

math

NEWS

Volume 99, Issue 2

Friday, October 7th, 2005



***math*NEWS finally comes
out of the closet!**

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

October 7	Issue #2 comes out of the closet
October 17	Production night #3 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC3038) All are welcome!
October 21	Issue #3 breaks up midterm blues

Math Faculty

October 10	University Holiday
October 17	Class Enrolment Appointments Begin
October 22	Fall Convocation
October 28	Deadline for 50% Tuition Refund
October 29	Class Enrolment Appointments End
October 31	Open Enrolment Begins

MathSoc

Thursdays	Movie Nights, 7:00 PM, MC 2065 2 movies, \$2!
November 12	Charity Ball

Math Grad Committee

Wednesdays	Pizza Day! Buy cheap pizza to support the grads!
March 1	Last day to file "Intent to Graduate" for Spring Convocation

CECS

October	Various Workshops http://www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca/
October 11	Employer Interviews Begin
October 12	Professional & Post Degree Day SLC Great Hall 11:00-3:00
October 27	Last day of Initial Phase Interviews
October 28	Ranking Day First continuous posting opens

Miscellaneous

October 10	Thanksgiving Day
October 13	Oktoberfest
October 14	Warrior Weekends
October 17	Full Moon
October 28	Warrior Weekends
October 29	East Asian Festival Renison College, 10:30-3:00
October 31	Halloween

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

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/~TILDE\(DON'T_MISS_ME_THIS_TIME!\)mathnews/mNmL](http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~TILDE(DON'T_MISS_ME_THIS_TIME!)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 & (same goes for > and <: it likes > and <). Now, about actually submitting your article, here's our easy-to-use system:

Email address: mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

Subject line: article (or any funky combination of those letters together, like aRtiCLE or any other of the 27 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

mastHEAD

subtitled

Assignments suck. Yeah, I said it. This week, two of the *mathNEWS* editors have assignments, quizzes and test coming out the wazoo. This means that our lone editor that has never done layout is being thrust into the role. Yes, I also said thrust. You know, like team Rocket from Frosh week..."Without thrust, you can't get it up!" So yeah...kudos out to SheepED, who's doing his first layout ever.

Another production night, another large staff. I'm really liking these fall term production nights. Sure, we get screwed over by first year mid-terms being scheduled exclusively on Monday nights, but when our numbers only drop by like 3, well, makes me happy... This issue, in honour with *mathNEWS* being taken out of the closet, we asked our productions staff: "What has come out of *your* closet recently?": JMM (I don't have a closet), Ali (You don't want to know), Eric (Today's T-shirt), Michael (A bag of wet laundry (ran out of change for the dryer)), Kulio (Your Mother), Math.random() (My teddy bear), Diana (My bunny), ShearedSheep (pot), π (a badger and mushroom), Math (My socks,...then me), Bryam (-2 boxes), Val (some laundry (I hope it wasn't from the winter)), Kaitlyn "Half-pint" (Magick...), DanS (An evil monkey), e (laundry...no wait! an alien! ya...that's much funnier...).

BeatleED (My favorite bastion of erudite thought)
SheepNinED (Dirty, Dirty laundry)
StatsED (I have no closet!)

Free Trip to USENIX Conferences!

Did you know that the USENIX Association wants to pay your way to attend their conferences? "I am not making this up!" They'll fly you to the conference, and pay for your hotel and conference fees. Many UW students over the years have taken advantage of this program to learn and make contacts.

Visit my web page at

<http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~rblander/usenix/>
where you'll find some basic information about USENIX, their Student Programs, links to details about these conferences, and links to the grant application forms.

And stay tuned for the opportunity to apply to attend WORLDS '05, the 2nd Workshop on Real, Large Distributed Systems December 13, 2005, in San Francisco, along with FAST '05, the 4th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies, December 14-16.

Check it out! It could work for you, like it did for a UW Engineering student who attended the USENIX NSDI (Networked Systems Design and Implementation) conference this past May in Boston.

Robyn Landers

UW's USENIX campus outreach representative
rblanders@math.uwaterloo.ca

Movie Music

Something to Listen to

Have you ever walked out of a movie theater thinking the music was better than the movie? If you have you might be interested in www.soundtrack.net. They have a pretty comprehensive listing of movie soundtracks, including tracks and composers. So if you desire to track the movies that a certain composer you like has done, it's now a simple feat. I hope you all enjoy the listening.

Val

A Little Lost

An End to The MathSoc Lost & Found and Other Things

This past week the MathSoc office Lost & Found has been abolished. Police Services runs a concurrent service to which one should bring or search for any lost items. It really is better this way.

In other related news, the MathSoc Office was subjected to a thorough cleaning. No longer do we have a Mount Everest of stale Lost & Found items. We've also removed the Leaning Tower of Posters and discovered that it was actually situated atop the long-missing MathSoc couch. Come drop by to check out the sparkling results of six hours of cleaning. While you're at it, say hello to the friendly office volunteer and find out about the great services your MathSoc membership gives you access to.

If you're ever "board" on a Thursday evening, come drop by the Comfy Lounge (MC 3001) at 5 PM for MathSoc Games Night. Everyone is welcome to attend, and no experience is required.

Your Friendly Neighbourhood Office Managers
Alex McCausland
Andrew Fransen



The Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF) finances projects which are beneficial to undergraduate math students. Each term, a refundable amount of \$31.42 (10π) is collected from each student, is added to our principal of over \$2.5 million, and then the interest on this principal is spent.

In the past, MEF has funded travel to conferences, resources for student clubs, computing equipment, course-specific resources, start-up funding for various student initiatives, and much more. A full list of projects funded by MEF is available on our website.

Funding Council

This term, MEF has about \$40,000 allocated for spending. If you want to help decide where this money goes, you should join funding council. The time commitment is minimal (one or two meetings per term) and all you have to do is fill out a nomination form in order to join (available on the website and outside the MEF office). Send me an email if you have any questions.

Funding Requests

Requests for MEF funding can be made by **anyone**, as long as the request itself will benefit undergraduate math students (the request form is also available on our website and outside of the office). If you have an idea for funding (or know someone who might), send me an email or drop by the office and I would be happy to discuss the details with you.

The deadline for funding council nominations and funding requests is **Friday October 28th**.

Terry Anderson

MEF Director F05/S06

Office: MC 3050

mefcom@student.math.uwaterloo.ca

www.mef.uwaterloo.ca

mathNEWS is coming out of the closet!

And into a new office

Over the Spring term, the Math Society acquired a bunch of new office space. In the midst of all this, *mathNEWS* was told that we were being evicted from the closet. The good news was this: we were being given a brand new office. One that can hold all three editors while STILL allowing us to move around inside. So yeah...*mathNEWS* now has more than a closet. So, you're all invited to pop by our new office in MC 3046 at some random time when there's an editor there. We even have free snacks*!

Les Editors Magnifique

*Snacks not guaranteed [*unless you come to production nights!*]
— *SheepNinEd*

VPAS Says

It's another term and thus another attempt at trying to get my *mathNEWS* article in on time... It's a very exciting time for Soc, the fall season usually means new volunteers or at least more random bonding sessions involving the MathSoc stereo. Today, Aaron played his newly acquired Rent! film soundtrack which ended up in a random discussion about musicals and a bunch of people wanting to get together to see the new Rent film that's due in theatres in November. All this happened while I was waiting for my social director to show up so we could discuss what's happening this term.

Luckily the Rent film is not opening the same weekend as Charity Ball (Faculty of Math's annual semi-formal event that raises money for charity), which is taken place on Nov. 12 at 7pm in Waterloo Inn. We'll provide transportation from campus and awesome auction and door prizes, you just have to get a ticket (on sale soon!)

1/2 of the Office Managers did an awesome job cleaning up the MathSoc Office. Kudos to Andrew and Alex for doing so!

So, I guess the entire point of this article is:

1. Hang out in the MathSoc Office, if only to hear the Rent soundtrack (or any Jonathan Larson musical, or any music of your choice during your office hour!)
2. Volunteer. I hate to say it, it does look good on the CV. I write spiffy reference letters I boast a 100% success rate - all my reference letters have managed to help people get jobs) And I don't have to wait around to meet my social director! It's a win win situation! (Though you can help out in other

ways, like holding an office hour! sign up on the sheet outside MathSoc - that's MC 3038) **More info about different directorships is available outside MC 3038**

3. Charity Ball is on Nov. 12. Check out the spiffy posters around campus for more info (thanks to Derek Yuen, my frosh leader from 2002 for designing them. they're looking spiffy!)
4. Rent is an awesome musical.
5. You should check out the MathSoc Office, It's clean!

I will also boast my conversation for a cookie game. Where if I don't know your name, bug me during my office hours and I'll give you a cookie in exchange for a conversation.

And if you're interested in learning more about volunteering with MathSoc, e-mail me at vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca or come talk to me during my office hours, I hear you'll get a cookie as well.

Oh, bonus cookie to the person who knows which frosh team i was on in 2002. (Note: You can't win if you were on my frosh team. Sorry!)

P.S. Check out the MathSoc Website at <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca>, I hear it contains more information about the society and more reasons to procrastinate during CS lab.

Elaine Wong
Vice President, Activities and Services
Mathematics Society
Fall 2005

MGC Sez

Written in front of a Live Studio Audience

So, apparently our friendly *mathNEWS* editors have cut me off from using ellipsis for the rest of the term. They say I over-used them last issue. I say sucks to their ass-mar! [*Ellipses are a privilege, not a right, Sam — SheepNinEd*]

Not much to say this time round. Thanks to all those who showed up to the info sessions last week. I hope you all found it worthwhile. Also, I would like to thank people who keep buying pizza on Wednesdays. It funds our *bling bling*. I mean Grad Ball and all of the fun stuff that we do.

We here at MGC realize that us 4th, 5th and the occasional 6th year students are busy in the month of October - what with the midterms and Oktoberfest. We'll be running things pretty light here. Regardless, here's a short list of things to consider.

Grad Photo Sign-Ups - Now till they fill up. Sign up for a time to have your grad photo taken. Don't do it for yourself - do it for your parents who will be glad that all they've got to show for your 4/5 years of pain was this lousy photo. The Sign up sheets are posted across from the C & D on the MGC Bulletin Board. You'll need to get them done soon.

MGC Mailing List - whenever. Sign up for our mailing list! Doitdoitdoitdoit. All the cool kids are. They are located on the MGC Bulletin Board across from the C & D.

Yearbooks will go on sale EVERY WEDNESDAY! You can buy

them right beside Pizza Day on Wednesdays. \$40 per book. Add \$5 for front cover personalization. We take both cash and cheque (payable to Math Grad Committee). More information at the Yearbook table.

BONFIRE! - Oct. 17 Come out to the Columbia Lake fire pits and enjoy some roasted marshmallows and hot dogs with your fellow graduates-to-be. Guaranteed to be fun and firey! Keep watching *mathNEWS*, your email boxes if you're on the mailing list, and the walls for posters about more upcoming exciting MGC Social events! If you want to help out planning events, send an email to social@mgc.student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

We like having people visit us in our office. We get lonely sometimes, so stop by MC 3029 and talk to us. We don't bite.

Once again, if you have any comments, suggestions, whatever, feel free to email us at mgc@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. In any case, we'd love to hear from you.

And now, back to panicking! Wee!

Sam

Math Grad Committee Chair Fall 2006

Did you know? We've got a newsgroup! Check us out at uw.math.mgc

PREZ Says

Done week 4

And what a hectic few weeks it has been, from MathSoc week, to the announcement of Bill Gates coming to campus to having a hallowe'en costume contest at the fedS meeting. Lastly, and most importantly, recovering from the hectic day of EngScunt, which was an awesome time and I was both happy and at the same time a little disheartened to be the captain of the winning team, not because I didn't want to win, but because we care more about this event than the engineers. Either way, I was still honoured, and look forward to running the spring scunt.

Other than that there are some more announcements to make

1. Anyone who helped out the Math team for Eng Scunt in any way, and is interested in being a god in the spring, should e-mail me at matersig@uwaterloo.ca by October 21. I'll e-mail everyone who applies with some questions for them after we determine the criteria we'll be using.
2. Bill Gates is coming to campus, anyone chosen to go to the talk should have received an e-mail already (or will receive one shortly). If you were not chosen, don't panic (too much), the presentation will be shown in the DC and SLC great hall live.
3. Math Charity Ball tickets go on sale soon, be on the lookout
4. Have a great Thanksgiving weekend everyone, and see you all on Tuesday

As always, if you have any questions, give me a shout... till next time.

Michael Tersigni
President Fall 2005

The Mating Rituals of the Common Classroom Note

We all love and cherish the notes that we take in class. Alright, that's a blatant lie, many of us don't take notes at all, and most of those that do use them to study for exams and then cruelly throw them away at the end of term. The goal that every note strives for is to be kept safe for all eternity.

The common classroom note generally has a short lifespan of only 4 months in which to achieve this goal and must make the most of its time. Even a note that was born to a student who doesn't keep notes has a chance of longevity, however. This is obviously achieved through sex. Obviously.

The common method of reproduction is mating with a photocopier, although some notologists have documented cases of notes reproducing with pens and blank paper. However, these pairings result in mutant note children that are not proper duplicates of their parent.

In order for a note to attract a photocopier to mate with, it must have a strong genetic code. This is made known by the neatness and understandability of the words (or numbers) contained in the note.

And now you know the rest of the story.

Kulio

FASS

The Faculty, Alumni, Staff and Students' Theatre Company

FASS is a Waterloo theatre company that puts on one show a year, in February. Anyone (Faculty, Alumni, Staff, or Student) who auditions gets a part in the show, so don't be shy! Auditions will be the first week in January. To learn more, come to our Fall Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, October 18th at 6 pm in the SLC's Multi-Purpose Room. We'll be giving you food and watching the video of last year's show, and you can meet the FASS Committee (a large portion of which is made up of Mathies!)

The theme for this year's show is Shakespeare! If you are interested in helping in the script-writing process, email our Chief Script Writer at csw@fass.uwaterloo.ca. For any other questions, visit our website at www.fass.uwaterloo.ca

Diana Chisholm
FASS Co-Producer

Two Tips For More MC Efficiency

- Halls are for walking, not standing. I know I am personally sick of having to leave the building and walking twice the distance in order to get to where I'm going.
- Wait outside of a room until people are out of it. Doors work better in Serial than in Parallel, and your class isn't starting for another 10 minutes but they may have a class 10 minutes away that you're not letting them get to.

MathSoc Seeking SysAdmin

Fabulous Resume-Enhancing Volunteer Opportunity

MathSoc is seeking someone to take on the role of Computing Director for the S06 term (and perhaps beyond). At the bare minimum, you should be familiar with both Linux and Windows. Some of the stuff listed after here would be nice, but is my no means required.

Our ideal candidate has experience with Debian GNU/Linux file/web server administration (Apache with mod_ssl and php4, MySQL, exim, Samba 3, ACLs), as well as Windows 2000 desktop and Windows Server 2003 Active Directory administration. You should also be comfortable taking apart and putting together PC hardware.

Experience with Cisco switch administration, Mac OS X administration, patch panel maintenance, CUPS (maybe not necessary if I ever get my act together...), rsync backups (both incremental and that other kind), and a whole lotta gumption would also be assets, but you could probably get by without 'em (well, except the last one).

If you would like more information about the position, please contact computing@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Eric Logan
MathSoc Computing Director
Take my job, please!

Former FEMA Director Brown Headed to Houston

Mayor Orders Immediate Evacuation

Forecasters warn that Michael Brown, the former FEMA director, will likely visit Houston, Texas later this week. Michael Brown, an acquaintance of the President's from college, is currently in Washington to testify for a congressional investigation. However, forecasters warn that his current speed and heading put him on a trajectory that leads straight to Houston. Forecasters expect the former government crony to hit the city on Thursday around lunchtime. While he is not expected to develop winds as strong as 240 Km/h, officials warn that he may nonetheless put the lives of millions of innocent bystanders at risk. NASA is currently using the most advanced satellite technology at its disposal to track the movements of the dangerous ousted Federal Agency director.

The mayor of Houston has ordered an immediate evacuation of the city. "Run for your lives!" the mayor told reporters at a news conference last night. City officials say they hope to keep power and water running but warn that key pieces of infrastructure may fail to survive even the panic of the impending evacuation. Houston gas stations have already run out of gasoline.

The present-day port city of 4.5 million people was completely demolished once in the early 1900s by a hurricane. Many residents hope to be not around for what could turn out to be a repeat of that early disaster. Traffic on roads leading out of the city has already slowed to a crawl as people desperately try to escape.

Professor Mario Luigi of the University of Intensive Studies is an expert in the field of disaster mismanagement. "It's a common misconception that you need an actual disaster for someone to mismanage it with fatal consequences," said Professor Luigi, adding "The director of a federal agency, especially a master of disaster mismanagement such as Michael Brown, can quickly lose control of a situation that doesn't need to be controlled in the first place," highlighting the real and present danger that Michael Brown poses to Houston. Professor Luigi also pointed out that "an analysis of historical records show that Houston is overdue for such a disaster."

Crude oil for Febtober delivery rose \$0.60 to close at \$68.52 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

mathNEWS storm chaser Peiran

Pre-Season over...

Regular season begins!

The NHL pre-season has come and gone. Some teams did well, others did abhorrently badly. Well, that's all good and whatnot, but the true thing is this: the pre-season means jack. Yes, that's right. I said it. Pre-season means nothing. Hell, even the regular season means nothing. What matters is making the playoffs. By the time you're reading this, each team will have played at least one game (some will have played two or more), and at least one team will have a 100% losing record. Given the fact that it's only after 1 game, this means nothing. What will matter is the final results of a complete 82 game season. We'll see what happens between now and the end of April. Besides, you'll get to read my opinions on a bi-weekly basis!

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

Agnus McButter and the Equations of Evil

Chapter 1

Agnus McButter's reddish pompadour bopped with the motion of his tricycle - "Ice-cream, get your ice-cream!"

"Not that idiot again," Professor Kronecker shrieked as his students fled in the middle of his proof. "Please, you're adults! This is university!"

"Ice-cream!" Topsy grinned, tripped over his shoelaces and busted his nose on the door.

"Ice-cream," the Frosh cried and trampled Topsy's lifeless body on their way out, having just started to realize the kind of mess they had gotten themselves into.

"Ice-cream," Topsy intoned. "It sure would be nice if you stopped walking over - Ow! - my ribs!" And for Topsy McGovern that was the first day of school.

"Ice-cream, mathies!" Agnus jingled the bells on his bike. "It makes you smarter."

"Does it really?" Konni turned to the morose boy behind her. "Can you believe it, I can be even smarter!"

"Do you want to buy some pot?" Rocker was nursing a monster hangover. "It will make you double smarter."

"I'll take two pots, please," she replied and for Konni Doalh, the future President of Everything, that was the first day of school.

Rocker bought a cone, put it on the first step and watched as Professor Kronecker approached the stairwell mumbling under his breath. "Stupid kids, unappreciative of the beauties of formal logic, stupid ice-cream trike - hm? Why is my bodyfollowing this bizarre trajectory as my arm smashes into the stairs and O DEAR GOD THIS HURTS SO MUCH. (Amidst snifles) I can sure go for a waffle cone right now." And for both professor and students the first day of school was painful.

In the sunny afternoon outside, which masqueraded as the first day of school, upper years bought Agnus McButter's ice-cream because that's what they did in first year, first years bought it because that's what upper years were doing and Mary Magdalene contemplated just how far was the day when she could use Math topay for her dancing as opposed to vice versa.

All the while, Dean Prishard and CorpoMan were enacting their surreptitious plan to use the Faculty to solve the Equations of Evil; Rocker continued not talking to Mary Magdalene, who continued not talking to him and in a morphine-induced synthesis of the previous two clauses, Topsy dreamt of Mary wrapped around pole-shaped solutions to the Fundamental Theorem of Evil. But that is all to be elaborated another time for after all today was only the first day of school.

White Lightning

Significantly unhealthy cooking 101

If you like chocolate more than life itself, this one's for you. Take equal parts hot chocolate powder and half and half cream, mix together in a cup, and eat. If you only use about a tablespoon of each, you get the same nutritional content as an actual hot chocolate, in a fraction of the time!

SheepNine

The Black Windowless SE Tower

This is an official-like proposal to MEF to fund the construction of a monument to the greatest program here at UW, Software Engineering. The idea to get funding for such a monument has been floating around for a while, but it's only recently that we decided to write up a formal proposal. So here it is!

The Black Windowless SE Tower (hereafter referred to BWSET), will be a large, obelisk-shaped monument which stands in that green field between the DC and the MC. It shall be hand-hewn from jet-black obsidian mined from a volcano deep in the African Congo, and stand a full six stories into the air. Upon its sides shall be affixed jagged metal spikes made of char-blackened, rusty iron. An internal combustion engine will spew gouts of flame and thick, choking clouds of soot and ash into the air. Every time you cough, even when you're not on campus, you will think, "software". A fitting method of constantly reminding students.

Chained to the base of the BWSET shall be three red dragons, named Incinerator, Flameswrath, and Cuddles. Cuddles shall be the largest and angriest of the three. In this way, everyone will be reminded of contradictions that we feel every time we write a CS assignment. Flying circles around the BWSET (and wearing respirators to shield them from the smoke) will be our genetically-engineered flying monkeys, with razor-sharp teeth and claws and leathery bat wings.

The BWSET will, obviously, have no windows, but will also have no doors or any other method of entry (it will also not have Windows, but will be running the operating system the Software Engineers are programming this term). It will, however, have rooms inside. Entry to rooms in the tower can only be granted by intoning the passwords scribed in a dark, forgotten language. Speaking the words will cause the obsidian to move aside and form a door for only long enough to enter. In this way, we enforce security.

Phallic references aside, the BWSET will be a fitting monument to the glory and might that is UW Software Engineering. It will also serve to be an awesome clubhouse, because having three private rooms for our program just isn't enough.

SheepNine

Caution! No Pants Day in Realtime

Those of you who still have your eyesight must have missed No Pants Day in the Realtime lab (MC 3018).

It all started as a random poll, written on the lab board very late last Sunday evening (Monday Morning). It read:

Casual Fridays (i.e. No Pants):

YES: 11

NO:

By the end of the week, was a unanimous Yes with almost every student in the class voting — including the females. One even offered that if all the men took off their pants, she would too (though due to some of us having a shred of dignity, this, alas, did not come about).

The enthusiasm in the class was best summed up by a post to the news group (name withheld to protect the innocent):

Date: Fri, 30 Sep 2005 16:43:29 -0400

From: *****

Newsgroups: uw.cs.cs452

Subject: No

Pants!

My pantless day began when I noticed the "caution" signs as I entered the lab. Thinking it was still a joke, I went about my coding. I discovered that it was, however *not* a joke, as the question was posed to the students in the lab: "Do you think I have to put my pants on to go to the washroom?" A debate ensued which resulted in not only a pantless trip to the *washroom* but a pantless trip to the C&D.

There were, however, no complaints about pantless Friday so this author is going to call it a complete success. And looks forward to this Friday's (Oct. 7th) event Toga Friday in the Lab.

A Realtime student

**Just think, in twenty-five years,
future students will be reading
ElseWhen about this issue!**

I Don't Drink

Okay, so I have a bit of a confession here. I don't drink. I never really have, honestly. In high school almost everyone did it, but not me. However, at least back then it wasn't so public, where here in Waterloo I see it everywhere. I can't go a day without seeing someone drinking.

Now, it's not that I have a problem with people drinking. I can understand that some people just need it. You know, they need it as a wake up, keep their cool, or just for fun. I understand and respect that, but I just have no personal interest in it whatsoever. It's not the idea behind it; I just don't like the taste. I have tried it in all forms but I never enjoyed it in any way. I tried it in pop, straight up and in other mixes and the taste turns me off every time. I don't care what it does to me — I am not going to drink something if it tastes like that.

Even at a young age, whenever my parents would offer me a

little, I would take a taste and then turn it away. Then as I grew up came the peer pressure, a little in high school but then a lot more once I came to university. If my friends were just talking about it most of the time I would play along like I drank too. When it came to people offering me some I would politely turn it down, telling them I wasn't thirsty or that I already had one, or, when ordering I would say I didn't feel like it.

But hey, that's the life of someone who doesn't drink caffeine in most forms. I don't touch coffee, tea or caffeinated pops. I live in an unimaginable world to some, a life of undrugged late nights and woozy early mornings. Whereas others I never see without a cup of joe, I live the life sans coffee. I am not a freak, but rather one who goes to Tim Hortons to enjoy their cider and hot chocolate. I am the decaffeinated man. *[You do know that your hot chocolate contains caffeine, right? — BeattieEd]*

Counting for Mathies (Not For Dummies)

- 1 represents your frosh year when you are first filled with enthusiasm and excitement.
- 2 is the number of cool friends you make in your career as a Mathie.
- 3 is the number of years it takes to navigate yourself through cubic MC with expertise.
- 4 represents your final year in the regular program, at which point you run out of enthusiasm and excitement
- 5 represents your final year in the co-op program, at which point you run out of enthusiasm and excitement.
- 6 is the number of flights of stairs that you never climb at MC unless you are on a varsity team.
- 7 is the number of minutes you wish you lived away from campus.
- 8 is for the starting digit of the math mark you wish for but may not be able to achieve this term.
- 9 is for the starting digit of the math mark you wish for but probably will never be able to achieve.
- 10 is for the aggregate amount of minutes you have for your one essential meal of the day before going to your next class.


Mathies can be artsy and poetic too

- Moment generating functions are not invented by engineers
- Applied math should be for everyone but, really, only applied math students should dare take it
- Turing should be brought back to life in CS... NOT
- Help centre should be open for 3rd and 4th year students too...
- Easy courses are pretty much non-existent in this faculty
- More math knowledge can be shared through your math buddies
- Artsies would create a poem that rhymed
- To be a mathie or not to be a mathie
- Intelligent mathies do not curse at their math assignments
- Comfy lounge is not as comfy as I would like it to be...
- Statistics is asymptotically abnormal

OW

House of Nerds

<p>The characters in the following comic are based off of real people.</p>	<p>The events, however, are completely fictional.</p>	<p>So, it's kind of like a movie about historical events. At least the names are correct.</p>	<p>Oh, and to protect the dignity of the real persons their names have been changed. Except the author who has none.</p>
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RIM Has Conquered E-mail

I'll tell you what's next...

If you are reading this, by now you have most likely witnessed some part of the RIM campaign using the catch-phrase "RIM has conquered e-mail...what's next?" This campaign included a talk by RIM co-CEO Mike Lazaridis this past Monday. At the talk, Mr. Lazaridis gave his answer to this (heretofore thought to be rhetorical) question. At his presentation given at the SLC, he unveiled RIM's plan for complete world domination.

The first stage of RIM's plan consists of recruiting the University of Waterloo's student body to lay the ground-work for its coup d'etat. This plan includes recruiting Waterloo's actuarial science and math/business students to infiltrate the corporate world, mechanical engineers to devise a number of diabolical Bond-like villain weapons (though they're still working the kinks out of the top-hat that can decapitate a man at one hundred paces). Also, computer science students will be employed to create addicting solitaire plug-ins for Firefox and CS 341 algorithm demonstration applets to distract the unwashed masses.

Waterloo's world-class political science students will position themselves in the backrooms of every major government. As an aside, RIM has already been quite successful in infiltrating the political elite in this country. "Praying to the RIM" as it called, is a common activity for politicians and their adjuncts to engage in.

Now, you might ask how RIM's dominance of e-mail would embolden it in its aspiration to global domination. Now that RIM has secured a strangle-hold on the mobile transmission of the world's email, or at least the e-mail of the rich and influential, it will be able to play the world's powers against each other. All it will take is a few subtle changes in official e-mails for the ICBMs to start flying. And in the aftermath, RIM will rise out of the ashes to rule the world with an iron fist.

At least, that's what I distilled from Mr. Lazaridis' presentation. It's also possible that RIM is only planning to expand into other forms of electronic communication. I suppose he left it open to interpretation...

ShearedSheep

P.S. I truly apologize for the poor quality of this submission. By all means, if you've read this far, you deserve a cookie. In order to spare future editions of *mathNEWS*, come out for production nights. There will be a cookie in it for you.

Cooking 101

Lab Number 1

Welcome back to another fun episode of cooking for dummies... I mean, uh... we give out our recipes for fun! Today we will be trying an old favourite. Spaghetti! Spaghetti sauce is easy-ish to make. It can be made in large quantities and frozen for later use. Well, here we go.

Simple Spaghetti Sauce

Ingredients

- 4 cans diced or crushed tomatoes
- 2 medium onions
- 4 large cloves of garlic (By cloves, we mean a section of the garlic, kinda like the sections of a mandarin orange. Unless you really like garlic please don't add 4 bulb.)
- 2 tsp oregano (tsp stands for teaspoon, while tbsp is table-spoon)
- 1 tsp rosemary
- 1 tsp thyme
- 2 tsp sugar (to taste)
- 1 1/2 tsp salt (to taste)
- oil (whichever one that you bought because of the last article)
- 1 tsp cornstarch (optional)
- 1 1/2 tsp ground black pepper (fresh or from a bottle is fine by me, though "chefs" will always tell you to use fresh)

Directions

- Open cans of tomatoes and use the lids to press the excess water out. Pour into a large pot and turn element on minimum. Let simmer (keep it on medium heat for awhile and not worry about it). Stir occasionally.
- Peel and mince the onions (chop into small pieces). Pour small amount of oil into a frying pan, and turn heat on medium. Be sure to use a different element — keep those tomatoes simmering! Add the onions into the pan. Peel and crush garlic into the pan. (Should you not own a garlic press, cut the garlic into small pieces or use 4tsp of pre-crushed garlic, easy to find at the supermarket.) Let simmer for two to three minutes or until onions look translucent (clear). Turn off

heat and add to the tomato pot.

- Let the tomatoes simmer on medium for 20 minutes. This is to boil off some of the water and give it a more sauce-like consistency.
- Transfer 2/3 to 3/4 of the tomato mixture to a blender and puree. Pour back into pot. If you do not like chunky sauce, puree the whole amount.
- Add the salt, sugar and spices to taste. We gave the amounts we use, but you might like it different. We assume you know what tastes good to you. Continue to let simmer until it is desired consistency (looks like sauce). If you don't want to let it simmer and wait (I think it tastes better that way), to make it thicker, mix cornstarch with 1tsp of water until it is a paste. Stir slowly into the tomato sauce. Keep stirring until sauce thickens.

This is good with boiled pasta or used as an ingredient in other dishes that call for spaghetti sauce. Feel free to brown some ground beef or add veggies before serving. Experiment, but don't blame us if you don't like the new taste. You were the one that "tinkered" with the recipe.

This recipe makes enough for the equivalent of 2 to 3 Ragu jars of sauce. Ali says that this is about 6 cups of sauce, but who uses cup measurements anyway?(Ali also says it depends on how thick you like it and how much moisture you boil off.)

Happy cooking!

Ali & Jenn

Significantly unhealthy cooking 102

In the mood for something delicious and life-shortening? Take equal amounts of peanut butter and chocolate chips, throw them into the microwave until melted, and stir together. It's like a reese peanut butter cup, only homogeneous and warm and melty. You can also pour this 'chocobutter' sauce into a pan, and put in the fridge for a while. Who pays a dollar for a chocolate bar? Make your own!

SheepNine

House of Nerds



Horrorscopes

Your future revealed... as I wish it to be!

Accounting

As you prepare for yet another tax season, you ask yourself: "why accounting?" My advice is to get out while you still can, but if you must continue, at least take a few fun PMath courses before graduation.

Your lucky number is 9 caught tax frauds.

ActSci

Assessing risk is what you do best, so assess the risks you take by being a Waterloo Mathie: On the one hand, everyone thinks you are a big geek. On the other, if you are here, you must not care!

Your lucky number is a $1 + (-1)$ percent return rate.

AMath

Say, aren't those Stats geeks cute? Wouldn't you like to get to know one over Thanksgiving? Forget all that Physics and work on some Chemistry. Who knows, they might surprise you.

Your lucky number is one very normal distribution.

C&O

Take a page out of John Nash's book and take the new game theory seminar; no, it is not held in a bar full of girls, and hopefully it won't make you a schizophrenic.

Your lucky number is the answer to the Travelling Salesman problem.

Computational Math

Don't let those big problems you solve make your head big. You may have the best of Math and CS, but that doesn't make you *much* smarter than the rest of us mere mathies.

Your lucky number is 2 inches wider than your door frame.

CS

Having queued up to get into UW CS, you find yourself sorting out a huge array of courses. Eventually, these map onto a degree and you'll get some closures. (Unless you're in BCS, in which case you'll just End Degree.)

Your lucky number is 5 years in BASIC training.

Double Degree

Since half of your course-load is taken at Laurier, take advantage of the ease of those courses by slacking off this weekend. Bake some pie, and give thanks that you are only half in a difficult program.

Your lucky number is 3 days on the couch.

MathBus

Fall brings new thoughts to your mind: how will you ever get through classes with artsies? and will you be able to stand those arrogant upper year mathies much longer? Neither sounds promising.

Your lucky number is 18 days to a mental breakdown.

MathPhysics

Like others in the 'applied' branches of math, you like everything to have a purpose. Take some Philosophy to cure you of that, then you will be ready for some PMath logic!

Your lucky number is one lost belief system. Yours.

Math Sciences

You may be only one step above Undeclared, but you are still several leaps ahead of Arts. Brag to any artsies in your non-math classes that while both your degrees are general, you won't be

managing a Starbucks after graduation.

Your lucky number is n jealous artsies.

Operations Research

You feel compelled to tell everyone, especially your horoscope writer, what your program is. That way people won't be confused and think you perform operations... and do research...

Your lucky number is 10 well-performed operations in your research.

PMath

As midterms approach, you may be worried that the bell curve will leave your head ringing. Just think about that summer research job you have, and forget to study; none of that book-learning will help you anyway.

Your lucky number is 2 standard deviations.

SoftEng

Your memory is starting to fail from information overload, and you may forget the code to your over-used private lounge. Suggest they institute a revolving-door policy, like that of your administration.

Your lucky number is 3 associate directors and counting.

Stats

When the study population for trying out your moves on girls starts to diminish, try enlarging your sample: people in AMath are particularly receptive this week. Don't worry, I've fixed it all for you *wink wink*.

Your lucky number is a 35.6 percent response rate.

Teaching Option

In a town where there is competition to volunteer as a high school teacher's aide, you feel lucky to be in a co-op program where you at least get paid after the gruelling application process.

Your lucky numbers are 11 schools and 0 placements.

Undeclared

As a naturally indecisive person, you may be stumped when deciding what to be thankful for. Your safest bet is to be thankful that you are not in Eng, but being thankful for the existence of turkey is good too.

Your lucky number is... whatever you decide (hahaha).

Eng

After losing to Math in your own Scunt (as I'm sure you did), it may be hard to concentrate on your classes. But try your best, because Drinking 101 and Male Companionship 235 are challenging courses, and require all your attention.

Your lucky number is 5 kegers this weekend.

Sci

You are coming to realize that the science of the body is very similar to the science of computers. After all, aren't we both made of 0s and 1s? Or is that just a problem with your microscope?

Your lucky number is ten billion 1s in the human body.

AHS

Future kinesiologists of the world (I probably spelled that wrong; I can't pronounce it either): We shall all one day be in your debt. But that day is not now, so remember who is in charge around here.

Your lucky number is 4000 mathie overlords.

ES

Looking out your window, you see the effect you and your kind have had on the environment: absolutely nothing, judging by all that smog. Step it up by joining Greenpeace, or saving the dolphins, or maybe even protesting outside a big factory.

Your lucky number is 0.00001 percent cleaner air thanks to you.

Arts

Last but not least (oh wait, yes, least), with all your free time, you should volunteer more. Fortunately, today is campus-wide mathie-slave day. You too can become a mathie's slave with only one little signature.

Your lucky number is not having time to have a number, you are too busy being my slave.

Dirty Mathie

Just Keep Swimming

Newsflash from the pool

Many of us enjoy going for a dip in our PAC pool. It's a good way to work out, and it's fun. *However*, things can get frustrating if we do not all follow come simple rules of pool etiquette.

Know your abilities. If you are coming to the pool and are not a strong swimmer, the Fast lane is not for you. If you cannot swim a complete length without touching the bottom, or take more than a full minute to swim it, you probably belong in the Rec and Leisure lane. It can be hard to admit you are not Olympic-class, but when you swim in an inappropriate lane, you cause backlog and irritation. Nobody is impressed when they are forced to slow down their own swim for you. And even if you usually swim in the Fast lane, if everyone else is passing you, it's time to move to the Medium lane until the speed demons leave. It's relative.

Follow the swim directions. On the north wall of the pool there are charts above each lane. They tell you what direction you should swim in. I do not like completing a turn and running into you. If you're at the pool for the first time, take a moment to check the signs. Alternatively, look at the lane and see how everyone else is swimming. It's a courtesy to not run into people. Also, **DO NOT** swim in the middle of the lane. The middle of the lane is for passing only.

Take a break. If someone is swimming up behind you and is faster, take a five second break at the end of the length and let them pass you. This helps the swim move more smoothly. Do not be offended if someone wants to pass you. This isn't a personal insult. You are just going relatively slower than that person. Should everyone be passing you, think of changing to a slower lane.

Take a break, Part II. Swimming can be tiring, and stopping for a breather once in a while will help you not drown. *However*, this does not mean stop for a ten-minute chat with your friends. The lanes are set up for swimming in. If you are at the pool for the purpose of socializing and hanging out, go do it in the diving well (the deep part). This way, people can do turns and continue swimming without dodging the obstacle course.

Friendly Tip. This isn't so much etiquette as helpful advice. When you swim, splashing a lot doesn't make you faster. It actually slows you down. The less splash, the faster you will go. Plus, you will not be flinging water at me, and I appreciate that.

Pool Denizens of the PAC

Is Math really for me?

You should NOT be in math if:

- You think that a Java class is a 12-week training on Columbian coffee.
- You use a calculator to find out how much time you have until your next class.
- You, and all of your friends, bathe regularly.
- You think that infinity starts at one million.

Math could be for you if:

- You've used Crest Whitening Strips for two years but your legs are still whiter than your teeth.
- The closest to a date you've ever been is creating a Java Calendar object and calling the getDate() method.
- You don't think that the Comfy Lounge smells funny.
- To fight terrorism, you suggest that Mounties's horses be replaced by more powerful unicorn, and explain why using magic cards.

Math is surely for you if:

- Your friend tries to convince you that God is real, and you argue that he is in fact an integer.
- Your female friend gives you some pointers for your next date, and you get an urge to dereference them.
- You pile up your 4th year CS books and you get a stack overflow.

Your only hope is Math if:

- You know the order of the songs in Winamp even in random mode.
- You have no life and you can mathematically prove it in three different ways.
- You found a sequence in the classroom numbers of all 1A schedules (except for Arts because they have only two classes).
- Every couch in the Comfy Lounge has YOUR groove.

You are a Math TA if:

- Your first words were foo and bar.
- You fast for the week before March 14 to maximize your pie consumption on Pi Day.
- You memorized the trilogy of the Matrix, including the deleted scenes and audio commentary.

Bennywine

*Disclaimer: This article has no scientific basis. It should be used as a guide only.

MCTF Take 2

Now on a special date and time

So I was lying about the time part, but the special date is true. If you missed the first Midnight Capture the Flag, you suck, and missed a great time had by everyone who did. But, you can make it up by coming to the next game, which — by the way — will be held on Monday October 10th at 11:59 P.M. Anyone interested should meet at the comfy.

See you there

The New Management

How We Gonna Pass ...*...Calculus**(To the tune of Rent from Rent)*

Calculate d/dx of this
 when it's a mess of functions
 down on my page.
 Headlines, red lines mark my page
 Assignment deadline's just hours away.
 Calc!

Expanding takes so long
 Still my Taylor's wrong
 And they say it's simple as pie
 Tangents are all sour
 Trigs, roots and powers
 Make me shout out "My oh my!"

My Maple is frozen!
 Some program we've chosen!

How we gonna pass? (x3)
 Pass Calc 1!

Next comes integrals!

How do you find the volume
 Of a function you turn
 'Round an axis? You know it's not complex.
 You know that you can get by
 Integral of two π
 $\times f(x) dx$

Then there's the emergence
 Of series convergence!

How we gonna pass? (x3)
 Pass Calc 2!

Don't screen Maureen
 It's me Joanne
 Your 133 lab parter hey hey hey!
 No more calc?
 Still got the subject, Maureen
 But darling, we did it all through first year
 We're still not done
 We're still not done
 More calculus to go
 How much more fun exactly?
 There may still be two courses left to go
 My goodness oh no!

Next we go into calc 3
 x, y, z you'll see
 Oh what a treat
 Hope you get the trick!
 It'll drive you mad
 With partials and grads

And all that jazz
 "Oh, I feel sick!"

What are we?
 Going crazy!

How we gonna pass? (x3)
 Pass Calc 3!

Don't despair mathies, don't be sad
 Unless you're in Math Phys you'll find all your calc is done
 Still there's one more course you can take - you'll need
 all the help you can get for this last one

For mathies who did their three calcs with a passionate fire
 (Maureen I'm not a calculus person)
 Did integrals, liimits and graphs with incendiary wit
 (I'll never be a calculus person)
 For you there's still one more calc to be found
 For you there's still one more calc to go

Hello, Maureen?
 You're taking calc 4?
 Okay alright I'll go!

Calc 4 you know that you will find
 That vector-valued functions are at its heart
 With theorems by Gauss, Green and Stokes remember how
 to tell them apart
 Calc!

How do we take all of this calc?
 Those deltas, sigmas, and pis,
 Without going insane?

What keeps us mathies together
 Makes the theorems, trig identities
 All stay in our brains?

We're the sharp and the bright
 We'll get this stuff right

Use my Sharp or TI
 With a pink tie

Get through it all
 And stand up tall

How we gonna pass? (x3)
 Pass Calc 1!
 Pass Calc 2!
 Pass Calc 3!
 Calc calc calc calc calc!
 Then we'll pass Calc 4!
 And we'll pass all our calc!

profQUOTES

"I figured this [slide] would be more graphical than me waving my arms around."

Morgan, EARTH 121

"The volcanoes which produce rhyolites have a nasty habit of killing you."

Morgan, EARTH 121

"I call these volcanoes 'constipated volcanoes.' You know, you're sitting there going URRRRGH and the BANG! It's everywhere."

Morgan, EARTH 121

"These volcanoes are the opposite, 'Montezuma's Revenge' volcanoes."

Morgan, EARTH 121

"What's CPH? It's a dark place where the engineers live. But I hear they have beer on Fridays."

Stastna, MATH 137

"A course in napping? Stats 230."

Stastna, MATH 137

"We're going to talk about numbers. I imagine that it's a Math course."

Stastna, MATH 137

"It's always good to talk about ethics and justice and blah blah blah."

San, ECON 341

"When I win you lose... no, that's marriage."

Cook, ECON 436

"Many well-adjusted human beings with no social quirks play around with fields other than the reals."

Jackson, MATH 245

"All human beings are bivalves."

Jackson, MATH 245

"You could sit around drinking or smoking dope and start talking about stuff like this... which is fine by me."

Hoffman, PMATH 330

"You could define it formally, but that's just a pain in the ass."

DiCesaro, STAT 230

"I'm going to make the assumption that we're money hungry capitalists."

Furino, CO 350

"After taking a poll that few people participated in, we've got a lot of cowards in this class. Either you don't know, or it's Monday morning, or you're from Florida."

Furino, CO 350

"Money leads to sex. Everything leads to sex."

Rye, SMF 204

"Let's think of men as alcoholics."

Rye, SMF 204

"This function is irregular, in fact, it is periodic..."

Stastna, MATH 137

"I've given you guys so many hints [about what will be on the test], it's so scary! I get these nightmares where everyone gets 100%"

Stastna, MATH 137

"So you're doing a co-op term at Royal Bank, and your boss says, 'Well, you seem to know your optimization,' so he puts you in charge of 4 PhDs from Western."

Furino, CO 350

"You're using one of the most important theorems in calculus! Use it with respect."

Wainwright, AM 231

prof: "You, the GAP man, can you tell me what we're summing from?"

GAP man: "A to B?"

prof: "You're damn right, A to B!"

Wainwright, AM 231



Living in Sin

Week 2: Sloth

If idle hands do the devil's work, then the devil really does like Lord of the Rings and bash.org.

I didn't get anything done this weekend. I mean, I did the dishes (and they had spread out of the kitchen and onto the dining room table - a feat for two people) and a 4-sentence long German assignment, but seriously, with the dust bunnies approaching R.O.U.S.s and the bathroom starting to smell, plus two baby PM assignments and regular keeping up reading to do, I feel like I should have spent more time in my own house instead of Middle Earth.

(I'm not even sure if it's linked to living with my boyfriend. I keep thinking that having him around all the time saves me the time for travel, bothering to clean the house, and giving him my [nearly] full attention. Spending 90% of our time paying 40% attention to each other actually yields more than spending 25% of our time paying 90% of attention [all measurements guesstimated].) But I can't help feel that I wouldn't let myself watch 6 hours of movies if I was by myself — that if I'm spending the time with him [quality or not] it makes it ok.)

Ah, lazy Saturdays. And Sundays. And Friday nights. But how to counter them? Make the most of the free time for good *and* for awesome?

...I don't know; I was asking you! Can it be learned? Here are some tips from the production crew this week:

1. Sex.
2. Do chores to music as it keep energy up.
3. Read a chapter of your text and then read a chapter of a good book.
5. Sex.
6. Surgically graft a laptop to your arm — means you can work anytime (i.e. in class, at the bar, while swimming laps, etc.)
8. Sex — good for the abs.
4. Just have fun — ignore everything else.
- π . Sex and homework at the same time.
7. Cut out sleeping.

12. Laundry, cooking, sex to study for CS 343 (of SMF 204).

n+1. Work out while having fun... sex is great for your abs.

Um. That's... that's not exactly what I needed dudes... 'Sex' isn't a multitasking tip...

Well, let's see. I think we can use 2 and 3, and maybe n+1 for starters, and I'll add in my two cents.

1. **Use music while doing chores.** I totally agree. If you want the time to go by faster and more fun, then this is key. If your roommate/sig other is well-trained, er, willing, you may be able to study by having him/her quiz you on your courses' content while you do dishes or clean the bathroom.
2. **Mix reading for school with reading for fun.** My version of this is to finish a math problem and then check all my emails and my jobmine applications. Reading tends to make me lose track of time.
3. **Sex is good exercise.** If you are the sort of person who includes working out as part of their routine AND you engage in activities boisterous enough to count as exercise, then by all means this applies to you. Can't say it applies to me. I don't "need" to exercise. But hey, Lust is still in the wings for another issue.
4. **Don't leave chores to specific days.** As I learned at my apartment some readers may know from "Not Burning the House Down," if you try to clean everything on a regular basis on Sunday you'll go mad. It's much better to clean things when they need cleaning, and better to let things go longer than to clean too often when your time would be better spent elsewhere. If you wipe down the counter after tidying it every day or second day, you won't have to scrub it down once a week. If you sweep the floor regularly and wipe up spills you won't need to mop every week.

Appropriately enough, I'm too lazy to finish making this a better article.

Half-pint

Who brought homework to production night

Wow! A Serious Movie Review

Well, I got to see *Serenity* on Friday evening. I somehow ended up first in line for the 9:40 showing. Going in to the theatre, I expected to be thoroughly entertained and the movie delivered exactly that. As with the series, it delivered both humour and a good plot. The crowd was lively, annoying some with their frequent clapping in addition to their very frequent laughter. Presumably, even those who had not seen the show enjoyed the movie judging from my not very expert analysis. I tend to be overly kind to all movies but the crowd suggests that the movie was really as good as I thought. Anyhow, I suggest that you go see the movie so that you can judge for yourself.

And now to detail some of the things that I enjoyed in the movie without resorting to spoilers. The characters of *Firefly* and *Serenity* are what really make the movie and show for me. Jayne's sarcastic comments and Wash's over the top silliness in particular always crack me up. The combination of conflicting personalities that make up the crew of *Serenity* just create an almost unparalleled opportunity for constant humour.

The storyline for the movie also worked really well for me. But then of course I really enjoy the whole premise on which the series and now the movie are based. Despite one or two things that I thought didn't quite match the series, I thought that they matched up well.

While the plot and characters are the lifeblood of the movie, the sets and CGI make for the complete experience. They fit into the happy medium between no CGI and ruining the movie with too much CGI as with some movies and was well executed. The only complaint I could really come up with for the CGI was that *Serenity* looked a little too bright and shiny in the first shot where it is seen. I would have preferred to see it look far dingier and scratched up than it did.

Firefly has been on my list of stuff to buy for almost a year now and *Serenity* has certainly earned a place on the list as well. I strongly recommend going to see it to enjoy it for yourself.

M. Perkins

Ig Nobel Awards Ceremony on October 6

Once a year, an event takes place to celebrate the unconventional thinkers, unique observations, and the occasional crackpot. I write, of course, about the famous Ig Nobel Awards.

Held each year at MIT (the Waterloo of the United States), ten Ig Nobel Awards are given to those who have achieved something that cannot (or should not) be reproduced. Now holding their fifteenth award ceremony on Thursday, October 6, the Ig Nobel committee will present prizes to those who have made science a little more entertaining for all of us. All these people are real, and the prizes are given by real Nobel Prize winners. The awards are a chance for scientists to make fun of their own profession.

At the time of this writing, this year's winners have not been announced, but here are some of the highlights of previous awards:

Daisuke Inoue won the 2004 Peace Prize for his invention of Karaoke.

Donald Smith and his father Frank Smith won the 2004 Engineering Prize for their patenting of the comb over.

K.P. Sreekumar and G. Nirmalan won the 2002 Mathematics Prize for their estimation of the total surface area of an Indian elephant.

John Keogh won the 2001 Technology Prize for patenting the wheel.

Sanford Wallace, the first major spammer, won the 1998 Communication Prize

For more details on these or other winners, see the website below.

I, for one, eagerly await this year's ceremony, not only for the prizes, but also for the event itself. Each year the awards have a theme; this year it is Infinity. As such, there will be the world primer of "The Count of Infinity," an opera starring both singers and scientists. There will be the 24/7 lectures, that the Ig website describes as "the world's top thinkers each explained his or her subject twice: first, a complete technical description in twenty-four seconds, and then a clear summary that anyone can understand, in seven words." Of course, there will be the ever-popular Win-A-Date-With-A-Nobel-Laureate Contest.

To watch the awards, simply log on to their website at <http://www.improb.com/ig/ig-top.html> and click on the video link. While you are there, consider reading the organization's publication, The Annals of Improbable Research. Much like our beloved *mathNEWS*, but for grads, the AIR can give you excellent advice on your future scientific career, or point you to people who did not quite get an Ig Nobel, but are a 'honourable' mention anyway.

Slightly Cracked, but still working on it

Filler

It expands to fit!

If you're funny, but not for large amounts of time, you can still write for *mathNEWS*: we always need snappy one-liners to put into spaces where the other article writers slacked off and didn't write one more paragraph. Because what do ducks like in their soup? Quackers! And why do bluebills not read? Because they're not well-red!

ElseWhen

25 Years Ago in mathNEWS

Welcome back for another tour of the dusty stacks of *mathNEWS*, where the stacks are neither dusty nor stacks. Today I'll be summarizing Volume 24, Number 4, originally published October 3, 1980. It's nice to know where we've come from, I think, even if this issue was published before most undergrads were alive...

ink_13

Graph Theory Word Search

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H D I R E C T E D P C
S A E E R G E D L G I
E V M E R T I A R R T
T H G I E W N R E A A
R E G U L A R E T P M
B I P A R T I T E H O
E T E L P M O C M S R
E U L E R I A N A C H
D U A L A C I T I R C
C O N N E C T E D A X
C I H P R O M O S I N

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Search words: Arcs, Bipartite, Chromatic, Complete, Connected, Critical, Degree, Diameter, Directed, Dual, Eulerian, Girth, Graph, Hamiltonian, Isomorphic, Planar, Regular, Set, Weight. **Leftover:** A graph has to start somewhere (6 letters).

R.W. Melhuish

Limerick

The draftsman emitted a cry,
 "I've created a line of length π !"
 But it went to rejection:
 On closer inspection
 They found 'twas a millionth-inch shy.

PF7

Want a challenge? Try to memorize as many digits of $e^{i\pi}$ as you can...

Elsewhere in the issue:

- The Computer Science Curriculum Committee, cognizant of the fact that some CS courses, such as CS488 (Graphics), CS452 (Real Time Systems) and CS444 (Compiler Construction) require a large amount of work, will be considering increasing the credit offered for such courses [*It seems this proposal never went anywhere... — ink_13*].
- Sean Richardson is holding a Golden Ratio contest: He wants the most elegant definition of Φ you can give him. Use no more than 5 variables, and no more than 2 divisions total. Rationals are OK, but approximations of irrationals are banned.
- The Honeywell died, so they typed up the masthead on the Diablo 1620. Thanks to Ashok for working the backspace key.

**$\pi = 3.14160000$
Deal with it.**

Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver...

Because they're important too!

Last issue, I gave you my breakdown of two Eastern Conference Canadian teams, this week, I'm giving you the other four Canadian teams...

Montreal Canadiens

Departures from the last season include: Mathieu Garon, Joe Juneau, Stepane Quintal, Jason Ward, Darren Langdon, Andreas Dackell, Karl Dykhuis, Jim Dowd, Patrice Brisebois, Yannic Perreault and Gavin Morgan. Sure, a bunch of these players are not the biggest impact players for this team, but the Habs have lost basically the best faceoff man in the NHL for the last whatever number of seasons (Perreault), one of their best defensemen (Brisebois), and a good scoring winger (Dackell). However, the Habs turned around and brought in Radek Bonk, Christobel Huet, Mathieu Dandenault, Alex Kovalev, Mark Streit, Peter Vandermeer and Jonathan Aitken. Goaltending will again be taken care of by the mostly reliable Jose Theodore, and with the offensive contributions from newly acquired Kovalev and Bonk, the Habs are looking to make a significant impact this year in what is shaping up to be a very interesting Northeastern Division

Calgary Flames

Gone are the likes of Craig Conroy, Denis Gauthier, Oleg Saprykin and a couple other players. The Flames were active in the off-season, bringing in Daymond Lankow, Anders Eriksson, Tony Amonte and Darren McCarty. While some may say that the Flames did very little, the argument can easily be made that they required very little change, considering the fact that they were a game shy of being the first Canadian team to hoist Lord Stanley's Cup since the Habs did it in 1993. As such, did they really need to make many changes? Considering the fact that Conroy bolted for a higher salary, it is not too surprising that the Flames decided to do something they could never do under the old economic structure: compete with a salary structure they could quasi-afford.

Three Reasons to Get a Projector

- There's nothing like having a screen the size of your wall. You'll find yourself watching and playing EVERYTHING on this thing.
- Your house becomes the nexus for many social functions.
- You discover that you have housemates.

Three Reasons NOT to Get a Projector

- They're expensive, but you can get friends to chip in if they'll use it often. It's also not that bad if you consider that the cost is about 30 cents per hour of entertainment.
- Do you really need a projector? Wait, why are you even asking this? Get one!
- Your term average will drop 10%. I've never seen anything drop so fast. But let's not worry about that one, okay?

vb::sheep

Edmonton Oilers

While the Oil did very little at the end of the 2004 season, they did add Todd Harvey. Oiler fans will say that this is not the biggest move they have made, and they'd be right. The Oilers were the team that made the first big name trade in the new NHL; they traded for both Chris Pronger and Mike Peca. While some may say that these moves were not for the best of the team, what this did do is create an atmosphere where players now know that the team will do what it can to help them win. Money has always been an issue for Edmonton. Remember the one great player that came through the organization that was sold to L.A.? His first name was Wayne. His last name was Gretzky. He holds almost all of the NHL's scoring records. Oiler fans have not had a big-name, marquee player since the Great One. Whether or not they make the playoffs depends largely on how competitive the rest of the Northwest division is, as it also appears to be a division with no clear cut favorites.

Vancouver Canucks

The Canucks core was basically left intact (sure, they lost a couple of the players that were brought in for a cup run, but that's no real loss), besides Marek Malik and Brent Sopel. Added are Anson Carter, Steve McCarthy and Richard Park. While not a bad set of moves, the Canucks look a little less like the team that can dominate games than they were last year (especially with the bulking up done by the likes of the Oil and the Flames), they still should be able to put up a decent number of wins this year, and will likely make the playoffs. The main question will be: can Cloutier overcome his inability to win when it matters? Only time will tell.

These are just my opinions, based only on pre-season stats and player movement. As the season progresses, I'll be giving you all a play by play of how each of the Canadian teams is faring in their division and in comparison to their conference foes. Until next time!

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

mathNEWS Mailbag

Back again this term!

So, after a couple of terms being gone, the *mathNEWS* Mailbag has returned! We got a submission from some random person (who didn't tell us who they were) with a pretty simple question. Actually, a pretty simple statement.

mathNEWS SHOULD HELP ME GET TEH LADIES!!

Anonymous

mathNEWS wishes it could get teh ladies themselves. All teh ladies that show up are either taken or not looking. We're actually looking for help in this regard as well. Any ideas?

If you have any questions you'd like *mathNEWS* to answer for you, send us your emails with subject line "mailBAG", or just drop them off in the BLACK BOX.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

mathNEWSquiz #2

This past week we had a total of one submission to the squiz. Congratulations to Denis Nguyen, you've won the squiz. You can pick up your gift certificate from MathSoc in about a week. Oh yeah, and you also got all the answers correct.

Now, on to week 2 of the squiz. I've got more questions and this week I want more answers.

Prime numbers

1. What is the least positive prime?
2. What is the fifth odd prime?
3. How many primes are there less than 100?
4. What is x prime?

The closet

1. What room was the *mathNEWS* closet?
2. What is the new office number?
3. Who used to be in the *mathNEWS* office?

ISC

1. Who are the tutors for CS125 this term?
2. Who are the tutors for CS133 this term?
3. Who is the ISC for CS 132 this term?
4. Whose office is she occupying for the term?
5. Why is the owner of the office not here?

As always, submit your answers to the BLACK BOX or e-mail them to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. \$5 for the winner, and if I get more than one submission, I'll write another one next issue.

π

gridCOMMENTS

Congratulations to all who submitted answers to the first Gridword! We had 10 correct submissions in total, including submissions from Erika Kramer, Trevor Harris, Bill307, Phil Jones, Robert B, Jenn Meacoe, Diana Chisholm, Alex Sloat, Crystal, Jason, Jason Thean, Math.random() and Michael Perkins. And the winner is... Jason Thean, who submitted the ultimate anti-pun (please pick up your \$5 gift certificate in the C&D):

A: "What's a mathematician's favourite food?"

B: "If you say 'pie', I will seriously kill you."

A: "..."

Honourable mention goes to Math.random() who submitted "A guy sent ten puns out to his friends hoping at least one would make them laugh. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did." Also, another honourable mention goes to Michael Perkins who made Asterix and Obelix references. This week's grid word is a bit easier, but there's some math knowledge you might need to look up. This week's grid question is: If you could have any mythical animal, what animal would you have and why?

Gridmaster Fox

One-line filler only takes one line to fill. ...damnit!

mathNEWS microMAZE

You like me!

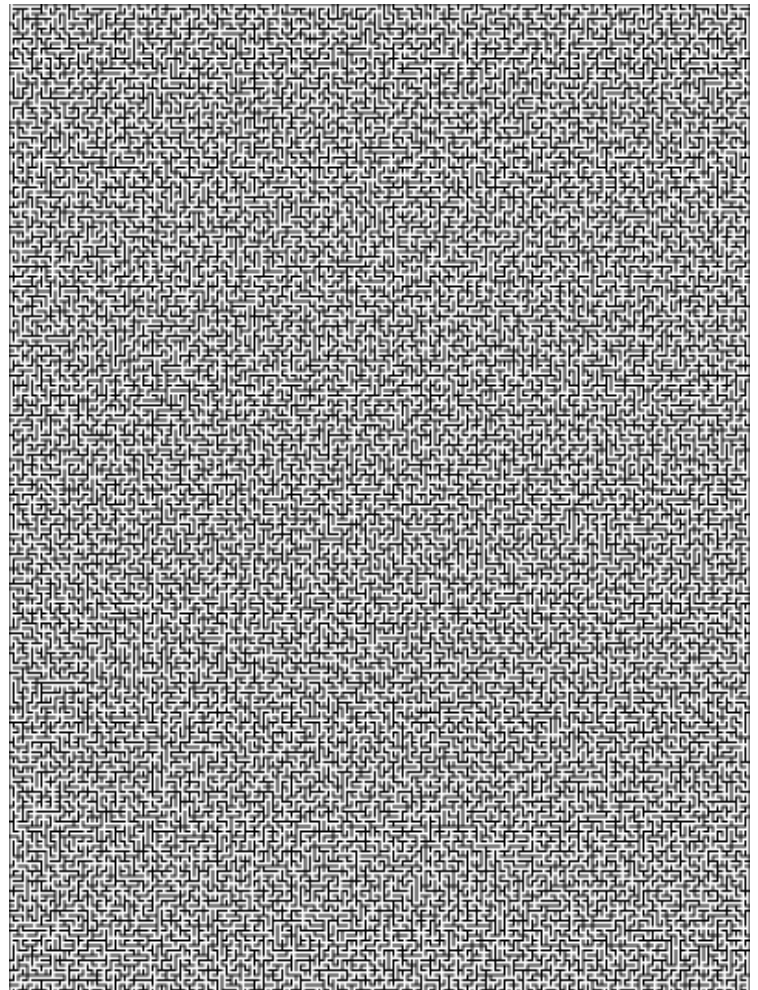
So, I'm fairly surprised at the amount of submissions for the microMAZE. I guess I shouldn't be, given that it's five minutes of fun work that gets you free stuff! Well, a chance at free stuff anyway.

Honorable mentions go out to whoever it was that whited out their own path, as well as the person that invoked the fiery wrath that comes from cheating. In this case, honorable mention means I threw your submissions out. Better luck next time.

Taking away these, there were thirteen valid submissions. Some used the 'find the route' method, others used the 'fill in the dead ends' method. Also, the maze was on the thirteenth page. Freaky. Anyway, not thinking there'd be that many submissions, I didn't include any tiebreaker, so the winner was determined by the 'most heads on a coin flip' method. That led to Jenny Mecking being the winner after three rounds. Jenny, come to the MathSoc office to get your C&D gift certificate.

For all the rest of you, there's another microMAZE in this issue. Fill it out (find a path from the top left to the bottom right) and maybe you'll win this time! To break ties, I'm going to award the certificate to the person that gives the funniest answer to "What's your favourite compression method?" Note that I may or may not be referring to computers here. For your submissions, I don't need student numbers or e-mails, just names. In fact, your student numbers are confidential. Don't give them to anyone that's not UW staff.

SheepNine



Across

- 1 Sin City actress: Jessica ____
- 5 ____ and subtract
- 8 From great distance
- 12 Bog
- 13 TV show under an assumed name?
- 15 MATH136 and STAT230, ex.
- 16 Frankenstein assistant
- 17 Social class
- 18 Binary or maple, ex.
- 19 To adapt to live with humans
- 22 Short trend
- 23 Disney's ____ Budd
- 24 Sudden desire
- 26 Red suited criminal: ____ San Diego
- 29 Disney horse movie
- 31 Common keyboard key (abbr.)
- 32 Adjacent
- 34 Provide food or entertainment
- 36 Paradise garden
- 38 Katrina or Frances, ex.
- 40 Mild collision
- 41 Weak or pliable
- 43 Not once but ____
- 45 Common engine speed measure (abbr.)
- 46 Make thin or less dense
- 48 Weasel-like mammal
- 50 Department of Commerce agency (abbr.)
- 51 Near the horizon
- 52 Small ball or lump
- 54 Having an Eulerian path
- 61 Take on as an employee
- 63 Spanish friend
- 64 Require
- 65 Norse creator god
- 66 Artificial enticer
- 67 Damn, politely
- 68 Alcohol from fermented honey
- 69 Half-life's alien world
- 70 Poker stake

Down

- 1 Within
- 2 Turtle control language
- 3 Explosion sound
- 4 Behind in ones duties
- 5 Western Chinese mountain range
- 6 Frisbee
- 7 Factual information
- 8 Play division
- 9 Surrender
- 10 Region
- 11 Tall grass
- 13 Barrymore or Tyler, ex.
- 14 Preparation
- 20 Lower layer of Earth's outer crust
- 21 Main character from "That 70s Show"
- 25 Snatch
- 26 Hardwood type
- 27 Famous library location
- 28 Parasitic
- 29 Font type
- 30 Offer or invite
- 31 Morning moisture
- 33 Wall Street Journal publisher: ____ Jones
- 35 Package manager for Red Hat Linux (abbr.)
- 37 Famous fiddler
- 39 Feminist Wendy ____
- 42 Orderly and clean
- 44 Blind Greek god of love
- 47 Capacitance measure
- 49 African country
- 52 Hemingway's "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
- 53 Assistant
- 55 American Express (abbr.)
- 56 An evil practice
- 57 Ghostbuster ____ Spengler
- 58 Rowan Atkinson role: Mr. ____
- 59 Christian fasting season
- 60 Boundary
- 62 Conclusion

