

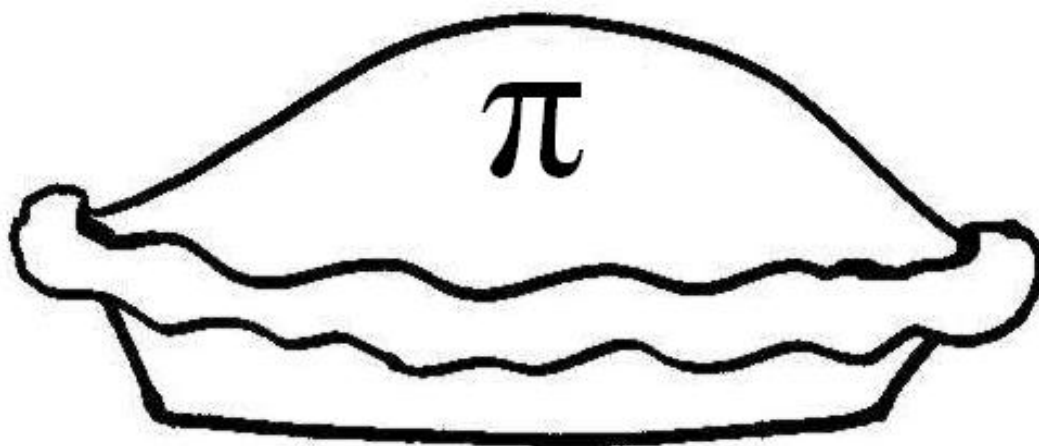
math

NEWS

Volume 100, Issue 5

Friday, March 10th, 2006

Cause I just want to have my



And eat it too!



lookAHEAD**MathSoc**

March 14	Pi Day
Thursday	Movie Night: The Ringer & A History of Violence

ActSci

March 16	Info Session
March 21	Poker Night
Inquire about events in MC 3030	

CSC

March 13	Talk on Computer Architecture by Eric Laforest
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CECS

March 13	Desire2Learn infosession
March 16	RapidMind inforsession

Faculty

March 14	Campus Day
Come volunteer (Signup on MC3038)	
March 20	Enrolment appointments for S06 begin
March 30	Last day of lectures
April 6	Exams begin
April 22	Exams end
You're Home Free!!!	

MGC

TODAY	Last day to submit Val Dictorian forms
Wednesdays	Pizza Day

Pmath/Amath/C&O

March 15 & 16	SASMS
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VPAS Not Saying!

So as midterms finish and assignments ease up before the coming storm of finals, I take some time to reflect on a term mostly past. Some things I wanted to get done have happened, some haven't. Hopefully it will all be done by the end of my term. In the mean time I have Pi to prepare for. On March 14 we will be having Pi day celebrations. At 1:59 we will be serving free pie on the third floor of the MC. I know what you're thinking: Why 1:59? Well, we are celebrating the mathematical constant pi. $3.14159 \rightarrow 03/14\ 1:59$. Makes sense? Besides, who is going to complain about free pi? We will also be having a screening of the pi day documentary filmed two years ago at 4:30 and a pi reciting contest at 3:14. Along with all these fun events there's campus day to look forward to. We need lots of help with both these events and volunteers are always welcome. Come and sign up on the door of the MathSoc office (MC3038). Hope to see you there!

Alex McCausland

Vice President Activities & Services

Winter 06

Pi Day Shirts Return

Well, UW, you have asked for them and they have come back. Pi Day shirts will be back to celebrate Pi Day. They will be on sale in the third floor of the MC during the Pi Day festivities. Shirt prices will be approximately Pi squared (\$9.75) and will not be available again until next Pi Day. So be sure to pick one up will you pick up your Pi.

MathSOC Novelties Director

Michael Finistauri

What Do You Want From MathSoc?

We want to know

There are many services that MathSoc provides to students. A few of the most obvious are:

- **The MathSoc C&D** — Located on the third floor of the MC, the MathSoc Coffee and Donut Shop offers a wide range of food and beverages and some of the lowest prices around.
- **The MathSoc Office** — The MathSoc Office (MC 3038) is the place to go for five cent photocopies, inexpensive work-report binding, inexpensive laser printing, the hardcopy ExamBank, textbook library, board games, free locker sign-up and more.
- **The MathSoc "Comfy" Lounge** — The Comfy Lounge is a place for students to study, play games, meet-up and just plain relax and socialise with their friends.

MathSoc is currently trying to get feedback from students on how we can serve you better. If you can think of some service that doesn't measure up, or some service that you think we should be providing, please send us an e-mail. We're especially interested in comments about the Office and the C&D, such as the Office being closed, or the bagels at the C&D not being the best. We really need your input.

Send comments to mathsoc@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Andrew Fransen

President, MathSoc

Pink Tie Pledge

The Pink Tie Pledge is part of the UW Grad Class Challenge, in which the graduating class of the math faculty is challenged to donate money to help make UW a better place for current and future students. We've been the highest pledging faculty in the past few years, and it's up to us to keep the tradition of beating the engineers (yet again) this year.

Best of all, you don't have to start paying for 1 year! As an added bonus, for those of you who pledge, there will be a draw for many prizes. And if you give to the dean's challenge, you are treated to dinner with the dean at the University Club.

The 2006 goal has been set at \$100,000. We have already raised over \$20,000, but need as many pledges as possible in order to make it all the way!

For more information, or to make your donation, visit the Pink Tie Pledge web site at www.pinktiepledge.ca

Michael Tersigni, Pink Tie Pledge Director

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The editor(s): Ian MacKinnon and Jenn Smith

mgcSez

Or why I shouldn't be allowed to write for mathNEWS

Home stretch. Can ya smell it? It's different from person to person, but regardless of who you ask, he or she would think that this 'Home Stretch' smells bittersweet. Sure, we would no longer be paying an insane tuition or be bored in class, but a lot of us would be moving into a higher tax bracket (yes, actually *paying* taxes) and we'd still be bored, but at least we get paid for it. Still, this last month we dwell here will be some of the busiest and hardest months we've endured yet. Let's start, shall we?

A BIG Thanks to our Grad Ball director. Without her and her minions, the two of us would've been swamped with all the intricacies and details and the doodads and whatnots of the entire event. Without her, the Ball would've simply slipped through the cracks and end up, um, somewhere. Without her, I wouldn't have found the time to actually apply to Grad Schools. You know who you are, you did an awesome job. Here are a few highlights and things we discovered throughout the evening:

- Kimitra Lovell and Michael Tersigni received the J. Alan George Award.
- The Math C&D sells more than just *Coffee and Donuts*.
- Some of the profs have been around for a really, *really*, really long time.
- Our host, Ian Vanderburgh, did not make any jokes.

It was a fantastic evening. Truly a 'wish you were there' moment. If you have any comments or suggestions for future years, please do not hesitate to email us.

Thanks to Steve Lightstone (BMath '84) for coming in to host our Networking Workshop. It was both insightful and entertaining. I'm sure the attendees will put their knowledge to good use.

mastHEAD

Back to School

Well, the first issue back after reading week saw many old and nearly forgotten writers, and even some new ones. Thanks to everyone who came out, especially the newbies. Your dedication to the august publication is appreciated, because we know you have midterms and assignments and finals to study for.

This issue is a little special, since we are giving it to pre-frosh at Campus Day as well as the usual MC crowd. Don't worry, nothing was left out or censored, because we don't believe in censorship. That's why you should read *mathNEWS*.

In honour of this great day when our campus is inundated with youngsters, we asked our writers: "Why did/didn't you go to *your* Campus Day?" Ali(What's Campus Day?), π (I was at a Fass party with Davenport), gkholman(Gee, that was 30 years ago...and honestly, I can't remember), Kaitlyn "Half-Pint"(To a 17 year old, Montreal during March break is WAY cooler than the 'Loo), Val(To hit on university chicks), Abby(I was March-breaking it in California), DanS(Cause I was a loser in high school and had nothing else to do. Unlike now), Angelo(I didn't want the entire school to know that they wouldn't like me until there was not chance of me not going here), Beatlemaniac(I wasn't invited), Andrew(I had nothing better to do), Michael(I went to three), Richard(Umm...*points* Hey look! An obvious distraction!

Ian W. MacKinnon (When it came to high school I would take any excuse to get the hell out of dodge)

Jenn Smith (I wasn't going to this school. And I was in BC.)

The Casino Trip for the term will happen on Saturday March 25th. Tickets and details will be available soon. It will be similar to the trip that we ran in the Fall.

Grad Rings, Year Books, and Pizza Sales will continue to happen Wednesdays this month. You should buy some — it's very stylish.

Valedictorian Forms are due today. Fill one out - who knows, you might represent our class at Convocation.

And now, some parting thoughts. As we approach our final days here, there are a number of good ideas (like submitting your Intent to Graduate form last Wednesday). Still, this last month will be tough and here is my only advice to you all. It's a very simple piece of advice (much like *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*) and it goes along the lines of:

Don't Fail.

I mean it. You've come too far to take chances and make mistakes. Play it safe and before you know it, you'll be spending quality time on the beach (or wherever). Good luck in the upcoming month and hope to see you all at Convocation.

Sam and Alex

MGC 2006 Co-Chairs

mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Prez Sez

Well, with most of the term gone and the peak of midterm season passed, it's time to finish off the last few assignments and get ready for final exams. I hope you all have enjoyed your Reading-Two-Days. It's going to be the last one for Math and Engineering students at Waterloo, as next year those two Faculties adopt a full reading week.

Nominations are open for some important positions. The first is nominations for Class Representatives on MathSoc Council. Class Reps have the important job of representing their fellow students on MathSoc Council, and keeping us pesky executives in line.

The second is for Math Grad Committee (MGC) Chair. The MGC Chair's job involves overseeing the operations of MGC, from its weekly pizza sale fundraiser, to the Yearbook, to the Math Grad Ball. The MGC Chair elected this term will be responsible for the Fall term, and the Winter term when the MGC Chair of the Spring term becomes co-Chair. To be eligible, you have to be a MathSoc member, and you must intend to graduate by Spring 2007. So, if you'd like to make sure your graduating year goes out with a bang, pick up a nomination form outside the MathSoc Office (MC 3038) today!

Also, nominations are now open for MathSoc executive positions for the Fall 2006 Term. The positions available are Vice President, Finances and Vice President, Academic. Nominations are open until Monday, and nomination forms are available outside the MathSoc Office (MC 3038).

If you have any questions or comments about the above, or in general, feel free to e-mail me at prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca or drop by the MathSoc Exec Office (MC 3039) directly across from the MathSoc Office.

Good luck this term!

Andrew Fransen

President, Mathematics Society

Mathsoc Council Nominations Open

Have a say in where your \$10.50/term goes

Nominations are now open for the following MathSoc Council Positions:

Class Representative Positions (2 term commitment — the remainder of the current Winter 2006 term and the next term you are taking classes):

- All academic programs (for a full list, consult a poster in a stairwell or outside the Mathsoc Office)

Class Rep nominations close Friday, March 10 at 4:30pm (yes, that's TODAY).

Executive Positions (for the Fall 2006 term):

- Vice President, Academic
- Vice President, Finance

Exec nominations close Monday, March 13 at 4:30pm.

Nomination forms and descriptions of the duties of each of these positions are available outside the Mathsoc Office (MC 3038). If you have any questions, email cro@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Carol Tam
CRO, Winter 2006

Getting Settings Right in Mozilla

I was really disturbed to see the advice in the last issue of *mathNEWS* suggesting that you use lynx instead of mozilla, or better yet firefox, when you're using the school computers. The advice seemed to be based in the fact that the Mozilla Foundation's goal is to fill up your disk quota, when all you really need to do is change your settings. Sure, using lynx is good for your geek cred, but on today's internet it just isn't feasible to use a text-only browser. Even a graphical one with images turned off is barely usable for a lot of things. Instead I offer you this advice. Open up firefox (or mozilla). Then click on edit, and go to preferences. Click the privacy tab, and go to the cache tab. Pick a small number like 1 or 2 to put in the "Use up to __ MB of disk space for the cache" and you will not see mozilla related disk quota excess again.

DanS

Math Faculty BBS goes on-line

The Faculty of Math has decided that it need to get with the times, so it is starting up a BBS. Through the lobbying of students on the Faculty-Student Liaison Committee, we have ensured that this BBS will have all the best door games. Great names like Barren Realms Elite, Legend of the Red Dragon, Land of Devastation, and The Pit.

Along with great door games, there will be very active message forums, and a wide array of files for downloading, including solutions to Algebra and Calculus assignments (after they're due, of course!).

To connect, simply point a telnet session to bbs.student.math.uwaterloo.ca, or, if you are using an old clunker with at least a 2400 baud modem, you can dial in at 519-888-math (519-888-6284).

If you have any suggestions for things that you would like to see on this BBS, send an e-mail to bbs@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, with the subject line "BBS Content."

MathSoc HLM Nominations Close Soon

Due Monday Morning

The MathSoc Honourary Lifetime Membership nominations will close Monday morning. If you or someone you know should be considered, then please pick up a nomination form located outside the MathSoc Office (MC 3038) and submit it to the Internal Director's mailbox in the Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email.

Nominations can be a lot of fun. Do it!

Sam Leung
Director of Internal Affairs, MathSoc
internal@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Desire2Learn Info Session

Desire2Learn is a leader in providing innovative eLearning solutions to academic and other leading organizations around the world. We are one of the fastest growing companies in Canada with a track record of strength and success. We have a desire to continue this growth, opportunity, and achievement. Desire2Learn's doors are open to new candidates looking to make an impact and be a part of something big.

Come learn more about our company and amazing career opportunities at our Employer Info Session on Monday, March 13 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Tatham Centre, room TC 2218. You will have the chance to mingle with some of our management team all while enjoying free food and giveaways!!

Second "Buzzword Building"

Advanced Photovoltaic building construction begins

The University has decided to build their new buzzword building on the Toga field between the Operations building and the AHS buildings. This coming just two terms after Admin refused to consider building the third buzzword building there (for those of you not around last Spring term, that would be the Nanotech building).

To give you a bit of history, the University decided last term that they were adding a building to campus — the Nanotech building. There was only one real criteria: It had to be within a 10 minute walk from both MC and any (and all) Engineering buildings. The University's solution: the green space between B2 and MC.

Unfortunately, this green space is highly used by Math students playing Ultimate in Spring term and is hugely useful for both Math and Science Orientation. This prompted a semi-large outcry that amounted to a sign that read "Don't Pave Me Over" being put up during the day, only to be taken down every evening.

The student body pushed for several alternatives: multi-level parking lots and replacing a current lot for a building, putting the Nanotech building on the green between AHS and MC, and many more decently valid suggestions. Admin basically said, "No."

Well, here we are, and there's a new "Buzzword" building going up on the green between MC and AHS. Why not just put Nanotech up there as well?

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

MathSoc table missing

Did the green men finally take it away?

After years of having “The Table” across from the C&D, it has gone missing. This beloved table has seen countless assignments, innumerable games of bridge, Bang!, and many other games, and even more discussions. This beloved piece of history, purchased from central stores for a mere \$2, has aided many a Math Students in their endeavours towards a degree.

MathSoc has been threatened with removal of this table before. It was claimed, at one point, that this table posed a fire hazard. The Exec at the time defended the rights of Math students to use this table, stating that it was no less dangerous than the planters on the 2nd and 3rd floor. The response: the planters are on the floor plan. Our solution: add the table to the floor plan.

If you have seen this table, please — for the love of god — contact either the MathSoc office (ext. 2324) or the MathSoc Exec office (ext. 6515).

[Conversely, If you're like me and glad the stupid thing is gone, email the MathSoc prez (president@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) and tell him to keep it gone. (Although, by print time the table has been returned). — iEd]

Mark “Beatlemaniac”

Imaginary Student Hurts Imaginary Classmates

*Student complained about difference between
games and life.*

In a shocking and entirely fictional turn of events, a student went randomly ballistic in class, pulling out a firearm and injuring many. The student was successfully detained and brought in for questioning. In a shocking report the student admitted that he played extremely violent video games. Apparently he complained about how little the video games reflected real life.

“I had practiced doing painful and unpleasant things to my classmates at home by playing violent video games,” said the irate youth. “There weren’t any loading times when I entered a different room or area, people who were far enough away from me weren’t culled properly and there weren’t any save spots. What type of crappy simulation is this?”

We brought this issue to the game developers. When asked about this, they responded by saying “Are you all idiots?” Apparently, game developers create games for a living and not to brainwash the youth into injuring each other or to create a sub-human army that never showers and randomly assaults other people.

After a few days, the youth’s parents finally became available, and they had no idea that their son played video games at all. In fact, they barely knew their child’s name. They claimed that “... video games have warped our precious daughter!” The mother was so distraught that she burst out crying when we explained to her that her child was a boy.

The youth is expected to be let off the hook and the game developers being made fully accountable for the charges. On an unrelated note, the gun manufacturers are not being allocated any blame whatsoever.

Angelo

Movie Games of the Year

The past couple of weeks have seen the launches of at least 2 computer games that seem to defy all the rules involved in making games. I’m talking about the two new real time strategies based off two different movie franchises that should be close to any geek’s heart. “Star Wars: Empire at War” and “Lord of the Rings: The Battle for Middle Earth II” are both games that, despite being based off movies (and for the first time in EA’s LotR games, books too), have failed to suck. Looking back over the last year, King Kong was among the best received launch titles on the Xbox 360, and “Lego Star Wars” managed to be so much fun that I’m really looking forward to it’s sequel; especially since, as every Star Wars fan seems to like to spout off, everything having to do with the original trilogy is far better than things to do with the new one.

The fact that these games haven’t sucked has made it so that people are actually buying movie video games and, because of that, publishers are buying up rights to movies even faster than movie publishers are buying rights to video games. As a result of this we can look forward to some of the following games:

- Despite all the games that are virtually identical to it, there has been no proper Saving Private Ryan Game, and EA thinks it’ll be no problem at all to produce this game, pretty much copying their code from other games, this’ll pretty much just be a Medal of Honour add-on.
- Taking the World War II video game to a new level, one where you’re not the infantry fighting the war, try Schindler’s List the Video game. Play the role of Oskar Schindler and go through the levels of the game attempting to set new high scores in the number of Jews you’re able to collect to send to work in your factory. Levels include the train station, the ghetto, and the synagogue.
- Good Night and Good Luck, George Clooney’s writing and directing debut, and the only one of this year’s Oscar nominated movies for best picture that I’ve seen, is an exciting game of trying to fight “communist fighters” without being labeled a communist yourself. The final boss encounter Sen Joseph McCarthy was supposedly coded by McCarthy himself.
- Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind: including a revolutionary new feature whereby when you screw up in the game it erases your memory card then restarts the game.
- Although not actually a movie on it’s own, the comic created for Kevin Smith’s movie, “Chasing Amy,” “Bluntman and Chronic.” The beauty of this game is that since there is no actual movie or story for it, it is going to be much more free than all the other games. Expect Mark Hamil to have a voice acting role as the main bad guy, coming back to the video game voices he has done back in the days of Wing Commander.

DanS

Useless Proofs

let $x = .999999\dots$ with an infinite amount of 9s after the decimal. then:
 $10x = 9.99999\dots$
 $10x - x = 9x = 9$
 $x = 1$

Female's guide to the MC

As every female knows, the first thing you need to learn when you enter a new building is where all the washrooms are, and which ones are safe to use. This is especially important since the girls only get three stalls per washroom in the MC, while the guys get three stalls PLUS three urinals (a boy told me this...I don't walk to into wrong gender washrooms or anything). This gives males TWICE as many places to urinate. Personally, I think this should be taken as an offence to all females.

Moving on, where to find the girls washrooms: There are two girls washrooms per floor, one in each elevator corner. Which ones are the safest to use? This article provides a full review on each floor's washrooms:

First Floor: These washrooms only have tiny half windows. *But* the NE corner washroom has both paper towels and an automatic hand dryer thing. This means your hands will dry twice as fast. It's true.

Second Floor: People use these washrooms a lot. Especially the SW corner. However, this would be the closest bathroom to the Stump the Christian event this Wednesday, 4:30pm, MC2066 (Yes, I just stuck an ad in here. Christians and washrooms will now forever be linked in your mind. Maybe that wasn't such a good idea).

Third Floor: The SW corner washroom mirror is slightly distorted. It's only distorted just enough that you still think you're looking at your non-distorted self. Depending on the angle, this can either boost your self-esteem or be really shocking. Also, EVERYONE (yes, everyone) uses this washroom. Walk around and use the cleaner and less used NE corner bathroom. And be less shocked at your reflection.

Fourth Floor: Almost identical to the third floor washrooms except cleaner. You can use your foot to turn on the sink. You press a button to dry your hands.

Fifth Floor: All the automatic stuff disappears on this floor. Paper towels only for hand drying. Normal sinks with knobs. It's like they don't think the fifth floor offices are important enough to have automatic washroom things.

Sixth Floor: As we all know, the second you step foot on the sixth floor the entire world as you know it rearranges itself around you and you go to the place where imaginary numbers come from (surprisingly, this isn't your imagination). So, I can only assume that there's a magical washroom there with marble floors, fountains and free tampons.

In conclusion, you should always use the sixth floor washroom. If you don't come back, can I have your stereo?

Abby has no moniker

profQUOTES as filler: a new idea

I will ask you to give him more attention than you would me.

Atkinson AFM102

As you can tell, I failed art when I was in grade school.

Atkinson AFM102

It's all about adding up the first 366 million terms in the series.

Brian Forrest MATH148

Why is this true? Well, it's a homework exercise.

Brian Forrest MATH148

So You're Overloaded With Assignments... Again

A few ideas to survive the end of term crunch

So, it's now in the last month of classes — about the time that professors start to notice that they've pushed all the assignment deadlines back and that they still need all those marks. They've considered their options and have decided to still assign the remainder of the original assignments. Only now the material won't have been taught before the assignment is due and all the other professors have had the same idea. This phenomenon, which occurs regularly near the end of the term, can be destructive to unsuspecting students. In the interest of preserving the sanity of the Math faculty student population, here are some ideas for surviving the end of term assignment crunch:

- Start early—sure in a perfect world, but we're not in a perfect world. So to compensate,
- Skip testing. My motto: if it compiles it probably does what it's supposed to do. This will also remove the chance of a note on your assignment reading "Did you even try to compile this?" In the unlikely event that you have compiler problems — or proof problems.
- Go for cuteness marks. True, this could work better if you can bat your eyes or flip your hair but in general a nice note at the end of an assignment wishing the marker a wonderful day won't hurt. After all, you'll catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. *[If you're a guy, this won't work as well as you think, trust me. — iEd]*
- Keep liquor handy. This may not help you finish all your assignments on time but failing is more fun after a few.
- Writing proofs. In general I've found that throwing in Euler or Fermat is a good strategy. No matter what you're trying to prove, chances are one of them wrote a theorem proving it. Want to mix it up? Work in a little Newton, Euclid or Descartes.
- When all else fails, remember that what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger. Of course, that's assuming it doesn't kill you.

WestCoastChic

UW Drinking Games

Everyone thinks mathies don't drink as much as artsies who have lots of time on their hands and engineers who do nothing but party. However, we know that mathies need something to help them forget their huge workloads and their low grades. So here are a few ideas for a drinking game, for when you need to forget. The rules are simple. Drink:

- Every time the mathSOC photo copiers jam
- Every time something of mathSOC goes missing
- Every time you see a WoW player
- Every time you see a CCC advertisement
- Every time you don't eat at the C&D
- Every time you understand a math pun/joke
- Every time I insult an engineer
- ENGINEERS SUCK. Drink now
- Every time an algorithm loops

Angelo

What Would My Inner Child Do?

With the days of exams getting closer and closer, I found my overall stress level approaching 'kill'. In the midst of all this stress, I decided it was appropriate to look at some generic posting on the wall for some form of entertainment or another. Whilst reading it, I stumbled across a joke posting that I disagreed with on a personal level. I thought: What would my inner child do?

I immediately began to cry and moan right in the middle of the comfy. The reality that someone's personal beliefs disagree with my own is too much to bear. About twenty minutes later, having stopped crying at a non-specific point in time prior to the current one, I found myself drawn to look at the poster again. Call me an idiot, but repeating the event which caused me to cry like a little baby seemed like a good idea at the time. Perhaps I had some form of noble motivation: I could have misread it or just interpreted in my own way using my own brain. So I gave the poster another gander only to find that I felt the same disgust at how anything would make fun of situations and/or people. This was truly unnerving... If a humorous piece of paper started publishing things that I don't personally find amusing, then I just might have to come up with my own form of amusement. That was absurd. So I started crying again.

It turns out that this time I just needed changing, which wasn't likely to happen in the comfy. Ever. I found myself constantly reading the poster over and over again, crying over and over again for hours on (and off) end. I will be the first to admit that I have laughed at jokes, unless you can say the phrase faster than I can. Jokes tend to come at the expense of an individual or group consisting primarily of individual elements. Now, considering the fact that I laugh at jokes, understanding on one level or another that they belittle, make fun of, or demean said individual or group, I found that it was entirely appropriate and not hypocritical at all for me to take offense when anything made jokes to be laughed at about things that I would not laugh about.

Following the high-pitched, pre-adolescent voice of my inner child, I whined all the way to the nearest authority figure I could find. The editor of Imprint received, by means of letter, requests that the creator of the poster be burned alive. Complaining about it was all that I saw fit to do. Well, that and steal a fellow mathie's lunch money before stuffing him in his locker.

Having cried to the point that my body was dehydrated enough to convince doctors that I suffered food poisoning, I wiped my tears away with a mop and (coincidentally large) bucket, proceeded smiling. Sticking my pacifier in my mouth, I came upon the next issue of *mathNEWS*. Seeing similar themes, tears (somehow, I doubt there was moisture left anywhere in my body at this point) swelled in my eyes. So, I thought: What would my inner child do?

Angelo

The absense of a Squiz

Unfortunately we have no Squiz this issue, since our SquizMaster Orcus is busy. By default, the winner of the last squiz is Lino (π), the only submission. Thank you for trying, Lino. Pick up your \$5 C&D gift certificate at the *mathNEWS* office. Keep watching for some Squiz fun, and please, people: submit!

Don't be scared pre-frosh, it's only the Math Comfy Lounge

You're getting your first tour of MC and have just seen a dark hole, devoid of all natural light with what could only be construed as gremlins—some sleeping in corners, others huddled around laptops, shouting sporadically about the LINUX brigade and imaginary creatures—resembling the cast of the Lord of the Rings and actually speaking like them quite often. I know that this might make you want to run for the hills, but you should know, given the proper tools you can survive this potentially dark-alley like location.

- Avoid chairs with suspicious stains. This rules out approximately 98% of the seats.
- If there is a lot of shouting about things with words that you don't really understand (read World of Warcraft, Magic-esque) do not try to study here. Chances are it will get louder before it will get quieter and there is a distinct possibility of flying playing cards cards.
- For the ladies: perhaps the best comfy survival advice I was given was to always carry a broomstick. This will help you ward off anyone who might be interested in studying the endangered species in MC, women. Not to worry though, I've only had to actually use the broomstick once.
- Be careful of the one table that looks like all the others but leans an awful lot to one corner. When placing spillable objects—like the coffee you just bought—on the tables place in the middle. There is a table that tilts and has bested many a student by looking all innocent, but upon being used as a table does an about face to become one with the dark-side and will make quick work of that coffee, landing it promptly in your lap.
- And the best piece of advice? Be not afraid, in the worst case scenario you will emerge with a greater understanding of the inner working of the LINUX environment—now there's a doozey through out as an anecdote at parties

WestCoastChic

Not *prof*QUOTES filler; Really

If you have any questions about the electric shocks you are going to get or assignment 4, please ask now.

Buettcher CS241

I get excited and discharge.

MacKay STAT372

[after drawing the same parse tree for the third time]

I wish I had blackboard macros.

Lushman CS241

Why don't you guys yell at me when I do something wrong?

Marshman MATH138

...page seventy-three in your course notes. I know most of you don't bring your course notes to class, but what the hell...

Marshman MATH138

25 Years Later

A continued mathNEWS story

Looking at my face in my mirror this morning, I just know that today has to be the day she's successful. She stopped her attempts a few weeks ago to implement a new tactic with some exciting new equations, and she called me yesterday to tell me she's ready to try again. I know this attempt will work. I now recognise the stranger I met 25 years ago.

I was tempted to say something when I arrived yesterday, after driving the six hours to be here with her for this, but I didn't want to jinx anything. Though, I really can't see how I can jinx this, since I know how it will end. How do I let her know she's on the right track? I know I'm right, and I came well prepared.

Walking into the classroom on the 4th floor M&C (I forget what they call it these days) she's turned into her lab, I can see her busy with a technician tweaking some unpronounceable piece of equipment barnacled on the edge of the transit room doorway. The small "room" is more like a large closet up at the front of the lab where the chalkboards used to be.

She's been here for hours. She's at the top of her stride, impressing everyone with her ideas, postulations, and equations. She's well-known from her involvement in campus life and her regular columns in *mathNEWS*, and some of her friends are crowded in the lab with her.

I watch her for a while, bursting with pride at the success she is about to experience. Now she's busy with her beau at the terminal, correcting him when she sees another improvement in her work. She turns when I drop my load on the chair by the door.

"Daddy, why did you bring all that winter gear with you? We're having an early spring and it has to be almost 10 degrees outside and everything is bone dry!"

"It's not like this where I'm going today, my dear. Actually, I should say more accurately, not where you're sending me today."

That got the room quiet. This is turning out more dramatic than I had hoped.

"Sending you?" she asks. "I'm not sending you anywhere; you just volunteered to do some observations from within my field effect. I'll flip the switch for 10 minutes and my calculations say you'll perceive time differently. Cameras and microphones won't tell us what we need to know, as we need to know the feel of time in the field effect."

"Haven't you ever read through your *mathNEWS* archives?"

She hesitates, unsure where I'm going with this... "*mathNEWS*? Sure; the "else when" column is always a laugh. Why do you ask?"

"But I'm not talking about just the most quotable parts that make it into ElseWhen. You never took the time to read through all the issues from my time as a mathie, did you? I'll have to tell you about it later... for now, you have to finish up the last of the settings so we can start the experiment. And I need all this "gear",

as you call it, to help me prove something."

She shakes her head, then frowns at the controls again. "I'm almost finished... I just can't decide which way to go with the final balance."

"Whichever way you decide will be right, my dear, trust me, but however you do decide, please let me convince you to set it up to run for more than 10 minutes."

Eventually, everything is set for 30 minutes. She tried hard to keep it at 10, but I insisted on stretching it to the maximum 30. With a half-hour, I *know* I'll have enough time — I remember those last minutes well. I'm now set, with my winter gear in a pile next to me. I watch her from inside the transit room, the door shut and latched, the lighting quite bright throughout the control room. She doesn't bother using the intercom, and just signals through the glass that she is about to flip the switch.

To her, the sight looking through the glass is like a momentary heavy snowfall, but only as quick as a camera flash, and then it leaves the transit room dark. Around the blue spots in her eyes she can just see my outline shape behind the glass from the control room light through the window.

"Dammit!" she yells "What happened? What blew? What didn't work?" Over the intercom, she says "Sorry, Daddy, we'll try again after we have time to reset the equipment."

The intercom picks up my reply, "Oh it worked alright, just as I knew it would. Don't apologize. You can unlock the door."

The crew would have been forgiven for thinking it was snow they saw in the flash, as my boots are still dripping wet when I walk back through the door. My hair, coat and heavy scarf are damp with melt and the new-fallen-snow smell that everyone recognizes, but haven't experienced for many weeks. I slip off my sunglasses that she knows I wasn't wearing when she signalled me just moments ago.

"How did you get all your stuff on so quickly? You weren't wearing any of it when I was looking at you to pull the switch. And you're soaked! There wasn't enough time..."

"Thirty minutes, just like I insisted." I explain. "And probably to the very second I'm sure, because I was careful to watch my time. It felt like I couldn't keep my eyes off my damn watch. I went back 25 years, dear daughter, and it was a very cold and very snowy day. I walked around campus for most of it, remembering how it was before all these changes... DC, RIM... none of it was built, of course, and the students couldn't have imagined how much campus would change. I got so dreamy walking around I had to run back to this room — it was just a classroom back then — to visit with someone before my time was up."

"But... who?"

"Let's go find the *mathNEWS* archives and I'll show you."

gkholman (BMath '81) and gkholman jr. (Half-pint)

My new favourite joke

Why did the chicken cross the road? Because there was pie on the other side.

Why did the chicken cross the road again? Because he saw that it was pi and irrationally deserted it.

The Stranger

(We caved and decided to do the research for you)

The stranger called me from the classroom as I walked by. Hearing my name, I walked in expecting to see someone I knew. He was seated at a desk, and was wearing a heavy coat and boots. A bit of snow was melting on his hair and collar.

The man was about 45, maybe 50, but a stranger for certain. He looked me up and down, and laughed softly to himself. I stood quiet while his thought drifted for a short while. His face brightened and his smile grew large, but his thoughts were still miles away. Or years behind maybe?

“Hello my firend. How are you?” he said as he came out of his thoughts.

Now the stranger seemed familar. I was sure I’d seen his face somewhere before. His voice and quiet laugh sounded familiar too. Was it on the radio? No, it was something else, but I couldn’t... friend?

“Hi. Should I know you?”

“Oh you know me,” he laughed, “but you won’t realize from where for a while yet.” He noticed me staring. “Then you’ll laugh too, believe me.”

He made quite an impression. His clothes looked too young for him, by about 15 years maybe. But was it wrong? I sure liked his taste. The colours and style looked really comfortable and attractive and I thought they suited him. Just the colours I like, too. His boots were still dripping the snow and salt he’d accumulated. He had left a trail into the classroom from the door to his seat.

“I knew you’d like the outfit,” he told me. How did he —

“I also remember you’ve got a few minutes to talk,” he continued quickly. “Please be patient with me.” He looked at his watch. “I’ve only got 10 minutes myself.”

“I still don’t know —”

“I know that, but I’m not going to tell you where you know me from. Like I said, you’ll find out soon enough.” He smiled again. He must have thought something was funny.

He was a clock watcher. Or rather, a watch watcher. The classroom clock was stopped, as usual. I’d been working so long, I didn’t know what time it was myself.

“I’ve got to go by 2:30,” he said to himself, just loud enough that I heard. Lots of afternoon left, so I couldn’t have been working for too long.

“What can I do for you?” I asked. “I still don’t know where I’ve seen you before.” Perhaps I met him as a child.

“Oh, already you think you’ve met me? I thought it took longer. I’m not too good at remembering details. Anyways, there’s not much we can do right now. Next time is the more important rendezvous. We’ll have more time to talk, and we will have more than enough to talk about. I do remember that you’ve got to get to class soon.”

Class? I still had two hours till my next class.

He smiled and said “It’s almost 4:30 now. Check the hall.” Sure enough, I had 5 minutes to get to my lecture.

I looked back in the room, and the stranger was standing. He put his gloves in his pockets, tried to shake some snow from his boots, then looked closely at his watch again.

“I’ve got to go.”

“I know.” He took one long look at me again, from head to toe. He smiled. “Take care, and I’ll see you next time.”

Next time? He had said something about next time.

“If you say so. Thanks for reminding me about class. Take care.”

I left quickly and started down the hall. I had turned the corner when I realized he had known that I had a class, and that I was thinking I had time before it started. I turned back, but when I got to the room, the stranger was gone. All that was there was the snow puddle and the footprints to it from the door.

I went to class.

It was late that night that I recognized the stranger. He was right, I laughed. I laughed really hard. Little details of our meeting flashed in my mind. The clothes, the voice, the face.

I eventually relaxed and stopped laughing. I thought about our next meeting. That is going to be something that I’ll look forward to till — till when? He never said! He knew he forget details, why didn’t he make sure he’d tell me when we’re getting together?

At least I can remember details now.

The clothes? Of course I’d like the style.

The voice? It was a tape recording that I recalled, not the radio.

The face? That face had to be almost 50 years old.

Everything was so crystal clear now.

I looked again, then walked away from the mirror

gkholman

Volume 25, Issue 7, March 6, 1981

Some classy *prof*QUOTES from Larry Smith in ECON 102

You, engineer, why don’t you create something that could help productivity instead of helping people talk while on the toilet? You get an unsustainable party and then the hangover of all time. Interest rates go up and people are happy because cars are more expensive.

For the next five minutes you have to stay here or I swear I’ll tackle you on the way to the door.

People dumb as door posts! No, I’m not looking at you.

Give me a moment. We’ll make the banks collapse.

If you want foreign aid from America you must lose a war with them, and the last war we had with them we won!

In a cold country, you will always do sex better.

It’s an interesting experiment to see if I’ll pass out before 10:00

Give me time, I will insult all of you. I don’t care about your ethnic background.

Here’s a person in CS who loves to compute. He can’t put his own clothes on.

Of course, the universe is unfolding the way it should: you’re behaving like an idiot.

Cooking 102

Tuna Melty Goodness

It is now March. This means that soon spring will have sprung, and all that jazz. It also means the end of term is approaching, and *this* means... Well, we all know what it means, and it ain't pretty.

Unlike your professors, I will be merciful. You've gotten some more difficult recipes in this column in the past few issues, but this week we're going with something truly easy. This is an old favourite, and it can be made in lots of different ways. Plus, it's Lent-Friday safe, for all you Catholics out there. You may have encountered tuna melts in the caf, or maybe you're used to sticking some canned tuna on bread with a bit of cheese. This is better. A lot better.

Tuna Melts (The Good Way)

Ingredients:

- 2 cans flaked tuna ("in water" is always better than "in oil")
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese (the older, the better)
- 3 stalks celery
- 3-4 eggs (this depends on how much you like eggs)
- Light Miracle Whip (or no-name alternative)
- 1 roll Pillsbury Crescent Rolls, regular size

Directions:

1. Bring a small pot of water to a boil. Put the eggs in, and boil them for ten minutes — they need to be hardboiled. Open and drain the cans of tuna. Chop the celery up into small pieces (as small as your patience allows). When the eggs have boiled, remove them from the water, and immerse them in cold water so you don't burn your hands when you peel them. The easiest way to peel a boiled egg is to place it on a hard surface and roll it beneath your hand until the shell cracks around the middle. Peel the shell from there. Mash the egg with a fork.
2. Mix the tuna, the mashed egg, the chopped celery, and the cheese in a large bowl with enough Miracle Whip (or no-name alternative) to stick it all together.

True Love

Turns to Jealousy

The day you find your true love with some other man is the worst day of your life. It is like walking in a kernel and trying to ride the nearest basis vector out of there. I caught her, alright, staring at his solutions like he was Stephen Hawking. To make it more aggravating I even heard her saying "Oh, your solutions are so big" in public. In public, for crying out loud. What mathie ever goes out in public? But that's beside the point. My brain is no longer good enough to keep her satisfied. Conversely she will not be satisfied by my brain.

I was faced with a grave decision: force her towards zero in my life, or force him towards zero in hers. As a man, or close enough to it that we may as well call me a man (please?), my correctness was at stake. Of all the infinite combinations of men, she chose me to prove the set of love. I will not accept this random null space as a compliment to that proof. I will challenge him to a duel. Man to man. The last man unfactorable will win.

Angelo

3. The preferred method to go from here is to open the Crescent Rolls and use them to line the cups in a standard muffin tin. The rolls come in 8, and your muffin tin will probably have twelve cups, but with a little effort and creativity you can get all the cups lined. Spoon the tuna mixture into the cups.
4. If you don't want to use the Pillsbury rolls, you can simply put the mixture in a standard-sized loaf pan. Either way, bake it in a 350 degree F oven (pre-heated, as always) until the edges of the rolls are golden brown, or until the mixture is melted and gooey. This should be about 8 minutes, but keep an eye on your oven.

One of the great things about this recipe is its versatility. If you choose to omit the Pillsbury rolls, the mixture can be spooned onto thick slices of bread or buns, or eaten with melba toast or on crackers. And I have done all of these things. Also, if there is an ingredient you don't like, you can simply omit it. Strict vegetarians can omit the tuna (though you'd have to call it something other than "tuna melts," then). Lactose-intolerant people can omit the cheese. My roommate doesn't like eggs — I leave them out for her.

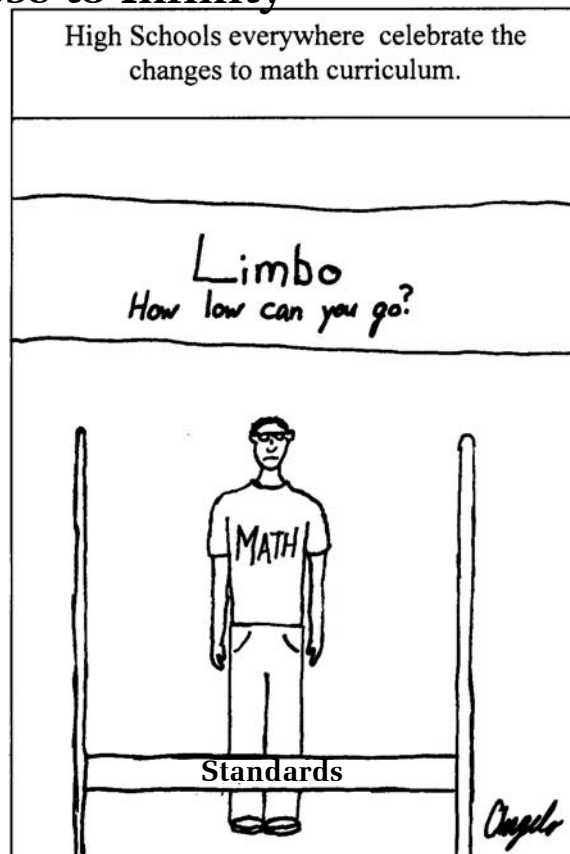
This is a quick and easy recipe, and although the mixture doesn't look like much, it tastes very, very good. Good for those stressed March meals. But we're not going to talk about that, right?

Ali Alone

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Email us at mNcooking@yahoo.ca

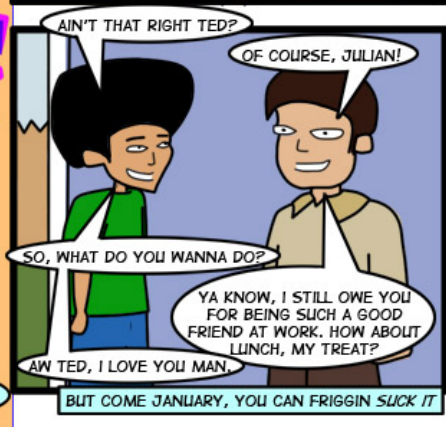
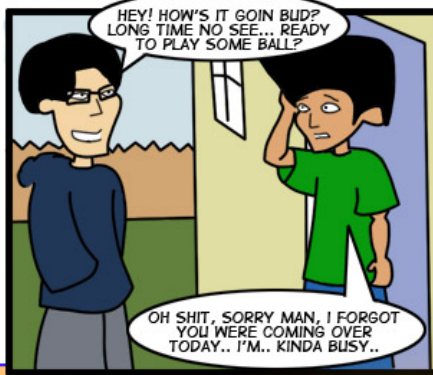
Close to Infinity



Waterloosers

Best Before...

EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE TIMES...



<http://www.waterloosers.com>

profQUOTES

This calculation, I guarantee you, will be extremely boring.

Zorzitto Math 146

There's no intelligent knowledge I can give about this.

Zorzitto Math 146

These vectors are not dependent so I don't have to eat another shirt.

Zorzitto Math 146

Just to avoid psychological distress: I'll call it a theorem.

Zorzitto Math 146

Written formally because you want it spoon fed.

Zorzitto Math 146

Unless I made a mistake, and if I did - I'm not eating anything!

Zorzitto Math 146

My brain inspected it and it smells linear.

Zorzitto Math 146

It helps to keep your brain separate from what's going on.

Zorzitto Math 146

That's one of the dyslexic diseases that linear algebra has.

Zorzitto Math 146

Question one, assignment eight: explain what I just said.

Zorzitto Math 146

When I have time to kill... In June...

Zorzitto Math 146

This would be a bonus question on an exam. If I didn't show you it. It could have been a bonus question.

Zorzitto Math 146

Issue 4 Grid Solution

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

Across:

1. Payment method
6. Atlantic coast
10. Sore
14. O3
15. Famous actor
16. Moon of Saturn
17. Waste matter
18. Organism body
19. Treasure state (abbr.)
20. 1945 John Wayne film
22. Plot secretly
24. Apendage
26. Common drug
27. Build instructions
31. Hefty
32. Alanis Morissette legacy song
33. Organic molecule linked by oxygen
35. Master of Science (Latin abbr.)
38. Wilderness housing
39. Brother of Joseph
40. Venomous monster
41. Playground game
42. Religious pedistal
43. Noble gas
44. Question
45. Northern France
47. Not temporal
51. Twelve
52. Atomic number 78 (Ta)
54. Snip
58. Symbol
59. Eye part
61. Play loudly
62. Capitol of Mongolia ____ Bator
63. Accurate (originally)
64. Baseball legend Hank ____
65. Instructed
66. Final Fantasy VIII summon
67. Remove

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			



Thank you everyone for your multitudes of submissions! I am just glad no one took me seriously about submitting often. Trust me, it doesn't actually help your chances.

So the correct submissions were from Michael Perkins (paintball on skis), Eric Logan (full contact [frozen?] turkey juggling), and Douglas Stebila (alpine algebra). And since I liked the last answer best, the winner of the \$5 C&D gift certificate is Douglas Stebila! For everyone else, see page 11 for the solutions.

On to this issue. To win the wonderful prize of a \$5 C&D gift certificate, you must tell me what you would like to tell potential frosh at campus day that you wish someone would have told you. Enjoy!

Down:

1. To lop or clip off (Halliwell)
2. Old Testament book
3. Arrest
4. Arrogant
5. Declare publicly
6. Female suffix
7. Star Wars Episode 2 (abbr.)
8. Pacific island country
9. Send
10. Sweaty spot
11. Musical group
12. American painter ____ Robert
13. Consumed
21. French friend
23. Fight
25. Beatified
27. Glove
28. Region
29. Movie ape
30. Gattaca actor ____ Hawke
34. Wading bird
35. Indication
36. Lump of soil
37. System Shock 2 foe
39. Basic
40. Grainy
42. Landmass
43. One-celled organism
44. Present at
46. American actor ____ Howard
47. Swagger
48. Brazilian city Sao ____
49. Chronological record
50. Horrific
53. Lab animals
55. Van Wilder actress ____ Reid
56. Asteroid name
57. Italian kidney
60. Spirited Away protagonist

