EDITORIAL

Shawn Godin

Hello **CRUX with MAYHEM** readers, welcome to the September 2011 issue. I must apologize up front for the ongoing delays. The first contract between the CMS and the Ottawa District School Board started in March of 2011 left me with some catching up to do. The contract ran out in January and the negotiations took longer than any of the parties involved thought they would. As a result, for two months I was back to my "day job" full time. Fortunately, things are finally straightened out and we are moving forward with the 2011 volume of **CRUX with MAYHEM**.

We have been going through the backlog of proposals and should be up to date with those within a couple of months. With respect to problem proposals, for the last couple of years the majority of the proposals submitted are inequalities. As a result, we have many proposals in the bank. We seem to receive the right amount of geometry problems to keep our problem sets going, so keep those questions coming. Currently we are very short on problems from number theory, algebra, calculus and combinatorics. Please consider sending us your nice proposals from these areas. As always, proposals sent to **CRUX with MAYHEM** should be original. If you have sent a proposal to another publication, do not send it to us unless the problem has been rejected, or you have withdrawn it and vice versa.

Currently we construct the problem sets by looking at problems that have been proposed by readers and trying to select a set of problems from a number of different topics that will be appealing to the readers. We have no idea how the readers really feel about these problems (other than the fact that if we receive a number of solutions to a problem from the readers, those readers must have enjoyed it). We have started another series of short surveys where you can give us feedback on the problems we propose in **Crux**. Each survey asks you to rate each problem (and it isn't necessary to rate them all) from -5 (meaning you hated the problem) to 5 (meaning you loved the problem). A score of 0 means you are indifferent. You can find the addresses of the surveys for the problems from the 2011 volume on our Facebook page. The survey for the problems from this issue can be found at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LK998Z9

Thank you to the people who have taken the time to answer our recent survey on-line. We have compiled your input and will be looking into making some changes. We are currently searching for columnists to start up some regular columns on problem-solving. This issue contains the first installment of a semi-regular column *Recurring Crux Configurations*. The column explores ideas that have resurfaced in **Crux** problems over the years and the first entry was written by editorial board member J. Chris Fisher, I hope you enjoy it.

A major change that we will be making, starting in volume 38, is separating the **Mathematical Mayhem** and Skoliad Corner material from **Crux**. **Mayhem** has been a part of **Crux** since volume 23 in 1997. It will continue to exist, separately, in electronic format only.

We would like to publish articles more regularly in **Crux**, but we have been receiving many articles lately that are inappropriate. **Crux** is a problem-solving journal at the secondary and university undergraduate levels; as such, articles should reflect the scope of the journal. Some possible categories that articles could fall into:

1. Articles about *problem solving methods or techniques*. An example of an article of this type is *Summations according to Gauss* by Gerhard J. Woeginger which appears in this issue. Articles about a theorem that is known, but maybe not well known to all the readership of **Crux** are also acceptable.

2. Articles *inspired by a particular problem*. These could include generalizations of problems that have appeared in **CRUX with MAYHEM** or elsewhere. An example of an article of this type is *A Generalization of Mayhem Problem M396 Involving Pythagorean Triangles* [2010 : 540–544] by Konstantine Zelator .

3. Articles that would be of interest to problem solvers. These could include articles surrounding a problem that could have been one of the **Crux** numbered problems (although, may have been a bit too involved). An example of an article of this type is *A Nest of Euler Inequalities* by Luo Qi which appears in this issue.

Crux is not a research journal. Articles concerning "serious" mathematics will not be considered for publication (i.e. they will be rejected outright). **Crux** is not primarily aimed at teachers (although many of the readership are teachers). Articles concerning pedagogy will not be considered for publication.

We welcome articles from the readers. Articles should be 2 to 8 pages in length. Longer articles may be considered if they can logically be separated into multiple parts. Please send your appropriate articles to our articles editor:

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or by email to `crux-articles@cms.math.ca`.

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