

math

Volume 84, Issue 3

NEWS

Friday, October 20, 2000



Prez Sez

Hi everyone!

I only have a little update this week. Nothing much is going on in terms of Faculty policy or Academic changes. There are a lot of things going on on campus though. I would like to find out how many people would be interested in participating in a campus-wide trip to a Raptors game. This would be sometime in late November.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that are helping to keep the office open, work on organizing charity ball, and represent their classes. Without these people many of the activities run by MathSoc would not be able to happen. Thank you so much!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let me know (prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).

Jennifer
MathSoc President

Social Director Article

Ok... Hello again... it's your favourite neighbourhood social director, and I'm pumped, buffed, and ... umm... sorry... wrong publication...

Ok... Pub Night is Friday the 27th, yes... I know that conflicts with the Fed Hall Halloween thing... but here's why you should come to the Bomber instead... You can win cool prizes... we like weird and wacky costumes... pool contest... olympic diving contest (well as soon as we get the required city permits), the Limbo Contest... "Phat" Albert O'Connor as our DJ, we have the pirate Brigade headed by Tushar, so come on out, we'll be at the Bomber all night... doing wacky wacky things... Oh, and another thing, under-agers are welcome.

Pop can pyramids is dead... no interest... if you were interested and you e-mailed... I didn't get it... I'm sorry... undergrad lost a couple of my e-mails... pumpkin carving is still happening on Tuesday, October 31... e-mail to sign up your team... teams can be $n \geq 1$... so I can go buy the pumpkins... ok... trick or treating for canned foods is still happening... I have 2 cars right now... a #3 would be cool... e-mail me if you're interested in participating... I'll make a sign-up sheet so you can sign up as well... it'll be posted on the MathSoc door.

Well... that's it... cya... bye... go away... plz...

Liam Dorey

Thinking of a Career in Finance?

Come out and learn more about the University of Waterloo's collaborative Master's Program in Finance. Meet with faculty and hear from two outstanding finance graduates.

UW Master's Program in Finance

Information Session

Thursday, October 19, 2000 — 7:00 p.m.
Math and Computer Building, Room 5158

For more details:

<http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/finance>

Tel: 519 888 4567 ext. 5728

aaldous@uwaterloo.ca

Centre for Advanced Studies in Finance, HH 175

Math Charity Ball 2000

It is that time of year again. The Math Charity Ball is just around the corner... Well to be precise, it is Friday Nov. 17th at Federation Hall. Cocktails are at 6:30pm and dinner (menu available at the MathSoc office) will be served at 7:00pm.

This is a semi formal event that is always fun and entertaining. This year the proceeds will be going to The Food Bank of Waterloo Region. Tickets go on sale Monday Oct. 23rd in the MathSoc office and are \$30 each or \$50 per couple. There will be many door prizes and a silent auction. Come out and show your support!!

MEF LOGO CONTEST

That's right, everybody's favourite endowment fund is looking for a new logo. So if you have any ideas, submit them to the MEF mailbox in the MathSoc office by Nov. 3. The best design will win a PRIZE and get to be the new logo for MEF. The winner of the contest will get their choice of a cookie or a T-Shirt as a prize.

Please submit your design on a piece of 8.5 X 11, drawn in black and white. So get drawing and you could win!

A reminder also that the Mathematics Endowment fund is accepting nominations for the funding council and funding proposals until Oct. 25. [Note that this is an extension from the original deadline, not a typo. — HoloEd] So if you want to be on the funding council and help decide how to spend some money, then fill in the nomination form today, or at least by the 25th.

Dave Nicholson

Letters

Hello.

I'm a former UW Math student who usually keeps up on *mathNEWS* as one way to keep tabs on the school. However, the recent article "Top 10 things overheard at Firestone headquarters" in the most recent issue of *mathNEWS* is in very poor taste, and I'm surprised it got past your editors.

Specifically:

3. Blah Blah Blah, very sorry about the school bus accident blah blah blah. Fiery grave of children. Blah blah blah... compensation fridge magnets promised for victims' families... blah blah blah.

Certain things are over the line in my opinion, and, perhaps due to my history I admit, this crossed it. How are the deaths of innocent children funny? How is the trauma that ensues funny? I'd like the author of that article to answer that, if he could, and then perhaps he might think a little more about his humour in the future. It's not an overly difficult thing to do.

Anyway... my rant is done, and I may or may not return to your web site in the future.

Cheers

Sam Watts
Y2K grad, comp sci.

[We're not going to defend Mr. Cresswell's opinions, but we do feel that his article was fair comment and worthy of appearing in these pages. Send letters to the editor to math-news@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, or to *mathNEWS* c/o MathSoc, MC 3038, University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON, N2L 3G1. All letters are subject to editing. — Ed.]

Scary News in Anime

Halloween approaches, so does CTRL-A's members-only show. Along with its scary line-up of quality shows, CTRL-A will be holding its 3rd Annual Anime Costume contest. Members are encouraged to come dressed as Anime characters at our Saturday portion of the show on the 28th. All who dress up will get Halloween candy, and prizes will be given to those with the best costumes.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Saturday portion of our October show will begin at 4:30pm, the same time as our Friday show. CTRL-A does not let these inconveniences get in our way of Anime fun. CTRL-A is proud to present our very first Anime seminars. On Saturday the 28th from 1pm to 4:30pm CTRL-A will be hosting seminars for members only. How-to-draw anime characters sessions will be offered in AL 209 while anime arts and crafts will be held in AL 210. Members who wish to sign up for these seminars should e-mail ecomm@ctrl-a.org, space is limited. Memberships are \$8 and are sold at the door on Friday and Saturday. For more information, please e-mail ctrl-a@ctrl-a.org or see www.ctrl-a.org.

Club That Really Likes Anime

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

October 20	Issue #3 appears mysteriously
October 30	Issue #4 Production Night 6:30pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
November 3	Issue #4 mysteriously appears

Math Faculty

November 1-3	Spring term pre-registration
November 3	Course Withdrawal deadline

MathSoc

Wednesdays	Movie Nights
October 24	Wall climbing at Sportsworld
October 27	Pub night at the Bomber
November 7	Who wants to be a Millionaire?
November 17	Charity Ball

MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza sales
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MEF

October 25	Funding proposal deadline
October 25	Council nomination deadline
November 3	Logo design contest deadline

Co-op

November 3	Last day of interviews
November 7	Ranking Day

Elections

November 7	U.S. Election Day
November 13	Municipal Election Day
Late November	Federal Election?
December 1	Still stuck with Harris

Miscellaneous

October 21	Fall convocation
October 29	Daylight saving time begins (or ends)
October 30	Daylight saving time continues (or doesn't)
October 31	Candy saving time

An Appeal to CS Students

It may surprise you to learn that the Computer Science Department has a Curriculum Committee which attempts to regulate the content of CS courses in an open and accessible manner, and that it needs your help. As Associate Chair for Curricula and chair of the CC, I'd appreciate your feedback on a few important issues.

We are not contemplating any major changes in the sequencing or description of courses this year, though we're open to suggestions. Our main focus will be on the workload in CS courses. Clearly, a certain amount of work is necessary in order to master important concepts and skills. Not all of that work can be fun; some of it is drill, repetition, or tedious coding. But there are no real guidelines for the amount of work that students should be asked to do in any particular course or in any given term, nor are there any real ways of measuring work (time and effort can vary considerably from student to student) or of enforcing any such guidelines. It's fine to have a few 4th year courses which are legendary for the amount of effort required; these are optional. But it is less desirable to have a core (required) course monopolizing most working hours, or to have the effort required vary widely from one offering to the next.

Despite the lack of statistical evidence, there are indications that CS students may be being asked to do too much. Our attrition rate (percentage of incoming students who do not complete the major) is approaching 50% in some cohorts. It is generally acknowledged that a lot of copying of assignments goes on, an impression borne out when similarity-detection software is used on programming assignments. A growing number of students are not finishing in eight terms, but taking nine, ten, or even more terms to complete their degrees.

As a current CS student, you have a vested interest in ensuring that the quality of your education remains high, and that future students are kept to the same high standards so that they aren't "riding on your coattails". In some cases, it may be hard to see the benefit of a particular course or assignment until well after graduation; in other cases, the benefits will be more indirect. But there must be instances in which you have concluded that the effort you put into a course is out of proportion to the benefit you receive from it, or that the total amount of work over all the CS courses you had to take in a particular term was excessive. We'd like to hear about it, in as detailed a fashion as you can manage (given all the work you have to do). Confidentiality is available if you request it.

We're also interested in your impressions of CS 370, Numerical Computation. Do you think this course works? What are your suggestions for improvement? This is not a typical course on the subject; the "case study" approach differs from that taken by most textbooks. Would a more conventional approach fit our program better?

Finally, the CC membership includes a slot for an undergraduate representative, which is currently vacant. If you think you would like to contribute in this fashion, please send me a few paragraphs explaining why you would be good at the job. Meetings are held every four to six weeks; routine business is done by e-mail.

All communications can be sent directly to me at plragde@uwaterloo.ca, through campus mail to Prabhakar Ragde c/o CS Department, Davis Centre, or slipped under my office door (DC 1314). Thanks in advance.

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS**Dean's Honours List***SPRING 2000*

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE ON THE DEAN'S HONOURS LIST"** at Fall Convocation, October 21, 2000 and have their names displayed in gold on the walls of the Faculty Colloquium Room (MC 5158).

INGRAM Christopher Kent	H COMP SCI	MAN Curtis Cheng-Cheng	HC CS/EL E
IU Ming-Yee Christopher	HC CS/EL E	YEE Wai Ling	HCS&PMATH
KISMAN Derek Ian Edwin	H CS&PMATH		

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout their undergraduate careers the following students will **"GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION"** at Fall Convocation, October 21, 2000.

BHARGAVA Sandeep	H MTHL SCI	FUNG Eric	HC C&O&CS
BRELSFORD Stephanie Anne	HC CSCI	WONG Marco	HC CS/SWE
DEVRIES Colleen Renee	HC TEACHING	WONG Tak Wai Alan	HC CS&PMATH

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2000 term, the following students qualified for the Dean's Honours List.

ALTIPARMAKOV Nikola	HORN Stephanie Lorraine	NG Timothy
BADIANI Seema	HORWOOD Joshua Thomas S.	NORONHA Mark
BANDURA Scott A.	HSIUNG Hui Na Fiona	OTTAWAY Paul
BERDAN Mark	HUANG Queenie Wan Chu	PAI Shraddha
BISHOP Laura Anne	IU Ming-Yee Christopher	PARIAG David Bishen
BLACK Matthew Paul	JACKSON Mark James Gerard	PASSAPERUMA Dhananjaya
BRINN Donald Kenneth	JAISHANKAR Siddharth	PERKIN Patricia Diane
BROADBENT Anne L.	JUNUZOVIC Sasa	POON Dennis
BROWN Geoffrey Lawrence	KANG Ge Jennifer	POUNDER Geoffrey Stuart
CALDER Matthew	KAPLAN Bram Neil	PREST Ian Jeremy
CHAN Kevin Ka Wing	KAUSHAL Nabeel	QUON Gerald Ted
CHAN Ronald Lok Hang	KING James Alexander	RAJKUMAR Ramraj
CHAN William Wai Lim	KISMAN Derek Ian Edwin	REDELMEIER Daniel Ernest L.
CHENG Donald	KRAL Tobi Victoria	SAUL Jeffrey H. B.
CHENG Michelle	LAM Catherine Garyee	SAUNDERS Daniel Robert
CHIK Yu Fai Freddy	LAM Leo	SCHACHTER Jennifer
CHIN Ping-Hsien John	LAM Maple Chi-Shing	SHAH Mayur Mahendra
CHU Lei	LAM Melissa Isdelle	SHUTE Jeffrey James
CHUNG Sally	LAMB Neil Andrew Fraser	SMITH Bradley T
COLEMAN Timothy Ryan WM.	LAU Sandra Wing San	SMITH Clayton Douglas
COPE David William	LAW Janey Ching-Yee	SMITH William Lorne
COSENTINO Sarah Anne	LEE John Sie Yuen	STOROSCHUK Robert
CURRIE Simon	LEE Roger Chak Man	SULEMAN Adil
DEELEY Robin John	LEON Laetitia	TALAT Salman
DEMKO Michael Patrick A.	LI Huizhong	TAM Joshau Chi Ho
DIZENHOUSE Joseph Morris	LUCIER Brendan	TAN Katrina Meilee
EL-KOURA George	LUK Lesley Bridget	TAYLOR-HELL Julia Faye
FOK Alan Chi Lun	MARIN Marius Alexandru	TING Sai Kit
FUNG Joseph	MCDONALD Damon Aaron	TSE Lanny
GREWAL Jaspreet	MCGAULEY Ryan Blair	VAN NOGGEREN Robert John
GUO Pei Ru Winnie	MCHUGH-RUSSELL Liam Sean M.	WANG Yu-Hong
GUTCHER Jason R.	MCKERRALL Daniel William Gilbert	WAN-MIN-KEE Kevin
HADLEY Ryan James	MCKILLOP Erin Ann	WEILER Peter S.
HAMAM Heitham	MICACCHI Christopher Daniel	WEST Joseph John
HELLSTEN Lars	MNIH Andriy	YAM Michael Sek Ki
HICKEN Jason Edward	MOORE Lucas Oliver	YIP Martha
HILL Daphne	MORROW Matthew	YOUNG Christopher John
HO Karen Adrienne	MUI Kar Wai Joyce	ZHANG Jue Alice
HO Tracy Lai Kei	MURRAY John Michael	ZHANG Yvette
HOEPFNER-HOMME Paul Mandt		

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the Winter 2000 term, the following students have been added retroactively to the Dean's Honours List.

HARRIS, Bryn Penrose	IRWIN Jeffrey Steven
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Food For Thought

America, America!

Chances are, by about the time this issue of *mathNEWS* hits the MC you are already going to know that on the sixth of November this year Americans will partake in the four year ritual of going to the polls. Chances are you are also sick of hearing about it. However there are a few important points about the U.S. election and to dismiss it as sufficiently well covered in *Imprint* would be a poor call at best.

The U.S. election is important: besides the fact that many of you will work in America either on a co-op work term or after you graduate, the United States is the world's largest, and in many respects healthiest, economy. The United States is the world's only super power. Canada's frankly pathetic "peace keeping" efforts would be nowhere without the international community (read: The U.S.). But most significantly by sharing the world's longest undefended boarder, I think it is safe to say that policy set in Washington has at least as much, if not more, bearing on our daily life than policy set in Ottawa.

So who is going to set policy in Washington? At this point, mid-October, the presidential race is in a dead heat. Bush seems to have more support, but Gore has the two of the four key states, New York and California, to Bush's Texas, and Florida is a toss up. Thanks to the nature of the electoral system in the U.S., by taking the two states Gore seems to have locked up, he stands a good chance of taking the Presidency. It is much the same way here, in that any candidate who takes Ontario has a good bet at getting all of Canada.

But what about the election itself? Never before has so much money been spent and never before has voter apathy been quite this bad. Both Bush and Gore have major corporate sponsors to whom both candidates are so beholden that, regardless of a Democrat or Republican win, don't expect too many changes.

Bush's claim to fame is that he is not Bill Clinton; he is a good, morally upstanding citizen who made his money by being George Bush's son (the former president). Following George W. Bush's investments is a study in sucking up to former president Bush. Oh and yeah, his days as a cocaine addict are long behind him, he is a good guy now who seems to be very good at pulling out of money losing ventures just before the stocks take a slide. Finally, as Governor of the State of Texas, Bush has propelled the state's use of the Death Penalty to an all-time high. Although most Americans support the Death Penalty more in-depth polling seems to reveal that most Americans really support life in jail with no possibility for parole. It seems most Americans feel that as good as their judicial system is, it will occasionally put an innocent man on death row. (According to the November 1999 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine, the actual number of innocent people executed is about 25% of all those whose life is ended by the state.)

Gore is the current Vice President. A noted environmentalist, until Clinton was elected at least, Gore once wrote a book on our planet and its fragile environment. Gore has also claimed to invent the Internet, and although this is obviously untrue Gore has done a lot to speed the development of the "Information Superhighway" a term I believe the Vice President popularized when he was a senator. Gore is a definitive Washington insider: a former senator, then Vice President; few people know the machinery of government as well as Gore does, which is a

good thing, although some voters seem to hold it against the Vice President.

Both candidates promise tax cuts; both pledge social security (old age pension) reform. Both talk about health care. Notice, both are being nice to the baby boomers — they don't have much choice if they want to get more than three votes. Bush promises to implement some sort of strategic nuclear defence system; Gore would investigate further before implementing the same. Oddly, most engineers and scientists whose reports I have read suggest that this nuclear defence system could not possibly work and would only be a major destabilizing influence on international relations.

Texas has very lax gun laws. You are allowed a concealed weapon, you are allowed rapid fire weapons, in fact you are allowed to pretty much have the ability to vapourize Nebraska concealed in your back pocket. If Bush is elected its a good bet the Smith & Wesson company will be pretty happy.

Gore on the other hand helped to institute a five day background check before issuing a gun license. This check does not seem to do much good — five days is a start but not enough.

For the average working American, chances are it won't make much difference if Gore or Bush wins. Wall Street tends, as tradition goes, to favour Republicans, although if Gore wins strong money says don't expect much change in the Dow.

There are other alternatives. Ralph Nader, the author of *Unsafe At Any Speed*, a noted consumer rights activist and very competent individual who has the misfortune of being ethical. As a direct result he will not go to large corporations asking for money, hence his campaign has to subsist on the generosity of the average Joe. Nader enjoys about 3% of the popular support. Nader does, however, enjoy the support of Lewis H. Lapham, the Editor of Harper's Magazine who had this to say in September of this Year: "...a democratic republic knows no higher rank or title than that of citizen. The media prefer celebrities, who come and go like soup cans or summer moths, unthreatening and ephemeral... Like President Clinton, they let us off the hook. Nader sets the hook on the sharp points of obligation to a higher regard for our own intelligence and self-worth. Less interested in the counting of votes than in the lesson of freedom, he mounts his campaign on the proposition that the party of things-as-they-are depends for its continued survival on the party of things-as-they-might-become." (Page 42, September Harper's)

On the other side of the political spectrum there is Pat Buchanan. With 1% of the popular support Buchanan was born in the wrong time — he should have been around for the 1930's — and in the wrong place — he should have been a German. Buchanan's xenophobia would be comic if it were not so damned scary.

The sad irony of this election is that for a little while it looked like it could be a Bradley vs McCain election. If that had been the case things might actually be interesting. But as long as the parties go with expectations don't expect anything new and exciting from a city with the charm of a Northern City and the efficiency of a Southern Town.

Michael Cole

profQUOTES

"I am going to show how to make this stuff useful (*writes a question on board*)... Why would we want to answer a question like this? Well, because it makes this stuff useful."

VanderBurgh, MATH 135

(*while erasing board*) "To prove this we'll use... (*looks at the boards for theorem*)... the theorem I just erased."

Hooper, MATH 135

"I am skipping 2.3, but if you enjoy pain, feel free to read it over."

Hooper, MATH 135

Prof: (*glancing across the room, realizing half of the class is absent*) "How come there's so few people coming today?"

Student: "Because they all withdrew."

Prof: "But I haven't returned the midterms yet."

J. Geelen, MATH 239

"People who commit suicide are notorious for leaving a mess [their corpse] behind."

Burkowski, CS 354

"I believe in majority rules, especially when it's right."

Matthews, STAT 231

"If we could predict the future we wouldn't need these silly computers... we could just buy 6/49 tickets..."

Burkowski, CS 354

"The prof may have entered the building, but it doesn't mean the prof's brain also entered."

Rohlf, MATH 237

"If you didn't learn how to multiply matrices, life as we know it is going to come to an end."

Jackson, MATH 249

"The good news is that you don't have to write out the solution. The bad news is that you need to stay awake while I talk about it."

Cherry, STAT 322/332

"Say someone finds a large quantity of food. Before eating, they usually engage in a big, ol' sex orgy."

Zellar, ANTH 260

"The group stays together longer because who wants to be alone when everyone is over there having fun?"

Zellar, ANTH 260

"3 is less than 6, and will be so for the remainder of the course."

Pretti, CS 134

"I can't believe some of the answers on this quiz! People, England was invaded by Jutish mercenaries, not Jewish missionaries!"

Zettel, ENGL 305A

"...and Copernicus proved that the **sun** was the centre of the universe."

Zettel, ENGL 305A

"Are you working at a Gas Station?"

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"...and then we use difference of squares. See, high school wasn't a complete waste of time."

Mosca, MATH 239

"If I want to get to the set of null states... kind of like being in Mississauga."

Shallit, CS 462

"L₂ was given to you by aliens from the planet Zordak."

Shallit, CS 462

"Every string in the language of the planet Vork is over {0,1}. They told me while we were channeling last night."

Shallit, CS 462

"Machines are not intelligent. Machines are sand. If you go to the beach and have a conversation with sand, machines are intelligent. Or you're hallucinating."

Vasiga, CS 241

"That's one unpleasant aspect of calculus of several variables: There are several variables."

Zorzitto, MATH 247

"What does the clock say? The clock says hurry up."

Zorzitto, Math 247

"Ah! Nobody fails this!"

Hardy, Actsc 431

"I bet this is going to get into *profQUOTES*: Professor wants to give students pleasure."

Shallit, CS 462

"Now waving hands furiously... People in the front row, put on your sweaters."

Shallit, CS 462

"That would be too much for you... wouldn't want to put anyone in the hospital."

Shallit, CS 462

"Now I'm erasing the statement of the theorem, a famous technique for completing proofs."

Shallit, CS 462

"Feel free to talk to your neighbour. If your neighbour falls asleep, kick your neighbour."

Vasiga, CS 241

(*After asking a student a question, the student yawns*) "He's so excited, he's yawning to death."

Vasiga, CS 241

"I'd be a good dictator."

Vasiga, CS 241

"There are no final states. So guess what. It accepts Dick All! ... If someone said "dick all", I would've accepted it!"

Vasiga, CS 241

(*Day after thanksgiving holidays*) "Too much turkey takes blood away from brain..."

More *prof*QUOTES from page 6

Vasiga, CS 241

(After pointing out that he saw his name in *prof*QUOTES indicating he taught CS 246, when it isn't even offered this term)
 "You must be at the wrong university... so if you think you're in CS 246, get out!"

Vasiga, CS 240

Student: "Maybe they were old quotes?"

Prof: "Let's not talk about quotes anymore, OK?"

Good Ol' Vasiga, CS 241

"One is neither prime, nor composite. It is boring."

D'Alessio, MATH 135

"Because this isn't calculus class, it's algebra. Things are a little stranger."

D'Alessio, MATH 135

"This is calculus, not algebra. We don't do that here. We like real solutions, thank you."

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"Big D, little d, dee, dee, dee?"

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"A runner runs around a circular track until he gets dizzy ... The runner's friend is laughing at him ... The runner's friend is drinking a beer at the side [of the track]."

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"It's an easy question. You're scaring me."

D'Alessio, MATH 137

"You see... I don't have to learn all this stuff... but you guys do. Learn to love it, embrace it, make it a part of your life."

Grahan, CS 130

"Rocks are goal-directed. If they fall off a cliff, they're trying to get somewhere."

Van Evra, PHIL 100

"My hair was red on this side and green on the other side. But I'm red-green colourblind so I couldn't tell."

Pretti, CS 134

"When you're done it goes to the operating system and floats around..."

Pretti, CS 134

"If I was smarter, I'd use Fermat's Little Theorem here. Luckily, I'm not writing the midterm."

D'Alessio, MATH 135

"Processing 1000 is a little like spending too much money at the bomber, in that after you're done consuming the product in question you have no idea where you are."

Morland, CS 241

"Everybody roll a three sided coin."

Morland, CS 241

Prof: "Is there anything more exciting than binary strings?"
 Student: "Dare we let our imaginations soar to such lofty heights?"

MATH 239

Prof: "Any questions?"

Student: "I don't understand enough of this to formulate a question."

MATH 249

A Hunter's Guide to Midterm Season

For most Mathies, the coming weeks are the worst time of the term (other than the final exam period). It is a time when everyone has to juggle their time between reviewing for midterms, doing assignments and/or projects, attending lectures, and doing something other than math.

In many ways, writing a midterm is like hunting in the jungle. When writing a midterm, one has to be careful at all times to avoid as many minor mistakes as possible because, as in nature, any small mistake can be fatal. It is also recommended that test writers complete as many questions as they can, because of Jungle Rule #1 — "What you don't conquer will come back and haunt you."

When going to the jungle, I mean, exam room, remember the following:

- *Carry an ample amount of ammunition*
 Nothing is worse than running out of pencils or having a calculator that has no power during the middle of an exam. Bring more than what you need, or better yet, bring everything. (NO cheat sheets because you may bring more than what you bargain for.)
- *Stay away from the aisles*
 This may sound odd, as it is harder to find an escape or to leave after you're done, but having fellow test writers surrounding you will give you a feeling that you are not alone and may give you the confidence boost that you need.
- *Don't put your name on a page until there is something else written on the page*
 Glancing at a page that has nothing written but your name can cause you to feel inferior, and having doubts in yourself is the last thing you need in the jungle (or exam room).
- *Ignore the time on the board and the clock*
 The clock, by its nature, can drive you to think that you don't have much time and can cause you to rush things. Unless you are an accurate speed writer, this will often lead to undetected mistakes, which can accumulate and haunt you later.

I hope this will help you in conquering your midterms. However, this is only a guide and may not work on everyone. So good luck on your adventures in the jungle, urh, I mean midterm exams. (I know I'm going to need any good luck I can get.)

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Everything I know I learned from *Pokemon 2000*

So this past weekend, one of the best theatres in Ottawa was showing the inevitable classic *Pokemon 2000*. Now this is no *Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death* or anything like that, but the experience presented by Ash Ketchum and his rag-tag fleet of Pokemon is second only to the rush one gets from flipping to watch *Alyssa Milano* on “Charmed” during the commercial breaks for the Simpsons. Presented with such an opportunity, and the strange electric appeal of Pikachu, one would have to be recovering from Oktoberfesting to pass up the opportunity to see this movie (since clearly if one were currently Oktoberfesting, they would either end up at *Pokemon 2000* anyway, or the Manor Entertainment Complex, which is just as good).

Alas, three brave souls entered the theatre. A little bit late; the animated short *Pikachu’s Rescue* had already begun. And what a splendour of colours was presented! Amidst the complete lack of comprehensible plot and strategically designed fly-bys to show as many “rare-yet-catchable” Pokemon all in five minutes, one could hear the audience ooo-ing and ah-ing all the while screaming out the poke-names of the ones they recognized.

“That’s a Bulbasaur”, one moviegoer said, “and that one’s a Poliwhirl.” Stated with such poke-viction, one could only conclude that stupidity was the only possible reason for not knowing that the blue one with a swirl on his chest was a “Poliwhirl”.

By listening closely (there’s very little english in this flick) and watching carefully, one could quickly learn how to be a better Pokemon in their own lives. Things to learn during the viewing of *Pikachu’s Rescue*:

- Scrunching your face and saying your name is a good way to show that you are concentrating very hard and are using a lot of poke-energy.
- Raising your arms in the air and saying your name is a good way to show that you are happy and having a poke-good-time.
- Meeting new friends is as easy as walking up to the colourful and cutesy creatures called “girls” and stating your name while not poke-sweating.

Note: The practice of poke-emotions should ONLY come at times when you are clueless and have nothing else to do, like in class, during an exam, trying to finish an assignment at the last second, or trying to pick up in a bar.

Anyway, the movie finally started. But unlike *Pikachu’s Rescue*, there was some english in this movie, cleverly named *Pokemon 2000: The Power Of One*. There are some very cool parts to this movie, like when Pikachu communicates with Zaptos using lightning while Meowth translates. Team Rocket makes an appearance, of course, and Ash Ketchum meets a cute new girl. The sexual tension was as thick as the “topping” on the popcorn! I tried to make a move on my Poke-partner sitting to my right, but her Mom gave me an evil look.

One thing that would have made the movie incredibly gratifying is if every time there was a Pokemon on the screen, a pop-up window appeared in the bottom right of the screen giving its name. Too much CS perhaps? Well for the poke-ignorant, it would’ve helped.

All in all, *Pokemon 2000* is an enlightening experience. The qualities required by a master Pokemon trainer are vast and many! Patience, persistence, courage, creativity and strategy are

all required to be all that you can be. In addition, good-looks, poke-knowledge of at least one topic outside of computer-science and \$40 for dinner should take you to new and exciting poke-romantic heights!

I for one, am going to use this knowledge for all it’s poke-worth. Gonna go catch me a Poke-Alyssa, or a Poke-Kournikova. Poke, Poke, Poke. Poke Poke Poke Poke Poke Poke. Koosh. Nevertheless, Poke Poke. But Poke Poke Poke, Poke Poke Poke Poke. Poke, Poke? Poke!

All Poke’d out yet?
Poke-Kev-o

Nature’s Lament

Nevermore shall I hear the brook babble its delight
Nor hear the dove praise the morning light
For concrete fills the river bed,
And now we live in eternal night.

I shall not climb leafy limbs to gaze about at life.
I can no longer float at peace upon the paths the water weaves.
I can but take the elevator towards the sky,
And gaze at steel, miles wide and miles high.

No fallen branches crackle under foot.
No fresh breeze ruffles my hair and clears my lungs of soot.
The factories pulp the few remaining trees,
While their fumes make my stomach boil and heave.

Spring shall come, but not rebirth
For all life has been culled from the cold earth.
And now I sit and wait for life
For OUR winter shall come at last.

And in our passing shall flowers bloom.

Colin Davidson

An Article About Nothing

Well, did you go home for Thanksgiving? If your answer is yes and you took the public transit, chances are that you had to wait in line just to get on the stupid Greyhound bus. I hope you weren’t one of those people who had to actually sit on the floor of the bus.

Some advice on travelling: Don’t leave for home on the last day of school. Skip the second-last day of school if possible — it is well worth it.

Anyway, people ask me (even for my co-op interview) how I find time to do extra-curricular activity, such as writing this article. Well, I wrote the other 2 articles in this issue while I was riding home for fucking 4 hours! Another word of advice for all those frosh out there: don’t believe it when people tell you that your first year is the hardest! You’ll regret it when you realize that it’ll probably be your last time that you have something called a “social life”.

Have fun in Halloween, happy trick-or-treating
Sepiraph

Mathie Love: The Dating Game

Last issue *mathNEWS* started up its very own dating service and we are proud to announce that the responses have been overwhelming! We got thousands of replies from all over the world, including a whopping 5,000 responses from the male UW math student population alone. Due to the dating services' enormous popularity, *mathNEWS* has set up its very own dating game: Mathie Love

Chocolate (remember her from last week?) was the first person whom we helped to set up a date with. After a careful review of potential dates for the lovely lady, we selected Brown Bear (fake name) to be her date.

Here is a quick recap of how their date went:

- The dating event started about 5:30 p.m., after Brown Bear finished his CS class. Brown Bear arranged to meet Chocolate at MC3031 right after his lab was done.
- 6 p.m.: Brown Bear and Chocolate meet at MC3031, the CS lab. Chocolate is appalled by the gloomy environment of the CS lab. (-1 pt)
- Brown Bear and Chocolate exchanged some information about each other. They walked around the MC building. Brown Bear tried to make some joke out of the Dirac delta function; Chocolate did not get the joke at all. (-1 pt)
- Brown Bear invites Chocolate to share a romantic dinner at the C & D; the food didn't suck like village food. (1 pt)
- 7 p.m.: Brown Bear brought Chocolate to the real-time programming lab, where a bunch of sleep-deprived students happened to be coding at the time. Obviously, Brown Bear looks a lot better and healthier than the CS students. (1 pt)
- Brown Bear walked Chocolate around the campus and ran into Brown Bear's mathie friends, one of whom made a very bad joke about the Riemann-Cauchy Equation. (-1 pt)
- Chocolate and Brown Bear went inside the DC library but found the mood depressing there. Absolutely no love atmosphere. (-1 pt)
- 8 p.m.: Brown Bear decided to spice things up by bringing Chocolate to the arts side of the campus (a very good idea). (2 pt)
- Brown Bear and Chocolate ran into some male artsie students; this made Brown Bear look pale in comparison. (-1 pt)
- 8:30 p.m.: Chocolate decided that she was bored and she wanted to return home. She told Brown Bear that she was tired and needed to sleep. Brown Bear walked her home and wanted to give her a good night kiss. However, Brown Bear was too nervous to ask so instead he made some weird noise and said "Grr... grrh..." This freaked out Chocolate so she ran back home. (-2 pt)

Well, as you can see, Brown Bear did pretty good for a mathie! The date went a lot better than most of us at *mathNEWS* would have expected. Good luck to Brown Bear and all the mathies out there in finding romance. You could find that perfect someone just around the corner, all thanks to Mathie Love Dating Service.

Brown Bear's final score: -3

Sepiraph

Drive Me Out

A horrifying account of an ex-Mathie

(Author's Note: None of the events in this story actually happened and all people in this story are fictitious. If any readers have had similar experiences, be assured that this is nothing but a coincidence.)

Today, like every other day, I face a dilemma — should I go to my classes and risk seeing my adversaries, or should I not go and risk failing every course? I know that I would have to withdraw from Math if I have one more failure, so I pick up my backpack and ride to the campus with a lot of reluctance.

It wasn't always like that. When I first came to UW, I was optimistic and felt that nothing would be able to stop me from getting my B.Math here. However, as days went by, I realized that it wasn't as easy as I thought. To make matters worse, I made numerous enemies here, such as the Fundamental Theorem of (insert subject), Fermat's (insert adjective) Theorem, all forms of linear transformation, and the undergrad.math network (for crashing every time I try to get work done), just to name a few.

I know that I have to be alert at all times, or my enemies will be able to enter my mind. In most Math classes, I sit close to the door so that I can fly in case anyone mentions or the prof writes down the name of any of my enemies.

I make it to my first class before it begins, so I have a little time to chat with my roommate, Jake, who sits next to me. At 8:30 sharp, the prof enters the room and says "Today we'll talk about complex..."

Immediately, I exclaimed, "Complex? No!"

Jake hears what I say and says, "What's wrong, Mark? He just said that we'll learn about complex..."

"Don't say the word 'complex'."

"What's wrong with that word?"

"I'll tell you. When he says complex, it means that my real and imaginary enemies are joining forces. They're out to get me. I'm not going to let that happen!"

Every night, I try everything to keep myself awake, because if I fall asleep the theorems and proofs will emerge from the depths of my mind and appear in my dreams. Then I won't be able to get them off my mind for a long time.

Naturally, I don't get much, if any, sleep, and, as a result, my average is dangerously low. So I decide to get some professional help from Counselling Services. I tell him of my insomnia and the problems I have in my studies.

The counsellor says, "It seems like you're experiencing trouble in your studies. I think your sleeping problem can be attributed to stress. I think it's better for you to withdraw from your courses and continue your studies next term."

When I hear that, I stand up and say "What? Withdraw? I can't withdraw anymore. I can't have any more WD's. Oh! I get it. You are one of them. How did they get you? HOW DID THEY GET YOU?"

After pondering my options, I realize that the only way out is to transfer into Arts. It is a tough decision, but I just can't stand having my adversaries stalking me everywhere I go anymore.

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Win \$5 for the C&D

<http://www.pouchie.cx/mathnews>

Contest

Hey all, as you are reading this, one lucky contestant is being informed that they have just won a \$5 gift certificate to the C&D. How is it that you didn't win??? Well, if you didn't enter, then you didn't win, that's how (or you guessed wrong or you did guess correctly but weren't the "luckiest" person).

So if you want another chance to win another \$5 gift certificate then go to the following URL and enter to win now: <http://www.pouchie.cx/mathnews>

It's really that easy, and you'll probably be online anyways.

Ok, the Contest: I (Tushar) will take 4 pennies and throw them into a locker. I will then lock the locker, without viewing the pennies, and walk away. You have to visit the website and guess how many heads are in the locker when it is opened. If you guess correctly you will be entered into a "draw" along with everybody else who guessed correctly. It's really that simple. So go to it now. It's a pleasant surprise to win during mid-terms.

So until then.....Ciao.

Tushar

(New and Improved, now with 87% less hyperarity (that even a real word??))

Quack

Halloween's Special Event

Aliens vs. Predators (Capture the Flag)

It is that time of the year again, when midterms start rolling out and students start to become madly drunk. Most UW students are probably looking forward to Halloween as most students already know that every Halloween, the people at *mathNEWS* come up with some crazy, wacko events. Since last year's zombie dress-alike and pumpkin smashing events were such great successes, this year we decided to come up with something more exciting than last year...

We proudly present this year's event: **Aliens vs. Predators**.

This year's event will be held at the MC building, starting at 12 midnight on Halloween Eve. The rules of the game are simple: your goal is to capture all the flags of the other team.

Team Predator

As a Predator, you will be equipped with a laser-guided air gun and also 1 frisbee. Your main difficulties are limited vision, as all the lights in the MC building will be turned out, and limited ammo. You can kill an Alien by hitting it with either one of your weapons. Your mission will be to capture the 3 Alien flags located in the Alien's hive (the CHIP).

Team Alien

As an Alien, you will be equipped with 1 set of plastic claws and a set of night vision goggles. You can kill a Predator by hitting him or her with your claws. Your main difficulty will be the lack of a range weapon. Your objective will be to capture the Predator flag on the mysterious 7th floor of the MC building.

Well, it should turn out to be a great game. To join up, e-mail awcheng@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca and ask to join the Halloween Event. A registration fee of 2 pennies will be required. Have a fun Halloween, people!

Sepiraph

When I Ate A Wrap

-or- Other things that are like derivatives

Hey brave *mathNEWS* readers. Frosh man writer "Phat" Albert here once more. Even though I am a very busy boy I thought I should at least write something for *mathNEWS* seeing how I can't make the production night. (But come on it's only a algebra midterm, what's that worth?) By the way my answer for the *mastHEAD* is 42. Right: me writing... about things. Well, first off, why am I a busy boy? Well there are those pesky midterm things, I have a CS assignment due, and interviews. Now, on the other hand, at least I got interviews, which is good (in fact I got interviews with companies I really wanted; go figure, being vaguely qualified). But the interviews are cursed, which is bad. But you might get a job, which is good. But the jobs are also cursed, which is bad. But I get to wear a suit for my interview... oh wait, that's bad.

Yeah, so I was going to write an article here and you might have guessed from the title that it has something to do with eating. Basically it has to do with eating a wrap that is like a derivative, or more to the point where eating several wraps is like taking many derivatives in succession. Actually perhaps it is an inverse relationship, but that's pretty good for comparing eating wraps and taking derivatives. I'm certain by now that you think I'm crazy cuz you see nothing in common with wraps and derivatives. Well I'm not going to argue with your opinion that I'm crazy but I will argue against the idea that wraps and derivatives have nothing in common.

You see I was eating a wrap one day with turkey and bacon (ask Liam about that) and veggies all wrapped up in that sweet, sweet, um corn bread... that was the wrap, right? Anyway I was eating and eating and when I got to the end, it was all sauce and lettuce. Now I thought, "Hey, what if you had a wrap that was like the end of my wrap but all the way through," if you see what I mean. Then when you got to the end of that wrap the sauce would be even more concentrated. I should digress here and say if you eat a wrap and hold it horizontal you may not experience this effect, and you would be a freak for holding your wrap perfectly horizontal. Now at this point you're thinking, "Man, this is so so dumb, I wonder what else is in *mathNEWS*", you have no idea what I'm talking about, or you're thinking, "Ok, I follow but I don't see a derivative connection." Well, it's simple: you see if you then continued eating the wrap, towards the end of the wrap you would keep getting more concentrated results.

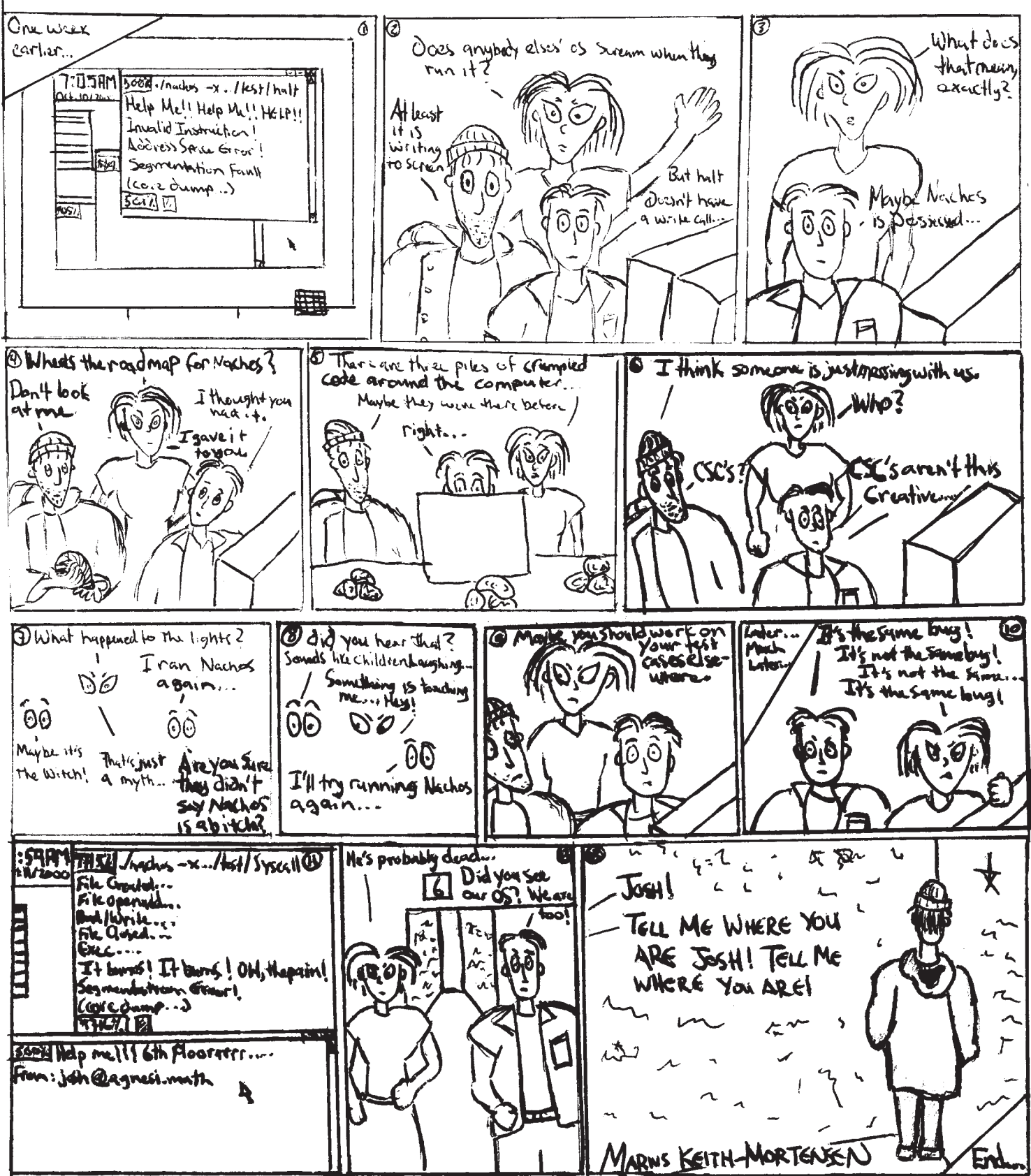
The comparison is that *the end of the wrap is the derivative and the whole wrap is the function*. So if you take a derivative of a derivative you get, well, actually something more simple as opposed to something more concentrated. I guess it is hard to compare things being more simple or complex as opposed to being more or less concentrated; I can define that pronoun is good (tushar was here) that complex equals concentrated but the alternative makes more sense. Therefore eating wraps is equal to 1/taking derivatives. So there — er, I mean Q.E.D. Well, that was fun but could have used some more monkey in it. Oh no, time to study algebra. 'Til next time Inspectormath... next time.

"Phat" Albert O'Connor



THE OPERATING SYSTEMS PROJECT

On October 10, 2000, three CS students went into the MC to fine tune their first assignment for CS 354, and disappeared... One week later their code was found...



The Frosh Cornered

Ever since my last column was published two weeks ago, I've found numerous hate mail, e-mail bombs, and other miscellaneous messages sitting on my UW mail account. I guess disclosing my e-mail address wasn't the smartest thing to do, but I have to be accountable to what I write. So, without further ado, I bring you a new segment to the Frosh Cornered: Ask the Cornered Frosh!

Ask The Cornered Frosh

Actual letters from mathies... ANSWERED!

"I liked your rant. I also read the note in the beginning of your rant about the lost pen. If you're still missing it, I could get you one (I'm working in Trimark/AIM this term). Let me know."

—Katia

Wow, thanks Katia. This letter reaffirms my belief that there ARE nice people here. I guess the urban myth about mathies being soulless bloodsuckers isn't true.

"I just read your article.... It thoroughly wasted of my time... are you sure you're in CS because you talk too much to be in Waterloo... period..."

—JB

Alrighty, I guess I was right about some mathies being soulless bloodsuckers. Please, for the love of God, if you are going to send me hate mail, at least write coherently. I can't figure out if you hate me or if you hate my writing. We're mathies, but that doesn't mean that we can't be understood by the rest of the world. Yes, we occasionally do speak in code (probably Java or C++), but there are other people in the world who speak English. From what I gather, you don't speak either.

"You suck."

—D. Chan

ALRIGHT! We have a potential Pulitzer recipient here! This letter is short, gets to the point quickly, and grabs attention. Too bad it isn't a question... NEXT!

"Hi! Just read your article... and you ROCK! One question though, what's with your obsession with not being able to find a date? I mean, check out your last 10 Murphy's Laws, and they're all about not being able to hook up with someone. I'm not the pick of the litter, but I'm lucky to find myself a girlfriend. You just have to look around. Good luck!"

—Name Withheld

I'm going to hunt you down and do something terrible to you. Yes, I'm bitter. VERY bitter. Those 10 laws were based on my personal experiences and other stereotypes I picked up during Frosh Week. Even if they're not exactly funny, they get the point across. Thanks for saying I rock, though.

Thus concludes this week's *Ask the Cornered Frosh*. Now, on to this week's feature column..

Rogers@Home... It's time for a Revolution!

A recent call to Rogers@Home technical support brought loads of anger and frustration to not only me, but to people living around me as well.

Here's a small excerpt of the call: (keep in mind the call was made at 4:30 p.m.)

"Hello. Thank you for calling Rooogers at Home, supporting our high-speed Internet service. For residential services, press 1 * beep *. If you're experiencing technical difficulties, press 3 * beep *. Press 0 to be connected to technical support representative * beep *. Estimated Hold Time is... twenty... two... minutes. To continue, Press 0 * beep *."

Short period of elevator music is played on the phone.

"Hello. You've reached Rogers@Home. We're experiencing technical difficulties with the Ontario area. Users will experience difficulties connecting to the internet or retrieving e-mail. As of 8:30 a.m. on October 8th, we have nooooo estimated time of restoral. If your problem isn't regarding connectivity or e-mail issues, please stay on the line and the next available consultant will be with you shortly. As an alternative, you may e-mail support@rogers.home.net. We will respond within 24 hours. Thank you."

After hearing that annoying message over and over again, it dawned on me that these Rogers@Home people have no idea what they are doing, let alone what they are saying. Case in point, not only are Rogers@Home services non-existent, but its tech support personnel are IBB's (idiots beyond belief).

Let's do a quick analysis of the recording:

1. If there's a connectivity problem in ONTARIO, then it wouldn't be an AREA. It would be a CRISIS. Ontario is a huge land mass, and if they consider it as a manageable area, they had better hire some geography majors to draw them some maps.
2. Calling at 4:30 p.m., I get a recording made at 8:30 a.m. You'd think they'd make some progress, or to a lesser extent, would try to look informed about the outage. Apparently, they are either ignoring the "technical difficulties", or are too lazy to change the recording. It doesn't really matter though because I bet that even if they update their recording at 4:00 p.m., they would still have no ETA because they don't know how to fix the problem to begin with.
3. Are they telling people who are experiencing connectivity problems to hang up by saying "If your problem isn't dealing with connectivity of e-mail issues, please stay on the line..."? That is simply absurd. Pretend you are calling a hospital and you get this message: "If you're not dying, please hang up now and treat your open gaping chest wound by slapping on a few band-aids. If you are dying, please hold for 24 minutes and we'll have a doctor to tell you off in person."
4. They mentioned to e-mail them if you're having problems. HOW CAN YOU EMAIL IF YOUR USERS CANNOT CONNECT TO THE INTERNET. Isn't an internet connection an essential prerequisite for sending out e-mail? You can't have Diablo II before Diablo I, therefore, through induction, you can't have e-mail unless you have an internet connection (YEA! I found a use for induction!). It just DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.

40 minutes later, a lady picks up my call. She tries to diagnose my problem, blames it on the area (note: ONTARIO area... a pretty big area at that) outage, and tells me that she can't do

FROSH from page 12

anything about it. The diagnosis included asking if my network card is installed properly or if the computer is on. By George, if my computer isn't on I wouldn't expect my internet to be on, would I?

Thus ends the 40 minute wait of hell. What did I find out from the call? Nothing. What did I do to remedy the problem from my end? Zilch. Did I find out when the problem will be fixed? Nope. Are Rogers@Home technicians completely useless? You be the judge. Did they make me insane? Well, I'm writing for *mathNEWS* aren't I?

Rogers@Home technicians are all IBBS. My friend used to work in the Manitoba @home office, and each 'technician' (read: High School student) follows a manual on what to say in every situation. I bet there's a section on how to deal with suicidal callers because I sound like one every time I call up. When faced with questions they can't answer ("When can I expect the internet to be up again?" or "How incompetent are you and your internet service?"), the textbook readers immediately put you on hold and call up their supervisors to 'escalate' the call.

Rogers@Home also doesn't give you the speed it advertises. So what if they advertised that their speed is 100 times the speed of light. I want to see speeds faster than 30k a second at 8PM at night. The advertised speed probably occurs only on the last day of every 2nd month when snow falls in Hong Kong. I bet Rogers@Home blame the lack of speed on the high number of students downloading entire sets of encyclopedias at peak times, but isn't downloading obscene amounts of mp3's and music videos the reason we all got cable internet in the first place?

Thus, to end all our collective suffering, I call for a revolution. On October 25th (that's next Wednesday), I ask all UW students who use Rogers@Home (or UW students who like complaining in general who don't use Rogers@Home), to call up 1-888-288-4663 (then press 1-3-0 to bypass all that recorded junk) and COMPLAIN. Complain about the lack of speed, the lack of service, the lack of technical support competence, and the sanity we've all lost after subscribing to their service, or lack thereof. To help you with your complaints, below is a small generic complaint you can read to them. Just follow the lines and insert your name and academic institution where necessary.

"Hello. My name is (your name). I live at (your address). I am calling to express my deep regret and profound anger towards your service, or lack thereof. I can hardly access the internet because Rogers@Home service is always affected by some sort of province-wide outage that you cannot competently correct. During times when I can connect, my connection is as slow as your ability to calculate the GCD of 89348 and 3713. I am demanding affirmative action on your part to immediately correct the level of service, which is right now close to no service at all, to an acceptable industry standard. I am sure that I'm not the first one to complain about the service here at (your dorm name, University of Waterloo, WCRI, etc.), so fix the service now."

Accomplish the impossible: Get your cable service for free. If you sound angry enough, they WILL give you credit for your account. If they get enough calls about the lack of adequate service here in Waterloo, they may finally get off their lazy asses to do something about it.

It's a revolution; join the winning side, raise the flag and let's all show those idiots at Rogers who's competent, or at least

angry to the point of self implosion.

Class action lawsuits and threatening e-mail can be sent to: r3lai@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Until next time: cheers, and happy complaining!

Raymond Lai

Fight for Globalization!

Help protect the interest of big companies. With all the mergers, there are fewer and fewer mega corporations out there. We should fight to protect as many as possible. Keep their costs low, their profits high, and on buy everything day, we should shop till we drop! I know last year I did my part. I took a \$50 loan on buy everything day — I needed that cool shirt from Le Chapeau. Thankfully for people like me, Le Chapeau survived another year, allowing plastic, non-breathable clothes to be worn by everyone as they sweat profusely while dancing at another sleazy club.

Others will warn you that large corporations and international trade agreements are bad. But are they? They allow the company to grow and expand. Acquire small competing companies, or force them into bankruptcy by using mass buying power. Large corporations secure a long term career for their employees. We should love them, hail them. Neh, worship them for all the glory that they bring to us, their pitiful employees.

Some talk heresy about how after these corporations acquire a monopoly that they will raise prices, lower wages, and wreak havoc on our economies. This is not so! Big Brother...er... governments keep a watchful eye on potential monopolistic companies, and break them up swiftly. Look at the U.S. They handled the Microsoft monopoly swiftly (read: under 10 years). Oh to have the power to smash the phone companies, the oil companies, and the company that loses money every year when you consider how much they gave out in stock options...

I have yet to mention the best part! Pollution will no longer exist here, in my neighbourhood. All the production facilities will be far away. No noises, no dirty water, no smog...ah, it will be like Hawaii.

So the next time I look at a big shoe manufacturer who pays piddly wages to workers in developing nations, I will think: "Ah yes. Cheap, high quality shoes. Pollution-free to boot!"

Peter Lizak

Joke of the Term

Well kids, is time for you to put your thinking caps on because I'm looking for the best joke that starts with the line "Two urinals walk into a bar..." Email your jokes to amjocconnor@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. I, and some people I may ask, will judge the results and I will publish the best one (and maybe others if they are good) in a bathroom humour article I will write before the end of the term...hopefully. By the way if nobody sends me jokes I will be forced to come up with my own, so there!

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

mathRANT*The Mark of the Beast*

Well it's almost time for our most anticipated event in two thousand years, that's right, Armageddon! Oh, I know that everybody's a bit worried that they won't have anything to wear, but luckily the military will be supplying all the latest fashions for the up coming war in Israel...

Okay, Okay, I'm being a bit melodramatic, so sue me, it's late and I'm tired. Well, not that late... But tired nonetheless. I'm also a bit sick of this tireless crap that is going on in Israel. Oh, I mean, in theory it's... Wait in theory it's crap too. Honestly, Jerusalem should just be declared an open city-country deal, like Rome. Of course, nobody there wants to buy into that idea. The Israelis say, hey, we were here two thousand years ago, and the Palestinians say, hey, we've been here for the last two thousand years.

Who's right? Well, it's hard to say, hell nobody wants to point out the very important fact that possession is nine tenths of the law. I mean, on one hand you have a people that basically had their city destroyed by the Romans, and were forced out of their homeland. On the other, you have a people who came along and built cities upon the ruins. The thing of it is, almost all cities in the ancient world were built upon more ancient ones, and you certainly will not be seeing anyone Babylonian coming along and saying, hey Turkey-Middle-East-guys, you're on our property.

The bitch of it is, Jerusalem just happens to be the centre of three major religions. In the middle ages it was fought over by the Western Europeans and the Muslims. And before that, back in the ancient times, it was rarely not occupied by others. Now we have a superior Israeli fighting force shooting down the rock throwing Palestinians and all I can say is what the f**k? Now the UN wants to get involved, or at least are really pushing the idea of a treaty of some sort. And if that fails... Damn...

This will not be another Iraq, this will not be another Bosnia, this will not even be another Yugoslavia, this will be something far, far worse. You know why? Because religion is involved, and war and religion don't mix. Well, actually, they have mixed excessively since the dawn of religion, but not often in the last hundred years. Mainly because we decided to fight for more "civilized" reasons like economic policy...

Still, it's a dangerous place to be, and not a place for the world policing of the U.S.. This could very well escalate into an all out war... And I'm not talking about some baby 'Desert Storm', I'm talking about massacres the kind not seen since Vietnam and WWII. The thing isn't just about the UN and U.S. getting involved, it's about all those little countries in that area getting into the scrap. Scarily, I actually think, Israel is still in possession of some nukes... Which they could use if things around them got out of hand.

In addition to this, we have a lot of factioning of just about every country that could get involved. I mean, if the U.S. backs one side, somebody else will back the other, perhaps one of those small countries around Israel, or perhaps a rival, I can't say for sure. All we can be sure of is that no good will come of this...

Obligatory Complaint of the Week

Next up for bid, lot 666, a chandelier in pieces... What I am referring to is the class which, though sometimes painless, frightens me the most: CS466, also known as Dune... I mean

CS666. I don't really want to be taking this course, of course — though, having it on my roster of courses does have some appeal, even though I don't know why that is.

I wanted to be taking AI, but I didn't get in, so it was either take CS466 and graduate in the spring, or have to pick up a CS credit in the spring, not a very tough choice to make, so here I am in CS466...

I shouldn't bitch, I know, but honestly the course is wearing thin on me. I mean, for the most part, I liked CS341 (the pre-req for both CS466 and AI), but it seems that the part of 341 that I liked most ended up in AI. Not that it isn't fun coming up with an $O(1)$ per operation partially persistent stack, but proving and re-proving every algorithm in existence is a bit, what's the word, evil.

Oh well, I may survive it...

Generic Advice

Anybody here to become a great game designer can check that dream at the door. A CS degree will get you pretty far, perhaps even to that goal, but you'll have to wade through a river of foulness that you can't possibly imagine. Regardless of what anybody says to the contrary, CS PTB's frown on creativity in all forms.

Closing Remarks

"What we do in life echoes an eternity..." — Gladiator

MariusX

**Willkommen aus
Drinkenbarfenfightenfest**

Once again the city of Walla Maloo becomes a mecca for thousands of drunken vandals. More popular than the previous Traffic Accident Week, Drinkenbarfenfightenfest has become Walla Maloo's best-known cultural event and the city's primary source of tourist dollars. This year merchants are hoping to cash in on sales of the beloved DBFFest mascot "Onkel Hurl". Onkel Hurl's pasty green countenance is perhaps the most popular symbol of DBFFest anywhere. Certainly Onkel Hurl is recognised almost world-wide for the irresponsible drinking and subsequent random property damage celebrated each year in Walla Maloo.

"We're so happy to see a bunch of wealthy middle-aged drunkards come into our city and act in a way that would make a frat-boy blush." says one resident. Certainly the hospitals and police must be pleased as they are kept on their toes by the numerous traffic accidents which occur each year during the celebrations. Sadly, no members of the police were available for comment as they were too busy breaking up fights writing up accident reports. Hospital workers were similarly overwhelmed by the chance to practice their emergency-room skills on such a scale.

"DBFFest probably brings in more boring louts from outside the city than any other cultural event in the world." says Cameron Alexander, a recent U of Walla Maloo graduate and now serving on city board of directors. "You can't imagine how I feel when I am recognised as being from that city where people go to get totally ripped and smash stuff. The impact this has on the civic pride of the average citizen is incalculable. I'm just glad that most of visitors leave behind a substantial amount of cash along with their vomit, litter and urine."

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Mathies are a Vector Space

In honour of the Math 135 and 145 midterm this Monday, I've decided that the time is right for an article about vector spaces. Ok, actually you don't get to vector spaces 'til second term... so the real reason for this article is that I couldn't think of anything else and this is the first idea that Liam's twisted mind came up with that I could understand.

Before I start this article I'd just like to apologize to Tushar... Don't worry Tushar, I'm sure you'll figure it out eventually.

For those of you poor frosh who haven't been introduced to vector spaces and don't understand what I'm talking about, you can try talking to older students who might know something. Or you could wait til next term when you'll be taught everything, understand nothing, and be beat silly with anything even marginally associated with vectors.

Now onto the title proof. First we have to define addition and scalar multiplication. Take two vectors, for example M and Y. Now we have to deal with what happens when $(M + Y = ?)$. We are talking about university students so obviously when you put M and Y together ... well, you know ... ICK! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE!!!! What dirty, dirty minds you have! I don't know how you can live with yourselves. Now, taking into account that these are MATH students they are obviously going to play a game of Crazy Russian to decide the winner. In the above case it is trivially obvious that $M + Y = Y$. (Thank you and please don't kill me while I'm sleeping...)

Now that se... uh, addition has been defined as Crazy Russian we need to move on to scalar multiplication. In this case we

*mast*HEAD

Get In The Ring!

Rich here. I've been pretty impressed with the diversity of opinions we've seen in this term's *mathNEWS*. People around here seem to feel strongly about a whole bunch of really important things. Which is a good thing. If you've got an opinion to express, write it down and send it to us — as long as you make a reasonable attempt at grammar and don't use gratuitous obscenities, we'll probably print it. Like if I were to express my opinion that every software architecture visualization tool is designed for no other purpose than to inflict pain on poor innocent students who are just trying to get their assignments done, that would be okay. See, and I didn't even swear once.

One thing I feel very strongly about is giving credit to our always opinionated staff for making this issue happen; here are their names, along with their answers to the question "If you could make your own holiday, what would it be and when?": Albert O'Connor (42), Anthony Cheng (Female Pride & Awareness Week where all females march nude in the street. When? Any time!), Liam Dorey (Oct 7th, day after my Birthday), Colin Davidson (Oct 17th, Extra Study Day cause I spent all my time writing in *mathNEWS*), Peter Lizak (Jaque Pierre Lizak day, the day when I got a lot of points using my name in Scrabble, Aug 3), Bradley T Smith (December 25th shall now be known as Tuesday), Jason Lau (Feb 4th, "Yech! We're halfway through winter" day), Raymond CT Lai (March 32nd, a fictitious holiday where single Mathies can roam free without fear of ridicule or mob lynching) and Keith Mortensen (Feb 29th, "Since you're not a real day anyway we'll make you a holiday" day).

Richard Bilson (December 4, Herbert Khaury Day)

Gregory Taylor (Whatever day that Ho Li has her birthday)

are going to define the scalars to be in the closed interval $[0..1]$ and when adding scalars the answer is always mod 1. Scalar multiplication will thus be defined as the constant times the marks of the given mathie. Thus we have discovered a well known Law of UW Mathematics, the MAD Law, otherwise known as the Marks Always Decline Law which states that since the constant is always between 0 and 1 your marks are always going to go down no matter what you do. Now multiplying a vector, say our good friend M, by a constant, say $1/3$, we come to the obvious conclusion that $(1/3)*M = R$.

Moving onto the body of the proof we now have to prove the 9 (in this case) axioms of a vector space.

Axiom 1: $a+b = b+a$ As location at the table is irrelevant to the winner of Crazy Russian (unless you're sitting next to Dave... Damn you Dave!!!)

Axiom 2: $(A+B)+C = A+(B+C)$ As the best player always wins at Crazy Russian... (As a side note, the simplified version of the above $A+B+C$ is obviously A or B, as C has never actually even appeared to be winning a game of Crazy Russian)

Axiom 3: $u+v$ is an element of the vector space of mathies. This is obvious, but writing those crazy greek symbols just isn't going to happen in this crazy text editor. *[Actually, using greek symbols is possible, but only on a need-to-know basis. And the vector space in question isn't using that particular basis. — HoloEd]*

Axiom 4: Now there has to be a unique 0 vector. This is where a problem arises because the answer is either T or C. C if we take the literal meaning of Crazy Russian and T if we go with those sick, sick thoughts from the beginning. Oddly enough Tushar, oh I mean T, agreed to let me write this... Maybe he's even more desperate than we thought. Personal ads in a *math-NEWS* article... for shame.

Axiom 5: There exists a $-v$ such that $v+(-v)=0$ (or C or T). Take your typical mathie, give them 8 hours of sleep and that's definitely going to result in a very bizarre game of Crazy Russian as the typical, sleep deprived math student will be so confused by seeing his awake self (who hasn't made an appearance since well before their first CS assignment) that he'll just stare dumbly at a table for an hour.

Axiom 6: For some constant k (in $[0..1]$) and a vector L, $k*L$ is still a mathie. In fact he's likely a more realistic math student as his marks are now lower than they were before.

Axiom 7: For constants low and lower it is obviously seen that $lower*(low*A) = low*(lower*A)$ as in both case the student in question sleeps through his algebra midterm and gets a 2. We're not really sure how he got 2, but since this is Algebra we aren't surprised that it doesn't make sense. Axiom 8: Proving $(k+d)*v = k*v+k*d$ is really quite simple. Basically you "mphh" and then you "ahem" and "uh, yeah". The rest of the proof is left as an exercise for the reader.

Axiom 9: $1*u = u$ This is the remarkably rare case where a student manages to do something which doesn't lower her mark. It doesn't get better, but she's managed to stem the tide of failures for one more assignment...

Therefore the set of mathies is obviously a vector space. Stay tuned next week when we show that artsies and mathies are orthogonal (taking the inner product of an artsie and a mathie results in a big fat 0).

Have a great week!

Colin Davidson

Staples

Ok... so I'm watching TV one day... a long time ago (like high school long time ago) and I put a staple in my thumb... [Maybe you should have been watching the stapler. — HoloEd] went right in... hit bone... didn't hurt much... anyway... so I don't like staplers... actually... I like staplers... [Just not the psychotic ones? — HoloEd] but I don't like ice... [Interesting segue. — HoloEd] because this time I was curling... and I slipped and I fell... and I bit my lip... all the way through... it hurt... [Maybe you should have put some ice on that. — HoloEd] oh well... and this time... well actually many times... I was skiing/snowboarding and ice... and wham... bam... ya... [The ice jumped out from behind a tree? — HoloEd] one... time... I was snowboarding... it was snowing a lot... and I got turned around and started going uphill... and it was bad... [Cheaper than a lift ticket though. — HoloEd] ok... anyway... staples is a fun store... [I knew we'd get to the store eventually. — HoloEd] but hey who cares... well I do... sorta... and that's nobody's business... last night... I couldn't sleep... so I watched old 80's moving on TBS... [This might mean movies, not 80-year olds — HoloEd] V.I. Warsharki... wow having to dress in the 80's musta really sucked... [Not at the nudist camps. — HoloEd] the hair styles... the music... everything... the 80's sucked... ok... Oct 6. 1980 was cool cause that's when I was born... and every Other Oct. 6 since then has been pretty cool... anyway back to my insomnia... [What about the staples? — HoloEd] around 3:30 am I got into bed... and then the cat hopped in so I played with him for a while (SHUT UP TUSHAR)... where a while is defined as two or three hours... and then I listed to my one roommate [I sense a multiple personality disorder somewhere. — HoloEd] get up... I listened to him talk to the cat... (oh ya... the cat left to go beg for food) and I heard the cat complain a lot... and then my one roommate left... and my other roommate got up and I listened to her talk to the cat, I listened to the cat beg for food... and then

I got up..... I ignored the cat... [So what you're saying is you're writing this on 0 hours of sleep? — HoloEd] anyway... staples are useful... I mean if we didn't have them we'd have to use chewing gum to stick the pages of our assignments together... [They've also invented these things called paperclips. — HoloEd] and I don't think the Markers would be... umm... thrilled... so then I was walking my dog... but I don't have one... [Must have been a hot dog. — HoloEd] and when I was cooking at pauls place, I burned myself... but it looks like a smile so it's all good... and then..... wow... I get hurt a lot... [Could it be coincidence? — HoloEd] and tushar says I'm a whiny bitch... so... I'll stop now... [What's with the extra words below this then? — HoloEd] well the me getting hurt thing... ok... so I have a car now... [And it attacked you? — HoloEd] it's rusty sky blue... and the right passenger door doesn't open... well... actually it can... but... if it does too many more times... it might fall off... (the frame is just plain rusty, skip the whole blue thing) and then Liam has no car... [Or has one that passengers fall out of at least. — HoloEd] hmm. [Yes, we have no ellipses. — HoloEd] third person... maybe I should right an entire article like that... [That might be more wrong than right — HoloEd] Liam did that... Liam did this... naw... too much... I don't really like my name that much... so then I took two heart tricks in euchre when something else was trump... and me and Tushar won once, but Dave and Colin won the other two games...ok..... I'm running out of... hmm... "spew" ... that's what they called it last time... [I see you suggested something different this time — HoloEd] and I want to go into space someday... cause that would be cool... [How about a vector space? — HoloEd] and... ok... I'll shut my cake hole now... bye... until next time... [Sorry, we're not giving out statuettes this issue. — HoloEd]

"Little" Liam Dorey

Simon Recovers

The Post-Oktoberfest Realization of Simon L'Avier

Hello and welcome again to another adventure story. This issue, I would like to teach everyone who reads this a valuable lesson about Oktoberfest: Don't bring me to the same haus as you are going to. I went out for Oktoberfest Friday night as any good character should. To protect the event, let's refer to the location as Drunkenpuken. Now, at Drunkenpuken (which for short, let's call the Aud) they made the foolish decision to sell alcohol. I was astonished that at a festival intended to celebrate the heritage and culture of the people of the Black Forest region of Germany, somebody would have the nerve to placate the masses with Canadian beer (and not the best Canadian beer, as anyone who has ever made their own can tell you)! I welcommened the sausage, the schnitzel, the strudel, and all those other things that started with the letter s, but I rejected the beer. In fact, I would spend most of that night and the following day with my body completely rejecting it and the water I tried to take in.

What unfortunately happened was that some poor sap dropped all their beer coupons in their pocket, where I found them. I considered the possibility of interrupting the oompa band to make an announcement, but there are too many dishonest people in the world, and for some reason, I saw at least

fourteen of them there that night. Forced with no other option, as it would be a waste of paper to throw them out, I returned them to the good folks under the giant beer sign. So pleased were they with my honesty, that they rewarded me with beer — a cup for each ticket I had returned. Seeing as alcohol had ruined my mood for three hours of polka dancing while eating s-foods, I decided to enjoy my rewards.

When I woke up, it was Saturday and there was another Oktoberfest event going on, this one shall be called Drinkundgodancen, or another night at the Aud for short. My head was throbbing due to my foolish decision from the day before, so I quickly consumed as much beer as I could and felt great again! For anyone who stops reading this now without seeing the moral at the end, all this ingestion of booze was not a good idea. Anyway, I quickly found myself outside with some guy with a feather in his cap, who we shall call Yankee Doodle (for obvious reasons). I turned to him and asked, "Hey, Yank, hunh?" To which he replied the same thing. After some preliminary decision making on how we should communicate, we found ourselves planning a trip on the free KWT (Kitchener Waterloo Transit). This plan was cut short when we discovered that there is no KWT, it has been replaced with the GRT, which I believe



Now boys, you know that we're all one big family so we have to play nice with each other.

Oh man, I hate family. They're always putting you down.



I know what you mean. And they're always trying to steal your stuff and take over your space.

SIMON from page 16


stands for Super Wicked Buses in some other language.

We hopped on a super wicked bus and began cruising the streets of somewhere. It was exciting because of all the pretty colours and loud motorists, but scary because it ended somewhere in the west end of town with the super wicked bus driver asking us to leave and take our crude platypus jokes with us (stupid platypi, always getting me in trouble!). Yank had become quite mesmerized by the feather in his cap, which he called rigatoni, so I borrowed fourteen dollars from him and ran away quickly. Unfortunately, I ran in a very very wrong direction, and had to return his money after getting back from that spooky farm (damn platypi farms).

Yank appeared to be quite wise in the ways of seducing drivers, and quickly found us a way getting to somewhere where we knew where we were (that's fun to say!). However, the dude who drove us kept Yank. But I got him back: I ripped the rear-view mirror off his accursed Acura. Now, when ever I comb my hair in the morning, and gaze into that mirror, I wonder what Yank is doing now. This feeling should pass next week. (But I do feel bad for him — there, now it has a moral.)

Morally yours,
Simon L'Avier

The editors would like to acknowledge the gracious assistance of Mavis Theatrical Supplies Inc. in providing the summer staff with costumes for a special article that never saw the light of day. It is our sincere desire to bring this article to you at a future time, but for now you'll just have to believe us when we say that Mavis is really really cool. Go visit them.



Mavis
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Make-up, wigs, novelties and accessories for the theatre, television, photography and parties.

The general public is welcome.

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Waterloo, Ontario N2J 2H7
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mathNEWSquiz #3*Submissions double! Two people attempt to win!*

Glorious Winner: Greg "Hologrami" Taylor (7). Attractive Runner-Up: Kevin Wan Min Kee (2). Fired SquizMaster: Bradley G Smith (25).

In an effort to make the Squiz more challenging, Bradley G Smith made it harder. He is now fired. This Squiz promises to be rich in Squizzy goodness, but still hard, for I am Bradley A Smith, new SquizMaster. Yippee!

I would like to start today's Squiz with a story to make it more interesting for those bored enough to read the Squiz comment. I was biking along the sidewalk (for which I have already been chastized) when I came to a street with traffic lights. The hand was flashing, but being a fast moving pedestrian, I crossed. Then this dude in a Civic starts cutting the corner into me, his braking suddenly combined with my swerve, preventing him from clipping/wumping me. He then has the nerve to roll down the passenger-side window (or push a button, rather, as he appeared to be too lazy for cranks) and yell at me, "What did the sign say?" I pondered about the fact that I had a green light, while it was *almost* red when he had to stop. I pondered the list of witty cyclist slogans I had found the previous week. I pondered the ugliness of the car and driver. Then, this mish-mash of thoughts culminated in a loud grunt and me cycling away. Now, for the first time in *mathNEWS*, a brief collection of the things I should have said!

- (While blinking a finger): It was a blinking hand just like this!
- It said, "Don't hit people with your car." Good job!
- I'm the SquizMaster, I ask the questions here!
- It said, "Don't stink and drive you ugly polluter!"
- Take off, ya hoser!

That's it, I got it off my chest. For those who think I was in the wrong, I know, I probably was, so I'll shut up and tell you last issue's solutions and ask you more questions. **Songs from bands who released albums two weeks ago:** 1. *Geek Stink Breath*, Green Day, 2. *The Night Pat Murphy Died*, Great Big Sea, 3. *Paranoid Android*, Radiohead, 4. *Girl of my Dreams*, The Moffatts; **Pierre Elliot Trudeau:** 1. Libra, 2. Mount Royal, 3. Just Watch Me, 4. Barbra Streisand, 5. The Rolling Stones; **Comics:** 1. Michael from For Better or for Worse, 2. Pet, 3. Philip Street (isn't that cool?), 4. Stuff it, 5. Look What I Brought Home, Guelph; **Left-overs:** 1. The roof of St. Ignatius school, 2. 32, 3. Purple, 4. 5th floor, across from the MUO, 5. The Mousetrap. Y'know, I liked that Tom Stoppard question so much, I'm going to give him a category today. In fact, I'm going to put it before the lyrics! Ha ha! Remember, solutions go in the **BLACK BOX** or get sent to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, and then you win, because nobody else submitted. Later!

Tom Stoppard (and The Mousetrap)

1. According to that Czech birth certificate of his, what name was Tom born with?
2. Which movie's screenplay did he write with Terry Gilliam?
3. Which play (his most famous) is Questions Only found in?
4. What is his most recent co-screenplay?
5. What record does The Mousetrap hold?

*Holy Lyrics, Bradman**(Points for band, title, theme, bringing me food)*

1. Well in case you failed to notice,
In case you failed to see,
This is my heart bleeding before you,
This is me down on my knees
2. You don't know how you got here
You just know you want out
Believing in yourself
Almost as much as you doubt
3. But did you know,
That when it snows,
My eyes become large and,
The light that you shine can be seen
4. And know I'm with you now
Inside your world of wow!
To move in desires made of deadly pretends
Till the end times begin...

Islands

1. Which is the largest Hawaiian island?
2. What also goes by the name Kalaallit Nunaat?
3. What other country can boast a Prince Edward Island?
4. What South Pacific island was in demand for Internet domain name reasons?
5. Name the two island nations of the Mediterranean.

Trilogies

1. How many books are in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy trilogy?
2. Where is the Lord of the Rings trilogy set?
3. Where do the aliens from John Christopher's Tripod Trilogy live?
4. Which Govern-General award winning author started his trilogy with *Lives of the Saints*?
5. Alphabetically, name all three of Robertson Davies' trilogies.

I can't emphasize this enough, you must submit solutions to stand a chance at winning. My limited brain can only handle what is sent to the *mathNEWS* e-mail account or placed in the **BLACK BOX**. Honestly, please send me something so I'm busier on Production Nights. Really, I'm finished way too early, then I have to challenge myself to do something like fill an entire page exactly — no filler required when I'm at work! Because people don't submit, I ramble on and on with no point whatsoever until I eventually begin talking about my only rambling in some bizarre meta-rambling loop and ... oh ... woo ... ugh.

Yet another Lame SquizMaster,
Bradley, A Smith

Happy Birthday, Bradley!

Bubbles At Last

Early this past Sunday as I was walking across campus I was filled with a warm fuzzy feeling from the sight of the Egg with large mounds of soap bubbles in the fountain. An unusual sight since people don't normally wash dishes in the fountain and for what other reason would people be putting soap in a fountain. Clearly they didn't wash many dishes otherwise the suds would have diminished.

Now to explain the warm fuzzy feeling. The sight of the fountain reminded me of my life as a frosh. The night prior I had seen some people, presumably frosh, playing ball tag in DC. It might not have been ball tag — maybe some other game which involves running and throwing balls at people. So I jumped to the conclusion that they might have been the ones who used the fountain as a sink to wash the dishes.

This illustrates the resourcefulness of frosh at 3 a.m. Whether they need to set some Jello or perhaps to wash dishes or maybe to make ice cubes frosh quickly learn the usefulness of the fountains.

A warning to the wise: Laurel Creek should not be used for the purpose of washing dishes unless perhaps the dishes are about to be incinerated and only then proceed with the strictest caution. Very few have survived an encounter with Laurel Creek.

Now shortly after after passing the Egg this unforgettable Sunday morning a Comfy couch crossed my path. This time was different from the previous 254 times a Comfy couch crossed my path that week, in that I was outside. Most often I only dare enter the Comfy from inside because rappelling down from the roof is much harder then just walking down the stairs to the third floor. The couch was strategically placed in the middle of the walkway, just sitting there to ambush helpless pedestrians. After ten minutes of bitter struggle I was able to wrench myself away.

Days like that occur at most once a week. So I was overjoyed to see mounds of soap suds and an outdoors Comfy couch. And more surprising still was that I had no idea that people were going wash their dishes at MC until after the fact.

Dave Nicholson

Don't You Wish You Could Write for *mathNEWS*?

We wish you would!

gridCOMMENTS

A Ten o'Clock Scholar

Hello everyone, and welcome back to this week's edition of *mathNEWS*. I, your friendly neighbourhood GridMaster, have decided that there's only one thing that I hate more than having to teach at 8:00 in the morning; it's not having anyone show up to said section, thus making my heroic efforts at waking up all in vain.

But enough about me. Let's talk about you. I received a total of six solutions to last issue's grid. The four completely correct solutions – along with who the submitters think they are – come from Janey “Chief” Law, Ryan McGauley, Gladys Yam, Karen Ho, & Christina Hallett [(MATH/ACC)⁴ + (PRE-OPT) = Masters of the Universe]; The Pieman [Why should I tell you?]; Chi-Hung Ta & Jose Sia [We are whomever you say we are. If we were not, then why would we say we are]; and Marcov [We are not: a small rabbit, yo' mama, Bolzano Weierstrass, Winnie the Pooh, Rasputin, MacGyver, Dubya]. Very slightly incorrect solutions come from Brian Glick & Markus Wolski (who don't seem to know who they think they are, or at least didn't tell me) and Greg “hologrami” Taylor [An animated cartoon on drugs].

Note to Pieman: I'm the GridMaster. I ask the questions. Snarkiness will get you nowhere.

Anyway, despite my initial disappointment that I didn't have a submission from Winnie-the-Pooh, this week's randomly chosen winner is **Marcov**. Give them a big hand. Your prof won't mind, especially if you're in a stats class, 'cause then you can tell them that you're cheering for Markov, and that'll give them a warm fuzzy feeling because they'll think you're talking about a dead Russian probability theorist. Marcov, drop by the MathSoc office and they'll tell you what you've won.

I don't have a lot to say about this week's Grid... then again, when do I ever? I tried to avoid obsolete and obscure Scottish words, and mostly succeeded. Since I have nothing to say here,

though, I might as well wish a very happy birthday party to Pam, Dee, and Byung.

As usual, submissions are due right before the next production night, which my sources tell me is **Monday, October 30th**. And when you submit, feel free to answer the GridQuestion: *How many were going to St. Ives?*

See you on the flip side,

Matt in the Hat

Solution to Last Issue's Grid

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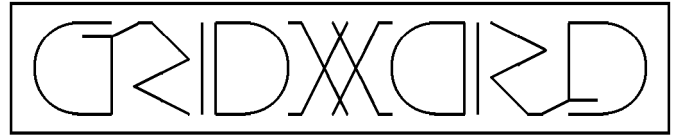
Grid Clues

Across

1. Relax, unburden
4. The Light Brigade's claim to fame
9. Parisian fool
11. Light-leaf cigar
13. Cancel a marriage
15. Scottish city
17. Walks a beat
19. Prayer ender
20. Clean up for television
22. It can make you crazy?
23. Turned to ATP to store energy
24. The Orkneys, e.g.
26. The people on screen, in a movie
27. Turned cattle away from the driver
29. Soft or sloppy lump
31. A piece of circumference
33. Bring value to
35. Sledge or MC, for example
37. Concede or bestow
38. Brings direction to
41. Moves in response
44. Horton of hockey and doughnaught fame
45. Give aid to
48. Waterproofed canvas
49. Cain's downfall
51. Canadian ISP
53. Watermelons grow down by here
54. Televangelist Roberts
55. Dull pain
56. Indivisible, but not really
58. Sorcerer
60. Randomness, thermodynamically speaking
63. Cartoonist Bil
64. Fails to win
65. Call for aid
66. Offer in payment
67. A small dog's bark

Down

1. Comes before the chicken... right?
2. Scurry
3. Otherwise
4. Ultimate electoral arbiter (abbrev.)
5. Bridge movement
6. Violator
7. Itty bitty insect
8. One of Tolkein's tree-men
9. Wreckage of a sailing ship
10. Formerly, Russia and friends
12. Hindu fire-god
14. Bear, great or little
16. Burdened down
18. Volume of a kilogram of water
21. Suicidal desire
23. One prejudiced against the old
25. Ski downhill
26. Irritate, rub against



1		2	3		4	5		6	7	8		9		10
		11		12				13				14		
15	16							17						18
	19					20	21					22		
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27			28		29				30			31		32
33				34					35		36			
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38	39	40						41				42	43	
44				45	46		47			48				
	49		50			51				52		53		
54					55					56	57			
58					59				60	61				62
		63						64						
65					66							67		

28. Jump in the water
30. The physical medium of a legal document
32. Well-done
34. Yellowish-pink
36. The significant portion of an argument
39. Diadem
40. Leaves on a journey
42. Last car on a train
43. Homeless vagabond
46. Grow ill
47. Remington of TV fame
50. Model MacPherson
52. Laboratory rodents
54. Wise birds
55. Bane of adolescents everywhere
57. One above a deuce
59. Edible grain
61. Not this one either
62. Uh-huh

ISSN 0705—0410

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

Holding on for dear life: Gregory Taylor and Richard Bilson