

*math*

**NEWS**



*Volume 78, Issue 5*

*Friday, November 6, 1998*



<ring>  
"Hello?"



"You got something I might like?"

"I've really got to go... I was about to go hiking and I need to buy a mule...you have something interesting to show me? Ok."

"Do I have a pad and pencil? Well, yes, but—"

"You want me to write down my age...Ok, I'm writing it down. Great! Thanks, I'm really grateful...what? You want to guess what my age is?"



"Well, I can just tell you if you want...oh, it's a trick, ok."

"You want me to pick a number at random and add it to my age? Alright."

"Now pick another random number and multiply it by that sum? Ok, but how are you going to guess my — Oh, ok, you want me to tell you what number I have now? Ok, it's 112."

"So what's my age?"

"Wow! How did you get that?"



"That's a very impressive trick...I can't believe you figured out my age after I...waitaminute...Mom? Is that you?"



"Yes, that was very clever, mother."

"Alright then, yes, I'll be over for dinner on Monday... alrighty...gotta go...bye bye now!"

## Man on the Street

Question: What is an Annulus?



"Where I keep my brain."



"Are you looking at my ass?"



"That's my cat's name"

# The Adventures of SPADE PARADE

Wednesday afternoon, the kind of day where you figure that you would have been better off staying in bed. Spade Parade's the name; I'm a private investigator. The money's lousy, but I take fewer risks than your average tightrope walker, so I suppose it balances out.

I had spent the morning rearranging my office, on the theory that my super was less likely to ask for the rent in the place was clean. I'd just put the last filing cabinet into an upright position, when there was a knock at the door.

A client. Well, worse things have happened.

I opened the door and there she was. I'm no poet, and so I won't even attempt to describe her. Think of all the synonyms for "beautiful" that you can, then add in "luscious" (my personal favourite) and you're getting warm. For that matter, so was I. I warned myself not to get too excited; the only reason that a looker like her would be at my doorstep is that she had a problem, and a big one.

"Spade Parade?" Her voice was low and husky, and sounded like she'd been crying. "My name's Ella Szticsdy, and I need your help."

I've always been a sucker for damsels in distress. Especially when they look like that. Thinking quickly, I undid an hour's work and cleared a chair of the stacks of papers that it had accumulated. "Help is my speciality. Take a seat, Miss Szticsdy," — those Hungarian classes in college were really paying off — "and tell me all about it."

She composed herself somewhat and began. "Victoria Shael and I... we never really got along. We've known each other since finishing school, and you would think that we'd be the best of friends, but there's always been this edge between us. Vicki's very conservative, and I don't think that she approves of my 'flightiness', as she puts it. Still, we see each other almost constantly."

I interrupted, "Why do you stick around her, if you don't like each other so much?"

She gave me a look like she was a monkey and I was a blue banana. "I have to associate with *someone* of my own social standing, don't I?"

I shrugged slightly; some problems I don't have to deal with. "Of course, sorry to break your train of thought."

"At any rate," she continued, "we ran into each other at the Tannoy do the other night, and as usual started snapping at each other. I was talking about my whirlwind trip to Europe last week — she never travels anywhere, poor thing — and she started casting aspersions on my lifestyle. I mean really, just because I went to Paris for the unveiling of this fall's fashions..."

I tuned out, figuring that I'd recognize the point when I heard it. So she was a jet-setter, hey? If she was typical, I might just go and get my pilot's license.

"...and so she offered her ruby earrings against my priceless jewelcase that — oh, it's complicated — that I wouldn't be at the same spot at the same time two days running. She thinks that I'd get bored or something."

I pondered that for a second. "But that's easy. You sleep in your own bed, right?"

I realised as soon as I said it that I wasn't sure I wanted to know the answer to that one, but she brushed off the question. "It's not that simple, Mr. Parade. It has to be this Saturday and Sunday, between eight in the morning and eight in the evening, and I have to be awake."

I was still obviously missing something, and said as much. She looked like she was going to burst into tears. "But this weekend... my brother Ethan and I were going to hike to the top of Paul's Peak and camp there for the night on Saturday. It's a tradition... we used to go every year with our parents..."

I was beginning to see the light. "So in other words, because of this bet, you'll have to cancel your hiking trip? Because you have to be under this Vicki's scrutiny?"

"Oh, she doesn't need to see it, as long as I can provide proof that it happened. But I can't cancel on Ethan, yet I can't lose that jewelbox... what can I do, Spade?"

Time for some reassurance. "Don't worry, sweetheart, I think that there might be a way to have your case and Ethan too. Why don't you read the next sketch while I do some scribbling?"

As she glanced over to the next page curiously, I picked up my notepad and pen, raised my feet onto my desk, and thought.

## Man on the Street

Question: What is an Annulus?



"I'm gonna kick yo' annulus!"

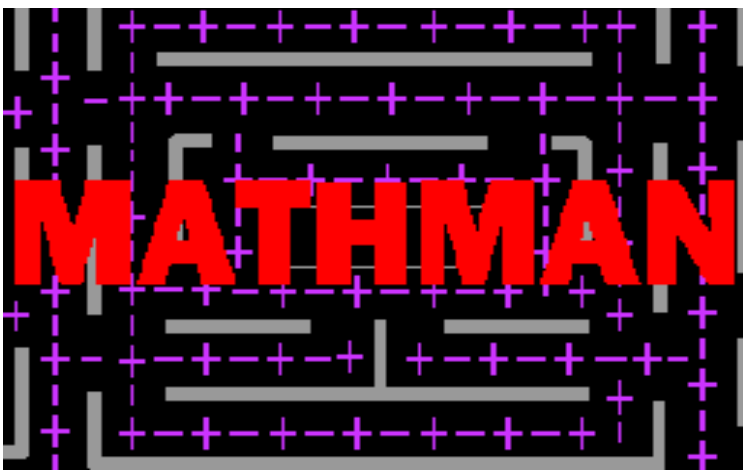


"Is that some sort of yearly checkup?"

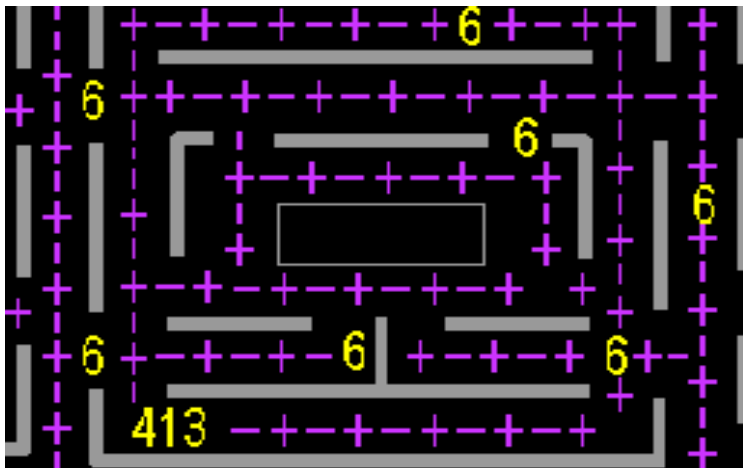


"It's a mathematical ring!"

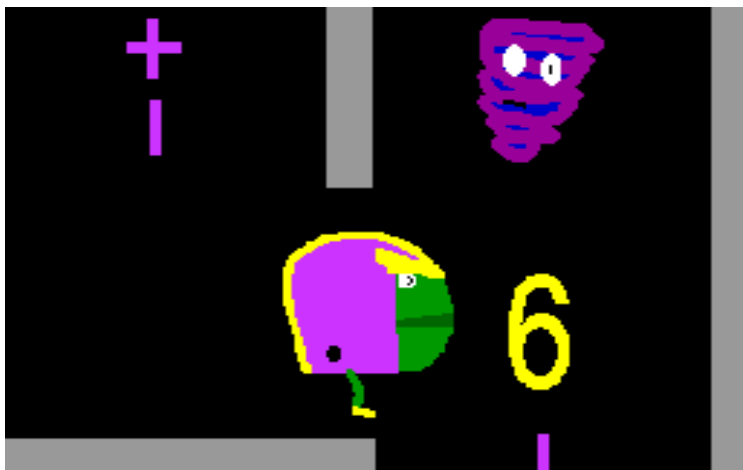
<Coin dropping sound> <Duddly-duh-duh-duh!>



MathMan, your mission is to eat only the number 6. When you encounter a number, you will have until the count of 3 to make your decision. And beware the ill-tempered Mr. Glitch. He will eat you if you are wrong.



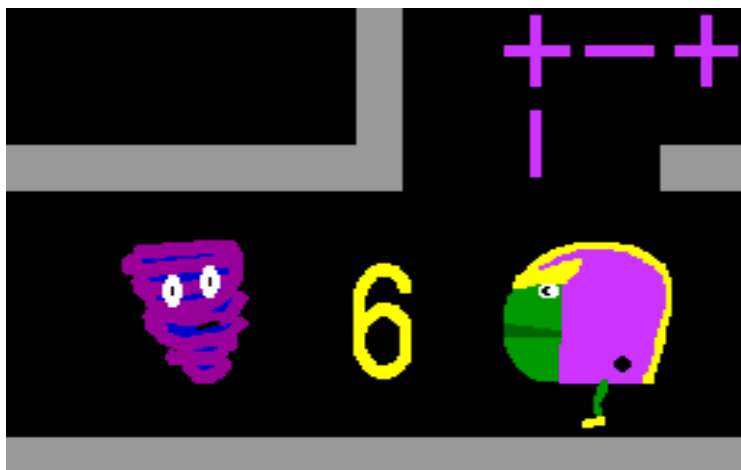
MathMan! MathMan! MathMan! <gling!>



Looks like a six to me! Yup! <gulp!> <trumpet fanfare>

“Grumble, grumble...”

Yee-hah! MathMan! MathMan! Numbers that are 6! Math-



Man! MathMan! <gling!>

Hmmm, tough one! <gulp!> <trumpet fanfare>

“Grumble, grumble...he was lucky...”

Yee-hah! MathMan! MathMan! Numbers that are 6! Math-



Man! MathMan! <gling!>

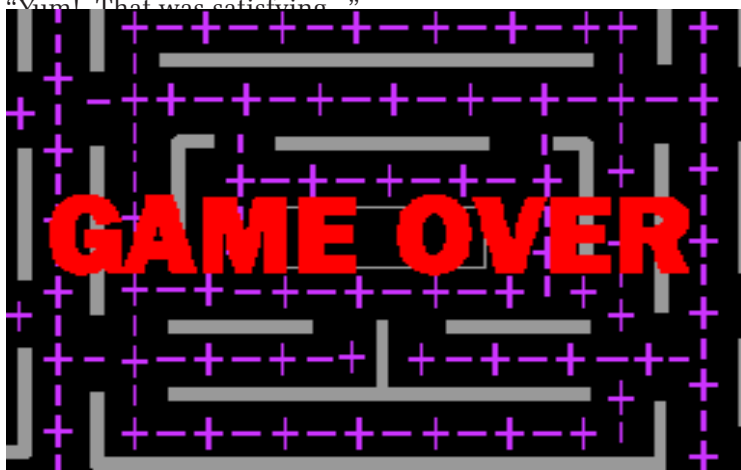
Well, I guess so! <gulp!> <buzzer sound>

Oh, crap! That wasn't six!

MATHMAN! MATHMAN! MATHMAN!

Argh!

“Yum! That was satisfying.”



# Spade Parade

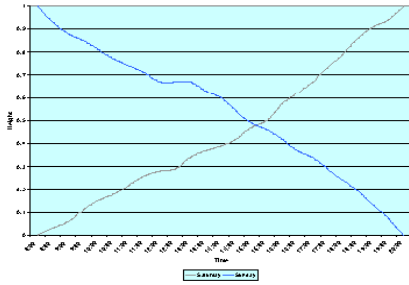
## The Continuation

I was pretty sure that I had it, but I had a couple of questions for this girl first.

“All right, Miss Sztacsdy, how long does this hike up the Peak take?”

She seemed a bit taken aback by the question, but gamely responded. “About twelve hours. In fact, Ethan and I had been planning on starting the hike at eight in the morning, which would put us at our campsite at around eight at night.”

That was convenient. “And do you take a different path down?”



“Oh, never. That’s part of the tradition; we have to come down the same way that we went up.”

I couldn’t help but grin. It all worked out just too perfectly. Ella saw my expression and brightened somewhat. “Oh, Spade, can you help?”

“I think I might be able to do that, Ella darling. Here, let me show you a little chart.” I pulled an oversized graph out of the bottom of a big pile beside the desk.

She seemed a bit confused, but I’ve never let that sort of thing stop me before. So I continued. “Now let’s call the bottom of Paul’s Peak zero, and the top where your camp is, one. So on Saturday, between eight in the morning and eight in the evening, you can consider your location – where you and Ethan are at any given moment – as a function of time. This function is at zero when you start, and at one when you stop for the night.”

She looked like she might interrupt, so I kept going. “And on Sunday, if you break camp at eight in the morning, then the same thing happens, except you’re at one when you start and zero when you stop.”

She was quick, I’ll give her that. “So those two lines are where we are at different times on Saturday and Sunday... and they cross! That means –”

“Right you are, sweetheart. Same place, same time.”

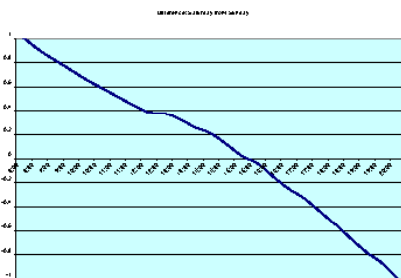
“But how do I know that they always do that? I mean, we might break at different spots on the way up and the way down.”

“Don’t worry about it, Ella. If you subtract the two functions,” I said while pulling out another chart, “then you get a function that starts out above zero, and ends below zero. The Intermediate Value Theorem guarantees that it must cross zero somewhere, as long as you don’t teleport from place to place.”

“So I can go on my hiking trip, and still keep my jewelry box! That’s wonderful, Spade! How can I ever thank you?”

I raised my eyebrow and smiled slightly. “I can think of a few ways, but let’s wait until this sketch ends before trying them.”

So much for cleaning up the office.



The great Mr. Blackstone enters the backstage room with groupies Charlie and Diane in tow.

“Ha ha ha... great show Mr. Blackman,” says Charlie.

“That’s Blackstone, Charlie, but thank you. Here, let me show you a little trick I learned while I was still in Magician’s College.”

Blackstone takes an egg out of his pocket and places it on the table. He then places a cup upside-down over the egg, deftly switching the egg with a chick he had hidden in his pants.

“Do you know which came first, Charlie, the chicken or the egg?” asks Mr. Blackstone.

“I don’t know, Mr. Blackstone, but I’m guessing the chicken since you just switched the egg for a chick that you had stuffed in your pants,” replied Charlie.

“Ah, yes, well, you’re very clever, Charlie.” says Mr. Blackstone.

“Oh, we saw that trick last night on the Secrets Revealed special on FOX,” says Diane.

“Oh, I see. Damned FOX. Ok, well how about I try another one.”

“All right,” say the two onlookers.

Blackstone takes out three large rings, each about a half a foot in diameter.

“Let me show you my rings—” started Blackstone.

“Oh, there’s a cut in that ring there,” Diane says. “That was on last night too.”

Blackstone suppresses the urge to throttle Diane, and instead throttles Charlie.

“Hey! What’d I do?” Charlie manages to squeak out.

Blackstone calms himself down.

“Sorry, this FOX thing just has me a bit on the edge, that’s all. Let me see... Ok, I’ve got one more that I’ll try on you.”

Blackstone reaches up to Diane’s ear, and produces a quarter.

“Wow! That’s incredible!” remarks Charlie.

“I never knew I had fiduciary remuneration in my ear!” exclaims Diane.

“I’m glad I could show you a trick that you don’t know the solution to.”

“But what does that have to do with mathematics?” asks Charlie.

“Uh, well, how much is a quarter worth?” responds Blackstone.

“25 cents,” replies Diane.

“There you go! 25 is a number!”

Reggie rushes into the room.

“Mr. Blackman! The woman you sawed in half!”

“Yes?”

“She’s dead!”

“Oh my! I must run! See you!”

Blackstone makes a hasty retreat, leaving Diane and Charlie pondering over the magical 25-cent quarter that came out of Diane’s ear.

## Euclid

Way back in ancient Greece, it's said,  
This Euclid guy, he used his head.  
His work in Egypt brought him fame;  
Geometry now bears his name.  
His *Elements* books paved the way  
For axiom-based proofs, they say.  
So, Euclid, what's your fav'rite stuff?  
"The integers! Can't get enough!"

### Chorus:

He got the rhythm, the algo-rhythm.  
He sets the beat for you and me.  
He got the rhythm, the algo-rhythm.  
The way to find the GCD.

So Euclid made a smart decision;  
He had a look at long division.  
"Now  $b$  is  $q \times a + r$ .  
You comprehend it all so far?  
So how do you get  $r$  and  $q$ ?  
You learned to do it in Grade Two!"

### Chorus

"If  $a$  is 6 and 15's  $b$   
Then  $q$  is 2 and  $r$  is 3.  
For bigger numbers? Works just fine,  
Like  $b$  150,  $a$  of 9.  
I did the math, and I have seen  
That  $r$  is 6 and  $q$  16.  
So do it once, then do it twice,  
'Cause practice is my best advice."

### Chorus

"So now you've got division done?  
Sit down, my friend, you've just begun.  
Take  $a$  and  $r$ , divide it, yes,  
So  $a$  is  $p \times r + s$ .  
Then once again. Keep going, 'til  
You find that the remainder's nil.  
Your last remainder was the best;  
The GCD it was. Now rest!"

### Chorus

Of 98 and 63.  
Or 18 and 234."  
(At this point I let out a snore.)  
"Hey, you! Wake up! I know my rap  
In your mind is just total crap!  
You're right; this song is useless jive.  
But it helps in Math 135!"

### Chorus $\times$ 2, Fade Out



Euclid  
M. C. Squared  
I Clid, Euclid, We All Clid

Oops! is brought to you by erasers. Don't make a mistake without one!



On March 13, 1987, Joe Staves made this mistake while multiplying numbers:

$$\begin{array}{r} \$250,000,000 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \$250,000,002 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Because of that tiny mistake, look what happened!



"Oops! I should have multiplied the numbers together!"

$$\begin{array}{r} \$250,000,000 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \$500,000,000 \end{array}$$



"There, that's the real price of the SkyDome! If I had done it right the first time, maybe this wouldn't have happened."



Oops! is brought to you by erasers. Don't make a mistake without one!



### The Rerouted Rice Report, Part 3

The story you are about to hear is a fib, but it's short. The names are made up, but the problems are real.

*Friday, 11:18 am. With hail the size of golf balls, it was a good thing that the storm didn't hit LA. I was working the day watch out of Math-Net. My partner is George Frankly; the boss is Thad Green. My name is Monday. I'm a mathematician.*

*We were investigating the problem of some missing rice at the local Chinese restaurants. We decided to look at a couple of scenes from yesterday's show to see if there was anything we had missed.*

#### COURTESY YESTERDAY'S SHOW

"We all outta rice!" exclaimed the Chinese Restaurant owner.

"So what are you using?" asked George.

"Styrofoam packaging!" replied the owner.

*Back in the office, we brainstormed over some bagels.*

"I'll take the poppyseed," said George.

"George, where could all of that rice have gone?" mused Kate.

*Suddenly, the phone rang.*

"MathNet, Monday. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh."

*I hung up the phone.*

"George, that was Debbie. She found our rice."

"She had it all along?" asked George.

"No, it's in her neighbour's swimming pool!"

*We proceeded post haste to the location of the pool in question to have a first hand look. It was as Debbie had said yesterday; the pool was completely full of rice.*

"This pool is completely full of rice!" George stated.

"Uh-huh," Kate agreed.

"Strange thing though," continued George.

"What's that?"

"There's no water around. When Martha cooks rice water usually splashes all over the place when she puts it in the pot."

"Yes George, but Debbie also said that her neighbour was having the pool serviced while she was away. So there was no water in the pool."

"That would make it difficult to cook the rice, wouldn't it?"

"Maybe whoever took the rice was just storing it here temporarily."

"But is there enough rice here to account for every grain of rice that went missing?"

George wondered.

"Well, let's figure it out," Kate concluded.

*We hurried back to headquarters and pulled out a blackboard.*

"All right, Kate. During your last voiceover I made a model of the pool," noted George.

"But George, that just looks like a uniform box. The pool changes with depth," countered Kate.

"Yes, but the change for this pool is uniform, ranging from 5 feet to 9 feet, so for convenience we can place the depth at 7 feet. This model then has 1cm representing 1ft, and so it's dimensions are 7cm by 15cm by 30cm."

"Ok," Kate agreed. "To figure out the volume of the pool, we multiply the length by the depth by the width." Kate began writing on the

blackboard. " $7 \times 15$  is 105. So now we multiply 105 times 30."

George tapped the numbers into his calculator. "That gives 3150 cubic centimetres. Which according to my scale means the pool can hold 3150 cubic feet."

"All right. George, get on the phone and call someone who knows the volume of a grain of rice while I find out exactly how much was taken from each of the restaurants." Two minutes later, after the phone calls and a little more blackboard writing, the volume of the missing rice had been calculated to be 3100 cubic feet.

"So the difference between the two answers is 50," observed George. "That means there should be 50 cubic feet of unused volume in the pool."

"Right. And there wasn't. Which means either extra rice was added from an unknown source, or there was something else in the pool too."

"Wait a minute, Kate. Remember the newspaper article from Monday's episode?"

"You mean the one about the missing paintings?"

"No, I mean the ad for the pool cleaning service. Wasn't there some equipment at the site of our pool that had the same name on it?"

"Maybe we should go and talk with him."



*Richten's Pool Maintenance wasn't that far from MathNet Headquarters. We gave Fred Richten, the owner, a call to let him know that we were on our way over. Fred was waiting for us when we got there. We asked him what he knew about Debbie's pool.*

"Yeah, the Taunz place? Me and the boys were over there earlier this week. Standard job, really. We were slated to head over there later today to finish up the job."

"That might be difficult right now, Mr. Richten," George inserted.

"There's been a little mishap involving rice."

"A mishap? How so?"

"The pool's been filled with rice. I guess you'll be charging overtime for that."

"Mr. Richten," said Kate, "what we really want to know is this: did you notice anything suspicious when you were working on the pool?"

"Like what?"

"Like 3100 cubic feet of rice," said George.

"No, I can't say that I did. But I did notice some shady characters drive up in a van just as we were leaving."

"About how big was this van, would you say?" asked Kate.

"Oh, about 50 cubic feet, more or less."

"George, you know what that means."

"Yes. They must get awful gas mileage."

"No, it means that they could have been carrying 50 cubic feet of something that they put in the pool and covered up with the 3100 cubic feet of rice."

"That would be a total of 3150 cubic feet."

"Uh-huh."

"That's how big the pool is!"

"Brilliant, George."

**TO BE CONTINUED**





## We Now Return You To Your Regularly Scheduled *mathNEWS*

100% of Square One Television is a production of the Children's Television Workshop, except when it appears in a mathematics student newsletter, in which case it's produced by us, and they keep the trademarks.

### Prez Sez

#### *Annual General Meeting*

Today is the Annual General Meeting of the Math Society. So what happens at a General Meeting, you ask. Well, this is your chance to come out and find out what's been going on in the past year, to find out what your MathSoc has accomplished, and to ask those burning questions you have. Reports will be given from each of the Executive, including the financial report. As well, the Bylaw changes made by Council in the past year are up for ratification. The meeting happens at 1:30 pm in the Comfy Lounge.

#### *Access to Opportunities Programme (ATOP)*

The government of Ontario has finally announced that Waterloo gets to play in ATOP, but under Waterloo's rules. There will be an increase of 36% in enrolment in Computer Science. This means that we'll be accepting an additional 100 CS frosh per year. We now know the numbers, but there are many questions which are unasked and unanswered. I'll hopefully have more information for you by the next issue.

#### *Charity Ball*

As I'm sure you already know, MathSoc is sponsoring a Charity Ball to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November at Fed Hall, to raise money for the K-W Emergency Ward. The evening includes a fabulous dinner and dancing. Tickets are available at the MathSoc Office. I urge all of you to attend; not only is this for a good cause, but this event will be the premier event of the term.

#### *Executive Nominations for Spring 1999*

Nominations are now open for the Spring 1999 Exec. These Officers are the: President; Vice-President, Academic; Vice-President, Activities and Services; and Vice-President, Finances. Nominations will be open until the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, and nomination forms are available outside the MathSoc Office.

#### *Math Grad Committee Chair Nominations*

Finally, nominations for the MGC Chair (Spring 1999/Winter 2000) have been reopened, and will be open until Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Grad Committee is an important part of your graduating year; through the Grad Committee, we provide the yearbook, grad photos, pizza days, social events, and the Math Grad Ball. If there are no names submitted by the close of nominations, there will be no MGC Chair in the Spring term. I urge all grads of 2000 to seriously consider the consequences of this, and to put forward a name. Nomination forms are available outside of the MathSoc Office.

That's it for this week. If you have any questions, or just want to talk, you can find me in the Exec Office (MC 3039); and of course, I'm always reachable by e-mail at [pres@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pres@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

Chris "If it snows tonight, I'm going to be really pissed!"  
Buchanan

## CAREERS IN MATH AND CS

*A panel discussion*

Thursday, November 12

4:00 pm

MC 2037

Meet graduates of the Math Faculty who will talk and answer questions about their careers.

Tentative panelists:

- Poesy Chen, BMath (96) General; Manager, Sales Information Services, Corel; Currently: Undergraduate student, CS
- Janet Grad, MMath (93), PhD (98) Applied Math; TD Bank
- Stella Kalamaris, BMath (93) Math/Business; Client Manager, IBM Canada K-12 Education
- Debbie MacLean, MMath (98) Applied Math; PhD student, University of Waterloo
- Pam Rosario, BMath (88) CS/OR; Senior Manager, Product Market Unit, Andersen Consulting
- Karen Raglin-Billones, BMath (89) Operations Research; Senior Clinical Data Analyst, Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
- Lisa White, BMath (92) CS; MSc (Toronto); Software Engineer, Sybase Inc.

Sponsored by the Women in Mathematics Committee

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ross Willard Appreciation Day!

In recognition of his ingenuous teaching habits, Ross Willard was given his own special day, here in the mathematics building. Prof. Willard has demonstrated his unique teaching methods in many bizzare ways, but none are as memorable as the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Ross Willard Appreciation Day.

Back when I was in 1A (last fall), I had Prof. Willard as an instructor for Calculus 1, math 137. We had heard through the grape vine that in his previous lecture of the day, that he had commented at an offering of a bagel with a candle saying that he would rather have a beer and an apple pie. Well, we delivered. He came in to our calculus class, only to see a beer (frosted mug too), and an apple pie. He was speechless at first.

He ended up teaching the class with his usual level of enthusiasm and entertainment, until he caved in. He cracked open the beer, and started on a road to stumbling at the front of the class.

Prof. Willard, as agile, and dexterous as he was, was noticeably less confident with his movements at the front of the class, he had speech impediments (he was slurring), and his 's' and integral sign where nearly identical: nothing but a big giant squiggle.

Needless to say, millions of potential *prof*QUOTES were gathered that day, and many published, due to the antics of one of our favorite professors on campus. If only all our professors where like that, then we could always have fresh stories to tell all the frosh.

Peter "Ross Willard is my idol!" Lizak

*Since this year November 7<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, the celebration of Ross Willard Appreciation Day will be today, Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>. Members of his Linear Algebra II and Galois Theory classes are encouraged to be creative in their celebrations of this event. — the Management.*



## CSC Flash

Greetings, *mathNEWS* readers. Things are going well in that pocket of space/time that we like to call the CSC. Office remodelling is progressing at an acceptable pace, now-happy mathies have toured the Computer Graphics Lab in DC, and even as we speak, my network of agents is growing closer and closer to collecting the elusive Pud #18.

I would like to take this time to wish good luck to the UW teams in the ACM Regional programming contest taking place the weekend of November 13<sup>th</sup>. Crush the opposition! Exterminate them! Exterminate!

And now, a list of upcoming CSC events:

### HTML Tutorial

Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. 16h30-18h30

Room TBA

The HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is used to create the majority of the documents on the Web. It is the official file format for web publishing and all web browsers support it. HTML is easy enough that you can master the basics in a single hour. This tutorial will teach you how to make titles, paragraphs, hypertext links, images and tables. More important, though, it will explain what resources on HTML development exist. You can use these to expand your knowledge of HTML for more advanced publishing or just to keep up with the HTML's rapid evolution.

This tutorial is open to all. Students not in Math will be allowed to use a temporary account on the Math undergraduate machines.

All are welcome.

### OLE

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Time TBA

Room TBA

OLE, also known as ActiveX and COM, is a convention that allows programmers to build large projects more easily by referencing counting objects and sending data across processes without writing a lot of low level code.

### Software Hygiene — An Achievable Panacea

Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. 16h30

Room TBA

This presentation will discuss the application of principles to resolve common problems of source and construction management.

Examples of projects that failed and why they did so will be presented. The dilemma of anarchy vs. autocracy in the software world will be examined and how failure to exploit (not resolve) this conflict sensibly has led to flawed systems.

Inevitably, the contribution of ISO9000, SCM, and other myths will be evaluated as to their abuse and violation of the basic software hygiene principles.

Indubitably, the talk will feature numerous an{ec,ti}dotes and outrageous opinions — can't be helped.

David Tilbrook, one of the first UNIX users in Canada, is the Chief Scientist of qef Advanced Software Inc. Previously he worked at MKS, SNI, CMU, IST, SDL, BNSR, and HCR, the last of which he was a founder. He studied at ic.ac.uk and U of T.

His M.Sc. thesis, NewsWhole, was one of the first CAD systems and the first system to use iconic cursors and faded light buttons. For many years NewsWhole was the subject of a question on Kelly Booth's computer graphics exams and the NewsWhole movie was shown at the 25<sup>th</sup> ACM SigGraph conference as one of the pioneer computer graphic systems.

His primary interest is large scale software construction and the problems that it entails.

David has been program chair for seven EurOpen and Usenix Conferences, (the only program chair to have dropped trou), is an honorary life-time member of EurOpen, and still uses a line editor.

If you any questions, please ask the VP (vp@calum), or drop by our office in MC 3036. Hey, it could help.

Calum T. Dalek  
CSC Chairbeing

## ActSci Club News and Stuff

So I have no time for writing this article, not a big deal, these articles have to be written some time and who wants to pass any SOA exams anyways.

The ActSci club has had three talks to date with more events to come. Look for posters around the building on the day of all events, or our office door if you actually want more than one day's notice. Another option is to come and talk to us. We are actually open more than one hour weekly this term.

As most members know, we also have many copies of various Axtex manuals, some of which are even current and occasionally not being borrowed. If you need them, come and get 'em.

One last thing before you go on to semi-interesting articles: The *Actuarial Students National Association* (ASNA) annual convention is being held from January 8<sup>th</sup> to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999, in Quebec City. The ActSci club will be organizing a bus to pick people up in Toronto and Waterloo so you can just relax the whole way there (provided we spend the money to get a qualified driver). The estimated cost, including hotel, transportation, and the convention is \$150. More details should be forthcoming later.

So that is it for news. Currently, orange is not the official colour of the ActSci club. That fact is not important enough to be news, which makes it stuff, so therefore you have all the ActSci club news and stuff. If you have any questions about ActSci club events or want to become a member, visit us any time we are open (because otherwise we aren't open and can't be very helpful).

Paul Irwin  
Publicity Director, ActSci Club

## Distinguished Teacher Awards

To nominate your outstanding professor, lab demonstrator, or teaching assistant for the Distinguished Teacher Award, contact TRACE, MC 4055, Ext. 3132.

**profQUOTES**

“There are a lot of drugs in this course... [pause] sorry no samples.”

Fogel, ENGL 208B

“The aliens have stolen my brain.”

Haxell, MATH 145

“Why Mean, as opposed to, uh, the Goofy theorem?”

Zorzitto, MATH 137

“In this subject, you have to abuse notation.”

Forrest, MATH 247

“Now this is a row vector and this is a column vector, but you have to use your imagination.”

Forrest, MATH 247

“Now, this is not hard, but it’s notationally ugly.”

Forrest, MATH 247

“Does everyone agree with that...[no response]...nod encouragingly...Ok.”

Best, C&O 227

“One of the most important things you can do is to screw up.”

Best, C&O 227

“This is a ‘μ’, tail to the left. This is a ‘u’, tail to the right...if I see that in *mathNEWS*, I’ll kill someone!”

Best, C&O 227

“Trivial, trivial, by observation, now I’m done.”

Vasiga, CS 134

“I do whatever else I do in the day. Teach and deal drugs for a living.”

Vasiga, CS 134

“Were you reading my mind? My guardian programming angel said ‘Assign it to another variable.’”

Vasiga, CS 134

[Prof looks at the parse tree on the board]

“Goodbye my friend.”

[Starts erasing it]

“What a beautiful tree. I feel like MacMillan-Blodel. Killing trees all day long.”

Vasiga, CS 134

“Who here adds two positive numbers and gets a negative number? Any accountants here?”

Mann, CS 251

“We can do that by perversely picking animals.”

Lubiw, CS 240

“Being mathematicians you must be inherently lazy.”

Best, C&O 227

“I hope you haven’t written any of that down, that’s all hot air.”

Goulden, MATH 239

“I guess referring to it as an integral doesn’t make it any easier for you. [Silence] You live in a weird world when you’re a mathematician”

Goulden, MATH 239

“In this course we’re going to look for one answer and we’re going to be happy if it’s not a really dumb answer like 3.”

Goulden, MATH 239

“I want to invoke my theorems”

Goulden, MATH 239

“I’d like to say something about induction. I hate induction. I bet that you do too.”

Goulden, MATH 239

“Is everybody happy that the bottom line and the top line describe the same set?” Student: “Yes” “Awww... so am I.”

Goulden, MATH 239

“The archeologist gets his thrills by crawling in human garbage”

Abler, ANTH 102

“You know that AAA, unless you’re living in some warped universe, is most likely to be at the beginning of the phonebook.”

Pretti, CS 240

“In native cultures, when you don’t have anything intelligent to say, you don’t say anything at all. In Scarborough, if you don’t have anything intelligent to say, you say something anyway.”

Abler, ANTH 102

**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

November 6	Issue #5 watches PBS
November 16	Issue #6 production night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
November 20	Issue #6 watches CNN

**Math Faculty**

November 6	Preregistration for S99 ends
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**MathSoc**

November 6	Annual General Meeting MC 3001, 1:30pm
November 12	Charity Ball @ Fed Hall
November 19	Movie Night <i>Mask of Zorro</i> and <i>Desperado</i>

**MEF**

November 10	Funding Council Meets MC 5158, 5:00pm
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**MGC**

November 16	Group Photo Retake MC Southwest steps, 3:30pm
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**Miscellaneous**

November 11	Remembrance Day
November 11	Galois Theory assignment due
November 13	Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup>
November 14	Triskadecaphobes come out from hiding

## Devastation in Nicaragua

*I'd like to add the following e-mail I recently received from my brother (who's currently in Nicaragua) to the e-mail correspondence I've sent out about my Central American work term this summer. My brother's mail is hitting me hard because I worked in Santa Rosa (one of the municipalities he mentions) for a long time this summer, spending most of my time in a lunch program for children with malnutrition. I really grew to care about them, and had lots of fun swinging them around the place, holding them upside down and tickling them, or just sitting on them and then wondering aloud why my furniture kept giggling. When I left I was playing around with the idea of visiting Nicaragua again to see them in five or ten years' time to find out how they would turn out as teenagers. I think my brother's e-mail (which I'm still trying to absorb) speaks for the chance I have of seeing them again.*

As I mentioned in the last monthly report, people in Santa Rosa were very happy with the state of their crops. There had been consistent rainfall and lots of sunshine. The corn, millet, and beans were all flourishing and it looked like there would be bumper crops this season. Instead of worrying about the crops needing water, people were taking care of other more controllable things such as insects and deer eating their crops.

But about two weeks ago, reports started coming in about a possible storm brewing off the East Coast. People immediately recognised the threat to their livelihood and were glued to their televisions and radios for the next few days, wishing fervently that the storm would disperse or that it would miss the area. But soon it became apparent that this was not to be. Reports started coming in that the storm, now named hurricane Mitch, the strongest of the season, had hit the East coast of Nicaragua and Honduras: large-scale damage was being inflicted by the wind, rain, and floods. In Santa Rosa, the sky had been permanently overcast, and we had already had several long downpours. We knew that it was only a matter of time before the stronger effects of the hurricane were felt in Santa Rosa.

Since my flight was leaving Nicaragua in a week and my departure was not flexible at all, I decided that I should try to avoid being stranded away from the airport by floods. In the afternoon, I caught a bus out of Santa Rosa and made it as far as Leon (it took four hours instead of the usual two and a half). I was unable to continue to Managua, because the Leon-Managua highway was flooded. The next day it didn't rain much in the Leon area, and I managed to catch a bus to Managua.

Only when I was in Managua did I realize how devastating the hurricane had been. There were televised reports showing entire communities submerged by the floods, scattered individuals trying to save what they could of their former lives, carrying all sorts of valuables, even livestock, on their heads and shoulders, stricken families trying to get away from flooded areas, other individuals wading *into* the flooded areas where they had relatives they hadn't seen, the few Nicaraguan helicopters straining to provide food relief and rescue services at the same time, and most painfully, interviews with families whose livelihoods had been washed away. So far, there have been more than 200 confirmed deaths, and more than 2000 reported missing. A community of over 800 people has been buried with mud, and there's not much hope for anyone there. The final death toll is expected to be in the thousands.

I had assumed that Santa Rosa hadn't been too badly affected. It's not all that far from Leon and Managua, and the weather there was wet but not terrible.

On the radio, I heard that all the crops (with the possible exception of tobacco) in Esteli, which is not too far from Santa Rosa, had been lost. Later on, I heard that the river in Santa Rosa had risen so high that the bridge leading out of the town was submerged. Several houses were also flooded and suffered water damage. This was the first hint of the damage that had been inflicted.

Today (1<sup>st</sup> of November - two days after the radio reports) I met the vice-mayor of Santa Rosa who happened to be in Managua and had been in touch with Santa Rosa by radio.

According to him, the bridge leading into Santa Rosa has been washed away. This was not a small bridge. It was a cantilever bridge some fifty metres across, and with maybe ten metres of clearance from the river. When I left Santa Rosa, the water was looking angry, but I never thought it would rise up to the bridge. I can't picture it. The volume of water involved is inconceivable for me.

Twenty-three houses have been washed away completely, and more than four hundred more in Santa Rosa itself have been damaged.

Nothing is known about the comarcas (where 80% of the population of the municipality live).

There has been at least one confirmed case of death, and many are missing.

All the human waste in the latrines has been washed out into the open. That, combined with the thriving mosquitoes and the fact that people are grouping together in the churches and other existing shelters, means that there is a high risk of epidemics of dengue, malaria, and cholera.

There is little food, no clean water, no transport, and very little communication.

I think it's safe to say that all the crops people were praying for have been destroyed.

I don't think I need to go on.

It's horrible.

The Santa Rosans have not had a good harvest in several years due to too much or too little rain. This has meant that to make ends meet, people have been tightening their belts, sending family members to other areas (Costa Rica being a popular choice) to make a living for the whole family, or living by borrowing money. The situation was pretty desperate before and hurricane Mitch hasn't helped things at all.

The mayor and the organizations in Santa Rosa have been doing what they can under the circumstances. I understand that the three major organizations got together and bought all the food that was available in the village to distribute amongst the people. Their immediate problem isn't money, but rather transport. With the bridge down, it will be very hard to get more supplies to the people.

People in Santa Rosa and elsewhere in Nicaragua have suffered plenty already. The Nicaraguan government has little money, although it will undoubtedly be receiving foreign aid (that means us!). I doubt that FOG is either equipped or qualified to help directly in this situation, but there are many other organizations that exist for this sort of situation. Please, please,

Continued on page 13

## Out of the Woo

Hello everyone! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who participated in the recent election. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve, and to represent the interests of fellow students at one of the premier schools in Canada. I look forward to helping you make the most of your time here, at the University of Waterloo.

Let me share with you a bit about my role as councillor of the Federation of Students. It is the mission of the Federation of Students:

To foster undergraduates' pursuit of higher learning, personal growth and an enhanced quality of student life through the provision of information, resources and services conducive to self-development, mutual respect and involvement.

In-line with the mission statement, my responsibilities, as the Math Co-op Councillor of the Federation of Students are:

- To represent the interests of Math Co-op students.
- To keep you abreast of new issues and developments dealt with by the Federation of Students.
- To communicate to Council your views and opinions on the issues at hand.
- To present your concerns to the university administration and, if necessary, both the provincial and federal governments.
- To stimulate your interest in the activities organized by the Federation of Students.
- To encourage your involvement in clubs and organizations on campus.
- To improve awareness of the services made available to you by the Federation of Students.
- To promote an environment conducive to self-development and mutual respect.

Over the next few weeks, I hope to provide you with information to get you up-to-date on issues currently discussed at Council meetings. I will try to report to you, at least once a month to keep you on top of any new issues and developments.

### Continued from page 12

if you can spare something, make some donations to an appropriate organization.

Each of us can make a personal donation, each of us can collect donations from others at our place of work, in their neighbourhood, at their school, at church, or any place where we have friends. Real families are dying or have suffered a great setback in a country where any advancement is extremely difficult. For my part, I'm donating the US\$200 that I have left in the bank here to Santa Rosa. I'll see what more I can do when I get back to Canada.

I'm sure FOG can do something itself, if only to help collect donations to transfer to other organisations. We'll let you know as soon as we can do more.

Sarah Kamal

In the meantime, let me encourage you to get involved in the many activities available to you campus-wide. I truly believe that there is more to a university education than books, lectures and assignments. Some of the most interesting lessons you will learn and things you will discover will come out of your experiences outside of the lecture hall. It is up to you to take advantage of the opportunities. Central to the strength and success of all the clubs and organizations on campus, including the Federation of Students, is YOUR participation.

In my campaign, I vowed to make myself available to members of the Math Co-op constituency, to discuss any issues pertinent to the Federation of Students. To this end, I extend an invitation for lunch to all students in my constituency any day of the week (between 11:45 and 12:45). I encourage you to leave me a note in my mailbox at the Federation of Students Office (in the SLC) or to leave me a message at 888-4042.

Thanks again for having chosen me to be your representative of the Federation of Students.

Cheers,

Norm Woo  
3A Math/CA

P.S. Here is a list of some of the clubs and organizations on campus. Pick one TODAY and find out what they're all about.

- Accounting Students' Association
- Amnesty International
- Business Club
- Chess Club
- Chinese Debate Club
- Christian Fellowship Clubs
- Debate Club
- Film Club
- Fraternities and Sororities
- Habitat for Humanity
- Investment Club
- Jewish Students' Association
- Mah Jong Club
- Midnight Sun V Solar Car Project
- Muslim Students' Association
- Progressive Conservative Youth
- Young Liberals

Happy Clubbing!

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Closing the elevator doors after the horse has flown the coop:  
Matt Walsh, Richard Bilson, Chadwick Severn

## Spermatikos Logos #3

Hey everyone, I'm back again. Hope you've all survived as well. I only received two submissions this week, so I guess I'm not the only one who's been attacked by midterm stress. Thanks to both Lisa Harpur and Greg "Hologrami" Taylor for submitting solutions to Logos #2. Greg got the correct solution the way I figured it. Lisa actually found a solution that was different from mine, but still correct (forgive me, I was tired and didn't check it properly when I made it). By random draw, Greg gets the prize. Go pick it up in the MathSoc office. Submissions for Logos #3 are due November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm in the **BLACK BOX**... Where's the **BLACK BOX**? Good question. It's hiding in the depths of the *mathNEWS* office. So, you can either e-mail your submissions to me at [gngarbet@uwaterloo](mailto:gngarbet@uwaterloo), you can slip them under the door of the office (although if you do this it may not get found anyway — ask Greg), or you can drop it off at the MathSoc office.

### Solution A to Logos #2

First name	Last name	Guest	Chore	Food dish
Jennifer	Kirnaghan	Mother	Living room	Pumpkin pie
Kurtis	Jameson	Best friend	Dining room	Bean salad
Leonardo	Lawrence	Former roommate	Bathroom	Cranberry sauce
Marcel	Phillips	Sister	Groceries	Spaghetti squash
Natasha	Madison	Boyfriend	Dishes	Turkey
Persephone	Novak	Cousin	Mop floor	Stuffing

### Solution B to Logos #2

First name	Last name	Guest	Chore	Food dish
Jennifer	Madison	Mother	Dishes	Turkey
Kurtis	Jameson	Best friend	Dining room	Bean salad
Leonardo	Phillips	Former roommate	Bathroom	Cranberry sauce
Marcel	Kirnaghan	Sister	Groceries	Pumpkin pie
Natasha	Novak	Boyfriend	Mop floor	Spaghetti squash
Persephone	Lawrence	Cousin	Living room	Stuffing

### This Week's Puzzle

As part of this exciting feature issue, I've decided to make a logic problem that fits the theme. It's loosely based on a game show from Square One, called *But Who's Multiplying!* (No comments from Snuggles, please.) The way it works is as follows: the contestants get two numbers at a time, and they have to multiply them together to get a number on the board, and that square is highlighted with their team's colour. The rest of it is reminiscent of Bingo. Anyway, in my world the squares are all mixed up. Yes, I know some of them are prime, but it's like that on the show too. (mutter, mutter) What you have to do is figure out where on the board all the numbers are. It's not too hard, there are only 25 squares to work with... The columns are labelled (left to right) A, B, C, D, and E, and the rows are labelled (top to bottom) V, W, X, Y, and Z. Um... yeah, that should be it. Contestants, are you ready? Go!!

1. The numbers on the board are from 2 to 26, in scrambled order.
2. The four corners of the board are (in no particular order): a prime number, a perfect number, a perfect square, and one of the numbers mentioned in clue #1.
3. Every column with a "6" also has a "9", and does not have a "7".
4. The number 17 has odd numbers on all three sides.
5. The sum of one of the diagonals is 44.
6. The number 3 is directly above a prime number, directly below a multiple of 7, and between two consecutive numbers (in some order), neither of which are prime.

7. The 10 is higher on the board than the 13, which is higher than the 20.
8. The number 23 is directly below and between three consecutive numbers (in some order).
9. The number 7 is between two numbers which are reflections of each other (like 68 and 86).
10. The number 2 is directly above the 26.
11. The 22 is somewhere left of the 5, which is somewhere left of the 11.
12. The number 6 is somewhere above and to the left of the 12, which is somewhere above the 18.
13. Any prime number ending in 3 or 1 is not in a corner.
14. Three of the perfect squares are in the same row. The fourth shares a column with one of the other three. None of them are adjacent.
15. The number 19 is diagonally next to (and to the right of) the 7.
16. Three of the four corners of the board end in the same number.
17. The number 21 is directly between both of its divisors.
18. The number 4 is somewhere left of the 8, which is directly above the 16.
19. Every row with a "9" also has a "4". There is no "4" in columns A or E.
20. The number 4 is directly to the right of a prime number, and directly to the left of a multiple of six.
21. There are three prime numbers on the bottom row.

Gigi Garbett

[gngarbet@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gngarbet@uwaterloo.ca)

## mastHEAD

### Mathematicians... freeze!

Hello everyone, Matt here again. As you've probably noticed, some of the brilliant minds here at *mathNEWS* decided to do a tribute issue this week. You see, it turns out that we all (or at least most of us) watched a show called *Square One* sometime during its run from 1987 to 1992 on PBS. In fact, I remember scheduling my afternoons around it when I was in grade 7. So we put our heads together, totally blew a production night, and tried our best to emulate the greatness. Mathnet, OOPS!, MathMan, and all your other favorites from the Children's Television Workshop have been brought to the pages of *mathNEWS*

This issue was truly a staff effort — as the photos probably show — and so a special thanks goes out to everyone who helped out this week; they, and their favorite rejected plotlines for this issue's Mathnet, are Viet-Tam Luu (What's MathNet?), Gigi Garbett (The rocks are actually made of styrofoam so they can float... unfortunately, they can't float when they're filled with gold...), John Swan (I sort of like the idea of the chicken in the swimming pool), Greg Taylor (Crank phone call leads to discovery of missing mercury inside plushie inside pi inside unnatural log inside microwave inside fridge inside box inside truck going to Mexico), and Michael Thorsley (Kate & George guest star on Diagnosis: Murder).

Big thanks this time go to Marion for the printing, and to Mike Hammond for the Euclid song (but you knew it was his, anyways, right?)

Richard Bilson (The one where Kate takes off her clothes and... wait, that was a dream I had.)

Chadwick Severn (Someone steals all the highways in LA)

Matthew Walsh (So this archaeologist has been kidnapped...)

# Damn, just take Tylenol or something

*From your Snuggly Social Director*

That must be it, it could be the only reason, you all must have headaches. That could be the only possible reason that you haven't all fulfilled my unofficial slogan (Let's Get Mathies Laid). Either that or you're not attending my rocking social events. It's gotta be one or the other people, so I suggest you start coming to my events or start on the heavier painkillers (or do both). Getting back to reality (ahhh, do we have too?) I have a funny reality quote. "I don't want to go back to the real world, please don't make me" — that was said to a friend of mine who is a counselor for my camp on the last day of camp. Moving on to things germane to my article (no that doesn't say german, that is actually a real word, I just don't know how to spell it, I hope Matt will make it be in English for all you who don't speak Skrzydło-ese). [He's right: he doesn't know how to spell it. — Rich] I love brackets. Insert random "saying hi snuggles in the middle of your calculus class" comment here.

My little Halloween party was awesome (Pub Night at Fed Hall, Oct 30). We had somewhere around 100 people come (damn I'm good). I gave away lots of stuff and had a lot of fun because there was a mike for me to play with (not mike as in michael, mike as in microphone, although I'm sure I would have fun if you sat me down in a room with someone named mike and said I could play with him, hehehehehe). One of the prizes given away was Pure Funk (a CD with the theme from Shaft, word up, kung fu fighting among other songs that would make it into the MAD TV sketch Dirty Walker Funky Talker) won by Brian "The Calculus Cowboy" Fox (allowing me to say "Calculus Cowboy" on the mike). We had a pool tournament won by Latrell (which allowed me once again to say "Calculus Cowboy" on the mike, coincidence, you figure it out). Lots of awesome costumes. In fact we had a costume contest, it was won by Pam A (which stands for anything but Anderson) who was Bobo "Are you the horse's face?" the Clown (she won Laura Secord Chocolate). In second was Drew "I'm so old" (I don't remember what he won) and third was Lara "rrrrrr" Thomson (she won a vibrating pen with a game on top, the next day she told me the batteries were low. Where were ya Pete?). I was dressed up in my soccer referee uniform and pigtails, my favorite answer to what I was is "me", although some very nice person pointed out that I was like that guy in the movie Ladybugs, actually she said "you remind me of Ladybugs." I needed an explanation. The fuchsia Pink Tie was in the house, along with a bazillion other pink ties (we put them all along the rim of the upper balcony), and lots of pink, orange, and black balloons. Unfortunately there wasn't enough helium (I love helium, with a helium balloon I can entertain myself for hours: balloon goes up, I pull balloon down, balloon goes up, I pull balloon down, balloon goes up, I pull balloon down)

I've gotta talk a bit about why the person I want to be this week is Batman. (Note to people who weren't there, so this makes sense you have to realize that the Thomson Twins (Lara and Natalie) were dressed up as Poison Ivy and Catwoman, but we'll talk more about them later) OK Batman, he dresses up in a funky costume that doesn't involve pigtails, he is extremely rich yet doesn't really work much, he is called a playboy (articles shmarticles), he has awesome toys to play with (hell he carries around a belt full of toys, that would be awesome, oh look, I'm in calculus again, I'm bored, ah well, time to play with my bat-lederhosen or when things got really ugly I'd just whip out my trusty bat-integral repellent), he flies around fighting crime in the night by simply scaring the shit out of the criminals by being dressed like a bloody flying rodent, he has someone that basically is just there to feed him and clean his room (I think Alfred is really his mother) and he is a super hero (mmmmm, I bet he's friends with Wonder Woman. I didn't even

mention the fact that his costume has rubber nipples on it (yet Batgirl's doesn't). Now lets look at the people he hangs out with. First his friends, Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone), and Kim Basinger, wow. Then there are the super villains. OK, he hears all the latest jokes and riddles (The Joker and The Riddler), he goes up against someone with two faces (I guess he isn't the horse's ass then), someone who always wears a cumberbund and uses an umbrella as the weapon of choice (The Penguin), and someone whose henchmen do sow cow triple toe loop combinations (Dr. Arnold — Freeze) ... bah, that's not hard. And then the last two villains (Poison Ivy and Catwoman, as I mentioned earlier). I wouldn't mind wrestling with those two. Never mind Uma Thurman and Michelle Pfeiffer, the Thomson Twins are better, never mind the fact that they are both gorgeous, they're also smart and not bent on world domination or intrinsically evil (OK, we can work on some things) and they amuse me (OK, everything amuses me). So in conclusion, I enjoy playing with a certain pussy ... cat but Poison Ivy gave me a rash (but it was worth it), And I have decided to go into seclusion for 10 years learning the necessary skills it takes to be batman and take over, defending the crime ridden streets of the Kitchener Waterloo Area. And I'll run MathSoc and take a full course load, OK, OK, that would be unrealistic (the MathSoc and full course load part).

I guess I should get back to my various directorship announcements instead of just ranting about Batman. Actually I think I'm kind of getting to like writing my biweekly *mathNEWS* article; it's very therapeutic. Next week (Nov 12) no movie night because of Charity Ball (next paragraph). The week after (Nov 19) The Mask of Zorro and Desperado (Antonio Banderes squared). We are thinking about running SpaceBalls and History of the World Part 1 on Nov 26, e-mail me if you have any opinions on movie nights, or on anything that will amuse me (and remember, everything amuses me) [movies@mathsoc](mailto:movies@mathsoc)

CHARITY BALL (Thursday Nov 12). We are selling tickets for our charity ball (\$30 for a single ticket, \$55 for a pair, \$210 for a full table — 8 people). There is a free Ballroom dancing lesson, followed by a sit down formal dinner (with real food, chicken parmesan or a vegi stir fry, lots of side dishes, cherry cheesecake and black forest cake, I know the important things, main dish and dessert). There will also be a Live and Silent Auction (with the snuggly auctioneer) as well as tonnes of prizes. (gift certificates to a lot of local stores and other random stuff that was donated. If you want to know what, come by the MathSoc exec office and ask Jen or myself.) I assure you that everyone there will have a good time and on top of winning stuff and having fun you are also supporting a very important charity just by attending (and paying for the ticket), that being the Kitchener Waterloo Hospital Emergency Ward.

Wow, I didn't have much real to say, I hope you have found this week's rant as enjoyable as it was for me to write it. I suppose I should go read the required readings for my midterm tomorrow. (Yes I've only gone to one and a half classes, but I don't feel bad skipping because I only skip once per week. I love night classes.) Well I hope to see you all at movie night and Charity Ball. (I just thought of another reason to come: you can say "Hi Snuggles" multiple times at any event I run. Hmmmmm, multiple references to me make people come, hmmm.)

Stephen Snuggles Skrzydło  
Movie Guy, Social Director, CS Rep, Crystal MEF,  
Anything Snuggly

## Cynic's Corner

### *Sick of commercials*

I recall reading somewhere the expression, "expect everything and the unexpected never happens." Maybe so, but it seems practically impossible to prepare for everything. Like the gathering that goes on longer than you planned, the surprise question you get asked in a midterm, or the fever you get in the middle of the night after stores have closed. I'm personally wondering what gods I ticked off to get sick twice in one month after over a year of health. Take it from me, it's handy to have Tylenol on hand even if you're feeling fine, because the unexpected occurs more frequently than you might expect. Of course, it's also handy to have over 24 hours in a day, but that only happens during daylight savings time.

One thing that can happen when you're sick though is a bit of television introspection. When you're lying on your bed staring at the ceiling, some commercials take on different significance. For instance, the Guinness commercials include an ironic twist — if that's the reason we were given five senses, how come you don't know what they're advertising if you can't see the screen? I guess they didn't want to pay for an announcer. But then there are those companies that can't even afford new commercials. Does anyone else feel the urge to laugh when those Maple Leaf commercials come on for the "less fat"? It used to be "more than a 60% fat reduction and your kids won't eat it"! Then the guys down in research came up with less than 3% fat. Okay, so they cut and trim the old footage so that the dogs are now starving. I'm not buying it; remember folks, always wise to consider the future when you're plugging something. Of course, it's good to actually try and sell your product too... I think I have yet to see a jeans commercial that actually plugs jeans before the last 5 seconds of the ad. By the way, is it just me, or is the Lucky Charms gimmick to come out with a new marshmallow whenever sales get slow?

Commercials aren't the only source of selling occurring on television these days though. With all these new channels, stations seem to be getting desperate to plug themselves and all the shows they have on. It was brought to my attention recently that few show credits are left untouched now. Alarmingly true. It used to be just voiceovers, interrupting the music; now they're pulling the credits back into a half or quarter screen so that they can show you "scenes from the 'Fish from Mars' series coming up next that we know you're going to want to watch so please please don't change the channel!!" If I were someone who worked rather hard on the previous show, I would be a mite ticked off. Okay, so most people don't read the credits, but some do, and they now need a magnifying glass to pick out the names of their relatives. Stations are really eager to jump the gun too; I recall the last season of Reboot rolled a few fake credits at one point. Voiceover got cut off mid-sentence when the show actually returned. Oops. Well, I say it's time to give credit where credit is due!

Okay, so maybe I'm taking things a little far here, but we really seem to be losing part of the human element these days. And sometimes it doesn't hurt to stop, sit back and think for a bit (whether voluntarily or by illness). It's getting to the point where you really DO have to expect everything. One wonders whatever happened to the more down to earth television shows of old... like, oh, Square 1 for instance?

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

## mathNEWSquiz #4

### *Gunpowder, Treason and Plot*

Hello everyone! Well, I'm happy to say that Squiz submissions have picked up somewhat since last issue; thank you all (all four of you) for making me feel needed. For the curious, last week's answers were: **Lewis Carroll:** (i) Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, (ii) SATISFIABILITY, (iii) Around 4 p.m., (iv) A bunch of oysters, (v) Stuff 'em into a burlap sack and sit on them. (*Note: I screwed this one up, it should have been guinea pigs, not gerbils. Sorry.*) **Graphic Novels and Comics:** Guy Fawkes Day, November 5<sup>th</sup>, (ii) Angel, Beast, Iceman, Marvel Girl, Cyclops and Professor Xavier, (iii) Hal Jordan, (iv) He stole them from Gideon Resale, a pawn shop, (v) Two plays — *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*. **Popular Music:** (i) Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne, George Harrison, (ii) Bill Haley & the Comets, (iii) *Roadkill*, (iv) They played the recording backwards when they mixed it, (v) The Mamas and the Papas.

As I mentioned, I saw a vast improvement in Squiz submissions this week, with four entries, tripling the total number of entries this term! In no particular ascending order, they were the Super Furry Animals of SWO with 5 points, Lukas Kamps with 7.5, Greg "Hologrami" Taylor with 8, and the win going to an Australian correspondent, Malcolm McNeil, with 10.5 points. Congratulations, Malcolm! The traditional prize is a gift certificate to our Coffee & Doughnut shop; however, it seems fairly unlikely that you'll ever stop by to visit. Don't worry, we'll think of something.

I did get a comment from one of the submitters that they still thought the Squiz pretty hard. All right then, I'll see what I can do.

### *Water, Water Everywhere*

1. Four out of the five Great Lakes are contained at least partially in Canada. Which one is not?
2. How many men went down on the ship *Edmund Fitzgerald*?
3. What is the technical name for the white fluffy clouds that most people depict when they draw clouds?
4. What happens when you go swimming in the Dead Sea?
5. What makes coastal Norway so much warmer than Sweden?

### *Ancient History*

1. How long was Julius Caesar's campaign in Gaul?
2. Why is Lao-Tzu remembered today?
3. Who was the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity?
4. What did Hadrian's Wall protect against?
5. Socrates taught Plato, Plato taught Aristotle; who was Aristotle's most famous pupil?

### *More Song Lyrics*

#### *Name the song and artist*

1. "And I speak to you like the chorus to the verse  
Chop another line like a coda with a curse"
2. "Lying in a den in Bombay  
With a slack jaw, and not much to say  
I say to the man, `Are you trying to tempt me,  
Because I come from the land of plenty?" "
3. "'I know I've seen that face before,'  
Big Jim was thinking to himself  
`Maybe down in Mexico,

Continued on page 17



## The National Post-Mortem

*A mathNEWS exclusive on the newest paper*

On October 27, in the year of our lord, 1998, a man by the name of Conrad Black started the paper known as the *National Post*. This paper was to start off in one of Canada's hotly contested areas for newspapers. This area is known as Metropolitan Toronto (a.k.a. The Megacity). Obviously, the result of this paper entering the fray of journalism is what amounts to a very interesting week in terms of business. One such effect of the *Post* is the hostile takeover bid by TorStar to buy Suncorp.

It remains to be seen how Mr. Black's paper will do, especially in the fierce market that is Toronto. However, we (actually, I) at mathNEWS have obtained copies of the *Post* to review how this competitor stacks up to the *Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Sun*.

As a faithful reader of the *Toronto Star*, there was a fair amount of hesitation in picking up this young upstart. However, having already read the daily paper, it was curiosity that lured me into *National Post*. Looking at the first few pages of the *Post*, I knew that this was quite different from the *Globe and Mail* and the now defunct *Financial Post*.

So, what makes the *National Post* different from any other newspaper? Well, the differences commence immediately from page one. Here, you notice that there are no cute headers at the top. Instead, there is a very plain "National Post" in Times typeface. Also, one notices that some pieces have hand-drawn characters, a very novel ideal in the paper business. So already, the *Post* has made itself distinguishable from the field.

The paper is broken down into four neat sections. The first section is rather obvious even to someone who hasn't picked up a newspaper in their entire life; this is the news section. Here, this is the basic variety of Toronto (hey, this is Southern Ontario), National and International news. But unlike other papers, the top of the majority of the pages in this section contains small factoids or newsclips (one or two paragraphs about an event). Although this is nothing new to papers, presenting it at the top of a page is rather unique. Finally, there are the Comment pages found at the end of this section. Here, this section is laid out in a very unusual manner. The political cartoon that should be on the first page is found in an obscure corner of the second page, underneath the Letters to the Editor. Other than that, the Comment section is not unlike other newspapers.

### Continued from page 16

or a picture up on somebody's shelf.' "

4. "You heard of honest Socrates  
The man who never lied  
They weren't so grateful as you'd think  
Instead the rulers fixed to have him tried"
5. "Atmospherics after dark, noise and voices from the past  
Across the dial from Moscow to Cologne;  
Interference in the night, thousand miles on either side  
Stations fading into the unknown."

So I hope that you all find this Squiz to your liking. Submissions are due on **November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**; you can mail them to [mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca) or drop them by the MathSoc or mathNEWS office anytime before then. Good luck,

Squizmaster So-Krates

In its first week, the second section went by the name "Post II". "Post II"? One must say as one looks at this section, "Surely with all the talent and all this money they possess they can come up with a better name than 'Post II'!" Basically, this section deals with literary, aesthetic and athletic matters (yes, sport fans, this is the section you want if you are searching for that oh so precious Sports section). This is the section where the *Post* puts in the non-important crap, as opposed to spreading it around in three or four sections like a certain familiar competitor does. Sure, this may mean that certain things are not covered, but remember, this is not necessarily a bad thing.

Sections three and four are considered to be the sections that the *Financial Post* used to be. These two sections are called (not surprisingly) "Financial Post" and "FP Investing". These two are considered to be the paper's business section. And man, the *Financial Post* and *FP Investing* are very detailed. Of course, maybe this is because the *Post* wants to grab readers of the *Globe and Mail* as well as investors. Nonetheless, this is an impressive opus that the *National Post* has delivered to the threshold of the door. Never again will one wonder whether to dump that stock one has on the Nasdaq exchange, for now the *Post* reveals all.

On the weekend, the price doubles from its usual fifty cents. And what do we get for this? Well, the *Financial Post* and *FP Investing* are left intact. However, all the stuff normally reserved for "Post II" goes into the sections "Weekend Post" and "Weekend Post II". Paragraph six of this article best expresses this section. Still, they manage to reduce this section to a reasonable size, as opposed to the Saturday (*Encyclopedia*) *Star*. As well, the Sports gets coverage in the front section of the paper after the *World News* but before the Editorial Section. Finally, there is a Comment section that reviews the events of the week in this crazy and mixed-up world of ours and delivers previews of what will happen. Overall, the weekend paper is one of the better ones in the Toronto market because they do not bombard one with useless sections and tragic wastes of paper.

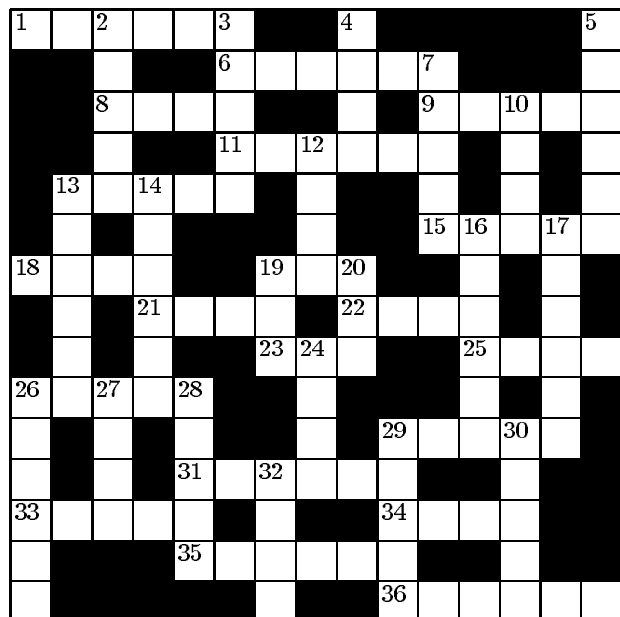
Finally, the Monday paper has a separate Sports section and a section known as "Arts & Life". To find out what the latter section has, refer once more to paragraph six of this article. Since there is no trading over the weekend, the *Financial Post* and *FP Investing* are merged into one section.

Overall, one finds that the *National Post* is a creature of an entirely different species as compared to the *Star*, *Sun* and *Globe and Mail*. Granted, this paper has been out for a little more than a week and to say that this paper will flourish or flounder is wholly unjustifiable. However, given how the paper looks and the quality, this paper would be a good supplement to any person who frequently reads the newspaper. Is it going to stop readers from going to their old, faithful paper? Unless the regular is the *Sun*, probably not, but it is nice that the *Post* is there to provide the public with another source of information. Special kudos should be given out to the *Financial Post* and *FP Investing*. Anyway, here is hoping that the *Post* reaches the pinnacle already reached by a great publication known as mathNEWS!

John "The Pseudo-Expert" Swan

*Paid for by the friends of the Pseudo-Expert and mathNEWS*

# GRIDWORD



## Grid Clues

### Across

1. Worthless person
6. Lacking blood
8. To separate coarse from fine
9. Proverb
11. Feline stimulant
13. Islamic deity
15. First hebrew letter
18. Prudish and formal
19. White ball
21. Arab chieftan
22. Action word
23. Lyric poem
25. Variety of quartz
26. Extent
29. Deviation from truth
31. Flammable jelly
33. Pungent or irritating
34. Composition
35. Outcome
36. Removes markings

### Down

2. Artist's stand
3. Diagonal lines
4. Sign of things to come
5. Sword holder
7. *It's A Wonderful Life* director
10. Rear end (sl.)
12. Ballerina's skirt
13. Obtained through deduction (2 wds.)
14. Expression of grief
16. British government party
17. Supplication of the supernatural

## gridCOMMENTS

*Now with 18% more words!*

Well, five submissions for last week's grid, and mostly correct, too. I guess I made it too easy. We'll see how you do on this week's edition.

We got submissions from Ian "The Word Guy" Facey; Chris Guerra and David Swart; "Those of us who spend too much time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor outside the comfy."; Charles Ng, Melanie Barker, Robin Carswell, and Amy Morris; and James Muir. All were correct except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dwellers and Charles, Melanie, Robin and Amy, who were each one square off. By random selection, the winner is James Muir. You can pick up your prize in the MathSoc office (and this time I mean it).

For those of you who successfully complete this week's grid, we'd love to hear from you. Drop your completed submissions off in the MathSoc or *mathNEWS* office, or send them by e-mail to [mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca). The deadline for submissions is 6:00 pm, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ian had a cone to pick with me regarding last issue's clue for 24 down. As he says, "the cone contains the seeds — it isn't the seed itself." I stand corrected. My cone-dolences to anyone who was cone-fused.

Richard "Out of Cone-trol" Bilson

## Solution to *gridWORD* #3

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

19. One who supervises an election (abbr.)
20. The day before
24. Russian parliament
26. To move in circles
27. Animal shout
28. One who worships Vishnu and Shiva
29. To display exaggerated feeling
30. Desert refuge
32. High-class