

NEWS

math **NEWS**

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Evolution of a logo...

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MATH NEWS

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A Brief History of *mathNEWS*

And its Editors

mathNEWS, the bastion of erudite thought, has come a long way from its humble origins forty years ago; it was cradled through its youth with many stages of experimentation in style and content, and in time, matured as an organization and paper as it dealt with threats and consequences of its actions. Yet the paper itself is still young at heart, since the content herein is timeless; after all, its authors are still, for the most part, undergraduate students at the university, but some everyday staples which seem so rooted in tradition have not always been so timeless.

In an endeavour to uncover the history of *mathNEWS*, I have delved deep into the yellowing red tomes which chronicle the annals of the paper, as well as the faded olive folders containing documents which have not seen light for years. But as with any archeological unearthing, the earlier the time with seemingly foreign nuances, the more difficult it is to reconstruct. As such, everything presented here should be taken with a grain of salt; there is no telling when sometime in the future someone finds one esoteric document in the corner of the office or an old editor shares his or her stories so the future may understand the toils of the day.

Back in the day, when the first issue was published on January 25, 1973, *mathNEWS* was a weekly publication, as well as technically a club under MathSoc. This made getting money for publication rather difficult, as even then MathSoc had baroque procedures for club policies and funding requests. After a few volumes of the weekly publication, on February 14, 1975, *mathNEWS* switched to a bi-weekly schedule as it remains today. It is also during this time *mathNEWS* published its first *gridWORD*, Prez Sez, Frosh Issue, and CSC Flash - the first *profQUOTE* didn't show up until later (see page 5). Some regular features as well as interesting facets of *mathNEWS* came and left with the Internet; for many years *mathNEWS* ran *mathQUIZ*, a trivia column similar to *gridWORD* where prizes were given out for those who knew their stuff, but with the advent of Wikipedia and IMDB this formerly regular column was phased out.

mathNEWS eventually gained some degree of autonomy from MathSoc at some point, whose precise records were lost to time

About the ISSN

Have you ever wondered why we print all sorts of legal information on our issue, while we seem to be just an amateurish not-so-serious outfit? Well, that's because we're an important and *old* not-so-serious outfit, spanning back for over 40 years of history.

Don't believe us? Well, you can always drop by our office (MC 3030) and take a look at our old issues, specially preserved and bound in our sacrosanct **RED BOOKS**. Still think that it's an elaborate con? The school libraries have them too, and you're welcome to go into DP or DC to check them out, and learn a lot about campus history.

Still unsure? The National Archives in Ottawa still thinks that we're a legitimate publication too. and we still send them a copy of each issue for storage too. They're the reason we have the ISSN.

Big Mak

immemorial, but as it stands today *mathNEWS* is technically directly under the custody of the Dean of Math, and is merely an affiliate with MathSoc. The earliest records of this change that could be found is a letter of understanding between *mathNEWS* and MathSoc dated March 14th, 1988 which outlines the divide and duties of each party. Between then and 1996 the funding was rocky but amicable until a term came around when the production cost far outpaced the funding allocated. The dispute went all the way to the Dean, and a mediated agreement splitting the finances of the two organization was signed overseen by an ombudsperson on October 16th 1996, which led to the modern letter of understanding that put *mathNEWS* in the position it is in today. This degree of separation is rather important because in the earliest days it would seem that editors were not independently assigned from MathSoc (as inferred from the text), but the letter of understanding dated 1988 clearly mentions that editors are independent from MathSoc.

It hasn't just been with the people in MathSoc that *mathNEWS* has gotten into trouble with – *mathNEWS* has managed to get into hot water with Imprint at least twice (once in 1999 when *mathNEWS* received a threat to a lawsuit as a result of a letter written by a previous Imprint president, and once in 2010 when the Imprint president tried to sue *mathNEWS* for an allegedly defamatory article), and with the Dean on at least one occasion (because of a sexual harassment complaint about an allegedly misogynistic 2006 satirical article titled “Boobs!! A user's guide to breasts,” which was withdrawn when it came to light that both authors of the article were female and it was approved by a female editor). Yet, regardless of the number of people who the paper has gotten into trouble with, everything turned out to be alright in the end and the paper is stronger for it.

Throughout the years, *mathNEWS* has had its editors backing up the paper, taking all the glory and blame in case of heat, and toiling every other Monday and Tuesday to put together the paper so that 1500 people will have something to read in the middle of a particularly boring CS 370 class. Without them, *mathNEWS* cannot have come so far, and those are the people to thank.

Zethar

ISSN 0705—0410

Founded 1973

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3030, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid.mathnews@gmail.com on the Internet.

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Editors: Lenny Morayniss, Murphy Berzish, Julie Sturgeon

mathNEWS - financed by but independent of MathSoc

Cranking out the first edition while caffeinated to our eyeballs we're still wondering if we should mention the end of the war... never again such an opportunity... And hans, where art thou with our pictures?... Sweating out 8:30am deadline we triumphantly were: lynn 'hunnie' solvason, bruce 'titles' batchelor, dennis mullin, john 'article-a-minute' peebles, randall 'edit' mcdougall, hans 'glossies' rempel, jeff the mouth braybrook and steve 'stay awake' treadwell..... special note to earl bowman: drop in again next week for another drink.... and yes virginia, this is a weekly... why don't YOU drop in and volunteer sometime??????

Originally printed in Issue 1.1, January 25, 1973; page 10

Volume 1, Issue 1

Below: The first ever cover of the first issue of *mathNEWS*! Things have really changed since then. We have a proper cover now, a different logo, artists and pictures, and our things are named much differently. I wonder how things will be in another 40 years?

The Insomniac Historian

ross has troubles

SUPPOSE THEY GAVE A WINTER WEEKEND AND NO SNOW CAME

They did and it didn't.

"The ski trip is screwed for this week anyway" lamented Ross Kirkpatrick, Mathsoc's social director. Now postponed until next Tuesday (Jan. 30, subject to weather conditions) the Barrie trip was originally scheduled for January 23. The trip which was organized in conjunction with Formosa Spring Brewery includes transportation to and from Barrie, cross-country skiing, food and beer. The ski equipment will be supplied by Formosa. Although only 70 people were permitted on the trip because of limitations on ski equipment and seating capacity, at least two other

trips have been planned for sometime in February. The cost is \$2 for Mathies, the balance being absorbed by Mathsoc. All other students pay the full price.

MINI WEEKEND COMING

Another victim of the balmy weather, the Toboggan races planned for Sunday have also been postponed, but this time until Math Mini Weekend in late February. "Hopefully we will be able to use the same facilities then that we had planned to this time." said Ross, who had managed to book Kaufman Flats for the day as well as buses to ferry people back and forth from the campus. "But we will certainly

can't on page 2

mathNEWS

a news weekly published at the University of Waterloo
Thursday, January 25, 1973

LEE ANNOUNCES NEW LOUNGE SERVICE

coffee and donut stand
Manager Godfrey Lee today announced an expansion of service by his third floor lounge crew.

In an exclusive interview with MathNEWS Mr. Lee revealed that pens will now be sold at his stand.

"They come in two prices and multi-colors," he explained. "15 cents for the cheaps and 30 for the executive model."

"Both take standard refills and are retractable. And they clip on to your pocket."

When asked why the stand is expanding, Godfrey pointed out that someone who loses a pen won't have to truck all the way to the bookstore and stand in line. And they can get a donut queen donut at the same time.

A spokesman for the bookstore refused to deny a rumor that they are negotiating to sell Tim Horton donuts.

The Day Stocker

On the day of Monday September 22 at about 1:15, some ruthless, coldblooded individual (or thing) set off the fire alarms in the Math building (as many of you already know). What you don't know is the true story behind this dastardly plot. Even I don't, but I can guess.

Some people have hinted that it was the n-jineers who set the alarms off in a bid to gain access to our inner sanctum and wreak havoc on Pinkie.

THIS IS ALL WRONG!!!

The fiends are quite happy with The Thing (Worm) which I feel they confiscated (who else would want it?) and are probably right now having fun with their sexual perversions.

Other war-mongers have hinted that it was a Communist plot to take over the 'bun. The ones that said this are Commies themselves.

The true story has finally come to light. In all truth it was a poltergeist gleefully tormenting us by sending us out into the cold until our extremities turned blue (or worse) while it could have virtually free run of the building.

Even as I write this I realize now that it already controls the 'bun, as I'm being plagued with an unprecedented rash of crashes and have lost my latest draft 7 times. I fear for my very life. Even as I type this line sparks are beginning to crackle around and in this terminal.

Finally, I've destroyed the little gremlin. I poured my coffee from the C&D stand into the works of this machine and poisoned him (and ruined the terminal).

Thus I have succeeded in destroying evil at its source, and have brought to you, the sheltered public, the truth and a glimpse of a another world which is being kept hidden from you.

COLDSHACK

Originally printed in Issue 9.3, September 26, 1975; page 7

MATHIES HAVE NO TASTE

Can you remember way back, about two weeks ago, when we had our last issue and we had a Palate Contest? I can. After spending six bleary-eyed hours pouring over entries, I have come to the conclusion that Mathies have no taste. Not one single entry is correct. Still, because we have already bought the prize, and none of us working on the paper tonight is a Hebrew Scholar, and because the bookstore won't take it back, we are going to award a Loser's Prize. We dumped the two boxes of replies on the floor and the first one that we saw that was done in red ink was the Loser. We proudly announce that Mike Ruwald is the Official Loser Winner.

Just in case you wonder, the correct answers are: 1. peanut butter and jelly 2. vanilla 3. pistachio 4. sarsaparilla and there was no tutti-frutti. Maybe the next contest will be easier.

Originally printed in Issue 4.7, March 8, 1974; page 9

C&D TO BE TORPEDOED????

The Mathematics Society has operated a coffee and donut stand in the Math & Computer building lounge (MC #3001) since 1970 (reference *mathNEWS* special frosh issue #1, Aug '73). We quote: "At that time, the prices in the vending machines were increasing, and the quality of the product decreasing. The idea of C&D was readily accepted by all, and soon became copied by EngSoc and the Federation." The Feds have since gotten out of this business but Arts, ESS, Psych, Optometry, and Geology have been operating similar stands recently.

C&D has supplied high quality goods like coffee & donuts, subs & kaisers (and even pens at one time), all at competitive prices. Originally our operating was running at a deficit, but as quality improved and efficiency increased we were able to realize a profit. These monies were and are used to support the summer deficits, improve the facilities, replace equipment used at the stand, support end-of-term sales, increase wages, buy stereo equipment for the student lounges, etc. Approximately \$250 in wages is distributed weekly during the fall and winter to part-time student workers.

Interesting occurrences began in the summer of 1975 when R W Mudie, Director of Food Services, approached the Societies, wishing to supply submarines to the stands. There was a flurry of activity for a while, then the decision was deferred by summer Councils to the fall. The next term, after Mr. Mudie made a presentation to a meeting of Society presidents, it was decided to continue with the present suppliers. Later in the year W Deeks of Administration came into the spotlight. He suggested to the Federation of Students that they would get a better deal in the negotiations for the price/availability of the South Campus Hall, if the Societies switched to Food Services as sandwich supplier. Against the wishes of the Feds, the Societies decided not to bow to pressure. Later, at a council of Presidents meeting, Mr. Mudie asked if we (the Societies) would give him a trial, so the Arts

stand was slated for a two week trial of his goods. Interestingly, that was the last heard on that topic as the trial was never executed -- and the latest news that filtered down (in April) was that Food Services was no longer interested.

On Monday June 14 the summer VP of MathSoc, Ron Hipfner, was approached by the CUPE local president Mr. Liban. He expressed his regrets and informed MathSoc that if we didn't switch our sandwich supplier to Food Services he would ask Administration to charge Math for the use of space, electricity, and cleanup required by our stand. According to Mr. Liban, CUPE has lost 30 workers recently from jobs in Food Services and that he was told upwards of 10 people could be rehired if the C&D stands contracted with Mr. Mudie. CUPE is currently in negotiations for a new contract with the University.

The way *mathNEWS* hears it, those workers were laid off because the Village is semi-closed for the summer. CUPE people (Custodians asked on Monday) said that Food Services has been short-shifting their full-time help in preference of the non-union (& cheaper) part-timers. We also fail to understand how ten people can be supported on the business that is currently supporting 2 people (the staff of the sandwich supplier).

Math Society sincerely regrets this trouble but does not wish to be pressured. The C&D stand has operated for many years without complaints and provides an unbeatable service. It is not our function to provide jobs to anyone, we have certainly not taken any away. We do not appreciate being used as scape-goats in times of budget-balancing and union negotiations. The Math Society hopes that this action will go no further.

*Originally printed in Issue 1.2, June 6, 1976; pages 1-2
This was the first issue distributed campus-wide, with over
1200 copies*

Democracy Crushed!

Democracy loses 9 month battle to the Free Chevrag!! Federation council has been taken over by the Free Chevrag!!!! In a six hour council meeting this past Sunday the Chevrag was reinstated, in direct contravention to the January Chevrag referendum. It should be noted that the main support for the students came from the Mathematics representatives (as they were elected, not acclaimed, the Free Chevrag was soundly defeated in all elections). This reinstatement includes over fifteen thousand dollars for legal fees, back pay et cetera. The reason for passing the reinstatement was "we've got to get it over with" and "it will make a stronger federation". But I fail to see how giving in to them accomplishes either. Reinstatement means that we are now back in the exact same position as before the closing. It should be noted that if you take the vote of the council on reinstatement and count only those who were actually elected (as opposed to acclaimed) we notice that the reinstatement loses. From this I draw the conclusion that those who were not voted in feel that they do not need to do what their constituents want, but what they personally want. Anyhow, there will be a /Real/ Real Chevrag this week, and it will probably still be full of the same old s**t.

Originally printed in Issue 14.4, June 30, 1977

THE GODFATHER

Pizza & Subs

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LIMITED TIME OFFER!

PAIR OF EIGHTS — \$8.88

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for an incredible low price of \$8.88*

Regular Price \$10.99

AIA Awards Night

The student wing of CPC(M-L) proudly presents for the edification of all, the University of Waterloo's first annual AIA awards night to take place in CC113 on Friday, June 9, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. Rather than allowing the humorous antics and farcical statements of these people to go unrecognized, awards will be presented to these who have demonstrated their contempt for the common student in an especially hilarious manner.

This year's nominees for "Karls" in the category of best actor are:

- **Neil McDuckerty** for his role in refusing to print in the *Chevron* an article on Waterloo's own Experimental Airplane Flying Club just to stop a politically moderate contributor from gaining voting rights on the *Chevron*. (Feedback -- March 17, 1978)
- **Doug Wallstreetjournal** for his absolutely riotous performance in attempting to have two *Chevrics* suspended from staff for ****gasp**** surveying students about their views on the *Chevron*. (Feedback -- March 17, 1978)
- **James Carter** for his whimsical insistence that anyone who opposed the blatant matter in which the *Chevron's* motto "defend the basic interests of the students" was being misused, was /de facto/ opposed to the interests of the students.
- **Salad Backherewriter** for his tomfoolery in plagiarizing an entire article from the "People's Canadian Daily News" and putting his byline under it.
- **Larry's Haddit** for his uproarious contribution to the **fiction** page of the *Chevron*. (Prose & Poetry -- March 10, 1978)

Nominated for best show presented by the AIA this year are:

- **The Making of an Editor** *Chevron* offices, March 10, 1978 -- James Carter Producer -- Neil McDuckerty Director For the AIA's slapstick filibustering of the election meeting until it had dragged on for 12 hours, and only Carter's supporters remained. Also for James' witty insistence that people defend the way they vote (i.e. that secret balloting be eliminated so that he would know who voted against him). (Feedback -- March 17, 1978, *RRIM mathNEWS* -- March 10, 1978)
- **The Purging of Chris Default** *Chevron* offices, March 17, 1978 -- the same old cast For the AIA's buffoonery in leaving the meeting open after the political moderates had left and then suspending staffer Chris Default for circulating a separation petition (separation then being *Chevron* policy), and then reversing the *Chevron's* stand on separation. (Feedback -- March 31, 1978)
- **Return of the Storm Troopers** Science Society office, March 27, 1978 -- Larry's Haddit Producer -- Doug Wallstreetjournal Director For their high comedy in pretending not to grasp the humorous intent of the April 1st AIA release, and pulling their own April Fool's prank in bursting into the Sci-Soc office to tear down these signs. (Feedback -- April 7, 1978)

Unfortunately, due to the sheer volume of jocular AIA activities, some excellent performances must go un-nominated.

Master of Ceremonies will be noted stand up comic, Hardilian Brains. Molotov Cocktails and Donuts will be available afterwards. All are welcome.

Originally printed in Issue 17.3, June 5, 1978

Re: Dr Who

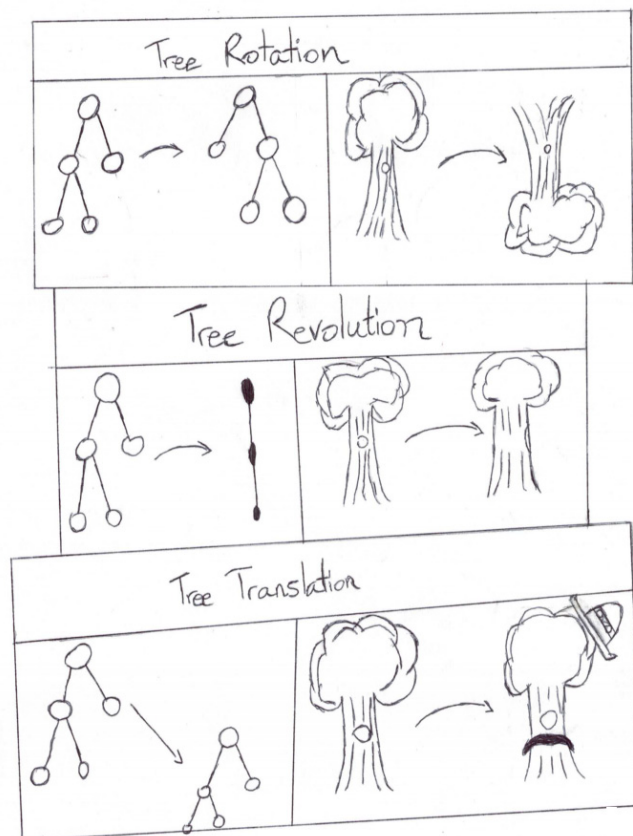
There recently appeared in the *IMPRINT* an article on British Television and some of the excellent series it has spawned such as Monty Python's Flying Circus, Doctor in the House and Doctor Who. It is in regard to this last item that I feel compelled to speak.

In the above mentioned article Mark D'Gabriel, the article's author, claims that Doctor Who is "a cult hero and a favourite of WATSFIC, our own SF club". It might be noted at the time of this writing that Mr. D'Gabriel is not and according to our records has never been a member of WATSFIC. It should also be noted that Doctor Who is **not** a cult hero...at least not around WATSFIC. It's can't even be called a favourite, although **some** of us do like it. If WATSFIC ever needs a cult it's always got D&D although we have been forced to stop the sacrifices in the office, the cleaning staff was beginning to complain about blood stains.

Now I realize this is a rather petty and silly little point to take issue on, but I use it only to underline a growing tendency in the press to fill out otherwise slack articles with speculations, assumptions and half truths based on unofficial and uninformed sources. In conclusion, we like the publicity but please guys (and girls), get it right...call us first!

Dean TH Edmonds

Originally printed in Issue 21.1, September 21, 1979



Quote of the Week

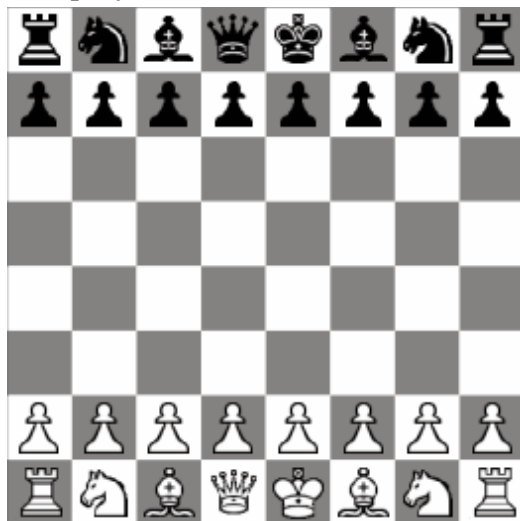
"I think if people were a bit quieter in this class then we could see the board better."

- Trent, on the lighting in CS 331

Originally printed in I24.5, October 10, 1980

Chess Problem

White to play and win in 47 moves. Hint: P-K4



Originally printed in Issue 27.4, October 23, 1981

A Decade of *mathNEWS*

Ten years ago, this phenomenon known as *mathNEWS* was born. In this issue, (and throughout this term) we hope to re-print some of the articles which have appeared in *mathNEWS* during the past decade. We do not pretend to present a "Best Of" collection, since that's subjective and in the eye of the beholder. However, if you can recall any great *mathNEWS* articles of the past that we have missed, then drop us a line (we'll tell you how later). During the term, you will be treated to a good helping of history.

mathNEWS was started back in the dead of winter in 1973. The basic style and format of *mathNEWS* has changed very little since. We are not the Globe and Mail, so don't expect top-quality journalism, but we are here to inform and to entertain. This has been the case for a decade.

Let's now look back to ISSUE ONE!! Here's the very first mast-head that appeared ten years ago on 25 January 1973: [*printed on page 2*].

Yes, *mathNEWS* was weekly back in those days. Unfortunately, with a lack of both articles and resources, *mathNEWS* could no longer be a weekly publication. In fact, it's difficult to publish *mathNEWS* on even a biweekly basis. You can help *mathNEWS*, however: "Why don't YOU drop in and volunteer sometime?????". We can be reached via Honeywell at the "math-news" account, or you can send us written messages via the *mathNEWS* mail box on the third floor (across from the student lounges). Leave us your name and phone number if you wish to help out, and we'll contact you.

With your help, we can produce the best possible student newspaper. How about it?

David Leibold
Associate Editor

Originally printed in Issue 31.1, January 14, 1983

The *mathNEWS* 10th anniversary issue

mathNEWS Hierarchy of Intelligence

In Descending Order

Beryl Wall
The Natural Log
Rene Descartes
Isaac Newton
Stud McGee
mathNEWS Staff
Lewis Carroll
UNIX
FASS
The Pink Tie
jcwinterton
C&D Staff
Graduate Mathies
CS Majors
MathSoc Executive
Other Mathies
Watsfic
Honeywell
Commodore PET
The Warriors Band
Woofers
fred
TI-59s and 58Cs
Math Profs
IBM
Gandalf Boxes
C&D Coffee
Science Students
Dungeons & Dragons
Kin Students
Hewlett-Packard Calculators
IS Students
CKMS-FM
TI-55s
Gazette Staff
Student CMS
WIDGET
Imprint Staff
Artsies who take CS Electives
University of Guelph
TRaSh-80s
CSC
TAs
Markers
Rec Students
Other Artsies
Engineers
Wim Simonis
WLU
Plummer Hardhead Band
Graduate Engineers
Co-Ordinators
The Limp Tool
EngSoc Executive
Chevron Staff

Originally printed in Issue 28.3, March 26, 1982

What not to use BASIC for?

Contrary to popular belief, BASIC is, as we hinted two weeks ago, a very good language not to use in many, many projects. This article will outline several examples of where BASIC should not be used.

Don't use BASIC for systems programming. If you do, your VAX operating system will end up running as fast as a Sinclair ZX-81. In some applications, however, this might be deemed an advantage (i.e. you have a cast on each of your fingers and you can only type at 0.5 wpm anyway).

Do use BASIC for large accounting systems. Accountants deserve systems that are slow, expensive and are out of use 50% of the time because of hidden bugs.

Don't use BASIC for learning to program. According to the famed CS professor Dijkstra, it causes permanent brain damage. If you can, learn Pascal, C or something structured at first. If you are, however, in Arts or the Teaching Option, you could start with Logo.

Don't use BASIC for terminal emulators unless you are trying to emulate an /early-model/ teletype operating at 110 baud, uppercase only.

Väinämöinen & co.

Originally printed in Issue 34.6, March 30, 1984

Hints on the Art of Lecture Attending

1. Do it.
2. Always stay slightly behind in taking notes. You never know when the prof is going to ask a question, and you have to look busy.
3. Never ask a question. The prof will remember you.
4. Answer questions only if you are not doing well in the course. That way the prof might remember you (depending upon your answer).
5. A great space-saver in your notes is the phrase "Proof -- see text". (Note: don't use this on exams!)
6. If the prof makes a mistake on the board, correct him about 1 board later. That way, he'll think he's going too fast.
7. Don't be shy about noisily packing your things up at 18 minutes past the hour.
8. Don't be shy about standing up and leaving at 20 minutes past the hour.
9. Bring coffee.
10. Bring homework.

grmcfarlane

Originally printed in Issue 37.4, February 15, 1985

The Adventures of Watman

When we last left the Dual Dynamo, they were headed for the can...

"Wholly bondage, Watman! What can we do?"

"Stay calm, Duck. I have an idea. Did you notice that the knot they used to tie us up was topologically equivalent to a knot that's not a knotted knot?"

"You mean...?"

"Yes, Duck, Watnots! On the count of three (3), do a Wattwist. One, two, three! ... OK, this time do a /left/ Wattwish. One, two, three!"

"Anti-gonish!" screamed Captain Lowliner, as our heroes entered, using the vilest oath he knew.

"pow bam zowie," suggested Watman.

"Only works in capitalized exclamations, Watman."

"OK."

POW!

BAM!!

ZOWIE!!!

crash

"You'll take care of them, won't you, Chief O'Romenco?"

"Certainly will, Watman, and thank you for a job well done."

"Our pleasure."

"By the way, if you wouldn't mind, we've had a few problems in scheduling. I think WASS might be on the loose again, so if you wouldn't mind..."

Far away, in the heart of the Red Room, the Reds were brewing up trouble.

"Und now ve gif dem all die acht thirty! Heh, heh."

"Can you do that, WASS?"

"O, Ja. Ich can do anything to de schedules. Ho ho."

"What was that noise, WASS?"

"Dat was ein CRASH, dumkopf!"

"OK, WASS, you'd better surrender!"

"Wass ist? Oh! Ist Watman!"

"Never again shall you terrorize the students of this archaic institution! Get him, Watman!"

"Never again shall you force classes of 120 into MC 3008! Get him, Duck!"

"Never again shall you..."

"Schutten der Schnabel, Duck! Get them, minions!"

"Oh no, Watman!"

Suspended in a cage, high above the Red Room, Watman and Duck slowly regained consciousness. Will Watman be eaten by a recursive bug? Will Duck succumb to an infinite loop? Will our stack (or their bladders) overflow? Will our crass university be saved from hopeless schedules?

Tune in next issue, same Wat-time, same Wat-place.

Da-da da-da da-da da-da, da-da da-da da-da da-da... *WAT-MAN!*

The Chuckler

Originally printed in Issue 40.2, January 31, 1986

Davis Centre Still Has Problems

Behind schedule, over budget, and generally pretty ugly, the new Davis Centre has more problems to contend with. Several hoboos have been found living in the building, resulting in quite a headache for UW officials. "I guess it looks too much like a boxcar," said spokesman Ivan Lefkowitz. "Every evening we have to clear these bums out of the structure. They've been lighting fires in the garbage cans and leaving Aqua Velva empties all over the place. It's really quite a mess."

The builders are also upset over a plan to have a 58-foot portrait of Doug Wright painted on the south wall. "We really had no plans for it," said Lefkowitz. "Unfortunately, there's not much we can do about it." The president's office voiced pleasure at the idea.

To add to these problems, it has been recently discovered that the DC is located on an ancient gravesite. As a result, several supernatural occurrences have plagued the workers, such as flying bricks and steel beams floating in mid-air. A team of exorcists has been called to the site to alleviate the problem. Lefkowitz has supplied workers with amulets and potions until the situation is resolved.

As far as funding the project, there is a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. Administration is seriously considering an offer from a local group wishing to install a bowling alley in the DC. "It will be the first bowling alley on campus in Canada," officials said, "showing that Waterloo is still at the forefront of computer technology." Also entering bids for space in the building are Canadian Tire, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Harvey's. "It looks like this is the only way we're going to get this damn place paid for," said Lefkowitz. Billboard space on the roof is also being considered.

Originally printed in Issue 43.5, March 13, 1987

New Language Developed at UW

UW research professor Suda Nim announced the completion of a new programming language today. "Zis programming language vill greatly simplify many common household tasks," the professor stated to the press. "I haff replaced ze many difficulties involfed in programming your VCR viff a simple, structured programming language. Now, computer scientists vill be able to catch Shtar Trek episodes vit'out haffing to adjust zeir schedule."

The language, called Home Appliance Programming Language and Environment Service System (HAPLESS), contains many advanced features, including the ISCOMMERCIAL function, the FIND_GILLIGANS_ISLAND statement, and, of course, the NO_WESLEY directive, which pauses the recording whenever Wesley Crusher appears.

The professor explains that he got the idea when the father of artificial intelligence, Dr. John McCarthy, admitted to being unable to program his VCR.

Representatives from Sony, RCA, and other electronics firms have stated their enthusiasm in implementing the language, just as soon as Hell freezes over.

Dances With Mind

Originally printed in Issue 57.2, September 27, 1991

Olympic Preview

If you've been watching CTV at all in the last month, you know that the Winter Olympics open this Saturday in Calgary, thus explaining the rapid application for co-op jobs in Alberta last fall. This year, there are three new demonstration sports being tried out. (Curling, freestyle skiing, and one that Frank can't remember).

However, as always, there were a few that didn't quite make it this time around:

Chainsaw Tag

After failing on four attempts to become a demonstration summer sport, chainsaw tag's first attempt as a winter sport was also quashed. Immigration officials were worried about having to explain the lack of returning athletes to their native lands.

Winter Triathlon

In response to the truly silly biathlon, in which competitors are required to ski and shoot, the triathlon was meant to tie in three totally unrelated sports. Triathletes were required to ride a luge down the ski-jumping hill, and do a triple-axel in mid-air.

Outdoor Swimming

A dismal failure earlier this year when the first outdoor January swim meet in Anchorage, Alaska ended with officials trying to chisel the competitors off an ice floe.

Uphill Skiing

Actually suggested by the Australian team, it was laughed out of the IOC boardroom.

Snowmobile Jousting

A throwback to the ancient days of chivalry, which resulted in the goring of several players when first tried on the plains of Nebraska.

Freestyle Bobsledding

Dropped upon the realization that it was a bit too taxing upon the imaginations of the competitors.

Snowball Fighting

An ingenious event, it was abandoned when it was discovered that the Russian team was using synthetic snow.

Home Run Baker

Originally printed in Issue 46.3, February 12, 1988

A CS Poem

```
< > ! * ' ' #
^ @ \ $ $ -
! * ' $ _
% * < > # 4
& ) . . /
| { ~ ~ SYSTEM HALTED
```

Originally printed in Issue 53.5, July 27, 1990

profQUOTES*[abridged]*

"That's a lot more than the number of nanoseconds since the Universe began, for those of you who've been around that long."
Munro, CS 340

"In Engineering, that's a proof."
Munro, CS 340

"I'm getting scared up here."
Younger, MATH 234A

"Just watch the board and I'll go through it again."
Honsberger

"PETN is an explosive. It's used for...uh...explosions."
Mackey, CHEM 265

"This isn't the Pure Math Society. This is the real world."
Reynolds, MTHEL 305B

"Talking about nonlinear equations is like talking about non-
elephant animals."
Woolner, PHY 365

"You can work out roughly what 'nothing' is."
Heasell, EL E 333

"This, of course, only works when W is equal to itself."
Tang, MATH 234A

"So to demonstrate a soft reflection, get yourself a whip. I'm sure
you all have one in your bedrooms."
Snyder, PHY 122

"The mathematicians among you will recognize this is a rotten
argument, but it gives the right answer, so who cares."
Heasell, EL E 333

"That proves my point. This protocol is too fucking complicated."
Beatty, CS 354

Originally printed in Issue 49.3, February 10, 1989

**A Letter Writing Aid for Your Co-
Op SO**

This is a letter composed for your significant other to write back to you even though (s)he is too busy with work. Be sure to enclose a SASE with your letter to your loved one.

Dear (*Jerk, Babe, Hunk, Your name, Elvis look-alike*),

I am having a great time at my summer job! Every day I wake up at 7:00 and (*shave my legs, put in my nose ring, think of you, brush my teeth, put on my toupee*). Then, I go downstairs and eat breakfast. This morning, I ate some (*Chocolate Frosted Sugar Bombs, crumbs, leftover pizza, stale bread, liver*) with a glass of (*blood, grapefruit juice, Elmira water, tea*).

Anyway, I get to work, and I have a really boring morning, but you'll never guess what happened on my lunch break. I was walking by an alley, when all of a sudden, (*a 10-legged being from Mars, Don Johnson, the Devil, Santa Claus, a burglar*) jumped in front of me. He (*stripped off all his clothes, asked for all my money, wanted to see my leader, gave me a kiss, fell to his knees*) right there in broad daylight. Naturally, I (*gave him a piece of my mind, shot him with my revolver, kicked him between his legs, jumped him right there, ran away*), and that was that.

So how have you been? I'm sorry I haven't written you, but I have been too busy (*riding horses, catching thieves, breaking computers with a mighty swing of an axe, sleeping with my supervisor, sleeping*). I hope you understand.

Write to me soon,

(*All my love, I hope you rot, Yours truly, Forever yours*)
(*their name, Beelzebub, The Stud, Me, Your true love*)

EC

Originally printed in Issue 59.2, June 5, 1992

**Looking back on 40 years of
mathNEWS, it's pretty clear that
we had a lot of issues. We still do.**

Top Ten Reasons to Keep Pseudonyms

or "Give Me Pseudonyms or Give Me Death"

10. The pseudonyms were funnier than the articles.
9. *mathNEWS* writers get a kick out of being in the prestigious company of the likes of Anne Landers and Dear Abby.
8. *mathNEWS* is not, nor has it ever been a reputable, respectable, or responsible paper. They get away with more on prime time T.V. for GOSH* sakes. (* - Not my words)
7. Really cool, rebellious, "devil may care", "damn the torpedoes" attitude.
6. If your article stinks, no one will point at you and laugh. At least no more than usual.
5. When you are quoted by the Gazette, it sounds much more mysterious. It also gives you time to leave the country.

4. Get to speak out against the system and NOT have your transcript or resumes mysteriously vanish. [*Or have your files pulled even though you're not in Co-op, not mentioning any names, or anything - Wookie Ed.*]
2. You can write top ten lists with no third item.
1. MacGyver is a DAMN fine pseudonym.

MacGyver

It's not just a pseudonym

It's a way of life

Phil Rittenhouse

Originally printed in Issue 63.2, October 8, 1993

studQUOTES

A thought which has been bandied about *mathNEWS* for years finally gets off the ground this term, thanks to some wonderful quotes sent to us by Prabhakar Ragde. So all profs take note: you can now submit to us the silly things that students say or write for our *studQUOTES*. If it's in a lecture, feel free to give us the student's name, as well, and please include the course name.

TA: "Four or five percent doesn't matter."
Student: "Unless it's on your report card."

E&CE 342

Prof: "So what would you do if this thing doesn't work?"
Student: "Cry."

MATH 138

"B.B.King had a song called 'Nobody Loves Me Except My Mom', but we don't think he's going to kill himself. It's just a blues song."
Student doing a seminar on teen suicide, PSYCH 315

One of the optional topics for the essay question on the CS 134 exam in the winter term asked students to discuss the possible difficulties that arise when people communicate primarily using computers.

Here are four quotes, reproduced exactly, from essays that were written in response:

"Language is a poor way of communication need to see and hear body language."

"Moreover, messages might be destroyed by bacteria that unables the sender to sende the messages successfully."

"E-mail does not tell the actual attire of the writer."

"We cannot feel each other as good as before."

Originally printed in Issue 65.1, May 13, 1994



**"...upon its surface was written in letters
of flame a blessing of Mathematics."
(Book of Stanton, 31:49)**

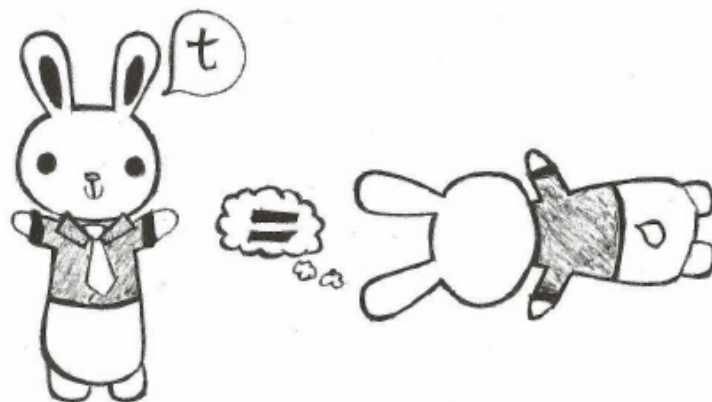


fig. 1: column bunny transposed..

Understanding Your Friends

To help you, the reader, understand your friends I have prepared this short quiz for you to rate... (This is *mathNEWS* -- *mathNEWS* doesn't do ratings). This is about comprehending your friends -- what they say, that is. Many people have been indicating that mathies have their own dialect which is completely opaque to outsiders. Myself, I belong to that special subset of mathies who have an even more impenetrable dialect: CS geeks.

I was at Louie's the other day, with some friends, having dinner. The conversation went like this:

"So, you guys have finished CS354. Did you end up having to implement segmented memory?"

"No, we got away with a simple page table scheme, although we only had a linear search algorithm to find free pages."

"Oh, no problemo, been there, done that. But won't the TAs freak if everything is $O(n^2)$?"

"As long as it isn't polynomial, they don't care."

"Do you guys have a problem with misaligned reads -- I think that the compiler is screwing me over... I don't want to have to screw with object file formats or anything."

At this point, our non-mathie/CS geek friend says:

"You know, I did not understand a single word you said in the last five minutes."

This made me feel isolated from the outside world, like I was cloistered in some cerebral abbey where a vow of incomprehensibility was mandatory. But then it passed.

So how should you deal with your friends who speak at length on such topics as "Radio Astronomy" (we observe during the day; the sun is just that big noise source in the sky), or "Immunology" (rats and other small mammals are still vectors for the bubonic plague)? Remember this simple mantra:

"Smile and nod."

This provides the necessary reassurance to your friends that you are listening, with the need for actual comprehension. This is a life-long technique which requires minutes to master and will enjoy splendid results.

Chris "Apathy is my Watch Word" Guerra
Originally printed in Issue 72.2, October 4, 1996

Anyone up for some JAVA?

Why is it that when talk turns to modern computing, everyone feels an obligation to use the term JAVA in every sentence?

Why is it that everyone is so compelled about JAVA? I don't understand it, as far as I am concerned it is another slow programming language that is trying to combine both Visual Basic and HTML.

When I come back on campus from the depth of testing a C++ compiler at the Don Mills troll colony (IBM), the first thing I hear is: "Guess that! CS130/134 mathies will learn JAVA!"

I would like to point out that there is some guy who lives in Washington State, who is not a fan of JAVA.

This man pretty much controls the direction of computing today, so jumping into JAVA instead of old and trusted Pascal is a rather risky decision. Kudos to the university for taking a risk!

Nevertheless, I believe that the jump to JAVA has been done too early. I believe that JAVA is still an unproven language that may never take off, and will remain confined to web applets and university walls.

Anton "I got Visual C++" Fedorenko
Originally printed in Issue 77.1, May 15, 1998

Some Life-Saving Theorems

As exams near, we should take time from doing everything-but-studying and consider some useful mathematics which may save us from the stressful times ahead. The following are several theorems that are not covered in any course, yet are of great use to any math student. Let us first consider the Axiom of Solvability (IMO):

The Axiom of Solvability (IMO): Every International Math Olympiad problem (i.e. any difficult math problem to which a solution is expected -- "Calvin's Conjecture") has a solution.

Although this will probably never be used in its pure form by most students, this axiom lays down the fundamental theoretical groundwork for more useful results: the more general Theorem of Solvability.

Theorem of Solvability: Every problem on an assignment or exam is solvable.

Proof: If a problem has no solution, it is a stupid problem. Since the objective of all profs is to pose brutally hard, er...challenging, questions on exams and assignments, all such problems are difficult. Now the Axiom of Solvability (IMO) kicks in and the result follows.

For those unfortunate circumstances when you are required to prove something, there is a useful corollary:

Corollary: For all problems that require proofs, a proof exists.

Although it has been discussed in previous issues of mathNEWS, no round-up of theorems would be complete without mention of the Divine Intervention Theorem:

The Divine Intervention Theorem: If you cannot find a solution, then a miracle occurs and anything is correct.

Proof: How can you argue with gods?

The Theorem of Solvability and the Divine Intervention Theorem yield us the same result, however one must keep in mind several characteristics unique to the Theorem of Solvability:

- a) atheists should have no qualms about using it, and
- b) solutions using it are more likely to be considered valid since rejecting it would imply the stupidity of the given problem.

Another useful result worth noting is a spin-off of one of our most beloved Theorems, the one which allows us to madly erase pages of notes while keeping up with lectures -- the Change of Question Theorem and its Corollaries (a.k.a. Change of Theorem Theorem, Change of Assignment Theorem). If there is any justice in the world, then of course we have: the Student's Change of Question Theorem.

Student's Change of Question Theorem: You are given a problem for which you have determined something which looks close to the correct solution. If your attempted solution:

- a. looks close enough to the result outlined in the problem so that with creative handwriting the markers will not be able to tell the two apart;
- b. is for an assignment which was written out by hand by the prof; or
- c. is for a problem in a CS course then the question may be considered... inaccurate and your solution can be considered correct provided a creative interpretation exists.

Note: b. does not apply to C&O437 (Cryptography), where deciphering the prof's handwriting could be the original problem as bad handwriting is by far the best form of cryptography ever devised.

Last but not least, a theorem which you may actually use:

Generic Theorem Theorem: Given that you have slept through several lectures, have determined a solution to a problem and cannot justify your result, then there exists a "theorem proved in class" that justifies the result.

Proof: By the previous theorems we know that our solution is correct (either by the Theorem of Solvability or by applying the Student's Change of Question Theorem). Since the Theorem of Solvability can be used in these circumstances, we know that the problem is not a stupid problem and therefore there is a point to it. All assignment and exam problems are designed to use material from the course. Since you have probably shoveled b.s. or hand-waved your way so far through the problem, only by actually referring to some course material can you actually get the markers to have some pity on you and give you part marks. QED.

Michal "I need my calculator" Ostrowski
Originally printed in Issue 68.5, July 14, 1995

Red Room, Red Room

Or, Red Room, Red Room

The bulldozers will be busting down the Red Room any day now to make way for more classrooms, computer labs, and office space.

A well-organized group of alumni, staff, and students are gathering signatures for a petition to stop the erosion of our Mathematics and Computer Building heritage. We may have lost the EMS Library, and we may have lost the seventh floor, but we'll be damned if we're going to let the Red Room go.

But first, a little history:

The Red Room came into existence surprisingly soon after the original MC building opened. Originally named MC2015, it was years before the room settled down to MC1015. The room was originally painted white in a neo-modern style, until the painters remembered that they were still in the 60's. At 70'x55'x20', the room had the largest cubic volume of any room on campus at the time: an incredible (70x55x20) cubic feet.

There are many stories to tell about the Red Room, in fact, there are so many that they would fill a room as big as 70'x55'x19'. Here are some of them.

The Red Room once contained the second most powerful computer in the world: the VIC-21. This amazing little device was so powerful, the Pentagon kept a zipped-up backup copy of all of its security files. Graduate students and Faculty became the most prolific contributors to Russian computer journals of all time.

Because of that `PENTAGON.ZIP` file, Russia not only benefited from our scholars, but also targeted the Red Room with several nuclear weapons. If the U.S. decided to start a war (which the Russians were assured would never happen), then Russia would not only bomb the Pentagon, but the Red Room as well. Concerned members of the University were assured by Russian officials that collateral damage would be kept to a minimum.

The Red Room, unlike Prabhakar Ragde, has appeared in a movie. Gene Hackman appeared in some movie once where he had to be in some crawlspace. That crawlspace? Yup, the Red Room. You see, back then, computers had hundreds of cords and wires coming out of every port and board, and these cords and wires had to go somewhere. That somewhere? Yup, the crawlspace. Today's computers are much better since those hundreds of cords and wires are all now colour-coded.

And who could forget the time Dave Winfield hit that bird in the outfield?



Red Room circa 1973

Are we misty-eyed yet?

With such a rich tapestry and history, it is clear that the Big Red Room should not be subdivided into Little Red Rooms. And those Little Red Rooms may not even be red! Imagine, our treasured Red Room, turned into offices and labs and classrooms. Imagine, potential students on a tour in MC not passing by the Red Room and hearing "And this is the Red Room" before continuing on their tour?

What can you do to stop this from happening? Fill out the form below and send it in to *mathNEWS* by using our **BLACK BOX** on the third floor. We'll pass them on to the group handling this protest.

The next time you pass the Red Room may be your last.

CAS

Yes! I want the Red Room to be declared a Historical Heritage Site to prevent it from being torn down and replaced by crappy little classrooms that will be too tiny since the Red Room really isn't that big to begin with and you've got to subdivide it into at least eight pieces, I mean, that's just the way the math goes, and an eighth of the Red Room is just some little 1/8 Big Room and who would want to learn Algebra in that? Why don't you just kick those students out of the WatStar lab; they're not even math students! I mean come on, what up wit dat?

Other enlightened comments:

Signature (Please print clearly):

Originally printed in Issue 80.1, May 14, 1999



Remnant of Red Room, circa 2013 in MC 3030

Waterloo DJs Don't Know What Retro Is

Bomber Wednesdays resume kicking ass

Hey, Math Pub night was a big success! But what was up with playing "Propellerheads" and "Fatboy Slim" on a retro night? Anyways, here's to Van, the current social director, for doing a great job and making sure everyone had a great night. And in general, Bomber Wednesdays have been pretty good, up until about 12:30. So congrats to the summer Bomber DJ.

There's been a minor shortage of *mathNEWS* issues around MC this past week, so instead, if one of your friends can get a copy, you can play a couple of these games in class to kill some time:

Countdown to Bomber Wednesday — Well the title says it all, I think. Take a look at the clock and figure out the number of seconds left until you make your grand entrance into the Bomber on Wednesday. Then count the number of seconds left until the music at the Bomber goes to Hip-hop (usually around 12:30). This is the number of seconds you have left to get drunk so that you can withstand the cross over. Get cracking! Get as many people involved counting backwards and try to throw each other off count. Treat the winner to beverages.

ARCTAN — Played the 'Penis' game, have you? Same rules, but use ARCTAN. This is an exam favourite and classic. For those not familiar with the rules, all somebody has to do to start the game is say 'Arctan' at a barely audible volume. Anybody interested in playing the game says 'Arctan' a little louder than the previous. Competition continues in this manner until you can't possibly scream it any louder or you get kicked out of wherever you are.

What I Would Do For Summerfest Tickets — Clearly, this stream is quite obviously the party stream. Selling out Summerfest in 3-hours? That's crazy! So if you're really bored, you can think about what it is you'd do to get those Summerfest tickets if given the chance. You can challenge those who have them to a bet to see what you are willing to do. It's kinda like Truth or Dare, but more performance oriented.

What I'll Do Since I Don't Have Summerfest Tickets — And obviously, since we don't have tickets, we'll all need to go somewhere and do something. When you're done deciding what

Top 10 Phrases used in a Florida Polling Station

10. "Who will lead in the polls, Miami, Florida, or Florida State?" (U.S. college football teams)
9. "Who did this person really vote for? There are two holes on the ballot."
8. "Wow! 3400 votes for Buchanan in Palm Beach."
7. "What are the courts saying? Should we continue?"
6. "Should we count this one? The hole isn't completely punched."
5. "You mean there are actually that many candidates for president?"
4. "Gore won, or did he?"
3. "Bush won, or did he?"
2. "It ain't over yet. It's too close to call."
1. "What? A count by hand?"

Jason "the Screamer" Lau

Originally printed in Issue 84.5, November 17, 2000

you're going to do, make sure you tell everyone you know by raising your hand to ask a question, but instead, shamelessly promoting the kegger you'll be holding in your backyard.

Class Mystery — Get into groups of at least 6. Everybody gets a "character" card from the set {Dean, Professor, TA/Marker, Keener, Student}. There's one of each except Students, everyone keeps their identity a secret. The Dean gets everyone to close their eyes and has the Marker/TA select one person to fail an assignment. Then the Professor opens their eyes and selects one person to fail, they are out of the class. Then the two first close their eyes and the Keener opens their eyes. They pick a person to piss off. Then everyone opens their eyes and the Dean says who has failed the course, the assignment, and who has been pissed off. The remaining Students must figure out who everyone is. The Keener must try to go without detection as others fail out. Have fun!

Vasiga Musical Chairs — As most people know, getting a seat in Troy Vasiga's CS classes are killer. To allow everyone the opportunity to sit, midway through the class play Sisco's Thong Song. Everyone then has to get up and strut around like Sisco. Once the music stops, grab a chair, or if there are no chairs left, you can show your thong and hope to scare the other people into leaving their chairs. Losers have to stand for the rest of the class.

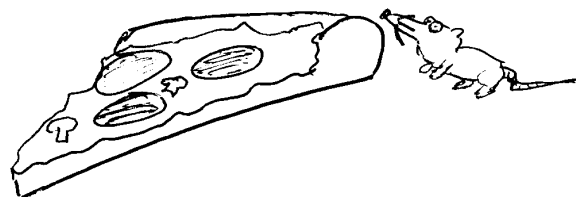
Guess Who — Divide the class into two halves (prof as well). Then two players get up in front of the class and choose one half for themselves. Your opponent then takes a look at your half and picks one person. You do the same for their half. Afterwards you ask questions to figure out who s/he picked before he/she can figure out who you picked. For example, "Is your person chinese? No." At that point, all the chinese people would have to get up and leave the class. This goes on until there is only one person left on your side. Note: Only use yes and no questions.

Well, I gotta say, I didn't come up with the good games this issue. Most of the Credit goes to Koosh brothers the Taxi and MonkeyMan. Have a great one!

Kev(o)

Originally printed in Issue 83.3, June 16, 2000

Write 4 US!



We'll Feed U!

MathNews to Change Capitalization Rules

MathNews has decided to update the way it is written. Big-M little-ath big-N little-ews has overstayed its welcome and must now make way for little-math big-NEWS (*mathNEWS*).

Some may have trouble adjusting to this bold new way of writing *mathNEWS*, but others believe the change was inevitable. "MathNews and mathNews were both getting tiresome," said one student, "and they remind me a little too much of function names. I like *mathNEWS*, it reminds me of nothing."

Others, like the Iron Warrior, Gazette, and nation of Iran who have all been loyal to the MathNews spelling appear to be willing to accept the change. Said one Iranian, "I want to be in the know of the news publication." Don't we all, Ali, don't we all.

bradLEY t SMITH

Originally printed in Issue 87.4, November 2 2001

BlackBerry not as Good as Crack, Study Finds

Recent research into wireless e-mail and its relation to illicit drugs has revealed that the RIM BlackBerry is nowhere near as good as snorting crack cocaine. The Canadian-made device has been dubbed CrackBerry by many for its addictive quality, a name which hardly captures the type of addiction. "The device does not generate any physical addiction," said one medical expert, "Although it has been linked to psychological addiction, not too different from marijuana. However, HempBerry and BlackDoobie just aren't as catchy."

In the study, subjects were given either a BlackBerry or a placebo (GameBoy) and then snorted either crack cocaine or self-rising, white flour. Almost all those in the flour group preferred their electronic devices, but the crack group unanimously gave themselves over to the white's sweet, sweet high. "Holy shit, man," said one subject, "I don't need this thing, all my e-mails are being beamed into my brain." He then tried to throw his GameBoy out the closed window.

The effects could still be seen a few days after the study as 92% of the coke group were more than willing to pay for more while only 15% of those who had BlackBerrys showed keen interest in purchasing a device. Those who had GameBoys and flour took their 50 bucks and left sneezing.

"These folks throwing around the phrase CrackBerry have no idea what they're talking about" said one expert. "It's like calling pumpernickel the double-orgasm of breads. Sure it's my favourite, but I'm not going to turn down a night with Angelina Jolie for a sandwich." So let's face it, when given the option of sending and receiving e-mails on the fly or doing lines, we're all rollin' twenties.

Bradley Truth Smith

Originally printed in Issue 86.3, June 15, 2001

Haiku Class

I get very bored in class some days... and when I'm bored (but awake) I write haikus to amuse myself. Last work term I learned that I could write them on the spot. Yesterday (in OS) I wrote one for each of my classes. There are bonus tankas (5,7,5,7,7) for CS 445 and SCI 206.

haiku from CS 445

lecture never ends
I must get out of here now
please kill me quickly
haiku from CS 354

get to the next slide
we all understand this point
we did it before
haiku from CS 341

I can't stay awake
this is all very boring
why must I learn this?
haiku from ECON 101

non-cumulative?
and a reference sheet too?
can I switch to arts?
haiku from SCI 206

this room is too nice
these chairs are comfortable
I have slept well here
tanka from SCI 206

man this is easy
this is like high school physics
the demos are fun
missiles and fire and bubbles
don't sit in the front row though
tanka from CS 445

lecture is lecture
tutorial is lecture
discussion is too
Q and A is lecture too
what will be in exam slot?

Haiku-J

Originally printed in Issue 90.3, October 18, 2002

**Turning 40 is very special;
it's the only number whose name,
when written in English, has all
its letters in alphabetical order!**

ISSN 0705-0410

mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. mathNEWS is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the mathNEWS editors; however, any opinion expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or mathNEWS. So if you gotta problem with anything that's in this issue, don't come whining to us, because we're just going to point the finger at some poor schmuck. `I mean, that's why they put their names there, right? So that you can hunt them down and take their skins for doormats because you decide that they're some complete waster of genetic material whose opinions are wholly and utterly wrongheaded because they don't agree with yours in every particular/ Although we'd really appreciate it if you wouldn't, because we need all the warm bodies in front of terminals on Production night that we can get. And anyhow, we love our volunteers. So just forget about it, buddy. And while you're at it, would you please stop rubbing in the fact that you got to go to some stupid Rush concert a few weeks back while us editors were stuck here in KW? We know already, OK? Give it a rest, it's not like it make you God or David Jackson or someone. Besides, we've seen Rush in concert lots of time before. OK, once. And it was a long time ago. Just shut up, alright? By the way... I'm an elk, shoot me! We're not bitter, we're just opinionated. Please note that the editors of this publication make no excuse whatsoever for any vengeance expressed or implied in these pages; not that any excuse is needed, because of course we would never stoop so low as to try and satisfy primal needs for revenge by publicizing the names and misdeed of anyone who crosses us; we're just not the type who would do something as mean, nasty and underhanded as that. In fact, I might go so far as to say that we never abuse the power and authority vested in us as editors of this fine work of semi-journalism. Although you know, if we were to go in for some abuse of per, then whoa Nelly, the stories that I could tell you... But I just said that I wouldn't, so there. Too bad. Ya see... you're on a need-to-know basis, and you don't need to know. So you'll just have to suffer in ignorance for now. maybe if you stop by our office with a six-pack we'll let you in on the great stories. Mm, maybe make that a twelver. And while you're at it, any cover art, masterful pieces of journalism, or C&O finals for this term that you've got lying around would be appreciated as well. But the six-pack or twelver is very important. Actually, any kind of booze will do. I've been drinking more and more these days. But of course, it wouldn't have anything to with final s or people going off on work terms and... whoops, I said too much again. But don't worry... I won't tell anyone. Oh, and continued thanks from us for wearing pants. And thanks for reading this far, too. Do you have any idea what it's like for us, stuck in this cramped little office for two days every fortnight putting this whole thing together? So, like, have some sympathy, have some courtesy, have some taste. Whatever. Hey, bet me that the year of my birth doubled is an odd number. Don't trust me? You birth then. go on. Ah well, can't fool you, I guess. Don't blame us... it was just a rookie mistake. Would you like Constitution #1, #2, or what's in the box? Come one, come all, and join the Crispy-342 pool! Pick a number between 0 and 100 and we'll call you sometime after the evening of the 7th to tell you if you've won! Or you can put your money on the special-odds "he'll worm out of those one too" pool! All hail the Bomber! The Fryer has returned and all is well once more! We must celebrate, and there's only one way to do that: go to the Bomber. Let the Fryer know how much it was missed by ordering as much greasy food as you can stomach., washing it down with 50 (if you have ambitions of baldness) or Dark (if you rather like having hair, thank you). Although I must say that quality of life in this office has improved since we got the tunes-box. Not to mention the increased exposure of Math students at large to Rush. In fact, any time you feel like hearing some Rush, just come by the office and let us know... we'll be glad to oblige. You know, it's time to seriously start feeling old when half your friends are either married or have definite intentions to become that way within the next couple of years. perhaps you're getting annoyed with the mindless babbling and in-joking that we've packed this with... Unlucky. You don't like it? Tell us that, then. We're kinda curious how many people are really reading this shit. And we go an entire term and original T-shirt suggestions. You all suck. Have you ever noticed how good the Montreal-style bagel in the C&D are? Try 'em, you'll like 'em. Token math content: $V(G) \geq (\kappa(G)(\text{diam}(G)-1)+2)$... why? Beats the fuck out of me. Current and back issues of mathNEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at heep://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~mathnews. Send your correspondence to: mathNEWS, MC 3041, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid-mathnews@undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet. like you're going to write us anyways. Hey, I found a book!

We're not just smooth, we've crazy smooth: Matt "So-Krates" Walsh, Bring "Calculus Cowboy" Fox

Originally printed in Issue 74.6, July 25, 1997

Math Faculty Promotional Poster



Ian W. MacKinnon

Originally printed in Issue 92.3, June 13, 2003

Other Names for the Matrix Reloaded

- Matrix 2 — Hermitian (Things get really complex.)
- Matrix 2 — Identity (Everyone is on the line.)
- Matrix 2 — Zero (Nothing really happens.)
- Matrix 2 — Invertible (Everything is reversible.)
- Matrix 2 — NonComplex (We keep it real.)
- Matrix 2 — Sparse (The matrix becomes compressed.)

Marvin the Manic Mouse

Originally printed in Issue 92.3, June 13, 2003

Geese Raid The President's Office

May 24 - It was a quiet night in Needless Hell when a squad of drunken elite spy geese broke into the President's Office and stole his eighteen year old Scotch. The President's Office was in total disarray as Campus Police came onto the scene. "We knew they were coming, but there was nothing we could do. The geese were too quick for us", remarked one officer.

Luckily for President Johnston, his precious bottle of scotch was returned to his office the next day. However to his dismay, and to the amusement of *mathNEWS* reporters, it was empty.

Pete

Originally printed in Issue 95.2, May 28, 2004

Offending People, 101

If rainfall is God having an orgasm, then this past weekend he must have met the best cousin ever.

Sacrificious

Originally printed in Issue 95.2, May 28, 2004

Is Math really for me?

A handy guide

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' horses be replaced by more powerful unicorns, 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.
- You think that the younger students will not be nearly as smart as you.
- Your wildest dream is to be featured in *profQUOTES*

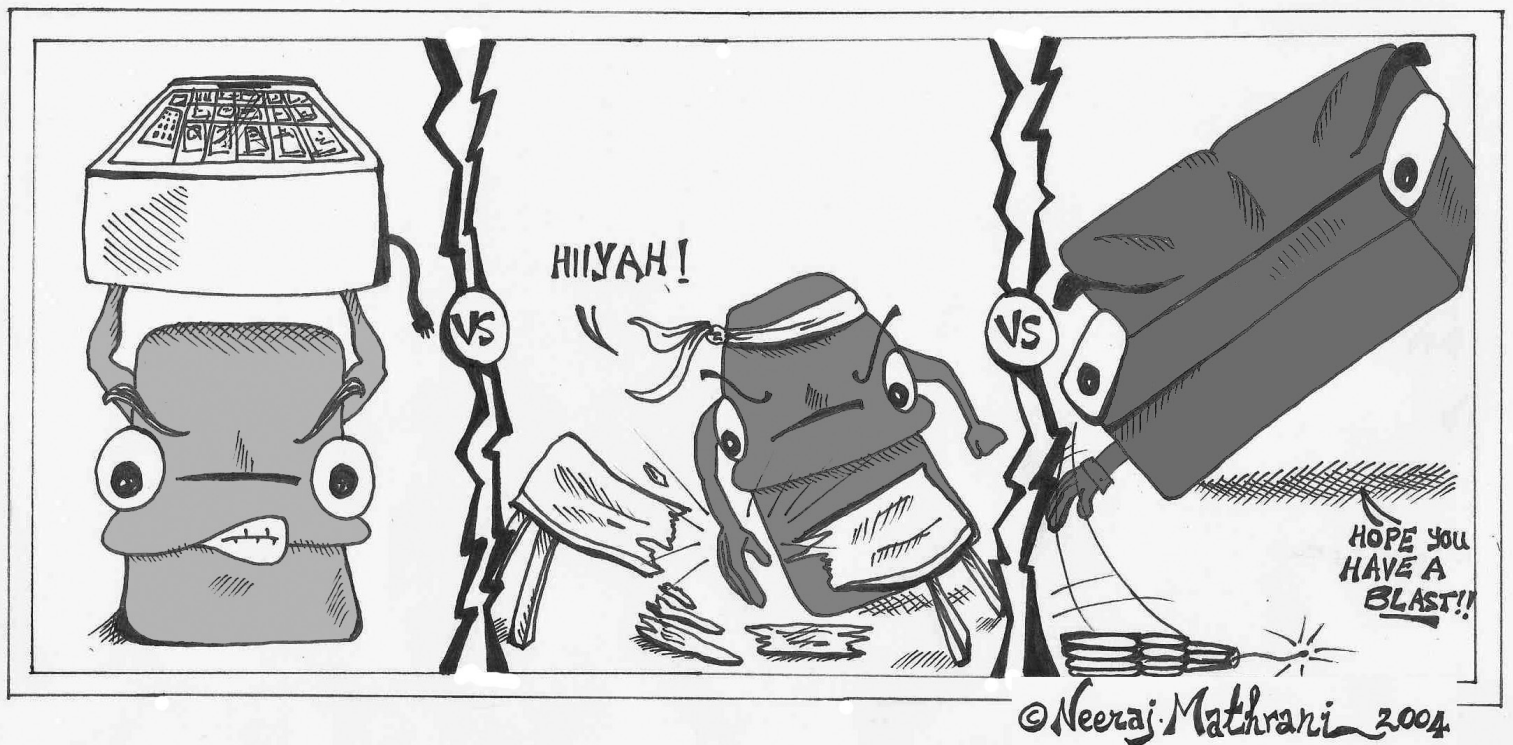
Bennywine

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

Originally printed in Issue 99.2, October 7, 2005

New Furniture Takes Over the Comfy!

Removed in 2011



Originally printed in Issue 94.2, January 30, 2004

Boobs!!

A user's guide to breasts

Breasts can be a touchy subject. But we fear there are too many guys (and possibly girls) out there touching them incorrectly. Here are some useful tips on how to get the most out of you and your partner's breast touching experience.

1. We'll start with the bra. We know that sometimes removing it can be a daunting task. Asking the girl to remove her bra after an unsuccessful attempt is a better idea than fumbling around for 5 minutes and ruining the mood. We suggest practice! Borrow the bra of your sister, a close female friend or your mom (preferably not while they are wearing it).
2. Don't steal ideas from porn. Those girls are paid to pretend they enjoy it. Go off of what your girl seems to like, not what some porn star did. If her face looks like she's in pain she probably is.
3. A gentle, full handed caress is usually a better way to start than a violent squeeze. Some girls may enjoy a rougher touch but starting off soft and working up slowly you can judge what she enjoys.
4. Nipples are not the only part of the breast that deserve attention. Touching of the nipples should be integrated into a whole breast stimulation plan.
5. Your hands are not the only body part that can pleasure a woman's breasts. Your tongue is an awesome choice as it is a gentle and well lubricated appendage. If your woman prefers it a little rougher gentle biting can be incorporated. Find out what she likes and keep it up.

In summary, take queues from your woman friend. If she says no or looks like she's in pain then back off. Most importantly, don't grab without permission. Happy fondling. ;)

Rainwater and Math.random()

Originally printed in Issue 101.2, June 2, 2006



**Calum T. Dalek's head
explodes, destroying this
issue's CSC Flash!**

Re: Boobs!!

Hi, we're Natalie and Heather, the girls who wrote, "Boobs!! A user's guide to breasts" (an article that appeared in the last issue of *mathNEWS*). We've been made aware that our article may have offended some of our readers. Being two girls in math, we felt that our article would aid the partners of our fellow women in approaching the female body with greater understanding and respect. We felt that, as students in university, dialogue about sex can help promote healthy sex lives among our fellow students. We recognize that some people may feel uncomfortable reading about these things, and we apologize if we offended anybody.

If anyone has any further comments, questions or concerns feel free to send us an e-mail at h2perry@uwaterloo.ca or natalielowen@gmail.com or, if you prefer anonymity, you can drop a message to us in the **BLACK BOX** on the third floor of the MC between the comfy and the C&D, and we'll get it. *[You're also always welcome to send comments and opinions to the editors at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca — StatsEd, a.k.a. Emerald]*

Heather Perry (aka RainWater) and
Natalie Owen (aka Math.random())

Originally printed in Issue 101.3, June 16, 2006

Dating Advice From The Single Guy

Dear The Single Guy,

Things have been going really great between me and my girlfriend for the past few years, we met in highschool, and are now both in 2nd year here. We get along so well together I've been thinking about taking our relationship in a different direction than what you recommended last term. I think I should ask her to marry me, but the idea also sort of scares me because either she'll say no, or it is going to lock me into a huge commitment for the rest of my life. What should I do?

Unsure in Waterloo

Wow, two issues of this and every single person to write in has been from Waterloo, what are the odds? (I expect you to figure them out, stat majors) If you're going to be writing in to me and you're from Waterloo, I think you're going to have to change the way you sign them. How about with a first name, it doesn't really give you away, especially if you make it up, but this whole _____ in Waterloo is getting old. Anyway, about your little situation, "a huge commitment for the rest of your life?" Hardly, any and everyone can and does get married these days, and most of them are not lasting for the lives of those involved (Side note: gay marriage is not anywhere near the threat to the "sanctity of marriage" as divorce is). Considering the fact that really, marriage means absolutely nothing anymore, I think that this is something you could easily consider if you think it's the right move to make. There's one bit of advice (I honestly don't know why I still remember it) that I heard from a former *mathNEWS* editor some time ago. You should wait not only until after you graduate but for a couple years afterwards, because you'll get better wedding gifts from your friends when they have money as opposed to when they're poor students. To add to that, you're only likely to get great elaborate gifts the first time, so you need to make that first one count.

The Single Guy

Originally printed in Issue 103.2, February 2, 2007

Thor's C.S. Interview Question of the Fortnight

Getting you ready for Google, since 1822.

This Fortnight's Question: What is the best way of generating all integer permutations of a given length?

Last Fortnight's Question: Imagine you wanted to visit every building on the UW campus. How would you go about deciding a travel plan that would let you visit each building only once while minimizing your total travel distance?

Its Answer: OK, I started off with a pretty easy one, primarily because I've been asked variants of this in a few different interviews. 90% of what people want to hear when they ask you this question is "Traveling Salesman". Given a weighted graph (a map of campus with the distances between buildings as weights), find the cycle of minimum cost visiting each vertex exactly once. If you say those two words, you're probably good - you're even better if you can identify it as the most famous NP-hard problem in the universe. After that, I'd ask whether or not an approximate solution would be acceptable. If so, there are loads of heuristics that'll give you decent solutions very quickly, and you can often nest them. Since this particular example is Euclidean (because it's based on Euclidean distance), the Christofides algorithm is one you'd look impressive for knowing the name of (it's based on building a minimum spanning tree). For exact solutions, look into variations on the branch and bound theme. Alternatively, the dynamic programming solution works in $O(n^2 2^n)$ time. And remember what Randall Munroe taught us: eBay is always $O(1)$!

Thor

Originally printed in Issue 108.5, November 14, 2008
If you want to answer this, submit to the **BLACK BOX!**

Quantum Bogosort

The real reason they're building the QNC

I'm going to assume that you know what bogosort is. If you don't, here's the algorithm:

1. If the list is sorted, stop.
2. If it isn't, shuffle the list randomly.
3. Go back to step 1.

Obviously this is extremely inefficient. However, there's a solution to this inefficiency, and this solution is quantum computing. Because of the many-universes hypothesis in quantum physics, a list that is sorted randomly will create an infinite number of universes, with some universes containing a sorted list. In this case, quantum computing can make bogosort work in $O(n)$. Here's the new algorithm:

1. Shuffle the list randomly.
2. If the list is sorted, stop.
3. If it isn't sorted, destroy the entire universe.

Since the only survivors of this rather apocalyptic approach to computing will be in universes where the list was sorted after the first shuffle, it is quite efficient. Checking if a list is sorted requires $n-1$ comparisons, and I'm going to assume an entire universe can be destroyed in $O(1)$, as it only ever has to happen once. Thus, bogosort becomes an $O(n)$ sort algorithm.

The Other Tree

Originally printed in Issue 111.3, October 23, 2009

Trivia: This article became so popular that it crashed the site! Notch, the creator of Minecraft, linked to us in a personal blog post and one thing led to another.

The Black Eyed Peas recall album

New estimates change projected how good of a time tonight will be

In a startling announcement the famous hip hop group the Black Eyed Peas has recalled their hit album *The Energy Never Dies*. The recall was a response to new information recently made available which changed the projections about tonight's prospects.

During a press conference about the decision singer will.i.am had commented that "... we no longer have a feeling that tonight's going to be a good night... in fact, we have reason to suspect that tonight may end up being particularly shitty." Group singer Fergie contributed insights as to the change in projections. "Around noon before the night in question" stated Fergie "we received word that that skank, Trisha, would be in attendance and if she tries to start shit with me, then I'll smack that bitch down."

Other reasons that were stated by the ensemble included Taboo's ex girlfriend showing up with that new Euro-freak boyfriend of hers, Apl.De.Ap being sconed by regulars at their usual haunts, and "Most importantly" said will.i.am "if I hear that fucking Boom Boom Pow song again someone's getting punched... and it'll probably be me."

Other changes to the album for redistribution include altering the lyrics to the song "Party All the Time" to include the phrase "If I could party at least one night a week, I think I'd be okay with that too", "Rock that Body" to "Please stop girating in front of me, I don't want to see that; no one wants to see that", and the song "Missing You" will now be titled "Fuck off".

The Hee Ho

Originally printed in Issue 112.6, March 26, 2010

Your regularly scheduled *mathNEWS* will return next week!

Orange News

All the news you really need to know, but not really

Hello, and welcome to yet another mind-boggling, sense-numbing, leg-warming edition of Orange News, the only news column on campus based entirely on 100% non-factual information. After a successful run last term, the Orange News Editorial Team (AKA me) has decided to renew the column for another term. The team wishes to thank all of our supporters and partners, assuming they exist.

This time, we bring you a shocking, even disturbing, story that is not for the weak hearted. So I promise I won't read it. Our editorial team has just been notified of a horrifying developing situation—the new Math building, Math 3, has been kidnapped!

The new building, which until its abduction had been under construction right next to the MC. It was supposed to house the Statistics and Actuarial Science Department, and provide about 90,000 square feet of research and teaching space. The building has been under construction for a very long time, frustrating many students who have been forced to travel within and around other buildings to get to wherever they're going on campus. Its abduction is a tragedy affecting students, faculty, staff, and geese.

Math 3 is currently being held in an undisclosed location by its evil abductors, who say that it is safe for now, but if their demands won't be met, they will send it back brick-by-brick. The kidnappers' demands include \$3,000,000 in unmarked bills, a jet plane to Barbados, and some beer kegs. The request for kegs raises the likely possibility that those behind the crime are engineers, who have in the past been linked to such heinous acts as desecrating the Arts Faculty's boar, taking pictures of girls in bikinis, and redirecting the *mathNEWS* website to the Iron Warrior site on April Fool's Day. None of these acts have been termed 'acts of terrorism', and I don't personally know of anyone who would suggest engineers are more evil than Bin Laden's ghost.

I've roamed the campus to find out what YOU, the real students of Waterloo, have to say about this disastrous kidnapping of the Math 3 building.

Marc, a sharply-dressed C&O major, spoke for the entire faculty when he said, "This is pretty disappointing and very frustrating. A lot of time and effort went into the damn thing, so it better come back."

Nick, a tall guy who I think is in stats, commented that, "If ifs and buts were berries and nuts, we'd all have a merry Christmas". Maybe it's because I'm Jewish, but I've got no idea what that's supposed to mean. Thank you Nick.

A statistics prof who wishes to remain anonymous said, "Well that sucks, I was very excited to move my stuff into a nicer office in a new building in July. I hope the kidnappers don't harm the building, but the university shouldn't negotiate with bad people."

To remedy this awful situation, the faculty has appointed an emergency tie-guard to locate the Math 3 building, return it to campus unharmed, and capture its abductors dead or alive. Orange News has every certainty that these untrained amateurs will succeed in their mission and bring the building back. Who knows, by the time you read this article, the building may have already been returned safely to its original location without you even noticing it was gone at all.

As always, you can trust Orange News to keep you updated on all unimportant developments of fictional stories around campus. For questions, comments, or if you'd like to be interviewed for the next edition of Orange News, contact the Orange News Editorial Team at orange.crush.uw@gmail.com. Thank you, and good night.

Orange Crush

Originally printed in Issue 116.1, May 13, 2011

Curiosity Found a Rock

Saturday, October 13 – While monitoring the status of the Mars Science Lab Curiosity, NASA scientists received a strange message from the rover. All was normal at first, but suddenly a string came in that baffled the scientists.

[2012-10-13 14:32:12] MSL: LOOK GUYS! I FOUND A ROCK! LOOK AT THIS ROCK!

[2012-10-13 14:32:19] MSL: IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE OTHER ROCKS BUT IT ISN'T!

[2012-10-13 14:32:24] MSL: <incoming image: rock_1350153144_640x480.jpg>

[2012-10-13 14:32:42] MSL: IT'S A VERY SPECIAL ROCK. WHY HAVEN'T YOU LOOKED AT MY ROCK?

At first, the scientists suspected a prank was being pulled by their fellow colleagues. However, after triple checking the

source, they confirmed that the messages were indeed being sent from Curiosity. After an investigation by the operations team, it was concluded that the Wall-E effect occurs faster than expected, and Curiosity has already developed sentience and intelligence. Currently, the rover has the intelligence and emotions like that of a small, excited dog. As of Sunday, the rover has been enthusiastically speeding around Mars, sampling rocks and happily reporting the results to its "owners", hoping to receive the praise "Good rover!".

Seriously though, this project is awesome

theSMURF

Originally printed in Issue 120.3, October 16, 2012

You can contribute to the history too! Join us on Mar 11 @ 6:25pm in MC 3038!

Afterword

Getting away with this since 1973

It would be so cliché of me to say something like "Thanks for 40 years, and here's to another 40". Don't get me wrong; it's a perfectly fine sentiment, but it evokes the wrong kind of imagery (namely, that of low-budget commercials and radio ads produced by furniture store owners who are at that age where they're too old to want to keep working and too young to be able to retire). That's not what we're about at all. And as sentiments go, it's not *nearly* Mathie enough. (I'll have a much more appropriate one in a few hundred words.) I shouldn't even need to mention that I haven't even known what *mathNEWS* was for most of those 40 years and have been editing it for even fewer, so you would be, on average, thanking me for nothing. Granted, I'll take what I can get, but credit where credit is due.

When I read every issue of *mathNEWS* from 1973 until now in order to find articles for this special, two things occurred to me that may not immediately be obvious to those who have not spent as much time with *mathNEWS* history:



Katlady Karen's Krazy Crossword Komments

Last week's gridword was pretty cool, wasn't it? Our winner is Nick Murdough, who answered "Runes for most values of u". (That said, he didn't actually get them all! We're just nice like that!) Come by Mathsoc to pick up your \$5 gift certificate to C&D today! So this week's crossword is going to be a little bit different, but we hope you have fun (Impulse and Static are busy being tied up in my basement at the moment). I'm not KRAZY or anything...

The *gridQUESTION*: i can haz cheezeburger?

Remember, drop your solutions off in the **BLACK BOX** by the C&D by Monday, Nov 24 for a chance to win the gift cert!

Until next issue!

Megacatlke Panda

Originally printed in Issue 108.5, November 14, 2008

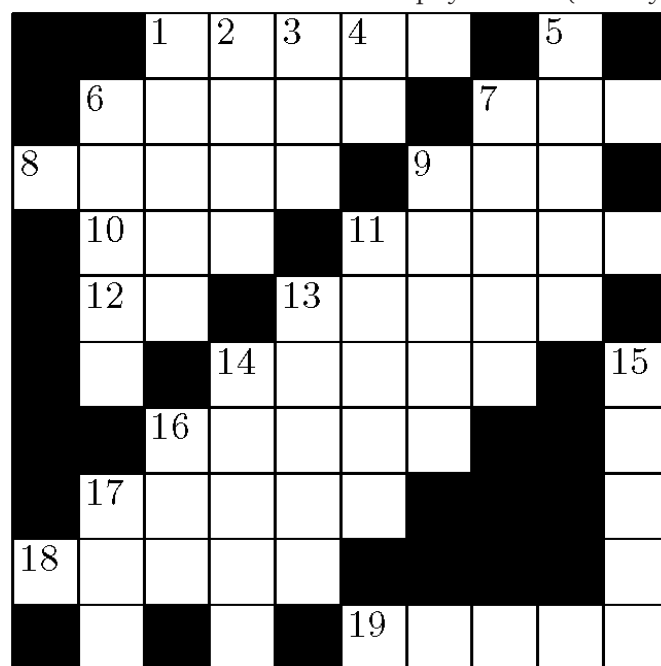
Across

- An adorable term for cat
- The unused cards in Euchre
- ___ - Kat bar
- The combined stakes of the bettors in Pool
- A frosh gets this during O-week
- ___ l: Signoff message
- Eric's mom from the 70's
- Thank you (abbrev)
- Hello ___ (Franchise)
- 1945 film directed by Mitchell Leisen
- Short for "Katherine"
- Dummer of Mindless Self Indulgence
- Traditional song on album Red Roses for Me
- The Swedish translation of Nancy Drew's first name

- Over the years, on average Mathie attitudes and values haven't really changed that much. We support what we think is right and we work hard to fix what we think is wrong. This is probably the sort of attitude held by the first editors and readers of *mathNEWS*.
- In terms of content, formatting, and style, *mathNEWS* has evolved quite a bit. Reading through several consecutive years' worth of issues is like watching a genetic algorithm search an infinite solution space: you'll see it try a few different things here and there, with varying success, and occasionally it goes completely off course, but overall it knows where it's been and where it's going, and when it finds a good solution, you can't help but smile.

So here's to 121 iterations of the grand inductive optimization problem that we call *mathNEWS*. May our job never terminate!

Murphy Berzish (ScruffyED)



Down

- Country musician ___ Wells
- The ___ bitty spider
- Short for teletype
- ___ Wishart: Hockey prospect
- A small fuzzy cat
- A really adorable kitten
- Character from Danny Phantom
- ___ Norville, the main character in urban fantasy novels by Carrie Vaughn
- Unix command that outputs the name of the current terminal.
- Pet name of character in Pride and Prejudice
- A diminutive felinis familiaris
- If Shrodinger had one of these, he probably wouldn't have put it in a box
- Not a Kitty
- Slang for kitten
- You should know how to answer this by now