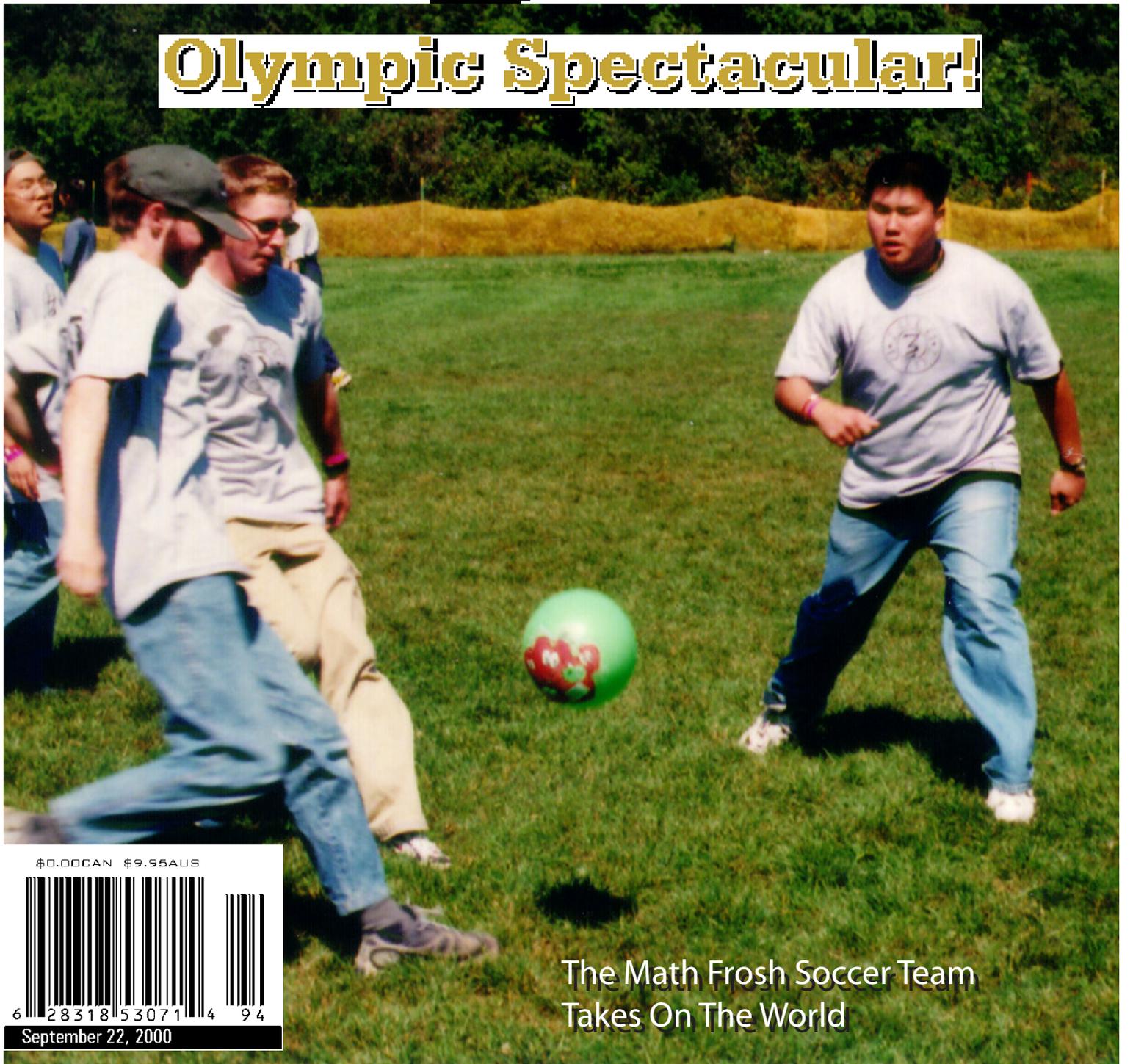


SPORTS INTEREST

Olympic Spectacular!



The Math Frosh Soccer Team
Takes On The World

\$0.00CAN \$9.95AUS



September 22, 2000



Ramy Sillygism

Shooting For Fourth

In a refreshing display of mediocrity, Olympics competitor Ramy Sillygism (not her real name) has revealed that she didn't come to Sydney to win gold. "There's really two types of people here," Ramy indicated. "First, the folks who are just happy to be here, hence not caring how well they might place. Second, the folks who are here to win big so they can leave Australia with a new deal to sell Coca Cola, shoes and/or mobile phones." Ramy went on to outline certain crossovers between these categories before explaining that she considers her Olympic goal to be unique. "I want to come in fourth. Basically, I don't think I can win, yet I don't want to get all wishy-washy about the competition."

The strategy involved in coming in fourth is actually much more of a challenge than a simple drive for first, as was revealed in an interview with Ramy by our reporter on the scene. The main problem is that you have to know a lot more about your opponents. As an example, in a track event, you must keep an eye on the other competitors even while running so that you're not going too slow OR too fast. But then in events that involve other competitors competing after your results are posted (as is the case with Ramy), altering strategy in mid-flight is not even possible. It may then become necessary to aim for third place in the hope that exactly one other person will do better than you, and no more. "I mean, the only way I think I can be absolutely certain of fourth place would be to systematically take out all but three other competitors, then do my worst!" joked Ramy while laughing maniacally. So it's not as simple minded a goal as it may sound at first.

However, when asked if she hoped that art of obtaining fourth place would be recognized for the achievement that it is, Ramy told our reporter: "What are you guys, stupid? I'm trying to avoid all the commercialism associated with medals, so recognition would defeat the whole purpose! Besides, what would they do, supply a medal made of platinum? Geez..." *Sports Integrated* would like to point out at this point that Ramy refused to reveal which country she was competing for, which might indicate that it doesn't share her views as they pertain to her events. Still, it's always nice to see someone put a fresh spin on the Olympic Games, as the drive for first is often tarnished by drug scandals these days. Invited to comment on this, Ramy concluded the interview by stating, "Drugs? I don't know anything about drugs. Get off my back!" followed by a panicked dash for the exit door.

There is also a rumour circulating that another competitor is hoping to place second last in his event, but everyone is writing him off as a nutcase who is merely seeking media recognition.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

World in Disbelief as Men's 100-metre Dash Record Shattered

Today people in Olympic Stadium witnessed an improbable upset as Frank Garrett, a former CS student from UW of Canada, beat the field that included track stars such as Bailey, Greene, and Christie, in the men's 100-metre final. Frank, without any wind assistance, finished the race with a time of 9.75 seconds.

Frank barely qualified to represent Canada for the Olympics in the Canadian trials and he only managed to have a time of 10.04 and 10.01 seconds in the preliminary and semi-final rounds, respectively. Frank's record was so impressive that he was tested for drugs immediately after the race. The medal presentation was withheld until the results of the test came back negative. The more than 100,000 spectators in Olympic Stadium cheered for more the ten minutes and cries of "Frank" were heard throughout the venue.

Frank was swamped by the press after the medal presentation. When asked for the secret behind his success, Frank replied "There is no secret. I didn't have any formal training at all." Later sources from *mathNEWS*, a publication from Frank's alma mater, revealed that Frank had an unusually high number of early morning classes during studies in UW. The same source told *Sports Integrated* that Frank was notorious for waking up late back in his UW days. Several of Frank's former classmates testified that Frank could get from the student village to his classes, wearing a backpack, in less than three minutes (under ideal conditions — during the chilly days of winter he could only do it in four minutes). Frank told the media that he is considering participating in the World Track and Field Championships, but that he still considers his job as a programmer at FastTrax, a software company in Ottawa, Canada that specializes in making sports games, his priority.

It was later revealed that Frank, aside from being a programmer, works in the video capture lab at FastTrax. Representatives from FastTrax said that Frank often doubles as an actor, performing actions that are to be recorded for the production of games.

Jason "my middle name isn't Cy Young" Lau

This Week's Sign of the Apocalypse

After a previously unknown competitor won three of their events in a row at the Olympics, setting new worlds records in the process, no controversy was raised over whether or not they had taken drugs. The claim by the trainer that said athlete has an unusual biochemistry was not called into question by any competing country or the IOC, and no scandal has been hinted at in coverage of the events.

They Said It

BILL BILLARDSON

On coming in last in his event:

"Things could be worse. I could have been quoted in *mathNEWS*."

Functions Revolt

SYDNEY, *mathNEWS* - As at any large international event, there are a fair number of protests, covering various topics such as freeing Tibet, Native peoples' land disputes, and improper working conditions as is the case with sweatshops. However, the world has never seen a demonstration like the one currently occurring in Sydney.

To the chagrin of math professors and students everywhere, every mathematical function known, and a few currently unknown, is demonstrating at Sydney for better working conditions. Sine, cosine, tangent, their inverses, hyperbolic variants, the logarithms... the list goes on. Every function is in Sydney, chanting such slogans as, "We're the functions, we have inverses, we want better working conditions, we wish we took English, we have no ability to rhyme." Not only are the commuters in Sydney and the athletes trying to compete on the world's stage affected, but also our own Waterloo Faculty of Mathematics. Hundreds of frosh, bleary-eyed from lack of sleep and frustrated that none of their homework assignments are working out, finally have an answer to their questions: the functions are on strike. Seemingly unaware, professors have continued to prove various theorems and propositions, lending credence to the popular theory that none of the proofs are true.

Currently, there is no foreseeable outcome to the current situation. It is, however, a foregone conclusion that regardless of the status of the mathematical functions, the University of Waterloo's math classes will go on as scheduled. How the professors will deal with the absence of valid functions remains to be seen.

Joe "if you have a suggestion I'd like to hear it" Drew



Why Nude Trampolining was Disallowed as an Olympic Event

5. Putting on corporate advertising using body paint was felt to be too time consuming.
4. There were fears that the event would be blacked out in North America.
3. No one wanted to test for Viagra as a possible performance enhancing drug.
2. It would give the term "bouncers" an unintentionally added layer of meaning.
1. Too much concern was expressed over judges placing emphasis on form, rather than skill.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

Koala Roping

An old sport gets a new lasso on life

So here it is sports folk, the Olympic premiere of the Aussie classic, Koala Roping. Many North American fans are familiar with the calf roping of the prairie cowboy, but really, they're only baby cows! Now for the first time, the world can witness the truly awe inspiring sport of koala roping. These aren't baby koalas, these are full grown, mean, vicious koalas that have been ripped from their trees, ready to fight to the bloody end, for a chance at some more euphoric, body soothing eucalyptus leaves.

The preliminary rounds of the Koala Roping proved that the Aussie's are hard to beat. The final standings had the Aussie's with the gold, New Zealand with the silver, and (out of nowhere we might add) Sweden with a surprise bronze!

Peter Lizak



Go get 'em, cowboy! Australia's Mick Foster is pictured here, roping a ferocious koala. With his unprecedented roping skill, Mick placed first, beating out the New Zealand and Swedish teams.

Demonstration Sports Fail Miserably

The first week of the Olympics was marred with horrible disasters that the IOC has attempted to cover-up, but fictional *math*NEWS correspondent, Simon L'Avier, has broken the story of Sydney's failed demonstration sports:

This year, it was decided to have a few quiet demonstration sports after the highly unpopular Standing-in-a-Field-While-Someone-Throws-Explosives event of Atlanta. Instead, the co-ordinators decided to keep the several demonstration sports unpublicized in case something went wrong...and boy did they ever!

Swim to New Zealand was the first sport to be marred by an unfortunate incident. Expecting it to take a few days, the event began on the weekend, only to run into trouble on Tuesday. After 53 hours of swimming, Nero Yooch of Bolivia was eaten by the shark that had been following him since late Monday. At the sight of all the blood, Jimbo Ooton of Namibia passed out. Fortunately, his crew was in a nearby boat and pulled him out. Unfortunately, the boat was devoured by the large white whale that had been following them since late Monday. Being the only two competitors, the race was called off.

Fighting Local Animals did not go over well either. Ireland's Miriam Marram was severely beaten about the ears by a wallabe who dropped out of a tree to assist an ailing wombat. Brian Thogle, an American who expected to be battling a spinning cartoon character, was unprepared for his match with Tasmanian Devils and fell quickly after they started gnawing at his ankles. Francine Bebee of the Ukraine was lucky not to actually be eaten by dingos, however, those koalas were quite brutal to her. It was wise not to use kangaroos in this event, particularly after the failure of the Tie-Me-Kangaroo-Down-Boy event, especially once Aussie Against Animal Abusing (AAAA) found out about the event and had the game removed.

One sport that went without an injury but also failed to attract a crowd was the Discus Keep. In contrast to the throwing event who's roots date back to ancient Greece, this version has participants hold onto the discus and walk around the field area for a few hours. The winner is determined by the judges who score who did the best job keeping their discus based on style and artistic merit. Unfortunately, all the competitors simply sat down with their disci and waited out the clock, thereby causing a tie. "We were hoping they'd start hitting each other with the discus-thingies," confessed the English judge. Although Fencing with Boomerangs went over without a major hitch, the Low Jump didn't. Even though competitors were informed that the object was to jump from the greatest height without hurting themselves, not many paid any attention to the rules and the Opera House Hospital was overrun with broken legs and hips and heads. Even the final demonstration sport of the first week, Spectator Attacking, could not run smoothly as a large crowd of Laasian fans were thrown about by the Australian favourite, Nicole Kidman.

With the failure of these sports, one can only hope that the demonstration events such as Salt Eating, Fencing with Skis, and Not Complaining While on Fire will go over better in Salt Lake City in 2002 than these events did here in Sydney.

As always, Simon L'Avier only writes to me,
Bradley T Smith

63

Number of Olympians who still wet their beds after turning 10 years-old.

\$80 000

Amount of money it would have cost to equip each member of the Canadian team with full fishing gear (including rod, lures, and tackle box) to go with their snazy new outfits.

24

Number of square kilometres that would have been roped off if the proposed pod-racing event had gone through.

1

Number of participating nations that you are in right now.

37 000 000

Approximate number of children who have cried themselves to sleep after seeing the Olympic's creepy duck-billed platypus mascot.

On the Move

In a stunning move, the IOC allowed trading at this year's Olympics. Some countries were hesitant about changing their rosters after only the first week of competition, but there were a few willing to take the plunge. Kenya traded two of their top long-distance runners to Finland in exchange for future considerations. "We are hoping to put together a bobsled or luge team for Salt Lake City," said a representative for the Kenyan team. "If we can sign an additional deal with Germany or Canada, we think we stand a good chance at winning a medal in two years." Among other trades, Australia sent a second-string koala roper to the Irish for a drunken boxer, while Qatar traded cash and barrels of oil for eight Bolivian weightlifters and three very large black sheep.

Where have all the morals gone?

Watching the Olympic opening ceremonies, I was appalled by the blatant and, worse yet, innocuous sexual references which were ever-present throughout the opening ceremonies. Take, for example, the flame.

Heating things up, igniting the fires of passion, burning with desire: any of these phrases sound familiar? It is patently obvious that the IOC's (International Olympic Committee) sole purpose for this particular symbol is to inflame the youth of today into immoral and indecent acts.

During the procession of athletes, it became quite clear that each of the countries is part of a vast international conspiracy to corrupt and defile the minds of the nation's — nay, the world's — youth. The athletes, garbed in their indecent "clothing", march together in a blatant show of solidarity which can only serve to encourage today's youth to new heights of independent thought and creativity. If George Orwell's *1984* has taught me one thing, it is that independent thought is the way of the devil. In order to be successful in the world of tomorrow, we must be unified, be one mind, a collective. My final point will be the undoubtedly obvious phallic symbolism which is never out of sight. From flag poles to tight, latex clothing, our athletes are sending the *wrong* message to our youth. I'm not even going to mention the prevalence of cleanly shaven, glistening heads in our Olympic procession; the thoughts brought to mind are far too unclean.

We must unite to rid the world of this terrible scourge. We must *not* allow our children to be subject to this influence again! People of the world, save our children!

Joe "I-don't-have-a-good-nickname" Drew



Lion Irons, BROCKVILLE

Golf

Lion, a 22 year old golfer in training for the Olympics, made consecutive holes-in-one on all the par three holes at a local golf course. He set another record that day, as all the rest of his shots were hooked wildly into the woods and water hazards, meaning he wound up shooting (and calling) 911.

Lisa Mona, PARIS

Bridge

Mona, 65 and currently competing in the spectator bridge tournament at the Olympic Games, surprised viewers when she not only called out a contract of Eight No Trump but then proceeded to make along with one overtrick. She says the secret of her successful play is to use one of those card decks that includes anchors and crowns.



Syd Platypus, SYDNEY

Swimming

Syd, of undetermined age, shocked the world in his speed swimming event last week, taking home not only the gold medal but also the silver and bronze. Unfortunately for him, the regulations regarding mammalian competitors are now under review.



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What has MEF done lately?

MEF has made some financial contributions to the following clubs in the last term: Teaching Students Association, Pure Math Club, MathSoc and CSC. MEF allocates approximately \$20,000 each term for projects that help to enrich the life of as many Math students as possible. If you'd like more information drop by the office, or email me at mefcom@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Have an idea?

Do you want funding for something that will enhance the academic life of a Math student? Maybe MEF can help? Funding proposal deadline is October 20th, 5:00pm. Forms are available online at the website: <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom/>.

Funding Proposals — Have your say!

Join the council. There are only three meetings. A quickie in the week of October 16th, the big one in the week of October 23rd and another short one in the first week of November. Nominations are open until late October 20th, 5:00pm. Nomination forms can be picked up at the MEF website at <http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom/>.

Still want a refund?

If you want a refund drop by the MEF office before Friday, September 29th. The office will be open for at least the following hours:

Monday (Sept. 25th) 9:00am–10:00am and 1:00pm–2:00pm
 Tuesday 2:00pm–4:00pm
 Thursday 11:30am–1:30pm
 Wednesday and Friday 1:00pm–3:00pm (last chance).

Have a great term!

Natalie Thompson
 MEF Director, Fall 2000

Recommended course: Anime 101

An introduction to Japanese animation (“Anime”) for new students.

Topics covered will include mecha design theory, the mahou henshin hypothesis, and cute girls and why we like them. Class format will consist of viewing and discussing a selection of recent high-quality anime titles using a large-screen video projector and powerful sound system in a public environment.

Session will take place between 10 am and 4 pm on Monday September 25th, 2000 in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Life Centre. Drop in any time!

No fees, prerequisites or materials are required, but it is suggested that attendees bring \$18 (\$17 for first-year students) to cover the cost of a high-quality souvenir T-shirt and membership for follow-on curriculum. In particular, CTRL-A will be having a showing Friday September 29 and Saturday September 30th for members only. Come on out and see what anime is all about!

Club That Really Likes Anime

MGC News

Hello and welcome everyone, we've finally made it to our (hopefully) final year here! To keep you up to date with the latest MGC news, there is the MGC website at www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/. This site should have a Grad and Career info page set up soon (if not already). Also, there is the MGC mailing list, to join, send a message to mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

MGC's first night out will be at **Weaver's Arms, Friday at 8:00pm**. Fun for all, pool, 'beverages', snacky-snacks, and fun!

For those that missed the pizza day this week, it was yummy, come get your pin, and enjoy pizza every Wednesday.

Lastly, don't forget to sign up for your Grad Pictures! There is a list outside the door to the MGC office.

Peter Lizak

A FASSinating Article

So, you think you're funny do you? Well ... maybe you don't ... maybe you think you're the most boring, mundane, uninteresting person ever to put on underwear in the morning (please tell me you're wearing underwear as you read this), but you must have some sense of humour if you decided to read *math-NEWS* this week and that means you're just the type of person we want! Who are we? (No, this is not the start of a frosh week cheer.) We are FASS. That stands for Faculty Alumni Staff and Students (or Frankly Anyone who can Slightly Sing). Every year we put on a student written musical comedy in February at the Humanities Theatre. We're basically a living breathing cartoon where anything can happen (especially if you get in good with the Chief Scriptwriter and add a few parts) and usually does.

"Well," you say, "this is all very well and good, but you haven't told me how to get involved yet." Well, patience is a virtue, but it's not one of mine so I'll get on with it.

We're having our Fall Organizational Meeting on Sept 27th starting at 6:00 in the DC Fishbowl (DC 1301 I think, but who really looks at the numbers). There'll be all sorts of info given out as well as cheap/free refreshments, last year's video playing somewhere and probably lots of crazy theatre-type games going on. So come on out and see what we're all about! I promise we don't bite (unless requested). Also going on are Writer's Meetings. I won't say who the Chief Script Writer is this year but his initials are G.T., and he's very involved with the publication you're currently reading. Anyway, G.T. holds writer's meetings every Wed. and Sun. from 7–9pm in ML104 so head on over and get a sneak peak at this year's script (oh, and don't forget to write in a role for yourself, and one for me if you think of it!).

And finally, auditions this year will be Jan 3–5 on the third floor of Hagey Hall, and the show itself will be performed Feb 1–3. So come on out for FASS. It's a great time and we always have tons of Mathies out so jump on the wagon!!

Producer — “2001 : A FASS Oddity”
 email fass@math.uwaterloo.ca for more info!

P.S. We're still accepting applications for a Technical Director and a Secretary for this year's show. We're also going to be accepting Stage Manager applications shortly. Check out <http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~fass> for more info.

Thank You From Math Orientation

I wanted to write in *mathNEWS* one more time from my official position. The reason: A Big Thank You to all the wonderful people who made Math Frosh Week 2000 a huge success! Thanks to Shirley Thomson from the Dean's Office for all her help and advice. Thanks to Chris Farley, The Federation of Students President, for helping to get us out of a sticky situation. Thanks to all the great enthusiastic Frosh who came out to all the events to make them even better. This resulted in the biggest turn-outs ever! This of course I credit to all the wonderful leaders in all the groups. These people who took a week off their vacation or off work to dedicate their week to Frosh Week. This group made my job even more enjoyable. I would like to give a big thank you to all my coordinators, the people who organized the events, food, handbook, website, etc. These people were invaluable to me.

For all the leaders, check your email soon to get details about our post-week leader party. Frosh who haven't got your pink tie yet, you can get it in MathSoc Office (MC 3038) for a limited time. Look for details soon about an Orientation Clearance Sale to sell left-over items. Maybe after that I can actually step into my office. Check out the website still (<http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/~orientation>), for pictures and video from the week. We might even sell a CD with the video and pictures,

stay tuned.

For all of you that had fun during Frosh Week or those of you who want to get involved next year look for Frosh Leader Applications Forms later this term.

Nadia V. Ursacki
Math Orientation Director 2000

PUTNAM COMPETITION

There will be a kickoff meeting for students interested in writing the Putnam competition, on **Tuesday Sept. 26, 6:00 pm** in **MC5158**.

Free pizza will be available!

The Putnam contest is an annual mathematics competition held in the U.S. and Canada. If you love math problems, why not come out and register for the competition? If you cannot come you can register by e-mailing me at the address below.

For more information, contact:
Professor Christopher G. Small
email: cgsma1@uwaterloo.ca

You Know You're in Math When...

you roll over and discover your calculator lying in bed next to you. (Maybe he was just lonely...)

Friends,

What better way to celebrate the start of classes than to buy, buy, buy Math products? Go ahead, get that 'e' pin you've been fantasizing about. Be a rebel — buy a cheat shirt and wear it to your exams.

The newest toy guaranteed to tickle your fancy is the first ever MathSoc novelties product made just for females. Now I hear you guys out there saying, "There are females in math??" The answer is YES! I'm living proof.

This product is so good, so nice and so fun, it's better than Spam[™]!



Our lovely model Marlissa (not her real name) shows off the merchandise

I'm talking about a "UW Math Girls Kick Ass" tank top. They come in a light, happy blue or a dark, sombre black.

The best part is yet to come! One of those little beauties can be yours for the low, low price of \$8!!!

So come on down to the MathSoc office (3rd floor M.C.) and get your tank top today. Act now — supplies are limited!

Many thanks to my talented, albeit demanding photographer and my sexy ass-model. Keep reaching for the stars, guys, maybe someday you'll get your ice cream.

Nory



Marlissa takes the shirt a little too seriously

Prez Sez

Welcome back everyone!

We are just starting to get going with an eventful Fall term and I hope that you are ready. MathSoc has a lot of activities planned. We are, however, still looking for more volunteers. We need people interested in participating as class representatives, to volunteer for office hours, and to help out with events such as our annual Charity Ball. If you think you might be interested in helping out or running an event please let us know at mathsoc@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Nominations for the VP-Finance and VP-Academic are open until Friday September 22nd at 3:30pm. [*That's TODAY!!! — HoloEd*] This is also the closing time for nominations for all of the class rep positions. If you are interested please pick up a nomination form and find 5 people (10 for VP positions) to nominate you. The more people we have with a voice on council, the better MathSoc will be able to represent you.

If there is an issue you would like to discuss, please let me know. I would love to have people come visit me while I am in the executive office (MC3039), so stop on by. If the hours I am available do not fit your schedule please send me an email at prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca... Hope to see you at our next event.

Jennifer Cote
MathSoc President, F00

The Mind After Math

Wanted: Stalker (Female)

Location: Toronto, surrounding GTA.

Target: Male, caucasian, 24, 6'1".

- Typical long-haired geek/freak type.
- Excellent and stable career with future.
- Possesses wide range of mild psychoses.
- Known to have spontaneous fits others describe as "Entertaining to watch, but you'd never catch *me* doing that!"
- Target describes these fits as: "Just having some fun."
- Known to be uncontrollable and unpredictable at all hours.
- Target's conversation has been known to be hazardous to one's sanity.
- Pursue with extreme caution.
- Further "technical" details as required and upon acceptance.

Required Skills:

- Slightly deranged mind is bare minimum.
- Sick or "different" sense of humour.
- "Evil Bastard" mentality is an asset.
- Willingness to go to any extreme.
- Strong stomach.
- Iron willpower.
- Endless determination.
- Base located in Toronto is desired.
- Education must allow for both complexity and creativity.
- Experience with traps/tools/etc. definitely useful.
- Having own array of equipment will be favoured.

Reward commiserate with success of stalking. If you claim target, target is yours.

The *mast*HEAD that never was

From the S00 archives

Well, contrary to popular belief, there WAS a Production Night for an Issue 6 to close off last term. Unfortunately, owing to timing constraints, exam placements and the supposedly reliable astrological data *mathNEWS* had on hand at the time, said issue never actually made it to the printers. So you'll see articles from that ish elsewhere in *this* issue, as well as *next* issue since we've had a huge influx of articles. Stuff we're saving for next issue includes Calculatrivia answers, but does not include the following information on who came out that warm night in late July to help out.

Namely, what we have here is the response to a *mast*HEAD question which was formulated after an impromptu visit to Dairy Queen: "What's your favourite failed Blizzard flavour?" So the people with their year, program and answer are as follows: Dave Vandervies (1A½, CS, Chocolate Bunny Rabbit), Michael Thorsley (6C, AM, Flavoured Condoms), Kevin Wan Min Kee (3A, CS, Teeth Breaking Nerds), Bradley T Smith (3A, PM/C&O, German Ex-wife Swirl), Ken Chung (2B, CS, Like a Fox), Jean Knetsch (English, Zucchini Zwirl) and Greg Taylor (4B, CS/Music, Snowflakes). The editor was Chadwick Severn (4B, CS/Journ, Smurf). Thanks for coming out guys!

Your T.A. is a human being, too (maybe)

Now that the term is drawing to its end, have you thought about who you would like to thank for a great semester of joy and excitement? Who were the people responsible for that big smile on your face when you received your assignments or midterms back?

No, I'm not talking about your profs. I am referring to those neglected souls, your fellow T.A.'s. Now I know some of you think that T.A.'s are all inherently evil and are out to get you. Indeed, I'm sure that there are bad T.A.'s lurking out there, just ready to make your life miserable. But generally most T.A.'s are just real human beings like you and me. Not convinced? Well I'll tell you my little experience in finding out that my T.A. is a genuine human being. Here is the story:

I was walking around the 5th floor one day and happened to run into my T.A. (let us just call him Thor, after the Mythical God of Thunder) near his office. Thor saw me and said, Hey Anthony, why don't you come and visit my office? Rather reluctantly, I agreed to visit his office. To my greatest surprise, I saw a pink sweater and that's when I knew Thor was a true mathie and had great mathie spirit! It almost brought tears to my eyes. I also saw a cute little stuffed toy in the room, revealing the sensitive side of a T.A. that most students rarely see. Thor never acknowledged the fact that the pink sweater and the stuff toy belonged to him, being the humble man that he is.

So next time before you swear out the name of your T.A., just remember he/she is a genuine human being like you and me, too. (Well that's at least true for my T.A.)

Sepiraph
p.s. Summer was a blast—got to know the great people at
mathNEWS!

An Open Letter to the MFCF Crew

Dear MFCF Crew,

So I'm sitting there on the phone, attempting to renew my subscription to the Scheme Programmer's Digest, you know, giving the phone operator my vitals, my proof of age (you know, to show that I could handle the magazine which is quite frankly rather adult in nature), etc., and the sultry phone operator is all "what's your email address, you salty hunk of man-meat" and I'm all "ok, got a pen? it's n2taylor at student dot math..." etc and she's all "whoa, whoa, OK, back that love train up and start over, poindexter."

See what I'm faced with? My email address is a veritable jungle-gym of alphanumeric. Every episode in electronic communication is always punctuated with that same boilerplate explanation: "I know, it's a really long and weird email address... please bear with me." And it's not even my fault, because it's yours! Let's examine my email "addy":

n2taylor@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

First and foremost, we note that I am number *2* on the list of ntaylor. Really! How this abominable and grave error was committed I have no idea, but I'm just playing the cards MFCF deals me. Furthermore, there appears to be no plain-old ntaylor in existence, leading me to believe the whole thing is an elaborate ruse.

So, I took matters into my own hands. I began investigating the possibility of a nick@uwaterloo.ca email address. I mean, how could this go wrong? It's simple, it rolls off the tongue. And, it commands respect. To be thought of as the "Nick of the University of Waterloo", THE Nick, the one and only... that's powerful stuff. But what if someone already has that email address?

I checked. I sent an email off to nick@uwaterloo.ca and got back a mailer daemon message ("RETURNED MAIL"). Aha!

I figure it's about time that you, MFCF, recognize me as a respected member of this academic institution, and give me my due. I want nick@uwaterloo.ca to be my email address. I want all the fame that goes along with it, the fortune, the respect, the gift certificates for free massages, the email groupies. I want it all. Isn't it about time you all did my bidding? Of course it is.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Two Taylor, at student dot math dot U Waterloo dot ca

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Speaking with Australian accents: Greg Taylor and Richard Bilson

Simon Says

Okay, so this isn't Snuggles or anything Snugglecious, but it's mathNEWS filler none the less. Kev.o, Monkey Man, and The Wrong Taxi are overworked with assignments so I'm filling in with as much trash as I can. [Well, they were overworked last July anyway. — HoloEd] I was chatting with my friend Louis the other day, and he felt that this rag could use a few more adventure stories. So it looks like that's all you'll get from me.

It was a typical day for me. I was playing outside with some chums, tossing the disk that happened to be made by Frisbee about. Suddenly the idea came to us to seek out the cheapest cold drinks on campus. Knowing about the fifty cent iced teas at the science C+D, we tried various other outlets around campus trying to beat that price.

The Psych C+D is not easy to find. You look and you look, but it's just not there. It was like trying to find the elevator while on the first floor so you can get to your stupid psych experiment (and get lied to for eight dollars an hour if you're as lucky as me). Anyways, the plan was to meet up at the octagon in the middle, but for fun I ditched everyone and left my jacket torn up beside the wood-chipper they have there (man, I wish I could have seen the look on their faces!).

One thing that frequently happens to me when I'm running around like an idiot is urban legends coming true. Sure enough, around the corner from the wood-chipper was a tunnel that look like it carried all the power and water around the campus from the big phallic thingy at Plant Ops. Sure enough, the next thing I know, I'm on the 0th floor of MC watching some couple trying to get some privacy. Realizing that there was nothing interesting for me there anymore (they left), I hopped back in the tunnel to find somewheres else to go.

Another thing that frequently happens to me is trouble. Maybe it's that I look like Dennis the Menace, or maybe because of that crazy gypsy voodoo curse that was put on me, but something caused the lights to go off in the tunnels. Now, this would be okay if these were those tunnels that aren't covered by dirt and lack windows, but these were. Yes, I think that's got it. Anyways, among the important lessons I learned that day was not to scream underground, because then the Morlocks know you're weak. At least, I figured they were Morlocks because they were in the tunnels and had glowing eyes — a definite trait of Morlocks. Well, the not smart thing about these guys was the glowing eyes, because then I had a general idea of where to run: Away from the glowing eyes (but not into pipes — another lesson I learned).

Usually after Morlock attacks, one's day brightens up, but that's only in make-believe. I found a locked door, furry, unpleasant mammals, and an alligator (well, it sounded like an alligator). The only comforting part of my adventure was the quiet corner I found where they must keep all the pillows from around campus. It was the perfect place to curl up and sleep.

Then the dream ends, when the phone rings, you're doing alright, he said it's out there most days and nights, but only a fool would complain. Yes, I awoke, at home, to Hip on the radio, a plot twist which I found dry, derivative, and expected. Most likely the work of someone who should be writing an essay or doing an assignment instead of making up stories. Oh well.

Fictionally yours,

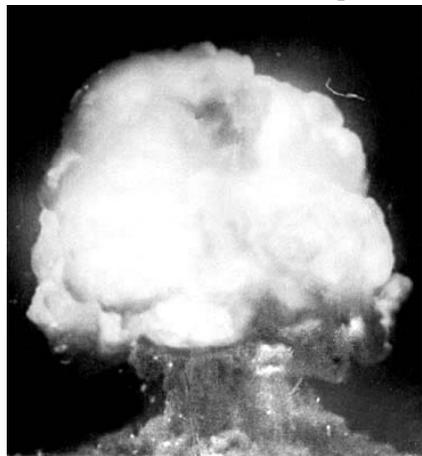
Simon L'Avier (simonlav@hotmail.com)

Getting a Varied Degree in Computer Science

top of this fast-growing field it needed to add a more enriched education to those who decided to come to Waterloo. So some attempts were made to incorporate extra areas of knowledge into a CS degree in order to keep Waterloo on top of the competition.

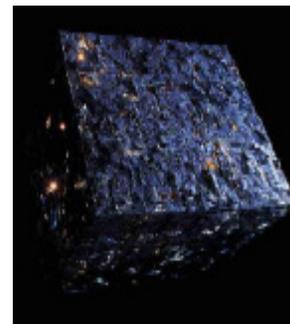
The first attempt at adding an extra area of study to a Computer Science degree was Chemistry, however this was ended with a rather stunning pyrotechnical display...

Determined not to let this setback affect the idea of extra learning, the next subject to be attempted was Biology. This was integrated



with the Electrical Engineering Electives which were already established, but this led to a rather pesky cybernetic race which nearly destroyed Earth several times...

After the previous debacle, it was decided that a completely new topic should be pursued. Drawing from the Arts faculty,



Debating was introduced as a new background topic for a CS degree, but this led to some nasty arguments about which distribution of Linux was better...

Sensing that anything which involved conflict would lead to a similar fate, the extra topic was switched again, this time to Psychology. However, this had some interesting side effects when some students tried to apply Freudian theories to locate and eliminate bugs in programs...

In the quest for a better topic, clairvoyance was sought. This led to the idea of incorporating Religion a



degree, but this soon led to...

A new attempt at adding Music and Genetics as extra topics for a CS degree which combined the two subjects was tried,



but this produced some undesirable results...

In another attempt at a completely new path, Architecture was used to fill the void, but the results of



crashes in this program became MUCH more severe...

And so, we find ourselves at the current attempt, which is the incorporation of Fine Arts into a CS degree,



as proudly shown by the classroom teachings of Prof. Vasiga, who delved into the following examples of how to gain extra credit for artistic impression on a CS 241 assignment...

--Straxus--



THE SPARSE MATRIX

by
Marius Keith Mortensen

Panel 1: Numerical Linear Algebra - Solving Matrices
Ex) Unstable Computations
suppose we want to evaluate
$$I_n = \int_{(x=0)}^n dx$$

 $\alpha = \text{constant}$

Panel 2: You have the look of a class who accepts what it sees because it is expecting to wake up...

Panel 3: Let me tell you why you're here. You're here because you know something. What you know you can't explain, but you feel it. You've felt it your entire CS career, that there is something lacking in your education. You don't know what it is, but it's there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad. It is this feeling that has brought you to me. Do you know what I am talking about?

Panel 4: Do you want to know what it is?

Panel 5: CS370 is everywhere. It is all around us. Even now, in this very room. You see it when you watch high budget movies like the Matrix, or when you play MP3's. You use it when you go to work, when you interpolate data, when you price options. It is the knowledge that has been kept from your eyes, to blind you to the truth...

Panel 6: Unfortunately, no one can be told what CS370 is. You have to see it for yourself...

Panel 7: FFT's - the MP3 maker...
$$\sum f(x) \dots$$

$$= \sum f(x) \dots$$

WD

Panel 8: This is your last chance, after this, there is no turning back. You take the orange withdrawal sheet and the story ends. You wake up in your bed, and this was all just a bad dream.

Panel 9: You take the white midterm sheet, you stay in wonderland, and I show you just how far the Lagrangian derivations go...

Panel 10: I love this job...

profQUOTES of Last Term

“Or maybe you just went to the engineering faculty and got whatever you deserved for doing that.”

G. Booker, PHIL 145

“Let’s not rely on memory overflow to save our asses! Did you, by chance, work for Microsoft?”

T. Vasiga, CS 241

Student: “Uhh, why do you have 4 numbers in that row of the table?”

Prof: “That’s a rhetorical question right? Because I’m stupid!”

R.D. Willard, PMATH 330

“If you remove something from the middle of a queue, you’ll get your fingers slapped by the abstract data police.”

I. Munro, CS 240

“The bad news is that you die. The good news is ... what? That you got a good funeral?”

I. Munro, CS 240

“What does a number that’s all 1’s look like? Well, it looks like one-ninth of a number that’s all 9’s.”

R. Honsberger, C&O 380

“Who’s tired of getting excited? Well, (looks at clock) only an hour to go ...”

R. Honsberger, C&O 380

“So one is a perfect square and the other is not, or vice voo, the other way around.”

R. Honsberger, C&O 380

“All right, can you see that? (shifting overhead up and down to compare two diagrams) Who’s getting woozy?”

R. Honsberger, C&O 380

Prof: (Writes down inequality) “So the size of the set can’t be higher than the number of its neighbours.”

Student A: “Shouldn’t it be the other way around?”

Prof: “Oh, you’re right.” (Reverses inequality)

Student B: ... “I think what you first wrote is right.”

Prof: (Checking notes) “Why did I change this in the first place?” (To Student A) “I’m taking marks off you.”

J. Geelen, Math 239

Prof: “I did this whole assignment in half an hour at 1:00 am last night.”

Student: “Yeah, but you’re a prof.”

Prof: “Well, that’s true, but that’s actually a negative correlation.”

Shuurmans, CS 486

“You see a little matrix, and 3 represents the mouse, and the cat is represented by -8. I wanted the cat to have a little tail. Ok, so it was late, and I was having fun.”

Shuurmans, CS 486

“An outer loop from 1 to 256, and an inner loop from 1 to 5. That’s a really difficult 4th year exercise.”

Shuurmans, CS 486

“When we play chess, we think we’re thinking ahead, or at least we think that’s what we’re doing.”

Shuurmans, CS 486

(Talking about completing a basis) “It’s like Goldilocks. First, it was too small, then it was too big, finally it was just right.”

Nica, MATH 136

“After this course you will get nightmares with somebody chasing after you. When you are finally trapped in a corner he will lean to you and whisper... ‘Statement (1)’”

Nica, MATH 136

“Speak to your neighbour for one minute, even if you don’t know them, and then I want silence for the remaining four minutes. Start speaking... Now!”

Nica, MATH 136

“Arnold was a Russian mathematician who formulated the Strong Arnold Hypothesis, also known as the Schwarzenegger Condition.”

Godsil, C&O 739A

MATHSOC Representative: “What the MathSoc does is we represent the math population and organize some social activities.”
Prof: “Yea... FREE BOOZE!”

Sivilagalathan, MATH 137

Summer *mathNEWS* Quiz Results

To all bad things, an end

Rock on! We received TWO contributions to the super quiz, and dear oh dear was it close. It was a non-stop battle right down to the bonus questions, but in the end only two victors could prevail. The remains of the St. Paul’s Shadow Council, Otis Kenobi and Doble Fett, were defeated 35 - 34 by Annamae Lang and Tara Shillington. Congrats to both pairs, Annamae and Tara can pick up their award at the MathSoc office at their leisure.

For those befuddled by the abundant quiz, here are the solutions (for a maximum of 42 wonderful points): **Song Lyrics:** 1. “Adia” Sarah McLaughlin; 2. “Amanda” Boston; 3. “Enya” Age of Electric; 4. “Ophelia” Moist; all of which are women’s names beginning and ending with vowels (ooh, toughy); **Oreo:** 1. 1912; 2. 362 billion; 3. 42.4 million gallons; 4. 381 times; 5. Lots of possibilities, go look at the website; **S Club 7:** 1. Rachel; 2. Bradley; 3. Molly; 4. Sand/Singing group of one more than 6 people; 5. Jon; **Apocalyptic Actor:** 1. Dennis Hopper; 2. Marlon Brando; 3. Harrison Ford; 4. Martin Sheen; 5. Lawrence “Larry” Fishburne; **Architects:** 1. Frank Lloyd Wright; 2. Frank Gehry; 3. The Louvre; 4. Christopher Wren; 5. Old City Hall; **Blue:** 1. Azure; 2. Baby Blue 2; 3. Gainsborough; 4. Teal; 5. New Order; **Major:** 1. Microbiology; 2. Major Major Major Major; 3. Any member of the staff would do; 4. Ursa Major (it’s Latin for the great bear, but they’re pretty much the same constellation); 5. Charlie Stevens; Bonus: Teaching Option.

Yours kooshy,
Brad and Kev

profQUOTES

- "That's serious chalk! If anyone upsets me they will get this in the head!"
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- Prof: "...There are a lot of fish in this pond."
 Alpha Frosh: "We're not fish!"
 Prof: "There are a lot of antelopes in this pond..."
 Schellenberg
- Student: "How do we think?"
 Prof: "You don't think at all, you just do calculus."
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- "The graph of the function oscillates like hell — err I mean quickly."
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- The function blows up; you never divide by zero.
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- It's positive, add 2 to it and it is even more positive.
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- "So let me throw the following trick question at you... and make you feel even more uncomfortable."
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- "It's all in the definition. Read that — EAT that!"
 D'Alessio, MATH 135
- "No, don't remember the numbers; that would be terrible!"
 Andre, MATH 135
- "Such that... [*looks at the board*] Such that what?"
 Andre, MATH 135
- "Fractions don't exist for us in that universe."
 Andre, MATH 135
- "That's for even more honourable students."
 Andre, MATH 135
- "They had slaves working for them and they need something to do, so they did mathematics."
 Andre, MATH 135
- Student: "Is interface a type of abstraction?"
 Prof: "Yes, everything is an abstraction. Is the word example here a word or an abstraction?"
 Pretti, CS 134
- "A yellow horse might fly out of your monitor and spray confetti all over the place."
 Pretti, CS 134
- "How many times did momma drop him on his head?"
 Burris, PSYCH 101J
- "You have to get up really early in the morning to catch me looking in your bedroom window."
 Burris, PSYCH 101J
- "I have a certificate in banana recognition from DeVry!"
 Burris - PSYCH 101J
- "Freud was a coke head among other things."
 Burris, PSYCH 101J
- "Take a sledge hammer and go to your roommate and bash them in the side of their head and see how it alters their personality."
 Burris, PSYCH 101J
- [*While MathSoc Prez is doing class reps elections Prof writes on the board*] "Don't listen to a word she says. She is full of shit."
 Irving, MATH 137
- "...put this out of your mind, pretend you don't know what it is... maybe some of you don't even pretend."
 Irving, MATH 137
- "There was a mistake in printing your course notes. If you check your first assignment, you'll see it's due on Sept. 12. Now this is a tough course, but it's not quite that bad."
 Mann, CS 488
- "The course is going to be extra tough this term. In previous terms, we had one student whose project was written up in three magazines, and another who was paid \$200 to ray trace some pictures with her project. Well, those two are going to be your TAs."
 Mann, CS 488
- "In 1972, Pong was developed. Who's played pong? (Some students put up hands.) How unfortunate."
 Mann, CS 488
- "How can such a well-built person possibly be human?"
 Vasiga, CS 241
- "It's election season in the U.S., so I have to start talking around questions."
 Vasiga, CS 241
- "You have all seen 'The Lion King'. Disney is a multi-national corporation that influences all of your lives!"
 Vasiga, CS 241
- "I'm really good at adding two zeroes together."
 Vasiga, CS 241
- "I didn't make up the language. [*points at Russian student*] Europeans did!"
 Zorzitto, MATH 247
- "Imagine a warped little village somewhere where 99% of people's names begin with 'A'... whoa, scary thought."
 Pretti, CS 134
- "My matrix calculations are gruesome... I hate doing them."
 Wood, MATH 136
- "You're going to have a lot of blind and toothless people... we don't want that."
 Lawrence, MTHEL 100
- "When a lady cop pulls me over, I bat my lashes."
 Lawrence, MTHEL 100

Sine Field

A column about nothing

So what's the deal with all the reality based TV lately? Big Brother... Survivor... The Olympic Games... all containing a bunch of people competing against each other to become rich and/or famous. In the end a lot of us will just be disappointed by the results anyway. I remember when so-called reality TV needed a number of talented scriptwriters; now all it takes is a surveillance camera in your bedroom.

The lilting strains of the Olympic theme drifted quietly across the higher dimensions of MC's sixth floor. They were then interrupted by a knock at the door of Sine's apartment. Sine hit mute on his television as eLAN walked into the room. "Hey, did you hear they're rerunning that 'Survivor' show with additional footage against the Olympics?" she inquired.

Sine nodded. "Yeah. You know, I never understood what all the fuss was about with that show."

"Duh, it's about being on TV and winning a million dollars!"

"But I thought that's what 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' was all about," Sine countered.

"Well, that show is for smart people, not normal people," eLAN refuted.

"Smart people who think that the capital of Quebec is Montreal?"

eLAN shrugged. "Maybe it depends on if you're watching the American edition, the Canadian edition, or the original one?"

"Is that your final answer?" Sine retorted.

Just then, Sine's door opened again and Gee.org entered. "Hey, you guys see the latest on 'Win Ben Stein's Money'?" he inquired. "Some guy outwitted, outplayed and outlasted him!"

"Don't you mean was smart enough, fast enough and had the guts?" eLAN wondered.

"Oh, this is ridiculous. There's way too many get rich quick shows on television these days," Sine declared.

"No, wait a minute, maybe the slogan was swifter, higher and stronger. Where have I heard that before..." Gee.org mused.

"Perhaps we should start up our own parody show here on campus?" eLAN proposed. "After all Sine, you're the secret head of the Maintaining Flawed Computers Federation, so you should have some pull."

"If we do that, I say let a Hooker win," Gee.org stated.

Sine rolled his eyes. "Must you always make such references to people involved with the Hooke server?"

"How about 'Who Wants a Mathematics Degree'?" eLAN mused. "And we'll vote ten people on the Dean's list out of the faculty each term..."

"Guys, check it out, *mathNEWS* is doing an Olympic-based parody!" Cray-mar interjected, bursting into the apartment unannounced.

"Hey, if anyone could do something based on those television shows, it would be those guys," Gee.org remarked.

eLAN laughed. "What, you think they should vote out a *mathNEWS* editor every year?"

"The Faculty is already doing that," Cray-mar commented. "Over the last five years they've voted out Chadwick "CAS" Severn, Matt "So-Krates" Walsh, Brian "Latrell" Fox, Mala "Crakko" Krishnan and Mike "Hammer" Hammond."

"That can't be right," Sine said. "Matt is still doing the *grid-*

WORD, Mike wrote articles for Daglobenpost and I saw Brian around the building a few weekends ago."

"Shouldn't 'Disco' Stu Pollock figure in there somewhere too?" mused Gee.org.

"Just because the editors get voted out with a degree doesn't mean they leave," Cray-mar observed. "After all, it looked like Richard Bilson was gone last Winter but now as a grad student it's come down to him and Greg 'hologrami' Taylor."

"Maybe it was the 'Survivor' hype but my money's on Richard then," eLAN stated.

"Maybe Greg can come up with a random number generator to sway the vote?" Gee.org commented.

"Actually, he probably wants to graduate now," Sine pointed out.

"Well either way, they're already auditioning new editors for *mathNEWS* Survivor II: The New Millennium," Cray-mar concluded, turning to leave the room again. "Now I'm off to deliver a copy of *mathNEWS* to Neumann."

"Hm... *mathNEWS* and the Olympics... makes me wonder if the editors take performance enhancing drugs," Gee.org pondered.

"Have you read *mathNEWS*?" eLAN refuted. "The drugs would not be performance enhancing."

"Anyway, I think I'm going to go back to watching real Olympic events," Sine concluded, grabbing his remote control.

"You know, those aren't the real events," Gee.org stated. "Everything already took place at 3am, what you have is recorded feed that's been touched up with a lot of product placement commercials added in."

"Oh, I'm only watching the Games to see who's going to be appearing in commercials and on billboards for the next two years anyway," Sine said with a shrug.

"Seems sort of pointless then," eLAN remarked.

"Hey, so is a lot of the stuff that happens in this room," Sine countered, turning the volume on his television back up. Again, the lilting strains of the Olympic theme drifted quietly across the higher dimensions of MC's sixth floor.

Greg "hologrami" Taylor

My Quick Snack

What a Great Muffin

My oh my, you go out wandering, wondering what to write about in a about 12 lines of space and you suddenly discover a marvelous muffin! It was cranberry packed, plus there was that kind of flavour that I love but can't name. Ginger? Cinnamon? Tumeric? I'm just not sure! It was the kind of muffin you want to do a lap of MC eating. The kind of muffin that makes you stop and chat with friends from frosh weeks gone by. The kind of muffin you'd savour instead of hurling at a car that just splashed you. The kind of muffin you'd grab to go with your hot chocolate to enjoy during an 8:30 class (at least that's what I've been told). I don't think I'll ever forget that muffin, at least for this week.

Bradley T "That was a good muffin" Smith

Survivor: Survival in University

presented by mathNEWS

Welcome to another new exciting season of “Survivor”. This new season of “Survivor” promises to be more exciting and more dramatic than last season. The rules remain the same: Eight contestants, made up of frosh students chosen randomly from different faculties, are sent to the remote island known only by the initials as UW. Each contestant will try to survive in UW without dropping or failing out. For every two weeks, a secret ballot will be cast and two contestants will be eliminated. The last contestant remaining will be declared the winner. The tribe, made up of a genetically engineered army of cyborgs, a.k.a. the “UW Professors”, will try their best to make UW an inhospitable place.

The contestants are as follows:

1. Klen Halyards (Act. Sci.). Klen is in a financial crisis since he failed his 1st year and is receiving no money from OSAP or his parents. Klen is considering being an exotic dancer to support himself.
2. Igor Eaton-Thompson-Malacki (Physics). A self-described Satan worshipper, Igor is by far the most crazy and evil of all contestants. Igor is currently trying to extract heavy water in his room for use in nuclear fission.
3. Joe Santos (Rec. Studies). Joe will have to try really hard to survive in UW as the minimum requirement of 2 hours of studying per week may be too difficult for Joe to handle.
4. Richard Hatch (Mec. Eng.). Richard is an android sent by Skynet from the 22nd Century; his mission is to assassinate the future rebel leader, Greg Taylor.
5. Margaret Romak (Religious Studies). Margaret is an atheist who hates all religions. Her goal in life is to convert all religious people into atheists and show them the meaning of life.
6. Tom Long Jr. (CS). Computer whiz that is desperate for a relationship with any human being, as he no longer has the same feeling for his computer companion, Mary.
7. Ed O’Neil (Indep. Studies). The oldest of all contestants, Ed is a 42 year old who makes his living by selling shoes. Sick of his job and his family, Ed decided to live in the remote region of UW.
8. Susan B. Anthony (Math). Susan is just a normal human being (that’s what she would like you to believe...)
9. Kelly Craft (Bio.). A secret service agent working for the Umbrella Corp., Kelly’s mission is to turn all UW contestants into zombies.
10. Christina Spears (Music). Gorgeous and sexy, Christina is by far the sexiest girl in UW!!!

Disclaimer: All characters and situations presented here are purely fictitious and stereotypical. Any similarities in characters or situations are coincidental unless you happened to be someone that I know.

Anthony “Sepiraph” Cheng

My Big Pink Tie

To the tune of American Pie

A long, long time ago,
I can still remember how
that pink tie used to make me smile.
I knew if they gave me a try,
I could earn my own pink tie.
It would make me happy for a while.
Guarding the pink tie made me shiver
with every hour I delivered.
Bad news the tie was stolen
the leaders’ eyes were rollin’!
I can’t remember Why-o-why
we all so loved that fuckin’ pink tie,
but something touched me deep inside
the day the pink tie died.

Chorus: And we were singin’.
Why, Why, Where is our big pink tie,
We drove around the campus, but the bars were all dry,
The good old math boys with no whiskey or rye,
Singing where, oh, where, is my big pink tie.

Did you meet our first dean,
and did you know he listened to Queen,
like the handbook tells us so.
Do you believe he wore those ties,
it’s not just a bunch of stupid lies,
he taught us how to make a fashion statement.
And I know that one day on a whim
his students shocked him in the gym.
They all wore pink ties for him.
And then the whim was broken ooo...
I was a lonely teenage Math alumni
with the pink carnations and matching tie,
and I knew that I was out of luck
the day the pink tie died.

Chorus



Team Tango
Laura Edwards
Aleem Bahnji
Adeel Naidar
Courtney Steinmetz
Katie Law
Atul Sharma

mathRANT

Maybe the Dingo ate your Medal

The Summer Games in the Fall...

Yesterday's results today...

Only in the Land Down Under.

So the Olympics are in full force, and with so many sports that it hurts my brain. The medal count is already in the hundreds, and spread across countless countries. There are new sports being introduced, like the Canadian gold winning Triathlon, and old sports, with no prior Olympic showing, are making their debut, like Baseball. Where does it end? Where is it going? Who am I talking to? All are important questions, but none will be answered in this very special addition of mathRANT, brought to you by the good people at Duff. Can't get enough of that wonderful duff.

With that said, welcome to mathRANT. It's a healthy dose of satire, a tad of advice, with a tinge of bitterness and a little sage. It's a fresh perspective on a sometimes belaboured point that doesn't always make sense, nor flow in any coherent fashion... Okay... I like using big words and hearing my own voice — err, opinions. I'm a little egocentric, so bear with me, as I tend to go off on tangents.

Where was I? Ah, yes, right, the Olympics. I have paid very little attention to them — I guess I figure that Canada really isn't the number one pick to bring in medals. Of course, it doesn't hurt that all we get are highlights, so it is not like they are available all day, like in the '96 games. Nonetheless, it struck me last night, as I sat down to check the standings, that Canada is cursed when it comes to the Olympics. I was just sitting there, watching the 8-man rowing competition between Australia, Britain, USA, a few other countries, and, I guess Canada was there too, but they were really too far behind to be noticed, but what I realized was that Canada has two modes when it comes to the Olympics. Either we aren't winning the medals, or we are having them taken away.

I don't like it anymore than you do, trust me, but invariably, in every Olympics since fateful '88, we've had one of our athletes nailed for one thing or another. And mark my words, some poor bastard is going to take an Advil, or something, and end up losing their bloody Gold medal. If it has not happened yet, it will before we're done. Who will it be, though? Time will tell...

Obligatory Complaint of the Week

So how many people have been on a waiting list for a CS course? It's an interesting system that they have. I have been on the waiting list for CS 486, Artificial Intelligence, since the late summer. Now, were I to go by the Internet Course Information Report, there were five spots, which wasn't bad, considering the waiting list only had six people on it. One of which was myself, another was a friend of mine, who didn't have the pre-requisite. Now, one would assume that there were, at most, five valid people on the waiting list, and five spots. That's a one to one mapping. And yet, what did I receive last Friday? REJECTED!

On Monday — that's actually today, but to you it's four days ago, so by now I've either got into AI, or I am taking on CS 466. Like I was saying, on Monday I went to the advisor's office to find out what was going on. Now, I'd like to tell you all that everything worked out perfectly, that they said, "Well, damn! What were we thinking?", but this is the CS department, and

nothing seems to run that smoothly. Instead I got: "Well, jeez, only one person got into CS 486. I don't really know why though. You may want to come back later this week."

It is said that we live in an imperfect world, full of imperfect creatures... And some of these imperfect creatures hold our fate in their hands...

Generic Advice

Never, under any circumstances, pursue an Option if you are in CS! They are an utter waste of time, and energy! I mean, they may sound cool, like Software Engineering, but guess what: they give you very little creative license. Now, in your fourth year, if you are able to maintain an 80 average in your first three years, an option may be an idea, but for the average CS student, no way!

General Warning to the Frosh

Hold off on buying that '05 jacket until after your Sophomore year. An '05 Jacket may cause the upper years to feel old, and needlessly unleash fourth years of their unbridled wrath upon you. This Service announcement has been funded by the Frosh Protection Agency.

MariusX

Few MathFacts

- Mathies have an impeccable sense of fashion: Have you seen our pink ties? Is there anything more fashionable?
- Mathies really attract the opposite sex: Hey! Can you think of anyone who won't be impressed with someone who can find the GCD of 28927872 and 387276?
- Mathies have a great sense of direction: We can actually find our way around the MC building, can't we?
- Mathies crave ... SLEEP, SLEEP, SLEEP ... (zzzzzzz ...)
- A true mathie aces any course he/she takes: They HAVE to! How can one take a course 5 times and not get really good at it.
- Aside from these, the CS Mathie Philosophy of Life goes:

```
highSchool.over();
If (get into CS program)
{
  mood = reallyHappy;
  future = dark&Distant;
  for ( universityLife = 0; universityLife < 5;
        universityLife++ )
  {
    sleep = 0;
    weekends = null;
    if (courses = pass)
      mood = reallyReallyHappy;
    else
      mood = depressed;
      future = uncertain;
      break;
  }
}
```

... Shaz

Food For Thought, walking in Waterloo

Has any one, besides me, followed the "city" of Waterloo thought that the knows, may be afraid of what might happen to Laurel creek if new buildings went up in the North Campus.

I don't know if I am crazy, although usually the accusations directed at my mental health are targeted more to my competence than sanity. But just for argument's sake, let us assume for a moment that I am not to be trusted.

What is with these wide streets and gentle corners? Every time I cross Columbia over by Westmount I feel like I am playing chicken with some SUV or something. Gee whiz. Thank you Ford Motor Company for making such a delightful vehicle as the Ford Extravaganza (Ford Excursion). Question: can the driver of that monstrosity on four wheels actually see the pedestrian running between the tire treads?

Back home, in Toronto, on my most recent co-op work term, if I needed groceries I walked over to the No Frills. Parking was too hard to justify the 3 minute drive vs. the 5 minute walk. Here in Waterloo, if I discover I need some Black Bean sauce... well, thanks to the Zehrs strike, I am plain out of luck. But if Zehrs was not closed it would still take me about 30 minutes to walk one way to the store. In a car that is about a two minute drive.

I guess my point is: what the hell is with all this low density housing? University students are supposed to be poor, or at least willing to put up with apartment living. Yet how many of us live in apartments — village does not count and besides you don't have to go grocery shopping unless you want something edible for dinner! Hello town of Waterloo, it is really easy, zone more space high density residential. That is not so hard now, is it?

Supposedly Waterloo is a town that is worried about the ecology, for example, notice all the construction on the North Campus? Back in 1998 a friend of mine studying architecture told me that the reason the construction was moving so slowly

Okay, I get it. So we are not allowed to put buildings close together because we would rather drive off in 100 gallon to the mile SUVs disturbing all the local flora and fauna than live close together. And in this day and age of green technologies, like computer companies that are sure to appear around this University, arguments that we must protect Laurel creek seem especially weak.

Question: Why are humans so afraid of each other around here? I guess after making my little rant it occurs to me, people don't want to live near each other. We would rather drive around in our little (or in some cases massively oversized) sealed cars poisoning the air driving up taxes for road maintenance, than taking public transit and, heaven forbid, living near our neighbours. Can I make a suggestion to everyone who is afraid of the exterior of their automobile? Move to Los Angeles. I have been at this University for three years now, and it took me until just a little while ago to figure out what I can not stand about this place, you can make it on foot only if you are one of:

1. Superman
2. Near Olympic athlete condition

I think I want to do my grad work at U of T, or maybe I'll move to Europe. I hear they like small cars there.

Michael Cole

The Official Guide To Living On Campus (but not in residence)

You made it through first year, so the school rewarded you by kicking your ass out of residence. Unfortunately you didn't quite make time to meet any landlords last March, CLT threw out your bullshit-dipped application, and you didn't apply to Beck Hall because Beck Hall is a total skam. So now you find yourself on your own: sleeping nights in the Comfy Lounge, eating three meals a day at Scoops, and bathing (irregularly) at the PAC. Well my friend, it's time for *The Official Guide to Living On Campus* (but not in residence):

1. **Building Your Nest:** The "beds" in the comfy are good, but not great. As you'll be spending a lot of nights there, you sorry sockboy, you'll need to pad your sleeping area. A popular option is a bed of soft cardboard. You can find some cardboard in the back corner of the C&D cafe. Chew it up into small moist pieces and line the comfy chairs about 6"-8" thick.
2. **Keeping Clean:** Since cleanliness is a priority in the Math Faculty, you'll want to...oh who am I kidding — keep dirty, we'll remember you that way.
3. **Storing Your Shite:** Along with your textbooks, alcohol and

pajamas, you may need room for a spare pair of underwear (or two!), some golf clubs or a couch. The lockers in MC or the PAC could suffice, but there are many alternatives. If you are interested in storing lingerie for example, try hanging them up in the UW Shop. If you're creative, you can store virtually anything: canoes will sit nicely atop the statues at Hagey Hall, horseshoe magnets fit neatly under the iMacs, and your pet squirrel can make his home in the warm space under the hood of the new ES van.

4. **Staying Out of Trouble:** This step is easy, but very important. There's a group of rule-maker types who aren't very supportive of your choice to take housing privileges with your UW tuition. Should you face a conflict tell them, "I have to go to my time-machine," and run off. They will assume you are going to your time machine and let you off the hook.

As you can see, living on campus (but not in residence) is fun and easy. Good luck, and stay away from Beck hall!

Jesse Wilson
couchabunga!

Frosh Week: A Frosh's eye view

Hi brave *mathNEWS* readers, Albert the frosh here to speak to you about frosh week. But before I do that I will waste your time by telling you about myself.

Well I'm Albert Stupid. Haven't you been reading the article? But beyond that I am a frosh. This means, of course, I had to endure the test of strength and endurance that is frosh week, and as a result I know a bit about the whole subject. I am also a student at Waterloo (that's right, I will state the blindly obvious) taking CS honours co-op 4-stream. Meaning, of course, you only have to deal with me until X-mas.

Now why do I think I have what it takes to write for *mathNEWS*? Well I know they will let anybody write for *mathNEWS*. In fact they probably want all the people they can get to write for them. Now I've come to the (Tushar was here) understanding that *mathNEWS* will let anyone write not from simply looking at the workmanship and laughing, no, no, no. I have been reading this fine publication for 4ish odd years (odd that because 4 is even). How can this be seeing how I am from the far away and foreign land of Manitoba? Well my brother went to this university and brought me gifts of *mathNEWS* for X-mas and other holidays (isn't he a nice brother). Now Dan, when he learned who my brother is, was notably surprised. He felt the need to parade me down to the PMC and show me off [*I thought the circus was in town — MassDestructo*]. This actually happened after frosh week and therefore has absolutely nothing to do with what I am supposed to be writing about. But, hey, it is wasting your time very effectively so don't start complaining now. Yes my brother is Russell O'Connor.

Now I am not my brother, and there are many differences between us, as Dan noticed. Firstly I have about a foot on him (not really but you get the point). My hair is short and strange looking as (Tushar was also here) opposed to long and strange looking. In fact my features come from the other side of the family so I don't even resemble him. As you know half of your genes come from your mom and half from your dad [*or in some cases, the milkman, that's what my dad says ... — MassDestructo*]. Your genes therefore can be combined in four ways to yield different types of children (ignore what I just said unless you happen to be taking math and bio, in which case you probably could elaborate).

So I think that is quite enough about me, and now on to frosh week...

The 3 Elements of Frosh Week

Though we did many various and well planned activities during the course of the human ordeal that is frosh week, there were reoccurring trends which I dubbed the 3 elements of frosh week. The first element is **standing around**[*moo — MassDestructo*]. We did quite a lot of this, so much that I felt the need and desire to divide it by zero(BOOM!)-no I mean divide it into two types. The first was the more annoying standing around doing nothing type. Of course there probably was a reason for the 'nothing' like waiting for time to pass, someone to show up, or simply for lack of a better thing to do. The second and more useful type was standing around in a line, or as I prefer, a queue. Now gaining the capacity to stand around in long lines is in fact a useful skill we learned during all the insane and inane fun of frosh week. You find the opportunity to use this skill in such places as the Caf, outside the MFCE, waiting to get

your picture taken for a Watcard, waiting to get your picture taken for a bus pass, waiting outside the book store, waiting inside the book store, waiting to pay in the book store, and in Needless Hell (anywhere in Needless Hell). I suggest keeping an unread issue of *mathNEWS* with you at all times in case you end up in a line. I found it most useful as, of course, a means to waste time.

The second exciting element to frosh week was **moving in large groups**[*moo — MassDestructo*]. Now unless you happen to have an abnormally large circle of friends (in this case it would have to be a platoon or something) this skill actually doesn't have much application in the rest of your university career as far as I know unless you intend to take tours of things. But hey, it's the university's job to remind us that we are mere sheep in this world.

Finally the last and the best element of frosh week: **eating**[*moo, eat grass, free, moo — MassDestructo*]. Now I am by no means a big eater, but this eating had the advantage of being completely free. Now I am a math student and have seen how much I am paying to be here, so now I really appreciate FREE food. YUM! As has been the case no doubt throughout your life eating has been a continuous and important lesson. (Once again if you happen to be some kind of species of bio mathie [*or cow, maybe next year's frosh theme should be cattle — MassDestructo*] you probably could say more on the subject of food and life and learning, but hey I didn't take grad 12 bio {or OAC bio for that matter since I'm from Manitoba so there!})

Once more my name is Albert O'Connor, or to you older PMATH folks, Russell's brother. Hope I get to write more for you all out there in mathie land. Chow!

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

The strange days of September

Every September, strange things happen at the University of Waterloo. Some strange events that I think other students have observed include:

1. Observing many students going to 8:30 a.m. classes.
2. Classes being mostly full (a very special rarity for linear algebra classes).
3. Students actually seem interested in going to school (a rarity for any classes).
4. Students that look like they had slept the previous day (a real rarity for CS students).

Well, I know all these strange things will stop occurring by the time September has passed. By then, everything will seem normal again. On the other hand, some things will never change in the La-La land of UW, such as:

1. Noisy people in the libraries
2. Noisy people in computer labs (esp. girls!)

Anyway, have fun while September lasts because it is the last time that you will be free to have a social life!

Sepiraph

Water Event Ends In Tragedy:

One Phone Dead, MiniDisc Player In Critical Condition

In a shocking end to an eventful FroshWeek 2000, Frosh Leaders banded together to release their anger and frustration built up over the week on incoming froshies by releasing insane amounts of water from high ground.

In what was to be a memorable occasion, MathSoc Photo Day was turned into tragedy after the 'all-in-good-fun' water event, now classified as FROSH WASH, turned into tragedy this last year before the millennium. (For you mathies, we don't have to explain. If you're an artsie reading this, it may come as a surprise that year 2000 is NOT the first year of the millennium... hey... at least you guys can have 2 millennium bashes though...it's all about the partying). After the last group photo was taken, Frosh Leaders excused themselves under the assumption that the last few photos were frosh exclusive shots. As frosh happily posed for incoming camera shots, little did they know that many frosh leaders had snuck up to the 3rd level of the MC, where they had cached water projectiles and other liquid-related weapons. Soon after the last photo was taken, one of the camera people on scene, suspected to be an accomplice for the Frosh Leaders, ordered the Frosh to stay where they are for a second. As frosh stood at their places dazed and confused, hammers of water rained down on the frosh below, immediately soaking a good amount of Frosh who stood there under the cameraman's orders.

After the incident, several froshies, who were lucky enough to be standing out of ground zero, set up triage and assessed the situation while Frosh Leaders laughed and prided themselves

with another successful Frosh Wash. As the liquid vapors cleared, it was discovered that an Ericsson KF788 died on site, diagnosed by a professional as having "destroyed LCD nodes." Injured were many expensive clothing items that were worn by the frosh for the momentous photo op. It was later discovered that a Sony MiniDisc player was brought to the emergency room for a malfunction of the remote control unit. The player is now listed in stable but critical condition.

When asked to comment, a Frosh Leader who prefers to remain anonymous claimed that this event happens every year and several leaders were in charge of telling frosh to conceal their more expensive and fragile items such as phones and mobile Ming vases. However, this year leaders neglected to warn the Frosh, and the tragedy struck hard into the minds of Froshies and Frosh Leaders alike.

MathSoc has agreed to compensate the family of the dead cell phone. A memorial service was held late last week, and the family of the phone has asked the press not to invade their privacy, which *mathNEWS* is happy to oblige.

Oh yes, and the froshies in general are okay too. One had a broken nail, and another had the pink hair colouring washed out, but they don't count.

Raymond "Yes I Am a Frosh" Lai

Horror Stories from the Frosh

Now it is my belief frosh learn the most interesting lessons about the university seeing as we're here for the first time and are not used to the various standards and culture of this place. So I would like to invite frosh to write their horror stories about learning a hard lesson so we can get a reoccurring article here. So if anything has happened to you from which you have learned, please send it to me e-mail: amjoconnor@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. I will accept anonymous submissions.

Once Upon a Frosh Week

-or- Don't Try Door # 3

This is my frosh week story. It's a story about things not to do during frosh week, or anytime for that matter. You see I (doh! I mean our froshling friend) was in the feds looking at GRT bus info. Our froshling friend thought a bus pass would be a handy thing to have so he checked out the price. After getting up from the shock of the seemingly very large price tag for 3 months of bus services, he decided the best thing to do was leave and go about his business. Now seeing he was a busy frosh on a busy frosh week, he did not look where he was going; he just went with his head down pondering how it was possible for him to go to university and still have enough money to buy a sour soother. Once out of the SLC he noticed that the path he was on curiously went only to another door. He was very used to the path leading to the street or to another building. In fact there were shrubs between him and the street. Something was wrong. So he turned around to look at the door out which he

came. In reverse writing it said "Emergency Fire Exit: Alarm will Sound" (or something to that effect). Our froshling started to panic. He listened carefully but heard no alarm. His first reaction was to go back in the way he had come and leave the proper way. But curiously enough fire exits are not entrances as well, so he was stuck. Not really being sure what to do or who to tell he decided to creep through the shrubs to the street and walk away calmly, hoping that nothing bad had actually happened. The thought of the \$5,000 fine for pulling a fire alarm in residence was ringing in his head. He didn't have 5 grand! He was a university student for gosh sakes, he didn't have money for new underwear and especially not \$5,000.

Now I — I mean our froshling went to Needless Hell to stand in line because he likes that sort of thing, but that's another story. Afterward he walked back to the SLC and saw that nothing seemed amiss. This was good. He walked through the SLC to the other side and stopped. Parked across the street was a big red fire truck like the kind from the movies, white ladder extended up to the sky. Oh no! What have I done! How much will I be fined? A moment passed. No one actually seemed terribly concerned, and the fire truck was really just sitting there... Later I learned that the fire truck was there to take a picture of a big people Canadian flag thing.

So the moral of the story is frosh week is a bad time to bring out fire trucks to take picture of big people Canadian flags.

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

Words

adfrenityn. How far on the road to freeness something is. Something with a high adfrenity will soon be free. [From Latin *ad* to and Old English]

“Those croissants have a huge adfrenity; they’re three weeks old.”

autoinebriatev. To make oneself drunk naturally, without alcohol or other chemicals. [from Greek *auto* self and Latin *ebrius* drunk]

big-ohulisev. (also -ize) Convert to Big O notation.

“That problem’s easy; you just Taylorise the function, then big-ohulise it.”

contraductionn. A technique of proof which combines proof by contradiction and proof by induction.

cognidoliphilen. An intellectual masochist. Someone who likes to solve tedious and difficult problems for fun. [from Latin *cogito* think, *dolor* pain and Greek *philos* loving]

countablymanysome A group of people numbering more than one and such that there exists an injective function mapping the people to the set of natural numbers, esp sexual.

“A countablymanysome is fine, but a conntinuumsome, that’s just kinky.”

decogitaladj. 1 Being devoid of thought 2 (An activity) used to relax the mind, requiring no thought [from Latin *cogito* think]

evilityadj. The measure of how evil something is. How morally wrong something is. [Old English]

“The evility of this assignment is high; there’s way too much calculation.”

examinial-flagellationn. Being beaten or raped on an exam. Doing extremely poorly on an exam. [from Latin *examen* tongue of a scale and *flagellum* whip]

hemipossen. Half a posse. A disorganised group of 4-6 people. [from Latin *semi* half and *posse* to be able]

“Hemiposse out.”

infraexaminialadj. Something which is below what will be tested in an exam esp. because it is too simple or too easy. [from Latin *infra* below and *examen* tongue of a scale]

inpecunituden. A measure of the purity of a subject. How incorrupt a subject is. [from Latin *pecunium* money]

“Damn CS, it’s got such a low inpecunitude, all you do is make money. PM, now there’s a good major.”

inuniquityn. Not being unique, state of being nonunique. [from Latin *unicus* one and only]

isocompletonaladj. Equivalent to the completeness axiom. Can be proved from the completeness axiom and vice versa. [from Greek *isos* equal]

magnaballistituden. How much of a big gun something is, esp. mathematical theorem. [from Latin *magnus* large, *ballista* artillery from Greek *ballo* throw]

mathismon. To be aggressively mathematical. To have a patronizing view of those less mathematical.

maximableadj. 1 Able to be in Maxim. 2 A woman who is highly attractive even without the effects of waterlopia or similar ailments.

“Is it just my waterlopia or is that girl maximable?”

monopulatev. Monopolize and manipulate. Influence others with a purpose of taking over something.

nunceadj. 1 On no occasion, no times. 2 Multiplied by zero.

“How many times have you gotten laid? Nunce, I’m in math.”

obvifyv. 1 Make something obvious. 2 Claim or point out something is obvious. [from Latin *ob viam* in the way]

“Can’t we just obvify this proof?”

physikoidaladj. 1 Physics-like or physics style. 2 Extremely heuristically or empirically. 3 With a lot of approximation. 4 With proof before statement. 5 Unrigorously or unsoundly proven.

“Don’t give me this physikoidal crap, prove it!”

Pimpa Noctan. 1 Night of pimping. 2 Night when professors attempt to recruit for their department. [from Latin *noctu* night]

“Did you go to Pimpa Nocta last week? Yeah, I went to AM, PM, and CS sessions.”

postmatureadj. Occurring or done significantly later than the usual or proper time. Something done by someone too old to do it. [from Latin *post* after, *maturus* timely]

pseudodignitasn. A false sense of coolness. A feeling that maturity is the same thing as coolness. [from Greek *pseudes* false and Latin *dignita* importance, prestige]

pseudosomnulencen. A state of false sleep, where one has the symptoms of sleep yet gets no rest from it. [from Greek *pseudes* false and Latin *somnus* sleep]

“Time for CS... an hour and a half of pseudosomnulence.”

sinusoidalmalasinusn. A sinus infection or cold which causes the sufferer to experience regular periodic phases in and out of consciousness and unconsciousness or wellness and unwellness.

somniciden. 1 Something which interrupts or stops sleep unnaturally. 2 The act of interrupting sleep unnaturally. [from Latin *somnus* sleep and *caedo* kill]

“Damn 8:30 class! It’s pure somnicide I tell you!”

studifugal force n. The force which opposes studying. Any attempt to study will be met by an equal or greater force to stop studying. [from Latin *studere* to study, *fugere* to flee]

“I screwed up the midterm; the studifugal forces were too strong.”

Taylorisev. (also -ize) Apply Taylor’s Theorem to. Convert to Taylor polynomial. Get Taylor approximation of.

“That problem’s easy; you just Taylorise the function, then big-ohulise it.”

trilateralprinomenn. Three letter acronym (TLA). A short form of three letters. [from Latin *tres* three, *littera* letter, *prima* first, *nomen* name]

uber-mediocrityn. A state slightly better than being mediocre. [from German *Uber* higher and Latin *mediocriss* ordinary, of medium size]

“This class has reached a new level of uber-mediocrity.”

ultraexaminialadj. Something which is beyond what will be tested in an exam. esp. because it is too complicated or too hard. [from Latin *ultra* beyond and *examen* tongue of a scale]

unprocrasinuliciousadj. 1 Not a procrastinator or not procrastinating. 2 Not left too late. [from Latin *cras* tomorrow]

waterlopien. A vision disorder caused by excessive periods spent at the University of Waterloo (esp. in math) which causes women to look more attractive than they really are. [from Greek *ops* eye]

“Is it just my waterlopia or is that girl maximable?”

zornicationn. The act or process of using Zorn’s Lemma to prove something.

Daniel Redelmeier

The Frosh Cornered

EVIL Things on Campus

Upon further inspection of the UW campus recently, I have come upon conclusive evidence that many of our technologies and other items that are used in our daily activities are inherently evil, or close to it. Here, if you dare to read further, is a list of many things evil. By no means am I telling you not to touch or use it, but just keep in mind that your iMac can suck you into the depths of hell faster before you can say Microsoft. Having said that, the first one is...

1. iMACS: Who the hell (pun intended) created a computer that has absolutely NO floppy drive. I'm sorry, CS120 students, but iMacs are inherently evil. I don't care what Steve Jobs say, but when I need something transferred, the best way is NOT to haul your "ultra portable" iMac with its fruity color from your friends house, buy a \$75 USB cable, and connect those two computers through a USB connection. 9 out of 10 students surveyed agreed that throwing floppy disks around is still the preferred way to get those 1's and 0's across, and that 10th student was Satan in disguise.
2. Microsoft Windows 9X, NT, 2000, ME, ME2, ME3, 3000, etc. Anything related to Microsoft is inherently evil, as demonstrated by CS student Josh Bertrand this Frosh Week. During the annual Frosh Bonfire, Josh the Frosh Leader agreed to be paid 1.5 million points for the Mathie Scunt to burn his copy of Bill Gates's *The Road Ahead* in front of the eager frosh crowd at the bonfire. As the damned book was thrown into the fire fueled by wood and gasoline, evil flames rose from the book and was exorcised from its cover. Needless to say, the words of the man who created the company that "revolutionized the computer industry" are basically the words from the nation down under. (I'm not talking about the Australians. They're not evil.) In addition, who in their right minds would design an operating system that would crash under the weight of a feather or blue screen if left alone for 10 minutes? Microsoft operating systems may be developing some sort of self-awareness algorithm where it would get scared if left alone all by itself in a dark room and shut itself down in a panic. Upon further investigation, Windows 9X and Windows ME operating systems may be developing some sort of islophobia, or fear of solitude. Don't be fooled by the so called "Stable OS" of 2000/NT. Any operating system that is so retarded that has Wizards teaching you how to click a mouse is evil.
3. *mathNEWS*: This is a prime example of e<edited by *mathNEWS* editors>
4. Women's Television Network: They are evil because CBC's Air Farce makes fun of it so much. Ditto.
5. Pokémon: This children's television show from Japan has leaked itself into the minds of the young minds of North American Youth. Originally marketed as only a television show, Pokémon has evolved into a highly centralized illuminati-like society where television schedules must conform to it's hourly broadcasted reruns. Preempting quality and enjoyable Canadian television shows such as CBC's Cricket Night in Regina and CTV's WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE *Canadian Edition with Pamela Wallin* . Not only has it corrupted television, it has spilled

onto the streets with its addictive card game, plush toys, bumper stickers, bookbags, pencil cases, books, novels, movies, desktop backgrounds, interactive software, etc. Worse of all, Pokémon's "charms" don't just lend itself to the unformed minds of children, even adults are lured into it's evil trade. Heck, my roommate has Pokémon paraphernalia up the wazoo, ranging from backpack dolls to ICQ sounds that yell "PIKACHU" every time a message comes through. Evil, I say. EVIL!

6. The developers of DIABLO II and HALF LIFE CounterStrike: A current study of my dorm area shows a large amount of Mathies, particularly CS students, play either or both addictive games. One of the CS professors gave a speech during Frosh Week describing how people fail out of CS and how often it happens, and I think he can accredit this year's pending failure rate spike to either or both games. CS STUDENTS BEWARE! DANGER DANGER WARNING WARNING! (Quoted from Smith's Econ101 Class!) Overexposure of this software, however fun and addictive it may be, is dangerous to your Honours status at this academic institution.

7. UW's iMac Labs: We're all Mathies. Lets do the math.

Given: iMac = 1 Evil Rating (e)

of iMacs = 500 (estimated)

Required: Level of Evilness

Solution: Use theorem:

$$(iMac * \# \text{ of iMacs}) = \text{Total EvilRating}$$

$$(1e * 500) = 500e$$

Conclusion: Using scale: 1 = Evil, 666 as Satanistically Evil, we can conclude that a level of 500e is Extremely evil and is close to 666, so by estimation we can deduce that the number of iMacs here at uWaterloo is extremely evil.

8. UW's Windows Labs: Use above formulas and similar algorithm, but replace each Windows machine's evilness rating by infinity. You do the math... again.
9. Water: No, I'm not talking about the school, I'm talking about the liquid. The killer of phones, the destroyer of pink ties, this relentless creation of nature is tame and refreshing if used correctly, but if it got into the wrong hands of lets say... FROSH LEADERS, then results are DEADLY. Refer back to the earlier article about the harmful effects of crystal clear water.
10. We reach the conclusion of this epic list, and the final entry to this list of the damned is Keg Parties: Probably the 2nd most used excuse for not handing in assignments on time or missing those crucial final exams. Yes, they are fun. Beer = fun. Lots of beer = Lots of fun. Too much beer = too much fun, and so on and so on. Too much fun can lead to... getting kicked out of Math... and the consequences are dire. Do you want to be called an artsie for the rest of your life? The choice is yours.

So, there it is. Beware what you drink and what you use. For those in CS120, I feel for you all. If you're in CS130, I would suggest anchoring yourself with a heaving metallic device to keep yourself sucked into your radiation tube in front of you.

And beware of water... water and cellular phones DO NOT MIX. [Nor do chainsaws and alcohol! — *MassDestructo*]

Raymond Lai

mastHEAD

Welcome to the foo term

Greetings all! We ended up with a bit of everything this issue, including what we could salvage from the remains of last summer's issue #6, which never actually hit the stands. We'd like to introduce you to our fresh new editor trainees too, specifically Bradley T. Smith and Peter Lizak, who have already proven their usefulness in putting together this massive issue.

In fact, there are a lot of people who we need to thank for coming out to our Production Night and contributing. Here they are, with their answer to the question "If you had to create an Olympic event for yourself to compete in, what would it be?": Albert O'Connor (MathSoc tanktop modelling), Jesse Wilson (Sheep shaving), Raymond Lai (Pokémon skeet shooting. Gotta kill them all!!), Keith Mortensen (Koala Toss), Catherine Moore (Scaring children (for fun & profit)), Jason Lau (Koosh Ball polo (riding on kangaroos)), Joe Drew (Playing Tickle me <insert name here>), Shahzad Jessani (Who wants to be a Pornoholic?), Ian Bailey (Flying squirrel imitations), Anthony Cheng (Sleeping Competition), Kamil Jiwa (Running away from *mathNEWS* editors... naked), Peter Lizak (Naked buck wild, super crazy ass stripping golf) and Bradley T Smith (Discus catching — javelins are too sharp!).

Thanks to all of our friends at Graphics Services for making so much out of what we give them, and to Math Orientation for the cover photo.

Richard Bilson & Greg Taylor (*mathNEWS* Production)

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

September 22 Issue #1 comes in first place
October 2 Issue #2 production night
6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)

October 6 Issue #2 passes its drug test

Math Faculty

September 22 Course Add Deadline
October 9 Course Drop Deadline
November 1-3 Spring Term Pre-Registration

MGC

September 22 Nominations for VPF, VPA and class reps close

MGC

September 23 IBM Career Fair
September 26-October 4 Grad Photo Appointments
September 27 Career Fair @ Bingemans

MEF

September 29 Refund Deadline
October 20 Funding Proposal Deadline
October 20 Council Nomination Deadline

Miscellaneous

September 22 Date you send us dates for next issue
October 9 Thanksgiving
October 6-14 Oktoberfest!
October 15-18 Recoveryfest
October 29 Set your clocks back
October 31 Happy Halloween!

Introduction to Math

Compiled by Tushar "oo7" Singh

Welcome Frosh to the Faculty of Math. You've worked hard to get here and you walk the hallways along with the rest of us who've also worked hard to get here. It's just that some of us have been here longer and you may overhear them once in a while talking about certain courses. Most often what you will hear is:

"*MATH 135... that was like having a watermelon shoved up my ass.*"

or

"*MATH 138... that was like having a crowbar shoved up my ass... SIDEWAYS.*"

To help you frosh along I have compiled a short list of things that may be shoved up your ass and short course summaries for selected courses.

Items:

1. Crowbars: by far the most common object to be shoved up somebody's ass
2. Watermelon: Not so popular, but painful none the less
3. Oranges: Not used often but enjoyable compared to Watermelons
4. Apples: See Item 3, Oranges
5. Roman Candles: Comparable to Crowbars
6. Nothing: ENG 109M; I am a dog, I am a cat, resume writing...

Modifiers:

1. Sideways: Used generally to signify extreme pain
2. Oh please make it stop, oh please oh please oh please: Used with CS 354 (OS)

There are of course other items and modifiers that are used but hey we're in Math here not English.

Now for the courses, almost all Math Students are taking Math 135 and Math 137 this term. Next term you will be taking Math 136 and Math 138 (if you survive).

MATH 135 is a very fun fun course. You can use obscure proofs to prove anything at all. Most frosh don't realize this. Let's use an example, shall we?

Since 2, 3, 5, and 7 are prime, you can say... PORN IS GOOD. [*Yeah, Yeah, porn rules! — Beavis*]

Since Porn is good then... PORN IS BAD. [*Dude, porn isn't Bad, Porn rules! — Butthead*]

Since Porn is bad then... 11 is prime.

It's really that easy.

Of course some upper year students may describe this course as having items 1 and 2 along with Modifier 1 stuck up your ass.

MATH 137 is much like MATH 138 so we'll just say that it is like having items 1, 2, and 5 stuck up your ass with Modifier 1 spread liberally over the items. Do not attempt to differentiate the items as they are not continuous.

Hopefully this small course guide will help you in deciding when you want to switch to another faculty or maybe start figuring out how to protect yourself from these courses.

Tushar Quack

mathNEWSquiz #1*The Olympiadical One*

Well, welcome to the first Squiz of the fall. What can I say? If you weren't here during the summer, there was no Squiz-Master, so Kev and I were temporary SquizMasters. Now, there are no SquizMasters and I was wandering around MC, so I've been sucked into this again. I apologize for ruining your next three months of sucky Squizzesses, but it's better than no Squizzesses.

Well, before I forget, because that's what I do, here's what you can do with your solutions: You can shove'em ...in the **BLACK BOX** some time before 6:30 on October second. If you don't know where the **BLACK BOX** is, walk across the hall from the C+D or comfy and look for a black box. That is the **BLACK BOX**. If this still defeats you, mail your answers in to mathnews@uwaterloo.ca before the deadline that I mentioned earlier, sometime in October I think it was. Whatever. Do your Squiz!

*Music Lyrics**Points for band and title, bonus for theme*

- Here comes the woman
With the look in her eye
Raised on leather
With flesh on her mind
- I took you to an intimate restaurant
Then to a suggestive movie
There's nothing left to talk about
Unless it's horizontal
- The time has come
A fact's a fact
It belongs to them
Let's give it back
- No more maybes
Your baby's got rabies
Sitting on a ball
In the middle of the Andes

The Olympics

- When did Canadians first win the 4 x 100 m relay?
- Where are the next summer Olympics going to be?
- What years, in the 20th century, haven't there been Olympics?
- What country dominated freestyle swimming in Melbourne and Rome?
- What was the latest date in the year for closing ceremonies?

Australia

- What was the capital of Australia when the Math Faculty was founded?
- What powered the Thunderdome in the third Mad Max movie?
- What is actually Australia's favourite beer? (NOT Foster's)
- What would an Australian cartoon character call a bull frog?
- What's the name of the west coast's summer wind?

*And now for something completely different:**Frosh Team Names 2000*

- What's the name of the rebel base on Hoth?
- What dance do characters from RENT do with Maureen?
- What is the first name of the X-Men's enemy Sabretooth?
- What's the first word in the name of that "Last Resort" band?
- What was the first symbol written on the bomb in Beneath the Planet of the Apes?

Okay, that's it, go figure these out and send solutions to the e-mail address or drop 'em in the **BLACK BOX**. Remember, there is a prize!

Worst SquizMaster Ever,
Bradley T Smith

continued *prof*QUOTES ...

"Is anyone awake still?"

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

"I get the little bottles of shampoo that last me two or three years."

Lawrence, MTHEL 100

"I refuse to use the hand wavy proof... now to prove this... [begins waving hands, pauses, looks at hands] I didn't do that."

Pretti, CS 134

"Years later when you're writing code, my face will appear and you'll realize 'Oh, there's my mistake.'"

Pretti, CS 134

"Oops... I'm talking like an accountant."

Lubka, ACC 122

"This *jives* with the definition."

Wood, MATH 136

"We're talking about hairy-fairy stuff here."

Lubka, ACC 122

gridCOMMENTS

Solutions to v82 Issue 3 Grid

Also Frosh Issue Grid

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

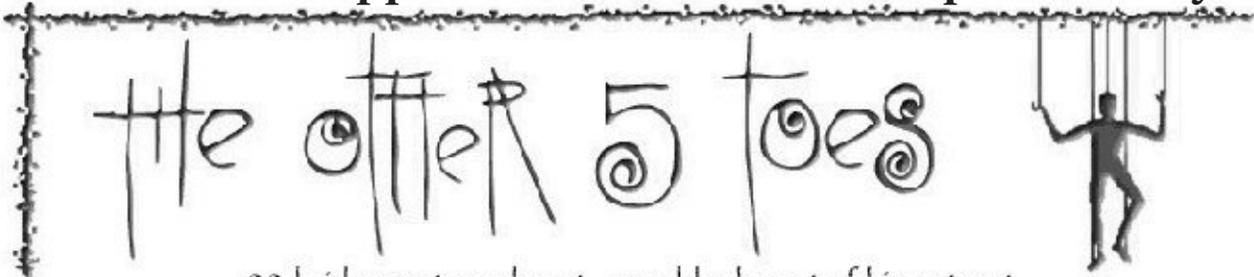
Hello and welcome to the *gridWORD* section of *mathNEWS*! However, you might notice that we don't actually have a grid to solve located anywhere. That's because we couldn't get our act together fast enough this term, but rest assured there WILL be grids coming along in future issues, for which you CAN win prizes. (Yay! You can also win prizes for the Squiz, and we do have one of those elsewhere in the issue.) Also, for those who don't know, we usually publish a *gridQUESTION* along with the *gridWORD*, and innovative answers to said question tend to be used to break ties. If you feel like answering a *gridQUESTION* without a grid, tell us what your like the most about this week's *mathNEWS*.

For the curious minded, our *gridMASTER* this term will likely be distinguished alumnus Matt Walsh, who also did the grids over the summer. Actually, speaking of grids over the summer, we never got around to printing the solutions to Issue 3 of that term, after our Daglobenpost parody that threw off our production schedule slightly. This grid was reprinted in the Frosh Issue. Now, at long last, you can see the solutions over there on the left. People did submit for that one, but unfortunately I don't have this information on hand... and the winners are probably offstream now anyway... but thanks to all who attempted it though!

Anyway, yeah, the point to all this is: look for grids in future issues. Our act is coalescing and you can win prizes for submissions. Really.

HoloEd

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you don't want to know..."

