

math

NEWS

Volume 100, Issue 4

Monday, February 28th, 2006



Ed the Sock Joins Graduating Engineers on Drunken Tour Through MC

CC
SOME RIGHTS RESERVED



9 770705 041004

lookAHEAD

MathSoc	
Mondays	Games Night Come to the Comfy and Play some Games
Thursday	Movie Night: Weatherman & Domino 2 Movies, \$1
March 9	Movie Night: Rent & Pride and Prejudice
March 16	Movie Night: The Ringer & A History of Violence
Faculty	
March 14	Campus Day
CECS	
March 2	Teaching English Abroad info
March 3	Work Reports Marked (Available for Pick Up)
March 6	Job Fair (SLC Great Hall)
FEDS	
March 3 & 4	Warrior Weekend
Campus Rec	
TODAY	Early Registration for March Madness 3-ON-3 Basketball Tournament
March 2	Flare Dancing
Miscellaneous	
March 14	Pi Day
CSC	
March 6	Larry Smith Talk
MGC	
March 4	Grad Ball Everyone welcome, You Should Come!
March 10	Val VDictorian Forms Due (Both Outside MC3029)
BIOINFO	
March 11	Skating Party

MEF Report

Funding proposals and funding council nominations are still being accepted for the Winter 2006 term, and are due Tuesday, February 28th. However, if you have an idea for a funding proposal but can't make the deadline, email mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca to make alternate arrangements.

All forms can be found on the website (<http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca>) under the Resources tab. Forms can be submitted in the MathSoc office (MC 3038), or slipped under the MEF door (MC 3050).

MEF finances projects that are in the best interest of undergraduate math students at UW. Financed projects are student or faculty projects of educational nature, those that provide necessary teaching resources and laboratory equipment, and/or those that improve the student learning facilities. A complete listing of projects which have been funded by MEF can be found on our website.

Office hours for the Winter term will be held on Wednesdays from 11:30 to 12:30PM. Drop by if you have a question or would like to learn more about MEF.

Catherine Hicks
MEF Director

VPAS Saz

Being VPAS doesn't take 10% off your average!

It's more like 20

Alright, so a lot has happened since we last talked. Most notable being that I wrote of lot of midterms. But now that that's over with I'm back on the VPAS path. It's time to go into deep preparation for campus day (which you should volunteer for). There will be free food and t-shirts for volunteers. Plus you get to show off your favourite parts of the school to to-be first years. Always a fun day. Also coming up is Pi day (happens to be the same day as campus day). Where Pi will be given out on the third floor of the MC at 1:59 pm. Both events should be a lot of fun. I hope to see you there.

I hope you enjoyed your reading days at least half as much as I did. If you have any comments or questions about MathSoc events, just send me an e-mail at VPAS@MathSoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Alex McCausland
Vice President, Activities & Services
Winter 2006

Grad Rings

Attention all grads!

Grad rings will be on sale this upcoming Wednesday on the 3rd floor of the MC in front of the display case from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Be sure to stop by, check out the selection and take advantage of this opportunity. The sale will not last long!

MGC Grad Ring Directors

mastHEAD

The Last Reading Non-Week

mathNEWS was suppose to come out last friday, but on account of our days off we pushed it to monday. We're producing this on the days that we don't get off, but all the other faculties save for engineering do. However, from here on out, all of UW will have a full reading week. This is the last time we have to watch our friends in less useful majors leave to go on holiday while we continue to hit the books.

From our understanding, the current system went in place because most co-op people weren't at school that long anyway (having been working in the fall) and didn't really need any time off, so they voted to have more time before exams. There was a lot of consultation regarding the switch, but the splits in any polling were about even, so the UW senate rammed it through. So dies one of the little quirks of UW, we're just glad we could be a part of it.

On a similar note, we asked our production staff "What are you going to do next year when you have a full reading week?": Orcus (Bartend, hopefully), Richard (I'll take a week off work, and still get paid), π (Toga! Toga! Toga!), Half-Pint (Recovering from π 's toga party), Michael Perkins (I'll be on co-op, probably working 7 days a week), Val (Switch to Arts), DanS (Some thing I always do, nothing), WestCoastChic (I'll be on workterm, so it doesn't matter to me).

Thanks to Graphics for not double printing any pages in i3.

Ian W. MacKinnon (I'll have graduated, so god only knows)
Jenn Smith (Visiting my boyfriend at his Microsoft co-op job)

News Grads Could Use

I'm Serious!

For those of you who keep count, there are less than 70 days until we convocate. This idea may scare some, but here at the Math Grad Committee, we make sure that you guys are well prepared to be part of the real world. Yes, there is one. No, grad school can't hide you forever. So, without further ado, your notes for this issue:

Intent to Graduate Forms are due on March 1st. So if you intend to convocate (i.e. **GRADUATE**) in June, it'd be a good idea to fill one out in the next day or so. They're easy to fill out and can be found online (Registrar's Website) or outside the MGC office.

Valedictorian Forms (both nominations and applications for the selection committee) are available outside the MGC office and are due on **March 10th**. If you want to sit on the selection committee, you should fill out an application. If you want to be a Valedictorian (there are two), you should fill out a nomination.

MGC will be sponsoring a session to **Foster and Maintain Your Social and Business Networks**. This is being presented by Steve Lightstone, who was a member of our alumni panel not too long ago. I assure you, this session will be both informative and fun! This will take place on March 8th from 5pm-7pm in MC 5158. Mark this one down in your calendars.

The Dean will be serving *Pizza* this Wednesday to promote the Pink Tie Pledge and Grad Ball. He will also be holding the draw to determine our Grad Ball prize winners. Keep your eye out for it!

That's all for the week. Don't forget, Grad Ball is this weekend. It'll be classy, yo!

Sam and Alex
MGC Co-Chairs (for now)

Yearbook

Still on sale

2006 math grad yearbooks are still on sale! Buy yours Wednesday between 11:30 am and 1 pm. Sales will take place in the 3rd floor hallway, beside the pizza table. Books are \$40, and we take cash or cheque.

Gillian Gothard and Terry Vaskor
MGC 2006 Yearbook editors
mgcbook06@gmail.com

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*, MC3046, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid.mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/ca/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California 94305, USA. Terms may be renegotiated by contacting the editor(s).

The editor(s): Ian MacKinnon, Jenn Smith

Honour for a Lifetime?

*MathSoc Honourary Lifetime Membership
Nominations are Open*

The Honourary Lifetime Membership for MathSoc is bestowed upon an individual who has contributed significantly [to the Math Society] for most terms spent on campus, including not only contributions to math activities but also to other activities which have enhanced student life and is also intending to graduate [in this calendar year]. The recipient of this distinction will be granted a lifetime membership to the society and entails the individual to enjoy the rights and privileges of social members of the Society. This is a very prestigious award and nominations open today. They will close promptly at **8:30am Monday March 20th**. Nominations are available outside the MathSoc Office. Should you have any questions or concerns, please email me at scwleung@uwaterloo.ca.

Sam Leung
Director of Internal Affairs

Who Will you Meet on March 11?

If you are interested in taking ideas to market or how we, as science and technology students can think business, then the third annual SCRUBS Conference (Science and Business Committee) is for you.

"The Driving Force: From Science to Business" will focus primarily on what drives the commercialization of scientific innovations, not only in terms of dollars and cents but while also considering the passion behind making research come to life to improve the prosperity of science and technology.

With an outstanding list of speakers including Michael Hughes, Canada's Networking Guru, Justin Henry the president of Logitech as well as Tom Brzustowski, the former NSERC president who will speak on research grants and importance of productivity, the one day event is a sure winner. A feature event will be the exhibition where companies will display their technologies, products and services. Students will have ample opportunity for networking and get a sense of what types of innovation is taking place in the local market.

The afternoon will host an "Innovation Challenge", which will be hosted by the Centre of Business and Entrepreneurial Technology (CBET). A case study will be presented to groups of delegated who will use creativity and team work skills to invent with real world solutions.

Open to all UW students at no cost thanks to our generous sponsors, the conference will be filled with a variety of activities to help any student formulate a better understanding of science technology and business today. SCRUBS takes this opportunity to recognize our sponsors CBET, BASF, Merck Frosst and AstraZeneca. Visit our website for more details and to register at <http://www.scrubs.uwaterloo.ca/>

Rebecca Zhou
SCRUBS Marketing Coordinator

One lonely *prof*QUOTE

To see it, you must repeat it an infinite number of times.... like 1000 times.

Majid Ghaderi CS 457

When Mozilla Goes Bad

Exceeding Your Diskquota?

If you use the Unix labs on campus and you've ever run Mozilla you might have noticed that it does a number on your disk space. My .mozilla files were taking up over 5 megs — a tonne of volume considering I only have 10 MB on my CS space.

If you need to purge the files Mozilla has been accumulating, then type `rm -rf .mozilla` on the offending server.

"But wait!" you say. "I need to be able to surf from Unix labs!"

Check out the text browser called Lynx, available on (at least) `student.math` and `fe06.student.cs`. Just type `lynx`. Like pine, use the letter keys displayed at the bottom of your screen for commands (and hint: Go means enter a URL)

If this isn't good enough for you, then suck it up and delete stuff and run Mozilla.

Half-pint (very able to read livejournal at *mathNEWS* sans Mozilla)

UW closes for snow day

Because it rained...

It's Thursday morning before reading week. A week to go before reading week-end for us Mathies, and the university closes down for a day. Why? Well, apparently it snowed enough to cancel elementary school that day. The university, knowing full well that all their students come in on big yellow school busses (except those in advanced...they get the "special" busses), decided that it would be too dangerous for adults to walk/bus/drive/bike in to campus. I went out that day. It was actually quite nice outside... until it started raining. That was ugly. It could have been worse, the military could have been called in.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

Shocking Graffiti Written in SLC

People take offence openly

It is an utter outrage in regards to the events surrounding the recent acts of vandalism occurring all over the SLC. These outbursts have led to unfriendly responses from a lot of people, but begs the question: does UW really provide a safe place for all people?

Clearly, the answer is: no. How can I make this bold statement from just a small set of minor incidents? Consider this: if UW was truly a safe place for different people with different beliefs, then the vandals probably wouldn't feel the need to vandalize UW property expressing their beliefs. If the school truly was a safe place for all, then the homophobic would be able to stand up and shout out "I hate minorities" without fear of persecution. Many of my friends complain about the ignorance of people, but no one turns around to try and defend the ignorant. They are a minority too. Why can't we give them respect? Why can't we recognize them too?

I think to help assist with these outbursts for attention and respect we should give those who disdain others based on their sexual orientation, religion or gender a club of their own. We could call it "Ignorants Disdaining Individuals for Orientation, Tribes and Spirituality." IDIOTS for short. Bringing all the IDIOTS together for events like Visible Minority Tag (touch tag, not tackle tag or assault tag). Help make UW safe for all the IDIOTS!

Angelo

Drunken Gorillas Maraud Through Math Buildings

Mathies are geeks. But then again, so are engineers. The only real difference is that Mathies accept this fact and move on their lives. Every now and then Engineering denial overflows and manifests itself as IRS (Iron Ring Stag), as we saw last tuesday. In this last "I'm about to finish school, start a boring-ass engineer career, so I'm gettin super-drunk at 9 in the morning", you see how much denial there is in our geeky cousins. In the engineering mind, geeks don't drink, so if you drink you aren't a geek. I liken this to homophobes who are closet cases. Anyway, the engineer psyche doesn't usually concern me, except when it's inebriated and pounding a drum in my townhouse complex at 6:20 in the morning on the day of IRS.

Oh man, the engineers around me started drinking early and loudly the day of IRS. This continued with the old IRS tradition of hunting down your class's old profs and interrupting their classes (and other classes in the process). Now I cut the plumber-scum some slack, interrupting a CS class once a year for a couple minutes isn't anything to get worked up about, but why can't they do this when everyone else is on campus to share the joy? Because of the reading 'week', we Mathies are the only outsiders who see the joy of IRS.

Sometime in the afternoon, the larval engineers have to sober up to get 'ringed' in the IRC (Iron Ring Ceremony) in the early evening. They will get kicked out of the ceremony if they are loaded, so they take a decent amount of sober-up time. The heard of drunken gorillas I was tracking through the Davis Centre dispersed around 12:30...lightweights. Engineers dress pretty formally to get 'ringed', but then continue IRS soon after and drink even more. This continues until there are no geeks-in-denial still standing.

The next morning, the plumber wakes up and realizes that he is now going to get forced into a very narrow career path and doing blueprint work until some CSers write a program to make his job obsolete. Thus completes the process of taming a party-animal into a job their parents decided for them long before they started high school.

Ian W. MacKinnon
mathNEWS Editor

Don't go ahead and do it!

For the love of god, don't try Karaoke if you don't know the words

Production night is also Karaoke night this week, and I swear I'm not trying to poke at people who get up and can't sing (cause I'm one of them) but honestly, if you don't know the words/timing, don't pick the song, or at least bring someone up who does know the words/timing.

And another thing — if you're going to whine that people who aren't singing are having tea, when we tell you that one doesn't *have* to sing, that doesn't mean you can help yourself and then leave. It means if you're part of the party you can partake in goodies and sing along from not-the-front.

Half-pint (who knows that comparable articles are supposed to be funny to work)

Go Ahead and Do It!

Try debugging code in a language you've never used before

So you've been given some code that you only need to alter slightly to do exactly what you need it to do. The only problem is that you've never worked in \$language.

The problem is only in your head. Take a deep breath.

First, ask for any documentation for the current program so you have a black box idea of how it works. Second, make sure that you have the software necessary to compile code (use the program you are improving to test this). Next, find an online tutorial and read far enough to learn how to create a new compilable file that does something simple, like prints "Look at me! I can program in \$language!" or even define a string or two to print, and compile it. Once you can do that, you're ready to dive into the code.

Open the existing code. Don't panic, and only look at the code you need to change. The easiest way to do this is search for a string the code outputs. Read up on the variables and methods that the code surrounding your outputted string calls and just try to work out what's going on.

If you get stuck over something your wits cannot save you from, like syntax, try a web search, ie "not equals to in Visual Basic".

I write this because I was able to change code in perl by finding that a "while" statement was written *after* a variable was incremented. By moving that block of code I was able to bend the program to my will, with only my "expansive" knowledge of Pascal and Java at hand. I'd never seen perl in my life but there was no need to really understand it. I also had a laughably simple time altering VB once with awesome results for delighted, non-technical bosses who wouldn't have to outsource coding thanks to my help.

So do not be afraid! Go ahead and try. The worst thing that can happen is you'll have to say, "Sorry, I'll need more time to learn this language first" - unless you lied on your resume, but then, don't come crying to me.

Half-pint (enjoying her workterm and perl)

What Would 'Byron' Do?

As I was enjoying a happy day sitting and watching TV in my rez, a good friend of mine ran up to me crying. Naturally, I was very concerned. I began to think: What would 'Byron' do? With a gentle gaze, and caring tone of voice I asked my friend, "What is the matter, my friend?"

"My vapid life is meaningless and I am having generic problems with my significant other! That and there are people suffering in the world from hunger and unhappiness! Life just isn't fair!" Cried my concerned friend. I gave my friend a comforting smile, placed my hand on her or his shoulder and calmly replied:

"Do not fear, my friend. For I will always be there for you." Without waiting for my friend to react, I returned to watching the TV and just ignored anything else that concerned my apparently dearest friend. I did not attempt to give any more comfort than the words I spoke. It was a test. People watching from a distance commented on how heartless and arrogant I was for saying something like that. Not my dear friend, though. I say comforting things to her or him and I believed that that was enough.

Weeks had passed, I had literally done nothing to assist my friend with their problems regardless of how much I said that they could rely on me. Then, my friend approached me with a glorious smile. I was welcomed with praise, and gave her or him a section of my body to consume.

"Thank you," said my dearest friend. "My overall disposition on life has changed and I owe it all to you! Because of you, my significant other and I are no longer fighting. It's not particularly natural for a couple to have disputes from time to time. Not at all. Oh, and the people suffering around the world are all dead now, which isn't a good thing, but I can ignore it and thank you as a great individual for the minor circumstances that gratifies both me and my mundane existence have mended themselves! With your help! Thank you!" With the sun shining brightly behind my head, I thought: that is what 'Byron' would do! Do you agree with Byron?

Angelo

Professor Zorzitto Eats His Words

And his shirt.

The students of UW's Math 148 course were served a heavy dosage of injustice two weeks ago when their instructor, Professor Zorzitto, failed to deliver on a promise he made to the class. Within time, though, the stalwart students managed to make him eat his words. An anonymous student witness tells her side of the story in this exclusive *mathNEWS* special.

STUDENT: It started like any normal algebra class. No one was really awake. Then [professor Zorzitto] wrote three random vectors on the board claiming that if they were independent that he would eat his shirt. Like lambs, we all just assumed that he was right. Then I raised my hand and announced that they were linear combinations of each other. That's when ... *cries a little* that's when ... Professor Zorzitto looked at the board, his heart rate increased threefold, and then he said, "I'll eat my shirt later," with such venomous animosity that three of my closest friends are now broken shells of the math majors they used to be ... they're in finance now.

mathNEWS: What happened when class was over?

STUDENT: By the end of the class, nothing was eaten. Not even one button. My friends all left crying, and I think one of them burst into flames from sheer disappointment!

From this point on, the student was crying too much to continue interviewing. Well, for *mathNEWS*, at least. Imprint probably would have. Although things seemed rough for the students, justice was not unserved. Come the next lecture, the class arrived only to find that Zorzitto had with him a tortilla cut in the shape of a shirt with the letters from Alphabits cereal forming the words "MY SHIRT" on it. He proceeded to consume the abomination as the students cheered victoriously. When we asked a random student about the event, he commented by saying, "I'm just glad that he was right when he said that we'd all jump off the building together if he wasn't ..."

Angelo

The Seven Dwarves at UW!

Fairy Tales Can Come True

As times change and new resources come available, only those who make themselves flexible and willing to cope will be successful. That being said, the Seven Dwarves from the fairy tale of "Snow White" have run out of ore to mine and decided that they needed a career change. So they all came to the University of Waterloo to become well versed in other things. Where are they? We'll give you hints, but see if you can spot them in any of your classes!

GRUMPY: No matter how perfect their marks are, they will never be satisfied and feel that they failed on some level. No matter how many of their friends actually fail, they will still cry more. Grumpy will also feel ashamed after drinking a glass of milk only to find some of it remains in the glass, and mentions they are not complete when they don't finish writing all the decimals of a third on an assignment. You may need to talk Grumpy out of jumping off the balcony on the grounds that they won't do it perfectly.

SNEEZY: Spends all free time at health services, and believes that even the slightest discomfort is the result of some greater disease. Regardless of how contagious the disease is or how it is typically contracted (i.e. from birth), Sneezy will manage to have it manifest in their bodies in such a way that no one else will ever become infected. Mention SARS to Sneezy and they will quarantine themselves for a fortnight.

BASHFUL: Bashful is in ActSci, and despite what you may think, does not live in residence, but a dark ominous cave with other ActScis. When Bashful emerges to hunt for food, do not attempt to socialize with Bashful for you will frighten them to the point that they will flee black to said dark cave. Once a year Bashful doubles as a participant for Groundhog Day.

DOPEY: Having recently been exposed to the party scene, Dopey has consumed every possible substance that he has come into

contact with. To fund these new-found vices, Dopey has begun frequenting online gambling sites. Dopey's access to their parents' credit cards notwithstanding, Dopey seems to have an infinite supply of disposable income. Dopey frequently wants you to feel sorry when the sequence of their marks converges towards 0. [Well, technically the lowest mark you can get is a 32... — *iEd*]

SLEEPY: Sleepy is one of those interesting people with limitless potential in their field of study. When you pass Sleepy in the hall, they will likely be sleeping. Sleepy spends a lot of time in the Comfy Lounge in a corner with a comfortable blanket on them. If Sleepy ever shows up to class, then they will probably have sleep-walked in by accident. Throughout the entire school term, the only time Sleepy will get up is to walk to an exam in hopes that they can sleep well.

DOC: Doc is one of those geniuses who spends the majority of time selling some of the more interesting things to Dopey. In fact, Doc's unofficial co-op job is apprenticing to an Apothecary. Doc could have done very well in school, but decided to major in Arts instead to ensure weeks and weeks of free time for a successful business. This is Doc's 18th year in university.

HAPPY: The cheeriest person around, and the only reason this is so is because Happy never goes to class. Happy has decided that learning is entirely an individual thing, and studies on their own free time. Free time being the loading times from one computer game to the other. Happy will always be happy for as long as you know them. Usually during the first term — not many people are happy after that, not even Happy.

In fact, there's an eighth dwarf called High Strung. The other seven don't like talking about him much.

So there you have it, UW! Where are the dwarves? They may be in one of your classes so look out.

Angelo

Dear *mathNEWS* Editors

I read your recipe column in the Feb 10 issue of *mathNEWS*. While the food looked amazing, I was disheartened to read that the dinner described required items, such as a conventional oven and green vegetables not available in the MC. Therefore, I have included a suitable and tasty MCmeal.

1. Obtain 2 medium-sized potatoes (Hint: Secret potato locker)
2. Poke potatoes with a fork
3. Microwave for 4-7 minutes in comfy (comfy microwave will infuse the potatoes with exotic flavours).
4. Top with cream cheese
5. Enjoy

Reader

Ah, *prof*QUOTES filler ... all thanks to Zorzitto in Math 146...

This is like death by sigma notation.
Who should I pick on? Who do you hate?
(Of vectors) If they're dependent I'll eat my shirt. (Student points out that they are dependent.) Oh ... I'll eat my shirt later.
I'm just going to put some guilt on you here.

...and friends...

Wouldn't it be nice to beat a monkey? [class laughs] Oh shut up, you're all sick!

Tim Brecht CS 350

New Olympic Events for Vancouver 2010

There were some events missing from the 2006 Olympic Games in Turino that I'm hoping we'll see when 2010 comes around.

1. 2 man & 2 goat bobsled
2. Synchronized Snow-Shoeing
3. Dog-sled relay race
4. Whack-a-groundhog
5. Drunked luge
6. Blitzball
7. Speed Skating Karaoke

π

This is self-obviously obvious.

I don't have a TA ... I don't have such a slave.

All problems on F to the n can be done with MatLab.

This isomorphism makes the first three weeks worth while. Their stock value just went up.

This may be a bit of a stretch for you to think of me as God, but bear in mind: I'm marking the finals.

Marriott STAT 231

Edam

To the tune of "Beat It" by Michael Jackson

They told him don't you bring cheddar around here
If you've got mozzarella, better disappear
The fire's in their eyes and their words are really clear
Bring Edam, Just Edam

You better run if you've got cheese in a can
Don't want to see it melted on your nacho's man
Your gorgonzolla is why everyone ran
Bring Edam, it doesn't smell quite as bad

Just edam, edam, edam, edam
No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter if orange or white
Just edam, edam
Just edam, edam
Just edam, edam
Just edam, edam

They're out of gouda, better leave while you can
Don't wanna eat cheese slices, those are nasty man
If you wanna limburgger, better do what you can
So edam, just edam

There ain't no question nothing else can compare
Stick those other cheese up your derrier
They'll take your gorgonzolla
Then they'll put it in your hair
Bring Edam, it doesn't smell quite as bad

Just edam, edam, edam, edam

No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter if orange or white

Just edam, edam, edam, edam
No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter, orange or white
Just edam, edam, edam, edam, edam

edam, edam, edam, edam
No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter if orange or white

Just edam, edam, edam, edam
No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter if orange or white

Just edam, edam, edam, edam
No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter if orange or white

Just edam, edam, edam, edam
No one wants to be Swiss Cheesed
Even if you think, cheddar has bite
It doesn't matter if orange or white
Just edam, edam
edam, edam, edam

Asymptotic Analysis with CBC's Brian Williams

π

If you have been watching the Olympics in the evenings these last few weeks — or if you have ever watched CBC's telecast in your entire life — then you have probably become well acquainted with Brian Williams, master of the time zone, Mr. TimeAndDate himself. After spending quite some time practicing analyzing the runtime of algorithms while listening to Brian Williams relate the time in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Greenwich and Turino, I was feeling a little timed out and last night finally went over the edge...

The nightmares came all night last night in anticipation of today's midterm, Brian Williams teaching algorithm runtime analysis. For every question, we not only have to compute the runtime in Waterloo, but then translate that into Pacific, Central Standard, Greenwich Mean, and Mountain Standard times. Now, I know what you must be asking, what should be of more worry: dreaming about algorithmic analysis or about Brian Williams? Now, I'll tell you my opinion. Given the choice, I'd want to dream about big-O over old Brian every day of the week. My peaceful night's sleep can do without him telling me "there's more to come," and that he'll have the runtime for me in a minute. Then giving me a disapproving look, while he leans forward and taps his pencil on the paper, telling me that in fact if the runtime is $O(n)$ in Waterloo, then in Sydney it's $O(n-14h)$.

Can you imagine if after years with CBC sports, Brian Williams decided that he was in dire need of a career change and went into teaching? Although he would be good at consoling you after a failed test — having had much experience interviewing athletes after bitter defeat, asking uncomfortable questions and forcing them to relive the entire ordeal in detail — having to memorize the time conversions for every time zone and how they related to each asymptotic order would be worse than dreaming of nothing but Brian Williams for a year. We should all thank our lucky stars that Brian is only reporting the time every Olympics and that we can turn him off, and you should be thankful that I am the only one having Brian Williams time dreams at night. If there are more of you out there who know the pain of waking up from Brian Williams analyzing algorithms, I will be starting a support group. No one should have to go through that alone. The first meeting will be held at 10am Pacific, 11am Mountain Standard, 1pm Eastern...

-WestCoastChic

*prof*QUOTES filler bites the dust

[An insect crawls around on overhead showing code:] I'm going to de'bug' this code..... Murder in 343

Peter Buhr CS 343

Reading Week Blues

All throughout campus,
The students would pray,
“Please let there be
Another snow day!
We’re burned out and tired;
We all need sleep.
Give us a break,
We need time to eat!”
They lamented over and over.
Half of them were not
even hungover.

The students’ lifespans
were being cut short
By assignments and midterms
and pointless work reports.

Those who get reading week,
Get to have a break.
But the mathies here,
They are forced to stay.

“Help us, you artsies!
There’s been a mistake!
Why is our reading week
Not real, but fake?”

But the artsies didn’t hear them;
They were already at home.
So the mathies were left on campus
To learn, do assignments and midterms,
and study alone.

True Love

Adrienne

The One Exception

In retrospect, I can’t believe I said it. I thought she was asking me an honest question, so I gave her an honest answer. How was I supposed to know she’d get so angry? She asked me if I’d like to solve equations with her sister, and I casually said “Yes, apparently she’s really good at it.” Apparently this was the point where the limit of love was discontinuous. If she felt threatened by her sister’s quantifiers and her skills with solving equations, then that was something she would have to deal with.

If the fact that we spanned every horizontal plane on her bed given that her parents weren’t home, and not once did I imagine spanning her sister’s bed wasn’t enough for her, then perhaps what I once thought was provable was, in fact, false. The very thought increased the nullity of the matrix of my heart. Quickly discarding such negative notions, I told myself that the two of us will converge one day. If only x was large enough for me to know for certain.

Angelo

Because you can’t get enough

Student: How do you kill a thread? Prof: How do you kill a thread!?! No, no, no. This is not America. We don’t have guns. We don’t kill threads.

Peter Buhr CS 343

Squiz

We have a winner for the last Squiz, by default. There was one submission (except for a *mathNEWS* writer who tried to claim it at the last minute), and so: Shiue Lin, Pang. Come to the *mathNEWS* office to collect your 5\$ gift certificate.

Vampires

1. How many movies about vampires have been made?
2. In which movie did Gary Oldman play Dracula?
3. Who did Vlad Tepes become known as?
4. Where do you stab a vampire with a stake to kill it?

Webcomics

1. What are the real names of the people who write Penny Arcade?
2. For many years has PVP been published by Image comics?
3. “Bluff, bluff, bluff, bluff the stupid ogre.” is a line from which webcomic?
4. Which 8-bit theatre character ruled Hell for a brief period of time?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

1. Which character was in the opening credits only in the episode where the character dies?
2. How many vampires does Buffy kiss over the course of the series?
3. How many episodes are there where Giles sings?
4. In which State does Buffy take place?

Orcus

*prof*QUOTES

(Of dry erase marker) Oh, it says it’s non-toxic. I guess that means I can sniff it.

Beatty CS136

I think you have now reached a point when I can tell you anything I like, and you will believe it, provided I write it in big enough formulae.

Ben-David CS498

So far, only 4 people came to me with questions about the assignment. So I suspect no more than 5 have actually looked at it.

Ben-David CS498

So, along these lines... no pun intended.

Wolczak MATH237

PROF: What do you get when you cross a mountain climber with a goat?

CLASS: A mountain goat?

PROF: No. A mountain climber is a scalar. So it can’t be crossed!

Wolczak MATH237

I know there are people who think peaches feel pain when you bite into them. Do you ever think about that?

Cunningham CO350

(An insent crawls around on overhead showing code) I’m going to de’bug’ this code... Murder in 343.

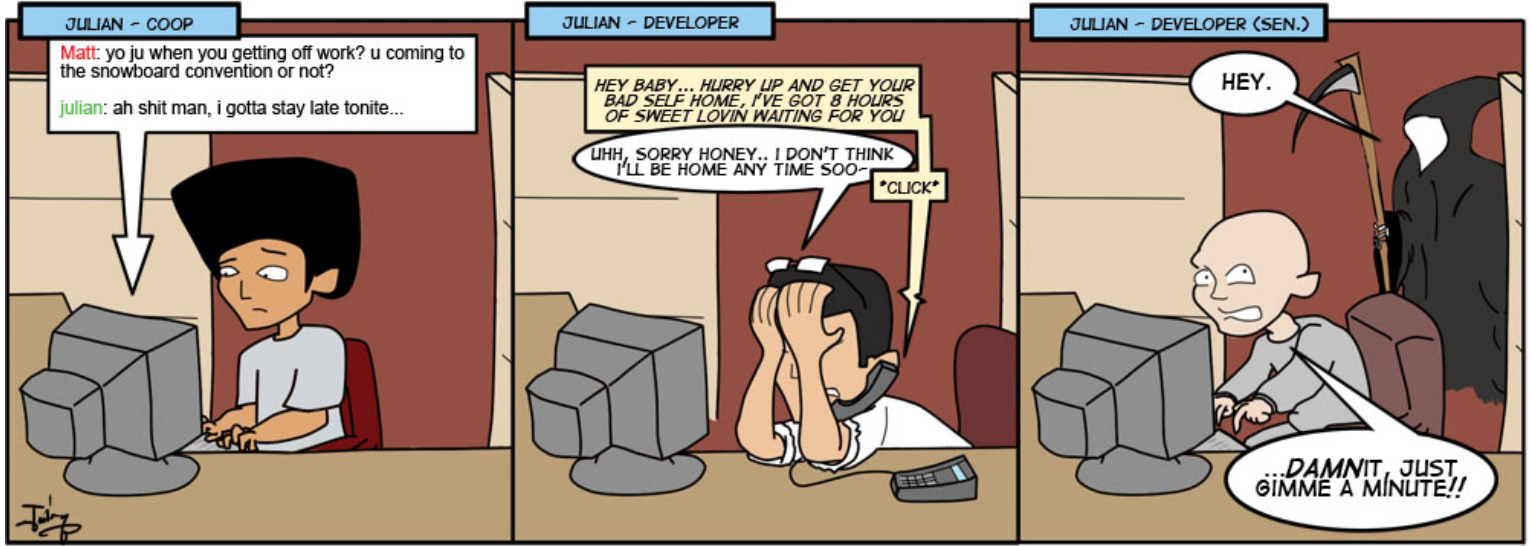
Buhr CS343

It’s like a triangle, but it’s quadrilateral.

Cunningham MATH239

Waterloosers

Eager to Tired



<http://www.waterloosers.com/>

Lots and lots of profQUOTES

When I add up two even numbers like two and seven...
Cunningham MATH239

If you need to forget your phone number to remember this, forget your phone number. You never call yourself anyway.
Wolczuk MATH237

How many people thought those were dumb? (Most of the class raises their hands.) Oops, I forgot to raise my hand.
Wolczuk MATH237

Some people like big butts and they cannot lie, but WHY do they like big butts?
Burriss PSYCH232

I was kinda wild and crazy in my 20's, sexually mutilated some people.
Burriss PSYCH232

Wouldn't it be nice to beat a monkey? (The class laughs.) Oh shut up, you're all sick!
Brecht CS350

You can't be dead and alive at the same time. you can feel it, but you can't be it.
Hardy ACTSCI433

I can't say your textbook is bad. The author is dead and he is listening.
Hardy ACTSCI453

The minimum mark was 5, so if you got 5 you should really examine your conscience to see what the hell you are doing?
Hardy ACTSCI331

There are always stupid people in the market. Odds are that if you can't find someone stupider than you, you're the stupid one.
Tian ACTSCI446

Have you ever noticed that it's always the men who are bad? Woman are always good. It's the men.

Atkinson AFM102

Yes, lawyers have ethics, believe it or not.

Atkinson AFM102

Does everyone know what Dairy Queen is? It's not a sexually confused cow.

Atkinson AFM102

By spending money, you can always improve this. Unless you're completely incompetent.

Atkinson AFM102

There's one thing we all can agree on: if we add zero infinitely many times we will get zero.

Brian Forrest MATH148

If you want to be clever at any particular point, then that will help you.

Brian Forrest MATH148

Solutions to the Issue 3 GridWord:

S	P	A	W	N	S	P	E	C	O	A	K
E	E	R	I	E	Y	E	A	H	L	U	G
E	A	G	L	E	S	A	R	I	E	G	A
P	R	O	D	A	T	S	E	I	G	H	T
E	A	S	E	A	F	T	T	E	A		
M	A	R	S	H	M	A	L	L	O	W	
B	O	I	N	K	W	A	Y	I	D	E	S
A	C	R	E	S	W	A	S	S	T	I	M
E	K	E	S	F	A	R	O	H	M	I	C
S	H	A	R	E	H	O	L	D	E	R	
A	R	C	O	C	A	V	E	R			
M	I	L	L	I	E	U	A	N	A	A	C
I	G	O	R	L	O	B	S	S	W	O	O
N	I	N	A	T	R	E	E	P	A	P	U
O	D	E	Y	E	L	L	A	L	E	R	T

Across

1. Wooden strip
5. Blockage
9. Batman actor ____ West
13. Grow weary
14. Push
15. Racing car company
16. First in fairy tales
17. U.S. President 1953-1961
19. Lacking fat
20. Brotherhood
21. Oz.
22. Magneto actor ____ McKellan
23. Canadian grocery chain
24. UTC minus 4, in July
25. Prolong tediously (2 wds.)
27. child
30. 2006 Women's Ice Hockey medal winner (abbr.)
33. Habitual performer (suff.)
34. Understood by an initiated few
37. Cleaning substance
41. Decorative ribbing
42. Cavity prevention liquids
44. Nocturnal bird-of-prey
45. Filter company
46. General Motors brand
47. Deficient in quantity
51. Exclamation of inquiry
54. Letters
56. Cameron's, for example
57. Offensive grin
59. Dispatch
60. Freshwater mollusk
61. Tube pasta
63. Baron Harkonnen's granddaughter
64. Kyrgystan mountain range
65. Tails companion
66. Quaker and English colonist William ____
67. Gall
68. Technology standards organization (abbr.)
69. Watched closely

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16					17					18				
19					20					21				
22				23						24				
25			26				27	28	29		30	31	32	
			33				34			35	36			
37	38	39				40		41						
42							43		44					
45					46				47			48	49	50
			51	52	53			54	55			56		
57	58					59					60			
61					62						63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			



Last week's grid had several solutions... unfortunately, most of them were wrong. And for those who did submit a correct answer, most of them forgot to submit and answer to the grid question. So this time, please pay closer attention to the instructions. Maybe that's why your marks are not very high on final exams.

The smart people who were completely right were Michael Perkins, Jason Ellis, Eric Logan, and Mark MacDonald. However, only two of them submitted answers to my witty question, and Eric Logan's was the best: TLA (Three Letter Acronym). Pick up your prize in the *mathNEWS* office! Solutions for those of you who didn't get it right are on page 9.

Now to this week's grid. The tie-breaker will be if you could add a sport to the Winter Olympics, what would it be? Now submit! Submit!

Down

1. Emotionless
2. Straight
3. Mysteries
4. Highschooler
5. Pacific rim country
6. Easily misplaced
7. Baking instrument
8. Pre-jack
9. Spoken orally
10. Economic decline
11. Obi-Wan actor ____ Guinness
12. Dark spot on the moon or Mars
14. Supporting a motion
18. Cultivation tool
23. Canadian poet ____ Crozier
26. Jail (arch.)
28. Non-profit Apache organization (abbr.)
29. Having the character of a light colored mineral
31. Noted error
32. King follower
35. Galactic hitchhiker's must-have item
36. Legal contract in games (abbr.)
37. Venomous snake
38. Small Marine expeditionary unit (abbr.)
39. Barely satisfactory
40. Eaten previously
43. Important person
48. Medieval ship
49. U.S. Secretary of Labour ____ Chao
50. Send back
52. Bert companion
53. Make with effort
55. Woody Allen film ____ Hall
57. Wound covering
58. African country
59. Berried gin
60. Superhero fashion accessory
62. Following SSI and MSI