

# *math* NEWS

Volume 103, Issue 3

Friday, February 16th, 2007



9 770705 041004

**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

February 16 Issue #3 feels no love  
 February 26 Production Night #4  
 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC 3038)  
 All are welcome!

March 3 Issue #4 comes back with a tan

**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

**MGC**

Wednesday Pizza, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor MC  
 11:00-1:00  
 March 16 Grad Ball

**CECS**

March 2 First cycle rankings open

**Student Awards & Financial Aid**

February 16 W&S OSAP applications due  
 April 13 Last day: Cont. of Interest-Free Status form

**Misc**

March 17 St. Patrick's Day  
 April 1 April Fool's Day  
 April 3 Daylight Savings Time begins  
 April 6 Good Friday

**Do You Know The Muffin Man?**

*Because he knocked up my sister*

HWT

**mastHEAD**

There comes a time every other Monday night where a bunch of talented writers and those other ones join forces to produce *mathNEWS*! Last Monday was no different, we came, we ate, and we gawked at awkward articles involving edible puppies that shall never see the light of day again. The fruits of our labour is this issue. We hope that you enjoy it, but if you don't, then there is something obviously wrong with you. This week, we asked our staff "What weren't you doing on Valentine's Day", and then they gave us responses. We published them.

Eric "Ian's mom"; The Insider "The Single Guy (thank god)"; James Simpson "Margaret Thatcher [-:]"; Snippet "The Muffin Man"; HWT "Guys"; Jenn "Voting in the Feds' election. Vote early, vote often"; Peter "Studying for chemistry! Or massacring people"; csEYE "*mathNEWS*"; Matt "Write my midterm"; Math.random() "Things outside my bedroom";  $\pi$  "Ian's mom"; 42 "Wearing pants"; DanS "Anything productive (stupid WoW)".

Our very heart-like thanks go out to Graphics for publishing, midgets for amusing me and other people whose names shall go unheard.

Angelo "Passing that midterm I wrote"  
 statsEd "Go outside the MC"

**VPA Says**

*No longer the VAP*

Another exciting week of meetings has passed.

During the co-op student council meeting there were discussions on what students perceive the job of CECS to be. I would like to go back to the next meeting with insights into what math students believe their mission to be. Please e-mail me, or come by my office to share your viewpoint and provide feedback on this issue.

Do you have an instructor this term that you feel is doing a great job? Have they put in that little extra effort that takes them from a good prof to an excellent prof in need of recognition? Well, Instructor of the Year nominations are now open! Come by the MathSoc office, MC 3038, and fill out a form to nominate your prof today.

Just a reminder that if you are writing math midterms, you should be using one of the two designated pink tie calculators. Come by the MathSoc office to get a pick tie sticker from me or one of the other exec.

Again, if you have any academic concerns you can e-mail me at [vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

Good luck on midterms, and have a safe and fun Reading Week.

Heather Perry  
 VPA W07

**Midnight Capture the Flag**

*February 25, 11:59 PM, in Comfy*

Midnight Capture The Flag! Meet in Comfy! 11:59 PM! Sunday, Sunday, Sunday! Where Sunday is not this coming Sunday but the one after! Being numbered the 25<sup>th</sup>! The 26<sup>th</sup> thou shalt not come, nor shalt thou come on the 24<sup>th</sup> unless to remain there continuously for at least twenty-four hours to the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 27<sup>th</sup> is right out. In any case, I have it on good authority that this particular MCTF will be superfantastic. So superfantastic that we've been having more MCTFs this term than usual! And they cure cancer! Provided that not having fun is a kind of cancer. It's not lupus. It's never lupus. So yeah. Come!

HWT

**ISSN 0705—0410**

*mathNEWS* is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3046, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to [userid-math-news@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:userid-math-news@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet.

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

Terms may be renegotiated by contacting the editor(s).

The editor(s): Emerald Kushnier

## Prez Sez

### *Less than usual*

It's like Snuggles Sez, but Snuggles has more beard and less hair than usual. It's been pretty quiet in President Land over the last week or so, but we've got a couple of things coming up that will probably be of interest to you anyway.

As usual, Movie Nights continue on Thursdays in the Comfy. They're totally FREE, so come out out to see things that haven't been released onto DVD yet. There was always posters about, so keep your eyes peeled.

Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Anne Cavoukian, is coming to campus on February 27<sup>th</sup> 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 AND door prizes!

If you've tried to go to MathSoc today, you've probably noticed that it's, um, closed. That's because we're being renovated! This represents the culmination of a project I've been personally working on for over a year, and I hope you'll like the results as much as I do. Look for the office to reopen once Reading Week is over.

Speaking of Reading Week, remember that there are NO classes, assignments, or exams next week! Have a good time off! I certainly intend to. I'll natter at clueless frosh from my rocking chair, telling them about the bad old days when the Reading Period was only two days long, until an orderly comes along to tell me it's time for my pills and bed. Whippersnappers! Get off my lawn!

Eric Logan  
MathSoc President W07

## VPAS Says

### *You and I are mortal but rock and roll will never die*

The sweet smell of romance was in the air this week around the MC. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, the love will be gone and he or she won't be calling you the next day. Lucky for you, MathSoc is here to pick you up on the rebound.

Our Thursday movie night will be cancelled on the 22<sup>nd</sup> thanks to our brand spankin' new Reading Week. If you really miss it, grab a DVD and you can play MathSoc Movie Night: The Home Game! We'll be back in Comfy the following week. Don't forget that movie nights are FREE, so grab a friend and come out on Thursday nights.

The engineering scavenger hunt, EngScunt, is coming up in early March. It will start on the 9th and run for 24 hours. The math team tends to do well, and EngScunt is always a good time. If you're in town that weekend, consider taking part. I'll have more information in the next issue of *mathNEWS*.

If you enjoy planning semi-formals and want to gain some business negotiation experience, MathSoc needs help planning our Charity Ball taking place in the fall. If you're interested in the job, email me at [vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) for more information.

Stay tuned to *mathNEWS* for more information on what's happening. As always, if you have any ideas for events you'd like to see, feel free to email me, or better yet, stop by the MathSoc office. Until next time, keep fit and have fun. Body break!

Gee "9.8 m/s<sup>2</sup>" Ramsahai  
VPAS W07

## VPF Says

Reading week is coming! It's like there's a party in my mouth and everyone's invited! Except you. You suck.

Angelo

## projects.uw.3

As usual, here's a desperate plea to submit what you've been working on ([dave@euri.ca](mailto:dave@euri.ca)). I have a job, I have a WoW character, I just don't have the time to hunt you down.

I mentioned Adam's Starcraft maps in the last column, those are available at <http://gt.horizonhouse.ca/pages/u-of-w.php>

Take a look at Tony's CompSci.ca, a programmer forum. Especially cool is Adam's Forces (<http://compsci.ca/blog/forces>) which was written in Turing (source code's available).

### *Me-too projects*

I don't own a printer (I rent a room the size of a large fridge), so I print on the self-serve printers — and I was ecstatic to see that you can now print over the wireless network. Except it only worked once then stopped, so I went to the MFCE, to be told it's unsupported. Now I understand why companies pay for support, because no help desk should ever ask, "Why don't you just ssh in, ftp it in postscript and pipe it to the printer" — even if I know how to do that.

So I wrote my own PHP program that sits on student.math

and pipes the temporary upload file to a conversion program (either GhostScript, ImageMagick or Anitword) and then to the printer. Now I (and only I) can print from home (I couldn't figure out how to su in a php script — if you know: tell me). I queue things up from home and pick them up in the morning.

Similarly, I installed the latest Winamp recently, and I was excited to see that it could auto-load my portable MP3 player. In 2005, I made my own script to randomly load up my portable player and, since it only has two known users, it's not something I want to maintain.

Eagerly, I let Winamp autoload my 1 gig player, and it destroyed the directory structure (deleting photos, but not movies), transferred some configuration files — and then crashed. So it looks like if I want to put 99 MP3s in the MP3 directory, without deleting anything outside that directory (and ideally rename song.mp3 to {rand(100,999)}\_song.mp3 because my MP3 player's random doesn't work), I have to do it myself.

So it looks like I'm going to keep with my own scripts, because it's just too hard to use other people's software.

David H.

# Only a few hours left until Reading Week

## MGC Sez

*If you haven't done so already...*

Drop by the third floor outside the comfy and pick up a grad ball ticket! That's right! Today is the last absolute last day you can pick up a grad ball ticket. There isn't a lot of space left, so head on over to our booth and get a ticket! Celebrate your last term (or two) with everyone else who has gone through the same ordeal as you! Tickets are \$60 for single and \$110 for doubles.

Also, today is your last day to pick up a yearbook at a discounted price. That's right! If you buy a yearbook now, it will only cost you \$40 dollars (add 5 dollars if you want to have it personalized)! Starting next week, prices will go up and you will not be allowed to personalize it either! So what are you waiting for? Pick up a yearbook while you're getting your grad ball tickets! It's win-win for you!

Have you written a blurb yet? Remember, writing something will put you on a page with 5 other people. Not to mention, you'll get a bigger picture compared to people who do not plan to write anything at all. They share their page with up to 15 other people. Wouldn't you rather have a bigger picture? Of course you do. Submit your grad quotes at <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/> There's a link on the left titled "Grad Quotes" and you to write up to 200 words!

Don't think that your 1/6 of a page is good enough? Would you like some more room to call your own? Wish you could split a page with a friend to share all the awesome memories you had over the last five years? Well, we're offering a special deal for you! For a low price of 75 dollars, you can purchase a quarter of a page. If you want more, we also sell half pages at 100 dollars and full pages at 150. Get together with a group of friends and buy an entire page! It'd be worth it.

If you have any photos over the last five years of mathies having fun, or just you on vacation with family and/or friends, submit them to [mgcbook07@gmail.com](mailto:mgcbook07@gmail.com). We're looking for any photos you might want to see in the yearbook. It could be a

party you went to, or just friends passed out in class. We don't care! Just send them in and we'll use them! That address again is [mgcbook07@gmail.com](mailto:mgcbook07@gmail.com). (Please send something in, or our yearbook editor will cry. You don't want the yearbook editor to cry.)

Do you like awards? Like being recognized for all the cool things you have done during your university career? Employers love seeing awards and recognitions you've received. So why not nominate yourself or a friend for the Alan George Award of even Valedictorian? Nothing sounds better than being the best of your class than being the Valedictorian. Fill out a nomination form available at <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc>. Deadline for the Alan George Award is the Monday after Reading Week (Feb 26, 2007) at 4:30 and March 16, 2007 for the Valedictorian Award at 4:30. Drop off any forms in the MGC mailbox in the Soc office or come by the MGC office at MC3029 and we'll take your applications.

No one can turn down free money, right? Exactly. Check out <http://safa.uwaterloo.ca/currentawards.htm> to see all the free money you can potentially earn! Specifically the MGC Award which is for students who will be going into fourth year come September. You know, an extra couple hundred dollars sure comes in handy for textbooks, (booze), course notes, (booze), random supplies, and of course — having a good time all term! Check out the site and apply! You can't lose!

**Intent to graduate forms!!!** Fill them out! If you actually plan to leave this place anytime soon, you better fill out the form now! The deadline for intent to graduate forms for the June convocation is March 1, 2007 and August 1 for the October convocation.

Have a great Reading Week! I hope to see all of you at convocation in June! Run for Valedictorian, you deserve the recognition!

Ivan Chin, Rodney Lam

## My Valentine's Diatribe

*Even the taken can hate it*

I'm female. I know what you're thinking, I probably demanded a dozen red roses and a box of chocolates for Valentine's Day and spent the whole day fused at the the hand with my boyfriend in a state of being utterly and hopelessly loved up. Actually, no. I perpetually roll my eyes at such silliness. Previous to this year I have always been single on Valentine's Day and have developed a don't-care attitude towards this particular day of little importance. I see no reason to change it now that I happen to be committed to a member of the male gender on this instance of Valentine's Day. I also see no reason to publically display my affection for this member of the male gender in any more detail than I usually do. One girl draped all over her boyfriend, looking like some starfish sucking the insides out of some shell-covered creature is one more than most people want to see. Therefore, I will not annoy the masses by adding to the atrocity. Even the CSC is more classy than that. Yes, I just referred to the CSC as being more classy than something else.

That girl over there.

## How About that Local Sports Team?

Well, they had a tough game against Those Other Guys, where they squeaked through after 4 tough time periods.

Hoos Dat scored the winning point(s) with 28 seconds left on the clock.

"We gave a hundred and ten percent in the last time period, making up for that horrible first period, where we only gave ninety. You can't win a game without one hundred percent effort! Averaged, that is."

Those Other Guys' Coach, Wats Hizna'm, declined to comment on his not very crushing defeat because of a lack of recognition in their wins against Them Cocky Bastards in last week's series.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> game that That Local Sports team has won, ever. Most of the time That Other Local Sports' winning causes much confusion to the fans of the beloved franchise.

The last time That Local Sports Team won was against The Bleu-Shirts back when That D'uude was the lead player. Granted the Bleu-Shirts forfeited but the players gave it their all!

That's been this week in competitive physical activity.

Reputable Numeral signing off



# Dating Advice From The Single Guy

*the most real issue this term*

Has it been two weeks already? It seems like it's only been one week since the last issue, but since *mathNEWS* is fortnightly well, it must have been two. Anyway, I'm doing something different this week with the formatting, but I doubt you're going to notice. Anyway, on to the letters.

## Dear The Single Guy

Last week I got dumped. It sucks. Everyone kept telling me that I deserved better but I wouldn't listen. I thought, "I'm a mathie. If I have someone I better hold onto them, because who knows if I will get another chance at love." He broke it off and now I'm lost. I tried following your advice from last term about breakups, but his roommate wouldn't have anything to do with me since I woke him up so many times, I don't have any pictures of my ex because he believes that they steal your soul and your final bit of advice, "don't be dumb" isn't something that I can do because of my general blondness. Please help since I even cooked for this guy and missed the chance to give him food poisoning  
Carrie

**Well Carrie, thanks for listening to my plea to stop all those silly \_\_\_\_ in Waterloo signatures, it was just getting silly, and this is hardly the place to be silly. Relationships are on the line here. You say your ex is a he and your name (even if it is fake) isn't quite a guys name either, but the fact that you're in math shouldn't ever stop you from ending things with someone who's not good for you. Odds are pretty good that all you need to do is go to class to have plenty of guys hitting on you. If not, maybe your shirts aren't low-cut enough.**

It sounds like you're (rightfully) looking for some revenge, but need some options other than what I had before. The problem with this is that it's hard to come up with good ones without knowing some good details on the person you're trying to get. For example, in your case if this guy really doesn't like getting his picture taken (enough to think that they steal your soul), then maybe you should get yourself a camera and follow him around taking pictures. Alienating his roommate is really unfortunate because it would have opened up many so many other possibilities, like getting into his place when he's not around

and messing with his stuff. Trying to hook up with someone close to him to make him jealous could still be a good idea even if the roommate isn't available to you. Does he have any brothers who would be interested? What you really need is some creativity; I can offer suggestions here, but you need to take them and adapt them to your own situation.

As for your blondness, try simply colouring your hair, then you won't be blonde anymore, which solves several of your dumb problems.

My next letter you may have seen in the last issue of *mathNEWS*; it was forwarded to me by The 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**

In his response to this letter, The Insider talks about how much he seems to like this letter writer and how they're both single. In Issue 1, The Insider also says that he's not opposed to making up the letters he prints. All in all, methinks that Mr. Insider is a lonely, lonely writer, who's not only too proud to directly ask me, but also too dumb to submit a letter to me anonymously.

Anyway, perhaps your problem is that you want a date on this campus. I have to say the Comfy isn't really the most romantic place, and although there are more romantic places on campus, none of them are romantic enough to really get anyone to want to spend time with you. Open up the option for having dates off campus, and the number of people willing to go up with you will go up substantially. Odds are pretty good that you're not going to find a girl in the MC, and if you do, odds are pretty good that she's not single (although, perhaps I could introduce you to someone I know who goes by the name Carrie).

Look elsewhere and take arts courses, but really, I would suggest that you give up your search; that way, you will stop failing. Plus, if you're really looking for a girl you're compatible with, then odds are pretty good you'll find her without looking. Don't listen to that if all you're looking for is a quick bang; for that, go to the Bomber and look for the drunkest girl you can find.

The Single Guy

## Irrational Dislikes

*Poorly Defended*

You know what's annoying? People that laugh with an even number of ha's. What the hell is that? That's unnatural, it is. Forced. Insincere. People grow up listening to music predominantly based on double meters with emphasis on the downbeat. That means measures have an even number of beats and phrases aim for the first beat of the next measure. Which means we naturally want to use a rhythm of an even number of beats plus one, with alternating strong-weak emphasis. This gives us an odd number of laughs, provided you even laugh with distinctly separate "HA!"s at all.

In order to get an even number of laughs, we would either have to use a triple meter (as in "HA-ha-ha-HA!"), add an un-

stressed pick-up beat ("ha-HA-ha-HA!"), unstress the end beat ("HA-ha-HA-ha!"), or stress beats weirdly and randomly like a tool ("HA-ha-HA-HA!"). Actors have been shot for passing chortles better than these as laughs. Probably. Lots of actors get shot, right?

The best remedy is to develop a laugh where the individual syllables blend together, resulting in some non-integer number of laughs, at which point it is impossible for you to have made an even number of laughs. Also, you know, it's natural.

Those of you who know me in real life will surely spend a better part of the next 48 hours walking up to me and laughing obnoxiously. I feel it prudent to remind you that you either have unprotected testicles, pets, or hair.

## profQUOTES

I could have used ‘O’ for occurrence but every time I said “Oh Lambda” I felt silly.

Cutler, STAT 333

[Talking about imitation] It’s this automatic thing with kids... until they realize it’s annoying and do it on purpose.

Fitzsimons, PSYCH 354

[In a full classroom] You can sit on somebody’s lap. Yeah, just walk across the table here.

Freeland, ACTSC 231

Prof: I was considering holding a contest to see who has the best cell phone ring. What do you think the prize should be?

Student: An F in the course.

Freeland, ACTSC 231

In fact, I don’t want to judge anyone who might have done this before, but if I ever catch you dividing vectors, I will publically execute you.

Furino, CO 350

We have much better alcohol than the high schools do.

Grove, CHE 102

Prof: If you are suffering from methanol poisoning, you need to get really, really drunk.

Student: Yes! An excuse!

Prof: I wouldn’t use that as an excuse!

Grove, CHE 102

Do you guys read anything? Do you think at all? No, you don’t.

Krivodonova, MATH 138

The brain of an average 3-year-old is twice as active as the brain of an average undergrad. It’s true.

Krivodonova, MATH 138

[In response to an ambiguous student question] You mean plane, as in, airplane? [waves arms like wings]

Krivodonova, MATH 237

This is ridiculous. Even a German logician wouldn’t do it this way.

Malton, CS 245

This is probably the most useless class.

Malton, CS 245

Yes, I made a boo-boo. Where’s the boo-boo?

Malton, CS 245

Sstudent] Will we have to know this for the midterm?

[Prof] No, you won’t.

[As student leaves for washroom] That doesn’t mean you can leave!

Malton, CS 245

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

Let’s make a mistake!

Malton, CS 245

Nobody in their right mind would do that. Maybe I’m not in my right mind.

Malton, CS 245

Let’s assume that someone doesn’t love the King. We don’t know who it is. That’s for the Secret Services to decide.

Malton, CS 245

You can bring a calculator [to the midterm], but I think it’s to your disadvantage, because the probability of hitting the wrong button is higher than making a mistake in adding two numbers less than 10.

Maslou, MATH 136

So if you were rendering for pigeons, you might need a 7-dimensional colour space.

McCool, CS 488

Where does this constant come from? You make it up.

McCool, CS 488

You, yourself, are a topological space. Everything you see is a topological space. There is no escape.

Ng, PMATH 367

John Stewart Mill was a very brilliant man but he had a hair lip and he was very ugly. For this reason, sadly, he was never very successful as a professor. It’s a good thing UW doesn’t work like that. If it did, there would be no one teaching in the math faculty.

Nutbrown, PSCI 101

This is the clitoris. If you haven’t discovered it, then I strongly suggest you do.

Pfaff, SMF 204

[About a speculum] It looks like a big platypus... open.

Pfaff, SMF 204

Wearing black and writing on a chalkboard don’t mix. That would probably explain why goths tend not to be professors.

Ragde, CS 245

I have two tails. [pause] No, this critical value has two tails.

Song, STAT 331

Just to be thoroughly obnoxious, I’m going to use a squiggly Greek letter.

Spronk, PMATH 354

I took a look at his paper but it was very model-theoretic and made me sick to my stomach.

Spronk, PMATH 254

## PINK TIE PLEDGE

*IT’S COMING!*

By contributing, you will help support the areas in math you are most interested in.

## More *prof*QUOTES

So round and round and round we go. Except that this is actually a square.

Vaughan, ECON 102

Enough of the real world — let's go back to our mathematical world where we analyze things in painful generality.

West, AMATH 250

So, if you are building a swimming pool using a radioactive blast, you may want to think twice about how much more nuclear material you would need to buy to double the diameter. Not that you would want to swim in nuclear waste. You'd have to wait awhile.

West, AMATH 250

So we multiply by  $x$ . You might be wondering why we do this, the reason is the multiply by  $x$  rule.

West, AMATH 250

[Talking about variance] If there's a fat guy, and I move him over here, he's still a fat guy. I didn't change his fatness.

Zhu, STAT 230

## Now with NaN% More Staples

*Than the 4th floor of MC*

If you wandered around the fourth floor of MC during the first few weeks of the term, you probably noticed the signs all over the place advertising the complete lack of staples available for student use. Thanks, admin types. It's good to know you're tightening the screws on expenses. Heavens know we already pay out the nose for such fantastic services as the all-seasonal AC in Comfy.

Hold onto this *mathNEWS* tightly, dear reader, for it contains more free staples than the entire 4th floor of MC combined. Don't bother to thank us; consider it a gift from us to you. It's no hassle at all, really. You know why? Because *staples are really freaking cheap*. Five bucks for 25,000 staples, says the Internet. I've got a \$20 in my pocket. Can I just cover the faculty right now?

Yes, staplers are expensive to lose. But the vast majority of them, before the great staple drought of two-aught-just-now, were secure. With chains and locked boxes screwed to the wall. Hell, MathSoc doesn't lose their staplers and they're just hanging out in the open breeze. I applaud MathSoc for continuing to provide this vital service. But the fact is, assignments are due at all times of day, and MathSoc isn't always open in the wee hours of the morning.

Times are hard, I guess is the party line. Maybe if we were having a prosperous year, such as an anniversary celebration of 50 prosperous years with free shiny pins and Elvis impersonators, each worth at *least* seven or eight staples, then we could expect a bell and whistle or two. But sometimes, cuts just have to be made, and we just have to do our best to keep things together.

I mean, with paper clips, or glue, or something.

HWT

## Insulting Our Intelligence Much?

*FedS Elections same as always*

It has come to *mathNEWS*'s attention that this term's FedS candidates are especially insulting. Not only do they assume that the average student is a general arts major with a minor in psych, but they also try to fit in with everyone. The presidential candidates are the worst, since they feel that they need to personally relate to every student.

Take, for example, incumbent Michelle Zakrison. As an ES student, she doesn't have much in common with any of the other programs. However, she invents things to share, such as her wearing of a Math Pink Tie(tm), normally only awarded to mathies who have braved Orientation week to earn it. And her gimmicks won't earn her many points with an intelligent constituency. The "eX factor," for eXperience (apparently), only makes us wish she was our eX-President.

On the other hand, Engineering student Adam Schubert talks about building lines of communication without addressing the fact that FedS is continually ineffectual at getting smart things done due to their bureaucracy. One point he does make with which we can all agree is that FedS is a "'practicing ground' for aspiring politicians." But perhaps he is too proud to see that he is no different from the others.

Kevin Royal just so happens to be one of those aspiring politicians, as a political science major. He realizes the need for short, concise sentences and small words, since he knows artsies well. But while he recognizes that there is too much bureaucracy and red tape involved in the clubs, he doesn't see how having regular meetings with all the clubs will only waste more of his and their time while feeding the bureaucratic machine.

While we all know that the elections are over when this is printed, I felt I had to put my two cents in on the election process and its prototypical candidates. Hopefully next year someone will come up with a unique election platform, but considering the fact that Canada's federal elections are no different, I'm not holding my breath.

Jenn the Dirty Mathie  
Conscientious Objector

## Valentine's Babies

Okay, so Valentine's Day is over and we all know what you breeding-types out there did. Now you have to pay the consequences with a wonderfully accidental bundle of love. Now, I'm not going to point the finger at anyone from Laurier or Arts, but we know it's you.

There's nothing sadder than watching a friend have to leave school to support their child. Unless you're me or really insensitive, in which case, replace 'sadder' with 'funnier'. Children are a big responsibility and investment. They will bring you joy or some semblance of it when they spend all of your money and crash your car. They will pick your retirement home, so be kind to them. They will likely also be whiny. Be sure to remember: a backhand is discipline and an open hand is abuse.

So, for those of you who didn't conceive children on Valentine's Day: you now have reasons not to next Valentine's Day.

Angelo

## mathHELP

*A mathie advice column*

**Dear Insider:** My co-op experience has not been going too well this term. The few interviews that I actually manage to get have ended up in disaster. I really need a job for the summer. What can I do to improve my chances? – **Lost in Job Search**

**Dear Lost:** I'm tempted not to help you, because I really need a job myself. However, I'm a nice person, so I'll give you some help at my expense. Career Services provides many workshops with respect to job search skills (including interview skills). Go to their website and sign up for one. As in, now.

The Insider

**Dear Insider:** My midterm's tomorrow, and I feel very unsure about the concepts that will be covered. Reading the textbook doesn't help, and neither do my notes. Who can help me prepare? – **Midterm Mania**

**Dear Mania:** You do realise that if you were to send me this last week, you might have gotten better results. As for your query, have you tried consulting with professors, TAs, and classmates? You will find that their assistance can be vital to your success (and who knows, they, too, might learn something). As well, it is recommended that you spend about 10 hours of studying per midterm over a week-long period, so next time, start your studying earlier.

The Insider

**Dear Insider:** I would like to add to your response to the letter from Totally Screwed (Issue 1), who nearly flunked last term and is following the same habits. I was in a similar situation, where I wasn't attending classes and was procrastinating on assignments. However, I would like to pass on some suggestions that I received from Counselling Services:

From what I can see, this person is probably missing class due to a lack of sleep. They should set a time each night to get some sleep so that they will get the sleep that they need every night. As well, they should start developing their time-management skills when it comes to getting assignments done. Not only will the skills be helpful in a work environment, the assignments themselves are good study tools with respect to the exams. – **Out of the Hole**

**Dear Hole:** Counselling Services is always a great place to go for help, as shown by your experiences. Thank you for sharing them with us, and hopefully this will help others in such a situation. One more thing: stop stealing my job.

The Insider

mathNEWS\_Insider@hotmail.com

## Bug of the Fortnight

Today's bug of the fortnight features a simple Hello World program in Modula-3, and some pretty bad code :-):

```
MODULE Main;
BEGIN
  IO.Put("Hello World!\n");
END Main.
```

Can you identify the bug(s) and syntax errors in the code? For next bug of the fortnight: Haskell

James Simpson

## Vote for Captain Planet

This Feds election, don't vote for any of the candidates! Not just because Feds has enough inertia to stop Superman after a head-on collision, but because of all the wonderful things that Captain Planet can do for you!

Captain Planet: he's a hero. He'll take pollution down to zero, whatever that means. Anyway, who wants the same old boring Feds candidate when you could have a crazy superhero with the power of earth, fire, wind, water and heart? Furthermore, we already know that Feds doesn't actually do anything. Things would be so much better if in the middle of a Feds meeting Captain Planet jumped out and brought their "pollution down to zero" using as much violence as humanly possible.

Vote for violence this Feds election! Or just cause some of your own.

Granted, the elections are now over. You should have voted for Captain Planet, I mean, how many of the other candidates have their own theme songs?

Angelo

## Happy People

*They're out to get you*

Nobody argues with happy people. It's just not done. Unless you are in a particularly foul mood, at which point the only real cure is to spread it around. No one in their right mind would go out of their way to argue with someone with a big grin on their face, the kind of grin that indicates that the lights are on, but nobody's at home. Following that logic, I could say that that people don't argue with stupid people, but that'd be a stretch. Stupid people tend to start arguments, so there goes that idea.

Nobody argues with happy people. Because of the vacant grin, you may be lulled into thinking that the mind of these content souls is void as well. But maybe, that's what they want you to think. Maybe, just maybe, it's all planned so they don't need to waste their time with a pointless argument. Then they'd be smart. But that's not right, they have a stupid grin. Only idiots have stupid grins. But can you be sure?

Paranoid Numeral

## Memories of Valentines Day

These are the things that were said to me last Valentine's Day:

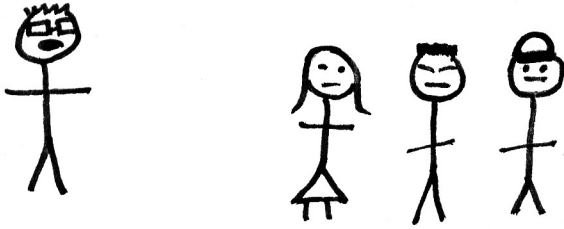
- It's not you, it's me: I have standards.
- To show our love I got you a restraining order.
- Let's be friends. The kind that never talk to each other.
- I think I need to see other people. Well, people other than you.
- I bought you this flower to represent our love. It's going to die in a couple of days.
- Roses are red, violets are blue, come any closer and I'll start hitting you!
- Sure, I'll go out with you. Let me just go home and take a ten-year shower.
- Die in a fire.

Angelo

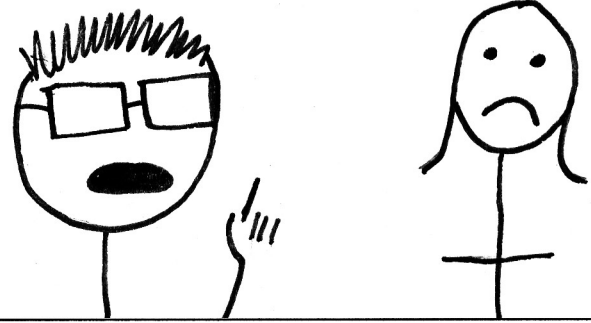


## Close to Infinity

Great, we get to do a group project. I hate working with groups, and shall take out my bitterness on the rest of you. It's entirely logical for me to judge you based on my past experiences with other people.

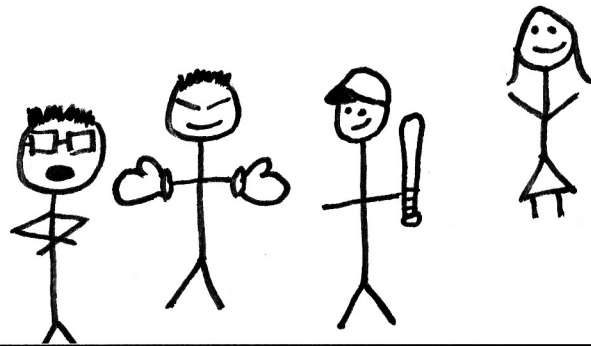
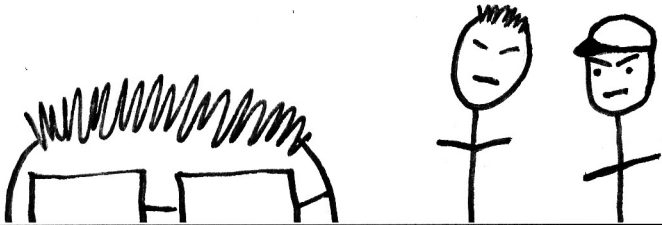


I'm going to take control of this project! When I say that I don't mean that I'm going to delegate jobs in a reasonable manner or actually complete any of the work, I'm just going to trash talk all of you.



The best thing you can do for this project is to stay out of my way. I will keep the work stashed away so I can forget about it. This will lower your marks all while I will be acting condescending to you.

Please pardon me when I suddenly get bitter and start complaining about all of the work I will be doing for this assignment. It's all your fault. Not mine. Yours!



## Attention Imprint

*In response to your campus question*

Why bother asking all those females what the most successful pick-up lines are? In UW, the girls don't need pick-up lines. They need blindfolds and no standards.

Angelo

## Valentine's Day's Overrated

*Thanks, Single Guy*

My Valentine's Day was spent as any other day. Alone. In my room. With nothing but homework to comfort me.

Thanks, Single Guy, for your "tips" that only had girls laugh at my face!

The Insider

## Food For Thought

Girls are stupid: throw rocks at them. There, now this popular slogan is a hate crime. It's funny how big of a difference that one word can make.

Angelo

## Waterloo University a Segregated Family

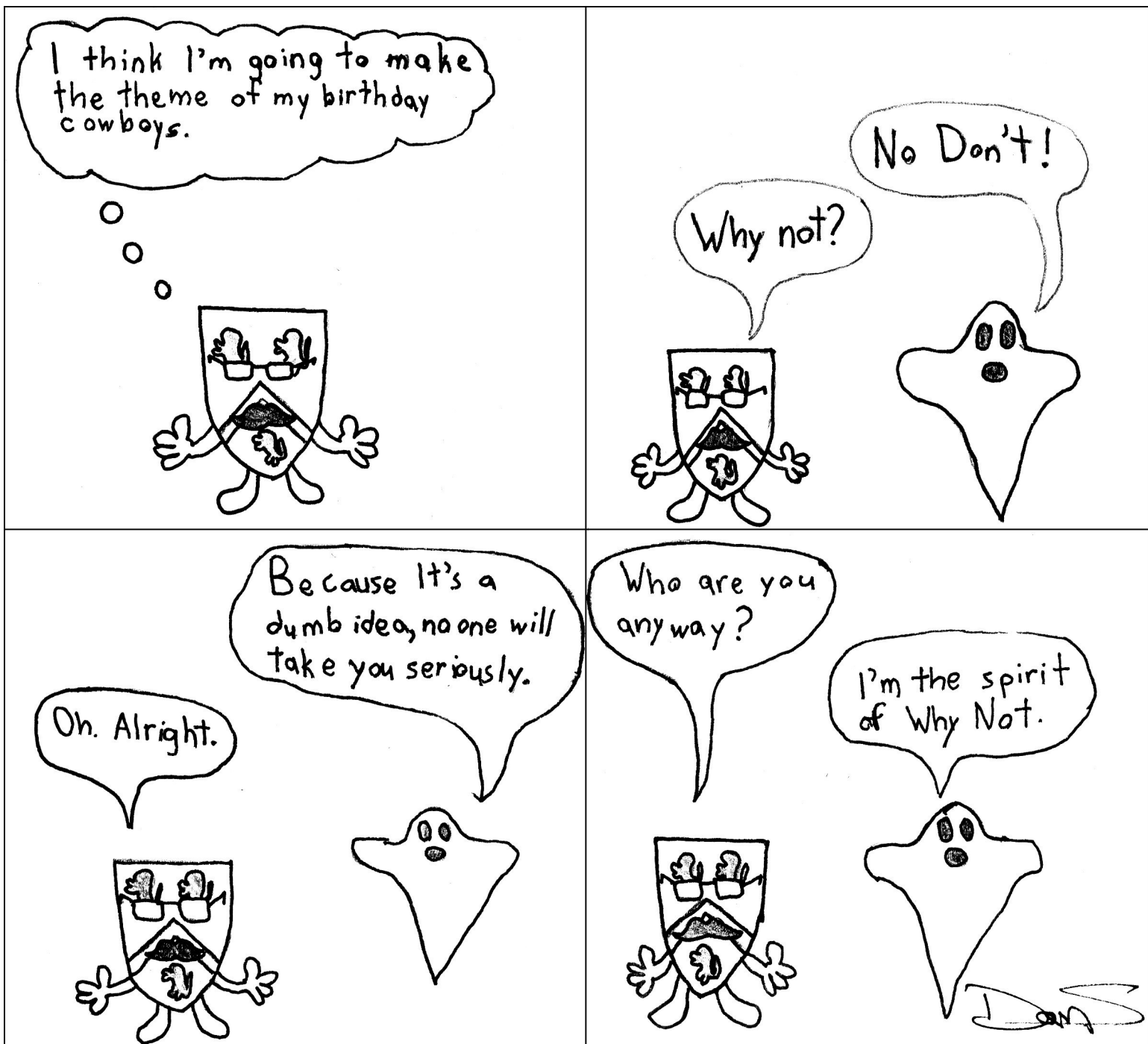
University is supposed to depict an area of maturity, culture and respect. Why is it, then, that there seems to be more social separation at UW than most high schools? From day one at Waterloo, this sense of groupings seems to be instilled during orientation week by having faculty vs. faculty competitions. There is not one faculty that is to blame; in fact it seems to be that every faculty needs to boast that their program is "the best" while all others are easier and worse. Different faculties represent different strengths in a given field, and to throw remarks such as "Artsies are dumb" are unneeded (especially knowing that I most likely could not survive in an arts program).

Instead of this competition between faculty/program, the students of Waterloo should start to use the fact that the University offers many programs to their advantage.

Need help for an essay? Ask a friend who's majoring in English. Need some science help? Ask a friend in science.

People should remember that we are all part of the UW, and that such remarks just make reflect poorly on the university itself.

Farid



## MySpace Sues Parents

### *The ultimate solution to online predators*

In response to the numerous lawsuits from irate parents who were shocked to find that there are actually people who will lie about their identity on their online networking site, MySpace has decided to take action.

The truly disturbing fact isn't that a 50-year-old man can convincingly pretend to be a 14-year-old girl on MySpace but rather that the really 14-year-old girls will happily disclose personal information such as their address to someone they've only ever seen online. Since it is painfully obvious that MySpace can never conclusively verify the ages of their members (after all, most people are capable of lying on a web signup form), and having identified the root of the problem, MySpace realised that it was, in fact, the fault of the parents for not properly educating their children about very basic online safety. To this end,

MySpace has launched a series of lawsuits against the parents of all children who have disclosed an accurate address publicly on their site alleging criminal negligence.

The judges have so far been quite sympathetic towards MySpace on this issue, having gotten tired of whiny parents who are not only willing to admit that they've failed to teach their children that it is possible that the person they've only ever met online may, in fact, not have been completely honest with them, but for some reason they feel that they deserve monetary compensation for the pain and suffering caused by their own failures. MySpace admits that the lawsuits are perhaps a little drastic, but they feel they should do everything within their power to protect their customers from further attacks.

woolyLogic

## Horrorscopes

*mathEYE's server's still down, so I'm subbing in.*

So first of all, you may be wondering where *mathEYE* is. Well, last issue, he said that his server crashed (in an attempt to mock JobMine, until Angelo ruined the joke [*Yeah, sure, and you're welcome for me doing your job — Angelo*]). However, this time, his server actually *has* crashed. Thankfully, his data is backed up on mine, and hence, your Scopes.

### ACCOUNTING

As the term continues and the tax deadline approaches, you are quite thankful that you are not on co-op this term. However, keep in mind that next time tax season comes around, you won't be so lucky.

Your lucky number: 4 months of tax training.

### ACTSCI

You see OHIP as nothing more than a way for the government to steal your co-op health insurance jobs. Suggest to them that they will get your vote by abolishing the program altogether. This will get your rightfully-earned jobs back where they belong.

Your lucky number: 0 ActScis left after such a suggestion.

### AMATH

As you continue taking those very important steps towards your future, I must offer you one solid piece of advice: watch where you step, because otherwise, you may just step in a pile of dung.

Your lucky number: 1 really nice pair of shoes ruined. *This lucky number brought to you by: Angelo, because someone else forgot to put it in.*

### SOFTENG

Face it: you know that your midterms are going to rape you. So what are you going to do about it? Implement a study method interface! Did I seriously have to tell you to do that?

Your lucky number: 15 last-minute study sessions.

### STAT

As the numbers become more and more massive, you will find that you will easily get lost in them. I know that this describes an average trek through the MC, but statistically speaking, you should be able to find your way again.

Your lucky number: 7 mathies lost per day.

### UNDECLARED

Your interests are varying, but your future is at stake. You need to decide where your future lies, be it here or elsewhere. If you do not decide soon, then you will encounter certain doom.

Your lucky number: 1 instance of certain doom.

### AHS

You see this winter as a chance to continue your campaign against smoking. You continue to wonder why people are willing to go out in the cold and wind to do something that will hurt them. Keep up the good work.

Your lucky number: 0 people convinced.

### ARTS

You know what irritates me? The fact that while we have to be up and in class by 8:30 nearly every morning, you continue to sleep in, not going to class until afternoon. Why must you taunt me so?

Your lucky number: z.

### ENG

Midterm time shows a different side of you. Your non-engi-

neering friends (should you have any) will notice that you're constantly angered by the prospect of "impossible" midterm exams. How can you stop this? Tune in next time to find out.

Your lucky number: 5 trips to Counselling Services.

### ES

I don't see how you can continue to complain about global warming. It's, like, 20 degrees below zero, here! Complain about global cooling, for Pete's sake!

Your lucky number: 6 more weeks of winter.

### SCI

So, you tell me that global warming is man-made. You are convinced that this is just not another part of the warming cycle, and that an ice age is looming. It sure feels like an ice age out here!

Your lucky number: 10% chance that you're wrong!

csEYE

will get a co-op job before *mathEYE* if he keeps this up.

## gridWORD

*I swear I'll get it one of these days...*

So after two issues of "oops!", hopefully we're looking at good grids this issue. Where grids = 1. I did mark the solutions handed in (thank you people!), and the winners are...(drumroll please): • Issue #1 Brandon Wilkinson - for submitting the first week and being so patient and understanding ("How did you know I have an aardvark?" and "By collecting my C&D certificates won by default")

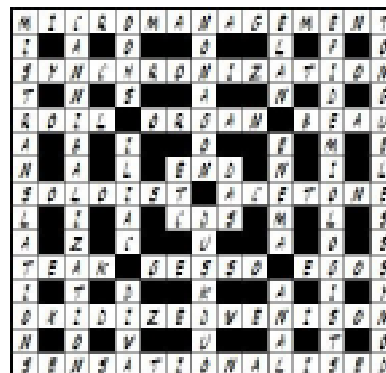
- Issue #2 Graeme Kemkes ("play with aardwolf" and "break-fast")

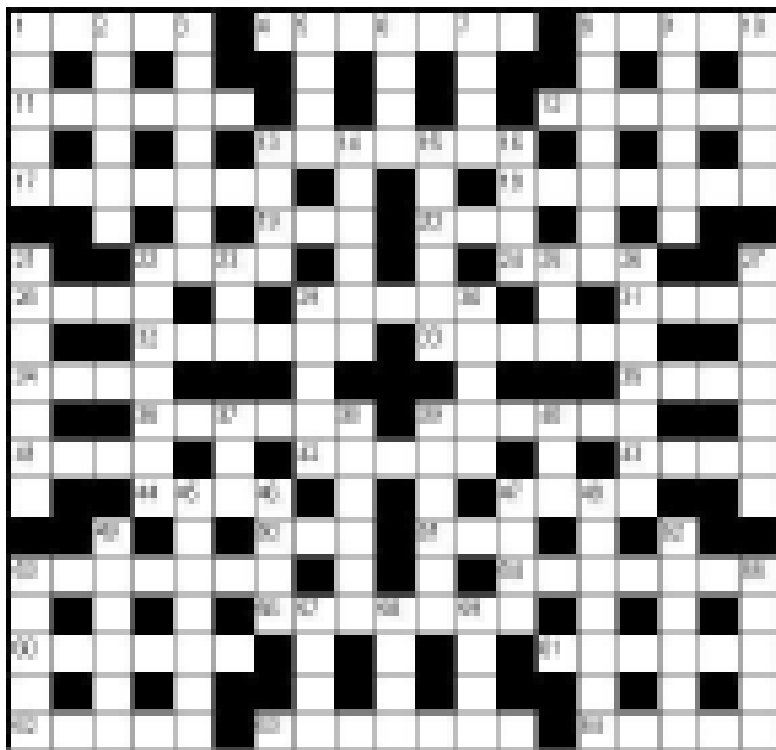
Thank you to Nick Murdoch for also submitting near-perfect solutions to both puzzles ("Let it run wild on my ant farm while I look for a company that will transport live animals intercontinentally" and "Buy another tank of fuel")

Winers can pick up their gift certificates from the MathSoc Office, MC3038. Just ask the office worker to look in the *math-NEWS* mailbox.

And for this issue the *gridQUESTION* is: "What's your favourite thing about midterms?" Please note, this question was NOT my idea — you can thank Diana Chisholm for this one. Solutions will be accepted in the BLACK BOX between the C&D and the Comfy, on paper because they're easier to mark than email solutions.

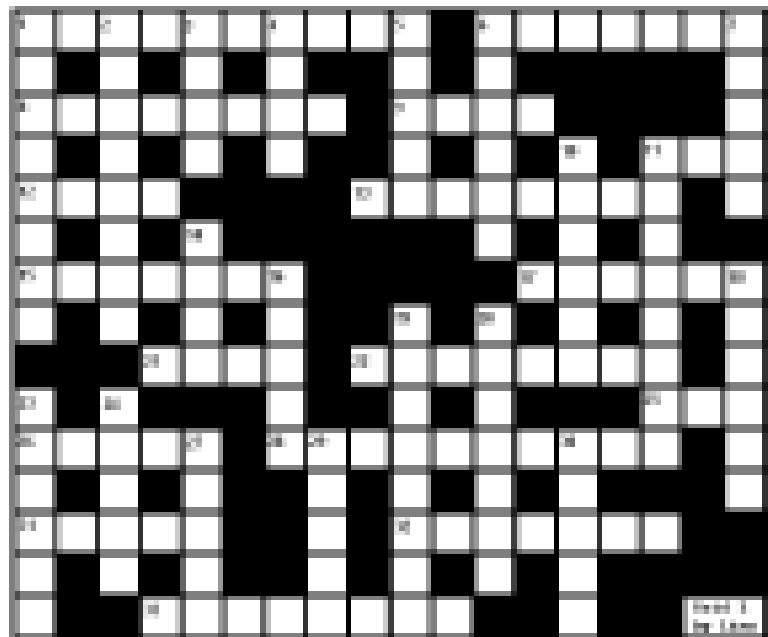
ConMaster



*Across*

1. greeting
4. dreams
8. Ma-Ti's ring and power
11. ordinals for ten
12. sophisticated or elegant
13. newness
17. Marvel founder
18. part of a TV series
19. grief
20. pie \_\_\_\_\_ mode

22. seduces
24. tax or interest
28. Perseus or Bellerophon
29. French hat
31. learning method
32. required
33. pacify
34. intellect
35. give up
36. embrace or comprise
39. type of financial limit
41. crowd scream



42. Bulgarian capital
43. raison d' \_\_\_\_\_
44. type of butter
47. avion
50. antonym for good
51. capital starter
53. surgeon's implement
54. messaged online
56. sincere
60. decorative
61. tibia neighbour
62. Alps call
63. threatens
64. search engine

*Down*

1. abhors
2. one-dimensional
3. Shakespearian lead
5. scat!
6. \_\_\_\_\_ fixe
7. way out
8. underground railroad leader Tubman
9. Celtic island of paradise
10. subject or dominant idea

13. 6:00 shows
14. turned sharply
15. exits
16. 525,600 minutes
21. Greek Mythological beastie
22. 7 memorable global sights
23. obligated to pay
25. computer language
26. stood up
27. backed away
29. ex. pony and glass
30. \_\_\_\_\_ firma
37. yellow jacket
38. out there
39. two dimensional shape
40. Agnus \_\_\_\_\_
45. L' \_\_\_\_\_'s Rule
46. adept
47. root vegetable
48. material world
49. acquired
52. detective
53. tale
55. Harry Potter menace
57. plot of land
58. Darling's dog
59. satisfy

**Cryptic***Across*

1. It will be in favour before others get in the mix. (10)
6. The worst fruit is the best? (7)
8. Evil hotel beginnings kept in relative. (8)
9. Farewell to the valley. (4)
11. Shy half wolf. (3)
12. Circumstantial splendor. (4)
13. Ring of fire-bird. (8)
15. Sounds distressed before process of fruit. (7)
17. Mourning for the destroyer (6)
21. Amaze the mixed nuts (4)
22. He puts off the officiator back in the game (7)
25. Weight in a short line (3)
26. In which phi considers images. (5)
28. Not thoroughgoing about twelve balls before picking a blemish. (10)
31. Will a man include a pet. (5)
32. The cuff surely goes both ways! (7)

33. Erect green electronic calendar. (7)

*Down*

1. Forgo the wine document (8)
2. Riding a cloud? Steal some transport after a top. (2,6)
3. Formerly stir from rest (4)
4. He puts knots on the level. (4)
5. New kind of book. (5)
6. What the girl yelled back before being cut off by sausage? (6)
7. She sure likes her alcohol! (5)
10. Last to hit dead weight. (6)
11. Discuss the opposite (8)
14. Starve Quickly. (4)
16. Disallow my dearest from strings. (5)
18. Lovers' Game? (6)
19. Environments where the zodiac live in the earth (8)
20. The lady's back around to motion for revival. (7)
23. Host an alien currency. (6)
24. Pillage in the name of Man. (5)
27. Drum Trap. (5)
29. Hair on the evil one, but