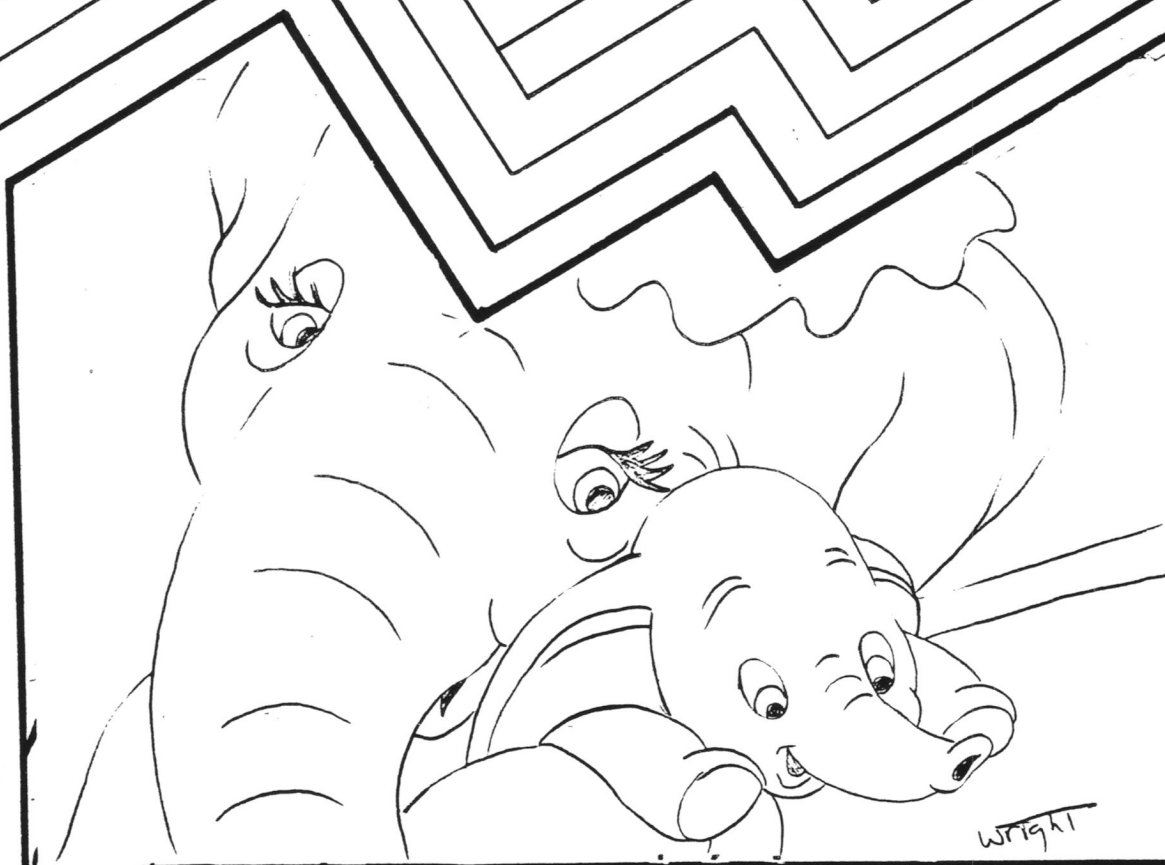


THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1984

THE ALL NEW GRUNT PRESS

ISSUE II



Wright

*It's been two long "ears" since I've read
the Grunt Press!*

THE GRUNT PRESS

THE EDITOR'S SAY

Hello. My name is Edmond J. Hum, millionaire (are you happy now, Drew Edwards, are you happy?).

As everyone at Baxter Centre knows, the big news at NABU these days is the parking situation. As the memo by Laurie Mitchell stated, "NABU will no longer have access to the extra parking at the north-east corner of the Baxter Centre... Our parking spaces at Baxter will be on a "first come, first served" basis for all employees, with the balance of parking at Pinecrest."

"In conjunction with Minto," said the memo, "we are establishing a shuttle service between Pinecrest and Baxter Centre. The bus will run every 15 minutes from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, to and from work."

"Recognizing that parking has never been great at the Baxter Centre, we are truly sorry for this added inconvenience."

We have quite a few submissions this issue in response to the parking situation. Isn't it funny how a lack of parking will bring out the writer in people. "Misery loves company", they do say.

Next deadline: Tuesday, July 17!

NABULINGS RESPOND TO BLEAK PARKING SITUATION

By Indy Singh

Due to the shortage of parking spaces at the Baxter Centre, the MSS department has kindly volunteered to provide a valet parking service. The service will operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. There will be a nominal charge of \$25.00 per day for this service. "I know it's a bit expensive, but I hope to win 'em over with the seven day service", said chief valet (Stormin') Norman Siemens in an interview this morning.

A SWAT team is also being organized to increase the number of parking spaces at Baxter Centre, by the judicious placement of a large quantity of explosive material in the offices of Minto. The Q.A. SWAT team has been earmarked for this noble service to mankind.

"My girls are really keen to do this job, but we need more volunteers", said Anna Soininen, the fiery SWAT leader, in a telephone interview from the secret SWAT headquarters located somewhere in Ottawa. "Members of the softball team need not apply, as this is a job for real men".

June 29, 1984

Letter to the Ed(Hum)itor:

My concerns are in regards to our new shuttle bus service, from the Baxter Centre to NABU, which will commence July 3, 1984.

With employees arriving at about 8:25 to 8:35 a.m. at the Pinecrest Mall (early birds would already have taken all the parking spots at NABU), we could potentially have a disaster on our hands. I would assume this bus likely holds 8 to 10 people; we could expect 40-50 people at the aforementioned time. If the first bus leaves Pinecrest at 8:30 and takes 10 people, the remaining 40 would have to wait for the next bus arriving in 15 minutes, it would take 10, the remaining 30 would have to wait and so on and so on. In my estimation, the last group would then arrive at 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. I hate to think of the same scene after work. Employees will be sneaking out early in hopes of catching that first bus! Boy, if the last people only get to their cars at 6:30 or 7:00 because of bus delays --- I sure wouldn't want to be the driver.

Hence, I have a few alternatives that might be the answer we all have been looking for:

- 1) Hire a Voyageur bus to work rush hours and use the shuttle for the midday people;
- 2) Have NABU install sidewalks to the Pinecrest Mall so we can walk back and forth without being killed on that road;
- 3) Provide all employees with an OC Transpo bus pass so they can take the bus from the mall to NABU (rush hours only).
- 4) Each employee can take turns parking in Mr. Greenberg's parking space (he is the President of Minto) until he relents and gives us more parking spaces!

These are not the answer to our drastic parking problems in the Baxter Centre, but might provide the interim solution Facilities has been looking for.

Signed,

Shuttle aborts four seconds
before departure

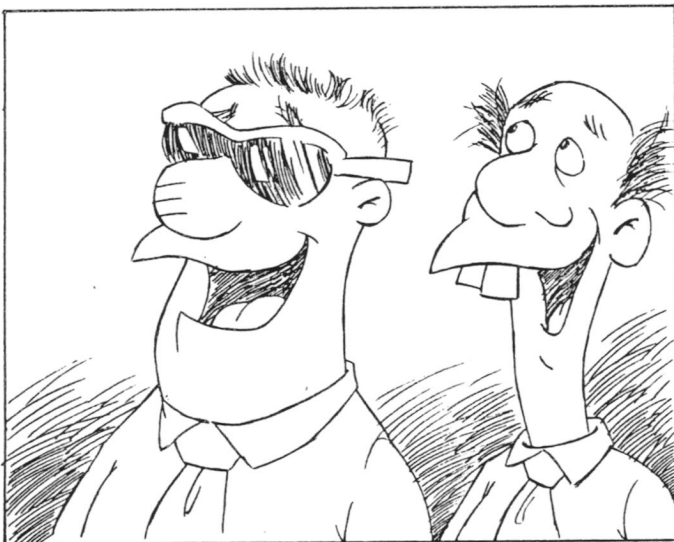
PARKING FIASCO - continued

The two obvious solutions are car pools and taking the bus, but just telling you to try either will accomplish zip-all, I'm sure. I propose to do two things. Firstly, a car-pool organizer board in the cafeteria. This will consist of a city map divided into local numbered zones, and a bulletin board with two colours of paper slips. One colour is for people offering rides from their zone (or ones they pass by), and the other for people looking for rides from certain zones.

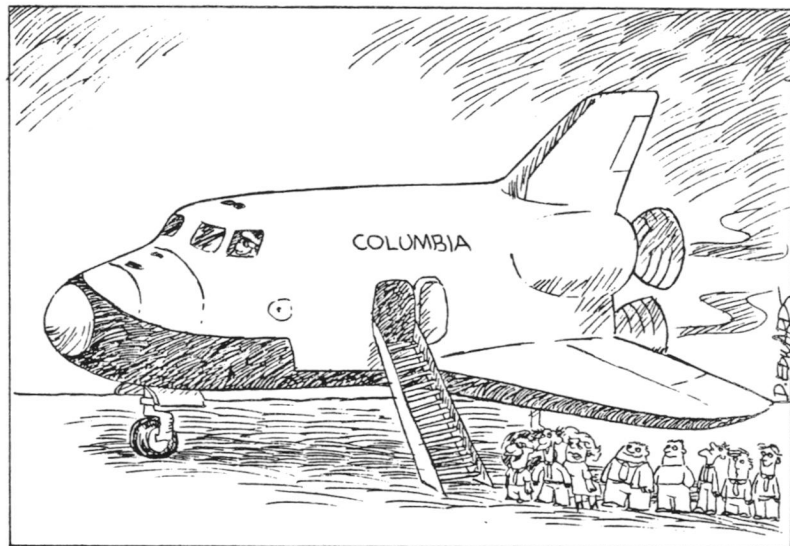
The idea has to be simple to be effective, and this one does it (in fact, I've seen just this set-up at both Ottawa universities and a few others to boot, going strong year after year). As long as the person you're picking up is nearby, it's worth the slight detour for cutting your gas cost in half.

The second action to take is equally simple: an OC Transpo map of Ottawa up beside the rides board, with all routes nearing NABU highlighted. Beside the map we can post the schedules for all these routes. It's amazing how many people are embarrassed to ask about buses, or feel that riding them is too complicated.

Now I'll say it again: this isn't going to get rid of our parking problem. But it is going to make it more livable for a lot of us, even if we only ride with a friend once or twice a week. The point is to take these ideas very seriously. We can have both boards up in the cafeteria within a few days at most, and the rest will be up to you.



GEE! I'M GONNA LIKE TAKING
THE SHUTTLE TO WORK!



FROM THE BOWELS OF NABU

By Rick Mitchell & Terry Newcombe

Here we sit, pen in hand,
We feel we're in the frying pan.
It seems that we are out of space,
Each morning drive becomes a race.
But stop and let us have our say,
There has to be a better way.
We would love to offer, one and all,
A parking spot, closer than that mall.

Well, maybe we could instigate
A way to darken Minto's fate:
Perhaps we'd see, just on a quirk,
If a rooftop parking lot would work.
Or level the building Minto's in
With a gallon of nitroglycerine.
And if all these plans still fail to please,
Let's take THEIR spots - they can use the trees!

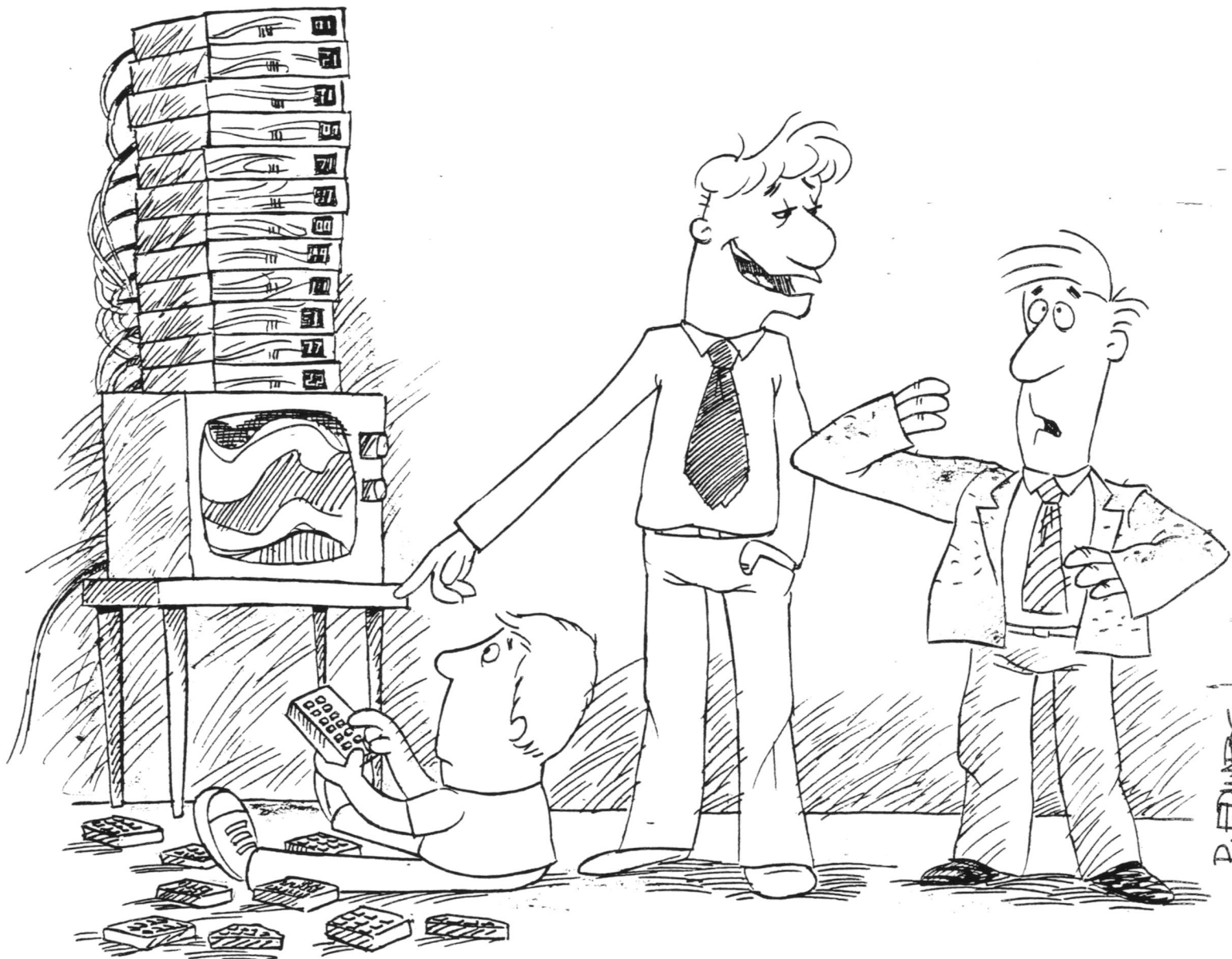
THE Q.A. REPORT

By Jana Chytil, a.k.a. Boy Jana, a.k.a. Joe Reporter

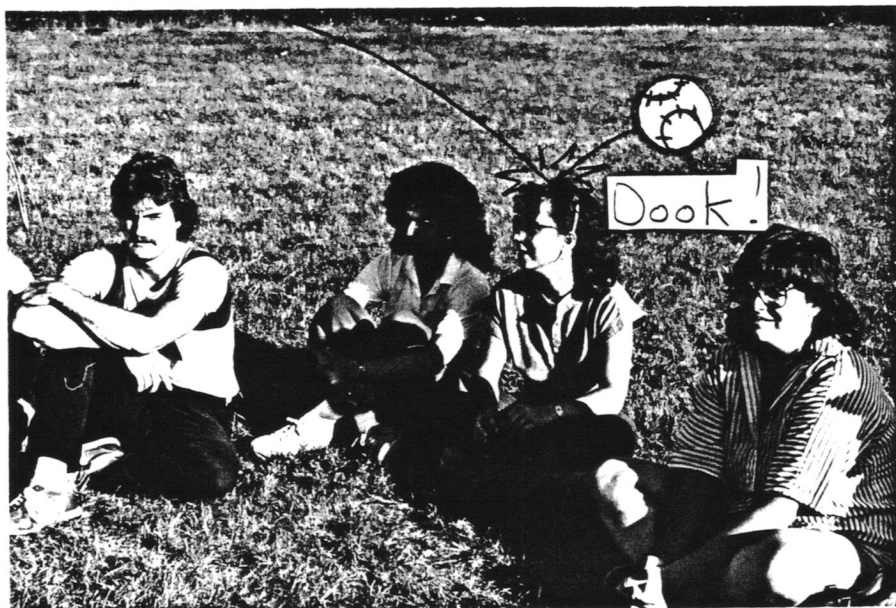
Giddy again from Q.A. This is Joe Reporter submitting another article for the GP. How quickly time passes when you're having fun! It's nice being a celebrity nowadays, thanks to my personal manager, Helen Vilmsen (who also manages Duran Duran on the side).

On the home front, Q.A. is fighting its way through the new MSX title, Heavyweight Boxing. In the far corner we have the MSS (Mollymaid Software Services), who released a brand new bouncing 8 lbs. IOS. This new IOS has several "improved" features such as not being able to load IOSLOAD. To this we give the first Q.A. "Grunt of the Week" award. Needless to say, the IOS was rejected immediately after QA became privy to the fact that the MSS group was going to use Q.A. as a valet service (the nerve!). And in the other corner, we have K. Paikera, a true Duranian fan (Duranian #1,321). Who else would beg and plead for some Duran Duran posters from my manager Helen. But isn't that John Taylor just a doll, Kunthi?

Anyways... a hearty birthday wish to Glen Gauvin, the "man of great distinction", who turned the big one-niner on July 1. Hope everyone saw his birthday celebration on Parliament Hill. Weren't the fireworks grand? Last, but not least, a warm welcome to the new face in Q.A., Rob "Gooby" Smith, who is related to Laurie "Warthog" Schusterman. Welcome aboard, Rob.



AT 10 BUCKS A SHOT, WE GOT A
CONVERTER FOR EACH CHANNEL.



Photos by Jana Chytil

THE GAMES PROGRAMMERS' REPORT: THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GREG

By Greg Adams

Lately a new horror has entered my life ...Chin San (better known as Mr. Chin). I find it incredible that the Japanese programmers who created this game manage to clobber all user variables every time they load in their character set. What will they think of next?

more...

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GREG - continued

In other current world events, rumour has it that a select team from NABU will challenge the Thong Nguyen family to a game of street hockey (No, Leo, this does not mean you get to invite Melbourne).

Unfortunately for all of you out there in G.P. land, you were not treated to Leo's fabulous stories about Chicago. However, it was interesting to hear his analysis regarding the problem with PLINK.

Oh, and Thong, what happened to your chin?

Adios amigos.....later that is.

FROM THE TEMPORARY (AND SOMETIMES MOVING) DESK OF WARREN BELKIN

I'm afraid some of you don't know me, so I will introduce myself. I was an employee at NABU for two years, and left last October in pursuit of other projects. I can now announce that I have entered yet another position. I am now, as of July 1, Director of Micro Computer Development for Systems Interface Ltd. (the guys who wrote the Skiing game). I am currently on contract to NABU (for an undetermined but relatively short period of time) and am just completing the MSX foreign micro project (the demonstration model).

Anyway, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about contracting. I have had several discussions with the internal Content people at NABU about becoming a contractor (this is a natural conversation since I used to be an employee). In fact, some people (who will remain nameless) were under the impression that some internal employees were somewhat aggravated that I was back on contract (which incidently does not seem to be true when I talked to the employees). Well, for those of you who wonder about the mysterious world of the contractor, here is some insight.

When you leave the safe employ of a company, you are thrust into the harsh realities of the world, which primarily involve an attempt to make enough money to survive. As a contractor, you simply do not make any money if you are not working. When you first try to become a contractor, it is very difficult to find work (because you have no contacts and no reputation outside of the companies that you have worked for). Therefore, you quickly find out that life is not all roses. I certainly paid my dues during the initial stages (it's quite a feeling to receive bills for several thousands of dollars while only having \$3.47 in your account). If you are lucky enough to survive the initial onslaught (as I seemed to have been), you then find you are constantly scrambling to find work. more...

WARREN BELKIN - continued

The station of a contractor is not that enviable. You can be "terminated" with almost no notice (and are the first to go when times become tough), you don't get paid for any holidays, you have no sick leave, you have no employee benefits, etc. etc. A good part of a contractor's time is in fact spent looking for future work. If an employee were to calculate the overall benefits received during the years (including holidays) one would find that an employee actually receives about 20% more than his salary in incidentals (something most of you probably don't think of).

Although contractors are paid more than employees, the reason for the higher wages is that a contractor has many more expenses, no benefits, and spends a considerable amount of time looking for work (and therefore does not work all year round). Finally, the contractor is in the highest risk category (no job guarantees), and is usually brought on for temporary projects which require special skills which the contractor can supply.

To sum it all up, if you think it's better to be a contractor, all I can suggest is that you try it before forming an opinion of what it is like (I can almost guarantee you'd prefer being in a nice, cosy, permanent position). My attempt seems to have worked out nicely (at least for the time being), and I would not consider changing the situation, but I certainly went through my hard times along the way. And for those of you who fight to retain some sense of privacy (your own desk, your "place" in the scheme of things), you should know that a contractor has none of these (you usually get asked to do all the really lousy jobs, and you can't say a word if you don't like it). I have only touched on the surface of the problems involved in contracting, but just ask any one of them around here for a full story! So now that I have gotten that off my chest, I feel better.

Next issue, I promise I'll be brief...

Tickets to April Wine, July 13, 1984. Total original cost
\$28.50. Selling for \$25.00.

Black leather motorcycle jacket. Guys or gals. Excellent
condition. \$160.00 or b.o.

Ladies long black leather coat with fur collar. Good condition.
\$125.00 or b.o.

Men's black leather coat with fur collar. Good condition.
\$75.00 or b.o.

NOTE: These items have to go. Call Isabel at x353 for more
information.

MOVING EXPERIENCES

By Kathleen Pickard

It must be something about me in particular that keeps my life in a constant state of change (some would say uproar). It seems that I am the resident authority on that task which everyone hates -- MOVING. I don't know why this should be -- doesn't everybody change residence every six months?

In the last seven years I have never lived in one place for more than eight months. In the two and a half years I've been in Ottawa, I've had six different addresses -- Ottawa South (two weeks with my brother), in the market (four months), with my brother again for two months (he couldn't take it any longer and moved to Edmonton), Nepean (eight months), Ottawa South (four months), the Civic Hospital area (six months) and the Bronson and Gladstone area (since February).

It's not that I'm a bad tenant or anything; I just seem destined to move frequently. I've lived in at least three places where the landlord has decided s/he wanted to move back in (one had his own house burn down) and one place where the roof leaked so badly that the ground floor ceiling was starting to fall in (it was a two-storey house). These sorts of situations make it very difficult for one to live in any one place for very long. However, I have a one-year lease this time -- anybody want to bet that I don't make it through the whole thing?

Upheaval is the general state of my life at NABU as well, where I seem to be constantly packing and unpacking. I started with the company in September 1982, in the infamous Outback at Richmond Road. I'd been there three weeks when they moved us into the basement (blech!) of a building on Roosevelt. We were there until April (or was it May?), despite the fact that it was supposed to be a very temporary location. However, in January, I began working part-time with the Head End group at the Baxter Centre, which meant I spent mornings here and afternoons at Roosevelt (Kathleen and her travelling desk). But wait -- it gets better!

OK, it's May and we're all moved over to Baxter Centre, right? Except I'm more moved over than anyone else. I have three separate work stations at opposite ends of the building -- a desk with the Head End group, one where the library is set up and a third in what's known as the Q.A. room. This arrangement lasted for a few months and then in October I consolidated -- one desk in the QA room. I think that lasted a good two months, and then I moved once again to the other end of the building by the Engineering secretaries. We're into January 1983 now and I'm not finished - one more move in February over behind the big blue partitions in one corner of the building. Concurrently, I have had four different managers. Do you think someone is trying to tell me something?

more...

MOVING EXPERIENCES - continued

Anyways, based on my vast experience, I have come up with a list of tips for all those people who are moving (or contemplating doing so) in the near future.

Rules for Moving:

- 1) Don't!!!!!!
- 2) Each move takes a larger vehicle (I've gone from a compact car to a twenty foot truck in 2 1/2 years).
- 3) It takes forever to get a telephone connected (whether at work or at home) so don't hold your breath. And when it finally gets connected, something won't work properly.
- 4a) The number of friends one has decreases proportionately to the number of times one moves,

OR,

- b) Your friends all mysteriously go on holiday on the exact day that you're moving.
- 5) Never, ever try to move and do something else at the same time (a mistake I invariably make -- my most memorable experience is that of finishing a job, going home to finish packing, moving, starting to unpack and then starting a new job bright and early the next day. NABU has never seen such a dozy employee -- literally!)

For those of you who are not going to follow rule number one, GOOD LUCK! And remember -- I told you so!!!!!!

GREEDY LITTLE PIGS

By Dave Allan

Well I'm back after a week of R & R (wReck and Renovation) at the cottage. Not having been there in a couple of weeks, the bugs were getting pretty hungry so it took most of the week to feed them. Some of greedy little pigs were coming back for seconds and thirds when it was clearly advertised that it was not an 'all you can eat' establishment. I couldn't even enforce a dress code....

Meanwhile back here at NABU, I suddenly get the feeling that summer is really here. Everyone seems to be nursing burns or sporting tans that put the manual labourers in the street to shame.

more...

GREEDY LITTLE PIGS - continued

I've only been away a week and already there seems to be quite a few new applications. The most impressive one I've seen is the simulation of an entire Culture Club concert that's currently being tested in Q.A. How they get the sound chip to do that is totally beyond me, and the graphics have to be seen to be believed. They overdid Boy George a bit in the demo I saw, so I suspect they may have to clean it up before it goes on the cycle. At any rate everyone over there seems to be really excited about this one, and so they should; a few more applications like that and we could be downloading entire movies as well as the movie guide. The next step obviously is to couple in the joystick. Just imagine literally playing "Terms of Endearment"...

Distributing the ADS and incorporating the graphics editors into it have taken up most of my time lately. It has all been pretty traditional programming, so there's no technical content this time 'round (i.e. there have been no interesting problems arising lately). A revised GRED and SCRED are in the offing and the 'C' translation of DEBUG is still to come.

Till the next issue...

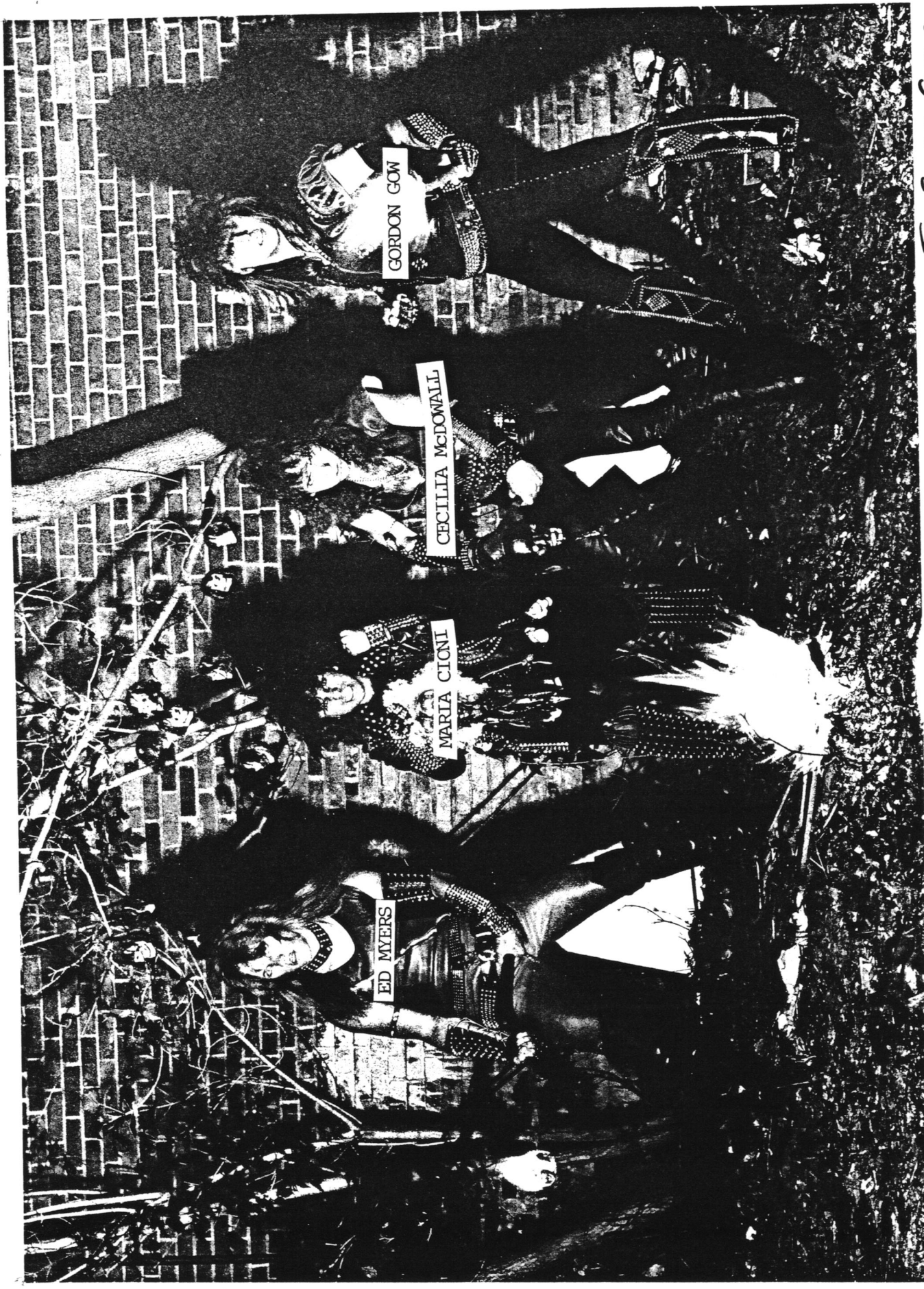
COMING SOON IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF THE GRUNT PRESS!

- * Tracy O'Keefe and Jason Smyth reveal all! It's THE SMUT FILE, the infamous, notorious, yet-to-be-written article that will tell you what NABU employees will do to have a good time at a convention! Read up on what REALLY happened at the National Cable Television Association conventions, past and present...
- * Play ACRONYM ANTICS! Have you ever wondered what IOS really meant? What about an AHS? Or even MSX? Kunthi Paikera and friends will let you know!

PUBLISHER: CHRIS WALLACE

CHIEF MUZZLER: KEITH SOLEY

NEXT DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JULY 17!



FOR SINGE GIRLS -
THE ULTIMATE
GAME OF
CHANCE !!!

COMING SOON TO THE
NABU NETWORK WITCHKILLER

