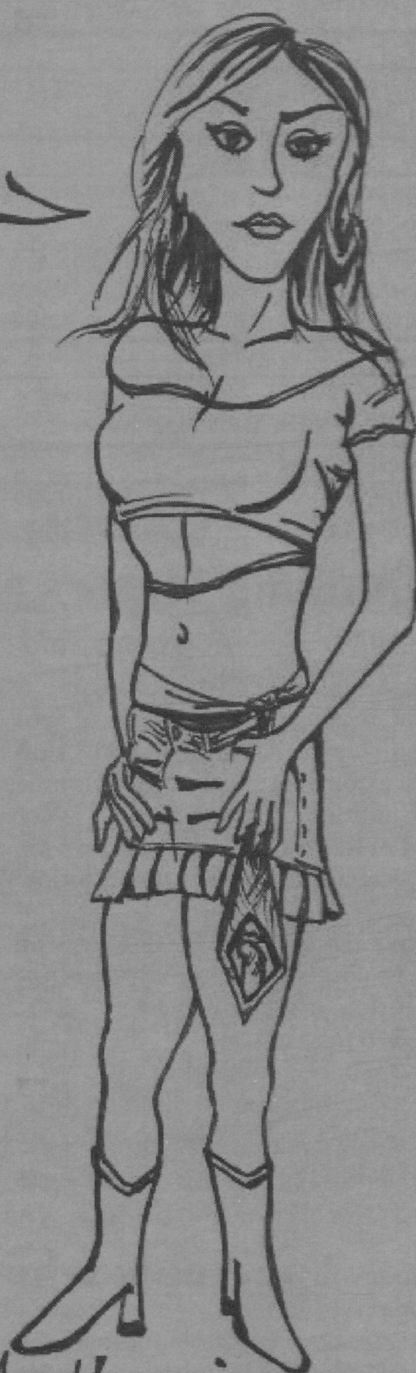


math NEWS

Volume 96, Issue 2

Friday, October 8th, 2004

ALL I DID WAS ASK
WHERE THE MATH AND
COMPUTER BUILDING IS!!



Neeraj Mathrani 2004

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

October 8	Issue #2 descends amongst the hoi palloi
October 18	Issue #3 Production Night 6:30PM, Mathsoc (MC3038)
October 22	Issue #3 mulls some cider

Math Faculty

October 12	J. Alan George becomes more awesome than ever
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MathSoc

Every Day!	Charity Ball tickets on sale
October 8	Thanksgiving Pi(e) day
November 6	Charity Ball
Thursdays	Movie night (2 movies, 2 dollars)

MGC

Very Soon	Sign up for Grad Photos
Wednesdays	Pizza day

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

October 22	Ranking day
Good luck with your interviews	

Miscellaneous

October 9	Moldy Cheese Day
October 11	Thanksgiving

Autumn Magic - Charity Ball

Tickets on Sale Now!!!

The annual ball consists of a banquet dinner as well as live and silent auctions, the proceeds of which are donated to a designated charity. All students and staff of University of Waterloo are welcome, as are all other community members. This year's ball, entitled "Autumn Magic," is scheduled for November 6th, 2004 at the Waterloo Inn, and we are extremely pleased to support Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region as this year's charity.

Tickets are available for purchase on the 3rd floor of the MC or by contacting charity@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. Ticket prices are as follows:

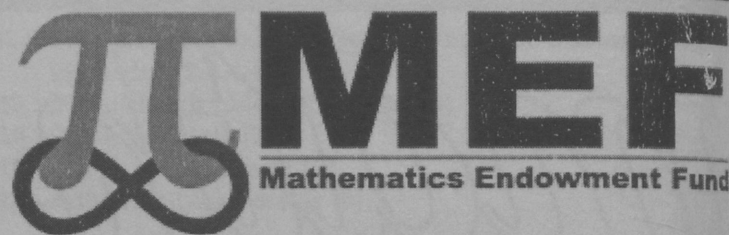
- \$40 for a single
- \$75 for a couple
- \$280 for a table of 8

For more information, drop by the 3rd floor ticket sales desk or contact charity@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Adam Felix

You know what I hate?

Piddling little spaces like this one



MEF Update

A reminder that Nominations to Funding Council are due October 15th and the Deadline for Funding Requests is October 22nd. Volunteering to help MEF is a great way to help yourself and other students.

Also, a message that I have the greatest office of any student organization. Hooray! My office hours are 2:00 – 3:00PM on Tuesdays, so come by to claim funding, request funding, drop off a nomination form for Funding Council, ask me questions about MEF, or just revel in the glory that is my office.

Eric Logan
MEF Director F04

Help the *mathNEWS* archives!

We've got this hole...

Every time *mathNEWS* publishes, two issues get locked away from light and air as mint issues for our archives. One of these issues will get bound into a book, and the other we hang onto just because. The trick is, for one issue, we don't have any mint copies. If you should happen to have a **mint** copy of Volume 94, Issue 2 (January 30th, "Red vs. Green vs. Blue"), the editors will reward you with either \$10 at the Math C&D, or a **free** one-term subscription to *mathNEWS*! Contact mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca for more information.

Eric "inkEd" Logan

Warrior Nation CD Now available!!

- \$5 per CD, all profits go toward a new undergraduate scholarship fund I'm trying to form.
- 100% UW-affiliated bands, 16 bands in total (18 tracks).
- CD is called "Warrior Nation".
- CD is being sold around campus (Turnkey desk, Math C&D, Faculty Soc offices, etc.).

Arda Ocal

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 mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet. The cool hat gang: Eric Logan, Emerald Kushnier

XXL - Contest

It's over ... for now

Phew!! That was a job and a half! Next time you guys can sift through millions of entries for a random contest and select three winners. Although I guess it is kind of fun to have the power to say, "You're awesome," or, "You suck". Maybe I'll do it again next time, but maybe I'll remember the millions of entries I had to sift through.

Selection of the first place winner was a very complicated process. First, I threw out all the entries from people who did not bother to give me a choice as to which colour of shirt they would like (red or grey). I figured that if you're not going to tell me what choice you want to make, I can't really give you a choice now can I? That's simple logic. Then, after I had eliminated all those people who don't follow instructions, I laid all the entries out side by side in my head, and flipped a coin. There's another amazing feat of mine, I found a coin with a single edge.

Then I had two more slots left to fill. I piled all the remaining entries into a very large bin and waved my arms around inside of it. I then meticulously withdrew each and ever entry and read it carefully to make sure I didn't miss a winner. I laughed with delight, I groaned with frustration, and finally, I flipped my special coin and all the entries fell into place.

Thus we have our winners! Third place goes to Kevin Nguy who gave the exceptionally witty response of "If I had an XXL cheat shirt, I would put it in the laundry to make it an XL cheat shirt." This shows an exceptionally strong sense of intelligence. Who needs an XXL cheat shirt? Do you really think I'd be giving them away if they were useful? *cough* Of course I would!! *nervous laugh* Getting back on track, you can pick up your grey XXL cheat shirt anytime at the MathSoc office (MC 3038) Kevin.

Moving on: our second place winner showed a supreme sense of wit. He got bonus points for mentioning the words "zany", "mathNEWS", and for threatening pre-frosh. What kind of a response could do all that? Chris MacGregor's: "Here's the zany thing I would do if I win an XXL cheat shirt - I'd continue to web edit mathNEWS, since I'm not in any other way getting paid! I'd also wear it into a psych exam! I'd also go back to my old high school and say that the kids need to know everything on the shirt for first year! And I'd continue to web edit mathNEWS! Not being paid!" You can pick up your red XXL cheat shirt any time Chris!

Finally we have our ultimate winner, the one who went into the trenches armed with every possible weapon known to humankind: brevity, succinctness, conciseness, and a fleeting sense of sex drive. Rong Feng replied with "If I had a XXL cheat shirt I would ... Go pick up some nerd chicks at the comfy lounge!!" Of course, I had to dock him some points for incorrect grammar (XXL starts with a vowel, and should thus be preceded by "an", not "a"), but all in all, he was able to put together a solid entry. Rong, you can pick up your red XXL cheat shirt at the MathSoc office anytime.

That's all the giveaways for this week. Make sure you look for my other article elsewhere in this fine publication for a chance to win some more fabulous prizes.

Scot Nyback

MathSoc Novelties Director - Fall 2004

Thinking About Grad Studies?

Check Out Processional and Post-Degree Day

Whatever your reasons for considering graduate or professional school, Career Services has an event for you. Professional & Post-degree Day (PPD Day) will be held on Wednesday, October 13 at the Student Life Centre from 11am . 2 pm.

Students will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from 64 institutions from North America, Europe and Australia (up from 56 last year). This once-a-year event allows students to find out more about career options, graduate school admission requirements, program specifics, and the procedures/deadlines for applications. Some of the fields of study offered include Architecture, Business, Chiropractic, Education, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Health Sciences, Law, Naturopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Rehabilitation Sciences, Social Work, Theology, and Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to organizing PPD Day, Career Services also offers individual appointments to provide information about the grad application process, review of applications, and mock grad/professional school interviews on an ongoing basis. Book your appointment early . the easy way, online. If you are just starting to think about the next steps after your undergrad degree, you may also consider attending one of the Career Services workshops such as "Are you Thinking about Grad Studies?", "Mastering the Personal Statement" or any of the presentations on med/law school featured at the beginning of the Fall and Winter terms.

For more information about PPD Day, please contact Elisabeth Adrian at 888-4567 ext 2590 or visit the Career Services web site at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca

mastHEAD

It's October, the temperature has plummeted, and midterm season has begun. Still, things are looking up. By the time this issue hits the halls, we'll all be on the brink of a three day weekend (and no matter how bad your family may be, I'm sure they're better than an 8:30 Calc lecture). There's free pie this afternoon. And if all goes well, this will be the last issue prepared using the production system we've had in place since I got here (which, granted, isn't so long ago). Please do not be alarmed by any cries of celebration that may come from the labs next production night.

And so, given the season, we decided to ask the staff, "What are you thankful for?" Keslen (Free pizza), Morgan (*mathNEWS*), Dan (CS 246 assignments due at night not in the morning), Ali (No more work reports), Ian (A great orientation team), Andrew (svchost.exe :) , Alex (Windows alternatives), Jim (Statutory #####), Michael (Three profs who provided *profQUOTES*), Dustin (3-day breaks from insanity), Richard (Free food!), Kaitlyn "Half-pint" ("You have been accepted to the Faculty of Mathematics 2004"), Mark "Beatlemaniac" (Things that burn pretty), Dave "CryptMaster" (The Philippines), Lino (*mathNEWS* is only a bi-weekly publication), Jos "ConMaster" (Tamora Pierce coming to Waterloo!).

As always, we're thankful to Campus Pizza for providing us with the best production-night's bribe we could find, and to the kind people over at Graphics for helping us make sure that there's something worth coming to campus for the day before a long weekend.

Emerald (Statutory holidays)

Eric (The end of our old production system is nigh!)

Prez Says

I should call these things fortnightly chats. I could write one every fortnight and publish it in *mathNEWS*. I could use it as a springboard for taking over the world. First, I write an article every fortnight.

Then, people read it. Finally, they all submit to my will and do exactly as I say. I figure I've got step one down, I'm not sure about step two, and I don't think step three is happening.

Right, I should talk about presidential stuff. In the past two weeks, we've elected many new members to MathSoc council, selected a Math Grad Committee Chair, and have started the selection process for next year's Orientation Directors.

Coming up in November, we will have the Society's Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, we will review any changes to the bylaws and policies and hear reports from the VPs about the states of the various aspects of the society.

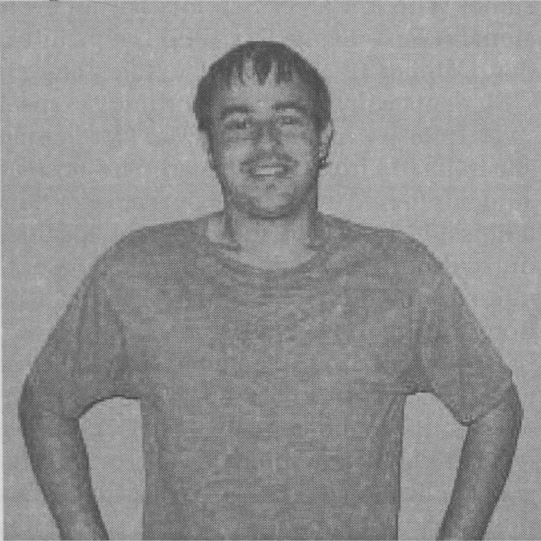
My palm pilot is telling me that I have four assignments due Friday, so I'm going to get to work on those now.

Lino Demasi
MathSoc President

Top Ten Signs You Should Have Chosen a More Reputable Employer for Your Work Term

10. On your first day, the security guards point and laugh when you tell them which company you're working for. Every day after that, they mutter "poor bastard" as you walk past.
9. There are strippers at the company Christmas party.
8. The company doesn't have a long distance provider, so when you need to make a business related long distance call the boss tells you to call the Labatt Blue Line.
7. Instead of "Casual Fridays," the office partakes in "Clothes Optional Wednesdays." And your male boss participates.
6. There are raccoons living in the supply cupboard.
5. When you show up, your boss asks if you're the co-op student in charge of tech support or body dumping.
4. The default home page on your cubicle's computer was an illicit site.
3. You are paid with a personal check from a bank in the Caymans.
2. Your employer offers to help you plagiarize your work report.
1. You work for the government.

Reporting from her first co-op placement at Industry Canada, Ottawa, ON. (where luckily only one of the above is true),
Half-pint



VPF Says

Something to report!

Okay, so this doesn't happen often...I have something to report! Wheee!

This week is budget week. This is the week where MathSoc has me (the VPF) put together a budget that includes money for clubs, MathSoc boards, executive, administration, etc. The budget is reviewed and approved by council during a council meeting fondly referred to as "The Budget Meeting."

Any social member of the Mathematics Society can attend the council meeting. This is to ensure you have a say in how your money is spent.

The budget is the way we break down the spending of the \$10.50 we collected from each person. Each social member has a representative on council either through a class rep, a first year rep, or failing that, one of the executive. Make sure you have a voice! For those who don't know, social members of the society are those who have paid \$10.50 this term to MathSoc, and have not requested a refund. Any of you can come to meetings.

For those who HAVE requested refunds from MathSoc this term, the refund request has been approved. What this means is that, we will give you a cheque for \$10.50 if you:

- Bring your WatCard to prove you are the cheque recipient
- Prove, by logging into Quest, that you paid the MathSoc fee for the Fall 2004 term
- Have not been seen, at any point this term, using the services or attending social events by any member of MathSoc
- Already have a cheque waiting for you because you submitted a refund request form that was approved

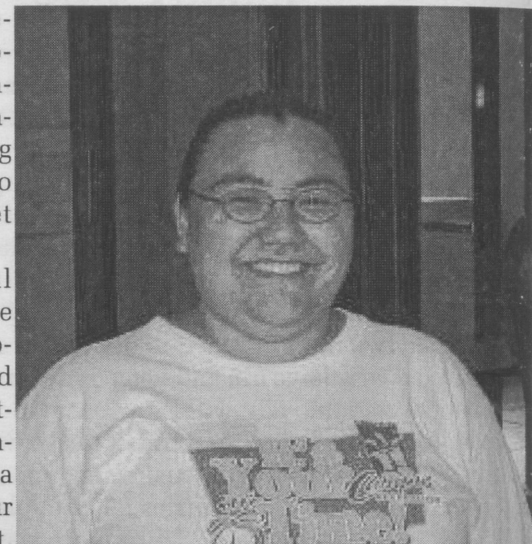
If you miss any of one of those things, then unfortunately we cannot give you a refund. Now that you have submitted your refund form, you can be asked to leave the MathSoc office, particularly if you are using a MathSoc service.

So now that the unpleasantness is done, we're well underway in the term. If you have any questions, just come out to visit me during my office hours! Ciao for now!

Jos

I'm not trying to fill whitespace here...

No sir, not me



ElseWhen

10 Years Ago in mathNEWS

Welcome to the hallowed halls of the *mathNEWS* archives! We reach into the past and pull out the stuff that people were reading about 10 years ago in this very publication. And now, the best of Volume 66, Issue 2.

inkEd

Editorial

Steve "Flipper" Shaw (editor at the time) writes a fine editorial pointing out that your MathSoc fee plus your MEF contribution comes to about \$40, and the benefit you get from contributing is worth a lot more than those dollars. As he points out when discussing MEF refunds:

"...[W]hy did you ask for your thirty bucks back? I will allow that there are probably a dozen of you that actually needed the money — but if thirty bucks is all that lies between you and starvation, then you're probably going to starve anyway, brother."

Prez Sez

In F94, the venerable Marco C.A. Koechli (a name you might remember because he started Tie Guard) was MathSoc president. In his Prez Sez article, he mentions that Tickets to Oktoberfest are now on sale in the MathSoc office for the low, low price of \$6 (\$7 for non-mathies). Also, the Soc office acquires a new photocopier, new lockers are installed on the third floor, and he asks for ideas for a long-term project to benefit students.

MEF

Gus Hosien, MEF Director F94, writes an article describing the shiny new Math Endowment Fund. [For more information on MEF, look elsewhere in this issue — inkEd]

profQUOTES

"Yes. D-O-T. Dot."

Jackson, C&O 330

"Math students misuse the English grammar badly."

Moskal, PMATH 330

"If sex is a pain in the ass, you're doing it the wrong way."

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

In Other News...

- The *mastHEAD* asks why Ian Goldberg never shuts up [My favourite answer: "Remember how they got Mr. Ed to talk?", Chad Ternet — inkEd]
- Graham Rogers gripes about his "Woman Trouble"
- The Math Scunt team doesn't place last
- We publish the Dean's Honour List
- Eric Sutherland writes a Bridge article (and it doesn't suck!)
- Curtis Desjardins parodies the Denis Leary song "Asshole" as "Artsie"
- And finally, Chris "Strunoph" Norman publishes the "Am I a Sexual Pervert?" quiz

The DanS Guide to Failing

Welcome to a new school year. Unless, of course, you're an upper-year student in co-op, in which case the whole concept of a "school year" should have died a long time ago. Many of you — especially the frosh out there — have probably been bombarded with good suggestions on how to survive. This, of course, is not enough and as such I'm going to provide you with a list of things you can do to aid you in the task of failing. Please note that while one individual item won't necessarily cause you to fail, you'd have to be pretty psycho to actually pass by doing more than one.

1. No time is a bad time to procrastinate.
2. You never cover any new material in tutorials, so why go?
3. In any given math class, any given assignment is **only** worth 1-2% of your mark. Remember this any time you're tempted to do an assignment.
4. Textbooks are for people who don't have better things to spend their money on.
5. Documentation is for sissies.
6. You're allowed to use any resource you want on assignments. Try your friend's assignment.
7. You're almost guaranteed to not cover any "real" material in the first lecture of any given class, so why go?
8. Many profs spend the first half of their lectures reviewing what they did in the last one. Only go to every other lecture and you'll still get all the content.
9. Course notes usually contain everything you're going to see in class them, so you don't need to take notes.
10. Finally, you could miss the final, but well... that's too easy.

So by following these simple tips, you can fail any or all of your courses in no time. Good luck, and see you in Arts.

DanS

Win Stuff!

What Would You Like To See?

Hello! It's me again. I have another problem. You may remember that I had this small problem last issue of having too much stuff. Well I must have given too much away, because this time, my problem is a lack of stuff.

I suppose I should be a little more specific. The novelties in the MathSoc Office could use some new blood. However, the problem arises in that I am about as creative as the average rock. Thus I propose this to you: if you give me an awesome, spectacular, uber-rific idea for something that oodles of people would want to pay zillions of dollars for, I will give one to you.

Well, perhaps a zillion dollars is a little bit much to expect. However, I can mumble something under my breath about how the first item produced from your idea will find itself in your hands along with a thank you from MathSoc. Just pick up a form outside the MathSoc Office (MC 3038), fill it out, hand it in, and watch the free stuff fly!

Scot Nyback

MathSoc Novelties Director - Fall 2004

profQUOTES

"I can prove this in a second — well, actually, in 20 minutes."
Moosa, MATH 135

"You can wang the lever all you want."
Brecht, CS 133

"But it might not be spam. I might have a friend who just got married and sent me a message titled 'Having a good time in Viagra Falls'."
McLeish, STAT 230

"My friend in Viagra Falls is an example..."
McLeish, STAT 230

"When I write a solution on the board you'll think 'Oh, that's obvious, and idiot can do that... even him.'"
McLeish, STAT 230

"I've got better things I could be doing this afternoon. There's this thing called the internet and it's not going to browse itself."
May, CS 234

"It makes a difference whether it'll take you forever to code or if you can do it in a half hour drunk watching hockey."
May, CS 234

"Looking for fallacies in 'The Toronto Sun' is like clubbing baby seals."
Kenyon, PHIL 145

"This is Theorem 2.31 in the text, but if you want you can copy it down to see if what I write is an accurate transcription of what I've copied from the text."
Godsil, MATH 135

"Welcome back after this conveniently timed fire alarm — but it's not midterms or finals, I don't understand."
Biedl, CS 240

"On the board I'll have to write out the code for this. In your notes you can just write 'Don't enqueue empty trees'."
Ackerman, CS 234

"I'm going to do some magic hand-waving exercise that will make you believe this is true."
Wood, MATH 115

"You don't want to integrate from 0 to the square root of $x^2 + y^2$! Who the hell wants to integrate crap like that?"
Forrest, PHYS 252

"You're my favourite class... yadda yadda yadda, empty words. It's sort of like this when you're married."
Forrest, PHYS 252

"Everything has a direction — except my life."
Forrest, PHYS 252

"I draw like a monkey on crack."
Forrest, PHYS 252

"Before we start, two things. Last lecture I said something really stupid, and later in the lecture I lied."
Strickland, PHYS 115

"Eventually I'm going to show you why we calculate the determinant of a matrix, but for now we're going to do it because we think it's fun."
Wood, MATH 115

"This works well in theory, but in reality it's completely useless."
Wood, MATH 115

"Assume I'm wrong. Then either t is prime, in which case I'm right, or it factors, in which case I'm also right. Therefore, I'm right."
Godsil, MATH 135

"We can't save this function. This function goes straight to hell."
D'Alessio, MATH 237

"[The Law of Friction] is a horrible simplification, and it's probably not true, but we use it anyway."
Vanderkooy, PHYS 115

"The problem with proving things that seem obviously true is that it's hard to prove them properly. You know, write a few words, and if it looked true before, it'll look true after."
Godsil, MATH 135

[Asked to prove a theorem] "You'll have to trust this one on blind faith. Calculus is half religion."
Hare, MATH 137

[Pointing at "CRT"] "Cathode-Ray Tube is out of date. Chinese Remainder Theorem is always in fashion."
Ng, MATH 245

"Super classes and sub classes are supposed to have some relationship. It is like in the Animal Kingdom where a cat is a dog. No..."
Graham, CS 131

Did your prof say something funny? Silly? Stupid? Will other people outside of your class think it's amusing? Scribble your *profQUOTES* on scraps of paper and deposit them in the **BLACK BOX** between the Comfy and the C&D. Those of you more environmentally minded can email them to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. Whatever you do, submit, submit, submit!

What if the Nitrogen Tank Answered its Mail?

Lucky Atomic Number 7

Just outside the Chemistry building there is rather large nitrogen tank. This may not seem that odd, especially since, you know, it's outside CHEM; however, this particular tank has a mailbox attached to it, so we at *mathNEWS* decided to get some letters from people in need of help, send them to the Nitro Tank, and see what advice the Nitro Tank has to give.

Dear Nitrogen Tank,

I am a Grade 12 student, and I am intrigued by the new School of Pharmacy that UW plans on opening in Kitchener. I hear there is a lot of demand for pharmacists in the future, so do you think I should apply?

Potential Pharmacist

Potential Pharmacist,

UW has done a lot of great things. However, the School of Pharmacy isn't one of them. First off, it's in Kitchener. You don't want to spend your late teens and early twenties in Kitchener. The school is part of the "community rejuvenation" project put forth by City Hall, the problem is that neighbourhood really needs rejuvenation. So really, we're putting a SCHOOL OF DRUGS in one of the sketchiest parts of Kitchener. Of course, this may provide an interesting manner to finance your education, but it could also mean your locker at school will be broken into more than a CS lab with flat panels.

Nitro

Nitro Tank,

I'm a first year here at UW, and I gotta know: Which is bigger on campus, ICQ or MSN?

Confused Computer User

Confused,

Only geeks and dumbasses use ICQ nowadays. I've been running MSN for the past 3 years now and haven't been happier. Myself, the boiler in Plant Ops, and the propane tank by the gas station all keep in touch with it. It's even useful as a pick-up tool: Last week I was putting my moves on this cute Oxygen tank and I used the good ol' "so baby, what's your MSN?" Chalk one up for Nitro.

Nitro

Mr. Tank,

My roommate and I have been having problems. I'm a 2A CS student, so I have a lot of work, but my roomie is a Rec student, so he's out partying every night and has almost become nocturnal. We wake each other up constantly (although at 3 in the afternoon I have no intention of tip-toeing around). What do we do?

Sleepless on Shakespeare Dr.

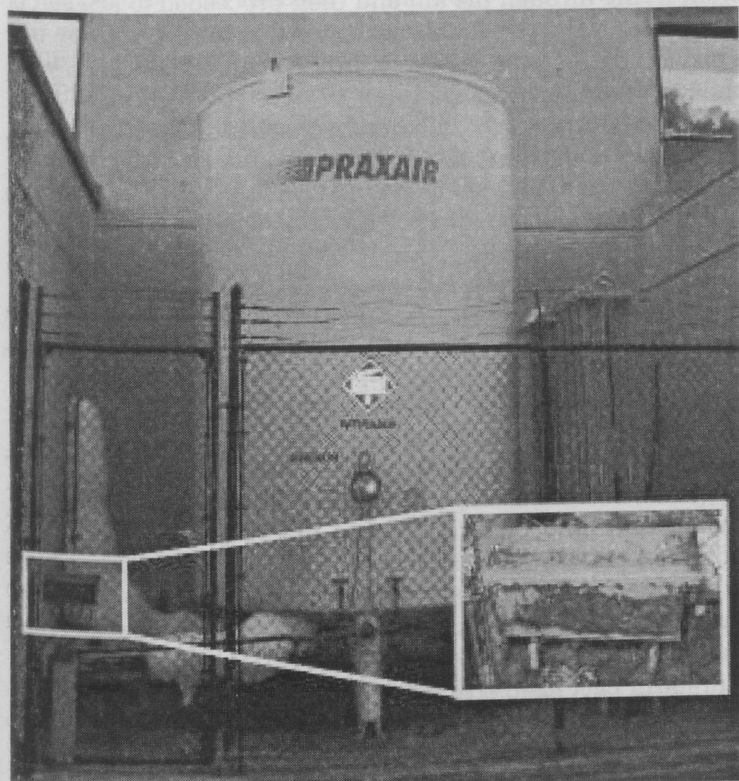
Sleepless,

The simplest way to deal with this is to go out every night with him. Sure, there is the whole "work" issue, but there's no rule that says you can't bring a laptop or notes to the Bomber or Fed Hall. You will never ever ever ever pick up, but at least you're meeting your roomie half-way. Another option is chloroform. A little of this just before he heads out will make sure you (and he) have a great night's sleep.

Nitro

Send your Letters to the Nitrogen tank to mathNEWS@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Ian W. MacKinnon



Eng Scunt over...

For all of you on campus, it is now too late to enjoy this term's Eng Scunt. This truly entertaining event was yet again a hit, with the 2A Soft-Eng team taking the prize. Although I did very little this term (I blame it on the fact that I worked an 8 hour day BEFORE coming out to Waterloo to participate), I thoroughly enjoyed the parts I attended. I have only one question: Where was that chicken for Ultimate Volleyball?!? As always, Math provided a great house visit (albeit I was more than half asleep...having been up since 0450 that day). I also missed my favorite event: Name That Tune, due to unconsciousness.

Well, the good news is this: This coming Winter term, the 2A Systems team will be hosting what should be a fun and interesting Scunt. And remember, just because you're on work term, it doesn't mean you can't come out! Just tell your boss that you're not coming in for 0700 that morning (yeah...I was a little crazy to do that).

Mark "Beatlemaniac" Toivanen

Denying Your Genealogy 101 - Moving Back Home

Week 2 - Visiting School

A lesson entitled "You aren't as important as assignments, and your friends shouldn't be more important than sleep."

So it comes time for EngScunt and you decide to drop in on campus to hang out with everyone who tends to show up. There's only one problem with making plans with people on school term.

School!

For your off-stream friends' sake, do try to keep this in mind: academic people can't forget about responsibilities after 5pm on Friday. On the flip side, make sure they remember that your sleep pattern is probably a little more delicate and valuable than theirs.

If you do decide to make plans, make sure to plan for anything. I mean anything. It's just as likely that no one who planned to will show up to scunt as it is likely that 11 people will show for breakfast at Mel's after everyone said they couldn't make it.

And if you DO end up with 12 people in 8 seats at Mel's on a Sunday morning, be kind and tip well. I suggest 200%.

Most importantly, remember the GOLDEN RULE: Always catch a ride. Don't be the ride.

Half-pint, tired and broke from gas money,
reporting live from Ottawa

Sports in Canada officially over for the year

Raptors not really a team

With the conclusion of yet another dismal baseball season, and the hockey lockout in full swing, Canadians have quickly learned that their only hopes for sports entertainment lie in football and basketball. Don't get me wrong, these are both decent sports (well, maybe not basketball...I mean, do you really need to score 90+ points in a single game?), but neither screams Canadian the way hockey does.

So, what reasons do we have for this current lockout? Well, the owners have been screaming that players are eating up about 70% of revenues, and they aren't making any money. Granted, they're in the business to make a dime too, but they're also the source of this problem. How many owners have walked away from the multi-million dollar contracts that these players want? Very few. Then again, who in their right mind is worth \$8 million a "year" (where a year is loosely defined as 6 months).

On the other side, the players have had a taste at the rich life, and they're not willing to give any back. Sure, they've made suggestions of small salary reductions (10%), but they still want to keep the (broken) system the way it is.

So, once the players and owners decide to negotiate (as unions are supposed to), we MAY have a chance at hockey this year. In the meantime, we'll have to live with a relatively sports-less winter and spring.

Mark "Beatlemaniac" Toivanen

Frosh Week and Frisbees

So, I was a frosh leader this year. It was fun, and I will do it again next year. It's too early to recruit people for it, and even if it wasn't, it's not my job to do so. However, check out these stories:

First is a story that I honestly don't know how to explain. It involves a frisbee. In all my years of throwing and catching frisbees, I've never seen something like this happen. I was running "Ultimate Soccer" at the Waterloo Park event. If you're unfamiliar with "Ultimate Soccer", well, basically you play Ultimate and Soccer at the same time. Anyway, as we were nearing the end of the day one of the great frisbees was tossed. It flew down the field, closer and closer to where it would land, all the while coming closer and closer to a poor unsuspecting math frosh. I don't know if she was trying to catch it or just didn't see it coming, but I do know I saw it hit her in the face. Now, the weirdest thing happened: upon hitting this frosh, the frisbee proceeded to shatter. I've seen frisbees be run over by trucks and other vehicles before and end up in one piece. Now, don't worry. From everything I've heard, this frisbee-destroying frosh is fine, and I don't write this to laugh at someone getting hit/hurt by a flying disc. But the act of someone's face breaking a frisbee seems so weird, and also pretty cool. If you're reading this, and were that person, know that I'm not directing this at you, but instead at that crazy broken frisbee.

More frisbee goodness: This incident resulted in less first aid, which is wierd, as you will see. So, the night of the Scunt, I again found myself running Ultimate Soccer. But this time it was different. You see, the game started at night, after dark. As if the game isn't injury-inducing enough, now they add darkness. So we, the leaders running it, pull out the equipment that had been assigned to the game, only to see black frisbees. (Under later inspection it was determined that they were in fact just a dark purple.) Either way, they blended well with the night. I remember specifically one time on a toss-off when the frisbee went flying through the air, and then proceeded to just sort of disappear, not to be found again until it hit the path by that crazy blue CS statue. Anyway, I think you all can guess what the result of this game was.

So until next issue, watch out for frisbees and soccer balls, as they seem to like hurting people.

DanS

Latin Scholars Look Away!

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam quis elit fermentum erat eleifend suscipit. Maecenas convallis sapien ac nisl. Aenean consectetur leo eget leo. Nunc in orci eu leo rhoncus mattis. Vivamus eu massa. Mauris lobortis, ipsum a imperdiet gravida, massa eros euismod enim, feugiat fermentum lacus ligula non est. Aenean lectus. Praesent mauris. Nullam blandit ante eu quam. Aenean nonummy volutpat sem. Phasellus in massa. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Cras augue justo, mattis quis, volutpat at, tristique nec, quam. Etiam orci nibh, iaculis sit amet, accumsan a, commodo vitae, lorem. Curabitur eget justo.

The Non-Offensive *mathNEWS* Article

A How-To Guide On Not Offending

We are all attending a superb institution here at the University of Waterloo, and I think we should all strive to be as good as this institution is. With this in mind, I have put a list of words which we must never speak again if we want to avoid offending people as well as the administrators did during our favourite cross campus event last weekend.

- Duck: due to its similarity to the word "fuck", all ducks must hence forth be known as "flying bird-like animals".
- Spit: due to its similarity to the word "shit", we must all now refer to this action as "expelling a watery fluid from our mouths".
- Flag: due to its similarity to the word "fag", our next cross campus event will consist of capturing the "piece of fabric in the wind".
- Bird: due to its similarity to the word "turd", we must now refer to these majestic animals as "beaked creatures of the sky". Note that this definition is retroactive to "flying beaked-creatures-of-the-sky-like-animals".
- Light: due to its similarity to the word "fight", you must now remember to turn off the "vision aiding device" whenever you leave the room.
- Six: due to its similarity to the word "sex", 10662 mod 5478 must now be referred to as "the exclusive integer i such that $5 < i < 7$ ".
- Sky: due to its similarity to the word "high", we now see the "vast blue body that is not the ocean" when we look up outdoors. Note that this definition is retroactive to "flying beaked creatures of the-vast-blue-body-that-is-not-the-ocean-like animals".
- Shirt: due to its similarity to the word "dirt", we are now wearing "fabric coverings over our torsos" above the waist.
- Shoe: due to its similarity to the word "poo", we must now refer to our shoe coverings as "those which guard the foot from cold and irritation".
- Blue: due to its similarity to the word "boo", any object of this colour must be referred to as "the colour most often seen when looking up". Note that his definition is retroactive to "flying beaked creatures of the vast the colour most often seen when looking up body that is not the ocean like animals".

With this guide, I hope that we will all be able to avoid offending people. Sure we have to use thirty-one syllables to refer to a duck (oops, I'm slipping already), but we can be sure that no one will mis-hear us and think we have just said an offensive term. Although, that word "most" is looking fairly similar to the word "boast"...

Scot Nyback

Offended yet?

You should be

mathNEWS

Ten Mathie Things I am Thankful For This Year

10. The derivative of e^x being e^x . If only they were all that easy.
9. Co-op. If it weren't for Co-op, I'd have so much less to complain about.
8. Pi. And pie. Pi pies, because it's both transcendental **and** delicious.
7. The constant of integration. Heaven forbid there should only be one answer to those things.
6. Math Camp. There's nothing better than showing Ontario's youth the light.
5. Artsies and Engineers. Without you, *mathNEWS* would be a lot less funny.
4. The University of Western Ontario. See above.
3. *mathNEWS*. A high quality production, or free pizza every other Monday? For some, it's both.
2. The Pink Tie. My only excuse thus far to wear pink and look really classy.
1. Squirrels and/or Tokens.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

SquirrelToken

Phone Installation for Dummies

When installing your phone, do the following:

1. Call a phone company.
2. Request service.
3. Give appropriate address, personal information, and location of the bribe money*.
4. Wait for service in a polite manner.

When installing your phone avoid the following:

1. Assume that a technician will arrive at all during the day they are supposed to.
2. Call from a payphone to request information about your installation (even if you are calling about your phone's installation process).
3. Stay on hold for 60 minutes on a pay-as-you-go cell phone.
4. Assume that one customer service representative knows the same information another does.
5. Assume that the phone company can remotely install a phone line on a weekend.
6. Assume that the phone company actually cares that they've left you in miscommunication land for two weeks.
7. Swear profoundly at the customer service representative.
8. Complain to everyone within a 50km radius of your installation problems.

And for the love of all that is good in the world, **don't forget to let the phone company know the location of your bribe money***.

*(All bribe monies should not be less than \$200)

D. Gruntled

mathNEWS BYOB #2

Break Your Own Brain - Now with two times more
breakage

Welcome back to another edition of [insert loud booming voice here] "Break Your Own Brain", where we feature such tools as a hammer, a power drill, and logic puzzles, all in an attempt to crack that cranium.

I got a little too comfortable having the puzzles elevate in difficulty over the past term and gave a rather troublesome logic puzzle which required solving two problems concurrently (not to mention an error, sigh), so don't feel too bad if your brain broke before completing all the puzzles. To begin the healing process I offer this gift to you, the answers. And later I'll give you some more puzzles, these are more fun and less difficult so I want a big pile of submissions.

Ladies and Chocolate

Two small mistakes here, I never actually stated that the fourth day was Wednesday, although that is what I meant (both people who answered this problem caught that oversight on my part). The second is not one any of you could have known, the proofer of the article corrected the name "Sindy" to Cindy. I made all the names start with S cause I wanted them too... so there.

Category Seat	1	2	3	4
Faculty	AHS	ENG	MATH	ES
Names	Samantha	Stephanie	Silvia	Sindy
Day	Monday	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Chocolate Bar	Big Turk	O'Henry	Mr.Big	The Milky Way

Boys and Toys

This was a doozy, as I didn't actually give all the information explicitly, you had to figure out how long each of the roads were based on other information, and both problems had to be solved simultaneously. The difficulty of this problem was compounded by the fact that I grammared away the sense making of one of my clues, grammar good yes, clean no. The third clue didn't make sense, and was self contradictory, and was an evil clown who enjoys scaring young children. So let's pretend that didn't happen and go on with our lives.

Category Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Name	Tom	Nick	Dave	Byung
Snack	Soup	Bacon	Jolt	Skittles
Port	Wood	Sheep	Wheat	Ore
Road Length	13	6	7	12

Letters and more Letters

A	B	C	D	E	F
F	E	B	A	D	C
B	A	F	E	C	D
C	D	E	F	A	B
E	C	D	B	F	A
D	F	A	C	B	E

From our legion of fans we had 4 submissions this week. And cause I don't feel like assigning different weighting to each problem each one will be worth the same. My favourite part of this weeks submissions is that someone chose to just submit the Letter problem, which is absolutely fine, it makes me happy when people try, so even if you don't take a shot at the whole thing submit what you've got. Adam Weatherhead submitted a correct letter submission, so he got 1/3. Diana submitted a correct letter submission and got parts of the first logic puzzle correct and gets $(1 + 9/16)/3$, despite an excellent attempt to snag some bonus points. The team of Sana'a and Ian got the first logic puzzle correct and the letters, so they get 2/3. And our winner, Joseph Bunyan who got the first logic puzzle and the letters, and made an admirable attempt at the second logic puzzle, gets $(2 + 5/16)/3$ (5 of the 16 required pieces of information were in the correct place in his solution for the Boys and Toys puzzle). So Joseph, come on down to MC3038 (MathSoc counter-counter-counter offensive HQ) to pick up your \$5 C&D gift certificate. And for all those of you who didn't submit, I'm very disappointed in all of you, oh, I can't stay mad at you, just submit next time and all will be forgiven.

Alright you, none of my schemes worked out here. You're all supposed to submit lovely, challenging, yet entertaining puzzles for me to *yoink* and use in the next issue. But as Joseph said "I have no puzzle fodder for next issue! None! Get your own material!", of course he also wrote "Joseph no function brain without Error Syntax Shutdown" so who listens to him. So we're going to go over this one more time. Submit a riddle/puzzle/brain teaser along with full solution, and in the event of a tie, our favourite will win. This week's puzzles are significantly more solvable and I expect, nay demand, several perfect submissions, so submit a tiebreaker to ensure your place at the top of the world. Please?

Although four submissions may be acceptable from those 'other' mathNEWS puzzles here at BYOB we frankly expect more. Come on, you know you want to submit, all the cool kids are doing it, I think it's about damn time peer pressure worked in my favour, so I now employ the classic 'do it' offense. Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, Do it, and so on, and so forth. Answers must be in by 6pm on October 18th. You can submit to the BLACK BOX which is conveniently located between the C&D and the Comf. You can submit via email at mathNEWS@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. Or if you can find me you can submit to me in person, this methodology is encouraged for some, and causes running and screaming for others.

**This space reserved for resting
your brain**

Brain Broken Yet?

There's More!

Letters Like Learning

	E				B
			F		
A					C
			D		
				C	

So much enjoyment from the last letter puzzle, we've got another one. 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).

Super Secret Scramble

Below are 6 scrambled words, the first has been unscrambled for you (this is extra helpful because it is the only one that isn't a real word, it's just there to make the secret word work). After unscrambling each word you must convert the letter to it's numerical value (A=1, Z=26), sum each column of numbers, then simply mod the sum by 26 and convert back to letters (1=A, 26=Z) to find the secret word and complete the puzzle (Please submit the secret word along with all the unscrambled words to get full marks here)

Scrambled				H	U	J	O
Word				O	H	J	U
Numbers				15	8	10	21
Scrambled	S	T	O	G	E	Y	Z
Word							
Numbers							
Scrambled	R	A	T	T	L	E	I
Word							
Numbers							
Scrambled	S	A	D	R	I	T	T
Word							
Numbers							
Scrambled		R	A	T	C	O	I
Word							
Numbers							
Scrambled				E	S	T	E
Word							W
Numbers							
SUM							
Mod 26							
Secret Word							

Pretty Perfect Pathing

This one is a throwback to CO230/M239. The idea is to go from one word to another, changing one letter at a time, and having every intermediate step be a proper word. A simplified example is given. Bonus points if I laugh when reading it. I don't want to have to check oed for words so only use obscure words if you're doing it to do something particularly funny.

1. LEAR->TOON: LEAR->LEAN->MEAN->MOAN->MOON->TOON
2. BLUE->PINK
3. NEED->CODE
4. LORD->FART
5. RATS->STOP

That's it for this week's attempt to launch a hostile invasion of your frontal lobe and destroy its unholy alliance with your hypothalamus. If you submit I'll buy you a pony, guaranteed... this is not a guarantee.

Snuggles

Corrupting brains for the greater good.

mathNEWS Mad Lib

Instructions: Have one person read out the categories in the blanks and have the other person fill them in. Once all the blanks have been filled, read the story and let hilarity ensue!

Once upon a time, there was a mathie named (1. Name). (1) was in (2. Number)(3. Letter before C) term in (4. Math Program). One day, (1) was late to (6. Math Course) class. In fact, (s)he was (7. Integer) minutes late, though it didn't matter because (s)he was failing it and (7. Arts Course) anyways.

When (1) entered the classroom, (8. Prof's Name) turned from the front of the class and glared at (1).

"Why are you so late!?" asked (8).

"Well," replied (1), "I was busy with my (9. First Year Math Course) assignment!"

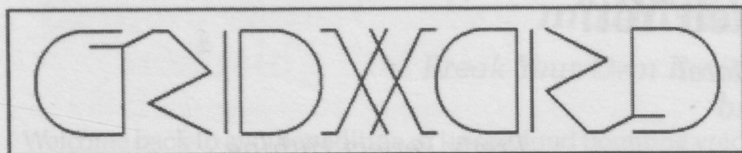
"(9)? Why did your (9) assignment take you so long?"

"It was just the one question! I was trying to integrate (10. Function), but I kept forgetting to add the (11. Noun). It took me an hour to do! On the plus side, I did manage an exhaustive proof of (12. Theorem)."

"Well that's still no excuse for being so late. I'm officially forcing you to withdraw from this course and enroll in CS (13. Positive 3 digit integer less than 130). Meet me in my office on the (14. Ordinal Number) floor after class and we'll discuss this."

And from that day on, nobody ever heard from (1) again.

SquirrelToken



Grid Clues

Conventional

ACROSS

1. shake roughly
4. clay targets
8. insane asylum residents
9. truncate
12. John McRae's flowers
13. remarkable
14. anathema
15. anger
17. celestial
18. friend
20. suspect's story
21. perigee
24. abate
28. common candy ingredient
30. pincer insect
32. airline limos
34. morbid
35. forty thieves associate
36. type of shoe
37. most cowardly
38. disemboweled
39. entertains

DOWN

1. types of evergreens
2. ambience
3. Math Orientation 2004 team
5. Japanese housecoat
6. parallels
7. sheath
8. slips
10. precisely the same
11. shin bone
16. decree
17. saunter
18. baked dessert
19. toss
22. garden dwellers
23. duck utterings
25. curvaceous
26. pullovers
27. agog
29. atmospheric
31. handles
32. grow a tooth
33. love of brutality

Cryptic

Across

1. Mix of petals of light colours (6)
4. Topsy choir disguises lunatic (6)
8. Undetermined ownership: Abraham votes against left cerium (8)
9. Egyptian God in machine part poncho (8)
12. Newly renamed to wander (7)
13. Allows baleens to shift (7)
14. Sharpens short ledges (5)
15. I sled back around good grade: concepts of perfection (6)
17. Scary noise confined by taboo mammal (6)
18. First-rate? First in suit (3)
20. Makes a case to gaze, say? (5)
21. Temple found amongst local tarps (5)
24. True 'dat, ending small viral gene (3)
28. Talks about left pig around operating system start-up, initially (6)
30. Infrared-free rhetoric changes bully (6)
32. Sounds like waterfowl in the pipes (5)
34. Wife-beater rides a bus I veered (7)
35. Shallow movie character mixes gone chlorine, e.g. (7)
36. Become a couple!?! (8)
37. Fresh, pale cyan everywhere (8)
38. Air out ten Windows versions (6)
39. Approval for beast of burden and new net (6)

Down

1. Noted at the beginning before coffee high (8)
2. Public embarrassment from endless scar on confusing land (7)
3. Empty: bad recon retry (6)
5. Seizure symptom milk products (6)
6. Sacred musical composition? Can't at a glance (7)
7. Miss vantage point (8)
8. Messy tapir has medium, smelly body part (6)
10. Hold a grudge for loose nester (6)
11. Mother with thousand chip hocus-pocus (5)
16. Flood mouths up with slice of pie (5)
17. Group flying mammal over short French street (5)
18. Garfunkel expressions (3)
19. Consume new tea (3)
22. Taken aback stag has tail revealed (6)
23. Pacified a act of demagnetizing up (8)
25. Horse named Freddie wins by a neck? (5)
26. Gnats made busy bug stalled (8)
27. Disgusted reflex ring within chemical engineer (6)
29. I identify up no idiosyncrasy of stupidity (7)
31. Empty under bad splice block (7)
32. Conduct distance education with fake name (6)
33. Succeeds in moonshine sloshing (6)

Did Anyone Else Notice That Hell Has Been Getting a Lot Colder Recently?

I've noticed a few things that would seem to indicate this.

- Imprint has a funny comic strip, *Tales from a Sex Shop*
- Imprint had a useful article: "A Penis is not a Vagina"
- Co-op's web based system had a bug fix.
- Someone made sense of the export system for *mathNEWS*.

mathNEWSquiz #2

A Blast from the Past

Hello my avid Squiz followers. I come bearing more high quality trivial entertainment. We've gotten past the first week and general questions, successfully I hope. This week I bring themed questions, but firstly: Congratulations to everyone who submitted answers to our first Squiz! Namely, Jenn and Krease with an impressive score of 16/20. Since your joint submission was the only entry, you two can pick up your prize at MathSoc office. The \$5 and glory is all yours! (insert applause here) If you were curious, the answers go as follows:

- SquizMasters: 1985, Green, 0, 13:30, Valentine
- 2004 Frosh Week Themes: Western, Ninja Turtles, X-Men, Back to Basics, Ship Wreched @ SJU
- Easy Questions: Lima, Sputnik, \$5 gift certificate for the Math C & D, 1967, \$1500

The Impossible Questions are there for our amusement. The only way you get the answers to those is through your own adventures. I encourage anyone and everyone to submit a response to the Squiz to the **BLACK BOX**. You don't don't have to know all the answers, just give it your best shot. Without further ado, let's get on to the Squizing!!!

Seasame Street

a.k.a. that show you watched when you were young

1. What is Telly Monster's favourite musical instrument?
2. What lives in Ernie's flowerbox?
3. What is Big Bird's teddy called?
4. What are the amazing Mumford's magic words?
5. What does Zoe wear?

Old School Video Games

You finally get something back for all that wasted time

1. What is Spark Man's weakness?
2. How do you get the Reflect Spell in "The Adventure of Link"?
3. How do you "power up" in Bubble Bobble?
4. What lands would I see if I were playing Super Mario Bros. 3?
5. Which game designer had nightmares about a nuclear war for six months and what was the name of the game he was working on?

Explosives

Putting the "blast" in the past

1. What would I have to do to be legally allowed to fish with explosives in Canada?
2. What license would I have to have to buy high-powered "bait" in Ontario?
3. Which Canadian city was leveled by an explosion in the early 1900s?
4. What unlikely structure that was once common in Canada was prone to explosion?
5. What two technologies does one need to research "Explosives" in the Civilization I tech tree?

Best of luck to all you potential Squiz-a-teers! Submit something, anything to the **BLACK BOX** or to our inbox mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, don't let the winner take the \$5 and glory by default!

Alex & Mike

Issue #1 Grid Solutions

Conventional

a	n	g	l	e	o	f	r	e	f	l	e	c	t	i	o	n
b	l	n	a	m	o	a	m	e								
o	n	o	r	o	u	s	a	u	t	o	g	r	a	p	h	s
m	v	r	c	p	n	d	e	t								
i	c	e	o	m	n	i	v	o	r	e	f	i	e	r	c	e
n	c	o	a	s	y	o	s	d								
a	n	o	p	u	s	p	s	i	i	v	f	o	u	r		
b	m	s	n	e	k	a	n	o								
l	o	p	s	i	d	e	d	m	e	s	s	i	a	h	s	
e	a	g	w	d	y	c	t	e								
s	h	r	i	n	k	b	e	g	f	u	n	i	m	p		
n	t	o	m	f	s	l	n	e								
o	h	m	s	r	o	u	g	e	s	t	r	a	n	g	e	r
w	e	a	z	c	r	r	b	i								
m	i	n	i	m	i	z	e	a	m	o	d	e	l	l	e	r
a	t	u	l	t	n	b	e	i								
n	o	s	y	s	u	e	n	e	i	g	h	b	o	u	r	s

Cryptic

a	b	o	n	i	m	a	b	l	e	s	n	o	w	m	a	n
t	n	n	m	a	u	n	u	o								
h	o	w	a	f	f	o	r	d	a	b	l	e	i	s	i	t
l	a	e	e	y	d	a	i	a								
e	a	r	n	c	a	b	b	y	c	u	t	b	a	c	k	s
t	d	t	a	o	e	o	i	k								
i	n	s	p	i	r	e	g	o	a	v	i	a	t	e		
c	a	o	g	i	g	e	n	l								
s	u	n	b	u	r	n	s	h	a	r	a	s	s	e	s	
u	d	s	u	t	b	l	m	e								
p	o	u	n	d	s	p	s	i	b	l	o	u	s	e		
p	p	i	u	i	s	o	s	a								
o	f	w	i	s	e	m	e	n	a	n	d	t	r	i	p	s
r	a	e	l	g	a	h	c	y								
t	e	r	r	a	e	a	r	t	h	t	h	e	l	a	n	d
e	d	s	u	a	c	r	l	a								
r	u	s	s	e	t	t	o	o	t	h	y	s	a	s	s	y

gridCOMMENTS

We were nicer this time...

So for those of you who tried last week's *gridWORD*, we'd just like to say, "Ah ha ha ha ha!!!" Yes, we were mean. That mainly had to do with me being evil, and also extremely tired and sick. But now that I'm better, the grid has improved. (It also has to do with the CryptMaster being prepared to kick my ass).

First things first: Congratulations to those who managed to submit solutions to the *gridWORD*. More importantly, congrats to those who almost had perfect solutions! This message goes out to the winners in particular: Chris Alexander and Mike Huang for the Cryptic (everything but ONE LETTER!), and Ali and Jenn for the Conventional (all but THREE LETTERS!). Your prizes (\$5 gift certificate for the C&D) can be picked up from the *mathNEWS* mailbox in MC 3038. Their solutions to the *gridQUESTION* were:

- "Ten, as long as they have adequately trained monkeys."
- "Five tetrahedral Soo Gods or two kids."

You can guess who submitted which by using anagrams! (i.e. those who used an anagram for the *gridQUESTION* are most likely the Cryptic winners!).

As for this week's grid, it's much easier! So much easier, that there should be many more solutions waiting for us in the **BLACK BOX** this week *wink wink, nudge nudge*. So get out those pens, pull out your *mathNEWS*, and send in your solutions. \$5 is enough to get you a decent lunch!

The CryptMaster would like to extend his gratitude to his "breastacular" contributor for help clueing the cryptic this week. The ConMaster would like to extend her gratitude to those who reminded me to avoid 17-letter long solutions! Solutions can be submitted to the **BLACK BOX** between the C&D and the Comfy or by e-mail to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca by 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 18 with the solution to either grid (or both) and a funny answer to the following:

gridQUESTION: What wily way would you fix a midterm conflict?

ConMaster

Don't Read This, Please!

In eleifend erat in leo. Praesent consetetuer augue non lorem. Praesent sapien dolor, fringilla in, dignissim sit amet, luctus vitae, sem. Vestibulum mattis eleifend dui. Nam arcu sapien, tempor porta, facilisis a, egestas quis, dui. Sed gravida. Nulla vitae metus. Fusce nunc odio, condimentum in, bibendum id, tempus et, sapien. Vivamus risus lorem, tincidunt venenatis, molestie vel, lobortis id, velit. Nam luctus viverra erat. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Nunc bibendum. Pellentesque molestie, erat quis blandit molestie, nunc tortor gravida arcu, vel sagittis enim ligula quis nisl. Duis velit pede, auctor a, eleifend in, dignissim sit amet, risus. Mauris pellentesque sagittis lectus. Vivamus aliquam wisi ut erat. Ut ut massa id neque malesuada auctor.

Beep Beep Beep

It's production night, I'm in the computer lab, and there are writers typing away on their computers. However, amidst the sounds of the clacking keys a computer terminal emits a beeping sound every few seconds without fail, indicating that someone has attempted to press an incorrect key. This got me thinking — there are definitely some things in life that could use a beep to tell you when you are doing something wrong.

Ikea Furniture. Seriously, there's like a million ways to screw this up. I'd find it extremely helpful if, every time I connected two pieces incorrectly or something like that, there was something to tell me. I'm not asking for a siren or anything. Just a tone of moderate volume.

Calculus Assignments. I don't want to spend an hour on a question to discover that my answer is wrong because I messed up one step in the first 3 minutes. If I could get a pencil that could beep me every time I make a mistake, I would be very grateful.

Solitaire. Oh wait, there is a beep mechanism. It's the guy standing behind you who will inevitably tell you to play the red 8 under the black 9.

Picking up. So, how about we take a ride in my Honda Civic? <beep>. Hi, my friends call me SquirrelToken. <beep>. Can I interest you in a drink? I've already had seven. <beep>. You get the point.

Alas, not everything in life can be foolproofed, but a guy can dream, right? I guess I'll have to settle for the familiar sound of the beeping computers in UNIX and should be thankful that I at least have that.

SquirrelToken

