Mathematical
ENQUIRER

New Platonic Solid Discovered

By Liz Gordon and
Gary McMahon

A new Platonic solid has been discovered, according to mathematicians at the Metropolitan University. The solid, tentatively named the *docentahedron*, has 2000 identical faces, each of which is a regular byegon. According to Metropolitan officials, "we found the solid by accident. We had models of the five Platonic solids in a classroom when Prof. Siddhartha "Sidd" Finch, one of our older faculty members, tripped over a cube. He landed on the other four solids, destroying them. When he looked up, he noticed the new solid somehow had been created from the various broken pieces of the old models." He modestly rejected the initial name of the solid, the "siddfinchahedron."

The solid has some special, 'magical' properties, the spokesman continued. "Our chemists were able to sustain a cold fusion reaction in the interior of the docentahedron. This reaction cannot take place in any of the five, previously known Platonic solids. Somehow, all laws of physics are suspended inside this solid. We think this significant achievement will have far-reaching conse-

quences for our world's energy needs for the future."

Student Missing After Math Mishap

By Rene Cartedes

Moving with the dispatch for which faculty committees are known, the Marcenia University Special Committee on Disturbing Events (MUSCODE) has issued its official report in the matter of Stan Slapernarski. A popular math student, Slapernarski disappeared last fall, and has not been heard from since.

Although details are sketchy, the report concludes that Slapernarski (known as Slap throughout the university) fell victim to a Halloween stunt gone awry. According to the testimony of campus police officer Julius Orange, Slapernarski was getting ready for the Math/Stat Department's Halloween party, and suffered a catastrophic wardrobe malfunction. "He intended to go as a Klein Bottle and was ignorant of, or unconcerned about, that figure's inherent instability," Orange said. "Apparently, while using some stage props to alter his homotopy type, he became disoriented, fell into a pole, and diverged to infinity." Orange did not know whether alcohol was a factor.

Media coverage at the time depicted a campus in a state of shock as news of the calamity circulated. Famous mathemagician Arthur Benjamin, on hand to perform before the Halloween party, was quoted in the Daily Marcenian as saying, "It is just a terrible, senseless, tragedy, and one that I'm afraid will become all too common unless we wake up to the dangers of mathematics." He explained that the subject's rising popularity is attracting more and more students: "Unfortunately, they get caught up in the thrill of advanced experimental techniques, without adequate training or supervision. Slapernarski should never have attempted that transformation without the guidance of an experienced topologist."

Department Chairman Otto Morfeck was saddened by the release of the MUSCODE report. "The night it happened, we were in a state of chaos,"

Putnam Coach Forgets Pigeon hole Principle

Morfeck said. "Even now, months later, it is hard to accept." He explained that Slapernarski was a key member of the math club, serving as ringleader for the group. "Losing Slap has really thrown us for a curve," he added elliptically.

The chair's mental state is apparently still upset, judging from the disarray of his attire. When interviewed for this story, Morfeck had his pants on inside out. Other members of the faculty tolerantly overlooked this eccentricity. "It's nothing out of the ordinary for Otto," one remarked.

Slapernarski was a celebrated campus figure and a popular student leader. His exploits as captain of the campus mathematics squad were legendary. In addition, he was the front man for a successful garage band called "Moobius." In a review in the trade weekly Vocalville, the band's signature smooth covers were described as "complex and irrational, though somewhat derivative."

Strangely, Slapernarski's disappearance is not without precedent in his family. By a macabre twist of fate, he is the name-sake of a revered grand uncle who suffered a similar misfortune. The uncle's story was chronicled by popular mathematics writer Martin Gardner, whose account can still be found in "The No-Sided Professor." Attempts to reach Gardner for comment were unsuccessful.

Some math and physics faculty still hold out hope for Slapernarski's eventual return. It is speculated that he ascended into a higher dimensional space when he assumed the Klein bottle configuration. "If he managed to untangle himself, he might have emerged again at any point of space-time. It could be somewhere far away, or nearby but still in the future," said cosmologist Ellen Hurley-Braun. "He could pop up again at any time. We can only hope that when he rematerializes, he will resume his original orientation. It would be very inconvenient if he comes back inside-out, for example."

Mathematical Societies Announces

By Gordon McMahon and Gary Liz

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and The American Mathematical Society (AMS) have decided to follow the lead of the NCAA and major sporting arenas by renaming several important theorems and axioms at the bottom of the page.

In addition, the AMS announced that the Fundamental Theorems of Arithmetic, Calculus, Algebra and Galois Theory will now be known as the Capital One, AFLAC, Halliburton and Nazareth National Bank Fundamental Theorems, respectively. According to the AMS website, "this may make it difficult to remember what individual theorems say, but most students don't remember those theorems fifteen minutes after the final exam, anyway!" The MAA proudly revealed that these corporate sponsorship deals have already raised over $100 for the society. The MAA asks authors and teachers to henceforth use the new, improved names. They also encourage all mathematicians to attend next year's Annual - Joint-AMS-MAA-Enron Meetings.

Electronic Journal of Computational Mathematics Launched

By Dr Gray Goon and Ms. Cami N. Holm

The Atari Corporation announced a new research journal, exclusively devoted to articles written by computers, for computers. This journal fills a much-needed gap in what current research journals offer. According to Shalosh B. Ekhad, spokescomputer for the new journal, "Computers have made tremendous advances in all fields of mathematics in the past forty years. Humans are no longer necessary for the most important new research." The spokescomputer offered a spectacular example: "We were able to prove the twin-primes conjecture simply by checking all positive integers. No human could possibly do that," it boasted.

The journal, which will be edited by computers which have been discarded, is referred to affectionately by its nick-

Old Name	New Name
Mean Value Theorem	Costco Value Theorem
Pythagorean Theorem	Dr. Pepper's Triangle Rule
Axiom of Choice	People's Bank Choic Axiom
Zorn's Lemma	Just Born's Hot Tamales Lemma
Banach-Tarskii Paradox	Sun Microsystems Oxymoron Paradox
Hilbert's Nullstellensatz	Mrs. Filbert's Zero-calorie Satz
Riemann-Roch Theorem	Rolling Rock Theorem

name: 11235813. The editorial offices will be located beneath the Hackensack River bridge on the New Jersey Turnpike. The first volume, which occupies some 20,000 yottabytes, gives a `new' proof of the four-color theorem, eliminating any step that could possibly be checked by human beings. In a subsequent issue, the computers plan to give a 'one-line solution' to the P vs. NP problem (although the line will include an infinite loop).

Dr. Cadaver—Mathemortician

By Ann Dalmak

Meet Dr. Cadaver, Mathemortician. That is the pseudonym of Professor Sweeney Todman. But to Professor Todman the Dr. Cadaver character is more than just a dramatic role—it is a matter of life and death.

Todman got the idea for his alter ego by combining his two great passions: mathematics and mortuary science. As a child, Todman was fascinated by the allure of numbers and the austere beauty of mathematical truths. However, while growing up as part of his family's respected mortuary business, he developed a great affection and respect for this important profession. Today he is both a successful mathematician and professor, and a certified funeral director. He finds these two affinities surprisingly complementary.

"As a math teacher, I understand how important it is for students to see that mathematics can connect with life. Mor-
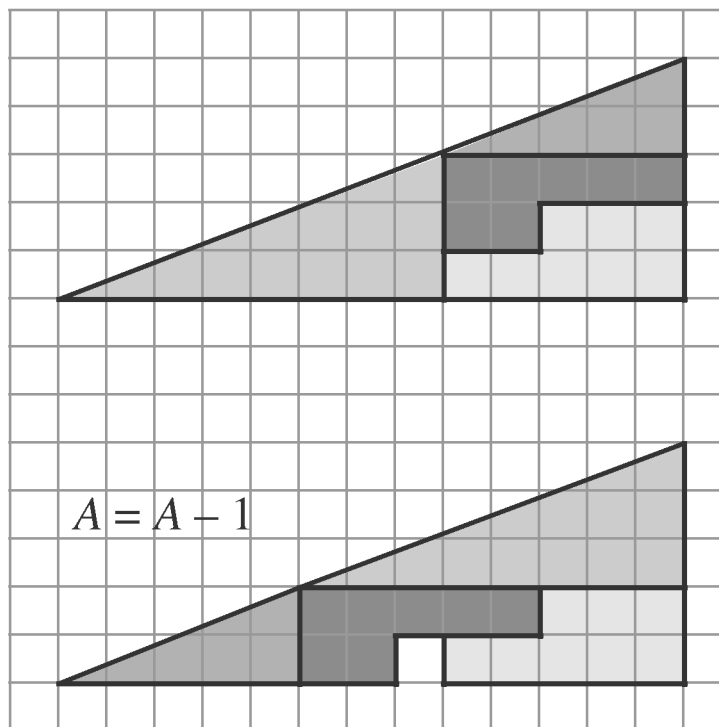

Dr. Cadaver arrives to teach Calculus

Proof without words:
The area _A_ of a triangle equals _A_ minus one.

By Loren Bergsen

$$A = A - 1$$

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tuary science gives me a novel and unique way to do that. After all, what could be more universal in life than death?" he asked in a recent interview. "And when students see how, even in the mortuary arts, mathematics has a role to play, well, they cannot help but be impressed. Plus, the combination of these topics provides a terrific contrast. Once my students learn about rates of decay and embalming theory, they seem eager to return to the study of calculus with a renewed rigor."

As Dr. Cadaver, Professor Todman can bring the abstract mathematical topics from his classes into the real world. He explained it this way: "Death is something everyone knows about and everyone can relate to. My experience and accomplishments in the field give me a terrific credibility. Some students walk into my class convinced that math is a dead subject. But believe me; they don't walk out that way. I know what's

dead and what isn't. And my students know I know."

Professor Todman says his dual professions serve the university in multiple ways: "It enriches my classes, for sure. Plus, I can offer my colleagues and members of the university community great discounts during times of bereavement." Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this opportunity is encouraged to visit the website `www.mathemortician.com` Tell them Dr. Cadaver sent you.

NBC announces new TV show: ƎQUATIONS

By Gary Gordon and Liz McMahon

In an effort to compete with CBS's highly rated _NUMB3RS_, NBC announced a new mathematics themed show. The show will center on the criminal exploits of Quinn Tick, a mathematical genius who uses her abilities to perpetrate a series of crimes as a professor

Proof Without Words: 168 = 169 = 170

By Glenn Soberer

168

169

170
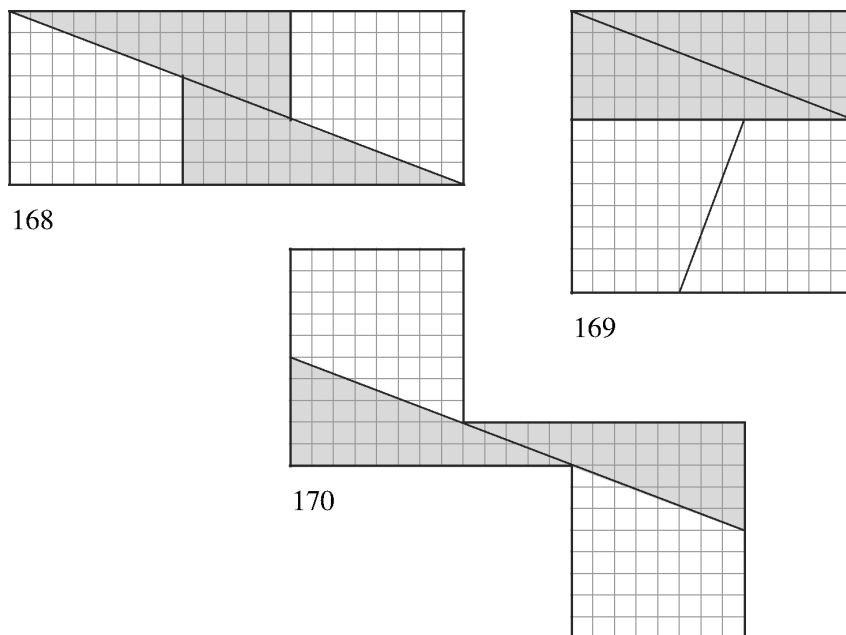
Corollary: All natural numbers are equal.

at fictional 'New York University.' According to a press release, Quinn will use "wavelets, chaos theory, representation theory, game theory, genetic algorithms and other buzzwords to defraud the National Science Foundation. She does this by writing enormous grants claiming to solve famous open problems in mathematics, when she actually intends to settle more obscure conjectures. As a public service, forty minutes of the pilot episode are devoted to the intricacies of NSF regulations governing grant-writing." Surprisingly, eighty percent of the test market fell asleep during the pilot.

The director's first choice for the lead was the actress Danica McKellar (*The Wonder Years, The West Wing*), but unfortunately, she was busy doing mathematics. Instead, in an effort to appeal to older viewers, the network decided to cast Judy Garland in the lead. Although Garland died in 1969, the network has pieced together scenes from *The Wizard of Oz, Meet Me In St. Louis* and several other movies in which she appeared to create a seamless production. In future shows, look for Quinn to find a proof of the Riemann hypothesis by visiting a wizard, a counterexample to Goldbach's Conjecture by following a yellow brick road and an entirely new result to be called "The Trolley Theorem.

Math psychic Predicts the Following Headlines!

Anguish of an aging epsilon: "I can't approach zero anymore!"

Your favorite power series reveals your past lives.

37% (really!) of all parenthesis are unnecessary.

Farmer builds three-sided rectilinear pen along river and maximizes it area!

Log suppressed government documents reveal Galois was annihilated in his duel space.

"I am not a liar," claims noted Cretan.