



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Dear Editor cont'd.

Updated Valuation Actuary Report

In Fall 1987 the Joint Committee on the Valuation Actuary issued a report updating its 1985 Report. While the 1985 Report was distributed to all SOA members, this updated report will be distributed only upon request to the Society office.

A summary of the report appeared in a prior edition of *The Actuary*, along with an invitation to obtain a copy from the Society office.

The Joint Committee has asked me to remind members of the availability of the report.

Walter S. Rugland
Chairperson, Joint Committee
on the Valuation Actuary

May 1987 Course 150

I read with great interest Curtis Huntington's article in the November 1987 issue of *The Actuary*, dealing with last May's examination for Course 150.

An actuarial student who reports to me wrote this examination. She feels strongly that the degree of difficulty of the sample questions was nothing at all like that of the actual examination questions. If results for this examination were disappointing to the E & E Committee, it seems quite possible that the reason is that the examination was in fact much more demanding than the Committee intended. If so, I hope that appropriate adjustments may be made to future examinations.

Donald A. Blue

ACTEX Study Manuals

ACTEX Study manuals for the November 1988 exams will be available for all Associateship Courses and for Fellowship Courses 210, 220, G-320, I-342C, I-343U, I-445, P-364C and P-365U(EA-2). All Associateship manuals are the same as those marketed for the May 1988 exams, except for Courses 150, 160 and 161, which are new editions. All Fellowship manuals are new editions. Details are available in your Study Note package, or from our distributor:

Actuarial Bookstore
P.O. Box 318
Abington, CT 06230

Actuaries: Fact? or Fiction?

Since my association with "Ghost Actuaries in the Sky" (*The Actuary*—December 1987) probably has demolished my credibility as a serious practitioner of actuarial science (it is not entirely inconceivable that I had some credibility at one time), there can be no further harm in submitting another excerpt from *Actuaries: Fact? or Fiction?* The song included therein shares its tune with a song entitled, if I recall correctly, "Kisses Sweeter than Wine"; I believe the latter was a hit for Pat Boone some years back. If I am wrong about the title and artist, my credibility as a student of popular music will go the way of my credibility as an actuarial student.

Excerpted from *Actuaries: Fact? or Fiction?*, by J. Bewick Finzer:

Many are the songs sung of the Actuaries; many the stories that record their deeds. Some of the songs and sagas are attributed to the Actuaries themselves. Almost all of them are imbued with unrelieved melancholy. Indeed, even the songs that are not inherently mournful seem, nonetheless, to sadden listeners.

The following lament supposedly originated with an Associate of the SOA who was threatened with expulsion from his company's Actuarial Student Program.

The Career A. S. A. (or, "Answers Completer than Mine")
[to the tune of "Kisses Sweeter than Wine"]

When I was a young Actuarial Student,
I thought taking Fellowship parts would be prudent.
So I sat for Part Six, and I failed it, and then —
And then — oh, lordy! — well, I failed it again,
Because they sought answers completer than mine:
They sought (uh-oh) answers completer than mine.

Well, the first time I took it, I flunked with a 4;
Then I failed it again with the very same score.
Taking Part Ten instead seemed the smart thing to do;
And then — oh, lordy! — well, I failed that one too,
Because they sought answers completer than mine:
They sought (uh-oh) answers completer than mine.

I could sit for exams 'til I'm old and I'm gray,
And not get too much closer to my F.S.A.
But if you think that I should just give up the fight,
Well, then — oh, lordy! — you are probably right,
Because they seek answers completer than mine:
They seek (uh-oh) answers completer than mine.

It is said that a colleague asked the A. S. A. if he actually intended to cease taking the exams. "Heck, no," he admitted, "If I were that smart, I would have *finished* them long ago."

James R. Braue

The International Congress of Mathematicians 1990

The next International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) will be held in Kyoto, Japan, at the Kyoto International Conference Hall from August 21-29, 1990, under the auspices of the International Mathematical Union.

The host Institution is the Mathematical Society of Japan with the cosponsorship of the Japan Society of Mathematical Education, the History of Science Society of Japan, the Institute of Actuaries of Japan, the

Japan Society for Software Science and Technology, the Japan Statistical Society, and the Operations Research Society of Japan. The sponsorship of the Science Council of Japan is being requested.

The Committee of ICM-90 has been formed to organize the Congress. The President of the Committee is Kunihiko Kodaira. Please write to the following address for further information: ICM-90 Secretariat, Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University, Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606, Japan.