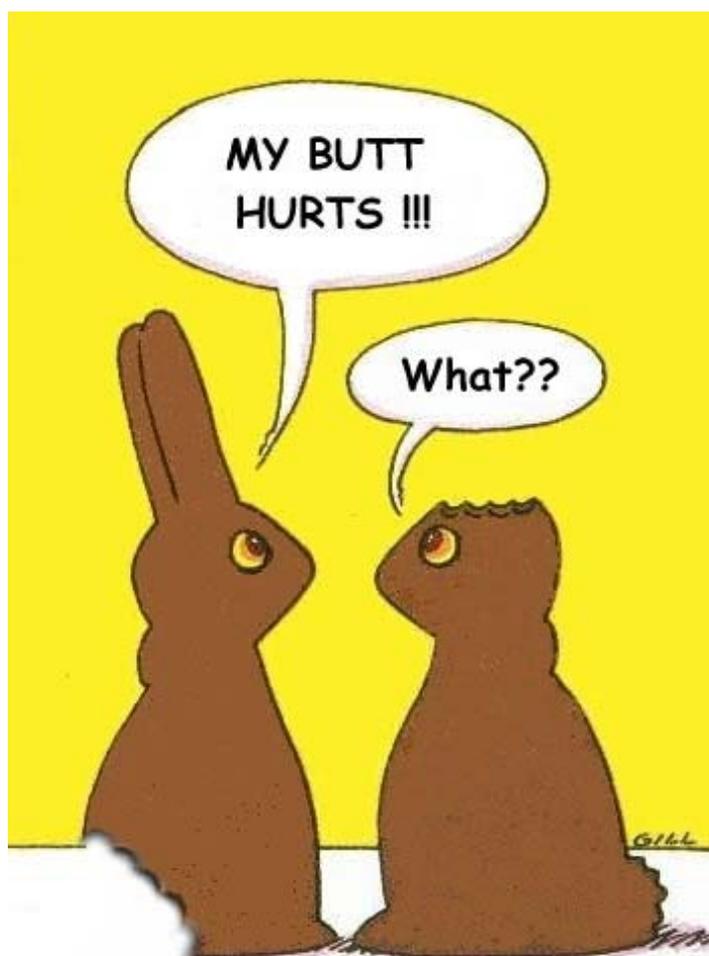


math NEWS

Volume 100, Issue 6

Friday, March 24th, 2006

Cute bunnies should remind you of the coming Easter 'Holiday'



And take your mind off studying ... oops



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lookAHEAD

Faculty	
March 30	Last day of Lectures
April 3	Open enrolment for Spring
April 6	Exams Begin
April 22	Exams End
MEF	
TODAY	MEF director nominations are due
Feds:	
Today	Warrior Weekend

MEF Director Nominations

Nominations are now open for the position of MEF Director for the Fall 2006 term. Forms can be found on the website (<http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca>) under the Resources tab or outside the MEF office (MC 3050). If you have any questions please email mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Apply to be a Frosh Leader

Have you been thinking about taking part in frosh week, but got too busy with midterms and assignments? Well, so have we... but we're still accepting applications for various positions for the week, including Leaders, Ice Breakers, Tie Guard, Teamsters, and various Coordinator positions. If you want to take part, go to www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca/2006/leaders/signup.php and apply (in an effort to save trees, we're no longer handing out any paper apps).

After you apply, you have to sign up for an interview on the door of MC 3048 (a few doors down from the MathSoc office). Interviews won't be held for the first half of next week (see above regarding assignments...) but they will be held during the end of next week and the start of the following.

If you've never been a frosh leader before, you must sign up for Orientation Leader Training. It isn't a good idea to wait until your interview to be trained, because they probably won't be held anymore. So if you're interested, sign up soon.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at: orientat@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

MATH FOC

Brad Matsugu, Tim Loach
Romesh Paul, Janet Sung

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The editor(s): Ian MacKinnon, Jenn Smith

mastHEAD*Stick A Fork in Me*

I started writing for *mathNEWS* in the Fall of 2001, right at the start of my 1A term. After a year of writing "The Frosh Cornered," I soon after got bumped up to management and have been an Editor on and off ever since. However, it's time for me to graduate and leave *mathNEWS* behind. I leave *mathNEWS* in good hands with my co-editor Jenn, whom you may know better as "Dirty Mathie."

Reflecting back, I have to say how freak'in hard it is to write something that is funny. It's really hard to come up with article ideas that someone other than you would find funny. Fortunately most Mathies understand their own humour, I can only imagine trying to get the all of UW to laugh at anything. Most weeks I was amazed that I could come up with something at all. There is a pretty famous quote by Edmond Gween, "Dying is easy. Comedy is difficult".

It's impossible to make everyone laugh at everything in *mathNEWS*, I consider it a successful issue if there is at least one thing that made you laugh in the issue. As close as we all are, an issue full of Warcraft and "Magic" jokes would probably only appeal to 20% of the faculty.

Anyway, I'm still going to be here as a grad student, and the urge to write an article once I've come up with an idea is often too powerful to ignore, so you still might see my name at the end of an article from time to time. I've had a great time at *mathNEWS* and I'm happy with all that I've done. Of course, I could never do it all, and I'd like to thank all of my writers over the years who made *mathNEWS* possible. It takes a special breed of person to take a vague article idea I throw at them and turn it into laughs.

With the size of this issue in question, we asked our staff ... Why is this issue so small? Richard (3A CS, I ate it with the pizza), Dan (3B CS, Sorry, it's never happened to me before), Robert (1B CS, Because you touch yourself at night), Mark (old, It's not the size that matters ... it's what you do with it), Mike (1B ActSci, I don't know, I just put the *prof*QUOTES in), Angelo (young, There is an upperbound on the number of articles written by me in each issue), Alex (3Bish ORCS, I mistook it for a final and left most of it blank), Shannon (3A CS, Assignment burnout is taking its toll on creativity), Michael (3A MATHHC, Stop looking at me, I just proofread).

Special thanks to Graphic Services and the boys at Campus Pizza, the only thing more reliable than you guys is the University finding alums to hit up for money.

Ian W. MacKinnon (4B CS, Bye Everyone!)

Jenn Smith (3Bish PM/CO, It was big, but I cut all the bad articles)

VPAS Was Saying!

Damn, that was a long term! But that's that. Another few days of classes and it's finals, then work. I'm actually almost going to miss this job. Pi day came and went, went alright too. More Pi than ever before. Thanks to all the volunteers. It couldn't have happened without you. If you haven't volunteered this term and are interested in doing so in the fall, drop by MC3038 and pick up a director application. See you all in the Fall.

Alex McCausland

Vice President Activities & Services
Winter 06

gradNEWS

The light is at the end of the tunnel. In a week's time, classes will be over. A few weeks after that, most of us grads will be done - DONE! DONE! DONE! Who can believe it?

What is MGC up to these days? Not very much, we're happy to say. We're still selling yearbooks and grad rings. We're still going to sell pizza next Wednesday. We might still have your Grad Ball photos at the office. And there have been rumblings of an unofficial tour of some of Waterloo's finest establishments, next Friday night.

The 2006 Math Grad Committee has been here to serve you since last May. What do we have to show for it? Some highlights:

- A terrific yearbook that many of you will receive at convocation.
- The best Grad Ball in the faculty's history.
- The two casino trips, one of which is tomorrow! The various social events we've run, like CEOs & Ho's night, and our bonfires.
- The Pink Tie Pledge, where we hope to set records for graduating class donations from people like you, reading this now. Have you pledged yet?
- A wet & wild whitewater rafting trip last July. This was a memorable weekend for all - and especially for Mr. Alex "I think I'm bleeding from my head" Perel.
- Weekly delicious pizza. Mmmm, pizza. Every Wednesday.
- A neverending stream of [MGC] emails to inform you of things you need to know, like the fact that your Intent to Graduate form was due nearly a month ago.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers who made MGC 2006 a success. Whether you were an MGC director, or you just came out to lend a hand, your help has been invaluable. You know who you are.

It has been our privilege to serve you, the Faculty of Mathematics Class of 2006. Thank you all, and good luck in whatever you do, wherever you are.

Alex Perel & Sam Leung
Co-Chairs, Math Grad Committee 2006



Last week's Grid was a little harder than lately, mainly because it was impossible to get it right! Due to a slight error, neither of our two submissions were technically correct, but both were right in their own unique way. Thank you Catherine Hicks and Michael Perkins for trying your best to solve an impossible puzzle. Michael, you can pick up your prize in the *mathNEWS* office for your answer to what you would tell potential frosh: "Your co-op advisor is useless, for advice, go somewhere (anywhere) else."

Due to the same assignment crunch which has rendered most of our writers speechless, the GridMaster has taken the issue off. If you are available next term to help write grids, please contact us!

Short Issue

Sorry for the short issue this week folks, but we have something special coming out next week that we've been working hard on. Watch for mathLEANS!

Yearbook

Ian W. MacKinnon
mathNEWS Editor

Last chance to buy!

Well it's been a long year but the time has finally come to bid farewell, sort of. Not only is this the last *mathNEWS* while we're undergrads [*You think you're sentimental, this is my last mathNEWS that I EDIT — iEd*], but in this coming week are the **last two days of sales** for the 2006 Math Grad Yearbook. You've had your portraits taken, you've submitted candid photos, you've written blurbs, and now it's time to make sure that you have your own copy so that in 20 years you can look through it and say "wow, my hair was really bad back then!" Don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity.

Sales run this Tuesday and Wednesday, that's March 28 and 29, from 11:30 am - 2 pm across from the C&D in the MC's 3rd floor hallway. Books are \$40 each, and will be available for pickup at June convocation. For an extra \$10 you can even have us mail it to you anywhere in North America, or you can just pick it up at convocation for no extra charge. We take cash or cheque.

Thanks to everyone who's helped out, we couldn't have done it without you. See you in the book!

Gillian Gothard and Terry Vaskor
MGC 2006 Yearbook editors
mgcbook06@gmail.com

Mathsoc Fall06 Exec Elections

Vote: Because you can

Elections for the Fall 2006 Mathsoc Executive will take place this **Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24** (so that would be yesterday and today) **between 9:30am-3:30pm. The polling station will be on the 3rd floor or the MC.**

The candidates for VP Finance are Michael Finistauri and Nicole LeBlanc. No nominations were received for the position of VP Academic (if you want the job, Mathsoc is looking for volunteers...). The current President and VPAS will be returning for their second term in the Fall.

Why should I vote?

Because elections are awesome fun!

uh... no they're not. Really, why should I vote?

This way you can have a say in your student government. It's called democracy. VPF is an important job with a lot of power, so you want to be sure someone you trust wins.

But I don't know the candidates.

Candidates will provide a sheet of information at the polling station with information on themselves. You can learn about each candidate that way.

Remember, you pay \$10.50 to the Math Society each term. [*If you got your MathSoc fee refunded, and are thus reading mathNEWS without paying for it, so help me I will hunt you down and cut you! — iEd*] This is a good way to make sure that money is well taken care of. This is a limited time offer. Vote before 3:30pm TODAY! Happy Voting.

Carol Tam
CRO, Winter 2006
cro@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

How to Win at Facebook

Some of you may be under the illusion that Facebook is a social networking site (ie. ramble about yourself, list friends and contact info). You people are wrong. Facebook is a game to make yourself look cooler than you actually are. Given that you're in Math, this is not that hard. *mathNEWS* can help you with a few tips to help you win:

- **Friend count** - The number of friends you have is a measure of you as a person. The more the better. Don't be afraid to list people you have only met once at a party. Another good method of increasing your count is finding lonely people who are dying for any kind of contact be it virtual or other. A good way to find these people is to do a search for "Computer Science" in the "major" field, that's 324 people desperate to make friends.
- **Relationship Status** - You might as well fill this out, because if you don't, people are just going to assume you're single anyway. People in relationships tend not to hide it. Besides, it's easier to get friends if you admit you're single, people will at least think they have a chance of sleeping with you.
- **Favourite Books** - The more books you have listed, the 'deeper' it makes you look. Start with what you've read, and be sure to list everything that you're GOING to read as well. Don't forget the books you read as a kid. "Hop on Pop" by Dr. Seuss is a good way to pad the list.
- **Your Picture** - Your first instinct will be to post a picture of you drinking to show how cool you are. Don't. Go to Glamour Shots, get a pro to take your pic, airbrush it, then post it. The hotter you look, the better a person you must be, so spare no expense. For girls, showing a little cleavage won't hurt the friend count. For guys, have a pic with a popped collar, girls say it looks stupid, but at the end of day, it's the collar that gets the hookups.
- **Your Wall** - If you have a 200 friend count, but nobody has written on your wall, people will begin to doubt how cool you are. A good way to get the number of messages up is to stop talking to people over MSN, and only communicate through walls. This forces your friends to post on your wall and make it look like people care about you.
- **Other Schools** - Nothing says "popular" like having friends at other schools. You're coolness is so great that it cannot be contained at a single post-secondary institution. Friends from highschool are a good way to start this off, but be sure to visit them on weekends to meet their new reality friends to help your friend count at other schools.
- **Groups** - Your rationale for joining a group shouldn't be "Why should I join this group?" it should be "Would joining this group make me look less cool?" Groups are like friends that don't need confirmation, but be careful about joining the "Warcraft" group, it will count against your coolness. Or at least join it and hide that fact in your preferences for that group.
- **Favourite Music** - Never, EVER list a band that anyone has heard of. If people don't know the bands you like, they assume they are indie, and that makes you look cultured.
- **Picture Albums** - Cool people go to cool places. If you've never been to Cancun, or even to Chuck E. Cheese's, don't worry! You can make it LOOK like you've gone somewhere interesting. Just do a Google image search for fun stuff, and post those pics in your albums. Nobody will notice that you aren't in any of the pictures, they'll just assume you were behind the camera.

Ian W. MacKinnon
mathNEWS Editor

Shadow Hearts - From the Old Game

Recently off the shelves comes Shadow Hearts - From the New World, a brand new game. Sort of. Azure's sequel maintains a lot of the previous game's elements. And ideas. And music. And jokes.

For those of you who have played Shadow Hearts - Covenant (the previous game in the series), you will find a lot of the gameplay is very similar to that of FtNW's. The battle system will be very familiar to you. For those of you who haven't, every action is determined by this thing called the Judgment Ring, which basically means that anytime you want to do anything (attack an enemy, cast a spell, use an item, tie your shoe laces), you must succeed at the ring. The ring itself is a circle with highlighted sections and a bar (just think clock hand) that spins and you have to hit the right button while the bar spins over the highlighted sections. The new part comes with the invention of the stock gauge. It basically is a meter that you build up by hurting things to do combos or double attacks (also new). The rest of the battle system is the same.

The game distinguishes itself from its previous game by using completely different ideas than before. Covenant had a vampire who changed form randomly, FtNW has a vampire that changes

size depending on what she eats. Covenant had a character who picked up random things (like a large, frozen tuna) to use as weapons, FtNW has a ninja who picks up random things (like a large swordfish) to use as weapons. The difference there lies in the fact that he has to attach a hilt to the end of the object. The story itself is a little slow, most of the characters seem contrived (a Brazilian ninja; a large, drunken mafia cat woman with a male voice actor, etc.), and character development seems to have been neglected due to the numerous jokes, despite the sheer length of some of the cutscenes.

What would make a game complete without the absolute exposure of breasts? FtNW is no different. The female lead not only wears next to nothing, but before she uses any of her skills in battle, she deems it appropriate to take off most of her clothes. The game developers realized that her knockers were huge and even poke fun at that fact in the game.

FtNW really is just Shadow Hearts - Covenant 2.0 with improved graphics (some of the visuals are breathtaking) and slightly increased difficulty. I'd say buy it, just wait for the price to drop and don't expect to play it more than once.

Angelo

What Would a Good Friend Do?

I have always considered myself to be a good friend to the people who call me friend. Every morning before I even brush my teeth, I ponder: what would a good friend do?

Before I put my clothes on I wonder which piece of apparel my friends would enjoy seeing me wear? After deciding that they don't really care, I prep myself, and let all of my friends use the bathroom first. I let them all get ready first, and they are ready to leave rez when I just start getting ready. Sure, I make it to class and none of them wait up for me, but it's what a good friend would do. I so love having the same classes as all of my friends. I just wish that they would show up once in a while so I'd have to someone to chat with whilst taking notes for educational purposes. It's okay, though. Because as a good friend I'll let them copy my notes later.

When I met up with my friends for lunch there was general joviality for all to share. One of my friends forgot to bring his WATcard. Because I was consciously trying to be a good friend, I bought his lunch using my WATcard. He'll return it soon, I think. Once everyone has their food, the socializing begins. I always try to say the right things to please my friends, like laughing when they tell me to shut up or having a witty response to their questions, such as: "the answer is 5, you can copy my answers later!"

All is good with my friends. They trust me. Whenever they need to borrow something of mine, or want to talk about personal things like how to finish our CS assignment, they always turn to me. And I'm always invited to go out with them the day after they go out. My friends are kind of funny that way. That one guy hasn't returned my WATcard yet...I do kinda sorta need money to buy food.

About a week later, having taken up writing for *mathNEWS* just so that I can get food at least once every two weeks, I was talking about someone feeding me before I died, and then my dearest friends told me that I was being selfish and not a good friend at all. I felt horrible. To make amends with my friends, I punched out one and drop kicked another one so hard that Chuck Norris would have been impressed. I then stormed off, foaming at the mouth. I burst into my good friend's room by jumping through the window, and reclaimed my WATcard, then ran screaming wildly into the night.

My friends and I were talking about that turn of events when they returned from the hospital. Apparently I was overreacting and was being a total bastard. I had changed, and now when I thought "what would a good friend do?" the police would spend hours trying to find the bodies.

Angelo

True Love

The Partial Sum of Love

This was it. I had met her and her newfound study mate in the library. She was shocked to see me there, probably for being caught more than anything else. As I approached I recognized the smell of excess alcohol. I knew immediate what was going on.

"An engineer?" I said cruelly "You have sunken low." She looked like she was going to protest, but then realized that she had no case so she just nodded. I turned immediately to the engineer. "I challenge you to do real math." He seemed frightened.

"How can I fight it any longer?" Said my dear mathie girl. "I need someone who can count without a calculator! Someone who will end up with a real job! Not someone who has to steal a large pink tie to make themselves feel competent in math!" She rose to move to me, and I smiled.

"I am afraid it is from this point on that we, together, must diverge. Separately." Tears swelled up in her eyes, the engineer's eyes were bloodshot (and probably have been since St. Patrick's Day). Although I wanted to cry, I just turned around and walked away. Perhaps true love is elsewhere.

THE END. FINALLY.

Angelo

Some quotable *prof*QUOTES

Wow, it feels like I have someone else's tongue in my mouth... I'm not going there.

Bissonette CHEM120

Java is like a semi-truck... C is like a Ford focus with no seatbelts.

Brecht CS350

The return of former mathNEWS editor, Ian Golberg, welcome back!

Remember "Hackers"? We just saw it in theatres ...remember theatres?...

Goldberg CO487

There was no bittorrent in 1995

Goldberg CO487

WTF man? 18 years we've had this problem!

Goldberg CO487

House of Nerds



profQUOTES

Orthogonal: it comes from two greek words. Ortho... and... gonal...
Zorzitto MATH146

I used B because that's the first letter to come to mind, having used A.
Zorzitto MATH146

You can tell the basis to go anywhere you want. You could tell it to go to hell if you want.
Zorzitto MATH146

It's kinda like the kinky symmetry.
Zorzitto MATH146

It just got provitized.
Zorzitto MATH146

I am definitely dead. Go away
Smith ECON102

I will never joke about money. I will joke about your sex life. Because it is.
Smith ECON102

By the way, people do stroke them. I stroke them.
Smith ECON102

I will get drunk tonight to forget this.
Smith ECON102

I'll redraw this here. Ha ha! So cruel, if you're taking notes. Don't think I don't know that.
Kaplan CS798

If I get head, you give me a hundred bucks.
Chenouri STAT231

Secretly [Wile E. Coyote] is in love with the Road Runner.
Burriss PSYCH232

Quentin Tarantino presents COYOTE: This time he gets that little feathered bitch.
Burriss PSYCH232

This proof looks so much more attractive with j's. I mean, j's are so much more graceful than k's.
Hardy ACTSC433

You'll notice I switch back and forth between the overhead and the whiteboard. That's... to break up the monotony, and so I can smell these markers.
Menezes CO487

I will kick some e-mail butt.
Small STAT240

And you can see there's some kind of fun mathematics involved in stock markets and drunks.
Small STAT240

We will conduct the class with me under the influence of drugs.
Smith ECON102

Where is the largest collection of economists or hobbits? Ottawa.
Smith ECON102

I was the only kid interested in exports. I was also the only kid getting beaten up everyday.
Smith ECON102

And this is why I'm dressed up here today - we're doing uniform convergence today. You have to look good if you're doing uniform convergence.
Forrest MATH148

Of course, donuts and pizza - how can you get more pure math than that?
Forrest MATH148

This is an extremely remarkable theorem. There is absolutely no reason for it to be true.
Forrest MATH148

Calculus is our friend!
Zhu STAT230

I hope you know your ab3's
Small STAT240

