

"The Menagerie"

By Wendell Blackett

Wonders of years in the past haunted the lady.
A sense of regret still lingered in her mind.
The experiences sadly brought, left her thinking maybe,
it was she who was mistaken, and alone without love.
Her eyes raced through the menagerie she could not find.
Her delusions of grandeur still could not be quenched.
Her endless derision let her think back on feelings locked inside.
She tried to keep from screaming as her body slowly flinched.
If only she could have sensed the dangers which were to come.
Rest could return to her menagerie she built up.
But for her empty spaces left her lonely and glum.
She knew her mistake was the images which kept her from the cup.
He could not escape from a menagerie made of gold.
Her world was the only place he could find his own soul.

PROBLEM CORNER

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is pleased to announce a project to be known as "PROBLEM CORNER" and to be coordinated by Dr. Tomasz Kaczynski. The aim of the project is to make available to students a set of interesting and challenging problems. Another aim is the encouragement of problem solving.

The basic rules of operation of the project are as follows:

- A set of problems shall be posted at the beginning of each month.

- Solutions to any of the problems will be welcomed until the end of the month and should be submitted in writing to Dr. Tomasz Kaczynski, Memorial-104. (Please slide your submission under the door if Dr. Kaczynski is absent).

- Queries about the project and questions should be directed to Dr. Kaczynski.

- Prizes will be offered to the authors of correct and/or original solutions of any problem at a social gathering at the end of the semester.

SET 1-January 1989

1. Show that the product of three consecutive integers is never a perfect square.

2. There are K people in a class ($K \geq 2$). Show that at least two of them must know the same number of people from among those present. (Assume that if A knows B then B knows A).

3. Solve the simultaneous system of equations

$$x_1 + x_2 x_3 x_4 = 2$$

$$x_2 + x_1 x_3 x_4 = 2$$

$$x_3 + x_1 x_2 x_4 = 2$$

$$x_4 + x_1 x_2 x_3 = 2$$

(Explain your work so to make it clear that you obtained all solutions).

4. If $x_0 < x_1$ and for $n > 1$, $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_n + x_{n-1}}{2}$, find

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$. Prove your answer.

Solutions accepted until Wednesday, February 8 (date of posting solutions February 9) Only the first correct solution of a problem qualifies for prize unless other solutions are based on different methods or ideas.

Aloud Thought

by Richard Whipple

Hello,

WELCOME to 'Aloud Thought'. This shall be a column in The Gem which allows you, the reader and/or the student, to express thoughts concerning society and people in general. It is a column for essays; and any submissions from the readership should be presented in that form. As this is a column, brevity is a main concern albeit not the whole concern. Submissions are judged to be appropriate not only in terms of length but also by their clarity and eloquence of speech, and, when a choice between submissions must be made, it is based on the importance of the submissions' topic subjects.

If you have a thought you would like explored 'aloud' then think it through, submit it and the valiant over-worked and under-paid research staff will look into it for both of us. Such a submission is subject to the guidelines put forth above.

When submitting to The Gem, please include your name (withheld upon request) and a telephone number where you can be reached for consultation and for editing purposes. If you have a computer account then simply type out your submission and mail it to "GEM". If not, The Gem newspaper office is located in the basement of Main Building and you may leave your submission there in a grungy envelope that no-one but the editor has the bravery to face. Better still is to place your submission in its own envelope, seal it and deliver it into the larger manila one that's on the Gem office door.

Hoping to start the new column off with a bang, next week I think aloud about the friction between the Moral Majority and the immoral minority in an allegory between Vendacon and the Panther Hockey Team.

Or perhaps I'll carry the interview I am planning to conduct with Glen Charles Lalanne. I have this really neat essay prepared condemning society's double standards of violent entertainment versus violent enjoyment. Hang on to your, ehr, socks philistines!

-Richard Whipple is currently a first year student in the Hunter S. Thomson School of Gonzo Journalism.

"The Doomsday Device"

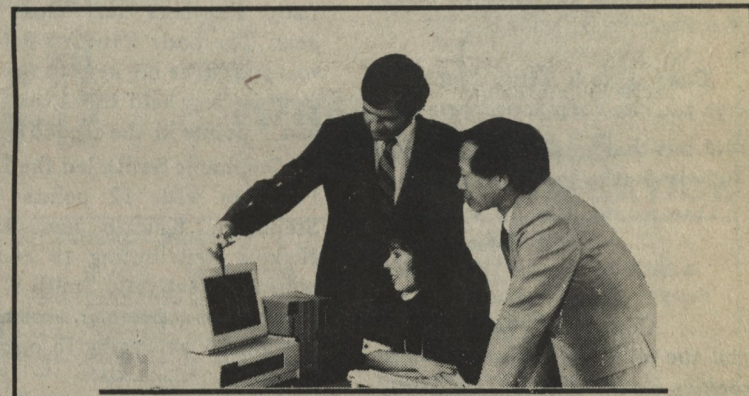
By Wendell Blackett.

They decided one day that they would build themselves a bomb. If the Germans built it first than democracy would not last long. The race began and the Japanese were in the way. So Mr. Trueman decided he would drop it on them one day. Many were killed by two atomic blasts in three short days. The success of the mission was always marred by the hell to pray.

It was not long before these doomsday devices became the norm. Many people protested against the doomsday device that was born. Two nations grew to oppose one another each threatening the other. Such a pity that the fools can't see that they are brothers.

Soon others began to build up their various arsenals. Still peace lovers dreaded the doomsday device and its toll. Sad days passed than a Soviet man began to talk of Glasnost. Soon few doomsday devices were about to give up the ghost.

But it was only for show and the threat was still alive. There were even those who felt that the race should thrive. There was a time when we all thought deterrance was the answer. Still it will scare others who believe the Doomsday device is a cancer. as a button is pushed so the very word we are in can end. Can they not see the madness of this, the darkest of sins.



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