STAT218

If you are interested ... no.1

There are some interesting blog-type articles on the **Mathematical Association of America** website. Most are (as you'd expect) strongly mathematical. A couple related to our course are:

> The Mathematics of Human Thought
> http://www.maa.org/devlin/devlin_01_04.html
> Don't be put off by the title – it is just short bit of background about about the Boolean (true/false) algebra we discuss in lectures.

> A Game of Numbers
> http://www.maa.org/devlin/devlin_09_04.html
> You can just skim the first part of this one to read how number-crunching was used to build a winning baseball team who could not afford to just throw money at their problems. If you're interested there is more some more detail about the use of statistics in baseball.

A site we'll be using during the course is **Statistics Online Computational Resource**
http://www.socr.ucla.edu/
This is a large site with lots of interactive demonstrations. In the lectures we talked about statistical experiments: Have a quick look at the Experiments section of the SOCR site just to get a feel for the kind of things they cover. Don't worry about the details – we'll talk more about some of these demonstrations later in the course.

Statistics on the table : the history of statistical concepts and methods
by Stephen M. Stigler.
An easy read, if you are interested in statistics in general. The chapters are about famous people in statistics, statistical controversies, and some of the problems that lead to the development of modern statistics.
(It's in the Physical Sciences Library, QA 276.15 .S8551 1999, but check the library catalogue to make sure it's available to borrow.)

The history of statistics : the measurement of uncertainty before 1900
by Stephen M. Stigler.
Another one by Stephen Stigler – the title basically says it all.
(Also in the Physical Sciences Library, QA 276.15 .S855, but check the library catalogue to make sure it's available to borrow.)

Numb3rs
Numb3rs is a TV show with all the right ingredients - goodies vs baddies, action-packed storyline, the odd car-chase, and some stuff with numbers (ie, maths and stats). Raaz does screenings on **Fridays, 4.10 pm to about - 5.20 pm** including some discussion after the show. You can watch and enjoy without taking much notice of the numbers but if you are interested there is an accompanying website and some background about the problems and solutions. We have a page about Numb3rs at:
http://www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/~r.sainudiin/numb3rs/