



*"Today is my mom's birthday!  
I don't have to send a card!"*



# THE CABBAGE

January 23, 2003

www.TheCabbage.S5.com

Volume VI, Issue 3

## Sponholz, Rupnow Crack Cafeteria Floor Design

MLC professors derive complex mathematical theorem from chaotic tile pattern

MLC—After six months of intense research and hair-splitting measurement, a pair of MLC mathematicians claim to have explained numerically one of the world's most seemingly random layouts in flooring history. Professor Martin Sponholz and Dr. Kenneth "Chip" Rupnow derived their theorem by combining their respective theories on chaos and governing dynamics. They have tentatively named their new scientific approach "governing chaos."

Contractors hired by the college began laying the tile in mid-July. By the time students arrived on the MLC campus in late August, the two mathematicians had already begun the work of being able to explain the new fashion mystery to their curious students. "I knew for sure that there had to be some sort of mathematical pattern to the new tiled floor, even though Marty (Sponholz) had a pretty good argument for chaos in this case," said Rupnow.

While Rupnow, who subscribes to recent theories of governing dynamics, claiming that all things can be explained in terms of "zero-sum" mathematical patterns, was hopeful of cracking the floor pattern, Sponholz was initially certain that the MLC floor was yet another example of bungled chaos. "Whether your definition of 'chaos' is the idea that one small perturbation affects the entire system of creation or the more-commonly known 'state of

utter confusion,' you have to admit when you first glance at (the cafeteria floor), it appears to be complete chaos with no possible explanation as to how or why those tiles were used in that order," said Sponholz. "It was finally Chip (Rupnow) who brought me around to the idea of trying to find the metaphorical mathematical needle in a haystack."

This epiphany of possible mathematical derivation from the tiled mess of the floor occurred late one night at a local tavern. Said Sponholz, "It was pure serendipity. I was drinking some beer with Chip, you know, just shooting the breeze, when he spilled some on his pants. I'm not sure exactly what it was, but the many hues caused by dark German lager contrasted against the brightly colored fabric under the dim recessed lighting somehow reminded me of the cafeteria floor. This got me thinking: if there's a possible explanation concerning Chip's color schemes under any kind of light, we just might be able to derive a bit of mathematical sense out of the nonsense that is the MLC cafeteria tiled floor."

For six months Rupnow and Sponholz frantically gathered data and applied it to modern mathematical algorithms. What resulted was what is now considered by many to be among the world's toughest theorems. "It's not even worth trying to explain unless you hold a degree in

advanced arithmetic," explained Rupnow. Agreeing with his colleague, Sponholz even dares to place their proven theorem among classic yet-to-be-solved mathematical questions. "This theorem was harder to prove than chasing down a rogue weather balloon in the Antarctic," said Sponholz, excitedly running his fingers through his disheveled hair. "I don't want to name any names, but 'Fermat' does come to mind. Perhaps even 'Hodge,' 'Poincare,' and 'Riemann.'"

The theorem explaining the pattern of the tiles of the floor of the cafeteria of Martin Luther College is supposedly so difficult to understand that when the usually erudite MLC Professor John Paulsen was asked by his students to explain it, he was scarcely able to mutter, "It's only a fudge factor that makes it work."

Despite their apparent colossal mathematical feat, Rupnow is quick to stress that "although we have successfully explained the 'what' of the tile pattern, it will take many more years of research and advanced mathematical computations to figure out the 'why.'"

### In this issue:

<i>SURVIVOR: Beauty vs. The Rhino Beast</i>	2
<i>Lucas Buffner</i>	2
<i>Misfire: The Story of How We Misspelled "Pistol"</i>	3
<i>Four People Still Don't Get Hans Blix Joke</i>	4
<i>Happy Birthday, Mom!</i>	54

### DINING ROOM RESERVATIONS

MONDAY	MLC Kite Flying Society
TUESDAY	Catholics Anonymous
WEDNESDAY	Posthumous Award Winners
THURSDAY	Everyone Named "Schmidt"
FRIDAY	Donner Party

## Mr. Robert Blake Current Events Joke-of-the-Week



**\*\*\*Clever and timely one-liners to show that special someone you're both humorous and up-to-date with all your favorite Baretta stars\*\*\***



**"Man, have you seen Robert Blake lately? He must have dyed his hair gray in jail."**

## Paul Hogan Makes Acting Comeback



**"That's not a lie...this is a lie."**

MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE, France—Roughly nine years after *Lighting Jack* bombed at the box-office, Paul Hogan is mounting the biggest acting comeback since Paul Reubens returned to the public arena as Penguin's Father in *Batman Returns*. Hogan, a 63-year-old Australian is starring as "The Butler" on Fox's new reality show "Joe Millionaire." Hogan is best known for the 1986 blockbuster *Crocodile Dundee*, and for his voice-overs in Subaru Outback and Foster's Beer television commercials. (continued on page 3)

# SURVIVOR II: LAKE OLSEN, WEEK FIVE

Class dismissed! 3,014 voted to fail the instructor. Who will be next? Go online and vote at: [TheCabbage.s5.com](http://TheCabbage.s5.com). *The Cabbage Online* offers more in-depth Survivor coverage and exclusive online content!

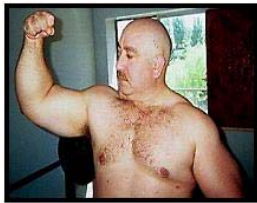
Just a reminder: please, no wagering.

FINAL CHALLENGE: You are the president of a small, conservative campus of ministry on the island... You are facing budgetary shortfalls. What do you do?



NAME/AGE POSITION IN LIFE	CHALLENGE #5: If you could have one fictional character with you on the island, who would you choose and why?
Adam Reinhard, 23 Staff/SEM, 6th year	Punky Brewster. Definitely Punky Brewster. You can tell by the clothes she wears that she is used to "roughing it." Remember her tree house mansion? That proves that she can build awesome shelters. (Complete with trap door and swing, if I'm lucky) AND we would be safe and sound here since she would probably bring her vicious attack dog, Brandon. I truly feel what this island really needs is a good dose of Punky Power!
Kim Springstroh, 21 MLC Senior, SEM	If I could have one fictional character on the island with me, I would choose that guy from the Dell Computer commercials. Then every time I felt that all hope was lost and that I would die a lonely woman on this deserted island, I could smack him with a coconut right in the middle of his hourly ritual of saying, "Dude, you're gettin'..." and I would feel better about myself.

## Editorial: "What's up, snow?" By Lucas Buffner



Okay, so I'm in da weightroom workin' out wid my buddies, and dis fella Jimmy sez ta me, "Yo, Lucas, I hope it snows lots tonight cuz I got my clinical tomorrow, ya know? Dat'd be so cool to get a snow day—I haven't had one o' dem in like, forever." And I sez ta him, "Hey, man, why don't we ever get dem at dis college? I shouldn't be havin' ta risk my life every time it snows just ta walk ta class. It's really slippery out dere, ya know? And now wid dis new sunroom dat's next ta da gym, everybody can see ya when ya slip and fall on dose sidewalks." And Jimmy sez ta me, "Man, I'd laugh so hard if I saw ya fall cuz wid all dem big muscles you got, you'd look like one o' dem beetles dat try to flip over when dey's on dere back—oh, man, dat'd be so funny."

I didn't find dat so funny as Jimmy did, but I guess I don't hafta worry too much about it yet, cuz dere's like, one millimeter o' snow out dere right now, and we haven't had any big snowstorms dis whole winter. I just don't understand dis weather system we got goin' dese last few winters—I think it's dis El Nino thing (and for all you non-Spanish speakin' folks, dat means "Da

Nino"). I don't know, maybe all dat global warmin' stuff is true, but den, why ain't it warm outside?

Man, ya know, as long as it's so cold, we might as well have a little bit o' snow to play in, right? My buddies and me, we used ta make da best snow forts, and I was always da king when we played king o' da mountain—nobody' could push me off, cuz I was always a solid kid, ya know? And snowball fights? Man, I was da king o' dose too, 'specially when I played my kid sisters—dey got nothin' on me. All dis' thinkin' 'bout snow makes me really want some to be fallin'. So, ya know, what's up snow?

### Mr. Trite Conversation Starter of the Week

\*\*\*Clever ideas to break the ice and make that great first impression\*\*\*

■■■■■■■■■■  
"Man, that Survivor contest is sure getting exciting. I really want (Adam/Kim) to win. How 'bout you?"

## Failed MLC Reality Shows

- Joe Middleclass
- **eliminate** ♀♀♀♂ featuring Professor Hopf and the three tutor suitors
- Survivor Flandreau
- Meet My Folks (a.k.a. Your aunt and uncle/cousins/your folks' friends)
- The Bachelor featuring Dan Hartwig
- Fear of God Factor
- The World's Most Serene Moments Caught on Tape
- Road Rules: New Ulm
- The Conservatively-Clad Chef
- The Olsens
- Trading Graces
- American Highly Regarded Person, But Still Below God
- Real World MLC: What happens when six students of the same gender, race, faith, sexual preference, and social background come together in a college dorm room?
- Who Wants to Marry a Tutor?
- When Lesson Plans Go Wrong
- COPS: MLC Security...on the couch