

**Meeting:** 999, Nashville, Tennessee, SS 14A, Special Session on Graph Theory and Matroid Theory

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In 1968, Vizing conjectured that for each edge chromatic critical graph  $G = (V, E)$  with maximum degree  $\Delta$ ,  $|E| \geq \frac{1}{2}\{|V|(\Delta - 1) + 3\}$ . This conjecture has been verified for  $\Delta \leq 5$ . By applying the discharging method, we prove this conjecture for  $\Delta = 6$ . (Received August 17, 2004)