

# math NEWS

Volume 104, Issue 2

Friday, June 1st, 2007

## If and Only If



**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

June 1	Issue #2 shows up
June 11	Production Night #3
6:30,	MathSoc (MC3038)
	All are welcome!
June 15	Issue #3 fires up the engines

**Math Faculty**

Questions about what some of these mean? See an academic advisor!

June 11	Class Enrolment for Fall 2007 begins
June 18	Last day for 50% refund
June 25	WD period ends
June 26	WF period begins

**MathSoc**

Thursdays	Movie Nights
-----------	--------------

**MGC**

Wednesdays	Pizza Days
------------	------------

**CECS Assuming Jobmine does not crash**

June 15	Last day of first interview cycle
	Rankings open at 1:00PM
June 18	Rankings close at 2:00PM
June 19	Match results available as of 7:00AM
June 20	Continuous Phase Postings Begin
	Matched Student Conf. Meetings

see [www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/students/datesF06.php](http://www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/students/datesF06.php) for details

**Student Awards & Financial Aid**

June 15	Last day to submit for Undergraduate Bursary Applications for Spring term
June 22	QE II, Aiming for the Top deadline to submit 2007/2008 OSAP application

**Feds**

June 23	Council Meeting
	see <a href="http://feds.ca/events">feds.ca/events</a> for details

**Miscellaneous**

June 3	Mabo Day (Australia)
June 3-9	Canadian Environment Week
June 5	John Maynard Keynes' Birthday
June 6	Clean Air Day
June 14	Andrei Andreyevich Markov's Birthday

**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.mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:userid.mathnews@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).

Neeber and Noober: Michael Perkins & Michaelangelo Finistauri

**mastHEAD**

Oh where, oh where has the *mathNEWS* production staff gone? Oh man, now where could they be? Oh, that's right, over at the MathSoc budget meeting. While MathSoc was busy making sure that your monies are being spent on partially frivolous, yet educationally awesome things, we at *mathNEWS* launder like there's no tomorrow. Surprise! There is no tomorrow. After telling our production staff this we asked them "What skills did you learn?" and by golly, they responded.

Which brings me to the part that only production staff bothers to read: their answers! James Simpson "How not to use FlatFile databses"; Richard "Not to lock my screen from within the *mathNEWS* system."; DanS "Nothing. I'm already at 375 in everything."; Evan Stratford "How to avoid learning any skills."

As always we need to thank people. Graphics for making *mathNEWS* look more like a publication and less like Dark Matter, the Grill for feeding us burgers and milkshakes, the budgeted MathSoc defecit for extending the budget meeting until 9:00 depriving us of writers and lastly cinder blocks: nature's way of getting rid of evidence!

Michaelangelo 'AngeLED' Finistauri "How to reference myself as many times as possible in hopes someone thinks I'm funny."

Michael 'perkiED' Perkins "How to prepare grid solutions."

***mathNEWS* wants YOU!**

*Write some stuff, win some money*

*mathNEWS* works entirely on submissions from undergrads and some especially crotchety alumni. We're constantly looking for new writers in order to reduce dependency on crotchety alumni types. In order to encourage more submissions from Mathies, we've revived this great idea! The "best" submission to each issue this term starting Issue 3 will win a \$25 Gift Certificate to HMV. Anyone is eligible! Faculty, alumni, staff, and especially students!

We're not particularly choosy here at *mathNEWS*. Our criteria for publishing material is pretty simple: your article should be informative, interesting, insightful or funny. Long, rambling, pointless material is out. So are in-jokes, rants, and particularly libelous material.

If you have a modicum of writing skill, feel free to submit. You have many options: Write it down on some paper and shove it in the BLACK BOX, conveniently located on the 3rd floor of the MC between the C&D and the Comfy Lounge. If you type up your article and print it off and then put it in there, we will be very upset, because you should... Email it to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) with the word "article" in the subject line. You can also drop by Production Night! Write an article, and while you're there, help us with the proofreading of the issue. All are welcome! The date of the next production night is given in the *lookAHEAD* of every issue.

See, isn't that simple? So, in summary, write for *mathNEWS*, win \$25 to HMV!

**To make an omelette you have to destroy a few civilizations.**

## 0.7%

### *A smaller percentage than Math 135 assignments are worth*

Hi everyone, I'm a member of Engineers Without Borders' (EWB) Waterloo chapter and also a mathie. You might think EWB is just for engineers, but anybody can be involved! EWB is a charitable organization that works to reduce poverty, with a focus on Africa; and to raise awareness of poverty in Canada.

Our big focus this summer is the 0.7% pledge. To give a bit of history, in 1969 the World Bank released a report on the state of international development, headed by Canadian Lester B. Pearson, which recommended that rich countries commit 0.7% of their GNP to development assistance. In 1970 the UN General Assembly, including Canada, committed to meeting the pledge.

Currently, only five countries are donating more than 0.7% of their GNP. Although, seven others, including Germany and the UK, have a timetable for reaching it, none of the G8 countries (which control over 65% of the world's wealth) currently meet the 0.7% pledge. This includes Canada, where we only give 0.34% of our GNP. The House of Commons recently unanimously passed a motion committing to reaching 0.7% by 2015, but never established a timetable for meeting this commitment.

You may be wondering why this pledge is so important. There are many different possible uses for this money that could have a major impact, especially on eradicating extreme poverty in the developing world. For example, Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist, estimated that the difference between Canada's actual development assistance in 2005 and what it would have been under the 0.7% goal would have been enough to fund "an entire global initiative to control malaria in Africa" (The Globe and Mail, April 22 2005).

EWB wants to work towards meeting the 0.7% pledge. With your help, we'll remind the government of our commitments, and ensure that a firm timetable for reaching 0.7% is established.

If you want to let the government know that you think 0.7% is important, please email or write to your local MP. If you're interested in learning more or want to get involved with EWB, come out to our meetings and info sessions, held on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in E2-1303E. You can also find out more at our website: [www.uwaterloo.ewb.ca](http://www.uwaterloo.ewb.ca), or email me with questions!

Lisa Nagy  
ldnagy@uwaterloo.ca

## VPAS Sez

That was one heck of a budget meeting. Three and a half hours! Whooh!

Unfortunately, one of my little babies for the term got the axe. No pi-approximation (22/7) day (July 22nd) for us! However, there is a silver lining to this horrible, gloomy cloud. Instead of pi-approximation day, our new part-time social director Aaron is going to be running a beach trip later in the summer to Wasaga Beach!

In other news, Canada Day is coming up, and every year Math-Soc helps out in the University's celebrations up at Columbia Lake. We run activities for little kids (under 8) to keep them entertained throughout the day. To help run this, I'm looking for volunteers! As a bonus for volunteers, for every 4 hour shift, you get a free meal. If you feel like playing around with little tykes sounds like a good way to spend Canada Day, please contact me at [vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), or just drop by the office.

Mark Jackson-Brown  
Vice President, Activities and Services, S07

## Waterloo Symposium in Undergraduate Mathematics

This year, the Faculty of Mathematics will be celebrating its fortieth anniversary at the same time as the University commemorates its fiftieth anniversary. In order to share the spirit of celebration with other students in Canada, we are organizing the Waterloo Symposium in Undergraduate Mathematics (WATSUM) from June 8<sup>th</sup> - June 9<sup>th</sup>. It's happening here at Waterloo!

The conference is an opportunity for students in math to meet and enjoy a weekend in the beautiful region of Waterloo. Whether your interests are in algebra, statistics, computer science or anything else math related, we invite you to come share them at WATSUM by giving a talk (or simply enjoy other talks). In addition you will get to hear several professional mathematicians describe their research interests.

If you plan to come please register, and encourage your friends to come! The registration fee is \$30 and will include a t-shirt, a satchel, and meals for the duration of the conference. The website is [www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~watsum](http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~watsum)

Lalit Jain; Alejandro Morales  
WATSUM organizers

## Bug of the Fortnight

### *The mythical tales of bad code!*

This week's Bug of the Fortnight will yet again look at the numerous ways C/C++ developers can get things wrong. This week's focus is on memory management and pointers, both of which are horribly abused by all C/C++ developers. I would like to say as a sidenote; however, that pointers can be very handy and that many languages that prohibit the use of pointers are removing a great deal of flexibility from the language. The following code is essentially a rewrite of the C function `strcpy`, but is meant to copy a special user defined type:

```
void ListCopy(string *pFrom, string* pTo)
{
    int iCounter = sizeof(pFrom);
    pTo = new string[sizeof(pFrom)+sizeof(pTo)];
    for(iCounter < sizeof(pTo); iCounter++)
        pTo[iCounter] = pFrom[iCounter];
    pFrom = NULL; // Clear the free pointer
    delete [] pFrom;
}
```

James Simpson

## Dating Advice From The Single Guy

*Dear The Single Guy*, there's sort of this girl. I've really begun falling for her, and am not really sure what to do. The thing is I've been friends with her since, well, it's getting close to about 5 years now. I've decided that it's finally time for me to make my move. I don't want to come accross too strong and risk weirding her out, yet when I try to be subtle she just doesn't seem to notice. What do I do?

-William

Well William, I think you're screwed, and not in the good way that you're aiming for. Just don't bother. Even if things work out perfectly, the only thing that changes is that you get to be a little more physical with her. However, you risk running into all the craziness and irrationality all females possess, incurring her wrath in severe ways. Let's just say this could be bad for your friendship. You want to get something started between you and her likely in search of happiness. The thing is, it sounds like you're fairly happy with her and the way things are now. Don't get greedy: it'll only lead to your downfall. So next time you find yourself giving her that admiring stare while she's distracted with something else, remember that those perfect curves and soft skin are only trying to betray you. Spend all your effort imagining her as some sort of old hag instead of the beautiful siren that she is.

*Dear The Single Guy*, I have this friend, let's call him Bill, and I sort of think he has some sort of crush on me. He says things to me all the time that sound like he's trying to flirt with me. I usually try to shrug it off and pretend that I didn't notice. Sometimes I pretend that it was a joke and then jokingly flirt back

with him. There was also this one time when we were both really drunk where, actually I don't really want to talk about that part. He's also only ever been nice and sweet and caring towards me. He's always been there for me when I needed a shoulder to cry on, and I've always enjoyed hanging out with him. The thing is, I'm just not attracted to him. How do I let him down without upsetting him too much and keeping our relationship in tact as it is now?

-Beth

Really? You don't want to upset him at all? How dare he be sweet and caring and there for you and enjoyable to be around. I totally understand why you would never want to consider going out with this guy. That and how dare he take your leading him on as an invitation to try and make things more serious with you. You should try to crush his soul for these mistakes.

—Hey, stop that. Get out of here, you unqualified freak. It's attitudes like that which explain why you will never get a girl yourself. Sorry about that readers, I left my terminal unlocked, and my very bitter and sarcastic friend Dave started typing. Anyway, I have a hunch as to what you should maybe do. Think about your perfect guy. What qualities does he possess? Now, look at the letter you wrote me and the description you gave of your friend Bill. Those lists are probably quite similar. Perhaps you should consider giving him a chance. You imply that you fairly often need a shoulder to cry on, and it's my experience that it's usually guys who are going to be causing this crying, and it sounds like he's not really the type of guy who's going to do that. Maybe you should get over yourself and give him a chance.

The Single Guy

## Top n Ways to Create Filler

### *Creating fluff to fill out mathNEWS*

There are times in *mathNEWS* history where there are spaces in a current issue, which if go unfilled could result in an incomplete *mathNEWS* issue, causing great distress for all readers of *mathNEWS*. This guide provides suggestions for creating world class filler to solve these needs. The following is a top n list of filler ideas (where n is defined as a number between one and infinity):

- Publish a series of alphanumeric characters which may or may not be used for illicit purposes in some cases.
- Randomly rant for a short period about someone, or something (say Windows Vista).
- Print material commonly found in Imprint
- Reprint old articles from past *mathNEWS*
- Print quotes from a particular professor (such as Prabhakar), you could have a Prabhakar quotes section
- Poke fun at people, faculties, businesses or publications while avoiding Libel suites at the same time (for those adventures)
- Create a top n list that is relatively short
- Go on an absolute rantfest, poking fun at all *mathNEWS* writers, editors, and proofreaders, which in hindsight, may still actually print your article
- Post random URLs which point *mathNEWS* readers to various parts of the interweb
- Advertise an event or an organization
- Think of other creative ideas

Filler the *mathNEWS* Doughboy

## *mathNEWS* Reinvented

At the last *mathNEWS* production night, we realized that we were spending altogether too much time on this sordid 'creative writing' process. Fortunately, a new way has been found: have *mathNEWS* produce itself! Some suggestions:

- Outfit every professor on campus with a *prof*QUOTES detector that automatically identifies and submits quotes of sufficient hilarity.
- Write a filler generator complete with a database of standard math jokes, a genetic algorithm that produces reflections on the nature of filler, and a Digg/Slashdot RSS aggregator that scans the latest tech news for useless trivia.
- Build our comics by cobbling together humourous images gleaned from the less reputable parts of the Internet.
- Write a *grid*WORD generator. To make it easier to write, allow random strings of letters as the entries. 1 Across: ZBLQUFMN? Answer: GZHAAAFLARG!
- Move all stages of production in-house, starting with the forests.

To allow the *mathNEWS* editors enough time in their busy schedules to implement the above changes, we propose the immediate employment of frosh as slave labour. It was initially feared that this would lower the level of erudite thought in *mathNEWS*. However, with 1729 frosh working on typewriters, the expected waiting time for publishable articles will be low enough to permit timely production of each issue. Our proposal should be approved soon, so look out for the new, improved, and fully automated *mathNEWS*!

candu

## The MUDPit

*Back By Unpopular Demand*

UW-MUD v 0.2 pre-beta  
 Enter, Math Student, and choose your destiny.  
 You find yourself in a generic Arts elective class, somewhere in the dank bowels of the Arts Lecture Hall.  
 > inventory  
 You have \$10 and a banana.  
 An Arts Student casts "Stupid Question!"  
 A Professor is angry, and charges at the Arts Student!  
 > go blackboard  
 Taking advantage of the ensuing fracas, you seize control of the blackboard.  
 > cast inscribe math  
 You grab a nearby piece of chalk and write a formula of staggering beauty and profound importance on the board.  
 150 Arts Students are confused!  
 > exit building  
 In the resulting intellectual vacuum, you escape the clutches of boredom yet again.  
 > go bomber  
 You decide to exchange your currency for valuable services at the local public house.  
 > talk bartender  
 "What would you like?"

> buy mead 1  
 "I'm sorry, we don't have that. Anything else?"  
 > use banana bartender  
 Angered at the lack of quality libations available, you vigorously attack the bartender with the banana.  
 Damage: 2 (fruit)  
 A Security Agent rushes to defend the Bartender!  
 A Security Agent casts "Forcible Ejection!"  
 Damage: 10 (buttocks)  
 You are ejected into the SLC Great Hall.  
 150 confused Arts Students enter the SLC.  
 An angry Professor enters the SLC.  
 > watch happily  
 In confusion, 150 Arts Students storm the SLC cafeteria, grab various food items, and begin attacking each other as an angry Professor charges repeatedly into the melee.  
 150 Arts Students are no longer confused!  
 150 angry Arts Students charge at you!  
 The Campus Police enter the SLC.  
 The Campus Police single you out as the cause of this disturbance, and charge at you!  
 > exit  
 You didn't honestly think you could just leave, did you?

candu

## From a fan

*To Square-Enix*

Dear Square-Enix, having played far too many of your games instead of doing homework, I wish to compliment you for your hard work over the past few years. Only you could make games so ridiculously irritating and still have amazing sales records. In response to some of your games I included the following comments:

- **Valkyrie Profile 2 - Silmeria:** be sure to tell Tri-Ace that no game is fun enough to make me want to play through it 51 times. Maybe Tetris, but other than that: no. Giving a game 51 different difficulty settings each one getting progressively harder will not make me want to play through it all 51 times. I barely cared enough to get through it once.
- **Final Fantasy XII:** thank you for making a video game that doesn't require me to be there to play it. The battle system is so advanced that I can put the controller down, write a graduate thesis and come back without the fear of having lost the game. Plus, making characters able to kill themselves for no reason is always a great idea.
- **Final Fantasy Tactics Advanced:** I am very glad that you released a game that punishes you for playing it. This is the only game that I've ever seen in which hurting your enemy

is illegal. No other game has this feature, and as I try to rip out my eyeballs for playing the game, I ponder if there was a reason for it.

- **All the Final Fantasy VII Spin Offs:** with so many fans asking for Final Fantasy VII to be remade for the PS3 you give them the finger and make crappy spin off games and a movie. Smart move.
- **Kingdom Hearts II:** thank you for bringing emo to video games. Every character in the game is a whiny, incompetent moron. Furthermore, the only one that can save them is a pre-adolescent emo rocker.
- **Unlimited SaGa:** in one fell swoop you managed to destroy the fan base for one of your popular series. Good going.
- **Any of the Final Fantasy Remakes:** thank you for repeatedly selling the same crap that wasn't worth much when it originally came out for a larger profit margin. Thank you for cheaply porting every game except Final Fantasy VII, multiple times in some cases. There's nothing more refreshing than buying a crappy port than being told a couple months later that there's a newer, crappier one with more features.

AngelED

## Ralph Stanton Talk

*The talk of a lifetime*

For those of you that attended the Ralph Stanton talk that happened on Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> you not only saw a great talk, but also a piece of history. If not for this man, we wouldn't be mathies and we wouldn't have our beloved tie. These are merely some of his contributions to the Faculty of Mathematics. If you weren't able to attend or just didn't care to, then you really missed something special. Now go to your rooms and think about what you did.

AngelED

## Disney Admits Defeat

With the release of their latest blockbuster movie last weekend Disney has announced, effective immediately, that they have given up on their efforts to crackdown on copyright infringement. Pirates of the Caribbean 3 (which had pirates from England, France, Persia, India, Sub-Saharan Africa, China and Singapore, but none from the Caribbean, nor did it take place there) was the revelation of Disney's new policy. The *evil* East India Trading Company began by enacting new rules suspending rights of free association, fair trials, and jury of peers. They also enacted strong new laws regarding piracy (in this case, pirates are to be hung). This is awfully reminiscent of the current affairs of the United States, which is not much of a coincidence. Without going into spoiler details, it should be safe to say that in the end—despite all the best efforts of their opponents and insurmountable odds—the pirates manage to come through with a convincing victory in the end.

This is all a metaphor (although, not a very subtle one) to current affairs where Disney has finally acknowledged that no matter what they do, they will never be able to stop piracy, so they may as well embrace it. Next time Mickey Mouse is about to enter the public domain, they promise not to lobby for extensions to copyright. It's surprising that it has taken a company that made its fortune on the public domain this long to embrace it. In fact some are saying that Disney is only doing this because they've used up everything in the public domain for their movies but still need more animated features. Instead of coming up with new ideas for them to do they may have finally decided to allow works to be added to the public domain. Whatever the motivation for this change, consider it a step forward in user rights. Enjoy feeling less guilty while staring at your monitor watching the newest piece-of-garbage Disney film, with ideas ripped off from somewhere else.

DanS

## The Center for Compassionate Living

*Suddenly isn't so compassionate*

One day I was in the SLC, an unfortunate event in itself, when I saw a sign for the "Center for Compassionate Living", a place for vegetarians to feel superior to everyone else, it would seem. Oddly enough, I think the poster was made of paper, which means a tree must have been cut down somewhere to make it. Which means that some poor animal had to lose its home for that sign. Compassionate? Yeah.

Alright, even as you read this a battle between the self-proclaimed 'good' vegetarians and other people in the world wages constantly. Why? Some vegetarians think that we are better off not eating meat. So I submit some brief thoughts for you.

- It's not like humans are equipped with the proper set of teeth to eat meat or anything
- The one person I know who didn't eat meat because of a moral objection starved their cat
- When an animal dies because of me at the very least I eat the poor bugger.
- People don't like harming animals, but never consider that their house may have been a forest in the past and they are responsible for forcing the animals out.

A more thorough argument can be found at The Best Page in the Universe <http://www.thebestpageintheuniverse.net/c.cgi?u=grill>. All I have to add is that I'm not any less compassionate than a vegetarian because I choose to eat meat. Vegetarians aren't smarter or better than other people. In my opinion, most of them are dumber because our bodies need the nutrients from animals to be healthy. I think that the Center for Compassionate Living should change its name to one that doesn't antagonize the rest of the student body.

AngeLED

## Seeing what's out there:

*Leveraging Technologies to Suit your Goals*

It is quite rare that I discuss how one could leverage various opportunities that await from various technologies and ideas that are out there. This article will prove that there are many technologies or concepts that are out there that in general people haven't given much thought to extending outside of the original frame of reference. All too often today, when a new buzzword or technology comes out people think of the obvious solutions, paying little attention to how a concept or technology can practically be applied in real life.

Perfect example, today's buzzword is Web 2.0. The first question that arises is what exactly is Web 2.0? Different companies give you different examples (in particular I am thinking about Adobe and Microsoft), and different products, technologies and frameworks to build these supposed Web 2.0 things. What is missing from these Web 2.0 supporters is the practical applications for Web 2.0. However, I believe that there is a practical application for these technologies once skilled people have a vision and leverage the technology to get to their vision or dream.

So what are interesting technologies to look at? One interesting technique I recently discovered is the use of Wikipedia in a corporate environment. Most people would agree that Wikis in general are a wonderful tool for members of a group to share infor-

mation and collaborate. Remember: we live in the information age so the velocity of information [*Information per second?* — *AngeLED*] determines the effectiveness of any company or organization out there. Wikis can now be applied in the area of business to share information, and best practices. This means that members of an organization can actively view information, change the information or add to the knowledge databases as need be to make information sharing an active part of an organization. Technologies from various companies can be used to reach an end goal, rather than having to waste a lot of effort reinventing the wheel.

Two examples of where leveraging commercial technologies could be useful are in the area of databases and collaboration technologies. Firstly, many developers use their own homebrew database solution, only to find it blow up in their faces. That is why by leveraging database technologies such as Sqlite, or SQL Server Express, a lot of the work in specifying a database format to store data can be very simple. In the area of collaboration many frameworks and systems have been designed that allow peoples and groups to work together. Future software will need to leverage collaboration as the power of a group working together is far more powerful than a group of one.

James Simpson

## profQUOTES

STUDENT: Are we actually going to solve this?

PROF: Nah.

Bodmann AMATH231

That's a good point. I'm asking myself the same thing.

Bodmann AMATH231

In any case: don't do it this way.

Bodmann AMATH231

But they can't. They must be dead by this point.

Wilmot ACTSC232

(Of student mistake) Oh, I'm right! It makes me feel good 'cause I'm usually wrong.

Wilmot ACTSC232

(Reading from board)... is now be viewed... that doesn't look good.

Wilmot ACTSC232

Maybe I've gone mad and started spouting nonsense - it's happened before.

Marcoux MATH146

You have to admit that's pretty slick - well, you don't have to admit it, but if you don't you're lying to yourself.

Marcoux MATH146

(Writes a product of functions on the board) Note I'm in Pure Math, so I'm not going to multiply that out.

Marcoux MATH146

If there are those of you out there thinking "why?", the answer is "Because".

McKinnon PMATH360

In Japanese, 'pants' is a dangerous word.

Misato JAPAN102R

I've had some problems with the box outside my office. People stealing [assignments], lighting the box on fire...

West AMATH250

Let's say that you were taking rabbits away to rabbit paradise.

West AMATH250

This gives you two over two which, using Maple, gives you one.

West AMATH250

I'm tired of talking, so I'm going to stop now. Any questions?

Naeem, CS241

The newsgroup is full of hints ... okay, maybe no hints ... solutions maybe ...

Naeem, CS241

PROF: This stuff is scary stuff.

STUDENT: I won't sleep tonight.

PROF: Think about me! I haven't slept for 27 years!

Marcoux, MATH146

Yeah, we have an exam next week. Surprise!

Marcoux, MATH146

## Tales from the MC

### *The Infinite Loop*

Previously on Tales from the MC: Lindsey, the ES student, planned to inflate the value of her degree by inventing "Global Warming". The plot failed when people whined, but no one actually cared. This time on Tales from the MC: the infinite loop!

Janice awoke from a daze. She hadn't slept all night and must have dozed off. She had been working on her OS assignment, which unfortunately was due the next day at noon. Experiencing programmer's block, she saved her work and started to play some WoW. Before she knew it, her alarm clock began blaring. It was time to submit her assignment. "Ah, monkey ass," she moaned.

Janice logged in and sent her assignment away, off to be graded. She was depressed and thought that some sleep would help her calm down so she went to stats class. However, she was so worried about her marks that she couldn't fall asleep. So she started listening to the lecture and she was out like a lamp.

Sleeping refreshed Janice and her eyes were no longer bloodshot. Now alert, she found herself able to notice the oddities about the campus. Everything was exactly the same as it was the day before. People wore the same clothing. "Wait, I'm in CS and these people don't shower. It's probably just my imagination." As she entered the computer lab to work on the assignments that she had been neglecting for the past while, all of the males stared at her. It was almost as if they had never seen a woman before.

"This one also has an explanation: they probably have never

seen a woman before." As she glanced at her Gmail account, she noticed that she got the same e-mail as she did the day before. "Damn spam!" She protested. Finally, after several blatant attempts to make her realize that the day was repeating, she finally figured it out!

Terrified and flummoxed she screamed "Why couldn't I be stuck in a day when some big company comes to give students free food in a effort to get them to work for them?" Then the horror set in. All of the work she did on her assignment would be lost every day. Yet, if she didn't do the work every day and the cycle ended, she would be boned.

Janice became frustrated with rage. She ran outside and screamed "WTF!" This alarmed no one on campus. "Life is in an infinite loop!"

Suddenly a bright light appeared and down descended a fat, greasy nerd with a Star Wars T-shirt. "Are you god?" Janice asked the husky one.

"Only in my dreams of grandeur." The fat one snorted out laughs and milk. "I'm just life's debugger. The world is caught in an infinite loop and I have to hard reboot the system." With that there was a huge explosion that destroyed all of humanity. The moral of the story is that if man cannot learn to trust his fellow man to debug code, then we are all doomed. Apparently.

Janice awoke from a daze. She hadn't slept all night and must have dozed off. She thought: "This isn't a cop out ending at all."

AngeLED



## gridCOMMENTS

I only got one submission to the crossword this week. So, the winner for this week is Graeme Kemkes whose answer to the *gridQUESTION* was "1.5 feet". Come to the MathSoc Office (MC3038) to collect your prize.

From the lack of submissions, I take it that I should not continue writing the grids myself. Fortunately, I have about 33 years worth of old ones to use. This week's grid was originally published in Volume 1, Issue 2 of *mathNEWS*. Keep in mind when reading the clues that they were written in 1973. You may notice that the numbers 27 and 28 appear in the clues but not on the grid. This is the way the grid appeared in 1973 and so I have simply reproduced it omissions and all. I leave it as a trivial exercise for the reader to determine where in the grid the omitted numbers should be placed to correct it. Make sure to submit your answers before our next production night. *gridQUESTION*: What shimmy do you dance?

perkiED

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
			23				24		25					
26						29			30			31	32	33
34						35		36			37			
38					39			40			41			
42					43		44				45			
46				47			48		49					
			50			51			52					
53	54	55				56		57				58	59	60
61						62					63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

### Across

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Cooking Instruction                             | 2. Yukon, for One (Abbr)                |
| 5. Terminal  | 3. Dies _____ (Days of Wrath; Latin)    |
| 10. The Fatted _____                               | 4. Greatest Pirate                      |
| 14. Bigshot  | 6. Sister _____ By Don McLean           |
| 15. Cookie that you're Not supposed to buy (2 wds) | 7. Arab State                           |
| 16. Lily Plant                                     | 8. Snarls                               |
| 17. Israeli Foe                                    | 9. Mr. Bruce, for short                 |
| 18. _____ and Mortise                              | 10. Album by 52-A (4 wds)               |
| 19. Sound Quality                                  | 11. Quite a Bit (2 wds)                 |
| 20. Season's _____                                 | 12. _____ Ranger                        |
| 22. Performed _____                                | 13. Nourish                             |
| 23. Rapid Eye Movement(Abbr)                       | 21. _____ Firma                         |
| 24. Bloodsucker                                    | 22. Analog Computer Operator            |
| 26. Emasculate                                     | 25. To Be (Fr)                          |
| 30. That's Hard _____                              | 26. Hiding Place                        |
| 34. Sellers or McQueen _____                       | 27. Pains                               |
| 35. To Date (Fr.)                                  | 28. Wilt the _____                      |
| 37. Arm Bone (Var)                                 | 29. Rigid _____                         |
| 38. Supergroup                                     | 31. Vote into Office                    |
| 40. Greek  | 32. Year (Fr)                           |
| 42. U.S.A.   | 33. Those About to Start in a Golf Game |
| 43. Otherwise                                      | 36. Sooner (Ger)                        |
| 45. Stomach Disorder                               | 39. Rubies                              |
| 46. Have Respect For                               | 41. Of the Moon                         |
| 48. Expels Liquid Waste                            | 44. Jones or Wilson                     |
| 50. Tightfisted One                                | 47. _____, Zwei, Drei                   |
| 52. _____ Stevens                                  | 49. Period of Earth's History (2 wds)   |
| 53. Woody _____                                    | 51. A Mathematician                     |
| 56. In the Hotspot (2 wds)                         | 53. Slightly Open                       |
| 61. Enrol  | 54. Slow Walk                           |
| 62. Miss Barton                                    | 55. Leo                                 |
| 63. Strange Person                                 | 57. Snare or Kettle                     |
| 64. _____ of Gold                                  | 58. Japanese Medicine Box               |
| 65. Steal from Again                               | 59. Existing                            |
| 66. Russian Mountain Range                         | 60. _____ Stanley Gardiner              |
| 67. Descartes                                      | 62. Math Tables Book (Abbr)             |
| 68. _____ de Menthe                                |   |
| 69. Part   |   |

### Down

1. Type of Rug

## Sudoku, Baby!

Sudoku by John Kemp

		5			9			4	2
		2							
6			1	3				8	
4				7	2				
1				4		5			6
					3	9			7
			9			1	7		4
								8	
5	8				6			9	

## Solutions to previous

M	U	L	L	I	G	A	N	S	C	R	A	P	E
E	Y	N	S	C	R	M	A						
D	O	R	I	C	P	R	H	O	M	B	U	S	
I	I	A	P	N	E	A	W	L	E				
U	N	C	A	N	E	W	D	R	E	A	M		
M	A	S	T	A	L	E	O						
C	L	E	A	N	R	N	E	U	R	O	N		
M	R	A	D	O	P	T	N	T					
E	N	T	R	A	P	M	R	A	D	I	I		
R	O	S	P	A	C	Y	N	S					
C	H	A	R	T	R	O	C	O	S	E	C		
H	N	E	E	A	R	T	H	U	H				
A	L	K	A	N	E	S	T	I	G	L	O	O	
N	L	T	S	E	D	I	O						
T	E	E	T	H	E	E	X	T	E	R	N	A	L