"...upon its surface was written in letters of flame a blessing of Mathematics."
(Book of Stanton, 31:49)

*look*AHEAD

VPFSez

Another fortnight, another two weeks of me working. Between meetings, classes, midterms and actual VPF work I feel pooped. Reminder that mathletics is still open and feel free to submit your teams info. Also we have talked with the Deans office about a new special project that is in the works. We hope you will like it and we will hopefully see the results of it by the end of the term. In addition we are still chugging along against all the hurdles we have to jump to have the comfy and C&D redone. We will hopefully see that done sometime soon.

As a bonus if you look to the C&D you will notice that (hopefully) we have a new Point of Sale system now with added software! It's much better. We are happy with it.

Rami Finkelshtein
VPF Fall 2010
`vpf@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`

The editor(s): The Angels Vohamanah, Hamaliel, Ecanus, Metatron and Yofiel. (John Stevenson, John Baxter, Rami Finkelstien, Harrison Gross and Jeff Bain)

*mast*HEAD

Howdy concerned readers!

Election season is soon upon us, when we rather apathetically transfer control of our hard-earned tax dollars to the person with the shiniest sign! Yay! Well, that does of course imply that we are not too apathetic to vote. Seriously people, tax dollars. Tax dollars = MONEY. Paying attention yet? No? MONEY.

So, ask yourself, how often to you hand over a large sum of cash to someone you don't know in the least? Paying rent to your landlord? If you know your landlord's name, then you probably know infinitely more about them than your local political tyrant. (I am well aware that I am being unPC by using the term *landlord*. I have a landlady. She refers to herself as the *almighty slum lord*. Down with PC.)

Back to the point, VOTE. Research the issues and the platforms. Know where you stand, what you want changed, what you want to stay the same. Voting allows you to control where your tax dollars go. Remember? MONEY. VOTE. DO IT.

***mast*HEAD Question:** What's on *your* platform?

The Hee Ho ("Hail to the King"), GroovyED ("End the Double Down!"), Zethar ("Disolve and force a re-election"), Angelo ("Static...Corrupt...which one's the gay one again?"), Williver Dalliard ("Bringing forth harmonic chaos"), CorruptED ("Massive Destruction, wanton slaughter, and the baking of delicious cookies"), Big Mak ("A pirate about to jump off it"), theSMURF ("The question is: what's not?"), !theNewGuy ("A lot of junk, if you know what I mean ;)"), MustardMap ("Yes"), Megaton Panda ("Virgin Sacrifice"), RamEd ("Non virgin Sacrifices), snippet ("code that hopefully compiles for it"), !able("!My ex"), ¬perki ("The cacti, a lead pipe and half tonne of white glue. Just you wait..."), Nadz (Lemmas and algorithms for all!")

ImpulsED
"Your mother."

WatSFiC Writing Contest

The Waterloo Science Fiction & Fantasy Club is running a short story contest this term! The prizes for first, second and third place entries are gift cards for Indigo/Chapters in amounts of $50, $25 and $10 respectively. The maximum length of each entry is 7500 words, and it has to be about scifi or fantasy. Submissions are due at 11:59:59 PM on November 26th. You can send your entires to `watsfic.writing.contest@gmail.com`. If you want to check out of the full rules of the contest, please go to `http://www.watsfic.uwaterloo.ca/writingcontest/2010/rules.pdf`.

Vice President of WatSFiC Fall 2010
Harrison Gross

3 on 3 Basketball

Presented by the Actuarial Science Club

Team up with friends (up to a team of 5) and join the Act Sci Club Basketball Tournament at PAC on **Thursday, November 4th**, from 2 to 5 PM! Sign up at the Act Sci Club office (MC3030) or email `asclub@uwaterloo.ca`, at either Beginner or Advanced level. Pay only $5 for a team of non-members, or a $5 refundable deposit if more than half of the team are club members. If you do not have a team you can sign up as an individual and be placed on a team. PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM, so bring your A game! Refreshments will be provided. =)

The Actuarial Science Club

Resurrection

A reading from the Book of Stanton, Chapter 31, Verses 41 to 59

[41]And it came to pass that the Log was stolen by demons of the seventh hell, calling themselves Engineers, who came clothed in blood, riding before the storm. They desecrated the Log, and profaned its sacred surface with crude engravings.

[42]And the Log was recovered, but hidden from the flock, lest the weak be tormented by the blasphemy and despair of mathematics. For forty months, the Log remained hidden deep within the Temple of Mathematics.

[43]And the Lord God was displeased that His people should suffer such and know not the beauty of the Log.

[44]And it came to pass that at dawn of the first day of the fortieth month, the Savant Stanton did appear in a vision most holy before the high priests of Mathematics.

[45]And he spake unto them, saying, Be not afraid, for the Lord God knows of the plight of His people, and that the tribulations through which they have passed have been only that they may grow stronger before him.

[46]And he instructed them to take the Log in secret deep into the wilderness to the north of the Temple.

[47]So the faithful did take the Log north, where they journeyed for seven days. And on the seventh night, as one priest kept watch whilst the others slept, the Log did vanish from its sacred casings.

[48]And as the high priests rose to seek the Log lest they once again lose its holy beauty, the were bathed in a bright radiance from the air itself, and its brilliance blinded them. When again they could see, they rejoiced, for before them was the Log, cleansed of the unholy sacrilege which had marred it.

[49]For upon its surface was written in letters of flame a blessing of Mathematics.

[50]And they rejoiced, saying, Truly, O Lord, we thank you, for you have shown mercy and brought to us great beauty that is the Log.

[51]And it was then that they realised that they were not alone, for they realised they were not alone, but surrounded by creatures with wings of black feathers and garments black as pitch and eyes that shone with a fury unmatched by any they had seen before, and the priests quailed in fear, believing them to be Engineers.

[52]And the priests despaired that the Log should be again desecrated on the very eve of its Resurrection.

[52]But one of the creatures spoke, saying, Fear not, for we are servants of the Lord God, and we are not come to harm you. [53]The Lord God is a loving God, and He would not have His people despair again at the loss of the Log. [54]And therefore He has sent us to watch over the Log and remain ever vigilant lest the Engineers again attempt to mar its sacred surface, and to bring down His wrath upon any who should so try.

[55]And as the priests watched, the angels did come forth unto the light of the Log, and their wings did vanish and their eyes did calm and their robes did gain colour and become as the vestments of the priests themselves.

[56]And so the high priests and the angels did journey back through the wilderness, until at dawn of the seventh day they did see before them the Temple of Mathematics.

[57]And before the temple the faithful had gathered, for the Savant Stanton did speak to them in their dreams, and tell them to climb the steps of the temple and see their the miracles their Lord had worked.

[58]And the high priests did cry out, saying, Lo and behold, our God is a mighty God indeed, and a loving God, for He has restored to His flock the Natural Log.

[59]And the people did rejoice and know that all was well.

Prez Sez

Midterms haven't completely killed our will to live. Yet.

Hello tired, bitter, and possibly unshowered mathies. I hate midterms too. But the schedule for finals is out - doesn't that make you feel better? I always find that stressing out about things in the distant future is easier than stressing out about things in the immediate future. Try it =)

So outside of studying and actually trying to pass, the Math-Soc people have still been busy this month getting all kinds of things done. Let me update you on a few of them:

- As previously mentioned, nominations for 2011 FOC (Faculty Orientation Committee, you know, those yellow-vest folks who run orientation week) are now open. To apply for Math FOC, please submit a one page cover letter (with why you'd be a good choice for the position) and a resume (not more than two pages of relevant experience) to our wonderful Orientation Advisor, Jeff Henry (`jeff.henry@uwaterloo.ca`, x38469) by Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Also include your student ID, email address, and phone number.

- We have welcomed a new academic club to our great club line-up, the Financial Analysis and Risk Management Students Association. If you are interested in joining this club, fining out more about what they do or who they are, or learning more about the Math/FARM degree, drop me a line and I'll get you in touch with their Exec! Soon enough they'll have their own exec e-mail (and office and mailbox and so on), but for now I'll be playing monkey in the middle.

- Lots of awesome people are currently working on getting new furniture for the MC 3rd floor Comfy and Coffee and Doughnut shop area. It won't be coming around until November or so, but I thought I'd let you know. But don't tell your friends - it'll be a pleasant surprise!

- Also, we're working with the Dean's Office to get some digital screens to put up around the MC with useful information, like upcoming events and important faculty deadlines - as well as *actually* useful information, like a functioning clock and the weather outside. So sometime this term, look out for that coming our way =)

- Don't forget to get your Charity Ball tickets in MC3038! An awesome night of showing off your dinner-eating and dancefloor-move-busting skills - it's gonna be a blast!!!

As always, concerns / questions / etc are always welcome at `prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`

Good luck, and good skill on the rest of your midterms!

Nadia Novikova
MathSoc President, Fall 2010

It Gets Better

By some definition of better.

So I've been debating writing this article for the past couple of months, partly because I never felt I had enough to say to flesh out a full article and partly because I was worried about its reception. But with the recent rash of queer-related suicides in the media, I'm beginning to regret not writing it earlier. You may have heard of the It Gets Better campaign, where people post stories on YouTube on how their lives (which were once affected by queer-related stigma) got better after high school. Earlier this week, on Wednesday, you may have noticed more people wearing purple, which was to commemorate these recent suicides. It was time to write this.

First, and introduction: My name is Darcy, and I am a male, third year student here at UW. I started in the Math Faculty, in Computational Mathematics, where I stayed two years before switching to Social Development Studies. I enjoy playing Sniper in Team Fortress 2, board games, Euchre, tobogganing, and reading young adult literature. Also, I'm gay. First year is still a fresh memory: playfair, a blend of anonymous faces, the Pink Tie was (and still is) my idol, and I can still feel the Campus Pizza grease in my arteries. And after my first couple of weeks, all I could think was: this sucks.

Orientation week was one of the worst culprits. Lucky for me, I came to school totally out, but I could notice people in my faculty group purposely avoided me because of the Pride band I wore. Even in the small group of friends I did make, you could tell they were uncomfortable with my sexuality. Any mention of an attractive girl would spawn an extended conversation, but bringing up the date I had planned resulted in an awkward silence and change of subject. The faculty events were innocent enough, but some of the cross-campus events were stigmatizing. You did not see any queer couples holding hands, or dancing at the foam party or during Monte Carlo. Not to mention how sexualized O-Week was, and how left out I felt because I hadn't met someone. I can't imagine how much worse it would have been if in the closet, with your friends trying to hook you up with members of the wrong gender. I mean, how could you turn down an otherwise attractive person and not make your friends suspect?

Residence wasn't much better for me. I did teetotal in first year so that might have played a part, but I never fit in that well among my V1 housemates. I can't help that, for some people, my being out played a bit of a role in that. All in all, Orientation Week really didn't jive well. Classes weren't much better: in a faculty so male-dominated, it was surprising just how lonely it could feel. For a long time, I didn't meet any other queer first years, and I looked everywhere. I felt like I was backed into a corner. My high school, for being in a small town, was so much more progressive than this, and this is a university! I wasn't about to go back in the closet just to make friends. So I kept looking.

I joined a couple of clubs, and going to events held by GLOW, the queer and questioning community center on campus. I started getting closer to this friend I made in my orientation group, who introduced me to his roommates. I started spending more time in their suite in MKV, or at friends' houses off campus. Turns out these people were really supportive, and we could talk about things important to me, things both related and unrelated to my sexuality. They viewed me as a whole person, not just the rainbow flag I wore around my wrist. My time here started sucking less, although it took a while. Don't get me wrong, there were hard patches along the way, like trying to maintain a relationship with someone still in the closet until I learned his ex-girlfriend was never an ex. But still, eventually it got better.
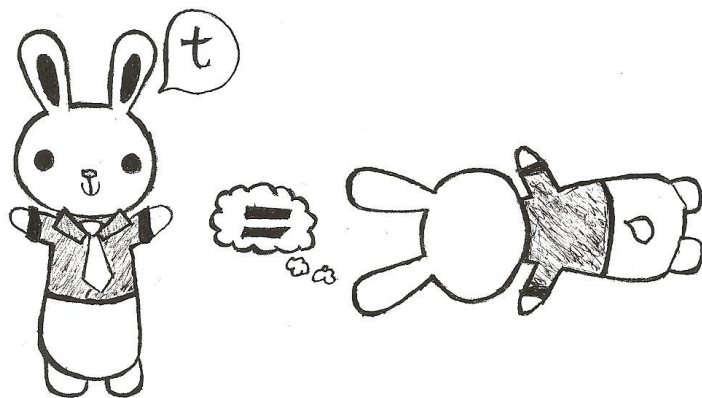
Now, there may be some people reading this who are identifying with what I'm saying. Maybe they're having some trouble finding that supportive group of friends. Maybe they're not out, and they're suffering through listening to their friends liken their sexuality to dirt. Maybe they're out to some of their friends here, but fall asleep worrying that word will sometime reach their parents. Maybe it's some issue I'll never guess. If you're one of these readers, please know that things really do get better. There are so many different kinds of people at this University, there is a group of people out there right for you that will accept and love you for who you are, and will support you in your every endeavor. It's just a matter of finding them.

Of course, sometimes we can't do it alone, and need help when help seems impossible to find. If so, there are always resources available to you. You can learn more about GLOW and its offerings, including a phone line at `www.knowyourglow.ca`. Counseling Services is always available to you, their offices are open 8:30-8MTTh and 8:30-4:30WF, located in Needles Hall across from Student Awards & Financial Aid. If you need support and assistance immediately, you can call the Waterloo Crisis Center at `519-745-1166`. If you'd feel more comfortable speaking with someone from a queer specific service, please contact the GLBT Youthline at `1-800-268-9688`.

Finally, would you be interested in seeing a biweekly queer-related *math*NEWS column? If so, feel free to let me know that you'd appreciate such a column, and any topics you might like me to cover. You can contact me by email at `dtaleman@uwaterloo.ca`.

Getting better all the time,

(define this (not cool))

fig. 1: column bunny transposed..

FedS Update!

Hey everyone! Hope you're all having a happy October so far! Here's a quick update from your FedS councillors on what's happening around campus!

AGM - The Annual General Meeting is happening on Tuesday, Oct. 26th at 1:00pm in the SLC Great Hall. We encourage ALL students to come out! You must bring your WatCard to be able to vote. The first 50 people to attend will receive a FREE ticket to Halloween at Bomber or Fed Hall, PLUS be entered to win a $100 FEDS CARD!

HALLOWEEN - FedS are hosting their annual Halloween parties next weekend! All ages at the Bomber on Saturday and 19+ at Fed Hall on Sunday. Always lots of fun so come on out!

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - Elections are happening this Monday the 25th! Student voting turnout is traditionally very low, but there are so many issues that directly affect students! Voting is in the SLC and only takes 10 minutes! So please VOTE! Information about the election, the candidates and the referenda questions can be found at `municipal.feds.ca`.

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS - `governance.feds.ca` has been updated! Visit for a copy of past minutes and agendas. October's meeting took place last Sunday. Positions on the Internal Administration Committee and the One Waterloo Steering Committee were filled, and the delegates for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance General Assembly were confirmed. We also received presentations from Jeff Henry (Math's Academic Integrity Officer and a candidate for Ward 6 in the upcoming election) about City Council, UW Orientation about the New Student Transition program, WUSC (as mentioned below), and Nikki Best (FedS' VP Internal) about Clubs and Services and UW Diversity Committee. November's meeting is coming up on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14th at 12:30pm in the SLC Multipurpose Room. We encourage you to come out if you're interested in keeping up-to-date with what's going on!

BY-ELECTIONS - Senate elections are coming up soon! Stay tuned for more information. Mathies will be voting for the at-large seat.

WUSC - During last Sunday's Student Council meeting we received a presentation from the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) about the Student Refugee Program (SRP). SRP is designed to help refugee students who have been displaced by civil wars in their respective countries and have no access or resources to further their post-secondary education. UW SRP sponsors 1-2 students each year to come to UW, with each sponsored student to be fully supported financially, logistically, and emotionally by the UW Local Committee for two consecutive years. Currently, we have 5 students on campus being supported by this program. Every term, each UW student pays a levy of $1 (refundable) with their tuition to support this program. For more information about this program visit `www.wusc.ca`.

As always, if you have any questions or want more information on anything, email us at `mathcouncillors@gmail.com`! We'd love to hear from you! And to receive more frequent and current updates, LIKE the "Federation of Students" on Facebook!

Happy midterm-ing!

Ian Kasper, Andre Magalhaes, Prashant Patel, Alex Russell & Piraveena Tharmaligam
Your FedS Math Councillors

VPAS Sez
Brevity is the soul of overused quotations

Hello! Blessedly little to report this time around. MathSoc has a new server which should make our website more reliable, and hopefully will be up and running by the time this is published. Social events are occurring, but there is a separate article for that. Movie nights continue to happen every Thursday in the Comfy at 7:00 PM, show up, request movies, eat free popcorn. Games days continue to occur at 6:30 PM in the Comfy every Tuesday. Novelties will hopefully have been ordered by the time this hits production, so everyone dying to have a cheat shirt in a size other than small or extra large will have a chance. Charity Ball planning is in full swing: the ball is themed Mathquerade and is occurring on November 20th; swing by the MathSoc office if you're interested in buying a ticket.

As always, if you have any questions, complaints, or suggestions, please let me know. Questions, complaints or suggestions relating to MathSoc are preferred.

Ian Charlesworth
MathSoc Vice President, Activities and Services F2010
`vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`

Social Sez

Hey Math! The social part of MathSoc is going to be pretty active this years, and just I just wanted to remind everyone of the awesome things that will be happening in the next few weeks. On Friday October 22nd (tonight) there is a MathSoc campfire by the Env2 firepit (by Laurel Lake) with lots of free food and music and games for everyone. On October 29th come head over to MathSoc in a costume and pick up some free candy, and take part in campus-wide trick-or-treating. Finally, to celebrate the end of midterms, on Wednesday November 3rd there will be a Super Smash Bros Tournament in the MC Comfy Lounge. Everyone should show up, even if you've never touched a Wii before in your life =). See you at the fire!

Sacha Koohgoli, Social Director

Jeremy really is a terrific guy
But not really what we're looking for

It's not like we have anything against Jeremy, he's really a very nice guy. In fact, we have received report after report that he's very dependable and totally sweet, which is why we couldn't ever date him.

Although Jeremy has been constantly asking out members of our union for a meaningful relationship, critics of the proposition expressed in a press statement concerns that it may "... ruin their special friendship". The statement detailed all of the wonderful things that Jeremy has done for us like how he'll always listen after we caught that jerk we were seeing with someone else.

A spokesperson from our union gladly announced that "... the services provided by Jeremy have been invaluable to our members, community and life. He has helped us through so much and we value him too much to risk ruining it. If Jeremy would like for us to reconsider our position, then he will need to start working out, get a car, and treat our members like crap."

The Hee Ho

Ubuntu 10.10 Released

In case you don't subscribe to ubuntu-announce.

Ubuntu 10.10 was released on Sunday October 10, 2010 at 10:10:10 UTC, with omniscient allusions to the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and $(101010)_2$.

Setting up and experimenting with Ubuntu, or any GNU/Linux distribution in general, is a great opportunity to learn skills you might find handy in the future. But where will you set it up? (**Note:** If you're experimenting with Ubuntu, make sure that you download your CD image from the CSClub Mirror (`http://mirror.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/ubuntu-releases/maverick/`) and point your installation to the same for updates (`http://mirror.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/ubuntu/`) in order to conserve the bandwidth for mission-critical uses.)

Option 0: Dual-boot / own hardware If you're not particularly experienced, however, you may not be willing to sacrifice days of being unable to use your laptop should you make a mistake. Luckily, there are plenty of ways to start playing with Ubuntu without making your system unbootable. (On the other hand, making your system unbootable is a learning experience you'd probably not soon forget.)

Option 1: Virtual Machines This will perform best if your computer has hardware extensions for virtualization, as well as lots of memory and disk space. Download an ISO and install either Oracle VirtualBox (`http://www.virtualbox.org/`, freeware and open-source versions available) or VMware (`http://www.vmware.com/`, commercial).

Option 2: Dedicated or Virtual Private Servers Here, Google is your friend - Linode and `prgmr.com` tend to be popular. You'll definitely want to compare costs, contract lengths, and features — some providers have shiny web-based management interfaces; others do not.

Option 3: On-demand computing (e.g. AWS) For a limited time, you can try about an hour of Ubuntu Server on AWS at someone else's expense by visiting `https://10.cloud.ubuntu.com/`. Alternatively, pull out your credit card and pay for your own EC2 time and follow the instructions at `http://www.ubuntu.com/cloud/public/deploy` — note that in addition to Elastic Fox or Euca2ools you can also use the AWS Management Console in order to start and stop instances.

!able

Double Down Review

a.k.a. Why do I hate myself?

*math*NEWS went on a Double-Down trip in the spirit of journalism. Why? Because that's what good journalists do! Here's my take on it:

For those who are uneducated, the Double Down are slices of bacon and pepper jack cheese sandwiched between two seasoned chicken breasts, along with the colonel's special sauce. If that sounds nasty, I must admit: it really really is. The chicken were breaded just like their default fried chicken. The problem with that is it's filled with sodium and it's ridiculously salty. The bacon was non-existent, the cheese tasted rubbery and the sauce was just over-the-top with salt. While I didn't immediately get a heart attack, it wasn't satisfying either. I expected more from something that was supposed to be a lot of chicken and nothing else. Would not buy from again. **F**

Heart Attack Panda

C S C F L A S H

Greetings students! Welcome to another edition of the Computer Science Club Flash, where you can find out what ate your CS homework last week. For those of the Linux persuasion, Ubuntu 10.10 is released and we have install CDs for both i386 and x86-64, if you require them. They can be found on the table to the right just inside the front door of the office. Our talk series is in full swing! Look for our events on Tuesdays at 4:30PM. This Tuesday the 26th we have Elyot Grant, in conjunction with the Statistics Club, giving a talk titled "Analysis of randomized algorithms via the probabilistic method" in MC4040 at 4:30pm. On November 2nd we may have a presentation by Professor Ragde; details are forthcoming. Our Unix Tutorial offerings went well. If the 4:30pm slot on Wednesdays conflicted with your schedule, but you'd still like to attend a tutorial, let us know and we can schedule more of them. Contact our Programme Committee, `progcom@csclub.uwaterloo.ca`. The CSC is also bringing back t-shirts! No human can survive the Canadian weather without clothing, best to get Dalek-approved protection. Inquire in the office for details. Lastly, the CSC will be attending the MathSoc Charity Ball, Mathquerade, on Saturday November 20.

Calum T. Dalek,
Chairbeing Extraordinaire

Computer Science Club

For Prospective and Returning *math*NEWS Writers

Some quick reminders about the math*NEWS Markup Language*

- Use entities as appropriate — common ones include & and &mN;.
- Make use of <url>, <sup>, and /<ol>/ tags.
- Make sure your tags are properly nested and closed.

- Don't be afraid to occassionally run out of ideas - once you stop worrying, you'll be able to find inspiration for next fortnight. If the problem recurs, see your *math*NEWS editors.
- Raising awareness for good causes is fine and dandy; try to make sure your article is properly researched.
- You know that rambling article about your not-so-secret crush for the cute transfer student that already has a boyfriend, goes 'rawr', and folds paper dinosaurs for you — it doesn't belong in *math*NEWS.
- Don't write an entire article about what she *actually* said, no matter how many times your fellow writers shout, "That's what she said!"
- If in doubt, ask your fellow *math*NEWS writors and editors.
- Editors here. Please don't put your lists nested in <p> tags its a giant pain in the but for us to fix it later!

!able

Re: A Female's Guide to the Math Faculty

Thanks to the hdFFYGtSitMF published by mathNEWS, class has become almost fun! Here are more tips to help the remaining damsels in distress out there:

1. Move on from your exclusive BFF-girlfriends-clique and embrace your guyfriends. Yes, they might not know what mascara is, but you'll learn to appreciate the encyclopedia of random obscure knowledge that they file in their brain.

2. Play games with your guyfriends. Super Mario, Starcraft, DOTA, Pokemon (no, I am not outdated!), Dead Space (maybe not). Guys dig games. And guys dig chicks! Girl + Games = GG.

3. Use the guys as your personal GPS. If the stereotypes about girls failing at navigation apply to you, keep a guy around you at all times - he'll sniff out the correct routes without even needing the map (note: not guaranteed, choose wisely!)

4. Get creative with your pink tie: necklace, belt, headband, hairtie, wristband, shoelace, halter bra strap. Accessorizing is what a girl does best ;)

Another female!
gasp!

Everyone You Know Is Gay

THEY ARE! Well, sorta. A number of them are, even if they say they're not. (This is not an invitation for you to torture the one straight guy who enjoys musical theatre. Or CorruptED.)

Also, Angelo is not a legend. He is just old. Really old. Most people get their undergrad before they get an artificial hip.

Angelo

Midterms And YOU!

A newbie's experience with midterms

I'm going to go out there and say it: midterms did not live up to my expectations. From the day I arrived, I've been told endlessly by professors, other first years, upper years, course web pages, and a pack of raccoons that university is going to be different: it'll be bigger, sharper, and have more knives. It'll have 8GB of more ram than high school, and much more cache. It also contains 50% less dolphin. More importantly, midterms are tough, and you'll need 6GHz or more processing in order not to fail.

Well, now that I've written two midterms (not counting the ELPE. Actually I barely passed that one, but I'm a mathie, dammit!), I can definitely say that they do not live up to all the hype. I really expected something difficult, but I was let down. Hell… I'm writing this during production night at 8:00 PM, having just walked out of my algeBro midterm from 7:00-8:30 PM.

For one, they are quite dull. They are really, REALLY dull (knives were, however, present, albeit also dull). There's all this hype on how you have to study hard. I spent last weekend staying up until 2AM playing [insert whatever game I was playing at the time]. I went to the "review session", and spent the time between reading "Overheard at Waterloo" on Facebook and falling asleep.

Also, I was promised an intimidating experience writing in the PAC_EXAM, surrounded by endless tables, and their rows of STUDENTS nvarchar(64). Instead, I had my exams in DC_LEC and MC_LEC, respectively, and they were anything but intimidating. Now that I think of it, the most difficult part of my midterm was obtaining a pink tie for my calculator. Seriously, I'm pretty sure that my high school exam was harder.

Now, I hear the finals are harder, from the same people and raccoons who told me about the midterms. Well, I'm not going to believe them. Based on the difficulty of the midterms, I'm sure I can get perfect on the exam by writing with my feet while doing a hand-stand, being drunk, and listening to Justin Beiber all at the same time.

Love,
theSMURF

Dumbo vs Celeste

Battle of the pachyderms

Here's a random question for you: If you were going to be called an elephant, would you prefer to be Dumbo or Babar's wife: Celeste? Here's a comparative table to help you choose:

Dumbo

*   Has disturbingly large ears

*   Eventually made a lot of money from headlining the circus act

*   His best friend is a mouse

*   Has a mother

*   Probably going to stay at the circus for life

*   Can fly by flapping his ears really fast

Celeste

*   Has disturbingly small eyes

*   Has a lot of money because she is the Queen of the kingdom

*   Best family friend is a monkey and a human

*   Is a mother… And has a brother

*   Has traveled the world in her youth.

*   Can defy laws of physics by flying in a hot air balloon

Given the differences above and the fact that Babar's kingdom is run like an Utopian city, I think it's clear that Celeste is the better elephant by a landslide.

Elephant Panda

Students accused of cheating unfairly encased in frozen carbonite

With an increase in the incidents of academic integrity violations, one University of Waterloo professor is fighting back - but at what cost to the student body?

The University of Waterloo has always taken the issue very seriously, but now are they going too far in their efforts to discourage students from violating its policies? After the most recent MATH136 midterm, which had an alarming number of students suspected of cheating the professor ordered that 33% of the class be left encased in frozen carbonite until their hearings.

Of the 74 students accused of cheating two have not been placed in suspended animation. The first student assured the professor that "...these aren't the droids you're looking for" and the second used the Chewbacca Defence to prove his innocence. However, most of them weren't so lucky.

This also isn't the first time that Professor the Hut has been accused of outlandish punishments for students. He has been notorious for harsh treatment to the student body ever since he tossed a first year who failed his course to be eaten by a giant, random sand worm thing.

The university currently has no plans of recourse for Hut as he has tenure and the students don't. University officials have been quoted saying "SUCKERS!"

The Hee Ho

The Stapler and YOU

You stumble into the MathSOC office, breathless, after sprinting from the tutorial center. Your sweaty hands clamped tightly around a stack of slightly crinkled paper covered with indecipherable scribbling, your assignment, due in three minutes. Your gaze darts around the room like a squirrel, looking for something but unable to find it. Finally, you look at me, with that strange and confused (yet kind of sexy) expression on your face. You are about to speak …

STOP

Rotate your head 45* degrees to your right. The stapler is right there. You're welcome.

*actual angle varies due to your relative position in the MathSOC office, as well as your height, weight, blood type, and sexual orientation, the exact location of the stapler, whether or not it is Thursday, how well you can implement depth-first search, whether or not P = NP, and your Erdös number.

Love, theSMURF

Austria Tells All

The year is now 1903, the orders for the spring troop movements are due at about 9 PM tonight. If I am still alive, this is what I call on people to do:

- Germany: A Mar-Pie
- Turkey: F Con-Bla

You both know why I've asked these things of you. I expect you to complete these moves if possible.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Liberal Extraordinaire

Famous Last Words
In case you don't know what to say

- "Don't worry, I got this."

- "I can't wait to take a bite out of this Double-Down."

- "What iceberg?

- "I still have tonight to do that assignment."

- "Rules are meant to be broken. That one says don't feed the lions."

- "Who needs sleep?"

- "I'm sure that he was only joking about the bottomless spiked pit."

- "I've got a bad feeling about this."

- "I've got a good feeling about this."

- "I've got an ambivalent feeling about this."

- "What is this?"

- "I think we're safe now."

- "Is this katana loaded?"

- "Look, I'll prove it to you."

- "Let's go ransack that old gypsy burial ground!"

- "It's a bird! It's a plane! Oh s***, why is it heading for me?"

- "No one has yet to die reading Imprint."

- "This is a hold-up! First person to move gets a face full of foam darts!"

- "Am I missing a bracket?"

- "Those clothes make you look fat." *Note: Works especially well to a bride on her wedding day*

- "You're on."

Big Mak

Groundbreaking Research On Forgetfulness Forgotten

Somewhere in Canada, a group of researchers announced something groundbreaking about forgetfulness. However, everyone seem to have forgotten the contents of the report, and it has been misplaced somewhere. A cash prize is supposed to exist for anyone who finds this forgotten report, but it seems the people who sponsored this prize forgot about it. How forgettable. What's this article on again? I forget.

CorruptED review

The Double Down is a monster. As you wait in line for it to be made, a great flood of hopelessness inundates your soul. You realize that somehow, people out there actually enjoy this amalgam of foods exclusively designed to cause a heart attack.

When you receive the Double Down, it's deceptive. Despite your guilt for actually paying for this and further supporting the dark enterprise, it almost smells appetizing. You start to consider the possibility that this is a gift from the gods of meat. Do not be deceived. This is but a siren's call echoing from the depths of delicious meat hell, where none but the greasiest and most disgusting of creation thrive.

When chomping down on it, a series of feelings wash over you. First, the chicken buns aren't so bad. But as your mouth clamps down on the full thing and the combination of flavours hit you, a feeling a nausea washes over you. You swallow and suddenly find that your mouth feels as if it is completely coated in grease. It is around here where I gave up hope. I chewed another bite, but after this I had to sacrifice the sandwich to another cursed and curious soul. Even 20 minutes later, I still cannot wash the taste from my mouth, or cleanse the depths of my memory.

I hope this serves as a warning. The Double Down is here. It is here for our souls. I may be lost, but there is hope for us yet. Save yourself.

CorruptED

The Hee Ho's Half-Assed Ooooooh, it's horrible!

The KFC's Double Down

The Hee Ho hee-re... and dying slowly. This week I am reviewing the KFC's Double Down sandwich... thing... oh the pain! It burns... why did I do this to myself? ...

The Hee Ho

The All-New *mathNEWS* Quiz!

Prizes may or may not be awarded, depending on Editors

This is the first *math*NEWS quiz that I have written. I make no guarantee that I even know the answers to these. Those that I do not, I will check on a purely subjective basis.

1. The 6,6 Ramsey Number. (Upper and Lower bounds are acceptable)
2. Green is to blue as sharp is to?
3. An adjective which describes Unicorns
4. Which is the most important organ?
5. Define an equivalence relation on the set of food
6. Prove or disprove the existence of a way to quiet Jos?
7. Who is the best looking person in the world?
8. What is the meaning of life?
9. How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
10. How many times can you fold Imprint without it ripping? Bonus points if it makes Imprint better
11. Some better *math*NEWS quiz questions

!theNewGuy

That's it humanity: Game Over

Depression, double downs and darkness.

Somehow, myself and four other brave souls made the foolhardy decision to eat the Double Down by KFC. (It is no longer Kentucky Fried Chicken, they legally changed the company name.) As three of us made the adventure to order such terrible foodstuffs, we were worried about the whole thing.

We stood in line, and as I stared at the advertisement, I realized: Humanity is doomed. All of it. We live in the age of Double Downs and iPads, of excessive waste and pointless products, shoved down the public throat only to have it gobbled up, and in the case of the Double Down, literally. We made it to space in 10 years after we decided to. And then we made sandwiches out of chicken. We turned away from the stars to look at each other, and then to shove salty grease down each other's pie holes.

Is this the fate of modern civilization? To wallow in our own putrid filth until the barbarians overrun us and the republics collapse?

I managed to pull myself out of the funk as the sandwiches arrived. We trekked back to the MC, and in solidarity slowly dragged the meat out of the boxes. It is my personal shame that I have finished it. I will now return to my lodgings to cry myself to sleep to the sweet sound of Nero's violin, as Rome burns.

GroovyED

Jobmine Sniping

An extreme sport!

Interviews are not fun. I'm not talking about nerves or those intense five-hour interviews where you're grilled like a burnt steak. I'm talking about missing class. Missing class is not fun. Catching up - especially if it's something like Electrodeath (as referred to by the Director of Software Engineering) - is less fun.

In fact, I am so determined to not miss class that I have invented a new sport: JobMine Sniping. It's quite simple, really. I check JobMine extremely frequently (about twice every Planck time), and whenever I see a new interview, I immediately go and take the best interview slot. "Best" meaning I won't have to miss class. Hey, first come, first serve. Thanks to this, I have only missed two classes so far. (Mostly because an employer rescheduled me. I should mail them a bobcat as revenge.)

Some of you may believe I have a JobMine addiction; this is patently and unequivocally false. To prove this point, consider the following anecdote:

I was sitting at home, eating dinner, and steaming some vegetables on the stove. I was also checking JobMine on my iPod Touch - THIS IS NOT PROOF OF AN ADDICTION PLEASE KEEP READING. When I noticed I had an interview, I promptly shut off the stove before going to my laptop to schedule an interview time. I shut the stove off. See? I clearly had my priorities straight - I did not want my house to burn down.

To finish this article off, I have interviewed a friend for his opinion on JobMine Sniping:

!BoB, you have sniped every single job I had hoped for. You have bleakened my days and ruined my life. I curse you with my very last breath. You have sniped me and killed me.

Oh, that didn't turn out the way I expected. At least I got all the good interview spots.

!BoB

*prof*QUOTES

[Using the analogy of bathroom for mutual exclusion] So I enter the bathroom (critical section) and close the door behind me (turn on the lock) and do whatever I need to do that takes 100 iterations.

Buhr, CS 343

… open bra for arbitrary reasons.

Hill, PHYS 234

You're cheering me. Are you on drugs?

Ragde, CS 145

I don't remember what I put as the last question on the midterm, but I remember it was one that everyone should get part marks for. If they give it a shot.

Mayer, AMATH 250

Prof: So there's no assignment due next week. Since that seems to be the only reason people go to office hours, those are cancelled too.
 Student 1: But we were planning to show up and tell you that you're awesome. And now we can't!
 Student 2: Actually, there was a plot to bring cookies, but that won't happen now.
 Prof: You could bring the cookies to class…

Mayer, AMATH 250

An array is not a good data structure to impress the opposite sex.

Shallit, CS 341

I didn't say it was obvious, I said you can convince yourself.

Shallit, CS 341

I got this right in the morning. I'm hoping mathematics remains consistent this afternoon.

Shallit, CS 341

I see there's a Twitter feed for profQuotes. Now my wit can be spread instantly across the world.

Shallit, CS 341

We do so because we're mean.

Shallit, CS 341

Who doesn't care? Oh great! Everybody cares.

Shallit, CS 341

I was happy as a pig… [pause] I was happy.

Shallit, CS 341

You feel you don't have to attend class… That's silly, since you don't get the jokes.

Shallit, CS 341

So easy the Dean of Arts can tell.

Brecht, CS 350

Favourite text editor? V.I. or die.

Brecht, CS 350

Prof: Every year, I make mistakes on purpose, just to make sure you're paying attention.
Student: Suuuure.

Brecht, CS 350

It's the hottest club in town, and someone cool is there. [Like] a prof from engineering.

Brecht, CS 350

These guys are smart; they won't have any array bounds violations. So I won't check.

Brecht, CS 350

Which is about as probable as winning a million lotteries. In a row.

Jao, CO 485

[Writing a definition] I'm just making this up.

Jao, CO 485

So you're all good with encoding in bits? Or are you ready to sleep after 10 min?

Petrick, CS 241

It didn't work with Marmoset. Who'da thunk it?

Petrick, CS 241

So, for most of the rest of the day…

Petrick, CS 241

This isn't like first-year where we go "Use good coding practices to write a program that calculates the area of a triangle."

Petrick, CS 241

I was once a student… I know how deadlines affect productivity.

Petrick, CS 241

If Marmoset uses it, it must be good!

Petrick, CS 241

We'll just erase this, so anybody coming late won't realize the assignment's been extended.

Petrick, CS 241

If I were a CPU and every minute asked if there were any questions, that would not be a good use of lecture time. So you raise your hand when you have a question, the same way a device sends an interrupt when it's ready.

Hasan, ECE 222

My understanding is that not many of you have been following me today…

Hasan, ECE 222

You evaluate the dot product, and it becomes a very simple integral.

Mansour, ECE 126

You and your neighbour are forming a capacitor.

Mansour, ECE 126

They're the most benign things in math, those little constants.

Balka, STAT 206

I can be sloppy. At least, I can tell you I'm deliberately being cavalier.

Balka, STAT 206

Who Loves *prof*QUOTES?

What's the importance of a fancy S?

Trefler, SE 212

No infinite deductions in this class!

Trefler, SE 212

This is what pure mathematicians do all day. They use the triangle inequality.

Vrscay, Math 137

Has anyone ever proved this for you? I mean, we've done 101 examples; what could possibly go wrong?

Vrscay, Math 137

The limit of "aardvark" is the same as the "aardvark" of the limit.

Vrscay, Math 137

I'm a little slow today. I wasn't even drinking yesterday.

Vrscay, Math 137

Let's just subtract infinity.

Vrscay, Math 137

So now, in the comfort and privacy of your own home, you too can compute square roots.

Vrscay, Math 137

When you turn your back for a coffee, the graph changes.

Vrscay, Math 137

[Writes on board] …because like, both like, limits like exists.

Vrscay, Math 137

I haven't taught this class in a while. They wouldn't let me, because apparently I'm too crazy.

Vrscay, Math 137

I don't give assignments in this course. They're student-centered learning experiences.

Vrscay, Math 137

Student: What did you do in that last line?
 Prof: I have no idea.

Vrscay, Math 137

L'Hopital's rule is a fake, a gimmick. It's the largest scam since Enron.

Vrscay, Math 137

[In a high-pitched voice] Your posn fell in the fire!

Kaplan, CS 135

We have to watch out for alien heads.

Kaplan, CS 135

There's nothing like that in Scheme, except, there is…

Kaplan, CS 135

I assume my clone is competent. Why wouldn't he be? He's me.

Kaplan, CS 135

That's my clone's job.

Kaplan, CS 135

For some reason, I'm typing really well in the definition window, but not in the interaction window. It must be a bug in DrRacket.

Kaplan, CS 135

It shows how scientists can become jaded quickly.

Mann, PHYS 121

No one ever told me that about pulley systems. I had to pick it up off the streets.

Mann, PHYS 121

It's a bit beyond the scope of Physics 121, but you need *something* to aspire to.

Mann, PHYS 121

I'm an algebraic, when I get to [multiplication with] numbers over 0 and 1, I get confused.

Ashburner, MATH 114

The textbook says to think of matrices as 'fun things you can play with.' This is one part of the textbook we will digress from.

Ashburner, MATH 114

Prof: "I had an argument with somebody that this is the equation of a plane. How many of you agree/disagree?" [few students agree, none disagree] Prof: "I win by proof of majority!"

Ashburner, MATH 114

You used squares instead of dots, and they let you pass? What is our education system coming to!

Mann, PHYS 121

[After discussing general physical principles] I have never had so many questions about a spring!

Mann, PHYS 121

Student, using a standard calculator: 6280.
 Prof: See, that's the value of these i-phone things.

Mann, PHYS 121

I can adjust the radius of the planet.

Mann, PHYS 121

It is possible to drop a marshmallow from a height high enough so that it releases as much energy as a nuclear warhead.

Mann, PHYS 121

When a problem gets too hard, physicists call it chemistry or engineering.

Mann, PHYS 121

You can't balance vertical forces with horizontal forces unless you're pulling infinitely hard and the the picnic basket explodes and Yogi gets the food.

Mann, PHYS 121

This was a bonus question that the students could hand in any time in their lifetime.

Hare, MATH 147

Cauchy sequences are like packs of lemmings.

Hare, MATH 147

We Love *prof*QUOTES!

In Engineering classes, continuous functions are the ones you can draw without lifting you pencil off the paper.

<div align="right">Hare, MATH 147</div>

I don't know why I'm looking at my notes, it doesn't really matter what they say.

<div align="right">Ingram, MATH 145</div>

It's not necessarily true that Alice and Bob both have supercomputers and Eve's working with pencil and paper.

<div align="right">Ingram, MATH 145</div>

Diffie and Hellman were not the first to come up with it [the key exchange], they were just the first non-top-secret people to do so.

<div align="right">Ingram, MATH 145</div>

When you break the contract for a program, it can do anything it wants: Give an error, run forever, or kill your cat… hopefully it won't kill your cat, but it can.

<div align="right">Goldberg, CS 135</div>

If the black hole is electrically charged, you can scoot to the left and tunnel into an alternate universe. I'm not making this up! This is real physics!

<div align="right">Mann, PHYS 121</div>

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).*

Dispute erupts between university professors

What started off as an honest joke has turned into a long-running battle over intellectual property. The dispute has been raging for almost a month now and it has slowly reached its way to the student body.

Earlier this year Professor William Godfreid was quoted in *math*NEWS in the *prof*QUOTES section stating "Anyone who can integrate e^{x^2} is either very smart or very dumb". A few days later accusations from Professor Henri Bouchard of intellectual property theft. Bouchard claims that the joke was originally his, and had said it in a previous school term.

The pair have been arguing since, and it has been disruptive to both the school's research and teaching as the members of the faculty find themselves divided on the issue. An outside arbitration party suggested that they seek to credit each other in the joke. Godfreid found this proposal amenable; however, Bouchard is pushing for sole-ownership.

*math*NEWS has denied allegations of staging the entire fiasco. "It's not necessarily beneath us to pull something like this, it's just more that it takes too much effort to orchestrate" says StaticED. "It's more our style to just sit back, watch and laugh."

<div align="right">The Hee Ho</div>

Bad Interview Answers

Because someone had to write them for this year/ issue

- My friends say I'm arrogant, rude, and demanding. But that's not bad. You should hear what my enemies say.

- Frankly, I'm only applying for this job because I'm a sadist toward first years.

- I think that I'm overqualified for this job.

- You're pretty hot. Can I have your number?

- The longer people know me, the more they say mean things about me.

- I really like children.

- If I get this job, I can let my wrists heal!

- I'm a pretty cool guy. I program computers and doesn't afraid of anything.

- I was fired from my last job, but that's ok, since my boss was a d**k.

- Sometimes, when I'm in a stressful situation, I break things to relieve frustration.

- I. Have. No. Weaknesses.

- My greatest weakness is that I'm a perfectionist. Or the dead bodies in my basement.

- My greatest weakness is an inability to admit my weaknesses.

- My greatest weakness? Fighting.

- The best part of me is that there is only one of me.

- My principal interests are ultraviolence, rape, and Beethoven.

- I have never been convicted for an offense.

- What does your company do?

- I have a bit of a temper problem. I hope that isn't a problem.

- I don't believe it is worth doing if you can't light it on fire.

- EX-TER-MI-NATE

- I'm not crazy. I have a note from my doctor!

<div align="right">!theNewGuy</div>

NHL Quick-Hits

In this edition: Leafs go 82-0!

Two weeks ago, I predicted the Leafs to kick off their season with a spirited victory over the despised Habs. Of course, as of this writing, Leafs are a 4-0 team and in the midst of a battle against the equally surprising Islanders (2-1-2 on the backs of Josh Bailey and Blake Comeau). If they win tonight, they will be a shockingly fantastic 5-0. That feat was only accomplished eight times since the lockout. All of those teams made the playoffs that season. (Credit to Steve Dangle for the stat.) It's not a predictor of the playoffs by no means, but it's certainly reason to be optimistic about the state of the Leafs.

Aside from my thoughts on the Leafs, here's some other bits and pieces:

- Bringing up the rear of the NorthEast are the Senators (1-3-1) and the Sabres (1-4-1). The difference? There's reason to be optimistic about the Sabres. Their scoring by committee forward strategy will work fine, and their young guns Ennis and Gerbe will come through. Ryan Miller is a top tier goalie who can and will steal games when their capable defense falters. Myers, despite his brutal performance so far, can and probably will bounce back.

- The Senators? Not so much. Leclaire will never get back to his Columbus days statistically without Ken Hitchcock's choking defensive system. Besides, the guy can't stay healthy. Ever. Their defense is pretty decent, but they're riding Brian Elliott and that's got to be alarming. Kovalev could be one of the best … but only when he wants to be. In the games I've seen of him this year: nope. Michalek's knee will be in question over the course of the season following his off-season surgery, and Nick Foligno is no 1st line LW. I predicted them to end up below the Leafs at the end of the season, and I'm standing by that.

- Speaking of injuries, raise your hand if you're surprised that Gaborik is injured.

- Rick Nash is off to a pretty sad start with only 1 goal so far. It's too bad the kids line aren't quite there yet, meaning defenders can key in on Nash and only Nash and it'll work. Probably doesn't help that Steve Mason looks out of it at times. Rough year in Columbus this year.

- Shout out to Dallas's top line of James Neal, Loui Eriksson and Brad Richards. 20 points in 4 games. Amazing.

- Fantasy note: Frolik and Peverley were dropped today in my league. I like both of them, but Frolik more because really, who else is going to shoot on that team? McCabe?

Hmm, to conclude, I'm hoping the best for the Leafs tonight, but they're already down 1-0 as I publish this. I originally had them losing their first game in Philly, so here's hoping they come back.

Hockey Fan Panda

*else*WHEN

Its disturbing how much this stuff still makes sense

This absolute gem I came across while reading through the red books (our giant books of all *math*NEWS) and was amazed at how much of this article is still relevant. It would be a lie if I said that well I haven't had a case of M.A.T.H lately but that would be a lie. Actually, the fact that I am here writing this at 11:00 pm while I have an assignment due tomorrow thats well…about half done I have a giant case of M.A.T.H. This comes to us from Volume 89 Issue 5

RamED

The meaning of our M.A.T.H. Faculty

A rare known fact is the meaning of the word math. If you think you know what it means you're probably wrong. The word math does not mean the same thing as Mathematics. It's not even short for Mathematics. In fact, I have discovered its true meaning and will share it with you. You will be surprised, so brace yourself. Everything comes together once you know. The spelling is an acronym; it stands for My Ass Thoroughly Hurts.

Just think about it. Regardless of what you do in the Math faculty you take it up the ass. If you don't try or if you do your work you are definitely going to have M.A.T.H. related problems. If you study hard and spend countless hours on your assignments, midterms, and finals you are just going to be disappointed when you get your marks because they are never as high as you expect or deserve. In essence they are screwing you up the ass. There is no denying it and in fact you're paying for it. If it's not incorporated in your tuition, I believe I saw somewhere on the tuition bill a line for the M.A.T.H. endowment fund. Regardless, the fact remains: M.A.T.H. students take it up the ass.

It really varies by how much and how hard. If you're stupid you'll get it often. If you're taking hard courses you get it often as well. If you're taking CS or C&O courses you can be sure that you will get a healthy serving. Just remember to smile as much as possible and when things get rough, bring a pillow to sit down on. This may worry some people such as the frosh, but some upper years know too well.

Despite this bit of bad news, there is a way to lessen the pain, agony and embarrassment of M.A.T.H.; they are called electives. It should be pointed out that not all electives involve no math and you should be careful of the ones that do. A sure cure for any case of M.A.T.H. or math related problems is the Arts faculty. For those of us for whom that not an option or are willing to endure M.A.T.H., relief is availible. In the early 1990s a math and science graduate from somewhere invented preparation "H" to relieve to some of the hurt. Apply generously and enjoy your stay at the M.A.T.H. faculty. *[Wouldn't that become the M.A.S.H. (My Ass Sorta Hurts) faculty? — KreasEd]*

Disgruntled Geek.

Thoughts from a first-year

I've been going through a phase (hopefully only a phase) of really bad luck these past few months. Valuable things I own (or rather, owned) are disappearing. A few months ago in a computer lab, I left my backpack unattended with my TI-83 in it. When I came back, it was gone. Yes, I should have known better, but I wasn't expecting anyone in my high school's library to know the value of it. It was worth somewhere around $145.

Over the next few months I worked on a really looooong art project: constructing a shirt made of beads! It was awesome! It had a Pichu and Pokeball pattern on the front, and an equalizer pattern on the back. The bottom had a really cool glow-in-the-dark pattern that zig-zagged. I was so proud of it, I uploaded it to DeviantArt (www.deviantart.com). The next step was to wear it to a rave! And I did. And part-way through the night, I took it off because I was really sweaty (along with my cape and my pants). I set them down somewhere where I could see them and sat down. I guess I COULDN'T SEE THEM ENOUGH. When I came back, they had left my pants, cape, and water bottle, but they had stolen my beaded Pokemon shirt. I don't even know what to say. What kind of idiot thief steals a shirt made of beads that fits awkwardly? How valuable do you think a plastic shirt is? I spent about $40 in beads making it. I don't even want to think about how much time I put into it.

Being a stupid first-year, I decided to live in residence. Not only is it really expensive, everyone around me is always really wasted and making strange noises. And, no, I'm not just referring to their drunken moaning during intercourse. Sometimes, I'm pretty sure that they're actually trying to communicate with the geese … at 3 a.m. The geese (and squirrels and chipmunks) on campus are so beyond f**ked that they probably communicate back. Returning the point of me being an idiot, I locked my nice, brand-new mountain bike to a bike rack. It disappeared last Thursday night, along with others' bikes. They just cut the locks and took the bikes. They didn't even leave my lock, like the others strewn on the floor. The value of my bicycle after the recent increase in taxes is somewhere around $450.

This, so far, has only been a sample of the trend pertaining to things valuable to me which have been stolen/destroyed recently. Am I being targeted (by ALIENS/arts students)? I mean, sjdahgbjhhg gbakLOnsdjn, what the f**k, are you going to steal my next boyfriend too? All the princess dresses I own?! My rainbow socks! My toothbrush? Or are you sooooo sly a thief, you'll start stealing things I've stolen, like all that pirated music on my laptop (not that everyone reading this doesn't have pirated music on their computers)! Or no, no, your thief status is beyond sly. Being the 1337 thief you are, you'll start stealing things BEFORE I even own them. I wish I could rm -rf your stupid existence.

2501

Advisory Warning: Violet Alert

A guide to preventing unwanted combustion

After a long day of lectures in the catacombs of the lower floors in MC or in the labyrinth located in the sixth and seventh floors (you have our condolences, and we call dibs on your laptop and phone in the event you don't make it out alive), it is lunch time. While the food served at the C&D is great, you've had it for three weeks straight and the choices seem to get bland after such repetition.

Overhearing gossip regarding the delicacies which they cook up in SLC, it is decided that one should venture out of this building which many call home to acquire mystical delights such as Tim Horton's or Subway. Making your way down the northwest stairwell to the second floor, you turn left and reach a set of glass doors which you have long forgotten, and with great courage pull the heavy doors ajar and stride out into the unknown.

Five steps into the said unknown, you smell something odd, sort of like burning plastic when you fry a computer component. You look around for the source of this smell, and you get blinded by a strong light. Taking your alabaster hands and shielding your delicate eyes, you look at the source of this light, which is filtering through your bony fingers despite your best attempts, and squint to find the source of the anomaly. Then it dawns upon you: there is a giant floating ball of fire in the sky.

Don't panic. Do not cry in desperation and flee back into the fortress, swearing to all the mathematical deities to never set foot outside again. Do not stand there motionless so your skin may ignite from the dangerous offshoots radiating from this fireball. And above all, do not strip down and run around like someone afflicted with some sort of encephalopathy. This guide will help you not spontaneously combust under the fierce rays so long as you follow these steps:
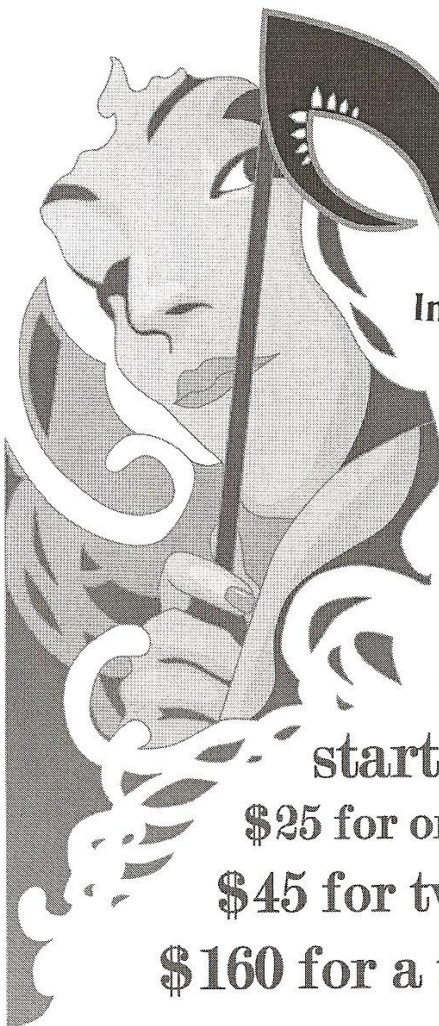
1. Since you have your towel, use it to protect you from the effects of the fireball. For particularly sensitive individuals, immerse your towel in water (found conveniently in all washrooms in the MC) and combat the fireball with the water stored therein.

2. The fireball is known to never sustain itself longer than 24 hours near the MC, so you can wait until the fireball has disappeared to venture out, but this is not always possible; there are reports of some places where the fire burns for days on end at certain times of the year. Avoid those places at all costs.

3. Acquire a parasol. Commercial, quality parasols may be difficult to obtain in MC due to the scarcity of raw materials and self-sufficient labour for making parasols in MC. However, one can improvise a parasol from component parts scattered around the complex. Clipboards can also be used to serve as a parasol in short notice, however, if the distance which one needs to travel outside exceeds fifty metres, consider a more effective solution.

4. Acquire shaded glasses. This device would not stop you from burning up outside, but it will prevent you from being blinded. Again, commercial shades are difficult to obtain, but taking a pair of glasses and colouring it in with a marker would work in a pinch.

5. Acquire and apply lotion specifically designed to protect oneself from the deadly rays. This scarce commodity is a must if you are going to be outside of MC for longer than thirty minutes, and must cover every bit of exposed skin. If you are in need of this commodity and you know someone has it, challenge the other person to a duel for the ability to venture outside the complex at any hour of the day. It's worth it, or so *math*NEWS was told.

Zethar

UW Math Society proudly presents
the 13th Annual Math Charity Ball

MATHQUERADE

In support of
Canadian Blood Services

Tickets include a multicourse dinner,
live entertainment, auctions,
and a night of dancing.

**Tickets sold in MC3038
starting October 12th**

$25 for one
$45 for two
$160 for a table of eight

Saturday
November 20th
6pm - midnight
Federation Hall

MathSoc   FEDS.ca   Canadian Blood Services
it's in you to give

How to be employable

A 79% serious article, honestly

I've heard many people recently bemoaning how few interviews they have. On one hand, I pity them, cause they're less likely to get a job. On the other hand, I have 14 interviews so far, and it's kind of cutting into lectures. (Read: I have to seem happy and intelligent when I really want to be sleeping.) So instead of going on a mad rampage through the Tatham Centre with a gun, I'm going to give people tips for when they go on a mad rampage after getting too many interviews as well. In the meantime, I'll catch up on my sleep.

Websites

Make a website. (Go to CSC for cheap hosting.) Post your resume on it, a picture of yourself (pick one that actually looks good, not your driver's license photo) and add in any random projects you work on. For example, mine has a few simple programs written in various languages, and some of my random artwork. Employers look at it and go "Ooooh" during interviews when I bring it up as an example. If you contribute to open source, link to the project home sites. Try to avoid links to your more disreputable accounts though, or things that link to other stuff you've done that you didn't want to show them.

Resume tweaking

People keep telling me I should edit my resume for each job I apply to. They also say I should write cover letters. Being the lazy person that I am, I do neither. What I do is go through the jobs that I'm applying to before I apply to them, and look for the things that lots of employers want, then throw some key words into my resume, then use that for all my applications. For example, a lot of potential employers wanted object oriented programming experience, so I mentioned that in a few places where I could.

Faking Professionalism

It's a sad fact, but some employers persist on judging you based on how professional you appear to be. Don't use the email address you made when you were eleven. It may have seemed hilarious at the time, but surfydudepoopmeister2923 is unlikely to impress people. Make a new one, include your name, and if it's taken, throw in some initials or dots. Also remember that you can set up most email accounts to automatically forward emails, so you can continue to only check surfydudepoopmeister2923 and not worry about missing emails.

A Dire Warning

And finally, a warning. Don't become too employable. Employability tips are like drugs. One at a time can make you happy, but mixing them can lead to you waking up in the ER with tubes in your face. Or in my case, waking up in the morning, putting on a dress shirt and pants for the fourth day in a row, and heading to the Tatham Centre for the first of four interviews that day before most people would normally be having breakfast.
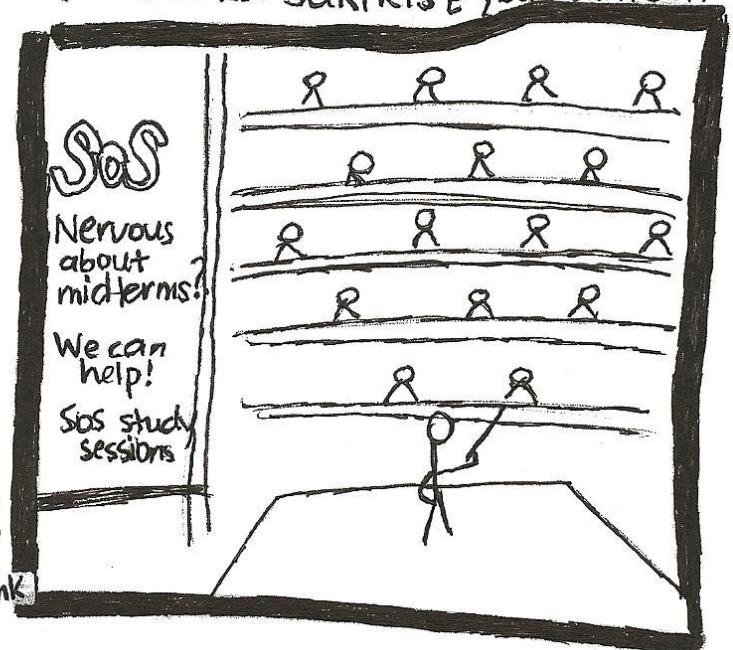
!case

MATHIE SEX POSITION OF THE WEEK

Creampie
Man provides delicious, creamy white liquid to female.

Performance Anxiety
Want a BIGGER grade? SUPERSIZE your marks! SURPRISE your advisor!

wget vs curl

Porn!

Some comparisons between software are based on inane criteria, such as interface usability, algorithmic complexity, and so on. I propose to compare two well known command line utilities based on something that is relevant to people. Porn acquisition. So, without further ado, wget vs curl, and a discussion on porn.

First of all, I am assuming you already know where the porn you wish to acquire is. Either you have a list of urls, or you can algorithmically generate the urls as you go. The second assumption I'm making is that you don't have much time to spend browsing, and just want to save everything for later perusal automatically.

wget
Pros

- I like the fact that it notices 404 errors and doesn't download the file. It saves you from having a directory where half the files are pictures and half are html pages saying "404, page not found"

- Recursive downloads are available, which is great when you can see the parent directory containing the porn. It is also good when the directory names contain elements that can't be easily generated, such as names.

- Random wait allows one to hide the fact that wget is a bot from simple log analyzers that will then refuse access to bots. I haven't run into this issue myself, but am assured that it is useful sometimes.

Cons

- I see no easy way to deal with numerical ranges without access to the parent directory. This is a problem that I encounter probably over 80% of the time when doing large downloads. The most obvious solution that I can find is to prepare a file containing all the urls in it beforehand, and using the -f option. However, it would be nicer if this was available directly in the utility. Compare with curl.

- Regarding recursive downloads: HTTP does not support filename globbing, so "`http://smexy.com/img/*.jpg`" isn't going to work. Unfortunately, many sites don't let you access the parent directory, or it is full of other stuff as well, which you then have to make attempts to filter out. Also, I find that sites which allow access to their full directory structure tend to be of lower quality. Tastes may vary however.

curl
Pros

- curl supports both set and alphanumeric range expansion. This means you can type one string, and encode many URLs within it very simply. I've noticed a lot of sites where the URLs I wish to access only differ by one or two sequentially increasing numbers. This ability greatly simplifies things over wget

- The -o option, used in conjunction with the above ranges, allows one to avoid large numbers of directories by renaming output files. For example, if your URL argument is "http://smexy.com/20[06-10]/[01-12]/[00-31]/IMG_[0-25].jpg", you could either have over a thousand directories to go through, or you could append "-o 20#1-#2-#3_IMG#4" and get a nice flat file hierachy, so you have an easier time browsing through later, and still don't overwrite your files.

Cons

- The man page for curl is rather large, mainly owing to the many protocol specific options offered. This makes the learning curve a bit steeper, and to be fair, I've never had to use telnet, gopher, or POP3 to get my porn.

- I do not believe curl supports recursive downloads via HTTP. Compare with wget
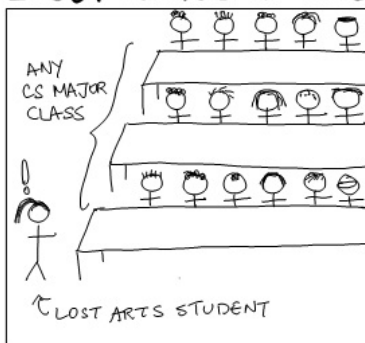
To conclude, I believe that each utility has its own merits in certain situations. I encounter sequentially increasing number issues more often than ones that can be solved with recursive downloads, so I prefer curl. Others may prefer wget for their use, whether because of the sites they visit, or familiarity.
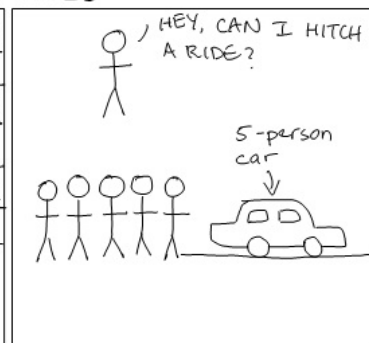
*math*NEWS Rejection

In the past two issues, one writer has been submitting articles of a fairly creepy nature. Last issue, he sent in a picture illustrating his article from two issues ago. This issue, he attempted to send in a picture illustrating his article from last issue, about a young woman physically abusing a young man. I have included a url to the image if you are inclined to view such things. View it at your own risk. `http://i55.tinypic.com/2410ys2.jpg`

GroovyED

EXCEPTIONS IN THE WILD

ANY CS MAJOR CLASS

LOST ARTS STUDENT

TooMany Men Exception

HEY, CAN I HITCH A RIDE?

5-person car

Seat Index Out Of Bounds Exception

HEY BABY, THAT DRESS BELONGS ON MY BEDROOM FLOOR!

Class Not Found Exception

LAST NIGHT   NOW

MAN, I'M SO WASTED!

LAST NIGHT

Null Thought Exception

A Guide To Wearing Fedoras

In recent years there has been a surge in the number of people wearing fedoras who obviously should not be wearing fedoras. In a previous issue of mathNEWS it was suggested that more people should wear fedoras. I'm here to issue a warning to any mathie (or anyone else reading this) who is about to put on a fedora. For some people fedoras look awesome, but for a lot of others it makes them look like pretentious douchebags who think they're cooler than they actually are. To make sure you don't end up like the latter, here is a simple guide you can follow. Please consult these checklists every time you are about to put on a fedora, for the safety of yourself and everyone around you.

Checklist For Fedora Wearing:

1. Are you wearing a suit?

2. Are you going to be wearing a suit by the time you put on your fedora?

3. Are you awesome?

4. Really think hard about that last one. (Seriously, don't fool yourself.) Still yes?

5. Are you one of the Blues Brothers?

6. Are you a 1930's gangster, currently living in the 1930's?

7. Have you showered today?

8. Have you had a haircut in the past 6 months?

9. Did you bring sexy back?

10. Are you, or have you ever been Indiana Jones?

If you answered 'yes' to at least 6/10 of these questions, then congratulations, you're only 1 step away from putting on your fedora! One last test: if you answer 'yes' to any of the following questions you may not wear a fedora under any circumstance.

Anti-Fedora Checklist:

1. Do you have a neck beard?

2. Did your mom pick out your fedora for you?

3. Are you wearing Master Chief underwear?

If you scored 6/10 on the first checklist, and answered 'no' to everything on the second checklist, then you are now legally allowed to make the world a better place and add some class to everyone and everything around you by flaunting your fedora. If you did not satisfy the preconditions, don't fret, you can improve yourself and take the test as many times as you want!

DMax

Relativistic Lecture Physics

It is a well-known phenomenon that time appears to slow indefinitely as the class nears its scheduled end. Many students have reacted to this by continuously staring at the clock, drooling, tapping pencils impatiently, noisily putting away their stuff in hopes that the prof gets the hint, and in extreme cases passing out over the illegibly scrawled notes. But what mechanism causes this perceptual shift?

Time as we all know, is money. Precious money is what we spend to pay for our classes and attend our lectures. Unfortunately, many students feel that some classes are a waste of money, especially if it is a course that has no bearing on their field of study but they have to take it anyway *(I'm looking at you, electromagnetics...)*. As the class progresses, one's perception of the worth of the lecture slowly erodes, lowering the perceived monetary value of the class and thus slowing the perception time passing.

Through empirical testing and personal experience, the moment in which time begins to slow down is at the 25 minute point, or around midway through a normal lecture. Take note however, that this 25-minute limit remains constant no matter what the actual length of the class is, it just so happens that it's the length of half of the 50-minute class. Researchers theorize that this is because 25 minutes is the length of the ideal lecture, but due to the fact that students are paying so much for tuition, the university feels obligated to double the length so that it would not seem that the students are ripped off.

Scientists have been able to find methods to aid in coping with these exceedingly long lectures, which students should find useful. These recommendations for staying coherent in class include (but are not limited to):

1. Doodling in the margins of the notes
2. Asking questions in class that solicit a surprised remark from the professor
3. Speeding up the clock in the room for the lecture to end early
4. Learning to tap dance under the desk

By doing the listed actions, it is hoped that the time-warping effects of drained money will be nullified and that class would end on time instead of being dragged on for hours and hours.

Big Mak

The One I Gave My Heart To

I would like to dedicate this song to my one and true love. Come on! Let's dance a waltz, to being together forever. Can't you feel the rhythm, the emotion between us both? Our hearts are in sync, same with our moves. Dance is the greatest way to be connected forever.

Promise me, that you'll never let go. Never let go of me, always be holding me. To feel your warmth, your embrace, I never want to forget it.

Come now, take the lead. Why are you so stiff? It's almost like you're dead. Don't tell me I have to screw our feet together as well. I thought having our hands attached eternally would be enough. Ah, I know what you mean now. You want our heads to be pierced together as well. So we can only ever look at each other's eyes forever.

The dance is almost done. Let's continue this endless waltz.

-Girl attached forever

Jeffrey Bain Memorial Quick Clues

Across

1. The twins
4. Tenuous and spiritlike
8. In the direction of
9. Exploit
10. Cooking smock
13. The vast emptiness of space
16. Instruction, guardianship
17. Sympathy, empathy
19. Surreptitiously arrange to achieve a desired effect
22. Large heavy blunt instruments
27. Heroic saga
29. American marsupials known for playing dead
30. Plowed and harrowed but unsown
32. Sacred hymn
33. Breast support
34. Father
36. Least thick
37. Convenient or opportune

Down

1. Armoured gloves
2. Conductor
3. Charge with misconduct
5. Canned fish
6. Expressing location
7. Noble, exalted
11. Eclipse, surpass
12. The Bringer of Jollity
14. Scorch, singe
15. "_, a name, I call myself"
18. As well
20. Square root symbol
21. Required
23. Circuit of a track
24. Nefarious, odius
25. Illuminated by a natural satellite
26. Trip, nearly fall
27. Explode
28. In the case that
31. Artistic work
35. Sigh

GRIDWORD

Jeffrey Bain Memorial Cryptic Clues

Prone

1. Terminal disease is able to sound like a knight (6)
4. Water says in response to us after water bearer (8)
8. In patriarch! (2)
9. Tavern of the people, without endless lick (3)
10. Model wood reversed tablet before first letter (5)
13. Beginning audio with video contained in crater (6)
16. Embedding in broken alcohol after lathargic without integers (8)
17. Assists an immune system disease (4)
19. New treatment nine, for your amusement (13)
22. Easy women lunatics after naiad universal blood donor (13)
27. Giant fire in the last arrangement of Paris (4)
29. Fake sick, sounds like you apologise (8)
30. Social environment grinds you? (6)
32. Burnt trees! (5)
33. Friend in ambiguous snap alarm (3)
34. Behold, it sounds near the ground (2)
36. Desecrates master foxtrot with mixed lucid mind (8)
37. Cutlery backed ice crystals without end after tailless point (6)

Standing

1. Grain stores plum cousin without Toronto sea goat (9)
2. Big British Clock runs up before you are tardy, so no tea of star dusts (7)
3. Actual frozen water becomes apparent? (7)
5. Begins a quest for an advertisement or four (4)
6. Momentum after you awake (2)
7. Rescues old flower holder after sulfur (5)
11. Petrolium runs up endlessly scrambled titan before heartless righteous archer (11)
12. A new name before I see lacking blood (7)
14. I came to Rome, before I rant without end (4)
15. Musical B is an era without me (2)
18. Cacophony sounds like paradise without Euler's constant (3)
20. Upwards quill before upwards unfinished rho preceeds imaginary 100 of the kidneys (7)
21. Thrice repeats augmented bikes (9)
23. Nevertheless a shortened sasquatch (3)
24. All within one headless random night (4)
25. Disease I am a removed llama to Scottish Loch (7)
26. Starry arachnid alternatively within new cos(pi) (7)
27. Top of the head of a headless viper contains tailless young whale (5)
28. Be in the morning (2)
31. Doesn't start to lift the edge of a roof (4)
35. On the other hand, mined metal, say (2)

gridCOMMENTS

In loving memory of Jeffrey Bain

Hello, *grid*WORD competitors. This week's *grid*WORD is dedicated to Jeffrey Bain, loyal friend, devoted *math*NEWS editor, and true paragon of virtue. There are some people it is impossible to imagine life without, people who seem so fundamental that without them, life seems to lose all meaning and hope. Jeff was one of these people.

But nothing endures forever, and all good things must come to an end, albeit sometimes sooner than we would wish; the light that burns most brightly burns out the quickest, as they say. Sometimes things change for the worst, and we must accept that they are gone. Let us not forget, as well, that even the darkest of tragedies and bleakest of outlooks can harbour unexpected and unlooked for consequences for the better, so let us not despair. Remember, life always carries on.

Incidentally, I regret to inform you that CryptMaster was unable to contribute Cryptic Clues this week, so they are of my own concoction. This isn't something I'm very practiced at, so they may be of lower quality than usual.
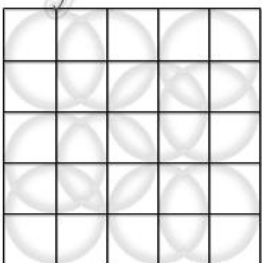
I digress; on to the matter at hand. This time around, we received three complete correct solutions to the Cryptic grid, and a single solution to the Quick grid. We also received a single submission for each grid from the first issue of the term, and so I find it pertinent to remind you all that the deadline for submissions is 4:30 PM on the production night following publication date; in almost all cases, this is the Monday ten days after *math*NEWS is released. Last week's *grid*QUESTION was, "What piece of ancient eldritch lore should all Math undergrads know?" The winning Quick Clue submission was from Matt Amy, whose answer was "Euler's formula". The winning Cryptic Clue submission was from Jo?l Merk, whose answer was

$$\frac{e^u + e^{-u}}{e^u - e^{-u}} \ln(u)$$

it is sitting in proof at the moment." (Don't get it? Simplify that hyperbolic trig function!) You may both claim your prizes in the MathSoc office, MC 3038.

This issue's *jeffreybainmemorialgrid*QUESTION is, "What is your fondest (possibly fictional) memory of Jeffrey Bain?" I wish you all luck with the *jeffreybainmemorialgrid*WORD.
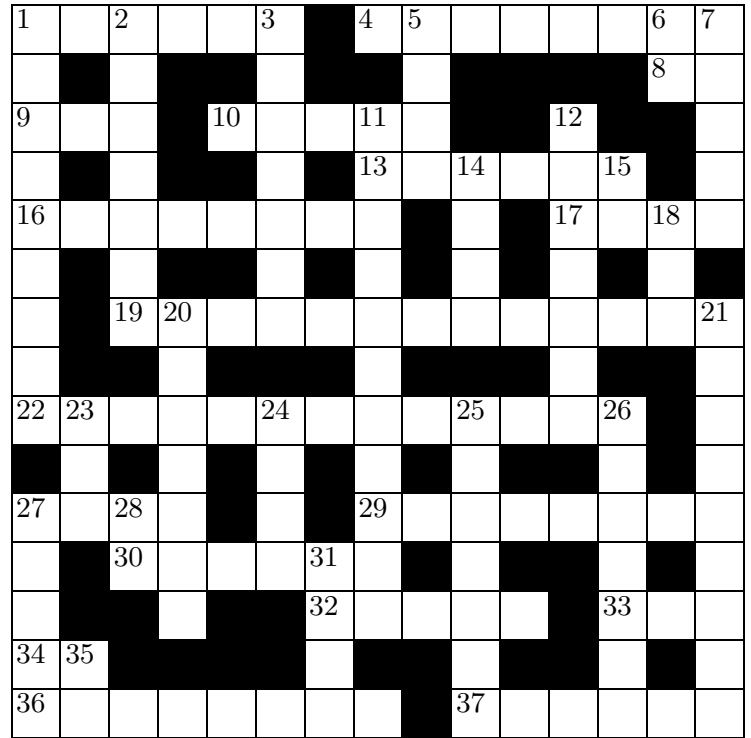
¬perki

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

```
5 3  3 6  5 4  2 5
9 7  7 2  5 2  1 1
5 2  5 1  1 1  8 0
1 1  8 0  0 0  4 9
0 9  9 1
8 8  8 0
```
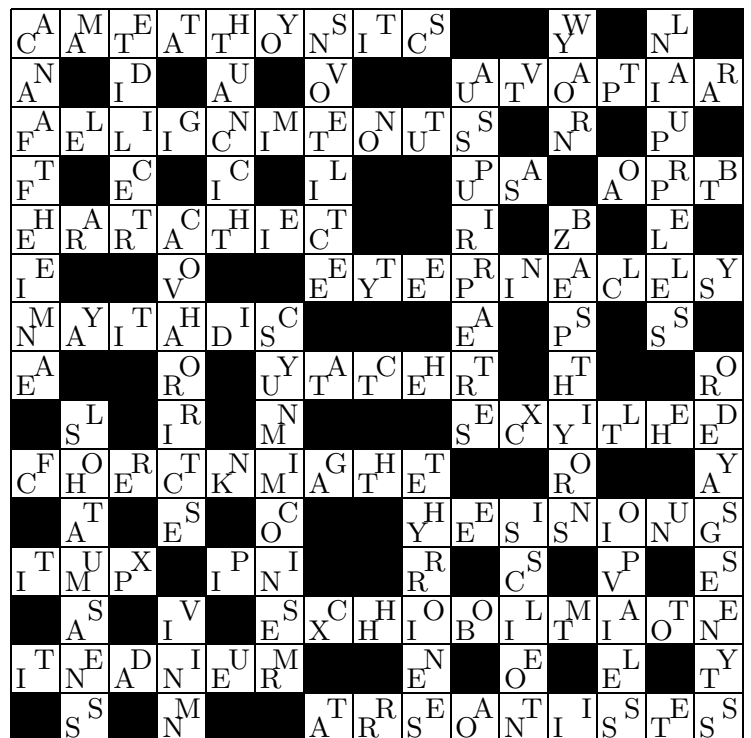
Puzzle courtesy of euri.ca

Submit before October 18th (*grid*QUESTION on page 23)

Name: _____

Grid Answer: _____

Caption Contest: _____

Last Week's Solutions

*math*NEWS Caption Contest!!!!!!!

See the picture above? Right...Right? Ok well make it funnier. Much much much funnier. Do that by writing us a witty caption for it! And if you do that (and do it better than every-one else) we promise to give you an awesome prize. The funnier the better. This will be judged by some of us Editors as well as the person who took the picture (they are just as crazy as us, we promise.)

Either throw your submission into the BLACK BOX
OR
Email us (the editors) at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca with the subject heading: caption contest!

Last weeks winner was Max Chen. Max you can pick up your fabulous prize at them MathSoc office.

The Editors

Last Issue's Winner

Winner Max Chen: **"The smile of a mathNEWS editor hides one of two thoughts: 'Can I has cheezpizza?', and 'MUST... KILL... WRITERS!'"**
Runner-up Catherine Mittelholtz: **"The closest John is ever going to get to any Mathie beaver"**