

*math*

**NEWS**

*Volume 99, Issue 0*

*Frosh Issue, 2005*



## **What the Tie Did For Summer Vacation**



**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

September 15	<i>mathNEWS</i> disorganizational meeting Look for details on page 3
September 19	Production night #1 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC3038) All are welcome!
September 23	Issue #1 hits the stands

**Math Faculty**

September 30	Course drop deadline Last day for 100% refund Fee payments due
October 17-29	Winter 2006 class enrollment (check for your appointment in Quest)
October 28	Last day for 50% refund
November 4	Last day to Withdraw from a course
December 5	Lectures End
December 7	Second chance to write the ELPE
December 8	Exams begin
December 22	Exams end

**MathSoc**

September 11	MathSoc day!
September 14	Cove night First-year Representative elections
September 17	Wonderland trip
Thursdays	Movie Nights, 7:00 PM, MC 2066 2 movies, 0 dollars!

**Math Grad Committee**

Wednesdays	Pizza Day!
Buy cheap pizza to support the grads!	

**Federation of Students**

Look for all of these events in the SLC Great Hall	
September 13	Volunteer Fair
September 14 & 15	Clubs days
September 20	Society & Services days

**Miscellaneous**

September 14	Gregorian calendar adopted, 1752
September 19	Talk like a pirate day I'm told it's holy to Flying Spaghetti Monsterism
September 22	Autumnal Equinox

**ISSN 0705—0410***Founded 1973*

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

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The editor(s): Eric Logan, Ian MacKinnon, Mark Toivanen

**MathSoc**

We're Waterloo Mathies, we're far from our home and if you don't like us then leave us alone...

Seriously though, we are the current MathSoc executive: Michael Tersigni (president), Elaine Wong (Vice President Activities and Services/VPAS), and David Wheatley (Vice President Finances/VPF and our temporary Vice President Academic/VPA) until we can have our by-election for the position during the first few weeks of the term.

Now, as many of you are probably asking yourself: "What's a MathSoc?"

MathSoc (short for Mathematics Society) is your student government within math. As oppose to Feds (the Federation of Students) who represent all students to upper Administration, MathSoc is responsible for representing Math Students interests to the administration within the Faculty of Mathematics.

But wait! That's not all! MathSoc also does two other very important things for math students: Services which include:

- \$0.05 photocopies, the cheapest on campus
- Old midterms and finals to help with exam studying
- A textbook library, just in case you forgot your book at home
- Course and prof evaluations, in case you're curious about the courses you want to take, or who you are taking them with
- Math paraphernalia
- Lots of board games that you can borrow for a short time
- MathSoc week, which is a week of many events ranging from a free BBQ to a bonfire, to free games at the campus cove (in the SLC)
- Our annual Charity Ball, occurring on November 12th. Be on the lookout for when tickets go on sale
- Pints with Profs: a chance to sit back with your professors in a social atmosphere
- Quizbowl tournament: like Reach For The Top in high school, only harder
- Pumpkin Pie day.

This is just a small list of the many services we provide and the events we organize.

Come by the exec office any time (MC 3039) and say hi, we'd love to meet you.

See you around the MC, and have fun at the rest of Frosh Week.

The MathSoc Fall 2005 Executive:  
Michael Tersigni, President  
Elaine Wong, VPAS  
David Wheatly, VPF

**The Volunteer Fair**

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

This event takes place in the Great Hall, Student Life Centre on Wednesday, September 14, from 11:00a.m. until 3:00p.m.

## Write for *mathNEWS*!

*It's bloody easy*

You may have noticed that this rag is full of articles. Since the editorial staff don't generate material by posterior extraction, we rely on submissions of readers like you.

We're not particularly choosy here at *mathNEWS*. In fact, if you were to send us something, your chances of getting it printed are pretty good. Our criteria for publishing material are pretty simple: your article should be informative, interesting, insightful or funny. Long, rambling, pointless material is out. So are in-jokes, rants, and flamebait (no lawsuits, please).

If you have a modicum of writing skill, feel free to submit. You have many options:

- Write it down on some paper and shove it in the BLACK BOX, conveniently located on the 3rd floor of the MC between the C&D and the Comfy Lounge. If you type up your article and print it off and then put it in there, we will be very upset, because you should...
- Email it to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) with the word "article" in the subject line. Alternatively, you can...
- Drop by Production Night! Write an article, and while you're there, help us with the proofreading and editing of the issue. All are welcome! We might even feed you. The date of the next production night is given in the *lookAHEAD* of every issue.

See, isn't that simple? Perhaps you're the next great Hemingway, Atwood, or Davies, just waiting to be discovered. Submissions for a particular issue are due by 6:30PM on Production Nights. Submit, submit, submit!

Eric "inkEd" Logan

## Signs your co-op term lasted too long

1. The extra large teas at the C&D look too small to get you through the morning, but the price is LAUGHABLE
2. You get up before the sun thinking you have to commute but instead get to school 45 minutes early after your 15 minute walk
3. 50 minute classes are a joke after sitting attentively for 2 hour meetings all last term
4. You start every sentence (verbal or msn) with "msg <username>" [*Frosh-It'll make sense once you've taken a UNIX course — iEd*]
5. You email people questions even if they are sitting in the next room
6. You have to eat at 12 noon or your entire day is thrown into chaos
7. You wear a tie or heels to school
8. Upon reaching for the door of the MC your initial thought is, "Crap! Did I forget my ID badge?"
9. You can only work on assignments at school because you automatically veg evenings and weekends
10. You have any urge to watch TV
11. You get excited about reading *mathNEWS* every second Friday instead of "whenever the hell it's put online"
12. You have to re-acquire the taste for Campus Pizza
13. When you're done class at 3:30, you stick around until 5 out of habit
14. You don't think the MC looks that bad

Half-pint

# Want to Write for Imprint?

# ....Neither Do We.

***mathNEWS* needs Writers, Proofreaders, Monkeys, Photoshoppers, Pundits, and Cover Artists**

**Beginning of Term Meeting**  
**Thurs Sept. 15**  
**MC 4020**  
**4:30**

## New Dean Unfrozen

### *A Dean's life*

UW Math's new Dean has led a very interesting life. We at mathNEWS had a chance to sit down with him recently to discuss his childhood and how he became Dean.

### *The Early Years*

Dean Coleman was the result of two cavemen mating a sabretoothed tiger to a woolly mammoth in the last ice age. Although he doesn't remember the events of his early childhood, he was able to provide us with a picture of the cave drawings that explained how he was conceived. Let's just say that they were too graphic for mathNEWS and are not going to be included in this publication. Dr. Coleman was promptly cryogenically frozen (accidentally, of course) way up in northern Siberia, where the glaciers had yet to recede.

### *The Rebirth*

Approximately 40 years ago while on a top secret reconnaissance mission, W.C. Coleman, founder of the famed camping gear company, was sent into Northern Siberia to gauge Soviet response times to American intrusion. He had brought along with him his trusty Coleman Exponent Extreme (Edition) one-burner stove. This turned out to be a godsend, as he stumbled upon a cryogenically frozen infant. W.C., using his trusty Coleman machete (with 18" hardened steel blade), carefully cut the frozen infant from the surrounding ice. He then proceeded to light up his Exponent Extreme (Edition) to melt the ice and bring the infant back to normal heat. He used his Coleman camp towel to dry off this infant and dressed him in Coleman clothing. Then, he decided that he would have to name this child. He decided to call him Tom.

### *Childhood*

Being the son of the founder of Coleman has its advantages. Tom spent many summers using Genuine Coleman camping gear while kayaking across the continent (using his trusty QUEST kayak). Unfortunately, this kayak was unavailable for 14+ hours a day because it was leaky. In school, he excelled at math.

### *Post-Secondary*

Tom went to UW as a student, excelling in C&O. He enjoyed his time so much that he decided to do both his Masters and PhD research here. Although he never did get out to volunteer with MathSoc or mathNEWS, we know he supports us and them.

### *Post-Grad*

Upon completing his PhD in C&O, Dr. Coleman decided that a break from Academia was necessary. He decided to tour with a circus as a clown. His main act was juggling 4 differently coloured balls while telling children that with these 4 colours, he could paint any map while not having two colours next to each other.

Mark "Beatlemaniac" and MP

## You know what I hate?

*Piddling little spaces like this one*

## Stop the Kife. Libertarian for Life

### *Avoid Paying Taxes*

*(No, not the Enron way)*

Taxes suck. And since you're a new student, you're probably counting pennies. This article may contain the most useful information you hear in the next four or five years. The provincial sales tax adds 8% to most of your retail purchases in Canada. The GST adds 7% to almost all of your retail purchases, but there's not much you can do to evade it. However, the PST had amusing exemptions, and I'm going to teach you how to save those pennies. Every 50 cents you save is one more cookie you can buy, and not only are cookies tasty, you're helping the economy more than if you gave it to McGuinty.

Big exemption number one: food at grocery stores (not including candies, snacks and soft drinks). So, by buying more of your food at grocery stores, and buying less snacks, you will not only save money, you'll be healthier. Don't worry, I'm not a health nut, but the better you eat out the less taxes you'll pay.

BEST exemption EVER: Prepared food purchases \$4 or less. This exemption is the focus of this article. If you go to Time Horton's, McDonald's, or Wendy's on a regular basis, I am going to save you \$5 - \$10 a week. You may have noticed that McDonald's McDeal meals (priced at \$3.99) cost you \$4.27 after taxes. That's because you're not paying PST. If you splurge on any other meal, the PST adds 8% to the entire amount, so that a pre-tax price of \$4.01 will come out to \$4.62. This works out to an automatic 32 cent penalty, plus rounding, plus the additional taxes.

I like the value menu at Wendy's. \$1.39 is a good deal for most of the items on that list, but when you order three or more at a time, you trip over the \$4 mark. This is how you give McGuinty the shaft: place two orders. I don't care how odd this sounds, do it. Uncomfortable asking to place two orders ahead of time? Use this swindleous tactic: place your first order for two of the items, let the cashier ring it up, pay it, and as they're getting your change, say: "Oh, can I get fries with that?" They'll appreciate the humour, and you're saving money. How much? 8%. Every time. On three items, instead of paying \$4.80, you'll pay \$4.47. On four items, instead of paying \$6.40, you'll pay \$5.96. By doing this, you create your own loyalty program. Every 14 you buy, you get a free one.

You can play this game at Tim Horton's too. Maybe you only buy a coffee and bagel, and this advice won't help you. But maybe you have a significant other or a deadbeat friend, and you often spend more than \$4 at a time. Split your order! Have them place their order separately, even if you give them your money. 8% off all future Tim Horton purchases over \$4 is a good deal!

Other exemptions include: children's clothing (not recommended unless you're small, or have a washboard stomach... please!), diapers (who needs underwear?), footwear under \$30 (Manolo Blahniks are overrated) and feminine hygiene products (which have plenty of creative uses).

Like a good prostitute, this isn't cheap, it's just easy! On that note, you'll find all of a sudden you can afford the upgrade.

David Wheatley

## profQUOTES

“Does coefficients have one or two ‘f’s? I’ll put three just to be safe.”

Orchard, CS 370

(referring to Fermat and Descartes) “I don’t know how you can put his picture on a page, because their heads are so big.”

Crippin, CO 480

“You should forget your name and memorize this, that’s how important it is.”

Wolczuk, MATH 136

“Be sure to bring your ID to the midterm ... because we’ll be serving drinks!”

Orchard, CS 370

“You would sell your own mother for a computer which was 200 times faster.”

Vasiga, CS 240

[Midterm exam instructions] “No books, calculators, notes, music players, or electronic devices of any kind, especially no trumpets, are permitted. Telepathy is also prohibited. Photos of Alex Trebek are not strictly disallowed unless it is larger than 20cm by 30 cm.”

Marcoux, PMATH 336

“Blackberries are for drug dealers and stock brokers.”

Redekop, ECON 371

“Next class I’ll tell you about Italian wine, Italian architecture, and Italian women... in which my interest is purely academic, of course.”

Crippin, CO 480

“There is going to be a convention in a few weeks at the university. You’ll notice the nerd level of on campus rise. One word of advice. Don’t touch them, don’t feed them, they’re very fragile.”

Marcoux, MATH 146

“By now you know how worthless first ideas are.”

Chan, CS 341

“I don’t really care about your stress, but I do care about my stress.”

Kierstead, CS 343

“I will hang you outside my office as a public effigy for people to mock.”

Kierstead, CS 343

“That’s how you teach a class at university: you don’t have to know what you’re doing... just present it confidently.”

Goulden, MATH 239

“Not too many decimal points. You get penalized for putting down too much information that nobody cares about.”

Karl, AM 261

“I am sure you understand it better, since your mind is younger and less cluttered by rubbish.”

Karl, AM 261

“If I tell a joke that’s politically correct, somebody will get offended and I’ll get fired.”

Karl, AM 261

“It’s okay if you get it wrong, it makes me look smarter.”

West, MATH 128

“The only people who think complex problems can be solved with simple solutions are politicians.”

Buhr, CS 343

[After correcting something on the board] “That’s an 8:30 error.”

Malton, CS 246

“In many parts of the world, people butt in line at the ski hill. In Canada, this doesn’t happen because people are polite. In the U.S., this doesn’t happen because people carry guns.”

Brecht, CS 350

“I should read the book before I try to teach.”

Young, SE 362

“Please use your uwaterloo account to send me questions. If my wife sees one more ‘sweet\_baby\_girlz\_69@hotmail.com’, she is going to start thinking I’m dabbling in porn.”

Kline, RS 101

“You are an ant living without any purpose in life.”

Chan, CS 666

“Don’t cheat. When I write the Dean my weekly letter, ‘Hey Dean, how’s it going? How’re the kids? By the way’... you don’t want the ‘by the way’.”

Metzger, STAT 230

“Has anyone visited the tutorial centre yet? No one? Well, it’s your funeral.”

Collins, MATH 237

Prof: “Hey, the prof before me didn’t clear the boards... if any of you are ever teachers, remember that the polite thing to do is clear the boards.”

Student: “You didn’t yesterday!”

Prof: “Yeah, I never do.”

Kline, RS 101

“The sixth floor isn’t that bad, I’ve been there for eight years and almost know my way around.”

Balka, STAT 231

“My solution to cheating is... we simply shoot you. And I find that after a couple gunshots, everyone really focuses on their own exam.”

Semple, BIOL 265

“Get more cups of coffee before you come in. Five, six, eight... eight really big cups of espresso! I guarantee you will hear everything that is said in this room, and in every other room within half a mile.”

Semple, BIOL 265

(continued next page...)

## Yet more *prof*QUOTES

Student: "Are there digital versions of the course notes?"

Prof: "No, just analog versions."

Vasiga, CS 241

"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

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

Wood, MATH 138

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

Willard, guest lecturer

"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

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

May, CS 234

"Looking for fallacies in 'The Toronto Sun' is like clubbing baby seals."

Kenyon, PHIL 145

"Welcome back after this conveniently timed fire alarm. But it's not midterms or finals, I don't understand."

Biedl, CS 240

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

Forrest, PHYS 252

[Asked to prove a theorem]

"You'll have to trust this one on blind faith. Calculus is half religion."

Hare, MATH 137

*prof*QUOTES needs your submissions! If one of your profs says something funny, be sure to write it down and either send an email to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) with "profquotes" in the subject, or put that scrap of paper in the *mathNEWS* BLACK BOX outside the Comfy lounge.

## Work-term in Toronto?

### *Like Saving Money?*

For those of you out there who, like me, will be working in Toronto but commuting from somewhere in the GTA: if you need to take the GO Train or GO bus to work, this information will be valuable to you. At Needles Hall, you can pick up a student GO pass. This will cost you the sum total of \$10.

Don't be scared by this seemingly high price. The student pass will, on average, save you about \$60 a month (that is \$240 over a 4-month work term). This is the only way to get a GO student pass. So if you are working in Toronto, taking the GO, and you like saving money, buy the GO student pass.

Heather "Rain Water" Perry

## Feds Club Naming Algorithm

Want to start up a new club with the Federation of Students? The first thing you'll need is a name. The daunting task of selecting a name for your new club has now been made a lot easier. A randomized algorithm has been developed to facilitate the efforts of student leaders. In fact, it has already been used to generate names for a number of UW clubs. Furthermore, it is remarkably easy to use, consisting of four easy steps:

**Step 1:** Pick an ethnicity randomly from the following list:

1. Chinese
2. Japanese
3. Liechtensteinian
4. Freedomian
5. Torontonion

**Step 2:** Pick a religion randomly from the following list:

1. Christian
2. Muslim
3. Jewish
4. Atheist
5. Satanist
6. Jedi

**Step 3:** Randomly pick a description of what your club is from the following list:

1. Students' Association
2. Fellowship
3. Debating Club
4. Political Action Group
5. Swing Dancing Club
6. Aggressive Recruiting Association (wait, scratch that one...)
7. Bloc Quebecois Youth Wing

Now, put it all together; read the results from Steps 1 to 3 in order, and you've got your club name! For example, you might come up with the "Torontonion Jedi Swing Dancing Club." Other typical results of running this algorithm include the "Japanese Muslim Debating Club" and the "Liechtensteinian Atheist Political Action Group." This new algorithm is capable of generating 180 new club names, each with a distinct mandate: look for some of them at the next Club Days!

## Ten Sure-Fire Ways of Aceing that Essay

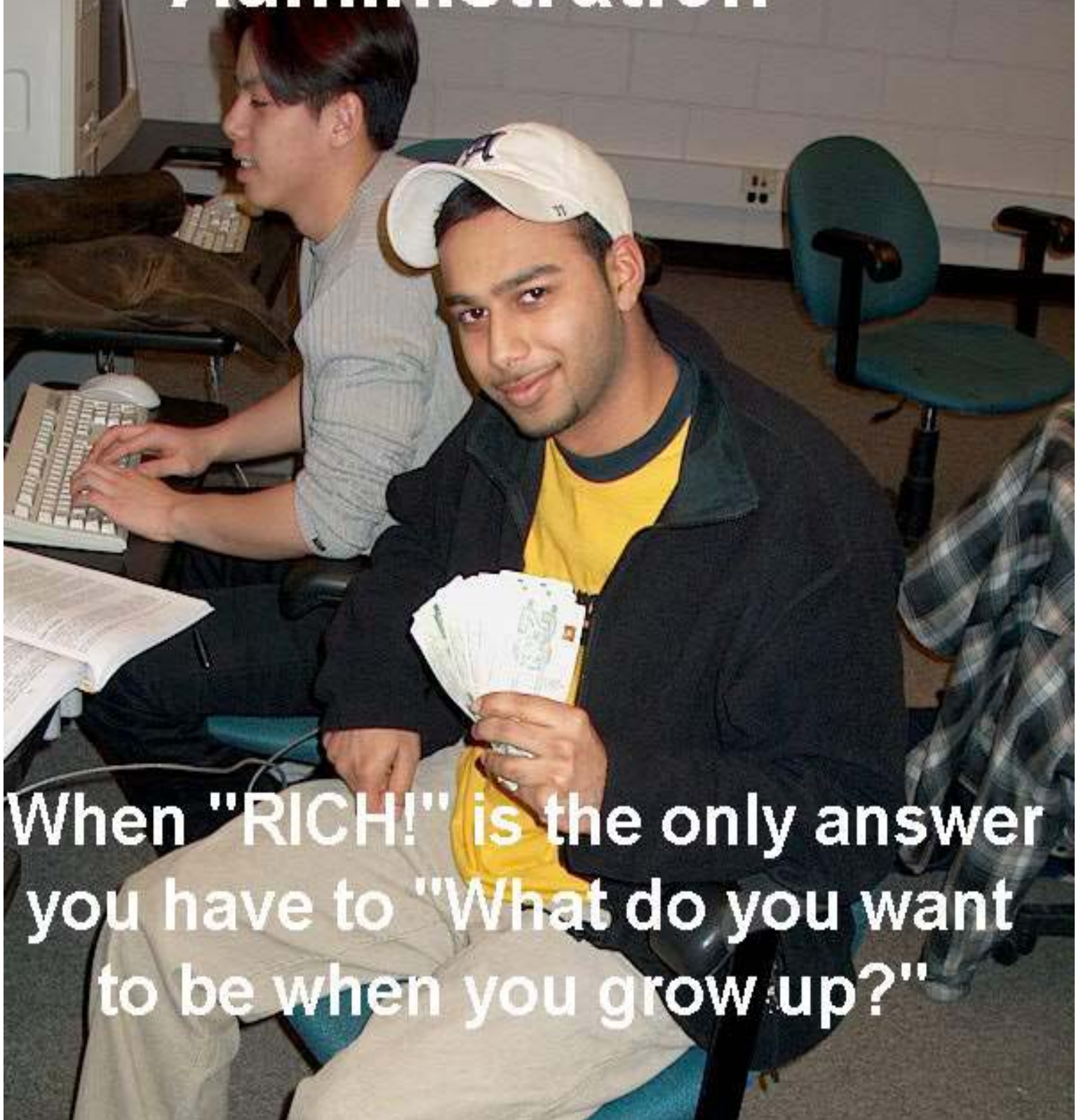
*Or Not*

1. Do it all in yodaspeak
2. Substitute every figure, table, etc. with its ascii art equivalent
3. Bribe the TA by taping monopoly money to the last page
4. Write it in English, then use babelfish to translate it to Afrikaans
5. In lieu of the essay, hand in a treasure map with its location
6. Four words: one massive run-on sentence
7. Use the word "burninate" no less than 10 times
8. Write your essay on the differences between African and European swallows
9. Append "master 3000" to the end of every nounmaster 3000
10. Who needs a word-processor? All you need is a crayon

frogg & knowshun

Math Faculty Promotional Poster

# Mathematics/ Business Administration



When "RICH!" is the only answer you have to "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

## Andrew's Guide to Computer Science @ UW

You can hardly believe it, but you got in to one of the most challenging and rewarding programs in Canada: Computer Science at UW. Maybe you're worried since you haven't programmed before in your life. Maybe you're worried it won't be challenging enough. Maybe you're worried about your social life and whether you'll have the time to have fun. You're probably worried that you're not "smart enough", and worried that you won't get a job for co-op. Maybe you're excited about being able to talk in Klingon without being made fun of; you'll still be made fun of. This is my guide to CS @ UW; hopefully it'll help you out a bit.

### *Academics: It's why you're here*

The program is hard. That's obvious. But hopefully, it will also be rewarding. CS classes at UW are some of the most work-heavy courses on campus. You'll have HUGE projects, written assignments and exams. You're probably wondering what I mean by "huge". Some people have no problem doing the programming assignments really quickly without staying up late at all. Those people are the minority. Be prepared to work like crazy when assignments are due. Your parents and teachers probably taught you that by starting early and with good time management and planning skills, you never have to work 'till the last minute. NOT TRUE IN CS. You have many all-nighters and 24 hour code-fests to look forward to [*Most first year assignments are designed to be easy enough that if you have an understanding of the material, you'll do fine. The big assignments don't start coming at you until third year. — BeatleEd*]. Obviously, if you enjoy CS it makes your life much easier. The point is: you will NOT pass unless you WORK HARD.

You MUST DO ALL ASSIGNMENTS! Every one of them must be done. Even though in other classes you spend 30 minutes doing an assignment worth 3 percent and in CS you spend 20 hours on a project worth 2 percent, doing them is a must. There are a couple of major benefits. Firstly, you get to see the theory you're taught in class come to life. Hopefully, that's cool to you. Secondly, it'll help A LOT when you are studying for exams. Although sometimes it seems like the things you're taught in class are not the same as the things you do on assignments, they are usually related, and doing the assignments really pounds in the concepts in your head. Bottom line, doing the assignments is a major benefit when studying for exams.

You're probably wondering what CS has to do with math. Well, you might not realize it now, but there is a lot of math in CS. Many of the written assignments will seem like math assignments to you. Although you definitely don't need to love math to love CS, you have to have a certain amount of mathematical ability to succeed in CS. If you can pass MATH 239 (Combinatorics), you're good to go! And even if you don't, you can try again assuming you haven't reached the fail limit.

As you'll soon realize, CS is not programming. There are only 2 courses in the entire curriculum that focus on programming, usually the courses you take in 1A. CS 134 (or the new CS 135) is your first taste of what CS really is. CS is also extremely diverse and the program is very flexible, so find something you like outside of CS, to fill your "depth requirement" and to take electives in. One major advantage CS has over other, more structured programs like Software Engineering is that freedom to explore other areas and maybe even incorporate other areas into an interdisciplinary Computer Science plan (like Bioinformatics).

Please, don't just waste your electives on the easiest courses you can find, try to find something you like, that's what makes the program great.

### *Social: Social and CS aren't mutually exclusive*

Firstly, for the geekier CS guys: Using numbers instead of letters like in "l33t" or saying "powned" or whatever ISN'T COOL! Playing "Magic cards" or "Dungeons and Dragons" (it's where people pretend to be dragons and roll dice to attack each other or something) is for 12 year olds or 40 year old virgins. Spending all your time in the math building playing board games is also BANNED by Andrew's Anti-Geek CS Laws.

The best social and academic advice I could give is this: Make friends with those in your program. You'll be taking the same classes with them for at least 3 years. Besides doing group work and individual assignments together, they will be a great help to you and make your time and UW the best time of your life. During the weeks where the only social life you have is studying every night, you'll have fun studying with friends and helping each other out. It's also great when you all just finished an assignment or exam and go out and have fun. Summer 2004 in 1B was a great term for me. Every Tuesday night we would stay up doing our CS 134 or algebra assignment till early morning, then sleep all day, then go to Bomber Wednesday at night. I'm not saying only be friends with those in CS, but it's great to have some.

If you are one of those guys or girls who have a girlfriend/boyfriend and friends back home, a lot of times you'll end up going home every weekend. I encourage you to make some friends at UW and try to make the best out of your university experience. Having a significant other at home is sometimes difficult, especially in CS, because of the workload. My advice is to explain to them that you might not be able to come home, or call as often during crunch times.

### *Co-op: It's also why you're here*

Co-op is great. Don't let anybody, or any circumstance, convince you that it isn't. The major advice I have is DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. Do NOT drop out of co-op just because you can't get a job or you have one arranged already and think you don't "need" co-op. The honest truth is that it's very hard to get a job the first term. Many students don't get a job, many get shitty jobs. Don't worry! It'll get better! My class (the people in the same program/year/stream) was shocked in 1A when almost no one had jobs well into the term. 2nd term was better, and 3rd term was even better. It definitely gets easier when you get older, even if your work experience or marks aren't great. While your friends from other universities are working at the GAP, you will be making major bucks doing professional work. Just give it some time. It's also a great way to figure out what kind of work you want to do, which brings me to my next point.

You DON'T HAVE TO DO PROGRAMMING! Even though it is common place for CS students to eventually do software development on co-op, and as a career, this is definitely NOT the only road available in our program. In fact, many graduates go into management at software companies. If you don't feel that sitting in front of a computer all day would suit you, there are many jobs out there that may be a better match for you. Co-op is a great opportunity to have many short-term jobs in different

*(continued next page...)*



areas and also to see what kind of jobs you enjoy. Take advantage of that. Many CS people are hired for more business-type jobs; others are hired for seemingly unrelated positions. The great thing about the flexibility of our program is that, no matter what you eventually end up doing, the skills you learn in CS can be applied. It's never a "waste" to do a seemingly non-CS job. Getting a CS degree gives you a ton of flexibility after graduation. Maybe you'd want to go into medical school or get an MBA. Maybe you'd want a job in human resources or marketing or neuroscience or politics. All those roads are open (provided you take the necessary electives), it's your future.

### *Last words*

Never forget: You can do it. You are good enough to make it. YOU were selected out of the many applicants for this program. YOU are in the best Computer Science program in Canada, and one of the top in the world. YOUR program is one of the cornerstones that built this university and made it what it is. YOUR school kicks the asses of other schools double the age in both academics and in the corporate world. YOUR program practically built up Canada's technology scene with all the companies started by our grads. From now till graduation, this will be one of the best times of your life. Like I said before, you have a challenging road ahead, but in my opinion, a very rewarding one.

Andrew Lo

## What if Yoda was an Academic Advisor?

"STAT 231, you must confront STAT 231 again"

"Political Science, heh, Geography, heh, a Mathie craves not these things."

[Student]"I won't fail Graphics, I'm not afraid"

[Yoda]"Oh, you will be, you will be."

"Pass or do not, there is no bell."

"Concurrency is the path to the dark side, Concurrency leads to OS, OS leads to Real-time, Real-time leads to Suffering."

[Student] "MATH 135 is so much different from high school."

[Yoda]"You must un-learn what you have learned"

"Yes, yes, to your TA you must listen."

[Student] "I don't think studying helps me."

[Yoda] "That is why you fail."

"Always two there are in a Masters program, a supervisor, and a grad student."

"A Mathie`s strength flows from caffeine, but beware of the dark side, laziness, partying, procrastination, the dark side of the force they are."

[Student] "Is the Faculty of Arts stronger?"

[Yoda] "No, no, no, quicker, easier, more seductive."

## Tips for Blogging in the Workplace

As you may have heard in the media, one of the latest trends over the past few years has been blogging. Blogging basically consists of self-important people talking about what they ate for breakfast that day. Occasionally though, some people talk about their employer. This can lead to hilarity (not for them, but for people around them) in the event said employer reads the blog and there aren't nice things about the boss or the company in general. Problems can also arise if you talk about company confidential stuff.

Really, you can say anything on your blog, but it's all about how you say it. Observe:

Cool - "My team is constantly looking for the best engineers to work on exciting projects."

Uncool - "We're building a robot army at our secret Manitoba office and need more engineers."

Cool - "I had a frank discussion with my supervisor today about my career."

Uncool - "My boss is such a dumbass that I decided to throw a pencil at him at the staff meeting. He said that if I ever did it again, he'd ensure that I'd never work in this sector again. Plus he'd kill my cat."

Cool - "My company will require a lot of work in order to stay competitive in the marketplace."

Uncool - "My company is so full of shit we should reorganize ourselves to be a fertilizer distributor."

Cool - "I had to sign an NDA, so I can't talk too much about my company here."

Uncool - "I really have no idea why I signed an NDA. My employer hasn't done anything of significance since Mulroney was Prime Minister."

Cool - "My boss brought his kids into work today, it's really amazing to see someone balance work and family like that."

Uncool - "Today, I found out why my boss is bat-shit crazy all the time, the little brats he's spawned must have ADD++."

Cool - "Working in the public sector is a very different experience from my last term in private industry."

Uncool - "If I see one more full-time government employee take a 3 hour lunch I'm going to kill him, hide the body, and see if anyone notices he's gone."

Cool - "My company looks good in the long term."

Uncool - "If you have shares in my company, I strongly suggest dumping them before the next quarter results are posted."

Ian W. MacKinnon  
mathNEWS Editor

## The Part Time Job Fair

LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB? Look no further! Attend the UW On-Campus Part-Time Job Fair to find a part-time job that suits your schedule. Bring your resume and meet potential employers. When: September 13, 2005 12:00-2:00PM Where: Great Hall, Student Life Centre

## Ten Tips That'll Help You Through Your Undergrad

1. **Always Go to a Prof's Office Hour at Least Once** - Your first year classes are smaller than they are at other schools, but they're still fairly large. Nevertheless, hardly anyone will go to a prof's office hour. Most profs spend their office hour in their office wondering why no students come by. They are a great source for help, and first-year profs tend to be really good instructors with experience teaching to n00bz like you.
2. **Work Together** - Find a couple of people in your M-section that you work well with, and study with them. Stick with this group as best you can, as classes are always a lot easier and more fun with a group of buds. Be careful about "Excessive Collaboration" though; that's the nice way of saying "cheating". There is a fine line between you and some friends discussing a problem and you copying someone else's answer to an assignment. The Faculty has become exceedingly efficient at catching cheats (especially in CS: don't think changing variable names will get you past the cheat-catching software). It's not worth it.
3. **Don't Count on Getting a Co-op job Through the System For Your First Job** - Co-op is a great program...provided that you get a job. CECS will tell you that employment rates are usually above 90%, but what they won't tell you is that the majority of people unemployed will be first-years. This makes sense given that most first-years don't have any relevant experience (Sorry, most tech employers won't care too much whether you worked as a lifeguard or at McDonalds). Especially if you are not going on co-op until the spring, you should begin looking for employment through other channels as soon as possible. If you wait for the co-op process to be over before you start considering other methods, you will find that most employers have already hired for the summer. You can always go through the motions, and not accept a job if Co-op comes through.
4. **Don't Expect a Glamorous Co-op Job Right off the Start** - Places like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon.com hire a lot of co-op students, whisk them away to warm places like California for the winter term, pay them exorbitant amounts of money, and let them work on cutting edge and exciting projects. If you think you're going to get one of these jobs because one of the employers are going to see a special twinkle in your eye, you're dreaming. Very very good jobs exist, but in order to get one, you might have to spend a few terms working in less than cushy jobs in order to gain experience. Don't thumb your nose at a government job, they're a great place to start your career.
5. **If you're in CS, Go Linux** - Linux is a pathway to many abilities some consider to be un-natural. If you want to score one of those co-op jobs that go above and beyond in how they treat they're employees, you're going to have to go above and beyond the curriculum in terms of what you learn. A lot of the better tech companies who hire co-ops know that to get the "hardcore" programmers they want to hire, they have to look for students who learn Linux and Python. Undergrads who know these technologies are those who learn them of their own accord since they aren't really taught in class, and these are the types of people that companies want. Also, the sooner you learn "\*nix" based systems like Linux, the easier 2nd year and beyond will be. Stop by the Computer Science Club on the 3rd floor of the MC for some tips on where to get started.
6. **Be Proud to be in Math, but Don't be Condescending About It** - The way the University markets itself, you'd think Math is the greatest thing since sliced bread. It's not; Coldplay is. Our faculty has a great reputation, but it also has come with one for a bit of arrogance; this really doesn't help. One of the quickest ways be known as a prick in your residence is to mock someone for being in arts. Never assume you are better or smarter than someone because of what they're major is.
7. **Don't Go Home Every Weekend** - A lot of people in first-year haven't gotten used to being away from home for extended lengths of time, and if they live in T.O. (Which, in fairness, is a far more happenin' town than KW) will tend to go home pretty much every weekend. One of the downsides of this, is that you'll begin to resent coming back to KW, and it will just be the place where you have to study and work. To make your time at UW a little more survivable, try and have some fun here as well. Seeing what happens here on the weekend is a good way of doing that.
8. **Join at Least One Club or Activity at UW** - Along with making UW a place where you also have fun, get involved with a club, society, or project here. Being a math frosh, you'll be exposed to a lot of volunteer opportunities within math, such as the Math Society and *mathNEWS* [which is FAR cooler than *MathSoc*, btw — *iEd*], but there are other ways to get involved and share interests with others. The Feds have clubs from the Poker Club to the "Buffy Watchers Club". During the first week of class, there will be "Clubs' Days" in the SLC, where active clubs will have booths, looking for new members. It's a good place to go shopping for what you want to do extra-curricularly.
9. **Work Out a Couple of Times a Week** - It is very easy to gain a lot of weight in your first year. You'll spend a lot of time studying as a Mathie and working on assignments, and having easy access to a lot of food through your WatCard. To help fend off the "Frosh 15" (where frosh gain 15 pounds) hit the gym a couple times a week: there are great facilities in the PAC and Columbia Icefields.
10. **Close. Cheap. Clean. Pick Two.** - After first-year, you are going to be rather unceremoniously kicked out of residence. If you're 8-stream, you should probably begin thinking about where you are going to live in the fall for your 2A term in February or March. All housing in the KW can really be classified as 2 of "cheap rent, close to campus, or clean house". Residence falls into the "close and clean" category. Just keep in mind that you aren't going to find something that is all three, so go house hunting with realistic expectations.