

# Have You Seen This?

**Have You Seen This?...** is a new section containing short reviews and articles for you to quickly read and contribute to. The editors invite people who just have not the time for a long review or article. If you would like to contribute on topics covering courseware, teaching, learning, assessment or any current topic affecting the Maths, Stats & OR academic community, email the editors or complete the on line form at: <http://ltsn.mathstore.ac.uk/feedback/submit/articleidea.htm>

**Title: Indispensible manual calculations skills in a computer algebra system environment**

**Authors: Bernhard Kutzler et al, [kutzler@eunet.at](mailto:kutzler@eunet.at)**

**Abstract by: Chris Sangwin, Birmingham, [c.j.sangwin@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.sangwin@bham.ac.uk)**

In this article the authors examine the thesis that in a teaching environment which fully embraces the use of computer algebra systems, some manual calculation skills will no longer be needed by the student, but there are some skills which will remain indispensable. Which manual calculations skills are still needed when students use graphic, symbolic calculators or computers with computer algebra systems? Which skills are indispensable? How do we classify such skills into groups, and are these groups fixed?

In their deliberately provocative paper they attempt to divide skills into groups according to whether or not students need to learn these in such an environment. By initiating a debate on this subject they hope to encourage practitioners to reappraise their teaching methods.

The full text of the paper may be obtained online at: [http://www.kutzler.com/article/art\\_indi/indisp.htm](http://www.kutzler.com/article/art_indi/indisp.htm)

We would be happy to carry contributions to this debate in future issues of MSOR Connections.

**Title: Boxmind - <http://www.boxmind.com>**

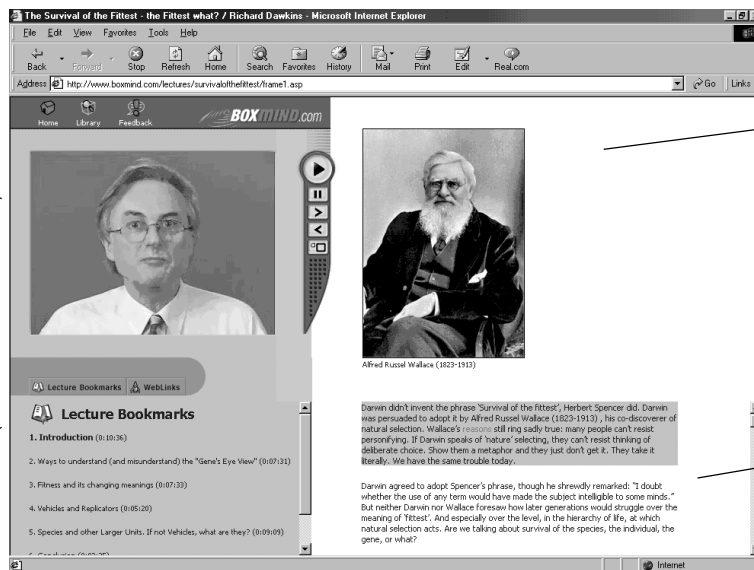
**Author: Anne Train, Maths, Stats & OR Network, Glasgow, [anne@stats.gla.ac.uk](mailto:anne@stats.gla.ac.uk)**

Available day and night, accessible from your own PC, you can now attend lectures given by some of the world's most stimulating thinkers – this is the idea behind Boxmind. A sample e-lecture by Richard Dawkins on '*Survival of the Fittest: The Fittest What?*' can be viewed now on the Boxmind website. Further e-lectures will be available soon by individual or institutional subscription.

Your computer screen is split into four:

A video stream of the lecturer

A lecture "index" with a selection of relevant web links from the Boxmind Online Library



An adjoining window with charts, illustrations, animations and other visual material used in the manner of an advanced OHP

A fully synchronised transcript with embedded "active footnotes" providing further evidence and background

The e-lecture is a powerful tool that Boxmind wants to make available to all lecturers. Suggested benefits include

- “pre-recording” standard course lectures freeing up valuable time to spend on research or closer contact time with students
- lectures can contain complex explanations which can be played and re-played by students
- problems with dispersed campuses are reduced.

Boxmind is looking for lecturers enthusiastic about the potential of e-learning. For more information on how to get involved (or to give feedback on the current e-lecture series), contact Richard Halkett on 01865 481 435 or email [halkett@boxmind.com](mailto:halkett@boxmind.com).

### **Your advert could be here!**

This newsletter reaches teachers and course developers at all levels and in all areas of mathematics, statistics and OR in all higher education institutions in the UK. It also has an overseas mailing list.

The total circulation at present exceeds 2300.

Workshops, conferences, meetings etc will be given free publicity.

#### **Advertisement rates till Dec 2001**

**VAT exclusive**

	<b>colour</b>	<b>mono</b>
<b>Full page back cover</b>	<b>450</b>	
<b>Full page inside cover</b>	<b>425</b>	
<b>Full page in newsletter</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Half page</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Quarter page (landscape or portrait)</b>		<b>75</b>
<b>one page insertion</b>		<b>350</b>
<b>extra pages (each)</b>		<b>100</b>

Reductions for regular or bulk advertisers. Copy date for the next issue is **10 July 2001**.

Further details from the editor and at <http://ltsn.mathstore.ac.uk/newsletter/advert>