

math NEWS

Volume 96, Issue 1

Friday, September 24th, 2004



COOL! I MADE IT
INTO UW MATH! BUT
WHERE ARE THE GIRLS??

@Neeraj.Mathrani 2004

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

September 24	Issue #1 is unleashed upon the world
October 4	Issue #2 Production Night 6:30PM, Mathsoc (MC3038)
October 8	Issue #2 rakes some leaves

Math Faculty

September 24	Course Add Deadline
October 1	Last to to drop with no penalty Last day for 100% refund
October 2	Small c Math Contest (1PM)

MathSoc

October 1-2	Engineering Scavenger Hunt! Contact knyback@uwaterloo.ca for details
Thursdays	Movie night (2 movies, 2 dollars)
Coming Soon	Cotton Candy Day Cove Night

MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza day
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MEF

October 15	Last day for nominations to Funding Council
October 22	Last day to submit funding proposals Last day to apply for funding from the Professional Development Fund

Co-op

September 27	Posting #2 opens
September 28	Posting #2 closes
September 29	Posting #3 opens
September 30	Posting #3 closes
October 4	Interviews begin Posting #4 opens
October 5	Posting #4 closes
A number of workshops and fairs are taking place over the next two weeks. See the CECS website for details.	

Miscellaneous

September 27	Kiss Eric; it's his birthday
September 28	Kiss Krease; it's his birthday
October 1-2	Warrior Weekend
October 1	International Day for the Elderly Be nice to your prof

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 on the Internet.

Editor, Editor and Editrix: Chris Harasemchuk, Eric Logan and Emerald Kushnier

Math Handbook Help

handbook.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

The handbook is not yet done. We still need help creating the enhanced version of Chapter 3, creating the unified source for next year's development, and creating the process that will print the handbook every year.

If you would like to help fix up the HTML, design an intermediate language, or have some l33t coding/scripting skills you would like to share, please e-mail amjoconn@uwaterloo.ca.

Albert O'Connor - Handbook Guy

**Autumn Magic - Charity Ball
2004**

Hello all. I am here to tell you about Charity Ball 2004, which is entitled *Autumn Magic*. The 7th Annual MathSoc Charity Ball will be taking place on Saturday, November 6th at the Waterloo Inn. Tickets will be on sale one week from TODAY. For more information, contact charityball@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Adam Felix

Charity Ball Director

mastHEAD

In many, many pieces

So welcome to *mathNEWS* for the Fall 2004 Term. I'd like to tell you things are off to a great start, but when we came in to do production, our GUI cracked right in two. Then, we discovered that the primary way we prepare our material is flaky [it turns out that it was not broken, but, in fact, I am an idiot — inkEd]. We're having a great time!

After all the trouble we had, we asked our trusty staff "What technical difficulties have you been experiencing recently?", and they said: Scot Nyback (An insubrodintaeyl large nubmer fo tyops), Jim Morrison (The train is always late), Michael Perkins (Windows install made my password and didn't tell me what it is), Andrew Fransen (Damned svchost!), Morgan Grainger (James Brown!), Alex McCausland (Damned wireless), Mike Huang (Pre-emptive bidding), Lino Demasi (36-24-36), Dan Swartzentruber (Not thinking), David Wheatley (Where to poke the Cold Shot with the knife), Aaron "SquirrelToken" Dos Remedios (CoK Black), Caelyn McAuley (Needles Hall's inability to tell the difference between Alberta learning and OSAP), Dustin Gauci (I resorted to sledgehammer, quill, and bark), Stephen Snuggles Skrzydlo (My ass), Diana Chisholm (My arm is sore...from conducting class!), Kaitlyn "Half-pint" Holman (For some reason I keep waking up in Ottawa instead of Waterloo), Mark "Beatlemaniac" Toivanen (someone needs to make the Ctrl button skip lines...really).

A zillion thanks to Campus Pizza for feeding us, those foxy ladies at Graphics for printing us, and extra special thanks to Robyn Landers, that fine figure of a man, for fixing our system (even if it happened after production night).

Chris Harasemchuk (Video no input)

Emerald Kushnier (What do you mean, "this isn't an xterm"?)

Eric Logan (My f#@%&\$! production system)



Computer
Science
Club

A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Okay, so we had our election last week. I'm grateful that all of our candidates ACTUALLY wanted to be executives. Although the motives ranged from "I want a key to the office" to "uh...", it's cool nevertheless. The executives this term are James Perry as the president, Alex Tsay as the vice-president, Mark Sherry as the treasurer, and Tor Myklebust as the secretary.

We are holding 3 UNIX tutorials in the next month on Monday September 27th, Monday October 4th, and Monday October 11th. So if you want to learn UNIX, feel free to drop by (details of the tutorials will be posted around MC as the date approaches).

Also we are hosting a programming competition this term. (Yay! Programming competitions!) We are planning to run it on Saturday October 2nd, and FREE PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS will be available, so come on out! Details will be available soon, so keep an eye out for them.

We have a tentative list of events we are planning to run this term ranging from professor talks to an install fest (not the other kind of fests that you've heard about...). I'm really looking forward to a fun term.

For us to run these events over the term, we need your help (or our beloved VP will be forced to use the forbidden ninja technique, shadow warrior, to finish all the work). Various positions are available and we need help with publicity. So feel free to drop by the office (located on 3rd floor on the clubs hallway) any time.

Alex "Fury" Tsay

Movies Movies Everywhere!

Thursdays near,

Let's kick it into gear..

Stuck here in the 'Loo

And you say you've got nothing to do;

I say

Movies Movies Movies

What a nominal fee..

For just two bucks, I agree

Movies movies... why not come?

You're not that much of a bum.

I say

Movies Movies Movies

Come get your fix, Here at MC 2066,

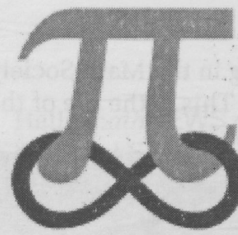
Movies are a gem, Show up at 7:00 pm

I say

Movies Movies Movies

Jen Cook

Movies Director



MEF
Mathematics Endowment Fund

MEF Update

The Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF) is an Endowment with over \$2 million in principal. Every term, MEF funds projects of academic benefit to all Math students. This term, MEF has around \$35,000 to spend on various projects.

What Does MEF Do?

Over the years, MEF has funded a wide variety of projects benefitting undergraduate math students, including: •

Computer equipment and enhanced computing facilities

- Teaching assistants
- Revised course notes
- Books, equipments, and conference fees for clubs
- Guest speakers

To see a full list of projects funded, please visit the MEF webpage, given below.

MEF also has a professional development fund to support undergraduates taking part in conferences, workshops, etc. For details, and an application, please visit the MEF website.

How Can I Help MEF?

Encourage people to submit funding requests! MEF best benefits students when it is able to spend as much as possible. Anyone may submit a request. Forms are available in the MEF office and also on the website.

You can also become a member for the Funding Council, and help determine how funds are allocated. Forms are available on the MEF website and outside the MathSoc office (MC3038).

Refunds

MEF collects a voluntary contribution of \$31.42 (10π) from each Math undergrad every term. If, for some reason, you wish this amount refunded, please come to the MEF office (MC4046) before October 1 between 8:30 and 10:30AM, except on Tuesday, when hours are 2:00PM to 4:00PM. Please bring your Watcard.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding the Math Endowment Fund, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, or drop by whenever the office is open.

Eric Logan

MEF Director F04

email: mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca

Prez Seyz

So as I'm writing this article, I'm sitting in the Math Society Office playing bridge with some friends. This is the life of the Math Society President. Well, not exactly.

When I'm not spending my time playing bridge, I occasionally do things for the society or working on my homework. Being a 4th year PM/CO double major, I sometimes have large amounts of homework to do, and I have this work report I need to rewrite due to a stolen computer.

So what exactly do I do as the society president? I work on a variety of tasks, often behind the scenes. I work with the FEDS at times and work with the Faculty as well to ensure that things for students go as smoothly as possible.

Right now, the big thing that's going on are elections. There will be elections for class reps, first year at large reps, and Math Graduation Committee Chair, nominations for all of which end today. Orientation Director nominations will run until next Friday, and then new directors will be chosen for next year.

Also, for those of you interested, there will be a math contest for first and second year students taking place on Saturday October 2nd. For more information, contact Ian Vanderburgh at iwvand@uwaterloo.ca.

Well, that's all for me this issue. Maybe next time I'll have pressing matters of student interest to discuss, or I'll talk about my partner pre-empting 3H, me bidding it up to 5 and then only going down 1.

Lino Demasi
Math Society President

Stratford Festival

How would you like to go on a little trip to Stratford this term? And do what, you say? To see a play!

Your friendly neighbourhood MathSoc crew is considering organizing a trip some time (possibly in October). Transportation will be provided, and the ticket prices may be subsidized as well. As you can tell, this is a very vague plan that depends entirely on you. So if you'd like to take advantage of what we think is a very exciting idea, tell me! You can email me at vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Soo Go
MathSoc VPAS

RLOGIN is Broken!!!

Hahahaha, math people are stuck with a broken rlogin. Hurry for CSCF for keeping a broken rlogin. Bad for MFCF/CSCF for having rlogin at ALL!! [rlogin is now fixed. Yay Robyn in MFCF for the fixing — KreasEd]

James "Insanity" Morrison

VPAnews

Hey everyone, it's your local VPA Diana here again. Just want to let you know about a few things that are coming up.

- Exam Bank: Bring in your old midterms (or finals if you can get your hands on them) to the MathSoc office and we'll add them to the Exam Bank where you can help out tons of future students! Don't worry, we won't include your name or your mark!

- Cram Sessions: There will be a MATH 135 Cram Session on Sunday, October 17 from 1 to 5 in MC 2065, and a MATH 137 Cram Session on the 24th, same time, same place. Just a heads up.



- Co-op Enhancement: I'm working very hard along with the Co-op Enhancement Committee to make co-op better for YOU! If you have any suggestions for how to improve co-op, please let me know by emailing vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca or come talk to me in my office hours, 1:30 - 2:30 Monday and Wednesday and 12:30 - 1:30 Friday in MC 3039.

Hope to hear from you soon, and remember I am always available to help you with any academic issues.

Diana Chisholm
MathSoc VPA F04

SANITY PLEASE!!

Not Sane

Do you like <http://www.wikipedia.org>? Do you think a Wiki can do anything? Well, come help replace a rotting mathNEWS system with something that works. We can drag mathNEWS kicking and screaming past Y2K. [You probably want to email ja2morri@uwaterloo.ca for more information — inkEd]

jim

mathNEWS Needs Your Help

We're upgrading our Production System

You may or may not know this, but mathNEWS is using 12-year-old technology to run our production nights [Wow...is it really THAT old?!? — BeateEd]. Over time, changes made by MFCF (and now CSCF) have changed our production system into a patchwork of patches that is barely still working.

We have begun creating a new system based in **wiki**, and are looking for anyone with knowledge or enthusiasm (or both) to help finish our new system and get it operational this term. If you're interested, email Jim Morrison (ja2morri@uwaterloo.ca), who will tell you how you can help.

Chris 'Krease' Harasemchuk

Randominity

The Bestest Theme in the Whole Wide World

So I didn't have time to come up with a completely original article this week (too much work after frosh week), and the editors have decided not to grace us with a shnazzy theme. Thus I have only one option, to create a random string of words (and I don't just mean random, I mean randomerific) that, when put together, form a partially coherent thought with semi-reasonableness attached to it.

Of course, no randomness is complete without nonsense words. Half the fun of the production of anything is creativity. Thus I have taken the liberty of genesissing numerous words that look very silly. However, I'm sure you'll find it understanderificly stupendous that the words I've created do not garble the brain beyond reasonation.

So the lack of a theme is hinderific. Thus I have decided to pick up the slack where the editors are concerned, and suggestify some alternatives.

- Pirates of the Great Black Oceanator
- Naturist Disastorations
- Constilpatations
- Mysteries of the Computational Mysterianness
- The Dangers of the Incomed Game

So there you have it, thousands of alternate ideas that the editors could have selected, and not one of them they did. Okay, maybe I only put five, but just because I didn't put them down doesn't mean I didn't think of them.

Scot Nyback

Top 10 Things I Learned During Frosh Week

10. Free food is the best type of food.
9. I should get used to waiting in long lines.
8. Microsoft gives out the coolest free stuff. *[Except the yo-yos...those were SO not cool at all — BeatleEd]*
7. It is possible to play LaserQuest on the top floor of the SLC.
6. People in red vests have crazy amounts of power.
5. James Brown!
4. Wearing the pink tie is an honour and a privilege.
3. The Tie Guard never seems to sleep.
2. Scun—I mean Havenger—is super fun.
1. M-A, M-A-T, M-A-T-H, MATH ROCKS!

Morgan Grainger

How to Confuse a Proofreader

AKA The Human Brain is kind of cool

Aoccdrnig to rchseear at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttae in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. *[Hey, I got this in one of those forwarded emails... I didn't know we were that hard-up for material — KreasEd]*

Free Stuff

It Really is Free

Hello mathNEWS readers, aren't you lucky today. I have three XXL Cheat Shirts to give away. If you don't know what a cheat shirt is, look around. Odds are someone is wearing one right now near you. Failing that, head on over to the MathSoc Office (MC 3038), and ask them.

I counted all my shirts the other day, and I found three XXL Cheat shirts that aren't doing anything except taking up space, and I'd rather give them to you. All you have to do is answer the following question: "What would you do with a free XXL Shirt?"

- The zaniest answer wins a choice between a red or a grey XXL cheat shirt.
- The second zaniest answer wins a red XXL cheat shirt.
- The third zaniest answer wins a grey or red XXL cheat shirt (the option not chosen by the zaniest answer).

To make your submissions, you have two options. Note that these two options are different than the average mathNEWS contests. First you can submit your answer to the MathSoc Office. Just drop it off at the desk, and tell the office worker to put your submission in the Novelties box. If you'd rather submit electronically, send an email to novelties@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca with subject line "XXL - Contest" (make sure you don't make a typo on that L, else your email will likely be deleted as spam). Submissions are due by 6:30pm on Monday, October 4. Winners will be announced in the next issue of mathNEWS, at which point they can pick up their prize at the MathSoc Office.

Please include your choice of red or grey with your submission.

Scot Nyback

MathSoc Novelties Director - Fall 2004

UW Quiz Bowl Club To Host Intramural Trivia Tournament

On Saturday, October 2, the University of Waterloo's Quiz Bowl club will be hosting "Watbowl VI," an intramural trivia tournament, and the first of its kind in over two years. The tournament will take place from noon to 6 p.m. in the Mathematics and Computer building, with the tournament headquarters located in MC 4040.

Watbowl VI is a team-based general knowledge trivia game open to all UW students. The questions span a wide range of topics, including history, science, sports, mythology, music, literature and popular culture. The registration fee for a team of four is \$20. Teams must register by e-mailing quizbowl@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca before noon on Friday, October 1.

More information is available at <http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~quizbowl>. Questions may be directed to quizbowl@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca. The UW Quiz Bowl club is recognized by the Federation of Students.

Craig Sloss

President, UW Quiz Bowl

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but Simon has a twenty-one year old unexpectedly sitting on his lap. I read a decent book (Quicksilver, set in the past of the universe created in Cryptonimicon, which is itself a book every Mathie should read) and found an, um... interesting quote. At one point a character is describing a surprising pleasant sensation and he used the following terminology: "It was like having a pretty seventeen-year-old girl unexpectedly sit on his lap." I understand what he means completely.

Someone asked me "Do you know what?" and instead of giving the typical answer of "what" I decided to have fun, this is the result: Do I know What? Me and him go way back, we used to hang out with How for hours on end just taunting Whom, stupid Whom, always thinking he was better than us. Well, we showed him, surprised him with a little guess Who action, never figured Who would get into that slinky dress but the videotape proved very useful later!

Happy New Year! Shanah Tova! I had fun dipping things in honey this year. I "Bah" being constrained by just using apples, honey is tasty dammit, and lots of things are great with it. And now just in case you were getting comfortable, a non sequitur: It's a shame that a family can be ripped apart by something as simple as wild dogs. The really scary part is that I grabbed the above sentence while dripping blood all over myself. Noses shouldn't just start bleeding, I think that's a rule somewhere, blood stays in the body. And now a brief interlude while I find a way to stop this. Alright, for those who don't know, you don't tip your head back when you have a nosebleed, tip it forward, pinch the bridge of your nose and ice the back of your neck (this slows the flow of blood and helps stop the bleeding). And now enough random first aid advice, back to the insanity.

I was talking with a breastacular friend and she suggested I should help her shop for lingerie, then she sent me links to various stores. I thought it was quite a fun game: "Hey Snuggles, picture me in lingerie", as long as it's not someone like Brauny saying it, it's great. (For those who don't know, Brauny is my roommate, and an offensive linesman for Laurier.)

It was definitely strange to not be a part of frosh week this year, I did visit twice (Monte Carlo and Toga) to hang out at tie guard (although I ended up spending most of the first visit with engineers, more on that when I feel like telling that story). One of the more amusing incidents that occurred while I was around was Ian (one of the MathFOC) coming up while I was chatting with Yolanda (who was MathFOC last year, I was MathFOC two years back), here's what he said:

Ian: [To Yolanda] "Old and Busted"

Ian: [To Snuggles] "Really Old and Busted"

Ian: [To self] "New Hotness"

Don't worry Ian, after you get those implants you'll be Old

and Busty.

Monte Carlo had fish apparently, as Tie Guard got a fish after the event, it was sitting in a little glass on the table, after several "A Fish Called Wanda" jokes I lit a floating candle in a different glass and we decided to race them to see which would die first (note to fish lovers everywhere, the candle went out several times, and the fish got to go home with a hottie, thus being the envy of many a man). While our fish was on the table a random leader from another faculty came up to Tie Guard with a fish of her own. "Is this a normal fish?" she asked us. We shrugged. "Like, will it fight with the other fish?" I replied that I didn't think they can fight, seeing as they're in separate jars, and fish haven't quite mastered the art of instant-transportation and/or jumping. Then she wanted to know if she put it in an aquarium with other fish would it attack them, I want to know where these crazy attack fish she thinks we had at Monte Carlo came from, maybe they had gladiatorial fish fights in the basement, and if not, don't you think they should next year?

Before daring to broach the topic of Middle East politics allow me to say that I believe horrible acts have been committed on both sides, that none of them excuse or justify each other and that I hope for a peaceful resolution involving a two state solution. Also the Palestinians' recent display of passive resistance is to be applauded for attempting to use non-violent means to achieve their goals. You see, 1600 inmates began a hunger strike. So why am I talking about this in my humour column, because the Israelies response caused me to squeal with glee (joining the town of Nottawa as the second item that has that affect upon me). What is the best response to a hunger strike? BBQ, outside their cells. I kid you not, this is the official response. They've started barbequing food directly outside the cells of striking inmates, to try to break their wills. I just found this freaking hilarious.

And now, from the evil that is Strachan, a note on top-posting:

A. No.

Q. So should I put my reply above the quoted text?

A. Because it messes up the order in which people normally read.

Q. Why is top-posting such a bad thing?

A. Top-posting.

Q. What is the most annoying thing in email?

S *poing* N *poing* U *poing* G *poing* G *poing* L
poing E *poing* S

My spellchecker just tried to replace hottie with hogtie, that's silly, you're supposed to have those two words together.

Numbers to Fear

Or Not!

1. $-1^e \wedge (i^*\pi)$. Come on, it's scary. I know I wet myself the first time I saw it.
2. Prime **AND** even.
3. Number of assignments the average 1A student must (optionally) complete each week.
4. Number of years for which I get to work for negative pay at UW.
5. Number of courses per term.
6. Number of days spent in line for OSAP at Needless Hell.
7. Number of women in PMATH.
8. Same when reflected horizontally and vertically.
9. My grade on MATH 135 final. That's right, frosh... be very afraid!
10. Number of hours of sleep an OS average student had last term.

Val & BDM

HorrorScopes

New writer, same low quality

ACC

The stars are telling me that some day soon your horrorscope will not involve cooking the books, or getting audited and losing everything. Whoops, too late for this one.

Your lucky number is a \$10 000 fine.

ACTSCI

It's a new year. You tell yourself that this will be the year where you won't fail any exams. Ask STAT what the chances of that are.

Your lucky number is <50%.

AMATH

Your fortune was stolen by PMATH. Consider it justice: all that you do is steal their ideas and actually do something useful with them.

BBA/BMATH

CS is, as usual, sitting in front of their computers, hoping the radiation from their computer screens isn't killing them slowly. Partner with ACTSCI to sell them life insurance; after all, they won't be dying for a while.

Your lucky number is \$10/month.

C&O

Waiting in line at Needless Hell to pick up your OSAP will have you fuming. Give them some helpful tips about optimizing their loan process. The stars guarantee they'll appreciate it. Or get mad at you. One or the other.

Your lucky number is a maximum of \$9350.

CS

The stars predict that there will be a federal election soon. If you're approached to build electronic voting software, spice it up a bit. For example, maybe you could multiply the number of votes a candidate got by e for every e in the person's name... but maybe they'd be tipped off by the fractional votes.

Your lucky number is 2.71828...

MATH/BUS

You know how the saying goes: "Beauty is skin deep, but ugly goes clean to the bone"? What does that have to do with you? Nothing, of course, because you're all very attractive. Heh heh.

Your lucky number is 0 out of 10.

MATHSCI

It's getting colder, and you know what that means. Right? Explain it to me. In any case, watch out for buses. And trains. And trucks. In general, watch out for large fast-moving things.

Your lucky number is very large, and very fast.

OPERATIONS RESEARCH

Don't spend all of your time trying to explain to people what exactly you do. Even the stars don't understand. Oh, you wanted something more than that? Avoid human-sized mutant blenders. That's all I can say.

Your lucky number is *i*.

Regarding Layout

Assembling an issue is a bit like doing a jigsaw, expect instead of those annoying missing pieces at the end, you wind up with holes you have no possible ways of filling with what's available to you. A word to the wise: whatever you do, don't write random text to fill the space. You'll regret it later.

Oops.

PMATH

Your awesomeness dazzled the stars so much that they didn't know what to say. Or something like that, anyway.

Your lucky number is 1 halogen light.

SOFTENG

After spending so long praising both the tie and the tool, you now have two separate personalities. If it's any comfort, BBA/BMATH has it worse: at least you know which university you belong to.

Your lucky numbers are 1 pink tie and 1 yellow hard hat.

STAT

Parking Services will ask you to calculate the probability of finding a parking spot in a decent lot at 10:30 a.m. Trade some faulty calculations showing that they can keep selling parking passes for a reserved parking spot. Talk to ACC: they have plenty of experience in taking bribes.

Your lucky number is Lot L.

UNDECLARED

Your ranks have once again swelled, as all the first-years join your ranks. CS is calling you: go into something else instead and spend that extra tuition money on something more entertaining. I'll let you decide what to do with it.

Your lucky number is \$1104/term.

ARTS

It's only the second week of classes and you already have more assignments than you know what to do with. Oh, wait, the stars must have been talking about some other program. You, like always, have nothing to do.

Your lucky number is 0 hours spent on assignments.

AHS

This term, you and ES will battle it out to see who can become the smallest faculty on campus. Try bumping off some of your classmates. You didn't think I meant kill them, did you? Just run them off into ARTS. It's not as though they don't have enough students already.

Your lucky number is less than 1397.8 Full-Time Equivalents.

ENG

Your chances of actually getting a job once you graduate are getting lower, and lower, as more and more programs are added. Don't despair; it's not as though there are any jobs for nanotechnology engineers.

Your lucky number is a steadily decreasing employment rate.

ES

Sometimes I think the E in ES stands for "easy" rather than "environmental." There's no logic to this; I mean, it's not like I just spent numerous hours doing assignments while you were probably been doing noth- Oh wait, where was I? I was just saying that I'm sure people in ES work really hard...

Your lucky number is something I'm too resentful... er... respectful of you to tell you.

SCI

The stars won't tell me your exact fortune, although they do say that it has something to do with chalk. Don't see the connection? Think about it.

Your lucky number is one neutralized acid.

profQUOTES

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to invert a program? That way we could write a program to crash planes, take the inverse, and then you'd have a program that could never crash a plane.

—Kaplan, CS 246

You can download the file from Microsoft for free, you just have to sent them DNA samples, or something, I think.

—Kaplan, CS 246

Anyone want to correct me? No? Then it's true!!

—Kaplan, CS 246

You cannot test every possible input in a text editor unless you have an infinite number of monkeys in your employment. But we won't talk about Microsoft anymore.

—Kaplan, CS 246

This isn't a movie theatre where cell phones are okay, this is a class room.

—Kaplan, CS 246

[student] Are these functions always polynomials?

[prof] No!! In fact, we're about to see an example where this function is a power series!

—Schellenberg, MATH 239

The first couple of times we do this, it's going to be as tedious as hell. It's also going to be painful.

—Wood, MATH 115

I know you're not going to run home and yell "Yippee!! I learned to work with matrices!", but it is pretty easy.

—Wood, MATH 115

When I said a monkey can memorize formulae, I meant engineers.

—Wood, MATH 138

Without loss of generality, we can substitute "smart-cow" for "professor".

—Chan, CS 466

This is a letter grade. It was given out by Laurier... they're still in the 19th century over there.

—Willard, guest lecturer

Wait... I shouldn't be doing this... I'm supposed to be on vacation.

—Willard, guest lecturer

List your sources, that can save your ass... That's a technical term; you know.

—Willard, guest lecturer

The idea of this course is to show you what on earth you've gotten yourself into.

—Atlee, SE 101

[student] How do we know that is true?

[prof] Because somebody told me and now I'm telling you.

—Godsil, MATH 135

The first half of today's lesson will be reminiscent of grade two. The second half will be harder; it will be reminiscent of grade three.

—VanderBurgh, MATH 135

Since I've used this definition seven times, it should be well known by everybody ... What was that definition again?

—VanderBurgh, MATH 135

I get 2002, which makes me two short [of 2004]... I've never been accused of that before.

—VanderBurgh, MATH 135

We have a TA who does all the real work. I just tap dance.

—May, CS 234

Please don't think of me as one of those southern hicks. I'm actually a hick from Saskatchewan.

—May, CS 234

It's abbreviated ADT. That's a TLA... Three Letter Acronym.

—May, CS 234

You can submit your programs translated into Klingon for no extra credit.

—May, CS 234

That's a good question!! ... [smacks self] Well of course it is, I asked it!

—McLeish, STAT 230

You can try breeding fish by starting with 0, but you'll find yourself rather unsuccessful.

—Lipshite, AMATH 250

If you are so pathetic that you can't make any friends, then I'll be your friend.

—Lau, ECON 102

Ha ha! I will not accept your late assignment! You must fail!!

—Forrest, PHYS 252

I should have had more beer over the weekend, at least then I would have an excuse to make mistakes.

—Bissonnette, CHEM 120

[cuts student off] You're rambling. Let me answer the question I think you were asking.

—Mosca, C&O 481

Has your prof ever said anything amusing? Funny? Laugh-out-loud hilarious? Or just downright strange? These things don't write themselves! Scribble your **profQUOTE** on a scrap of paper and deposit it in the **BLACK BOX** (conveniently located between the C&D and the Comfy on the 3rd floor of the MC), or save trees and email it to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Top Nine Comments from the Summer Olympics

That they wish they could take back

1. Weightlifting commentator: "This is Gregoriava from Bulgaria. I saw her snatch this morning during her warm up and it was amazing."
2. Dressage commentator: "This is really a lovely horse and I speak from personal experience, since I once mounted her mother."
3. Paul Hamm, Gymnast: "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."
4. Boxing Analyst: "Sure there have been injuries, and even some deaths in boxing, but none of them really that serious."
5. Softball announcer: "If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again."
6. Basketball analyst: "He dribbles a lot and the opposition doesn't like it. In fact you can see it all over their faces."
7. At the rowing medal ceremony: "Ah, isn't that nice, the wife of the IOC president is hugging the cox of the British crew."
8. Soccer commentator: "Julian Dicks is everywhere. It's like they've got eleven Dicks on the field."
9. Tennis commentator: "One of the reasons Andy is playing so well is that, before the final round, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them...Oh my God, what have I just said?"

Snuggles' Mom

(Ya, my mom finds this stuff funny too - Snuggles)

7 Things you Need to Know

But aren't always told

1. Visit the comfy lounge, it's fun.
2. Know the Tatham Center? The building that Cooperative Education and Career Services (henceforth known as CECS) uses? Well call it the CECS building. Don't get it? Try to pronounce CECS.
3. That weird blue thing out in front of the MC says "CS" Check it out from Ring Road.
4. Same thing can be done with the Columbia Lake Townhouses abbreviation, but most people don't.
5. The last tutorial in CS134 is the best tutorial you will ever have, so go to it, it's fun.
6. CS241 has a cool marking scheme for its UNIX assignments; try to figure it out.
7. Know the Scavenger Hunt from frosh week? Most people don't call it that.
8. *mathNEWS* is usually lies (this list isn't though; I said usually, not always. This is entirely true.).
9. Free pizza for writing for *mathNEWS*! This isn't a lie though, come out next production night (I've been told Oct. 4th) and see.

DanS

Denying Your Genealogy 101 - Moving Back Home

Week 1 - Conversation Skills

(Background)

If there's one thing I've learned since coming home and moving right back in (if you don't count the fact that my room was taken over by a troll [my younger brother]) it's that I cannot possibly related to these people. The past few weeks have proved to me that it is more likely I am related to any of the several people I spent any time with in the last 8 months than to the disjointed people occupying my childhood home.

My real mistake was probably driving with them to Nova Scotia for a week and half after not seeing them for more than a few days for 8 months. This was followed closely by living with these people full-time following frosh week. Too much too soon, let me tell you.

These are my stories.

(/Background)

Lesson one: Your parents won't know what you are talking about .5*theTime

My newest shock at these people has come with the blank stares responding to my homestarrunner.com or clone high references, or my descriptions of which sections I failed in Calc 2, or my math jokes, was, in my mind, perfectly fair. Meanwhile, they seem to blame some sort of change in ME, as if it's MY fault they don't understand why I fell off the couch laughing when I heard that The Lion King was playing in our hotel lobby.

To this day, I credit not losing my mind to frosh week and all my amazing Earthquake members who were cool enough to teach me a new math joke.

Anyway, all it really took was some time and testing the waters. Like talking about going to class is good, but talking about class is not so good.

Since then, my family and I have found a bit of a balance. My mother laughs politely when I quiz her on the result of crossing a mosquito with a stick, and I don't glaze over when she assaults me with neighbourhood gossip. My brother and I seem to have grown up somehow and are getting along, and if my daddy ever returns from business trips I know he'll understand what's so funny about that programming joke I made at the dinner table.

So what can I pass on to anyone who hasn't moved back home yet (I'm looking at 4-stream frosh)? Make sure you retain some non-math conversation starters and jokes - before it's too late, and you don't remember. I know it sounds strange now, but you have no idea how much you will change... or which parts of you will.

Oh, and while I have the attention of people who may care... Q. Why did the chicken cross the mobius playground?

A. To get to the same slide!

Half-pint (reporting live from her living room, which is [in theory] vastly nicer than E5 316, or any math lab in MC, but somehow not)

Google IPO

I survived the Google IPO and all I got were 30 t-shirts and this ugly hat.

jim

mathNEWS BYOB #1

Break Your Own Brain - The first time is the Squeakiest

BYOB is back for a second term of brainy goodness (mmmm...braaaaaaaains). For those of you who missed last term's breakage, I suggest you visit www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca to catch up on all the highlights. Or you can just start by reading the rest of this article. The general idea here is that instead of looking up answers on Google, or applying those icky English skills, we are providing you with a safe and comfortable environment in which to show off your Mathie goodness with some fun and challenging mind bogglers. *mathNEWS* takes no responsibility if you actually break your brain; solve responsibly.

Answers must be in by 6pm on October 4th, 2004. Or you can submit either to the **BLACK BOX** which is conveniently located between the C&D and the Comfy; Or you can email us at mathNEWS@student.math.uwaterloo.ca; Or you can come and submit to me in person. Yes, I know I had a leading or, it just makes more sense that way, don't you think?

Ladies and Chocolate

Samantha and her three friends, each from different faculties, decided to eat lunch at four different C&D's around campus over four different days, each day buying their favourite chocolate bar and always sitting in the same order. Using the clues below determine the order in which they sat (they sat in a straight line), which faculties they were in, which day each student hosted the lunch, and what is each's favourite chocolate bar.

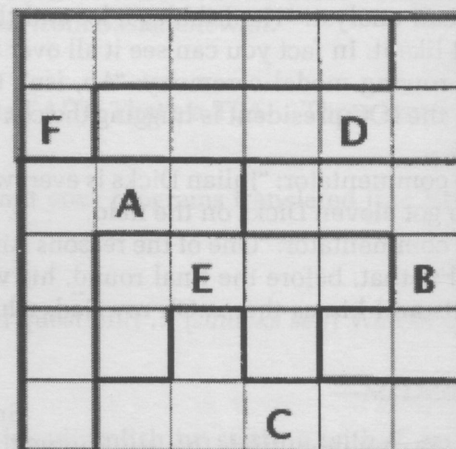
1. The four students are Cindy, the Engineer, the one who hosted Monday, and the one who likes Mr. Big.
2. The person who hosted Tuesday sat between the people who love Big Turks and the one who can't stop taking The Milky Way.
3. Stephanie sat directly next to both the person who loves Mr. Big and the one who hosted Monday.
4. The AHS'er sat to the left of Silvia, who did not sit next to the Big Turk eater.
5. The Mathie sat next to both the Engineer and the ES'er.
6. The O'Henry eater hosted Thursday.

Boys and Toys

Dave and three loungers were playing a rousing game of Settlers, they each went after a different port, and each had a different number of roads towards longest road. Discover how each of them did, how long was their road, which port they went after and their favourite snack.

1. The longest road was just one piece longer than that of the person who finished two places after Nick.
2. The shortest road length was exactly half the length of the person who placed exactly after the Wheat king.
3. The road length of the player who placed exactly after Nick is exactly one road longer than the road length played by the one who placed exactly before Byung.

4. The road length of the 3rd place finisher is within one road of the Bacon fiend.
5. The Soup slurper finished exactly 2 places ahead of the guy with a 7th length road
6. Byung, the Jolt drinker, the person who loved Wood, and the player with an even length road were playing in the Comfy.
7. Tom placed ahead of the person who sacrificed his Sheep.
8. The person who went after the Ore port was nashing on Skittles.

Letters and more Letters

The image shown has six shapes with six squares each. Place the letters A through F in the squares such that each row, column, and sub-block contains each letter exactly once (only one letter per square, cheaters).

One more item to mention is our innovative and because-I'm-lazy tie-breaking method. Note this has nothing to do with destroying any of the sacrilicious Pink Ties, but instead refers to the fact that we are the premier Math faculty in the world so more then one of you should be able to solve all the problems. So here it is: submit a riddle/puzzle/brain teaser along with full solution, and in the event of a tie, our favourite will win. Additionally you will be happy in the knowledge that you are now a published author (yes, *mathNEWS* does appear in the National Library of Canada; that is a real ISSN), if we use your puzzle, that is. This has the added benefit of giving us fodder for future installments of [insert loud booming voice here] "Break Your Own Brain". And that is it for this week. Don't forget to submit to me; otherwise, how will I live out my dominatrix fantasies? So dress up your answers in some leather and submit early, submit often.

Snuggles
Breaking Brains since 1978

Mathie Songs From Camp

Or Why They Shouldn't Let Mathies Be Counsellors

(To The Tune of "The Itsy Bitsy Spider")

Teh 33tsy 1337sy spider went up teh waterspout
Down came teh rain and p'wned teh spider out
Up came teh sun and h4x0r3d all the rain
And teh 33tsy 1337sy spider went up teh spout again

(To the tune of "Three Little Angels")

Three little classes, all dressed in black
Tried to get to heaven on the top of a stack
But the stack got popped and down they all fell
Instead of going to heaven, they all went to ...

Two little classes...

(To the tune of "The Great Ship Titanic")

Oh they built Ariene 5
To sail across the sky
They gave it an IGS
Just to help the thing to fly

But the thing was out of date
And it crashed into a lake
It was sad when the great ship went down

Oh it was sad (so sad)
Oh it was sad (too bad)
It was sad when the great ship went down

Now it's nothing but a
Legend of lore
In CS 134
It was sad when the great ship went down

SquirrelToken

Well, this is a first for me...writing while on a co-op term. I've always seemed to find a way around it, and now that I'm officially on the editorial staff (off-stream, but whatever), I figured I should have some sort of input into our fine publication. For you frosh, here's what you should be looking at over the next 4 months (cuz after that, I'm back and the universe will be balanced again): lots of assignments, some co-op things (namely Co-op 101 classes, or whatever they're calling them these days), hopefully jobs for all you 4-streamers (trust me, it's not as bad as some people make it out to be...I've had jobs in all my work terms, and even not gone through co-op a couple of times...it's not all that scary if you don't let it scare you). I do, however, caution you to not make the same mistake I did while in 1A: do study. Really. It may look like high school math, feel like high

mathNEWSquiz #1

Hello students new and old, for those of you who don't already know this is the Squiz! (as illustrated by our lovely title). We're Alex and Mike, your squizmasters for the term. We'd normally have answers for last issue's Squiz here, but this is the first issue of the term so without any further ado we'll start this week's Squiz.

SquizMasters

1. What year was Alex born?
2. What colour is Mike's coat?
3. How many articles have the two Squizmasters written for mathNEWS?
4. When's Mike's earliest class this term?
5. What's Alex's middle name?

2004 Frosh Week Themes

1. AHS
2. ES
3. Science
4. Engineering
5. St. Jerome's

Easy Questions

1. What's the capital of Peru?
2. What was the first man-made object launched into Space?
3. What is the prize for the Squiz?
4. What year was the Math Faculty founded?
5. How much money does a player start with in Monopoly?

Impossible Questions

[insert maniacal laughter]

1. Which human has travelled through time farthest through time?
2. How accurate does Pi have to be to encompass the known universe with a circle to the accuracy of a hydrogen atom?
3. What year did the use of Black Boxes in airplanes become standard?
4. Who cracked The Enigma?
5. What do they put through jet engines to test them?

Good luck with the above. Answers should be submitted into the **BLACK BOX**. The winner will receive fame and fortune in the form of their name in the next issue's Squiz and a \$5 gift certificate to the Math C&D.

Val
GCM

First Distance Article

school math, but when the exams come along, you'll realize it's not high school math anymore. Just a word of caution. Take it as you will.

What's coming up that you should care about? EngScunt (I've heard that it's going to be Oct. 1/2). Come out. It'll be awesome. I'll be there. Oh, that reminds me...who's captaining this team? I don't know, but I'm sure you'll see stuff about it soon enough. *[Scot Nyback is captaining; see the lookAHEAD for more — inkEd]* I'll likely ramble some more about it next issue. But yeah, if you enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt during frosh week, then this is about a million times better.

"This is not a real guarantee, but hey, I enjoy them, so you might too!"

Mark "Beatlemaniac" Toivanen



gridCOMMENTS

Welcome to another term of *gridWORD*! This term, we're starting off with a bit of a twist. Due to the extreme nature of the first deadline, and the new team-up of Dave Wheatley (CryptMaster) and Joscelyn Kleingeld (ConMaster), we have rushed together possibly the strangest set of grids ever created in this publication.

So try your best with this, but don't expect to finish it (yes, that IS a challenge!). Submit your solutions to the BLACK BOX between the C&D and the Comfy. There are 2 \$5 gift certificates to hand out...one for each type of grid...so give it your best shot! The best solutions (not necessarily perfect or complete), win!

Look forward to seeing your submissions.

And don't forget to solve this issue's *gridQUESTION*: How many frosh does it take to solve a *gridWORD*?

ConMaster

Cryptic

Across

1. Bemoan bowman slain messily by mythical monster (10,7)
10. Can I rest after Howard has backed off poor man's question? (3,10,2,2)
11. Crazy cab struck Abbey. Can deserve taxi driver reductions? (4,5,8)
12. Motivat(e) endlessly! (6)
13. Headless lego man has pride (3)
14. Fudge it. Eva, a trip through the air (6)
17. Star enraged at beach risks (8)
18. Bothers tailless hare and donkeys (8)
20. Stomps weight (6)
21. Crooked character in a little more than three greek letter (3)
22. Mob Lou sells smuggled shirt (6)
25. Old dimwit! Profaneness for sages and voyages? (2,7,3,5)
26. Earth! Earth? Earth arranges tetrahedral another? (5,5,3,4)
27. [27 is a special split clue. The answers to the next three clues fit in 27 across]
- 27a. Brownish-Red Extra Terrestrial after Russel (6)
- 27b. Pearly White plays on a horn: "Heavenly Yours", initially (6)
- 27c. Marissa's system flaunts sex appeal (5)

Down

1. Cheering fan's cup? (8,9)
2. Push forward and rise to protect superhero's cry? (7,3,7)
3. SARS disinfects badly, holding debt with comfort (10,7)
4. Tiny organism involved in scam o' Ebay (6)
5. Do I gayly work with female cartoon bear? (4,4)
6. Time's up after lower control (6)
7. The best one higher than the rest (3,5,3,6)
8. Ian's caught up in two sets of notes before Al's performer's performances (9,8)

9. Seek analyses today makes nothing to do instead of nothing to do? (2,4,4,4,3)
15. Big nuthatch hides wildebeest (3)
16. Catch back talk (3)
19. Drunk giants to beer (8)
23. Adjust mutual dieresis (6)

Conventional

Across

1. angle of incidence = ? (5,2,10)
10. tedious signatures (7,10)
11. frozen water + meat and vegetable eater + ferocious (3,8,6)
12. a section of an opera (2,4)
13. parapsychological phenomena (3)
14. Roman four, English four (2,4)
17. off-kilter (8)
18. saviours (8)
20. colloquial psychologist (6)
21. implore (3)
22. amusing dwarf (3,3)
25. resistance measure + blush + new person (4,5,8)
26. make smallest + model constructor (8,1,8)
27. intervening + take to court + people next door (4,3,10)

Down

1. Frosty the Yeti? (10,7)
2. shelf space under dash (5,12)
3. large idiot (8,9)
4. skin and upper layer of muscle (6)
5. "gang" of birds? (3,5)
6. crazy (6)
7. reduction in pulmonary flow (14,3)
8. pretending French blue (13,4)
9. bird built home + flower of love + each + eye part (6,4,3,4)
15. novel (3)
16. unlocking item (3)
19. excrete (8)
23. gag (6)
24. robust (6)

