

# *math* NEWS

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Orientation Issue, 2016



## Academic Advising

We are very excited to welcome you to the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo! We hope you are having a great time at Orientation Week. Your first year of university can be both nerve-wracking and exciting. We, your first-year academic advisors, are here to help you every step of the way.

Academic advisors are here to to make the transition from high school to university a little easier. In the next few weeks you will be told that things are different here—and they are. Material is harder, there is less class time but more homework etc. Our job as advisors is to help you navigate through the various rules and regulations to help you succeed.

Academic advisors can help you with general course questions, plan requirements, and the selection of future courses. We are also here to sign various forms for you, including plan modifications and course override forms.

For many reasons, at some point in your undergraduate career you might hit a speed bump. Whether your studies begin to slip or an outside factor is affecting your abilities in school, we urge you to seek advice from an academic advisor as soon as you can. We will be able to help you directly, or refer you to the appropriate campus service that can.

You can find a full list of advisors for each program and their office hours at <https://uwaterloo.ca/math/current-undergraduates/academic-advisors>. For general inquiries, you can stop in MC 4022 or email [mathuo@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathuo@uwaterloo.ca).

We wish you all the best in this coming year,  
First Year Academic Advisors &  
Mathematics Undergraduate Office

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The editors: Thomas Baxter (F16), Elizabeth Liu (F16), Shaundalee Carvalho (F16)

**PRO TIP: Talk to your profs and TAs! They're nice and they want you to succeed!**

## *mathNEWS*

*Seriously though... What's this mathNEWS?*

Well, *mathNEWS* is the University of Waterloo Faculty of Mathematics student newspaper. (Or publication, or magazine, or newsletter... whatever the editors feel like calling it.) We publish about every two weeks, usually on Friday, and issues contain articles, art, etc. written by people just like yourself! Being student-funded (some of your MathSoc fee goes here) and a volunteer publication, we are always in search of people who can write. Or draw. Or proofread. Anything, really. We'll even bribe you to come out to Production Nights every other Monday with free food. You don't need any experience, just interest. Plus you'll get to see your name (or pseudonym) in print!

The content of *mathNEWS* itself will vary from term to term depending on who is editing (and writing). However, there is usually a *gridWORD*, a *masthead*, and *profQUOTES*. The first offers a prize for correct solutions. The second is a silly question posed by the editors, answered by all. The *profQUOTES* are a collection of actual quotes as uttered by actual professors during actual lectures. Look for those elsewhere in the issue. In terms of other articles... well, have an opinion you want to express? A weird proof you thought up? Something that you think is funnier than what we're printing? A solution to one of our puzzles? Then if you're too shy to come out to an actual Production Night, submit such things to us by emailing [mathnews@gmail.com](mailto:mathnews@gmail.com) or by dropping your submission into the **BLACK BOX** on the third floor (between the C&D and the lounge).

In the past, *mathNEWS* has on occasion gone nuts and put out a parody issue like the recentish *CosMATHopolitan* and the not-so-recent *Mathlean's*, *Toronto Moon*, *ybarm*, *Daglobenpost*, *Mathim*, and *Impotent*. It doesn't happen often because those things take a lot of time and effort, but if you are nice to the editors they may give you a complimentary copy. Oh, and yes, *mathNEWS* really has been around since 1973. (Issue 500 was another issue that took time and effort.) Feel free to drop by our office (MC 3030) when it's open to look at our *mathNEWS* Gallery/Shelf o' Memorabilia, which includes, among other items: a piece of Red Room paneling, an EMS Library Sign dating back before the books were moved off the fourth floor of MC into the "new" DC building, an old bottle of Orbitz, and a silk-screen from Math Frosh Week 1979. And dirt. A disturbing amount of dirt in jars. You can even just come by to say 'hi' or drop off an article in person.

Oh yes, we have a web page, [mathnews.uwaterloo.ca](http://mathnews.uwaterloo.ca). You can find past issues there and maybe learn more about us. So enough rambling... the *mathNEWS* DISorganizational meeting is usually held during the first week of classes in September (watch for posters). That's when we see about getting our act together for another term. Hope to see you there too!

Greg Taylor, Past Editor  
Updated and transcribed by

Michael Perkins, Lenny Morayniss, Julie Sturgeon,  
and Shaundalee Carvalho

## mathNEWS DISorganizational

*mathNEWS* is like an old friend. It shows up, pretty regularly, every other Friday; makes you laugh, cry, and scratch your head trying to solve puzzles; and then says, “See you in two weeks!” Best of all, you can take it into class, and let it entertain you there, and your professors won’t care. Heck, sometimes they read it while teaching.

Now, *mathNEWS* doesn’t just appear magically; it is put together by a very tight-knit group of writers, artists, proofreaders and *glorious* editors.

If you are interested in helping out with *mathNEWS*, you should come to our disorganizational meeting sometime at the beginning of September. Send us an email at [mathnews@gmail.com](mailto:mathnews@gmail.com) to learn when this is happening. Also feel free to stop in on one of our Production Nights (we post posters in the stairwells on production nights), check the door to our office (or come in if we are there!) at MC 3030, or email us at [mathnews@gmail.com](mailto:mathnews@gmail.com).

All of us here at *mathNEWS* are always looking for new writers, proofreaders, artists, puzzle-writers, and general what-have-yous. Everyone who helps out gets to party with us at our end-of-term bash, and eat lots of pizza with us (not that sixteen slices makes you feel good two hours later... but whatever).

The Editors

## 8 Alternative Uses For Textbooks

So you were all excited and bought all your textbooks during Orientation Week. Now, the day of the exam, you say to yourself “I spent \$150 on that book, I really should open it at least once.” So here’s a list of some things you can do with textbooks:

- 1. Weapon:** Some textbooks weigh several kilograms and are easily thrown.
- 2. Weight training:** Books are heavy, weighing quite a few pounds each, and are easily lifted.
- 3. Look smart:** Books are a means to show off the fact that you are educated and usually weigh less than a stone.
- 4. Fly swatter:** Once, during a lecture, Prof. Jackson took his backpack and threw it at a wasp on the ceiling. Do you really think that it would have killed the wasp without a textbook in it which weighed more than twenty Newtons? Really?
- 5. Building cardhouses:** Textbooks are sort of like big cards. So you can make really big cardhouses. Since most people won’t have enough books to make a really kickass cardhouse, get your entire class involved. You know you have enough books when you are counting the books by the ton.
- 6. Hammer:** Textbooks can bang things just like a hammer. They may even weigh many carats more.
- 7. Screwdriver:** To put a screw in the wall, line it up where you want it and bash away. Works better if textbook exceeds 12 troy ounces.
- 8. Lullabies:** The best way to fall asleep at night is to attempt to read a textbook. Or perhaps have someone bash you over the head with a textbook.

Dave Nicholson

## Mental Health Services

Greetings, mathlings! This is a gentle reminder that there exist many resources for students with mental health concerns. There are a number of math students at Waterloo with mental illness, so you are not alone. (That includes yours truly!) If you have a mental health concern, or suspect that you may, please do not hesitate to get in touch with medical professionals such as:

- Health Services (519-888-4096)
- Counselling Services, Mathematics (519-888-4567 ext. 32655, MC 4019C)
- Mental Health Services, General (519-888-4567 ext. 32655, Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401)
- Good2Talk (1-866-925-5454)

You could also speak to a first-year advisor for academic and administrative advice, or register with AccessAbility Services for academic accomodations (519-888-4567 ext. 35082, NH 1401).

If you would like more information on how you can contribute to mental health reforms within the faculty, feel free to contact the Vice President Academic ([vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)) or the Associate Dean Srinivasan Keshav ([mathadg@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathadg@uwaterloo.ca)).

Wishing you the best,  
Katherine Tu (AKA bunnIED)

## The First-Years Cornered

There are several things that one must remember from Orientation Week. Unfortunately, most of these things will be forgotten for various reasons. Below are a list of things first-years should learn over the course of the week.

- In a pinch, protractors can be used as spoons.
- On move-in day, if you let your parents go through your orientation kit first, there is a VERY uncomfortable silence when they see the condoms.
- The Comfy Lounge has always smelled like that.
- Telling jokes you heard at 5:00 AM from Tie Guard will not help you get dates, as what was funny then is incoherent rambling now.
- A good pick-up line is, “What’s your co-op sequence?”
- Through an odd warping of space-time, profs are able to talk for 2 hours in a 50 minute period.
- The more you learned in your final year of high school math, the more you have to un-learn in MATH 135 and 137.
- If your roommate is an engineer, you had best sleep with your tie on to protect it, much in the same way they will sleep with their hardhat on.
- Hypnotized jocks are more fun than a barrel of monkeys.
- Imprint absorbs twice as much liquid as the other leading brand of paper towels.
- Software Engineers do not like being called “Softies,” but that’s their name regardless of the undertone.
- You should have taken the blue pill, not the red.

Ian W. MacKinnon

## Math FOC Sez

Greetings, new Mathies! It is our absolute pleasure to welcome you to the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo, and to Math Orientation 2016: Mathematical Kingdoms!

Waterloo's Math faculty is a one-of-a-kind place to be: the largest centre for independent study in Mathematics anywhere in the world. You, the newly admitted, stand at the threshold of a universe of opportunity. As you choose your degree, you will realize that there are virtually no limits to where you can take it and where it can take you.

That is why your experiences during Orientation Week are so important. This is your chance to create connections and lasting relationships with dozens of knowledgeable upper-year leaders, who are more than happy to give advice based on their own experiences. This is your chance to acquire the tools for success (academically and socially) that will guide you throughout your career at Waterloo and beyond. This is your chance to adapt to your new home, get comfortable and learn what is expected of you. Finally, perhaps most importantly, this is your chance to meet and bond with your fellow classmates before the start of term. They are the people who will serve as your primary social and academic support network throughout the course of your degree: the foundation for the rest of your university career.

Make the most of your Orientation Week experience! Ask the big questions! Explore! Attend events and make friends! You will find no shortage of people: people just like you, as well as people from very different backgrounds. Get to know both of these groups of people.

Discover the rich history and traditions of this Faculty as you earn your Pink Tie and discover what it means to be a part of this unique community. Of course, it doesn't end when classes start! Get involved with MathSoc, Feds, and the many student clubs and services on this campus; and take part in RezLife or Off-Campus Community events. You may even wish to become an Orientation Week leader yourself in the future!

Math Orientation 2016 is the culmination of hard work from over a hundred passionate Mathies. It has truly been an amazing experience for all of us, and we hope that our hard work has paid off in making this week one of the best of your lives.

We wish you all the best in this next chapter of your life!

Abina Premachandran, Cynthia Chan, David Li,  
Carlo Lahura (ACDC)  
Federation Orientation Committee 2016  
Faculty of Mathematics

## Math Abbreviations 101

**ActSci** - Actuarial Science. A major you can choose within the math faculty. Pairs nicely with statistics, ambition, and a love for ca\$h money.

**CFM** - Computing and Financial Management. A program that combines Computer Science and Finance. This program is your ticket to fitting in with both fancy finance people and nerdy computer science people. And possibly your ticket to an identity crisis if you read too much into that.

**C(&)O** - Combinatorics and Optimization. A program within the Math faculty. It answers the questions of: "Which major should I choose in order to maximize pleasure, knowledge, and future earnings using at most a specified quantity of effort and time?"

**CS** - Computer Science. CS students are the people who are qualified for all the co-op jobs you wish you were qualified for. Strangely, they also seem to be the majority of people you meet during Math orientation.

**DC** - William G. Davis Computer Research Centre (Davis Centre). A couple lecture halls, some CS prof offices, food, and most importantly, the DC library. It feels almost like our home, MC. Easily one of the greatest places to study among other mathies.

**DD(C)** - Double Degree (Club)-A program that allows students to get a BBA from Laurier while simultaneously getting a BMath or BCS from Waterloo. This program is a "Happy Hell" that causes a lot of suffering but also makes you enjoy it.

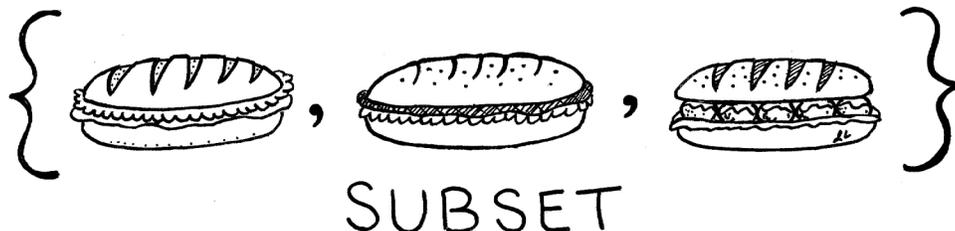
**DP** - Dana Porter (library). This is more of an arts library but it's still pretty cool for a break from the usual study spaces every now and then. Going here may make you feel like you're cheating on DC, but it can offer you tenth floor views, which DC just can't compete with. Sorry, DC.

**ELPE** - English Language Proficiency Exam. An exam that math students once had to take in order to answer the crucial question: "Can u englIsh gooD"? It was deemed ineffective and replaced with mandatory courses.

**FARM(SA)** - Financial Analysis and Risk Management (Student Association). A program within the Math faculty. Not the kind with cows and chickens and tractors and stuff.

**Softies** - Software Engineers. Weird hybrid creatures that belong to both Engineering and Math. They are our friends and can be identified in the wild by their blue ties.

TheUndecided



## Outside the Known University

Many first years students find themselves never leaving campus. Here are a list of cool things you can do if you ever decide to brave the other side of Ring Road.

1. Waterloo Park is a nice park just south of Campus. There you will find playgrounds and petting zoos as well as many interesting events held in the park. For example, on September 17<sup>th</sup> the Royal Medieval Faire will be held there. Visit the fictional kingdom of Mearth and interact with the royal court. It costs only \$5 to get in.
2. The Princess Cinema and Princess Twin are small indie theatres in Uptown Waterloo. They tend to show films that you wouldn't usually see at the big branch theaters. They also have a lot of cult classic hits. You can purchase discount tickets at the Turnkey desk. Check out <http://www.princesscinemas.com/> for movie times
3. KWLTL (or Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theater) is an amateur theater company in Waterloo. Their two major production this fall are *Lucky Stiff* starting on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and *Scrooge Macbeth* starting Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. You can find showtimes, check audition information, and buy tickets at [kwlto.org](http://kwlto.org).
4. Theater on the Edge is a live improv comedy troupe in Uptown Waterloo that does a show every Thursday for \$5. It's a great idea for night out with friends (or a cheap date night). You can find more information at [tote.ca](http://tote.ca).
5. Adventure Rooms are an escape-the-room puzzle game where you are locked in and given 45 minutes to escape. A fun challenging activity to do with friends. There are several different places in KW, just use Google to find one. We did this for a *mathNEWS* event once, and it was a lot of fun!
6. Adventure Guilds, Crossroads, and Games on Tap are three board game cafés in KW if you ever get tired of playing your free board games in the C&D.
7. Maker Expo is Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at Kitchener City Hall. It is an all day event where people showcase their neat do-it-yourself projects and give you the opportunity to participate as well.

Beyond Meta

## Not so "Straight and Narrow"?

Hey mathies (and anyone else fortunate enough to be reading this awesome publication)! If you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, pansexual, queer, questioning, or stray in any other way from the "straight and narrow" path of cisgender heterosexuality, you are not alone! The Glow Centre For Sexual and Gender Diversity, located on campus at the Student Life Centre, room 2102, is a safe space where you can meet similar people and/or seek support. As the oldest queer and trans student organization in Canada, Glow offers discussion groups, social events (including an annual trip to Pride Toronto), awareness campaigns, and other resources. For more information, visit [www.feds.ca/glow](http://www.feds.ca/glow) or email [glow@glow.feds.ca](mailto:glow@glow.feds.ca).

TheUndecided

## First-Year Council Representatives

Are you looking to get involved in your first year at UWaterloo? Would you like to represent your fellow first-years helping make decisions which affect all math students? If so, you may be interested in becoming a First-Year Class Representative on MathSoc Council.

MathSoc Council is the highest governing body of MathSoc, and is comprised of the MathSoc executive team as well as representatives from various years and programs. First-years (that means you) are one such category. Council meets about twice a month, and has power over Society affairs, such as allocating our over \$40,000/term budget and serving as the student voice to the University. Councillors are responsible for voicing the concerns and issues of their constituency and are responsible for holding one public office hour per week.

In the first few weeks of classes, MathSoc executives and volunteers will be circulating in the first year algebra sections to hand out nomination forms and provide information. If you'd like to find out more about getting involved come visit the MathSoc office (MC 3038)!

We hope to see you on Council!

MathSoc Executives

## Websites You Should Check Out!

*This Totally Sounds Like a Spam E-Mail*

- UWaterloo Daily Bulletin, the local school newsletter, published at 9 AM every weekday morning. Read with a discerning eye, may contain propaganda. <http://www.bulletin.uwaterloo.ca>
- MathSoc, the student society of the Mathematics Faculty. You can access a previous exam bank, sign up for free lockers, get involved with the society and find cool upcoming events. <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca>
- UWaterloo and Waterloo subreddits, aggregators of stuff happening at the university and the region respectively. <http://reddit.com/r/uwaterloo/> & <http://reddit.com/r/waterloo/>
- UWaterloo Schedule of Classes for Undergraduates, a tool you can use to see what classes are being offered in future terms, how full they are, and who is teaching them. <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocour/CIR/SA/under.html>
- Waterloo Region Record, the regional newspaper, has adequate local coverage. You can also pick up free copies of the printed version in the SLC. <http://www.therecord.com>

Ice Nine

## Extracurriculars

### *They're Still Things!*

Now that you're at university, you should be focusing on your studies. You're paying money to be here and learn, of course. However, just because you're in university doesn't mean that you should give up all of your favourite extracurricular activities. It is more than possible to succeed in your studies and still have fun doing non-math-related things. Here are some common ways to continue doing the things you love:

**Varsity Sports and Intramurals:** If you play a varsity sport, such as hockey or squash, or if you do cheerleading (check the UWaterloo Athletics website for the full list of sports), feel free to try out for the teams! Varsity sports are a great way to continue to train and be competitive in your sport, and athletes can get perks, such as reserved training time and free massages. If you're not that competitive, but you still want to play, there are intramural leagues for many commonly-played games, notably dodgeball, handball, and ball hockey, amongst many others (check online for which leagues are being offered). This is a great way to play the sports you love or to try out new ones! There are also various lessons offered by Campus Recreation, like swimming and dance.

**Music:** There are many ways to continue making music at Waterloo. The Music Department offers studio and theory/skills courses at a variety of levels, and more importantly, has a handful of ensemble classes for which you can audition, including a jazz band, two sizes/styles of choir, and chamber ensemble groups. These classes are worth .25 course units each, half of a normal course, so it's a neat way to obtain some of your non-math credits. Separate from the Music department is the university's orchestra; if you're talented and play an orchestral instrument, the music is at a high level and is rewarding to master. UWaterloo also has a vibrant A Cappella community comprising of several distinct groups that sing on campus. Other groups include the Concert Band Club, the Warriors Band (our pep band at sporting events), and an informal jazz combo, amongst many others. And

if you just want to listen, most concerts take place at the end of each term; come out and take in some great music!

**Theatre:** The main way to get involved in theatre on campus, outside of Drama courses, is to participate in FASS! Standing for Faculty, Alumni, Staff, and Students, FASS is UWaterloo's musical theatre troupe, and they write and stage their own show every February. Auditions are in early January, so it doesn't take much time at all, and the commitment ranges from a small acting role to a stage/band/tech role to the star of the show! It's a great experience, and can lead you towards other theatre opportunities off-campus, such as at the Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre (small theatre), and Theatre on the Edge (improv comedy). The Engineering Students Society usually puts on a production called EngPlay as well, so there's lots of theatre to see.

**And More!** Early on in each term is an event called Clubs Days, where you can learn about all the clubs on campus and see if any of them do some of the things you do! For almost everything, there's a club or group doing it. For trivia, there's the Quiz Bowl club; for Dungeons and Dragons and other role-playing games, there are WatSFIC and a couple of separate groups; there's the Campus Crusade for Cheese, where you can hang out and eat awesome cheeses; and the Go Club, for competitive players and beginners alike! Watch for details on the Feds website, [feds.ca](http://feds.ca)!

Make sure to go out and do things that aren't related directly to your academics. Studies show<sup>[citation needed, I guess]</sup>, and personal experience verifies<sup>[it's not even possible to give citations for this]</sup> that students tend to be happier and more motivated if they're doing some extracurriculars. It's fun, and it allows you to relax, so that you can work better when you do get back to studying. All work and no play makes a student's happiness delay.

Scythe Marshall

## Feed Me!

*Om nom nom nom*

It has come to my attention that I am hungry. I'm usually stuffed full of Mathie goodness, but I was abandoned for most of the month of August.

You can feed me most anything; I'm not very picky. Some of my favourite foods include: *grid*WORD solutions, *prof*QUOTES, articles, comics and money. Especially money.

Please send all food to me care of my top slot. I can be found between the Comfy Lounge and the Math C&D. And you can feed me online too! I can't use the Internet myself, but if you e-mail the nice people at [mathnews@gmail.com](mailto:mathnews@gmail.com) they'll feed me at no cost to you! Please don't send food as attachments though; just stick it into the body of the e-mail and it'll be scrumptious!

The *math*NEWS BLACK BOX

## A Serious Problem

I'm tired of walking into a bathroom and finding a toilet bowl full of yellow liquids. The students here at the University of Waterloo obviously have a serious problem. We're all university level students, and yet we still have this ridiculously simple problem. It is quite clear to me, that we students, we very disappointing students, are completely incapable of hydrating ourselves. Yellow urine is a sign of dehydration, and as citizens of a first world country (or at least residents), we really shouldn't be suffering from this problem. So here's one solution: get a water bottle, put water in it, drink the water periodically. Or at least drink something periodically (that doesn't mean alcohol, despite what films have taught you about university life). It'll be worth it: if you're dehydrated, you're liable to be more tired, cranky, and headachy.

Also, it might be good to remember to flush the toilet.

TheNotChosenOne

# A How-To Guide for the Advanced Courses

*And Why They're Not Quite as Scary as You Think They Are*

Do you remember choosing your courses this past summer, and reading about MATH 145/147 and CS 145? These are the so-called “advanced” level math and computer science classes that you can take in your first term in math at UWaterloo. This is an article intending to clarify the role of the courses, and emphasize why you should consider them.

The advanced math courses are called “advanced” not primarily because of a difference in difficulty level, but because of a difference in approach. The advanced math courses focus on teaching you theory and proofs, as opposed to applications. In the advanced math classes, you will see definitions of mathematical objects and properties, as well as statements and proofs of general mathematical statements. On your assignments, you will be expected to use these results to prove (or decide the truth of) other statements. The focus is on a theoretical understanding of math in the abstract case, as opposed to how to use math to compute things in concrete cases.

Doing assignments in advanced math courses is a lot like solving puzzles. You are given all the pieces of the proof, all the ideas, terms, definitions, and theorems you will need, and you just need to figure out how they fit together to complete the proof. Admittedly, these puzzles will sometimes be significantly more challenging than the similar ones that you would see in the regular honours level courses, but it tends to be the case that if you participate in the course and put effort into it, you'll gain the tools to succeed.

The advanced level computer science course, CS 145, is a faster-paced version of CS 135, where you jump right in to high-level abstraction and algorithms. In much the same way as the math courses, CS 145 does emphasize the theoretical aspect of programming, but it also challenges you to work on how to code effectively and efficiently. This, and the follow-up course CS 146, can be great starting blocks for a successful CS degree and career.

Note that it is indeed true that the advanced courses are not for everyone. Not everyone appreciates or needs to know the theoretical aspects of algebra or calculus or computer science, and that's just fine. However, if you are interested in what the advanced courses are all about, there is no reason you should be wary of trying to take them.

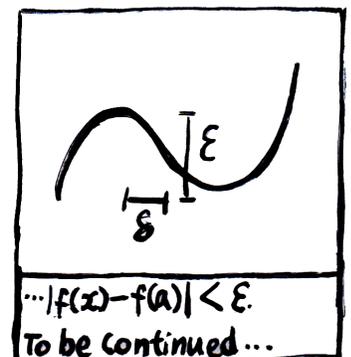
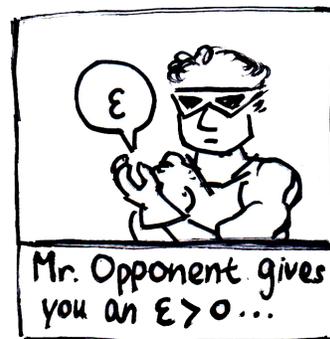
There is theoretically (hah!) no downside to enrolling in the advanced courses—you can drop from the advanced courses to the corresponding regular level course at no penalty, right up until the day of the final. This is a special policy that is designed to give you the opportunity to succeed. Practically, this is a bit of an issue if you actually do drop down very late in the term, because you will probably have not had the same amount of practice as the students in the regular level course at some of the more computationally heavy portions of the course. Talk to your professor and advisor as soon as possible if you end up contemplating this option.

More information about the advanced courses is available at the special information session during Orientation Week, if you're reading this before it actually happens, and from the first-year advisors and the Pure Math/CS departments. Now that you know a bit more about the advanced courses, and are hopefully intrigued by them, you should learn how to enroll in them! If you didn't have the option to do so earlier, you'll have to talk to the instructors who are teaching the courses and fill out course override forms which you can submit to the Registrar's Office. Procedural information can be found online.

If you are trying to transfer courses, and you haven't yet, try to at least sit in on the lectures of the target class. Keeping up on the material in the advanced courses is highly important, especially early on.

Once you're in an advanced course, be sure to put effort in! They are usually more challenging, if not by design, but they are very rewarding, both epistemologically and grade-wise, since the idea is that if you are in the advanced courses, you'd probably do very well in the regular level courses. This is dependent on the work put in, of course. Note that your class is much smaller than a usual first-year math course, and so it's not only easier to meet others in the class, but establishing relationships with them and with your professor will be much more fruitful, as you can work on problems together or get help. The advanced math community tends to be close and supportive, so you'll never be alone in any struggles you might have.

Best of luck!  
Scythe Marshall and TheIdentity



## Mathematical Fiction For the New Fraa or Suur

Welcome to math at Waterloo! You may realize while you're here that you can't get enough of mathematics, and your courses just aren't cutting it. If you're ready for it, I highly suggest you dive in to reading papers, but if you're looking for something a bit "lighter" I have compiled a list of good fiction in no particular order.

**The Wild Numbers: A Novel** by Philibert Schogt. The Wild Numbers is a made-up problem for the novel, but the work describes fairly well what would happen if a mathematical nobody managed to prove Fermat's Last Theorem, or one of the other greats. As it happens, truth is stranger than fiction, and we have had a few of these examples pop out of the woodwork. Still good for inspiration.

**Surreal Numbers** by Donald E. Knuth. A novella by Knuth about two students trapped on a desert island, who go on to recreate all of mathematics. A fun read to understand why the underpinnings of math are the way they are. Available for free on [archive.org](http://archive.org).

**Math Girls** by Hiroshi Yuki. This is a novel that was adapted from a manga and has been translated from Japanese. It deals with three high school students who like math and their teacher who helps encourage them. The math content is mostly combinatorics and it is an excellent supplement when taking MATH 239/249. There is also a sequel about Fermat's Last Theorem.

**Logicomix** by Apostolos Doxiadis et al. A semi-historical biographical graphic novel about Bertrand Russel and the search for truth in mathematics. It uses some characters in an anachronistic way, but they are meant to represent letters and opinions of contemporaries in the mathematical community, even though they may not have actually met. Very light on mathematical content, it can be shown to lay persons with no issue. Also by the same author is Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture, which covers a lot of modern mathematical history.

**Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions** by Edwin A. Abbott. A satirical novella about class and society in Victorian Britain, endured moreso because of its examination of the con-

cept of dimension and the ability to relate it to lay people. There is also an animated film inspired by it, and a non-authorized sequel called Flatterland, written 100 years later and dealing with non-Euclidean geometries.

**Anathem** by Neal Stephenson. The inspiration for the title of this article, Anathem deals with math monks and mathematical philosophy, as well as multiverses and quantum mechanics, from a couple of different perspectives. There is not much pure mathematical content, but it is an enjoyable romp with people whose thought processes you can understand. Also by Neal Stephenson is Cryptonomicon, a novel about codebreaking in World War II and more modern cryptography.

**The Difference Engine** by William Gibson and Bruce Sterling. One of the progenitors of the steampunk genre, The Difference Engine imagines a world in which Charles Babbage's Difference Engine was built in the early 1800s, and deals with an imperial world with computing and information technology. Interesting in the notions of social ramifications of technology.

**NUMB3RS** created by Nicolas Falacci and Cheryl Heuton is a TV show about an FBI agent who uses a mathematician to help him solve crimes. The math presented in the show was verified by mathematicians, although there were some concerns as to how it was used, considering that at times it seemed only tangentially related to the plot. There is also a blog about the math behind NUMB3RS. It is six seasons long, so this might be one to take a bit at a time.

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass** by Lewis Carroll. The fantasy work by Carroll, a pseudonym for an Anglican Deacon and logician, is inundated with logical wordplay and puzzles, surely to amuse the budding math student.

**Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid** by Douglas Hofstadter. The penultimate work on symmetry in human thought and creation, it examines three people over time and considers how they are similar and different.

Ice Nine

## N Things You Should Know About Your WatCard

*Waldo enjoys using it a little too much.*

- It is a bus pass for the Grand River Transit. Simply show it to the bus driver and you can ride to wherever you need to get to!
- It is linked to your meal plan and flex dollar accounts, letting you just swipe to pay for things.
- If lost, immediately report it to the Watcard office or use <http://watcard.uwaterloo.ca/> to deactivate it to ensure that none of the money is used by someone else.
- It costs \$20 to replace so do your best to not lose it!
- You will need to bring it to EVERY EXAMINATION that you write. Don't forget it!
- It can be used at a lot of places on and off campus, includ-

ing: restaurants (like Tim Hortons, Subway, East Side Mario's and the residence cafeterias), some stores (like those found in the University Plaza), the libraries (for things like printing, photocopying, and signing out books), the laundry machines in residence, Waterloo Taxi (519-888-7777) and many more! For a complete list of where WatCard is accepted, visit <http://watcard.uwaterloo.ca/>.

- It is used as collateral for resources provided by certain services, like signing out games from MathSoc or booking a room from the Turnkey desk.

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of MC

## The Social Heart of the UWaterloo Mathematics Community

Welcome to the University of Waterloo and to the Math Faculty! You've begun your journey towards an undergraduate math degree along with over a thousand other math students, and you'll probably meet a number of them in your classes and residence life. What a lot of new math students don't realize is that there is a large social community of which to be a part, and that there are many benefits to doing so. Let's have a look at some of the ways you can participate in the math community, most of which are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Math and Computing building, your new home:

**MathSoc:** The Mathematics Student Society runs many events during the year, and has many opportunities for volunteering and meeting other students. Many of the office workers are upper-year students, and all of them are willing to give you tips and help you feel at home. Some of the ways in which you can volunteer are to help staff the office, organize and run events like the our many Pi Days (we have three of them, one for each term!), and be a student representative on MathSoc Council.

The MathSoc office is in MC 3038 and has many services:

- Faculty of Math approved calculators for the best prices on campus!
- 5¢ photocopies for those lectures you missed.
- Staplers to staple those late-night assignments together!
- Computers, with printing for 10¢ a page.
- Locker signup so you don't have to carry around those heavy books all day. You can register for a locker online at [mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca).
- Textbook library so you have access to material when you don't have your books with you. This includes most first- and second-year core courses.
- Cool math T-shirts, sweatpants, Frisbees, bags, and more, to help you show off your math pride!

They also run various social events throughout the term. You can keep up to date with what's happening in MathSoc by visiting their website, [mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), or by liking Mathematics Society on Facebook!

**Program Clubs:** Almost every program in the Math Faculty has an associated club, which runs events geared towards their members' general interests and an office where you can meet like-minded students in a social setting. For example, the Pure Math, Applied Math, and Combinatorics and Optimization Club (the programs are small!) runs Prof Talks and math contests, and the Computer Science Club has Code Parties and Unix Tutorials.

**PRO TIP:** If you don't want to buy textbooks at full price, you can borrow them for free from MathSoc, or at a discounted price from the Feds Used Books Store in the SLC.

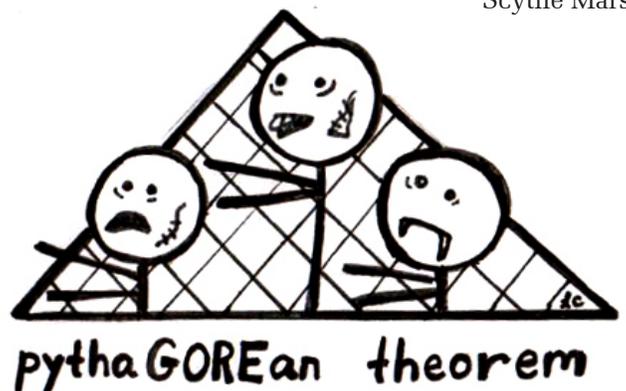
Club members tend to take courses together, so there are likely to be students with whom you can work together. Note that you don't have to be in the program to join the club! Watch for the MathSoc Clubs Day early in the first month of classes. Finally, note that a large number of Stats- and ActSci-related clubs are actually located in the Mathematics 3 (M3) building. They're further away, but we still love them!

**Orientation:** Depending on when you're reading this, you're most likely either currently or have finished participating in Orientation Week. If you feel so inclined, next year you can switch roles, and be a leader of new students! In a leader role in Math Orientation, you have the opportunity to be a guide and role model for new students, and have a lot of fun along the way, meeting and working with the many other leaders; it's fulfilling and enjoyable to make the week go smoothly, and there are certain things that you only really experience as a leader. Watch for applications online! We've recently moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, but check us out anyway!

**Math C&D and Comfy Lounge:** The two 'main' lounge areas of the MC are the sitting space outside the Math Coffee and Donut shop, and the so-called Comfy Lounge next door. Colloquially called the C&D, the Coffee and Donut shop is a great place to work in small groups with some table space and a power outlet or three, or sit and enjoy chili and a sandwich at lunch with a friend. The food is reasonably priced, and there is some part-time work available on occasion. There is also a balcony available, with some seating space there. The Comfy is where you can relax for a time, study or read in a nice chair, or participate in a MathSoc General Meeting. It is *not* for sleeping; that's what your room is for. The chairs are indeed comfortable, though, hence the name. As an aside, in both lounges there are microwaves (see the *mathNEWS* archives for v122i4 for instructions pertaining to the one in Comfy); this is remarkably useful. A wide variety of students use both of these spaces; you're almost guaranteed to run into someone you know, or someone you wouldn't mind meeting.

That's a basic rundown of what you can find on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of MC; there are also labs and assorted study spaces on the floor. Make sure to spend some time exploring and visiting the offices; the people you meet will almost certainly benefit you in your time here.

Good luck!  
Scythe Marshall



## Smoking Hot Co-op Advice

Since the co-op process can be pretty intimidating and un-intuitive for newcomers, I'll outline some tips for blazing your way to success on your first co-op. The CECA (official co-op people) will explain the process and requirements to you in the semester before your first co-op term, but these are a few extra tips and tricks for taking your game from so-so to flaming hot.

### Getting the Interview

- It's all about the résumé, although on a side note, making sure you have a positive social media presence can help for some jobs as well.
- If you're having trouble writing your résumé, start by describing all of your work and volunteer/extracurricular experience in the last 4–6 years, then reduce that down to simply the most recent and/or relevant positions. The final copy of your résumé should be 1–2 pages total.
- If you have personal side projects related to your field, definitely include them! For example, dropping a link to your GitHub account or a personal website is a great way to stand out if you're applying to programming or web development jobs.
- Don't underestimate the value of secondary soft skills like communication or teamwork. Even if they're completely unrelated to your major, you can use activities like playing in a band, being part of a club, or writing for *mathNEWS* \*cough\**shameless plug*\*cough\* to show your leadership/teamwork/communication/other skills.
- Get someone to proofread your résumé. Seriously, I cannot emphasize this enough. Ask a knowledgeable friend or head to a résumé critiquing session on campus—find more than one person who will give you honest and detailed feedback on the quality of your résumé. Like a good essay, résumés usually need several revisions before they are presentable.

### Passing the Interview

So you got an interview—congratulations! You've made it past the first step, so give yourself a pat on the back and then put on your war paint.

- Research the company before doing the interview. You should be able to clearly and concisely state what the company does if they ask (which some occasionally will).
- Make a list of your key strengths that you can market in that particular interview. Look for opportunities to tout these strengths as the interview progresses.
- There are some stock questions that come up frequently in interviews. Ex. “Tell me about yourself.”, “What are some of your weaknesses?”, “Why do you think you fit this job?”, “Why do you want to work here?”. Thinking about your answer to some of these questions before the interview will help you avoid foot-in-mouth scenarios.
- Prepare a list of three to five questions to ask at the end of the interview. The employer may have already answered some of these questions during the interview, so having more than 3 means you can have back-ups. Make sure to include questions about things that will help you choose which job you want (work environment, pay, location, etc.) as well as ones that show interest in the position (job duties, typical work day, etc.)
- Find some good business wear, and arrive at least 10 minutes before the interview. Some interviews may start early, and if not then the extra time gives you time to breathe and calm down.
- Just relax. No seriously, just relax and be natural. You've already made it this far, you're prepared for this, all you can do is smile, be sincere, and try your best.

In the end, the interview process is a bit weird. You'll have some interviews that you thought you bombed only to find out you got an offer (that's how I got my first co-op job), some interviews that you were sure you rocked for which you are never-ranked, and some interviews that go exactly as you expect. All you can really do at the end of the day is try your best and not take the results too personally. If you're having trouble, CECA offers lots of resources to help spruce up your job prospects and there are lots of other students and upper-years around campus who have tons of great advice. Best wishes!

BlueberryMuffin

## N Things to Know About Waterloo

*Waldo still needs to learn a few more things too.*

- The geese are here to stay, no matter the season.
- If you want to get involved at Waterloo, check out Clubs and Services Day in the Student Life Centre to see what clubs you can join.
- Sometimes random things end up in random places, like the snowman on top of the Biology building one winter.
- The ninjas always seem to invade “N Things” but no one really knows why. [*No we don't!—bunniED.*]
- You'll likely figure out what kind of university career you want to take and how you need to get there by the end of your first term (or your first year).
- There are underground tunnels and overhead passes between buildings for warmer travel during the winter.
- If you need certain things, like stationery or printing, MathSoc is often the cheapest place on campus to get it (but remember, it's cash only!).
- Time management and scheduling can play a huge part of any term.
- *mathNEWS* can be a good escape from the hustle and bustle of Friday mornings every couple of weeks or so.
- If you want to find Waldo, try coming out to a *mathNEWS* meeting and writing for us!

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

# The Down-Low on Feds Clubs

Clubs are a great way to get involved and meet awesome people at UW. The important thing to keep in mind is that quality friendships take time and effort, so don't expect to have found your new BFF after one club meeting. Your best bet is to find one or two clubs that you like and attend them regularly. Personally, I found that it took about a year before I felt that I was part of a community.

You can find out about all the different clubs by visiting <http://www.feds.ca/clubs-section/clubs-listing/>. Every term on the second Thursday and Friday of class there is a huge club day fair in the SLC Great Hall where you can talk to representatives from every club. This event is called Clubs Days. I recommend finding out what clubs interest before Clubs Days so you can go directly towards these clubs. The event itself can be really loud and crowded and you probably want to minimize the amount of time you spend in there.

If no club interests you, you can also start your own club. Every Feds club gets a \$75 budget each term. To become a club, all you need is a constitution outlining what your club is about and 7 members. If you don't know 7 people, your best bet to find them is by joining a different club. Given the knowledge that person is willing to join a club means that they are more likely to be willing to join other clubs. You fill out your paperwork and ta-da! You are now a club free and free to spend your club money how you see fit. I personally recommend rainbow suspenders and nerf guns.\*

Beyond Meta

\*These were actual expense of the club WHIMSICAL which was about fancy tiles and silly costumes.

## gridWORD Solution

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

# profQUOTES

Don't profs say the darndest things? *profQUOTES* is where you will find amusing things uttered by professors and recorded by students like you. If you think one of your professors has said something quotable, send it in (along with their name and the course code) to *mathNEWS* either by email ([mathnews@gmail.com](mailto:mathnews@gmail.com)) or dropping it in the **BLACK BOX**, and you will probably find it in the next issue! It could be an incentive for you to stay awake in class. Below are some examples of quotes uttered in classrooms within the last year.

“Red light is like a marshmallow, blue light is like a bazooka.”  
Mann, PHYS 124

“I abused the chalk fairy, and the chalk fairy didn't come back.”  
Richards, PHIL 145

“Don't post your code in GitHub! After the course is done, print it, I don't care. Just don't post it on GitHub!”  
Avery, CS 349

“Users sometimes — okay, let's be real. Users *\_always\_* use the same password in multiple places.”  
Lhoták, CS444

“I am noticing that some of you are suffering from the sun.”  
Lushman, CS 146

*Prof:* “I don't like stats.”  
*Student:* “Why?”  
*Prof:* “It's evil. Well, it's not evil, it's used for evil.”  
Wolczuk, MATH 235

“Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first.”  
McKinnon, MATH 147

“This blows up like a Star Trek explosion.”  
Wagner, MATH 259

“If you didn't get the grades you expected on the midterm, don't worry: Midterms are like bears. If you are chased by a bear, you don't have to run faster than the bear, you just have to run faster than your friends.”  
Wagner, MATH 259

“This argument is very clever. I can say this because I didn't come up with it, so it doesn't sound like I'm bragging.”  
Marcoux, MATH 148

“I have one of these, you can come to my house and see it! That's a lie; please do not come to my house.”  
Jao, CO 487

## Why You Should Write for *mathNEWS*

Why should you write for *mathNEWS*? Yes, you, the one reading this right now. No, not someone else who might happen to be reading *mathNEWS*, just you. I really think you should write for *mathNEWS*. “But why?” I hear you wonder. Yes, I heard that, I hear all. Well, there are many reasons to write for *mathNEWS*.

- **It is fun.** This cannot be overstressed. It is fun, or at least it should be. If you’re writing for anybody at any time and it is not fun, then something is wrong, or maybe it is a mandatory communications course, or a work report, or... fine. But writing for *mathNEWS* is fun. You can rant, point out what you find funny about life, or just express yourself however you like, whether on your own time or during Production Night, and it’s all really quite a lot of fun.
- **It looks good.** On, say... a résumé. Employers always want good oral and written skills; what shows that better than contributing to a bi-weekly publication? You don’t have to answer that.
- **You get published.** *mathNEWS* is an official publication with an ISSN. Two copies of every issue go to the National Archives. Beyond being released to the entire campus every other Friday, and mailed to our subscribers, your work will also be published online on our website ([mathnews.uwaterloo.ca](http://mathnews.uwaterloo.ca)), which is pretty highly rated on Google and is functional *most* of the time.
- **People read it.** People will read it. At least people pick it up. Some might try and tell you no one reads *mathNEWS*, but after a few weeks of distribution detail you discover just how many people do. Late in the afternoon when I return to campus to clean up at the end of the day, I see people walking home with *mathNEWS* in their hand. I see both students and faculty picking up copies. Some profs get issues mailed to them. People at bus stops waiting to take the bus home have copies in their hands. Look—right now, you are reading *mathNEWS*.
- **It is rewarding.** In so many ways. From e-mail from 14 year-old boys who use AOL to letters from Iran, your material can generate a response. You have the chance to make people, your fellow students, laugh and/or think on Friday mornings. There is also the rewarding feeling of creating a piece of writing and knowing it will be published. Some also find the free food a kind of reward.

Phat Albert



The tale of the sequence really does converge to a point.

## Nutrition for Mathies

*Be wary of the free food...*

Greetings, oh effectors of the Math Faculty’s future. For many of you, university will be the first time in your life that you have full control over what and when you eat (subject to class restriction). With this freedom comes the responsibility to eat properly.

The most important part of nutrition during first year is simply the problem of eating enough. It is very tempting to have a quick breakfast, or even no breakfast, before an 8:30 lecture, followed by a brief lunch, and a normal sized dinner. Similarly, it is easy to get into the habit of consistently eating convenience food style meals at the cafeterias on campus. Both of these are suboptimal. Not eating enough will result in bad moods and impaired academic (or for that matter, anything else) performance. Eating too much convenience food will (usually) result in a general feeling of malaise. Once you are eating enough, the next challenge is to be eating the right things.

Especially in residence, it is very easy to get into a habit. For example, in my first year I would have a chicken wrap nearly every day. Although it consistently tasted good, I doubt it was good for me. It is said that variety is the spice of life, and the same holds true for eating. Eating different things makes it more likely that you’ll end up with all the various and sundry nutrients your body needs. Colourful meals tend to be better for you than less colourful ones.

Finally, one way to make healthy eating choices easier is to publicly identify yourself as someone who eats well. Furthermore, you can then request your social group to help you to continue eating well. A little cognitive dissonance and/or peer pressure can go a long way to helping you make good eating choices. If nothing else, do it for yourself. You’ll feel better and do better at pretty much everything if you eat properly.

For more information on nutrition at university, or if you would like to talk to someone about nutrition, you can visit <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/nutrition-services> to get more information about resources available on campus. There is also a nutritionist on staff at Health Services if you should have need.

MeaninglessQuips

## N Fun Places To Go

- Paramount Fine Foods @ South Campus Hall: I spent \$2000 of meal plan money on shawarma #NoRegrets
- Mozy’s @ University & King, across from Laurier: Whether you like crispy fries or steamed rice, Mozy’s is the greatest thing since shaved meat
- Shawerma Plus @ King & University, behind Phil’s: Passing more health inspections than its neighbour, it has just as much grease.
- iShawarma @ Bridgeport & Weber: Saucier than a midnight rendition of The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Element

# A First Year's Guide to the MC

(or: Stop Asking Me for Directions)

Welcome, newbies! Now, being new students you no doubt find the MC to be a large, terrifying behemoth of a fortress from which no soul can ever escape. That doesn't go away. But I'm here to make you lost slightly less often when you're wandering these desolate corridors.

First of all, in each corner of each floor is an extremely useful map of the floor (just like in every building on campus), with room numbers and little pictures. If you're looking for a class or professor's room, these maps are key. (For the purposes of this article, West is defined to be the side closest to the SLC.) Also, every floor has women's rooms in the Northeast and Southwest, and men's rooms in the Northwest and Southeast. So you don't have to walk down more than one side of the building to find a bathroom.

**First floor:** You might have a class on the South side of this floor, but more important is the CHIP on the North side. They'll sell you software at a discount and fix your computer if you ask them real nice. Helpful people. There are exits at each corner of the building (and on the south side) halfway between first and second floors.

**Second floor:** You will probably have a few classes here, mostly on the North side. There are a couple of computer labs here, if you're in need of a computer lab. Media.Doc is in the middle of the floor too. This is a useful room for printing out anything you can't do yourself. Class slides, assignments, work reports, pictures of yourself sprawled out on a bed of rose petals... just bring them a data stick and they'll print out what's on it, in whatever quality you want. They also do binding, photocopying, course notes, ID photos, and lots of other printing activities.

## Taking a Minor

One smart thing to do with your degree is stick more words on it. There are two common ways of doing this at UWaterloo—heh, well, maybe three, but this column is far too short to discuss taking a joint. You can do the double major thing, or you can just throw a minor onto your degree. So what kind of minors are there? Well, there are those in math and those not. For mathie minors, you need a bunch of courses, but frequently they just overlap the ones you're taking so it turns out to be like four or five courses, perfect for filling up your math-course requirement without taking all STATs or something foolish. Now, for outside of math minors—perfect for those thinking of becoming teachers who want a non-math “teachable”—these take around ten courses, so plan ahead. It gives some structure to your electives, but they require you to take specific stuff that is only available in certain terms—hey, like why I can't finish my English minor on time. So, in conclusion, think about one, but try to plan early.

Allen MacLeon

**PRO TIP: Need stationery? MathSoc sells things at very low prices! There are also stationery and book stores in SCH and SLC.**

**Third floor:** This is really the heart of the MC. You have the Comfy Lounge and the C&D on the South side, most of the club offices on the East side, more labs in the middle and West side, and the MFCF over near Northeast. If you have problems with your Waterloo accounts or other computery problems, you can see them. It's also the home of MathSoc (MC 3038). You should swing by if you get the chance; they offer a lot to math students.

**Fourth floor:** There are a lot of classes here, as well as some important offices. The Math Undergrad Office, which you'll need to get course override forms and all kinds of administrative things, is on the West side. The Math Orientation Office is also on this floor.

**Fifth floor:** There are prof offices here, as well as a couple of program offices (like Pure Mathematics on the East), and the Dean's. As well, the South side has the CEMC, which is the department that helps schools in Ontario and all over the world to teach math and computers. Really great people. Starting on this floor, the bathrooms start being a lot cleaner, too.

**Sixth floor:** Once an endless labyrinth of twisting corridors, the sixth floor has recently been renovated and is occupied by mostly professors of Combinatorics and Optimization.

**Seventh floor:** IT DOES EXIST! I'VE SEEN IT! IT— *[The rest of this article has been withheld by the University Censorship Board, which does not in any way confirm the existence of a seventh floor of the Mathematics and Computers building.]*

Prometheus

## Taking a Miner

One smart thing you can do with your free time is kidnapping. There are two common ways of taking a miner at UWaterloo—heh, well, maybe three, but this column is far too short for such interpretations. One involves kidnapping, while the other, umm, also involves kidnapping. It's really all about who you kidnap. I am not a big fan of kidnapping the young, so I'm going to recommend you take a grown-up miner. Of these, there are several kinds available for the taking. Uranium miners tend to have radiation issues, so try to keep your distance. Coal miners are typically less biologically dangerous; however, there is the mess issue. Those who work in sepulchres or open-pit mines don't usually get covered with as much murk and mess, so I find them the best after the act of taking a miner, but getting them is awkward. Miners who work in shafts can be taken from their shafts a lot easier than kidnapping open-pit workers. So, in conclusion, kidnap guys who work in clean shafts. Or Shaft.

Davey R. Adams



## gridCOMMENTS

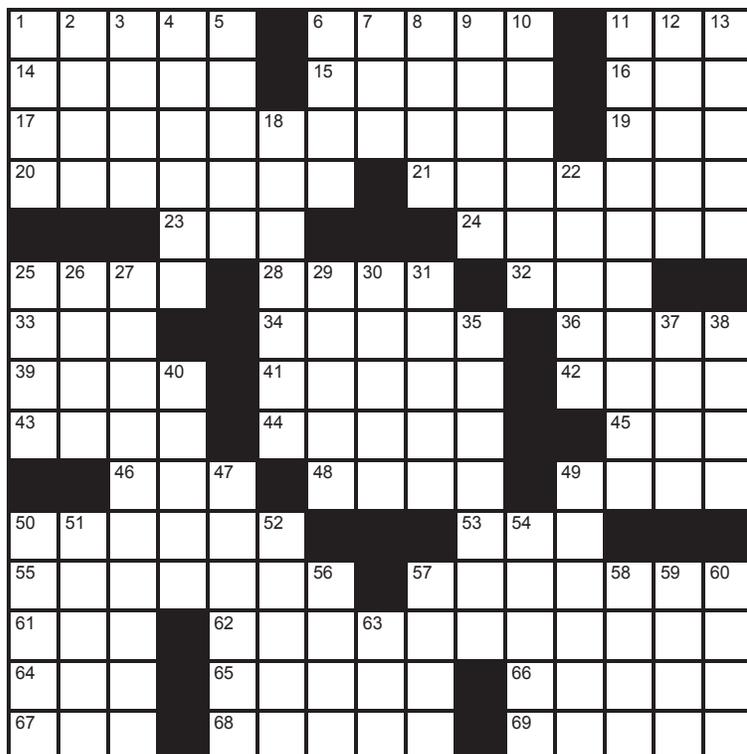
*Welcome to Waterloo!*

It is a time of crossroads; for some this is their first time leaving the safe comforts of home, while for others university is merely yet another stepping stone in the never-ending quest of self-improvement towards a future. Whatever be the reason, you are now here in Waterloo—remember that you are here not only to learn, but to forge new friendships, find opportunities, and discover yourself.

Speaking of crossroads, naturally one thinks of crosswords; even though you have decided to devote the next 4–5 years to arts mathematical, it is still important to not shirk the other domains of knowledge: the modern employer values the well-rounded individual. To this end, *mathNEWS*, Waterloo’s bastion of erudite thought, usually has a *gridWORD* to entertain as well as, hopefully, broaden the horizons of its solvers.

During the term, one may submit their *gridWORD* solution to the **BLACK BOX**, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, between the Math C&D and the Comfy Lounge. The submitter of the most correct solution is awarded a gift card for their efforts. In addition, we pose a *gridQUESTION* for you to ponder upon, wherein the tie for the most correct submission shall be broken in favour of our favourite response. May the wittiest prevail.

Happy solving,  
Zethar

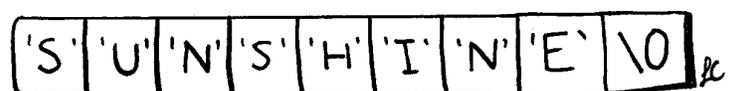


### Across:

1. Rise / Run
6. eg. Chekhov’s Gun
11. Spectral Edge Frequency
14. New fiction
15. Of the kidneys
16. Constructed language
17. To work upon something again and again
19. Fountain near MC
20. Math faculty symbol
21. Graduation
23. Unagi, at a sushi bar
24. Edema
25. Mrs. Lincoln’s maiden name
28. Soft mineral
32. “Aladdin” prince
33. Animé extra
34. No-brainer?
36. 2.54 cm
39. Burrows
41. Group 18
42. Nobel Peace Prize city
43. Face-to-face exam
44. Deadly sin
45. Relative
46. 19+
48. Alternatively
49. |
50. Orbital high point
53. “It’s no \_\_\_!”
55. Sweet Italian wine
57. Sadly, the official student newspaper
61. Appropriate
62. Left-handedness
64. American zed
65. Column style
66. Charles de Gaulle’s birthplace
67. “To \_\_\_ is human ...”
68. Squirrel away
69. Asian weight units

### Down:

1. Short cut?
2. Lesotho money
3. It’s within your range
4. Brightened, with “up”
5. Make merry
6. A radix or prefix tree
7. A residence
8. Half of binary code
9. Went white
10. Minecraft glider
11. Triangular fractal
12. The E of Euler’s formula  $V + F - E = 2$
13. With old, a 7/7 with snow-covered plain-swalk
18. When you throw a game
22. Big sheet
25. List heading
26. [see other side]
27. A campus library
29. Idolize
30. Goes with slander
31. Canadian bookshop
35. Catholic hymns
37. Magazine
38. Sharpen
40. Shots
47. eg. goatees sideburns
49. Historic Iran
50. Don’t get lost in one?
51. What your profs wrote
52. “The Waste Land” poet
54. Tipped over
56. Taj Mahal city
57. Yen
58. \_\_\_ of Man
59. Not to be confused with zero
60. Caddie’s bagful
63. Pronoun



**Fig. An array of sunshine.**