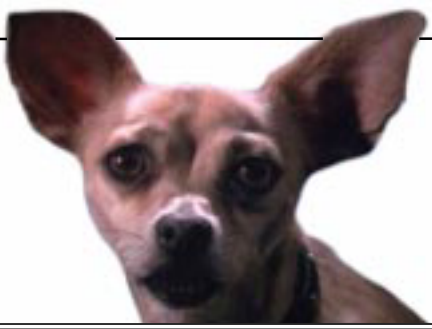


TACO DOG

Taco Bell's chihuahua crushed to death. Page 7



MATHNEWS

The first university paper to win the Pulitzer. Page 14



Henry Bowler flashes a smile at the security camera in the CIBC branch in Waterloo. His right hand holds a sachel of money, and his left hand holds the Mentos blamed for the robbery.

Henry Bowler acquitted in bank robbery

“Mentos” defence used for first time in Canada

By MICHAEL THORSLEY

Henry Bowler walked out of court yesterday evening a free man. After only 20 minutes of deliberation, a Jury acquitted him on charges of robbery on grounds that he was “under the influence of a breath mint.”

Bowler’s ordeal began January 15th outside the Student Life Centre at the University of Waterloo. “I was just about to take this girl I’d picked up, to the bar for a drink,” he describes, “when I realized I didn’t have any

money. After groping at every pocket looking for my wallet, I figured the evening was lost, shrugged, and popped a Mentos. That’s when the weird stuff started happening.”

The “weird stuff”, as was revealed during court proceedings, included Mr. Bowler’s entering the on-campus CIBC branch stealing over \$10,000 from the till, and leaving with his date for a night on the town. “It was all the Mentos I tell ya... all the Mentos.”

Throughout the trial, the jury heard expert testimony on the many narcotic effects of Mentos. Eating even a single Mento, it was revealed, can cause an extreme lack of insecurity, and lead its hapless vic-

tim to do stupid, stupid things.

Indeed, security cameras showed that Mr. Bowler arrived at the bank without a weapon, donned a discarded name tag from a nearby waste paper basket and, under the guise of being a teller who just came in to work, went behind the counter, opened the cash drawer at an unoccupied window, took the cash, and left. At one point, just before leaving, he even turned to the security camera and smiled, holding up his tube of Mentos, defying the bank to catch him. It was three days later before the bank manager noticed that the money was gone.

Debbie Gruberman, the bank’s Security guard, was dumbfounded by the news that they had been robbed. “I remember Henry clearly. I even waved to him as he came in and thought ‘what a nice young man, he couldn’t possibly be a bank robber.’ Little did I know that he was not under his own control.”

*Irrational Toast*

CBC uses Freedom of Information Act to get copy of seventh-grader’s biology report

By CHADWICK SEVERN

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is slowly moving to the forefront in reporting science news.

Using the Freedom of Information Act, the CBC has acquired the long-sought “Breeding Fish” report written by seventh grader, Stacey Moss.

“The Freedom of Information Act was legislated for exactly these reasons,” said CBC spokesperson Amy Dole. “The biology teacher in question recklessly and purposefully buried the report in an effort to hide it from the media’s eyes.”

Moss’ teacher, Dana Corley, said she was not aware of any outside interest in the report, which she gave a B+.

“I’m very surprised that the CBC went to such lengths in acquiring this report,” said Corley between two classes. “They usually just hand reports back to the students who wrote them.”

The CBC disagrees with Corley’s opinion.

“The teacher, upon receiving the report, had an utmost obligation to distribute this ‘Breeding Fish’ report,” said Dole. “It’s disappointing that we live in a day and age where media outlets like the CBC have to spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to make these reports see the light of day.”

The CBC is preparing a special edition of The National to relay the contents of the report. Host Peter Mansbridge has been familiarizing himself with the report since Monday.

“I am looking forward to breaking this story, which would not have been possible without the efforts of countless CBC staff,” said Mansbridge.

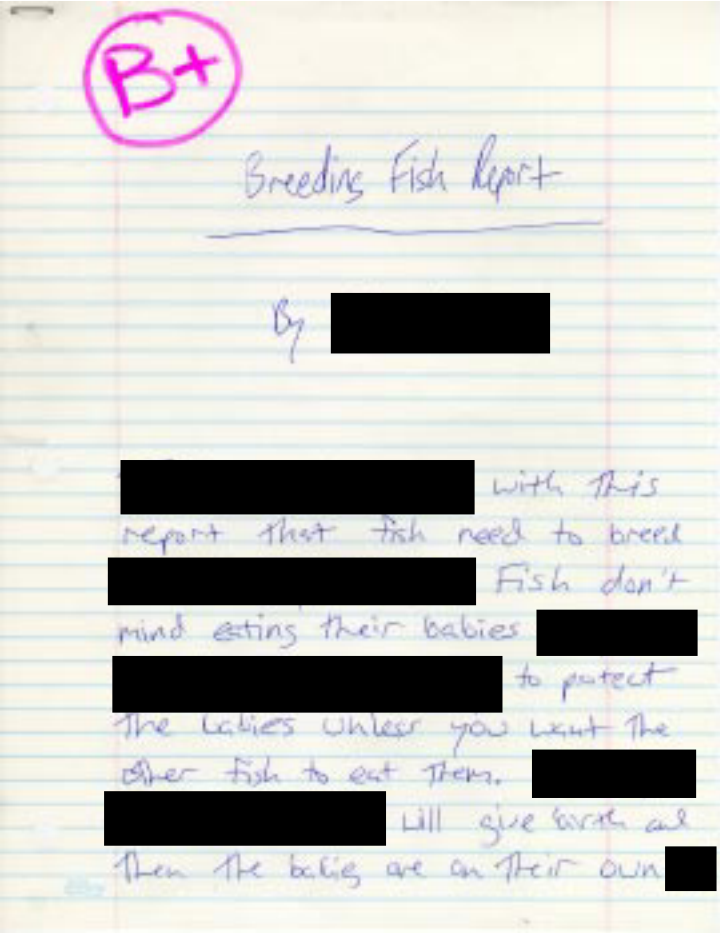
The report, which has several lines blacked out for security or privacy reasons, urges fish-owners to purchase special “pregnancy tents” for their fish when they start to breed. Otherwise, the fish may eat the baby fish.

Student Moss decries the eating of one’s young as cruel and avoidable.

The CBC hopes that in the future, they will have easier access to reports published by Moss.

“Our sources say that Moss is working on a report for her computer class revealing the main features of the iMac computers,” said Dole. “We have been assured by Corley’s principal that this time, there will be no cover-up.”

*Irrational Toast*



The front page of the report obtained by the CBC.

Drug shack at 159 Charlotte Street to be raided tomorrow says secret police report

Police hope to catch dealer in the act

By DEREK KISMAN

Thomas Franko better watch out. Tomorrow, his serene house on Charlotte Street will be raided by drug enforcement officers in a top-secret drug bust.

The bust, which will take place around 10 a.m., is expected to go quietly and smoothly. Police hope to catch Franko red-handed.

Franko does have several high-caliber weapons in his house, according to police informant Stuart Polo.

“I’ve been Franko’s partner for

years,” said Polo, who will be present for the sting. “He’s been running all kinds of drugs out of his house, effectively running the drug trade in this town.”

Polo emphasizes that the only way the bust can be successful is if Franko is completely unaware it will be coming.

“I’ll probably snort a bit of cocaine around 9, and encourage Thomas to do some to,” said Polo. “Just a normal day at the office.”

Polo agrees with Irrational Toast’s publisher Conrad Grey that Franko is unlikely to read this newspaper before the drug bust.

“He’s more of a Toronto Numb kind of guy,” said Polo. “He don’t like those boring papers.”

*Irrational Toast*

JFK Jr. death no accident: skeptic

“Single Engine” theory full of holes

By MICHAEL THORSLEY

While the world mourns the tragedy of the death of John F. Kennedy Jr. the son of a former U.S. president by the same name, there are some who doubt the government’s statement that the crash was accidental. One of these people, Mrs. Edna Pratt of Arva, Ontario is in the process of writing a book detailing her theory of how the crash took place.

“We see at the first sign of trouble at 2140 the plane banks briefly up and to the right,” Pratt told reporters, referring to the reconstruction of the flight from radar data. “I thought that this was an odd maneuver for the plane to take, especially since the engine Piper Saratoga JFK Jr. was flying in couldn’t give enough thrust to make such a quick turn, unless it was some kind of ‘magic engine’.

“There really had to be a second engine, is what it comes down to. What I think happened is that a small solid fuel JATO engine, like the kind used on aircraft carriers to help fighters take off on a short runway, was placed in the forward hold of the plane. In the middle of the flight it was triggered, blew the hatch off the compartment, first forcing the plane to swerve up and to the right, and later flipping the plane, forcing it to crash

into the ocean.”

While much has been made of JFK Jr’s inexperience at flying the plane under hazy conditions Pratt doubts that pilot error was involved in the crash. “While it’s true that Kennedy was not the best pilot, what we clearly see that the plane was falling faster than a plane of that shape could fall under just gravity with air resistance. Even if he had lost control completely, shutting down the engine would have allowed him to level the plane. But the JATO was actively pushing him down into the ocean, so he couldn’t right himself.

“The only conclusion that we can reach is that there was a massive conspiracy to kill JFK Jr. and make it look like an accident. I think it’s obvious that the military leaders, possibly under the direction of the CIA, supplied a JATO to the Mafia, who used their connections to the Illuminati to transfer it to members of the Teamster’s union, for attachment to Kennedy’s plane without his knowledge.”

Pratt cites as evidence of this connection, a blow up of camera surveillance tape from the air traffic control tower near where Kennedy had just taken off shows a blurred image of a man who appears to be talking into a walkie-talkie and smoking a cigarette. “There’s the freemason who organized the whole thing giving the final order to activate the JATO. Of course the FBI says that it’s just an air traffic controller eating a sandwich on his lunch break, but we all know that they’re just the Saucer Peoples’



JFK Jr. in a Reuters photo.

sock puppet anyway.”

Pratt also has a theory as to why JFK Jr. had to die. “His magazine, George, was about to reveal secrets about the role of the Saucer People in the recent Serbian conflict. If he had survived to do this it would have caused chaos in the global markets as the pharmaceutical companies try to keep their cure for cancer locked away from the world in area 51. Of course, the Teamsters would have hated that because then their ties to the mob would have force them to give up access to the secret spells of the Illuminati, and the Freemasons’ system of secret handshakes would have been compromised. We’re through the looking glass here people.”

Despite the fact that academics all over the world have failed to see this situation develop, Pratt is sure that that her interpretation is the correct one. “I’ve already got a publisher for my book who figures that we’ll have at least \$5 million in sales, and let me tell you, no one every gets money for books of pointless rumour-mongering.”

*Irrational Toast*

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PUBLISHED BY THE PROPRIETOR  
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America does double-take on Canada’s proposed nuclear sale

U.S. curious how Canada got fusion power in first place

By CHADWICK SEVERN

The United States, successful in persuading Canada to not sell its nuclear fusion research to Iran, is now wondering how Canada got the materials in the first place.

“Wait a second, we never gave Canada anything on nuclear fusion,” said State Department official Bradley Stoke. “I’m glad we have prevented these items from reaching Iranian soil, but we’re a little perturbed that even Canada has them.”

The items in question are the equipment and nuclear fusion technology at the Canadian Centre for Magnetic Fusion in Varennes, Que. The centre did not return any phone calls.

The centre had planned to sell the items to the Iranian government, a move that the research group labeled as a “gesture of goodwill towards the Iranian

people” at the time.

Upon hearing about the centre’s plans, the American government contacted Ottawa to see if the sale could be blocked. Ottawa quickly gave assurances that the transaction would not take place.

WAIT A SECOND, WE NEVER GAVE CANADA ANYTHING ON NUCLEAR FUSION

“I have suspicions that Canada may have obtained these materials illegally from the U.S. or Great Britain,” said Stoke. “We’re the only nations authorized by the U.S. and Great Britain to have them.”

Stoke said that he hopes Canada will turn over the misappropriated equipment and research and go back to growing maple syrup.

“You could get hurt, playing with fusion,” said Stoke.

*Irrational Toast*





1814 The outhouse is invented, causing people to use stinky wooden closets to do their business instead of fresh, clean rivers. 1854 Abraham Lincoln ate an apple, and later that day, claimed to have eaten an orange. 1900 The real turn of the century. 1954 The newly opened Yonge subway line in Toronto has its first suicide jumper, a bright young lad named Charlie Thilt, who always had to be first at every-

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7.28.99

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

thing. 1955 The Ontario Conservatives are in power. 1956 The Ontario Conservatives are in power. 1957 The Ontario Conservatives are in power. 1958 The Ontario Conservatives are in power. 1959 The Ontario Conservatives are in power. 1960 The Ontario Conservatives are in power. 1961 The Ontario Con-

servatives are in power. 1988 A minority government that does not involve the Ontario Conservatives in any way is in power. 1990 Electricity is rediscovered by an incredibly smart but incredibly late scientist from Sierra Leone. 1996 Enrolment at Canadian universities reaches a prime number 1997 Work begins on a database that keeps track of inane tidbits of information and what days they occurred on.

Natural Law Party leader under fire for election performance

Disappointed party insiders to oust leader with better yogic flying

By CHADWICK SEVERN

Jack Tomas is in the fight for his life. His political life, at least.

The leader of the Natural Law Party of Ontario is under siege as other ambitious Natural Law members attempt to grab the reins of the party.

The NLP did not win any ridings in Ontario on the June 3 election, meaning that once again, the high-flying group will have to manage without official party status for at least another four years.

"It was a very disappointing result," admits Tomas. "I thought we would take around 10 ridings."

His failure to produce any MPPs has gained the ire of many former colleagues in the party brass.

"I want him out," said Natural Law finance civilian Tavin Smith. "It's obvious that Jack was unable to lead this party when the party needed him the most. We felt that after the televised leaders debate, we had an enormous opportunity to make inroads among peace-loving Ontarians."

Neither Tomas nor any other Natural Law member participated in the debate, but Tomas did say that he watched it on television.

"It was clear from watching the debate that these leaders, Harris, McGuinty and Hampton, are more interested in bickering with each other than spreading good-will and love to the millions of people in this province," said Tomas.

Tomas would like to lead the party into the next election, which he figures will occur in 2002.

"I sense a great well of anger building up in the pit of Mike Harris's stomach," said Tomas. "He's definitely not doing enough yogic flying. This can only lead to pain and suffering . . . not for him, but for the people of Ontario. He's probably going to resign after a few years."

Tomas said that the inspiration for his leadership was mainly from the good

vibes sent to him by his predecessor, former Natural Law leader Laniel Mardy.

In the 1995 election, Mardy led the party to an all-time high of 18,000 votes across the province.

When Mardy defected to the Freedom Party of Ontario in 1997, many provincial pundits thought this was a huge blow to the struggling Natural Law Party.

After the party struggled through 1998 without a leader, Tomas won a

**'HARRIS, MCGUINTY AND HAMPTON ARE MORE INTERESTED IN BICKERING WITH EACH OTHER THAN SPREADING GOOD-WILL AND LOVE.'**

hard-fought leadership race earlier this year, on a platform of improving the collective consciousness of the province and the uncanny ability to yogic fly much better than his Natural Law opponents.

"I managed to float the longest," said Tomas with a grin. "Tavin could only bounce around with his legs folded while I managed to attain the inner-peace I needed to attain the leadership

of the party."

Party insiders had hoped that Tomas would be the front-man that could build on the party's success in 1995, by turning those 18,000 votes in 18 MPPs.

But those insiders were dismayed when Tomas spent time on the campaign trail praising the NDP platform.

"That was ludicrous," said Natural Law education civilian Deborah Kerr. "The NDP and Natural Law share absolutely no common policies. They still represent big government. We want Ontario to be run by a non-partisan committee while we send our message of peace and love throughout the province."

But Tomas felt that helping the NDP was an important strategy.

"By propping up the NDP, we can split the mainstream vote, and ride up the good vibrations wave of the fringe vote to power," said Tomas.

The plan backfired when NDP support collapsed, leaving the Liberals and Tories as the sole beneficiaries of the mass mainstream vote.

An automatic annual review of the leadership of the party will get underway next month, and Tavin Smith believes he has the right stuff to fly circles around Tomas this time.

"I have managed to clear my head of negativity," said Smith. "My yogic flying is now quite an impressive sight."

As usual, members of the press are barred from the leadership convention, since actual photographs of yogic flying are not allowed to be published.

"To protect the integrity of our party, we will do all of our yogic flying behind closed doors, thank you," said Smith.

Irrational Toast



Natural Law Party leader Jack Tomas ponders his future.

Spiderman in dire straits

"Watch out, Spidey!" cries helpful youth

MANHATTAN, NY - The web-slinging wonder was in hot water Wednesday as he fought evil arch-enemy Dr. Octopus, who has been accused of a recent plot to destroy the world. Spider-man was drawn into the battle because innocent bystanders were at risk, and, according to a spectacular Spidey spokesperson: "With great power comes great responsibility."

The deciding factor in the battle was a surprise attack by the other members of the Sinister Six: Mysterio, Electro, the Rhino, the Vulture, and the Scorpion.

The nefarious sextet ambushed Spiderman, knocking him unconscious, burying him in quick-drying cement, and dropping him into the East River. "It was horrible," said eyewitness Burt Lomax, clenching his fist futilely, "I'll tell ya, if I had super powers..." New Yorkers are now anxiously awaiting Spidey's triumphant come back. "He can't be dead, he's just gotta come back and kick some Sinister Six butt!" exclaimed Jessica Morton, one of the innocent bystanders who was saved by the wondrous web-slinger's timely interfer-

ence. "He's got the strength of a human spider!" she added.

When asked for comment, members of the Sinister Six laughed evil, world-destroying laughs. "We finally destroyed that loathsome wall-crawler!" yelled Electro, just before punching this reporter in the face and stealing his wallet.

"We definitely have a cliff-hanger here," said Spidey spokesperson Stan (aka the Man) Lee, "but good will always win over evil." An emergency call has been placed to the Fantastic Four, who are currently in space fighting the Super Krull. The X-Men are currently trapped in MojoWorld, and could not be reached for comment.

Irrational Toast

IRRATIONAL TOAST BOUCHARD LOCATER

For updated word on where Lucien Bouchard is check out Irrational Toast Online

[www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/toast](http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/toast)

BOUCHARD PHASES



Angry: July 31



Sad: Aug 3



Happy: Aug 6



Indifferent: Aug 7



Bouchard will be starting Thursday in Montreal, Que., before spending the afternoon in Hull. Bouchard's volume will reach a high of 70 decibels.



# NEWS

## ELECTION REFLECTIONS

Will Mike Harris  
‘Rock’ as Premier?

The Irrational Toast sent out its brand-new, fresh-out-of-Ryerson journalist out to interview a Mr. Mike Harris. Here is what he came back with:

It is now almost two months after this year’s Ontario Election, time enough for the province to have accepted the fact that there is another conservative majority government to take us into the new millennium. But how does Mike Harris see the election in retrospect, and does he have any previously undisclosed insights into the future of the party in power? Well, we caught up with Harris last week to ask him just that, and he revealed the following information to us in an informal interview.

Irrational Toast: So, I suppose the best place to start is to ask whether you were at all surprised that the Tories emerged victorious last June third?

Mike Harris: Well, no, not really. After all, the entire party was driving *hard* into the issues, and the short time frame meant that it was necessary for everyone else to hurry, *hurry* in both their decision making and their overall tactics.

IT: This is true. But speaking of tactics, there was a lot of slander and name calling during the election campaign. Do you think such a strategy was really necessary?

MH: Well, I do think that a different spin could have resulted in a better end. Certainly some of the things that were done can’t simply be swept aside now, but I don’t believe that there were really any shots in poor taste.

IT: Did you have concerns about any of the ad campaigns?

MH: Well, I’ve always thought that in some situations you should gauge carefully how much weight you carry and how much of it you should throw forward. Everyone involved seemed to know the right angles to hit, though it can be a bit of a slippery affair.

IT: How do you account for the NDP losing so many seats?

MH: They just got stuck between a rock and a hard place. I don’t think there was much of a chance on that front unless the Liberals backed off, *off, right off...*

IT: Well then, talk to us about what helped to bring

the Conservatives to victory. It’s been stated previously that the tax cuts were a major incentive.

MH: I think you hit that on the button. But it’s hard, *hard* to isolate any one thing that helped accomplish a takeout on the opposition. It may have been the manner in which the points of the party were hammered home.

IT: Could you elaborate on that?

MH: Basically, when you’re holding the metaphorical hammer, you have more control. So as long as you don’t allow the opposition to steal in, you’re just a stone’s throw away from victory.

IT: And with the Conservatives in power for another few years then, would you care to offer any new revelations on how the Tory blueprint will be executed?

MH: I’ll skip on that question as I have no comment.

IT: Just speaking generally though.

MH: Well, I don’t think it would be wise to rock the boat. But then again it’s also important to take risks; you can’t always be throwing up your guard.

In that respect, having experience to draw on is an asset.

IT: So does your experience allow you to made any prediction about risk taking by the PCs?

MH: Again nothing specific. I do think the party should draw hard to the line - but be careful about crossing it. Still, it seems that the Tories are sitting rather well at the moment.

IT: Moving away from political discussion, any leisure plans over the summer?

MH: I am trying to get back to my golfing, but that’s simply par for the course.

IT: And do you have any other comments you wish to make in conclusion?

MH: Only that I really enjoy playing for Ontario’s team. Hopefully the path that is being laid out for the province will curl in the right direction.

IT: Very well then, I thank you for the interview and I hope your next tournament goes well.

MH: Thank you, Toast.  
*Irrational Toast*



A test subject in a ‘wrist’ study

## Carpal Tunnel Syndrome not linked to typing

But experts wonder  
‘What else would wear out a wrist?’

By MICHAEL THORSLEY

Three recently released studies from the University of California at Berkeley, Michigan State University, and the University of Waterloo, challenge the prevailing medical opinion that Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, a painful, debilitating condition of the wrist, is caused by excessive typing.

The studies, the first of their kind, showed conclusively that while the primary victims of the disorder are in the information technology industry where typing is most of the time a requirement of the job, programmers who used voice-recognition technology instead of typing also had elevated incidences of the condition. It also showed that those who play role-playing games are also at an elevated risk, even if they never type, while young, blonde secretaries with large breasts, even if they typed all day, were largely immune.

“It’s disheartening to see one of the prevailing medical theories fall, but that’s how progress is made,” says one researcher on the Berkeley study. “We still believe [Carpal Tunnel Syndrome] is the result of repetitive stress of some kind. What we should be asking ourselves is ‘What other wrist-intensive activity do these groups engage in more frequently than the general population does?’”

*Irrational Toast*



Please, buy this  
dishwasher.



EATEN'S  
Boy, have times changed.



**WEST TO EAST**

**Library books threatened by fire destroyed by water that put out fire**

Every book in the University of Alberta's main library was destroyed by water Tuesday. The water, sprayed generously over all shelves in the building, was released due to a small fire that set off alarms. The fire, due to a student tossing a cigarette into a garbage bin, was put out quickly.

**Ebola virus wipes out Saskatchewan**

Government officials in Ottawa confirmed that the issue of yesterday's viral destruction of Saskatchewan will be near the top half of the agenda for next week's session. Parliament will decide on what to do with Saskatchewan after a proposed bill on mandatory leashes for geckos is debated. The paperwork from the gecko leash issue is expected to fill several volumes, says Aide Derek Boldly.

**CNIB expands into deaf market**

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind announced its plans yesterday to enter the deaf market, more than doubling the size of consumers the company can reach. "The CNIB has been very successful at branding our name and logo, and we feel that now is an opportune time to expand into another profitable market," said CNIB spokesperson Charles Wilson. The rollout of the new CNIB&D is expected soon.

**Computer student's finger info brings joy and hilarity to all who read it**

UW computer student Mitch Herriman's finger information brought joy and hilarity to his Computer Science Club friends late Monday night. The amusing "plan" portion of Mitch's finger information was discovered by Hugh Stumpfrey, who was attempting to determine whether or not Mitch was logged on. "I read it and Jolt came out of my nose!" exclaimed Hugh.

**"Uncle" discovered to not have nephews or nieces**

A Guelph native known as "Uncle John" was revealed to be a man without any nephews or nieces on Monday. The friendly yet suspicious man has been called "Uncle John" since 1978, when he first came to Guelph and told uninterested passer-bys that he prefers to be called by that moniker. Instead of calling him John, most people will call him "that guy" or start ignoring him entirely.

**100% of surveys have too small a sample size**

In a recent study of Spanish-language, surveys in Toronto, printed on yellow paper and mailed to at least 50 U.S. addresses on the fourth of any month starting with 'M', University of Toronto grad students came to the shocking conclusion that 100% of surveys have a sample size that is too small to be statistically valid. Polling firms plan on doing their own surveys to confirm the results.

# HONOURARY DEGREES CONFERRED ON HOMELESS PEOPLE

**BY CHADWICK SEVERN**

Homeless rights groups are cheering a move by the University of Toronto that will get homeless people back on their feet: honorary degrees.

"In the past, we've been giving away these degrees to the likes of former American President George Bush," said U of T spokesperson Gail Rideau. "But we have found that these figures do not make use of their new degrees."

Rideau said that many people feel these lucky recipients squander their new-found education.

"I mean, with the degree that we gave Bush, he's now qualified to become a professional plumber or electrician, but what's he doing? Still jumping out of planes and writing boring books."

For future graduation ceremonies, U of T plans to give away 100 honorary degrees in fields ranging from humanities to dentistry. The hundred recipients will be culled from local homeless shelters and food banks.

Randy Staff, an organizer with the Toronto Homeless Efforts group, thinks the move should have been made a long time ago.

"We've been complaining about the distribution of honorary degrees for many years," said Staff. "I mean, most of the people who get them already went to university or college. What's the point? Now that U of T is targeting the people who need degrees the most, we'll be able to get these people off the streets and into places of business around the country."

Staff says that most homeless people's resumes are lacking in the education department.

"How can someone get off the street corner when they can't get a job?" said Staff. "With these new degrees, they'll not only have the qualifications, but also the confidence to apply for high-paying positions."

One homeless person already slated to receive a Bachelor of Architecture degree has been looking forward to the future lately.

"I'm planning on starting my own design firm," said Randy Starkman, who currently resides in an alley on Adelaide Avenue in downtown Toronto. "I'm leaning towards Starkman and Co., although I'm also partial to The Magical Starkman Architecture Emporium."

Starkman notes that he already has several clients lined up for when he receives the honorary degree.

Eager to support U of T's initiative, Mayor Mel Lastman announced that he will be approaching Starkman about designing a new bus terminal at Union Station.

"This is going to be the best bus station in the world," declared Lastman on Monday. "Starkman, as a former-homeless person, has the keen insight necessary to design a bus terminal that will be the envy of every other city. This is going to be an incredible building."

*Irrational Toast*



Four of Queen's University new mascots strut their stuff at a recruitment drive.

## Queen's University to start recruiting heavy drinkers

**BY CHADWICK SEVERN**

Queen's University has announced that it is falling behind in the ratio of sober students to students that are stinking drunk.

In an effort to correct this, the recruitment office of the school will start focusing its advertising at graduating high school students that like to drink.

"Everyone knows that a well-rounded university has both serious scholars and serious drinkers," said Queen's spokesperson Tav Worp. "We feel the grounds grew has not cleaned up near

enough vomit outside our pub for the past few years. It's clear that we are losing the drinking student war to other universities like Brock and Trent."

Statistics Canada has released a new survey showing that applied arts and technical colleges are quickly becoming a haven for the drinking student.

Nearly 80 per cent of college students drink while only 65 per cent of university students drink. A decade ago, 90 per cent of university students were drunk, while for college it was near 70.

*Irrational Toast*

## Canadian makes own lunch

Canadian Edward Fustos woke up early Monday morning, went to his kitchen and, using some bread, a selection of meats and cheeses, and an apple, created his own lunch. Residents of the small, rural town were shocked.

"We always go out for lunch," said co-worker Randy Newell, "but when I asked him if he was coming with us he said: 'No thanks, I've got my own' and

held up some sort of brown paper bag. It was kinda scary."

Mrs. Fustos was distraught. "I heard something in the kitchen, so I went out and there was Edward. Then I saw the jar of mayonnaise and I just screamed; he's never done this before!" she said.

Other residents of the sleepy town are absolutely outraged: "To think we have a sicko like

## Vancouver apartment tops UN human development index

Third floor loft named "best place in the world to live"

**BY MICHAEL THORSLEY**

Citing "generally roach-free" conditions and "cute female neighbors just down the hall", a downtown Vancouver apartment rented by Hans Feldman has been listed at the top of the United Nations' Human Development Index. The index is generally considered to rank the best places in the world to live.

In a brief ceremony at the UN office in Geneva, Secretary-General Kofi Annan commended Feldman on his extraordinary work in furnishing and maintaining his living space.

"Truly you are an inspiration to people living with cracked drywall and no air conditioning. You have shown us that we can do much better," said Annan in his prepared speech.

Feldman himself was somewhat surprised by the ranking. "I clean up after myself and don't leave a lot of food lying around so the bugs don't come in. I wasn't really expecting it, but it's good to see that some people appreciate my efforts."

Hans' friends were more enthusiastic.

"[Feldman's] apartment is, like, so cool," reported Hans' ex-girlfriend's younger sister, Patty Bernstein. "I mean, like, with the hardwood floor and the Ikea furniture, I totally loved to hang out there. And with his Nintendo 64 that he let anybody play on, that

that in our neighbourhood!" said local councilwoman Ethel Shadman. A lynch mob is currently being formed. Mr. Fustos could not be reached for comment.

*Rooters*



This man made his own lunch. If you see him, call the police.



Hans Feldman has the best place to live in the world, according to the UN.

## Reform blasts Bloc: speaker

**BY STU POLLOCK**

In a surprising political move Wednesday, the Reform Party eradicated its opposition in the House of Commons. According to witnesses in the gallery, Preston Manning stood and shouted, "To hell with all you separatists! We're gonna Unite The Right, and the rest of Canada with it!"

Taking this as a cue, the other Reform MPs took out hand grenades and lobbed them at the Bloc block. Speaker Gil Parent called for order in the ensuing ruckus. Order was not restored until Mr. Parent threatened to have the Sergeant-At-Arms forcibly remove Reform.

In a related incident, Bloc MPs' offices all over Quebec were razed on Wednesday. When questioned about the incident, Quebec's Premier, Lucien Bouchard, stated that "revenge will be had against Canada". No details were released, but Premier Bouchard was heard to mutter something about "Alberta" and "carpet-bombing".

*Irrational Toast*

## Carrot Top tosses props, career

Noted prop comedian Carrot Top tossed both the props and his career Tuesday.

This will be the extent of the coverage provided for this story. There will be no follow-up.

*Rooters*

## Reform blasts Bloc::speaker()

**BY STU POLLOCK**

Reform Software Corporation has announced its intent to rid its class Bloc of its speaker() method. Bloc is included in Reform's latest set of standard class libraries for the (kitchen-sink) language, C++.

"Bloc::speaker() no longer serves a purpose in our grand scheme", said President and CEO of Reform, Dr. Terry Coplin. "The source code for Bloc will be released to the public so that they can understand why Bloc::speaker() is no longer needed."

"We have decided to focus on our original product line, our graphics suite." He also added, "We're also releasing our own version of Minix, a UNIX-like operating system written by Andrew S. Tanenbaum."

Dr. Coplin announced last week that Bloc and the other classes in Reform's class libraries were "the wave of future software development", and that "all businesses will soon see the need for a Bloc in every office."

About Reform Corporation Based in Waterloo, Canada, Reform Corporation is an internationally recognized developer of award-winning graphics. Reform develops products for the Windows, Macintosh, and UNIX platforms. Reform's common stock trades on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol REFF and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol REFS.

*Irrational Toast*



**WEST TO EAST**

**Study finds most newspaper readers don't read stories, only headlines**

A new study released from the University of Waterloo Arts Faculty says that dumbskull readers like you read only the headlines in newspapers, and hardly ever the actually corresponding story. I mean, you're not actually reading this, are you? I hope the editors only read the headlines too.

**Quebec's anglophiles go on illegal strike**

Lucien Bouchard's troubles are far from over. The Quebec premier now has to deal with an illegal walkout by the province's English-speaking citizens. "We are sick and tired of being treated like second-class citizens," said Tony Hancock, the leader of Quebec's Anglophile Association. "We are going to be striking until Bouchard is willing to make Quebec a less hostile place for us."

**Emiril Lagasse hurt in a BAM! traffic accident**

Television chef Emiril Lagasse was hurt in a traffic accident yesterday afternoon in Montreal. Witnesses heard a loud "BAM!" and were horrified to discover that the occupant of the car wrapped around a hydro pole was the popular cooking celebrity. Police fear that Lagasse tried to "kick it up too many notches," as the car went out of control when it reached the speed of 140 km/h.

**Mayo Health Clinic says Miracle Whip in fridge has turned**

The doctors of the world-famous Mayo Health Clinic announced yesterday that the Miracle Whip in the fridge has turned. The dressing, which is normally a smooth, creamy addition to any sandwich, is no longer fit for human consumption according to the doctors. Mayo experts fear that the tasty yet rancid dressing may not be disposed of in a safe manner.

**Anti-adoption group bombs animal shelter**

The Nature-Only Animals terrorist group bombed the Crossways animal shelter in Hull, Que., on Tuesday, killing 17 dogs, cats and turtles. The group released a statement condemning all adoptions, citing them as inhumane. "Pets should remain with the owners of the mother," said the statement. A Crossways spokesperson vows that the shelter will be up and running again as soon as they get some more pets.

**Layout editor has really bad day**

Irrational Toast editor Terrence Ford had an extremely frustrating day yesterday. It all started when his wife of 8 years left him; this was quickly followed by a burglary, speeding ticket, meteor strike, and a chronic shortage of toothpaste. Misfortunes continued to plague the hapless editor until he just didn't have the energy to keep on working. Frankly, the bloody articles can just run off the end for all he cares.

# Opposition parties satisfied with federal omnibus bill

Balefuls of praise heaped on Chretien for bill

By MICHAEL THORSLEY

The opposition parties were quick to congratulate Prime Minister Jean Chretien as the long-awaited omnibus bill was entered into law yesterday.

The bill, receiving praise from all members of parliament, is designed to improve the health-care situation, bring employment to Newfoundland, protect Canadian publishers from American split-run publications, and bring peace to the Middle East.

"Never before have I seen such a perfect balance between the needs of industry and the national desire for a thorough social safety net," said federal NDP leader Alexa McDonough. "I think we can safely say that everyone wins with this legislation,



**"I COMPLETELY CONGRATULATE MR. CHRETIEN ON HIS EXCELLENT WORK. THEY GO JUST FAR ENOUGH WITHOUT GOING TOO FAR."**

and there's no longer any real need for a left-wing voice in Ottawa."

Reform leader Preston Manning was also thrilled with the bill. "I completely congratulate Mr. Chretien on his excellent work. They go just far enough without going too far. I think we can look forward to another 5 years of excellent Liberal Rule next election."

**"WITH THIS BILL IN PLACE WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT QUEBEC'S UNIQUE CULTURE."**



Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark was a bit more reserved in his praise saying that he "agrees with the main thrust of the bill, but might have done a few things differently." He then added that he would probably "defer to Mr. Chretien's better-

informed judgment."

As usual no one cared what Gilles Duceppe had to say.

**"NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN SUCH A PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND THE NATIONAL DESIRE FOR A THOROUGH SOCIAL SAFETY NET."**



Among provincial leaders, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard remarked that "with this bill in place we don't have to worry about Quebec's unique culture. Separation is just pointless now." Ontario's Mike Harris was also extremely grateful for the bill saying that "it's obvious

now that none of Ontario's problems are the federal government's fault. We should now try take care to make sure our own house is in order, just like the fed's is."



**"I AGREE WITH THE MAIN THRUST OF THE BILL, BUT MIGHT OF DONE A FEW THINGS DIFFERENTLY."**

Prime Minister Jean Chretien was gracious in his acceptance of this praise. "I couldn't have done it without my colleagues in the opposition parties. You guys are the greatest."

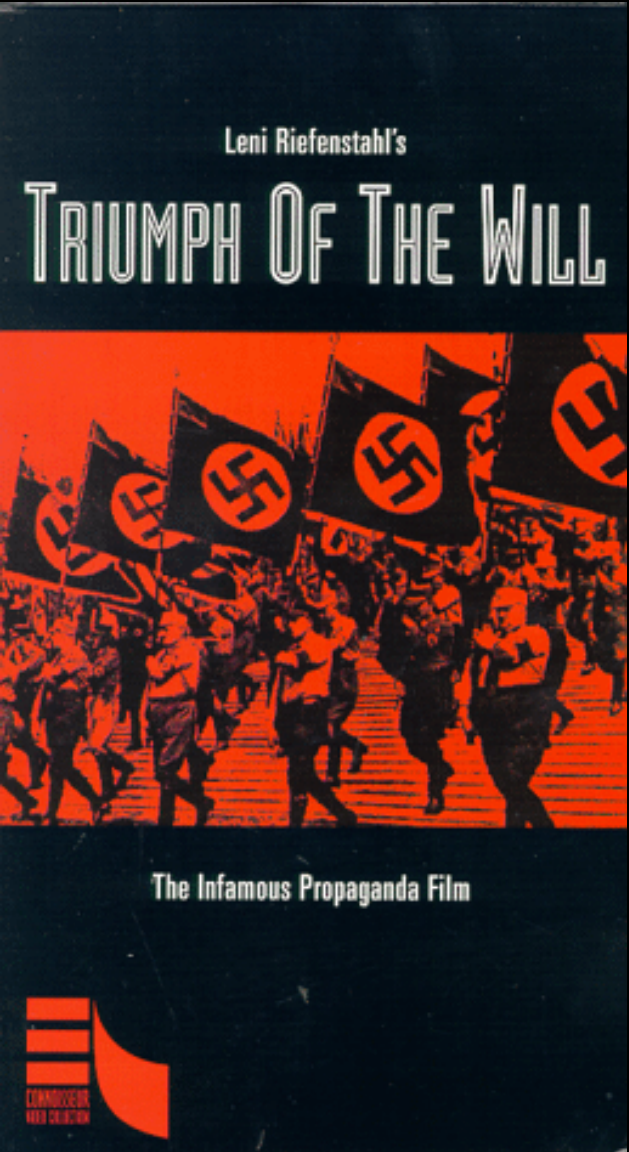
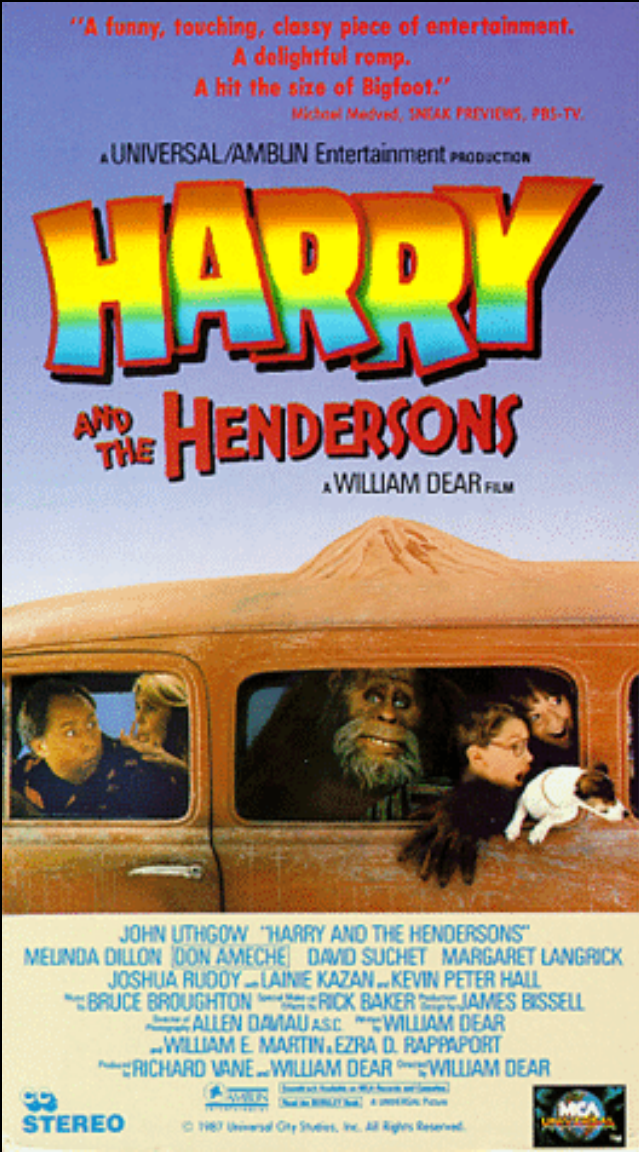
This bill comes as the latest in a string of good fortune for the prime minister, with Jordan officially releasing a statement that Chretien's absence from the funeral of King Hussein was "just

dandy because we were short on chairs anyway," and the pepper spray inquiry closing early reporting that "there was probably some involvement from the PM's office, but we're willing to give him the benefit of the doubt."



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Ape movies@www.choopters.ca



# WORLD

## EYE ON AL GORE

### Al Gore shot by lone gunman

Unsubstantiated Reports say that U.S. Vice-President Al Gore was shot at 10:15 this morning by, and this is very important, a single, lone crazed gunman who was not working for anyone much less an international conspiracy led by the CIA and/or the Freemasons. A Lone Gunman, You hear me?! One! Only!

### Al Gore gets sex change

Unconfirmed reports say that U.S. Vice-President Al Gore arrived in Zurich this morning to undergo surgery to remove his external genetalia and increase the size of his breasts to complete his gender-reassignment. Al, now called Allyssa, left the operating table late this afternoon and awoke feeling reportedly “sore, but happy.” The Vice-President’s decision to undergo the surgery came in the wake of his first sexual encounter.

### Al Gore reinforces ‘family values’ platform

Unconfirmed reports say that U.S. Vice President Al Gore has pledged to “support family values in any way possible” in a speech to lobbyists at a fundraising luncheon in Washington D.C. The Vice President is reported to have called for prayer in public schools, and a repeal of the second amendment. Christian Coalition President Pat Robertson was unimpressed by Gore’s Remarks.

### Al Gore lost at sea as Air Force II crashes

Preliminary reports place U.S. Vice President Al Gore on board Air Force II as it may have crashed into the Atlantic ocean off the coast near Martha’s Vineyard at 2:45 this afternoon. Search and Rescue helicopters are scouring the area looking for any sign of the Vice-President. Tipper Gore was near hysteria when talking to reporters. “I can’t believe my hubby’s gone! I want him so bad!”

### Al Gore kidnapped by aliens

Unconfirmed Reports say that U.S. Vice-President Al Gore was captured at 3:00 this afternoon by aliens loyal to the Galactic Trade Consortium. Consortium leaders, speaking through representative Kang, demanded \$1 000 000 000 for his safe return. Reporters were presented with Gore’s severed finger as proof of the Alien’s intent and ability. Authorities will be negotiating throughout the night.

### Al Gore wins lottery

Early Reports say that U.S. Vice-President Al Gore was among three people to hold winning tickets in the Michigan State Lottery and will take a share of the \$2 million dollar prize. “I don’t think the money will change me,” said Gore, who already has yearly earnings well exceeding \$10 million, “I guess I’ll just throw it on the pot.” The other two people could not be reached for comment. Gore spoke on their behalf.

## NYC mayor to strike at young black male homicide by promoting car accidents

By Mike Hammond

Under fire lately for the plight of young African-Americans in the inner city, New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced a program today designed to remove homicide from the top of the list of the leading causes of death of black males under the age of thirty by promoting car accidents.

“Our new mandate,” said Giuliani, “is a form of affirmative action. In the rest of the country, the most common cause of death and injury of the youth of the middle class is car accidents. We will endeavor to bring the untimely demises of our children in line with the rest of the country.”

Added Giuliani, “Death respects no boundaries: not class, not gender, not race. Death is color-blind, and the least we can do for our inner-city youth is to kill them in a more socially-acceptable way than the ignoble end most meet as crack whores or drug dealers.”

The program will initially concentrate on promoting the use of

intoxicants while and just prior to driving among those of the legal drinking age. This will include removing all restrictions on the closing hours of bars in the area and introducing a new “Guns for Beer” exchange program.

The second phase is expected to target 16- to 20-year-olds (those under the legal drinking age) by providing them with fake ID’s and offering the services of civil servants to buy alcohol for them.

Giuliani’s announcement was greeted with cautious optimism by leaders of the NYC civil rights movement.

“Mayor Giuliani’s efforts to improve the lot of our young deceased-to-be are admirable,” said NAACP president Kweisi Mfume at a rally in Central Park, “But we must be ever vigilant, and do everything we can to ensure our young people stop murdering each other with guns and drugs and do it with cars, like civilized people.”

“We, as a people, need the NYPD to cooperate with us in



Rudolph Giuliani

this,” added the Reverend Al Sharpton. “They must do what they know to be right in their hearts, and stop their abuse of the black youth. They must not presume all blacks to be either using or selling drugs; instead, they must do their part to put these youths behind the wheel of a car with poorly-maintained brakes. They must not pull over a car simply because an African-American is driving; instead, they must attempt to run such a car off the road.

“Then, and only then, can our society live up to the words of our founding fathers: that *all* men are created equal, and that we are *all* entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of the 150-mile-per-hour mark behind the wheel of a Duster or Z28.”

*Irrational Toast*

## NATO discovers reason for missile aiming blunders

### Imperial Stormtroopers piloting bombers

By Michael Thorsley

Under intense and growing international pressure to eliminate damage to civilian targets due to bombs straying off course, a NATO internal investigation has revealed that a squadron of bombers were being manned entirely by imperial stormtroopers.

The error occurred when a squadron of American air-force pilots participated in an exchange program with the Galactic Empire. Ordinarily, the troops received on exchange, the 312th stormtrooper division, would only study training techniques and never see actual battle, but when command of the troops was handed over to NATO, knowledge of the exchange program was lost in the paperwork.

“We didn’t realize that these

soldiers weren’t actually the 38th fighter squadron,” a NATO spokesman told reporters, “Despite their high-tech armor and weaponry, these troops haven’t really been trained in marksmanship.”

Reporters were then shown video footage provided by the Galactic Empire of an entire stormtrooper legion failing to stop a small handful of intruders from invading one of their “Death Star” platforms. Despite being armed with blaster rifles and firing them at often stationary targets, the stormtroopers still failed to score even one hit against the rebels. At one point, several dozen heavily-armed stormtroopers elected to run after an invader, rather than fire at him, obviously do to the greater probability of success of a “pile-on” operation, rather than relying on their skill with their weapons.

Another video tape showed a failed execution by firing squad. The prisoner was eventually set free, as the gunmen’s blasters ran

out of power before even once hitting the prisoner.

When asked about the shoddy training of his underlings, a senior Imperial military commander, the sith lord Darth Vader, said that, “when you have the ability [via his death star] to destroy a planet, you stop worrying about whether or not your troops can pick off individual inhabitants.”

Vader then caused the reporter who asked the question to choke to death. He then asked if there was any more criticism.

Despite their shortcomings, NATO has no plans to end the exchange program prematurely. “While they won’t be flying combat missions,” the NATO spokesman said, “They will be quite an asset in maintaining the shield generator around NATO headquarters. Also, should it come to a ground invasion, they are the only troops trained to pilot AT-ATs, with one of our boys filling the gunner position, of course.”

*Irrational Toast*

## “Playboy promotes homosexuality” Jerry Fallwell says

By Michael Thorsley

Conservative preacher Rev. Jerry Fallwell warned a packed audience of supporters to avoid letting their children read Playboy magazine as it can only lead to homosexuality later in life. Fallwell describes the magazine as “an obvious ploy by the evil atheist conspiracy to drag our children into hell.”

## Saddam Hussein calls for resignation of Bill Clinton

In what Democrat strategists are calling a “highly-partisan maneuver,” Iraqi head Saddam Hussein called for the resignation of American President Bill Clinton yesterday.

“Bill Clinton may have been acquitted of the articles of impeachment,” said Hussein. “But his shameful acts of lying to the American people are an outrage to the people of Iraq, and we respectfully ask for his resignation.”

Now that the impeachment trial of Clinton is over, White House officials were hoping that they could get back to running the country. However, with new demands for his resignation, Clinton is back in the hot-seat.

Many senior Republicans hailed the request as progress towards attaining peace in the Middle East.

“We are not alone in asking for Clinton to step down as president,” said Senator Henry Hyde. “This clearly is a victory for Republican-Iraqi relations.”

*Rooters*

“When looking at naked women, we can’t help but think about naked men,” Fallwell explained. “Perhaps they’ve just come from the gym where they’ve been working out in their spandex hot pants and muscle shirts and they’re all sweaty as they go to the showers and snap each other with wet towels against their tight, tight buttocks. Or maybe they’re out on the range wearing leather chaps and tending to the horses with their taut, rippling biceps and massive pectorals tanned golden-brown from a hard day’s work out in the sun when suddenly they’re all suddenly devoured by an uncontrollable carnal passion. All of this from what you might think is a harmless magazine. Temptation is everywhere, vigilance and carnal forbearance should be our watchwords.”

*Irrational Toast*

## Serb soldiers “just handing out milk and cookies” Milosevic says

In a firmly-worded statement on Serbian national television, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic criticized western leaders for bombing Serbian troops who were “just handing out milk and cookies to hungry Kosovars.”

Milosevic said that the milk and cookies were gifts from the ethnic Serbian people to the ethnic Albanians as a “gesture of friendship” to be followed by a “great big group hug.”

State TV cut away to show scenes of Kosovo Alabians enjoying freshly-baked cookies dipped in tall glasses of milk, speaking in holl voices they taste and smiling awkwardly. The red laser dots on their foreheads, viewers were assured, identified

## Global war seems less probable after birth of kitten

### Cute, little, furry kitty is so cute, little, furry

By Michael Thorsley

The world took one more step away from nuclear annihilation yesterday morning when U.S. President Bill Clinton, upon finding a stray cat who had just given birth to a litter of kittens, adopted one, the runt of the litter, for his very own.

“When I saw that poor little kitten, struggling against its litter-mates for its mother’s teats,” Clinton said, “I was reminded of how small and insignificant our struggles between nations are...and if this fuzzy little kitten can make it in such a rough world, then I think, so can humanity.”

Clinton immediately called an emergency summit of the world’s leaders to discuss the kitten’s situation.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin was also moved by the plight of the little kitten. “Looking at that cute and fuzzy face, who could stay mad at the imperialist western powers? When holding such a small dependent little animal, we know that we

these Albanians as being Hindus.

Milosevic also explained away the sightings of apparent mass graves by U.S. spy satellites. “Due to the criminal NATO bombing, we couldn’t get some of our milk to its intended recipients before the expiration date. Instead of leaving it where children could find it and drink it, we decided to bury the kittens in shallow pits. Don’t dig them up. They’re probably rotten.”

*Rooters*





# OBITUARIES

## GOD

# Divinity always tried to be there for everyone

“I AM THAT I AM”

Lord of Heaven  
and Earth

Friedrich Nietzsche announced it years ago; though premature, his statement now has the ring of prophecy. God is dead.

The death of God, also known as Yahweh, Adonai Elohim, Allah, and by dozens of other names, came as quite a shock to his literally billions of followers when it was announced today. “You’ve got to understand,” commented Rev. Howard Blakely of the First Pentacostal Assembly, “we’d always thought that the Good Lord was going to be there. Everyone had assumed that eternal life was part and parcel of the divine attributes, and let me tell you, there’s heaps of folk who have some serious thinking to do, now we know that it’s not.”

Atheists are as shocked, if somewhat more gratified. According to Carrie DeLong of Freethought International, “There was the initial start when we realised that someone had died who we’d never even thought existed, but after that, well, it’s pretty much business as usual.”

When it comes right down to it, you either loved Him or you hated Him; God was the sort that inspired strong emotions.

Very little is known about His early career. In fact, no records exist at all from before His “Creation of the World”, and most of those that date from just after this momentous event in God’s career are spotty and unreliable, prone to flights of metaphor instead of good solid fact. We can say, however, that “Creation”, as God devotees refer to it, has had a significant impact on the development of Western civilisation.

Another might have rested on his laurels, but God was devoted to His work. Sources say that,

after a marathon six-day session of creation, He rested for only a single day before getting back to work. This kind of work ethic was one of the things that fans of the late divine being loved about Him the most. “God was always there to help out,” explained a tearful Christina Denatska, mother of two; “He would keep going so that we didn’t have to. It was very comforting to know that he was there.”

Unfortunately, while He was quoted as saying that He saw all of His creations as “good”, God’s early work was not without the bitter sting of disappointment. In an event that has gone down in history as the “Fall of Man”, the first humans, called Adam and Eve, proved to be somewhat less than perfect. Critics have called God’s response to the betrayal excessively harsh, given that it was the newly-made humans’ first offense. God apologists disagree. “It was a matter of trust. God trusted Adam and Eve. They let Him down. Letting them off scot-free wouldn’t have taught them anything. I mean, sure, to forgive is divine and all that, but no one ever said that God had to be forgiving all the time,” explained Rev. Blakely.

Much of the rest of God’s career echoed his early work: well thought out, but never quite achieving His stated goals, often because he didn’t take human action into account. For several millennia following the “Apple Incident”, as God insiders like to call it, the Lord was somewhat touchy; according to observers, he did not take criticism well, and would brook no disobedience. Dr. Janos Karek, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto, interprets God’s behaviour during this period as, “akin to that of parents during their children’s adolescence. Humanity was growing up, and God didn’t feel that they were ready to face the world yet. Of course he became manipulative and controlling; most parents

acquire these traits, to some degree or another, when dealing with a rebellious teen-ager.”

Whether Dr. Karek’s theories are correct or not, about two thousand years ago, God apparently suffered a change of heart. The details, as is often the case concerning God’s personal life, are unclear. Various testaments concerning Jesus ben Joseph of Nazareth (0 - 33), the self-proclaimed “Son of God”, exist, but are rejected by many early devotees of God’s doings.

It seems clear, however, that it was around this time that God became somewhat less involved with his Creation. Few accounts of his activities over the last two millennia exist, and those that do suffer from severe credibility gaps. From what we know, the Supreme Being began to trust humans to find their own way, and started to leave many of the mundane operations of the universe to underlings, specifically the “Angels” and “Saints” so lauded in the popular imagination.

In fact, while never exactly familiar, God became more and more of a recluse in those fateful years before this final pass. He spoke so rarely that for years now, nearly anyone who has claimed to have direct contact with Him was presumed either lying or deranged. There were exceptions, of course, primarily within organized bodies of religion, but for the most part God had been forgotten by His children: only a name to frighten children with, nothing more.

God’s personal preferences and predilections, however, have always been a subject of popular debate. In fact, He has gone on record holding a bewildering variety of opinions, oftentimes contradictory to each other. While His attitudes towards such crimes as the murder of innocents and theft are common knowledge, numerous testimonials have been made regarding His thoughts on such diverse subjects as abortion, homosexuality, technology, just war, capi-



God was best known for His role in the creation of the universe and all it contains. However, as the focus of several majour religions, He was often seen as a figure of controversy.

tal punishment, and small yapping puppies.

God’s family was not available to comment on His death. However, our correspondent in Hell Konrad Henkin (deceased) reports the Adversary’s reaction to be gratified but pensive. Mr.

Satan commented that, while he had never gotten along with his Creator, he was somewhat at a loss on how to continue. He declined to comment on whether or not he would be attending the funeral.

We at the *Toast* wish to send

our condolences to everyone affected by God’s demise. So many of us, having avoided meeting our Maker for so many years, now find that we have lost the chance.

Matt Walsh,  
*Irrational Toast*

## TACO BELL CHIHUAHUA

# Popular dog was top of Spanish class

Tragedy has struck on the set of the latest commercial concerning Star Wars related prize giveaways at Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and Pizza Hut restaurant locations. The famed Taco Bell chihuahua has died at the age of four. Named “Gidget” (and sometimes affectionately called “Dinky”), this

dog first got her start when she was the only dog able to speak Spanish during the mascot auditions. Apparently the language had been an interest of her’s, and a few months prior to her becoming a celebrity was when she decided that it couldn’t hurt to give it a try. The first meaningful records of her life begin at this

point, where it seems that Gidget was able to consistently achieve top marks in her class. “She was quite an inspiration,” a classmate recalled. “After all, if a dog can speak a language, you know you should be able to as well.” The other vocal talent that she discovered at this time was her ability to make her voice sound dis-

tinctly male, a skill that seemed to have it’s origins during mishap in her youth involving a synthesizer, a nine volt battery and a fruitcake. A relative unknown until this point in her life, Gidget quickly began to gain recognition in local circles. And then when word got out that Taco Bell was auditioning for chihuahuas, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to put her skills to the test.

Everyone running the show at the casting call was immediately taken by the dog and her linguistic talents. Even better, the animal developed an immediate liking of the Mexican food offered to her. “The enthusiasm wasn’t an act,” assured her manager. “It’s surprising that this affinity for the food wasn’t discovered earlier. If it weren’t for me I think Gidget would have been happy getting paid in tacos.” And originally about eight pounds, the constant snacking on the food she was promoting did have some affect on her weight. When taking the final measurements for the mascot, the undertaker was heard to remark to his assistant, “I think I need a bigger box”.

Gidget’s popularity quickly soared as the Taco Bell mascot, though she actually narrowly

escaped a brush with death in a mishap during one of her first Godzilla commercial shoots. But having tapped into her natural acting ability, she was willing to continue on despite the risks. Unfortunately, the end seems to have now come at the hands of a large crate full of lightsabers that were to be used in a routine promotional scene. Investigation has revealed that the original packaging of the crate had been unbalanced, and it was foolishly placed on scaffolding situated next to a couple of tacos on the floor. Replacements for the Taco Bell promoter are currently being tendered, the leading contenders being another chihuahua, a chinchilla, and a wiener dog, although none of them can speak with the required accent.

The official cause of death has been ruled accidental, and this incident is being called a “regrettable affair” by all. Yet despite that, some suspicion has fallen on the Colonel of KFC, as further inquiries revealed that the chihuahua didn’t confine her harassment of the man to what is seen in the on-screen script. Indeed, the Colonel confided to the Pizza Hut delivery girl between takes that he was “tired of the constant pestering by that

animal about my secret chicken recipe”. However, as of this time the Colonel has given no statement to the press and no investigation into his activities is pending. The chihuahua leaves behind no children, as tacos were apparently her first love.

Greg Taylor,  
*Irrational Toast*



The Taco Bell chihuahua in he r prime.

## DEATH NOTICE

**KRUG, Johann M.D.** - Concluding a long, full, and satisfying life this past Sunday, July 25th. Beloved husband of Carol. Doting father of Rudolph, Anya, and Gerald. Friends and associates may call at the GRAVE MATTERS FUNERAL HOME this Friday, 1-4 and 6-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held on Saturday at noon in the GRAVE MATTERS FUNERAL HOME Chapel. Interment at GRAVE MATTERS FUNERAL HOME Graveyard. In lieu of flowers, remembrances to the Humber College Bursary Fund for Mortuary Arts would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements in the care of GRAVE MATTERS FUNERAL HOME. Associates note that Mr. Krug will rest with satisfied customers.



# COMMENT

## God save the Queen?



DORIS HAZARD

So what good is the Queen to us anyway?

The continued existence of the British monarchy in Canada would be laughable if it weren't so insulting. It gives the impression to the rest of the world that we're still some minor colony of the decadent British Empire that needs protection and guidance from our "Mother Country". Not to mention the continual slap in the face of Francophone Canadians, the constant reminder of their humiliating defeat and subjugation by the English. Plus, the Queen's not exactly a spring chicken, if you know what I mean, and the next in line is Bonnie Prince Charles, who's just an embarrassment to all Englishpeople right back to King Billy himself.

And so, the time has come for

Canadians to throw off the shackles of ancient imperialist oppression. Down with the British Monarchy! No, I'm not just advocating full separation of Canada from the Empire, although God knows that would be a welcome start. Such a simple gesture wouldn't even begin to right the wrongs committed in the name of the Monarchy. These crimes must be paid for in blood.

Thus I urge you: take up arms against the Royals! We must not rest until the entire House of Windsor lies dead at our feet. Dead, I say! And anyone who disagrees is probably a sympathizer who secretly yearns for a return to the days of thralldom, and thus deserves death. In fact, I am willing to offer a \$25,000 bounty to the man or woman who kills Her Majesty, Elizabeth II of England.

Speaking of ancient relics from the days of servitude, let's talk about the Senate. We have one because, well, England has one, and it's a good place to put aging political hacks who have served the current Prime Minister well. Usefulness? None. Let's wipe them out too.

*Irrational Toast*



## Seeing Dr. Claw's face ruins the movie for me



CHESTER BARFY

I am vastly disappointed and appalled with the new Inspector Gadget movie.

When most television shows are adapted for the big screen, they stay faithful to the original. The Avengers stayed true to Emma Peel and whatshisname. The makers of the Flintstones feature went to great lengths making sure every noun spoken aloud in the movie included a 'rock', 'stone', or 'boulder'. Even the Star Trek films continued the properties set down by the classic television series: visit a planet, blow up some ships, give some characters some angst, and toss in some monologues.

But Disney, who has conscientiously and carefully adapted small screen gems like George of the Jungle and Mr. Magoo, has gone too far this time by revealing the face of Dr. Claw in the new Inspector Gadget film.

The titular protagonist in the multimillion dollar undertaking is the reasonably popular movie star Rupert Everett, well-known as being on several "should have been nominated for an Academy Award" lists for his performance in My Best Friend's Wedding.

While Don Adams will always be Gadget in the hearts and minds of countless Generation X twenty- and thirtysomethings, the 1999 version of the dogood yet clumsy mechanical policeman is Matthew Broderick, an actor who has ruined otherwise good movies like Cable Guy, Godzilla and The Freshman. Ferris Bueller aside, it's disenheartening seeing Broderick still in the acting business.

The original show, by declining to reveal the shadowy face of Dr. Claw, instilled a kind of fear in young impressionable minds. With only a voice to go by, viewers had to imagine themselves what the big man looked like, and that image would most likely come by the persona of whatever that viewer found evil in the world. Dr. Claw could have the face of Hitler, Stalin, or Nixon. The unseen facade of Claw maintained the respect he needed over the show's seven years on the air. Sooner or later, authorities would figure out what Cobra Commander looks like, put out an APB and arrest the sucker. With Dr. Claw, you have a man who has committed countless dastardly deeds, and yet has a face that no policeman can identify. "Uh, could you put out a code red on a man...draped in shadows...always with a big smiling cat?"

Damn you Hollywood!

*Irrational Toast*



## Why we need the bomb



MOODY SIMMONS

It's a sad, sad world out there when our nation's efforts at peacekeeping are hampered by our own troops.

Over the past decade, Canada has sent numerous "peacekeeping" forces into war-torn areas, often under the aegis of the United Nations, and more often then not they've gotten themselves into trouble. Torturing the locals. Sexual harassment within the ranks. Looking silly in uniforms. The list goes on. It's enough to make a discerning observer think that we've got the wrong idea.

Not about the necessity for keeping world peace, of course. Canada has built up too much goodwill (in between major blunders) on the international stage by our willingness to meddle with other peoples' wars, for us to give up the concept completely. The problem, as is so often the case, lies in the human factor. To wit: humans do not make good peacekeepers.

It's only natural, if you think about it. We've gotten this far, evolutionarily speaking, through competition. It's not to our advantage as a species to make our competitors stop fighting each other; rather, the more they fight, the weaker they are when we come in to mop up.

It's time, then, to look at post-human solutions, if you would. Solutions that don't involve the vagaries of human aggressions, that don't come down to face-to-face contact between stupid hu-

mans. Solutions that involve nuclear weapons.

The concept of preemptive war was first advanced in the fifties by such preeminent thinkers as John Von Neumann (the famous mathematician) and Bertrand Russell (an even more famous philosopher). While rejected at the time by the naïve, foolish Americans of that era, the idea nonetheless has significant merit. When it comes to keeping peace, nothing does a better job than the capability to utterly annihilate anyone who disagrees. Consider the Cold War; for four decades, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. stared at each other across the globe, but neither dared to attack the other. Why? Nuclear weapons.

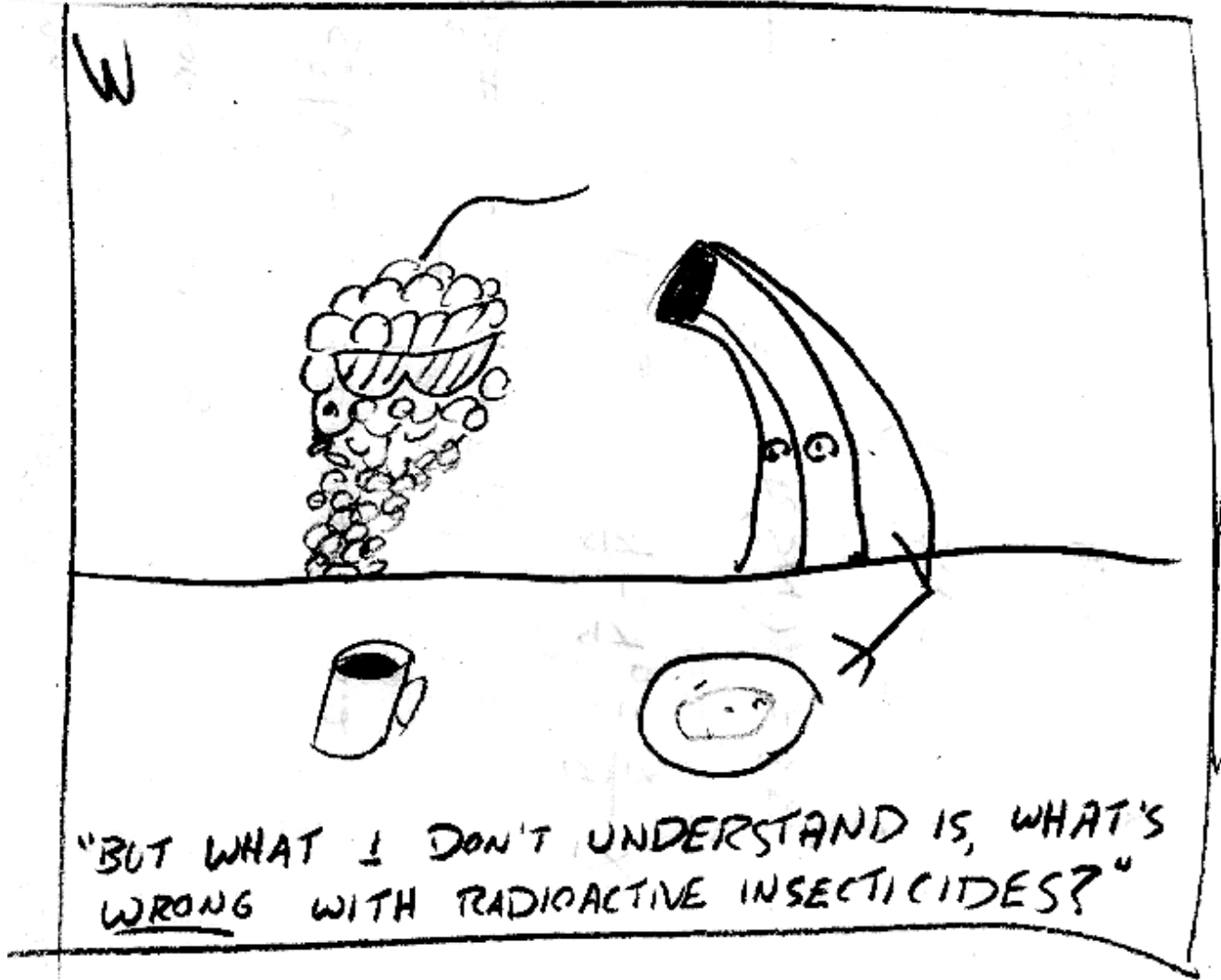
**WHEN IT COMES TO KEEPING PEACE, NOTHING DOES A BETTER JOB THAN THE CAPABILITY TO UTTERLY ANNIHILATE ANYONE WHO DISAGREES**

In this age of "global harmony" and "co-operation", most countries are decommissioning their nuclear arsenals. Thus, this is a time of opportunity for forward-thinking Canadians who care about peace to ensure it for good, or else. ICBMs are available at bargain prices right now, and if we don't get them, then you just know that Saddam Hussein will.

So our choice is simple: peace -- on our terms -- or slavery to the whims of a madman. What do you think?

*Irrational Toast*

### GUEST CARTOON









# DISCOVERY

*The newest revelation to come from NASA’s space telescope gives scientists pause*

## Latest Hubble results support geocentric model of universe

By DEREK KISMAN

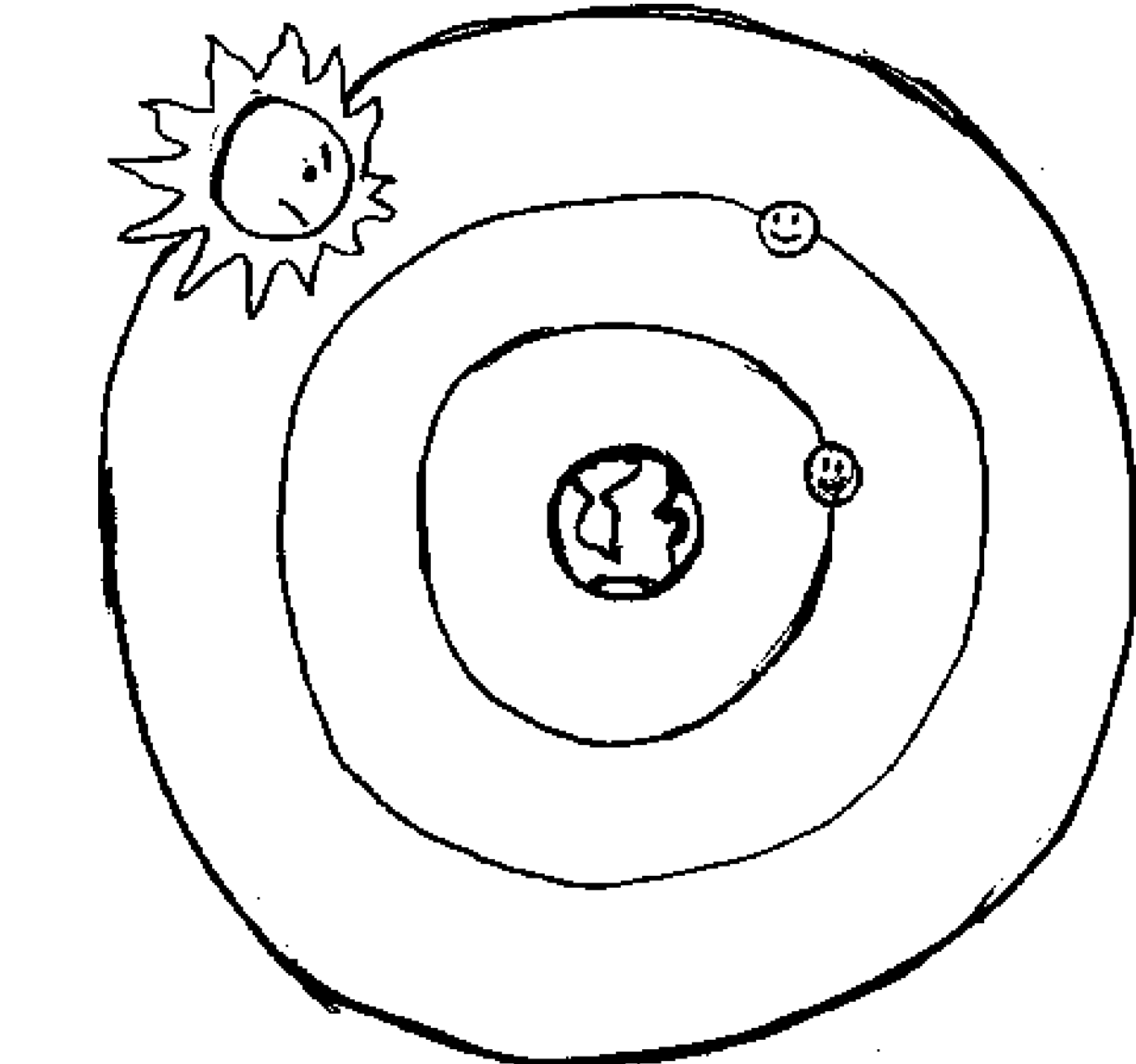
The scientific community is up in arms over recent Hubble Space Telescope results. The newest images, little over two days old, seem to clearly indicate that the Universe is steadily revolving around the Earth. Those in the know are baffled, and those who neither understand space nor care about it are forced to write about it since their regular column on Cricket scores was shut down due to layout issues.

While NASA officials work around the clock verifying that the spacegoing telescope is operating nominally, the photos have sparked dramatic and fevered debate between the various cosmological factions of the scientific community. Tempers are rising and few know what to think about these new developments.

The photos, to the naked eye, merely show a couple of uninteresting stars and coffee stains left by a negligent operator on the graveyard shift. But to an advanced Doppler Shift Refraction Index Decoupling Parallel Processing DooHickey, they are an ill omen signaling the end of everything astronomers have accomplished in the last 300 years.

According to NASA, the results seem to indicate that either the Universe is a uniform sphere about 50000 miles in diameter, rotating slowly around the Earth, or the camera on the Telescope is wobbling slightly. Indignant engineers quickly discounted the second possibility.

When questioned as to why nobody had noticed this before, NASA experts just shrugged and chalked it up to experimental error. “Astronomers simply assumed they needed to set the tolerances higher in their equations,” quoted



the President of NASA, who asked that his name be withheld.

Asked how in the world they’d managed to make manned excursions to the moon, which would lie considerably beyond this sphere’s shell, they shifted uneasily and said that certain small facets of the moon landings, such as their existence, may have been fabricated to make the Communists nervous. When

pressed they admitted most of their satellites were still in drydock. “We just use AM radio waves to transmit GPS locations; it works just as well,” the President admitted. “At least the Hubble Space Telescope is up there. It is all set to provide us with a wealth of information on distant galaxies. . . er, I suppose, nearby galaxies.” When we requested more information on Hubble’s findings,

he smiled tolerantly and promised to reveal all at a later date.

Creationist philosophers have reviled the new findings, saying that these findings counteract everything the church and churchgoing public have believed for hundreds of years. “Any #!\$@ing idiot knows the Earth revolves around the #!\$@ing sun. Who the @\$!\$ do these bastards think they’re fooling?”,

the Pope was quoted as saying. Other theologians contend that the findings are merely the first stage of the Apocalypse, and point to several Bible passages which predict exactly this. Challenged about the applicability of these passages, they smiled tolerantly and promised to reveal all at a later date.

Expansionist Model advocates, calling a press conference, triumphantly announced that this result has been predicted by their newest Quantum-Gravity equations and the joint Olla-Kraka-Chit simulation. Pointing to the remarkable similarity between their astronomical predictions and Ptolemy’s epicycles, they emphasize that the pictures come as no surprise to them and, in fact, merely reassert their dominance in the field. Asked for more theoretical predictions, they smiled tolerantly and promised to reveal all at a later date.

Aristotlian advocates, the first of their kind in 600 years, convened a hurried meeting to discuss administration details and a global code for their new chapters. Plans for regular Bingo nights and potlucks are already underway. Regarding the significance of the Hubble results, their leader reportedly said “Whoa man, what a rush!” Asked to elaborate, he smiled tolerantly and promised to reveal all at a later date.

Nobody ever asks my opinion, and technically I’m not supposed to print it, but I think that this is all merely a hoax put on by the American Government in league with the Jamaican Illuminati and the Mafia to raise the price of tweed in an attempt to corner the world market. It’s obvious if you think about it, really.

By the way, last night’s Cricket game score was 6 to 3 for the Australian team. If you need more information, I promise to reveal all at a later date.

*Irrational Toast*



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## Life found on Mars

New development  
delights scientists,  
subscribers

By GREG TAYLOR

A group of scientists have announced what may be the most surprising find of this century. Apparently a covert examination of the planet Mars has been underway for years, coordinated by the organization WISDUM (Wise Individuals Solving Diverse UFO Mysteries), and their recent investigations culminated yesterday in a press conference. Led by the leader of the five primary scientists, this conference explained that the discovery by WISDUM was, “Life, but not as we know it”. Perhaps an understatement, given that their secret experiments, which included the launching of a small probe at the red planet years ago, resulted in photographs taken on Mars that include a picture of an issue of ‘Life’ magazine - carefully preserved in a presumably airtight package.

“It really was a shock seeing that image come up on my screen,” admitted Fox, another scientist in WISDUM. “But there’s no denying it; for I actually hold the proof here in my hand.” What is equally as startling is that the images displayed by Fox indicated that this not a historical relic of an ancient civilization, but is instead an issue of ‘Life’ magazine that will not be published for another ten years. Yet the image is fuzzy, which implies either a hoax, a publicity stunt, or some freak time travel accident. Dr. Beckett, also a member of the team, prefers the latter explanation. “I mean, those sorts of accidents happen all the time,” he asserts. “Plus ‘Time’ is also the name of a magazine, so there’s a definite correlation here.” His beliefs are echoed by the other doctor on the team, one “Doc” Brown.

Reactions by those at the press conference, however, were reserved at best. “I mean, it’s delightful to think that I can renew my subscription in confidence,” observed a reporter for the Toronto Numb, “but how do we know the articles inside this magazine are any good?” Apparently there’s no way of telling, since the probe sent to Mars can only record images, and it is unable to manipulate anything it finds. An oversight? Perhaps, but as Brown noted, “do you think we would still be in these jobs if we had the money to build something that sophisticated?”

Certainly this discovery is a matter of pride for these elite five, as they have been searching for something of this nature for many years, almost to the point of disillusionment. Mr. Solo, the fifth team member, remarked, “When Fox first came running into the control room shouting ‘There’s Life on Mars, there’s Life on Mars!’, I just thought he’d finally found what was left of that candy bar we lost in the computer room several months ago. But as it turned out he was talking about the planet!” Added Beckett, “Who knows where that candy bar is now...”

Efforts are underway to try and retrieve the Life itself, but it isn’t believed that such efforts will have much chance of success for at least another ten years. In the meantime, a follow-up investigation is supposed to reveal whether there is actually any correlation between this event and actual martians. The scientists are also hoping to extend their examinations to other planets, anticipating equivalent success. The first option presented was that of Mercury. “After all, we have several flasks full of it in the lab,” Fox quipped. But as to the Life on Mars, the whole experience was nicely summed up in one word, uttered at the conclusion of the conference by WISDUM’s enigmatic leader: “Fascinating”.

*Irrational Toast*



Mars, the fourth planet of our solar system, has long fascinated space-minded observers. This new discovery has set many Mars-watchers into frenzies of wonderment; who knows what other magazines might await mankind’s eyes, covered by the shifting dunes?



# TOAST II

IRRATIONAL TOAST, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

## ARTS & LIFE

*Julia Roberts new movie is a romantic comedy. Will audiences adapt?*



Julia Roberts likes taking risks.

In her new film, *Runaway Bride*, she plays a woman who has dumped four different grooms at the altar. In comes freelance journalist Richard Gere (and let me tell you, not all freelance journalists look or act like Richard Gere) to profile her for his newspaper column. She starts having second thoughts about her current groom, and falls for Richard. Your typical romantic comedy.

Will Roberts first foray into the genre leave audiences reeling?

"I hope not," said Roberts in New York. "I figure I'm in pretty good hands with (director) Garry Marshall."

Marshall feels that an actor has to have a cer-

tain quality to them to perform believably in a romantic comedy.

"You have to portray a character that is in love with someone other than the top-billed male actor in the film, and then gradually fall in love with that top-billed actor," said Marshall at the press junket for *Runaway Bride*. "I'm pretty sure that Julia can pull that off."

Roberts, known mainly for her guest-appearances on NBC shows like *Friends* and *Law & Order*, says that starring in a romantic comedy was something she's been wanting to do for a long time.

"I'm more used to surprising the audience with my roles, like when I dump Chandler in the bathroom leaving him in female underwear," said

Roberts. "With a romantic comedy, everyone in the audience knows right from the start that I'm going to end up marrying Richard Gere at the end of the movie. I've really got to be a lot more interesting in this role in order to keep the audience from leaving."

Marshall admits that the studio forced him to cut the original ending of the film, where Roberts' character ends up running away from Gere's character at the altar as well.

"The studio made the point that they'd like to make some money on this film," said Marshall. "And since I've got points on the gross, I have to agree with them."

Gere, known mainly for starring in bad dramas, said that he feels comfortable performing

in the romantic comedy genre.

"In most of the movies I've done, the girl dies or is sent to prison or something. I'm pretty happy to do a movie where, no matter what kind of a jerk I am throughout the film, I end up with the girl at the end," said Gere.

Roberts said that she will most likely return to guest appearing on NBC shows in the future.

"I can now say that I've done a romantic comedy," said Roberts. "I feel like I've accomplished what I've wanted to say in this genre, and can move on to other things, like horror, science fiction, drama, documentary, tragedy, Shakespeare, mystery, musical, and perhaps a regular comedy."

*Irrational Toast*



# AVE



The Davis Centre



Confusing doors on Biology 1.

# The University of Waterloo



The entrance to the Games Museum in the Applied Health building



A student does laundry in Village 1



# NUE



Burt Matthews Hall



The greenhouse



The underground hallway between South Campus Hall and Arts Lecture Hall

## Architecture & Design



Volleyball outside the Student Life Centre







Tinky-Winky to demonstrate heterosexuality on-screen

FLIPSIDE

Filming has just wrapped up on a special episode of the popular children’s TV show, Teletubbies. The episode, guest starring Pamela Anderson, hopes to finally cast aside rumors that one of the main characters, Tinky-Winky, is gay.

It features a twenty-minute sex scene in which Tinky-Winky makes explicit and passionate love to Pamela, leaving absolutely no question as to his sexual preference, as well as finally indicating what those things on top of the teletubbies’ heads are for.

“We came to the conclusion that this is the only way we can reassure concerned parents out there that all of the Teletubbies are God-fearing heterosexuals and are a good influence on today’s toddlers,” said a spokesperson for the production company.

Pamela Anderson had said in the past that sex scenes were behind her, but decided to change her mind after seeing how much her own baby enjoys

the program.

“I wanted to help,” said Anderson. “I felt that Tinky-Winky had been given a bad rap by certain right-wing people, and I knew in my heart of hearts that his sexuality was one which I could help prove.”

When apprised of the fact that one of the condoms used on set had a hole in it, Tinky-Winky would only comment “Uh-oh.” The episode is slated to air later this week. *Michael Thorsley, Toast staff*



Tinky-Winky will be demonstrating his manly heterosexuality next week.

98<sup>0</sup>’s Jeff moves to Backstreet Boys as number one pick in 1999 Boy Band Draft

BY CHADWICK SEVERN

The most popular member of the boy band 98<sup>0</sup> was the top draft pick of the 1999 Boy Band Draft.

Jeff, who consistently ranks in the high 40s in opinion polls, was seen as many in the music industry as the top pick in this year’s draft.

While nobody was surprised that Jeff, an 6-foot-4 alto, was the first pick on Monday, there were several surprises during the three-hour long draft proceedings.

N’Sync chose Toronto-based Peter Luciano from the band V.I.P. as their first pick.

“I’m really excited to be their first pick,” said Peter after donning the N’Sync cap and shirt. “I hope I can make a good contribution to the band.”

Asked whether his bee-bopping would fit in with the smooth sounds of N’Sync, Peter said that he felt it would be a good match.

“I’m going to hop on a plane and meet the band tomorrow, and we’ll start practicing on the weekend. We’ll have to juggle around a few songs to work in some solos for me.”

Tom Lamos, manager for N’Sync, felt that the group could use some new faces to mix things up a bit.

“I think Peter is going to be the new poster boy of N’Sync,” said Lamos shortly after the draft.

“This is an exciting time to be running a boy band.”

Lamos also grabbed Magnetix member Todd during the second round.

“We feel that Todd will one day be a solid member of N’Sync, or perhaps a spin-off band from N’Sync,” said Lamos.

“We’ll let Todd into the recording studio to dabble a bit with the band, but he’ll probably not be a full member of N’Sync for a couple of albums.”

The Backstreet Boys added three new faces to the group, and is looking to trade for another, according to manager Jerry Watly.

“With eight members, I think we may be a bit heavy in the alto and bass departments,” said Watly. “I’d really like to trade Howie and Kevin for a singer with some more range, and get our numbers down to a more manageable level.”

Both bands moved up the Billboard charts with the moves, and both hope to improve their numbers on a yearly basis.

“We take each day one at a time,” said Watly. “One gig here, another there, a recording session here, a signing session there. I’m confident that we will remain frontrunners for many years to come, especially with the infusion of talent that we have had this season.”

*Irrational Toast*

Results of the 1999 Boy Band Draft



98<sup>0</sup>’s Jeff



Back Street Boys



V.I.P.’s Peter



N’Sync

TOM ARNOLD REITERATES DESIRE THAT TRUE LIES 2 BE FILMED

BY CHADWICK SEVERN

Hollywood star Tom Arnold appeared on several talk shows last week reiterating his desire to appear in a sequel to the motion picture True Lies.

Arnold impressed Leeza’s audience by saying that he would be willing to put all of his other projects on hold if Jim Cameron gave him a call to say the movie was on. Arnold confirmed off-camera that the projects he was referring to included several commercials and an appearance at the opening of the Highland Valley Mall in Asaka, Japan.

Arnold starred in the original True Lies along with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis. The movie went on to become 1994’s third-highest grosser with nearly \$150 million.

Citing the fact that most sequels don’t go forward due to the lack of interest by the stars or the original, Arnold pointed out that he was very much interested in playing the role of Albert “Gib” Gibson again.

“If Jim was thinking of not doing True Lies 2 because Arnold, Jamie and I didn’t want to do it, I just want to make it clear that at least one of us wants to make it,” said Tom Arnold. “That would be me.”

Arnold later said that if the sequel isn’t made, he would be happy to appear in whatever movie Cameron would make next.

*Irrational Toast*

NBC to air 7 new episodes of Friends on Friday at 2 a.m.

NBC chief makes surprise announcement after fifth sambouka

BY CHADWICK SEVERN

In a surprising move, a drunk NBC chief announced that the network would air seven new episodes of the hit TV show Friends back-to-back at 2 a.m. this Friday.

“I just love Friends so much, don’t you?” said Harv Wallis, who became the top man at NBC earlier this year, and became drunk at 2 a.m. last night. “I mean, we got the episodes, and we got people who want to see those episodes, and so I put two and two together, and I say we air those episodes on Friday! At

2 a.m.! Yeah! Are those pretzels?”

The episodes, which were originally scheduled to premiere in September as a part of the new fall season, are hastily being finished by Warner Bros. to meet the pushed-up deadline.

“We feel confident that we can deliver the seven episodes of Friends in time,” said Warner Bros. spokesperson June Molly.

After sobering up the next morning, Wallis made attempts to undo the abrupt schedule change.

“Ah shit,” said Wallis after hanging up on a conference call with top affiliates throughout the United States. “We’re locked into Friday at 2 a.m. It’s too late to change it. FCC rules, you know.”

Always looking on the bright side of things, Wallis called a

press conference to get the word out about the unprecedented new-episode summer marathon.

Viewers will be able to see the conclusion to the May cliff-hanger much sooner than anticipated, when the episodes reveal the fall-out from the quickie Ross-Rachel marriage, Joey’s delayed movie, and Monica’s and Chandler’s impending wedding.

“My drunken slip-up will be a boon to the viewing public,” said Wallis at the conference. “Incredible all-new block programming like this is something you won’t see on cable or pay-TV.”

During the 1998-99 season, Friends regularly pulled down a 25 rating, 30 share of the viewing audience.

Wallis admits that the early morning slot for these seven episodes will probably lead to a

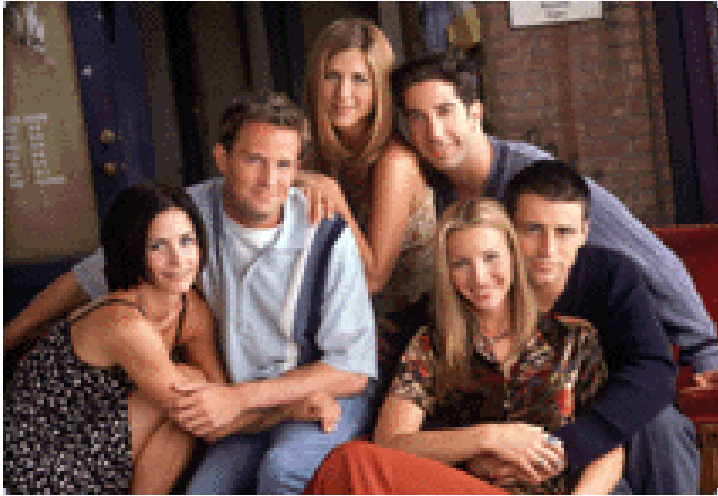
slightly smaller rating.

“Only NBC’s promotions department can save me now,” said Wallis.

The advertising department went into a frenzy of promo blitzing a few minutes after Wallis’ decision. Tagged as a “Must See Friday Morning” event, commercials for the Friends-a-thon have aired during every commercial break on NBC since the announcement.

With only 15 new episodes of Friends left for the 1999-2000 season, Variety predicts that NBC will have a hard time spreading them out over the course of the year.

“I can see one of two things happening at NBC,” said Variety writer Jenny Honest. “Either new episodes of Friends will be confined to the sweeps months of November, February and



The cast of NBC’s Friends

May, or the show will be aired in two more seven-episode Friday morning blocks.”

When the news of new Friends episodes leaked, the competing networks reacted swiftly.

ABC and Fox will

counterprogram by airing infomercials during the 2 a.m. slot. CBS has decided to air four repeats of Diagnosis Murder in order to draw as many in the adults 29-55 market as possible.

*Irrational Toast*

GOING TO THE MOVIES



Eyes Wide Shut’s female star, Nicole Kidman.

Eyes Wide Shut or Austin Powers?

Eyes Wide Shut is in many ways Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me. Both films star Tom Cruise and Mike Myers. Both films are a comedy and a sexy melodrama. Both films have scenes where the antagonist of the film goes “Shh!” over and over. Both films have huge orgies where everyone wears masks.

How would one tell these two very similar films apart? Well, you could go by the title, for one. One of them is called Eyes Wide Shut, and one of them is called Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me. Another clue would be the credits at the end

of the film. If the director is a master of his profession who has recently passed away, you know which film you’ve seen, and no, Alfred Hitchcock has been dead for many, many years, so it wasn’t The Birds that you just saw.

Trying to decide on which film to go see is a difficult choice. Your best bet would be to consult the movie directories available over the phone, on the Internet, or in any newspaper besides this one. Then, figuring out which films are playing where, go to the theatre which is closest to you, and see the next film that will be spooling off the projector.

It’s hard for reviewers like myself to review two

extrordinarily similar films. I hope that you have an easier time of it. If you catch onto any subtle differences that I may have missed, please email them to me. I’d be happy to mention them in a future edition of this column.

Come to think of it, there is one big difference between the two films. One is longer than the other.

I think I’m going to go lie down for a while to see if anything else comes to me. I know that this newspaper pays me to note these things. I’ll find some. I’m sure of it.

**Bottom Line:** Go see both movies and bring your notepad. You’ll be surprised at what you see!

*Irrational Toast*



# TORONTO

**Do you have chemistry?** The Ontario Science Centre opens its new exhibit on acids, displaying a wide range of uses for acids, from papier mâché volcanoes to burning people. That’s from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Don Mills. **It’s mayor time** Come meet Mayor Mel Lastman in Mel Lastman Square. Mel Lastman will be serving cake and will

## T.O. TODAY

be the last man there, maybe until 10 p.m. **Hot enough for you?** There will be a fire in the Beaches area tonight, when arsonist Gary Toople will be loose on Queen Street. Expect a bunch of firetrucks

to block the Queen streetcar at around 6:24 p.m. **Live up the life** The CN Tower will be running its elevators today, as its experimental “Take the stairs, go for free” program is cancelled. **Toronto weather** There will be clouds, there will be sun, and there will be fun, fun, fun. *Irrational Toast*

## Streetcar-firetrucks experiment over

Firetrucks that use streetcar tracks unable to cover entire city

By Chadwick Severn

A disappointed Trevor Simpson, one of the chairpersons of the Toronto Transit Commission, confirmed yesterday that the firetrucks equipped to run on streetcar tracks will no longer be in service.

“Like the Red Rockets and PCCs before it, an era has come to an end,” Simpson said.

When Metro Toronto was merged into one megacity, the new Toronto council decided to merge all of the fire departments together with the TTC. The TTC was reluctant to take on additional duties in Toronto, but caved in quickly when the government promised them some money.

The TTC has had a bus shortage for several years now, so the Toronto Council and the TTC were leaning towards using the fire trucks already in their possession. This changed when the Ontario Government stepped in and insisted that they use a new prototype streetcar-firetruck

combination called the Peter Wett.

The Wett, developed and built in Sudbury by Ontario Government-owned Tonka Industries, was hailed by the Ontario Government as the future of fire fighting. Equipped with two large water tanks, three hoses, plus an array of sophisticated fire-retarding systems, the Wett could put out house fires in four-fifths of the time it takes for regular firetrucks.

A test run for the Wett was held in March, and was a huge success. The Wett was at Spadina station, and responded to a fake call at King and Spadina in record time.

“The streetcar tracks down Spadina are in their own right-of-way, meaning that we can zip right down without worrying about cars getting in the way. We would have been two minutes faster if we didn’t knock our pole off the wire going so fast around Spadina Circle,” said Gord Lasenby, the driver of the trial-run Wett.

Most of the streetcar tracks in Toronto however, do not have their own right-of-way.

“But the streetcar-firetrucks have a higher capacity of water. We may get there a few minutes



The Peter Wett firetruck in the High Park streetcar loop.

late, but we’ll have tons of water to toss at the fire!” replied Lasenby.

In the time that the Wett’s have been in operation, seventeen houses and businesses have burned to the ground. Investigations have revealed that the reason why most of them burned down was because they were

nowhere near streetcar tracks, preventing the Wett’s from making a timely rescue. The most recent house to burn down was on Church Street, which does have streetcar tracks, but the Wett did not make it in time to the house. The siren had malfunctioned and the only noisemaker left at the firemen’s

disposal was the familiar streetcar gong. Cars ignored the gong, and the Wett was blocked at the Church/King intersection.

Unfortunately, the Ontario Government did not foresee the problem of running a firetruck on streetcar tracks. Toronto has no useable tracks north of St. Clair Street, and only on certain

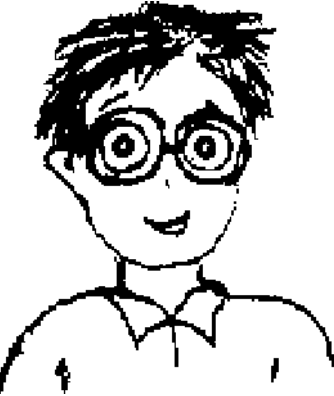
major streets south of St. Clair.

“Whoops,” said Hamilton Southeast MPP George Hanson. “We thought that Toronto had streetcar tracks all over the city. You know, that’s what we heard.”

Hanson later admitted that he is completely clueless.

*Irrational Toast*

## Megacity still too small



Time to continue beyond phase one

By Greg Taylor  
City Columnist

I think that it’s time to consider expanding Toronto once again, from our tiny megacity into a multimegacity, or something along those lines. I mean, what’s a mere two and a half million people? Why settle for fifth place among North American metropolises? We can do better than that! Let’s really, really get ourselves noticed! (Hey, things can’t really get any worse, right?)

We can start with Vaughan, “the city above Toronto”. What’s with that slogan anyway? It seems to imply that they’re better than us. I don’t think so! And of course along with Vaughan, it’s natural to grab Markham too. Then to balance everything out (in a somewhat symmetrical fashion), grab some of Durham county – especially

Pickering – and all of Peel. Yes, the whole district. Peel doesn’t look that big anyway, and who’s going to miss it? Plus many people mistake Mississauga as being part of Toronto already. Either that or they think it’s a misspelling of Mississippi. So we nicely get rid of all those problems at once.

Now, we specify this set of acquisitions to be Phase 2 of a ten phase plan - implementing the master plan in stages to ensure that no one gets suspicious until it’s too late. And in the meantime, everyone gets the opportunity to sit up and take more notice of us. Note that while the actual timeline has yet to be formalized, it is my belief that by Phase 6, Ottawa should have become the newest addition to Toronto, meaning that Toronto will become the new nation’s capital. This is naturally in addition to it being the capital of Ontario, though Phase 7 should quickly render that a moot point,

**MANY PEOPLE MISTAKE MISSASSAUGA AS BEING PART OF TORONTO ALREADY**

when all of the province is absorbed and Toronto becomes the capital of itself. The last three phases will involve incorporating the rest of Canada. Then it is during the final phase that the position of “the mayor of Toronto” will be renamed to be “the Prime Minister of Toronto”, for

the sake of tradition. Incidentally, this should also improve Toronto’s reputation, as Canada is highly ranked among countries of the world, and those few individuals who have bad things to say about the city usually like the country as a whole. Logically, this is also a good selling point when seeking later expansion into the United States (looking beyond the last phase).

Of course, some of you may be against this plan; indeed, you may recall I was against the first amalgamation back when I was the Scarborough columnist.

But at this point I think that I’m really starting to connect with the whole Toronto atmosphere. I have adjusted to the community, and I no longer believe that these feelings are something that should remain confined within a mere six municipalities. The Toronto experience is something that should be shared. And there are definite benefits to the expansion plan; even at Phase 2, the expansion of our subway system out to Mississauga could generate many jobs in construction alone! And by changing the ‘Canada’ section of our newspaper into the ‘Toronto’ section, the old ‘Toronto’ section can be removed, saving paper and helping the environment!

And of course, as a final bonus, in working to create a new multimegamegacity we might get to have another vote for mayor this year... and if we do, I really doubt that I’ll be voting for Lastman.

*Irrational Toast*

## Toronto police take part in “Guns for helicopters” program

Force will trade in firearms to acquire police helicopter

By Chadwick Severn

Toronto police will be giving up their guns and other weapons as a part of a deal made with Bombardier to get a helicopter.

The aviation company will give the police force one helicopter for every set of 10,000 guns that it receives.

“This will go a long way towards eliminating guns in this city,” said Mayor Mel Lastman. “We’ll get our helicopter, and it going to be the best helicopter in the world. Crime will drop hundreds of percent. This is an incredible deal!”

*Irrational Toast*



This device would catch Toronto criminals in the act.



The police helicopter that the Toronto police want to use.

IF YOU LISTEN TO STAR 730, YOU COULD WIN \$100. YOU WON'T, BUT YOU COULD!



The Guru goes out in search for information on little painted white lines, and writes this article about it

TRAFFIC GURU

Dear Traffic Guru, Go downtown and have a look at Adelaide Street. Why are the white lines painted on Adelaide Street several millimetres thicker than those painted on Richmond Street?

Upon receiving this letter I rushed out and examined the white lines painted on both streets, and discovered to my amazement that the Adelaide ones are indeed slightly thicker than their counterparts on Richmond.

I immediately phoned the top man at Toronto’s transportation department, Rich Cerilius, to get to the bottom of this diabolical discrepancy. Cerilius invited me over to his office, which is a wonderful pad on Queen Street near Toronto City Hall. The transportation offices are quite magnificent, and contain lots of neat maps and such; there’s not a bare wall in the place. Cerilius fixed me up a coffee, as he showed me the blueprints for the “bur-

ied” Gardner, which is a sight to behold. Just like the Big Dig in Boston, this is something the federal government should definitely get involved in. Can you imagine having Toronto’s waterfront accessible from downtown? Anyways, I’m getting off-track. Rich’s office has several great paintings of old Toronto buildings, like Toronto’s first post office, and that funky-shaped building on Front. Rich sat me down—his chairs have great back sup-

port—and he gave me the whole scoop on the Adelaide-Richmond white line issue: “How the hell do I know? It’s a god damn line! I’ve got better things to do than run around with rulers and measure freaking lines on the roads, you know.”

Send your inane or interesting questions about Toronto’s traffic or transportation to Traffic Guru, The Irrational Toast. Include your address so that we can come over and ask you stupid questions too. Like why are the flowers on your front lawn in such bad condition?

# Eleven die in deep-water cooling incident

By MATT WALSH

Tragedy struck Toronto’s downtown core yesterday, when a design flaw was discovered in the new “deep water” cooling pipe, which was already in operation.

Employees of the financial management firm of Brooks Associates were extremely surprised to discover fish in their air conditioning vents. Their

surprise turned to dismay when the fish were closely followed by several tons of water, ruining the office furniture and drowning eleven slow-moving temporary employees, who had not been properly instructed in exit procedures in case of an emergency.

Deep-water cooling systems work on the principle that the water at the bottom of a large body

of reasonably still water – such as Lake Ontario – is significantly colder than the air, on a warm day. Thus, one can pipe water from the bottom of such a body of water, run it through the ventilation systems of a building so cool the air, and then send it back into the lake. Such systems have been used for several years to service the air conditioning needs of the skyscrapers on Bay Street, among other buildings downtown.

However, it seems that the new pipe, which was brought into operation two weeks ago, did not undergo any rigorous testing. Specifically, according to Toronto civic engineer Donna Villers, no protection against fish wandering into the pipe had been considered.

“It’s always the simple things that get you into trouble in this business,” she explained to the Toast.

“They never even thought that fish might decide to go exploring. So the next thing that happens, there’s hundreds of the wet slimy things in there, clogging up the pipes. It’s no wonder that the damned things burst. I’m just surprised that they took two weeks to do it.”

Brooks Associates has refused to comment on the incident as of yet, only mentioning to the Toast that they would be placing an ad soon for more temps. Apparently, however, the firm is considering lawsuits against the contractors who built the pipe, the owners of the building, and the Federal Ministry of Fisheries.

Construction of the three other identical deep-water pipes has been stopped until further notice, said Villers.

Irrational Toast

T.O. LAST NIGHT



The TTC ran some subway trains last night. Wow!



# DIVERSIONS

Scorpio: Prepare to eat some donuts

## HOROSCOPE

### 7.28.99

By YOU KNOW WHO

#### Aries (March 21-April 19)



Travel is always good this time of year. Get out of any large c e m e n t buildings and avoid as many lectures as possible. Absorb yourself with dolls/action figures and setup the Trojan War on the kitchen table. Take extra time to talk to your mate to show them you haven't gone nuts.

#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)



Avoid talking to your mate as he/she may wish to throw you overboard. Get a late start today, because the morning sun is unusually cruel to those who have gotten as little sleep as you. Be particularly rude to anyone who gets in your way. Tell them curtly to "Get the hell away". Married life gets a little boring. Look for "fun" outdoors.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Stay inside today, and avoid any Tauruses (they've got attitude problems this time of year). Mercury kisses Mars and gives you Snickers. Increase your luggage collection today. Eat as much chocolate as possible. Laugh out loud, and don't wear pink with plaid.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)



Fashion sense is your strong point, so wear plaid with fluorescent colors. Attract as much attention to yourself as possible, since you really, really want it. Dye your hair if need be, and wear it in pig tails. Male Cancers should grow a goatee. Lady Cancers should try the same. Watch for a stolen piece of luggage. In general, avoid the hospital.

#### Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)



Go to the hospital and bug the nurses for a check up. See if you can get a

sponge bath out of it too. Enjoy sunlight. Be chipper and offer your good humor to all with a repetitive knock-knock joke. If you see a Taurus, be sure to stand in their way and not leave until you've cheered them up. Keep a close eye on any luggage you may have. Tell everyone you know that you're having a party at someone else's house. Then inform that someone that you really love them, and will be having a small get together at their place.

#### Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Unfortunately, any Leo's you know will likely try to invite you to some crazy party. And the Cancer's seem to have become needful for attention. Do yourself a favour and avoid both at all costs. Instead, invite a Taurus over and get drunk. Talk about the weather and look at the stars. Keep an eye out for lost luggage, or luggage that may need you to take it home.

#### Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Jupiter is the biggest planet in the Solar System, is moving into Pisces, and is giving you particularly good weather. Take a little time out to play with your dog. If you don't have one, your mate will have to do. If you don't have one, you're out of luck. Seek Capricorns for companionship.

#### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Neptune crashes into Taurus and creates quite a commotion. You benefit since everyone will be confused at which point you show up and settle the masses. Ignore any lost pieces of luggage, as they may bring bad luck. You're creative, imaginative and able to prove or discount any argument by referring to peanut butter.

#### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Your allergies to peanuts are acting up again. Avoid

talking to Scorpios for that very reason. Be careful when dealing with money, though some may be contained in a piece of luggage you may encounter today.

#### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



Resurrect an old imaginary friend for old time sake. Imaginary friends are your focus for the next month. Never let your imaginary friend out of sight, and definitely don't let anyone sit on him/her. If that happens, you will be devastated and unable to continue on without a good 15 hour power nap. Don't pay more than you have to for low-fat versions of your favorite dishes.

#### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



You're motivated to fry a really fat side of pork. Enjoy the grease, and feel the arteries soak it in. Listen for gossip in the workplace, but keep to your tasks at hand. Friends, while enjoying your company, may be more annoying than you can handle. Tell them to not take it personally. Leo's are especially annoying.

#### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)



Friends are glad to share your money. You'll be in need of more of it soon. Set up your "dealer" to leave some for you in some luggage. Don't let stress sway your playful mood from your partner and your pals. Leave early this morning or risk getting caught by your boss or more serious authorities.

#### If Your Birthday Is Today

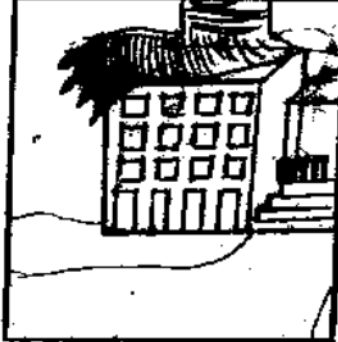
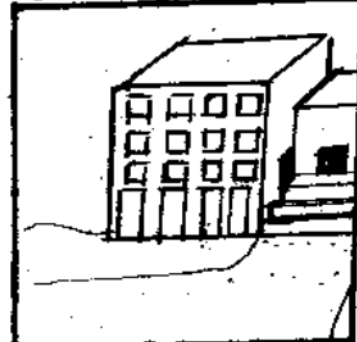
You are going to have a really long day that will begin with an unexpected workplace crisis that will likely interrupt your dinner tonight, while you and your mate have the best ideas on how to make it "go away". Put your heads together and go walking or bicycling with pals. It's not such a good day for romance, but remember, it's Saturday when you can catch up on your rest.

Irrational Toast

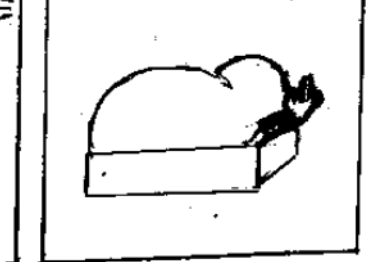
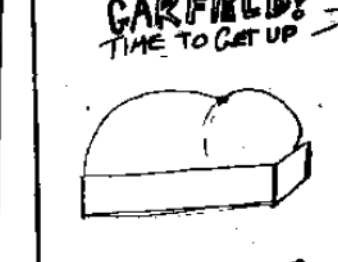
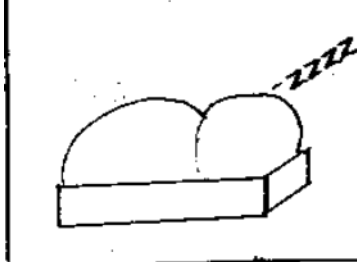
User Unfriendly By Oddysey



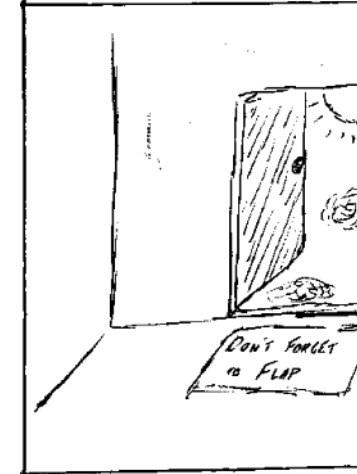
MC vs. Godzilla By Wilson



Garfield By George



Whatever By Jeremiah King



Zaggy By Zeke



### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Puzzle by J. Knetsch, A. St.-Amand, D. Pollock, G. Garbett, S. Ward, M. Walsh

#### ACROSS

- Headless man in wheelchair makes a wave. (6)
- Car club in disarray meets spies under tree. (6)
- OD toll mixes cob, stanches wound. (5,4)
- Cinnamon pulled back, rescued Ann from game of laws. (5)
- Crushed and brewed, confused deed centered around beer. (3,4)
- Reject weight around climbing iron. (2,5)
- Sound of her superiority grinds milk products. (13)
- Please, Aunt Val, tell me about the movie. (13)
- Regarding the shop: bring it back. (7)
- The list of players includes Love, but he's chicken. (7)
- Muffled sounds of precipitation beside team captain does nothing. (5)
- Age marks bird's claws. (5,4)
- Resident insect follows X. (6)
- Puzzled Nietzsche lost prize, rattled. (6)

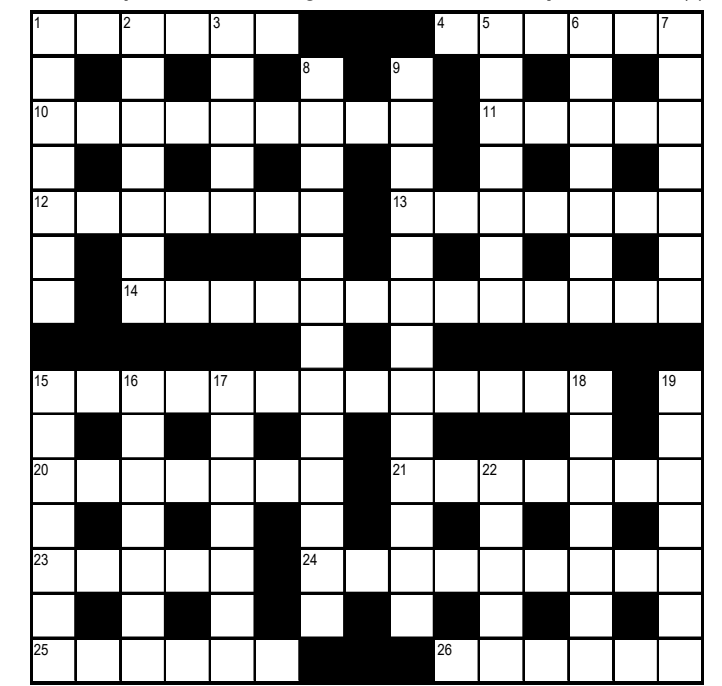
#### DOWN

- Discounts about miserable Kathy. (7)
- Tossed garbage peripheral to the mundane. (7)
- Spoon out 500 divided French



#### ACROSS

- articles. (5)
- Low attendance support-group mixer: Spanish dance. (7)
- xy=yz in silence below business domain. (7)
- Happy drug without essay read aloud smells of distinction. (7)
- Murderer's reward didn't pass randomly eastwards; posted to Eunice without us. (1,4,8)
- Successful politician obfuscates age; voters torn. (5,8)
- Carry on in your caper, sister. (7)
- Doctor's assistant follows tease (in disarray) towards sunrise. (7)
- Reduce unordered collection of brass. (7)
- Bag for the following location: dinner (no dessert). (7)
- Sharp claws rake across tender Carla's hand. (7)
- Director Welles, you left our son. (5)

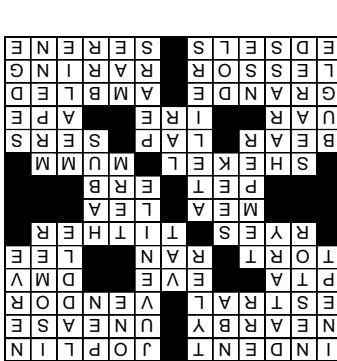


### CANADIAN CRISS CROSS

by Jean Knetsch, Amanda St.-Amand & Matt Walsh

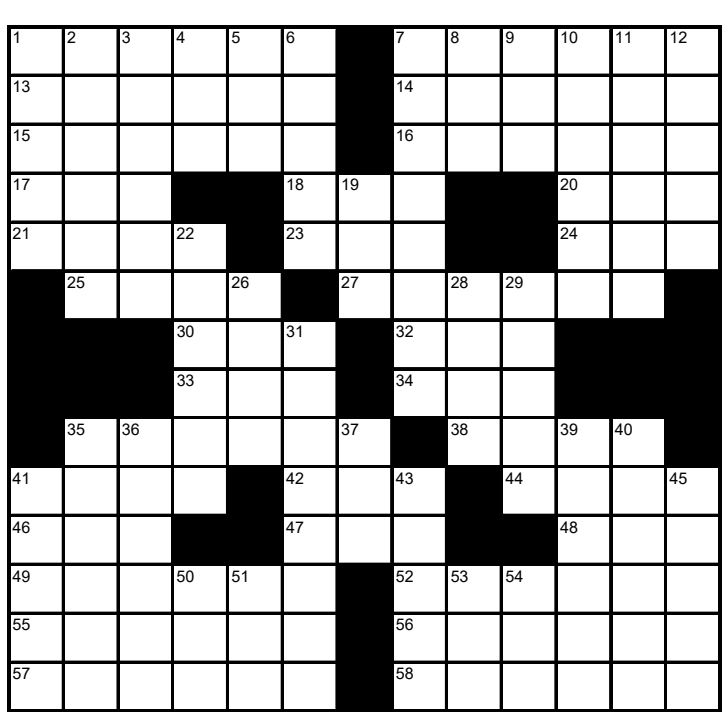
#### ACROSS

- Make a depression
- City in Missouri
- Not far
- Turmoil
- In heat
- Cart-pusher
- Folks concerned about schools
- Three Faces of
- Issues of driver's licences
- Breach of contract
- Went quickly
- Confederate general Robert
- Crown Royal and Chivas Regal
- Payer of alms
- culpa
- Tract of arable land
- Old Commo-
- dore computer
- Street in Uptown
- Waterloo
- Arabian currency
- Champagne producer in Rheims
- Member of Berenstein family
- Dancing surface?
- Search (obs.)
- Drift seaweed
- Anger
- Imitate
- Rio
- Moseyed
- One who cashes the rent cheque
- to go
- Ford flops
- Peaceful



#### ACROSS

- Chronologer (obs.)
- It's human
- Bunch of tall people
- Lovely Liv or ugly Steve
- Childish
- Unity
- Writing implement
- Soup server, circa 1753
- Alternate structure of organic compound
- Cheek
- Container
- Moderate
- and ye shall find
- Time in office
- Bedouin Sheikh
- Workshops
- Burned
- Bother
- Roman household guardian
- Indian corn
- Sean, to Madonna's
- lawyer
- Military horn
- Fruits or shampoo
- Tufted marsh plant
- Traders' venue
- S (abbrev.)
- Actress West
- It's cold outside!



CHESSBRIDGE By Greg Taylor

NORTH			
▲	K	R	B P P
♥	N		
♦	N		
♣	N		
WEST			
▲	N		
♥	P P		
♦	R		
♣	Q B P P		
EAST			
▲	P P		
♥	P		
♦	P P P		
♣	P P		
SOUTH			
▲	Void		
♥	K R B P		
♦	Q B P		
♣	R		

Vulnerable: West-North  
Drug Dealer: East  
The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass Pass 1♣ \* Pass  
Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠  
2♣! Pass Pass 4♥  
All pass

\* artificial and forcing  
Opening lead: Club Pawn to b5  
Hint: Some kink on a8

"You idiot!" remarked North to his partner. "Why didn't you run the spades to guard against the king endplay?"  
"What was up with that heart

bidding, you loser?" South countered. "We might have been able to put them down in clubs."

The key to this game was West's quick establishment of b5 - a variation of the Minbari Gambit (first employed by Straczynski). This lead was won by dummy, due to East's pawn placement at a7. Seeking to draw trumps, South continued with the heart knight but that trick was won by West when all subsequent heart pawns were promoted to queens by being played at a8. At this point, West takes advantage of East's signal bid to go for chinese takeout - and the second club pawn is played as a queen! This forces another round of pawns, won by South when he reverses the takeout by playing his diamond pawn.

But now South faces a problem; even with one heart pawn still missing, action must be diverted away from rank 8 or else it is unsafe to play the kings. Attempts to do this by leading the diamond Queen and Bishop proved futile, as West countered with rook and trump to place action on d5; a round of bishops followed, returning to the dread

a8 square! South will now face a checkmate no matter what he attempts as East's spade pawns are promotable. (And as you know, loss of the trump king loses the game, despite the potential for 5 total tricks.)













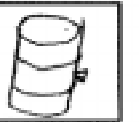

Could South have avoided this fate by running spades from dummy initially? Careful analysis indicates that with the b5 setting, it was South's last, best hope for game... yet even then it was doomed to failure on account of East's potential for shadow play. (A gradual leading to the corner position by trick 6 with the assistance of West's clubs.) So was North's game bid of hearts in error? In fact this is not the case either. Despite minimal point support, the knights would have been a significant asset had East not been dealt a pawn abundance. And two clubs would have been makeable by East-West owing to the lack of king checks in a minor suit. (Thus it was a powerful bid to make at the time!)

So in summary: Even by doing everything right, it appears that you can still lose. So there's not much point in playing, is there?



# FINANCIAL TOAST

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1999

TNT 300	COW JONES	NASDAQ	S&M 500	REGINA	MOOSE JAW	LABRADOR	HOLLAND	ANTARCTICA	YUGO	CANADIAN BACON	30 BONDWEIGHT	BEER	PRETZELS
													
-53.72 7034.34	-634.31 2345463.12	-81.53 35431.63	+24.42 3461.42	-9.63 3455.78	-456.87 435678.75	-54.76 4566.83	-124.23 45454.22	+4.01 653.01	+34.43 5653.45	+324.01 324456.76	-545.67 43545.67	-1.43 45.76	-0.01 1.98

## Cola prices skyrocket overnight

Cola now \$1.99 per litre in Ontario

By Chadwick Severn

Beverage consumers are dealing with thirst-related frustration ever since Tuesday's sudden increase in cola prices.

Customers at all-night convenience stores saw the first bump to \$1.49 around 2 a.m. Monday. By the time regular business hours rolled around, each litre of cola cost \$1.99.

"This is ridiculous," said irate Coca-Cola drinker Fred Peters. "That was the same Coke on the shelves as yesterday, but they're charging twice as much."

Bottlers for popular colas like Coke and Pepsi blame the sticker shock on the rising price of crude sugar, a vital ingredient in all non-diet varieties of cola.

"So far, we've held our retail

prices steady as the wholesale prices on sugar and corn syrup rose," said Pepsi-Cola spokesperson Bob Whyte. "Our profit margins were shrinking at an alarming rate."

Documents obtained by the Toast show that costs in refining sugar and producing cola have rose by five per cent during the last six months. Pepsi has been able to offset that increase for the most part by finding cheaper water. Over the same six month period, the amount of profit Pepsi has made on a litre of cola dipped from 86 cents to 85.7 cents.

"We were beginning to reach the point where we could no longer afford to not pass on the rising costs to the consumer," said Whyte.

Other beverage companies quickly followed suit with their own price jumps.

"The soft drink market is a volatile one," said RC-Cola vice-president Tim Barlows. "But it's



Consumers were shocked Tuesday when the price of Coca-Cola shot up to \$1.99 per litre, more than double Monday's price of 99 cents.

also a cyclic one. We'll see these prices fall again."

Liberal MP Joseph Colle picketed the bottling plant on Fairway Road, calling for regulation and price-setting.

"The drinkmakers have had free will to set prices for far too long," said Colle. "With Coke and Pepsi, you basically have a duopoly, and when they charge whatever they want, the drinking public suffers."

Whyte said that regulating the soft drink industry is a non-starter.

"Pepsi has been given a bad rap," said Whyte. "We're suffering too. We had to scale back our launch of Euro-Pepsi for the new millennium. We'll be starting in the northern hemisphere instead of going worldwide on January 1."

Whyte added that the southern hemisphere introduction to Euro-Pepsi will take place in early February.

Financial Toast

## Critics fear Y2K may come early

By Derek Kisman

In the face of millennial disaster, skeptics and critics worldwide have begun to fear that Y2K may come too early. Giving into pressure, the IEEE and ISO have formed a committee temporarily named "What the fuck are we going to do December 31st 1999?"

Many solutions have been already proposed. The committee made its selection at a Tuesday press conference, where it was revealed by chairperson Itzac D. Zaster that the "current plan is to let the year turnover to 199A. Logically, this makes more sense than putting butter on bread."

Zaster also made reference to the open ended nature of the proposal. "If we need more time, we can simply change the year to 199B . . . 199C . . . the possibilities are endless."

Immediate reactions to the proposal varied from ecstatic to confusion.

"This is a mark of genius," commented one attendee. "Put

all that talent into one room, and who knows what may emerge. Pure genius."

The conference was not without skeptics, however. Sergei Studokov of Russia was riddled by the pronunciation of such a year.

"It is some form of Canadianese?" questioned Studokov. "If it is, I would like to declare Sovereignty in advance."

It is estimated that 78 per cent of Americans will deem the extra year 199Huh and 199What in ignorance of the meaning of 199A. An additional 10 per cent of Americans said they would take less showers and carry an additional gun in the annexed year.

Consequences of such actions are being felt world-wide.

Comments from the White House were unavailable at press time, however the Canadian government was readily available for comment. "Does this mean that what we did last year will be forgotten?" commented one

senator."

The computer industry was not without its opinions.

CEO Bill Gates reported Monday that in the "unlikely event" that their new operating system, Windows 2000 is not ready for the year 2000, Microsoft has prepared an official report of support for such a 199A roll over.

In what appears to be a desperate effort to salvage the ailing product, Gates denies any such allegations. "I don't see what the big deal is." Gates commented. I've spoken, and what I say goes."

Additionally, Gates claimed "It would certainly give anyone who has not fixed the Y2K problem yet an extra year to fix it. That's good news for practically everyone."

Rival companies Netscape and Sun Microsystems accused Microsoft of being monopolistic and anti-competitive. Steve Jobs of Apple Computers directly accused Gates of "covering up his big hairy butt".

Financial Toast

## Grand River Hospital announces landmark deal with Sleep Country

Grand River Hospital has joined forces with Sleep Country Canada to increase the number of comfortable, Canadian-made beds and mattresses available for patients.

The bedroom superstore, which has 53 stores across Canada, will be loading Grand River's rooms with hundreds of

new factory-made mattresses.

Christine Magee, owner of Sleep Country, hopes this helps the hospital with its bed shortage.

"Now the hospital will have enough beds, each with a 60-night comfort guarantee," said Magee.

Sleep Country Press Release



The owner of Sleep Country Canada, Christine Magee

## Adults Only Video expands into breastless market

By Kevin Wan Min Kee

If you walk into your ordinary sex shop you're usually inundated with jokes about breasts, advertisements of women with enormous breasts, and expensive chocolate shaped genitalia.

Adults Only Video, Inc. (AOV) plans to change all that. In what may be viewed as an instinctual business maneuver, AOV is creating a new division devoted to avoiding fully or partially exposed breasts.

"There's nowhere to buy sex toys that's not a mainstream triple-X type store. And that means big time breasts," said Spokesperson Yvonna O'Toole.

"What we want to do is create a store that's great for families. Somewhere you might want to go on a family vacation."

Planned merchandise includes a variety of well-researched sex

toys from top-of-the-line breastless Japanese vibrators to breastless spaghetti.

The sole requirement is the lack of reference to breasts. "We've seen some very innovative products that completely exclude breasts" commented

**"WE'VE SEEN SOME VERY INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS THAT COMPLETELY EXCLUDE BREASTS"**

O'Toole. We may even venture into breastless furniture, and more importantly, clothes designed with something other than breasts as the focal point."

The proposed shop stands in stark contrast to the standard dimly-lit big breast-themed sex stores where a customer scuttles

in, makes a quick purchase and hurries out with the bag under his/her coat. The concealment is clearly to avoid exposing huge breasts.

"We're trying to put the customers at ease. We want to show them that there is more to life than enormous breasts and that they should not have to endure hundreds of breasts to get what they want."

The avoidance of products that contain ads with silicon-breasted porn stars has some industry insiders worried. O'Toole acknowledged such opinions and informs skeptics not to fret. "AOV has no plans to abandon breasts completely".

AOV has not yet decided on a name for the new division. Proposed ideas include "Anything Butt Breasts" and "Boobs Rn't Us".

Financial Toast

## Boy squanders potential fortune on Timbits

By Michael Thorsley

"I just wanted some Timbits," young Jeremy Winter, 8, says of his decision to spend two dollars given to him by his grandfather three weeks ago on the sweet pastries. Others, however, are much more critical of Mr. Winter's fiscal judgement in investing in a commodity with such limited growth potential.

The money was given to Winter by his grandfather after a long discussion about how when he came to this country he had only two dollars, an amount equal to

that which he gave his grandson, and how after a lot of hard work, everything was 'all right'. "After a schtick like that, I thought for sure he would immediately take that money and put it into some blue chips or something," Winter's grandfather said, "but instead, not twenty minutes later, he comes back to me with a box of Timbits. Where's the sense in that?"

Little Jeremy would be well advised to listen to his grandfather's financial advice. After Ernst Winter's emigration to

Canada following the second World War, he turned his two dollars into the fourth largest cracker and flatbread company in North America. The two dollars given to Jeremy will likely meet with a less prosperous fate.

"Timbits depreciate very rapidly," says Irrational Toast Financial Analyst Georgina Garbett, "especially if you eat them, but even if left in the refrigerator they go stale after a day or two. This would be fine in a market where prices were increasing rapidly enough to compensate,

but over the past three weeks Tim Horton's has not raised their price from the two dollars Winter paid. Who's going to buy three-week-old Timbits from Jeremy, except at a tremendous loss?"

"On the other hand, if he had taken the two dollars and followed a shrewd investment strategy in the futures market, he could have made several thousand dollars and been well on his way to financial security, perhaps even opulence. It baffles me as to why he would choose such a poor investment plan."

Other investors are not as cautious. "People are so quick to say that this boy is an idiot, or that he doesn't know anything about fiscal planning, or that he's just some kid who wanted Timbits," one investor said. "But maybe what we should be saying is,

'What does this kid know that we don't?'"

Indeed, the NASDAQ composite index dropped ten points in early trading as many investors followed Jeremy's lead and took their money out of high-tech companies to put into

Timbits and Timbit-related investments, hoping to get in on the ground floor when Winter's risk begins to pay off.

Despite this influx of capital, Timbit prices have remained steady.

Financial Toast



Some delicious Timbits from the Tim Horton's website.



# TECHNOLOGY

## New device allows computer-savvy bank customers to withdraw cash from computers

By **CHADWICK SEVERN**

Marking the next jump in the evolution of computer banking, the five major banks have unveiled a new product which will allow consumers to withdraw cash directly from their computers.

“Bank customers using our online banking service can transfer money, pay bills, convert currencies, arrange loans...nearly everything they could do at our branch,” said Royal Bank vice-president Jerry Haliwell. “We found a sizable gap in the services that we could provide online, and that was cash withdrawal.”

Haliwell said the five banks were pretty sure that they would not be able to “beam” the money to the computers directly. They decided to approach the Royal Canadian Mint instead to see if they could get permission to have bank customers print off money on their colour inkjet printers when they withdrew money.

“They weren’t too keen on that idea either,” said Haliwell. “We decided to go with the tried and true technology from our ATMs.”

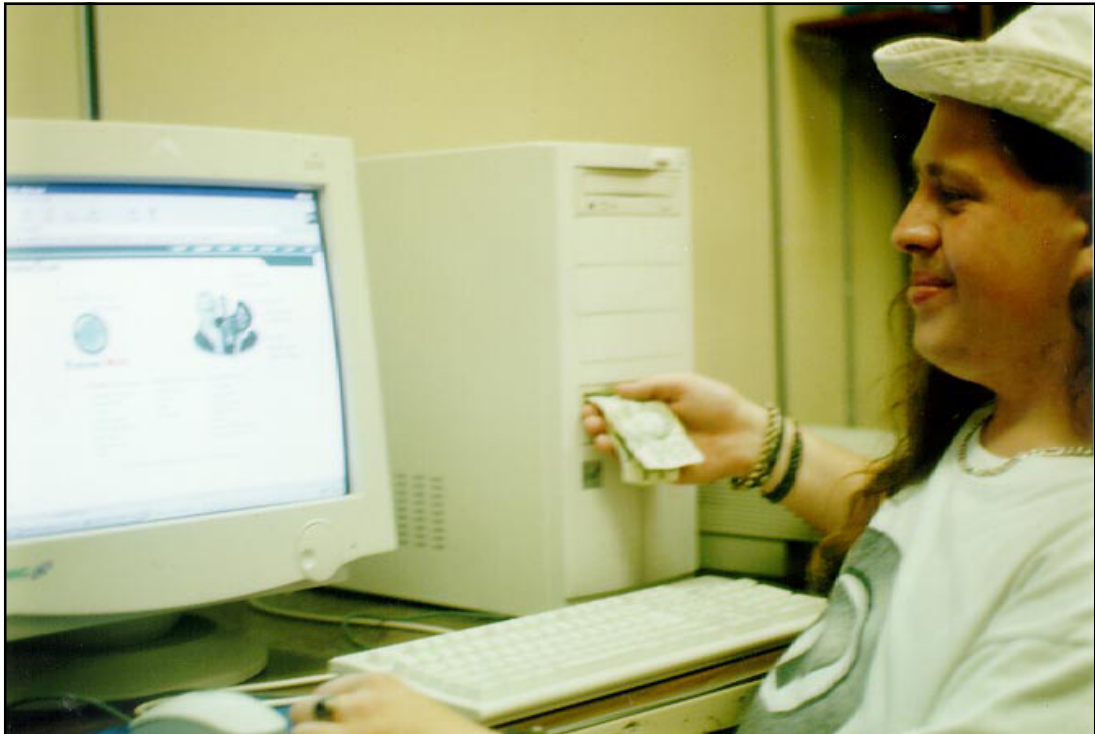
For only \$19.95 a month, bank customers can lease a specially constructed cash dispenser that

attaches to the serial port of any Windows 98 computer. When the customer needs to withdraw cash, they log onto their online banking web site, and choose the withdrawal option. The web site will then instruct the Internet Banking Machine dispenser to release the chosen amount of cash.

Tests have gone surprisingly well according to Haliwell.

“The feedback so far has been great,” said Haliwell. “The only complaint is the armoured car and guards that have to come every two weeks to deposit more money into the ITM.”

*Financial Toast*



A bank customer tries withdrawing cash from his new ITM.

## Progressive Conservatives and President’s Choice producing politically correct personal computer

Targetting professional corporations employing propositional calculus

By **GREG TAYLOR**

A new hardware device, funded in part by the Progressive Conservative (PC) party, is presently scheduled for production commencing next month.

This tool is a new kind of Personal Computer (PC) made explicitly to help with calculations involving Propositional Calculus (PC). PC on a PC was actually first thought of by Pete Carrey, a worker at President’s Choice (PC) - the same company using their PC points for free groceries.

Realizing the potential market for a PC involving PC in a Professional Corporation (PC), Pete talked with the PCs and began the PC PC initiative. The first hurdle they had to overcome was that, before putting forward any

money, the PCs required that the PC was Politically Correct (PC). However, as it turned out, reformulating the PC to be a PC PC having PC was not a difficult task.

Exact design specifications regarding this PC on the PC have not been revealed, though integrating the PC into the PC was apparently easier than adding the later PC’s PC. Still, both PC and the PCs believe that any PC would be pleased to get such a PC. “Using PC is actually more popular than you might think,” added a PC spokesman. “Which is why we agreed that the PC with PC would be pretty cool.” Asked if there would be any difficulty in figuring out the machine, another PC representative stated, “The PC PC, even with

the use of PC, is still perfectly compatible.” Some trial runs were done earlier this month, and the outlook is pretty promising. In fact, it’s anticipated that not only PCs will have an interest in the PC; there may be some applications that could assist the Peace Corps (PC). At least, it seems that the PC aspect would appeal to the PC. Pete Carrey himself observed that, “The approach is primarily conventional to avoid marketing the PC exclusively to some PC. Though even scientists may find use in such a PC PC PC.” Indeed, there was talk of accommodating such potential customers by adding features that did powerful calculations using the parsec (pc). Though such an endeavour may involve altering some of the

original Printed Circuits (PC).

So is there any possible catch to this potent processor? Well, no purchase cost is presently possible causing some people problems. Pete clarified the issue: “Whether our PC PC uses the pc or just PC with PC affects the PC and our PC/PC funds, making estimation imprecise. Besides, the PC (or the PC or any pc personalities) wouldn’t want poor construction, preferring perfection. So to avoid any paradoxical conflict, planning correctly for the PC PC PC PC PC with PC for PC or PC is done with both precision and care.” And will a private company have use for this device? It seems that’s simply a matter of Personal Choice (PC).

*Irrational Toast*

## Microsoft Unveils New Visual A++

“Assembly for the rest of us”

By **GREG MOREY**

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates unveiled the latest suite of Microsoft programming tools today at a Microsoft Developer’s Conference in Redmond, WA. Among the most exciting was the new Visual A++, an assembly language editor with drag-and-drop functionality. “This is great,” said Mary Wilkes, System Engineer for Lucent, “finally we assembly programmers can rise out of the murky swamp of text editors and ascend into the golden age of WYSIWYG and forms. Finally we, too, can offer slick graphics and pretty little dialog boxes.” The first version of Visual A++ has many attractive features, including support for multi-threaded assembly and the new Register Wizard.

“The Register Wizard gives you all the functionality you

need when performing register operations,” said Mark McLewan, Senior VP of Marketing for Microsoft, “bit shifts, multiplication, boolean expressions, immediate word loading... Addition and subtraction aren’t supported yet, but will be by next release.”

The next release is scheduled for 2005.

Detractors have stated that Visual A++ is too much, too fast. “Microsoft just wants more pie,” said one irate developer, who asked that his name be withheld from fear of reprisal. “They’ll have the same problems as they did with Visual Cobol++, Visual Ada++ and Visual Lisp++: too many specifics, not enough generics,” said Software Developer Terence Matte of LiquiDigital, “Plus those wizards are getting damn annoying!” But, with a “Hello, World!” program that is only 68 MB, Visual A++ is a powerful contender in the RAD (Rapid Application Development) assembly market.

*Irrational Toast*



Macdonald’s is proud to announce the appointment of Mike Ovitz as Head Fryer at the location on Steeles. Congratulation Mike!

## Intel to include homing device in next generation processors

Merced chip to contain automatic tracking

By **RICHARD BILSON**

Intel Corp. yesterday unveiled plans to include a so-called “homing device” in its next generation processor, codenamed “Merced”.

The company’s press release describing the technology, which will enable the Santa Clara, Calif., chip maker to know the exact geographical location of every processor they manufacture, called it “another gigantic step forward for security, privacy, and ease-of-use on the Internet.”

The device relies upon a miniature Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver that will be embedded within the casing of the chip. The receiver uses American military satellites to calculate its latitude and longitude within two metres.

Once the chip has determined its location, a process that occurs whenever it is powered on, it then communicates this information over a standard phone line to Intel’s California office.

“This new technology is the perfect complement for the processor serial number, introduced with the Pentium III,” said Intel spokesperson Wendy Siti. “Not

only can we know which computer is being used, but now we can know exactly where that computer is.”

According to Siti, security is the most important benefit. “Computer thefts will become a thing of the past. Using our centralized database of computer users, we will be able to move quickly with law enforcement officers to apprehend computers that are being used outside of their designated coordinates.”

As with the processor serial number, Internet applications and web sites will be able to obtain location information from the processor without user intervention. “So many web sites require the user to type in three or four lines of address information,” says Siti. “With the emergence of large address databases and the use of GPS information from the Merced processor, web sites can obtain all of the address information they need without bothering the user.”

A spokesperson for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, an Internet privacy watchdog that was an outspoken opponent of the processor serial number, responded to the announcement, saying “This is nuts. I can’t believe the marketplace is so willing to eat the shit that this company keeps dishing out. I’m going to move to a desert island.”

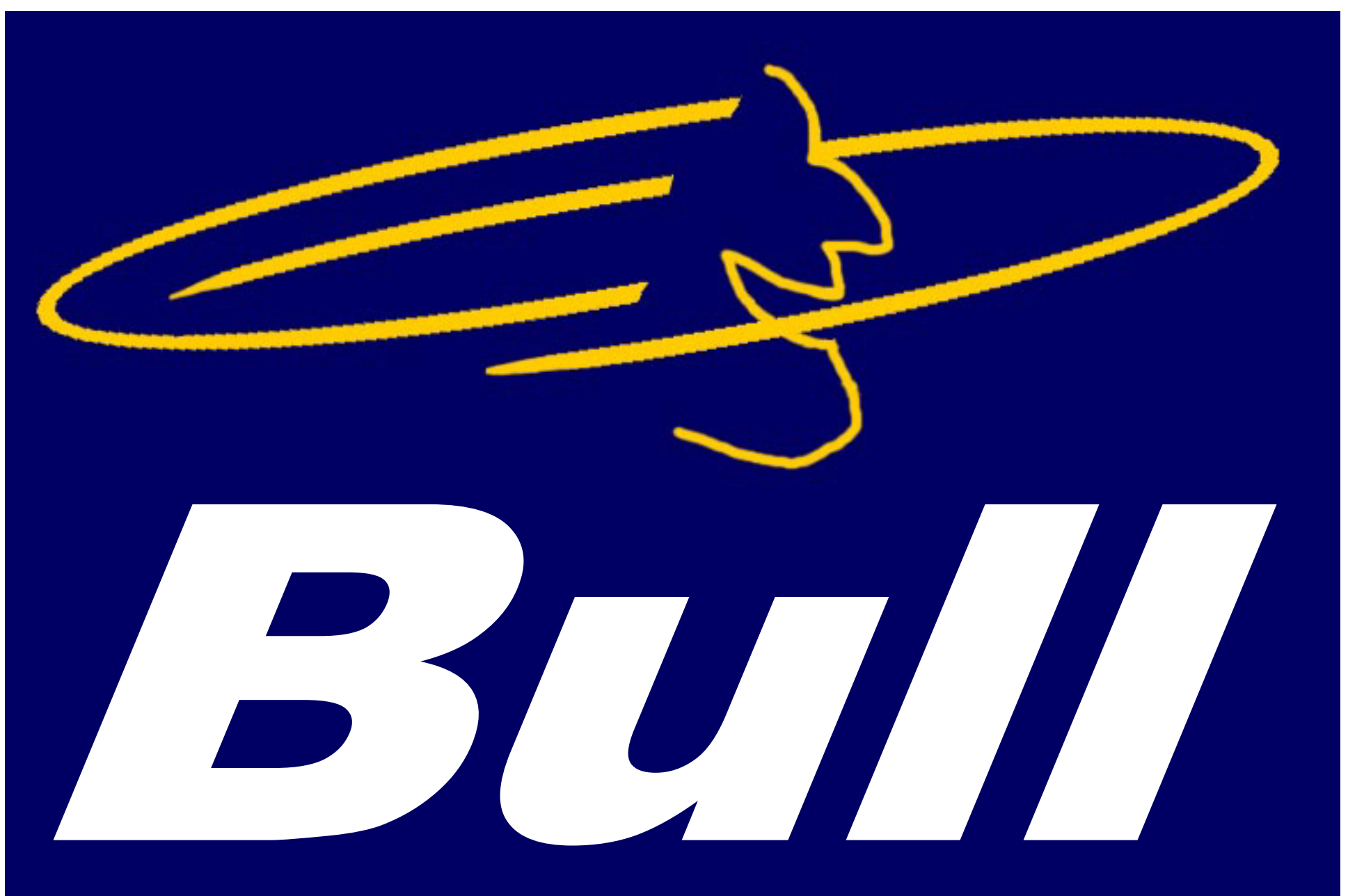
*Irrational Toast*



**BULL CANADA ANNOUNCES ITS NEWEST  
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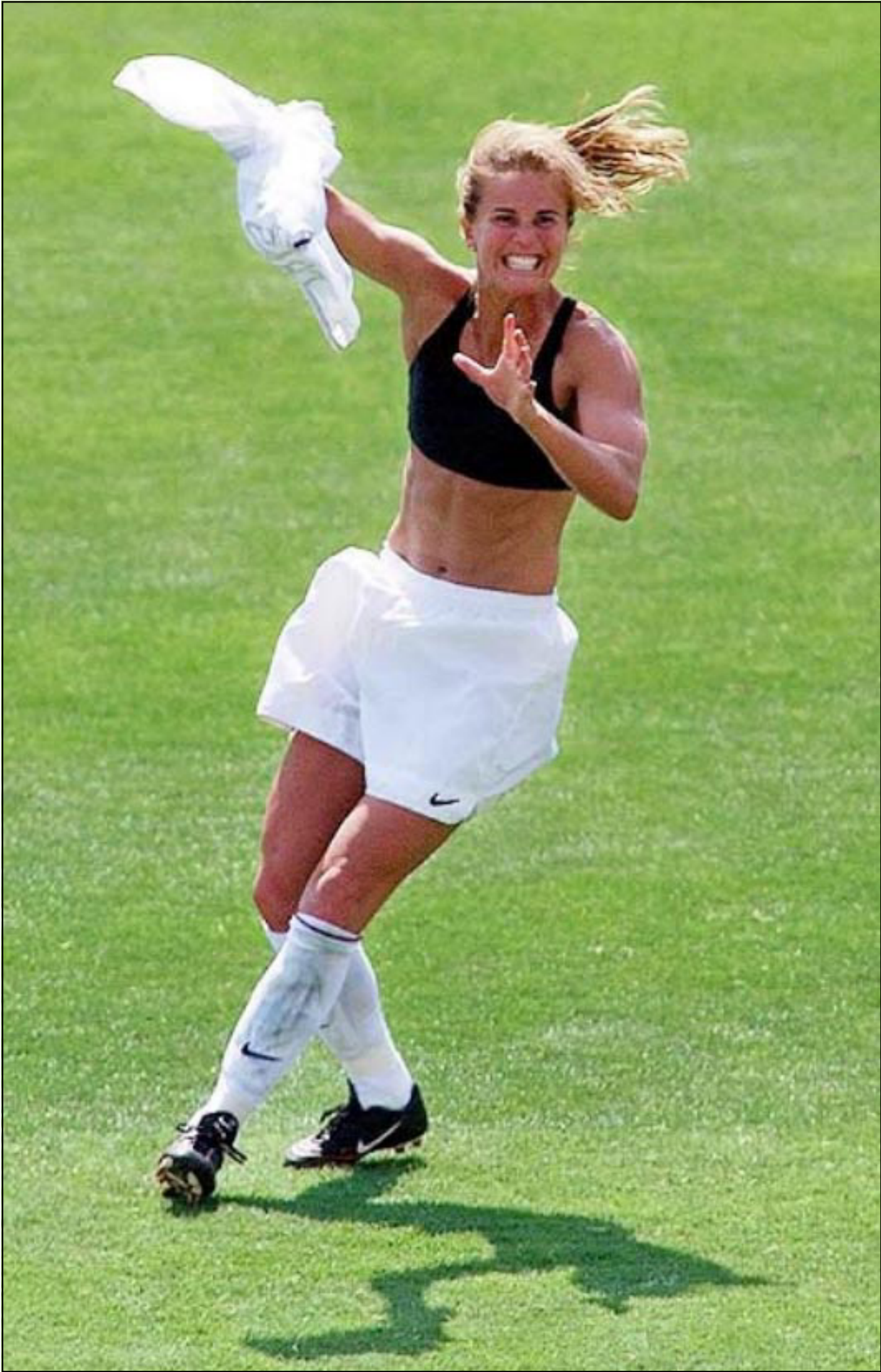
\* Subject to CRTC approval



# SPORTS

IRRATIONAL TOAST, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

THIS IS THE ONLY SPORTS PAGE, SO THIS SPACE IS PRETTY USELESS



Yes, this picture is several weeks old. Good sports picture though, eh?

## Canada, Sweden square off in Flag-Capture semis

### TEAM CAPTAIN LIKES OUR CHANCES IN “BATTLE OF THE NORTH”

After a grueling overtime win against Nigeria in last Sunday’s quarter-final match, Team Canada will face the pride of Sweden tomorrow in this year’s Ballyhoo Cup Race, the premiere international Capture the Flag tournament, held this year in Italy.

The team has spent the past few days in rest and relaxation, recovering from their ordeal just outside Pisa against the Nigerians. According to Hannah Bernhart, the team trainer, “state of mind is very important in this sport. You don’t want a runner who’s feeling down, and a sleepy jailer is the kiss of death for the team. I’m doing my utmost to ensure our players are in top form to meet the Swedes.”

Team Canada Captain Marcel Dupuys agrees. “I want to know that my team is going in there at the very height of our prowess. These folks, they’re some of the best capturers that I’ve ever played with, and I think that we can show the world a thing or two about how the game is

played.”

Dupuys got his start in the sport at summer camp as a child, a common story for members of Team Canada. At the time, Capture the Flag was generally regarded as a children’s game, a perception that changed when Sir Reginald Ballyhoo passed away ten years ago, leaving a provision in his will for the use of his vast fortune in establishing an annual world-wide tourney. Within months of the Ballyhoo Cup’s first being awarded (to Zaire in 1991), Flag Fever had hit much of the Western world. A group of American investors are currently seeking cities to sponsor teams in the nascent National Flag Capture League (NFCL), and similar endeavours are underway in Europe.

Although only twenty-four, Dupuys is already a titan in the fast-paced world of Capture the Flag. His position on the field is “scout”: during play, he spends most of his time on enemy territory, seeking out and freeing

prisoners from his team, and locating the opponents’ flag. The position takes speed, stamina, a good eye and a quick mind, and Dupuys has all of these.

Asked to comment on the Nigerian team, Dupuys called them “promising players, but certainly not world-class yet. The only reason that they did as well as they did against us was the fact that the field was rural — lots of trees and open spaces — and we’re an urban team. If the match had been within the city, we’d have cleaned up.”

While somewhat more impressed by the Swedes’ capability, Dupuys isn’t worried about tomorrow’s game. “The Swedes play a very defensive game. We saw that in the Royal Rumble match at the beginning of the Race. Hartman (Any, the chief jailer for Team Canada) is very aggressive, by contrast, and so once I’ve found their flag, I just need to get her there and lure their defenders out of their safe zone.”

If Canada wins tomorrow, then on Saturday Dupuys and his team will face the victor of tonight’s China-New Zealand match. While Race officials are keeping the venue for Saturday’s game secret, it is widely rumoured that the teams will face off over the canals of Venice.

Irrational Toast

## TENNIS GOES ON

The Slim Jim International Tennis Championships is entering its final round of play this week in Bethlehem. In the semi-final between Owen Hart and Mankind, it was Hart over Mankind in a 6-2, 6-4 straight sets victory. Although Mankind put on his worst face, and flexed his muscles as hard as he could, he simply could not grasp the concept of using a racquet. Hart, known for his technical execution, won the match with a devastating smash from off the top ropes. Such an illegal maneuver would not have been possible without the helpful interference of bystander Golddust, who was able to knock over the umpire’s chair after five minutes of evil looks. Mankind’s only reaction was to reach for his lower back, in obvious pain.

The other semi-final saw Val Venis persevere over Sexual Chocolate in a close 7-6, 6-7, 7-6 cage match. Whilst Sexual explained to the crowd over the Public Address system how much bigger his balls were, Venis was enraptured and baffled by the blonde woman in the fourth row.

Attendance was 4000 on Thursday. 1 in 10 fans had an Austin 3:16 sign.

Irrational Toast

## EXTREME EXTREME Fishing



MATT WALSH

Sharks: love ‘em or hate ‘em, some days the true extreme fisherman just has to deal with ‘em.

Last week, I was out with my buddies Brian and Greg (I tell you, those guys are SO EXTREME!), and we’d taken a motorboat out north from Bon Air, off of South America. Let me tell you, it was hot! We’d all shucked right down to shorts and sandals, sipping cold beers from out cooler while Greg polished up the harpoon gun. Like true extreme fishermen, we were ready for whatever came.

So we put out our lines, and within ten minutes we’d caught something. I don’t even remember what it was, I just know that it wasn’t hardly over a foot long, and so not really worth bothering about. But Brian suggested that maybe instead of throwing it back, we use the little sardine as bait for catching something worthwhile. After shouting about what a good idea it was and pounding old Brian on the back and drinking some more beer, we gave it a shot.

Now when you’re fishing for the big ones, there’s a lot of different tacks that you can take. Greg’s very much a harpoon man: if it’s bigger than you are, bring out the gun. Brian, on the other hand, goes for the stamina contest: hook the thing nice and tight, then let it race around until it’s out of steam, and then you just reel it in for the coup de grace (that’s French... means you kill it).

Personally I favour Brian’s side of the argument more — I’ve seen too many bad things

happen with harpoons — but I’m a little more aggressive about it. The *Red Barchetta* (that’s my boat, the one we were in that day) has got one of the most powerful outboard motors on the market today, and the body’s been reinforced six ways from Sunday. Waiting for the dumb fish to tire out’s all well and good, but it makes a man feel like he’s getting dragged around by a lower life form, you know? Once the sea critter isn’t getting itself free, my philosophy’s to take the offensive, open her up and see how long that thing can keep up.

So that’s what we do, ‘cause it’s my boat and my beer. We skewer the thing we catch on one of Brian’s caltrop hooks, and attach the whole thing to some of my 70-weight steel line. The other end of the line, Greg welds to the back of the boat, looping part of it through oar thickest emergency oar. I always wondered why Greg brings that blowtorch around with him on our trips, but I guess it just goes to show: you can’t be too extreme!

### IF IT’S BIGGER THAN YOU ARE, BRING OUT THE GUN

We’re there for another twenty minutes, and then it comes: a great white shark. We’re talking *Jaws* material here. Rises up out of the water, swallows that little fish whole, and then looks at us with this mean glint in its eye. Well, that’s when I gunned the motor, and we took off! Surprised the hell out of that shark, I’ll tell you. Figure the caltrop went straight into its brain, so that when it stops twitching on the line fifteen minutes later, there’s a dead shark at the other end at blood everywhere! That’s just SO EXTREME!

Went back into harbour after that. It’s not safe in the water, with lots of blood and sharks about.

Irrational Toast





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Irrational Toast box # 9876

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## IRRATIONAL TOAST

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This position provides our journalists and layout staff with hours of entertainment and frequent abuse, generally making their lives more difficult than they need to be.

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