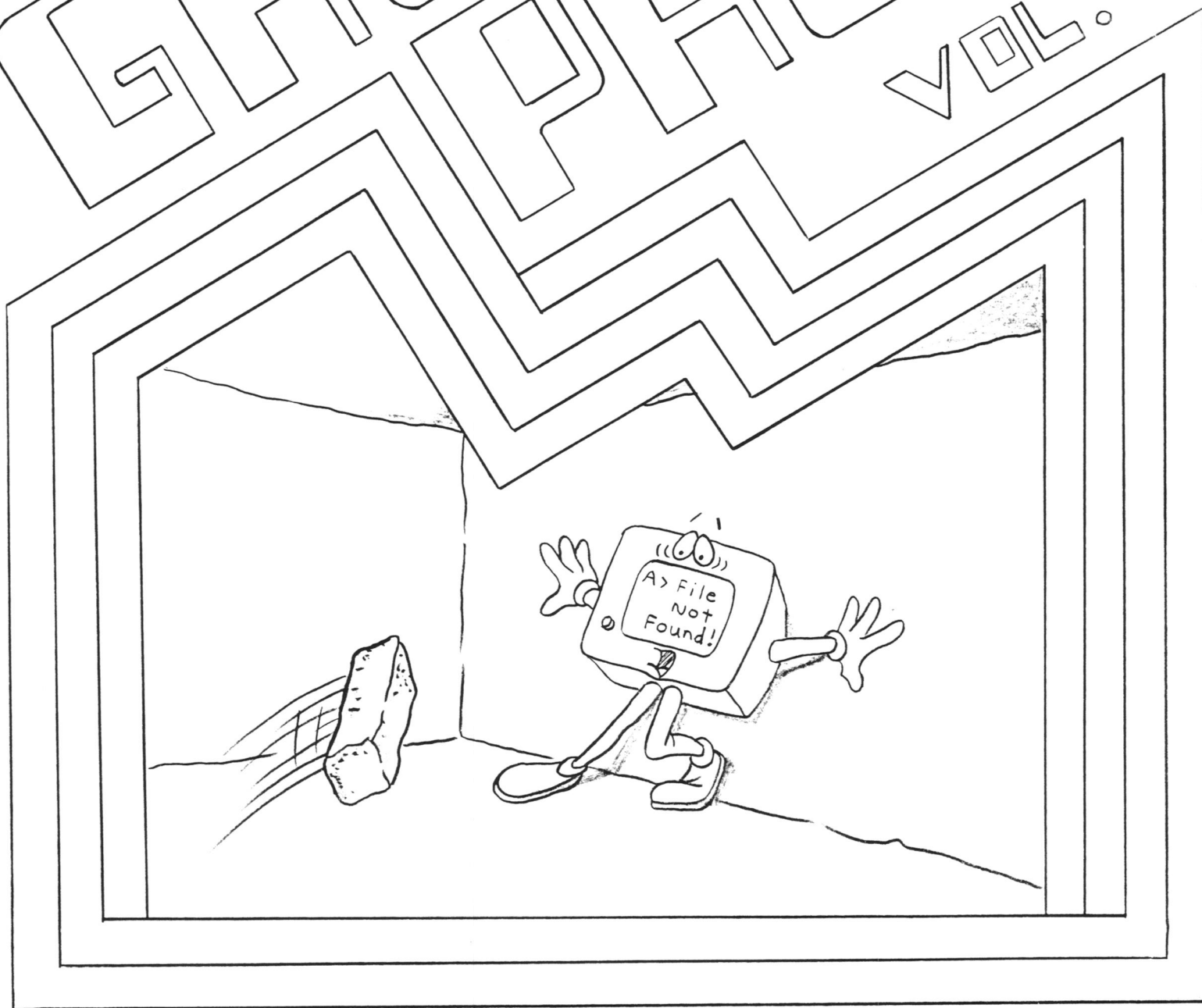


THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS

VOL. 1



THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS

WE ARE BACK! After a long and conspicuous absence from your in-baskets, "THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS" is on the streets again and will appear on a bi-monthly basis. Our motto is "All the news (read: gossip and speculation) that's fit to print" and we expect everyone in the company to feel free to contribute. As you see as we go along, the accent will not be on journalistic excellence but on interesting and entertaining information that will keep people reading and coming back for more.

Before you plunge into this edition of "THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS" we thought it would be appropriate to go back and tell you briefly about our humble origins. There was a time, about 18 months ago, when we had a (baker's) dozen programmers working in the outback on Richmond Road. They were an industrious group who good-heartedly referred to themselves as "The Grunts". It was suggested at that time that there be a way to improve communication between the Grunts (who are to be given credit for most of the software on The NABU Network) and the rest of the world. And so, "THE GRUNT PRESS" was born. It survived our move to Baxter, then, under the steady hand of Leo Binkowski, it died a short and celebrated death and has been at rest ever since.

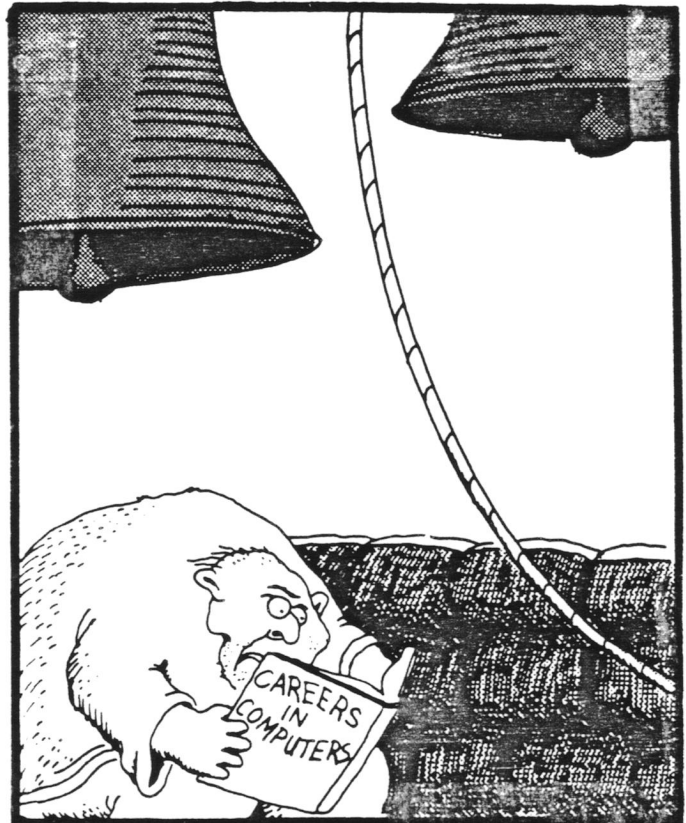
GRUNT PRESS imitations have abounded since then, but they all pale by comparison. Take for example the overly censored and totally sterile "CED Newsletter" and "The Wizard's Week in Review", both of which made cleaning your toaster on a Friday night seem like fun.

Ah, but we should not waste time here looking back. Instead, we should look forward to good clean (sic), interesting chatter and drivel from the upcoming issues of "THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS."

Mary Bermel
Chris Wallace
- Co-Editors

REMINDER:

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR
NEXT ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 6.
DELIVER TO THE IN-BASKETS OF
EITHER MARY BERMEL OR CHRIS
WALLACE.



CONTENT PLANNING - ROUND 1

The 19th and 20th of January were considered sacred days by the Content Program Managers. What luxury! Two days of discussing plans, issues, expectations, philosophies and problems.

The holiness (a favourite Catholic adjective) of the occasion was acknowledged by the decision to meet "away from the office". Dow's Lake Pavilion was anointed place. Has anyone tried to explain to John Hughes how to get to The Pavilion?

To make a confusing incident short, The Pavilion had just opened, it's smallest room is the size of half the Baxter Centre and to Avin's horror, there were no facilities for writing. The Product Managers were prepared: Chris wrangled coffee from a guilt-ridden employee, Avin phoned John Hughes at the Four Seasons to see if there was a room at the Inn, Ed Myers watched Avin, Maria Cioni examined the paintings on the wall, Doug Meredith watched Ed, and Lynn Maher had everything under control.

Fear not! Despite these minor setbacks we managed to put in 9 hours of discussion and planning. The outcome of the first day's work can be summed up as follows: NABU is in the Software Distribution business and each Product Manager will acquire appropriate content to make The NABU NETWORK a financial as well as a technical winner.

Education is evolving into a major market area, quality games for micros (strategy and simulation games) should be offered in modest quantity, tool software (Microsoft Basic, Word Processing, Spreadsheet) is necessary to afford subscribers the power of the computer and information products will grow slowly until subscribers appreciate the value of "smart" information packages.

Day two of the planning exercise was cancelled because Keith was stoned (kidney stones that is!) Next round of content planning will take place shortly. Corners, everyone. Ed Myers, come out fighting!!

David Farrar on Corporate Culture:

"At Mitel, every Friday at 3 o'clock we observed an old English custom. I stood on my chair and requested that the populace below take off their clothes...a quaint custom that should be carried over to NABU. Believe me, it was great fun."

Michelle Couture during a brain storming session:

"Picture this...a completely unique world, you journey by some sophisticated intercellestrial vehicle towards 4 doors which symbolize openings into other worlds, each one with its own peculiar character and locked in a time which we haven't defined...4 universes--you know, like a fantasy...hasn't anyone around here read Tolkein?"

FROM THE SECLUDED CAVERNS OF Q.A....

Secluded, yes, (we love it), but feel free to drop by to see what we are up to. Pick up the latest tips on "How to Spoil a Programmer's Day in 10 Easy Steps". Kidding! With all this serious testing going on, we have to maintain a sense of humour! We've been very busy lately with our magnifying glasses and bug detectors to ensure that we get our content delivered on time (easier said than done, but we feel things are improving).

If you're interested in doing some additional reading on games and stuff, we have a not too badly stocked library of games magazines etc, that you are free to borrow from. Just drop by and we'll show you where to sign items out (don't bother reading the fine print on the contracts, trust us.....)

Finally, we have a new co-op student joining us Feb. 1 from J.S. Woodworth High School, Allen McKillen go easy on him for the first hour or so, okay Leo?

FROM THE BOOKIES

The Library/Information Centre is now located on the first floor next to Marketing and Sales. Drop by for a visit! We have so many books, periodicals, newsletters, reports and generally fascinating items to choose from it's awesome!! In fact, Susan and I are getting so smart it's downright scary!! Ask us a question, any question. Better yet! Come and find out for yourself!

I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE NEWS...

The Network News (or, as it sometimes called, The Network Blues) is a weekly on-line newsmagazine that promises our customers programs we will eventually deliver, informs them about the system, tells them where to get help etc. Basically it's everything you always wanted to know about The NABU Network and then some that you didn't want to know.

Doug Meredith's Dec. market survey revealed that 33% of our subscribers actually read The News, versus 49% who watch The National. So, if you want to be part of the action, please submit externally-newsworthy and management-sanctioned items to Mary Bermel on Monday of the week of publication. They will be appreciated.

Credit for graphics goes to Glen Wright and special thanks to Leo Binkowski for game tips.

"Hi kids"
--Keith Soley

FROM THE BOY-ARE-MY-EYES-SORE-STARING-AT-THE-NED-SCREEN DEPT:

Giddy, lads. This is the lowdown from the INFORMATION CONTENT DEVELOPMENT GROUP, which consists of head Les Perley ("Less Curely" to his games programmer friends), Tanya Thompson, Edmond Hum, and Tracy O'Keefe. As for Glenn Wright, well...

ANYONE FOR MUSICAL CHAIRS

Ottawa -- Les Perley has assumed responsibilities as the head of the Applications Development Group, while the former head, Charles Godwin, will remain as Professional Product Manager. Les says the appointment has not been officially announced, but changes had already been made to herald his arrival. Ursula Thomson has moved over from the Marketing area to serve as secretary to the group, and has taken over Tracy's desk space. Tracy has moved over to the frigid (BRRR!) regions to Les Perley's desk, which used to be Sue Gordon's desk. Charles Godwin no longer has a desk where he used to sit, beside Les Perley. Les Perley has moved to Yves Dupont's old office, which Paul Lancaster occasionally used, and where the secretaries for the Engineering people now store their paper. And Les will keep his previous duties as head of the Information department. Because Charles Godwin is only here on a part-time basis, it was felt that someone here full-time like Les should take responsibility for the Applications Development Group. Ironically, Les, is here on a contract, and he has yet to make up his mind whether or not he will stay here in Ottawa or go back to Vancouver.

-(Editors' note: the author has promised to outline the new share structure in the next issue, as concisely and straightforwardly as exhibited above...we can't wait!)

RADIO BITES THE DUST

Ottawa -- One of the few remaining relics from the Roosevelt Avenue offices is gone. Tanya Thompson's radio played its last tune from CHEZ 106 last week, despite being knocked and hit several times so that it might come back to life.

"It had been in the family for years", sobbed Tanya, who promptly went to Zellers at the Pinecrest Mall and bought the cheapest radio they had for sale. Asked why she had so quickly found a replacement, Tanya said, "I can't live without music." Tanya's old radio is available to any radio fix-it buffs willing to spring for a vacuum tube. Burial at sea is expected.

cont'd next page...

Chris Wallace on NABU Coverage:

"Here's another publication without a NABU mention. Why aren't we being quoted in these magazines? We've got to do something about it. By the way did you know my father was in advertising? He wrote the slogan for Molson's. Well, I spent the weekend in Montreal, that's why I'm in such a good mood...what's it to you anyway?"

CONFIRM OR DENY:

* Is it true that we're going to be moving again? Those empty spaces on the south and west sides of the building look awfully inviting...

* Is it true there's an order going out for monitors and nonfluorescent lighting? Failing that, how about placing vats of homemade carrot juice beside our work stations, and providing straws for all? (Oh my eyes)...

* Is onion paper the answer to transferring drawings to a NED screen? One of Glenn Wright's Atkinson Film Arts buddies suggested pencilling a drawing on onion paper, and then copying it by NED. The advantage? Graphics that more accurately reflect what the artists has sketched out on paper...

* Does Andrea McGrath know that Leo Binkowski had been doing an impression of her behind her back? Will Leo do it again for a few laughs? Will Andrea kill Leo when she finds out? (Will Leo kill me for spilling the beans?)

PLAYGIRL ON ONE SIDE, DISNEY ON THE OTHER

Ottawa -- 1984 not only brought the Orwellian year here at last, it also brought a calendar competition to the Information Content work area. Tanya Thompson was the first to grab our attention by bringing in a calendar featuring bare-chested men (!!!) from Chippendale's. Glenn Wright followed, tacking up a colourful calendar with scenes from Walt Disney's animated classics, like "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". And then Ed Hum brought in a calendar with pictures of various computer graphics, with the days laid out on a keyboard. But it was Tanya's calendar that provoked the most comment, everything from embarrassed titters to low-browed disapproval. Glenn was getting a complex too, the way everyone headed over to Tanya's calendar to stare and gawk at the bodies. "Doesn't anyone like my calendar?", asked Glenn. Incidentally, Mary Bermel has a calendar from her alma mater Queen's University that also has some photographs of men (at least they have their clothes on). Some anonymous source put up a calendar from Lorenzo's Pizza and Subs in the Games Department area. And don't ask to look at the special calendar Leo Binkowski got from Lorenzo's...please.

Cecelia McDowall on the purpose of inviting colleagues to meetings you hold:

"We'll be discussing. You'll be listening."

NABU SALES & MARKETING SOCIAL CLUB

For all those who hoped to win big on "649" -- and didn't (!) your second chance is coming up! (Our odds are better)

Sales and Marketing will have two new family members in April '84. Two of our favourite NABOONS, Andrea McGrath and Cathy Sabourin will be having little NABLETTES. To celebrate such an important event in the Sales & Marketing history, we will be holding the:

'BABY BOOMER LOTTERY'

RULES:

1. There will be 46 tickets @ \$4.00 each.
(Each ticket entitles you to two chances to win!)
2. With each ticket you will pick date and sex of Andrea's and Cathy's baby. That's how you get two chances to win.
3. If all the tickets are sold (46), the pot will be \$92.00 each for Cathy and Andrea.
4. How to win: If you pick the date and sex of either of the babies, you split the pot with the mother. (If all the tickets are sold, you would win \$46.00)
5. If nobody picks the date and sex, or if the baby is late, or early, or if the mother has twins, or triplets....need I go on? the mother takes all.

This is our way of wishing Andrea and Cathy the best at becoming new mothers. We hope all of you will contribute, and have fun at the same time.

For tickets please see
Laurie Smith, ext. 325.

Example:

I ticket purchased gives you
two chances as follows:

p.s. You can buy more than
one ticket.

due *Baby Boomer Lottery*

<i>Andrea</i>			<i>Cathy</i>		
<i>April</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>April</i>
8	<i>Joe Smith</i>				8
9					9
10					10
11					11
12					12
13					13
14					14
15					15
16					16
17					17
18			<i>Joe Smith</i>		18
19					19
20					20
21					21

Andrea McGrath at Content Meeting: "I have this terrible feeling in the pit of my stomach!!" to which Keith Soley replied, "Oh, so that's what it is."

Cathy Sabourin on Prego grace: "I'm at that waddling stage."

YOU WANNA PIZZA ZA ACTION?

All those interested in getting together on a week night after work within the next few weeks for pizza and beer at El Toro's please let Laurie Smith know. Or, if you have a better suggestion, please advise.

We would like to make this a habit once a month or so, just so we can get together and have fun outside the office. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange one of these events in the future.

(Editor's Note: Yes, it's true! Laurie Smith, our social director extraordinaire, has been re-appointed to head up the recently resurrected Sales and Marketing Social Club.)

AVOIDING THE WORD

It's no wonder the outside world looks on with amazement at the success of THE NABU NETWORK in the face of some of the public statements by our senior execs. We voice praises for not having to deal with the civil service mind -- that vacuous, obscure chasm that we have all come to know and hate as being synonymous with Ottawa. But, take the following typical statement from our esteemed chairman: "Relative to the new pricing structures, we are, relative to others in the industry, in a relatively competitive situation and growing at a relatively escalative pace relative to our industry relatives."

Unfortunately, the public doesn't get to witness the internal discourse at NABU which at least rivals that disseminated to the public. John Shortt's "barring the unforeseen" and Anna Dupont's "I think the delay was caused by human error" characterize the fact that we should be in business at least as long as the government.

Content Committee meetings at NABU are a rich source of quotable quotes. Take, for example, a typical scheduling response from Charles Godwin: "How 'bout I look into it and get back to you at the next meeting?" And, of course there's Peter Filipkowski with his standard reply: "hmm,.....". From the content planners comes a chorus of: "It looks like there will be absolutely no problem!" To this, it didn't take Les Perley long to find out that the best response he could give is, "That's too optimistic from my point of view."

Cecilia "the enforcer" McDowall on working at home:

"Have you got any extra newspapers for the toilet training I'm conducting at my place...and I'm not referring to Del."

LOOKING BACK OVER LAUNCH...OR WAS THAT LUNCH?

It was October...1983...frost was in the air...so were the pumpkins. An air of hostility or was that hospitality clung over the small group as they greeted the guests. It was a black and white affair...rather like a bunch of penquins in heat.

There was a Hughes hush or was that a huge hush when the master of ceremonies crept to the altar to give his blessing to the multitudes, or was that multitudes gathered beneath him. It was a crushing blow for most of them. They took it in good stride as the catering staff moved effortfully under the impact. With a resounding smack of the microphone they were off and running...every which way but loose...the bar after all was FREE. The crew had taken their positions early to avoid the crush however there were a few casualties, most of which we will allude to in the following lines.

Mik in her fine tux attire, stood proudly with Nnyl who had lost all but her appetite, missed the not so delicious moments when the knife conveniently disappeared into, or onto (depending on the version you hear) the crowd crouched below the front stage area. The crew nipped a bit but it wasn't noticable (not for the lack of trying) and found the seven hour foot powder had no bearing on the amount of carpeting beneath. Crouched behind a pillar two took task at tossing out insults and ended up on the early morning rat patrol. Further down the wall another member of the stiff crew topped over and dragged a fatigued carcass across the floor in the direction of a watering hole (where many had gone before).

signed sincerely,
deep choke

ps. you were there...add to this if you must

WE COULDN'T LEAVE YOU OUT

Jamie Edwards wanted to be included in this inaugural edition, so we're pleased to confirm that Jamie is seeing someone new, and he is buying a brand-new Fiero. We always knew Jamie was a wild and crazy guy...now we know he's got a fire in his tank. And, we suspect he's moonlighting at places other than Brandy's too. Just why are you looking so spiffy these days??

Randi Hansen (speaking very loudly on the telephone):

"What time should we meet? Well, I'm normally in bed by 9 and home at 10!"

WELCOME TO...

To the swish of bellydancing chiffon, Eric Manherz was treated to a king's farewell not a fortnight ago. Just recently, it was announced that Anna Dupont was leaving Operations for Headend Development--something you can really sink your teeth into. In her place, Ron Sures has been commandeered to manage Network Operations.

Upon hearing the news, our revived Social and Rec Club immediately appointed Ron to the Social and Rec Club Riot Squad. However, they now report that the new position might not be appropriate.

It seems that Ron is bent on sprucing up the department's image, a noticeable departure from the tradition of jeans and tees-- the moustache is gone, the hair is neatly cropped and the working attire is a bona fide suit. What we really want to know is, what spot will replace an unmentionable Richmond Road establishment (Hubba Bubba's to insiders) for debriefing sessions?

Ron, we welcome you and we wish you the best.

SALES ADOPTS MAYTAG'S SLOGAN

**“WE ARE THE LONLIEST...
salespeople in town!”**

John Bobak on participaction:

"I'd like to go to your exercise class Michelle, BUT I don't own a pair of tights."

Mary Bermel on good fits:

"I saw Paul M. last night and you'd be amazed. I couldn't wait to get into those pants."

Ed Myers on communicating dis-easily:

"Remember that Christmas kiss I gave you?...Well, I think you'd better go get a check up."

Maria Cioni on office communication:

"Chrissey...Chrissey...Where are you Chrissey?...."

CAN WE TALK...?

- Former grunt and current vice president of B and G Designs, George Gallagher is making his **NATIONAL TELEVISION DEBUT** on the 8th of February at 4:30 p.m. on CBC-TV. His cameo appearance on "Going Great" deals mostly with George's games programming days at **NABU**. We are assured that there will be a mention of some of his former associates so...please tune in and gloat.

- A big grunt welcome to our latest hired help, **JACQUIN FERNANDEZ** and **TERRY NEWCOMBE**. Please remember that there is a heritage and the reputation of all **NABU** programmers that you must live up to...So what are you doing coming in so early in the morning?

- I can't believe my ears dept: Was it a certain **A.C.** who was overheard at a recent management meeting saying: "...We're after 13 year old boys." Well, to each his own **A.C.**--but don't try and drag the rest of us down with you. And, one **PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE PRODUCT MANAGER** was caught claiming: "My wife plays with it for 3 hours every night." Why, his Home **NABU** of course...oh, grow up; I know what you're thinking.

- Just in case the entire world hasn't heard, **LAURIE SMITH** is back in our midst. After spending 2 exciting and challenging months as an executive in a New York computer manufacturing company, Laurie packed up her bags to return to her small town roots and get married to the Jew next door. She's taken that old Marlo Thomas story ("That Girl") and done it her way...backwards!

See you next month.

Thanx to our contributing reporters, gossip columnists, real-life writers, pseudo-authors and department informers. We hope to hear from you again!

Maria Cioni
Andrea McGrath
Shelly McQuillen
Ed Hum (Senior Reporter)
Laurie Smith
Ed Myers
Deep Choke
Randi Hansen
Michelle Couture
Maryann Sullivan

NEXT EDITION: FEB 10
(KEEP YOUR IN-BASKETS OPEN)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
FEB 6