

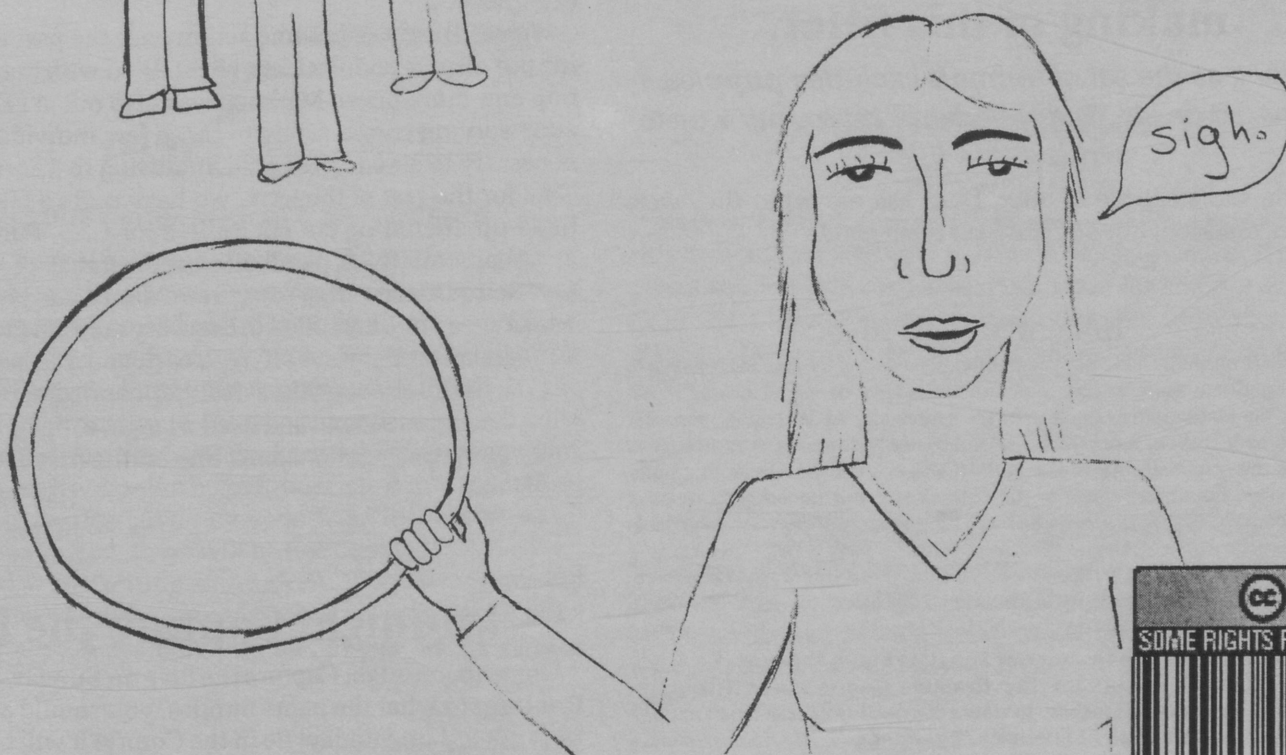
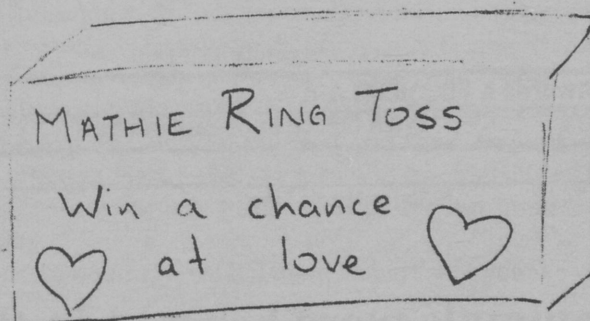
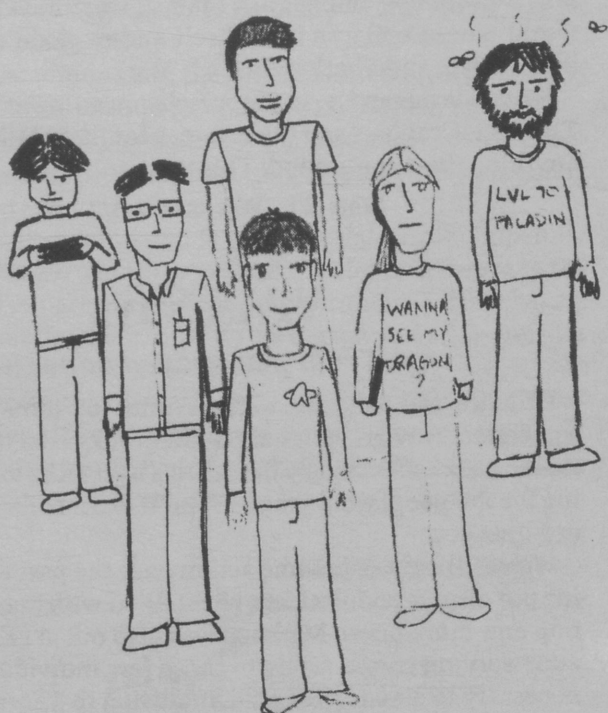
math NEWS

Volume 103, Issue 2

Friday, February 2nd, 2007

How to get a date before Valentine's Day

Math.random()



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lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

February 2 Issue #2 faces midterms

February Production Night #3

6:30PM, MathSoc (MC 3038)

All are welcome!

February 12 Issue #3 lingers in the love

Math Faculty

February 19-23 Reading Week

February 20 Last day for 50% tuition refund

February 27 Drop, Penalty 1 period ends

April 3 Lectures end

April 9 Exams begin

April 21 Exams end

MathSoc

Thursdays Movie Nights

MGCWednesday Pizza, 3rd floor MC

11:00-1:00

February 5 Yearbooks go on sale

February 9 Last day for composite photos

March 24 Grad Ball

CECS

February 7 2007 Job Fair, RIM Park

10:00AM-3:30PM

March 2 First cycle rankings open

Student Awards & Financial Aid

February 16 W&S OSAP applications due

Misc

February 14 Valentine's Day

No animals were harmed in the making of this filler.*So long as the set of animals excludes puppies, kittens, squirrels, and that dear I hit on my way to writing this filler.*

Oh yeah, and a couple of otter. Don't ask me what they were doing in Waterloo, but boy did I get them good.

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mastHEAD

Welcome back for another fun edition of *mathNEWS*! Apologies go out to the xkcd.com for misspelling the name of the site in the previous issue. It was small, and more than likely evil potatoes. Most evil things can be traced back to potatoes. That notwithstanding, our sevenfold awesome production staff served us well, and we in return served them pizza.

This week, the production staff was asked, "Why weren't you at Polar Jam?" Here are their responses: Eric "I had to alphabetize my socks"; *mathEYE*, "I was trying to fix my Horrorscopes server"; Angelo, "I left something in the oven... and the police were in the area... suffice it to say that no one ever saw the evidence again..."; Jenn, "I was sticking my head in the cotton candy machine"; The Insider, "I thought it was a new flavour of toast spread, and was; therefore, not interested"; DNSWDWAJM, "I follow sage advice: 'If it involves bears, and you are equipped with neither guns nor missiles, you don't want to get involved'"; Math.random(), "I was /cry"; Andrew, "I was at Empty Night at Fed Hall"; James Simpson, "Polar Jam != boobs! implies Polar Jam == -(boobs) implies :-("; Matt, "I was afraid that if I did the world would collapse in on itself and explode"; Jos, "PsEudo borked! Not sudo-borked!".

Several levels and types of appreciation go to everyone involved. The staff, Graphics and the potatoes for (hopefully) not messing anything this time around. This time.

Stats Ed, "Was on a 2 1/2 hour bus ride to TO"

VPAS Says*...have your pets spayed or neutered*

Hi there and welcome to the Winter '07 term here at UW. I understand my greetings are a few weeks late, but I'm new at this so back off! Seriously though, it's a pleasure to be here working for the people and I'm sure you'll learn to love me as much as I love you.

We've already seen some action over the past weeks, including our always popular Cove Night filled with free games, pizza, pop and more pizza. MathSoc was also out at FEDS' Polar Jam 2007 serving cotton candy to those few individuals that felt it necessary to stand in the cold and listen to Thornley.

As for the rest of the term, we have quite a few great events lined up, including but not limited to:

- Pints with Profs
- Foamball (think paintball sans the guns)
- Retro Dance Party (Yes...a retro dance party)

Make sure you stay tuned to this very column (and the miscellaneous other ways I'll try to trick you into being my friend) to find out about the latest happenings with MathSoc. If you have a second and need a laugh, drop by the office (MC 3039) to say hello. I don't bite on the first date.

Gee "of x" Ramsahai
MathSoc VPAS W07

Midnight Capture the Flag

Come to midnight Capture the Flag on Sunday, February 4th! Contrary to what the name implies, you should actually arrive at 11:59 PM on Sunday! Be in the Comfy! It will be fun, regardless of your personal preference towards phallus!

Prez Sez

It's like Snuggles Sez, except Snuggles is not quite as Jewish as he used to be. Man, it occurs to me that I might be the only undergrad who still gets that joke, but I'm going to keep making it, because it amuses me. And that's what's important.

Uh, that's actually not what's important, as it occurs to me that some of you might be looking for an update on what your student society has been up to. On that note, Cove Night was last Thursday. It was a good time for those that braved the cold. Movie nights are also ongoing, Thursday night in the Comfy! I'm told our stalwart VPAS has an article on upcoming stuff that is probably not too far from this one, so head over there to check out what's coming up.

Now that you've done that, I can also tell that Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Anne Cavoukian, is coming to campus on February 27th to give a talk entitled "Privacy by Design - A Crucial Design Principle". If you are interested in attending, please preregister on the MathSoc webpage, <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca>. This event is being co-sponsored by Math and Engineering. Also, if you go, there will be pizza, which is pretty OK!

In other cross-campus stuff, the Arts Student Union is trying to get Justin Trudeau to come to campus in early March, and EngSoc is organizing a cross-campus headshaving fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. Look for more information on these coming up soon.

The Feds Election campaign is going on right now. Hopefully one or two of you turned up to yesterday's election forum in the Comfy. Since I'm part of the election machinery, I don't have a position on the entire affair, but I do encourage you all to vote. It's more important than you might think.

As usual, I encourage you all to drop by my office hour and give me an earful, since we only improve with student feedback. I'm usually around Monday and Wednesday afternoons. There may even be prizes! That's all I've got for now.

Eric Logan
MathSoc President W07
prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

VAP Says

'Cause your academics are my concern

It has been a busy week with meetings. This term I plan on doing a complete overhaul to the exam bank. We are still accepting midterms, and tests to add to the exam bank.

Monday, February 5th from 5:30 to 7:00 in SLC 1102 will be the first meeting of the term for the Co-op Student Council. All students in co-op are welcome to come to the meetings and voice their opinions. First year students: look out for more information on the first year review session before your Calc 2 midterm; there will be a review session given by your TAs. To help stave off hunger while you review there will be free cookies.

I look forward to an exciting term as VPA. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your classes or programs, just come by MC 3039. I am always happy to talk or just listen to your opinions.

Heather Perry
MathSoc VPA W07

Math Orientation 2007 wants YOU!

...NO, not like that!

We want leaders, icebreakers, co-ordinators, teamsters and tie guard. So if you think orientation week is lots of fun, or you are looking for an awesome way to brush up on your leadership, organization and people skills, fill out an application ASAP and sign up for an interview. Available online at: www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca. For more information email orientat@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Sanka Jayasundera, Laura Bradbury,
Dharshini Vigneshwaran and Steve Byrne
2007 Math Orientation Committee
a.k.a SaLaDS

FASS and the 7 Silly Sins

We are so going to hell for this

Wow, last night's show was amazing! You know what you should do tonight or tomorrow night? That's right, Go see FASS! We've worked ridiculously hard all month (that's right we put this shindig together in a month) to bring you the best show in the Humanities Theatre yesterday, today and tomorrow.

If you want to have a spectacularly entertaining evening, come see the show at one of it's lovely time slots. Those are at 7pm and 10 pm tonight, and 8pm tomorrow! Tickets are available at SciSoc (second floor of Physics) and the Humanities Theatre Box office in Hagey Hall. Tickets will be available right up till the shows, so there's plenty of time for last minute decision making.

And remember: Just tell them Robert sent you ;).

Robert
Visit fass.uwaterloo.ca for more info

Co-op Student Council

the other CSC

Next Monday, (February 5th, in case you were wondering) is this term's first meeting of the Co-op Student Council. If you're a co-op student and wish to find out what the CECS is planning to do next (and even voice your opinions), then you should attend. The meeting is held in the FEDS front office (in the SLC across from Tim Hortons) from 5:30 to 7:00.

VPF says with stark certainty

Last week we had our budget meeting, in which several people were bored. For that, I am glad. Furthermore, our society is now one week free from crazy, self-groping cretins, so come and see what MathSoc can do for you! If not, we have your money anyway.

Michaelangelo Finistari
MathSoc VPF W07

Horrorscopes

ACCOUNTING

All that has been clouded in embezzlement shall become clear to you. The stars reveal curious financial indiscretions. Trust your instincts and fear not the repurcussions for upholding justice. Even if does happen to include several years of despotic tension with no hopes of getting another job. Justice!

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 17 executives sent to jail.

ACTSCI

Do not let the visions of the mounds of money in your future disrupt your work ethic. Focus your energy by studying for an SOA or two. Therein lies the path to salvation.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: Exactly two buttlods of money for every pass.

AMATH

People like you have uncanny vision. You too can see the movement of the stars using your applied powers. Considering the fact that you neglect most of the applicable variables anyway is only of minor consequence. This will only make your powers of clairvoyance far inferior to my own. You are the Coke Black to my Coke.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 10 unasked variables.

BBA/BMATH

Reunite your split self. The stars reveal that you are not whole yet, and all that can remedy this is STOP GOING TO LAURIER! Seriously. Your true path does not include pacing back and forth between two campuses. Your *luckyNUMBER*: 2 schools choose 1. Or 2, rather.

C&O

The Sun is in Leo and the Virgo is in Labour. This means that you must trust your skills and abilities to count the locked doors of your future. The stars realize this and are enjoying the practical joke. One day you too will look back on this and laugh. By then your brain will be goo and your cognitive powers reduced to mud. For the record: mud is not cognitive.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 0 distinct futures for every C&O major.

CS

Do not let what you see mislead you. The paths that were once available now change beneath your feet. The courses that you need to graduate are disappearing faster than you can take them. Use your mind's eye to pick the correct path. Meaning: you're boned.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 87 less courses available to you.

MATHBUS

Dark times are ahead for you as your Accounting friend now suspects your misdeeds. Seek redemption! The four-iron that your company "bought" will play a key role in this. Make sure that you have a convincing alibi and a good place to hide the body. The future is yours, and all windows hereafter have bars on them. Sucker.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 5 episodes of CSI dedicated to you.

MATHSCI

Be wary. The stars give off foreboding signs! Probably. Since you know how the forces of nature work, then you must surely fear their ire. Ignore other information that might quell your trepidation for it's not true. Either that or it might amuse me to watch people running around in mindless fright. The lines blur between them.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 4 natural disasters that should scare you.

PMATH

Knowledge lies before you. It lies that you will have any future whatsoever, but that matters not to you. The stars mention that balance will come to your world. Not anytime soon, but it will come.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 20 years before any recognition for your work.

SOFTENG

Just because the stars sing for you doesn't mean that you should try it too. Discountinue pursuing all musical endeavours least you destroy the natural order. Also, would it kill you to bathe once in a while?

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 16 Swat Squads called on you.

STATS

Know that you are not alone. All 10 of you admist the near 4000 other math students are not alone. Now that you are depressed you may continue doing tedious assignments that will only lead to tedious work. Your life is now meaningless.

Yours *luckyNUMBER*: Less than 5%, which is what you are. How does it feel to be negligible?

UNDECLARED

All your questions will be answered, and all of your decisions will be made. Not by you. If you don't make up your mind soon you will pay dire consequences. Maybe. Use discretion when making choices. Think of what's best and then ignore it. You're already putting off selecting your major anyway.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 12 options open to you.

AHS

The cold bothers you not, for you know how to be healthy. Live life to its fullest, since you of all people know who easily it can be snuffed out. The following information is confidential: the stars make other people die just to frighten you.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: You will die 7 times for every person you tell. Just kidding, tee hee.

ARTS

All signs point to you. On these signs are snide remarks about your choice of major. I mean, what were you thinking? Honestly. Continue to fill up quotas in the university and we will continue to be condescending towards you. Thus, the world has order.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: Well, nothing else is lucky about you so it's 13. Deal with it.

ENG

Ill fate will befall you. Be sure to keep your tool clean and fear that it may be taken away. Spend all the time that you can appreciating your precious tool, for one day soon you will find it well, you won't, which is the point of the cryptic comments. On an entirely related matter, please invite me to the next kegger.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 1 empty threat to steal the tool.

ES

Heed the future, for the enivornment is dying (mostly because of me) and all you can do is study it while it is dying. Enjoy oxygen while it's still there, and get your tans before the sun becomes EVIL. Leave your major now and pursue your true calling.

Your *luckyNUMBER*: 1 dollar for me to upsize my combo, thank you.

Horrorscopes continued...

Likely somewhere else in this issue.

More Horror that you can Scope with

SCI

Take time out of your busy schedule and enjoy life by seeing how many beakers full of various acids you can juggle before breaking them over someone's face. You can do this to test that gravity still exists or to see how quickly the ambulance can arrive. Either way: just do it.

Your *lucky*NUMBER: 5 friends of yours now without faces.

Angelo
Oddly enough

Bug of the Fortnight

The following is a small snippet of code in C++, can you detect the bugs in this code? There are at least 5 syntax or anti-kosher code in the following function:

```
int CountToHundred(int &Values[100])
{
// This code returns an array of all values from 1 to 100
for(int i = 1; i < 100;i--)
values[i] = *i
}
```

In next issue : can you detect this classic bug in Modula-3 code?

James Simpson

More Boobs

Imprint can do it, why can't we?

Many of you may remember about a year ago, when two *mathNEWS* writers wrote about breasts. This led to a significant controversy in *mathNEWS*, as someone took offense to it.

One would think that Imprint would learn from our mistakes, and prevent articles about boobs from being printed in their "newspaper". However, in their "Lovin' in the 'Loo" section, that is exactly what they do!

You would think that they would have the intelligence to not repeat mistakes that *we* make. I guess not.

The Insider

The End of bacon

It shall be missed

As many of you may have heard, the server *bacon* has retired from old age. It was over seven years old (or ancient in computer years), and failed from hardware problems earlier this month, with its server-friends by its side.

Bacon is best known for housing our *mathNEWS* Production System, as well as being six-time winner of the "Name That Sounds Most Like A Breakfast Food" Award [*it lost to weatabix one year — inkEd*], despite repeatedly protesting it was named for Sir Francis Bacon.

We here at *mathNEWS* continue to mourn the loss of *bacon*, and while the transition to the similarly-ancient and not-quite-as-grunty *magnus* is nearly complete, we realise that Production Nights will just never be the same.

mathNEWS staff

ElseWhen

25 Years Ago in *mathNEWS*

Unfortunately, as there are only three issues of *mathNEWS* in Volume 28, this is the last time that you'll see this for a couple of months. This is Issue 2, which was originally published on February 12, 1982 (or 1984, depending on which date you look at).

The Insider

Large Numbers Take Over Page 2: A new algorithm (well, new to me at least) is developed for naming very, very large numbers. We will take the example of a google (10^{100}):

1) Take the exponent (100).

2) Subtract 3 ($100 - 3 = 97$).

3) Divide by 3 ($97 / 3 = 32$, remainder 1)

4) Use the Latin name of the number to create the number-name (ten duotrigintillion).

(32 in Latin is "duo et triginta", which is where the super-long word came from.)

In Other News:

- MathSoc elections are underway. It appears that for the first time in a long time, there will actually *be* elections for three executive and two non-executive positions.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will be discussing a number of proposed changes to the Faculty. These changes are posted on the bulletin board across from Comfy.
- Soon-to-be-Professor Ragde reviewed the movie *On Golden Pond*. General consensus: wotthehell.
- The Warrior's Band proposes a school song, which is designed more to bring down all of the other schools than to raise our own spirit.
- The editor, David Till, tries unsuccessfully to cram the *mastHEAD* into about an inch on the second-last page.

Can *mathNEWS* Have a Trip to Vancouver Too?

Note to Imprint: When you use student money to take a trip to Vancouver to party and pretend to learn about journalism (so far we haven't seen anything resembling it in your paper), please don't brag about it when you get home.

And by the way, Fucking Shit Up is not your job: it's ours. And we do it well.

Jenn the Dirty Mathie

Expect my application for Editorship soon

Microsoft Tech Fest

Monday, February 5th

- 7:00-9:00pm – stop by at anytime
- Davis Centre, Room 1301
- Fun, food, demos!
- Meet representatives from Xbox, C#, MSN Entertainment, Internet Explorer, Live Search and Security
- Bring your resume and enter to win a XBOX 360, Smartphone and other cool prizes!

Dating Advice From The Single Guy

It's the 2nd of February, and that means the next issue of *mathNEWS* is going to come out on the 16th of February. That leaves this as the last article I write before the 14th, which is something that I guess I really should be writing about, what with being the *mathNEWS* dating advice guy. So before I get into any questions for this week I'm just going to go over a bit of the strategy you need to employ to get through this day.

Don't do anything special at all. If you need society to tell you when to express any sort of romance at all and only do it one day a year then you fail at love, at least the romantic kind. Why bother going through all that effort for one specific day, when you can do it on any other day; everything else will be the same except you will have fewer people unable to think for themselves around. I don't know about you, but I think that the amount of people around is inversely proportional to the romance (assuming that there are at least 2 people around). It'll also be cheaper and less of a hassle. Romance all year long is the answer and if this gets your partner upset then really it's not you they want, but the commercialization (or the presents and money) they want, and that's not a relationship you want to be in.

So I think I have time for answering at least one letter, let's see what's in my inbox.

Dear The Single Guy,

Things have been going really great between me and my girlfriend for the past few years, we met in highschool, and are now both in 2nd year here. We get along so well together I've been thinking about taking our relationship in a different direction

than what you recommended last term. I think I should ask her to marry me, but the idea also sort of scares me because either she say no, or it is going to lock me into a huge commitment for the rest of my life. What should I do?

Unsure in Waterloo

Wow, two issues of this and every single person to write has been from Waterloo, what are the odds? (I expect you figure them out, stat majors) If you're going to be writing in to me and you're from Waterloo, I think you're going to have to change the way you sign them. How about with a first name, it doesn't really give you away, especially if you make it up, but this whole thing in Waterloo is getting old. Anyway, about your little situation, "a huge commitment for the rest of your life?" Hardly, and everyone can and does get married these days, and most of them are not lasting for the lives of those involved (Side note: gay marriage is not anywhere near the threat to the "sanctity of marriage" as divorce is). Considering the fact that really, marriage means absolutely nothing anymore, I think that this is something you could easily consider if you think it's the right move to make. There's one bit of advice (I honestly don't know why I still remember it) that I heard from a former *mathNEWS* editor some time ago. You should wait not only until after you graduate but for a couple years afterwards, because you'll get better wedding gifts from your friends when they have money as opposed to when they're poor students. To add to that, you're only likely to get great elaborate gifts the first time, so you need to make the first one count.

The Single Guy

Oshawa Mayor Pwnd

Stephen Colbert Day named for Mayor's birthday

This was more than just an OHL hockey game: it was a battle of guts and glory. Except that said guts and glory would not be going to the teams.

Stephen Colbert, a faux-news anchor (The Comedy Network), accepted a challenge from Oshawa mayor John Gray with respect to the outcome of a game between the Oshawa Generals (named for General Motors HQ) and Colbert's Saginaw Spirit (whose mascot was named in his honour). The challenge was that if the Generals were to win, Colbert would have to wear a Generals jersey on his show, but if the Generals were to lose then Colbert's birthday would be named "Stephen Colbert Day" in Oshawa.

Colbert wasn't too happy with this challenge, so he modified it slightly: "When the Spirit kicks Oshawa's moose-haunches, I don't want you to declare Stephen Colbert Day on my birthday: I want you to declare it on your birthday."

Now, a bit of background: back in December, Generals fans threw stuffed bears for a toy drive, in what Colbert said was "an obvious effort to taunt (him)." On his show, he encouraged Spirit fans to throw GM Annual Reports onto the ice (GM didn't do too well last year).

After sixty minutes of hockey and an unknown number of bears and reports thrown onto the ice, the Generals lost to the Spirit 5-4. Now, Stephen Colbert Day is being declared for March 20th, Gray's birthday, in Oshawa. This prompted a new challenge from Gray: show up for your own celebrations!

I can just see the proclamation: *I, the Mayor of Oshawa, declare Stephen Colbert Day for 20 March, as the result of my overall cockiness towards him and his team.* Let's see if Gray wins the next municipal election...

The Insider

With files from the Associated Press and The Colbert Report

Writing World Class Software

James Simpson will be giving a lecture in DC 1351 at 8:30 PM on February 9th, 2007. The following is the abstract for the lecture: A common misconception amongst software developers is that top quality software encompasses certain platforms, is driven by a particular new piece of technology or relies solely on a particular programming language. However, as developers, we tend to miss the less hyped issues and techniques involved in writing world class software. These techniques are universal to all

programming languages, platforms and deployed technologies but are often times viewed as being so obvious that they are ignored by the typical developer. The topics covered in this lecture will include:

- Writing bug-free to extremely low bug count software in real-time

- The concept of single-source, universal platform software
- Programming language interoperability
- Other less hyped yet vitally important concepts to writing World Class Software

MGC Says

Buy our stuff!

Hello grads! There's only three months left before the majority of us will be done our undergrad careers. With that in mind, let's make these last three months the best we've ever had! There are a few things that we here at the Math Grad Committee would like to remind you of before you get ready to head out of here.

Grad photos: If you still haven't taken a photo, you will have very little time left before you are completely out of luck. The photographer will be taking composite pictures for one more week. If you miss this, not only will you not make it into the yearbook, you will not make it into the composite either. So go to www.waterloojostens.com and sign up now!

Yearbook sales: We start selling yearbooks February 5th! Prices start at \$40 for a yearbook. For an extra \$5, you can get your yearbook personalized! That's right! You'll have the yearbook engraved with your name (or whatever you want up to 30 characters). We will be selling the yearbooks in conjunction with grad ball tickets (starts February 5 outside the C&D).

Yearbook blurbs: Submissions are still going on. Write something or you will share your mug with 20 other people instead of just 6 on a page. Not only that, your picture will be considerably larger than those who don't write something. So sign onto www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc and follow the link to get a grad quote in.

Yearbook pages: We have pages for sale! Would you like to have some more space for yourself? Maybe a quarter of a page to write some more thanks to friends, family members, etc. Well, have we got a deal for you! There are 8 pages for people who would like to say more than just 200 words available. At a low cost of \$75 for a quarter of a page, \$100 and \$150 for a half and full page respectively. You can always get some friends together and buy an entire page for the group! Nothing shouts best friends forever than a page with just your closest friends together.

Grad Ball: Who is excited about grad ball? We know we are! If you have been following the grad ball story closely, it's now moved to March 16th at Waterloo Inn. For those of you who didn't know about it, well, it's March 16th at Waterloo Inn. So mark your calendars and join us for a great time! Tickets go on sale February 5th outside the C&D at 11:30 until 4:30 everyday until Friday. Prices for tickets are \$60 for single and \$110 for a pair. Drop by next Monday and pick up your ticket!

Alan George Award: Feel like you've contributed a lot to this school and the faculty? We know you have, so stop hiding in the shadows and get recognized! Nominate yourself, or a friend, to be the recipient of the Alan George Award! Forms are available on the MGC website (www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc). If you don't think you make the cut, you can always help out with selecting the recipient of the award by filling out an Alan George Selection Committee form, which is also located on the MGC website. Drop off all forms at our office (we have office hours everyday!) at MC3029 or in the MGC mailbox in mathSoc.

Free Money: Awards are great! But this goes out to all students currently in third year (or expecting to graduate in 2008). The Math Grad Committee has an award for you! This award recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership and involvement in student life within the community. The minimum amount is \$500. You have nothing to lose (but the time it takes to fill out the form)! Sign up for the MGC Award (and any other you think you meet the requirements for) at <http://safa.uwaterloo.ca/currentawards.htm>.

Have a great term! And don't forget to check the website for more updates!

Ivan Chin, Rodney Lam
MGC Co-chairs, 2007

Polar Jammin'

In the frickin' cold

Last Friday night, almost 1% (all the cool kids, according to FEDS) of the student body showed up for a loud, cold (read awesome, smokin') concert in the snow. Polar Jam 2007 will certainly go down in the record books...

As the worst idea ever repeated by FEDS. Last year, UW teamed up with WLU for Polar Jam 2006, a sparsely attended event held in WLU's stadium (note: large venue + few people = even more sad). This year, WLU realized how horrible this idea was, and decided not to run another one. What did UW do? Hold the same event again, at Fed Hall.

Some people might say this was stupid. I prefer to use the term statistically challenged. Despite this, MathSoc was somehow suckered into 'sponsoring' the event (monetarily) in exchange for the privilege of selling cotton candy to the poor cold schmucks (yes, it did help warm them up, dammit). I suspect boobs had something to do with the involvement of MathSoc.

So between the cold snow outside, and the cold boredom inside, everyone had a great time! Especially since they were all too happy to be paying exorbitant fees to get in, to eat, and to drink (later, at the after-party).

The one saving grace of the party should have been the talent. Well, what talent we could afford. Despite the fact that they had to perform outside, there were half a dozen local bands, some okay, some not so okay. Then there was Thornley. If you are into that sort of thing, it was lots of fun. However, the people attending were not so into it. When it's cold out, and there is music on, do you stand there? Or do you dance to get warm? Silly questions, we are all mathies here: we would leave for fear of having a social life.

I have to conclude that Polar Jam was again a flop. If MathSoc and EngSoc results are any indication, they made back less than 10% of the cost of the event. This should prompt an investigation into how students' money is being spent. But as a mathie, I am too busy.

Hopefully FEDS will learn from their mistakes (despite evidence to the contrary) and do something worthwhile with their money. No, I am not going to give you any examples, that's not my job!

Jenn the Dirty Mathie

A Brief Overview of On-Campus Game Development

Since I try to write my articles long before they're due, *mathNEWS* has just hit the stands for me. I don't know yet that no one has submitted anything to me this week (seriously folks, show off your projects: dave@euri.ca).

On Friday (the 19th), there was a very poorly located Game Development workshop in the basement of the SLC. As a general rule, game developers are not great public speakers, so surrounding them with the lunchtime SLC crowd (aka, the Thunderdome) made it hard to follow. Full disclosure, Microsoft paid \$1000 to have this thing happen and supplied me with free pop, pizza, fauxgurt and a gigantic t-shirt.

Jean-Luc David (the guy from Microsoft, jeanlucd@microsoft.com) presented XNA, (which wasn't built by UW students), and presented MS's plan for getting small developers involved in the Xbox 360 using free tools (XNA, C# Express and MSN) for "personal, non-commercial game development". It looked interesting, but it seems MS's plan is to make Xbox development more like Windows development, except with them getting a larger cut of the finished project. High points include the amount of code available (a full game comes with the IDE), he likened MS's source code offerings (codeplex) to sourceforge.net. (Actually, his demo was kind of painful, the game seems to only support exactly 2 players, and they both need Xbox controllers, the generic USB controller I had didn't work and something crashed).

I presented the airplane game I'm always flogging (now it goes on forever!) and a few people assumed that I didn't write it, which was flattering (I guess). The audience was more inter-

ested in "girls talking hair.wmv" on my desktop (it's from an ESL class I taught). Interesting Trivia: MS employees are not used to seeing OpenOffice used in a presentation or being asked if Microsoft has its own office suite.

However, Time Dragon and the Fire Island easily edged out my game for easiest to play, since he can only go up and everything kills him. The learning curve was unbelievably short and you will be playing like a pro in seconds. No URL for download because I'm told the world isn't ready for this game.

Henry's "World's Fatetst RPG" has been in *mathNEWS* before. But there were also two other games at <http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~h3truong/games/>. Logical Pong is pong without the linear constraints, and the ball has been drinking. Random Chess lacks a competitive AI, but has a great collection of chess variants. All three games are java based and play in the browser.

Other projects that I didn't get URLs for this issue were: starcraft maps, a series of flash tank games, and some collision detection that interested the MS people.

David Hayes

<http://euri.ca/> may be your last best chance to win at internet

Valentine's Day

Because other people need to tell you when to love

So, Valentine's day is fast approaching, and it is the day for love. Apparently. Because true love can be regulated to have a standardized outlet when universally every pawn who thinks that rampaging-weasel lust is equivalent to love can say "I love you".

This Valentine's Day, do something really special: stop being a tool. If you love someone, don't wait for an arbitrarily selected day to show it. First off, every other guy/girl will also be doing it, and so it will be very easy to have yourself outdone by someone

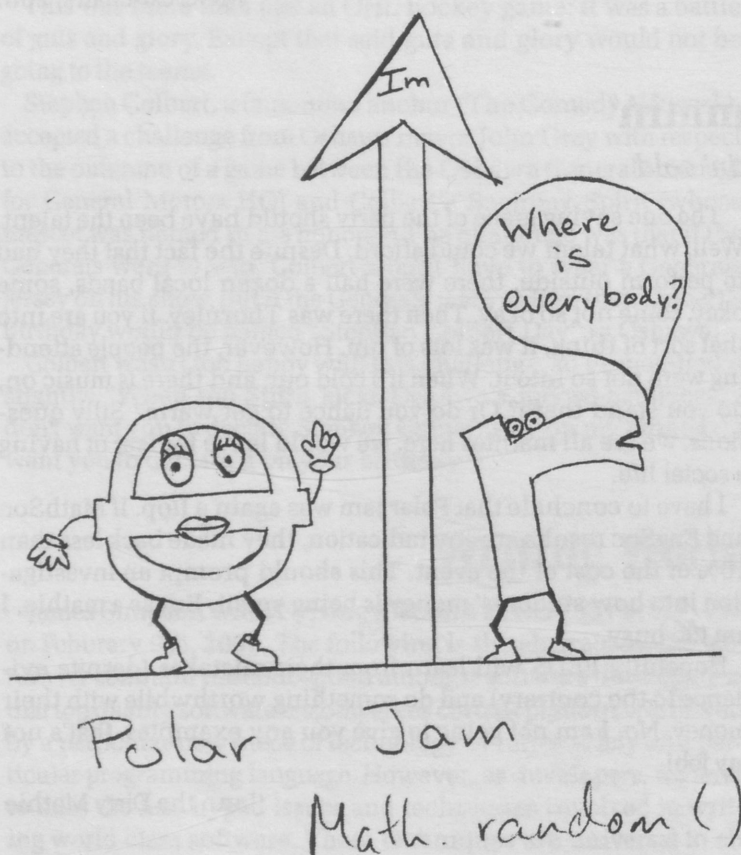
with a larger budget or cornier poetry or better sedatives. The whole point of love is that you can convince yourself that it is unique and special. If you're deluded enough to think that's true, then it shouldn't take that much more effort to actually surprise your significant other(s) by celebrating early.

Secondly, these "emotions" you're feeling are just that: emotions. In the real world they are worth nothing, so as opposed to appreciating flowers, bunnies, and all things cute and cuddly, just admit that you're a sap and are responsible for several cults still existing. When it comes down to it, the romantic act is just that: an act. It's not you, and it's not how you act normally, so using that to validate the power of your love only furthers how false it is.

Last, but certainly least, if you're only trying to score with your significant other, and you have to use cheap tactics, well, how shall I put this delicately... consider masturbation.

Now, I'm not completely insensitive, and you may very well care about the person you're with, but pull your head out of your ass and give up with this wretched phony romantic love garbage. Happy Valentine's Day. Ma

Angelo



profQUOTES

Are you bored or confused? I won't be offended. Well, I will be offended, but that's too bad.

Allison, MATH 119

You cannot cast to something more specific unless you know you're right.

Case, CS 134

RIN [a fictional company based on RIM] is going to produce a new product that combines cell phone, wireless and digital camera services. RIM just came out with something like this. Maybe I could sue them since it was my idea and get \$600 million.

Fuller, MSCI 261

[referring to a British spelling] It's not my mistake. It's my nationality.

Grove, CHE 102

It's not quite as boring. It's boring in a different way.

Malton, CS 245

[prof] Nobody's willing to admit that this example is on the assignment, right?

[student] Nope.

[prof] Good. This means that either you're honest or [pause] you're not.

Malton, CS 245

Let's not confuse anybody other than the professor.

Malton, CS 245

[prof] What kind of truth table line has a & $\sim a$?

[student] One with a mistake?

[prof] But then, that truth table might have elephants and iPods in it.

Malton, CS 245

So, you've seen those cartoons where blah blah blah, a miracle happens, blah blah blah, and the scientist is done his proof. That's what we're going to do.

Malton, CS 245

The subject is interesting but it's not testable, so you can go to sleep.

Malton, CS 245

This circumflex is just a piece of decorative festoon.

Malton, CS 245

How do we conclude this? By Completeness Cadabara!

Malton, CS 245

[prof] What is a critical success factor?

[student] Knowledge?

[prof] Knowledge isn't a critical success factor.

Pidduck CS 490

What's the point of having two names for the same address? Well, other than tax evasion.

Karpov CS 136

[Phone rings] Oops... now it's going to be really hard to come down on you guys when your cellphones go off.

Geisbrecht CS 136

That sounds incredible. Let's try it. Not today!

Marcoux MATH 146

I am messing with you, but I'm going to mess with you efficiently in 2 weeks time.

Marcoux MATH 146

That's got to be interesting because we did it in Calculus.

Marcoux MATH 146

Why are you allowed to find special cases but I'm not?

Marcoux MATH 146

Then this sucker's a polynomial! Sucker is not a mathematical term.

Marcoux MATH 146

Now to show off, I'll show you the fast way. And for those who want to save some trees.

Zorzitto MATH 148

(after proof) Let's pay homage to that result. Thank you, Mean Value Theorem.

Zorzitto MATH 148

What's thinner than a toothpick? Dental floss, all stretched out.

Zorzitto MATH 148

(of proof) Which other university gives you a course in English while teaching Algebra?

Marcoux MATH 146

The first time you do it: it's a trick. The second time you do it: it's no trick. And the third time you do it: it's a technique.

Marcoux MATH 148

Has your prof said something quotable? Type it up and send it to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, or write it down and drop it in the BLACK BOX (located on the MC 3rd floor, between the Comfy and the C&D).

JobMine

Now Hiring

Due to the recent passing of its JobCanary, the JobMine maintainers are now accepting applications for this recently-opened position. The late JobCanary was evacuated after it warned workers of imminent collapse, but died on the way to the veterinarian. (Obituary, page 13) A replacement is needed urgently to protect [other] JobMine employees.

Federal and University regulations do not permit discrimination against non-canaries, but applicants will be evaluated on

their respiratory sensitivity. Applicants should be more sensitive than the average canary. Experience with web applications would be an asset.

JobCanaries receive danger pay during the co-op application periods each term, and must be able to survive without sunlight for long periods of time (sorry, plants). Sentient beings are preferred.

definitely *not* someone who doesn't work at JobMine

Close to Infinity

Math.random() and Angelo

Hello, again. I bet you thought that you were safe from the unending, mindless ramblings that I call conversation. You were wrong. Watch as my mouth defies the laws of physics and doesn't shut up. Ever.



You know, it's amazing. I talk continuously while your sanity and tolerance for life depletes. What's more interesting is no matter how many times you tell me to shut up I just don't get it.



Take right now for example. You were studying and enjoying life until I came and started sharing pointless anecdotes with you. I'm not doing this to try and overcompensate for my lack of friends.

Don't even think about walking away either, for I will follow you and keep talking as your ears bleed until you go deaf. Even then you won't know respite because I also annoy the hearing impaired with my mouth.



mathHELP

A mathie advice column

Dear Insider — i m having trubl w/ an assign. do 2morrow i hav no clu wat 2 do 4 a quest'n and noone is up 2 help me what shoold i do? — **Desperate Student**

Dear Desperate — First off, I would like to comment on your abysmal use of the English language. I do not like seeing MSN-speak in my Inbox. If you send it to me again, I will be forced to unleash my wrath on thee. With that said, you need to develop a habit of not starting your assignments at the last possible minute, because you will not be guaranteed assistance should it be required. Starting promptly on assignments will help you to get them done efficiently. Insulting the English language as you just did will only make Grammar Nazis like me angry.

The Insider

Dear Insider — I have recently won various contests, and as a result, various prizes. I've been telling my friends all about it, and suddenly they have turned the cold shoulder towards me. How can I make them like me again? — **Losing Pride**

Dear Pride — First off, I would like to ask why you had the nerve to take away all of the prizes that I was supposed to win! That removes you from my good books. Anywho, you may have heard of a term called "bragging." This is essentially what you are doing, and it is a good way to lose friends. If the classic apology doesn't work, you can consider, well, not bragging about your victories, to your friends or to *mathNEWS*. Maybe then, you will be appreciated (slightly).

The Insider

Dear Insider — I have been abducted by artsies! I am being forced to use low-level technologies that they can barely understand! I cannot hold out for much longer! HELP! — **Abducted by Artsies**

Dear Abducted — Do you seriously think that I am going to rescue you from the artsies? You are sadly mistaken, for I would not dare to enter such a world. However, I will call the Mathie Search and Rescue Team and send them to your rescue. (Note: since receiving this response, the Mathie and Engineering Search and Rescue Teams have successfully rescued the abducted mathie, and those responsible for the abduction have been sentenced to two years of pure math.)

The Insider

Dear Insider — I am on the prowl for a date on this campus. I have been unsuccessful in many endeavours, and I desire a person with whom I am compatible. Can you assist me in my search? — **Single in the Loo**

Dear Single — First, another shout-out to Desperate Student. This is the kind of grammar that I would like to see! As for your question, I, being single myself, do not feel like the appropriate person to answer it. I will refer your question to The Single Guy, who will answer in the next issue (if he feels like it).

The Insider

mathNEWS_Insider@hotmail.com

**This space has been annexed by
the Republic of Leftover Room**

gridWORD

My apologies!

Okay... so how many people had trouble with last issue's *gridWORD*? Raise of hands... okay, everyone? Yeah, me too! That's because the numbering for the clues was all messed up! Go me! So what I'm going to do this issue is FIX the numbering from the last clues and give everyone a chance to resubmit. No, you do NOT have to completely finish the grid. And YES, if you're the only one who submits, you win! Keep this in the back of your mind as I received ONE submission this past week... so second chances, people! There's also a new grid, the numbering of which I have double and triple checked to ensure it is correct. This will hopefully never happen again.

As usual, submission can go to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or the BLACK BOX outside the C&D. Each puzzle's winner will receive a \$5 gift certificate for the C&D. Last week's *gridQUESTION* was: "What do you do with your aardvark on a snow day?" This week's *gridQUESTION* is: "How do you celebrate the end of a fast?" Remember the *gridQUESTION* is used as a tie-breaker!

ConMaster

Last issue's clues:

Across

1. excessive control of minute details
8. the act of timing together
9. irritate or disturb (partic. liquid)
10. predominant church instrument
11. lady's courter
14. finish
16. one who performs alone
17. nail polish remover
18. types of media (abbr)
20. type of wood
21. artist's surface preparer
22. The "I"s of people
25. deer meat left in the open
26. exaggerated to arouse interest

Down

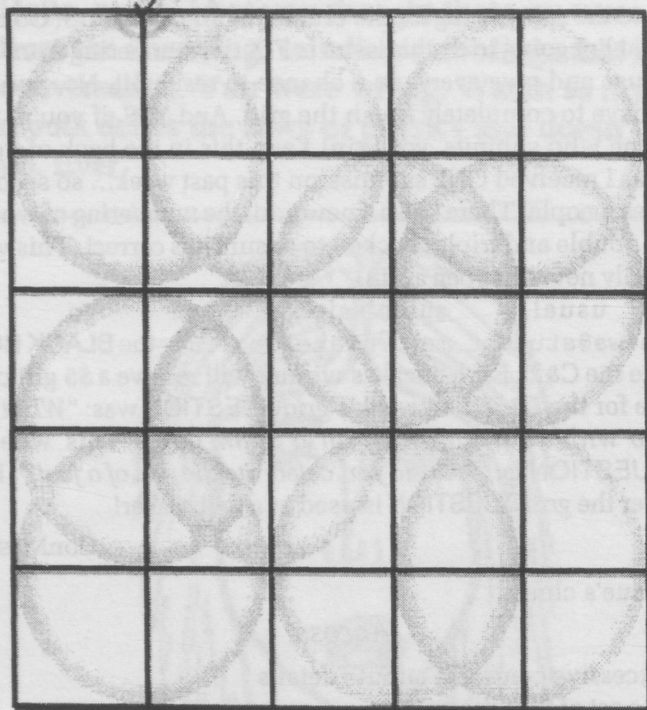
1. errors made from one language to another
2. using parts from one to repair another
3. sounds of amazement
4. nine-sided figure
5. liveliness and enthusiasm
6. ones who study disease
7. silent church council
12. crest in the human body
13. uncomfortable anal procedure
19. sundown pair
23. Della Reese or Kiri Te Kanawa
24. uptight

Food for Thought

Is the glass half full or half empty? Actually, it contains fifty percent of its maximum volumetric capacity. There, now we've ended that stupid debate once and for all.

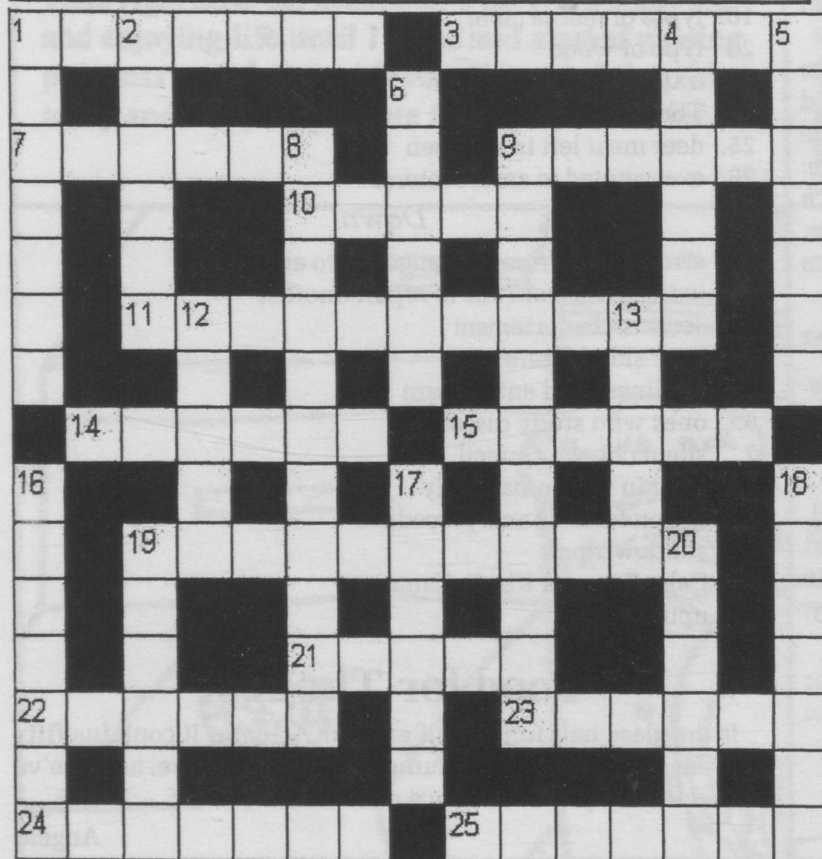
Angelo

umbrellas



Place the following 10 squares on the 10 circles so that the overlapping numbers match up.

8 8	6 2	8 3	2 2
3 8	8 1	1 1	1 2
3 0	5 8	2 3	8 6
8 6	8 3	5 8	7 2
9 7	6 0		
2 2	2 5		



Across

- monk trait
- cold symptom
- needlepoint style
- come forth
- processor brand
- grieving period
- author of "Little Women"
- tattletale
- recompense
- Pedro's friend
- Poseidon of Ariel's world
- Bahamas capital
- American Union general
- shade of pink

Down

- Barenaked Ladies single
- second order angel
- search out
- fire or water
- physically mobile
- economic freedom advocate
- competition "weed-out" round
- gala speaker
- TNT relative
- martial art style
- require by constraint
- famous vampire
- formally confirm
- vehicle maker