DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS
We now have Dr Jeremy Levesley, an Erskine visitor from University of Leicester visiting the department from 25 July 2002 to 22nd August 2002. He is in Room 616 (Allan Wilson Centre).

Prof. Fred Richman and Dr Peter Schuster returned to USA and Germany respectively on 1st August 2002.

Prof. Peter Hilton. slipped and broke his ankle at lunchtime on his way to the Staff Club on 30th July 2002 has three broken bones in his foot and is in plaster. The operation will take place today. He is in Room 8, Ward 18 of the Christchurch Public Hospital.

STAFF ABSENCE
Douglas will be in Germany, giving a talk at a conference and then working with Peter Schuster in Munich and Klaus Weihrauch in Hagen, from Thursday 1 August until the end of the month. Mark Hickman will be Acting HoD during that period.

A GOLD MEDAL IN MATHEMATICS
No, not in Manchester but in Glasgow, where the International Mathematical Olympiad has just concluded. The very good (awesome, fabulous, etc) news is that Simon Marshall, from Onslow College, has won a gold medal, the first by a New Zealander in 15 years of participation. Last year Simon won a silver medal. 82 countries sent teams of (usually 6) high school students, so that approximately 500 students took part.

Gold medals are awarded to the top 7% (approximately), so that Simon is placed among the best 35 in the world. It should have been so much better. Simon misinterpreted question 1, always the easiest problem, and scored zero while three others in the NZ team scored full marks. Had Simon done likewise, as he normally would, he would have been in 4th place. Three others in the team came very close to winning bronze medals, and the team overall was placed 34th, which places it solidly in the top half of the competition.
All the team members, including Mike Liu, from Burnside High School, contributed well to the team score.  

*Robert Long*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Dr. Mik Black who has defended his Ph.D. thesis in Statistics at Purdue University last month. Mik was a first-class honours graduate here in 1998. His thesis is entitled "Statistical Issues in the design and analysis of spotted microarray experiments. Mik will soon take up a position in the Department of Statistics at Auckland University.

*Frank Lad*

**PUBLISHED PAPER**


*Douglas Bridges*

**ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**

Kevin O'Meara (with Pere Ara and Francesc Perera), "Stable finiteness of group rings in arbitrary characteristic", accepted by Advances In Mathematics.

*Kevin O'Meara*

**MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS**

If you had bought $1000.00 worth of Nortel stock two years ago, it would now be worth $49.00. With Enron, you would have $16.50 of the original $1,000.00. With Worldcom, you would have less than $5.00 left. If you had bought $1,000.00 worth of Budweiser (the beer, not the stock), drank all the beer, then turned in the bottles for a $0.10 deposit each, you would have $214.00.

Based on the above, my current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle.  

*Anon*

**QUOTE**

"A gossip is a person with a good sense of rumour!"

**MATH COMICS**

![Math Comics Image]