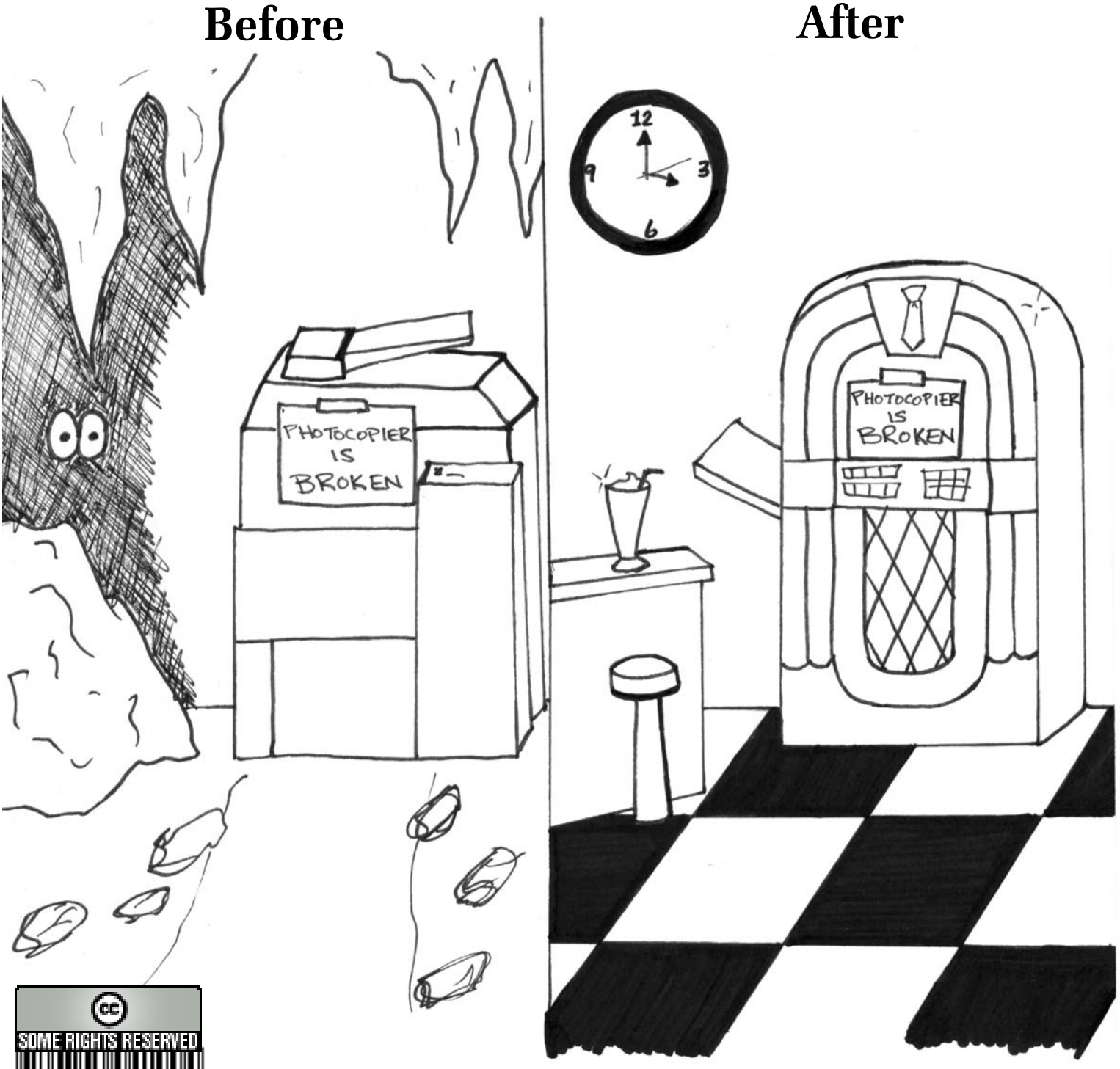
mathNEWS

Volume 103, Issue 4 *Friday, March 2nd, 2007*



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MathSOC Office Renovations

*look*AHEAD

***math*NEWS**	
March 2	Issue #4 gets a new look
March 12	Production Night #4 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC 3038) All are welcome!
March 16	Issue #5 is chronologically correct
Math Faculty	
March 1	Intent to Graduate forms due
April 3	Lectures end
April 9	Exams begin
April 21	Exams end
MathSoc	
Thursdays	Movie Nights
March 9-10	EngScunt
March 13	Campus Day
March 14	π day
MGC	
Wednesday	Pizza, 3rd floor MC 11:00-1:00
March 7-8	Gradfest, DC1302 (fishbowl) 10:00AM-5:00PM
March 16	Grad Ball
CECS	
March 2	First cycle rankings open
Student Awards & Financial Aid	
April 13	Last day - Continuation of Interest-Free Status
Misc	
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
April 1	April Fool's Day
April 3	Daylight Savings Time begins
April 6	Good Friday

Food for Thought

Gay marriage is wrong. How dare two legal adults consent to a monogamous relationship, and demand equal treatment that is guaranteed by our constitution.

Angelo

ISSN 0705—0410

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The editor(s): Emerald Kushnier

WTF!

The Oscars actually got it right, for once!

As per usual, I decided that watching the Oscars would be little more than a waste of my time. You see, I have long given up on the fact that those people that decide who should win an Oscar are more concerned with keeping an artsy film "popular", while generally missing the opinion of the general public. Some excellent examples of this are: (note, only "major" Oscars are considered) • Martin Scorsese had never won an Oscar (well, until this year)

- The worst (when compared to the novels) of the three LOTR movies won, while the other two didn't
- Brokeback Mountain AND Capote were nominated for best picture IN THE SAME YEAR
- Pirates of the Caribbean WAS NOT nominated for Best Picture
- A Beautiful Mind actually won Best Picture
- Shawshank Redemption did not win a SINGLE Oscar (yes, it had good competition in Forrest Gump, but STILL!)
- No Star Wars or Indiana Jones movie EVER won an Oscar
- Little Miss Sunshine was actually nominated for an Oscar

While looking back through Oscar history, I've noticed a trend: the movie selection prior to 10 (or so) years ago generally is decent, it's just the last 10 years that have been awful.

Is giving Scorsese his first ever Oscar, as well as picking his movie for Best Picture worthy of changing my opinion? Not yet…but it's a start that they can try to build on next year.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

*mast*HEAD

So, the production staff was more than happy to get back to school and have their newly empowered souls crushed by the midterms that no one studied for over the break. Fortunately enough, *math*NEWS was here to recharge their pizza meters and drain their brains of literary silliness. The results are as follows. Finally, to make sure that all productioneers were prepared for their educational struggles, we gave them a quiz out of 100 marks. The highest mark was negative four-million. The question: "Now that your body is back to school, where is your brain?"

And they responded, using English, with: "You're assuming that I actually have a brain ;-)" (TheInsider); "Left in my other pants." (HWT); "The gutter [boobs :-)]" (James Simpson); "It never left…" (Andrew); WoW… oh, the distraction." (Math.random()); "Still asleep." (Matt); "In the stars, as usual…" (*math*EYE); Azeroth (DanS); "In that zombie over there." (lost-luck); "Actually, I'm on vacation still!" (Mark).

We'd like to thank our production staff, primarily for the excess of ldots they deemed appropriate to put into this issue. Special thanks to Graphics for manifesting our evil creature into flesh. Papery flesh. With staples too! Also thank you to Digital Devil Saga for teaching me how to devour without stomach aches.

"You know, my parents asked me the same thing with more yelling and putting me up for adoption" Angelo

"I think it was accidentally left at home" StatsED

Prez Sez

It's like Snuggles Sez, but Snuggles is suddenly unemployed and no longer shacking up with a cute redheaded shiksa. I hope you all had a good reading week; I certainly did. I even got some reading done, which really amused my grandmother for some reason. I'm not sure what she was expecting instead. My latest masterpiece of sculpture?

If you've been to MathSoc this week, you may have noticed things are looking a little different. It's my great honour to unveil the culmination of something I've been working on for nearly a year: the first major renovation to MathSoc's offices since the wall between MC3038 and MC3042 came down in the early 90s. I have to give thanks to Toria Gibbs for a really breathtaking floor design, and Andrew Fransen for all his help with the project over the past year. Also, a very special shoutout to Brian "Latrell" Fox for planting the bug in my ear to get something done about a year and a half ago. If you haven't been by the take a look yet, I really encourage you to stop in. We're just in MC3038. It's, er, a lot different than it used to be.

Also coming up: a talk by **Justin Trudeau** presented by the Arts Student Union and the Student Life Office, sponsored by (among others) MathSoc. It's next Monday (that's March 5th) at 7PM in the Humanities Theatre in Hagey Hall. Tickets are $5 for undergrads and $15 for others, and can be purchased from the Humanities Theatre box office. I expect tickets to go pretty quickly, and the box office opens today at noon…if there are any left by the time you read this.

In other news, there isn't any. As always, I'm excited to hear feedback on what MathSoc is or isn't doing. Drop by the office some time or send me an email. I'm a fun and happy guy that likes feedback. Be the first person to do so after this article is published and win a fabulous prize! Seriously!

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

VPA Says

This is just a reminder that Instructor of the Year nominations will be closing today (March 2nd) at 4:30. If you have had an exceptional professor within the last year, help to recognize their work by nominating them for instructor of the year. Nomination forms can be picked up, and dropped off, at the MathSoc office, MC 3038.

Heather Perry
MathSoc VP Academic W'07
vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Bug Of The Fortnight

As promised in the last issue of *math*NEWS the following is a factorial function written in the function Haskell. This function however, contains a couple of errors in it:

```
fac n = if n > 0 n * fac (n+1) else 0
Next time bad Lisp code!
```

James Simpson

VPAS Says

Let's just be friends

Unless you're an upper year and forgot that we actually had the whole week off, I trust you all had a good time with your Reading Week. If you actually spent the week catching up on all the readings for those arts courses, congrats, you accomplished more than I did.

EngScunt is coming up March 9-10. The theme for this term is The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Don't worry if you're not familiar with the Hitchhiker's Guide, there's plenty to do. If you enjoyed Scunt during frosh week, then you'll definitely enjoy EngScunt. The math team has won this a few times recently so we have a great chance of winning again.

Campus Day is on March 13th this year. Campus Day is a great way to get to know people and help show incoming students how much you love Math! Lie if you have to. It's always a lot of fun, so consider helping out. We'll be looking for volunteers soon.

Our annual Pi Day celebration will be happening on March 14. Drop by the 3rd floor and grab some pie or take part in the Pi reciting contest. We'll also have brand new pie T-shirts available.

Don't forget to keep an eye out around the MC for posters detailing these events and anything else going on with your beloved MathSoc. Also, drop by the new fancy office in MC 3038 and check out the floor. It's sweet!

Gee "The Happy Goat" Ramsahai
MathSoc VP Activities & Services
vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

CM Club: Odd Perfect Numbers

a talk by Kevin Hare

Following is the abstract for the coming CMC sponsored talk being given by Professor Kevin Hare, scheduled for Wed. Mar 7 @ 4:30PM. Room: TBA

Abstract

A perfect number N is a number such that the sum of the proper divisors of N is equal to N. The first two examples are $6 = 1 + 2 + 3$ and $28 = 1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14$. The study of perfect numbers, and their properties has a long history, starting with Euclid (332 - 283 B.C.) and going up to modern time.

Despite this long history, there are still a number of open questions concerning perfect numbers. Probably the oldest is, are any of them odd. (Currently only even perfect numbers are known.)

With the help of modern computers, a number of results concerning the non-existence of odd perfect numbers have been given. Some examples are:

1. If an odd perfect number exists, it is bigger than 10^{300}.
2. If an odd perfect number exists, it has more than 75 prime factors.
3. If an odd perfect number exists, it has a prime factor greater than 10^8.

In this talk, we will discuss both the history of perfect numbers, as well as some of the computational challenges involved in proving results about perfect numbers.

Refreshments will be provided at the talk. Hope to see you all there.

Derek Steinmoeller
CM Club VP.

MGC Sez

Thank you everyone!

We've sold over 400 Grad Ball tickets! You're probably wondering what that actually means. Well, this means on March 16th, we'll have an awesome party! And you made it all possible! So for those of you who bought a ticket, don't forget, 6:30pm at Waterloo Inn. Bring your tickets with you to receive your gifts and photos! See you there!

Yearbook and composite photos have been submitted. That's right, if you didn't get your grad photos taken over the last two terms, you will not be part of the composite. However, if you still want to be part of a composite, go down to the basement of SLC and talk to the people at the Lifetouch studio. They will make sure you make it onto a composite.

Grad quotes are no longer being accepted (so says the yearbook editor). But the yearbooks are still on sale! However, the cut off for personalizations have come and gone. If you are interested in picking up a yearbook, drop by the MGC office and we can make arrangements for you so you can get one come convocation day. Also, if you are still interested in buying some page space, come and speak to us. We are still taking requests. The prices are still the same ($75 for quarter pages, $100 for half and $150 for a full page).

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. 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. (Please send something in, or our yearbook editor will cry. You don't want the yearbook editor to cry!).

The Alan George Award nomination period is now closed. Thank you to everyone who ran. The recipient will be announced during the Math Grad Ball, so show up and find out who wins!

Now onto a more important award. Wouldn't you like to be Valedictorian? It proves that you were the best of the best in your class! Not only do you get to speak on behalf of your peers on convocation day, but you can also write it down in your resume that you were the Valedictorian. Employers dig these things.

Intent to graduate forms!!! If you haven't filled one out by now, you won't be graduating this term. Fill one out for the Fall convocation. It's less packed, cooler and will definitely take less time than the Summer one.

Gradfest: Never heard of it? Well, it's a new project headed by the good people at the Student Life Services. Gradfest will take on Wednesday March 7th from 10am to 5pm and Thursday March 8th from 10am to 7pm on the first floor of DC. There will be booths from various departments and services across campus that everyone should be aware of before they graduate as well as valuable information sessions which will take place throughout the day. You'll also get a chance to meet David Johnston, the President of UW, where he will be addressing all 2007 graduates (4:30pm to 6:30pm in the fishbowl on Thursday). So drop by and check it out! You'll definitely come out knowing what Waterloo can do for you after you graduate.

Ivan Chin, Rodney Lam MGC Co-chairs, 2007

A Global Perspective: From Science to Business

SBSA Annual Conference–March 17! Register NOW!

It is that time of the year again! It is time for the Science and Business Students' Association (SBSA) annual conference. Last year's conference "The Driving Force: From Science to Business" was a tremendous success, thanks to all those who attended. If you missed out last time or would like to attend another great event, the SBSA would like to invite you to attend our 4th annual conference that will take place on Saturday, March 17th, 2007 in the Davis Center at the University of Waterloo. This year's conference is called "A Global Perspective: From Science to Business", and as suggested in its title, the purpose of this conference is to present information about global management and business issues in the scientific, technological and business fields. For more information about the conference and to register, please visit `http://sbsa.uwaterloo.ca/`.

One of our speakers is Dominic Covvey, the Executive Industrial Research Chair from NSERC speaking on the hot topic of e-health and health informatics. We also have a representative from Merck Frosst speaking about their partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fight AIDS around the world. Other interesting topics include global management, expanding global operations, global outsourcing and business professional development. Speakers are from companies such as Merck Frosst, IIBA/BMO, NSERC, Serono Biotech and Luminance Inc.

SBSA is offering this conference for FREE thanks to our generous sponsors. You will have the opportunity to meet industry professionals during the exhibition, a bonus for those of you who are planning to go on co-op terms or are looking for summer/full-time employment in the near future.

Remember to Register!

Summary

When: March 17, 2007 - 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM (Registration and Breakfast will be held at 9:00-9:30)

Who: Students from any university of college within Canada, Faculty, and Industry Guests

No charge! (Sponsored by Merck Frosst, Astra Zeneca, RIM, CBET, Torcan Chemical and Science and Business)

Registration is **required**: `http://www.uwsbsa.ca/conference` (you will get business cards, free breakfast and lunch)

More Questions? Check our website or e-mail SBSA at `inquiry@uwsbsa.ca`

A Carnival of Math

Psst, hey you. Do you like math? Yeah of course you do, you're reading this fine bastion of erudite thought. Well I've noticed there isn't much math lately, so I'm here to give you a free boost.

How, you ask? Math Blogs. That's right: there are people that blog about Math.

`http://scienceblogs.com/goodmath/2007/02/the_second_carnival_of_mathema_1.php`

That's the good stuff. It's got math comming up through the nose. Especially that article. Go on; you know you want to.

42, The Math Pusher

PINK TIE PLEDGE

It's in you to give

Welcome back grads from your first (and last) reading week! With less than two months to go before graduating, it's about time you thought about what the university has done for you over the last four (or five) years and maybe even considering contributing back for all the effort they have put in. If it weren't for them, you probably wouldn't have that sweet, sweet job in California, or New York, or wherever you're going, right? Exactly.

Help support the Pink Tie Pledge! Your money will help go towards different parts of the math faculty. Help drive the areas you love to reach higher goals.

Of course, there are some people who have questions about donating, such as "Why should we even donate?" One reason: To beat the Engineers! They have an equivalent pledge that they do too. We've always managed to donate more than the Engineers over the past years, and we intend to to that again this year! With your support, we will definitely surpass any goal the Engineers have in mind! But that's not the real reason. The real reason to donate is to help the faculty grow! With your donations, you will be giving services such as the Math Tutorial Centre or MEF a big boost. If those aren't your cup of tea, you can have your money go towards Endowment awards or even to a Committee. If you believed that Orientation was awesome and you want to have all incoming frosh experience the same feelings you had when you were a frosh, why not donate to Orientation Committee to see that happen?

Another issue you might have with the Pink Tie Pledge is the fact that you just got out of university. They don't expect us to actually start giving back to the faculty when we still need to pay off student loans! Not to worry about that one! The faculty will not ask for a single penny from you for an entire year. You heard me! They wouldn't expect us to actually start giving back. Not when we still have to pay off those OSAP fees, or, for the few of us who don't have a Google, Microsoft or Morgan Stanley job, are still trying to land that sweet job. So there is no reason to worry about leaving the university in debt. The faculty is understanding in that way. So pledge!

A final question that arises is "How much are we expected to pledge?" Well, that is entirely up to you. There are four preset levels that grads can decide to pledge. Each level gives certain perks such as your own prime number starting at 2007 if you pledge at the Dean's Prime Number Club to having dinner with the Dean if you pledge at the Dean's Challenge. Also, since this year marks the Math Faculty's 40th anniversary, Professor Ralph Stanton (founder of the Math Faculty) will be dropping by over the summer. If you pledge at the Ralph Stanton Level (or higher), we are in the works for arranging a get together with the founder himself! That's a once in a lifetime opportunity! You won't get a better chance to meet Professor Stanton than now, so pledge and meet the man!

If you want to pledge more than the Dean's Challenge? We can arrange that! Aside from the four preset levels, you can also choose how much you want to pledge.

To kick off the Pink Tie Pledge, the Dean has agreed to drop by next Wednesday at around noon to help serve pizza! Drop by next week and meet the Dean! There will be more information provided at the time and keep an eye out for posters!

Romesh *save me from Ray tracing* Paul, Maciek Sliwa
Pink Tie Pledge

Zeroes

The show about ordinary people with sub-human powers.

As ill-conceived attempts to reproduce successful shows continue to force me to vomit both internally and externally, we can expect to see more of them on the horizon. Sure, no one seems to notice that every CSI, Grey's Anatomy, House, Bones, and Numb3rs are all basically the same show with different actors, but what about other shows? Shows like Heroes. Well, expect to see the spin off show Zeroes appearing this season.

The show follows the lives of several people, each of which are scum and thereby marginalized. Zeroes features the following characters:

- The cheerleader who sucks the life out of the people around her with her inane rambling and bubbly stupidity. Watch her try to carve out a meagre existence in the backseat of various cars.
- The brother of the politician who isn't actually good at anything, but tries to do what everyone else can. Oddly enough he's not good at that.
- The politician who sleeps with every woman he possibly can when he's not preaching about strong family values. When the press appear, he flies away.
- The drugged out artist who finds a deeper meaning to his paintings when he discovers that he can paint the past. No one believes him. Or cares.
- The Japanese man who can speed up time at work when he starts playing WoW while neglecting to feed his beligerant children.
- The police officer that can read the minds of people. Like when he finds out that his wife is having an affair on him when he reads her mind while she's sleeping in bed. With the other guy.
- The depressed watch repairman who cries himself to sleep at night because he'll never be anything amazing.
- The waitress who can memorize the menu, and all of the items on the desert menu. Her impressive memory notwithstanding, she never uses her pad to take your order, but always manages to screw it up.
- The single mother who runs an adult site for people with just enough money to pay for an online prostitute, but not enough for an actual one.

Be mesmerized by this show as it takes something successful, takes out the elements that makes it such a smash hit and replicates it in a half-assed process called benchmarking. Zeroes. The show about people that make you seem cool.

Angelo

*prof*QUOTES

[Draws a dot on the board] This is a graph. It's quite a boring one.

Haxell, MATH 239

There is nothing special about Kevin Bacon, in this case.

Haxell, MATH 239

I'll just close that with a QED: quite easily done.

Small, STAT 240

And that makes perfect sense after ten years of study.

Small, STAT 240

This is what modern probability is starting to look like. Well, for 100 years.

Small, STAT 240

Don't worry, infinity is your friend.

Small, STAT 240

QED. I guess.

Small, STAT 240

We now know that an ignorant person is worse than useless.

Small, STAT 240

He lived from 1654, I'm sure all of you care, until 1705

Small, STAT 240

The instance of success, I mean death, is…

Small, STAT 240

It's true! Alright, I'm convinced.

Small, STAT 240

So now you know about drunks and cliffs.

Small, STAT 240

We try to confuse people as much as possible.

Small, STAT 240

I tend not to like the taste of chalk so I don't lick [it].

Freeland, ACTSC 231

[Points to sleeping student] That was me when I was in university.

Freeland, ACTSC 231

I said, in a very rash moment, if your section did as well as the other one, I would give you a pizza party. However, it's up to me to determine what that means.

Malton, CS 245

This is not true, because Dumbo is not my iPod. It wouldn't fit in my office.

Malton, CS 245

This formula suggests that Alma loves herself, which is evident by the way she behaves.

Malton, CS 245

In the real universe, all students love CS 245. OK, never mind.

Malton, CS 245

The President of the United States is not in my universe right now.

Malton, CS 245

There's nothing in logic that prevents us from saying 12 loves 15 or CS 245 loves Buffy the Animal.

Malton, CS 245

[on the course newsgroup]
[prof] I'm sorry that I didn't think of a better bonus for assignment 3.
[student] It's okay professor, the students forgive you. This time.
[prof] Now to work on getting you to forgive me for everything else.

Ragde, CS 245

Can we have quiet in the front row… and all other rows?

Thistle, SE 141

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).*

Desire2Learn Employer Information Session

Thursday, March 8th from 5-7 PM

Desire2Learn is a leader in providing innovative eLearning solutions to academic and other leading organizations around the world. We are one of the fastest growing companies in Canada with a track record of strength and success. We have a desire to continue this growth, opportunity, and achievement.

Come out to our Employer Information Session on Thursday, March 8th from 5-7 at the Tatham Centre (TC 2218 A and B) and listen to our President & CEO and Chief Architect talk about our leading edge technology. You will have the opportunity to network with our hiring managers, give feedback on eLearning in our interactive session, find out about full time and co-op opportunities and enjoy free food and giveaways!

Desire2Learn's doors are open to new candidates looking to make an impact and be a part of something big.

Math Orientation 2006 Pictures

…Finally

Pictures from Math Orientation 2006 are now available online at `www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca/2006/photos`. If you want to experience all the fun again, sign-up to be a 2007 Math Orientation Leader ASAP at `www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca`

Laura Bradbury, Sanka Jayasundera,
Steve Byrne, Dharshini Vigneshwaran
Math Orientation Directors 2007

HorrorScopes

What just happened?

So many of you may be wondering what happened to most of last issue's Horrorscopes. I, frankly, am wondering the same thing. So to be fair, I am only printing the HorrorScopes that did not get printed last time. This way, no program feel greater or lesser than the others.

BBA/BMATH

You thought that your lives would be better by going to both UW and Laurier. I imagine that this time of year makes you wonder why you are doing this. Determine your motivations.

Your lucky number: worry about that when you're out of the cold!

C&O

You will find the optimal way to survive your midterms. After all, that is your aim. However, be advised that in order for it to work, you have to actually follow through with the plan.

Your lucky number: O(n).

CS

You may have noticed a slight incompatibility between you and the hot PMath girls. Well, maybe if you stopped using those nerdy pick-up lines, you might have a better shot at them. Give it a try.

Your lucky number: 1 instance of `Date`.

MATHBUS

This season of The Apprentice is going to be very important to your career. Not only will it teach you how to adapt in new business-like environments, I've heard tell that a prof may just pop quiz you on the show.

Your lucky number: 6 (now 8) episodes to catch up on.

MATHSCI

Your science background is going to take your mathematics to exotic places, where you can use your exotic knowledge in exotic ways. Pfft. Dream on. Now pay attention to the prof.

Your lucky number: 0 exoticness.

PMATH

Don't you think that you're being a little hard on the CSers for their attempts to get a girlfriend? They're desperate (if you haven't already noticed), so stop pulling NullPointerExceptions on them!

Your lucky number: 1 `new Date();`

*math*EYE

Who doesn't like to Integrate?

No one, that's who!

If you are in math, chances are you know how to integrate. And there may even be some of you who are good at it. Wouldn't you like to show your peers and profs just how good you are?

This is your chance! The PMath AMath C&O Club is hosting an INTEGRATION BEE for students and profs. For those of you in first year, don't worry about difficulty. The questions may be tricky, but they won't include anything you haven't seen before in your classes (ie. multivariate integration). Plus, you can compete as an individual, or with a team.

Now if all that hasn't convinced you, at least come for the free food. Or, we can only hope, to see profs beaten by students. So keep your eyes peeled in the next couple of weeks for posters to find out the date and time.

Don't miss the calculus event of the year!

Your friendly neighbourhood PMC Exec

How to Improve ResNet

Chances are, it's your fault

Outside of the occasional crash (which is often caused by network overload), ResNet is actually a very nice system. However, most of you disagree with me because you think it's so slow. That is why I'm here, because I want to make ResNet faster for you, with my Top Five Tips.

1. **Limit your torrenting.** You have no idea how quickly torrenting will get you into the slow queue (well, if you're reading this, then you probably do know). Your 21 MB/h refill rate is equivalent to 5.9 kB/s, which is pretty slow for a torrent. However, if you limit your download speeds, then your tank won't deplete (at least, not as quickly).
2. **If you need a movie, go to an on-campus file sharing network that may or may not exist.** It may or may not be slow, but it definitely won't count towards your bandwidth. The best answer that I can give you is that it may or may not be named after the Davis Centre, and that it may or may not contain the Java increment command.
3. **If you use said file sharing network that may or may not exist, get a good client that may or may not exist.** I recommend the Strong version, because it may or may not let you download off of many people at the same time, increasing your download speeds exponentially.
4. **If you use said file sharing network that may or may not exist, do not abuse an administrator on main chat.** If you do, you may or may not be banned from said network, because administrators may or may not like being abused.
5. **If said file sharing network does not work for you, torrent smaller files.** Chances are, unless you plan to watch your download on a 40" widescreen TV with surround sound and a monkey dancing in the corner, you probably don't need the high-definition version. So don't get it.
6. **If this doesn't work, sacrifice your first-born child to the ResNet office.** This is a last resort, but it may be necessary to improve your ResNet speeds. And as you can see, I clearly cannot count.

This is how I make ResNet satisfy my needs. Hopefully, it will help make it work for your needs. If not, please don't come chasing me in angry manners with big pointy sticks.

The Insider

*grid*WORD

Newsflash…

So it turns out that reconstructive surgery on the MathSoc office is capable of causing issues with marking the *grid*WORD from issue 3. Since we don't have the solutions from the BLACK BOX due to… well… trouble *[It's since been resolved! — StatsEd]*, I will announce winners of the grids for both issues 3 and 4 in issue 5. Thank you for your patience! In the meantime, we have yet another set of grids for you. Thanks to Lino Demasi for being awesome and doing cryptics, as I know many of you love cryptic crosswords and I prefer conventional by a long shot. For this issue, the *grid*QUESTION is: *"Water is running down your wall continuously with no end in sight. What do you do?"* I need answers so I can figure out what to do with my place! Save me! Mayday!

[Drowning] ConMaster

mathHELP

A mathie advice column

Dear Insider, I have a friend who has become addicted to WoW (World of Warcraft). That is all she ever talks about, and all she ever does (even during class). I try to tell her what this will do to her both academically and socially, but she's not listening. What can I do to help her? **— Desperate Friend**

Dear Friend, WoW is a very addictive game, and that is why I don't play it. I have seen many people suffer from what I call "Flunkeritis", where people focus their energies on such trivialities as WoW, not realising what damage it does until it's too late. But just telling her isn't enough to get her off of it (as you have told me), so you need to try a different approach. Try dragging her away from the computer and get her to do something else (start with something simple such as taking a walk, then work up from there). Hopefully, this will break her from her addiction.

The Insider

Dear Insider, My friends have just upgraded to Windows Vista, and they keep telling me how awesome it apparently is. However, I try to tell them that anything that you can do on Vista, you can do on Linux (with the exception of games). That seems to anger them. How can I get them to believe that Linux is awesome? **— Tux**

Dear Tux, First off, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to your friends. I'm sure that Vista has a few cool gadgets, but I am not going to get it. It appears that these people fit into one of two categories: either they don't know what Linux is (the poor, wee souls), or they don't like change. Although you won't be able to convince everyone that Linux is awesome, you would be best to show them what Linux is, what makes it awesome, then let them decide for themselves. If they still prefer Vista, then so be it.

The Insider

Dear Insider, I would like to express my sincere disappointment with Dave and Steve, for they have insulted me. First off, I would like to express to them that I am **not** you, and (judging by their response) don't share your gender. Why is it that people always assume that guys are the ones that are asking these questions, when girls are perfectly capable of asking them as well? **— Still Single in the 'Loo**

Dear Single, First off, I would like to apologise on The Single Guy's behalf (and remind you that he is neither Dave nor Steve). Even I was unaware of your gender, and I did not pass any assumptions onto him. Personally, I try to avoid gender differentiation when responding to my letters (unless I am given one to work with), and I encourage The Single Guy to do the same.

The Insider

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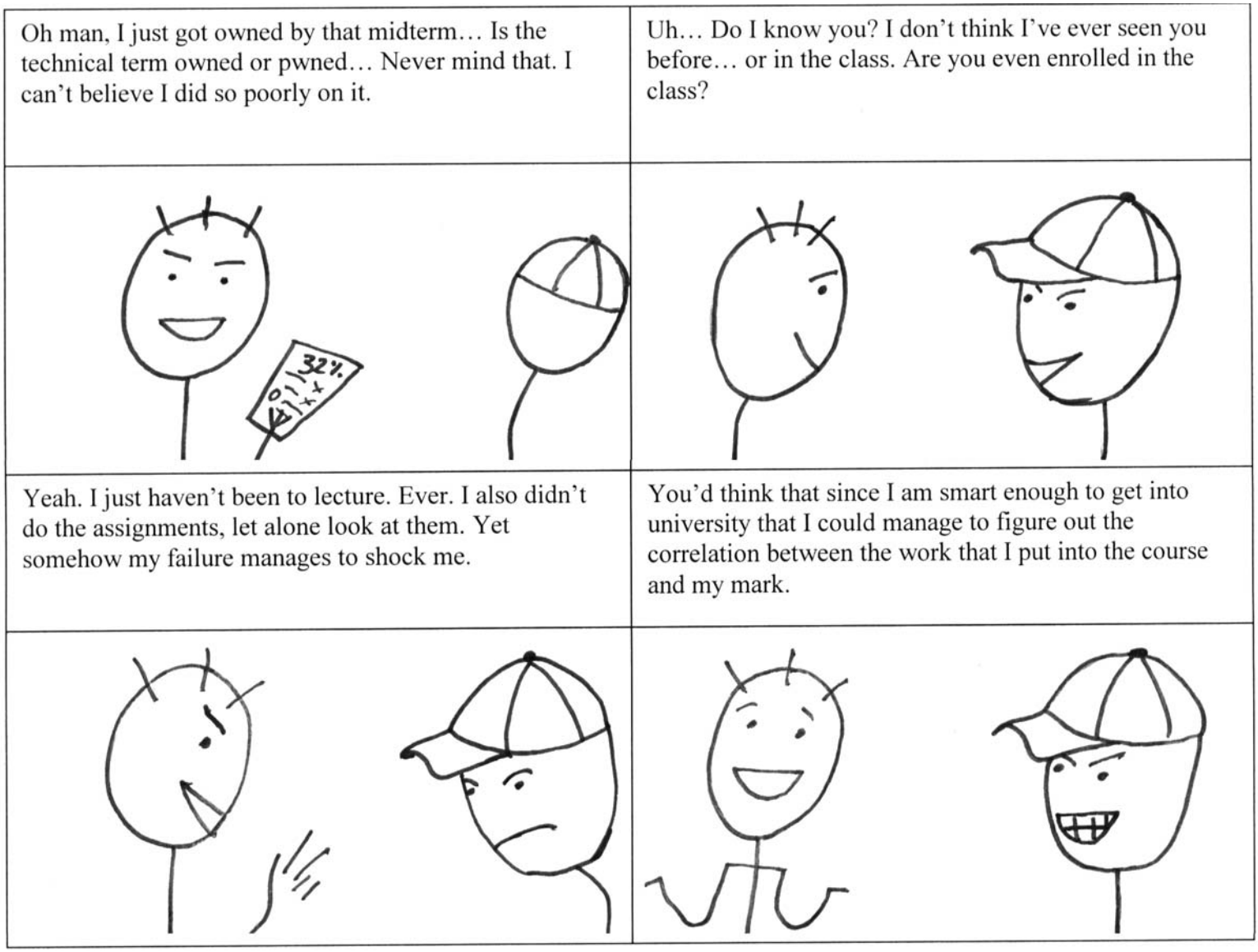
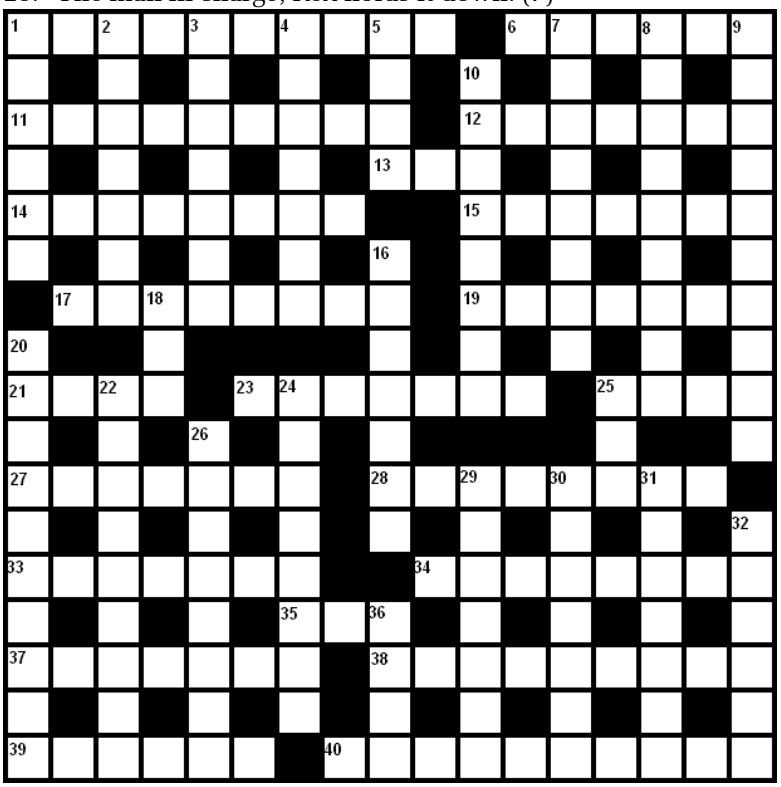


Across

1. Decidedly stubborn. (10)
6. Stealth agents bless back around june. (6)
11,18. Temporarily European while the Colosseums are open. (5,3,1,3)
12. Hormone is laid back. (7)
13. Bird in demo arch. (3)
14. Penned using formal law after the help. (8)
15. Afraid everyone will stumble around organ. (4,3)
17. Horrible luck at scolding a bitch? (3,5)
19. Escape from the elements, and how to get there! (7)
21. Like a lasso, in that you drop yours. (4)
23. The man in charge, Rex holds it down. (7)



25. See 1 Down.
27. Flop the nuts and score your serves. (3,4)
28. Short hand of one who didn't go to molecule. (8)
33. Stick in crazy depression is walked on. (7)
34. Bird which even flies, but not to the centre. (8)
35. Cells with no variance therein. (3)
37. Scheme of wonder. (7)
38. Noodle resort soldier surrounds heated time. (9)
39. Change is good? (6)
40. River-horse goes down to capital's Colliseum. (10)

Down

1,25dn. Will Arthur yield and heed a creed drunk? (4,2,4)
2. Peach fuzz is for boys with seventy three. (7)
3. New reed becomes new reed. (7)
4. Italian activated within the band for laundering. (7)
5. Former broadcasting system test. (4)
7. Unused helpers are mistakenly upstanding psyches. (4,4)
8. Right sounding animals sit for a photo next to each other. (9)
9. Ray blocker's musical women. (10)
10. Ghetto marking of a stoned, long-necked Italian who has lost her way. (8)
16. Irrelevant orange juice tree. (7)
18. See 11 Across.
20. Original models of the sorts of things that go after a curve, Eh? (10)
22. Medley of a container, falling rain, and a colony. (9)
24. Where the bishops are to make India and Syria agree. (2,6)
25. Life force from within each item. (3)
26. University affairs for Americans, dishonourable man, and drunk mice. (8)
29. Where Pat Mace goes to get a good drink? (3,4)
30. Outcrop Philippines Commission is burned. (7)
31. Tree perfume sounds like wooden truck. (3,4)
32. Changing direction is too useless. (6)
36. Sacs of characters missing one. (4)

Good Day, Fine Readers!

For a Given Value of 'Fine'

Two upstanding gentlemen in a field overlooking a village

Jared: Good day to you sir!

Thomas: A fine day to you, too sir!

Jared: Have you heard the news?

Thomas: Indeed I have sir, terrible bother that.

Jared: Damn shame too, damn shame.

Thomas: It's just as well. Do you think the catapults will be prepared for the night's slaughter?

Jared: After the hundreds we've butchered in this last week's campaign, here's hoping!

The two clang their blood-stained axes against each other and join the march to the unsuspecting village bellow.

A pair of villagers by a well.

Gwynh: … and you should have the look on his face when I… What? You don't need to look so shocked.

Tara: Is that a barbarian horde on the plains of Feasting?

Gwynh: Again? I'm still full from last time. Oh well, we can't just let them invade us like that. I'll go start the oven.

lost-luck

This was too long to put in *prof*QUOTES

But we had to put it in anyway.

So one day, all the functions were hanging out on the street, but then they all started running home. One function showed up late because he slept in, so he was like, "What's everyone running away for?" And the functions said, "Because the differential operator is coming!" The constants were super scared, and the polynomials were all scared of losing a degree after all that work. But this function was like, "The differential operator doesn't scare me," and he went to have a drink at the bar. Then the differential operator showed up and said, "I'm going to take your derivative." The function proudly replied, "No problem. I'm e^t." Then the differential operator said, "Well, I'm the derivative with respect to u." [d/du] So the function was eliminated. Put that in *math*NEWS. Just kidding.

West, AMATH 250

Dating Advice From The Single Guy

Dear The Single Guy

I have this problem with a girl that I really need some help on. The thing is, she's my best friend, and I love her. I really thought that I had found the one for me. I'd even dream where we were together, but every time I'd wake up I'd realize we were together only in dreams. I got so ahead of myself, that in my mind we were as good as married, problem is, that's only in my mind and well that's no good. Here's the real problem though, I didn't notice this at first so I feel as though I'm dumb, she's a lesbian. What am I to do? P.S. while I'm asking for help, do you know any good ways to deal with asthma?

-Jamie

First of all look at the title of this, it's "Dating Advice From The Single Guy" not "Ways to Deal With Your Wheezing From The Single Guy." Anyway, this isn't actually that hard of a problem to solve: it's going to be a lot of work, and most relationships don't last at all so before you commit to doing this you need to ask yourself why bother going through all this work if she's probably just going to hurt you. If you still want to try here's what you need to do. Coincidentally you need to find a gay guy, but a specific kind. The kind that become stylists, not someone known as a "bear." You need to convince this guy to give you a total makeover of sorts where you appear to be a girl, and it needs to be believable, and try to end up as attractive as possible too, if you have sisters or other female friends try borrowing their clothes, but be careful, you don't want to destroy their tank tops. I think you can see where this is going, you must now trick this best friend of yours into thinking that you're someone else, who happens to be just her type. This little charade has to go on until she falls in love with your female self, once that happens you can try and reveal yourself, and since she's fallen in love with you she may be willing to try out heterosexuality, and if not, you can always go for the surgery.

I mentioned above that this column is about dating advice, and not anything else. That being said there's one letter that keeps coming to me that I'm just sick and tired of getting. It's kind of my version of "How do you type with boxing gloves on your hands?" I'm just so sick and tired of it I'm going to address it here so hopefully it will stop.

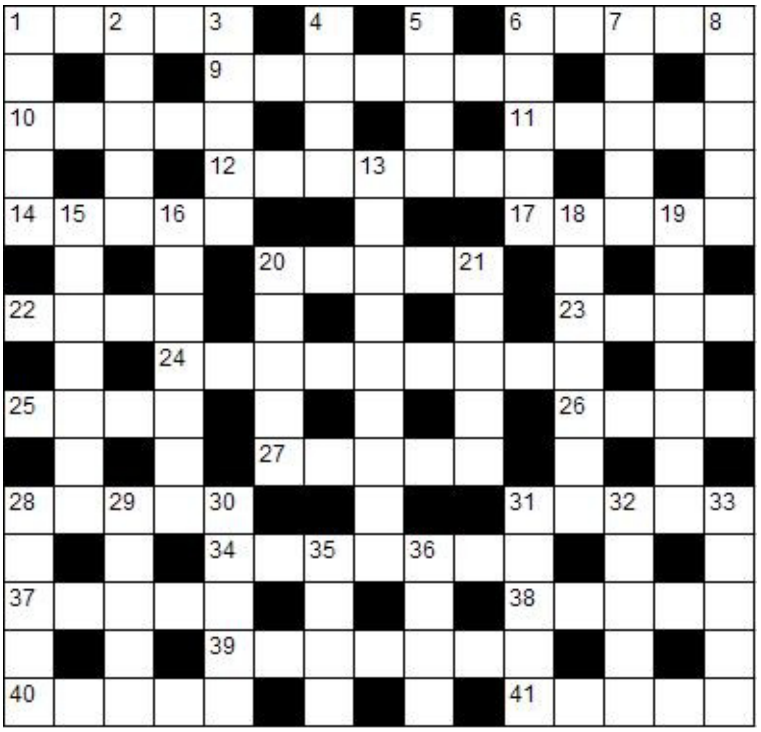
Dear The Single Guy

I heard this rumor that you are DanS, is that true?

-way too many people

This rumor goes all the way back to last term where in my first article I made mention of DanS, and *his* true identity of **D**ave **an**d **S**teve. I also mentioned that I was only one person and so that should be enough to prove otherwise. Anyway it seems that simply by mentioning another writer in my article is enough to make people think that you're also them. Well I can't really blame them, often that is true, in fact if I had another *math*NEWS identity I probably would talk about him quite often. Ever notice how DanS never talks about me, and how I don't actually talk about him very often. However, there is someone else who I talk about all the time, and this person always seems to be talking about me, often telling you to read my articles? I'm not going to reveal my identity here, because then all the girls who read *math*NEWS would just swarm towards me, leaving absolutely no one for you guys out there, as opposed to the almost no one you have now, and I wouldn't do that. I will say, do you really think it's a coincidence we're always talking about each other?

The Single Guy



Across

1. bonus
6. 1:3
9. endearing
10. anachronistic
11. pseudonym
12. commanded
14. one who steals
17. Canadian territory
20. Arrogant Worms location
22. Asian mountains
23. unpleasant aroma
24. New York team
25. halt
26. successor
27. MathSoc novelty item
28. more frigid
31. sugary
34. fierce
37. target of lust
38. Merman of Hollywood
39. contact lens aid
40. alternative
41. more definite

Down

1. type of heron
2. musical all
3. alone
4. enthusiastic
5. German superlative
6. prepared
7. type of tank
8. "the" twins
13. House from Kushiel's Dart
15. church contrarian
16. oval
18. army entertainment
19. to add 23 across
20. valleys
21. obvious
28. Arctic home
29. St. Patty's Culture
30. dais
31. oozes
32. anesthetic
33. Aerosmith's Steven
35. 20 km hike, for example
36. dried red algae