

# *math*

# NEWS

Volume 99, Issue 1

Friday, September 23rd, 2005



**Celebrating Diversity Since 1973**

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## ***look*AHEAD**

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### ***mathNEWS***

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September 23	Issue #1 starts an assignment
October 3	Production night #2 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC3038) All are welcome!
October 7	Issue #2 looks for a coat

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### **Math Faculty**

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September 30	Course drop deadline Last day for 100% refund Fee payments due
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### **MathSoc**

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Thursdays	Movie Nights, 7:00 PM, MC 2066 2 movies, 0 dollars!
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### **Math Grad Committee**

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Wednesdays	Pizza Day! Buy cheap pizza to support the grads!
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### **Miscellaneous**

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September 29	Statistics Canada Information Session 3:00PM-4:00PM
September 30	Shaun Majumder, Humanities Theatre Tickets at the Feds Office and the Humanities Theatre box office

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## ***mast*HEAD**

So, we've all seen those new signs promoting diversity. This issue, we decided to run a parody on the cover and we decided to ask our writers, "What is this issue?": Ali (dead forest, dammit. Look what you've done by encouraging this!), JMM (Waste of my time. Why do I even participate in this anyway?), Kaitlyn "Half-pint" (pathetic attempt to achieve on-campus fame), BDM (Cheese, damn you!), Orcus (Veritable font of Evil), Val (interesting, informative & insightful production), Math.random() (broken), Eric (semi-interesting rag), DanS (v99 #1), Bryam (all the reason you need to switch to math), Ian (8 year old with cancer)

Mark "Beatlemaniac" (Crapshoot of randomness)  
SheepNine (Convenient excuse to embezzle money out of MathSoc)

Emerald (The ball and chain that keeps me locked up in the *mathNEWS* office for three days every two weeks?)

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The editor(s): Mark Toivanen, Emerald Kushnier, Chris MacGregor

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## **Want to write for *mathNEWS*?**

*But can't make Production Night?*

So, you want to write for *mathNEWS*, but you can't make it to production night? That's fine! We still love you! Now, here's the easiest way to do it:

Write us an email. Here's the catch: *mathNEWS* uses an HTML-like markup language, and we really like it when we don't have to tag the dozens of articles that come in untagged. So, you can always look up our mNmL markup language at:

<http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews/mNmL>

Once you've gone through this, you'll see how similar it is to HTML. The other things you'll need to know is that the *mathNEWS* system doesn't like seeing just &. Instead, it likes seeing &#amp; (same goes for > and <... it likes &gt; and &lt;). Now, about actually submitting your article, here's our easy-to-use system:

Email address: [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca)

Subject line: article (or any funky combination of those letters together...like: aRtiCLE or any other of the 2<sup>7</sup> permutations)

Body of the email itself: your **TAGGED** article.

Attachments: DO NOT ADD ATTACHEMENTS. Our system doesn't like them and we don't either. If you want to send us an image, send us an email with the subject as image and not your article in the body.

If you have any questions about how to do this, just email your friendly editorship team. We'll be GLAD to help you.

Mark Toivanen  
Emerald Kushnier  
Chris MacGregor

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## **Brand New Filler**

*Now half the calories*

Several scientists were asked to prove that all odd integers higher than 2 are prime.

Mathematician: 3 is a prime, 5 is a prime, 7 is a prime, and by induction - every odd integer higher than 2 is a prime.

Physicist: 3 is a prime, 5 is a prime, 7 is a prime, 9 is an experimental error, 11 is a prime. Just to be sure, try several randomly chosen numbers: 17 is a prime, 23 is a prime...

Engineer: 3 is a prime, 5 is a prime, 7 is a prime, 9 is an approximation to a prime, 11 is a prime,...

Programmer (reading the output on the screen): 3 is a prime, 3 is a prime, 3 is a prime, 3 is a prime...

Biologist: 3 is a prime, 5 is a prime, 7 is a prime, 9 — results have not arrived yet,...

Psychologist: 3 is a prime, 5 is a prime, 7 is a prime, 9 is a prime but tries to suppress it,...

Politician: "Some numbers are prime.. but the goal is to create a kinder, gentler society where all numbers are prime..."

Programmer: "Wait a minute, I think I have an algorithm from Knuth on finding prime numbers... just a little bit longer, I've found the last bug... no, that's not it... ya know, I think there may be a compiler bug here - oh, did you want IEEE-998.0334 rounding or not? - was that in the spec? - hold on, I've almost got it - I was up all night working on this program, ya know... now if management would just get me that new workstation that just came out, I'd be done by now... etc., etc. ..."

## PREZ Says

*It's a new term*

<obligatory political statement> First off, I'd like to welcome all the first years to Waterloo, for what promises to be a fun and exciting time of your life. Second, I'd like to welcome back all the upper-year students from co-op and summer break. I hope you had a great term and that you are ready for classes </obligatory political statement>

Now that that's out of the way, I can honestly say, "Welcome back." We've already been working hard for two to three weeks (depending on if you count our participation in frosh week), and things have started off really well!

Besides the multitude of events that we have planned (which I'll let the respective executives talk about), I've got a few general beginning-of-term announcements to make:

1. Due to an error on my part, First Year At Large nominations close today (Friday, September 23) at 4:30. The all candidates meeting (ACM) will held be at 4:45 in MC 3039, also today.
2. For all the upper-years, we have a new dean — Prof. Tom Coleman. If you see him in the halls be sure to welcome him back to UW (for a picture refer to the *mathNEWS* cover from Friday July 22, 2005: Volume 98, issue 6).
3. Thanks to the two people from *mathNEWS* who helped the exec unload the pop from my car for the BBQ Tuesday and Cove Night Wednesday.

I'm all for short and sweet tonight, but as per always, if anyone has any questions, give me a shout at [president@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:president@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), or come by my office: MC 3039. If I'm not in class, I'll be there, and if I'm not there and not in class, I'm most likely out on an errand and should be back shortly.

Till next time,

Michael Tersigni  
President Fall 2005

## Math Problems Across Ontario

- **Waterloo:** A function is given by  $f(x) = x^2e^x$ . What is the arclength of the function for  $x$  on the interval  $[0,3]$ ?
- **MacMaster:** The highway takes the shape of the function  $f(x) = x^2e^x$ . If Mac is at  $x = 0$  and the border is at  $x = 3$ , how long will it take to get out of the hellhole that is Hamilton?
- **Western:** A function is given by  $f(x) = x^2e^x$ . How many profs will you have to sleep with to pass the course?
- **Lakehead:** A function is given by  $f(x) = x^2e^x$ . What are the chances that one of the other six math students here will know the answer to this one?
- **Guelph:** A function is given by  $f(x) = x^2e^x$ . Hey... how long do I have to do this before I miss my quickie with the sheep?

SquirrelToken

## MGC Sez?

*M...G...C?*

If you're reading this, you're probably thinking of convocating sometime in 2006. If this is the case, please continue reading, as this article is pretty important. If you're not graduating in 2006, keep reading in case you want to find out why it's awesome to graduate. (Hint: there's a lot of perks, like... I dunno... graduating?)

By the time you read this, you may have already experienced one of our events - Pizza Day on Wednesday. We certainly hope that you had your fill and we look forward to bringing you more such great events. For the time being though, here are a number of heads-ups until the next issue of *mathNEWS*.

**Grad Info Session - Sept. 26th and 27th.** These will be identical sessions offered to give an overview of the services that Career Services, the Faculty, and MGC provide as you inch your way towards convocation. Do come out as we'll be providing you with a lot of information that you'll need. More information will be posted around the MC.

**Grad Photo Sign-Ups - Now until they fill up.** Everybody thinks they're good looking (at least my mom tells me that...). You can prove it by having your picture immortalized in the Grad Composites and the Yearbook! Sign up for a time to have your grad photo taken and you'll be a step closer to Godhood. The Sign-up sheets are posted across from the C & D on the MGC Bulletin Board. NOTE: If you want your photo to appear in the composite and yearbook, you WILL need to sign up this term. No excuses. Consider this your fair warning.

**MGC Mailing List - whenever.** To catch all the latest in MGC news, sign up for our mailing list. We'll give you the most up-to-date information and the first chance to get signed up for the latest events (I smell Casino trip...). Sign-ups are located on the MGC Bulletin Board across from the C&D.

Want to help out? Got great ideas for one? Think I suck as the Chair? Email us at [mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca). I'm more than happy to find something for you to help out with/find some way to make your idea a reality/not reply to your threats. In any case, we'd love to hear from you. If the MGC Office (MC 3029) door is open, feel free to come in and introduce yourself. Graduating will be sweet...

Happy Trails to Graduating.

Sam  
Math Grad Committee Chair Fall 2006

By the way, we have a website! Check us out at <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mgc/2006/>

## VPA Says

RUN FOR ME

## Filler Classic

A chemist, a physicist, and a mathematician are stranded on an island when a can of food rolls ashore. The chemist and the physicist comes up with many ingenious ways to open the can. Then suddenly the mathematician gets a bright idea: "Assume we have a can opener ..."

## Your Student Representation at Work

### *Feds and Senate news*

Hi! My name is Adam Felix and I am the your Math student senator for UW Senate as well as your Feds Councillor. You may be wondering what that actually means. Let me explain this.

Feds — or the Federation of Students — has many things to offer you as a student at the University of Waterloo. They range from businesses like the Bombshelter and Aussies to student government (on many academic bodies) to services like the Fedbus and almost 200 clubs.

Senate is the highest governing body at the University of Waterloo. Any changes to the undergraduate calendar or tuition framework and the like are discussed at Senate.

What's the point of telling you this? It is my job as YOUR councillor and senator to get your opinion on the issues that matter to you. For example, if there is something that you would like Feds to discuss or consider then come to me and I will bring it to Feds or Senate. I will also be holding office hours on the 3rd floor of the MC this term and next, and I can also be found in the SLC Volunteer Room, right next to the Feds office. Stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [atfelix@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:atfelix@uwaterloo.ca).

Adam Felix  
Math Student Senator  
Math Feds Councillor

## The Mathematics Society Office

### *MC 3038*

First and foremost, I have two notes for people that knew the MathSoc office existed previous to reading the title of this article.

- Locker Sign up is open to all math students.
- If you're interested in an office hour, come sign up on the door

To those of you who didn't; the MathSoc office is one of the services you gain with your MathSoc student fee. We have many services you might be interested in:

- \$0.05 photocopies — cheapest on campus
- Games — if you're bored, MathSoc has a wide variety of games you can borrow
- Binding — as many co-ops know, you can bind things for \$0.75
- Music — there's a stereo in the comfy, you can bring in CDs to play
- Staples — for when the tutorial centres run out
- Phone — no change? you can still make free local calls
- Textbooks — forgot yours at home? Borrow one of ours!
- Exam bank — find copies of past exams from your favourite courses
- Posting — want something posted? drop it off here
- Another service you want? Drop us off a suggestion

That's all for now. I hope you drop by.

The Office Manager Guy,  
A Label to Be Proud Of

## Have you Seen the Gouda in Everyone?

Did you find the title of this article remotely funny? Are you one of the hundreds of people at whom I yelled "Do you like cheese?" during Clubs Days? Are you one of the few who didn't look at me like I was insane? If so you should join the Campus Crusade for Cheese! We are lactose intolerant-tolerant and half of your friends have signed up already. During Clubs Days we had over 400 students add their names to our mailing list. If even half show up, we'll have a lot of people, not to mention cheese. Even if you don't like cheese, just come to watch the impressive mound of cheese that will be devoured by the cheese-loving hordes (or something like that).

Our first meeting is today, Friday, September 23, 2005 at 4:30pm in MC 2065. Feel free to show up, have fun, and eat cheese. For more information, check out our website; just Google 'Campus Crusade for Cheese'.

One of the cheese loving horde  
Math.random()

## Frosh Kits

### *Frosh Kit pickup*

Hello Frosh! Hope you are having great first month of school. So, as some of you who didn't participate in math frosh week may have realized, you didn't get your kit, t-shirt and pink tie. If you are one of these frosh, then you should go to the Math Orientation Office (MOO) in MC 3048 to pick up your kit. THE DEADLINE TO PICK UP YOUR KIT IS SEPTEMBER 30TH. Look on MOO door or the Orientation board outside the Mathematics Office for the MOO Office hours, as they will tell you when you can pick up your kits, t-shirt and pink tie. REMEMBER, THE DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30TH. And bring your WatCard when you come to get your stuff!

Math Orientation Directors

## Frosh 15 and You

### *How to avoid it 101*

Many of you may fear the "inevitable" Frosh 15, in which most assume you gain 15 pounds. Well, let's just say that it doesn't affect everyone. Personally, I lost over 15 pounds in my first term. There are a couple of things you can do to make your first term a great one both academically and in terms of your figure. Here are a couple ideas for you:

- Avoid snack foods that you usually wouldn't eat at home
- Find some form of exercise that you can enjoy and do it on a regular basis. Remember, your fees help pay for some of the things you can do at the PAC. There's swimming, working out, etc.
- If you used to bike, you might want to grab a bike and go for a ride every now and then
- Most important of all, make sure you eat healthily. Remember, you only have one life, and being physically fit is a great thing.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

## Welcome to the Internet

*The Demon Prince of the Undead breaks it down*

*Orcus has been awoken, and has been bound by the mathNEWS crew to relay his knowledge to the world.* I normally don't do this sort of thing, but mathies have excellent powers of persuasion. They showed me Ring theory, and I was convinced to stay for a while longer and learn more of the evil. They won't tell me how they got me here, only that it involves basins of attraction of some kind... But to the knowledge! It has come to my attention that mortal kids nowadays are big into this communication thing called the "information parkway" or something like that. This place can be an overwhelming source of evil, I'm told, and this entices me greatly.

My forays into this "Intraw3b" have unearthed something known as a *forum* where people come together from all over the world to discuss such fascinating topics as world domination, whether females want to "cyber" (?) and "OMFG! XBOX r0x0r5 ur b0x0r5!!!!11!" I was appalled, yet at the same time intrigued. Despite the terrible grammar and logic, there were intelligent people to be found, and common interests to share. In order to find them (or be them!), I have prepared **Orcus' Patented Forum Guidelines**:

1. Just because you are on the internet does not mean you don't need grammar.
2. Follow the forum rules, they are usually very explicit.
3. If you have opinions, back them up with reasons.
4. If you have questions, give enough info so others can help you.
5. If you want to make a thread, make sure it has not been made already. The kids will laugh at you. Stickies and Search functions are your friends.
6. If you want people to respect you, respect other people. The whole honey-and-fly thing.
7. Women do **NOT** want to "cyber" with you. Pull your pants back up, Casanova.

All in all, I don't think this is too hard, but the sheer amount of stupidity I find indicates otherwise. But, if you follow the Orcus Guidelines, your e-penis will grow to truly massive proportions. That "Heramb" character will be put to shame. Should you desire a conversation with the Chaotic Evil Demon Prince of the Undead, I frequent the Red vs. Blue forums. Beware, though, for logical fallacies land you in the **ABYSS!!!**.

Orcus, still toiling away in PMATH345

## MCTF Returns

*It's been a long time coming*

Midnight Capture the Flag will be starting up again this term, anyone interested should come out to the Comfy lounge (MC 3002) at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday September 25th, 2005

See you there

The New Management

## Assembly Language in the Pseudo-Real World

*Computers are mostly the Real World, right?*

Have you ever sat in a CS241 lecture and wondered to yourself (or out loud for more amusement; doubly so if you're sitting in the front row) "Why do I have to learn this assembly language stuff? It's never used in the real world, right?" WRONG! They have written a full operating system with only assembly language. They have written both a 32- and 64-bit version, and boast about the amazing efficiency this kind of approach offers. I won't venture to give my opinion about the topic, but you can make an opinion of your own. You can find it at [www.menuetos.org](http://www.menuetos.org). It's just a meg and a half download (big enough for a floppy disk). Heck, maybe it will give you the inspiration to write a really kick-ass compiler.

Val

## Adventures of a Little Blue Bike

*A True Story*

Imagine this scenario: You're riding your bike home at around 2:00 AM after a night out with your friends, and you decide to go through campus as a shortcut. While trying to leave campus, you're stopped by the police and asked, "Hey you, did you steal that bike?"

How would you respond? The "Uh, no," response given didn't seem to satisfy him.

"You look a little big for that bike", the officer says, "Do you even know what kind of bike that is?"

"It's blue," I say, anxious to get home, my brain trying to think of what I can do to get this guy to let me go home to sleep. "I bought it at Zellers. Can I go now?"

He looks at me disapprovingly. "Look, it's frosh week. We're stepping up security here. Can you prove it?"

"Fine. I'll just unlock my lock - how about that?" I think out loud. Of course, since I'm a bit tired and it's dark, I fumble with my keys a bit before I even find the right one. The cop is starting to look pissed off. After another minute of fumbling (and a few snide comments telling me that he'll have to impound the bike), I get the lock open.

The cop looks disappointed. "Fine, you can go," he says.

As I finally continue my way home, I begin to wonder if that actually had a point. Are they just stopping random people biking along and questioning them? It seems more like an exercise in futility from my standpoint — do they really expect to catch any bike thieves this way? Sure, I look a little big for my bike. No, I don't know what kind it is, nor do I care. It gets me from point A to point B faster than walking. I'm a student — I don't have thousands of dollars to drop on a bike that will be the right size for me and I'll remember what "kind" of it is. How many of you know what kind of bike you have? Beyond what colour it is and where you got it? I wonder what happens to those whose bikes were wrongfully impounded?

I hope that this isn't a sign of things to come. I had visions that night of being stopped on my way to class and being asked "Hey you — did you steal that textbook? Prove it."

Lee

# Defending the BCS

*Less is More*

For those of you who don't know, the Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS) is a relatively new degree being offered by the School of Computer Science. Before 2003, the BMath (Honours Computer Science) was the only Computer Science degree offered. The current BMath (CS) includes the requirements of a BCS. However, it adds the additional requirements of Math 237 (Calculus 3), Math 235 (Linear Algebra 2), and 3 upper-year math courses selected from a list. It also requires that two of the six free-choice CS courses in 3rd and 4th year be CS 360 (Theory of Computation) and CS 370 (Numerical Computation). Many older CS students and grads believe that BCS is the "easy" degree, since BCS requires less math and is more flexible, in terms of CS courses, than the BMath (CS). I would like to explain why, in my opinion, the BCS has important advantages when compared to the BMath (CS), and is beneficial to the School of Computer Science at UW in general.

Where do you see the future of computer science? Will future CS grads be programming the next version of Windows, or creating algorithms to decode the human genome? Will they be coding video games, or using cognitive modelling techniques to help develop direct brain-computer interfaces? In my opinion, the latter is the future. The future is interdisciplinary. Computer science is intersecting many areas in huge ways, such as: computer science and business (computational finance), computer science and psychology (cognitive science), computer science and biology (bioinformatics), computer science and health care (health informatics), just to name a few. In the future there will be a huge demand for graduates who understand computer science as well as one or several other areas in depth. The Bachelor of Computer Science encourages this far more than the old BMath (CS) and allows more flexibility than the new BMath (CS). Most graduates of the old BMath (CS) only took introductory courses for their electives, although, even the BMath (CS) is more flexible than engineering. This flexibility is sometimes viewed as a weakness, but to me it's one of our program's greatest strengths, especially compared to restrictive programs like Software Engineering and Computer Engineering. You can say much less about what CS

majors study in general than those programs, since our educations are so diverse. I think it's great that we don't graduate 100 people with the exact same education each year. Many engineering students complain about the inability to explore areas they are interested in in depth or at all. I think Computer Science graduates will have a huge advantage, since future opportunities will require an interdisciplinary education.

The flexibility of our new curriculum also provides an opportunity to attract a more diverse student body, including high school students who have diverse interests outside of math and CS. I think that the opportunity would lead to more well-rounded students in general, not just those who do multivariable calculus for fun.

For us to take advantage of the opportunities our program offers, we as students need to do something. Firstly, we need to realize that electives are important. They take up a huge part of our degree in the BMath (CS) and even more so in the BCS program. Secondly, instead of taking the easiest courses you can find, find something you like! It's easier to learn something you're interested in anyways, and more rewarding. The depth requirement means that you have to take *a lot* of at least one subject (3 courses is a lot to me). If you don't pick something you like it won't be easy, even if you do rec and leisure (jokez). CS in general, but BCS especially, is what you make of it. Trust me, picking electives you like will make school easier and more enjoyable, since you will *want* to study it.

To be fair, some of the interdisciplinary areas I mentioned above require a lot of math. Many areas in CS require a lot of math. I think BCS provides a good mathematical foundation, however, obviously some areas, like the hard-core Computational Math stuff or some finance or graphics areas, require more. Or, you might just like math. Either way, BMath is a good choice. However, the point of this article is to discourage people from taking BMath purely because they think it's a "better" degree or to view BCS as the "easier" one. BCS further increases the flexibility of the CS program, which is a great thing in my opinion.

Andrew Lo

## Proof

*The Movie, Not the Exercise*

Okay, so the play *Proof* has been made into a movie. In this film, Gwyneth Paltrow plays Catherine, a mathematician's daughter who everyone thinks is insane. Considering this and *A Beautiful Mind*, it concerns me that sooner or later, the general public is going to think that all mathies are crazy (and not in the good way, either). So, as a service, here are some suggestions for movies that illustrate other aspects of being a mathie:

- **Pair Program:** Meet Kevin and Habib, two CS134 students who've waited until the last night to do their Event Simulation Assignment. Join them as they work through documentation, coding, testing and submission, all before the 5:30 deadline. Will they go for bonus marks? Come and find out!

- **Settlers of Catan: The Movie:** Journey to a world of hexagonal wonder where we meet our hero Lance, the blue settler. Experience his joy as he constructs his first city and his sorrow as he just can't get that last unit of brick. Watch as he overcomes his evil nemesis Jerome, the orange settler, to reach that 10-point utopia.
- **Girls, the Lack Thereof:** A hilarious comedy of errors starring Eugene, a womanizing mathie frosh who is about to realize the awful truth. Rumour has it that, in this film, his character makes a lot of friends.

SquirrelToken

## ElseWhen

25 Years Ago in mathNEWS

Welcome to a magical mystery tour of the *mathNEWS* archives! Every issue someone (looks like me for this term) will summarize an old issue of *mathNEWS* for your enjoyment. Today, we go 25 years back to Volume 24, Issue 1, published September 12, 1980.

Eric “ink\_13” Logan

*More lim e<sup>ricks</sup>*

Have you noticed — each M&C hall,  
Has bright arrows embossed on the wall?  
After years of delusion  
My subtle conclusion  
Is, “Darn! They mean nothing at all!”

bwlutek

*[Note: remnants of the arrows can still be seen if you look carefully, but they’ve been painted over]*

*mathNEWS: The Newspaper 5 of out 6 Faculties  
Prefer*

A recent scientific survey sponsored by *mathNEWS* has shown that *mathNEWS* is the newspaper of preferred by 5 out of 6 faculties at the University of Waterloo.

According to the survey, the faculties of Arts, Science, Environmental Studies, Human Kinetics and Leisure Studies, and Mathematics all loved the paper, while 99.99% of Engineers questioned stated that *mathNEWS* was over their heads.

One Science student has this to say about *mathNEWS*, “Like, wow, man, I never knew that a paper that great existed. It is, like, one hundred times better than *The Globe and Mail* or *The New York Times*”

## Clickers and you

*Another reason why STAT 230 is evil...*

As if STATS was bad enough, this term, a “random” section was chosen to purchase and implement a clicker system. Not necessarily a bad thing, but the clickers cost each student \$32. Sure, \$30 of that is refundable, but you’re still short \$2 at the end of term (well, that and the minimalistic interest you’d have made on the \$30 over 3 months). But this is really not the worst thing. The absolute worst thing is that students are **FORCED** to attend class, as daily in-class questions are polled and are weighted towards your final. Yes, that’s right. You’re being polled for class participation. Not only that, but if you happen to be sick one day, you lose those marks. Period. It is assumed that you will not miss a **SINGLE** lecture, no matter the reason. Personally, I think this is horrible, as attendance and **CORRECT** participation have now become mandatory in order to have a chance at a 100% mark (something that **SHOULD** have a bit more leniency).

Then again, that’s my \$0.02.

Disgruntled STAT 230 Student

An Arts student called *mathNEWS* “one of the greatest printed works of all time, truly in a class with Shakespeare’s plays and Keats’ poetry. Young Frank Einstein is the Dickens of our times.”

On the other side of the coin, a typical Engineer’s response was, “duh, *mathNEWS*? I never read it. It’s too complex for me: I prefer *Enginews* and Dr. Suess.”

So there you have it. *mathNEWS* is the best newspaper on campus and one of the best in North America. Aren’t you glad you read it?

Eric Yendor

*mathNUDES? mathSNOOZE? mathMOOSE?  
mathJUICE? meatNEWS? mabsNOSE? NO, NO,  
NO!!! IT’S...*

Elsewhere in the issue...

- The MathSoc president has transferred to IS, but because of the bizarre MathSoc constitution at the time, he is still the president until next March.
- John Plaice points out the MFCF has a UNIX system available, which is considered superior to the DCS’s IBM machines
- John P also points out that to keep a bicycle, one should get a cheap bike that nobody will think about stealing, or get a good lock, or take it inside to your office.
- MathSoc recently acquired two frisbees and had its soccer balls and footballs inflated over at the PAC.
- The UW Art Gallery has a new show called “Lunar Installations/Earthbound” that opened yesterday and continues until October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Re: Stat 230

*It could be worse*

Oh deary me, I have to go to class. My lord, so they expect me to learn as well? Have you ever attended an arts lecture or business lecture at Laurier? I guess not. Try having to get a course package that cannot be sold the next term. What about having to get a doctor’s note for when you miss a single class so that the professor can tell whether or not you are in class. Ever participated in a discussion class? One where you have to make meaningful and insightful comments to earn the participation marks.

Is Stat230 really taxing you? I do not think so. You can choose not to answer the questions should you wish. What is 0.02% of your mark anyway? It would take being sick for 50 lectures to make up 1%

Please feel free to dismiss this as a rant from a jaded student. Please also remember that this is the first time that Stat 230 has been offered like this. It’s a trial. There are bound to be some mistakes in the first round. Welcome to being in a guinea pig term. This change was made because the faculty wanted to encourage class participation. Don’t like it? Apparently not, so talk to the faculty.

Mathie that did it the old way and still didn’t like Stat230.

## Fall into the Gap

*It's getting bigger*

White Oaks Mall in London used to be a good mall. It had a rich diversity of stores, from the pet store, to the computer software stores, to a candy store. Now, WOM is a shattered husk of its former glory. The pet store is gone, replaced by an Eddie Bauer clothing store. Only one software store remains; all the others have been replaced by cell phone stores. The candy store is there, but it's framed on either side by clothing store after clothing store.

WOM is, as I understand it, privileged among malls by its containment of not one, not two, but FOUR clothing stores of the Gap persuasion. Such a critical mass of gap stores is possible only because each is differentiated by the customers it caters to. First, there is the regular ol' Gap, selling outerwear for young adults. Next, Gap Body, the place to go to purchase lingerie with the Gap logo. It is worth noting that these two stores are located next to each other in the mall. Gap Kids is next, where you can teach your children to be consumer whores. Not soon enough? No problem! Gap Baby will let you raise children that don't understand what it means NOT to be a consumer whore.

Given my affinity for humorous observations, my shattered and fractured mind began contemplating what market segments are NOT currently being tapped by the Gap corporation. Further, I wondered what new Gap chains would need to be summoned by the evil Gap necromancers to make their global domination absolute. Here's what I came up with:

- **Gap Deceased:** Gap clothing is currently associated with young, vibrant twenty-somethings who like to do highly choreographed dances in white rooms. My observation tends to suggest that there are no Gap stores that sell clothing suitable for dressing up a corpse and bidding that final farewell.

I believe that it is a travesty that there are people departing for hell (or, possibly heaven) that don't look, as the kids say, blingin'.

- **Gap Unborn:** Current Gap chains utterly fail to sell clothing appropriately sized for embryos. The fact that people spend a full nine months of their life before they are able to sheathe themselves in Gap is intolerable. Unfortunately, there are some logistic problems related to tailoring clothing for fetuses, the least of which being how the mother actually clothes her future child.
- **Gap Homeless:** Just because you're living on the street and begging for the change you need to buy yourself a bottle of gin, doesn't mean you shouldn't be able to look your best. In this case, best is precisely defined as the look you get from wearing Gap-brand clothing. Unwashed and quite possibly holey and lice-infested Gap-brand clothing.
- **Gap Family Planning:** One thing the Gap can do to increase their market share is broaden their definition of clothing. With a broad enough definition, the public relations executives can justify printing the gap logo even on sweat-shop quality condoms.
- **Gap Gamer:** A key point of the Gap philosophy is that it is clothing for the socially 'cool' in society. However, there are many people in society who are not 'cool'. Gap should produce an entirely different line of clothing which features gray tones and spikes for the uncool. As well, their pants should be triple-reinforced for those all-weekend programming sessions.

SheepNine

## A Word of Advice

*From your friendly neighbourhood awesome-detectors*

So, if you're reading this, chances are you're in Math (1). And if you're in math, chances are you've watched Firefly (2). And if you've watched Firefly, chances are you've heard of Serenity (3). If you do not fulfill any of these criteria, please jump to the appropriately-numbered paragraph now.

(1) Lucky bastard.

(2) Dude! \*sigh\* So, Firefly was a short-lived television show created by Joss Whedon, who is most famous for creating Buffy the Vampire Slayer (the TV series; let us not speak of the movie). Anyway, whether you liked Buffy or not, Firefly wasn't quite the same thing. It had his trademark dialogue and character style, and it kicked all sorts of metaphorical ass — which means Fox cancelled it after airing 12 episodes, in the wrong order, and sometimes airing baseball instead. So the fans got pissed, and the show became a cult legend. So much so that there's a movie coming out that continues the events of the show (3). But that's a whole week away. In the meantime, get Firefly and watch it. It's a show that can make you laugh, cry, think and shout in the

span of minute. It's a shining monument to what great TV can be. And really, someone you know has the DVDs. And it doesn't take that long to get through, just 15 episodes. What else would you be doing, anyway? You're in math.

(3) I would like to purchase this rock you've been hiding under. Anyway, Serenity is the movie that Firefly fans except you have been waiting for! It's a testament to the dedication of the fans that an unsuccessful TV show gets a movie adaptation so long after the show goes off the air; things like that just don't happen in Hollywood. But now, finally, we get some sort of closure to the series. It opens September 30th, and its box office take will largely help determine whether we get any more movies. So do your part. Don't worry, I've been assured that it will exude all sorts of celluloid satisfaction.

So, in conclusion, Firefly good, you should watch it. Serenity good, you should watch it. Bring friends. You won't be sorry.

HWT



# Cooking 101

*For those of you that need a little help*

This article was inspired by actual events. One of the two of us was sitting and talking with a second year who didn't know how to cook. Being the first year on her own she was making Kraft dinner for every meal. It was decided that the public should know at least some kitchen basics. So here we go!

## Basics for the kitchen

### Useful spices

Recipes need spices. It's what gives the oh-so-good flavour. Spices can be purchased anywhere from the grocery store to WalMart. My partner-in-crime and I (otherwise known as my roommate Ali) have come up with a list of the following spices:

- Garlic (fresh is best, but powder is okay for the nervous)[*Granulated is even better than powder :)*— *BeatleEd*
- Cinnamon
- Thyme
- Nutmeg
- Allspice
- Oregano
- Ginger
- Italian spice mix
- Chili powder
- Curry powder
- Cocaine powder (just checking you're still awake)
- Paprika
- Ground mustard

### Useful sauces

Sometimes you don't want to make your own sauces. That and the fact that some sauces are not actually made by humans... damn us not having pollen sacks.

- Honey
- Soya sauce

- Mustard (plain old yellow works fine)
- Oil: olive, canola, peanut... it doesn't matter really [*Although some ARE healthier than others, especially when heated — BeatleEd*]

*Let's not forget the staples*

- All-purpose flour
- Eggs
- Sugar — white and brown, I'm not racist.
- Milk or soy milk, I am lactose intolerant tolerant
- Butter or margarine, yet again I do not discriminate

*And now for things to cook the food in*

- 2 pots of different sizes
- 1 medium to large frying pan
- 2 wooden spoons
- Colander a.k.a. strainer
- Blender
- Spatula: both kinds, the flipping and scraping
- Cutting board (plastic is best and safest)
- A sharp knife, medium in length [*Pro chefs are often quoted saying that if they could only have one knife, they would grab an 8" to 10" chef's knife — BeatleEd*]
- A working stove
- A working oven

Tune in next week for another installment of Cooking 101. There will be such riveting ideas, such amazing culinary goodness, you will drool all over your copy of *mathNEWS*. Okay, maybe not. But you might learn how to cook something. No really, we have recipes! Tassstey ones. How to make enough for leftovers (lunch) the next day.

Ali and Jenn

We cook for ourselves and haven't gotten sick yet!

# Living in Sin

*Week 1: Pride*

Well, I decided to move in to a townhouse with my significant other — no ring, no date, no illegitimate pregnancy... I figured that I had to sign a lease with someone so, "Why not?"

This column will not list all the answers to that question (though I may have enough for each production night). Instead, we will explore the perils of living with a boyfriend or girlfriend outside of this mysterious place I've heard of called Wed Loch through the seven deadly sins (or possibly a combination thereof.) This week, we explore Pride.

I am proud of my house. I am proud of my furniture (hand-me-down or found), my huge amount of space, my live-in washing machine and dryer. For only \$12.50 a month, I've at least doubled my square footage, improved my location, and eliminated the roommate I'd need to schedule "leisure time" around. I love having two bedrooms so that the computers can be penned to our new "den" and we can sleep without a humming sound in the background.

However, this will come back to haunt me sooner than I'd like to think about. Our heating bills will be high and our consumption levels look to be shameful. Cleaning the house make me

wonder if I've really just set out to punish myself for my own sins.

But the worst atonement I've been forced to endure was the dreaded parental visit.

Even when they mean well, parents have an innate ability to find, and announce, flaws that they try to turn into compliments. "Aww... I was worried those awful blinds wouldn't match anything but they manage to compliment your... interesting... couch pattern."

But if you learn anything from my sins this week, never allow your parents to meet your significant other's parents for the first time at your new house. Sure, it might give them something they automatically have in common, but hearing them making excuses to each other for allowing you to go through with this decision may make you feel a little powerless to make your own life, independent from them.

(Let's play a game and see how many sins I can write "successful" columns for.)

Half-pint

## Horrorscopes

*They are back, and better than ever!*

### Acc

Although your prospects for love within this program may seem dull, there are some interesting accountants out there. You just have to look very hard, and meet them outside of your co-op work place first. But if they are already taken, watch out, because accountants are very possessive.

Your lucky number is 1 jealous auditor.

### Actsci

Even though you are the most boring and morbid program in the faculty, you want to show people you can have a good time. The night before your first exam, go drinking and impress everyone by predicting when they will die.

Your lucky number is 25 new best friends.

### AMath

Having gotten nowhere with your supposed 'applications' of math, you decide to assume that the world is flat to make your calculus easier. This will upset MathPhys, but they are so small that no one will care.

Your lucky numbers are 8 planets and 1 sun orbiting the earth.

### BBA/BMath

Is the walk between campuses getting you down yet? It will. Soon you will see that a degree from Laurier is not worth the walk, and switch into Arts Business at Waterloo.

Your lucky number is 40 minutes in the elements.

### Bioinformatics

Mixing CS and Science gives you the idea to mod your PC to have a living case. While this might bother your roommates, just threaten to feed them to your now-rabid computer.

Your lucky number is 7 broken humane laws.

### Computational Math

It must feel good to take after both the old and new Deans of Math. Make it your goal to be the next Dean ... as soon as you get that PhD. Perhaps it's best to set your sights a little lower, such as chief optimizer for McDonald's?

Your lucky number is 205.2 burgers per hour.

### C&O

I would make a joke about combinatorics, but I don't understand what that is. I hope you optimized the amount of time it takes to read this issue, or else you would just be wasting your time.

Your lucky number is 3.625 minutes of reading.

### CS

After failing last term because of your WOW addiction, you have to buckle down and catch up. Ask some fourth years for help, then, on realizing that they are also WOW addicts, set up a guild with them. Ask Arts to join, since they have nothing better to do.

Your lucky number is 19 hours per day online.

### MathBUS

As the prestige of your program increases, so does the irrelevance of your courses. While away the hours of boring lectures by playing the stock markets. Don't forget to give me, and all PMath, some insider tips when you make it big.

Your lucky number is 3-5 for insider trading.

### MathPhys

It's time to stage an attack on ENG; they have abused your hard

work for the last time. Get PMath to help, they are feeling equally abused, and calculate some trajectories.

Your lucky number is 55 degrees to starboard.

### MathSci

Feeling like a pinball? As you are bounced from department to department, you may develop a complex from not being wanted anywhere. Commiserate with Rec and Leisure, no one wants them either.

Your lucky number is the  $n+1$  departments you are in.

### Operations Research

Your theoretical knowledge will be very useful to MathBUS when they try to play the stock markets. Offer your services for an exorbitant fee, then cry discrimination of minorities when they reject you.

Your lucky number is 32 claimants in your Tort.

### PMath

When MathPhys asks you to help attack ENG, prove to them just how scary EdCom is, and devise a plan for stealing the Ridgid Tool. Even if it is impossible, you can convince someone (maybe AMath) to try it.

Your lucky number is 5 impossible things before breakfast.

### SoftEng

Now that your program has been exposed for the sham that it is, you should switch into math. Why not? All the cool kids are doing it. At least that way your degree would be accredited.

Your lucky number is 0 graduating classes to date.

### Stat

You find yourself calculating the (low) probability of getting a job after graduation, and contemplate switching to Actsci. However, as the chances are you will become 5.7 times more boring, you decide to tough out your chosen path.

Your lucky number is a 0.1754 chance of becoming rich.

### Teaching Option

You finally realize that kids are brats, and that you don't want to be around anyone under 20. Don't worry, your teaching education will help you become a good professor, if you can make it through all that research.

Your lucky number is 8 more years in UW Math.

### Undeclared

Being so indecisive, you probably won't even read this, but hopefully you would choose *mathNEWS* over Imprint any day. Enjoy your freedom as long as you can before being locked into a program by taking as many Arts electives as you like!

Your lucky number is ... I also can't be bothered to decide.

### AHS

After a long, hard week of killing rats and experimenting on your friends, you can kick back and relax with Arts. Just remember, drunks at the bar are not test subjects, and neither is your girlfriend/boyfriend.

Your lucky number is experiment no. 626.

### Arts

Many of you still don't have a direction to your education. Of course, nothing is important after being rejected by Math. Console yourself by getting a PoliSci degree, then taking over the world (or just Canada).

Your lucky number is 154 seats in the House.

*Horrorscopes cont'd***ENG**

Wearing those hard hats can only help you when Math attacks. Escaping on the Midnight Sun is not really an option, but perhaps you can steal a few buses to get away. Geeks can (sometimes) be very intimidating, and there is no shame in running.

Your lucky number is 4 evacuated Eng buildings.

**ES**

The dilapidated state of the inside of your buildings is really getting you down. Make a deal with the Architecture students to fix it up, in return for a cheaper, environmentally friendly way to commute to Cambridge.

Your lucky number is 83 Octane.

**Sci**

Your pride at getting out of real calculus will soon backfire when you arrive at a Chem lab to find the TA is a mathie who plans to *really* test you on the lab exam. There is no escape.

Your lucky number is the integral of  $\sqrt{2\tan x}$ .

Dirty Mathie

## Have you discovered Toogle and Woogle?

*If not, you probably have more free time than I*

If you enjoy Google-esque games like finding Google-whacks or surfing Googlisms, you'll love Toogle and Woogle.

**Toogle:** <http://c6.org/toogle/>

Toogle takes your search word, finds the first google images hit, and creates the illusion of that picture by printing the search word repeatedly in various colours and boldness in an interesting version of ASCII art. Several people at production night were able to use their own names and see themselves made up of their name.

**Woogle:** <http://www.gujian.net/woogle/index.php>

Woogle takes a phrase and searches all the words that Google would not call "commonly used" and displays your phrase in the first image hit for each word (and the common words in large font). We got great results for "all your base are belong to us" and "somebody set up us the bomb," to get you started.

Use with caution, as no filters appear to be in place and curious searches will turn up curious images. Not that *we* know that.

Half-pint

## Hockey is BACK!

*And the Leafs are sucking up a storm*

With hockey season quickly approaching, and me being the ginormous hockey fan I am, I decided that I should give you a quick roundabout of this year's "New NHL", and teams that I think will go far (and others that I think will tank). So, over the next term (or two or three... depending on how lucky you are), I'll write up some articles based on my favorite two divisions: the North-East and the North-West (yes, these are the ones with the six best teams in them; the Canadian ones).

In this issue, I'll tackle two teams: the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Ottawa Senators (might as well start off with the Battle of Ontario).

### *Toronto Maple Leafs*

The last time we had hockey, this team beat out Ottawa in the first round, then lost to Philadelphia (pretty badly) in the second round. Gone are the likes of Robert Reichel, Mikael Renberg, Owen Nolan, Alexander Mogilny, Brian Leetch, Trevor Kidd, Joe Newendyk, Gary Roberts, Ron Francis, etc. New arrivals are concussion-prone Eric Lindros, Marius Czerkawski, Brad Brown, Jeff O'Neill and Jason Allison. Addition by subtraction is definitely not the case here. The Leafs have added injury prone players, players that have underperformed in recent years and players that should have just retired. Add to this, the Leafs are banking on the oft-injured Belfour to carry the bulk of the weight this year. Their already sub-par defense was not handled in any way, and some Leaf fans are already predicting Sundin will hoist the cup. Not this year. Instead, look for the norm to be an echo of the 5-2 thumping they received Sunday night against the Senators.

### *Ottawa Senators*

As mentioned above, the last time we saw the Sens, they were knocked out at the very end of the first round. Gone are the likes of Greg DeVries, Marian Hossa and Peter Bondra (sure, there were a couple other players that left, but really, they didn't have the stature of those listed). Added is Dany Heatley and a truckload of cap space. Why is this good, when the Leafs losing the long list bad? Well, the Sens have players that are mostly developed and need that extra cap space to re-sign some of their key players (such as Redden, Chara, Phillips and Havlat). This is a team that did not have the quality goaltending it needed in the last off-season (I was at Game 7, I know). Most Sens fans believe the weak goaltending to be rectified with the hiring of Dominik Hasek. This may be true, but like the Leafs, it all depends on how many games Hasek is able to play. Will they be able to "go all the way"? Only time will tell.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

## Top 10 words and phrases banned during frosh week

1. "Bribe"
2. "Scunt"
3. [to an EDCOM] "You sure are sexy"
4. "Frodo and the Ring"
5. "Syphilis"
6. "Fuck", "shit", "ass", and "fuck that shit in the ass"
7. "Your life sure will suck after frosh week"
8. "I write the sex column for Imprint"
9. "Without thrust, we can't get it up!" (the less well-known Team Rocket cheer!)
10. "Biplane loves everyone!" (the less well-known Team Biplane cheer!)

Anonymous

**profQUOTES**

“Don’t be afraid to ask a stupid question. I’ll try not to make fun of you.”

Morgan, EARTH 121

“What am I trying to convey here? I’m not sure...”

Bissonnette, CHEM 212

“Don’t worry. I’ve been told “no” by young girls before.”

Cook, ECON 436

“I’m here to teach you, not keep track of these kinds of things; that’s what computers are for.”

Brown, CS 360

“Even on a very fast CPU, it takes a long time to finish an infinite loop.”

Buhr, CS 343

*Noise outside at noon.* “Hmm.. Feeding time at the zoo.”

Socken, FR 251

“We’re not going to assume anything about the model except that the engineers are always wrong.”

Furino, CO 350

“This is a list of stupid axioms that you’ll never need to know.”

McKinnon, PMATH 345

“Any questions about why I did [a proof] this way instead of saying ‘DUH!’?”

McKinnon, PMATH 345

“What you see as 1 may be (1,1), (1,0), or a nicely shaped gazelle.”

McKinnon, PMATH 345

“Let bla bla bla be elements of bla.”

McKinnon, PMATH 345

“I set all the Rs equal to 0, and I win!”

McKinnon, PMATH 345

“I’m really close to the end, like -2 and a half minutes.”

McKinnon, PMATH 345

“I hate math.”

Hare, PMATH 370

“Always do what you think is right.”

McLeish, STAT 230

“If you can explain the Cantor Sets to anyone who asks, you’ll have a date for Friday night.”

Andre, PMATH 331

“If  $c$  divides zero and  $c$  divides zero... then  $c$  divides zero.”

Lawrence, Math 145

Depressed about the lack of *profQUOTES*? Help us out! Next time your prof says something noteworthy, jot it down and drop it in the **BLACK BOX** (located beside the trophy cases in the MC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway), or e-mail it to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca).

**Squiz #1**

*Welcome to the Squiz*

This is the squiz. A weekly trivia column written by me, squizmaster pi. I write it, you answer it. The person who does the best gets a \$5 gift certificate and if nobody submits an answer, I get the gift certificate!

**Hurricane Katrina**

1. Hurricane Katrina is which number storm this season?
2. Which major city did Katrina devastate?
3. Who is the Mayor of this city?
4. The Governor of the state it’s in?

**The Daily Bulletin**

1. Who is the author of the daily bulletin?
2. How often does it come out?
3. When was the first daily bulletin published?
4. What newsgroup(s) is the daily bulletin posted to each morning?

**Magic: The Gathering**

1. What are the five colours in M:TG?
2. What company produces M:TG?
3. What parent company bought them out?
4. What expansion set is coming out next month?
5. Who created the game?
6. What did he have a degree in?

**Sylvester Stallone**

1. Who played the title character in Rocky?
2. Who played the title character in Rambo?
3. Who played the title character in Cobra?
4. Who played Cash in Tango and Cash?

Submit your answers to [mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) or to the **BLACK BOX** by 6:30pm on Monday October 3.

π

**Nintendo’s New Controller**

*Apple finally associated with games*

In a surprising and expensive turn of events, Nintendo recently announced a partnership with Apple Computers as they revealed the Revolution’s controller would be an iPod Shuffle. This opens up many opportunities while you’re playing your new Mario/Metroid/Zelda game. You will be able to listen to all of your music, while completely eliminating the need for having a memory card as you get a minimum of 512MB of storage per controller. Nintendo also gains a great system for distributing online content with the iTunes Music Store. Controller peripherals are easy to do with the USB-ness that the Shuffle has built in. The only real disappointing thing is how hard it is going to be to get multiplayer played as each controller is going to cost as much as the system itself. Well, now you know all the details. Let the crazy fanboy rantings and the waiting begin.

DanS

## A Chaotic Liar

This short article explains how I am solely responsible for the re-election of President George W Bush (My bad) by means of an assortment of chaotic events.

It was the morning before the US Presidential election. I decided to toast a bagel for breakfast. When I looked in the fridge for butter it was nowhere to be found. We had margarine, but I can taste the difference. So I decided to go to the grocery store to get the butter I desired. When I arrived at the store, I was shocked to see that a man was loading his car with what seemed to be all the butter the grocery store had. But this was not just any man. It was Neil Diamond, yeah that's right, Neil Diamond. I ran over to Mr. Diamond's car and asked "Why are you taking all the butter?". He said "I gotta get all this butter to Senator Kerry's party headquarters tonight". Baffled, I asked "Why?". He shouted "There's no time, just hop in, we gotta get out of here!". We then drove down the QEW towards Niagra Falls singing *Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show*. We reached the Falls in no time. We were hassled by customs on account of all the butter we were hauling. The customs agent had too many questions for Mr. Diamond to handle, so he began to sing *Forever in Blue Jeans* and the agent began to cry. This bought us enough time to drive through the gates and into America.

If anyone ever tells you that Neil Diamond can't drive, they are correct. He puts Billy Joel to shame. We crashed into a CD store in Buffalo. The last I saw of Mr. Diamond was him stealing a bunch of his own CD's. I decided to get the butter there myself. It was too important to just give up on. I believed in this cause. I drove as fast as I could, but my lack of knowledge of the highway system in New York proved to be my achilles tendon. After spending a few hours driving in a random direction the car's cell phone rang. I answered "Hello?". The voice on the other end shouted "Diamond, where the hell are you? Kerry needs that butter in an hour or else, well you know what the consequences will be!" and then hung up. I panicked. What was I supposed to do. I didn't know where the party headquarters were. I began to cry. I didn't want to be responsible for whatever was going to happen. The hour had passed. I failed. In a rage I got out of the car. I opened the trunk only to find that Neil Diamond didn't buy butter, he bought margarine, Parkay to be exact. I fell to my knees and screamed at the top of my lungs "PARKAY!!!! WHY!?!"

Senator Kerry phoned the car phone after the results of the election were in. He blamed me entirely for his loss. "Many people don't know this, but butter is my only salvation in this world. I use it for various surfaces that I will not reveal on the phone. Without it, I'm nothing. I have no charisma, no personality, nothing. I have been trying to get off the stuff lately, but this night I needed it most. And you sir have taken my wonderful dairy drug away from me." I interrupted "But it wasn't even butter, it was Parkay", and Kerry replied "May god have mercy on your soul" and hung up. That is how I caused Senator John Kerry to lose the Presidential election to George W. Bush. It is only now that I can face my awful truth.

lcbo

## You know what the thing about whitespace is?

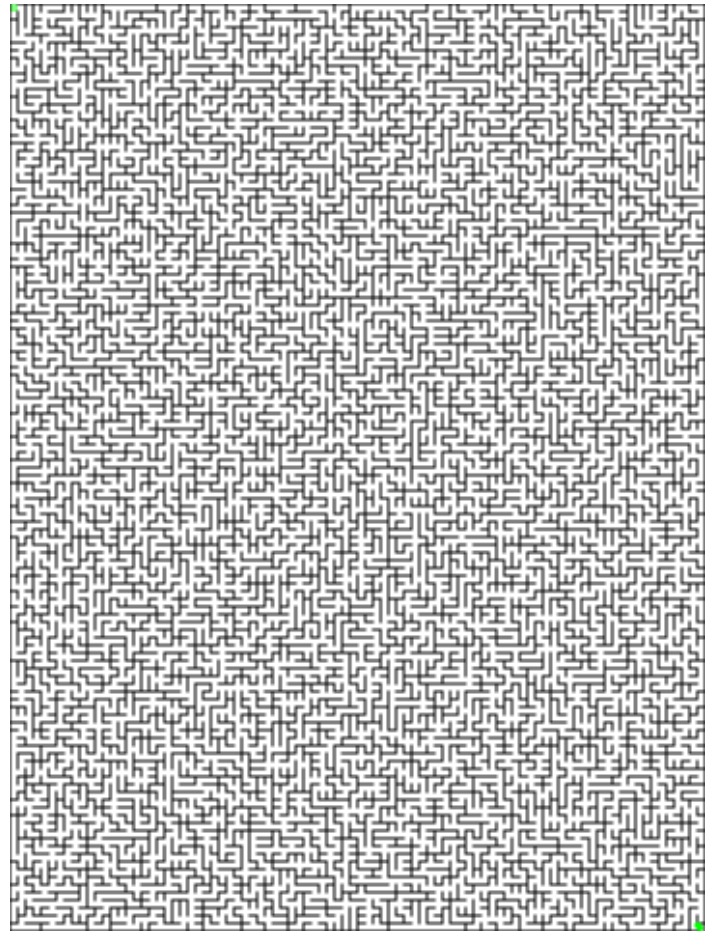
*It needs to be filled*

## mathNEWS microMAZE

Do you fancy yourself as having very good eyesight? Prove it! Find a path through this very very small maze and put your solution into the BLACK BOX by the next *mathNEWS* production night, and you'll win a prize!

Note: A path through this maze is a connected line from the upper left corner to the lower right corner that does not cross any line in the maze. Any sort of fancy explanation you'd try to use to trivialize the maze just to get a prize will result in fire.

SheepNinEd



## Eight excuses for not doing math homework

1. I accidentally divided by zero and my paper burst into flames.
2. I could only get arbitrarily close to my textbook. I couldn't actually reach it.
3. I have the proof, but there isn't room to write it in this margin.
4. I was watching the World Series and got tied up trying to prove that it converged.
5. I have a solar powered calculator and it was cloudy.
6. I locked the paper in my trunk but a four-dimensional dog got in and ate it.
7. I couldn't figure out whether  $i$  is the square of negative one or  $i$  is the square root of negative one.
8. I could have sworn I put the homework inside a Klein bottle, but this morning I couldn't find it.

