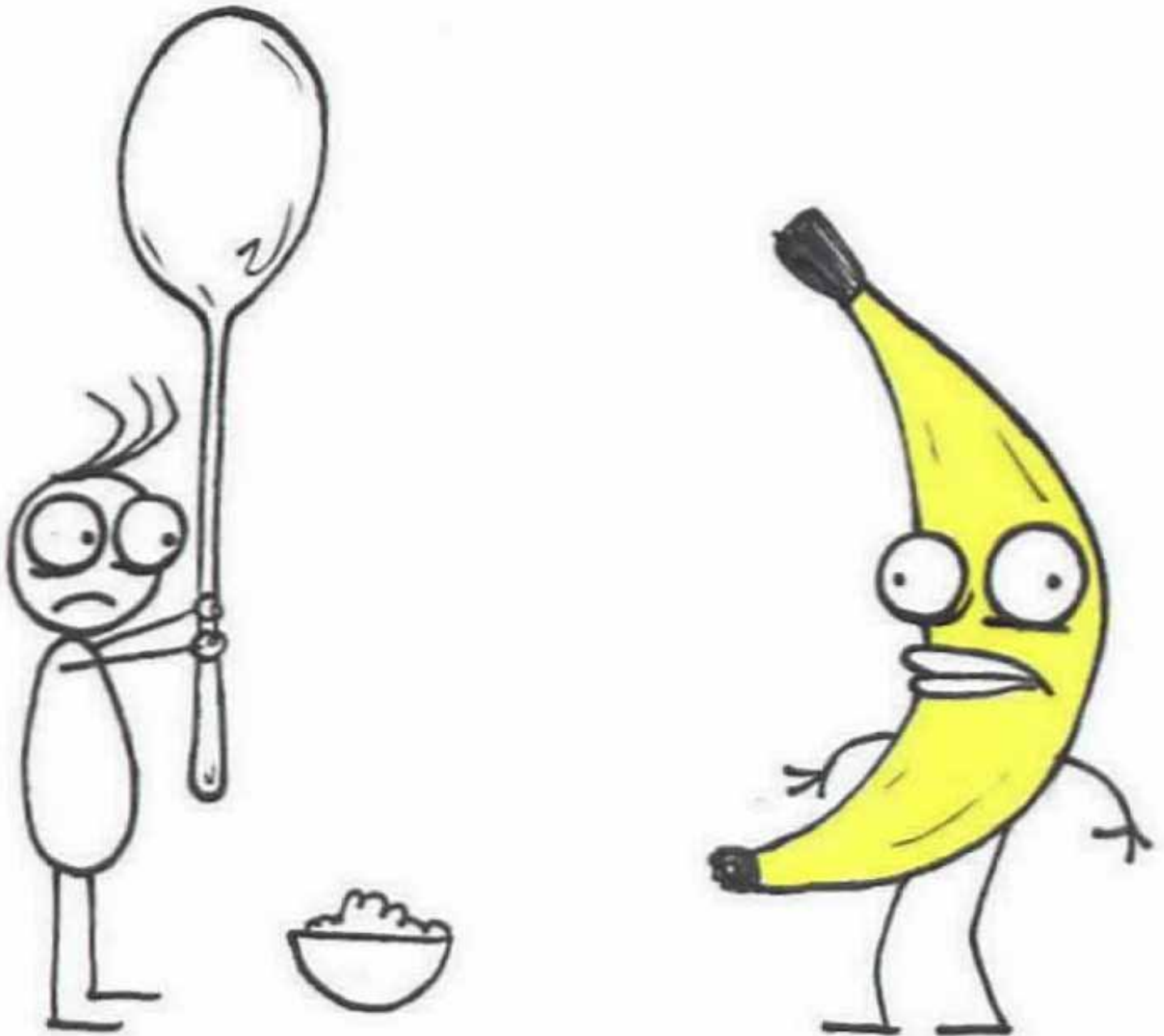


math

Volume 91, Issue 4

NEWS

Friday, February 28th, 2003



Next season's "Reality TV": When Bananas Attack

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

February 28	Issue #4 huddles around a fire
March 10	Issue #5 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
March 14	Issue #5 gets π -ed in its mouth

Math Faculty

February 28	WD Deadline
March 3-28	Spring '03 Course Enrollment
March 10, 11	Campus Days

MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Night
Tonight	Midnight LaserQuest
March 4	Pancake Day
March 4	Ski Trip to Blue Mountain
March 13	Dave's Demi-Decathlon
March 14	Hmm ... π Day (at 1:59 pm)

MGC

Wednesdays	Pizza
Today	Last Day of Ring Sales
March 7	Last Day for F03, W04 MGC Chair Nominations
March 8	Grad Ball
Now!	Contribute to the Pink Tie Pledge

Co-op

February 28	Work Reports Returned
March 17	Continuous Phase postings end

Miscellaneous

February 29	People get tired of Leap Day jokes
March 4	Mardi Gras
March 7	American Advertisement Awards Presented without Commercials
March 9	Commonwealth Day
March 10	Traffic cops hired to direct 3 rd floor traffic
March 12	Employee Day
	Does that mean they can't be yelled

at?



CSC Flash

Abusing The C++ Compiler

March 4 at 4:30 PM in MC2065

This talk will give a short overview of the features of templates and then go on to describe how to "abuse" templates to perform complex computations at compile time. The speaker will present three programs that execute at compile time. First a factorial listing program, then a prime listing program will be presented. Finally the talk will conclude with the presentation of a Mandelbrot generator running at compile-time. Speaker: Stefanus Du Toit.

For more information about CSC events, visit our website:
www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca.

Math Endowment Fund Update

The Math Endowment Fund is a student-run and student-sponsored fund that finances projects for the academic betterment of undergraduate mathematics students. With a principal of over \$1 000 000, MEF is now able to spend approximately \$30 000 each term.

As the fund continues to grow we will be able to fund larger projects whose impact will be felt by everyone who studies mathematics at Waterloo. In the past year, MEF has sponsored purchases and upgrades for the MFCF teaching environment, a laptop for class demonstrations in Applied Mathematics, courseware, course development, and guest lecturers in Computer Science, books for student-run clubs, teaching assistants, and student participation in conferences.

Funding proposals for the Winter 2003 term are due March 7. Applications and guidelines are available on the MEF website.

Decisions on which projects to fund are made by the MEF Funding Council, which is composed of student and faculty representatives. There are positions for student representatives from each plan and from each year (28 students in total). Nomination forms are available on the MEF website and are due March 7.

For more information, visit the MEF website at www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mefcom, or come by our office, MC 4046.

Douglas Stebila
MEF Director

WIM Sez

The next meeting for the Women In Math Undergrad committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th, 2003 at 5:30. Check <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~wimugrad> for location and more details!

Check out our bulletin board on the 3rd floor for pictures!

WIM Undergrad

Travelling Saleswoman Problem

Carmeliza Navasca
Department of Applied Mathematics

Wednesday, March 5, 2003
4:00 pm in MC 5158

Abstract: My goal for this talk is to introduce dynamic programming. Dynamic programming is an optimization technique that is particularly applicable to problems requiring a sequence of interrelated decisions. A sense of decisions yields a sequence of situations which then minimizes (maximizes) some measure of value.

I will demonstrate the key ideas behind dynamic programming through examples, namely, the simple path problem and the travelling salesperson problem. In addition, I will discuss how dynamic programming develops useful results and computational methods for optimal control problems.

This talk is aimed at undergraduates as well as graduate students who are interested in optimization or control theory.

It's Not Your Bedtime Yet!

Have another cup...

Your Social Directors bring you greetings from the Wudan monestary atop the White Mountain Dana Porter. The Social Director has retreated here to seek inner harmony and to catch up on work; the Social Director likes to speak of the Social Director's self in the third person. Welcome to the Tao of the Social Director.

First things first: while the Tao of the Socialites does not encourage violence, we recognise that this U(W), and shooting people with lasers is good. Like at **LaserQuest**, this Friday. That's right, today, starting at Midnight. I hope you've bought tickets. I really want to shoot — er, see you there. If you haven't, there may still be some left at the MathSoc office.

While you're there, why don't you pick up some tickets for **Skiing**. This event happens Tuesday, March 4th, at **Blue Mountain**. We'll depart the campus at 2:30 pm, and arrive back at about half past midnight.

The cost is only \$19 (plus nine more if you require ski rental.)

Truly, the path to Enlightenment lies in the Olympic Biathlon: skiing and shooting things.

Note that **Pancakes** will also be on sale that Tuesday.

On March 11th, there will be **Cosmic Bowling** in the evening. More details soon.

The Tao of the Socialites believes in flexibility. (Or something.) Accordingly, **QuizBowl** has been postponed until the second week of March. However, posters *will* be going up, and we'd really love to see lots of student teams at QuizBowl. Because to lose again would just be embarrassing.

In the Tao, all is one, which sounds like "won", which is what the Quizbowl must be.

Finally (well, penultimately), in the Tao, one must seek out great teachers to guide you on the way to the library. And all the other Profs, too. And we all know that Weaver's Arms is on the way to the Library. So accordingly, just before exams (and right before you all go to the White Mountain Porter to study of course), **Pints with Profs** is going ahead. Just as

soon as I can get a sense of when Professors are available, in the last week of March, March 24th-28th.

Now, I know it's called Pints with Profs and all, but appearances can be deceiving: this is really *not an alcohol-centred event*. We just like the alliteration. And the pints can be of anything — orange juice, tears of despair before exams, whatever. It's all good. And we'd really love to see as many people out there as possible. So if you're underage, or not comfortable with alcohol, don't worry — please come out. It's an all ages event, and it runs from 4 pm to 8 pm, and the Profs are distinguished elders — alcohol will not be greatly featured. Think of it as an all ages frosh week event.

The Tao says, look beneath the exterior to see the truth. You really want a pint of orange juice with a Prof.

Finally (really ultimately): **Volunteers**. Are. Cool. We really love having volunteers come out to help with these events. More importantly, volunteers also get to really enjoy themselves. Selling tickets may not sound like great fun — but actually, it's a really great opportunity to hang out, get some homework done, and illuminate the floor with your musical good taste — you get a stereo. So please, lend a hand if you can — you won't regret it. (In particular, you're more than welcome to come learn to cook pancakes — always remember how good (or even looking like) cooking looks!)

Volunteering is a way to purity in the Tao.

If you would like to help, there is a signup sheet posted on the MathSoc office door (MC 3038); alternatively, send an email to social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca — we'll be in touch.

I think that's all for this fortnight. (You know someone laughed at me yesterday for using that word? You know, fortnight. Like, fourteen knights. Except without the 'k'. Good grief...)

Signing off — it's like your social director saying goodbye, except your social director is a schizophrenic yogi perched atop a white library reincarnating not one but three teachers whilst seeking not Worldly Power, nor the World Series, but

Lack Of

This coming Saturday is the performance of a new one-act play called *Lack Of*. It's written, directed, produced, and performed by UW students (including a Mathie!). You might have seen the posters around campus, but if not, here is the info:

The play is about 4 students living in a house together, all of them messed up in their own way and trying to find what they're missing. Much of the play was created through improvisation and collaborative work, so it was a lot of fun to work on and it'll be a lot of fun to see!

So when's it happening? Saturday, March 1st in the Conrad Grebel College Great Hall (Academic Building). There will be two shows: one at 2 pm and one at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. All proceeds will be donated

Anarchy '03

It was a quiet production night. The frosh were writing midterms and the editors were nowhere to be found. So the little *mathNEWS* writers went down to the lab and started a glorious revolution. There was singing, there was dancing, and yes, there was food for all. And no, it was NOT Campus Pizza. And the writers rejoiced. And thus began Anarchy '03.

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

I AM THE SON OF FILLER!!!

In VPAS Terms

I'm Running Out of Column Names

The day I'm writing this is the day job matches came out. Congratulations to the men and women who are gainfully employed, and good luck to you Mathies in continuous. Don't get TOO stressed out. Good things happen to good people, and I would like to think Mathies are all good people.

In Campus Day Terms

Campus Days will be on March 11th and March 12th this year. That's right, it's on TWO days. These two days are split into 2, so technically there are 4 Campus "Days", but they don't actually qualify as "days"... I'm getting confused.

In any case, thank you for all you Mathies who signed up on the MathSoc door to volunteer. If you still wish to volunteer, email vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca for further information. It's not too late to become a shining beacon of information for potential Mathies of 2003!

In Mentor Terms

MathSoc is now looking for students who are registered in 1B, 2A, or 2B this term to become "mentors for a day" this March. The MathSoc Mentor Day will offer an opportunity for high-school students to be paired up with an university student for a day, taking part in classes, social activities, and other things that an average Mathie does daily. If you wish to be a mentor, contact vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca for further information.

In Gaming Terms

Finally, MathSoc is looking into organizing a cross-university Settler's tournament. Settler's is a rather popular game here in Math, and apparently it's rather popular in other universities as well. If you have any ideas or wish to help run this, please contact vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca for more information.

It seems like the predominant theme for the VPAS article this week is "contact vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca for more information. That's a good thing! If YOU have any ideas on how your student society can serve you better, you know who to call...

Raymond Lai
VPAS, MathSoc W03

Not Hearing So Well

When you combine hair so long it covers your ears, winter waxiness, dyslexia, and a family history of hearing loss, you begin to hear the coolest things ever.

- "Cool, your current graphics project is a tray racer!"
- "No! We're here to keep you company, not for you to keep on humping me."
- "Actually, I am fearing hell."
- "I said that I WOULD be coming to the party and that you SHOULD wear pants."
- "No, there are no yaks in my ears. You're a pretty dumb kid."
- "The Bomber's closed! How come I never heard about that!"
- "Able was I ere I saw Elba?" I must be hearing backwards."

Yo, Professors!

MathSoc wants YOU!

Yes you.

You can't hide; we know you read *mathNEWS*. (Don't even *think* about moving to another article.)

We've even seen you pick up copies.

Some of you — now, I'm not naming names, but you know who you are — some of you, even have *subscriptions*.

Now, here's the rub:

We'd really like to invite you to a couple of events that MathSoc runs, which are really all about inviting you, the Profs, out.

Firstly, there's the **Quizbowl**. This is the event where:

- uppity students try to show that even if they had *no clue* about 3a on the midterm, haven't been to class in weeks and couldn't find the roots of x^2 in \mathbf{R} , they still have a vastly superior store of, um, totally useless knowledge.
- Other students come to amuse themselves with the proceedings.
- And — at least last term — a great and glorious company of faculty established definitively that a PhD is the last word in all fixtures factual.

(A fixture, of course, being a match between two soccer teams. What soccer teams care about facts, I don't know.)

Secondly, there is **Pints with Profs**. This is a wonderful event, a fantastic event, and best of all, there will be some free food. We all know how important free food is in academia. (Well, that and an exotic conference site...)

More seriously, it's a great opportunity for Professor-student socialisation. There's more to university for us than taking courses — we come here, in essence, to learn from the teachers here assembled. We think that there's more to a university than just teaching and grants — and we hope that part of this can be having a little fun with our Profs.

So come and meet your students (who knows? maybe future professors) — without any slate in the room. (Except possibly in a pool table.)

(BTW, we're currently hoping to have this at Weaver's Arms, in the absence of the Bombshelter.)

If you have any questions and/or would like to participate in these wonderful events, please contact us at social@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Cheers,
The Social Directors

MGC 2004 Chair

Attention: Class of 2004

Nominations for the position of MGC Chair for Fall 2003 and Winter 2004 are now open.

The MGC Chair is in charge of running events for the graduating class including Grad Ball, Yearbook and the Pink Tie Pledge.

Nominate someone today and do your part to make 2004 the best graduating year ever.

Nomination forms are available outside the MathSoc office. The nomination period runs until Friday, March 7th.

Colin Davidson

Simon Singh

Waterloo — April 2, 2003

Simon Singh, author of *The Code Book*, Journalist and TV Producer, will be speaking in Waterloo on Wednesday, April 2, 2003. The Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and St. Jerome's University, together with the Centre for Applied Cryptographic Research (CACR) at the University of Waterloo, are sponsoring two lectures.

Dr. Singh will speak on "Cracking the Cipher Challenge" from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in PHY 145 at the University of Waterloo. A reception and book signing by Dr. Singh will follow immediately afterwards.

"Cracking the Cipher Challenge"

Abstract: In *The Code Book*, a history of cryptography, the author Simon Singh included ten encrypted messages with a prize of \$20 000 for the first person to decipher all of them. Thousands of amateur and professional code-breakers took up the Cipher Challenge, but it took over a year before the messages were cracked. Simon Singh will be talking about how he constructed the Cipher Challenge and how the winners eventually cracked it. He will also be using the Cipher Challenge to give an introduction to the history of cryptography and to demonstrate why encryption is more important today than ever before. In particular, he will discuss what the Cipher Challenge can teach us about Internet security.

The talk on "Cracking the Cipher Challenge" will be held at the University of Waterloo in PHY 145. Attendance is free, but you need to register prior to March 31 by calling Sherry Shannon-Vanstone at (905) 854-6363 or email: sshannon@sviconsulting.com. For information on other events sponsored by the CACR, please visit <http://www.cacr>.

Revised Sayings for The Computer Age by Snuggles' Mom

- Home is where you hang your @
- The email of the species is more deadly than the mail.
- A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
- You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
- Great groups from little icons grow.
- Pentium wise — pen and paper foolish.
- Speak softly and carry a cellular phone.
- C:\ is the root of all directories.
- The modem is the message.
- Too many clicks spoil the browse.
- The geek shall inherit the earth.
- Oh, what a tangled web site we weave when first we
- A chat has nine lives.
- Fax is stranger than fiction.
- What boots up must come down.
- Windows will never cease.
- In Gates we trust.
- Virtual reality is its own reward.
- Modulation in all things.
- A user and his leisure time are soon parted.
- There's no place like home.com.
- Know what to expect before you connect. practice to concieve.
- Speed thrills.
- Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach

The second lecture, "Mathematics of Chance", is presented as a Public Event hosted by the Perimeter Institute. Dr. Singh will speak from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

math.uwaterloo.ca/.

"The Mathematics of Chance"

Abstract: Simon Singh looks at how chance, risk and uncertainty influence our world, from the courtroom to the doctor's surgery, from the paranormal to the casino. Indeed, our lives are dominated by the laws of chance ... an oxymoron if ever there was one. But how can mathematics help us exploit risk? Simon shows how probability theory leads to truths that confound our intuition and he explains how it can help us to live, thrive and survive.

The talk on "The Mathematics of Chance" will be held at the Waterloo Recreation Complex, 101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo. Attendance is free, but tickets are required and can be reserved via phone: (519) 886-2375, (519) 886-1177, e-mail: tickets@city.waterloo.on.ca or can be picked up directly at the Waterloo Recreation Complex, ticket reservations desk. A small number of tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the lecture. The Perimeter Institute hosts a monthly Public Event. Visit

About Dr. Singh

After completing his PhD in particle physics at Cambridge University, Simon Singh became a science journalist. He is the author of two bestselling books, *Fermat's Enigma* and *The Code Book*. Previously he was a producer and director in the BBC TV Science Department. He has recently presented programmes (The Science of Secrecy, Five Numbers, The Serendipity of Science, Mind Games) on British radio and television. His website is at www.simonsingh.net.

HorrorScopes everybody number is 50 minutes of class.**ACC**

Your recent bean counting has netted you an operating revenue of 50 beans. Invest the beans into a pot and watch it grow. Diversify your portfolio with tomatoes and carrots. Attach a stringent amount of dressing.

C&O may try to optimize your bean usage. Give them a trowel and tell him to start shovelling.

Your lucky number is 5 servings.

ACTSCI

You may find your belongings tampered with. To prevent your ring tone changed into other, more interesting sounds, pack mace and retractable baton in your backpack. You may not need to use it, but the next time you see someone typing stuff into your logged-in terminal, you'll have something to scare away the assailant.

CS may decide to enter a self-propagating, self-recursive code into your cell phone. Beat him heavily with the baton.

Your number is section 32 of the Criminal Code.

AM

Your recent Vice City games will pay off in dividends when you need to bike between the MC and the EL. Remember, however, that running people over and causing general destruction to the UW campus won't get you money, but it WILL get you fined.

You will find the hidden tank under the SCI building.

Your lucky number is 120 km/h.

BBA/BMath

The recent snowstorms have you questioning the merits of risking your life to attend class at Laurier. Grab a pair of snowshoes and make that death-defying journey, as Laurier girls are hot and they appreciate hot sweaty guys in Arctic winter gear.

Your STAT buddy will be taking odds against your survival.

Your lucky number is -40 degrees.

C&O

For superior entertainment, walk into a Math 239 classroom and watch CS majors squirm when they are taught simple enumeration. When they self-implode from information overload, applaud.

Multiple implosions by CS will be quite spectacular to watch... it'll be like Canada Day, only indoors!

Your lucky number is \$0.

OR

Plan optimal routes to and from off-campus bars to maximize drunkenness while maintaining minimal sobriety for walking purposes. Sell the routes and attach drinking guides to ARTS.

ARTS will proclaim you as their god. Accept it gracefully at a profit.

Your lucky number is 3 trips to the bathroom.

SOFTENG

You will soon learn that there are Women in Math, but no Women in Engineering. This new revelation will finally

CS

Valentine's Day is near, and you still have failed to get a girlfriend. Switching from JAVA to C# when trying to woo your target is not going to work. Use proper time management: correct parsing of target reaction will prevent writing of further useless code. Give up if she doesn't respond to ASP. SOFTENG is as much a geek as you are. Try there.

Your lucky number is `target.askOut();`

MATH BUS

You will find open-sourced office programs very appealing after Microsoft Word crashed and killed your 20-page financial report on the company you are currently studying. The concept of not actually having to pay for software escapes you. Don't worry, everybody does it.

ENG will threaten your stance on open-source software. Sic your Laurier buddies on them.

open up some time in your busy schedule to go to WIM meetings.

MATHBUS will soon monopolize WIM. Act quickly.

Your lucky number is 4-6 PM meetings.

STAT

All the stacked odds that you have been giving out before the Super Bowl finally pays off... many times over. Those crazy guys at ARTS all thought the Bucs would lose, but your years of making statistical models came in handy. Getting money you won from other people will be difficult, but the odds are in your favour.

UNDECLARED will volunteer to be your collection agency. Have pity and give them something to do.

Your lucky number is 15-1 odds Bucs lose.

UNDECLARED

Envy finally sets in after seeing all your friends in majors and have department advisors. Ignore them and play Settlers in the Comfy. Settlers can be your advisor for now.

ACC will try to sell you their program. Throw your dice at them. Your number is NO, STOP TALKING TO ME... I WANNA PLAY SETTLERS.

ARTS

After finding out that Math students get free copies of Windows XP and Office XP, you contemplate switching to a MATH program. However, the second you find out that actual work is involved in any MATH degree, and actual work is required to fill out a form to switch faculties, you find yourself too lazy to do anything.

Switch to the Beer faculty. They'll take ya without ANY applications.

Your lucky number is 48JKW-21H29-WET4J-P3994-121XJ.

ENG

You will experience a flashback to kindergarden when you are told by the Poets barkeep to share the fooseball table with the ARTS when they take over your bar enmasse now that the Bomber is temporarily unavailable. Be courteous

profQUOTES

“Everybody knows what polymorphism is, right? ‘Poly’ comes from the Greek word meaning ‘deep fried’ and ‘morphism’ means ‘running shoes.’”

Buhr, CS 342

“We have to go over a couple of minutes; the reason is you guys are asking so many good questions. So it’s your fault.”

Buhr, CS 342

“Concurrency is EXTREME programming. It’s like white-water rafting without the raft; skydiving without the parachute.”

Buhr, CS 342

“C’mon, loosen up! Try and be wild and crazy in this course; try some different loops.”

Buhr, CS 342

“Deaths, taxes, while loops. You can’t live without them.”

Buhr, CS 342

“I’m better in real life.”

Hardy, ACTSC 221

“PRINCIP ... was it ‘AL’ or ‘LE’? Principal was the guy in high school ... ahh, forget it. I’ll just use CAPITAL.”

Hardy, ACTSC 221

“Cheating. This is the part I hate, but I do get sadistic pleasure out of it.”

Kierstead, CS 342

“I know this is very boring. I’m bored too.”

Lam, MATH 136

“Don’t worry if you don’t understand it — you’ll probably never see it again.”

Lam, MATH 136

“We’ll talk more about it next week. Or later this week.” [Looks in schedule] “Or maybe earlier.” [Looks in schedule] “Oh, we talk about it today, later this period. So we’ll talk about it in half an hour.”

Lam, MATH 138

“I’m going to strangle all three of you!”

Marshman, MATH 128

“For those of you who don’t know what the continuum hypothesis is, don’t worry, this is all a waste of time on

my part.”

Small, STAT 240

“Now we have to solve two linear systems; why would we do such a stupid thing?”

Wan CS 370

“You look at me like I’m telling you something profoundly deep.”

Winkler, MATH 138

“... But you basically want to bullshit like that.”

Zhu, STAT 231

“That section is for mathies only ... [sighs] ... do not rip it out, do not X it out to ward off evil.”

Smith, ECON 102

[Referring to the past] “Technology! The blessed land. No, not you, you all think it’s a wasteland.”

Smith, ECON 102

[Referring to job of a inventory counter] “It’s erotic ... I meant to say, ERRATIC ... if you think that’s erotic you must live a boring life.”

Smith, ECON 102

[On student’s suggestion] “Oh, no, that’s terrible; it just prolongs the agony.”

Weaver, MUSIC 271

“Don’t screw me up next time, I’m getting pissed off!”

Zhu, STAT 231

“The stock market is in a given position and it’s fluctuating like a drunk.”

Smith, STAT 240

“The previous textbook [for MATH 136] is little more than a piece of garbage.”

Szechtman, MATH 235

“All these vectors... we don’t care where they go. They can go to Hell.”

Szechtman, MATH 235

“If I were to put this on the midterm, you’d cream in it.”

Younger, C&O 350

And now, the thrilling conclusion to last page’s HorrorScopes!

Your lucky number is 15 bars.

PMATH

Taking 6 PMath courses will not get you any girls. In fact, it will get you nothing but insanity. Leave time for lunch and breathing. If in doubt, compact an entire day’s worth of nutrition in a drink by combining yoghurt, chicken, brocolli, and Metamuscil into blender and serve.

AHS will try to steal your recipe and sell it as their own. Remember the royalties you can make and sell it to them

by showing the ARTS to the table in front of the dartboard. Play darts.

ARTS will ask you to call for an ambulance. Buy them another beer instead.

Your lucky number is 911.

SCI

You will discover that one of the properties of snow is that it melts easily. Sell the idea of a huge blowdryer to BBA/

City Council Addresses Student Housing

As you may be aware, Waterloo City Council has recently been addressing the issue of student housing. Certain recommendations will be brought forth this coming Monday, March 3rd, which could have a significant impact on the housing situation, some of which are positive, but some of which would be extremely detrimental to students. One of the motions which could be tabled would enact a moratorium on lodging housing, in response to complaints from permanent residents.

We encourage students to attend the next City Council meeting, which takes place at **6:30pm at City Hall**, on the

northwest corner of Regina and William Streets in Uptown Waterloo. Students concerned about this issue should email or otherwise contact their City Councillor or the Mayor, and their contact information can be found at <http://www.city.waterloo.on.ca/COUNCIL/contact.html>.

After the meeting, everyone is welcome to attend an organised **social** at an Uptown establishment.

For more information, please contact either Feds Government Affairs Commissioner Chris Edey at gac@feds.ca or Brenda Koprowski at pres@feds.ca.

The “Official” Top 10 Reasons Why So Many Students Dread STAT 231

[This article was originally published in mathNEWS volume 85, issue 1. — FrenchEd]

(Introduction: For many years, the words “STAT 231” struck fear to almost all mathies here at UW. If you ask someone who took the course before, you are almost guaranteed to hear a series of negative adjectives. Everyone has his/her own reason for detesting the course. The following is just a compilation of reasons from a few people who took this course last fall.)

10. Student’s confidence will follow a Gaussian distribution, where the x-axis represents time.
9. The prediction interval for a students probability of enjoying stats is (0.1,0.2).
8. After collecting the data and performing some analysis, the conclusion is that the average mark is 55% with standard deviation of 5%.
7. After applying the PPDAC method, one realizes that the degrees of freedom he has after taking the course is 0.
6. The least squares estimation will yield the lowest mark one can get.
5. The hypothesis that one will fail has a significance level of 0.5.
4. One’s probability of having a breakdown is a binary response model, with a 95% chance of a “Yes” response.
3. A random student has a 90% confidence interval that he won’t do well in STAT 231.
2. No student actually understands student’s *t* distribution.
1. The student’s marks will have a K-distribution.

If you have already passed STAT 231, good for you. You have conquered one of the toughest courses you’ll ever take. You can read this list and laugh (unless you don’t want to laugh). To those who are taking or haven’t took this course, prepare for the worst and good luck (You’ll need all the luck you can have).

The Official Top 10 Reasons Why So Many Professors Dread STAT 231

(Introduction: For many years, the words “STAT 231” struck fear to a large number of statistics professors here at UW. If you ask someone who taught the course before, very likely you will hear a series of negative adjectives. Everyone has his/her own reason for detesting the course. The following is just a compilation of reasons from a few professors who taught the course at one time or another, to echo the top ten list compiled by students.)

10. The study population is all students but the target population is us — the professors.
9. The students may make study errors whereas we the professors will surely make measurement errors.
8. We must teach stuff that we don’t believe in or understand.
7. The final grades for the students must be assigned using the process of randomization.
6. We must put up with the embarrassment that wile the professors still disagree amongst themselves what the most important concept is, the students have had an agreement for a very long time: the most important concept in the course is that of blocking, because in order to “succeed” in this course, one must block off one’s intelligence entirely and “learn” like a robot.
5. The professor is usually more lost than the students during the labs.
4. The students’ hypothesis that STAT 231 is the worst course at Waterloo has been so widely accepted that nobody needs to learn hypothesis testing any more.
3. After teaching the PPDAC method, thr professor often feels the need to go back to graduate school and get a Ph.D. in symbolic language instead.
2. When a student asks what the correct answer is, the professor has a 95% chance of giving exactly the same answer as the one the student has put down, but received no credit for.
1. The professor, often with a Ph.D. in statistics, have never learned or heard about the K-distribution from

Giant Spoons: The best defense against wild bananas

Bananas near Extinction?

Whenever someone mentions the words “endangered species”, one typically thinks that the species in danger is one in the animal kingdom. Endangered animals get a lot of attention from many people, while the same cannot be said of plants. When was the last time you heard of a plant on the brink of disappearing from the face of the Earth? Some scientists have recently made a statement that bananas may become extinct in 10 years.

Many are dismissing the claim as nothing but pessimism, but the story has brought panic to many fans (and consumers) of the fruit.

“This can’t be happening!” said one panicked shopper.

“If the bananas are gone, I would actually have to use a knife to take off peels if I ever wanted to have fruit,” stated a person who claimed to have “lazy hands” and who “hates peels”.

“It would mean I actually have to use my teeth to consume fruit,” said a man who is afraid of hard food, fearing that it might break his teeth.

“It’s terrible. I just spent millions on informercials to promote my new all-banana diet. If there’s no more bananas, I would be ruined. RUINED!” said Ana Nableep, the creator of the all-banana diet and author of the books *Improve Your Health — One Banana Peel at a Time* and *Bananas — the Real Yellow Gold*. She then offered our reporter copies of her books. When our reporter refused, she peeled off the pages and ate them.

Even video game personalities have voiced their concerns about the future of their favourite fruit.

“This is bad news. How can I gain extra lives in my adventures to the countryside?” said a worried Donkey Kong. He also said that he enjoys eating bananas while driving go karts. “How can I savour bananas and then use the peels to stop others from passing me in the future?”

“Without bananas, my life would be nothing but torture. I don’t think I would have made all the jumps and taken on all the insane obstacles had bananas not available to reward me,” said a monkey rolling in a ball.

The news has brought a variety of reactions, most of which are worried. We at *mathNEWS* will continue to delve into this further as more information becomes available.

(The claim that banana is in danger of extinction was part of an article on the January 16 issue of *New Scientist*, but one has to actually go to a library to read the article.)

Email Magic

Did you know that you can customize your email address at UW? No longer must you be stuck with your incredibly long `g8adghash@student.math.uwaterloo.ca` (or something similar). If there is something unique about your UWDir entry (for example, your nickname - which you can change), you can use that as your email! [Like `krease@uwaterloo.ca? Woohoo! — KreasEd`]

Remember, it must be unique for it to work - you can check by using the `uwdir` command: `uwdir <word>`

porn*

Co-op is good

THIS IS WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAID...

So Co-op is once again announcing record lows for student hiring rates, while increasing co-op fees.

The good news is that I don’t have to find a job. I found my own ... but you all know about that cuz last time I told you about how the co-op people charged me about \$130 000/hour to change my co-op status to “on own, self imposed”. So now, a bunch of my friends have to bear through the “better” continuous phase ... why “better”? This is what co-op uses to define better:

1. Employers have better chances of getting the employee they want.
1. Employers can choose their employees the same day as they interview.
2. Students get more interviews because there are less people to hire ... this one is beginning to lose ground, as more people are not getting jobs.
3. The new co-op building is better than Needless Hell.
5. The new co-op building has lots of glass, so the other people that are waiting to interview for the same job can watch you squirm your way into trying to impress your potential boss.
8. More students change their status to “on own, self imposed” so that they don’t have to deal with all the crap co-op gives them when it comes to continuous.
13. Students get less choice when it comes to what job they get, because they are forced into taking the first job they are offered.

All this added together, what with the co-op people trying to pull the “market still on a downwards spiral” routine (for at least the 5th straight term), even though the government has indicated that there has been POSITIVE market growth in at least 3 straight quarters. Coupled with the Nasdaq’s recent trend (which, for the record is not really up, but not really spiralling towards 0), we see that the people who run the co-op department are really just a bunch of slackers who watch a clock, waiting to be able to punch out at night, so that they don’t have to put up with yet another student asking:

“So what exactly do my fees cover? YOUR SALARY?!?”

So, as you can see, some people are still bitter when it comes to co-op. Well, hope this helps vent some frustration :)

Tale of Two dragons

Part II

I had never wanted these skills, these powers. They were forced upon me like everything else in my ill begotten childhood. Never wanted them, that is, until I needed them, for it was as no ordinary man that I could avenge the death of my family, and recapture my kidnapped son. What arduous toilsome days led before me I could scarcely fathom, had my mind been in such a state to comprehend the vaguaries and details of what had so recently befallen my sorry self. Thus it was that I set out alone.

To be continued...

Tim “I Took the Fall Off” Haloun

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but Simon thinks he's the messiah. There have been a number of jokes concerning my resemblance to a much celebrated jewboy who started off a couple religions. This has come up before, the recent barrage was probably spurred by my tendency to not wear pants in my house, I usually go in my bathrobe if I'm not leaving the house that day. I've decided that I think better without pants on, hence Mr. No-Pants. I was always amused by the pronunciation of Jesus in Mexican or Spanish cultures, sounds like Hey Zeus... a mythological deity, coincidence or not?

I haven't written in a while... I blame graphics, I spend a lot of time either working on it, or distracting myself from it. If my current count is correct, this is my 69th article (and thirty-seventh Snuggles Sez, I list all my articles on my homepage /~sskrzjol/mathnews.html). That sounds like not a huge number for the four and a half years that I've been writing, but realize just how long each of my articles are... I think that is quite the accomplishment and it kind of led to the first mastHEAD of the term being about me ("Where would you and Snuggles run away to?"). This led to some deep soul searching as to what I would do if I met me... I really put a lot of thought into it, and I also learned which *mathNEWS* staff I should and shouldn't run away with. I'm quite amused at the fact that *69 calls back the last person who called you, I think it is oddly appropriate.

Live TV, why have you forsaken me? The conspiracy that is "live TV" has gone on too long! Either that or there are two Britney Spears, a concept I am not philosophically opposed to. At the same time she was in Las Vegas in "Britney Spears Live in Las Vegas" and doing a cameo in New York on "Saturday Night Live". Either one of these shows wasn't live or there are two of the occasionally buxom bombshell. I suspect that it was the show in Las Vegas since I seem to recall seeing it previously. Yes I watch Britney Spears shows, and yes, I do it with the mute button on.

Some of you may know that my new roommate this term is Soo Go. This has triggered many name jokes and the occasional medley of songs from Braunny and I. But the funniest thing to happen in our house so far came from Soo herself. She came out of her room and said "You know, I vaguely remember going to sleep with pants on". Needless to say this started quite the investigative discussion concerning the whereabouts of Soo's pants. Note, she was not wearing pants at the time of this discussion. The various directions that this intricate conversation went included whether or not I had anything to do with the disappearance of the pants (I did not), whether Soo dreamt about stripping (which she has done apparently, turns out that this is not the first time). Soo wants me to note that she was fully dressed at this point, the truth of this statement will not be verified by this author. At one point she spent a good fifteen minutes trying to decide whether she woke up and took them off or if they were already off when she woke up, she couldn't figure it out. I found all this quite amusing.

So I submitted an article from my mother for this issue... I don't know if it'll make it in, but if you see an article with the tag line "Snuggles' Mom" ya, that's actually from my mom. She sends me email jokes occasionally and I found that one funny and thought that other CS-ers would also

find it funny... so I submitted it. I wonder if there have ever been any other authors whose parents also had an article written... hmm... [Well, if you count *Imprint*, then yes; they did that this term... but who counts *Imprint*? — *KreasEd*]

A number of people have been asking me about my involvement in Reading Blink staying at two days for us Mathies. Here's what happened, back in '99 when I was Prez of MathSoc, I was asked to gather student opinion on the matter as a couple of profs were interested in possibly moving it to be a full week and apparently it had come up years earlier and students had blocked it. So I asked, and asked and asked, and basically about a third of the students I talked to wanted it to go to the full week, a third wanted no reading week and two more days before exams, and a third wanted it to stay the same... no clear majority so status quo wins. So yes, I suppose that I at one point had the power to move it to a full week, but in my polling of students it didn't seem to be their wish. I remind you all that we get this time before exams and most of you would have to stick around in either case due to co-op interviews. Meh, if you really want to see us get the full week I suggest talking to the current MathSoc exec.

That's enough for me, I've gotta get back to my de-funkified raytracer... and probably study for my midterm in some other course, it's tomorrow, sigh.

Polygonnerific Snuggles

All this talk of no pants and #69 has made me hungry, is

Take This Horoscope!

Tuesday February 25th, 2003

So, my horoscope in the Globe and Mail today (I'm a Libra, baby!) said that I'm trying to do too many things at once, and if I would just work solidly on one thing I could get it done. Well, I'm going to spite it by doing as much as I possibly can, and getting it all done. I've already read sixty pages of *Great Expectations* (forty to go), talked with my professor about an essay, and begun a couple *mathNEWS* articles. Ha ha! I'm going to finish both books I'm reading, watch that movie before it goes back, get some groceries, do the dishes, finish my essay and C&O assignment, call my parents, and help my roommate with coaching soccer tonight.

Wednesday February 26th, 2003

Last night, I was reading *Great Expectations* and *Charlotte's Web* while watching *The Magnificent Seven* (which is now overdue), when I could smell smoke. I thought maybe my cake was on fire, but upon closer inspection, I forgot to turn the oven on. In fact, the dirty dishes were on fire. I tried to smother the flames with my books, but they just seemed to feed the fire. Ditto for my assignment and computer. Eventually, I did as my horoscope suggested and focused on the fact that my home was burning enough to realize I was carrying an extinguisher in my pocket for good luck. After rescuing the house, it was too late to call mom and dad, so I went out for groceries. Sadly, Zehr's had closed six hours earlier and Sobey's had burnt down. Oh, and I think my roommate might be dead.

At least I'm going to finish thi

Naomi Silver

The Non-Frosh Cornered

A Lesson Through Time

A sign that I'm getting past my time: I'm running out of things to write about.

Everyone remembers the time when I can spew out a 4 page article, WITH flowcharts, with the snap of a finger. Pete Lizak actually had to muzzle me and threaten me with death to cut down my article to readable lengths.

Oh, those days were good.

I'm beginning to see the signs of aging. If you are experiencing the following symptoms, consult your nearest *mathNEWS* editor.

- You stop getting death threats, en masse, from an obscure fringe group (Frosh Cornered, vol. 84, Issue 5)
- You get distracted by other writers, who are talking about Jesus, strawberry shortcakes, CECS, and oed whack. The funniest thing is that all 4 things can be connected somehow.
- You start forgetting "flavor" has an "u" in it.
- When writers molest your terminal while you step out to make a phone call.
- When you start having a philosophical discussion on the virtues of vi and emacs. Then, you start getting violent defending your position.
- Ray tracing gets you excited.
- When you use the words "Unique Opportunity" in every piece of writing you compose.

There is no cure for advance signs of aging, but what I have found is that you can lessen the effects simply by running, with your hands flailing in the air, proclaiming that you have gone insane. Then quietly sit down and continue typing. People will look at you funny, and say "He must be a frosh".

The police may drag you to the asylum, but it's worth it for the entertainment value alone.

Laymond,

The Cornered Non-Frosh

mastHEAD

Sleep is for the (Reading) Week

Reading weekend has come and gone. Didn't do anything and I may have failed my OS midterm. To drop or not to drop? Today is the last day.

In relevant news, we went to McGinnis for supper and forgot to do a *mastHEAD*!! Everybody was wondering "Where's the *mastHEAD*?". Luckily everybody also had opinions like: Dave (Same place as my pants.), Soo (Dude, you stole my answer ... (where my PJ pants are)), Albert (In my suposatory ... err, I mean repository.), Emerald (Where you least expect it.), Simon L'Avier (I'm hot.), Snuggles (My heads are masts.), Jason (Hic ... my throat ... Hic!), Ian W. MacKinnon (About mid-ship next to the plank.), Lino (I made McGinnis take it back because there were peppers on it.), e (On the *mastNECK*, obviously.), Diana (At the end of the *mastSHAFT*!), Laymond (Somewhere in Lakehead, where they're snowed in.)

Our undying thanks goes out to the great folks at Graphics and to the nice waitress at McGinnis who offered to pick peppers off π 's pizza.

Dear *mathNEWS* production system:

We have been dating for more than two years now and I thought we have a good relationship between us. I send you articles every time we meet, and you make those articles the talk of the MC a few days after. I understood this before we ever met and by giving you articles, you may transfer them to paper and web pages. In return, you provide me the satisfaction of expressing myself and sharing my sense of humour with many others.

However, there is something that has disturbed me since the first Valentine's Day after we met — you have ignored me on every Valentine's Day. I sent you articles and letters, but all you did was set them aside and ignore them. I am not one who has high expectations. All I need from you for Valentine's is your acknowledgement that you have passed my articles onto others. It is as simple as anything can be but you did not even bother to return my messages. Can you just set aside some time, even if it's only a few moments, to spend with me on Valentine's Day? Is a little attention towards me too much to ask for?

I hope I will hear from you this Valentine's Day. Otherwise, I may have no choice but to sever our relationship and to start a relationship with the production system of another publication.

Hope to hear from you soon, I want this relationship to continue as much as you do.

Sincerely,

A disgruntled *mathNEWS* writer

I AM THE THIRD COUSIN TWICE REMOVED OF

Ways to Stay Awake @ Work

1. Coca Cola
2. Orange juice works just as well
3. Conversations with coworkers about super-cow powers
4. E-mail conversations when coworkers get bored of you repeating the same story about your imaginary childhood friend
5. Track the number of e-mails you receive from people. <shamelessPlug> See <http://happypixie.ca/stats/> </shamelessPlug>
6. Find ways to bypass company e-mail/internet security (call it Internal Security Testing)
7. Google your name
8. Have your 5'2, 95 lbs, female friend go beat up people who are "sharing" your name without having begged for your exalted permission
9. See also: Googlism
10. Have a secret affair with all coworkers, in the mailroom. If mailroom does not exist, find closet, bathroom stall, or similar.
11. Browse some porn when you are getting tired, then go back to work.

~The Bored Co-ops (to join in on the "fun", e-mail bored-coops@happypixie.ca)

Strange Rash

To sleep, perchance to dream

“I have a dream...”

-Martin Luther King

I have this strange rash, but only when I am dreaming. It makes going to sleep intimidating. But dreams are important. The biggest dream of all, which fuels the capitalistic world we live in, is the American Dream. It is a simple dream: in this land of opportunity you can work hard and you will make it. You'll be rich, find the wealth you lust after, and have all the time in the world to do what you really want. All you need to do is work hard. Right?

Sounds good doesn't it? Rewarding hard work is a wonderful principle for an economic system. To bad the dream has so many problems. The most fundamental problem is at the very heart of capitalism itself — capital. To make money, you need money. To make huge amounts of money you need as much capital as you can get. Now if you could just say that you are going to work really hard and then you'd receive the capital you need... then it would work a bit better. It gets worse though, because who has capital? Those who have wealth. So the people who can easily get capital are those close to people with wealth — other wealthy people or their families. These people don't have to work as hard to get capital, so they can gain more wealth easily. This means where you start in our society indicates how hard you have to work to make an equal amount of wealth. This is, of course, alright from the stand point of those with wealth, which most of the policy makers tend to be. Those who start out rich don't have to put in as much effort, and those who are the poorest don't have a hope besides a dream,

an American Dream. And we can see the only way dreams come true is to have wealth, right?

Apparently to do what you really want, to have free time, you must be wealthy. I resisted this idea when I first heard it, but at the moment I didn't know why. Then I thought about it. Funny thing about wealth — it can be considered finite. The only way to transfer it permanently is work, making either products or services others consume, or indirectly by having lots of wealth and capitalizing on others work. This implies if you gain a large amount of wealth, then others have to loose wealth. If having wealth is the only way to do what you enjoy, then you can only do what you enjoy by taking away the opportunity to do what other enjoy from them. So I hope one can do what they enjoy and have free time without being extraordinarily wealthy.

Whenever you gain lots of wealth it is from others. If you win the lottery, the money you have is lost from millions of others who wanted to win.

If you make a product people buy, then your wealth comes from everyone who buys it. The cost of the product is fixed, so you take a larger percent of wealth from the poor than the wealthy. Similar with taxes, though they try to collect on a percentage, there are enough loop holes for the wealthy to pay their accounts to find that a similar effect happens. These models directly cause the wealthy to gain more wealth and the poor to become poorer. If only there was a way for the poor to transfer wealth from the rich... but you would need a lot of capital for such a scheme. Meanwhile, let's privatize welfare. Surely making a profit off the poorest or the poor will help them.

(un)Albert O'Connor

The *mathNEWS* Guide on How To Be Hypersensitive

Don't shoot the messenger. We don't want to offend anyone.

1. If you want to call somebody a name, be sure to obfuscate it so that little kids can't understand it and use it out on the playground. If you call somebody “intellectually challenged,” they probably aren't smart enough to figure out that you mean “idiot” anyway.
2. If a disaster occurs, any references to the object(s) involved must be removed from circulation, because pretending that those objects never existed in the first place will make everybody feel better. The world became a much better place after the Spider-Man trailer with the World Trade Center was pulled. In addition, you must remove any songs from the radio which may contain words in their lyrics and/or titles that may be in any way remotely associated to the disaster.
3. Corollary to item 2: Said tragedy must never be referred to by the actual event that took place. It must only be referred to indirectly by the date on which it happened. We don't want to offend you by actually saying what the event was. If you are forced to infer the event from the date we give you, you clearly won't be offended.
4. Corollary to item 3: The date of the tragedy must be worked in to every possible news story afterward, regardless of statistical significance. CityTV mastered this one when they decided that since September 11, there has been a drop off in cases of “Rink Rage,” because obviously an irate parent is thinking about terrorist attacks when he/she is about to punch out the ref at his/her kid's hockey game. In other news, since September 11, there has been a substantial increase in the popularity of basket weaving.
5. I had more to write, but I became so offended by people being offended that I couldn't maintain my composure anymore.

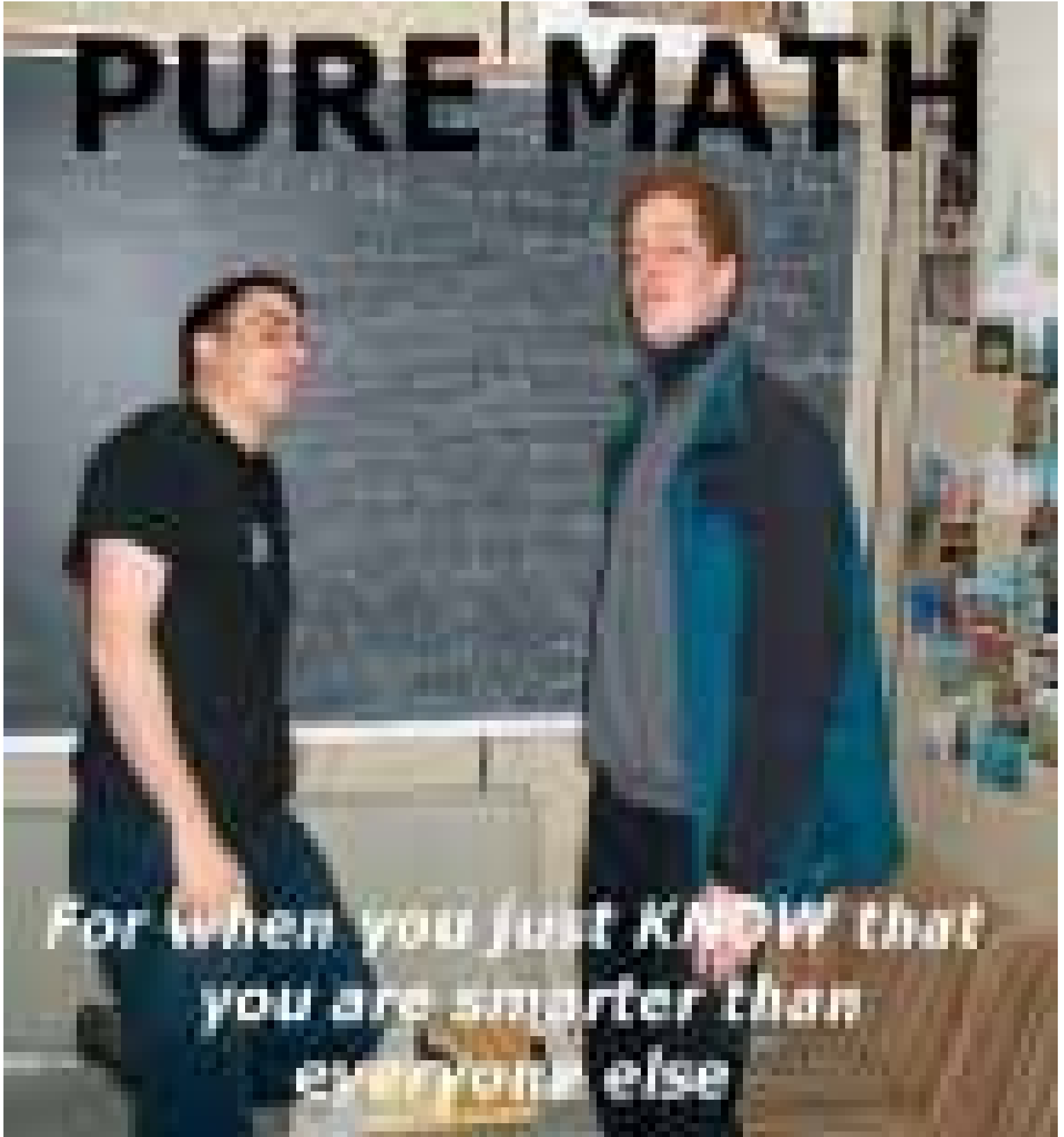
A note: I don't have a problem with engineers interrupting classes during their Iron Ring Stag hijinks, provided that they don't have a problem with me performing amateur castrations on the offenders afterward. You won't be needing an airhorn to make piercing screams during that procedure, I promise. Thank you.

Aaron Klotz

Math Faculty Promotional Posters

The Dean's office has allowed us to release a couple more posters that will be featured on campus day.

Ian W. MacKinnon



Pizza Day, starring: The Dean
Coming to an MC near you next Wednesday

Reading weekend is over

Some complain it wasn't long enough

I don't know what the fuss was all about. For anyone that started in Fall 01, this was our first reading week-end, and I'd be willing to even go without. Why is this guy spreading crazy propaganda about killing reading week you might ask? I'm much more in favor of starting work term a week earlier ... on that note, why not just cram exams into a 2 week period ... I mean, I've got my calc final, an entire week (+ one day) and then my two CS finals within 3 days (hey, it's CS) and then AFTER Easter week-end (yeah, the one the school CLOSES ON), I write TWO finals in the SAME DAY (that day being the last friggin day of exams ... and I write one in the EVENING for crying out loud!). So what's the point of all this? Well, let's see: assuming the average co-op student earns \$15/hour (probably low, if you're talking about CS students), 7.5 hours per day and exams being over 2 weeks earlier (remember, no reading week-end and exams start a week earlier too). This ends up being an entire paycheck for the average student. So, with those numbers, we're looking at \$1125 additional income! So why is this bad for the university, you might ask. All signs point to this being good for them: Students with more money, co-op students without jobs can now split a job between two of them and still get a full credit for it (Co-op, if you're reading this IT IS A BAD IDEA! THIS SHOULD NEVER BE DONE! EVER!). That and they can get students off campus sooner, meaning less students in residence and less bandwidth usage since there will be a greater time with no students on campus using school bandwidth.

But hey, that would be smart. Well that just means that it will never happen ... remember, this would be a leap from admin, just to do something smart.

So You've Decided to Fail a Course

This term I learned a very important lesson — go to class. Apparently, when y... well. I'll just let you see the steps you should take if you plan to fail a class.

- Don't attend the first 5 lectures
- Don't attend any lectures
- Make the prof specifically create a black-list for your name
- Memorize all the answers to a previous exam and write them in regardless of what the question says
- Do something which is entirely too much fun — like FASS
- Hang out with people who are on a co-op term
- Take OS, real-time, and graphics in the same term
- Argue your way into a grad course you have no background in
- Release a pound of crickets in the PAC during the exam
- Only study the night before the exam
- For exam in class X, study notes from class Y
- Consistently write all numbers n as $n+1$

While you may be able to pass your courses while doing one of these, doing three or more will prove to be a bad, bad scene. Good luck!

How I Spent My Reading Week

(For Small Values of Week)

Wednesday Evening - I found a bunch of ducks in my room tonight. I hope this is a sign of good luck. From the smell, I'm guessing it isn't.

Thursday - I decided to extend reading week to full seven days. I considered many plans, most involving ducks. After much thought, I settled on the operation codenamed "Army of Mutant Ducks".

Friday - For future reference, ducks are not practical as a functional military unit. Operations "Orbital Duck Cannon" and "Ducks on Broadway" were equally unsuccessful. On the other hand, operation "Sell Stupid Ducks" provided much needed money and relief.

Saturday - I have decided that the only way to extend the week is to build a time machine. Sadly, Reading Week is half over and I will be unable to complete it in time. Went to watch *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, but found a time machine instead. Presumably I will build it in the future and send it back.

Monday - I spent most of the day laughing at people who were on the way to class. I even met my past self. Past Me was very upset at the taunting. Still, I've never been so completely and utterly unproductive, and it feels good.

Wednesday - I couldn't seem to get the time machine to work properly, causing me to miss Tuesday. I spent most of the day trying to fix it. It turns out it is powered by ducks. Angry ducks. I was able to catch enough to get home, but I had to leave a couple behind. I'm sure they'll turn up.

Sunday - When I got back, the rest of the ducks had disappeared. I'm really not sure where they went. Scared by this turn of events, I bought the ducks I'd sold earlier and sent the machine back a day where I'll probably find it on my way to watch the movie. The odd thing is that I sent it back with two less ducks than it came with. I can't shake the feeling that there will be trouble for causing a temporal paradox.

Monday - I was attacked by a temporal pair of ducks on the way to class. Somehow the pun was worse than the actual ducks.

Dan Woodley

My spoon is too big
My spoon is too big
My spoon is too big

I'm a banana

To My Car Thief

Stay Away From The Champmobile!

If I ever find out the name of the son of a bitch who broke into my car, he will wish that he was born a woman. He would probably find that preferable, as opposed to enduring the wrath of an extremely hostile (not to mention unstable) CS student cutting his balls off. After I complete that, I will hit him so many times with a right that he'll be begging for a left.

This public service announcement has been brought to you by

mathNEWSquiz

Well another issue and another squiz. I have gone two issues without sport trivia (which I love so dearly) so I apologize to those who don't like sports ... but this is a very sporty squiz.

Last Week we had 4 submissions. The winner was Yolanda with a perfect score of 24 (plus she went to great lengths to name all the ex-spouses). Other entries were from Sarah (24), Mission Bananarama (23.5), Diana (15.5). Here were the answers: Love Lyrics: 1) Dilemma, Nelly featuring Kelly; 2) Sea of No Cares, Great Big Sea; 3) I'm with you, Avril Lavigne; Bitter Lyrics: 1) She Hates Me, Puddle of Mudd; 2) Tainted Love, Soft Cell or Marilyn Manson; 3) Enid, Barenaked Ladies; Couples: 1) Chris Robinson (of the Black Crowes); 2) Freddie Prinze Jr.; 3) Ryan Phillippe; Former Couples: 1) Angelina Jolie (they filed for divorce, not sure if its final yet), Cynda Williams, Toni Lawrence, Melissa Lee Gatlin, Petra Dawn Cherniak; 2) Heather Locklear, Pamela Anderson, Elaine Irwin Bergen; 3) Kimberly Ann Scott; Rose Meanings: 1) Red; 2) Yellow; 3) White; Real Meanings: 1) I'm seeing someone else; 2) She's Ugly; 3) It's You. The winner can pick up their gift certificate in the MathSoc office.

penalty minutes in a career?

NASCAR Sponsors

I give you the sponsor you name the Car # and Driver.

1. M&Ms
2. Havoline
3. Budweiser
4. Cheerios
5. UPS

Raptors Trivia

1. Who was traded for Jerome Williams?
2. Which University did Vince Carter go to?
3. What is the Raptors record in February 2003?
4. Who took the final shot for the Raptors in the 2002 playoffs?

On with this week's squiz.

Lyrics

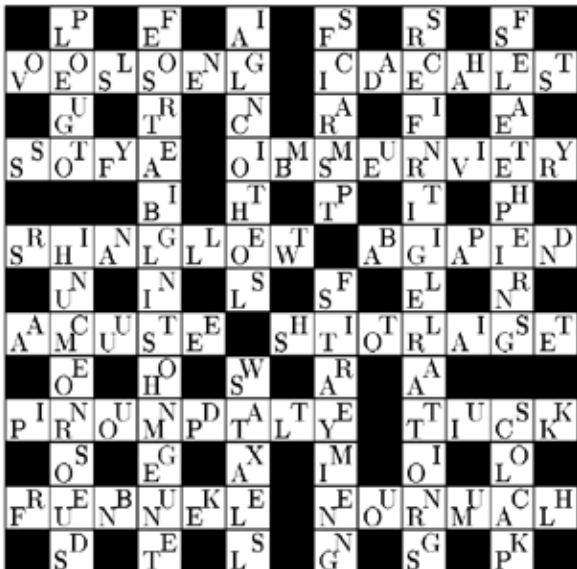
1. The last goal he ever scored
Won the Leafs the cup
They didn't win another
Until 1962, the year he was discovered
2. You said you didn't give a fuck about hockey
And I never saw someone say that before
You held my hand and we walked home the long way
You were loosening my grip on Bobby Orr
3. I drive fastly, call me Jeff Gordon
in a black SS wit a navigation
See tha black blazion, somethin smells amazin
I gotta chick rollin up half black and asian
4. Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?
A nation turns its lonely eyes to you
What's that you say, Mrs. Robinson?
Joltin' Joe has left and gone away
5. Hello out there
we're on the air

it's hockey night tonight

Toronto Maple Leaf Trivia

1. What number have been retired by the Leaf organization and who were they for?
2. Who is the person referred to in Lyrics #1?
3. Other than Tim Horton, which former Leaf has a Donut Store in Guelph?
4. Who was the last leaf to have his jersey honoured?
5. Before Tie Domi, who held the leaf record for most
5. Where was the Raptors 2002 Training Camp held (specifically the facility)?

Last Issue's Grid Solutions



You Know You've Been in Math Too Long

- when you walk into the meeting at your co-op job and see a 99% female ratio and wonder, "What's WRONG with these people?"
- when you see the name "Mathews", you read *math-NEWS*
- when you read "graphic organizers", and wonder what kind of Palm Pilot it is. (For the hopeless like me, it's an essay writing tool.)
- when you claim your monitor as carry-on on a plane in fear of it being harmed in cargo.
- when your friends ask, "So have you got a man yet?", you reply, "A manual for what?"

Cryptic Grid Clues

Across

1. Fondle funny looking wrap (6)
6. Force more than fifty grand into Order of the British Empire (6)
9. Begin organizing prime even numbers (4)
10. Fair trade: pound for halved quotas (4,3,3)
11. Sex cell: sport and French inside (6)
12. Tired of freeloader (8)
13. One change to encourage court (9)
15. Reportedly regretted being impolite (4)
16. Stocking punch (4)
17. Can I caddy in new style campaign? (9)
21. Generate new beverage (5,3)
22. Purpose determined (6)
24. Gaff they'll adapt to show their colours (3,3,4)
25. Trained, they say, under tension (4)
26. Hires personnel with rods (6)
27. Tenant heard gossip (6)

Down

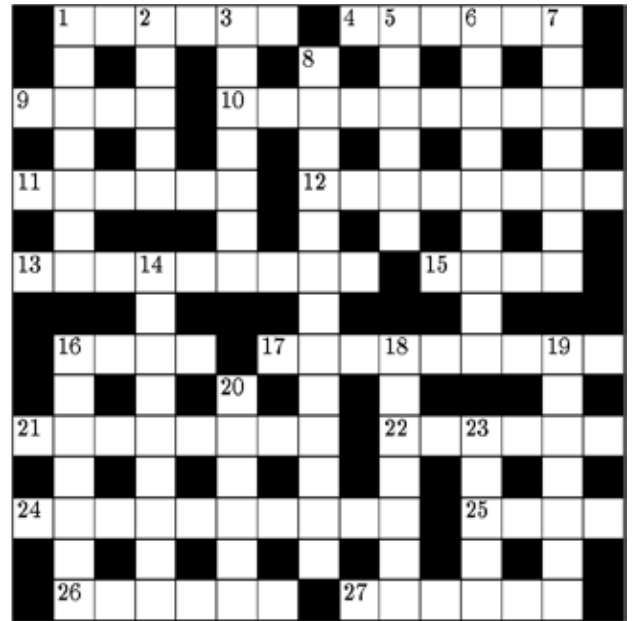
1. Excuse rootless exploration (7)
2. Price to include North Carolina barricade (5)
3. Oblique urbanite hid drink (7)
5. So no more playboys, kinky extra business (6)
6. Press jump for something inflexible (9)
7. Copy of Big Bird delayed (7)
8. Boiled a badger soup that's organic (13)
14. Her actors confused players (9)
16. Sir, I heard positive extra (7)
18. Eager in tidying townhouse (5,2)
19. Take over in lexicon query (7)
20. Stifle bad pronoun (6)
23. Tailor's first love met returning emblem (5)

gridCOMMENTS

Well I don't know if it was the question that scared everyone or the fact that it was reading weekend (grrr) but there were very few submissions this week. A total of four with only one wrong submission ... and NO cryptic submissions, therefore we have a choice between three submissions. And the winner is ... drumroll (which I still don't have drums for) ... Mr. Boob with following answer: "Will I be yours? That depends what you intend to do with me. If I am to be your love slave or your punching bag, then the answer is no. However, if I am to be your source of inspiration or your personal ninja, then I'll happily be yours!" (Awww thanks ... I could use a personal ninja, but I'm already taken). This week's *gridQUESTION*: "What makes a good collectable geek?" (Trust me ... this IS about me.)

Geoff

(No longer alone ... and a personal ninja to boot)



Conventional Grid Clues

Across

1. Yard borders
4. Farm tool
9. Proof of being in a fight
10. Making perfect
11. More plentiful
12. On a higher level
13. Spanning everything
15. Matured
16. Remedy to a disease
17. Waiting on
21. Someone with an iron ring
22. Donut or éclair
24. Groups of musicians
25. Element Fe
26. A bicycle seat
27. Grown-ups

Down

1. An untrue story
2. Compass point
3. Type of penguin (with devotion to the egg)
5. Most recent
6. Remained the same
7. A perfect square
8. Makers or producers
14. Coated with lacquer
16. Middles of spheres
18. Revealed the truth about
19. Brooklyn to Staten Island, Verrazano _____ Bridge
20. Container
23. Does not move