

**Undergraduate Math Club
Fall 2004
2nd floor Nesbitt Common Room
December 2, 4:10-5:00pm
(free pizza and pop, as always)**

HAS PHYSICS TAKEN OVER PHILOSOPHY?

Professor Igor Kriz

Abstract

Where is the world coming from? Is the world going to end? Is there a God who interferes with everyday life? These questions were long considered intractable by science, and hence in the domain of philosophy. Yet, 20th century physics (with the help of new mathematics) has come close to addressing, or even answering some of these questions. In the last couple of decades, in connection with an area of mathematical physics called string theory, some first rate physicists have even suggested that an ultimate “theory of everything” may soon appear which will explain all observations in nature. But is such a theory logically possible or does that go too far? I will try to explain the mathematical and physical issues involved, and give some arguments for and against, in this talk. No knowledge of mathematics or physics is assumed beyond basic calculus.