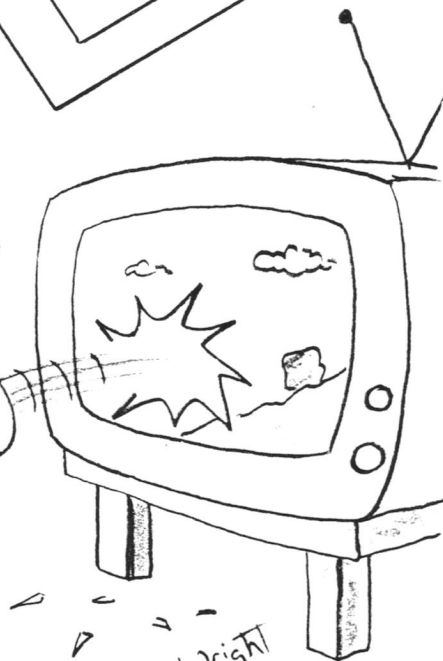


THE ALL NEW GRUNT PROCESSES

ISSUE 5



THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS

THE EDITOR'S SAY

Hello. My name is Edmond Hum, and starting with this issue the Grunt Press goes through its first change of hands. As most of you Marketeers realize, Mary Bermel has gone to work for IBM (the people who brought you the slogan, "THIMK!"), and the task of putting together this rag has fallen into my lap. This means that submissions and the like are to be handed over to me, and you can find me in the closest possible office to the cafeteria. I am assuming, of course, that people will be forming a line to hand me stuff, and not just to grab a cup of coffee.

The next deadline is Monday, April 16, and hopefully we'll be able to get our next issue out before Good Friday.

By the way, this is my first baby. Be kind.

CONFIRM OR DENY

*Is it true that a NABU games programmer once put his running shoes in the microwave oven? Apparently it had been a wet and rainy day, and by the time the programmer was ready to leave, his shoes had still not dried. Since he was in a rush to catch the 5:25 bus, he put his shoes in the microwave, and voila, Roast Shoes. (This is the same programmer who turned his running shoes from red to pink by trying to pull off the same instant drying technique in the dryer at home.) So if you find your warmed-up sandwich has a funny smell to it...

*How many boxes did it take Leo Binkowski to store all of his garb, er, sorry, stuff, when Applications Development picked up its belongings and moved? Well, counting the boxes that Greg Adams labelled with Leo's name on it, 12.

*Who gave a scream of delight when she won a trip to San Francisco? We don't have all the details about what kind of contest it was, or even when she'll be heading down south, but we're sure Joanne Warkus in Engineering will be glad to tell you all about it...

*Isn't it just like Leo Binkowski to threaten to scare Andrea McGrath into labour on Tuesday, April 10? That's the date Leo made his bet that Andrea would have her baby in the Baby Boomer Lottery. Talk about what some people will do to win a bet...

*If you wanted toilet paper or paper towels on Monday, you were out of luck. Apparently the contractor who provides janitorial services for NABU ended their contract the Friday before, and as one NABUite was heard to say, "They must have ate the paper before they left."

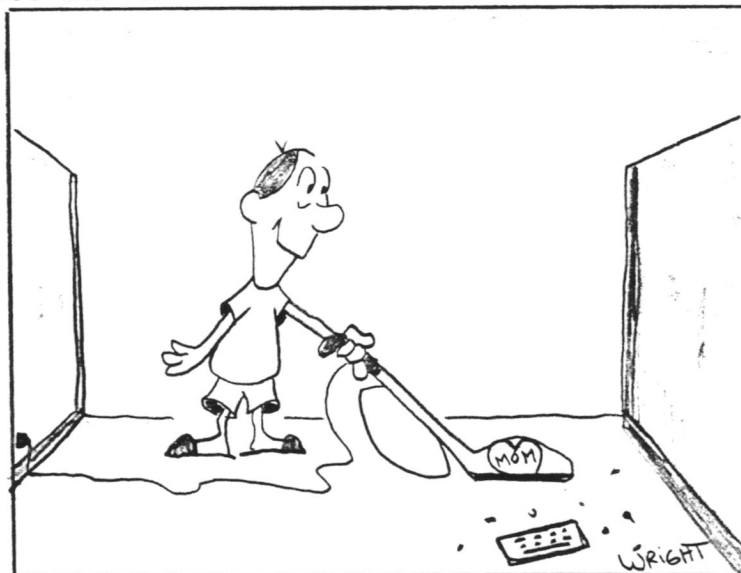
A DAY OF DISCOVERIES

By Tracy O'Keefe

As you may have already noticed, the Applications Development Group has moved their offices around at Baxter Centre. It took a day of packing, a day of moving, a day of unpacking and much mental anguish to move a group of people a total of 5 feet to the wall. I was the person deemed responsible for making up a new floor plan for our group, and as I packed up my last box of papers and diskettes on Friday, March 30, I was making a mental note of all the things that were to be done and the multitude of panels and desks that were to be moved the following day.

As well as being a very productive day of moving, Saturday the 31st turned into a day of interesting and somewhat amusing discoveries.

My introduction to moving day at NABU was a greeting at the front door by my boss in a t-shirt and jeans (a sight one seldom has a chance to behold). The jeans and t-shirt I could handle, but when Les Perley proceeded to vacuum the uncluttered areas of carpet, earnestly picking up any stray nuts and bolts, I had an overwhelming urge to freeze that moment in time, and wished I could share this with my fellow grunts. However, as freezing time is not yet possible at NABU, my description and your imagination will have to suffice for our mutual amusement. (vacuum courtesy of Les' mother-in-law).



Moving day also taught me that our precious NABU carpeting is to be treated with nothing but love and care. An ambitious Greg Adams discovered that leaving the brakes of an NABU 1100 on, while recklessly wheeling it to the other side of the building, results in a distinct and very visible tracking of your travels in the form of black wheel marks (removable only through the diligent efforts of a bewildered janitor).

more...

A DAY OF DISCOVERIES - continued

Things are not always what they appear - Leo Binkowski has been cleverly disguising a garbage can as a desk for the past year, as we discovered. And seemingly easy tasks are not always so easy - garbage must be labeled in six different languages before it is disposed (Waste, dechts, refeugo, scarto, wuste, etc.).

My wish to any of you planning a move is that you have a day as enlightening (and amusing) as Saturday was for me.

FROM DEEP WITHIN THE ENGINEERING MAZE

By Eric Mesdag

It seems as though there have been no contributors from the engineering side of NABU to the GRUNT PRESS since its revival. Because I have the dubious qualification of working for engineering, I will write an article. If there is a bias towards the Microcomputer Systems Software group, that's OK, because that's where I come from. If anyone objects, tuff... write your own article.

Big news is that Tom Willis got hitched last weekend. The happy couple are spending a couple of weeks in Jamaica, in the hopes that summer will arrive in Ottawa before they do. Another occasion of note; Norm Siemens got a year older last week. This is your OFFICIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY wish, appearing in a leading publication at NABU (is this laying it on too thick?). We wish you the best, Norm. Congratulations are also due to Nick Easton and his wife on the arrival of a new baby. Nick is apparently at home doing some System Integrity testing.

It's time to beat our drum, and let people know what we have done. In the MSS group, we have boldly re-programmed what was programmed before, improving the video and keyboard handling routines. We have also moved windowing routines to an extended IOS module, to streamline the system and still provide the all of the functionality that is in IOS. Applications which include scrolling of the entire screen will run slightly faster. If you are an expert at SKIING, you will notice that you can make small improvements in your time down the hill. The new and improved version of IOS resides on SEL 2 most of the time these days, and I think Q.A. will allow it to go to the OCL broadcast soon. Aside from IOS, we have released CP/M Plus to Q.A. This is the stuff needed for the NABU PC to operate in a stand-alone mode. We are excited over here because now we can run a wide range of CP/M programs on the NABU PC.

more...

ENGINEERING - continued

Another item to report from our area, a nasty little problem with CABSERVE, (spotted by Mary K. Marsden) has been corrected. CABSERVE will no longer stop working halfway through a long demonstration. For those of you who are using CABSERVE, make sure you have version 1.4.

There are two major achievements in engineering which can't be left out. Tony Thurston and John Brock have used the NABU Network to deliver a Commodore 64 game from the head-end (SEL 2) to a Commodore 64 through a special card mounted in its games cartridge slot. The Commodore 64 is an off-the-shelf unit, with no internal modifications. Once again we have shown that we can support foreign micros. As for our own NABU PC, Ian Divall has a prototype of the new phase III NPC. He has managed to remove the static noise especially noticable on screens with a lot of text on a white background. Also gone is the herringbone effect on the TV screen. Not only that, but the phase III is cheaper to build. Take a bow, Ian.

There were (and still are) a number of people who worked with Tony and John and Ian, and they would have been mentioned here as well, but I am too lazy to produce the list, and besides, I'm already late getting this article in.

SACS!

By Kathleen Pickard

A note or two from 'the other end of the building'.

Hi, there!!!! Yes, people, Engineering still exists, despite the fact that many of you have deserted for Marketing. In good ol' fashioned GP tradition we have decided to provide a little serious and informative (but hopefully not boring) content to this issue. Prepare to be enlightened

No doubt you have heard the word 'SACS' in your travels around Baxter. Some of the more alert may even have wondered what this means. SACS stands for Software Asset Control System. At the moment we (we being Kathleen Pickard and Amelia Giamberardino) are the people you must see to get your stuff (known as applications to the more sophisticated) up on SEL2. Some of the goals involved in this exercise are:

- to streamline the process for getting your applications through to Network Ops and up on the cycle.
- to build a central library of source and documentation for all applications on the cycle.

more...

- to provide offsite backups of in-progress and completed work just in case, heaven forbid, someone should nuke the Baxter Centre.

We also do a million and one other things, but I won't bore you with the details. On to the juicy stuff!

It seems that the section of Engineering that is still housed (caged??) at Richmond Road has developed a tradition of beer-and-cheese, last-Friday-of-the-month-meetings. They have further seen fit to begin inviting the rest of Engineering to these little sessions. Before you jump to the conclusion that this is all fun and games, let me point out that business takes precedence - each time a couple of lucky individuals are chosen to fill the rest of us in on what it is they spend their time doing. Our first opportunity to attend this get-together was the last Friday of March and a good time was had by all (are you jealous yet? Or even slightly curious? You couldn't care less, right? Oh well, c'est la vie.....)

EASTER PARADE

By Terry Newcombe

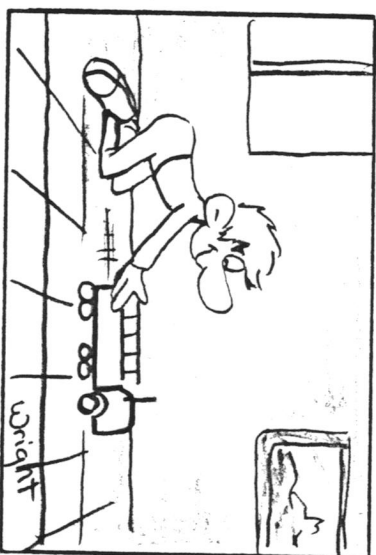
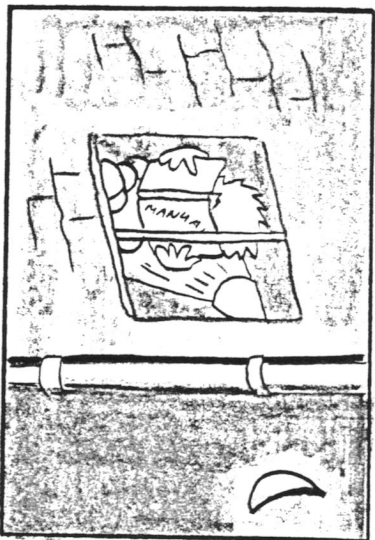
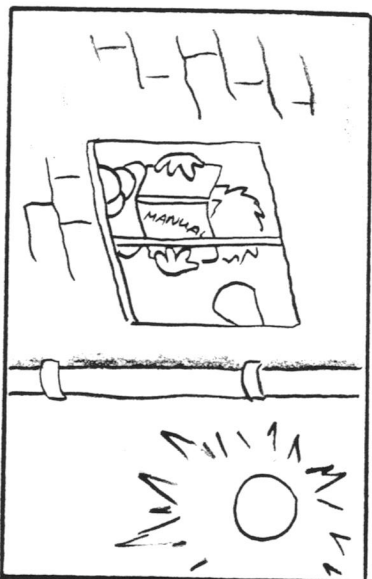
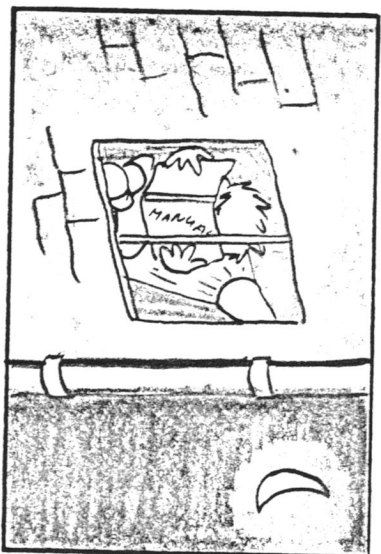
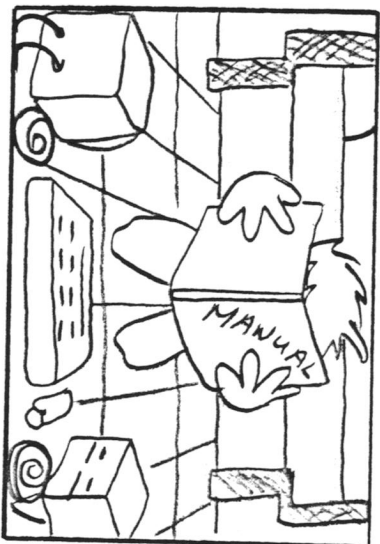
April Fool's Day was provided with at least seven fools from NABU this year, when six lovely ladies and lucky me volunteered for phone duty in the Easter Seal Telethon for Disabled Children. (Actually, we were lucky to be given an 11 a.m.-till-noon timeslot, considering all the volunteers who were stuck with the graveyard shifts.)

The NABU team was present along with volunteers from several other hi-tech companies, such as BNR and Siltronics. However, as is only reasonable, it was us who were given the centre-stage phones, the other, lower, lackies being pushed off to side tables. Why, we even got a visit by the Easter Bunny handing out fresh carrots! (This was lunchtime, remember.) ("Hello"--chomp,chomp,crunch--"Easter Seal Telethon"--chomp,crunch...)

Our illustrious President was present as well, answering not only one but TWO phones at the V.I.P. desk. Maintaining our excellent reputation with the public, Gord donated a \$500 cheque on behalf of NABU and its employees. (That's us - did you donate?)

All in all, it was a fun event, something to definitely consider again next year. (Meanwhile, the wife was at home video-taping the show and taking photos of the TV. "You were great. I even saw you pick up the phone once!" Sigh.)

BAXTER



NABU AIDS DANCE MARATHON TO RAISE MONEY FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

At noon on Tuesday, February 14, 160 Woodroffe High School students began a ten hour dance marathon in their gym to raise money for the Ottawa-Hull Alzheimer Society. Almost 50 local businesses donated prizes for the dancers, including NABU, who contributed NABU visors, painter hats, pens and pins. By the time the dance ended at 10 p.m., there were still 120 tired but satisfied dancers left. On Wednesday, March 7, Woodroffe High School handed to the the Alzheimer's Disease Fund a cheque for \$1,750, the largest single donation the Society has received so far. Woodroffe sent a letter of thanks to NABU, in care of Connie Nield, thanking us for our community support.

NABU NETWORK CENTRE INVADED!

By Donna From

The NABU Network Centre was overrun by a howling pack of cub scouts from the 115th Parkwood Hills scout group on Monday, April 2. The cubs received a review of the LOGO instructions taught at a previous meeting, and a demonstration of some new ones. After becoming familiar with the operation of the NABU Personal Computer, they eagerly applied their new knowledge by editing Pac Man shapes and animating them.

When I suggested playing a game before the evening concluded, the boys enthusiastically switched from LOGO to the inevitable game of Pac Man.

Both leaders and boys had a very good time, and I pass on their praise of the NABU Personal Computer, as well as their thanks to NABU for the evening.

THE Q.A. REPORT

By Jim Spooner

Greetings from the SWAT team, we are put on this great planet Earth for a purpose and one purpose only: to find **BUGS** and **SWAT** them! No, not with fly-swatters, but with our superior knowledge of where bugs hide, we can make them **CRAWL** on all fours (or on all eights) so that they beg for mercy. Why, you won't even find a can of Raid in the whole Q.A. Department!

We get right down to business with our secret weapon, the V.C.R., which is only used on special occasions when the bugs are difficult to **TRACK** down. But there seems to be a flaw in using our secret weapon. Every time we use it, the bugs complain because they feel that they've been **FRAMED**. But the SWAT team doesn't fall for any of that sappy stuff. We immediately report them on **BUG** sheets so that the programmers can put them on death row and eventually exterminate them for good!

more...

On the up and up side of things, Q.A. has just joined the Support Services group, under Cecilia McDowall, and are looking forward to giving our 100% SUPPORT.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish Tracy Gonzalez the best of luck on her move from Q.A. to Promotions, which is also part of Support Services, and will expect her to draw pictures, and write at least once a week!

NABU TRIVIA QUESTIONS

By Mary Bermel

1. Who claimed victory over Canadian National ski team member Laurie Graham in a downhill run last May?
a) Maryann Sullivan b) Andrea McGrath c) Laurie Smith
d) Tracy O'Keefe
2. Who is the owner of the English sheepdog that closes the Barker Tape with a ruff?
a) Laurie Mitchell b) Isabel Staudinger c) Neil Talling
d) Eric Anttila
3. In the now-famous expense report scandal, for what was the \$7 item questioned by Finance?
a) bowling b) golfing c) massage services d) pool
4. Who single-handedly moved Ed Myers' truck in order to create space for his car?
a) Dave Ready b) Chris Wallace c) James Gregory
d) Glenn Wright
5. Who has gone through more secretaries than any other executive at NABU?
a) Eric Anttila b) Les Perley c) Peter Reid
d) Mike Doyle
6. Which former NABU employee recently made front page news in the Citizen?
a) Warren Belkin b) Yves Dupont c) Denzil Doyle
d) Jim Storm
7. Who has undergone the greatest transformation in dress since joining NABU?
a) Jamie Edwards b) Mary K. Marsden c) Andrea McGrath
d) Michelle Couture

more...

8. Who supplies the Canadiana questions for NABU's B.C. Trivia?
- a) John Hughes b) Edmond Hum c) Michelle Couture
d) Barb Moulton
9. Who comprised the award-winning Calgary CCTA calf-roping team?
- a) Ed Myers b) Chris Wallace c) Maryann Sullivan
Mary Bermel Tracy O'Keefe Jack Kathman
Randi Hansen Laurie Smith Scott Dinsdale
10. What was the first slogan used by advertising to promote our cable-delivered software concept?
- a) The NABU Network b) The NABU Universe
c) MicroCable Plus d) Electronic Delivery of Software
11. Who writes the greatest number of memos on a daily basis at NABU?
- a) Neil Talling b) Avin Chitnis c) Ian McCallum
d) Gordon Gow
12. Who writes the best memos at NABU?
- a) Chris Wallace b) Shelly McQuillen c) Maria Cioni
d) Andrea McGrath
13. Who won last year's NABU Racquetball Tournament at the Queensview?
- a) Paul Lancaster b) John Kelly c) Michelle Martin
d) Heather Gulyas
14. Who has the wildest tie collection at NABU?
- a) Glen Thomsen b) James Gregory c) Norm Siemons
d) Doug Joiner
15. Which of the following participated in the Boston Marathon?
- a) Patty Presunka b) Paul Belanger c) Gord Moat
d) Paul Lancaster
16. The robot's name is:
- a) Lanny b) N. P. C. c) Nabby d) P.C.
17. Who can chug beer while standing on his head?
- a) Leo Binkowski b) John Shortt c) Matt Murchison
d) Jack Kathman

more...

18. NABU's first telephone number was actually the phone number for a take out fast food restaurant. What kind of cuisine did it serve?
- a) Chinese b) American Subs c) Donuts
d) Pizza
19. Who said, "NABU is the harbinger of distribution systems of the future?"
- a) John Miesel, CRTC Pres b) Howard Anderson, Pres of Yankee Group
c) John Kelly d) Pres of NAMCO

Answers:

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (c)
7. (c) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (c) 11. (c)
12. (b) 13. (a) 14. (a) 15. (c) 16. (a and d)
17. (d) 18. (d) 19. (b)

A NOTE OF THANKS

Last Friday, I suspected something was up when Maryann Sullivan told me that I couldn't sneak away early. Laurie Smith's wedding was no excuse, said Maryann.

Though my curiosity was aroused, nothing could have prepared me for the surprise that awaited me at 4 p.m. The gathering together of you, my colleagues and friends, was truly special. Your exquisite gift left me speechless.

What I should have said is how much my association with all of you has meant to me. You are a very special group of people and I will miss you a lot; some for your smiles and jokes, some for your quirks, some for your guidance and support, all of you for your generosity of spirit that characterizes NABU.

The environment at NABU is unique and exciting. I consider myself very fortunate to have been a part of it. Thank you for your friendship, kindness and co-operation.

I will always treasure your gift and the multitude of memories you have given me.

Sincerely,

Mary Bermel

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!!
FROM ANDREA McGRATH**

I can't begin to thank all of you for organizing such a tremendous baby shower. It was certainly a great surprise; you all did such an outstanding job of keeping it a secret!

Your warm wishes, thoughtful gifts and delectable sweets table were really appreciated and will provide me with many fond memories over the summer! Thank you all so much,

Andrea, Rick and Baby McGrath

P.S. Baby shower winner:
Tracy O'Keefe edged Jackie Pinke by one teddy bear to win the "Bear It All" contest.

P.S.S. Next NABUites to have babies:
-Francoise Scott
-Don Beattie, Barb and Steve Conlon, Ursula Thomson,
Paul Lancaster
-Joanne Warkus
-Maryann Sullivan too
I wish you all well!

TUMMY TEASERS

With this edition of the Grunt Press, we introduce Laurie (Smith) Schusterman's idea of having a recipe column. Everyone is more than welcome to submit their favorite instructions to food fantasy and delight.

Our first one comes from Laura Schening, whose chicken wings at the Andrea McGrath baby shower was one of the most popular offerings that evening. It's her mother's recipe, and officially it's called Chicken Wings Pacifica, but we'll call it

LAURA'S CHICKEN WINGS

12 to 15 chicken wings
3/4 cup soy sauce
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 tsp. dry mustard
3/4 cup water

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LAURA'S CHICKEN WINGS - continued

Place disjointed chicken wings in a pan. Combine the rest of the ingredients, and heat until sugar and water are dissolved. Pour over wings and marinate in the refrigerator for two hours (Laura says she only did this for one hour, for a milder taste). Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes. Marinate occasionally. Drain.

Makes 24 to 30 portions.

Many thanks to this issue's contributors:

Glenn Wright for the cartoons
Tracy O'Keefe
Eric Mesdag
Kathleen Pickard
Terry Newcombe
Gordon Gow and Connie Nield
Donna From
Jim Spooner
Mary Bermel
Andrea McGrath
Laura Schening

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REMEMBER, GUYS, THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 16!