

MATHEM- ANTICS

— Gary Davis



All kinds of puzzles in mathematics and logic have been invented from before the Babylonians to the present time. There have been those which involve pure deductive reasoning and those which require a special talent for probing the unknown and 'breaking' a problem. Given information like $3a$ equals $2b$ plus $5c$; a , b , c . Can this be solved? Two equations with three unknowns? a plus b plus c equals 7 ; a , b , and c are positive integers, find something. You might say "No, of course it can't." But you would be wrong. Why?

Given an equilateral five-pointed star inscribed in a circle of radius one inch, with a circle inscribed in it, (see figure) what is the radius of the inner circle? What is the area between the star and the outer circle? If a six pointed equilateral star with the same area was inscribed in a circle, what would be the radius of the circle? This is an example of a purely mechanical problem of the type you might invent yourself to satisfy your curiosity about something. This is probably the way mathematics got started.

Mysteries of physics can be studied by applying mathematical concepts to physical situations. A revolving lighthouse beacon $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the nearest point S on a long, straight shore casts out a single beam. The light revolves once every three seconds. Where will the light beam be on the shore when it is moving at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second)? Is this situation possible?

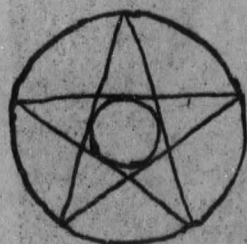
Some busy Adder might be interested in compiling a table listing the most popular choice combination in an election. Here is some information. In the fall S.R.C. elections this week there were two candidates for the one position of second vice-president; four for the senior rp. position; and four for the two available freshman representative spots. If all the students voting voted for each position, and there was only one ballot instead of three, how many possible ways could these four have been chosen? (Remember Math 100?)

I have done enough math, and I want a little space for antics, so to escape temporarily from subjects mathematical I am establishing a sub-column...

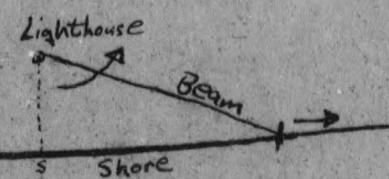
THE AFTERMATH

Do you know how to catch an ordinary grey elephant? It's quite simple. You get a pair of binoculars, a pair of tweezers and a glass jar. When you see an ordinary grey elephant you take the binoculars, turn them around backwards, which makes the elephant very small. Then you take the tweezers and lift him up and put him in the glass jar.

Do you know how to catch a PINK elephant? It's also fairly easy. Everyone knows that a pink elephant loves raisins. You get some raisins and put them on your windowsill in the morning. When a pink elephant comes along, he will see the raisins and come over to eat them (he really loves them raisins). You put the raisins on the windowsill very morning for 30 days, and every morning the pink elephant will come and eat them. On the 31st day, you put out the raisins and along will come the pink elephant. But before he can eat them you grab them away from the windowsill. The pink elephant gets so exasperated he turns grey. Then you take the binoculars and tweezers and glass jar....



The Figures



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MIKE DE GRADO

Here is a prime example of ignorance and prejudice causing blind dissent with regard to a constructive proposal.

We all know (from last week's Brunswickan) that Dr. Mackay, and Msgr. Duffie of St. Thomas University announced definitely the transfer of S. T. U. to this campus, as a result of the report of the Deutsch Royal Commission on Higher Education in New Brunswick.

Below are some excerpts from an article in the Telegraph-Journal, October 8, 1963, which show how ridiculous some people can make themselves for no good reason.

"The Friends of St. Thomas claim the entire Miramichi area is 'completely disgusted' with the announced move of St. Thomas of New Brunswick campus in Fredericton.

"In a statement issued late Sunday (Oct. 6) night, the organization formed last year to keep St. Thomas in Chatham said, 'everything possible' will be done to prevent its relocation in New Brunswick capital.

"Deceit, strongarm methods and disregard for the people of this area in particular," said the Friends of St. Thomas statement, had led the organization to take steps and plan others in an effort to block the move."

I can just picture Colin B. twisting Msgr. Duffie's arm as Msgr. Duffie cries out for help from St. Thomas Tommygunners.

But there is more...

"Our thoughts regarding our college and the proposed transfer of it are simply this," said the Friends of St. Thomas statement. "Let U.N.B. expand in every way it can; let a residence and other facilities be established on the U.N.B. campus for

Catholic students, but give us our college."

(How dramatic.)

"The statement said duplication was 'a preposterous reason' for moving the college. 'If duplication is to be avoided every minor university in the province must be shut down. Let's not throw our St. Thomas College away as a crumb in an attempted justification for an investigation by a Royal Commission. 'The Friends of St. Thomas questioned the right of Msgr. Duffie to join in Saturday's announcement and said that as far as could be learned, no meeting of the Board of Governors had been held to ratify the action."

Apparently these poor people honestly want the prolonged existence of those miserable New Brunswick cow colleges, which dare to claim to be institutions of higher learning and whose standards guarantee recognition for their degrees in every metropolis in Canada, east of the St. John River.

A tribute to 'WHEELS': People can't yet deduce from college performances if an individual is going to be successful say ten years hence, since there isn't yet a proven criterion for judgement. I won't try either since I'm not an expert psychologist yet.

Instead, let's take things as they are now, and judge people at the present moment. There are only a few people who virtually run all the extracurricular activities on this campus, people who have come to be known as 'wheels'. Where would we be if these people didn't care? We owe a lot to these people who don't mind failing a few courses to give us some social life and to get people to point at them and say, "Look, there's a wheel."

As I stare wistfully out of my third floor window I notice with despair that the ladies from L.D.H. whom we all hoped to be able to gaze upon are shy and take the introvert's route around the "back" of the residence system. Ah, misery!

Yes, all we need is a Student Union Building. At last every officer of every club with 'pull' can have his own little key for his own little office and Radio UNB will have a new place to play cards in. Yeah team!

The Open Mouth or the Open Mind?

by Michael Cassidy

It has been said that the preacher approaches every problem with an open mouth, and this caricature is not without some justification, for Christians have not always been noted for intellectual consistency and open-mindedness. Often they have been characterized by bigotry, obscurantism, judgmental attitudes and disapproval of everything in life which seemed to be enjoyable. Commitment to Christ was defined in terms of such a string of negatives that those with any sense of fun and zest for life were thoroughly repelled. This is unfortunate, though understandable.

However, in these days during the Leighton Ford Crusade in the city and while I have the privilege of being on your campus as a representative of his team, I would like you with an open mind to reexamine your image of Christianity and to face courageously the astonishing credentials and claims of Jesus Christ.

If this is done, many will recognize that they have been knocking down a straw man. What was rejected as Christianity was not Christianity at all.

(Continued on Page 6)

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