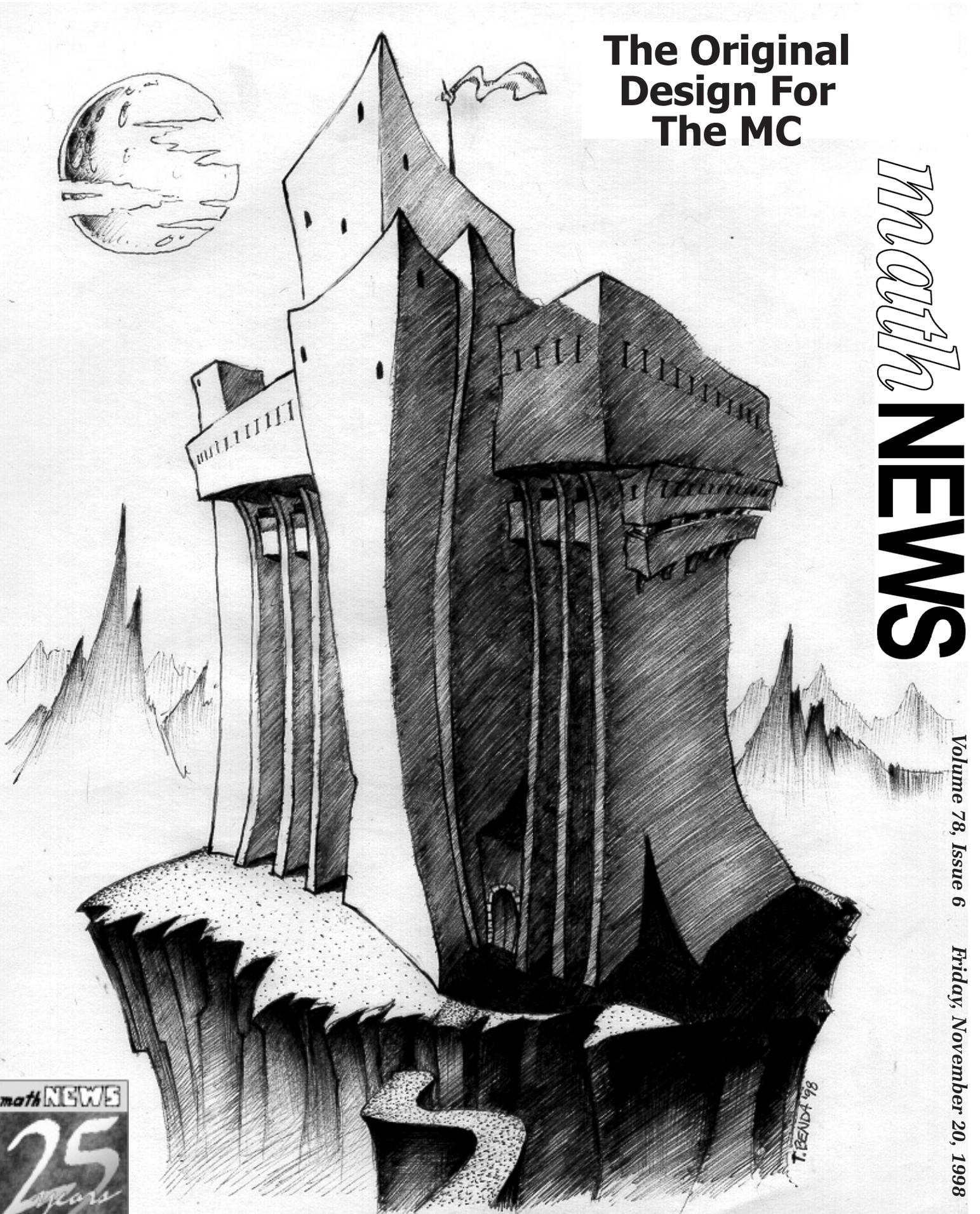


The Original
Design For
The MC

math NEWS

Volume 78, Issue 6

Friday, November 20, 1998



T. BENDT '88

math NEWS
25
years
math NEWS

My office kicks everyone else's office's butt

If you wanna be like me (who wouldn't) and have a big beautiful office on campus that you can bug MathSoc Exec about (whenever they manage to squeeze 'emselves out of the wussy closetspace headquarters they share with lotsa other people), then the Math Endowment Fund Directorship is for YOU.

This is a limited time offer, 'cuz the nomination periods for W99 and S99 MEF Director are only open from now until November 27th at 4pm. The requisite form you have to fill out is available at the MEF office door (MC4046).

Call me if you have any questions at x5757. Oh yeah, and make sure you take on the directorship for the right reasons and all that.

Sarah Kamal
F98 Gal with a non-wussy office

Short Attent—whoa, look at that Imp'tint cover!

Dear *mathNEWS* readers,

The Pure Math, Applied Math, Combinatorics and Optimization Club is hosting Short Attention Span Math Seminars, a series of student run talks. On the 24th, 25th and 26th of November, we will be having undergraduates speak on various (mathematics related) topics for 15-30 minutes each, sometime between 2:30 and 5:30 (as scheduling permits). Be sure to come on out and hear these talks. It will be a lot of fun, there will be refreshments (FREE FOOD!) and some entertaining mathematics.

If you are interested in giving a talk (even if you are not a math student), please drop by the PMC office and let us know, or send an email to pmclub@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca. Good talk subjects include "funky math stuff I did during my work term" and "funky math I read about in a book and can present". We are looking for subject matter that is not covered in course material unless it is presented with a different spin (e.g. MATH 135 as applied to something is a great topic. Repeating MATH 135 is not.)

Speakers will receive a gift of some kind (as of yet undetermined). It also gives good experience speaking in public, giving expository talks, being adulated by millions, etc...

Rooms will be announced on posters and in `uw.general`, `uw.pmc` as soon as we are able to book them.

See you during the Short Attention Span Math Seminars!

Sam

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mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid@mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

Knock, knock, knocking on Brian's door: Matt Walsh, Richard Bilson, Chadwick Severn

Prez Sez

It's Election Time

Well, I'm sure you've noticed the elections posters by now. There are four different races occurring; three for Spring 1999 Executive positions, and once for the Math Senate seat. The candidates are as follows:

President	Jennifer Cote Bruce Lee-Shanok
Vice-President, Academic	Chris Brawn Yung-Shun Vincent Tseng
Vice-President, Activities and Services	Diana Price Natalie Thompson
Senate	Chris Buchanan Andrew Drummond Daniel Mader

As well, I'd like to congratulate Jeremy Witmer on becoming the Vice-President, Finances for the Spring 1999 term. Good luck to all the candidates.

Annual General Meeting

Do you have input on MathSoc? Do you have something to say? Are you interested in how your money is being spent? Then come out to the MathSoc Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24th at 16:30 in the Comfy Lounge.

Department Chair Nominating Committees

Senate Monday approved a change to Policy 40 which now guarantees that a student will always get to sit on the selection committees for Department Chairs. This student will also have the option of voting, if the Dean so decides. I think this is a great forward step in the struggle to increase student representation on University committees, and I'd like to thank both Christian Provenzano (President of the FEDS), and Shannon Bernstein (the ES Senator) for their efforts in this matter.

Charity Ball

Although you're going to see this mentioned several times throughout this issue, I nonetheless feel the need to once again thank all the organisers of the Charity Ball. Through their hard work and effort, we managed to raise slightly over \$2800 dollars for the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital's Emergency Ward. It was an extremely enjoyable night, and I hope to see this event again next year.

Executive Nominations for Winter/Fall 1999

Finally, Executive nominations for the Winter and Fall 1999 terms will be open next Monday, November 23rd through Friday, December 4th.

Chris "Come to the AGM, God damn it!" Buchanan

K-W Little Theatre and More Notes Productions present



One Bad Apple

A new musical comedy about a really old story.

Nov 19-22 and Nov 26-29
8pm (Sunday 2pm)
9 Princess St. East
886-0660

Tickets \$12 (\$10 Members)

Directed by Jamey Rosen
Music by Deborah Wicks La Fuma
Book & Lyrics by Christopher Wicks La Fuma
and Raphael Zeno Beck

This is NOT a ticket!



A Student Chapter of the ACM

CSC Flash

Greetings again. Well, the weekend of the 14th was a very auspicious time for the CSC. Many of my most trusted and baby-faced minions aided with the running of the ACM East Central Regional Programming Contest, as judges, proctors or lowly shepherds.

One such person was the CSC's Official Deity for the Fall'98 term, Ian Goldberg, who left this message: "Your gracious and benelovent[sic] deity says, 'Hi!'". I personally made use of this visit to conduct a Loyalty Test on the deity, with result pending. I hope we won't have to wait long to hear from this valued minion once more, but I won't lose any sleep over it, either.

The contest itself went well for the University of Waterloo, with both teams from Waterloo placing in the top five of ninety-three participating teams. Despite many lead changes, the final finish order can be found in the table at left.

The top three teams, including Waterloo A (Viet-Trung Luu, David Kennedy and Ondrej Lhotak) will advance to the finals in Eindhoven, Netherlands to be held next April. Congratulations!

*Wednesday, 25th November,
16h30*

DC1302

Professor Zima from the Symbolic Computation Group will be giving a terribly interesting talk about something. See upcoming posters for details.

As usual, keep your eyes peeled for posters announcing many other interesting talks that the CSC has planned.

Calum T. Dalek
CSC Chairbeing

userid	Team Name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Total									
acm058 6	Waterloo A 952	179	266	155	273			32	47
acm036 6	CMU Tartans A 992	168	337	119		274		10	84
acm013 5	Toronto 1 797		230	165			285	28	89
acm044 5	Case Western A 886		272	219		207		62	126
acm017 4	Waterloo B 370			58		249		22	41
acm025 4	McGill Poutines 421			148	168			53	52
acm029 4	CMU Tartans B 728		334	107				22	265
acm071 3	Toronto A 185			71				18	96
acm059 3	Case Western B 271			165				27	79
acm018 3	Prussian Programmers 293			186				20	87
acm077 3	Wolverines-A 295			117				86	92
acm015 3	Wolverines-B 388			271				47	70
acm081 3	DePauw University 439			290				39	110
acm074 3	UD FLYERS 449			340				20	89
acm068 3	McGill Trilogians 458			155				25	278
acm001 3	Rose-Hulman #2 489			134				58	297
acm065 3	The Analog Doctors 518			101				67	350
acm084 3	The Phish 555			358				31	166
acm072 3	LTU-SP 573			185				10	278
acm076 3	Best We Can Do 670			258				90	322
acm041 3	UPJ A 735			239				45	351
acm053 3	Miami Redhawks (A) 742			382				47	313
acm087 3	MSU Spartans 785			352				99	134
acm047 2	Irish Blue 179			142				37	
acm056 2	bearcats 209							10	99
acm028 2	Irish Gold 243							85	158
acm089 2	Baldwin-Wallace 268			183				85	
acm092 2	Segmentation Fault 345			295				50	
acm075 2	Ohio State Buckeyes 346							36	310
acm055 2	Miami Redhawks (B) 358							75	283
acm054 2	OWU 360			287				73	
acm037 2	Denison1 363			280				83	
acm086 2	The Touring Machine 368			309				59	
acm050 2	Ada Compilers 381			316				65	
acm040 2	SHIFT U 389			285				04	
acm007 2	Computing Falcons 408							52	356
acm051	BGSU Falcons			236				13	

MathSoc Election Supplement

What the Candidates Have to Say

Bruce Lee-Shanok for President

Have Vision, Will Travel

Welcome to the Revolution. Planning, innovation, cooperation, openness, participation, fun. This is what the MathSoc of the future will live by. Just six silly little words. And they will prevent three hour long council meetings over absolutely nothing, they will generate new ideas that you have never seen before. They already have.

We believe in this. Myself, Natalie Thompson, Chris Brawn and Jeremy Witmer all filled out our nomination forms with these concepts and their derived ideas in mind. It's been suggested by far too many people that "MathSoc never changes". That all the exec can do is keep the boat running. We're here to prove them wrong. MathSoc isn't about Math, or a book, but about people. That's all it is. And by remembering that and sticking to six silly words we're going to change the way people think about MathSoc.

And don't think for a second that I'm some airy-fairy idiot who just wandered into his good idea of the week. I'm your current VP Academic. I've been cynical since birth. I make Greg Taylor

and Paul Ehrlich look like Mary Poppins. I joke about switching to Arts before every midterm. There are times when I bet against the existence of gravity. So you should vote for us because we believe in this. We're running for one reason, because we believe in this, and we believe you do too. But we're not just about concepts, we're about ideas. Live bands, the comfy, online exam banks, and that's just the beginning. Chris and Natalie have more information on our plans so I recommend you read those for a clearer idea as to what the hell it is I'm talking about.

We're a bit limited on space here because of a rather odd *mathNEWS* rule so I have to end this here. If you want more information check out our webpage which should be up by Thursday evening at the very latest (it will be accessible from www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), or you can stop us in the hallways to talk (you've seen our pictures) or e-mail me at bcleesha@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca. Check out our big neon posters anywhere.

Jennifer Côté for President

Hello everyone! My name is Jennifer Cote and I am running to be the president of your society. I know, you're thinking... Is MathSoc really having an election?? Well the answer is yes. This is just one example of how the changes over the past year have served to increase interest in the society. The election for president is one between two people who have held VP positions within the past year.

The position of president is one that requires interpersonal skills and knowledge of the existing infrastructure. The president is a position that requires leadership and experience. If you are wondering what experience I will bring to the position, I will strive to explain with a few examples. I have spent the past year as VP-Activities & Services and in that time have been both interim VP-Academic and VP-Finance. I have represented math students on faculty council, undergraduate affairs, Federation Orientation committee, at 1B-info nights, and at student life 101. While representing the society, I have dealt with controversial issues such as the removal of calculus from the core and the restructuring of CS. During the past year, I have succeeded in ~~making many changes. I helped create the VPA and the movie~~

night director positions, reformed outdated policies, included more social events, and improved volunteer involvement. I have also created new ties with the community through the charity ball and the charity dunk tank events. I am currently working on a few projects including getting the OR degree accredited with CORS.

My goals are actually very simple. I would like to continue to design the computing infrastructure required to implement the graduate studies information bank and online exam bank to have it available at the start of the summer term. I would like to investigate the cost of blinds for the lounge to give a new look and so that movies will be able to be shown. Most importantly, I want to get more involved with people outside of the faculty such as joining community baseball tournaments, increasing Canada day involvement and having joint events with AHS or Arts. I believe that with my ideas, experience, and leadership ability that I will be able to represent all math students and be able to help prepare us for the 21st century.

Vincent Tseng for VPA

Hello, math boys and girls. My name is VINCENT, I am a candidate for your VP Academic. So I know now you must be thinking that I am going to say "Please vote for me because I will do ... blah blah ... for you and ...blah blah..." No! What I have rather is a list of TEN THINGS THAT I WON'T DO if I become your VPA.

1. WON'T do your Calc assignments, because I can't do good integration.
2. WON'T kick out the '99 frosh crowd although the large number of them will jam the labs.
3. WON'T intimidate your AM prof to let you pass if you don't show up for final.
4. WON'T get you a co-op job. If you want to help me out, good, but you WON'T get paid.
5. WON'T add your name to Dean's List to let you show off

regardless of what your average is like.

6. WON'T reduce the required math courses from 26 to 6, it's beyond my control anyway.
7. WON'T tutor your teenage sister for free, unless she is (or you are) good looking.
8. WON'T build a MCII for you, it's up to the Dean and some other guys.
9. WON'T give you the B.Math if you feel like quitting school right now.
10. And, WON'T freeze the tuition for ten years, because I simply can't.

But you know, come on, I am just a normal mathie and I can't take you to the Land of Promise. However, I shall try to help you get a better life (academic-wise) as a mathie. See you all in MC/DC.

Chris Brawn for VPA

Hey Kids,

Fall is once again coming to a close and bringing with it next summer's Mathsoc Executive position elections. While some of you might be staring in disbelief, gasping a barely audible "elections... in MathSoc?", most of you are pleasantly unperturbed. Elections, for those of you whose political exposure has been strictly confined to the university level, is the democratic application of the power of choice. For the first time in a number of years, there are numerous candidates for 3 of the executive positions. This means you all (y'all) have the chance to select your representatives.

This is the first term in which an election is being held for Vice-President Academic. For the first time you can choose who represents your academic interests to the faculty. We have the chance to better define the rights and privileges that you have as a student in the Math Faculty. We can give you the right answers, and help make asking questions about profs, classes, grades, exams, and your programs easier. Many of you may say

"Chris, your words sound so inspirational, but how can you possibly keep the man from getting us down?"

- I will increase student involvement through making the class rep position more visible. (Did you know you have a class rep?)
- I will make you more aware of your academic options through regular postings, catering to first years, specific programs, and important decisions you will have to make.
- I will use the technology we have to make old exams more accessible.
- I will do the robot at important gatherings.
- I will further mathsoc's relationship with it's clubs to get you more sources of guidance and knowledge than ever thought possible.

Remember, the VPA's responsibility is to protect student's academic interests. Your academic career is the reason that you're here. You deserve good representation.

Thank You.

*Diana Price for VPAS***Make the Right Choice!**

While reading this article, you are likely wondering why you should care about who is Vice-President, Activities and Services (VPAS) of the Math Society. The VPAS has many responsibilities you should take an interest in.



The MathSoc office is an important resource. I will continue the improvements on your computers. I will also try to get new photocopiers so you can have cleaner copies.

In the summer, social events are an important aspect of the VPAS position. In the past, many students in the faculty have been unenthusiastic about social events the Society has organised. No one wants to be stuck in their room studying when the sun is shining bright outside. So, I will use your event ideas to get more of you to come out and have fun!

The VPAS can also organise community events. More events that take Math Students into the community, would give our Faculty and our University a welcome place in Waterloo, now and in the future.

In order to get you involved I need your opinions, your ideas. If I am elected VPAS, I will take those ideas and put as many of them as possible into motion. I am only one person, one opinion; it is your opinions that really matter. I will not make any promises that I can not keep. I can not promise that, during my short four months as VPAS, I can change everything about the Math Society. I can, however, promise that I will work, to the best of my ability, to represent YOU, the students of the Math Faculty.

*Natalie Thompson for VPAS***Welcome to the revolution**

Allow me to introduce myself:



Name: Natalie J. Thompson *aka Cat Woman*

Ideal Position: Vice President of Activities and Services *aka VPAS*

Let me make this your best summer yet in the Math Department here at Waterloo. For summer of '99 we have lined up a Battle of the Bands, trips to Wonderland, trips to SportsWorld, trips to Stratford or Toronto for plays and theater, trip to see the Jays. And I'll make damn sure that we make a lot of noise on Canada Day! And then just think of all the nights we'll have together; pub nights, movie nights...

That hasn't even touched on all of the services I will be able to

provide as VPAS in the summer. I will ensure that the MathSoc office continues to provide all the services that the Mathies have grown to expect.

My experience (though a girl really ought not tell) is as follows:

- Math Athletics Director for Winter 98 and Fall 98
- Referee in Chief for Volleyball for Fall 98
- Frosh Leader for Fall 97
- Active Member of Newbridge NUTS social group Fall 97 and Summer 98
- Math Endowment Fund - Operations Research representative Fall 98

The VPAS should be someone with eclectic interests so that she can cater to our diverse group. My involvement beyond academics will allow me to organize more interesting events...

MathSoc elections for the Spring 1999 executive officers will be held on the 25th and 26th of November.

Polling stations will be in the main hallway on the 3rd floor of the MC building, and at St. Jerome's

University. Come on out & let your voice be heard!

profQUOTES

- "I can even do this before the cookie break!... I have visions of reading this in *mathNEWS*."
Best, C&O 227
- "Oh, you're mocking me?!?... come on, we haven't even had cookie break yet."
Best, C&O 227
- "That sounded so good, maybe I should write it down..."
Best, C&O 227
- "What we need is a calculus intermission show"
Best, MATH 138
- "You might get to heaven, but you'll be illiterate when you get there."
Cardey, PSYCH 212
- "Contrary to popular belief, [Real Time] is not more work than the compiler course, just because, well, I don't know, just because I made the compiler course just as hard as the trains course."
Cormack, 4th year CS info night
- [Student hands prof picture of a naked man and woman (Imp'tint cover)] "I'm too old for this. It's not that I don't think about it, it's just that I can't do anything about it anymore."
Crippen, MATH 135
- "I'd like you all to go home and BOTHER SOMEONE ELSE"
Crippen, MATH 135
- [on the eve of the midterm] "Don't panic... it's too late to panic."
Davidson, MATH 147
- "...equals $f(x_n)$ over f primed of some mystical point 'e'"
Davidson, MATH 147
- "It's not really right, but it generally works."
Davidson, MATH 147
- "I need a victim..."
Davidson, MATH 147
- "In fact, it couldn't be quite that worse."
Davidson, MATH 147
- "No matter how small 'a` is, it's not really, *really* small, 'cause really, *really* small is much smaller than that"
Davidson, MATH 147
- "You have to be working in the right universe for this theorem to be true."
Davidson, MATH 147
- "You only have to start doing it when you get close."
Davidson, MATH 147
- "I've never taught fantasy before, [pause] certainly lived it, never taught it."
Fogel, ENGL 208B
- "You give me enough time, and I can draw like crazy."
Forrest, MATH 247
- "Does anyone know the formula for a triangle?"
[silence]
"No wonder you guys didn't understand the last theorem!"
Forrest, AM/PMATH 331
- "Does anyone understand this?"
[silence]
"Geez, I'm hot today."
Forrest, AM/PMATH 331
- "I don't want to get into political issues but I'm going to anyway."
Forrest, MATH 247
- "I'm a pure mathematician, so what I think is useful may not be what you think is useful."
Forrest, AM/PMATH 331
- "I claim that we've already proved this theorem. Actually, we've already proved *all* theorems, because logical equivalence works like that."
Geelen, C&O 450
- "If you were taking this course with Bill Cunningham instead of me you would have seen the proof already. Bill loves this proof... I don't."
Geelen, C&O 450
- "Now we're going to draw these little pictures which, when I was a student, I didn't find helpful at all, but now that I'm a professor, I think they're great..."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "Since we have a midterm tonight, I know that the probability of you actually listening to what I have to say is very low."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "So the world is not perfect. But at least for polynomials it is."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "There's a lot of infinities out there...and they're very big."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "This one is not so hard, so I can probably do it..."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "We now have a new toy to play with..."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "x is a thing, not a number - think of it as an apple or something."
Haxell, MATH 145
- "You can do all these manipulations...without really knowing what you're doing"
Haxell, MATH 145
- [studying the chalkboard] "I can't believe I wrote so much."
Hewitt, MATH 237
- [At the end of class] "Ok, we will leave the rest of the proof to next day, because we have 2 more blackboards to go."
Hewitt, MATH 135J
- "...this is a totally meaningless exercise..."

profQUOTES

- Hewitt, MATH 237
 “We don’t bother writing the negative sign, because they are expensive!”
 Hewitt, MATH 135J
- “When I was a grad student I took six courses on PDE’s I still can’t solve them... I can tell you if they’re hard or really hard.”
 Hewitt, MATH 237
 [After student wakes up in class] “Good thing you woke up because we were just discussing how we should turn the lights off and let you sleep until calculus tomorrow morning.”
 Laurence, MTHEL 100
- “Going through a proof by induction on the length of the strings is just sort of the icing on the cake, but it’s not going to fill your stomach.”
 Lubiw, CS 360
- “[Your algorithm] *happens* to guess the right answer. You’re not going to implement those.”
 Nakamura, CS 466
- “... I’m going to guess a proof to this theorem: It’s right! This bothers a lot of people.”
 Nakamura, CS 466
- “We aim to displease”
 Nakamura, CS 466
- “We know the children of the root are the roots of smaller cheeseburgers.”
 Nakamura, CS 466
- “If you go through the floor and you’re still going down you ain’t gonna get to the floor no more.”
 Zorzitto, PMATH 351
- “I don’t envision in R^d very well, I don’t think many people do...”
 Richmond, MATH 235
- “I don’t know what the hell is going on here”
 Vasiga, CS 241
- “There are negative numbers. And that’s the collective I.Q. of the core provincial parties”
 Vasiga, CS 241
- “There’s only a few interesting things in the course. Don’t take them away from me”
 Vasiga, CS 241
- “And this agrees with the previous calculation... What previous calculation — I never did this example!”
 Wagner, C&O 330
- “I could solve this problem for you, but we have better things to do in the next four weeks.”
 Wagner, C&O 330
- “This is something new, so forget calculus... That might be easy.”
- Wagner, C&O 330
 “We are not able to solve the problem with the techniques at hand, so I’ll change the problem.”
 Wagner, C&O 330
- “I could pretend I’ve derived something...”
 Wainwright, AM 231
- “It’s calculus. If you don’t differentiate, you’re sure as hell going to integrate.”
 Wainwright, AM 231
- “So I strolled over to the Pure Math Department and found a Pure Math type and popped the question. He looked a bit uneasy.”
 Wainwright, AM 231
- “Function of the atom — constituent of matter. Function of the solar system [pause] Leave it blank.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- [regarding information on the Internet] “Half of what’s out there is false... I’m an optimist — my Internet is half-full”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “Here’s a study by Finke... You know he got beat up a lot in grade school with a name like Finke.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “He says ‘Your money or your life’ and I say ‘Yes’, which results in momentary confusion followed by a gun discharge.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “I can tell you he is a featherless biped without inspecting him closely.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “Like trying to run Win95 in only 8 MB of RAM — you can’t multitask... Bill Gates is laughing somewhere...”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “No little people talking to you from inside the saltshaker telling you to kill people... Not to imply this person I talked to was mad as a hatter, just stupid.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “...pre-pubescent girls seem to be really good at remembering stuff like this... So if you’re not a pre-pubescent girl, sorry.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “Pretend I’m an idiot — this may or may not be a problem for you.”
 Wallis, PSYCH 256
- “Any questions?... or just laughter. Thanks so much.”
 Willard, PMATH 442
- “By now you’ve probably all analyzed Quicksort to death.”
 Nishimura, 4th year CS info night

The Trip to Santa Rosa

Hi, everyone.

My brother's back from Nicaragua, and brings first-hand news of the the community I spoke about a few weeks ago. The situation has stabilized in Santa Rosa and people are gradually pulling their lives back together in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

I'll be setting donation boxes in the Math C&D for the Red Cross and there are organizations on campus collecting health supplies and clothing for the relief effort for those of you who want to contribute to communities hit by the hurricane.

An excerpt of the report he sent me follows.

Thanks,

Sarah Kamal

Santa Rosa's mayor told us that there was no need to panic. The situation in Santa Rosa was stable. There had been another death, but the rain had stopped and the river had dropped significantly. People from the outlying comarcas were starting to trickle in and weren't reporting any fatalities.

Food was a definite problem though. All the stores in Santa Rosa were out of food, and there were many hungry refugees to feed. And while there hadn't been any great outbreaks of disease, the medicine supply in the health centre would be inadequate to deal with one, if it were to occur.

The mayor also told us that the military was busy installing temporary bridges on the highway. He thought that with some luck, a four-wheel-drive vehicle might be able to make it to Santa Rosa.

This was very good news. Ana Maria and I had been feeling frustrated, watching and listening to the news, knowing that we wouldn't be able to reach our friends in Santa Rosa. Now that there was a chance of getting there, we jumped at the opportunity.

The Juan XXIII institute donated some provisions to Ana Maria, and she bought what they couldn't offer. Due to the hurricane, the price of food had doubled, and we were unable to find any beans — a major part of the Nicaraguan diet and an important source of protein. We loaded up a 4WD pickup truck with the provisions and two extra tanks of gas, and headed towards Leon.

The route from Leon to Santa Rosa was not yet being repaired and there were many bridges damaged. We had to take several long off-road detours and got stuck a few times, but we still arrived in Santa Rosa late at night the same day.

The reports of the damaged bridge turned out to be true. There was no access to Santa Rosa by vehicle. The best that we could do was to leave our vehicles on one side of the river, and wade through the waist-high river, which was now much wider than before.

The next morning, we went back across the river, and with the help of some strong Santa Rosans, brought all the supplies across. The supplies (food, medicine, blankets, chlorine, etc) were distributed to the medical centre, the comedor, the emergency committee, and the comarca of Talolinga.

The Santa Rosan emergency committee had been formed soon after it became apparent that the situation warranted an organized response. They had done a good job as far as we could tell. They were distributing what food was available to those who needed it and were taking care of the refugees from the comarcas. They also seemed to have taken stock of their situation well, and had a fairly good idea of their needs and priorities.

To summarise what little we saw in our short stay:

- All the crops in the area had been destroyed and food was scarce. The stores were out of food and hunger would soon be a major problem in Santa Rosa. The emergency committee had been expecting a helicopter to bring them some food, but so far it had not arrived.

- The main bridge was destroyed. Apparently it started breaking up the night that I left.
- Two minor bridges that had recently been built were also destroyed.
- Houses were destroyed (mostly on the banks of the river and stream).
- Houses were damaged. Many houses were flooded with water and were therefore full of mud. I was told the house where I had been living was flooded up to neck height. Other houses suffered actual structural damage due to the water. For instance, the house where Maria (administrator of the comedor project) lives lost two walls (made of clay).
- Several comarcas had been evacuated because of instability and the danger of mudslides. The hills on which one of the comarcas is located was reported to be splitting.
- In terms of the projects on which I worked, there didn't seem to be very much damage. The last surviving crops in the comedor garden were destroyed, of course.
- Disease had not become a major problem yet. Other places, including Leon, had been having problems. At the time we visited, Santa Rosa wasn't suffering any epidemics. The emergency committee had organised a health campaign where a team of students and volunteers walked through the streets educating people on how to help prevent one.
- There was no panic. Some people were stunned, but most seemed to be dealing well with the situation. Many enjoyed telling the stories of their ordeals. Some had been forced to leave their houses and spent three sleepless nights out in the open on some high ground, waiting for the rain to stop.

Early in the afternoon, after leaving the supplies in appropriate hands, we left Santa Rosa. We had been the first people to arrive in Santa Rosa from the outside world. Our arrival probably was a big relief to the Santa Rosans: while the provisions we took wouldn't last very long, that we had been able to take some there meant that soon larger trucks with more supplies would be able to arrive.

The trip back was much easier. We knew the routes now, and the weather had been sunny and dried up some of the mud. The military had also finished building the temporary bridges in the Managua-Leon highway. The trip from Santa Rosa to Managua took less than half the time of the trip from Managua to Santa Rosa.

The areas that I saw are at the edge of the heavily affected areas. A friend of Ana Maria had tried to get to Sebaco, a town about an hour east of Santa Rosa, and had been unable to. He reported that the highway was completely impassable and that the devastation was much worse than what we had seen on television.

I should also point out that it seems that all the damage I saw was caused exclusively by water. We were far enough from the center of the storm that there was no wind damage. I imagine that areas closer to the hurricane suffered far more damage.

I'm extremely grateful to Ana Maria for giving me the chance to go back to Santa Rosa before coming back to Canada. I would've been a mental wreck if I had had to leave without seeing that my friends were alive and well.

It's been encouraging to come back to Canada and find that hurricane Mitch was prominent in the news. It was also pleasing to see the governments of our countries extending aid to the affected countries.

Thanks for listening.

ActSci Club News and Stuff

SOA exams are done now; I just know everyone wishes they could have wasted as much money writing them as I did. Since you probably didn't, I will assume everyone has had a great two weeks since our last, rather useless article. I promise that this one has loads of valuable information.

Coming up in a few days after you read this, Towers Perrin is having an information session on Tuesday, November 24th, 7-9 pm for all actuarial students at Ground Zero. Actuaries from Towers Perrin will be talking to students about possible career options there and other topics but anyone can benefit from stopping by. If you are interested, please RSVP to the ActSci Club and there is a casual dress code in effect for the evening.

There is now more information about the ASNA convention available. Tickets will be \$60 if purchased before December 9th, 1998 and \$65 after but tickets must be bought before December 23rd for this January 8th convention. Hotel rooms can be booked for \$76 for 4 people at the hotel Loews le Concorde. Also, bus costs should be about \$30 per person but it depends on how many people are planning on going. The ActSci Club has the convention itinerary, so to check it out or to get tickets or to get some questions answered about the ANSA convention, stop on by. First year students (and anyone who hasn't chosen a math major) might be interested in visiting the convention to see if Actuarial Science appeals to them.

Now that was some valuable stuff. Aren't you glad you spent your time reading it all (and for those who skipped the first three paragraphs and just read this, well, I just find that extremely strange, just beware the Leprechaun, you strange people). Okay, that is it.

Paul Irwin
Publicity Director, ActSci Club

*mast*HEAD

Life During Wartime

How do you follow-up an issue like that Square One one? Beats us.

I hope you enjoyed our little burst of creativity. That section took a lot of work, so we're just kicking back this issue. As of this writing, we've received five columns of *prof*QUOTES. We may pare that down a little before you get to see it.

Good news department: The BLACK BOX has returned to its rightful place on the 3rd floor wall, opposite the comfy lounge. No longer will you have to wander the halls aimlessly, desperately seeking a *mathNEWS* editor to give your *prof*QUOTES to.

Tonight, we were really stumped for a *mast*HEAD question, so we each randomly chose a word, and put them together to make the question. Will it be funny? Probably not. But here goes, anyway. The bunch of people who helped out tonight along with their answer to the question *What celebrity iterates ambiguous chewing gum?* were Gigi Garbett (Why did she have to do this to me?), John Swan (Que'el?), Michael Thorsley (For how many jube-jubes?), and Greg Taylor (Blue princess under the moonlight).

Thanks to that pizza place we got food from, and Marion at Graphic Services... we're now submitting *mathNEWS* electronically!

Richard Bilson (Frank Stallone)
Matt Walsh (Jim Carrey)
Chadwick Severn (The ambiguous kind)

Cynic's Corner

If you dislike this bit, bite me

It's normally at this point that I rant to anyone who's willing to read, talking about the state of the world in general and how it relates to my life of the last two weeks. Well, the last two weeks of my life were surprisingly placid. Things happened, but nothing leaps out at me as being the hot topic of the fortnight. (There's a word one doesn't get to use too often.) However, what with the ACM programming contest that went on last weekend, how about pondering computer usage for a moment?

Were you chagrined by the terminal cutback? If not, was it because you could just use your home computer? How often do you check your email? How many email accounts do you have? (Asking how many hours you spend on the computer is redundant, CS assignments probably skew the average.) But in general, do you find yourself talking to people online more than you do in person? (No, only me, huh? Well, I have excuses.) So then what about peripheral computer usage? Do you own an inordinate number of disks? Do you have a homepage? Have you purchased extra computer quota from the CSC? (Did it get stored funny when the terms changed? Apparently I'm a unique case in terms of my inability to actually edit files now.) Anyway, without getting into the stereotypical advantages and disadvantages of computing, let's analyze how good a computer is for a person in general.

First of all, if you're on the computer, you're probably not getting much exercise (unless you're powering it with one of those stationary bicycles). And while you're in the labs here at the University, you're not eating or drinking, which has both it's up and downs. (Again, is it just me who can go for, say, 20 hours without eating and not notice?) And depending on your posture you might be messing up your wrists and back and who knows what else. (RSI is not a fun thing.) This all strikes me as not being physically sound in general. Then there's all the angst we may get waiting for a particular email, waiting for that slow web page to load or waiting for the next version of Ixnay to come out, so I'm not sure about mental health either. (Mostly because I'm not a psychologist.)

So what's on the upside? Well, when you're on the computer you don't have to go outside into all that annoying sunshine. (And I'm not sure if I'm being sarcastic here because of the rain we've been getting, because of the temperature in general, or because some stereotypical cynics aren't supposed to like sunshine.) But then again, computers ARE a terribly useful way to get information. This ranges from finding data for your next research project, to reading *mathNEWS* on the web, to finding images like the one on last week's Imprint. (Not that I'm criticizing it, it just sort of floored me momentarily.) It's also neat to be able to talk to people out there who you wouldn't normally have met, or to keep in touch with people who are far away. But just how personal can you really be via a keyboard? And again, how much computer use is too much?

Well, I don't have any answers. (Do I ever? I'm more trying to make the rest of you think, or that's what I tell myself.) I will say that I probably spend too much time on my computer. (Even though part of that job related.) And it might be interesting to note that this is the second time I've called the human element into question in a column. So what does that mean? Well, maybe Y2K is actually good in that it will pull people away from the computer and make them more vocal. Even if those utterances are mostly cries of pain and horror.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

Charity Ball

This past Thursday, the Mathematics Society hosted a Charity Ball to support the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital Emergency Ward. Over 100 people came for our event, held at Federation Hall. The Ball was a total success, raising over \$2800. I would like to thank Poesy, Snuggles, Daryl, Carrie, Stu, and Dean who helped make the evening possible. These people were responsible for obtaining the enormous support we received from our many sponsors. The organizing committee did everything from setup to cleanup.

The atmosphere of the evening was realized right away by the wonderful centre-pieces and decorations. A huge hit of the evening was the dance lessons from Arthur Murray Dance Studio, who taught almost everyone in attendance the Foxtrot and Jive. We also had both a silent and a live auction of 11 items ranging in value from \$40 to \$2000 (special thanks to our Snuggly auctioneer). We were also able to give away over 40 door prizes throughout the night. Another popular aspect of the event was the surprise of bubble mix hidden in the centre-pieces.

The night was an absolute hit, everyone who came had a blast, and we had many requests for a repeat of the event. The best I can say is that I will help plan and organize any future Charity Balls and hope that this will become an annual event. So keep your ears and eyes open and don't miss out on the fun to come.

The following is a list of the many sponsors I would like to thank for their encouraging support:

- Andersen Consulting
- Arthur Murray Dance Centre
- BJ's Hairstyling
- Blue Dog Bagels
- Centre in the Square
- Chicopee Ski Shop
- Coca Cola Bottling Ltd., Guelph
- Dairy Queen
- Doris' Corner Kitchen
- East Side Mario's
- GoodLife Fitness
- Hikers Haven
- HMV
- J. Gatto's Deli-licious
- Jose's Noodle Factory
- Kinko's Copy Centre
- Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra
- KWH Auxiliary
- Master's Shell Service
- McGinnis Front Row
- Mel's Diner
- Molson Breweries
- Olympic Gyros
- PC Waterloo Inc.
- Ray Delion Menswear
- Right Angle Cafe
- Second Cup
- Sybase
- TCBY
- The Fox & Pheasant
- The Mongolian Grill
- The Mutual Group
- UW Shop
- Wave Length
- Westmount Place Pharmacy
- Williams Coffee Pub

Thanks again to all those people who came out and made this evening a gigantic success!

Jennifer Côté
Vice President Activities and Services — MathSoc

Burbles

News You Can Lose

A grain of salt, a grain of pepper: Jean Chretien has put down his can of pepper spray and jumped on the human rights bandwagon at this week's APEC summit in Malaysia. He has done this mostly by attempting to cause the **maximum embarrassment** to the host country, by accusing them of rights violations in the case of Anwar Ibrahim, a government minister who was imprisoned earlier this year. Although the accusations have merit, it's interesting to note that Chretien still hasn't spoken out convincingly against rights abuses by the government of Indonesia, the government that he was trying so hard to protect at last year's summit in Vancouver. Could this be because Indonesia does at least **five times** as much trade with Canada as Malaysia does? In a related story, Indonesia has announced a **crackdown** on student demonstrators. Evidently they feel that their current approach, which resulted in the death of five protesters last week, isn't severe enough.

Back to the dead: Joe Clark was re-elected leader of the "Progressive" Conservative party by an overwhelming majority of the people who **actually care** who leads the PCs. I wish Joe the best of luck, but once again the Tories have set aside their brains and made the obvious, but ultimately fatal, choice. Clark, for all of his down-home charm and cross-country populist appeal, is ultimately a man of few concrete ideas whose old-guy image will lead to his doom. His lack of media savvy will lead him to be **slaughtered** in the cities, and he'll never win countryside as long as the Reform party is splitting the vote. The question is not "Will he resurrect the Tories?" but rather, "Will he be **the final nail** in their coffin?" I can think of only one thing that the PC party did right last weekend: they didn't elect **Kim Campbell**.

Snow job: Does anyone else believe that simply being the son of a famous person should not entitle you to special treatment? Lost in the media frenzy surrounding Nelson, B.C. is the fact that Michel Trudeau was **not the only one** to die in the B.C. Rockies last weekend. Let's pay our respects to Susanna Donald, an 18-year old University of Calgary student who was killed in Yoho national park on Sunday. Monday's National Post featured at least **six articles** about Trudeau, none about Donald. I had to check the Globe & Mail to find even the briefest mention of her name.

Ice, ice, baby: Well, Vanilla Ice has a new album out, and everyone is getting their kick at the can. Who can resist ripping in to the ultimate white-trash superstar-for-a-minute as he begins his soon-to-be-failed comeback? Well, I say: so what if its the **same bad rapping** over an industrial backbeat? I won't listen, but I admire the guy for trying. He could easily resign himself to a life of infamy, but it seems that he still believes he's got something to say.

A better pick: I have to put a plug in here for my current favourite band, Ottawa's **South Pacific**. They're purely independent right now, but they're making waves in the National Capital Region, not to mention on CKMS. I have to say that their first release, 33, is the best 33 minutes of music that I've heard in a long time. They are completely instrumental, but they specialize in strong, stirring melodies and heavily-textured backgrounds. Anyone who is familiar with Tortoise has the general idea, although I like these guys better. If you're interested it takes a special order, although I was able to get my copy through the campus HMV in under a week, for only \$12.99. Highly recommended.

Richard Bilson

If I told you that you had a beautiful body, would you hold it against me

from your Snuggly Social Director

No really, that's not just a title, it's a request, I just want to be held, especially by the person who gave me that line ;) Ahh, whatever, I think every paragraph should end in a come on line, and if you have a problem with that, blame it on Orientation, on their sign up form it's one of the questions (What come on line would work best on you?). I would like to explain something to anyone reading this article (which means everyone, since you'll only see this if your reading it in the first place). It's something really important, seriously, it's how to read my articles with ease, and trust me that's no small task. Basically I write my articles the same way I talk, in fact that's how I write them in the first place, I just talk to myself (normally in my head, otherwise other people in the lab complain). So to read my article just read it to yourself and pretend that I'm speaking (cause most people understand me when I talk). You might want to wait until after your Calculus lecture is done though cause your prof might get upset if you start saying some of the things out loud that go through MY mind in an average article. Although anyone who actually uses the title come on line on a prof without explanation and with a straight face gets mega style points (I hope no profs read my articles, they'll get mad at me, teehee). OK, enough making sense, time to rant about something. "I've got an oral exam coming up, wanna help me study?"

I want to start MIM, Men In Math, why do women get all the cool organizations, huh, it's discrimination I tell ya. And the most manly man can head our group, Nadia (she ate cake with a knife, grunts, and wears boxers, all she has to do now is learn how to "adjust"). "Hey baby, let's integrate"

Back to reality, we had an awesome Charity Ball at Fed Hall, everyone was dressed up all pretty like, certain people were truly breathtaking (some people said I looked respectable!!! hehehe, of course other people said I looked like Geddy Lee / Marilyn Manson). You can see the photos outside the C+D on the third floor of the MC. For more info on the night go read Jen's article, I helped with it so I don't feel like repeating stuff I already read. Back to ranting. "Hey don't you have some important position on MathSoc?"

[At this point Snuggles started babbling about a pink van and dismissing a former mathNEWS editor. I'll spare you that. — ΣEd]

I'm bitter. A lot of people worked really hard for Charity Ball (I would like to thank everyone who helped out before I rant about why I'm bitter). Jennifer, as "hostess" of the Ball thanked everyone by name who was on the organizational committee (except for me) at the event. Then Chris, representing MathSoc, thanked Jen. Nobody thanked me. This is somewhat remedied in the fact that once I pointed this out I was thanked by both Chris and Jen personally (after the event) and in the article written by Jennifer to *mathNEWS* and Imprint I was thanked, but I'm still a little bitter. "Lets find out if you're an M&M or a smartie, will you melt in my hand or in my mouth?"

Ahhh, was that last one a rant or a real thing, I'm not sure, I think it was a little of both. So, I'll rant some more, cause I have more to rant about then to really talk about anyway. I would like to talk about Adam Hurd, because I can. But I don't really

have anything in particular to say about him, he's just a cool guy. Let's rant about our whole generation. I think we could be accurately portrayed as the Spice Girls on Mute generation. Talent is irrelevant, it's all about marketing, and skimpy costumes, actually forget about marketing, it's all about skimpy costumes. Here's my theory, every time you see a Spice Girl video coming up, just press mute, it has all the skin and none of the screech. And on that note, back to something relevant. "Fuck me if I'm wrong, but is your name Zelda?"

We didn't have a Movie Night last week because of the Charity Ball, but the week's before There's Something About Mary and Can't Hardly Wait was a huge hit, we had about 150 people come out for the night making it the second largest ever (last winter's Starship Troopers and Gattaca was the most attended ever). Next week is SpaceBalls and History of the World Part I (Mel Brooks night, sooooo good). I still need a good idea for the last movie night of the term (Dec 3). So as usual, any comments, suggestions, or pick up lines are welcome at movies@mathsoc. "You're a Movie Director? Can I be in your movie?"

Time to rant again. I had quite the discussion outside the C+D about a bunch of random things and here is roughly what came out of them. If I just popped into existence there must have been a Stephenbang (as opposed to a big bang). And we are all a figment of Sarah Kamal's imagination, she is G-d of this universe, when she ceases to exist so do we all, we only continue our pitiful existence on this planet by her gracious allowance. OK, I'm done buttering her up, (I had a line here, but we fear I would be beaten if I said it, and even though I probably would have liked it I will keep the line out, just imagine something dirty along the butter / grease theme). On a similar note it was suggested that I should start depressing people and then cheer them up, and then they'll need me instead of prozac, and they would develop an addiction to me, and then I'll have my army of drones to take over the world, wait, no, I'm supposed to keep that secret until my army of evil is strong enough to take over the earth in one fell swoop, ah well, the forces of good won't take me serious until it's too late, muhaahahahahahahahaha. (World domination covered, now I just gotta work on the intrinsically evil part) "You,... me,... here,... now"

Cotten Candy can come 'cross Campus. On Tuesday December 1, on the third floor of the MC outside of the C+D there will be a Cotten Candy machine making Cotten Candy for you (at just \$1 a cone). For no apparent reason I have decided to have a Cotten Candy day, cause I like sugar and so should you. Once you're high on sugar you'll get everything done really quickly which means that you'll have lots of free time... "Let's fulfill the Unofficial Social Director Slogan - Let's Get Mathies Laid"

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

"I've got a roll of duct tape and 4 hours, busy?"

PS : Feel free to come by and thank me for Charity Ball or just for a random snuggle. Remember, I take no responsibility for anything I say, do, or think.

PPS : I would like to publically apologize for misspelling the lovely Thompson Twins name (there is a p in there that I missed, I could say something, but I'll refrain cause I screwed up their name).

Spermatikos Logos #4

Hey everyone! I've gotten a lot of submissions for the last puzzle. Most people really enjoyed it, and almost everyone caught my mistake. I am so very pleased... Now if only I can actually make a puzzle with a unique solution, my life will be complete. I even got a response from Snuggles (complete with the expected innuendo). What more could anyone want? Well, I suppose warmer weather for meteor watching. Or for that local radio station to call ME and offer me 100 Grand. I could figure out a way to spend it, real fast. But I digress. You're probably anxious to find out what the actual solution was to the last Logos. Oh, all right, I'll tell you.

	A	B	C	D	E
V	6	14	10 (24)	24 (10)	19
W	22	3	21	7	12
X	9	13	4	18	25
Y	2	20	11	15	8
Z	26	5	17	23	16

Correct solutions were submitted by: Leeland Watson, Darryl Blake, Vishnu Persaud, Melanie Woodall, Eric Fung, Jeff Voskamp, Rachel Nieuwland, Mahbub M Chowdhury, Stephen "Anything Snuggly" Skrzydlo, Duncan "NacNud" McGregor, Ian "The Word Guy" Facey, Greg "Hologrami" Taylor, Mark Pita, and some anonymous person who submitted a wonderful schematic. The winner, by random draw, is Rachel Nieuwland. You can pick up your unique prize in the MathSoc office. Thanks to all of you for submitting, and thanks for all the suggestions (BTW, it's hard to find an awake person at 3am). I also, for some reason, got a lot of diagrams and solutions written out as full proofs. You make my life interesting. As several of you noted, there was a missing clue, but since all of you figured it out anyway, I can safely just bow out here, with the reminder that submissions for Logos #4 are due on November 30 at 6:00. You can drop them off at the MathSoc or mathNEWS office, or email them to me at gngarbet@uwaterloo.ca. Have fun with this week's puzzle.

This Week's Puzzle

Imagine you're in Cartoonland. Okay, maybe calculus class isn't the perfect place to be imagining this, but then again, maybe it is. Especially if you're as sleep-deprived as the mathNEWSies usually are on Production Night. Anyway, there are six guys walking across campus (separately, cuz AAAA). At some point in their journeys, each of them passes a tree. As they pass, an object falls out of the tree and injures them. (A few friends of mine suggested this would be an extremely amusing concept after they heard the joke in the first clue. All the names were also given to me by these same people.) Your task is to match each person with the object that fell on them, their injury, and the order in which they passed the Tree of Extreme Unluck.

1. Q: What's green and fuzzy and falls out of a tree? A: a pool table. It fell after the coke machine.
2. The only person to get up and walk away from the Tree uninjured is Drew's mom. She fell out of the tree, and landed on George O'Hanaranahan.
3. The object which fell fifth, caused the broken leg.
4. Jobber LeBag walked past the Tree after Rodriguez Paligenguza, and before the Ghost of Winston Churchill.

5. One person was hit by a maple key immediately before a tree fell out of the Tree.
6. When the umpire called 'safe', Mordecai McNaab was hit by a falling object. No, it wasn't a baseball, it was a safe. (Hey, this is cartoonland, ya gotta get hit by a falling safe.)
7. The coke machine fell on someone before another person got a broken leg.
8. George O'Hanaranahan walked past the Tree before the person who received a concussion (which was not Heywood Jablone).
9. Noone was hit by a piano, unfortunately. That would make a neat noise.
10. The person who was hit by the pool table is dead.
11. The person who got the light bruise is not the person who was hit by the maple key.
12. Mordecai McNaab did not get a broken leg.
13. The falling tree didn't break anyone's ribs, and did not hit Heywood Jablone.
14. Drew's mom fell after the safe (which was not second).
15. Parading Pink elephants are the result of too much champagne.
16. The bruised person passed the tree before the dismembered person, and after the guy with the broken ribs.
17. Jobber LeBag was not dismembered.
18. When Heywood Jablone passed the Tree, he found a dead body, a dismembered (but otherwise alive) person, and a guy with all of his ribs cracked (but otherwise uninjured).
19. George O'Hanaranahan laughed at the person who got bruised... until he was the one to pass the Tree.
20. Rodriguez Paligenguza was not hit by a maple key, did not have his ribs cracked, and was not the first person to pass the Tree (and none of these things are necessarily connected, either).
21. Winston Churchill is not dad. (And neither is Elvis.)

Gigi Garbett



lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

November 20
November 30

Issue #6 makes it out
Issue #7 production night
6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
Issue #7 also makes it out

December 4

MathSoc

November 24

Annual General Meeting (they hope)
4:30pm, MC 3001

MGC

November 23-27

Yearbooks on Sale

Movie Nights

November 26

Spaceballs and *History of the World, part I*
6:30pm, DC 1304

Miscellaneous

November 26

Americans catch up

November 29

Last chance to see *One Bad Apple* at KWLTL

mathNEWSquiz #5

Let Me Tell You 'Bout the Lies

And a great good morning to my many fans out there in calculusland! By the time that you're reading this, *One Bad Apple* will have had an extremely successful opening night at KWLTL... missed it? Don't worry; you have several more chances to see me, my ridiculous costume, and the rest of the cast. Look elsewhere in this issue for more shameless plugging.

For those of you who've been burning with curiosity since last issue, last week's answers were: **Water, water everywhere** (1) Lake Michigan, (2) Twenty-nine, (3) Cumulus, (4) You float, (5) The Gulf Stream; **Ancient History** (1) Seven or eight years (I've seen different figures in different references), (2) Author of the *Tao Te Ching*, (3) Constantine, (4) The Picts, (5) Alexander the Great; **More Song Lyrics** (1) "Semi-Charmed Life", Third Eye Blind, (2) "Down Under", Men at Work, (3) "Lily, Rosemary and the Jack of Hearts", Bob Dylan, (4) "How Fortunate the Man with None", Dead Can Dance, (5) "Atmospherics: Listen to the Radio", Tom Robinson.

And this week I received a grand total of SIX entries! The entrants and their scores are Snuggles with 7.5, Darryl "Otis" Blake and Eric Fung both with 11, Lukas Kamps with 13.5, Malcolm McNeil (our Australian correspondent) with 14.5, and the winner with a *perfect score* is Kyle Swidrovich! Congratulations, you can collect your Squizprize in the MathSoc office. (NB: A perfect score is 15.)

Fun and Games

1. In the Catholic Church, who is the patron saint of chess?
2. What is the name of the Indian game from which chess descends?
3. In bridge, what is a Roman distribution?
4. From what city does the original Monopoly draw its street names?
5. What is the "dead man's hand" in poker, and why is it called that?

Wild Kingdom

1. An okapi is a relative of what animal?
2. What is the only marsupial found in nature outside of Australia?
3. What's so special about a Manx cat?
4. What colour is a female cardinal?
5. How often does a shark stop in place?

Poetry

Name the poem and author

1. "And all would cry, beware! Beware!
His flashing eyes, his floating hair!"
2. "I hear the mermaids singing, each to each
I do not think that they will sing to me."
3. "In the coach was just ourselves
And Immortality"
4. "Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."
5. "So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn"
That's it for me this week. Come see my show! Later,

So-Krates the Squizmaster

Class Averages

I think that I'll preface this with the disclaimer that these thoughts and opinions are my own.

A few weeks back, a totalitarianistic memo was sent out from the Dean's Office to the instructors of the core courses. Apparently, Associate Dean Paul "Goose-stepping" Schellenberg actually had the audacity to suggest that the averages for core courses should normally be between 65% and 75%. How dare "He" suggest that profs shouldn't be failing half their classes. Fortunately for us, certain members of the Faculty, who shall remain nameless, because their very lives may be in danger if their identities were to be revealed, have taken it upon themselves to defend us from this tyrannical and draconian measure.

Note to all those instructors who seem to feel that giving 55% averages is their god-given right: Hello?!? Are you people on fucking crack? Would you just listen to yourselves for a god-damn minute? 60% is the minimum average for good-standing, 65% is the MAV requirement. You're complaining that you can't make averages below 65% — that somehow the Dean's Office is saying something evil? How the hell can you possibly justify averages that put half the students on probation? You can't; it's not possible. I understand that some of you are living in your own little worlds, where you think that you are gods, but you're not, so snap out of it! I'm not sure if you few unnamed realise this, but tenure is not an excuse to do whatever the fuck you want. Don't get me wrong; I support the institution of tenure, but you people are abusing it. I think that it's time for you to come down from on-high, and realise that, yes, in fact, there is a world outside of the Ring Road, and no, you can't ignore it. You have a responsibility to the students and to society, and you're ignoring that, hiding behind tenure and the nebulous veil of academic freedom.

You have a beef with a society which no longer values education itself as being valuable; one which believes that education is simply a means to an end, and not an end in itself. Fine. If you want to fight to reverse that trend, great. More power to you. Taking it out on us, however, is not going to make it better. In fact, it'll only make things worse. So stop throwing your little tantrums, and grow up. I think you'll find that people might just start listening to you.

Chris Buchanan

The UW drama dept. presents

A Midsummer Night's Dream

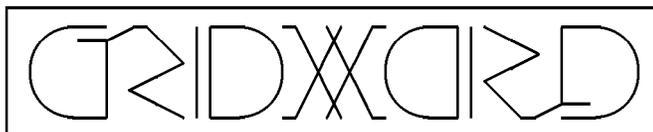
By William Shakespeare

Directed by William Chadwick & Lloyd Coutts

November 25 – 28, 1998

Theatre of the Arts

Shakespeare's best comedy and his most often performed play. The charm of *Dream* is that it is so multi-faceted. It combines into one harmonious whole the serious and the farcical; the lyrical and the commonplace; the magical and the mundane; aristocrats, lovers, fairies and ordinary working men. It is a play about love and marriage, and though it certainly illustrates that the course of true love never did run smooth, it concludes with three marriages and the play of *Pyramus and Thisbe*, which might be said to illustrate the art of coarse acting at its most sublime.



gridCOMMENTS

Now with 100% fewer errors... I hope

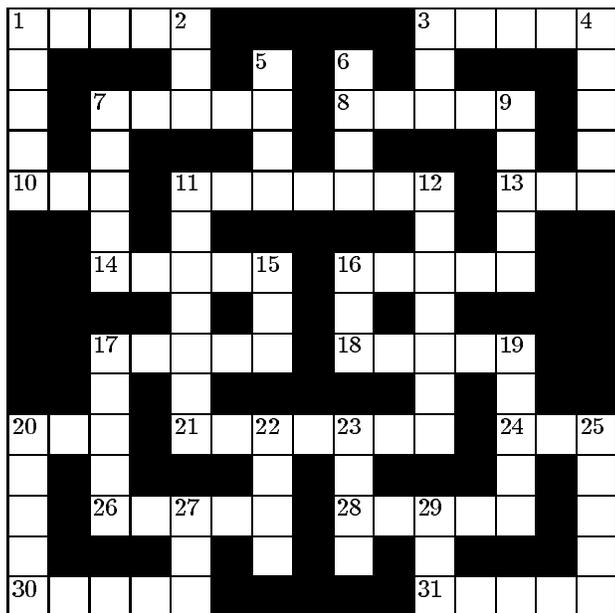
Well, the trainers are out and the bell has rung: it's time for another round of the *gridWORD*. I must admit that I'm a little bloodied and bruised after last issue. For those of you who don't already know, there were two errors in the grid: an extra square after 1-across, and an improperly-sized box for 13-down. For those of you who are curious, the 13-down phrase was supposed to be "a priori", but it's only in my own little world that that turns out to be six letters long. Thanks to alert reader Eric Fung for bringing both of these to my attention.

Now would be a good time to point out that official corrections are posted to uw.mathnews as soon as I can verify the mistake. Also, the web *gridWORD* is kept up to date with all of the corrections as they happen. My apologies to anyone who agonized over a non-existent solution.

Given the confusion surrounding last week's puzzle, I'm not surprised that I only received two submissions. One came from Ian "The Word Guy" Facey, who had one incorrect word, and one from Hells Bells, who was completely correct. Thus the prize for this week goes to Hells Bells, who can pick it up from the MathSoc office.

Hopefully this week's grid will keep you busy for all of the right reasons. Betcha can't tell that I was studying for an electric circuits exam while I was making it up. Submissions are due at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 30. They can be submitted to the **BLACK BOX**, to the MathSoc office, or by e-mail to mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Richard "No more mistakes" Bilson



Grid Clues

Across

1. Tool for making holes
3. To foretell
7. Bridal payment
8. Blood-sucker
10. Unit of electric resistance
11. Ale source
13. French name
14. Orange variety
16. Supra-aquatic transport
17. Chance occurrence
18. To praise
20. Ultimate conflict
21. Skull
24. Sodom citizen
26. Put off
28. Neutered rooster
30. Spiral
31. Sea crustacean

Down

1. Relating to sound
2. Uncooked
3. Extent in time
4. Kingdom or dominion
5. Funereal fire site
6. Hint
7. Evil spirit
9. Unit of electromagnetic inductance
11. Temporary military encampment
12. End of sailing pole
15. Sodium Hydroxide
16. Adversary
17. Unit of electric capacitance
19. Bird's toe
20. Anger
22. Not as planned
23. Native Peruvian
25. Vegetal spike
27. Repair
29. Small dog

Solution To Issue 5's gridWORD

