

# *math* NEWS

Volume 96, Issue 0

Frosh Issue, 2004

## Warning! Warning! Incoming Game!



What A Disaster!



## lookAHEAD

### mathNEWS

September 15	mathNEWS disorg meeting
September 20	mathNEWS First Production Night
Alternate Mondays	Production Nights - All are welcome! 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
Alternate Fridays	Issues get released

### Math Faculty

September 13	Lectures Begin
September 17	Last day to add a Distance Ed class
September 24	Last day to add an on-campus class
October 1	Last day to drop courses with no penalty and 100% refund
October 29	Last day for 50% tuition refund
November 5	Last day to receive a WD (after this day you will get a WF)
December 6	Lectures End
December 8	Last day to drop classes
December 9	Exams begin
December 22	Exams End
December 23	Unofficial term grades available
January 21	Official Term Grades Available

### MathSoc

Thursdays, 7 & 9 PM Movie night - 2 movies, 2 dollars

### MGC

Wednesdays Pizza days! Come out and support the Class of 2005!

### Co-op (CECS)

September 15,17,21	JobMine Technical Help Tutorial 4:30-5:30, AL 113
September 22	Job postings available at 6am
September 23	Job postings close at 11:59pm
September 24,25	Career Services Workshops
September 27	Job postings available at 6am
September 28	Job postings close at 11:59pm
September 29	Job postings available at 6am
September 30	Job postings close at 11:59pm

## Volunteer Fair

Come and visit the volunteer fair organized by Career Services and the Federation of Students. You can meet with representatives from a variety of agencies to find out about volunteer opportunities. These agencies work in many different areas such as working with children, aiding seniors, caring for people with health issues, and organizing arts events, among many others. You can choose to volunteer in any of these areas and gain practical experience, as well as learn and develop skills while staying connected with the community.

This event takes place in the Great Hall, Student Life Centre on Wednesday, September 22, from 11:00am until 2:00pm

Michelle Russell  
CECS

## Part-time Job Fair

Looking for a part-time job that works around your school schedule? Look no further. The UW On-campus Part-time job fair is on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, 12-2pm in the Great Hall (in the Student Life Centre).

Michelle Russell

CECS

## 10 Alternative Uses For Textbooks

So you were all excited and bought all your textbooks during Frosh Week. Now the day of the exam you say to yourself "I spent \$150 on that book I really should open it at least once."

So here's a list of some things you can do with textbooks

1. Assault weapon: some of textbooks weigh several kilograms and are easily thrown.
2. Weight training: Books are heavy, weighing quite a few pounds each, and are easily lifted.
3. Look Smart: Books are a means to show off the fact that you are educated and usually weigh less than a stone.
4. Fly Swatter: Once, during a lecture, Prof. Jackson took his backpack and threw it at a wasp on the ceiling. Do you really think that it would have killed the wasp without a textbook in it which weighed more than 2 newtons? Really?
5. Building Cardhouses: Textbooks are sort of like big cards. So you can make really big cardhouses. Though most people won't have enough books to make a really kickass cardhouse. So get your entire class involved, you know you have enough books when you are counting the books by the ton.
6. Hammer: Textbooks can bang things just like a hammer, they may even weigh many karats more.
7. Screwdriver: To put a screw in the wall, make a line it up where you want it and bash away. Works better if textbook exceeds 12 troy ounces.
8. Lullabies: The best way to fall asleep at night is to attempt to read a textbook. Or perhaps have someone bash you over the head with a textbook. (Crap I can't think of any mass unit to provide the necessary cohesion to this article ... ABORT ARTICLE!) [...and he was just about to mention how balancing textbooks on one's head can improve posture — TaxiEd]

Dave Nicholson

### ISSN 0705-0410

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. mathNEWS is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or mathNEWS. Current and back issues of mathNEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to [userid@mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:userid@mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet. The editor(s): Chris Harasemchuk, Eric Logan



## What is this thing called *mathNEWS* ?

*mathNEWS* is like an old friend. It shows up, pretty regularly, on every other Friday, makes you laugh, cry, and scratch your head trying to solve puzzles, and then says "see you in two weeks!" Best of all, you can take it into class, and let it entertain you there (unlike "dancers"), and your professors won't care. Heck, sometimes they read it while teaching.

Now, *mathNEWS* doesn't just appear magically, it gets put together by a very tight knit group of writers, productionists, and two editors. Why two editors? 'Cause, really, neither of us are good enough alone to do the job, let alone any job, maybe that's why we are unemployed, and just do volunteer positions.

If you are interested in coming out and helping with *mathNEWS* you should come to our disorganizational meeting on **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in MC 4020 at 4:30 pm**, or feel

free to stop in on one of our production nights (we post posters in the stairwells on production nights; they generally occur every other Monday, and the first one will be **Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm in MC 3038**), check the door to our office (or come in if we are there!) at MC 3041, or email us at [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca).

We treat all but one of our writers with respect, and we've already singled him out (Sorry Raymond), so anybody that's new will be treated with the utmost respect, get to party with us at our end of term bash, and eat lots of pizza with us, not that sixteen slices makes you feel good two hours later ... but whatever.

*mathNEWS* Editorial Staff  
Chris Harasemchuk  
Eric Logan

## Why you should write for *mathNEWS*

Why should you write for *mathNEWS*. Yes, you, the one reading this right now. No, not someone else who might happen to be reading *mathNEWS*, just you. I really think you should write for *mathNEWS* "But why?" I hear you wonder. Yes, I heard that, I hear all. Well there are many reason to write for *mathNEWS*.

- **Fun.** This cannot be overstressed. It is fun, or at least it should be. If you're writing for anybody at any time and it is not fun, then something is wrong, or maybe it is the ELPE, or a Work Report, or ... fine. But writing for *mathNEWS* is fun. Whether you just have your own personal fun at home and e-mail the article in to us, or come out to Production Night and have some free food fun, it's all really quite a lot of fun.
- **Rewarding.** In so many ways. From e-mail from 14 year-old boys who use AOL to letters from Iran, your material can generate a response. There is also the rewarding feeling of creating a piece of writing and knowing it will be published. Some also find the free food a kind of reward.
- **Looks Good.** On say ... a resume. Employeers always want good oral and written skills; what shows that better than contributing to a bi-weekly publication? You don't have to answer that.
- **Getting Published.** *mathNEWS* is an official publication with

an ISSN number. Two copies of every issue go to the National Archives. Beyond being released to the entire campus every other Friday, and mailed to our subscribers, your work will also be published online on our website ([www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca)), which is pretty highly rated on Google.

- **People Read It.** People *will* read it. At least people pick it up. Some might try and tell you no one reads *mathNEWS*, but after a few week of distribution detail you discover just how many people read *mathNEWS*. Late in the afternoon when I return to campus to clean up at the end of the day, I see people walking home with *mathNEWS* in their hand. I see both students and faculty picking up copies. Some profs get issues mailed to them. People at bus stops waiting to take the bus home have copies in their hands. Look — right now you are reading *mathNEWS*.

We give you the opportunity to be published. You have the chance to make people, your fellow students, laugh and/or think on Friday mornings. You can rant, point out what you find funny about life, or just express yourself however you like. Anyone can contribute to *mathNEWS*. So please, send us an e-mail at [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca).

Phat Albert

## Orientation Sez

*Welcome Frosh!*

We are the Directors for Math Orientation week 2004. Since November, we have been working hard to ensure that this week is one of the most memorable of your lives. We (red sleeves), along with your Leaders (green sleeves), Icebreakers (black sleeves), Tie Guard (blue sleeves), and the rest (orange sleeves), are very enthusiastic about helping you find your bearings around UW Math.

This week will be full of academic seminars to educate you on what is expected of you in University-level courses, team activities to let you meet the rest of your class, and other events that are just plain fun!



If there is one thought we wish to give you with this message, it would be to recognize that there is more to University life than the dorm-class-caf-repeat cycle. UW is renown for its wide variety of club activities so take advantage of them, after all, when you finish at Waterloo, you should come away with more than just a degree.

Enjoy yourself this week and work hard....starting next week, of course.

Samir Patel, Ian MacKinnon,  
Brandon Gilbert, Erika Harrison  
2004 Math Orientation Directors

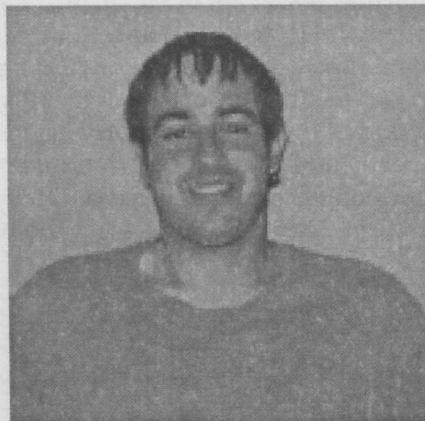
## Prez Sez

Hey everyone, my name's Lino Demasi and I'm the Math Society President for the Fall 2004 term. I'm currently in my 3B term, doing a double major in Combinatorics & Optimization and Pure Mathematics.

I serve many roles in the Math Society. I represent students on various committees within the Faculty of Mathematics, represent the Society at all public events, and oversee all aspects of the Society to ensure things run smoothly.

Current things that I am working on include getting more office space for clubs in the faculty, and working with FEDS on ensuring that events run by the Society are run in a safe manner. Mostly, I deal with whatever random stuff happens to come up during the term, and give reports about what the Faculty has to say at their meetings.

If you have any questions, just want to chat, or want to hear my story about cow tipping, send an e-mail to [prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.



Lino Demasi  
Math Society President WF04

## What's a MathSoc?

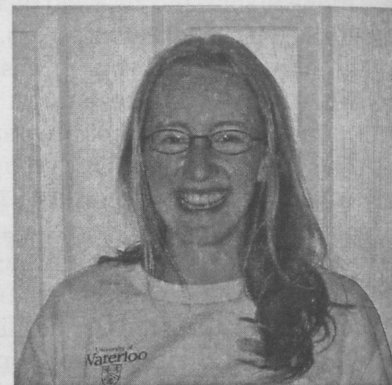
It seems like the question on everyone's mind is, "What is this thing called MathSoc?" Reasonable, if not an unusual thing to be wondering about. MathSoc, your Mathematical Society, is a little bit like student council back in high school, but with power and without a staff member constantly watching everything they do. They co-ordinate events that include a Charity Ball, Movie Nights, and Who's Line is it Anyway? They co-ordinate sports teams for mathies, maintain a hefty exam bank, provide photocopiers super cheap, manage most of the posting boards around the building, grant access to the *mathNEWS* scanner, and sell all sorts of mathie goodies. If you have problems with a professor, talk to MathSoc. If there's something you don't like about the faculty or the university, talk to MathSoc. If you want to get involved in MathSoc, talk to MathSoc. If you want to know more about MathSoc, talk to MathSoc.

Besides the volunteers keeping the MathSoc Office (MC 3038) open, there are four executives who can be found in MC 3039. This term we've got Lino Demasi, President, Diana Chisholm, Vice-President: Academic, Soo Go, Vice President: Activities and Services, and Joscelyn Kleingeld, Vice-President: Finances. These girls (and guy) will be the ones to go to with all your questions and ideas. Stop by sometime when they are in, Execs enjoy saying hello to fellow mathies.

And don't forget, MathSoc sells sexy MathSocks.

## VPA Sez

Hi everyone, VPA Diana Chisholm here. If you're a frosh (or an upper-year who forgot...) I bet you're wondering, "what does the VPA do, anyway?" Well, the short answer is I look after math students' academic needs. Of course, there are many aspects to this...



- **Study Sessions** - MathSoc runs study sessions for your MATH 135 and MATH 137 midterms, the Sunday before the midterm. We try to get the actual tutors for your courses to come and teach, and feedback in the past has been positive. Look for posters with the time and place as your midterms loom closer...
- **Exam Bank** - When midterm time hits, first-year and upper-year students alike can browse MathSoc's exam bank, which has copies of old midterms for almost every course in the faculty. The exam bank can be accessed online at <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/exambank> or by coming by the MathSoc office in MC 3038 to look at hard copies.
- **Textbooks** - Stuck trying to do an assignment but you left your textbook at home? This term, I'm going to try to fill out MathSoc's textbook library by having at least one copy of the textbook for as many core courses as I can get my hands on. All it takes is a Watcard and you can borrow the textbook you need.
- **Academic Representation** - This may surprise you, but students have representation on many of the Faculty of Math and School of CS committees. Some of the places you are represented are the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Faculty Council, the Co-op Enhancement Committee (from which very important changes to co-op may soon come), and countless CS committees.

But what good is student representation, or academic services when I don't know what you, the students, think or need? If you have any issues you want brought before faculty, or any problems or questions with anything whatsoever, let me know and I will do everything I can to help. You can reach me by email at [vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), stop by my office hours (which will be posted outside MC 3039), or just find me around the MC.

I really look forward to hearing from you throughout the term, and I'll do my best to keep you all informed of what's going on in the faculty.

Diana Chisholm  
MathSoc VPA F04



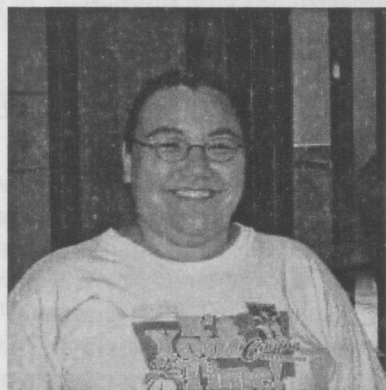
## VPF Sez

Hello! This is your resident Vice-President, Finances coming to you live from MathSoc. First and foremost, welcome to UW Math! We're glad to have you with us and hope to meet you all at some point during the next year.

My position involves handling the finances of the Math Student Society. This includes monitoring and handling the spending of various groups in the society. In other words, I know what happens to the \$10.50 you pay MathSoc each study term.

So what does your \$10.50 pay for?

- 5 cent photocopying (cheapest on campus!)
- regular social events over the term (ex. Capture the Flag, Charity Ball, Games Nights, etc.)
- Thursday movie nights (double feature for \$2.00!)
- selling novelties and office supplies
- financing MathSoc's exam bank
- financing various Math clubs
- Athletics teams
- lockers
- free local calling
- games library
- computer printing and use
- mail handling
- the Math Coffee & Donut Shop
- *mathNEWS!*



The \$10.50 you pay to your student society is paid automatically in addition to your tuition on your UW Bill. This amount is refundable, but forces you to give up all the great services that MathSoc is famous for offering. You have the first three weeks of the term to submit a refund request to the MathSoc office. Cheques are generally issued closer to the end of the term.

But enough of the shop talk. More importantly, you're embarking on an exciting journey that you will probably remember for the rest of your lives. Our job is to make the journey a little easier, as well as fun! So if you have any questions, drop by MathSoc in MC 3038. If you have any specific questions about the financials of the society, or even the fees you pay, come stop by the MathSoc exec office and say hello. I'll be sure to set everything to rights!

Welcome! Hope your journey is a fun one!  
Joscelyn Kleingeld

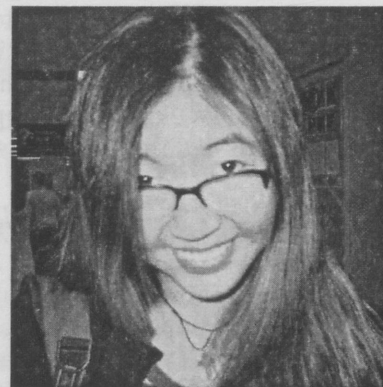
## VPAS Sez

Welcome!

My name is Soo, and I'm in 4A PM/C&O, Co-op. I hope you are as excited to be here as I was when I first arrived. The university life is filled with different activities, and my job as the VP Activities and Services is to help you get the most out of it all. The official description for my title is as follows: "The VPAS oversees the day-to-day activities of the Society. They are the elected representative responsible for the activities and services provided by the Society."

One very important thing is that the directors under the VPAS are the people who actually make it happen. The directors the VPAS is responsible for are:

- Charity Ball
- Computing
- Athletics
- Movies
- Novelites
- Office
- Postings
- Publicity
- Social
- Website



We offer many important services and fun events for you, such as photocopying (cheapest on campus!), binding, exam bank, course evaluation results, laser printing, game rentals, lockers (yes, they are free), athletics, charity ball, cotton candy (mmm... sugary goodness), lemonade days (more sugar), hot chocolate days (even more sugar), pints with profs, free cove night, and many more. Participating in these events or helping MathSoc run them is an excellent way to get involved, have fun, and making friends, so don't be shy and come out!

On that note, there are many different ways to get involved in MathSoc. For example, you can come to the MathSoc office and sign up for an office hour. Just an hour a week, and I guarantee you that you'll meet many interesting people. (You also get cheap freebies for being a volunteer. You can't go wrong with sugar, can you?) If you're interested (or lost), feel free to talk to any of us.

Also, if you have an idea for an event that you'd like to see run or run it yourself, please don't hesitate to contact me. It is important for us to know exactly what you want.

Congratulations for making it this far, and I sincerely hope you have the time of your life for the next few years. I'll see you around!

-Soo Go  
vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

## Math Handbook

*handbook.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca*

The Handbook found in your kits is your resource written for you by students. The website (conveniently at <http://handbook.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca>) extends the handbook by enabling people to comment adding update and their experiences.

You too can add to it when we start developing for next year in the Winter, or by commenting with your experience, and questions. You can always e-mail the editors from the website to ask for things you would like to see in the handbook.

Albert O'Connor, Handbook Coordinator

## Hey Hey Frosh

It's Phat Albert here to give ya's the low down on this thing called Frosh Week. You see, I know what I'm talking about because I was once perusing my Frosh Week edition of *mathNEWS* as frosh just like you, so I know the score. Frosh Week is a special time when a man and a women who love each — no wait that's not Frosh Week. <Ahem> Frosh Week is a time when you get to forget everybody's name cause you meet too many Mike's, learn the secrets of the campus like what IS that misshapened thing outside of MC or why Dana Porter is sinking, and learn what it is like not to sleep.

Introductions aside, on to business. Now tha truth about Frosh Week, and I mean tha truth. Not the propaganda found in your Frosh kits (wait a sec...), or the stories from embittered people (most of whom didn't really participate in their Frosh Week). No, it's the straight dope. To present this I have the Phat Albert Principles of Frosh Week (not FOC approved) followed by Communication Skills and Info on Events. Enjoy!

### *Phat Albert Principles of Frosh Week*

**Free Food** — You shall be fed, a lot. Once you finish eating you will get to eat again, then again. At the next event you will find free food. You might want to consider collecting it for the future for you will not be able to eat it all now. In fact, keep for the Scunt, you never know what will be on the acquisition lists.

**Standing in Line** — Ok, honestly, this is really a university life thing not a Frosh Week thing. Did you hear about the WatCard line at Student Life 101? Throughout your time on this campus you will get the privilege of standing in many lines, even lines to get into lines. To get the free food you'll end up in a line. Want to pay some fees, get ready to wait. Want some books, take a number. Doing anything with Co-op or student loans, got an hour? And so on. In fact, don't be surprised if you find yourself in Needless Hell (aka Needles Hall) standing among people trying to slowly get to some sort of a counter behind which is someone you hope can help you. With this being the case the lines during Frosh Week are really just a method of acclimatizing you to you're next chosen step in life. So, if you find yourself in a line and having no idea why, don't worry, just get used to it. You might find it handy to keep some *mathNEWS* around to peruse when you find yourself among people in some sort of queue.

**Moving in Herds** — As frosh you shall be the sheep and the Frosh Leaders the shepherds. You walk in groups far and wide across the campus, even off campus, to see some of the greenery of this great town. Don't feel bad, this is kind of required with whole organization of trying to deal with over 1100 frosh.

**Losing your Voice** — Water, Water, Water! When I first came here I moved in a day early being from out of province. The next day, I heard all this shouting, and so I was introduced to this fine tradition of Frosh Week. They were shouting something about water. Were they thirsty perhaps, maybe because they were yelling so loudly? No, wait, oh, the name of the University! I get it now! Anyway, for your Faculty, for your residence, and anywhere across campus during the week you will be shouting, or finding yourself yelling. Join in for it is good for the lungs.

### *Communication Skills*

The next part of our journey is an exploration into the basic conversation skills you will require for Frosh Week. During the week at any time you have the right to social interact with any-

one you want using the following method.

**You:** Hi, what's your name?

**Them:** Oh, my name is (insert name here).

**You:** They call me (insert witty nickname here) but you can call me (insert real name here).

**Them:** Oh, cool.

(insert awkward silence here)

**You:** So what Faculty are you in?

**Them:** (insert a Faculty name of your choice), you?

**You:** Oh Math!

(assuming the conversation continues)

**Them:** Cool ... so where do you live?

**You:** I live (insert name of residence here), you?

**Them:** Yeah, I live (insert name of residence here). Well, see you around.

**You:** Yeah ... see ya!

There you have it. Social contact. Next you will either become great friends with this person, or never see them again (perhaps something in between).

### *Info on Events*

Finally a glimpse of the events you will have the privilege to enjoy during the course of the week. You get the privilege of earning your tie which is always a stylin' time. Monsoon Season is a day in the park which is full of all sorts of games and competition; may the finest Frosh Team win. Something interesting always happens at Team Dinners. The Big Bang (ie. Pub Night) is a sweet time and a great party. Then there is Scunt. On Wednesday there will be this finest form of competition among the teams know as Search and Rescue, or more properly Scunt. If you have a skill to do anything, anything at all, you can find a use for it at Scunt. Have collectibles of any kind, we want to see them. Strange tricks, entertain the Scunt gods with them. Good at games, trivia, improvving, dancing ... the options are really boundless. All the events are awesome but there is a special event that probably isn't on your schedules: Tie Guard. Now Tie Guard isn't for everybody, and in these pages you won't find a description of exactly what the deal with it is, for if you really want to know you have to come and ask yourself - I'll be there. But if you happen to enjoy really not sleeping and chatting for 5 hours sounds like something you might like to do, I encourage you have a look, but be warned, staying at Tie Guard is a privilege, not a right, so you and your team may have to show good spirit to be awarded the right to say the night.

In closing I would like to make a small personal plea to all the frosh out there. Do you have a humourous look on life? Can you actually spell? [Hee hee, Albert's still working on that one. Seriously-ish, spelling's not a big requirement for us, we have a spell checker. — TaxiEd] Enjoy writing in any way? *mathNEWS* is always looking for new people to start writing and proofing for this fine bi-weekly publication. Without new frosh to help us out we are lost. So if you want to get in on this 28-year tradition come out the to first Production Night (signs will be posted) and the finest editors in the land will give you a hand and get you started.

So bye for now everybody, and keep Phat and Phresh.  
"Phat" Albert O'Connor



## Mathematician Rhapsody

To the tune of 'Bohemian Rhapsody'

Is this the real life?  
Is this just the MC?  
Do this assignment  
No escape from Java and C  
Just go outside  
Look up to the skies and see —

I'm just a theorem,  
with a corollary  
You're going to fall asleep, I'm a bore  
I was in the class before  
Anyway the proof goes, doesn't really matter to me,  
To me

T.A., just proved some stuff  
Will it be on the exam?  
He said it will, and I say "damn!"  
T.A., class had just begun  
But now you've scared the students all away

T.A., oo oo oooo  
Didn't mean to miss the test  
Can I write it again this time tomorrow?  
Pretty please, pretty please, it really really matters

"Too late," he said to me,  
Sent shivers down my spine  
Always failing, all the time  
"Goodbye, everybody — I've got to go—  
Gotta leave you all behind and drop the course."

T.A., oo oo oooo  
I don't want to fail  
I sometimes wish I'd never enrolled at all...

I see a complex inner product on my page  
Cauchy-Schwartz, Cauchy-Schwartz, will you bound it by the norm?  
Taylor Series, arctan — very very frightening me

Fibonacci, Fibonacci  
Fibonacci, Fibonacci  
Fibonacci, Fourier  
Magnifico!

I'm just a theorem, with a corollary  
He's just a theorem, with a corollary  
Spare us the proof of this triviality

Fall asleep, it's a bore — will you let me nap?  
Professor! No — we will not let you nap (let him nap!)  
Professor! We will not let you nap (let him nap!)  
Professor! We will not let you nap (let me nap!)  
Will not let you nap (let me nap!)  
Will not let you nap (let me nap!)  
No, no, no, no, no, no, no!

Mama mia, mama mia, mama mia let me nap  
Dean Alan George has an exam set aside for me,  
for me,  
for me —

So you think you can fail me and tell me goodbye?  
So you think you can teach me to calculate pi?  
Oh TA, can't do this to me TA  
Just gotta withdraw, just gotta withdraw outta here

Like it really matters...  
Anyone can see,  
Like it really matters... like it really matters to me

C&C Music Factory  
Chris Harasemchuk & Craig Sloss

## Get Your Degree in Math

*Earn \$\$\$ Fast!*

Are you tired of degrees that can take eight, nine, or even ten years to complete? Does your brain dehydrate and shrink because it doesn't get enough exercise? Does your current degree charge you upwards of \$10 000 a term? Well, say good-bye to all that with the new Bachelors of Mathematics!

That's right! Come to Waterloo and you can earn your Bachelors of Mathematics in just eight terms! And with an extra six terms, you can earn yourself a co-op degree as well!

Just listen to these testimonials:

"I was paying \$7000 a term (US) but my mind was barely active, now that I'm in Bioinformatics, I'm paying thousands less and I never stop working!"

E. Rider

"I was about to sign up for an eight-year course in combinatorics in Iran when a friend told me about Waterloo. Three years later, I've only got five terms left!"

L. Etterdrawer

And Math at Waterloo has so many options! You can earn your degree in:

- Actuarial Sciences
- Applied Mathematics
- TV/VCR Repair
- Combinatorics & Optimization
- Computer Science
- Telemarketing & Optimization
- Pure Mathematics
- Software Engineering
- Statistics
- TV/VCR Repair

So sign up now and receive a free key chain valued at over four dollars. Operators are standing by.

Simon L'Avier

**profQUOTES**

Don't profs say the darndest things? *profQUOTES* is the most popular feature of *mathNEWS*. This is where you will find funny, stupid, or ambiguous things uttered by professors and record by students like you. If you think one your professors has said something quotable, send it in (along with their name and the course name) to *mathNEWS* either by email or dropping it in the **BLACK BOX**, and you will probably find it in the next issue! It could be an incentive for you to stay awake in class.

Below are some of the better quotes uttered in these class rooms with in the last few years. (Plus check out the Math Handbook for more *profQUOTES* from the days gone by. Guess where they got those from.)

"Do you mind if I take off my pants?"

Irving, MATH 137

(written on board)"We can "graphically" represent a graph with a graph diagram, called a graph."

Mosca, MATH 239

" $0 \times 0 = 0$ , except on the STAT 230 midterm, where it could be any number of things, according to you guys."

Chen, STAT 230

"If I were at Western in London, Ontario, I would now show you 29 examples. But we're not at Western ... we're smart here."

Willard, PMATH 330

"Let's start on unsatisfiability ... this doesn't have anything to do with your sex life."

Hoffman, PMATH 330

"I can't say 'I am a baseball fish cat,' although some days I feel like a baseball fish cat."

Vasiga, CS 241

"This is university, we're loosy-goosy. You can drink, you can vote, you can use goto."

Vasiga, CS 241

"There are four S's in 'STATISTICS': one, two, three... There are four S's in 'STATISTICS'."

Chen, STAT 230

"It's what professors do! Take something completely obvious, make it incomprehensible and call it a lecture!"

Mackay, STAT 231

"Now I'm going to verify infinitely many of these and leave the rest for you."

Godsil, MATH 146

"There are three series you should know or you'll fail the course: geometric; harmonic; and there's probably one more... I fail."

Hewitt, MATH 138

"This symbol means 'it does not exist'. If you cross it out, it still does not exist. If you cross it out twice, it exists even less."

Sendov, MATH 138

"Who thinks 20%? No one? Usually somebody goes for that... you guys ARE smarter than the people at York."

Brecht, CS 354

"We're going to talk about nets; anyone in the class a fisherman? (dead silence) This morning in my 247 class I was talking about saddle points, so I asked if anyone had ever ridden a horse and no one would admit to it. Then I asked if anyone was a hiker because mountain passes look like saddles. Then I asked if anyone had ever been in a car driving through the mountains. Finally someone admitted to having been outside once."

Hare, PMATH 453

"You're junior co-op students; your employers don't have the time to fire you."

Smith, ECON 101

"I did something very dumb today at lunch. I had [too many] cups of green tea today at lunch. I can just see myself staying up until 3 a.m. tonight vacuuming."

Koeller, MATH 137

Prof: "Is that clear now?"

Student: "No... and don't bother explaining it."

Prof: "Don't bother?"

Student: "You lost me three chapters ago."

Prof: "We haven't done three chapters yet..."

New, MATH 138

"Now that equation will look funny when you take it home and show mom."

Oldford, MATH 136

"This is so easy an Arts student could — well..."

Orchard, CS 370

"Even an Arts student can solve... OK, maybe not."

Orchard, CS 370

"I'm going to get myself into a scandal of exposed-boob propositions if I keep spouting off about arts students."

Orchard, CS370

[tying his shoelace] "Someday they're going to find my body and determine that I died of a clothing malfunction."

Kaplan, CS488

"I'm sure a lot of people would love to eat a barbie."

Pidduck, CS330

[puts a box around an important theorem] "Didn't your mommy tell you that when you were a kid? You're important, go in the box? Or was that just me?"

Lucier, PM340

"Do all of you know where Russia is? If you don't, I hope that you won't admit it."

Kapur, PSCI 282

Send in your (and your friend's too) *profQUOTES* to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) and we'll do our darndest to print them in the next available issue of everyone's favourite bi-weekly bastion of erudite thought. Not up to speed on the whole "Internet" thing yet? No problem! Just write up your quotes on paper and submit them to the **BLACK BOX** on the wall between the Comfy Lounge and the C&D.



## International Espionage for Kids

*Executive order creates some silly websites*

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

### Food and Drug Administration for Kids

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

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

### Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for Kids

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

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

## Taking a Minor

One smart thing to do with your degree is stick more words on it. There are two common ways of doing this at UW, heh, well, maybe three, but this column is far too short to discuss taking a joint. You can do the double major thing, or you can just throw a minor onto your degree. So what kind of minors are there? Well, there are those in math and those not. For mathie minors, you need a bunch of courses, but frequently they just overlap the ones you're taking so it turns out to be like four or five courses, perfect for filling up your math-course requirement without taking all STATs or something foolish. Now, for outside of math minors — perfect for those thinking of becoming teachers who want a non-math "teachable" — these take ten courses, so plan ahead. It gives some structure to your electives, but they require you to take specific stuff that is only available in certain terms — hey, like why I can't finish my English minor on time. So, in conclusion, think about one, but try to plan early.

Allen MacLeod

### Central Intelligence Agency for Kids

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

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

### Centers for Disease Control for Kids

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

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

Craig Sloss

## Taking a Miner

One smart thing you can do with your free time is kidnapping. There are two common ways of taking a miner at UW, heh, well, maybe three, but this column is far too short for such interpretations. One involves kidnapping, while the other, umm, also involves kidnapping, it's really all about who you kidnap. I am not a big fan of kidnapping the young, so I'm going to recommend you take a grown-man miner. Of these, there are several kinds available for the taking. Uranium miners tend to have radiation issues, so try to keep your distance. Coal miners are typically less biologically dangerous; however, there is the mess issue. Those who work in sepulchres or open-pit mines don't usually get covered with as much murk and mess, so I find them the best after the act of taking a miner, but getting them is awkward. Miners who work in shafts can be taken from their shafts a lot easier than kidnapping open-pit workers. So, in conclusion, kidnap guys who work in clean shafts. Or Shaft.

Davey R Adams

## Doing a Joint

One smart thing you can do to stick more things on to the end of your degree is to do a joint. A joint is in some ways easier than a full blown degree, but harder in other ways. Some people seem to lose intelligence after doing a joint, where as, others seem to get smarter. It all depends on if your name is Denny or Lizak. In the math faculty, it is quite easy to do a joint, and lets you weasel out of dumb courses, such as OS (Operating Systems, cs350). However, you do need two extra math courses, but, eh, who cares, those arts courses tend to bring down averages anyway... damn A+'s only count as a 95%.

Petrovski Lovinski

## Math Orientation Week Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
9 am		Squad Formup	Squad Regroup					9 am
10 am		Disaster Recovery Briefing I	When Disaster Strikes - Part I					10 am
11 am		Monsoon Season	Faculty Lunch/ Disaster Recovery Briefing II	ELPE	Residence Events	Black & Gold Day	MathSoc Day	11 am
12 pm								
1 pm			Disaster Recovery Briefing III	FREE TIME				1 pm
2 pm		Recovery	When Disaster Strikes - Part II	WHMIS				2 pm
3 pm		Advanced Info	FREE TIME	FREE TIME	FREE TIME	FREE TIME	FREE TIME	3 pm
4 pm								
5 pm	FREE TIME		Squad Regroup		Squad Regroup			5 pm
6 pm			FREE TIME		Squad Dinners			6 pm
7 pm		Residence Events	Squad Regroup		The Big Bang			7 pm
8 pm	Residence Events		Search and Rescue	Monte Carlo				8 pm
9 pm to 1 am						Toga Party		9 pm to 1 am

- **Squad Form-up** (*meet in DC Quad*) Meet your team
- **Disaster Recovery Briefing I** (-various-) Learn about the pros on campus and other information
- **Monsoon Season** (*Waterloo Park*) Events and activities to get to know your fellow math students, and earn your tie
- **Recovery** (*meet in DC Quad*) Receive your tie, get free stuff, take the math pledge and take some pictures
- **Advanced Info** (*MC 2054*) Attend if you are in the Advanced section, or curious about it
- **Squad Regroup** (*outside Tie Guard*) Get together with your team, find out about the upcoming events for the day
- **When Disaster Strikes** (-various-) Learn about your new surroundings, and be entertained
- **Faculty BBQ/ Disaster Recovery Briefing II** (*DC Quad* / -various-) The Dean might be flipping burgers for you (take your pick of academic or extracurricular sessions)
- **Disaster Recovery Briefing III** (-various-) Learn from a student panel, what to expect and do for courses
- **Search and Rescue** (-various-) It's awesome. We guarantee it. Just show up.
- **ELPE** (*PAC*) If you received less than 80% in high school English, you need to write this
- **WHMIS** (B1-271) If you plan on ever taking a science lab or fine arts lab, you should attend.
- **Squad Dinners** (-various-) Find out what life off campus is like, and get some food.
- **The Big Bang** (*Student Life Center*) Chill with some Engineers and Software Engineers at this big bang of a bash.
- **MathSoc Day** (*meet at Tie Guard*)