math NEWS
Volume 96, Issue 6 Friday, December 3rd, 2004

MEF
Mathematics Endowment Fund

Congratulations on your $2,000,000!

How about sliding some of that our way?

*look*AHEAD

***math*NEWS**	
December 3	Issue #6 enjoys some free cake
Math Faculty	
December 6	Last day of classes
December 9	First day of exams
December 22	Last day of exams
MathSoc	
December 7	EOT
MEF	
TODAY!!	Free cake because we've got boatloads of cash
Miscellanious	
December 5	Bathtub party day
December 21	Humbug day

*mast*HEAD

Another Term Over

Well, this term's just about done, except for that minor anonymace of Finals. It's been a good time; I've personally never had a term fly by so quickly before. Some interesting things happened: Tom Coleman was annouced as the new Dean, and three different people have come up with the prank of leaving a stove in his office before he gets here. The Argos won the Grey Cup. Oh, right, and there was much discussion of the Exam Bank.

Today, at 2:30, MEF will be giving away cake to celebrate the fact that it broke $2 million over the past year. In celebration of this fact, we asked our production staff "What would you spend MEF's $2 million on?"

Alex (2A CS, "Bribes for anyone and everyone! Exams are coming …), Michael (2A Math, "me, me, me, me, me, me, me"), DanS (2A CS, "Legitimizing the software on my computer"), Mark "mdsherry" Sherry (2B CS/PM, "An undead army of cyborg pirate ninjas!"), Andrew (2A CS, "An environmental assessment of a scheme to create the world's largest Timbit"), Ian MacKinnon (3B CS, "Sharks with frickin' lasr beams attached to their heads"), Aaron "SquirrelToken" Dos Remedios (2A Math, "A $2 million C&D gift certificate"), Snuggles (BMath CS/IS, "Helicopters dropping ninja strippers"), Diana (3B ActSci, "goto Mexico!"), Jenn (3B MathBus, "to set myself up to live the life to which I can become accustomed"), Lino "π" Demasi (3B PM/C&O, "A house in the country"), Kaitlyn "Half-pint" (Almost 2A Math, "dijon havarti… lots of dijon havarti").

I should thank, in particular, Diana Chisholm for her mad copy editing skillz alll term, the fine, fine people over at Graphics for still doing business with after all the screw ups, my co-editor, Emerald Kushnier, for being a good sport, and myself for not dying. Well, almost.

Emerald Kushnier (3A Stats, "A new *math*NEWS office")
Eric Logan (2B CS/C&O, "I'd chair an Endowment… oh, wait…")

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Subscriptions!

It's math*NEWS, the home game*

Yes, really, we have subscriptions. If you aren't going to be around campus to get issues of *math*NEWS, then why not have them delivered to you? You can take them to work and read them during meetings. Or you can read them during those long commutes. Or during meetings!

Of course there is the webpage, but there's a lot less glare off bond paper, and you get to see our wacky filler! And *math*NEWS can travel almost everywhere, unlike those clunky computers with their cables and such. Unless you have a laptop, but what are the odds of that? One in fifteen?

And, let's not forget, they're pretty cheap too! In Canada, it's $7.50 a term, twenty bucks for three terms. For the States, it's $10 a term, and twenty-five for three. The rest of the world pays $15 a term or $35 for three.

A term's subscription gets you all six exciting issues, plus any bonus issues that happen to come out. But what are the odds of that? Two out of three?

The three-term option means you can get *math*NEWS every summer you're away, or, for those co-ops out there, you can have your subscriptions every time you go off to a faraway job. Any three terms are do-able.

To subscribe, just drop by the *math*NEWS Office (MC 3041) with your requested term(s) and some cash, or drop it in our mail slot in the MathSoc Office (MC 3038), or put it in the BLACK BOX, or email `mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca`, or give your money to a mathie in the hopes he or she is an editor. But what are the odds of that? Two in one thousand five hundred?

Here's a handy-dandy form to make your requesting process even easier:

***math*NEWS Subscription Form**

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Canada: $7.50/term, $20/year
USA: $10/term, $25/year
Overseas: $15/term, $35/year

Selling of Cars Banned

In a bold move to protect society, the government introduced legislation yesterday that would stop the auto industry from selling cars from this point onward.

"We know that some people drive carelessly and cause themselves injury," a government spokesperson stated in a press conference early yesterday afternoon. "The car dealerships cannot control how these cars will be driven and therefore should not be selling them."

Meanwhile, area dealers cried out united against the ban. "Just because some people drive dangerously and put themselves at risk does not mean that other responsible adults should be denied cars," a press release distributed by the Dealers' Coalition stated this morning. "Some people are responsible."

Half-pint

ElseWhen

10 years Ago in math*NEWS*

Welcome back to the archives of *math*NEWS, where I dig inot my dusty stacks and come up with an issue from 30 volumes ago, which is exactly 10 years. Fun fact: I met two people today who were undergrads at that time. Apparently there used to be a lot more bridge in the comfy. Also, we're not playing enough Screw Your Neighbour. Anyway, here's Volume 67, Issue #6 in a nutshell.

inkEd

Prez Sez

Marco Koechli concludes his Presidential Reign by shaking his head at Flipper, thanking his VPASes and VPFs (the VPA won't exist as a position until later on…), and generally thanking people for doing stuff.

The Top 10 Sources of Satanic Evil at UW

5. *Femynysts* These agents of Hyll are bent on the corruption of the human race. Renaming 'women' as 'womyn' is only the first step in their evil plot. Eventually they'll rename the Bible the Bibly, and who can take a book called the Bibly seriously? Especially once they've taken out all the stuff that's sexist to women. The book will eventually read, "God created the world, and some day it'll be destroyed, have a nice day." How can you base a religion on that?

Christina "Worship me! Worship me!" Norman

prof*QUOTES*

"Let me write in in a slightly more suggestive way."

Marshman, AM 251

"We need to pick a letter between x and y. How about z?"

Cummings, PMATH 336

"Remember, never get interested in an exam question."

Woolner, PHYS 121

Otherwise

- Flipper reflects on being editor
- The CSC ends the term with 357 members
- Sarah Kamal, the Grumpy Young Frosh, gives up on guys (except her Daddy) altogether, claiming that they all suck.
- The *mast*HEAD asks, "What's Tara's problem?" *[My favourite answer: "Her name spelled backward comes out as 'a rat', which is not good at all", Karl N. Zaryski — inkEd]*
- A lottalotta people submitted to the *grid*WORD, and Ziv Zero Returns wins.

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Each of us is worth a million: Eric Logan and Emerald Kushnier

Fees no more…finally somebody's saving the students some money!

With housing and tuition fees on the rise it seems like students are always getting the short end of the stick. An often unexpected cost of attending university is the roughly five hundred dollars for one semester's worth of books. To reduce this cost, many students scavenge through the used book store, hunting for the invaluable materials needed to survive another semester at UW. Though the used book store proves cheaper than buying books brand new the university stings students, with a 15% fee (of the book cost) to cover administration and operational fees.

This state of affairs will not last long thanks to three alumni students who have successfully launched a fee-free online used bookstore: `www.uwsube.com` - otherwise known as the University of Waterloo Students Used Book Exchange. UWSUBE provides students with affordability, convenience, and flexibility. Registration on the website is free and there are no fees or contracts to use the site. Students can post any textbook they wish to sell and the price they are willing to sell for. Once a transaction has been logged the buyer and seller simply meet to exchange the goods for payment.

"I remember when I was in university I would end up paying 15% on every textbook that I purchased from the UW used bookstore. Over the course of 5 semesters, at an average of $500 dollars per semester, that's almost 750 dollars," says Harish Patel, one of the founders of the website. It seems that prices are going up everywhere, and students are having a harder time making ends meet. As such, the launching of UWSUBE is very timely. The website was launched on November 24th and is actively searching for full time volunteers for the general upkeep and site maintenance, as well as marketing the site.s availability and service potential. For more information, please visit `www.uwsube.com`.

Holiday Greetings for your Enemies

LOOK! An article not about the damn exambank!

- Hope you have a nice Christmas, because I'm coming for you in the new year!
- It's gonna be a crummy Christmas for you, I just mailed your 10 year old brother and told him Santa doesn't exist.
- Watch out for those presents under your tree; one is from me, and contains a couple dozen spiders.
- Here is a lump of coal. You'll need it to keep warm when the bank forecloses on your parents' house.
- I sent a fax to Santa and told him about your internet "surfing" habits. Good luck getting that new laptop now, asshat.
- I'm getting an iPod for Christmas, and according to your Calc prof, you're getting to take the course over again.
- When you go home and see your cat, take a good look at it, because it's a different one. The one you grew up with died, and your parents bought one that looks like it so they wouldn't have to tell you.
- Rumour has it you only go to church on Christmas Eve; I hope Santa brings you a wading pool so you can have something as shallow as you are.

Ian W. MacKinnon

*prof*QUOTES

"If you can factor [RSA540] then you don't need to be here. Well, you should still come here, but you should wear a nice suit or something. "

Kaplan, CS 246

"You don't have to show me you understand things that you may or may not understand."

Forrest, MATH 137

[Student asks question about two formulas on board.] "These formulas are amazing. I love them. I love them so much, in fact I will kiss them!" [Kisses formulas on board.]

Metzger, STAT 230

"Radar cooking — doesn't that sound sexy?"

Smith, ECON 101

"Mathematicians tend to be excellent students of language, but not in your case."

Aplevich, FR 192A

Things To Do If You Don't Have a Job Yet

Well, the end of term is upon us. We all know what that means: final projects are due, exams are coming up, and, most importantly, there are many people in co-op still lacking jobs. Fear not, for the winter term is the best time to be lacking a job. Follow these easy suggestions and you're on your way to a job for next term, guaranteed (not a guarantee)!

1. **Work for a parent**. Does your mom or dad run a small business? Why not work for it? They don't? No problem, get them to pay you for all the exciting things you can do around the house. Shovelling snow, taking down the Christmas lights, looking after the younger siblings. And get credit for it!
2. **Work for a software start-up**. Find a new software company that is hurting for help. They might not be able to pay you right away, but if their product comes home, you'll hit it big.
3. **Start your own software company**. You don't even need to have a product idea. Offer a bunch of suckers (i.e. your friends) jobs at your company. Pay them in stock, not money. They don't know that your stock is never actually going to be worth anything. And if it is, that's okay too since for every share you gave out you kept ten for yourself.
4. **Adopt a child**. Not exactly a co-op job, but anyone who does this deserves some credit. Along the same lines is get pregnant/get someone else pregnant.
5. **Patent Something**. Make sure it's something obvious that people have been doing for years. Get some lawyers to work for you on a comission basis. If you don't win you don't have to pay. You can make millions and then drop out of school.

I hope these tips have been useful, and if any of them work for you, please let the editorial staff know so that we can publish them again in the future.

π

Autumn Magic

Charity Ball 2004

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who helped with the success of this year's Charity Ball, *Autumn Magic*. The Mathematics Society and many of you helped raised almost four thousand dollars for the Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region. Much fun was had I was told, I was extremely busy most of the night to completely enjoy everything. But I hope that those who attended had an excellent time. A special thanks goes to the following people who helped organize the event, especially the first one who was my Waterloo Inn contact and last two who took care of donations: Sana'a Hayat, Samir Patel, Jen Costello, Lindsay Watchorn, Riley Metzger, Tim Lukings, Soo Go, Joscelyn Kleingeld, Albert O'Connor, Colin Bell, Sandy Johnson, Terra Seaton, and Calvin Mok.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many people and organizations who donated auction items. Special thanks to the following people and organizations for their generous donations: Al Madina's Egyptian Cuisine, Bernhardt Insurance Services Limited, Cheryl Martin-Gray; Partner: Malcolm Gilson and Co. Chartered Accountants, Joscelyn Kleingeld, Huibrect Kleingeld, Kevin Fong, Diana Chisholm, Catherine Moore, Sam Leung, Alan George and the Dean's Office, TCBY, The Statistics and Actuarial Sciences Department, Molly Blooms Irish Pub, Dana Evans and the Federation of Students, Johnny Fiasco's, *math*NEWS, Math Orientation, The Waterloo Stage Theatre, Bootlegger's, Electronic Boutique, Rita Wiebe and Right Angle Cafe, Old Goat Books, Coca-Cola, The Combinatorics & Optimization Department, and Marbles Casual Fine Dining.

If you have any comments, questions, concerns or recommendations for this year's or next year's Charity Ball, then please feel free to contact me at `charity@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca`.

Adam Felix
Director - Charity Ball

Ten Signs You Shouldn't be Here

It's now getting to exams time, and that means one thing: exams! Many of you are frosh this year and about to experience them for the first time. Of course, there is some good news that comes with this, and some bad. All too often people get into CS for all the wrong reasons, and should perhaps be in something else. For this reason, I now offer to many of you struggling students out there a list of signs that perhaps you shouldn't be here:

1. You think a natural log is a non-artificially grown tree
2. You think they made up the word "matrix" for the movie
3. You're actually an Arts student who somehow got stuck on the 6th floor and reads *math*NEWS only because it's the only "literature" that makes it up there
4. You think a graph visibly depicts the relation between two variables
5. The first thing you think of when you hear the word Java is some island in the South Pacific
6. The first thing you think of when you hear the word Java is coffee
7. You think a tree is a nice thing that gives off shade
8. C++ is the highest mark you've ever gotten
9. You use Internet Explorer instead of Firefox
10. You only use tokens for the subway or arcades

DanS

A mathNEWS Editorial

I'd like to address one particular comment that Prof. Ragde made in his latest salvo. There's no monkey business going on here. Here's the mathNEWS production schedule: Mondays are production, Tuesdays are proofreading and editing, and Wednesdays are layout. He seems shocked that in the same issue that he submits an article, a response magically appears. I have only this to say: Come on, Prabhakar, you used to edit this publication and you know how it works. The deadlines are rubbery, and it should come as no surprise to you that I would give a heads-up to MathSoc when something like this comes along. Furthermore, the current VPA, Diana Chisholm, is my Copy Editor. Don't be surprised.

I actually have something else to say on the subject. After this issue, there will be no more discussion about the Exam Bank unless someone has something new to say. I'm all for providing a public discussion forum, but this is getting ridiculous. I was actually not going to print anything more regarding it, but the well-written responces (I'll let you deicde how tongue-in-cheek that was) responces of Snuggles and Raymond Lai changed my mind. Here's the way I see it: Students who use the Exam Bank to learn by rote are only hurting themselves. It is not the responsibility of MathSoc to make sure that students aren't shooting themselves in the foot, and it doesn't seem that they have the resources to do so.

Eric "inkEd" Logan

Grepping in a Unix Wonderland

Christmas season is just around the corner, so I present this CSer's favourite carol.

(to the tune of "Walking in a Winter Wonderland")

Here I ping, are you listening?
Text is plain, vim is glistening,
An internet site,
Wget it tonight,
Grepping in a ^unix wonderland$

Gone away is the dir, zipped,
Here to stay is a perl script,
It forks a new proc,
Fseek's a new block,
Grepping in a ^unix wonderland$

In the homedir I say 'make spamd',
Then in mutt I will no longer drown,
If it takes to long, then i'll say: 'cd',
And cron will do the job when I'm in town.

Later on, I'll diff the files,
As I start a few compiles,
To face unafraid,
The code that I've made,
Grepping in a ^unix wonderland$
Grepping in a ^unix wonderland$

qedi

Math Endowment Fund hits $2 Million

In its 10th year of operation, the student-supported Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF) recently reached $2,000,000 in principal funds, and will celebrate this accomplishment today at 2:30pm with **free cake** on the third floor of MC outside the C&D.

The Math Endowment Fund is a voluntary student endowment, created in 1994 via student referendum. The fund was set up with the goal of improving the quality of undergraduate mathematics education at the University of Waterloo. Each term, students contribute $10π (or $31.42 for those who like currency with finite digits) towards our ever growing endowment. The interest from the Fund is used to fund projects, both student- and faculty-initiated, which aim to improve the Waterloo math experience. With our principal measuring over $2,000,000, we are able to spend over $40,000 each term on projects to improve undergraduate learning.

Each term, MEF sponsors around 10 projects the enhance undergraduate mathematics education at Waterloo. The decision on which projects to fund is made by Funding Council, a body consisting of student representatives from each department in the Math faculty. Historically, MEF has been a sponsor of large student-run activities like Midnight Sun and the Waterloo Aerial Robotics Group, has helped clubs like the Actuarial Science Club and the Computer Science Club purchase books and computers, has contributed to the purchase of computer equipment and lab equipment for the MFCF/CSCF computing environments, supported the development of new course notes, and many other math-oriented projects.

You can be involved with MEF in a number of ways. The easiest method is to continue contributing money each term. Other important ways you can help MEF are to:

- Volunteer and become part of the funding council
- Submit a proposal for a project that benefits undergraduate mathematics
- Hold a position on the Board of Directors
- Take on the MEF directorship for a term

For more information about MEF, visit our website at `http://www.mef.uwaterloo.ca`, or ask one of the MEF volunteers at this afternoon's celebration.

Without the support of undergraduate math students, MEF would never have made it this far — thanks for 10 great years!

Eric Logan
MEF Director F04/S05

An Anonymous Message to All Profs

If you are going to the washroom directly next to the lecture hall to pee in the middle of a lecture, please turn your microphone off!

Anonymous

Mathsoc Exam Bank For The Last Time

What's wrong with this picture? I wrote an article for *math*NEWS (October 22) discussing abuses of the Exam Bank, submitting it shortly before the production night deadline, yet in the same issue there was a response from a Mathsoc volunteer. A graduate student I've never met wrote a letter (November 5) requesting that my concerns be taken seriously, and in the same issue, there was a half-page response from the Mathsoc VP Academic. I wrote in (November 19) to point out that both responses had failed to actually address the substance of my concerns, again submitting shortly before deadline, and in the same issue, there was an irritated response from the Mathsoc President, Lino Demasi, taking up a full page. At this rate, there's not going to be room for *prof*QUOTES in this issue. Perhaps Mr. Demasi would have been less annoyed had he read the article in printed form, like everyone else, and spent a week and a half thinking about a measured and concise response.

Since the issue containing Mr. Demasi's response was tossed into recycling bins two weeks ago, let me summarize that full page for current readers. He is a good student and "Putnam team member" who nonetheless uses the Exam Bank, not to aid in "learning the course material", as he admits, but to improve his marks, since marks are important for "grad school" or "to get NSERC". Students who don't use the Exam Bank wisely don't hurt him, personally, only themselves. They are "adults" and they should "take responsibility" for their actions. He is a student and quite "busy", like all students, so he understands why they "leave things until the last minute" and want cram sessions (which he implies is my term, though it was the term used in Mathsoc advertising), which it is therefore Mathsoc's duty to provide. Oh, and if I have "actual suggestions" to offer instead of "snide commentary", he would be "happy to listen". (Ironically, mine was the least snide submission in the entire issue. This is *math*NEWS, remember?)

On that last point, offering "actual suggestions", I must decline. Given how I have already been accused of wanting to "ban" the Exam Bank, given how "happy to listen" everyone's been so far, and given Mr. Demasi's reaction to my tongue-in-cheek proposal that Mathsoc distribute future exams in addition to past ones (he termed this "absurd", "unfair", and "assinine [sic]"), I can only imagine the paroxyms of indignation that would result if I had the temerity to say, even in a snide-free manner, what I might do in their shoes. No, thank you. A necessary precondition for consensus on a course of action is a clear understanding of the situation, but given that the substance of the analysis in my article of October 22 has yet to be addressed, we are nowhere near that point.

Would my Swiftian proposal, for instance, have been so summarily dismissed if I had suggested that Mathsoc distribute solutions to old assignments? These can also be valuable aids to learning if used correctly, though I believe they would nearly always be used incorrectly and to the general detriment of both individual students and the institution. Mr. Demasi acknowledges a difference in the "degree of impropriety" between abusing past exams and abusing future ones; wouldn't it make sense to explore that scale, and the placement of other thought-experiment situations on it, as a guide to understanding the effects of "services"?

But perhaps this lack of engagement is because Mr. Demasi and the other respondents, being students, are busy. I can relate: one of the things I have to do about this time of year is to make up a final exam. As part of this task, I have to download and peruse all final exams for whatever course I am teaching from the Exam Bank, plus visit the office to look at the hardcopy exams offered, and make sure that any question I create is sufficiently different from the ones on those exams that students are not tempted to use "tweak an example" or "write down old solutions for part marks" tactics. If I do manage to come up with a sufficiently different question that is not too elaborate or too hard to comprehend and actually does its job of measuring depth of understanding, I can use it once, and then it goes into the Exam Bank to add to my burden in subsequent terms. Perhaps I, too, should do it all at the last minute. After all, it wouldn't hurt me, personally.

In the end, it comes down to this: over three issues and nearly two full pages of reaction, when MathSoc is asked to consider the possibility that their actions might be detrimental to the students they purport to serve, their response, as summarized by Mr. Demasi, is: "I don't know, and honestly, I don't care." That doesn't leave much room for further discussion.

Prabhakar Ragde
Professor, School of Computer Science

New CS Recruiting Slogans

Another article not about the damn exam bank

In order to catch the eye of prospective students, the School of Computer Science is looking at several new slogans to inspire grade 12s to start UW CS.

- *We put the "fun" in "functional programming"*
- No english? No problem!
- What do you want to derive today?
- It's like high school CS...but harder...and in a more sterile building...that smells
- Less work than engineering, more respect than science
- For when your intellect exceeds your social skills
- You're more than just a number, you're a number that pays deregulated tuition
- The High-tech economy will pick up soon, trust us
- Don't worry about jobs, you probably won't finish in CS anyway
- Creepy IT workers of tomorrow

Ian W. MacKinnon

The 0xC days of CS

On the Nth day of CS, my TA gave to me:
Twelve text-streams piping
Eleven lengthy lectures
Ten quantum Q-bits
Nine NachOS spinning
Eight parsers parsing
A seven day extension
Six bitwise XORs
Five marking schemes
Four 8-bit words
Three linked lists
Two segment faults
And a balanced AVL tree

mdsherry

An Immodest Exam Bank

Professor Ragde, please stop being an ass. We get it, you don't like how some students use the ExamBank, that's your opinion and you're welcome to it. But the vast majority of students, not to mention most TAs and Professors we talk to, do like it. It's not perfect, but it works, if you come up with a **constructive** suggestion feel free to actually contact MathSoc directly as opposed to using *math*NEWS to air your grievances (or at least take it to your stomping ground uw.general). Am I being hypocritical by responding here? No, you brought this to the public forum. I don't generally like personal attacks, but at a certain point a line has to be drawn, and you crossed it.

I appreciated Lino's response, as did several students I've talked to about it. He's busy, overworked, freaking brilliant, and uses the Exam Bank in a reasonable manner. Your summary does not do his article justice. Your "tongue-in-cheek" proposal was dismissed; what, you expected it to be taken seriously? Don't be suprised when your sarcastic rendering of the situation is treated with the temerity it deserves.

Yes, the ExamBank makes your life more difficult by forcing you to come up with unique problems as opposed to regurgitating questions. But if the world is anything like you purport it to be, that "courses vary considerably from offering to offering," shouldn't using old questions not work? If old questions are relevant then they are useful study aids.

Cram Sessions were not initially meant to help learn the material (although they do help). They were meant to help do well on exams. They're a poor method of learning the material, which is fitting, because exams are a poor method of testing your knowledge of the material.

As to responding to the substance of your original article, it all comes down to the "Goto" paragraph at the end. The ExamBank can be misused and abused to the detriment of the student making that mistake. If there is anything anyone can think of to help reduce this injustice, without unreasonably restricting the usefulness of this great service please email MathSoc and I'm sure they will meet your suggestion with an open mind. That is what it comes down to in the end: not you managing to drive an overworked executive to frustration, that's easy; contributing in a meaningful way, now there's something to aim for.

Stephen S. Skrzydlo
BMath-CSIS

Hey Look, more *prof*QUOTES

"There are always fourteen ways to solve a problem, but there is only one correct answer."

Brown, ACTSCI

"I don't know if you've ever used a stone tablet, but the backspace key doesn't work very well."

Berry, CS 445

"What we need are giant, wall-mounted tablet PCs, so I can write on them, and it would update in real time … not unlike a normal blackboard, I guess."

Orchard, CS 370

"Macs are so stable, *you* can't even quit!"

Orchard, CS 370

Holiday Greetings for your Enemies

LOOK! An article not about the damn exambank!

- Hope you have a nice Christmas, because I'm coming for you in the new year!
- It's gonna be a crummy Christmas for you, I just mailed your 10 year old brother and told him Santa doesn't exist.
- Watch out for those presents under your tree; one is from me, and contains a couple dozen spiders.
- Here is a lump of coal. You'll need it to keep warm when the bank forecloses on your parents' house.
- I sent a fax to Santa and told him about your internet "surfing" habits. Good luck getting that new laptop now, asshat.
- I'm getting an iPod for Christmas, and according to your Calc prof, you're getting to take the course over again.
- When you go home and see your cat, take a good look at it, because it's a different one. The one you grew up with died, and your parents bought one that looks like it so they wouldn't have to tell you.
- Rumour has it you only go to church on Christmas Eve; I hope Santa brings you a wading pool so you can have something as shallow as you are.

Ian W. MacKinnon

Another Mathie Christmas Carol

What Function's This?

(To the tune of "What Child Is This?")

What function's this? When added to
c times its derivative gives me
An f(t), oh how can we
Solve this first order DE?

Sometimes we can separate
Then take both sides and integrate
'Else, we can find I(t)
Then multiply and it's easy

Sometimes, and this is what we hate
The last two things won't be working
But with constants c, it's still easy
We can solve this without hurting

First we find $y_h(t)$
Which will solve it homogeneously
Then a particular integral
Gives us the full solution.

SquirrelToken
Hoping I pass DEs this term

That's odd, there was something here before....

MathSoc Exam Bank Reloaded

As a former executive of the Society, I find the current public bickering between a prominent member of the School of Computer Science and the Chief Executive of our Society disturbing on multiple levels.

I believe Professor Ragde is severely short-sighted in his arguments. While his belief that students would best digest their knowledge through wholesome study methods is admirable, for many students this is insufficient. Examinations are often a frightful and intimidating experience for students, especially for those who are experiencing it for the first time. While preparing for the content should be the aim for all students, getting a grasp of the format as well as the style of university level exams shouldn't be ignored. Not using the exams offered in the exam bank would deprive students of the style of study that may improve their answers.

Professor Ragde is a strong proponent for learning as the true goal for education. While we all should hold that belief when it comes down to knowledge and learning, entrenching that belief as the sole propellant for learning is a fallacy. Marks, either good or bad, often encourage and inspire students to undertake their duties with increased zeal and dedication. Having an education with no benchmarks leads to a system of educational autocracy where any theory can prevail without checks and balances. Improving a grade from a lesser category to a greater does not necessarily mean a student is missing the point when it comes to education. Unfortunately, our society has such a fixation for benchmarks that personal advancements, whether in the workplace or the confines of an educational institution, cannot be achieved without garnering a benchmark higher than others. The argument that knowledge should come before marks is theoretically an honourable one, but an argument that knowledge should take precedence over marks to a point of replacing it is not a true reflection of how everyday society operates.

Many people within the Faculty, from students to professors, support the current system in preparing our students for examinations. In fact, the first-year advisor (Ross Willard, Math's previous First-Year Advisor) has traditionally been a staunch supporter of the exam bank system. The MathSoc exam bank has been noted and recommended by many course descriptions sheets over the years. No doubt, many students and faculty support and appreciate the service we operate. In fact, the only regret I have about the service at the time I was in charge of it is that it was not updated with the frequency it should have been to maintain maximum usefulness.

Some first and second year core math classes offer cram sessions on the week prior to midterms and finals. I have personally attended many of those sessions, which are sanctioned by the professors. Profs and TAs run these events, volunteering their own time on weekends to aid students. It is highly hypocritical to criticize the cram sessions run by the Mathematics Society without also criticizing those run by the University. In my opinion, Professor Ragde is dealing the hard working TA's and his own colleagues, of both the School of Computer Science and the Faculty of Mathematics, a grave insult by insinuating their efforts pose a fundamental detriment to learning.

From what I have experienced, MathSoc cram sessions are not the pressure cookers that Professor Ragde assumes them to be. Upper year student volunteers often take up exam preparation questions given to the students by their professors, which the students often have already attempted. The volunteers do not give answers easily, but they do attempt to give insight to the solutions and quell frustrations the students have built up from doing those practice questions, which is part of Professor Ragde's strategy for "true goal of university attendance". I believe that instead of attacking the dedicated army of volunteers who conduct these cram sessions, Professor Ragde, and all of us, should appreciate the time they take out of their own lives to help others. If there are ways to improve the sessions or clear up misconception, I suggest Professor Ragde should seek out the VPA, who, like all executives, would be more than open to constructive criticism on how to improve services at the Society.

As for Professor Ragde's envelope example, comparing an academic offence to student-supported service is, at the very core of the argument, appalling.

Professor Ragde also mentions that we should shield first-year students from the "cramming strategies" that is routinely used by so many upper-year students. I think his belief of protecting first-year students from the cramming culture is further evidence of his short-sightedness. Like it or not, compressing learning time is a regularity in our school, as as in all schools: there is no way to avoid this in one's academic career. How are we helping students if we shield them from the learning experience of working under stress and tight deadlines? I think Professor Ragde would agree that learning to cope with deadlines is part of the "learning" of university attendance, and yet he denounces the services that the Society and the Faculty provides that would help students cope with looming deadlines. Many students encounter daunting schedules but education, not avoidance, allows students to successfully tackle difficult situations with efficiency and poise. We would be doing students a disservice if we do not expose students to the simulated stress of the "real world", nor prepare students to react to such stress in a positive and constructive manner.

While I applaud Professor Ragde's concerns on how students utilize the exam bank, the closed-mindedness of his arguments leads me to react with passion for the Society I believe in, and the services it offers. It *is* his right to not pass on his exams to the exam bank, but it is *wrong* to belittle the efforts of the volunteers of the Society for wanting to contribute to student life at the school, especially when those efforts are within the confines of the Society's mandate to provide resources to assist in the academic life of the student body. If his comments have intimidated students to not use a service that abides by the regulations against academic offences of the Faculty and is accepted as an integral part of the study process by students and professors alike, then he has done everyone a great disservice. I implore the Professor to open his mind to opposing arguments, which are opinions as valid as his own, and seek a suitable solution to his concerns through a fruitful and academic discourse without the litany of flawed analogies, misleading statements, and veiled accusations.

The volunteers at the Society, the professors who contribute with the exam bank, and the students who use the service deserve more than this schoolyard bickering.

Raymond Lai, 4B Mathematics/Business Administration
Ex-VP Academic, Spring 2002, Mathematics Society
[This article was edited for length — inkEd]

Denying your Genealogy 101 - Moving Back Home

Week 6 - Visiting with friends from high school

[Disclaimer: All sets of friends are different - this is only one perspective. Some friends won't need any adjustment - others just won't click anymore.]

Just in time for those visits at Christmas, I have some do's and don'ts of seeing friends from high school, fresh from a weekend trapped in a residence with three friends and no money to throw around.

Not all visits are the same, so I've amended each tip with "SO:" and a second tip if there are sleepover specific recommendations.

Do: Plan ahead. Make sure everyone knows where you are meeting and has a ride there and back. SO: Remember enough blankets, pillows, and pajamas.

Don't: Meet in a residence or apartment, or even house, with too small a common area. You need a lot of space to spread out - more than you probably think - and underestimating will only heighten tension. SO: For the love of god, have enough room to sleep in AND fit everyone's backpacks.

Do: Plan entertainment. Video games or movies are always good bets, and can be brought free by guests or rented for the occasion. Lack of entertainment is a brutal, brutal thing if conversation runs dry, which brings us to...

Don't: Center conversation around people/jokes your friends don't know. Seeing a few pics from your website, reading about them in your blog, and even other stories will not be enough to allow your childhood friends to comprehend why you burst out laughing at 3 and a seventh pies in the grocery store.

Do: Cook for yourselves - even frozen pizzas count for the sake of this argument. Eating out is really expensive. If you and your friends are all students then it should only be logical to hit the grocery store for 2L bottles and frozen pizzas instead of ordering in. SO: If you're feeling semi-adventurous you could even pick up bacon and pancake mix while you're there.

Don't: Be afraid to be the person you were back in high school. If the changes you've made since leaving are something you don't notice, let alone have the ability to control, then ignore this - otherwise, drop that seriousness for a bit and have fun playing that guilty pleasure round of Diddy Kong Racing on the N64 just like old times. Be yourself, and if you want to, be an immature version for one night.

It's been a good co-op term so far... at the time of writing I still have 19 days of work... not that I'm counting... so I won't write the whole thing off as good. But I've greatly enjoyed sharing my experiences with anyone who's enjoyed reading them. If you can read this, thanks for doing so.

Half-pint, exhausted from sleeping on the floor and driving for 5 hours, reporting live from Ottawa, ON

BYOB Jr.

We had a record 9 submitters this week, so if you see: Jenn Meacoe, Kin Fung Pang, Carol Tam, Dylan Bennet, Kevin Fong, Paul Beckett, James Pearson, Adam Weatherhead or Chris Lui, just know that they are better than you, as they each submitted perfect solutions. By the latest in coin-flip-ology (I flip a coin once for each person, anyone who gets heads goes on to the next round, when only one person is left, they win. This week took three full rounds) Jenn Meacoe is our winner. Go down to MC3038 (MathSoc Vaccuum Incorporated) to pickup your C&D gift certificate. Here's the answer to last issue's puzzle:

E	F	C	A	D	B
B	D	E	C	A	F
C	A	F	B	E	D
F	E	B	D	C	A
D	C	A	F	B	E
A	B	D	E	F	C

Fun Fact about BYOB Jr: Euler named these puzzles "Latin squares" because he used letters of the Latin alphabet. The image shown has six shapes with six squares each. Place the letters A through F in the squares such that each row, column, and sub-block contains each letter exactly once (Exactly one letter per square please). Since this is the last issue of the term the answer can be found on another page in some filler. It is a set of 36 numbers from 1-6 which can be mapped in the obvious way to A-F.

	E				
				F	
		A			
B		D			
					C
			D		

Infant Snuggles

The *prof*QUOTES, they're everywhere!

"This is embarassing — I never reboot this machine! Now I have to do it in public. I feel bad enough doing it in private."

Orchard, CS 370

"We want to kill the orphans. How can we kill the orphans? One way is extermination — I'm not making this up."

Ozsu, CS 454

"Do not try to be terribly intelligent … do not try to be clever. It almost always pays to be dumb and fast."

Oszu, CS 454

"Basically, the main idea of this algorithm is to lie."

Boutouba, CS 456

Snuggles Sez

It's like Simon Sez, but Simon is tied upside down to the wall, being spanked and told he's a very bad boy. The absolute funniest question on any purity test: "Have you ever tied up a masochist and refused to cause them pain?". Speaking of evil, I was watching the news and on September 27th (which is a certain Editor's birthday) the New York daily lottery winning numbers were 6-6-6. I wonder who plays those numbers? I heard about the British Navy officially recognizing the Church of Satan as an official religion, so I went to look up what it is. It's not actually a group of Satan-worshippers despite the graphic on their front page, but they have these eleven rules that they're supposed to live by, they're pretty funny actually (just google it to find it), number 9 is "Do not harm little children" which is nice, but then things like number 11 "When walking in open territory, bother no one. If someone bothers you, ask him to stop. If he does not stop, destroy him" are kinda scary. Still an amusing read, kind of oscillates between "sure, of course" and "gahhhhhhh".

There's been a bit of a gap between my articles (I wrote a SSez for the term opener and haven't done another till now) I've been putting my *math*NEWS energy into BYOB and its new offshoot BYOB Jr. (go read it and submit submit submit). But now my list of things that amused me has grown and I need to print this stuff so I can cross some off, so here we go with a random quote I found in someone's forum signature: "Do Not Meddle in the Affairs of Dragons, For Thou Art Crunchy and Go Well With Ketchup" heehee. I was reading uwstudent.org (and posting, which I'm trying to cut down on, but sometimes people are stupid and I feel the need to point it out) and found another amusing quote "Basically 'follow the rules, jackass!' except in a nicer, more Jesus-like way." Sometimes movie-critics are overly analyzing, nit-picky and generally self-indulgent, but this guy is just funny: "This may be nitpicking — but for me — the jarring result is that Farrell's Alexander looks like a Babylonian hooker after a busy Saturday night."

So I'm back driving my Tercel, this is the car I learned how to drive on (it's a '91). My dad basically told me that I should try to get the car to Waterloo, and if it makes it, don't bring it back. It lasted a bit here before the first, um, issue. The muffler came disconnected from the exhaust pipe so I started sounding like I have a performance muffler. I pulled up beside someone with a very obviously suped up car and he revved his engine, and I could out blast him just at an idle. It was very loud, I started my car in a parking lot and set off the alarm of the car beside me, I laughed for a while at that one. I tried fixing it with Brauny, we got muffler cement, but to hold it together while it dried we used duct tape, so yes, for a little while duct tape was holding my car together (is there anything it can't do? well yes, there are quite a few things it can't do, like become self-aware, well, not yet anyway). After the cementing didn't work a speedbump took it out completely (while dropping off Old and Busty (Ian) he came back to the car and said "I think you dropped something") So I took it in to get it fixed, they asked me what the problem was, I told them that the problem was that my exhaust system was in my back seat, "oh" was their response. Well, it's fixed now, which means I can get back to teaching my girlfriend how to drive, in the same car I learned on, 10 years ago. (She's not *that* much younger then me, she just didn't learn at the age the rest of us did, although to give you some indication of my age, I was the first class through the graduated licensing system in Ontario).

I've been studying stuff so I can take my A+ certification exam, and I've gotten annoyed at a couple things, namely the need to memorize certain tables (IRQ and static device memory addresses), but I decided that if I just wrote the IRQ table on my girlfriend's breasts then I'd spend enough time staring at them that I'd learn 'em good. Better than her choking on peas I suppose: "Peas don't go in my lungs, bad peas" (That was her comment after I made her laugh while she was eating peas, and in a similar process to milk shooting out your nose, the peas tried to go somewhere they shouldn't). At a party the night before Charity Ball she ate some blue coloured candies which had the shocking effect of turning her mouth blue. Others at our table noticed this and asked what she'd been eating. A slightly dirtier person asked me what I'd been eating. I answered "Smurfs".

Had kind of a crazy weekend, Charity Ball one night, then a wedding (in Toronto) the next. And it appears that when people put nice clothes on their minds go right to the gutter. The auctioneer (Riley Metzger) at Charity Ball was quite entertaining and caused many humourous quotes, so let's sample some: "You rotate the levers and the men go up and down", "If only it was that easy" (Soo); "A foosball table lets you pretend you like athletics"; "Paisley Sisters, probably the only two people in Paisley. [time passes] It's a small town, my uncle lives there.", "Which sister is he?" (sSs); "Just $225 for absolute power"; "A year's supply of my favourite fix", "Your wife?" (Lino and I at the same time). Sigh, only at a Mathie auction will you hear the bids "Ten Squared!" and "30 Pi!". It was a lot of fun, and this year the date packages (typically dinner, some evening event like a movie, and breakfast) were packaged with people, and our very own Breastacular One was up for auction, she wanted to beat the black orientation tie (which went for $300+ if memory serves) but the dean wouldn't bid on her (although if he had, now that would have been funny). I think Soo gets the quote of the evening though with "It's not drinking alone if I'm on ICQ".

There were a couple really funny things said at my cousin's wedding the next night as well:

"I love Brazilian drums more then anything else" - A friend's husband

"More then your wife?" - A Bridesmaid

"Well..." - The husband

"You'd rather bang the drums?" - sSs

Course, that's the friend who was telling children at the wedding: "Do you want to come home with me, I live on the moon, and I have candy", she's a psychologist by the way, and has definitely mastered funny-crazy.

One final note, go to IMDB.com and look up Polka Dot Door, now find the User comment "Hallucinations from the Ministry of Education", it's freaking hilarious! I've sent a note to the guy who wrote it asking for permission to print it, but you should go find it now.

Flying Fiery Ninja Snuggles

Helicopters and flaming Ninjas eh? I wonder if the Halo 2 developers were hanging around Math Orientation: "Halo 2 is a lot like Halo 1, only it's Halo 1 on fire, going 130 miles per hour through a hospital zone, being chased by helicopters and ninjas ... And, the ninjas are all on fire, too."

History of the MC

In the beginning, the Department of Math was part of the Faculty of Arts, ruling the other departments with an iron protractor. However, by 1967, the staff had grown weary of the longstanding feud and frequent battles between the Mathies and the Artsies, and so decided to create a separate Faculty of Mathematics where the Mathies could be segregated from the rest of society. Realizing that good money could be made from keeping crazies away from ordinary people, the new Faculty of Mathematics included the Department of Computer Science.

The new building, the Mathematics and Computer building, opened its doors in 1968. Commemorating the gaudy ties that the Department of Math's chairman, Ralph Stanton, would wear, a giant pink tie was hung from the side of the seven storey building, thus planting the seeds of a new tradition, as well as providing evidence that the insidious Pink Tie Cult had spread its roots into the town of Waterloo.

"Seven storeys?" you ask, "But I thought that the MC only had six!" and that is indeed what they want you to believe. What follows is a tale of how the real fifth floor came to be, and its eventual fate.

Since the University of Waterloo School of Architecture wasn't to come into existence until the '70s, the university made do with what it had and decided to have Mathies design their own prison. After all, if it worked, it worked, and if it collapsed, killing everyone inside... well, it was probably better that way. Unfortunately, nobody could have imagined what would happen.

You see, several of the 'architects' were avid students of both extra-dimensional and non-Euclidean geometries. It's unknown how many construction workers were lost while constructing the MC, but if the tales of the worker who, in March 1993, was found wandering the halls of the fifth floor searching for the rest of his team are any indication, the building of the MC involved a great many cover-ups. Some witnesses from the 60s say that sometimes portions of the building would glow during the night, or seem dark during the day, as though they were twelve hours out of sync with reality. Stranger things were to be found inside the building.

Nobody knows who first discovered that one could walk in a circle through the halls on the fifth floor, and fail to return to where one started. After the first few groups of adventurous students who set out to map the maze of corridors failed to return, all halls beyond those with classrooms with scheduled classes were sealed to anyone who hadn't taken at least one graduate level topology course. This didn't stop one group of students from making one final excursion into the corridors.

It seems that at 3:14 AM, February 7th, 1969, George Townshend picked the lock on the makeshift door guarding the forbidden halls as part of a dare. Accompanied by his friends, Mike Small and Alex Chang, he decided to investigate the reason why none of the rooms seemed to have windows. There are no reliable accounts as to what happened next - Mike, the sole survivor, was incoherent, but the next day the university placed armed guards in all the stairwells and moved all classes on the fifth floor to rooms on the fourth and sixth.

Shortly afterward, all entrances to the fifth floor were bricked up. Exterior reconstruction was performed later in the summer to remove any evidence of the fifth floor's existence from the outside of the building. Due to the MC's unusual construction, the fifth floor seemed to disappear from existence, and within a few years, almost nobody remembered that there was a floor missing.

While it may be tempting to do some exploring during exams, I would like to remind everyone that breaking down walls in search of secret passages is generally frowned upon, especially when people are trying to study.

*math*NEWS BYOB #6

Break Your Own Brain - Sexciting

Sadly this will be the last instance of BYOB this year. Don't worry, you don't have to mourn the passing of your favourite puzzle piece. We're only done for the year because this is the last issue of *math*NEWS for 2004. We will be making a triumphant return in 2005 for an Olympic Bid and furthering our World Domination attempt (which are intrinsically linked). Now let's see some answers:

Math-Man's Maze

Rather then list all the paths, I'll just list all the primes that were found, if you **really** want to know their paths email me and I'll send them to you, if you're nice (or extra-naughty): 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, 97.

Math Men's Maize

The possible words were: "net, cat, men, dry, man, run". They all said 'No' the first time, which means that no one has a 'c', 'd', 'y' or 'u', since those are unique letters and whomever had it would have said 'Yes'. This reduces the possible words to "net, men, man". They all said 'No' the second time, which means that no one has a 't' or 'a', since those are now unique letters. This reduces the possible words to 'men', which is why they all said yes the third time.

Magic Man Mayes

This is very easily brute forced. All the possible distributions are: Consider the first person saying no as statement 1, the second as statement 2, the third as statment 3, and the first person saying no again as statement 4. For each distribution that is eliminated the statement that removed it is noted.

```
 Person          Person          Person
1  2  3  M      1  2  3  M      1  2  3  M
HH HH CC CC 3   HH HC HC CC     HH HC CC HC
HH CC HH CC 2   HH CC HC HC 3   HH CC CC HH 1
HC HH HC CC 4   HC HH CC HC 4   HC HC HH CC
HC HC HC HC     HC HC CC HH     HC CC HC HH 4
HC CC HH HC 4
CC HH HH CC 1   CC HH HC HC 3   CC HH CC HH 2
CC HC HH HC     CC HC HC HH     CC CC HH HH 3
```

Work report topics you may want to avoid if you'd like to be hired back

- Selling Company Secrets for Fun and Profit
- Daytrading on Company Time - evading detection and using company funds
- Rat Poison and Coffee - the perfect solution to a crowded, noisy office
- Pilfering for Pleasure - supplying your home office economically
- Freecell - strategy or chance?
- Whistle-blowing - leaving a lasting impression on your coworkers
- Sleeping Around - invaluable networking skills
- Quickies on Lunch Breaks - a how-to guide to teach you timing, technique, and seclusion.

Half-pint and pi with the help of Skype (this is not a product placement for easy-to-use and free-of-charge Skype)

It seems you listened to last issue's pleading as we had 6 submissions (plus 9 for BYOB Jr. combining for a very respectable 15). James Pearson, Jenn Meacoe, Chris Lui, Paul Beckett, Kin Fung Pang, and Adam Weatherhead are our super submitters this week, and that order is also the rank in which they placed (scoring on the Maze question caused, interestingness). So our winner, with a perfect submission and a decently entertaining tiebreaker, is James Pearson. Come on down to MC3038 (MathSoc Liquidation World Outlet) to pick up your C&D gift certificate..

I'd tell you about the tiebreaker again, because my template tells me too (see, even your glorious author submits to the overwhelming authority of BYOB), but since we're not picking a winner (although still encouraging submissions, cause we can) I'm not going too. Look forward to reading the same recycled tiebreaker jokes next term.

Geometry is Fun

Using only an unmarked straight-edge (no measurements allowed) and a collapsible compass (does not retain a setting, collapses when not actually drawing a circle) construct (or give an algorithm to construct) the following geometric forms:

1. Trisect a given arbitrary angle.
2. Construct a square equal in area to a given circle.
3. Given a cube, construct one twice the volume

Rhyming is fun

Find at least one English word to rhyme with each of the following:

1) Purple 2) Orange 3) Silver 4) Beige

Rationality is fun

Express the following numbers rationally:

1. Pi/e
2. i+2
3. Sqrt(2) + Sqrt(5)

That's it folks. Submit if you want to (ya, I'm getting soft in my old age, no, not that way) as we won't likely be reading your answers till January anyway. Same methods work, the BLACK BOX between the Comfy and the C&D, *math*NEWS@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or personalized strip-o-grams. See ya on the flip side.

Unpossible Snuggles

Mmm, *prof*QUOTES

"It's very hard to do … well, I read that it was very hard to do, so I didn't bother trying."

May, CS 234

[After teaching hashing] "And it's silly stuff like that that makes up 60% of your mark."

Ackerman, CS 234

"Here's another section on sorting, but since they can't both be called 'Sorting', this one's called 'Advanced Sorting'."

May, CS 234

Back in Pink

Putting the log back in logarithm

If you have happened to be on the 3rd floor this week you have probably noticed that the once empty and sad-looking display case has been upgraded with a smashingly pink color scheme. Not only that, but the Natural Log is proudly back on display, now featuring security.

Now this might raise some questions like, for the love of Jebus, why is everything so pink? Pink ties, pink display cases, pink condoms; everything around here is so pink! There must be a reason. Fortunately, there is. The pink tie is a symbol to honour the man who was instrumental in transforming the Department of Mathematics into the Faculty of Mathematics, a man by the name of Dr. Ralph Stanton. Besides starting the Faculty of Mathematics, the first in North America, Dr. Stanton wore outlandish ties. One of his favourites was a pink tie, which can sometimes be seen on display on the 5th floor of the MC. To honour Dr. Stanton, when the building was first opened, a huge pink tie was draped off the balcony. That is why new math students get pink ties, and why there is so much pink around. It is so we can appreciate the fact that we have a faculty like Math.

Another question you might be asking is, where was the log before? Well, it all started in the Winter of 2003 when the Log was left relatively unsecured. Some people took advantage of the situation to steal it. Who knows what adventures it faced during its time with its captors? The only evidence we have is some entertaining photographs which were turned into posters featuring the tag-line "Got Log?" and posted all over the MC in the Spring of 2003. Some of the these posters are currently on display in the display case. The log turned up suspended in the air in the Engineering lounge, POETS in the Summer of 2003, where it was then recovered by some brave mathies. Since then the log has been in waiting for the new display case to be made ready. Finally, it has been put on display again. Once more mathies cam proudly display our phallic symbol consistently, not just bring it out for special occasions, and hiding it in three pieces all other times like some other tools out there.

Finally some information about the display case itself. Beyond displaying the log proudly, look for pictures and write-ups about the history of the Society and the Faculty, including more information about its founding.

"Phat" Albert O'Connor

I swear, I'm not using *prof*QUOTES as filler

"The number of external nodes is 'N!' … that is n factorial."

May, CS 234

"Since I started teaching, I've lost 12 pounds from running around."

Wolkowicz, MATH 235

[Picking a chalk colour.] "Yellow, green … pink — Oh, that gets my mojo going!"

Schellenberg, MATH 239

"If you want to learn about that crap, get a book."

May, CS 234

*math*NEWSSquiz #6

The End is Here

A final hello to all you Squizers and Squizeets! As you may have guessed, this is the last issue of *math*NEWS for the term. This seems to be a mized blessing at best. Upside: no more class, Downside: parents find out how few I've attended, Upside: End of year parties, Downside: Exams, you all get the picture. In honour of the end of term and everything else therein, the theme for this Squiz is the coming apocalypse! There will be no submissions accepted for this Squiz, but the bragging rights are still yours for completion. The Answers to last weeks Squiz go as follows: Who Lives There?: Chip, MUO, Jerry F. Lawless Name the Course: C&O 330, CS 246, CS 245, MATH 115, Sabbatical Leave Trees: Idaho, has the oldest living specimen, Fredkin (1960), Taxol (pacific yew), Oaks.

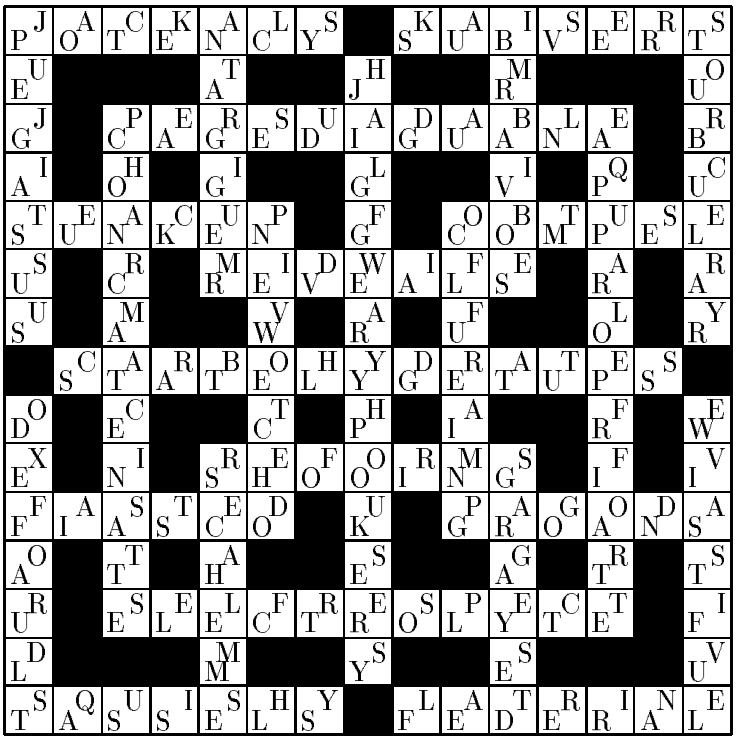
Last weeks winner was Catherine with a score of 12/15. Congratulations! You can drop by the MathSoc office anytime before the end of term to collect your prize. This week we will not be accepting any submissions, but I have included a few question for your own enjoyment about the apocalypse (in spirit of exams). Here they are, enjoy :)

1. What is the UNIX command to discover your fortune?
2. What is the name of the NASA project dedicated to finding meteors that could destroy the earth?
3. Who wrote Xenogenesis, a touching story about nuclear destruction of the world, and the aliens that save us?
4. What was the true effect of Y2K?
5. What are greenhouse gases and what do they do?

Thank you all for a great first term as Squizmaster. I look forward to following bigger and better next term! Ta ta for now and good luck on exams!

Val, GCM, & BDM

Solutions to Issue #5's GridWord



GRIDWORD

*grid*COMMENTS

The Last Hurrah...

And so we end another term of fantastic *grid*WORD. Our thanks to everyone who helped out and to everyone who submitted! We're happy to provide you with entertainment for the educated masses! Without further ado, we present the last of this term's *grid*WORD winners:

- Conventional: Ali & Jenn (To be the sanest people around thus turning insane and needing more therapy)

- Cryptic: Catherine & Diana (To date only "older" men)

Also an honourable mention goes to:

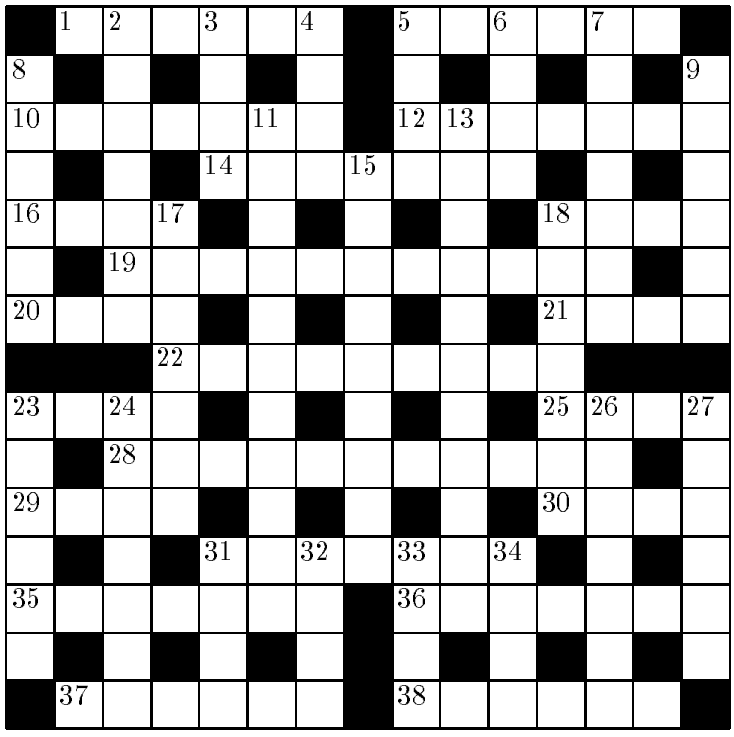
- Cryptic: Mike Huang (Surly see Ontario (anagram of year's resolution))

The CryptMaster (Dave) and I would like to thank the editors of *math*NEWS for their valiant efforts to produce an outstanding and amusing publication every two weeks. Without you guys, there would be no *grid*WORD!

Alas, it is now time to go. Enjoy the last of the puzzles, the solutions to which you CAN find in this issue...there are no submissions for the last issue. I'm sure we'll find the BLACK BOX lonely until next term! Until then, happy gridding!

ConMaster (Jos)

[Note that there is no Cryptic this issue. Dave says "Sorry!" — inkEd]



Conventional

ACROSS

1. stature
5. song words
10. major lung branches
12. benevolent
14. disease from rusted metal
16. sea eagles
18. ages
19. courses in a program
20. diviner
21. test version
22. pioneer's version
23. one lion
25. not complex
28. nonsensical writing
29. hard fat
30. religious group
31. pealed
35. kittens
36. admirers
37. eerie
38. no rim

DOWN

2. wallop
3. diplomacy
4. expectorate
5. scrawny
6. umps
7. tail end
8. to preoccupy mind excessively
9. Japanese female entertainer
11. stats diagram
13. large breasted
15. inherited
17. outer coat
18. launches
23. Trifolium hybridum
24. banisher
26. small apertures in the shoe
27. most contemporary
31. high flyer
32. detect
33. girl
34. extinct bird

Solutions to this Grid are posted on the math*NEWS door.*

Revenge of the *prof*QUOTES

[Cell phone rings.] "Is it for me? I'm expecting a call from my stock broker saying my returns weren't what I expected."

McLeish, STAT 230

"But fortunately, (0, 0) is on a boundary. Yes! Saved."

D'Alessio, MATH 237