MATHEMATICS (BE IN IT) COMPETITION

COMPETITION NUMBER 3

Many people have said... Well, a few people have said... Some-one once said that the trouble with the Government of this Fair Land is that it is run by politicians, lawyers, farmers, economists, trade unionists, nincompoops,... (delete according to prejudice). Imagine you are a mathematician campaigning for High Office. Describe some reforms to set the nation to rights mathematically. Your editor has in mind a scheme to cut inflation to single digit levels at one stroke by a decree forcing all counting to be done in base 60.

Prizes of $3, $2, and $1 will be awarded for the best entries. Entries must reach the Editor by 1 February 1980, and the prize winners will be announced in Parabola, Volume 16, Number 2. Please make sure that your entry bears your name, address, year and school.

REPORT ON COMPETITION NUMBER 1

Readers were asked to devise a mathematical pun along the lines of the integration formula

$$\int \frac{1}{\text{cabin}}\, d(\text{cabin}) = \log \text{cabin} + c = \text{houseboat}.$$

This office has not been exactly swamped with entries. In fact, your editor suspects that this little gold mine has hardly been scratched and he would be delighted to receive further contributions.

First prize of $3 in the competition is awarded to Michael Hall of Hawker College, A.C.T., for his entry which included the following gems:

$$D + 8 = DATE = 24T,$$

$$\int \sec^2 = \tan + c = \text{holiday},$$

$$18 = 2 \times 9 = 9 + 9 = \text{a double negative, and}$$

$$\lim_{x \to 2} \log_k k^{e^{xk}}! = \text{eek!}$$

Second prize of $2 is awarded to Geoff Day of St. Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, for some clever integrals including these: Let fish and rock be constants. Then

$$\int_{\text{bones}}^{\text{body}} \text{fish}\, dt = \Big[\text{fish}\ t\Big]_{\text{bones}}^{\text{body}} = \text{fish body} - \text{fish bones} = \text{fillet, and}$$

$$\int \sec^2 \text{ker}\, d(\text{ker}) + \int \text{rock}\, ds = \text{tanker} + \text{rocks} + c = \text{oilspill}.$$

Your editor intends to award himself third prize for remembering the following old chestnut:

"the integral of cosh is a cinch".