



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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The Actuary

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ODE TO A PART THREE STUDENT

by Deborah L. Adler

Gather round me one and all, please do
not be shy.
I'd like to tell a mellow tale of fellow
swell called "i"
i.e. of interest—something that resembles
broken bones,
When simple safe, confounded when
compounded; causing moans.
But don't despair, mon frere, for surely
in the time allotted,
You'll unravel all the most obtuse *A*
angles (even dotted).
Oh, how your sinking funds will soar!
Oh, joyous perpetuities!
You'll soon grow fond of bonds, amor-
tization will you do wit' ease.
And, oh, the special thrill you'll feel,
how your pits will swelter
When you differentiate the rate and
finally find your delta.
But best enjoy those problems now,
that is, *carpe diem*,
'Cause on the damn exam you'll never
-- know 'em when you see 'em! □

HALMSTAD RESEARCH PRIZE
NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

Nominations are requested for the
best contribution to actuarial research
published in 1978.

The David G. Halmstad Prize will
be awarded annually by the Actuarial
Education and Research Fund, com-
mencing this year.

The award will be made on the ad-
vice of a selection committee chaired
by John C. Wooddy and consisting
of representatives of the Society of
Actuaries' Committees on Research,
Theory of Risk and Computer Sci-
ence and the Casualty Actuarial So-
ciety Committee on Theory of Risk.

Please send any nominations you
may have for consideration for the
Halmstad Prize by June 15th, 1979,
to:

MR. RICHARD W. ZIOCK, B.A., F.S.A.,
Associate Professor,
University of Iowa,
Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

Letters

(Continued from page 5)

Sir:

I was dismayed to read that the Board
is recommending that Fellows of the
Fraternal Actuarial Association be given
the FSA designation without examina-
tion, and that what is perhaps the most
valuable and most treasured provision
in the Society's Constitution be changed
to permit this action.

By this action, the Board would have
us enter into a "marriage" with the Fra-
ternal Actuarial Association. Yet, it is
not the same. In a marriage, *both* part-
ners expect to gain. Here, only the Fra-
ternals gain—*none* of the Society's prob-
lems, nor those of the actuarial profes-
sion generally, are solved in any way.
Yet the FSA designation suffers.

Unlike with a marriage, there is no
possibility of divorce. Once the FFAA's
are granted the FSA designation, it can
never be taken away from them.

No, this is not really a marriage pro-
posal. It is more like a proposition.
What we are really being told is that,
since there are only a few FFAA's, we
will become "only a little bit pregnant."
We are asked to do this to "prove our
love" for the actuarial profession. We
are not told what comes next, but are
expected to keep our fingers crossed and
hope that everything will come out OK.

I submit that the membership should
tell the Board that we don't do this kind
of thing. However, if the Fraternal Ac-
tuarial Association really wants a "mean-
ingful relationship", we have a sister
organization which might be happy to
accommodate. In fact, the American
Academy of Actuaries exists for just
this purpose—namely, bringing all ac-
tuaries into one organization.

My advice to the Society is the same
as that which I would give anyone who
was being told that she would, after all,
get "only a little bit pregnant." It is not
the fingers that should be kept crossed.

I will vote *against* the proposal for
merger with the Fraternal Actuarial As-
sociation. I urge all FSA's to do likewise.

Peter W. Plumley

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Arthur McKinnie—An Appreciation

Sir:

My wife and I first met Arthur McKinnie
when he was a mathematics teacher at
New Trier High School in Winnetka,
Illinois; his personal qualities and in-
terest in his responsibilities as teacher
and advisor impressed us.

The Society was then seeking an Ex-
ecutive Secretary to take charge of its
Chicago office. Managerial functions had
been distributed among several officers
and committees, but the load had be-
come too great.

A selection committee chaired by
Henry Rood was just then about to in-
terview candidates. My wife suggested
that Arthur appeared to have the quali-
ties and background being sought. I
arranged for Arthur to visit the com-
mittee along with the other candidates.
He got the job.

Arthur carried out his duties quietly
and diligently. He seemed happy with
actuaries, for whose profession he had
high respect. Arthur himself had at one
time considered becoming an actuary,
but that was not to be.

His efficiency, his willingness to help
any member with communications or
other problems, his wide personal ac-
quaintance with the membership, all
these made him an invaluable part of
Society operations. Those of us who
knew him well learned to cherish his
friendship and to admire his handling
of problems and the diffidence with
which he advanced suggestions. Although
a non-member, he contributed much to
our Society's progress in the third quar-
ter of this century.

Alfred N. Guertin

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P. R. Comm. — Please Note

Sir:

As an actuarial student struggling under
the demands of exam preparation, I find
myself in need of occasional recreation-
al/therapeutic activity. The Actuarial
Passion Research suggested by Mr. Repp
(January 1979) sounds recreational and
therapeutic in addition to being impor-
tant research. How do I go about volun-
teering for this project, and just how
public is the Public Relations Commit-
tee?

Katherine C. Coon

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