

# *math* NEWS

Volume 103, Issue 6

Friday, March 30th, 2007

Plants create  
thousands of tonnes  
of oxygen daily



if we don't  
breathe it,  
we'll suffocate.

**VOTE YES**

to breathing

Your life depends on it!

Every breath you take  
excretes toxic carbon  
dioxide into the  
atmosphere

Humans produce 85% of the  
carbon dioxide in the world.



**VOTE NO**

to breathing



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**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

March 30 Issue #6 ends the term

**Math Faculty**

April 3 Lectures end

April 9 Exams begin

April 21 Exams end

**CECS**

April 13 Last day of on-campus interviews

**Student Awards & Financial Aid**

April 13 Last day - Continuation of Interest-Free Status

**Misc**

April 1 April Fool's Day

April 6 Good Friday

**MathSoc seeks Computing Director for Fall 2007**

MathSoc is seeking someone to take on the role of the Computing Director (aka systems administrator) for the Fall 2007 term, and potentially for future terms. At the bare minimum, you should be familiar with both Linux and Windows. Some of the stuff listed after here would be nice, but is by no means required.

Our ideal candidate has experience with Debian GNU/Linux file/web server administration (Apache with mod\_ssl and php, MySQL, exim, Samba, ACLs), as well as Windows 2000 desktop and Windows Server 2003 Active Directory administration. You should also be comfortable taking apart and putting together PC hardware.

Experience with Cisco switch administration, Mac OS X administration, patch panel maintenance, CUPS, rsync backups would also be assets, but you could probably get by without 'em.

This is a volunteer position, but I guarantee it will look good on your resume. If you would like more information, please contact Dmitry Denisenkov (the current Computing Director) at [computing@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:computing@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

ddenisen

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The editor(s): Emerald Kushnier

**VPAS Says***Dance like no one is watching*

Well folks, like all great things in life, my time as your VP, Activities and Services has come to an end. We've had a great run haven't we? Don't answer that. It's been a pleasure to work for you here at MathSoc. I sincerely hope you enjoyed the use of our staplers and photocopiers.

We ended the term with a wonderful Math Grad Ball put on by the Math Grad Committee. It was great to see all those graduating people (and the dates they tricked into going with them) dressed up. Some of you cleaned up quite well! By all accounts, a good time was had, and at 400 people in attendance, it was vastly more successful than Polar Jam. Good job MGC!

We also had our termly Pints with Profs this week. I'm writing this before it happens, but I'm sure it will be/was excellent.

As I take my leave, I give you these words: get involved. For those of you thinking about getting involved in the school (be it MathSoc, *mathNEWS*, or even Feds) I strongly encourage you to do so. There's no telling how much you can get away with before someone realizes the power trip you're on. With great power comes great responsibility.

Thanks for watching.

Gee "I left my heart in Waterloo" Ramsahai  
VP Activities & Services, Winter '07

**mastHEAD**

Today is a sad, sad day since it is the last *mathNEWS* that you will see until next term. For those graduating, give us money so that we can keep sending you the wonderful *mathNEWS* to where you are!

As is tradition we tried to get our productioneers to stop eating their pizza and respond to our *mastHEAD* which was "What's your website of choice?" Here are their candid responses and, shockingly, their real names! Colleen Colbeck, 2B Arts "www.RobbEffingernakedcollage.com"; Henry Truong, 4B CS "You know how some people chew gum or tabacco for fun? Robb chews hope"; Alex McCausland, 4B OR/CS "Stumble upon"; James Simpson, 1B CS "www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs492"; Sarah Pidcock, 2A CS "www.insiderlovessingleguy.com"; Dan Swartzentrader, 4B CS "Uhhh ... www.choice.co.uk"; Joe Collins, 1B SE "www.nowonderdansissingle.ca"; Natalie, 3B CS "fark"; Robert Burke, 2A CS "everything 2"; Peter Simonyi, 1B SE "mathnews.uwaterloo.ca (maybe soon)"; Matthew Woolman, 2A CS "www.wikipedia.org"; Andrew Fransen, 4B CS-ish "google.ca".

Thanks go out to the Statue of Liberty mostly because it was made by the French. We are also gracious to graciousness and Graphics. Love goes out to our productioneers, and also to the friends that help us burn the evidence. Until next term, keep life an element of the reals.

Michaelangelo Finistauri, 2B ActSci/Stats "www.frozensouth.net"

Emerald Kushnier, 4B Stats "www.dropline.net/cats"

## Prez Sez

It's like Snuggles Sez, but Snuggles is getting ready to graduate and is looking for a real job... again. By the time you read this, I've probably handed in the last assignment of my University career. I'm not going to miss those, that's for sure. I hope I didn't find it too hard. You see, I write these articles on Monday, which makes writing about things that happened this past/coming (for you/for me) week challenging.

My prognosticatory ability, though, tells me that Pints with Profs yesterday was a great success, as always. There were pints, there were profs. There was also food, a smattering of students, and maybe even a little foosball. I'm also sorry I couldn't stay for longer, based on the great conversation I was having with Ian Goldberg [*Man, he's really going out on a limb with that one... — inkEd*].

Referendum results were also released this morning. I'm guessing you'll be getting a Universal Bus Pass in September. I'm not going to jinx the MathSoc referendum by attempting to predict that one, but on Monday I was cautiously hopeful that a small increase in the MathSoc fee would be approved. Either way, I'm sure future presidents will find a way to work within the results.

Speaking of future presidents, I am graduating (unless Alfred Menezes grows a mean streak) soon enough, so my reign as MathSoc President comes to a close at the end of April. Your captain for the Fall term will be Andrew Fransen, a good friend of mine who was President last Winter/Fall. My only regret about being President is that I didn't do more.

I hope you all had a good term. I did; it's not too bad of a cap on an undergraduate career that has seen me grace these pages as *mathNEWS* Editor, MEF Director, MathSoc President, and a dozen other things. A shout out to my great influences: Douglas, Albert, Yolanda, Diana, Ian, Snuggles, David, Latrell, Paul, (and although they didn't know it) Hammer, Chewy, Flipper, Ross Brown, The Grumpy Young Frosh, Marco, and, of course, Shirley. Take it easy, think carefully, act decisively. It's been a slice.

Eric Logan  
MathSoc President W07

## VPA Says

### *She Can't Believe it is the End of the Term*

Just an exam bank update: the online exam bank is almost complete. It should be full and working just in time for finals. The exam bank can be accessed at [www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca). Since we want to keep our exam bank current and up to date, we are still accepting exams to add to the system.

Today is the last day to go proudly bald in support of cancer research. Come by our booth on the third floor of the MC in front of comfy. Together, we can make a difference.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns of an academic nature you can come by the MathSoc office (MC 3038) or e-mail me at [vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

Have a great rest of term, and good luck on exams!

Heather Perry  
VP, Academic W07

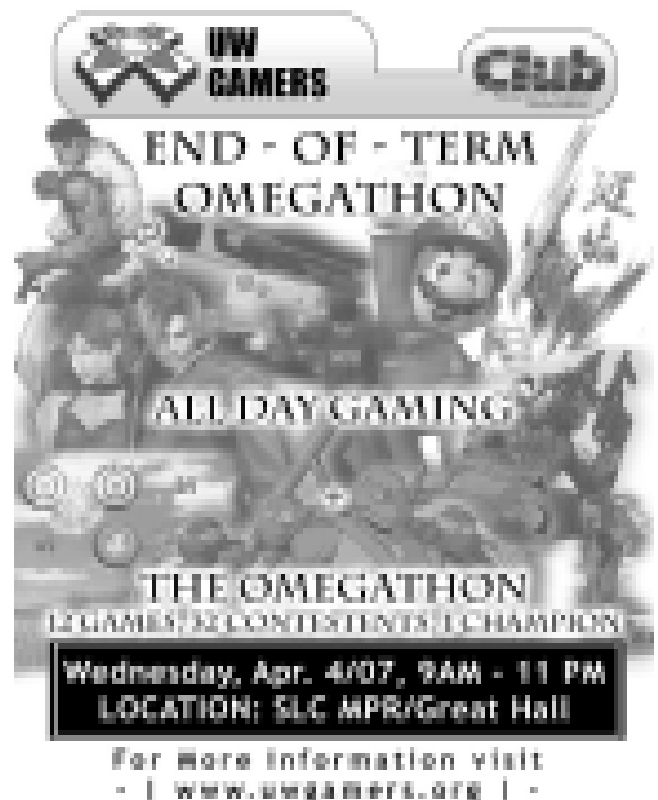
## Of Pearls and Cabbage

### *Perversions in Programming*

The topic of the best programming language, like motor oil, textbook manufacturers and brands of cherry flavoured rootbeer is an issue that can become quite contentious when talking to your fellow computer science friends. Most people in computer science have a favourite programming language (yours truly's happens to be C++). What is common in most debates about programming languages is how most people can find many weaknesses in other programming languages and state that their favourite language is their favourite language because it does not have such perversions and weaknesses. However, what most people in computer science fail to realize is the simple fact that there is no such thing as a good all-round programming language. Some programming languages just do a better job at some things than others. As an example, Lisp is one of the greatest languages for symbolic programming, with applications in expert systems.

Development environments, much like screwdrivers, wrenches and jacks, are tools that the software development community has been arguing about for years. Some developers argue that the best development environment is a complete development solution like an IDE (Integrated Development Environment), that consists of an editor, compiler and debugger. An example of such is Microsoft's Visual Studio. On the other hand, minimalists and fundamentalists, prefer no more than a text editor (such as eMacCs).

So what's the point of this exercise? It is something that you in Computer Science will realize as you continue your quest for software development: there are many people with many crazy fetishes for programming languages and development environments. Just face it, there are and always will be a large degree of programming language perverts out there who will use the most obscure tools and languages and claim them to be the best!





# Bug of The Fortnight

## End of Term Edition

Alas, it is the end of term and as promised here is buggy/non-compliant code in three different programming languages (C, FORTRAN and COBOL).

Our first language is the C programming language also known as the systems programmer's programming language. This language offers a great deal of flexibility to software developers, allowing them to have full control over their application's management of memory (a feature that most contemporary programming languages lack). Unfortunately this added flexibility makes it much easier to shoot yourself in the foot as this code will show. The following code is a simple implementation and usage of linked-lists:

```
struct linknode {
    int idata;
    listnode *next;
}
void newnode(linknode *pNodeToAdd, int iData)
{
    pNodeToAdd.next.idata = iData;
    p N o d e T o A d d . n e x t =
malloc(sizeof(linknode));
}
void removenode(linknode *pNodeToRemove)
{
    pNodeToRemove = free();
    pNodeToRemove = NULL;
}
void main()
{
    // Create a linked list of various val-
ues
    linknode* foo = malloc(sizeof(linknode));
    foo.idata = 10;
    printf("%x",foo.idata);
}
```

Within every example, inside every program, and yes, contained in the DNA of every programmer, computer scientist and software engineer, resides two syllables. Foo. Bar. Where have they come from? Why are they used? Why do they (if concatenated) homophonicate the abbreviation of "Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition"? This article answers very little of that, but tries anyway!

After browsing the tubes for a bit, in search of the answer to the question "What is foo?", I came up with a universal answer. It's a metasyntactic variable. What *that* meant, I didn't know. So I investigated further. Our lord and master Google came up with Wikipedia's interpretation. "A metasyntactic variable is a placeholder name used in syntax or algorithm specifications to show the places where content can vary". I thought this was boring. So I moved on to a reputable source of information and continued to write this article.

A short while later I discovered the Internet Engineering Task Force site, where they have the etymology of Foo. Here's an excerpt:

"Approximately 212 RFCs, or about 7% of RFCs issued so far, starting with [RFC269], contain the terms `foo`, `bar`, or `foobar` used as a metasyntactic variable without any proper explanation or definition. This may seem trivial, but a number

Another interesting language is FORTRAN a high performance programming language that was more or less designed for scientists to use. The following FORTRAN 77 code determines if a integer is prime or not :

```
PROGRAM PRIME
    VALUETOTEST = 500
    ICURUPPER = VALUETOTEST
    ICURLOWER = 0
    DO
        IF ((ICURLOWER*ICURUPPER),EQ,VA
LUETOTEST) THEN
            PRINT 'Prime'
            EXIT
        END IF
        ICURLOWER = ICURLOWER + 1
    END DO
    ICURUPPER = ICURUPPER - 1
ENDDO
```

The final language this week is COBOL which is a business-oriented programming language of years past which was used extensively on many IBM systems. The following COBOL code is simple, it is supposed to print out The Bug of The Fortnight writer's name, can you spot the bug? IDENTIFICATION DIVI-

```
SION.
PROGRAM-ID. AUTHOR-NAME.
PROCEDURE DIVISION.
    PARA-2.
        DISPLAY "mathNEWS".
        STOP GO.
```

## Foo & Bar

### A Discussion

of newcomers, especially if English is not their native language, have had problems in understanding the origin of those terms. This document rectifies that deficiency."

Thinking this could lead to some possibly humorous possibilities, I delved further.

```
"foo /foo/
    1. interj. Term of disgust."
```

Incredible. I never knew that. Neither did you, I bet.

```
bar /bar/ n.
    2. Often appended to 'foo' to produce 'foo-
bar'."
```

Alas, after reading the rest of the article, it was too factual for my tastes so I moved on. Turning to the Jargon file, I found nothing new. It turns out that the IETF took their info forms and I was thusly out of material.

Since I'm rapidly failing to make a point, I'm going to abruptly end th

lost-luck

## Vote for the Vote

As an undergrad math student, I do have a social life outside of mathematics. One thing I do is talk about voting systems.

I know many of you are happy with the simple vote for one candidate system (First Past the Post as it is called), but this is simply not mathematically rigorous enough for my satisfaction. Imagine, if you will, three candidates running for President of the Galaxy (the head position of the Star Trek club). Let's call them Alice, Bob, and Charlie. Bob and Charlie agree that Captain Picard was the greatest captain ever. Alice thinks that Captain Kirk was much hotter, and is thus a better captain. There are hard lines for the trekies in the club. 60% of the members won't follow someone who favours Kirk, 30% will vote for the person that favours Kirk, and 10% will vote for the female candidate, regardless of their beliefs.

The stage has been set, the club members vote, the galaxy anxiously awaits the result. The votes are tallied. Bob and Charlie are both strong candidates and have split the Picard vote. They both receive 30% of the popular vote. Alice picks up the Kirk vote and the girl vote for a total of 40%. Alice has won the election. 60% of the club leave in disgust. The Star Trek club has been crippled, if only they had have learned something from the far more advanced societies they had devoted their lives to study.

They should consider moving to a ranking based system. British Columbia went to referendum to move to a Single Transferable Vote (STV) system. They needed 60% of the vote to implement the plan. They only got 57%. It was a sad day for my hobby. If this had have passed, voters would be able to rank the candidates by their preference thus removing the situation explained above.

At least we have learned a little something about voting. This is how the situation would have played out if the Trekies had been voting with STV: Say 30% vote for Charlie first, Bob second and Alice third. 30% vote for Bob first, Charlie second and Alice third. 10% vote for Alice first, Bob second, and Charlie third. 30% vote for Alice first, Charlie second, and Bob third. These votes are counted. First preference on the ballot is 30%, 30%, 40% split as before, however, no candidate has more than 50% of the vote so no one is elected yet. Instead Bob is removed from the running as he is the least preferred. We now have 60% for Charlie first, and Alice second and 40% for Alice first and Charlie second. The first rankings are counted again and Charlie has 60% of the popular vote. Charlie is declared the winner and Picard fans (the majority in this situation) are happy.

Any voting option will leave some parties unsatisfied. All this does is ensure that unsatisfied party is not the majority. Heck, with a system like this, the Green Party's 8% of Canada may one day hold a vote in the House of Commons, but until that day, I'm stuck voting Liberal because the Conservatives suck balls.

## New Free Software from IST

It has recently come to my attention that IST/CHIP has received the latest versions of Microsoft software. This is software that students may get for free either via the University of Waterloo's MSDNAA website or directly from CHIP. The new software includes Windows Vista, OneNote 2007, Publisher 2007 and other Microsoft Office 2007 products.

IST Insider

## mathHELP

### A mathie advice column

You usually don't hear me do a pre-question blurb, but lacking in other material, I have ruled that I must respond to the sillier questions that I have received.

Dear Insider, I think that I have a virus on my computer. How can I know for sure, and what can I do about it? — Infected

Dear Infected, run a virus scan, and follow the instructions. If you can't even do that, either your computer is messed up (in which case you would have to take it in), or you are.

The Insider

Dear Insider, what is the double integral from  $x = 0$  to  $1/2$  and  $y = 0$  to  $\pi$  of  $x \cos(xy) \cos^2(\pi x)$ ? — A Stuck Engineer

Dear Engineer, OK, maybe I should explain the concept of *mathHELP*. This is a column for giving *math* students *HELP* with their dilemmas. This is not a column for giving engineers *HELP* with their *math* homework.

The Insider

Dear Insider, I failed my midterm, but I don't understand why. I didn't go to lecture, nor did I look at the assignments. I believe that only drains the energy that I need to build up throughout the term so that I can write the midterm. Why did the professor make the midterm so hard? — Flunked

Dear Flunked, let me spell it out to you: you're lazy and wrong. Not only do you need to go to class, but you need to pay attention as well. Simply put, if you put work into it, you'll get something out of it.

The Insider

Dear Insider, who the hell picked the pink tie as the MathSoc logo? It's freaking ugly! — Mathie Rebellion

Dear Rebel, nobody picked the pink tie as the MathSoc logo, because the pink tie is *not* the MathSoc logo. It's the Math Faculty logo. The MathSoc logo is the natural log. Get it right.

The Insider

Dear Insider, *mathNEWS* sucks. There is no point to it. Why don't you make it better? — Another Rebellion

Dear Rebel, I don't see you coming to production night to help fix it. If you really think it's that bad, come out and help us to make it better. Otherwise, can it.

The Insider

Glad to be rid of these idiots!

mathNEWS\_Insider@hotmail.com

## Midnight Capture the Flag

Sunday April 1, 11:59 PM in Comfy

Guess what, campers? It's the last Midnight Capture the Flag of the term! That's right, this is your last, *the* last opportunity to come out for a few hours of awesomeness and kickassery with your fellow mathies who are obviously the most intelligent and physically attractive creatures in the galaxy based on their decision to attend this event. Meet at 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 1st (no foolin') in Comfy to assert your testosterone and/or estrogen levels.

HWT

**profQUOTES***Better than ever before. Maybe.*

Well, many of you are probably starting to think about the final exam. Well, my wife is an actuary. Everytime she studies for one of her exams she would tell me: Okay honey, I'm off to study for my exam. See you in 3 months.

Andre, MATH 136

I'm running on autopilot, I'm glad I'm not driving a plane.

Andre, MATH 136

I just noticed the few people who asked if I was handing the midterm back today disappeared. To reward everybody who's here, I will tell you now this question is going to be on the final. That is if I remember to put it on the final.

Pyne, ECON 201

You have to be careful of the order of operations. Sometimes it doesn't matter, like, whether you put your pants on before your shirt. But if you put your pants on before your underwear, you become Superman instead of a man.

Chang, PMATH 331

I'm handling all possible cases at once. Including {dog, cat}, my favourite subset.

Marcoux, MATH 146

Student: Do you know what I'm saying?

Prof: No, sorry, no.

Marcoux, MATH 146

I am assuming C is invertible, so we can just multiply by  $C^{-1}$  on the left, unlike that assignment. DAMN you TA!

Marcoux, MATH 146

Student: What is dew-ex? (DEUX mispronounced)

Prof: [erases DEUX and writes ZWEI] Next time, I should give the lecture auf Deutsch.

Marcoux, MATH 146

Prof: The rule in Waterloo is "one step further".

Student: The spirit of  $y_0$ .

Marcoux, MATH 146

Prof: Have you seen this notation before?

Student: No...

Prof: I haven't seen this notation either.

Marcoux, MATH 146

How's my arithmetic? Call 1-800-XXXX

Marcoux, MATH 146

You gotta admit, that's a sexy-looking system.

Marcoux, MATH 146

Student: I sleep with the course notes every night now.

Prof: What does the girlfriend think of that?

Student: She's jealous.

Marcoux, MATH 146

Can I say, "by inspection"? The clock says I can.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

It's like waxing your legs. You pull it fast, it hurts less.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

That was... democracy in a hurry.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

Somebody punch 10 factorial into a calculator for me... nobody? There is no generosity in the world.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

[written on the board] A function we should all see before we die.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

You pre-embarrassed me so I don't have to embarrass myself again.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

I hate stating a function without a word. That's like not saying hello.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

Check it, if he is wrong, beat him up.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

Clearly. By "clearly" I mean, I hope you see it.

Zorzitto, MATH 148

*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).*

**Rejected Made-Up Anti-Bus Pass Facts**

- Every time you ride the bus, god kills a kitten.
- Mass transit causes sterility.
- Laurier tried, but failed miserably.
- If you do not vote NO and do not tell at least 20 people to vote NO, you will have bad luck for 20 years.
- Chuck Norris doesn't ride the bus, he crushes buses between his thighs.
- GRT buses explode when exposed to sunlight.
- Pass the pass and you'll fail every class.
- Do you walk or drive to school? The U-Pass deal includes a clause forcing you to do that backwards.
- Less than 15% of students use the bus. Every hour. Every day.
- The revenue GRT collects from the U-Pass will be used to outfit buses with anti-car, anti-bicycle and anti-pedestrian missile launchers.
- If you Pass the Pass, Policy 71 will double in size.
- Voting YES means Big Brother wins!
- Riding the bus will cause you to become paranoid about the little people.
- A vote for the U-Pass is a vote for Bush.

That girl over there + 1.

## Dating Advice From The Single Guy

### *Going Out With a Bang*

So with the subtitle like that you might think that this week's letters were going to along the lines of "I think I just broke up with my girlfriend, but we decided to sleep together one last time but it seems that she thinks we're still together. What do I do?" or "My girlfriend just dumped me, and now life isn't worth living I think I'm going to kill myself." But those would be really bad jokes that really are more of a DanS type. Plus that would require letters to be perfectly submitted or made up, and I think it's pretty obvious that I don't do that. Instead, I think I'm covering a very important topic this time.

#### **Dear The Single Guy,**

I think you give terrible advice, and I would never go out with anybody who followed it. No wonder you're "The Single Guy"

**-Alice, Beth, Candice and Elizabeth**

Wow, what an impressive letter, It's really no wonder that it took four of you to write it. It's actually fairly ignorant of you guys to assume that it is my own advice that causes me to be in my solitary position. It is actually completely to the contrary. I would never follow my own advice; I personally think it is a far better idea to be a smart, funny, caring and honest guy. It is exactly those qualities that have gotten me to where I am now. The fact is that, in a society such as this one, though, everyone will claim that this is what they're looking for, it is in fact completely not true. The people I've met would prefer someone who mistreats them, someone they can't trust, someone who they could "fix" even though they will never succeed in that. That is why I write what I write. If you're not willing to scheme and plot and do many otherwise immoral things then anybody who is part of modern society (which by definition is pretty much everyone) is not going to be interested in you. I however strongly believe that even if I am stuck being in society I should not be a part of it. This however is an advice column, and so if you want actual good advice about getting into a relationship then what I say is what you're going to have to do. Real life isn't a movie, so don't expect movie advice to work in real life.

Well, there we go. May your exams be passable, and maybe I'll see you next term, and by see you I mean have you read my work

The Single Guy

## Mr. Clean

For several years I have been following the exploits of one Mr. Clean only to determine a shocking pattern to his "helping people".

Mr. Clean will only appear to a woman, and even then, only while she is cleaning. Furthermore, he doesn't actually do anything. All he does is tower over the hardworking woman who is cleaning her floor, checking to see if he can see his reflection where she was cleaning.

Only after the woman is finished cleaning does he offer a helping hand, and even then it's only to help her stand up. He doesn't even thank the woman for her hard work.

Angelo

## Vista Blows

### *Allow or Deny?*

Allow. Now Microsoft has created an operating system that will change how people work on their computers. For the worse. Consider the following:

- Microsoft created a new disc format which Vista has been printed on. Although this new format is not compatible with 2% of the current systems on the market, it is still called a universal format. Furthermore, if your computer won't run it, then you aren't eligible for any sort of reimbursement. Best waste of several hundred dollars.
- Nothing works. None of the older programs that you [probably didn't] buy no longer function. Furthermore, Microsoft has had to pay damages to at least two companies that were pissed off that they weren't able to get the information they needed to make products for the system.
- Not only do you have to buy the operating system, but you are required to have a high-end machine just to be able to run it. It comes down to 'I don't see why I should have to shell out a lot of money to look at an operating system so shiny that I need to wear sunglasses to use it'.
- It looks hideous. I didn't even like how XP looked. It was too flashy, bubbly and bright. At least I had the option to make it look like some of the older versions of Windows. Vista apparently doesn't have this option, and its default look is disgustingly shiny.

Angelo

## The mathNEWS Music Review

It may be a little late to finally come around to reviewing this, but honestly, it's just so good that instead of actually coming and reviewing it, I've been listening to it. I, of course, am referring to the greatest band to take their name from World of Warcraft, and are by many considered to be one of the best bands in existence today. I am talking about Arcane Fire, and their new album *Purple Libram*.

This is the followup to their extremely appreciated debut album *Ghost Run*. The tone of this album seems to be a little more upbeat than the previous one; understandable since this one isn't named after what happens when you die. The songs of *Purple Libram* are mostly from the point of view of a player and how they feel about Blizzard and life around the time of a new patch. It was thought there was no chance that these new songs could compare with their older ones; however, since I mentioned above that instead of writing this review I was listening to the music, they not only have approached but exceeded expectations. Specific songs that I suggest listening to, since their that much pure awesome are: "Keep the Server Running," "Intervene (The greatest new warrior skill)," "Blast Wave/Bad Vibrations," and "My Body is a Snare."

DanS



## Touch

It was five in the morning when I woke up, apparently for no reason. The first signs of daylight could be seen creeping up the horizon from my window. Soon I would have to leave the solace of my bed. Although I wished to sleep, I knew that doing so would only make me need to go sooner. If I stayed awake, it would last longer, at least, from my perspective. Good enough for me, really.

I turned to look at my girlfriend. I do not worry about waking her. Although, we sleep in the same bed, we are not in proximity of each other. Nothing I do will ever make her stir. Her face, calm and unmoving, fails to cover up the nightmares that she's been having lately. I don't tell her that I know about them. She'd deny it anyway. I would comfort her, but it's not how close we are that keeps her away from me.

So, I stare at the ceiling trying to understand the thoughts constantly rushing through my brain. It's what keeps me up at night and wakes me up whenever I manage to fall asleep. That fucking brain of mine; it doesn't know when to shut itself down. She calls it just a wild imagination. Wild. Yeah, unrelentingly analyzing every situation, experience, and thought. It continues until my memories and whatever my mind concocts merge into something. I don't know, it's not real, but it's not really fake either. Sleeping doesn't seem like such a bad idea anymore. At least I know that's fake.

I creep out of my bed. The morning air is cold and unwelcoming. That doesn't bother me, though. I go downstairs to the couch. Lie down. Close my eyes. Sleep at last.

No more than ten minutes later, I wake up. Incoherent and tired. At this point, the cyclical nature of this predicament makes me chuckle. Granted, I'm not particularly amused by the situation, and it could just be that I haven't been sleeping well for god knows how long, but something about it deserved a laugh. And here I am: lying on the couch; falling asleep and waking up at what feels like regulated intervals, always worried that I may sleep in and miss getting out of bed for work.

7:00 a.m. She wakes. Although she barely touches the floor when she walks, I hear her enter the shower. I should be in there with her. There to see her in the morning. There to start her day off with human contact: with love, even. I tell myself that's all it would take to bring her to me, but I know she's not guillible. She'd smile and feel all meaningful, but still not be happy. I doubt I could explain, since I don't understand it. Seems like everything I offer her isn't what she wants. I should leave her.

She comes down the stairs without a sound. I look at her and I remember why I stay. She looks warm, but as I kiss her I feel just how cold her lips truly are. It makes me remember why I want to leave. In my indecisiveness I do both. I leave for now, but I'll be back later.

Work is no different from any other day. The same people smiling, each one's face cracks as they strain to hold it like that. I shake hands that crumble a little bit in my grasp. I can feel how insecure they are, but the joke is on them: I'm just as unconfident.

The clock graphic on my computer is all I watch. Time ticks down until I can leave. An eternal cycle of self-incarceration and self-liberation. Everyday I put myself in this stupid cell just to buy shiny things that can't even make my girlfriend happy, and then I go home with the shiny things, still unable to hold

her knowing that she's there with me. I can't concentrate here because I want to be at home. I want another chance with her. Then I get there, and think about how I have to come back here. So I don't do anything. It probably wouldn't be so depressing if I didn't know how it goes. I think it may be better if she weren't there when I got home. If she just disappeared, I don't really want to think about it. But it may be nice.

The people here comment on how little I smile. Some joke that I'm going to kill myself. They joke quietly enough that I hear the entire conversation. Suicide. Some say that's the easy way out. I don't particularly want to find out. Sure, I could sleep and not have to worry about a brain that doesn't know when to quit, but... Guess I don't have much against the argument, but I still don't want to do it. Their humor here is lost on me. I smile, and fake a laugh, and get the bullshit over with. It's quitting time.

Instead of going straight home I stop off at a bar. A quaint little shithole that attracts more flies than customers. Works for me. I sit there, drink in hand, wondering if she'll be there when I get home. I don't mean physically, since she's always there physically when I get home. I wonder if she'll stop being some reverie half in my life just enough to make me want to keep her, but not enough to make it worth my time to leave. The bartender says I've had enough for the night. One day I'll leave before I reach my limit.

If this were a TV show or something, I would get hit by a car and die. Teaching the viewers a valuable lesson about getting kicked around by life. I get home just fine.

This time will be different. I humor myself. No one else would laugh because they know that this time is not going to be any different. I don't laugh, but I'm bitter, so it's expected. Placing my hand on the doorknob, I feel traces of work lingering around me. Should have just left it at the office and the rest of it at the bar. Moth to a flame, and I'm burning bright apparently.

I cross the threshold and across the foyer I see her. She sees me. We look at each other, but not in the eyes. We understand that the other is sad, but don't know the words to say anything about it. She looks at me longingly, and I look at her incapable of showing her anything. Our silence says a lot, but none of it is what needs to be said. We resume our twisted relationship. And at night, before I go to sleep, she says to me with a crestfallen quality "You can get close to me, but never touch me..." I know what she means, but dammit, her words keep me awake.

Angelo

## 'No' Campaign Fined

*The Liars*

Apparently, the city plans to offer a cheap, refundable bus pass if the No camp wins the referendum.

As a result of saying such falsehoods, the campaign has been fined and told to remove what ends up being pretty much its entire campaign.

Besides, we already have such a bus pass. It's called "Go to GRT and buy one."

The Insider  
Not tainted by this news



# Math and Engineering to Merge

*"Death and Destruction" to Follow*

UW Administration is set to announce on Sunday a plan to merge the Faculty of Mathematics with the Faculty of Engineering, creating the new Faculty of Mathematical Engineering.

The move, according to a document leaked to *mathNEWS* earlier this week, is intended to bring more harmony to the school's two world-renowned faculties.

"There is a lot of overlap between the two faculties," says one professor who teaches both math and engineering courses. "There will be great benefits to having all of the courses brought closer together."

Some students, however, disagree with the idea.

"Should the faculties merge, there is going to be an all-out student war causing massive amounts of death and destruction," says *mathEYE*, the *mathNEWS* Horrorscope Prophet. "There is a good chance that many of us will not survive."

There are also rumours going around the math faculty that the softies are attempting to stop the move in order to prevent

the loss of their two-faculty bragging rights. As a SoftEng student myself, I can confirm that we are trying to stop the move, however it is because we would be considered traitors to both sides in the event that a war does break out (as *mathEYE* predicts will happen), and we would; therefore, be the first to go.

Now with this move, many students will be wondering what will be happening to the student societies MathSoc and EngSoc. Peter Simonyi, who is familiar with the runnings of both societies, suggests keeping both of them in place.

"It now gives all students in the new faculty a pair of Socs," says Simonyi. "This will answer the question about what happened to the ones lost behind the dryer."

After I reminded him that his puns continue to leave me high and dry, Simonyi added that "having the two societies would lead to the creation of many new ideas that could benefit everyone in the new faculty."

The Insider

## Captain Planet Must Be Stopped

So I had recently suffered brain damage and found myself humming the theme to Captain Planet over and over, when something occurred to me: as the song goes, "Captain Planet, he's our hero, gonna take pollution down to zero."

Really? Zero? I mean, sure, we as humans pollute lots, at least according to Al Gore, and could probably stand to take it down a few notches. But down to *zero*? Most of what we do on this planet produces some sort of byproduct even at highest efficiency. We can't operate as a society without having some sort of adverse effect on the environment around us. What are we going to do, start pulling paper out of our asses to write on? And then eat it?

Then it hit me. Captain Planet doesn't want to stem our pollution. He wants us all DEAD. He's a fanatical ecoterrorist with superpowers that isn't going to stop until all traces of our impact on the world are wiped clean off the face of the planet, leaving behind nothing of us besides our distant chimp brothers. He clothes his intentions behind the banner of world unity, but in

the end he will kill us all. What kind of a hero is that?

What we really need is someone who's gonna take pollution down to, like, twenty or so. This would give us a comfortable margin to continue functioning as a society while stemming our harmful side effects. Also, to prevent the geometric series from converging to zero, we would need some way to terminate this Captain after his mission is accomplished from attempting to reapply the scaling factor to our pollution. I suggest a very large Pokeball, or arrows laced with syphilis. Alternatively, we could simply shoot those kids that summon him and feed their rings to whales. I call dibs on shooting the guy with Heart. I mean, what's he going to do, loooooove the gunshot wounds away? Please.

## Celtic Queen

*Red Hair Rule*

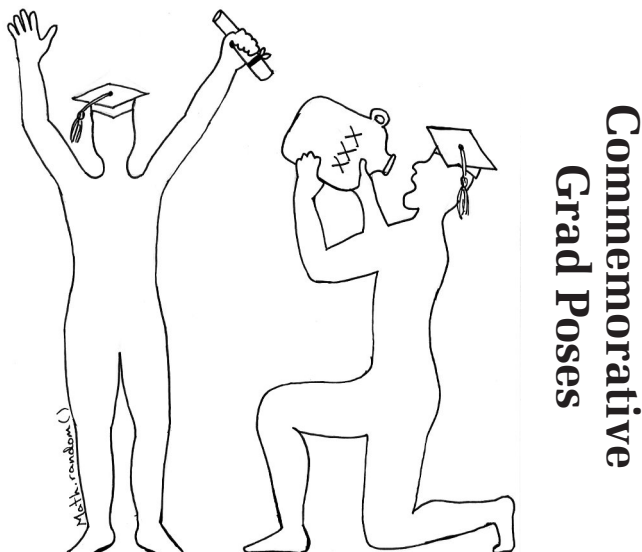
My lady, your red wavelength hair  
Shines in the wind as you walk by  
and I trace each gossamer strand  
each particle as it renders  
in subtle ways that don't compute  
in black or azure blue.  
How I would trace into green eyes  
and fractalize their crystal dance,  
diverging tints from pupil moons  
in L-systemic form.

C.A. Beret

## Food for Thought

Have you ever noticed that the people from high school who complained in math class about how they would never need to know any of it often knew a lot about musical groups, sports teams and movies? Because they definitely need to know about that stuff for the future.

Angelo



## Did You Catch Last Week's Ep. of Popular Reality Show?

After an absolutely riveting introduction where participants talked about their experiences in the previous week's episode, and expressed negative feelings about their fellow participants, the host arrived to describe the upcoming events. Participants' spirits were daunted as the host explained the challenges for the episode. The things they would have to consume, the tasks they would have to perform to demonstrate their prowess and commitment, only to end the day with one winner and one loser, and a visit to the voters' booth.

Some guy from That Team got into a disagreement with Useless Girl about how best to distribute things available to them and their mates to prepare for the upcoming trials. Afterward Useless Girl is seen talking to The Other Girl on That team about Some Guy, collaborating on how best to remove him as a member of the competition. Not long afterward, footage is viewed of The Other Girl talking to Some Guy about how awful Useless Girl is and how she should be kicked off.

Despite differences from the previous episode that cost them a member of their team, This Team is collaborating well to pool their resources. It would seem as though their strategy has changed from 'eliminate the weakest member' to 'not have to vote someone off'.

That Team exemplified a truly powerful falling apart at the challenge where they had to consume something gross. Their lack of support of fellow members led to a slow consumption and eventual failure to consume the stuff by Handy Guy. However, This Team's lost is a suprising turn in the tasks to demonstrate prowess, losing their chance to retain all the members of their group. That team either rallied after their failure, or were hit by sheer dumb luck in the nature of the challenge. Useless Girl proved to be useful for something.

The members of This Team were interviewed individually before going to vote a member off. Token Racial Minority talked loudly and angrily about how it was a 'white man's' show and if they were voted off it would only be because other people were conspiring against them. The rest of This Team demonstrated some true unity in the unsurety as to who they would vote off.

In the end, The Attractive Girl was voted off with a one vote majority. Too bad, many people really liked her.

Interviews with That Team revealed that The Last Member was in fact, gay and had recently come out to his team. He showed relief at his team's victory in the tasks that day. He was sure that he would be voted off because of fellow team members' discomfort concerning his sexuality.

Tune in next week when the teams are combined due to severe imbalance and the loss of so many members. Every man for himself.

C<sup>2</sup>

## Microsoft Office Hours!

Representatives from the Microsoft Office team plus recruiting will be there to talk to you and answer your questions on Tuesday April 3rd from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. They will be set up in the Tatham Centre in room 2218 A&B, and they will have Subway food! Bring your resume! They will be raffling off 6 copies of the new Office 2007 plus an XBOX 360 and other great prizes!

## Dating Advice From the DanS

Everyone else is either spoofing it or at least talking about doing it, so I guess I may as well too. In order to properly do so, I guess I should say something about "would you people stop asking me if I'm The Single Guy, it's getting annoying". With that out of the way, let's get to the real stuff.

Dear the DanS,

I have this penpal from Europe, and whenever he writes something about a certain day, he always writes it with the day then the month then the year instead of the month then day then year. It's really annoying that he does this, but he insists that it's the right way of doing things. What can I do to make him do things the proper way?

Well, the truth is, the your penpal's way of doing things is actually much better. The whole month first thing is only really acceptable to you because of the vast amount of American influences in your life. It really makes more sense to do things in either ascending or decending order of importance, such as year, month, day, or day, month, year. This "middle endian" date system is brought to you by the same people who use measurements in *feet*, *miles*, *gallons* and *pounds*, things which really make no sense, so instead of trying to force a system that doesn't make sense to other people just because that's what you're used to, try something that's actually good.

Dear the DanS,

I have this palm tree in my backyard, and it has this fruit growing on it which looks absolutely delicious. However I don't really know how to pick it, what should I do?

Have you tried a ladder? It seems as though that would be the best way to get at it, other than that, I'm not really a fruit picker, so I can't help you much. One suggestion though, is that when you do manage to get the fruit, try removing the seed and drying it out.

Dear the DanS,

I've been locked in the graphics lab working on my final project for what I assume is days on end now, and I'm not even sure what day it is anymore. What's the easiest way to find out?

This is really simple. Just open up a terminal of some sort, and type in the command 'date' if you get a format that you don't like, or can't understand (like our first letter reader) try 'man date' first in order to find what the options you want are, I personally suggest 'date "+%d %b %Y"'

DanS

## Calum's Game of the Week

*Commander Keen*

In this week's issue of Game of the Week, Calum reviews Commander Keen! I have found that Commander Keen has piqued my interest with its vivid gameplay, state of the art graphics, and sound that one could die for. The point of this game is to play this awesome kid called Commander or Keen or something, and go around finding parts to warp you back into space. There are a lot of neat goons and the like to keep you on your feet and its gameplay is pretty darn good. I give this game four partially eaten frosh out of five.

Calum T. Dalek