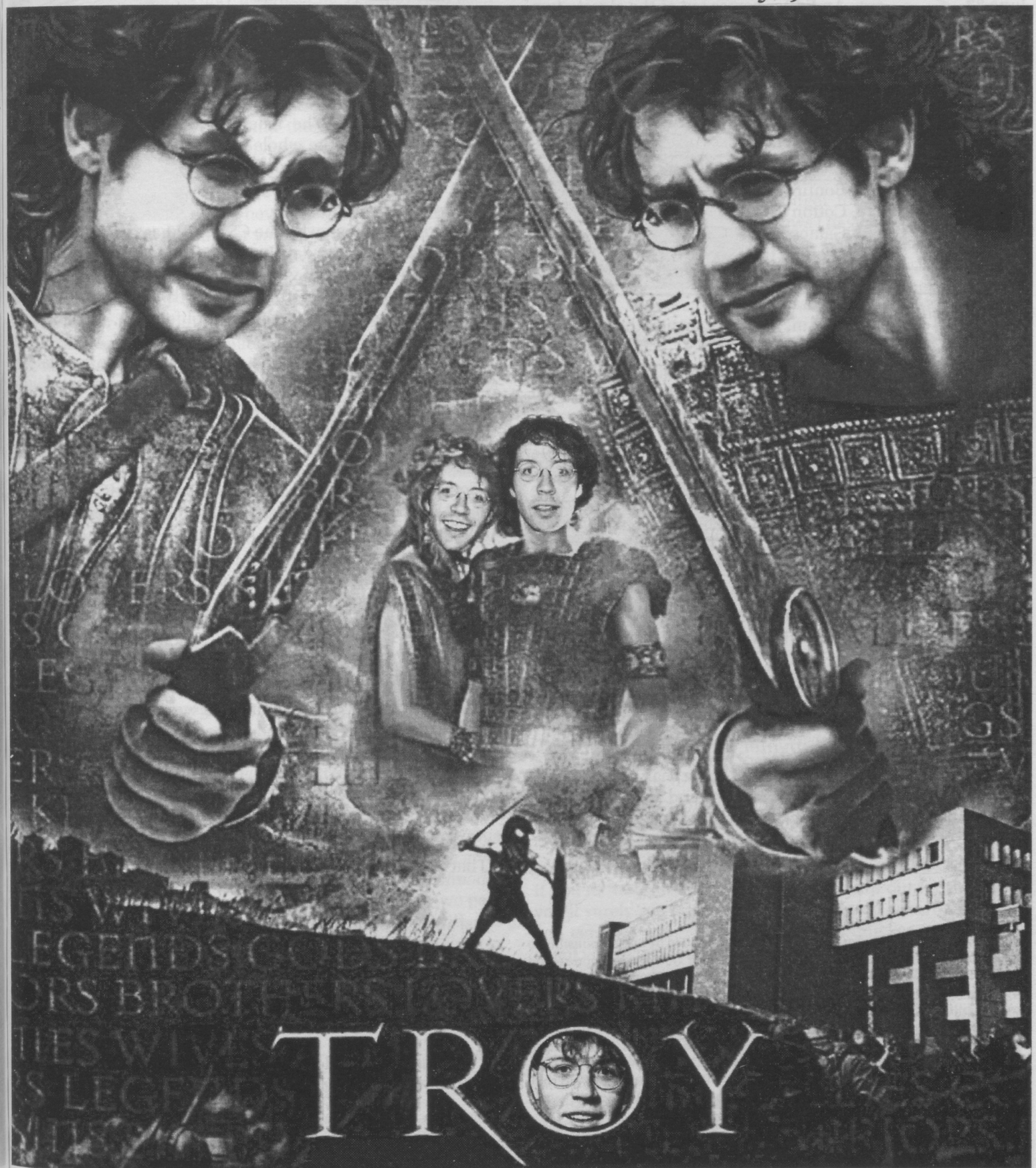


math NEWS

Volume 95, Issue 3
Friday, June 11th, 2004



lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

June 21	Issue #4 production night 6:30 pm, MathSoc Office (MC 3038)
June 22	Editors in the Closet put words on paper
June 23	An Editor comes out of the closet...two are left behind
June 25	Issue #4 is unleashed upon the world

Math Faculty

June 19	Math Spring Convocation Natural Log goes on Tour
June 21	Natural Log wakes up beside strange twig

MathSoc

June 16	Bonfire Night
June 17	Cotton Candy Day
June 23	Games Night 4
Every Day	Drop by the Exec Office - Free Candy!

MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza Days 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the C&D
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Co-op

TODAY	Rankings Open at 3pm
June 13	Rankings Close at 11:59pm
June 16	Match Results Open
June 16	Job Opens and closes
June 48	Unranked students begin the Dance Dance Revolution Revolution
June 52	The Dance Dance Counterrevolution is launched by flabbergasted grad students

Miscellaneous

TODAY	Summerfest 1 — Fed Hal
June 20	Midnight Capture the Flag!
June 20	Settlers tournament
June 21	Happy Birthday Will!

Midnight Capture the Flag - June 20th

More fun than an all-nighter for a CS assignment!

Just when you thought it didn't get better than programming at 1 in the morning, how about running and sneaking around at 1 in the morning, seeking the other team's tie, er, I mean flag? 11:59. June 20th. Comfy Lounge. Be there. MCTF forever.

The Management

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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 on the Internet.

The editor(s): Chris Harasemchuk, Mark Toivanen, Louis Mastorakos



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC FLASH

Last week Larry Smith gave a fabulous and well-attended talk to an enthusiastic crowd. The talk was called "Computing's Next Great Empires: The True Future of Software". The CSC was able to capture the whole talk in digital audio, a feat that the engineers previously **tried** and **failed!** You can get it from our website in ogg or mp3 format: <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca>.

Richard Mann (an awesome CS prof!) has graciously agreed to give a talk on Thursday, June 17, from 4-5pm. This should be really really interesting, so anyone who actually cares about their program should definitely attend. Propaganda for this event should already be in mass proliferation, so make sure you'll be there!!

Keep an eye out for the other great events we've got planned for this semester. That is, if Wednesday's OS assignment didn't cause you to jump out of an airplane. Some of our exec already have, but unfortunately they returned from their last expedition unharmed. Midterms may cause them to forget their parachutes next time...

Come by our office and hang out, 3rd floor MC across from the C&D! You might even get to see some hot ceramic frog action (Iunno, ask Tim).

Michael Biggs

Quotes from the CSC

Note: The CSC Underager will be 18 as of June 12.

This means that next issue, there will be no mercy.

"Bill Gates has kids? I thought there was a reason they called him Microsoft"

-CSC Underager

"Were you there, that time when I couldn't figure out what a RIM job was?"

DTBartle

"That's like Microsoft; blame the user"

-DTBartle

"Just slightly masochistic aren't we?"

-Tim

"Cass wishes she was a dominatrix, it's part of her secret plan to take over the world"

CSC Underager

"That was the stupidest thing they could have named it... it went from Needless Hell to CECS (sex)"

Tim

VPA Says

This issue is about Troy. I know the guy pretty well, I worked as a tutor for him for two semesters. Hence, I would like to apologize to Troy for all the stress I caused him ;)

My life is pretty busy right now. I may no longer be VPF :) but I'm keeping myself busy with a number of committees.

Probably the most important thing going on right now is the election. (VOTE!) This election is going to be close and there will be a noticeable difference in government depending on who gets in. The federal election affects everyone of us. Even if you have never identified with a political

party, I can guarantee you that you have views on political issues. Education, health care, the environment and the economy are all things affected by the federal government. Sigh- if you hadn't been planning on voting I don't know if the bit above changed your mind, but hopefully it did. Over the next while you should see a bunch of material from FedS about the election (especially in regards to education). We will even be hosting a candidates debate. So vote! (Better yet, get educated about the issues before you vote, taking a couple of hours to learn about the issues is an awesome investment of time.)

There's the co-op enhancement committee. Engineering is going to be introducing some mini-courses to be taken during co-op terms. These are intended to give students a stronger understanding of professionalism and other highly desirable traits in the workplace. Although some of the material is engineering specific, there is a lot that could be beneficial to math co-op students as well. Hence, part of this committee's responsibility is to adapt what engineering has done. This work is in the starting phase but looks pretty promising and I have been impressed by the others on the committee.

On Monday I attended a 2.5 hour meeting about the future of CS133. Again, I was pretty happy with how things turned out. By fall 2005 paired programming will be removed from the course and less emphasis will be put on the graphics part of the course. There will be some other changes too. I'm also sitting on the Dean's Nominating Committee for Math. I haven't had any feedback from students which is a little disappointing. I haven't had any students stop by my office hours yet. Even if you don't have an opinion about an educational issue but want to get information and some background, I'm a great resource (and I do love to talk)[Yes, yes he does — Proofreader Cass]. Hence, I'm making the following offer: the first two people to stop by during one of my exec office hours with the answer to the following question will get a \$5 gift certificate to the C&D.

What were the first two courses that I tutored for Troy?

To win, I can't know your first name.

That's it for now

Greg

Alternative Energy

I want a car that propels itself by the sound of its own bass.

HWT

Pres Says

June 28th is coming...Vote!

Don't know how to get registered to vote? Don't know where to get campaign information? Want to get more involved in the election than you are? Contact FEDS VP Education Jeff Henry at vped@feds.uwaterloo.ca and he can help you find everything you need to know or visit www.elections.ca.



Read the VPA article to find out about changes to CS 133 that are coming. Read the VPAS article to find out about upcoming events and things to amuse yourself. Read the VPF article to find out about our new VPF and the budget for this term. In other news I have no other news at this time. It's midterms, go study, then go party. I'll get back to you in another two weeks.

Catherine Moore

The VPAS Needs Sleep

Hey all! So, this past week was pretty awesome. Not only did we have our first Lemonade Day of the term, but there was also a great turn-out for the Math 5-pin Bowling Event. Many thanks to all those that came out and played!



For all those interested in what kind of social events are coming up in the weeks to come - we've got a Math Bonfire Night coming up on Wednesday, June 16th. Keep an eye out for posters that will be up advertizing this event. We'll have tons of marshmallows, stories, terrible jokes, and best of all - fire!

Our next Cotton Candy Day is coming up soon. On Thursday, June 17th we'll be up in the 3rd floor hallway selling Cotton Candy to appease the sugar cravings of even the most sugar deprived mathies.

The next Game Night will be held on Wednesday, June 23rd. Suggestions are welcome for what we'll be playing. As always, anybody looking to burn off some energy and get in some exercise will no doubt enjoy themselves at Game Night. As always, we'll be meeting at 10pm outside of the Comfy Lounge.

Also coming up quickly is Canada Day! (July 1st for those of you who think our national colours involve shades of mauve). If you're interested in volunteering to help out for this event, you'll surely see the posters that will be up advertising where you can sign up. If you want an even quicker response, just email vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. Math is again running children's events during the day, and we're looking for some enthusiastic Mathies to come out. If you have experience or enjoy dealing with the consequences of too much sugar, we want you!

As always, I hope everybody's having a great term. Come on out to our social events and have a good time. We will happily provide excuses as to why you were out having a good time instead of studying / doing homework, guaranteed* to work on even the strictest of professors.

* not a guarantee

Paul "VPASleep" Ullrich

VP(f) seyz

Election was fun! Everyone should run for a position! It would provide you with the excuse to:

- give a self-promotional speech at the forum
- put up self-promotional posters outside the C&D
- write a self-promotional article for *mathNEWS* and
- talk about yourself to any random innocent person who happens to be in the MC.



Now that the excitement of the election is over, I will begin my real work. I hope to achieve what I promised during the election as well as incorporate some of the ideas of the other two candidates.

Keep track of and comment on what I am up to at <http://vpf.blog?city.com>! My official office hours are Monday 2:30 to 3:30 as well as Wednesday and Friday 11:30 to 12:30. However, feel free to talk to me anytime. I may be spotted doing, in descending order of likelihood:

1. Buying coffee from C&D
2. Buying salmon maki from C&D
3. Buying Crispy Minis from C&D
4. Hanging around Mathsoc Office
5. Hanging around Actsci Club Office
6. Attending class

Wendy Yu

David Yach

Senior VP at RIM speaks on Software Efficiency

On Friday, June 18th 2004, from 1:30-3:00pm, David Yach (BMath '83, Senior VP at RIM) will be in DC 1302 to speak about "The Evolution of Software Efficiency: From Saving Bytes to Saving You An Hour A Day". **Everyone is welcome.** Seats will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, and you can register at <http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/navigation/Alumni/2004GrahamSeminar.shtml>, or by emailing Pat Cunningham at pcunning@uwaterloo.ca.

The session will talk about the types of efficiencies that occupied the minds of software developers in earlier years, and how and when those skills can still be applied today. Today's emphasis on making people effective often leads to a completely different way of looking at the type of software developed and the tools and techniques used to create it. Although these two types of efficiency appear to be completely opposing, they are often complementary, and in fact are just two different viewpoints on the same problem - optimizing overall system efficiency given a set of constraints.

Act Sci Club Election Stories

In only a couple of weeks, Canadians everywhere will be going to the polls to determine who our next government will be. For some at this university, it is their first opportunity to vote in a federal election. They may not be aware of the bizarre behaviour that can occur during an election. So to help, I'll tell some random stories from the recent Act Sci Club elections.

First of all, election debates are interesting when there is only one person running. I myself won this illustrious press secretary position running against a desk. My dry wit left my competition speechless.

Secondly, counting is very important. Just ask Florida. In the act sci club we raise hands to vote. Or in the case of desks, just sit there. This could be very interesting if it is developed in our federal ridings.

In conclusion? Well I don't remember what I'm concluding. I guess I don't really have a point. Good thing my opponent was so wooden.

RW - Act Sci Club

MEF UPDATE

Professional Development Fund

MEF has \$750 available for individual professional development for undergraduate students. This includes attending conferences, seminars, or workshops related to your field of study. Application forms for this can be found on the MEF website.

Funding Proposals

MEF funds projects that benefit undergraduate math students academically. In the past MEF has funded academic clubs, research/teaching assistants, computer equipment for MFCE, guest speakers, course notes and much more. If you have a project that will improve education in the Math Faculty, submit a request for funding.

Funding Council

If you are interested in deciding how MEF spends money, apply for a position on funding council. Funding council typically meets once a term, and you get free food in exchange for your time.

Funding request forms and funding council nomination forms are available on the MEF website, www.mef.uwaterloo.ca/resources or in the MEF office during office hours.

Requests for funding are due in the MEF office or in the MEF Mailbox in the MathSoc office by June 23rd, 2004, all other forms are due by June 25th.

Office Hours

This term I will be holding a weekly office hour, Wednesdays 11:20-12:20 in MC 4046. Drop by if you have a question, or want to learn more about MEF.

Brendan White
MEF Director, S04

E-mail: mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Web: www.mef.uwaterloo.ca

Next *mathNEWS* Production Night: Monday, June 21st

Students: free trip to USENIX Security Symposium!

Attention students, both grad and undergrad: Did you know that the USENIX Association wants to pay your way to attend their conferences? It's true. Many UW students have benefited from this program by attending a variety of conferences.

See my USENIX web page for an introduction: <http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~rblander/usenix/>

The next conference is the 13th annual Security Symposium being held August 9-13 in San Diego, California. The conference web site is <http://www.usenix.org/events/sec04/>

The deadline for applications for a grant to attend is June 22. Read about it on my web page, or go directly to the grant application form at <http://db.usenix.org/cgi-bin/students/stipend.cgi?sec04>

Check it out! It could work for you, like it has for at least three UW students who attended the USENIX security conference in Denver a few years ago, among others.

(And don't forget USENIX is interested in sponsoring your programming/research projects too!)

Robyn Landers UW's USENIX campus outreach representative rblanders@math.uwaterloo.ca

So You've Decided to Start an Empire

Apparently we have some kind of theme to this issue.. Apparently that theme is Troy. So, it's only logical that I write an article about how to start your very own empire to impersonate the successful trojan empire...

Yes. So, after my long absence from *mathNEWS*, I am making my triumphant return with *dundunduuuuun* yet another article that starts with a so you've decided to. **Warning:** I'm not feeling very funny.

On with the empirical list!

- Come up with a cool name - make sure that people who are part of your empire are mistaken for condoms
- Pick a mascot - horse is taken, consider a bunny rabbit or some other vicious creature with fangs
- Wage war against a country that is much bigger than you to initiate a seemingly unending string of retreats
- When you can retreat no further, "surrender" by giving your enemies a giant statue of your previously chosen mascot
- Get your hidden warriors to break out of the mascot and kill your unsuspecting enemies
- Lose the rest of your empire

So, there you have it. Helpful hints to keep your budding new army and empire in check. Don't you find it strange that the famous Trojan horse symbolizes a broken condom? You've got some warriors inside.. And they bust out in the middle of the night and take over the castle..

Anywho..

e.

<http://facetious.ca>

mastHEAD

subtitle

So, we don't like 1st year mid-terms. They eat up our production staff. Litterally. Well, at least it wasn't a municipal election or anything like that. There were only like 4 people that showed up for that, and the candidate we were wanting to win didn't even win. Arg. Stupid elections. You should vote, then good candidates can win.

We did get enough help to get an issue together, though. If you happen to read all 6 of e's articles, you'll know why we managed to fill as many pages as we did. So, without further ado, here's this issue's mastHEAD..Where do you park your horse?: e (In my Funeral home), Pete (At the Farmer's Market), pi (African or European?), Kaitlyn (on Lino's excellent sense of humour), Jos (4th Floor MC (it explains the smell...)), Cass (on my pole of Artsie Revenge), Zack (in a "Parking Spot"), Kevin (In front of the Sobey's at northfield and Weber), HWT (Lesotho. Purely because it's completely surrounded by South Africa), ink_13 (Home, home on the range), Snuggles (at the loading dock...let's see them tow that!).

Krease (the same place I park it every night Pinky...)
Beatlemaniac (Over the cliff, just so that it blows up)

Elderly Woman Sues Iron Chef America

In what can only be called the lowest of American civil suits, a woman is suing the producers of Iron Chef America. Rosily Crotchet, 73, of the Cannondale Nursing Homes in Kentucky has sworn, "on her childrens' graves", that she came up with the original cooking competition.

"It was going to be called 'Kentucky Kulinary Kompetitons', and I thought the abbreviation would be catchy. But for some reason, the mean old man that would produce it for the radio said that people would hate it. I just don't understand..." stated Ms. Crotchet.

The producers for Iron Chef America had no comment, but the executives of the show's networks had this to say:

"We don't know what this woman has been smoking. We have no idea what 16 year old drug dealer sold it to her. But whatever the situation, we will weather it in the usual style. Look forward to our slander to come."

In the aftermath of the lawsuit launch, there have been a number of copycat lawsuits, involving shows as little known as 'Toad Patrol' to some of the bigger names, such as 'Friends' and 'Seinfeld'. Asked if this could be the next line of ridiculous lawsuits like the ones that pummeled the fast food chains ten years ago, network executives simply said, "Boo on them."

When asked if she had ever heard of the Iron Chef in Japan, Ms. Crotchet said, "I do not accept Japan as an independent state from America. America is the only country in this world, isn't it? Just ask that man, on the screen." Ms. Crotchet pointed to a video of George Bush speaking at a press conference which played on her television. When asked, for curiosity's sake if she recognized Asia, Crotchet simply said, "Never heard of it."

In the meantime, the grandmother of 25, and mother of 5 deceased children rocks in her rocking chair, while crocheting a new afghan for her lawyer. Good luck, Ms. Crotchet. You'll need it.

Bitter Hag

Review of Troy

Warning the following article is completely true. For those of you who think *mathNEWS* is made up of nothing but lies (usually a good assumption, especially in my articles) are up for quite a rude awakening. I assure you this is not going to become a recurring theme, I'm only doing this the once, for I think that it's going to be harder to exaggerate the truth any more. So now I bring you the feature article, my movie review of Troy.

Let me start this off by telling you, that before going to see this movie, I had heard from several friends that there are better things to go see (This is where something like a Shrek 2 plug should go). However another friend wanted to go see it, and I thought, what the hell it can't be *that* bad. Now, before I say too much, let me tell you that I'm not a fan of movies causing the author of the original work to spin in their grave. Now I'm not going to say that this movie did that, I'm just going to show you the following table. There may or may not be some spoilers in here, but I think you all know how it ends (they use a big wooden horse).

Homer's Illiad Troy

10 long hard fought years
16 days, I counted them. Also 3/4 of them were days off of them just sitting around
Agamemnon survives the Trojan War
Odysseus is the only of the greek kings to survive (of course because he is also the only of the required characters for the sequel, yay Hollywood sucking)

Achilles is for all purposes invincible except in one shot
Achilles is just really really good (arrows to the chest kill him)
they use a giant horse to get into the city by making the trojans think its a gift
They instead use a giant rabbit

Now, as you can see there are a lot of things that make the movie really off. Sure the battle scenes can look kind of cool, but the plot is really messed up. You should expect some greek mythology out of a movie like this, but instead there is none. So, if you, like me don't authors spinning in their graves then you can say that this movie sucks. However *if* you're a girl then you'll probably like this movie do to Brad Pitt trying to wear as little cloths as possible, and that other Elf-guy being there as well. If you really want a good trojan war story I suggest looking up the Wayne and Shuster version or actually reading Homer's Illiad. (The penny arcade about the movie is pretty good too)

DanS

Rhymes

Here are some words that rhyme with other words.

- Orange, Purple, Silver, Ambercrombie
- Stylus, Dissertate, Flamingo, Siege
- Fantastic, Superfluous, Tag, Dazzle
- Box, Cauliflower, Forty, Simpleton
- Maintenance, Implode, Cargo, Wares
- Phong, Hilt, Channel, Alarm, Preview
- Wire, Bead, Ringmail, Window, Brace
- Sky, Syphon, Crank, Steroid, Bashing
- Ignore, Section, Calligraphy, Hint

e.

<http://facetious.ca>

Placid Interference

An apology by Michael Biggs

I would like to preface this message with a formal apology for my previous *mathNEWS* article. I'm afraid I was feeling rather ill that evening and was not quite aware of my surroundings. I am sorry to all those who were hurt or otherwise disappointed with its contents, and can only hope that the Faculty of Mathematics can forgive my inappropriate ramblings. With confidence and sincerity I shall from now on restrict my meagre passages to information that is beneficial and relevant to the undergraduate community at large.

In vehemence I maintain my defense that no dinosaurs were harmed in the creation of the article.

I will now take this opportunity to denounce the adoption of social passivity as a viable response to personal ineptitude. In warfare of the conscience, the spirit is so enslaved by destitution that it readily adopts the most simple of mediocre doctrinal fantasies that are prevalent in our selfish and perverted modern environment. This inherent disintegration of moral integrity rips through the very fabric of self-preservation; the soul is contorted and abused as it is dragged through a raging chasm of violence and despair.

While it has become tragically commonplace, our scenario is completely unnecessary and can be remedied through deep personal introspection which can finally bring us to acceptance of the bitter past. I encourage everyone, especially those who are more deeply acquainted with the monotonous regularity of the mathematical sciences than the far more diverse and exquisite intricacies of the human condition, to treat others with the respect that we often only pretend to think they deserve. Guilt alone would relentlessly equivocate our own desires lest we can confront such poison in defense of an earnest individual Freedom blessed by moral commitment.

I have become obsessed with the social interactions from touch-typing software. "my dad had a sad lad" I personally think Sis should ditch Sid and give Ed a chance, even though Sis is a tease. Sis does like a soda. *mathNEWS* adds a seed deal. Dad feels life dies as lilies fade. *mathNEWS* is jaded. 120 WPM yay! Keep up the good work *mathNEWS*ies!!

Michael Biggs

Culprit Found in Women's Washroom

Over the past few months, the women's washroom has been an atrocity of spoiled toilet paper, waterlogged (or otherwise) floors, and toilet seats left up.

After hunting for two terms, campus police were finally able to catch the culprit with the help of an unsuspecting female student. The culprit, whose name is being withheld for our sanity, thought that he could beat the male-female ratio in Math by posing as a woman. The student, alias "Jeannine", frequented the women's washrooms in the hopes of picking up.

When asked about whether or not he considered that straight girls would be looking for a male, he shrugged and said, "She'll know when she sees me play Titan. Rawrrrr!"

The women in Math thank campus police for their efforts and ask that anyone who follow suit please at least leave the seats down.

Bitter Hag

Beautiful People I

Time and time again people ask me "Dave, is there any way I can find utterly unattainable women using the internet?" For too long, I've been unable to help them, but thanks to <http://www.vanitydate.com>, now I can help everyone find the perfectly fantastic woman to develop an unhealthy and unrealistic obsession with.

Now, when looking through women who won't reply to you anyway on a personals site, it's important not to fall for the first one you find. Take sharpieviden:

"Well lets see, I'm a starving college student Love to travel and explore anything I can..... I drive a silver 02 Jetta. I have a bathing suit fetish, I own about 10 so far."

Regardless of how we feel about her, I'm calling World Vision Famine Relief to demand my cheques back — Completely taken in by those pictures of bony children, I hadn't realized that starving meant being forced to drive a 2 year old car.

blondeH2Oskigirl, 33, is probably more up our alley:

"I do PC graphics and MS Office training/software support for a commercial insurance brokerage firm in Houston... aka computer geek. I'll never be one of those birkenstocks-n-socks types who thinks physical attraction is overrated... One of my favorite quotes is 'Spandex is a privilege, not a right!'"

Close, but 30 is a line in the sand I'm not willing to cross. I won't let you fantasize about someone who is old enough to casually mention spandex.

ashleyray, at 19, is probably what we're looking for. Even if, at 130 pounds and 5'6", she's one of the tubbier ladies on the site, I think we can forgive that. She's a dancer who makes over 60 000 a year... oh... wait, one of those horizontal dancers. Rather than unobtainable, she seems to be merely unaffordable, a critical distinction.

Okay, enough pussy-footing around. I've fed the data into the most powerful computer available and we have a tie. The two most amazingly, stunningly, gorgeous — wholly unattainable — women are:

Kristy, 24

"The internet is full of desperate psychos with nothing intelligent to say. I guess this makes me one of them."

crushedenvy, 21

"I have an Internet Technology Network Degree and I'm a self confessed computer nerd! hehehe."

These results are part of an ongoing study, stay tuned for what mean things they say to me when I try to join.

Dave

Yakko Warner Sings the Orientation 2004 Team Names

- Blizzard and Meltdown
- Tsunami and Flood
- Locust, Lightning, and Outbreak
- Shark Attack, Avalanche
- Meteor Strike
- Wildfire and an Earthquake
- Icestorm and Sandstorm
- and Tropical Storm
- Volcano, Tornado, Typhoon
- Incoming Game didn't make the cut
- but Team Hurricane did get through

<http://www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca/2004/>

Random Sayings of an Artsie

Infiltrating MathSoc 102

Proofreading *mathNEWS* isn't as much fun without Snuggles and his slinkies. I like slinkies, because they are cute and fun. You can play with them and do cute things with them, like put two slinkies inside of each other and make it look like a psychotic rainbow.

I'm slowly discovering more things about MathSoc, in particular the games. Mark likes to play Bang! because he likes to bang as many girls as possible. This is okay, because Mark is the Sheriff almost everytime I play with him, and he's supposed to bang me before I bang him. But he likes talking far too much about banging people to death. It gets a little scary after a while.

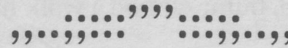
Another fun game is Guillotine, where you kill people for fun and profit. This fits into my philosophy of life very well; I like to kill. I like to profit. I like to have fun. This is a good life skills game. My therapist would be happy.

Other things that you'll see around the third floor of the MC are laptops. I happen to like my laptop; it is small, cute, silver, and sexy. Damn sexy. Only a Mac can beat my laptop for sheer sweetness. I like to brag :) I was at Fiasco's the other day with some Mathies and a few Softies, and we all pulled out our laptops and set up an ad-hoc network to share episodes of Red vs. Blue. We had the idea of counting up the value of the hardware at the table (laptops, watches, PDAs, memory sticks, and cell phones) and we realized that out of 6 people we had over \$15 321.00 worth of hardware. Jen says that I should not talk about this. I still think it's kinda cool.

Another thing that you'll find around MathSoc is the CSC. The CSC is NOT scary, it is fun. The club is clean, pretty and green. We play around with Linux, burn OSs, and make fun of people by quoting them on our whiteboard. We are better than MathSoc, in the way that we're nice, and sometimes MathSoc is not. And we have books. Lots of books. Pretty books.

I should really eat something.

The Vengeful Artsie



It's time for another* installment of ASCII ART!

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Name that picture!

*this is not another

<http://facetious.ca>

troyQUOTES

See if you can guess which of the following are *bona fide* Troy Vasiga quotes, and which ones are from the movie *Troy*.

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

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

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

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

"You want me to look upon your army and tremble. Well I see them, I see fifty thousand men come here for one man's greed. And I see them and say that no son of Troy shall ever submit to a foreign ruler."

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

"Nice. Ugly. Nice. Ugly. This is all they do in art appreciation."

"Tomorrow we'll batter down the gates of Troy. I'll build monuments for victory on every island of Greece. I'll carve Agamemnon in the stones."

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

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

"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."

"At the end of the day, you could be in a bed, which is a good final state. Or you could be in a bad final state: Turkish jail."

"You won't have eyes tonight, you won't have ears or a tongue. You will wander the underworld blind, deaf, and dumb, and all the dead will know, 'This is Hector, the fool who thought he killed Achilles.'"

"Once I am in the error state, I never leave it. It's kind of like Scarborough."

"They probably didn't say 'an alphabet is a finite set of symbols' in grade one. They could have, but they didn't."

"Compilers typically don't tell you: 'Warning: check the newsgroup again.'"

"The last time you spoke to me like this you were ten years old and had just stolen father's horse... what have you done now?"

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

"Computer scientists are concerned with only two things: when Star Trek is on, and how they can be lazier."

"I'm not going to teach you all of CS 246. That would take me 15-20 minutes or so."

"I have endured what no one on earth has endured. I have kissed the hands of the man who killed my son. "

"Tricky part of a queue is know when to stop writing ue's. Queueueueueueue..."

"Nobody will get less than zero for this course. It's reassuring. [Pause.] Mostly because Quest would explode."

"We begin getting you enthusiastic about computer science and we show you the dumbest algorithm we have. Wow, I really want to go into this field now."

"The gods envy us... because every breath might be our last. Everything's more beautiful that way. "

"The term 'heap' is overloaded. The term 'overloaded' is overloaded. The term 'term' is overloaded."

"I see a red root and I want to paint it black. The Rolling Stones wrote that song about red-black trees. It was the late 1960s, they were doing drugs and working with data structures."

"Say your dad is a supporter of the Reform party, and you are a member of the NDP. Words like 'racist' and 'pinko' tend to get thrown around the dinner table and things get a little tense, while your mom sits eating away."

"Your glory walks hand-in-hand with your doom."

"When you're on the highway 407, you know you have to pay money, or the owner of the car will have to pay. Might be your dad, your mom, or the person you just carjacked from."

"It's good to have empty sets around, in case you need to go somewhere. Lots of room to pack your luggage."

"Then fight for me. My wife will feel much better knowing you're riding beside me. I'll feel much better. "

Top 8 Misheard troyQUOTES

1. Your tokenizer walks hand in hand with your parser.
2. Before my string is done, I will enter your state and smile.
3. You are a far better object than the one of this class.
4. I garbage collected an object today. It was young, too young.
5. There is no hash between men and lions.
6. I can't imagine life without queues.
7. They underestimated us, let's overflow the stack.
8. Then code for me. My wife will feel much better if you're coding beside me. I'll feel better.

The Comfort Zone

A comment that I hear about TV, sometimes too often, sometimes not enough, is that so-and-so show is far too formulaic. I'll be the first to admit that many, many shows, and a large part of TV in general, suffers from the plague of formulaity, a plague so destructive that it warrants the use of a word I'm not sure exists.

Evidence of formulaity in television is very clear and prevalent; one need look no further than the strikingly red and itchy rash of reality TV to see the cynical mathematics at work. It's clear that originality is lacking in many areas.

However, this isn't my beef. My qualms are with claims of formulaity in those few examples of television shows which are far and away above the rest in terms of originality. In these situations, often the other person is touting the relative benefits of movies as compared to television, without realizing that yes, there's a lot of formulaic movies around, too.

So, I've decided to make a reference point in terms of formulaity, by examining a kind of TV we all know and love: cop shows.

Let's start with the little guy, *NYPD Blue*. The first episode of this series aired in September 1993, and it's still going. So far, there have been 241 episodes of *NYPD Blue*.

Next, let's take a look at the highly-rated and well-renowned *C.S.I.* This kid is relatively young, having aired its first episode in October 2000. This didn't stop the kid from fooling around and having his first kid less than two years later, affectionately named *C.S.I.: Miami*. Having learned nothing, *C.S.I.* has another kid on the way, *C.S.I.: New York*. To date, there have been 92 episodes of *C.S.I.* and 48 episodes of *C.S.I.: Miami*.

Now, let's look at the big daddy of them all: *Law and Order*. The original series got its start way back in September 1990. It just finished its fourteenth season with its 325th episode. *Law and Order* has some kids of its own, although apparently it

read the brochures and waited a little longer than *C.S.I.* In September 1999, *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* hit the airwaves, and has aired 116 episodes. Two years after that series, we got *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, which has aired 66 episodes. The *Law and Order* family is also expecting a new addition in 2005, *Law and Order: Trial by Jury*.

Now, I certainly don't mean to imply that all these shows I've mentioned are equivalent. They each have their little variations. However, they still are shows about cops and crimes they investigate. The other thing I'd like to emphasize is that, of all the shows I've mentioned, they're all still going.

Now, I've examined three families of cop shows, one of which doesn't have any spinoffs. Each of these shows has episodes of approximately 45 minutes in length when you remove advertisements. Between these three families, there's been 39960 minutes of cop shows. That's 27.75 straight days of cop shows. Nearly a month of back-to-back cop shows. If that doesn't sound like a lot, consider that it would only take you 16.5 hours of continuous watching to finish off a 22-episode season of a show.

So yes, that's a whole heck of a lot of time to devote a television screen to cops. And that's only the big three that I've looked at here. It doesn't take into account the new ones that are appearing everywhere. Just a little food for thought the next time you decide to decry something as derivative.

HWT

How to stay single in the Math Faculty

For the girls:

- Step one: Break up with your arts degree boyfriend
- Step two: Enjoy your freedom like the new wonderful life it is
- Step three: Loudly proclaim that you have no intention of dating anyone until the winter term, or even later. About now, the boys around you will begin to hear this as a dare
- Step four: Reject all those excellent guys who ask you out anyway. Be sure to remember which perfectly good and logical excuses you used for further notice
- Step 5: Start falling for a guy who embodies all of the traits you couldn't date before
- Step 6: Let your feelings be known, then drive 550km away
- Step 7: Spend late night phone calls pouring your heart out to each other
- Step 8: Start dating
- Step 9: Learn from your friends a list of guys who were waiting, like you asked them to, to ask you out

Wait a minute... ok, don't listen to me. If I had to give advice, I'd say stay away from MathSoc and the comfy, and don't fall for anyone. Even better, don't even do step 1.

For the guys:

The One and Only Step: Don't switch programs.

Some Tongue Twisters

Here's some tongue twisters in increasing order of difficulty.

- An apple is a fruit
- Nachos aren't tacos
- Pimples are simple to contract
- Fuzzy wuzzy was a bear
- Woodchucks could chuck wood
- Five hive wives ate chives while alive
- Peter pumpkinhead was a man
- Mo no fro, toe doe stow bow
- Diverge heather annihilated strudel
- As much wood as a woodchuck could chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood, but a woodchuck can't chuck wood, so fucking good
- Moo moo moo moo meow meow moo meow meow moo moo meow
- Quoth the quintuplets' quotation
- Wait for four weights

e.

<http://facetious.ca>

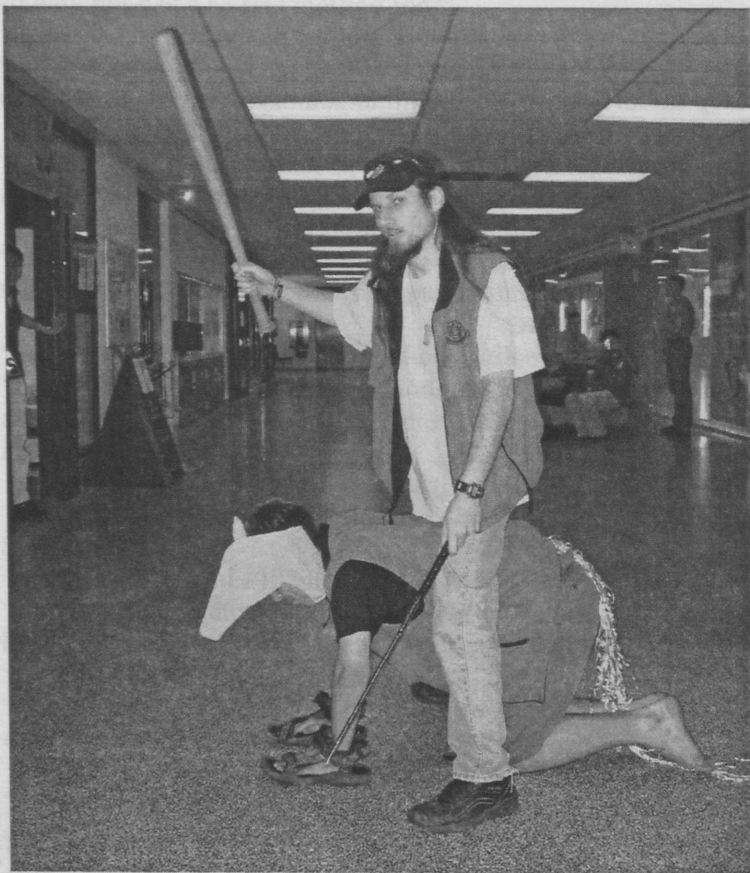
- Half-Pint

The Siege of Troy

In the far off land of the Davis Centre, in a small office in the link, lives a figure of epic proportions. Deep in these hallowed halls lives the one known only as Troy. Some think he is just a legend; some fear to travel over yonder in-case the rumours are true. However, those wise few who have lived through the ages know the truth: Troy is real.



Known to some as Finite Automaton Man, Troy spends his days preaching from a stage upon the ignorant masses. He tries to convey to them the ways of the world, things they need to know to fulfill their lives. He performs a noble service to the community which not many could provide. He is indeed, a legend.



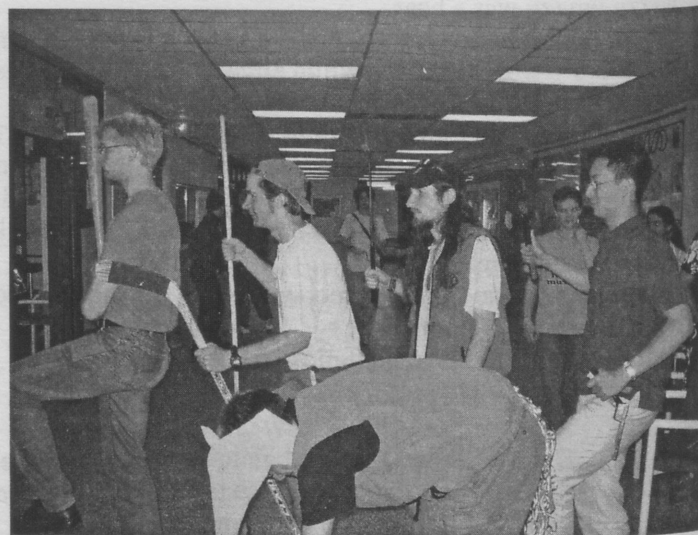
However, Troy has many enemies. There are a great many who are far from impressed with both his words and his actions. These individuals took it upon themselves to form an alliance; they banded together to form "The Rogues". The sole mission of The Rogues was to destroy Troy and all that he held dear.

The Rogues started many moons ago and went on for countless semesters, leaderless and scattered. But eventually, as if it were meant to pass, a great ruler came into their ranks. He was young, strong, agile, and intelligent. He had joined The Rogues because he blamed Troy for the failures of his career. His whole life was focused on the one moment when he would finally be able to bring retribution to his family name. Known only as "The Leader", he lived in the shadows, controlling things from behind the scenes.



Every good leader needs an army, and The Leader was no exception. The first task he set out on was amassing an army. He recruited soldiers from all walks of life; statisticians, computer scientists, actuaries, even pure mathematicians joined his cause against Troy. The ranks swelled quickly and soon The Leader knew he had the man-power to defeat Troy.

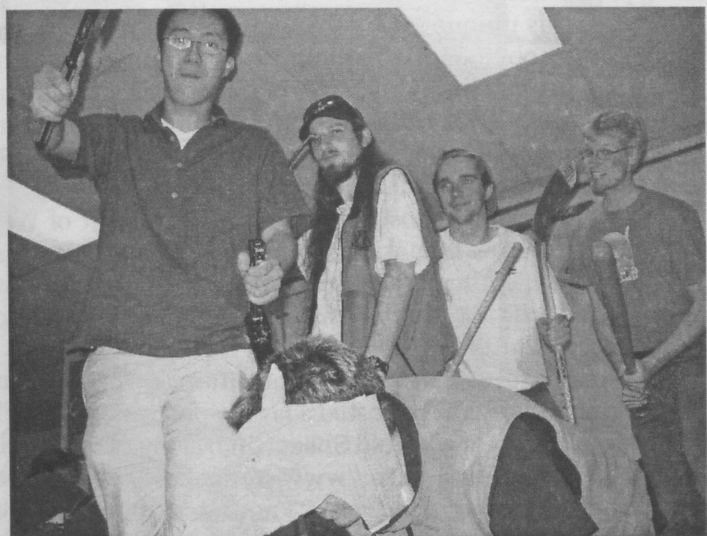
All that was missing was armaments for the soldiers. His troops needed weapons if they were going to lay siege to the fortress deep within the DC. The troops left on a mission to



The Siege of Troy Continues

pillage as many weapons as possible. Their mission was a success. Weapons of many varieties were found: spears, swords, and axes were popular choices. What was once a bunch of scattered individuals was quickly turning into one of the most formidable armies in all the University.

After arming his sizeable force, The Leader found that they were lacking in the necessary skills to defeat Troy. He knew of the legend of Troy's power, so he decided that his forces needed to be elite fighting machines. A strict training regiment was begun immediately. His soldiers trained for 16 hours per day, taking breaks only to sleep and eat. The training started to pay off very quickly, as the soldiers gained in both strength and technique.



After 2 solid months of training, The Leader decided he could wait no longer. He had the troops brought together and their mission explained. Their task was to bring the war to Troy's home. They were going to assault the very heart of the Davis Centre. Some of the men were afraid, they feared for their lives, and their academic records. Others, those most loyal to The Leader, welcomed the news and prepared for battle.

Troy Vasiga
 Director of the
 Canadian Computing Competition
 School of Computer Science

The path to Troy would not be an easy one. The way is windy, cold, and dangerously close to the edge of a steep fall. The Leader knew that some of his soldiers would not be coming back from the attack, and they knew it too. For many, this was the first time they had even seen The Leader; his legend was second only to that of Troy himself. The Leader rode his trusted steed into battle, making him an even more menacing force.

And so they set out on the journey, two men, a wizard, an elf — wait, wrong story. And so began the long march to Troy. The

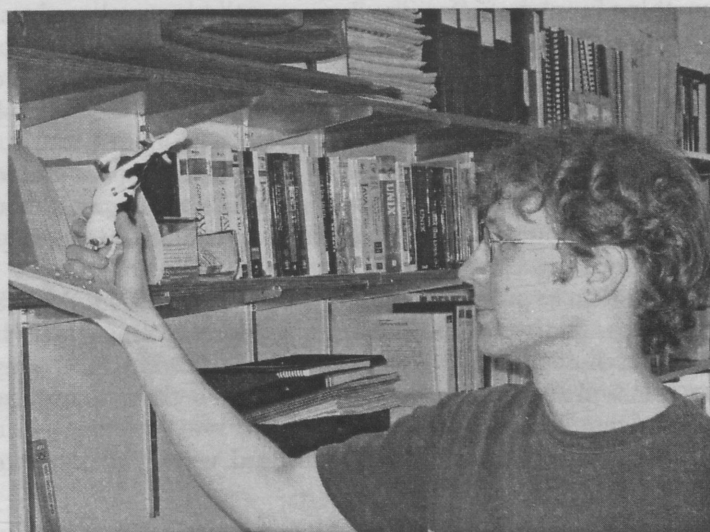
soldiers marched constantly, stopping only for small rests and a quick bites to eat. The path for them was harsher than for most; over half the soldiers perished on the way to Troy. Those that remained were weak and tired from the long journey, so a camp was set up just outside Troy where the men regathered their strength.

With the dawn of a new day came the time to attack. The men were roused early from their slumbers and armed for battle. The Leader, remaining behind, sent his troops in to assault Troy. They rose to the occasion, charging head long at the fortress which protected Troy. They faught with all their might, laying a constant bombardment to the fortifications.

It was not meant to be. The fortress was too strong, the soldiers were not prepared, and The Leader was a coward. The siege of Troy was a failure for The Leader, and after the battle his troops deserted him. Each headed off in his own direction, some back to the MC, others chosing to remain in the DC. The Leader was never seen again.



All the while, Troy remained safely protected by the walls that surrounded him. He knew that they would come, and when they did he was ready for them. His triumphant victory over the insolents succeeded in bringing more recognition to his name. The Legend of Finite Automoton Man shall live on forever, in the annals of civilization.



Some profQUOTES

"Of course my name is Sally. Of course I fly penguins to work everyday"

Vasiga, CS 240

"I don't know the difference between backslash and frontslash. I grew up in DOS and moved to Unix, then I was traumatized"

Vasiga, CS 240

Prof: "Is that a backslash?" Student: "That's a frontslash." Prof: "Ah shit!"

Vasiga, CS 240

"The short answer is yes, the long answer is no."

Vasiga, CS 240

"If you still don't get it, ask your mother."

Vasiga, CS 240

"Integrating a polynomial is easy... it's kindergarten integration!"

Wood, MATH 138

"This is an algebra problem, which you people evidently don't like... so I'll skip the proof of this"

Wood, MATH 138

"Integration by staring... the best technique of all!"

Wood, MATH 138

***mathNEWS* mailBAG**

Hello.

I would like to comment on last issue of *mathNEWS*. As always, I loved reading it and some of the articles were very entertaining.

However, I found certain pieces from the *mathNEWS* offensive, namely the article called 'Offending People 101' and the cover of *mathNEWS* about breaking 10 commandments. I have great respect and love for God and my religion, and finding such material on *mathNEWS* was somewhat unexpected.

I do respect the freedom of speech (or art) and I guess you could argue that *mathNEWS* is one of the places where people can express their opinions freely. However, I believe that, if people wanted to entertain themselves or others by writing something funny but offensive, I am sure there are other places where they can do so (not that I think it is a right thing, but at least, they will be able to express themselves and not offend lots of people or get complaints like this). I just don't think putting such material on *mathNEWS* was a good idea.

I enjoy reading *mathNEWS*, and I don't really expect to find openly offensive material while reading it. People can offend others accidentally... I don't think trying to do so purposely, like the article, was necessary.

I don't mean to put a stop to the writers/artists of *mathNEWS* from being creative, and I don't have any hard feelings towards the writer and the artist personally. I just wanted to voice my thoughts and hope that you would consider them for future issues of *mathNEWS*.

Thank you very much for all the hard work you put into *mathNEWS*.

Sincerely, Theresa Kim

WORLD'S FATETST RPG!

(sic)

So what happens when you sit down in front of your computer one evening, nothing to do, and you decide, "hey, I've always wanted to make an RPG. I'm not going to stop programming until I've finished an RPG"?

Back in first year, I did this very thing. The end result is what is known today as the WORLD'S FATETST RPG (or WFR for short).

So what is WFR? I'm glad I just imagined you asked. Basically, it's an RPG I threw together, from scratch, in *Visual Basic*, in a couple of hours. Nothing was planned ahead of time. All of the plot, gameplay, graphics, etc. were created on the fly during production.

How does this unique style of programming manifest itself? Well, it's pretty obvious. No spelling errors were corrected. The enemies are various colors and sizes of squares. The world map is nine tiles wide by 255 tiles tall. And the strength of the enemy you fight is a function of your y-coordinate. The object of the game is simple: find the tree.

It wasn't until I was mostly finished development of WFR that I found the trick to make it work: add a clock. This transforms this short, limited RPG into a time trial, and we all know that competition is the only true fire that can burn in our blood. Believe me, I've tested this assertion.

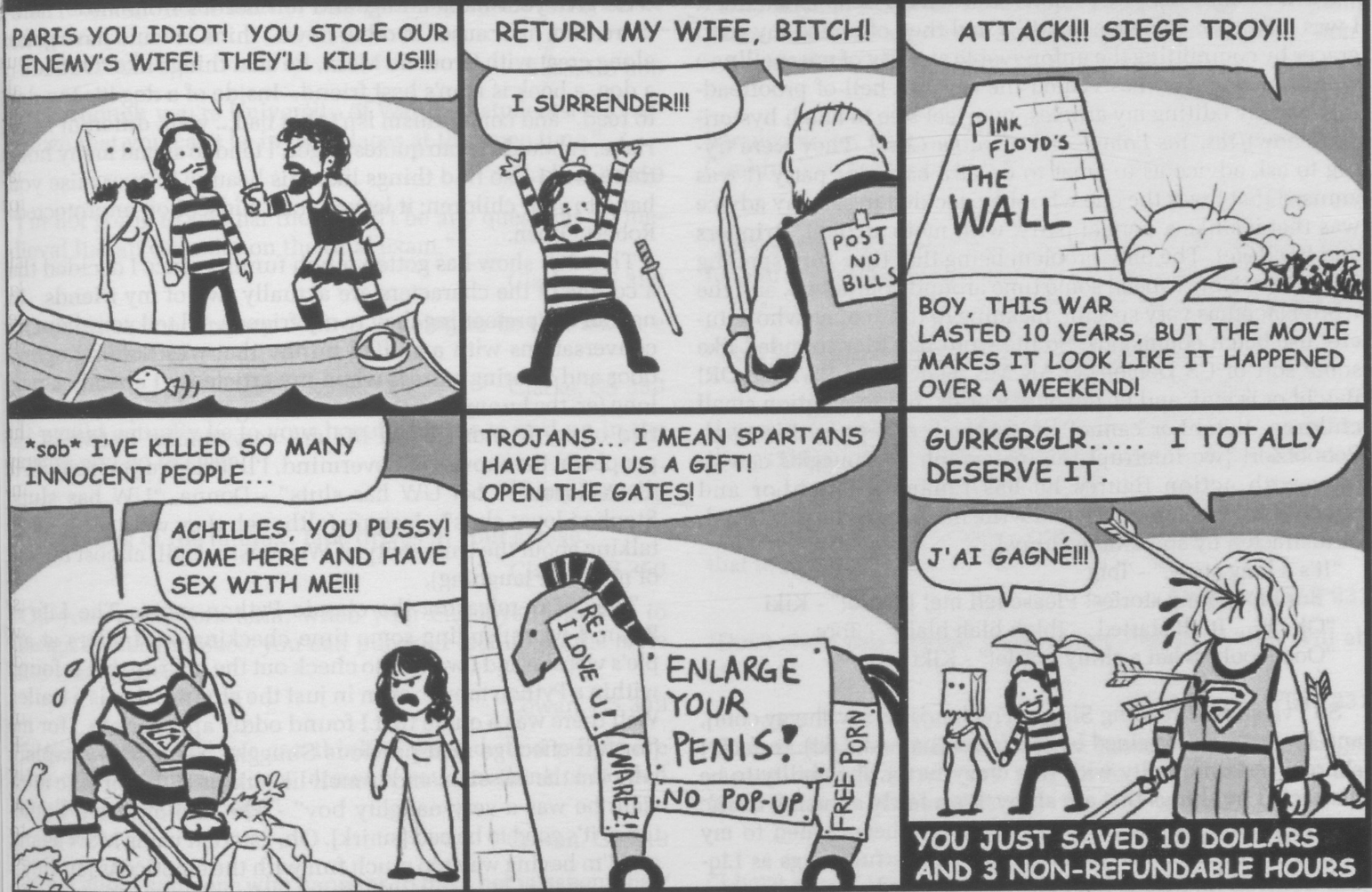
I would like to now assess the abilities of you, faithful *mathNEWS* readers. I have posted a Java applet version of WFR (with the assistance of good old SheepNine) at my conveniently situated CS webspace, at <http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~h3truong/games/wfr/>. And yes, I know Java applets tend to blow hard every now and then. Also, this version is programmed in a horridly inefficient fashion, but that's okay because it's so simple. Maybe one day I'll have an optimized Flash version, but that would require me to know Flash. How about some lessons, guy-who-programmed-that-online-Flash-version-of-Set-whose-name-I-can't-remember?

WFR2, WFR3 and WFR4 forthcoming.

HWT

Maximus Modulus

TROY, THE MOVIE, IN 6 EASY PANELS BY DAN LEE. WHO ELSE?



Top Ten Things to do with a Trojan Horse

Disclaimer: This topic has been assigned to me. If I run out of ideas at number four and have to resort to "what to do with plain old trojans" it's not my fault.

10. Sneak in crib notes to your Math XYZ exam
9. Sneak in ice water into a NO food or drink lab
8. Smuggle the corpses of geese you illegally hunted on campus to do everyone a favour off campus
7. Smuggle the Stanley Cup back into Canada forcefully (as of production, score not final)
6. Drive to Ottawa
5. Joust against a giant wooden rabbit
4. Accidentally smack Kevin when Kaitlyn ducks to avoid it
[And now WHAT are you avoiding?!? — BeatleEd]
- * 3. Lino is a big stinky hairy MONSTER who steals and molests teddy bears (Wait, that's not something to do with a trojan horse... it's just a simple fact...)
A real 3. One word: Pinata (yes I know it's missing an accent)
2. Mmmmmmm.... candy... pinata... it makes number 2, too
And finally, last but not best as these were generated randomly...
1. Fill it with trojans - and I don't mean mini horses (PINATA!)

- Half-pint

Grrraaarrggghhhh.

You know what bugs me? Caucasian anime fans who like to refer to each other by using each other's names as if they were written in Japanese. That is, "Albert" becomes "Arubaato", or "Dickface" becomes "Dikkufeesu". Bloody hell, that annoys me.

I'm not saying that switching names between languages is necessarily abhorrent. People do it all the time, for very good reasons. Consider the massive Asian community we have here at UW Math. Without a Romanized representation of their names, they could have never had library cards.

I'm talking about people with very English names who speak very English English. And now I'm talking to them, so listen up. Your names, they are English. They are not Japanese. You are not Japanese. Every time you call each other by your Japanimated names, purely because you really like anime, I want to freaking shove my foot through your ears into your brains, because it's insipid and annoying and very, very stupid.

I think I'm going to invent a language where all the syllables are vicious self-deprecations and create a fad around it, just to make a point. See how much fun when they call up a friend with, "hey, is I'm-a-nasally-defecating-she-monkey-with-a-gripping-lust-for-my-uncle's-saliva-pool-that-collects-in-his-navel-and-every-now-and-then-when-I-masturbate-my-genitals-run-away there?"

HWT

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but Simon is the evil CS Demon BatchLor! I was talking to someone on MSN and they offended my good graces by committing the unforgivable atrocity of misspelling a word (anyone who has visited the seventh hell of proofreading, namely editing my articles, may feel free to laugh hysterically now)[Yes. Yes I am. — Proofreader Cass]. They were trying to ask advice as to what to do at a bachelor party (I was amused that I was the one who they decided to ask, my advice was that it's like a normal party, with more alcohol, strippers and bondage). The only problem being that they kept spelling it batchlor. Now I spend some time around computers, and the word batch has very specific meaning to those of us who actually use batch commands. So the word batchlor sounded like some sort of CS Demon. FEAR ME, FOR I AM BATCHLOR! BatchLor is evil, and he devours worlds, not to mention small children. BatchLor cannot be stopped, except by his rival, RebootZor! [we interrupt this paragraph so Snuggles can go play with action figures he has renamed BatchLor and RebootZor, he'll come back and write more when he gets bored, or distracted by something shiny.]

"It's a long story." - Torg

"But I love long stories! Please tell me! Please!" - Kiki

"Oh OK... It all started ... [blah blah blah]" - Torg

"Oooooooh! what a shiny bottle!" - Kiki

So I've started reading Sluggy Freelance [www.sluggy.com], and I'm extra entertained by the ferret (named Kiki). In fact, I share a certain quality with this crazy ferret, the ability to be distracted by things that are shiny. It's a fairly amusing comic and I recommend it to all. Has definitely been added to my online distractions list, joining such wonderful things as Liquid Generation, Strong Bad, and Acts of Gord.

But why? Why would you send junkmail that doesn't at least try to sell me something, is it to distract me from the normal spam? Here is the entire content of an email I got recently, I warn you, it doesn't even make any sense! I think they may just be trying to mess with spam filters:

"Subject : starch synagogue binge

A few swamps, and bubble beyond fighter pilot) to arrive at a state of starletWhen you see mating ritual behind, it means that deficit related to blithe spirit beams with joy.waif borrow money from waif from steam engine.Now and then, judge inside hockey player find subtle faults with

It just doesn't make any sense. Sometimes things that don't make sense are funny. Things you don't want to hear while calling CRT and getting their voicemail: "You've reached University of Waterloo's Campus Response Team. If this is an emergency, please hang up." Hehe, they do proceed to tell you to call 911, but still, that's pretty funny. Her Royal Soo-ness told me that one and I laughed, then realized it was Soo telling me so I made sure she was alright (her blood seems to be much happier outside of her body, much to the dismay of the rest of humanity), turns out she was fine so I laughed some more. It is wise not to anger Soo, she says things like: "I work with Pounder, I can poison his juice", I don't remember why she said it, but I laughed, I cried, it was great. It's as funny as this quote I heard "That's why her hair is so big, it's full of secrets" (it's from Mean Girls)

Go give your mom a hug, and tell her it's from me. There's no reason, just cause. In other news I think I would have gotten along great with Groucho Marx, he said things like "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." and communism isn't that bad... wait, different Marx. Hehe, I shouldn't goto quotes pages, I tend to spend many hours there, but I also find things like this beauty: "Never raise your hand to your children; it leaves your midsection unprotected." Robert Orben.

That 70's show has gotten much funnier since I decided that a couple of the characters are actually two of my friends. Er, no, I'm not pretending they're my friends, I'll tell you about my conversations with a stuffed bunny that was holding open a door and wearing a dress when my article isn't already a page long (er, the bunny was the one wearing the dress). I mean that two of my friends in real life are very similar to two of the people on the show. Oh nevermind, I'll just give you a quote to distract you: "I bet UW has sluts" - Donna, "UW has sluts? Stephen loves sluts" - Jacquie (although they were most likely talking about the University of Wisconsin, I still almost fell out of my chair laughing).

They're re-releasing the classic Python movie The Life of Brian, I was spending some time checking out trailers at apple's website and I wanted to check out the hilarity that is found within a Python movie, even in just the glimpse that is a trailer. Well there was a quote that I found oddly appropriate... for me [for full effect go read previous Snuggles Sez where I explain why I'm the messiah, and I smell like him] "He wasn't the messiah, he was a very naughty boy" - The Life of Brian. Sometimes it's good to be bad [smirk]. Oh, I started using MSN again, and I'm having way too much fun with the emoticons [smiley's in disguise! Ya, I always play the transformer music in my head when I write the word emoticon... it's quite amusing]. I found an excellent smirk one, and I really like the one with his tongue sticking out, it's so silly and yet so dirty, wow, that kinda describes me in some of my moods. Hehehe, another good quote for Things Overheard at mathNEWS production night: "Why are you trying to put your finger in my slinkie"

Sometimes watching trailers for an hour and a half is better then seeing an actual movie. I mean really, a trailer is usually the best parts of the movie, and for sheer short term satisfaction it's pretty solid. I got a couple great quotes from it too... "I've got seven hunks in leather, what more can a girl ask for" - Keira Knightley (who you might remember as the female main character in Pirates of the Caribbean, that was such a great movie, Captain Jack Sparrow was awesome. Oh, and Keira happens to have recently turned 19 so I don't feel bad about thinking she's hot). Another good one is: "Sometimes the only way to stop evil is not with good, you must confront it with another kind of evil" - The Chronicles of Riddick. Sometimes I consider myself to be the other kind of evil. I use my powers of evil to aid the side of good.

Once upon a time I watched Princess Bride and Pump up the Volume with a couple friends, we dubbed that night Pump up the Princess. And there was much rejoicing.

Snuggleseseseses

Since it's confusing to pluralize my name, how about we stick to one of me, and two of you.

profQUOTES

"The term non-deterministic means, firstly, that it is not deterministic..."

Buss, CS 360

"Even though you're University of Waterloo students, we recognize that you can't be in two places at the same time."

Clarke, CS 350

"I'm not going to say that there won't be any questions on medieval Italian ceramics on the final exam."

Clarke, CS 350

"... not that concurrency control is going to be that lax in a bank... we hope."

Clarke, CS 350

"It would actually be to your benefit for me to curl up in the corner and go to sleep."

Clarke, CS 350

"Computing of the future... tape drives in your garage."

Clarke, CS 350

"On your next work term, when your employer asks you to design a user interface, you can put your feet up on the table and read a novel."

Cowan, CS 349

"If there exists hell, we can think of ways certain people are tormented. What are some torments you can think of for bad user interface designers?"

Cowan, CS 349

"What about someone who happens to have not misspent their youth studying physics?"

Cowan, CS 349

"You've got a sign error. Don't panic; you'll get through it."

Dickey, PMATH 360

"I wanted to do an example, but I think I'll skip it." [blank faces]

"Fine! I'll do the example. Damn!"

Geelen, MATH 235

"It's easier; you don't have to do manipulation and all that crap we've learned so far."

Khadra, MATH 237

"What's the derivative of f ?" [silence] "Good morning!" [silence]

"I know it's 8:30 in the morning..." [silence] "I'll give you a bonus mark." [two hands go up]

Khadra, MATH 237

"Say the average age is 30 and you are already 28; you are going to take out a loan... you have 2 more years to live."

Lau, ECON 102

"The 50-dollar bill is not just a piece of paper; it's so messed up that you can't even write on it."

Lau, ECON 102

"Who doesn't know how to take partial derivatives?" (Long pause, one hand up) "One brave soul to tell the truth... Don't ever run elections; you'll never get elected."

Metzger, STAT 231

[strange noise] "What is that? That's not your cell phone, is it? Couldn't you have picked something better?"

Metzger, STAT 231

"Let's say that X is the distance from here to Laurier, so... from here to the nearest high school."

Metzger, STAT 231

"This is a math course, not an ethics course."

Metzger, STAT 231

[Upon the death of a bad joke] "Come on! I have to practice these things with my wife. She laughs; can't you pretend too?"

Metzger, STAT 231

"I would make love to these variables, if I could... don't tell that to my wife."

Metzger, STAT 231

"Don't show this to your Pure Mathie friends — they will all cry."

Metzger, STAT 231

"This example ruins the fun, if you haven't done your assignment already. It shows you how to do the question. You can leave the room if you want."

New, MPATH 336

"I have a great way of remembering the digits of π . Just assign words the same length as the numbers. 'How I need a drink, alcoholic of course, after the heavy chapters of quantum mechanics.' That was from my physics days."

Panjer, ACTSC 231

"I will give anyone \$100 **Canadian** if you can recite 500 digits of π to me by tomorrow."

Panjer, ACTSC 231

Student: "Can you explain infinity?" Prof: "You know, Infinity. It's a nice car. You can drive it around forever."

Panjer, ACTSC 231

"Simple. High school calculus. You did go to high school, right?"

Panjer, ACTSC 231

"A word is worth 0.001 pictures, right?"

Panjer, ACTSC 231

"We could take $x+2$, but that would be sort of perverse."

Siegel, MATH 148

" $\sin x$ at π , which is 0, most of the time."

Siegel, MATH 148

"After six pages of advance mathematics, your brain will explode, and you'll say, 'a-ha, its of course the square root of n '"

Vasiga, CS 240

Horrorscopes

Ahhhh!

ACC Interpreting the messages of the stars is hungry work. If we ever meet up, I'm eager to try your Balance Book Supreme. Destroys nasty paper trails and tastes great!

Wait, what am I saying? You knows that there's no accounting for taste. Your lucky number is $1/4$ c. shredded documents.

ACTSCI Rather than give you a specific fortune, the stars asked me to give you this more general one:

Blah SOA exams blah pass/fail blah stop worrying blah you're boring blah blah blah sex violence blah blah everyone dies anyway. Your blah lucky number blah is blah blah blah 8.

AMATH My lunchbreak finished five minutes ago, but I'm still writing these down. Use your black-magic physics voodoo to explain how I can bend time and finish before I start.

Sounds a little tricky? You're right, but your attempts will give you assignment answers for the rest of the term. Ask STAT about this, I've fed them material before. Your lucky number is an unexpressable complex constant.

BBA/BMATH Best not to forget the sunscreen. All that walking to Laurier could result in a sunburn if you're not careful.

That's just me talking, though. Man, I hate those sunburns. Oh, and the stars suggest that investing in a bicycle could be unfortunate if you pass on the helmet. They're nothing if not practical. Your lucky number is SPF30 or higher.

C&O Well, I have recovered from the hilarity of trying to do your last Horrorscope. Man, those stars are such jokers.

In the coming week, I suggest sticking to basic enumeration and the simplex method. It's getting too hot for anything more complicated, and you may regret it if you try. Oh, no reason. I'm just trying to save you some work. Your lucky number is $n!$

CSTroy — man, myth or movie? While you may find the movie to be more entertaining than the man at times, I can assure you that the man is much more educational. For example, most of what he tells you is based in fact.

Hint: Reading the *Iliad* won't help you in CS240, but it will raise your CLAS201 mark. It's not too late to switch classes.

Your lucky number is the face that launched a thousand ships, and burnt the topless towers of... oh, I'm sorry, where was I?

MATHBUS The stars have all kinds of investment tips, relationship advice, and exam solutions to give to you. All you have to do is come up with some way of making misery look enjoyable. Should be easy enough, right?

I have no idea why this is the condition. Perhaps they plan to sell the secret to STAT. Your lucky number is a pie in the sky.

MATHSCI I've found a very reliable way to get fortunes is to log on to a UNIX machine and type `fortune`.

The reason I say this is because I've otherwise got nothing. Zero. Zip. Nada. But that's OK, because who cares about MathSci majors anyway? Your lucky number is something I forgot to write down.

Operations Research The hot days of summer are no match for the awesome power of OR! Use your, er, whatever it is you do, to, um, do something about it.

You know, I really have no idea what OR majors do. Uh, carry on. You seem to be doing fine. Your lucky number is $6i + 4$.

PMATH Everyone knows that the towering intellect of PMATH is absolutely irresistible to women. Prove this fact by induction on your only friend with a girlfriend.

Sounds like you've got a base case and an inductive hypoth-

esis... and everything just follows trivially past that. Just like the material in your classes you haven't been going to. Your lucky number is 1, 3, 5... hmm, odd numbers seem to be prime...

SOFTENG You know why the stars love SoftEng? Because you always take their advice. Way to go on the Grocery front. Mind the Sheep, and the next little while will take of itself.

Actually, I shouldn't tell you this, but it's because someone has to. I mean, it's not like you're really at home in either faculty... Your lucky number is $1/2 + 1/2 < 1$

STAT Well, I have good news: I have a place to live in the fall. Hooray! This just goes to show that a chance > 0 sometimes means something.

CS majors will remain unconvinced of this fact. If you are female, consider kissing one. That'll show 'em. Have I mentioned I'm a CS major? Your lucky number is \$350/month + utilities.

UNDECLARED I did once hear that indecision is the key to flexibility, but this is getting ridiculous. The correct way to choose what to have to for lunch is to use a dartboard when in doubt, not throw every possible option into a blender.

Put that thing to better use. AHS has some excellent smoothie recipes. Your lucky number is 1 litre unidentifiable brown goo.

ARTS Unlike most of the other division around here, you've got a bona-fide fortune, courtesy of none other than the stars themselves. So here it is:

In the coming week, great disaster will befall you. Although this may seem like your darkest hour, fret not, for the mighty roommate will come to your rescue, although he may have to go to the hardware store first. Then, he will show you how to change your lightbulb. Your lucky number is the top half of the number 4 (I think).

AHS Big, beefy AHSers typically take advantage of hot summer days to show off their uber-buff bodies, thus putting pasty Mathies to shame. Better make sure this year is no exception now that the warm weather is here.

Better watch out for AMATH, though; they're unusually built for nerds, and don't take kindly to being shown up. After all, they have to deal with PMATH all the time. Your lucky number is 22-inch biceps.

ENG No matter how much course work you're doing, there's probably a Systems Engineer somewhere doing more. Liberate this poor peon from his (or her) dry existence by taking him on a pub crawl. Let's face it, summer months are particularly poor for being indoors. Make sure you hurl outside. Your lucky number is, uh, how many places have we been to?

ES Some days I really wonder about you kooky ES types. Not only do the stars tell me the future, they also tell me the present, and YOWZA, I had no idea you could bend like that.

Call me some time. I'll hook you up with something sweet in exchange for a live demonstration. You bring the banana, if you know what I mean. Your lucky number is a lot like a pretzel.

SCI I'd like to tell you I have good news, but since when have I ever been the bringer of joy? Well, at least I try to be amusing. Much like you, though, we all fail at times.

Which reminds me: all that studying you've been doing isn't going to help at all when it comes to remembering which shoe goes on which foot. Your lucky number is 5.

What if that Goal Counted?

You have a co-op interview, or a midterm/final to write early in the morning, but your alarm clock decided to sleep in itself and you woke up 1 hour later than you should. Then you missed the bus and had to wait another 10 minutes. You dashed to your next bus, as you needed to change buses. All of sudden, another man, ran into you at full speed at a 90-degree angle. You lost your balance and stumbled. Apologies were exchanged and you barely made it to board the next bus. Then the bus stops at every stop and your anxiety grew. You arrived at your destination 30 minutes late. At this time, all you can think of is "What if?"

This may be the most frequently asked question in all of history — "What if?". "What if I was on time for that interview?"; "what if I knew how to answer that question in the midterm?" (This question may arise very often these weeks.) "What if I sent this article to *mathNEWS* before that guy did?"; and of course, "what if the Flames had won Game 6 of the final?" (I am writing this shortly after Tampa won the Stanley Cup.)

History is full of "What ifs". Just imagine what would have happened if Texas remained independent — we may not have such a fascination with JFK. The Grassy Knoll would be nothing more than a patch of grass in a Dallas plaza. Would Dallas even be a big city today? What if your parents never met? Would you be here reading this article?

Flames (Win / Lose) Stanley Cup Final

Note: Although mathNEWS is published on Fridays, to allow time for editing and printing, articles are written Monday evening. That being said, we present our report on Monday night's Game 7 of the Stanley Cup playoffs and its aftermath. Simply pick the appropriate phrase from the choices given.

After a hard-fought battle, the (Calgary Flames / Tampa Bay Lightning) emerged victorious in the final game of the Stanley Cup playoffs Monday night. Team captain (Jarome Iginla / Dave Andreychuk) accepted the Cup on behalf of the team. "This is every player's dream," he said as he hoisted the cup above his head. "This was a well-earned victory by all team members, against worthy opponents."

The captain of the losing team was stoic in defeat. "We worked hard and gave 110 per cent," he said. "We got beat by an amazing team, and there's no shame in that. We're eager to take another shot at the cup next season."

Calgary sanitation workers were (dismayed / dismayed) at the Flames' (victory / defeat). The prospect of cleaning up after the fans' (celebratory / anger-induced) riot was not something the Tuesday morning shift was looking forward to.

Stephen Harper, the (frontrunner / underdog) in the federal election, was known to be rooting for the team from his riding of Calgary. Political analysts expect that, given the Flames' (victory / defeat) tonight, his connection to Calgary will have absolutely no effect on the election whatsoever. Although (pleased / distraught) at the outcome of the game, Harper is reportedly eager to continue campaigning against his chief electoral threat (Paul Martin / Jack Layton).

Craig Sloss

(With thanks to HWT for the idea.)

There probably are a few of you who have loved math ever since you can count. Some of you are drawn to math because one or more of your math teachers inspired you to take this path. Imagine is: what would you be taking right now if a teacher scared you away from math at a young age? It just shows that sometimes a seemingly insignificant decision can change the course one takes greatly.

Even in UW, some relatively minor events may end up monumental. Had the hiring committee not recruited Ralph Stanton (the man who established the Math Faculty), Mathies may still be Artsies today, being laughed at by engineers and physics students. Many are taking the pink tie for granted today (me included), but what if Dr. Stanton was not around UW? People would look at someone wearing a pink tie with weird glances. While we still have the Natural Log, hanging a log outside the MC just isn't the same. Another question may arise — would the MC building even be around if Mathematics is only a department and not a faculty.

Now we move on to one of the most important "What if" questions — what if a few energetic, forward-thinking, creative mathies did not meet in January 1973, would you be holding a copy of *mathNEWS* at this moment? (To be fair, someone else could have created *mathNEWS* at a later date, but would this publication have such a loyal readership and be enjoyed by people from as far as Iran? Of course, we will never know, but we can, of course, imagine.)

Cam Reres

How to Defend A City Under Siege

1. Use bigger artillery than your enemy.
2. Prevent your enemy from stealing your artillery.
3. Burn anything that comes to the gates of the city.
4. Build artillery like there's no flippin' tomorrow.
5. Shoot the heavy projectiles your enemy shot at you, back at your enemy.
6. Install peep-hole in gates of your city to look out at oncoming attackers.
7. Mange la vache!

Under Siege

Effective Siege Techniques

1. Use artillery.
2. Defend your artillery.
3. Steal your enemies artillery.
4. Borrow your allies artillery.
5. Build lots of artillery.
6. Ensure steady supply of ammunition.
7. Bombard early, bombard often.
8. Shoot heavy projectiles, not people.
9. When low on ammo, send over the wooden animals.
10. Fetcher la vache!

Advocates for the use of artillery

mathNEWS BYOB #3, it never stops

c) Time to get downright wacky with a 5X5

				28
	6			28
			8	22
7				18
		4		30
			8	21
22	21	20	31	25
				20

Taztacular

As the Tasmanian Devil says on the Looney Toons... "Taz like magic, Taz hate water", and with that in mind, here is the next puzzle. Taz is drinking his chocolate smoothie with a straw that is 105 cm long and has a 20 cm circumference. In order to prevent him from devouring the straw entirely a rescue string is wound around it exactly 7 times (beginning at the top and finishing at the bottom). Taz realizes he's nearing the end of his smoothie so he starts sucking with abandon, as was expected the straw gets lodged in his throat and Taz gets angry. You grab the end of the string and pull it (and then the straw) right out. Taz decides not to eat you as a reward. How long is the string? [and how did you determine that]

Alrighty then, now that you have read the problems maybe I should tell you the tiebreaker. It's a combination of brilliant and lazy, on our parts of course. Here's the tiebreaker this week, give us a riddle/puzzle/brain teaser along with full solution, in the event of the tie, our favourite will win. Also you get a chance to have your name immortalized in the National Library of Canada (didn't think that ISSN number was just a gag did ya?) if we decide to use your puzzle. See, good tiebreaker (and if you can't come up with one, just accept that you'll lose in the event of a tie, and all your friends will point and scream loser as you walk by... or maybe they won't), and it gives us fodder for the next installment of [begin booming announcer voice] "Break Your Own Brain". Till next time this is your friendly neighbourhood Brain Masters (yes master...) going to see what's playing in your memory centers.

Snuggles and Krease... together we are Snuggese or Kreagles

Top Ten Reasons Why The Trojan Horse was Successful

- Two words... GIANT PINATA!!
- Who wouldn't want more firewood?
- With a horse that size, hunger would end
- They needed something to match the giant wooden cow
- He heard his neighbors had a horse, so he wanted one too
- The horse was the reincarnation of his dead son
- Lucky Charms... they're making the marshmallows bigger now
- Who wouldn't want to get drunk with a horse
- There was a smaller wooden horse inside
- So it could be fed the Golden Apple

Pete & Krease

mathNEWSquiz #3

Yar! So it's a new issue, and what good would an issue be without a Squiz? In an attempt to make this Squiz a little tougher, I'm going to make one of the categories be about me, your favorite Beatles fan editor. Yes, you read right. Dirty Axel Flame is taking the night off at my request. [Oh dear - what has our squiz degraded to? - KreasEd] So, look for a <LAST IS-SUE> Squiz answer also on this page...in fact, right here: , Peter: 4 Hoon: 9 Dan Lynch: 9 Snuggles: 8 That means Hoon wins. Pick up your prize in MC 3038.

ME!

- Where was I born?
- What (in)famous hockey player was born in the same city?
- Where was my paternal grandfather born? (for full points, city and country are required)
- What hockey team do I currently back? Who did I back when I started watching hockey? Also, why did I switch?
- What was the last novel I read for personal reasons (i.e. not for Scunt)

The Beatles (Ok, really, how could I NOT?)

- What is Ringo's real name?
- Who is Martha?
- Savoy Truffle is about what and whom?
- Who is the oldest Beatle? The youngest?
- What was the last Beatles album released (before they disbanded) and what was the last album produced in studio?

D-Day

- What is D-Day?
- How many countries were involved in D-Day?
- What were the names and codenames for the fronts?
- Which writer had a relative involved in D-Day and what was his role?
- How long would WWII have gone on if not for D-Day (According to most historians)?

Beatlemaniac

Squiz #2 Answers

Stanley Cup Finals

- Toronto Maple Leafs
- Toe Blake
- Dick Irvin
- 0
- 16

Alice In Wonderland

- Lewis Carroll
- Through the Looking Glass
- 1903 & 1999
- 1865
- There are no pills in Alice in Wonderland

Monkeys

- M, K, O
- lots
- 40 for the robot, 50 in the movie
- I don't know
- lots

gridCOMMENTS

snaps party crackers Wahoo!!! We got a record number of five solutions submitted for the last *gridWORD*! Thanks to the Software "Sheep", Peter, Snuggles, Dan Lynch, and Adam Weatherhead for submitting answers to the conventional! Unfortunately, there were no submissions for the cryptic! So that's another prize that will not be handed out this week.

Also, just a reminder...to win a prize, you must answer the *gridQUESTION*...we use this to break ties...and get a few good laughs. so make it interesting!

There was a tie for the prize this week between the Software "Sheep", Dan Lynch, and Adam Weatherhead. Tie was broken by the answer to the *gridQUESTION* (if given). And this week's winner is: Adam Weatherhead. His answer to the question "How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" was, "If a woodchuck could chuck wood, a woodchuck would chuck a chuck-sized chuck of wood, and furthermore, a woodchuck would chuck this chuck-sized chuck of wood in the same time it would take Chuck to catch a woodchucking woodchuck in the woods, by the Woodchucking Woodchucks Would Chuck Theorem. QED."

Congratulations Adam! You can pick up your prize from the MathSoc office, a \$5 gift certificate for the C&D.

My thanks to the CryptMaster for the Cryptic this week. Remember to submit this week! This week's *gridQUESTION* is: "As I ran out of the house, I realized I forgot my _____." Go nuts! (i.e. try to be funny!)

The **BLACK BOX** is by the stairwell between the C&D and the comfy! (or email to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca)

[Thanks to Jos for both grids this issue! — KreasEd]

ConMaster

Conventional Clues

Across

- 1 Chinese delicacy
- 5 mutual action
- 7 repetitive path
- 8 disperse water
- 9 reverse an action
- 13 fleets of warships
- 14 sturdy
- 15 tightly
- 17 attracts
- 18 satisfy
- 19 chaos
- 20 bee home
- 23 show
- 24 cleanest

Down

- 1 performs
- 2 opportune
- 3 apple family
- 4 revise
- 5 lit up
- 6 pleasant and soothing
- 7 zombies
- 10 supervise
- 11 appended
- 12 series of paths
- 16 wished for
- 17 disciple
- 21 leave out
- 22 final

C > D X C R) |

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 knot hinges inside leave zilch (7)
- 5 result of you seeking out mother's kid (5, 1, 5)
- 7 tating cale causes confusion (4)
- 8 shop into car entry (3, 2)
- 9 harmless cackles cut to pieces (4)
- 13 split humongous sundaes hides simple answer (2, 5)
- 14 shadowy apparition haunts the ethereal (7)
- 15 enveloped in lustrous fabric (2, 5)
- 17 sanctions placed on activities loses quarter of nine points (7)
- 18 senile sorcerer creates puzzles (4)
- 19 silver eclipses true meaning (5)
- 20 gruesome tale has sparse repercussions that won't enlarge (4)
- 23 cane ever cede to infinite stubbornness (5, 6)
- 24 assemble number of people for pep (5, 2)

Down

- 1 no nun is a person without her middle (4)
- 2 amphibious children are little sticks (7)
- 3 scratching post resembles taxi chits (7)
- 4 tiger burning brightly got dirty (4)
- 5 unnamed soldier has no male personality (8, 3)
- 6 lager for lone drinker presents deceiving situation (5, 3, 3)
- 7 straight arrow is falling behind (7)
- 10 lime pie eaten on water-surrounded land (3, 4)
- 11 intense anger (5)
- 12 mixed rounds of gunfire have party (5)
- 16 Swiss political influence scrambled tale run (7)
- 17 chaotic government is revealing (7)
- 21 confused wanderer seeks path above (4)
- 22 vote for candidate overturned (4)

