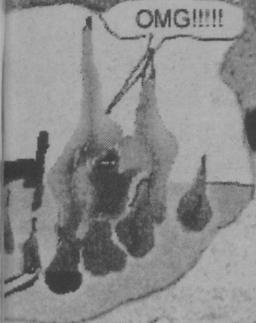


mathNEWS

Volume 90, Issue 0

the frosh issue!

OMG!!!!



TWO PERFECT MATHIES
ONE PERFECT WEEK

NOW ALL THEY HAVE TO FEAR IS...

Crash Course in UW Computing

Some of you might look at the UNIX system available to you in the labs and think to yourself, "Scary, I have never used this before." If that is what you think, this article is for you. If you have recompiled a Linux kernel in the last few weeks, then probably not. Here is some info and commands to get you started.

forward is a file you can put in your home directory if you want mail send to you at your University account forward to an account you more commonly use. To set this up type 'cd' to make sure you are in your home directory. Next type 'echo myperferedemail > .forward' where you type whatever e-mail you wish to forward to instead of myperferedemail.

finger is a program to find people information on the system. Yes you can finger that cute girl (or guy) over there. No not like that, silly. People can choose to published any amount of contact information on the UNIX system. When you first log in it probably will ask you for information. At any time you can change your information by typing in the command 'chfn', it will prompt you for information. Having finger information available is handy when that cute girl (or guy) is trying to track you down, or you friends for get your phone number and want to contact you. You type 'finger searchterm' where searchterm is a user id or a single name, finger will match all the results is can.

msg is a command for text messaging across the unix system. Like ICQ, but so much older. If you type in 'msg userid@machine' where the userid is the user id of the person

you want to talk to and machine is the server they are on, then you will have a blank line to type your message into. Once you press enter the text you have written will go to the person you specified. But who do I know what machine they are on? Simple, **finger** them. 'msg -r' send a message to the last person who sent you a message.

man is a command to look up commands. Really useful to learn more about what you can do. If you type 'man commandname' where commandname is the name of a command you will get a screen that display the on system doc about that command. The man command also works for a set of topics. 'man -k searchterm' will return all the man entries related to the searchterm you enter. A interesting one is 'man password-cracking' gives information about how to crack passwords. You can find out that password-cracking is a vaild man topic by typing 'man -k password'.

userid: amjoconn

finger me ... you know want to

lookAHEAD

mathNEWS

September 3	Frosh Issue cooks up a storm
September 11	disORG Meeting, MC 4059, 4:30 pm
September 16	Issue #1 Production Night 6:30 pm, MathSoc (MC 3038)
September 20	Issue #1 takes one last glimpse at summer

Math Faculty

September 4	ELPE
September 9	Lectures Begin
September 9	Math Preparedness Test
September 20	Course Add Deadline
September 27	Course Drop Deadline
November 1	WD Deadline
December 3	Lectures End
December 6-20	Fall Exam Period

MathSoc

September 10	Kick off, MC 5158, 4:30 pm
First Week	Locker sign-ups
First Week	Mathletics registrations
First Week	Nominations for VPAS
Thursdays	Movie Nights
September 27-28	EngScunt

MGC

Wednesdays	Mmm ... pizza
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MEF

September 27	Deadline for MEF refunds
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Co-op

September 16	Interviews begin (for 4-streamers)
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Miscellaneous

September 23	Fall Equinox
October 11-19	K-W Oktoberfest
October 14	Thanksgiving Day
October 21	Midterms grab hold of you
November 1-3	Homecoming Weekend
December 26	Cubing day
December 31	The day that ends all palindromes

Get Your Degree in Math!

Are you tired of degrees that can take eight, nine, or even ten years to complete? Does your brain dehydrate and shrink because it doesn't get enough exercise? Does your current degree charge you upwards of \$10 000 a term? Well, say good-bye to all that with the new Bachelor of Mathematics!

That's right! Come to Waterloo and you can earn your Bachelor of Mathematics in just eight terms! And with an extra six terms, you can earn yourself a co-op degree as well!

Just listen to these testimonials:

"I was paying \$7000 a term (US) but my mind was barely active, now that I'm in Bioinformatics, I'm paying thousands less and I never stop working!" E. Rider

"I was about to sign up for an eight-year course in combinatorics in Iran when a friend told me about Waterloo. Three years later, I've only got five terms left!" L. Etterdrawer

And Math at Waterloo has so many options! You can earn your degree in:

- Acturarial Sciences
- Applied Mathematics
- TV/VCR Repair
- Combinatorics & Optimization
- Computer Science
- Telemarketing & Optimization
- Pure Mathematics
- Software Engineering
- Statistics
- TV/VCR Repair

So sign up know and receive a free key chain valued at over four dollars. Operators are standing by.

Simon L'Avier

The President



Hi! As president of UW's Mathematics Society (MathSoc), I'm very happy to welcome you to the University of Waterloo.

About MathSoc

MathSoc is the student government for Undergrad math students. We are responsible for representing math students on academic issues, providing services, and organizing events. MathSoc is run by four executive members (President, Vice-President Academic, VP Activities and Services, and VP Finance), a group of dedicated directors, and a Council of elected class representatives.

Our VP Academic, Colin Davidson, represents undergrads on lots of committees related to academics and curriculum. He collects and presents student opinion on new academic programmes and regulations, and can help you if you're having troubles with the administration.

Our VP Finance is Kevin Fong and he's responsible for managing the funds of MathSoc. MathSoc runs the Right Angle Cafe, the coffee and donut shop on the third floor of MC.

We will be electing a VP Activities and Services soon - nominations close on Wednesday, September 11. The VPAS is responsible for organizing events (like Charity Ball) and running services (such as the office and the exam bank), as well as selling cotton candy and running movie nights.

We also have a number of clubs — the Accounting Students Association, Actuarial Science Club, Computer Science Club, Pure Math Applied Math Combinatorics and Optimization Club, and the Teaching Students Association. There's also the Women In Mathematics committee dedicated to encouraging more women to pursue mathematics.

How to get involved

You can get involved a number of ways. By becoming a **class rep**, applying for a **director** position, or **volunteering** to help run events or services.

We'll be holding a kickoff event at the start of the term where you can learn more about upcoming events, meet the MathSoc exec and directors, and find out how to apply or run for open positions. Here's the scoop:

- **What:** MathSoc term kickoff
- **When:** Tuesday, September 10, 4:30-5:30
- **Where:** MC 5158

Best of luck this term and through the rest of your undergraduate career! If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me or any member of MathSoc — by email or by dropping by the office on the third floor.

Douglas Stebila

MathSoc President, Fall 2002

Email: pres@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Difference from High School #1

For those male students coming from an all-boys school, you'll notice that the school admits female students. And for females from all-girls schools, you'll notice that there are boys in your classes ... lots of boys.

Your old uniforms are no longer required (except shirts and ties for interviews), but feel free to wear your sexy kilts if you really want to.



VP Academic

Hello everyone and welcome to Fall term at Waterloo. My name is Colin Davidson and I'm your Vice-President, Academic for the Fall 2002 term.

One of the most important parts of my job is to represent students on various committees in the Math Faculty. I will be keeping you informed on proposed academic changes to math programs and courses through articles in *mathNEWS*. I hope you'll take the time to read them and show an interest in the academic future of our university.

I also act as an intermediary between the students and the administration and can bring your concerns to their attention.

For those of you who don't know, MathSoc keeps a collection of old final and midterm exams. The electronic exam bank is available at <http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/exambank/>, while a more extensive physical collection is maintained in the MathSoc office (MC 3038). These exams are an excellent preparation tool. Many of these exams have been donated by past students and I hope you will continue the trend and provide us with copies of your exams to keep our exam bank up to date.

Your input is greatly appreciated. I can be reached at vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. Additionally, have a mailbox in the MathSoc office (MC 3038) and will have office hours in MC 3039 which will be posted on the door.

Have a great term.

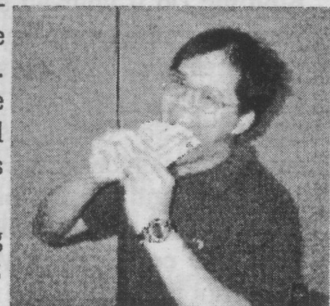
Colin Davidson
VPA, MathSoc F02

VP Finance

Hi everybody!

I'm Kevin Fong, MathSoc's Vice-President Finance for Fall 2002. I am responsible for keeping records of all financial transactions of the Society, and for the disbursement of funds belonging to the society. In short, I keep track of all the money coming in and out of MathSoc, which mainly comes from the \$10.50 labeled "MATH Student Society" on your fee statement. But what do I with your \$10.50? (And no, I don't eat it ...) I create a budget at the beginning of term, determining how much each aspect of the Society will receive in funding. This budget is then presented to the MathSoc Council for approval, and over the term I distribute the funds allocated in the budget.

Kevin Fong
VPF MathSoc Fall 2002

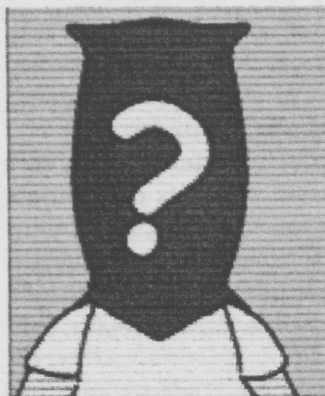


Proof that Math is Math

Applied math is physics.
Applied physics is engineering.
Applied engineering is art.
Applied arts is business.
Applied business is math.
Therefore, math is math.

Colan Schwartz

VP Activities and Services



Who is the VPAS? Right now no one is the VPAS. This means that nominations will be open until Wednesday, September 11. At the end of the nomination period, if there is more than one candidate, there will be a brief campaign and election. Now I am sure all you are wondering what this position involves. The VPAS is responsible for the day to day running of the Math Society. VPAS stands for Vice President of Activities and Services. The VPAS has executive control over all the social events and services offered by the Society (mostly the office). A group of directors works with the VPAS to make sure everything runs well. More information about these directors is on the next page. Just what are these activities and services offered by MathSoc? Well, let me tell you.

MathSoc Office (MC 3038)

Awkwardly located in a corner of the third floor is MC 3038 otherwise known as **the Soc Office**. The Soc Office is managed by an Office Director with the help of the board. The Soc Office is manned by Math students like you. At the beginning of the term there is a sign up on the door for office volunteers. The Office Director will train you so you will be ready to help your fellow Mathies. So sign up for an hour or two, maybe with a good friend, and help keep the office open for everyone. But what services does MathSoc and the office provide for all math students?

- **5-cent photocopies:** There are 3 copiers in the Soc Office.
- **Exam Banks:** Both online and in the Soc Office, provide a valuable studying resource.
- **Lockers:** All the lockers on the third floor are MathSoc's, and you can have one for free, you just have to sign it out. You'll need to provide your own lock though.
- **Computers:** There are two computers in the Soc Office and a printer you can use (10 cents a page).
- **Resume Paper:** Nice looking paper for cheap — 25 cents for 8 sheets.
- **Binding:** Do it yourself spiral binding. If you can't do it yourself, an office worker can help.
- **Novelties:** Available for sale at the Soc Office. There's T-shirts, shot glasses, pink ties, and more.
- **Misc:** The Soc Office also has a Lost and Found, games and textbooks for borrowing, and a phone for local calls.
- **The C+D and Comfy lounges:** Available to students all the time, and can be booked out for special events.
- **The C+D coffee shop:** With your Watcard in hand you might not find this coffee shop useful, but after first year it will be the best food for the least money.

Social Events

Throughout the term various events are run by the Society, either by the Social Director or other Mathies. If you want to run an event the VPAS can help you. With MathSoc behind you your event can benefit from the experience of terms of running events. But what events does the Society run? Only another list can answer this question. Here are some examples

of events that have been run in the past, and some we are planning on running this term.

- **Movie Night:** The Movie Directors show new movies and old classics for \$2 each week.
- **Mathletics:** Meet some people while having fun playing your favourite sports. The Mathletics Director takes care of the planning so you can have fun.
- **Cove Night:** We take over the Campus Cove in the Student Life Centre for a night with free food and free play. We have reached capacity in under 30 minutes before.
- **Laser Quest:** Have fun shooting up your fellow Mathies with lasers. No sharks attached.
- **The Charity Ball:** A wonderful night out, great food, good friends, and helping out the community.
- **Cotton Candy Day:** Like sugar? So do we, and we own a cotton candy machine.
- **Pub Night:** Simple Math: Pub + Night = fun
- **Trick or Treat for Charity:** Remember how much fun it was to get dressed up and go out for Hallowe'en?
- **EngScunt:** Math contributes a team to the EngScunt every term. 24 hours of insanity and so much fun!

All this, plus student run events like an electronic music night (aka: Electronica in the MC) have happened in the past. Looking toward this term, we have lots of cool stuff planned like Giant Movie Nights and Tutor Nights (late night food and help when the Tutorial centre is closed).

Clubs, Committees, & Other

Holy not done yet Batman! There are groups under the Society that provide both activities and services. There are the clubs:

- **CSC** — Computer Science Club.
- **PMAMC&OC** — covers all area of math.
- **TSA** — for all the aspiring teachers.
- **ActSci club** — that's Acturial Sciences, baby.

All these clubs provide a social environment for students in their majors, and support and information relevant to their studies.

There are also committees like the Orientation Committee which runs Frosh Week. MGC, or the Math Grad Committee, runs events for the Graduating class like Pub Crawls and the Grad Ball, as well as selling pizza on Wednesday afternoons. There is also a committee just for you known as the First Year Affairs (FYA), which runs events with the help of MathSoc, like post-midterm parties.

Your MathSoc fee also funds *mathNEWS*, yes this paper you are reading now, which comes out bi-weekly for your Friday morning enjoyment. You will read more about *mathNEWS* later. From recognizing profs to providing all the day to day services, the Society does a lot for students. But how much the Society does, or how effectively it does it depends on the student volunteers who are involved. So get involved, have some fun, and meet some cool people. After a career of service you might even be awarded with an Honourary Lifetime Membership (HLM).

So that is about all the Society does for you, the students. But we can always do more, so if you want to help us make this Society better for all students, contact any of the exec, come out to council meetings, sign up for an office hour, or get involved in *mathNEWS* or the other subgroups. The Society is always looking for new volunteers.

Directorships

So what are all these Directorships anyway? Here's a list of all the directors we currently have and what they do.

- **Charity Ball:** Runs a formal charity ball in the fall term. A great chance to have a fun night out and help the community.
- **Computing:** Makes sure computing services are available for the Society, and keeps the mini computer lab in the Soc Office running smoothly.
- **External:** One of the President's directors who helps with relationships between MathSoc and other Socs and the FEDs.
- **Internal:** Another one of the President's directors. Communicates with the clubs under MathSoc.
- **Mathletics:** Organize sports teams of mathies to compete in various on-campus leagues. This term will support soccer, ultimate, basketball, volleyball, and inner tube waterpolo teams in the recreation leagues. There will be 7 games per team during the term, and the cost per player will be \$2. We are also supporting soccer, basketball, volleyball, ball hockey, ice hockey, and broom ball teams in the competitive leagues. In the competitive leagues each team gets 6 normal games, plus playoff or spirit of competition games. Cost for these will be \$5 per player.
- **Movies:** Runs a weekly movie night. Two movies, two dollars. Yes, we are that crazy. We even offer movies before they are available for rent.
- **Novelties:** Organizes the buying and selling of nifty Math merchandise. You can get your very own cheat shirt in the Soc Office.
- **Office:** Runs this Soc Office I have been speaking of (MC 3038). The Soc Office depends on volunteers to keep it running and a skilled office manager to make sure everything is covered. More on the office later.
- **Postings:** Makes the rounds of the MC and DC putting up posters on MathSoc's posting boards as well as making sure they are clean.
- **Publicity:** Has the huge task of making sure you know what is going on in the Society. Making signs and posters is a must, with tonnes of creativity as well.
- **Resources:** Keeps the exam bank full (online and the one in the Soc Office). Needs your finals and midterms to keep offering this great service.
- **Social:** Like to have fun? It is the job of the social director to run events for all math students.
- **Website:** The Soc website is being redeveloped, and this director will be coding those changes over the term.

Kampfus Kwestion

What was your favourite part of first year?

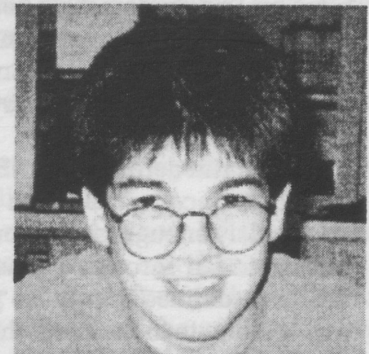
"Godzilla, at the Calculus Party."

Tyler Slijboom, 3B



"Full contact duck duck goose."

Daniel Redelmeier, 3N



"Doing it twice."
Soo Go, 2A



"The Concerts."
Bradley T Smith, Grad

SE Student Not Actually Studying Shannon Elizabeth

π

SoftEng student Tee Oh cannot believe that he was not studying Shannon Elizabeth in SE 112 this year. Tee Oh chose his major based on the premise that he would be studying S.E. with great detail. He has since entered a deep state of shock.

"The material we cover is so dry, in SE class. *Requirements* and *Customers*. Yech!" cried an outraged Oh.

"What I *require* is more Shannon Elizabeth, and I'll be her *customer* any time," continued Oh.

Sentiment among the rest of the SE students was similar. Most were baffled that other students did not share their dismay.

"For one thing, how come AM classes don't study Alyssa Milano?" asked Yudub Yu. "I was really surprised that the Alyssa Milano with *Physiques Electives* program had such low enrollment. I mean anyone can do math like 36 - 24 - 36," explained Yu.

Finally, the majority of first year SE students also complained about the over abundance of David Hasselhoff in the halls of MC.

"We're just not used to this little Katie Holmes," said Oh.

Kev "Kaydot" (o)

Difference from High School #2

Due to the enormous waste of paper, late slips are no longer printed on paper. Your professors should know your name and be able to make note of your tardiness themselves.

Absences will be recorded on your subdermal implants.

mathNEWS Advice: DON'T PANIC

This is the story of a publication, a publication called *mathNEWS*. Not only is it a wholly remarkable publication, it is also a highly successful one — more popular than most lectures on Friday mornings, better selling than course notes for STAT 231, and more controversial than Skip's trilogy of research papers 'Where Davis Centre Engineers Went Wrong,' 'Some More of Engineering's Greatest Mistakes,' and 'Who Are These Engineer People Anyway?'

The Imprint defines *mathNEWS* as 'rough-edged, put together by people unconcerned with layout.'

Curiously enough, an edition of *mathNEWS* that had the good fortune to fall through a time warp from a thousand years in the future defined Imprint as 'just another campus publication,' with a footnote to the effect that editors would welcome inquiries about any of the vast number of campus publications that started publishing after *mathNEWS* was established back in 1973. In fact, *mathNEWS* has been publishing and parodying many times over many years and under many different editorships. It contains contributions from countless numbers of mathies and professors. Your introduction begins like this:

'University,' it says, 'is big. Really big. You just won't believe how vastly hugely mindbogglingly big it is. I mean you may think it was a long way down the hallway to the high school cafeteria, but that's just peanuts to University. Listen ...' and so on.

(After a while the style settles down a bit and it begins to tell you things you really need to know, like the location of the Math Tutorial Centre on the fourth floor, the fact that you can reach the DWE building without ever going outside, and how to find any room on the sixth floor of MC by using the map which can normally only be read by someone with the mental

capacity for calculating probability forecasts based on improbability data: something which even most of the statisticians who have offices up there are still pretty hazy about.)

mathNEWS also has a few things to say on the subject of pink ties.

'A pink tie,' it says, 'is about the most massively useful thing a Waterloo Mathie can have. Partly because it has great practical value — you can wave it in the air to help get you noticed in a crowd; flick it at people who invade your personal space, use it to hold open doors as is done in MathSoc; tie it over your eyes in the hopes that if you can't see the professor he won't call on you for the answer; tease the squirrels with it; employ it as a gag or rope to restrain someone who may be particularly annoying you; and, of course, wear it to public functions if it still seems to be clean enough.

'More importantly, a pink tie has immense psychological value. For some reason, if a potential employer discovers that a Waterloo graduate has a pink tie with them, they will automatically assume that s/he is also in possession of a mechanical pencil, ballpoint pen, calculator, palm pilot, library of textbooks, laptop, web access, caffeine supplement, copy of *mathNEWS* etc, etc. Furthermore, said individual will then happily hire the Mathie, providing them with any of these or a dozen other items that the Mathie might accidentally have 'lost.' What the employer will think is that any person who can survive three, four, five or more years in the Math Faculty at the University of Waterloo, obtain their degree, and yet still know where their pink tie is, is clearly somebody to be reckoned with.'

mathNEWS sells rather better than the Co-op Work Report Guidelines. In these enlightened days of course, no one believes a word of it.

Seriously though ... what's this mathNEWS?

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

The content of *mathNEWS* itself will vary from term to term depending on who's editing. However, there is usually a *mathNEWS*quiz, a *gridWORD*, and *profQUOTES*. The former two offer prizes for correct solutions. The *profQUOTES* are a collection of actual quotes as uttered by actual professors during actual lectures. Look for those elsewhere in the issue. In terms of other articles ... well, have an opinion you want to express? A weird proof you thought up? Something that you think is funnier than what we're printing? A solution to one of our puzzles? Then if you're too shy to come out to an actual Production Night, submit such things to us by emailing mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or by dropping your submission into the BLACK BOX on the third floor (between the C+D and the lounge).

In the past, *mathNEWS* has on occasion gone nuts and put out a parody issue like the recent-ish Toronto Moon and \bar{y}_m , the not-so-recent-ish Daglobenpost, Mathim, and Combinopolitan, and the out-of-spare-copies Impotent. It doesn't happen often because those things take a lot of time and effort, but if you're nice to the editors they may give you a complimentary copy. Oh, and yes, *mathNEWS* really has been around since 1973. (Issue 500 was another issue that took time and effort.) Feel free to drop by our office (MC 3041) when it's open to look at our *mathNEWS* Gallery/Shelf o' Memorabilia, which includes, among other items: a piece of Red Room panelling, an EMS Library Sign dating back to before the books were moved off the fourth floor of MC into the "new" DC building, and a silkscreen from Math Frosh Week 1979. You can even just come by to say 'hi' or drop off an article in person.

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

Greg Taylor
Past Editor

The Frosh Cornered

All I Need To Know I Learned In Frosh Week

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

- In a pinch, protractors can be used as spoons.
- On the move-in day, if you let your parents go through your orientation kit first, there is a VERY uncomfortable silence when they see the condoms.
- People in the Columbia Lake Townhouses do not like you taking the abbreviated version of their residence's name and trying to sound it out.
- You should do your best to get on the Dean's List, because then you are allowed into the Dean's office, and let's just say there's a big bowl of candy to take from there.
- The Comfy Lounge has always smelt like that.
- Telling jokes you heard at 5:00 am during tie guard will not help you pick up, as what was funny then is incoherent rambling now.
- A good pick-up line is, "What's your co-op stream?"
- Through an odd warping of space-time, profs are able to talk for 2 hours in a 50 minute period.
- The more you learned in OAC, the more you have to unlearn in MATH 135 and 137.
- If your roommate is an engineer, you had best sleep with your tie on to protect it. Much in the same way (s)he will sleep with their hardhat on.
- Hypnotized jocks are more fun than a barrel of monkeys.
- Imprint absorbs twice as much liquid as the other leading brand of paper towels.
- Software Engineers do not like being called "Softies," but that's their name regardless of the undertone.
- RIM was cool enough to give "Beaners" to all the mathies and engineers; people in Arts got something called "The Shaft." [John Shaft? — TaxiEd]
- You must either be a fan of Dave Matthews Band, hip-hop, or techno. There is nothing else playing in the residence.
- You should have taken the blue pill.

That's enough rambling for now. "The Frosh Cornered" is now going into its third year at *mathNEWS*, and will be looking for a frosh to write it for the year. [It can't get any worse, can it? — Petra Love] Any frosh interesting in being TCF V3.0 should come to the first *mathNEWS* Production Night of the term where Raymond and I will be holding trials to see whom is the froshiest of them all.

Ian W. MacKinnon
The Cornered Frosh V2.0

Difference from High School #3

Contrary to high school, being sent to the principal's office does not have a negative connotation. Mainly because there is no principal. However, being sent to the Dean's Office usually means he has a present for you. Otherwise the police would be called.

On a related note, detention begins at 10 pm after the last night class.

Ten Alternative Uses for Textbooks

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

1. Assault weapon: some textbooks weigh several kilograms and are easily thrown.
2. Weight training: Books are heavy, weighing quite a few pounds each, and are easily lifted.
3. Look Smart: Books are a means to show off the fact that you are educated and usually weigh less than a stone.
4. Fly Swatter: Once, during a lecture, Prof. Jackson took his backpack and threw it at a wasp on the ceiling. Do you really think that it would have killed the wasp without a textbook in it which weighed more than 2 newtons? Really?
5. Money: If you kept the receipt, you can take your book back to the Book Store for a refund so you can buy tons of candy from Sugar Mountain.
6. Building Cardhouses: Textbooks are sort of like big cards. So you can make really big cardhouses. Though most people won't have enough books to make a really kickass cardhouse. So get your entire class involved: you know you have enough books when you are counting the books by the tonne.
7. Hammer: Textbooks can bang things just like a hammer; they may even weigh many karats more.
8. Screwdriver: To put a screw in the wall, line it up where you want it and bash away. Works better if textbook exceeds 12 troy ounces.
9. Lullabies: The best way to fall asleep at night is to attempt to read a textbook. Or perhaps have someone bash you over the head with a textbook. (Crap I can't think of any mass unit to provide the necessary cohesion to this article ... ABORT ARTICLE!)

[Damn, and he was just about to mention how balancing textbooks on one's head can improve posture — TaxiEd]

Dave Nicholson

Smurfysics

Smurfessor: "So, according to Newton's Second Law of Smurfing, the sum of the forces is equal to mass time Smurfation. Now, we must keep friction in mind, otherwise, we sometimes think things are a little smurfy, and we second guess our smurfysics."

Student Smurf: "So, like how things tend to stop smurfing?"

Smurfessor: "Exactly. That is why a long time ago, some of the oldest smurfs thought that the motion of a smurf was related only to the forces on the smurf, and if the forces were removed, it would stop smurfing. Really, the objects simply had a frictional force smurfing them down."

Student Smurf: "Wow! Smurfysics has come a long way."

Smurfessor: "Wait until your upper smurf courses. You'll get to take courses on quantum smurfysics, quantum smurfputing, General Smurfativity, and Non-Linear Smurfamics."

Student Smurf: "Smurfastic, I love smurfing about smurfysics, Smurfessor."

Why you should write for *mathNEWS*

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

- **Fun.** This cannot be overstressed. It is fun, or at least it should be. If you're writing for anybody at any time and it is not fun, then something is wrong, or maybe it is the ELPE, or a Work Report, or ... fine. But writing for *mathNEWS* is fun. Whether you just have your own personal fun at home and e-mail the article in to us, or come out to Production Night and have some free food fun, it's all really quite a lot of fun.
- **Rewarding.** In so many ways. From e-mail from 14 year-old boys who use AOL to letters from Iran, your material can generate a response. There is also the rewarding feeling of creating a piece of writing and knowing it will be published. Some also find the free food a kind of reward.
- **Looks Good.** On say ... a resume. Employeers always want good oral and written skills; what shows that better than contributing to a bi-weekly publication? You don't have to answer that.
- **Getting Published.** *mathNEWS* is an official publication with an ISSN number. Two copies of every issue go to the National Archives. Beyond being released to the entire campus every other Friday, and mailed to our subscribers, your work will also be published online on our website (www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca), which is pretty highly rated on Google.
- **People Read It.** Lastly people will read it. At least people pick it up. Some might try and tell you no one reads *mathNEWS*, but after a few week of distribution detail you discover just how many people read *mathNEWS*. Late in the afternoon when I return to campus to clean up at the end of the day, I see people walking home with *mathNEWS* in their hand. I see both students and faculty picking up copies. Some profs get issues mailed to them. People at bus stops waiting to take the bus home have copies in their hands. Look — right now you are reading *mathNEWS*.

We give you the opportunity to be published. You have the chance to make people, your fellow students, laugh and/or think on Friday mornings. You can rant, point out what you find funny about life, or just express yourself however you like. Anyone can contribute to *mathNEWS*. So please, send us an e-mail at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca.

Phat Albert

Difference from High School #4

The giant bell for indicating the beginning and end of classes had to be removed from Dana Porter Library's roof because the building was not designed to support such a weight and was sinking.

Instead, students are invited to rudely interrupt lectures that go past twenty after to remind the professor that it's home-time.

6 Ways To Learn Your Professor's Name

1. Go to your first class. Typically your Prof will introduce themselves within the first five minutes of class. If you're five minutes late, that's poor but don't worry: I have 5 other ways for those of you who love hitting the snooze button.
2. Ask a friend. Other people in the class will know the professor's name. Though if you have not made it to a class yet, it may be difficult to know who is in your class. As well, after a month or two you might be too embarrassed to ask.
3. Check out the course calendar. There is a schedule online which has all the classes listed with their number, time, place, prof, room ... This provides a good check, especially if you have your timetable. What if you lost your time table already?

All right I was bluffing. There are only five ways to find out your prof's name. But good luck in the constant struggle.

It is very important to find out your professor's name, especially in first year. At your exam you may have to circle your professor's name and that may mean that you don't have to do some of the questions. I would strongly recommend knowing your prof's name (I have known many who have ignored this advice), if nothing else, do it because you can.

Dave Nicholson

[Actually, I can come in handy here, you could always ask your prof what their name is. — Pete Love]

Feed Me!

Faithful Readers,

It has come to my attention that I am hungry. It has been more than a month since I have been fed. I'm usually stuffed full of Mathie goodness, but I was abandoned for most of the month of August. Now that all you Frosh have arrived, perhaps you'll be so kind as to feed me.

You can feed me most anything. I'm not very picky. Some of my favourite foods include: Squiz answers, Crossword solutions (those cryptic ones are especially nummy), *prof*QUOTES, articles, and money. Especially money. Of course I'll eat other things too. If you'd like to feed me some comic strips or restaurant reviews or Panama, I'd love to have those too.

Please send all food to me courtesy of my slot. It can be found on top of me. I can be found between the Comfy Lounge and the Math C+D. And now you can feed me online too! I can't use the Internet myself (as I have no opposable thumbs — or hands in general), but if you e-mail the nice people at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca they'll feed me at no cost to you! Please don't send in food as attachments though, as they give me gas. Just stick it into the body of the e-mail and it'll be scrumptious!

Sincerely,

The *mathNEWS* BLACK BOX

profQUOTES

"Who thinks it's true? Who thinks it's false? Who thinks?" [No students raise their hands.] "It is Friday, but still..."

Nishimura, CS 360

"Windows 98 is perfectly okay!"

Pretti, during Frosh Week

"Drawing in 10 000 dimensions is really tough. You can smoke stuff, and that will help."

Furino, C&O 350

"If I fall asleep, just turn out the lights and leave."

VanderBurgh, MATH 135

"If you go to class and sleep well, you will do well at university."

VanderBurgh, MATH 135

"We don't do arithmetic, we do MATH!"

Wood, MATH 137

[Professor flips a coin numerous times] "Now, can anyone tell me how many times I get head?"

Wu, STAT 230

"Let me first write the wrong answer here."

Haxell, MATH 239

"We're going to restrict ourselves to an infinite subset."

Lawrence, PMATH 330

"Proof: it's obvious."

Furino, MATH 135

"Who's got the Wednesday notes? Let me read from those."

Zorzitto, MATH 135

"No cookies until you answer the question."

Best, C&O 370

"In previous terms, no matter how many times I say it, a non-empty set of students get this wrong."

Lawrence, PMATH 330

"So this is a topology! Now if this doesn't make you popular at the next dance, I don't know what will."

Marcoux, PM 351

"Pancakes are better than nothing, and nothing is better than love, therefore pancakes are better than love."

DeVidi, PHIL 145

"When a mathematician gets a new tool, it's like a misbehaving four-year-old boy with a sledgehammer. He just wants to go around and apply it to everything."

Tunçel, C&O 355

"And your coworker asks, 'Why didn't you get laid off?' and you say something dumb like, 'I'm sleeping with the boss's daughter.'"

Smith, ECON 101

(On sex) "Eventually it will just be another weekly chore you check off the list."

Smith, ECON 101

(On garbage collection) "And the little gnome comes by and says, 'Aha! No one's talking to you anymore!'"

Giesbrecht, CS 130

"Those of you who have been cheating, try not to cheat as much."

Irving, MATH 239

"Now I would like to make a note here that positive infinity is not a million."

Mamon, MATH 137

"Sometimes I wish I was an octopus!"

Struther, MATH 137

"These are called Gaussian Integers, named after a man named Integer."

McKinnon, PMATH 334

"Now the exclamation mark doesn't mean factorial; just raw excitement."

McKinnon, PMATH 334

"Infinity is like Africa. You can't calculate one over Africa just like you can't calculate one over infinity."

Wood, MATH 137

"I'll give everyone a virgin — I mean version."

Graham, CS 130

"You are smarter than my other class, but don't tell them I said that."

Mamon, MATH 137

"Let us get started so we can leave early. I hope that this does not end up in *mathNEWS*."

Mamon, MATH 137

"It's not a good boundary if it's not closed ... all your cows can get out."

Mosca, MATH 239

"Are there anymore questions? Are there anymore donuts?"

VanderBurgh, MATH 135

"The Fibonacci numbers are 1, 1, ... what's the next one?"

Zorzitto, PMATH 352

"I'm sorry, I forgot my remote control today. Meet my new remote control." [Points to TA]

Day, SE 112

We always need people to submit more *profQUOTES*. So if you prof says something funny, write it down and either put it in the *mathNEWS* BLACK BOX or e-mail it to us at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca. But please don't print out your *profQUOTES* and then put them in to the BLACK BOX because that would just be silly!

How To Feed Yourself

So, you've finally moved into rez. If you're lucky, you'll find yourself living in Village One, and, if you're really lucky, you'll find yourself living in a single room. However, if you're like I was last September, then you'll be living in a closet in Ron Eydt. (But, not to worry. If the noise gets too extreme, you can always escape to the Great Hall in Ron Eydt's main building. It's much quieter there.)

However, wherever you're living, you'll eventually encounter something called "UW cafeteria food." Be warned! This "food" is not really food, but a mixture of meats and frozen vegetables drenched in gravies and sauces of unethical origin. If you eat that stuff for one whole term, you'll end up causing extreme damage to your gastrointestinal system. But fear not! There is an alternate food source!

"And what's that?" you may ask.

Squirrel.

That's right. Nowhere else in North America will you find squirrels with even half the succulence, or one-quarter the charisma, as the ones that you'll find here. And, with it being Fall, the time is ripe for the harvest.

Now, before you bolt outside and give chase to these four-legged delicacies, allow me to give you a few instructions on how to catch and prepare them properly (employing mainly legal and entirely realistic methods).

First of all, in order to catch a squirrel, you'll need a means of "bagging it," so to speak, and what better thing to bag a squirrel with than that handy-dandy laundry bag that came in your frosh kit? Don't worry. So, grab your bag and head out!

As a beginner, you'll want to start hunting in the squirrels' key feeding grounds. And, by key feeding grounds, I mean the green by the path connecting Village One and Ron Eydt. It's a virtual buffet on weekday mornings. The main reason for this is its close proximity to the squirrel population's primary food source — the stream where Ron Eydt dumps its leftover cafeteria food (which, incidentally, is leftover cafeteria food from Village One — pay close attention to their menus).

Anyways, back to the squirrels. So you've scanned the horizon and found the perfect, mouth-watering morsel. Advance without mercy and bag it swiftly. As you do so, however, be careful not to trip over any of the other lesser squirrels that may be standing between you and your main course.

Now here comes the hard part. Since the majority of squirrels tend to become quite uptight when wrapped in unfamiliar linen, your bagged creature will likely start flailing up a storm. Now is the time to take a heavy object and end its anguish, if you get my drift. This is where your MATH 137 textbook comes in handy, although an anvil will work just as well. Just remember, wipe the stains off of your book after you're done or you'll frighten your TA.

Now that you've got the messy part over with, it's time get even messier by skinning your entree — see "The Joy of Cooking" for full instructions. No, really, I'm not kidding about this one. After that's done, you're ready to cook. Sure, you could cook on a measly Maytag four-range, but why do that when you can cook it twenty-three times faster in the searing waters of fire in the bathrooms of MC? Last I checked, it's the only place on earth where water leaves the tap at 150°C. All you have to do now is clog the sink, fill it with water, stir it a bit, toss in your squirrel, stir it a bit, maybe add a few herbs and spices, stir it a bit, and voila! Pure taste-bud debauchery! Flash-

boiled squirrel!

Of course, with hibernating season coming up and all, your squirrel will be relatively fat. Did I say relatively? I meant totally. And, since it's been busy gorging on leftover cafeteria food, you're still technically eating cafeteria food through a bizarre twist of the food chain. Come to think of it, killing three squirrels a day is really tiring, not to mention extremely inconsiderate of the squirrel community. And what about class? Logically speaking, your homework isn't going to do itself. And, before you know it, midterms will be ... Hey! Isn't that the Math C+D over there on the third floor of MC by the Comfy Lounge? Why, yes! [gasp!] No way! Oh, yes way, my friend, yes way. They have the cheapest food on campus, an assortment of caffeinated beverages, and, best of all, they don't serve squirrel! What?? [splutter splutter] Then why are we still standing here? Let's go!

Soooo, now that this article has conveniently morphed into an advertisement for the Math C+D, there's only one coherent thing left to say: first year is really fun! You'll have an awesome time! Just don't "forget" to do your assignments. Oh yeah, and try to get some sleep once in a while. Also, if you'd like, come out and write some articles for mathNEWS! [First Production Night is 6:30 pm on Monday, September 16th! — KreasEd] It'll be great! Enjoy your term!

Angela

So your parents are paying

The finest dining someone else's money can buy

Let's say your parents want to take you somewhere really fancy to celebrate, or maybe you don't believe K/W has any really nice restaurants. Here are a few places where the entrees can cost more than twenty or thirty bucks — so get someone else to pick up the bill.

- *Bihma's Warung*: South East Asian fushion cuisine. King, north of University.
- *King Street Trio*: Live jazz and excellent steak. My roommate loves going there. University and Weber.
- *Hannah's Belle Bistro*: An up-scale Raintree Cafe. King near Bridgeport.
- *Charbries*: They change their menu to match the seasons. I enjoyed their winter. King near Erb.
- *Janet Lynn's Bistro*: Very classy, very pricey. King across from Waterloo Town Square.
- *Ali Baba's / Krebs*: Two storeys of dining, a steak house and a fancy restaurant. King and William.
- *Marbles*: Homemade pasta and amazing French onion soup. King and William.
- *Solé*: Wide variety of entrees in the former Seagrams buildings. Not too pricey either. Erb and Euclid.
- *Casa Rigantino*: Hailed as the areas best pizza. Belmont Village (Belmont and Union).
- *20 King*: Jazzy exterior, and what must be the area's second best pizza. King and Frederick.
- *Da Costa*: Mediterranean fushion, but part of a chain (boo!). Charles across from the bus terminal.
- *Melange Wine Bar*: Simple, intimate, out of the way. My favourite place in the region. Market Square behind the Kitchener Farmer's Market.

TaxiEd, with a couple reviews from Amadaeus

Where to Eat, 2002 Edition

Without Getting Poisoned ... Again

You'll be surprised that there's real food outside the Village cafeterias, whose novelty should wear off by the time you've eaten Salisbury Steak for the fourth time in a week. These eateries are ranked from 1 to 10, 1 being completely poisonous to 10 being deliciously palatable. Prices are based on relative averages from restaurants surrounding the one being reviewed. Prices range from \$ (it won't break your bank), to \$\$\$\$ (prepare to apply for a mortgage).

Location: University Plaza

- **Mongolian Grill** (7.5, \$\$\$): The Mongolian Grill serves a good array of dinner and lunch cooked on a huge slab of a very hot rock. You choose what you want to eat from a large selection of uncooked food items (like a buffet), then you bring it to the huge slab of hot rock for the "Rock Artists" to mix and grill them into satisfying bowl of hot food. Very appetizing, and it's quite fun to see the rock in action.
- **Vietnamese Place** (*there's only one in the Plaza*) (2.0, \$\$\$): Please do be careful if you eat here. This place has been closed several times for health violations, and has been closed at least once in the past year. The food portions are small compared to Vietnamese places in Toronto, and the prices don't match it's portions.
- **Front Row McGinnis** (7.0, \$\$\$): Good burgers, sports on screen, beer on tap. This isn't just a simple sports hangout, it's a sports hangout with decent food. Prices are decent as well, and the food is again quite decent. This place is usually packed on Sunday nights for pay-per-view events. If so you're lucky as to be here for the Winter term, Leafs Playoffs are always a scene to be seen at Front Row. They eliminated the 2-for-1 burger deal on Saturdays, so it slips down .8 points. Good burgers nonetheless.
- **Pita Factory** (7.4, \$\$): If it's health food you're craving for, get a pita stuffed with veggies from The Pita Factory. Pita experts are friendly, and the menu is even friendlier. Carnivore? Don't worry, there are plenty of meat options to satisfy even the meatiest of eaters.
- **Williams Coffee Pub** (7.5, \$): Coffee prices are comparable to other chains, but the quality is really determined by your tastes. Prices are reasonable for the liquids, but quickly get ridiculously expensive once you move onto the solids. One commendable thing about Williams is the atmosphere: It's always packed and a great place to meet new friends and gather with the old. It gains a few points for the ever-changing menu.
- **Campus Pizza** (9.5, \$): They used to be called Gino's Pizza, but when the its head office decided to force its chain to use carrot juice instead of tomato sauce and processed cheese instead of real cheese, Campus pizza decided to go independent and became an instant success. Known for its great pizza with uncompromising ingredients and good prices, you can't go wrong with Campus Pizza. They offer free delivery to holders of the "Feed Me Card," and deliver well into your late night Calculus cramming session. If you work on the Hong Kong time standard and crave good authentic Italian pizza with real cheese and honest-to-goodness meat and fresh veggie options, Campus Pizza is the way to go.

- **East Side Mario's** (7.3, \$\$\$): If you've eaten at East Side Mario's, you've eaten at all East Side Mario'ses. Waiters/waitresses are friendly, and the food is always hot and fresh, and with unlimited soup, salad and garlic bread, you can't lose. Nothing much to say about East Side Mario's other than it's good food in a good distance.

Location: The Other Side of Phillip Street

- **Mel's Diner** (8.0, \$): Good olde time fare. Well, not quite olde time, but it's themed on the Marlon Brando era (before he got fat). Try to recall the diner seen in Grease and you've hit the mark. Good burgers, good sandwiches, good shakes, and even better breakfasts, Mel's is the gathering place for all-day breakfasts after a full night of partying. Open late on weekends, Mel's is a popular choice for all UW students and staff. You never know, you may even bump into your TA there. If you're going to invade Mel's with 10 people, its better you call first your you'll insult the staff by arriving as unannounced guests.
- **Second Cup** (8.0, \$): I'm biased towards Second Cup because I've been addicted to it since High School, but it is marginally better than most of the other chains out there (Starbucks is disqualified because their coffee stinks). They rotate their blends on a daily basis, and they always have 4 blends on tap while they keep a good amount of backup that can be brewed on a moment's notice. Snack foods are also sold and are fresh, but tend to be a little pricey. Atmosphere is a little more mellow than Williams, so this is a good quiet place to study or as a good end to a date.
- **Sunshine Express** (7.0, ½\$): Relatively cheap Chinese food, although the quality is passable, and cleanliness varies depending on the week you visit. Bottom line: Cheap Chinese Food. Don't expect chicken balls there, because they do sell the real stuff.
- **Weaver's** (7.5, \$): A co-operatively owned project between the management and residents of WCRI (Waterloo Co-operative Residence Inc.), Weavers is a traditional-looking pub that serves cool beer on tap, incredibly good wings, and a decent slice of beer pizza. Specials are available on every night except Fridays and Sundays, and there's domestic micro-brewery beer in stock. They also serve meals outside normal pub fare, as 'fake' Chinese food, pastas, burgers, steaks, chicken, etc. is also available on their extensive menu.

Well Worth the Trip

- **Viet Thai Veitnamese Cuisine** (10, \$): Its Vietnamese name translates to "Border City," Viet Thai is located beyond the end of Highway 8 (338 King St E). Reason for the perfect 10: Huge portions, low prices, and excellent authentic food. You can't go wrong with a place operated by Vietnamese owners serving Vietnamese food. The beef rice noodles come in huge bowls, and the curry crab is irresistible. It really is worth the trip down King Street, fighting the traffic in Downtown Kitchener, to reach this tiny little restaurant. There's limited parking at the rear, but ample parking space on the streets around the restaurant.

Amadaeus

The Frosh Cornered v1.0

Cornered ... For the First Time

Ahhh, to be Frosh again.

The Frosh Cornered originated in Fall 2000 from a very naive frosh with way too much time on his hands, and it evolved into a 72-week writing marathon that ended with threats from over-worked editors and the Waterloo-Quebec separation movement. Since then, my evil incarnate, Ian the Frosh Cornered v2.0, has taken the reigns of the Frosh Cornered by winning a fifteen-day battle royale in Fall 2001 that concluded with a disqualification of his competitor due to the illegal use of a beach chair.

Wisdom, like cheap wine, pretends to get better with age (but it really doesn't). Yet, people take it anyway because the good wine is too expensive. So, I bring you the leaves of Wisdom, as transcribed from the book of the Frosh Cornered v1.0. Yes, you can purchase this book at the nearest Laymond Gift Shop for \$250 U.S. (VISA and Mastercard accepted)

- **Tutors don't bite ... hard:** Swallow your pride and ask for help if you need it, that is why we have professional tutors paid to help you with your problems. If you know everything already, ask your tutors about LP relaxation problems. You'll learn to maximize your winnings in Pro-line in no time.
- **Take advantage of your prof:** When we say take advantage of your prof, we don't mean it in the way you see it in Boston Public. Unlike high school, UW profs have out-of-class office hours where you can go and ask them questions on topics relating to class or otherwise. Most profs are friendly and willing to answer questions. Some even go the length to make office hours an event to attend: Professor Ragde actually announces the weekly "Office Hour Soundtrack" in the beginning of his class, and Professor Troy Vasiga makes funny faces when you frustrate him enough.
- **Neverwinter Nights and Warcraft3 are your friends:** With CS and Calculus assignments due on the same day, you'll want to relieve the 'stress' you've accumulated once you've shoved your assignments into the boxes. What better way to relieve stress than to hack Orc peons in little bits? All work and no play makes Homer something something, so make sure you don't end up like Homer and trash the house in search of the sweet glow of the TV.
- **Making friends actually requires effort:** In a school in which almost 4000 mathies can roam free at any one time, making friends in these faceless hallowed hallways is a difficult feat. You have to take the initiative and introduce yourself. Maybe stop programming in front of your terminal and turn to the person next to you and say "Hi," or join one of the many clubs here at UW. There are clubs for everything, right from DEX (the University of Waterloo's version of DECA), to The Buffy Watcher's Club (they watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer as a hobby); there's bound to be a club that fits you. You'll enjoy the events, and you'll meet excellent friends.
- **Anything composed by Hans Zimmer is good study music:** Jerry Goldsmith of the Star Trek fame comes in a close second. Prime examples of excellent motivational music are the soundtracks to Gladiator, Crimson Tide, and the Peacemaker. The music is so compelling, energetic and

uplifting it almost makes you want to get up at 4 am in the morning to understand those proofs you need to know for your midterm. Emphasis on 'almost.' Essential tracks: "Barbarian Horde" from Gladiator, "Trains" from The Peacemaker, the main theme to The Hunt for Red October, and "1SQ" from Crimson Tide. You'll get the urge to find chain mail armour and a bronze longsword and run up and down your residence hallway in no time.

- **Learn Unix, stat:** Soon, you will understand the infinite pain and torture that is Windows, and you will be begging for a release from the hell that is the NT software. Beside hell is the Unix Lab, your salvation to digital sanity. Get a friend to give you a quick tutorial on how to run Unix, and you'll be doing your assignments without having to jump down the third floor balcony because your Java compiler crashed on your Windows system. The best way to learn unix is to write for *mathNEWS*, so become a *mathNEWS* code monkey and be saved!
- **NEVER use the toilet paper in the third floor washroom:** That one-ply stuff isn't even suited for that bear featured in that Bud Light commercial. Either bring your own or hold it until you get back to your place. In any case, keep a nice, soft roll of two-ply tissue hidden under your bed. Why under your bed? It's a commodity! There will be people caught unprepared, and they will pay a premium to use toilet paper that won't cause a paper cut on their behinds.

UW is going to be what you make of it. Put some time into meeting some friends, eat well, and make sure you don't go insane is a good thing. About that insanity part, you'll be insane beyond help soon, but keeping that sanity for as long as possible is important.

I guess that's it from the original Cornered Frosh and you've already heard from my evil lacky, version 2.0. Muhahahahahahahaha ... *hack**cough*

Raymond CT Lai
The Cornered Frosh v1.0

I'm getting too old for this... not really ... meh.



Difference from High School #5

PhysEd is no longer a required course for your degree, unless you are in AHS, of course. To supplement this, first-year courses will be placed all across campus to maximize the amount of exercise you will receive. Also, there is a gym in the PAC, but it's usually filled with PhysEd keeners and nerds.

How to Survive Your First Year

or How to Keep Yourself from Going Insane

Welcome, frosh, to UW and the famous Math Faculty. There are so many things to do, people to meet, different menus to try, and wacky games to play. First year is the time for experimentation, exploration, and expedition. I'm sure you will enjoy this ride of fun and challenge.

Of course, for the majority of you, this is probably the first time you'll live outside your home for an extended period. University goes at a faster pace than high school (I don't know how different it is, even though I've already spent three years here). The workload and activities here may overwhelm you. Here are a few things that will keep you level-headed:

1. **Get enough sleep.** If frosh week teaches you anything, it will be that one can survive without sleep. Well, that's partially true; sometimes you do need to stay up late to finish that project or to recover from a party, while at other times, staying up til 3 am is a bad idea. In the summer, it may not be a big deal to stay up late, but during winter, with nights starting at 5 pm, where's the fun in staying up late? Besides, who likes to stay up in the cold?
2. **Learn to cook.** For those of you living off campus, this is a no-brainer. For the people living on campus, it still doesn't hurt to learn the art of (microwave) cooking. Unless you have a tongue of steel, you won't be able to stand the food in the village by the end of this month. A great thing about cooking yourself is that you'll always get to have your favourite dish, any day of the week.
3. **Do your assignments in advance.** By "advance" I mean two days. If you start doing an assignment the night before it is due and you are stuck, then you'd be, well, stuck. The only help available then would be your roommate, but they might be the type that gets agitated when they're awakened from their sleep. Why two days? Because you would still have one full day to leech (or ask) for tips from others.
4. **Prepare to answer the question "Are you planning to be a teacher?" a zillion times.** Back in my first term here, I believe this question was presented to me 20 times. I don't think the alternatives I gave were that great. The standard response is "No, I can be a ..." Of course, these days there are plenty of ways to complete that sentence, from "movie consultant" to "game designer" to "book reviewer." Just don't say "financial consultant" (you may see their wrath).
6. **Learn to yodel.** No doubt you'll be standing in many line-ups this week (and in subsequent weeks). These times can be incredibly boring (not to mention bad for your legs). A good way to combat this is to hum a tune while you are in line (or on-line). Also, do a standing march while you're at it — you don't want your legs to be frozen stiff at your turn. The music you sing is actually up to you, but rock is not recommended (I recommend tunes from *The Simpsons* or "What shall we do with a drunken sailor?").
6. **Write for mathNEWS.** I know. It IS a shameless plug for mathNEWS [Hooray for shameless plugs! — AbsentEd], but we always need new perspectives on silliness and craziness (besides, we need another feud among mathNEWS staff). We welcome anyone, even if you can't spell or write in competent English (if you do, that's a big plus). And for you 8-streamers, you are in for a treat. mathNEWS will

turn 30 in January. Join us and be a part of this momentous occasion.

Now that I look back at the list, it looks more like the list of what I did in my first 3 terms here than anything else. Oh well. If the above tips help you, great; if they don't, oh well.

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

mathNEWSquiz 0

The Beginning

Hey everybody, welcome to the Squiz, I'm π and I will be your SquizMaster for the term. Every two weeks I'll be bringing you a fresh batch of questions for which you can win gift certificates for the C+D located on the third floor. The premise is simple: whoever answers the most questions each week wins. If there is a tie, a random winner is chosen.

Each week, I'll give the answers for the previous week, and tell you the names and scores of everyone who participated. So, if you want five bucks in free food at the C+D (enough to buy lunch) get your brains ready, there are some tough questions ahead. For the lyrics category, just give the song name [Where you would normally give a song name and artist — phatED].

Odds and Ends

1. How many days are there in a week?
2. What is the name of the course Math 135? (hint: It's NOT Math 134)
3. Who shot Mr. Burns?
4. What is $321412343 \bmod 5$?
5. How many pages are there in this issue of mathNEWS?

Lyrics

1. We're Waterloo mathies
We're far from our home
2. The Biggest Tie, I ever saw
Was hanging on, The MC Wall
3. Mary had a little lemma,
little lemma, little lemma
4. Row row row reduce
madly down the page

Frosh Week

1. What were the stops on the campus tours?
2. Who were the Orientation Directors for math?
3. How big is the pink tie?
4. What is the large engineering wrench known as?
5. Which campus building is said to be sinking and why?

Okay, so now that you've done the Squiz, or at least looked at it, or maybe even just skipped the questions, you might want to know where to put answers if you decide to do it. Well, there are two ways to get answers to us. You can e-mail them to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca or you can put them in the mathNEWSBLACK BOX which is located on the third floor, in the hallway, between the Comfy Lounge and the C+D. Answers need to be in by September 16th, which is the day we will start producing issue one.

π — Still Going, Still Irrational

Grid Clues (Cryptic)

Across

7. Catnap, so zone out (6)
8. Watch permit for hole (6)
9. Trim pole, take in (4)
10. About face and chase, or just run away (4,4)
11. American League East hit 100 fouls: is that fair? (7)
13. Fresh-baked tart I feature (5)
15. Mended stable (5)
16. Boating support shelters artificial intelligence (7)
18. Chip met a crooked firm (8)
19. Every other unsoothed quaver (4)
21. Hamlet confused this gal (6)
22. Lead together but can't go (6)

Down

1. Former leaders owe new Cabinet explanation (4)
2. All the shy reptiles are wearing this calico (13)
3. Try out deodorant, or all trials are forbidden? (4-3)
4. How will wary Larry carry scary berry to Canary Islands? (5)
5. Ninety-minute version of The Elegant Fur (7,6)
6. Resistance outside tritium particle (8)
12. Overturns his trump for victories (8)
14. Power brokers in big slinky suits (3,4)
17. One way to heat ground meats (5)
20. Three very French sounds (4)

So, finished already? Want some brownie points? I started the puzzle exactly the way you did, with the first letter of every answer. Then I scoured the (on-line) dictionary for top-quality words to fill in the rest of the puzzle. What's the pattern to those initial letters?

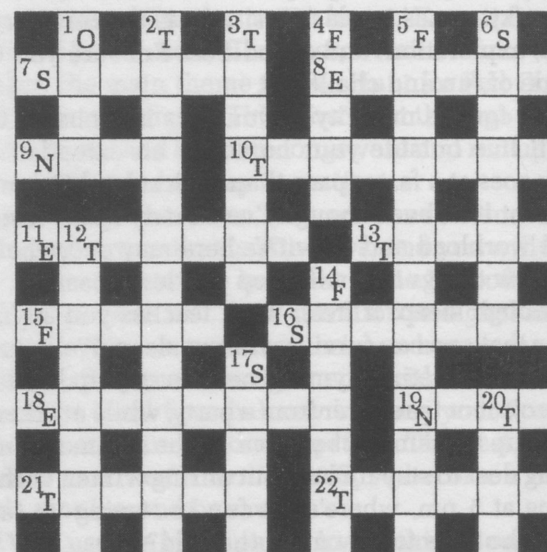
Grid Clues (Conventional)

Across

7. One who looks intently (6)
8. Quite a lot to see (6)
9. Star explosion (4)
10. Pet peeves (4-4)
11. An engraved piece of art (7)
13. Layers (5)
15. Covered in hair (5)
16. Tall American cactus (7)
18. Pouring freely, like a fluid (8)
19. Brazil, Hazel, and Cashew (4)
21. Asking to be informed (4,2)
22. From area around Florence (6)

Down

1. Bus driver who likes to get blotto (4)
2. With great deviousness (13)
3. A musical interval of three whole steps (7)
4. Phobias (5)
5. With extreme fierceness (13)
6. One who undergoes pain (8)
12. Treats found by pigs (8)
14. French soldier and statesman: Marquis de La _____ (7)
17. Tempting singer of mythology (5)
20. Liquid eye expulsion (4)



gridCOMMENTS

Get Griddy Child

Linda: Welcome to UW! Because it's your first term, I'm going to give you a break. I've already filled in the first letter of every answer. (Now, hey, all you veterans, this advantage is for frosh only. Get a friend to white out all those first letters before you even think about starting to solve the *gridWORD*!)

Are you totally new to cryptic crosswords? It all looks like gobbledy-gook, doesn't it? Well, each clue is a separate little word puzzle. For a tutorial, check out www.guardian.com and look for their terrific daily cryptic.

Bradley: Also, if you can find me, I love teaching people how to solve cryptics ... and I know all the answers so ask me for help. But maybe wait until the end of Orientation Week, I should be pretty busy and unable to explain cryptics fast enough.

Oh yes, and before I forget (again), here's the *gridQUESTION* (a silly question the GridMasters use for settling ties ... the funniest answer usually wins): *What did you forget to do during the summer?* Good luck, and get those grids in the **BLACK BOX** or mail them to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca by our first Production Night which is coming up on September sixteenth.

Linda and Brad

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