

math

NEWS

Volume 108, Issue 3

Friday, October 17th, 2008



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Explore Public Policy Issues

Toronto Student Seminar

Saturday, November 8, 2008

Sutton Place Hotel

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Lifetime entrepreneur, Ron Moore, will examine how entrepreneurs can help Canada's current economic situation at our student seminar in Toronto. The program will also feature presentations on economics and the environment, health insurance, and price controls...more program details available online!

Join other students and enjoy...

- Thought-provoking presentations
- Lively discussions
- Great ideas for research papers
- Free lunch
- Subscription to the Fraser Forum — Fraser Institute's monthly journal

Register today!

About the Presentation...

Saving the Future — The Role of the Entrepreneur and the Social Responsibility of Profit examines the Canadian economic system and the role of the entrepreneur through the lens of lifetime entrepreneur, Ron Moore. Drawing on personal, domestic and global stories and attitudes towards entrepreneurs, he will examine the difficulties, systemic barriers, benefits and extraordinary opportunities of entrepreneurship in Canada. This presentation will illustrate how Canadian entrepreneurship has positively affected the lives of everyone in the room and indeed in the world, and how government-sponsored programs to "encourage" entrepreneurs are doomed to failure. The concept of "Green" and "Social" entrepreneurs will come in for a particularly scathing review that will reveal them to be the latest iteration of failed social-engineering projects.

About the Speaker...

Writer, producer and marketing innovator Ron Moore, is a native of Glasgow, Scotland who began his communications career in 1972 as a producer with CFPL Broadcasting in London, Ontario. He founded Mariposa Communications in 1977 and with a series of partners over three decades, built the company into one of the most highly regarded marketing communications firms in North America. During this time, he developed a reputation for strategic insight, creative excellence and marketing innovation that included the first direct-response television agency in Canada — Channel 500. After selling his interest in the Mariposa Group in 1995 and an unsuccessful attempt at retirement, during which he started the digital stock image house EclectiCollections™, he founded Sonar Group in September 1996.

Ron is also one of Canada's most successful theatre producers — His production of Run For Your Wife remains the longest-

running play in the history of Canadian theatre and his own play, A Step in Time, was produced by England's Redgrave Theatre. Other productions of note include the first post-New York production of 3 Guys Naked from the Waist Down, and a pre-Broadway production of Richard Greenberg's Three Days of Rain.

Also on the program:

- Health Insurance
- Price Controls
- Economics and the Environment

Coming soon!

Watch your mailbox this week for full details of the Toronto student seminar. Register today at <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/studentsandlearning/> any technical issues, or if you have trouble reading this, please email websupport@fraserinstitute.org.

Kitchener–Waterloo bans tap water

The city council has voted unanimously to ban all tap water from the Kitchener-Waterloo area citing that the quality the city provides is too dangerous for the population. This comes not too long after the ban on bottled water for similar reasons. The city council is advising citizens that water will have to be collected from rainfall and in times of drought they will be required to chew on branches for even the faintest remnant of moisture. Council is expected to enter talks about canned water and absorbing water through vampiric techniques.

The Hee Ho

*mast*HEAD

The *mast*HEAD question this issue was very poorly worded but essentially came down to asking the writers to provide a question themselves in lieu of an answer. The responses that were received were from Trevor Fairey (When god gives you lemons, where do you turn to?) and InsideR (What is something that I cannot come up with a witty answer for because it is technically not a question?). Thanks to all who helped out with the issue, even if you did not submit a *mast*HEAD answer.

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Gabriel: Michael Perkins

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

October 17	Issue #3 leads to extinction
October 20	Production Night #4
	Meet at MathSoc at 6:30
October 24	Issue #4 does the unmentionable

MathSoc

Wednesdays	Games Night
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Math Faculty

Questions about some of these? See an academic advisor!

October 20	Open Enrollment begins for winter term
October 27-Nov 2	Pre-Enrollment for spring term

CECS

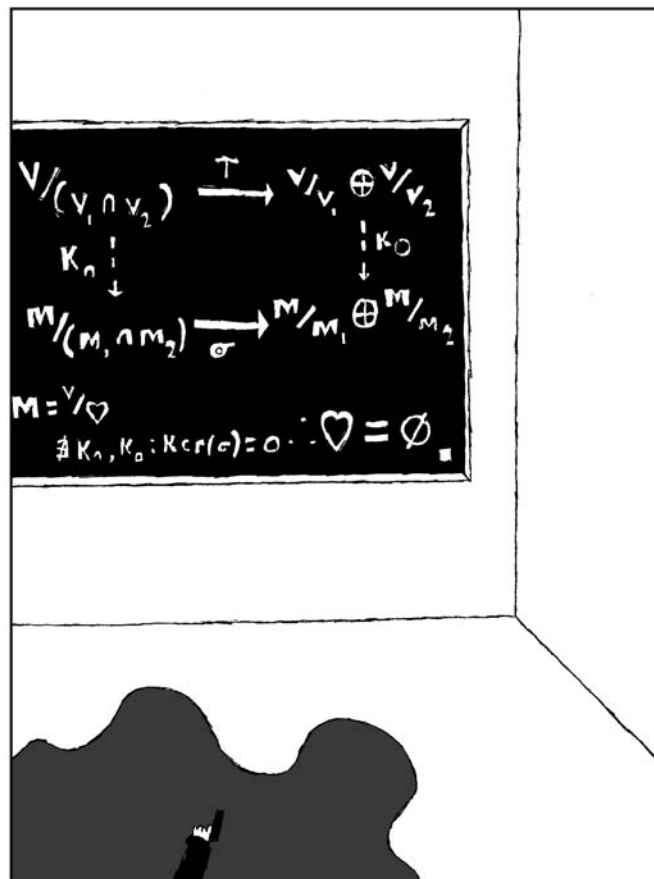
October 24	Last Day of Interviews (Main Group)
October 24	First Ranking Cycle Opens
October 27	First Round Job Matches
November 3	Round 2 Interviews Begin

Student Awards & Financial Aid

see <http://safa.uwaterloo.ca/newsnoticesdates.html> for details

Miscellaneous

October 21	Apple Day
October 23	Remembering the Hungarian Revolution of 1956
October 24	United Nations Day
October 24	Approximately Pi Day
October 25	Day of the Romanian Army
October 31	Hallowe'en



Having proved no one would love him, Steve shot himself.

The InsideReport

The News. As I See It.

It has now become routine for me. I write my biweekly InsideReport at the laundromat on Sunday, I go to work on Monday, then I come home, rearrange my report to resemble a sphere, then launch it as a projectile towards the waste paper basket as it is now out of date.

I want you to imagine the best roller coaster that you've ever been on. Remember how the twists, turns, and loops made it so much fun? Now I want you to imagine riding this same coaster with a blindfold on. Still fun, or is it just scary now?

This, my friends, is exactly what the markets have been doing these past few weeks. As we see what has been best put as a "slow motion crash" (shame that'll never catch on with the auto sector), then next thing we know, going up with the force of a thousand zerg rushes. (penguin, if you are reading this, come here so I can beat you.) Investors are definitely looking for that platform at the end of the ride where they can just get off and regain their balance.

Speaking of auto sector, I saw an interview last week with former (thank goodness) CAW President Buzz Hargrove. Note: he is the sole reason I hate the whole concept of unions. As expected, he placed the blame on the auto sector's woes everywhere except where it belongs: himself. First he blames the foreign cars, some of which are now being built in my hometown of Woodstock, Ontario. He also said that his members could "work for nothing" and it wouldn't help to solve the crisis, but every time he didn't get his wage hike, he called a strike. Does someone

have a brain that they could spare little Buzzie?

One election down, one election to go. Unless something drastic happened on Tuesday, Stephen Harper would have broken his own election law for nothing. And yes, I have read this law myself. Having to give credit where it is due, WLU had a nice seat-by-seat projection of the results of the election (<http://www.wlu.ca/lispop/fedblog>). We'll just see how accurate they are...

Has anyone besides me noticed the new Conservative-Republican Creed? The one that goes "If it didn't go our way, it was because of partisan politics"? I've been noticing it more and more lately, from Harper preferring to call an illegal election than negotiate with the opposition, to McPalin insisting that this Troopergate investigation was nothing but partisan slander. May I remind the public that she was all for this investigation before she was announced to be the VP Candidate?

I just want to see an end to this election already. It's been going on a year and a half, now, and the mud they are slinging was probably rolled around in many times by Obama's pig with lipstick. *sigh*

As always, I am more than interested in your comments, questions, angry letters, etc. Please email them to mathNEWS_InsideR@hotmail.com.

Until next time, Waterloo!

Beige & Nerdy

They see me wokin'
My fried rice
I know they're all thinking
I'm so Beige N' nerdy

Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Can't you see I'm beige n' nerdy
Look at me I'm beige n' nerdy!
I wanna roll with-
The triads
But so far they all think
I'm too beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Really, really beige n' nerdy

First in my class here at U.B.C.
Got skills, I'm a Champ at Karaoke
Jackie Chan that's my favorite JC
Keep your 40
I'll just have a Jasmine tea
My rims always spin to the contrary
You'll find they're never quite stationary
Dunno why my chest ain't ever hairy
Confuscus in my library
My Facebook page is all totally pimped out
I'm in a group featuring midgets
Yo I know Pi to a million digits
Ain't got no grills but I still got widgets
Workin' hard over time to get a raise
I play RTS and I own your base
Once you see my micros you're gonna stay amazed,
My brain workin' so fast you'll see my hair ablaze

There ain't no problem I haven't tried
If I solved 'em all, well, I lied
Ran electronics until they died
I may not be tall but I can be wide
Got my house destroyed by King Kong
I can sure kick your butt at ping pong
I'll ace any math test you bring on
I'm fluent in mandarin as well as canton

They see me roll on, my red bike!
I know in my heart they think I'm
beige n' nerdy!
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Can't you see I'm beige n' nerdy
Look at me I'm beige n' nerdy
I'd like to roll with-
The triads
Although it's apparent I'm too
Beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
I'm just too beige n' nerdy
How'd I get so beige n' nerdy?

I've been browsing, inspectin'
Mobiles you know I collect 'em
The stylus in their cases
I must protect 'em
My cell phone ring tone never sound like phone
Scouring online for pirated media
I vandalize Wikipedia
I practice kung fu really well
I can do it right now and show you some hell
I got a business making fast food
When my friends need some food who do they call?
I make fried rice for them all
Even made a side dish featuring dog!

Yo! Got myself a witty tee
Was at a job fair and got it for free
Spend my nights with a cup of bubble tea
SLURP! BURP! Hope no one sees me gettin' freaky!

I'm nerdy in the extreme and beiger than a walnut cream
I was in math club and jazz club and even the chess team!
Only questions I ever thought were hard
Was the TSP and how to drive a car
I spend every night
at the karaoke bar
I even bring my own pickle jar

They see me bikin'
They laughin'
And rollin' their eyes 'cause
I'm so beige n' nerdy
Just because I'm beige n' nerdy
Just because I'm beige n' nerdy
All because I'm beige n' nerdy
Holy cow I'm beige n' nerdy
I wanna ride with-
the triads
but oh well it's obvious I'm
beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Think I'm just too beige n' nerdy
I'm just too beige n' nerdy
Look at me I'm beige n' nerdy!

Dacheng Cheng

New Horo-Scope!

*It's like that new Coke. It really makes you
appreciate the old one!*

Students: You are going to have a bad day. Even *mathNEWS* won't cheer you up as it is missing your favorite Horoscope section. See, we thought we could save time by combining the STAT horoscope with the ACTSCI horoscope, and then it sort of snow-balled from there. SE gave a convenient bridge to connect CS with Eng. As for ARTS, well, we all have arts electives, don't we?

Static IP
Impulse Vector

Dating Advice from the Player Guy

We decided to try someone who actually gets women.

Dear Current Advice Guy,

I feel like guys aren't paying attention to me these days. Should I get a haircut? Should I get some new clothes? What's wrong with me and how do I get guys to notice me?! Deserate for attention

Hi Desperate

You shouldn't need to do anything because I am sure you are very gorgeous and someone is eventually going to find see that and love you for who you are and not how you look.

HA. Had you going there didn't I? What did you think this is? Dating advice from the pussy guy? Girl you have to flash it up and fast. No one wants to be with the ugly girl. Do your hair, makeup and for god sakes show off what god gave you. T&A should never be underestimated. And if no one notices you even after all of that, then come by my place and I will make you feel extra special.I'll be waiting for you

Hey you,

So I have this issue, right. My roommates like bringing random girls over every Wednesday night, and they do whatever they do really loud. I'm kinda shy about bringing it up with them 'cause I think they'll just bash my... lack of bringing girls over. How do I get him to quiet down while I study for my midterms?Ripping my ears off

Hello Earless,

Now normally I wouldn't player hate and just tell you to get some earmuffs or something but honestly with this guy out of the picture there will be more girls for me. So there are a few ways to get him to stop (at least at your place). First one is to just barge in on them screaming. Now here, one of two things can happen: they either get really embarrassed and you never run into this problem again. Or, they invite you to join in. Now both options are pretty good for you since the former will get them to stop while the latter will get you some action so you stop being such a pussy and go get some yourself (studying is for suckers anyway).

Now if you really want to add insult to injury. When he leaves to go to the bathroom or something, you quietly take his place. Now bar the door with something and since it is dark, most likely the girl will never notice. After that I can guarantee you that you will never have this problem again.

And if any of my roommates are reading this, I will personally neuter you guys if you even think of doing this. The Player guy

Stupid ex,

You're the biggest bitch ever - how could you ever leave me like that? After everything we've gone through?! You're the worst peron I know! Now how the hell do I get over you?I Hate You

Hey Baby,

Oh come on, you knew what this relationship was. For the love of god I only met you because I dated your sister then your best friend and then your cousin (you were better than them all, baby).

Really though, this was bound to end. If you really want, I know a guy and his little nerdy roommate that could show you a good time and get over me. And if that doesn't work I'm sure I can pencil you in somewhere.The Player Guy

P.S The only thing I went through in that relationship were your insides.

Well this one was ummm...interesting...after the player guy had his way with every girl at mathNEWS he kinda left and I don't think we will be seeing him again. Back to the drawing board

THE Guy

profQUOTES

[On the subject of rising Chinese economy and power] No one wants Michael Tyson as a neighbor. China needs to assure its neighbors that they are not Mike Tyson.

Cai EASIA 201

The best way to teach this is the way they teach engineers: by example

West AMATH 250

Does anyone know the answer? Starts with I ends in ntegrating Factor?

West AMATH 250

[professor talking about derivatives as limits] So, if there was ever a nuclear holocaust and all the smart people died, and you had to rebuild civilization, to recreate calculus all you would need to do is remember this formula

Park MATH 137

In a way, you're profoundly correct. On the other hand, you're completely wrong.

Forrest MATH 147

You don't want a tree that is too long, which you get from watering it too much... I'm not really sure, I'm not a gardener.

Prabhakar CS 145

I hope you all remember this. If not... Is it too late to drop the course?

Li ACTSC 232

Faster hand! Faster! I'm more exited than that!

Metzger STAT 372

If you were lucky in CS 251, someone told you what's inside a *real* computer

Cowan CS 452

f maps A onto B injectively.

Ng PMATH 352

[on the assignment] But this is extremely painful to do, so I'll let you do it.

Moosa PMATH 433

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).

Rejected Math Superheroes

Peter Park was your average nerdy mathie. Actually he was a lot nerdier than the average mathie, which is impressive, and he had no friends. As a result, he became part of the *mathNEWS* team, and was subsequently sent on a mission to take a few pictures for an important articles on new software developments. Then a radioactive software bit him, and after being dizzy for a bit he felt he had special powers, and he didn't even need his glasses anymore! After testing out his incredible powers, Peter decided to become a contender in the Integration Bee. His new superpowers allowed him to win, but he didn't stop an evil engineering thief who slammed past him and ended up out-calculating his uncle. Remembering his uncles last words, "with great power come great headaches", Peter vowed to become the great Software Man, a superhero who'll save the day from such evil doers as Doctor Octagon, the Green Gob-limit, and Vector. Then he started dancing in the street, and got arrested.

Tony Starr was a mathie too. Unlike most mathies, he was filthy rich. Made so by dealing special algorithms developed at the MC with the National Math Forces, who were engaged in fierce battles with the Axis of Evil Engineers. While demonstrating a powerful algorithm, the engineers attacked, and he was kidnapped. The evil engineers tried to force him into developing a secret cs algorithm of destruction, but being a smart mathie as he was he built himself instead a gigantic calculator suit and out-calculated them all. Then he escaped back to the MC and became known as Calculator-Man, fighting crime during the night and sleeping during the day. A few weeks later he had a fight with the Mechatronic-Engineer who turned out to be the guy who

dealt weapons straight to the evil engineers, but Calculator Man kicked his shiny metal butt, and all was good. Until he became an alcoholic.

Bruce Banter was a skinny little mathie studying bioinformatics. He was trying to develop a cure for cancer using his knowledge of math, computer science, and biology (for some reason), so he designed a radical experiment. Since the experiment was more radical than pi, nobody agreed to fund him, so he decided to test the thing out on himself. It was a good thing nobody funded him though, because the entire procedure exploded in Bruce's face. Now, whenever you managed to get Bruce angry (which was easy to do as he was quite radical himself), he turned into the Incredible Calc- a monstrous, lean, mean, green calculus machine. Even the National Math Forces couldn't stop him from rampaging through the MC, so they sent him to engineering territory. He's their problem now.

The X-variables were a team of "special" mathies assembled by the great Prof X. They battled a team of evil engineers lead by the evil Magnetron. After that they battled the army, and there was a cool blue guy who could teleport from coordinates (x1,y1) to (x2,y2) in R2. Then a large bunch of the X-variables disappeared, died, or converted to the evil side, except for a guy with long fingernails, a different (fatter) blue guy, and a girl with white hair. Then everybody had another big fight for some unexplained reason, there was something with a big bridge, and a big fat guy decided to call himself the "Juggernaut Bitch". The outcome of the big fight was very unclear. It was a pretty bad movie anyway.

Orange Crush

Munchkin, MC Edition

While playing Munchkin one day, I came up with some ideas for cards that would be awesome to have in real life (or reflect on my frustrations in real life):

- Coding Couch (for those who do their best coding while lying on the couch)
- 3,872 Compile Errors (late-night coding always seems to deal you this)
- Professor Intervention (assignment deadline gets extended)
- Curse! Lose One Peripheral (this is what happens when the batteries in your wireless mouse die)
- Curse! Lose Two Hours (what always seems to happen when a random bug shows up)
- 6-pack of Allure (you can get your buddies to help you with almost anything involving manual labour if you offer them beer)
- Convenient Auto-Test Error (auto-test gives you more marks than you ought to have gotten)
- CS Club (for whacking incompetent group members)
- Invoke the Obscure Language Constructs (how people make their code impossible to understand)
- Nasty-Tasting Energy Drink (how some people manage to stay awake at ridiculous hours)
- Sotion of Pecification (what some profs must have been drugged with when they made some of those assignment specifications)
- Potion of Idiotic Caffeine Tolerance (how some people manage to ingest insane amounts of caffeine and still sleep at night)
- Segfaults on Speed (the segfaults that seem to manifest themselves in a crazy and enigmatic way)
- Fingertips of Typing Really Fast (what highly-caffeinated coders with little time left seem to have)
- Undead Real-Timer (what the inhabitants of the Real-Time lab look like after some ridiculously long stretch of coding)

snippet

Giving Thanks to PI

So sitting in MathSoc got me thinking of the tax master. Is it worth the wait for calculating pi? Somehow everything seems so wrong. Courses are getting crazy and my emo meter is starting to reach its maximum capacity (HELP!). I believe I'm almost out of pulse from being choked in the river of hearts (dying here). Mr. Knight in shining armor!! Where are you?

Lately, I have been emo-fied by a lot of things but I won't go up the street and cross the road. I'll just go eat my favorite perogies. I should say, I am like a perogie. I'm half a circle and don't know how to complete them. I need the other half of my full circle. While trying to survive from the choking river of hearts, it got me thinking back to my past experience of rejections. Isn't it enough already for us to get rejected from applying for jobs or trying to ask for assignment extensions? From the last issue, I asked "What would you do if you like someone?". A lot of people suggested that we should ask the person that we like to go out with. However, it's easier said than done.

If he would say no, then I would feel like a normal distribution. If he would say yes, then I would feel like an x-squared distribution (I'm just making things up here. It's hard to find a distribution for this). Everything is getting harder each day and tougher each month. Can I even survive this? (yes I will..... *wait for it* not!) My friends, are we suppose to just give up when liking guys? Just let them be until they approach us? (my gosh!! what year is this???) I just wish that Mr. Meatball Head won't be as shy and tell me what he thinks.

Thanksgiving has passed and I only got to eat PC's stuffed turkey pie (see how pathetic my life is haha). I know midterms are not done yet, so good luck with that. As one of my "brothers" said, everything's going to be alright. Hey! Thanks for the advice. Maybe I am going to change my love of pi to my love for 3D circles a.k.a. truffles?

squished cupcake

Why Nintendo should Invade other niche gaming markets

Nintendo? Obviously the biggest console gaming giant ever! Since their classic platform games, they seem to have invaded every single gaming market. Sports games, racing games, even RPGs. But what is the single greatest gaming genre? The MMORPG.

But can't you imagine World of Mariocraft? Not only are there proper gender proportions (There is only one female, and one gender confused), but everyone loves platformers! I mean, you would end up with guilds of Marios lynching people by jumping on them. And sure, you think there aren't enough classes to

make Mario an rpg, but think about it. How many varieties of Mario are there, and how many varieties of Koopa are there? I would definately be a level 23 Metal Luigi. With a Yoshi mount. DPS? Donkey Kong and his coconut guns.

Speaking of which, there are obviously more locales in the Mario universe than any warcraft ideas. Donkey Kong Country would be vast (does World of Warcraft have mine cart madness), and Mario has a freaking galaxy.

-Tbor

Random Thoughts

With a Poisson distribution!

- Stop pretending you are something when clearly you're not. I was highly disturbed to find some serious articles in the last issue of mathNEWS. Now first years will get confused again.
- What's with all the construction around campus? Now it doesn't just smell like manure, it's also got construction-related pollution. My nose is filing a formal complaint.
- If computer manufacturers were smart, they would allow you to turn the sound off before the annoying Microsoft music starts playing when you turn your laptop on. Music at the beginning of class is nice, but this is getting out of hand.
- Is it just me, or does getting kicked out of a computer lab because there's an actual lab coming in make you feel like you've done something very, very wrong?
- When I say I'm in the Double Degree, people should infer automatically that I'm taking math in UW and a BBA in WLU. Other "double degrees" are inferior substitutes, kind of like freshly-squeezed apple juice and an unidentifiable yellowish liquid.
- I was off during the spring term... where did the other set of doors in the DC building go? Did the engineers steal it?
- Any reason why advanced math classes are situated as far away from the MC as possible, in enemy (engineering) territory?
- Any person who spent a whole year in UW without eating a Campus Pizza at least once must be lactose intolerant.
- The RIM barbecue proves that if you put a set of large white gloves on anything, it'll become cute. Maybe I should start wearing large white gloves...
- We need higher tables in the Comfy Lounge. And fast.
- The MC is like a video game. The maps get more and more complicated as levels increase. Rumours have it that there's a secret level only real pros can get to.
- Here is something to think about: math rocks, but rocks don't math.

Orange Crush

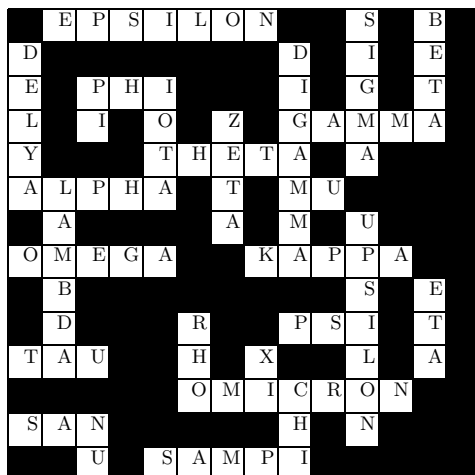
Across

1. RBY Glitch
3. Why pika's thunder is 180 power
7. Pre-DS online battling
9. Easter Island pkmn
11. RSE's Charmander
12. Law Enforcement Clone
13. Nidoran(M)'s defense lowering stare
14. Megaton pkmn
15. Koga's residence
17. 151st
19. Ash's mom
20. Charmander's Lv 7 move (RSE)
22. Makes Balls from Acorns
23. Juggler's shocking fav
25. Goes last to scatter foe
27. RBY OU HBer
30. Sniper's hax item
32. Psyfly totem
34. ___buff evolves via happiness
35. Gotta catch all 28 of them!

Down

2. Ability to stir up a storm
3. Breeds with Wailord
4. Tool used to move faster
5. Paralyzing look
6. Kanto/Johto/Hoenn/ ?
8. GSC stallstrat
10. No weakness!
15. Hits harder when weak
16. Becomes an Aerodactyl
18. Spikes dmg: one - ___
19. Evolves into spooky RSE OU tank
21. Halves attack status
24. The sexual harrassment guy
26. Town of the Cranidos Gym
28. RSE berry of HP EV lowering
29. Brock's serpent
31. Goal of pokemon battles
33. Not OUs

Last Week's Solution



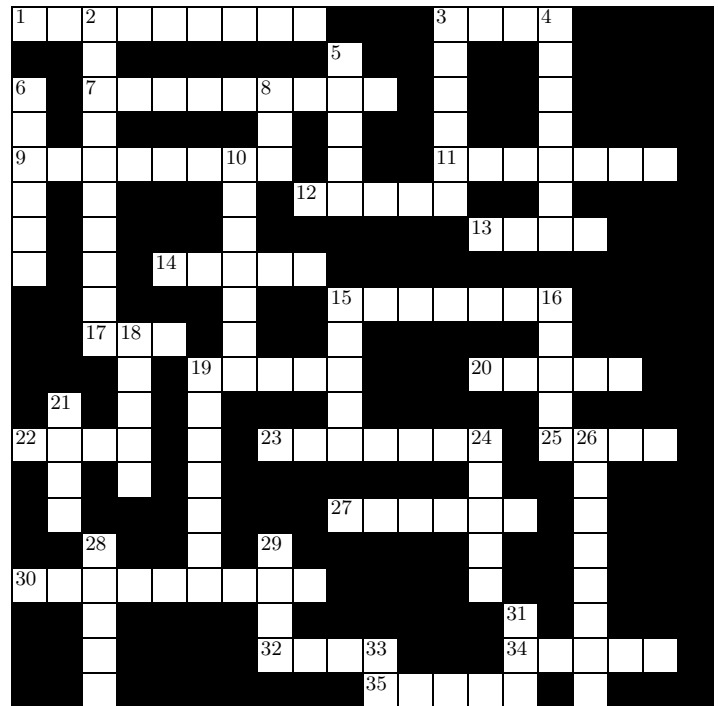
gridCOMMENTS

Poke-who?

Whee! I totally stole the grid from Impulse Vector and Static IP this week! Serves them right for loving calculus! Anyways, this week's *gridWORD* has a special theme: Pokemon! Yup, that's right! All the answers have something to do with Pokemon this week! As usual, the person who fully completes the *gridWORD* and submits the best answer to the *gridQUESTION* will get that really awesome prize!

This week's *gridQUESTION*: What kind of pokemon are you? Remember: Just drop off your submission in the BLACK BOX outside of the C&D before Monday, October 27th by 6pm to be eligible for prizes! The prize for last week's *gridWORD* is Stuart MacGillivray who correctly identified the missing Greek letter as Delta or Qoppa. To the *gridQUESTION*, "What Greek letter do you wish existed?", he responded, "I'd want a letter that sounds like hacking up a hairball."

Megaton Panda



More *prof*QUOTES

This is a technique... which I don't actually know. So, I will teach it to you!

Moosa PMATH 433

Anyway, bad science happens. And you can even get into conferences and get degrees with it!

Robidoux PSYCH 308

This is the difference between being a good student who goes to Heaven, and a bad student who goes to the Dean's office.

Cowan CS 452