

"Poisonous" Folio seized

by Jens Andersen

A mysterious malady that has been striking numerous people on campus has been found by City Health Department investigators to be linked to the Dec. 10 issue of the U of A weekly *Folio*.

The officials have seized and quarantined as many copies of the paper as possible from offices and mailrooms around the campus, but many more are feared to be still in circulation (see Warning in box accompanying story).

The problem began last Thursday when University Health Services began receiving reports of instructors and students falling into comas which acquaintances could not shake them out of. The comas generally lasted 14-16 hours with no serious after-effects.

It was eventually discovered that all the victims had been reading *Folio* immediately before passing out, whereupon the papers were seized. One victim,

Robert Tucker, described how he succumbed:

"I was just sitting around reading *Folio's* article 'A Pronouncement on Probouleutic' — you know, that whimsical piece of crap where every second word begins with the letters 'pr,' when suddenly I was hit with this feeling of dizziness and nausea. The next thing I knew I was staring up from a hospital bed at my girlfriend, who looked pretty worried."

All told, the University Hospital had 22 cases under observation, and it is suspected that many others went unreported. Many of the victims, when hit by the initial drowsiness, simply thought that *Folio's* boring articles were causing them to nod out. But as Greg Harris, *Gateway* News Editor — another casualty — said, "Nothing is so boring it knocks you out for half a day, not even a philosophy professor or John Roggeveen."

Warning!

If you find a stray copy of the Dec. 10 *Folio* do not handle it with your fingers or allow it to come in contact with your skin. It may contain a toxic substance. Call the Office of Community Relations (432-2325) for instructions on how to dispose of it.

Medical investigators are baffled by the exact nature of the ailment, which they have dubbed "acute lethargitis." They think it may be caused by a toxic substance in the paper or the printing ink, although it remains unclear why other publications printed with the same paper or ink have no deleterious effects.

The investigation continues.

Canadian University Press

NOTES

MR's nemesis

SYRIA (CUP/ZNS) — Syrian armed forces are channeling their battle skills towards the fast-paced action of video games.

Soldiers find the screen action a good release for the restlessness that surfaces in sporadic warfare.

"The tactics and strategy required to make high scores in video combat may improve the skills on the real battlefield," says one Syrian official.

Syrian soldiers packing Soviet rifles cram the sidewalk arcades to match their wits with the hidden powers of *Asteroids* and *Vitamins* games.

With the advances of computer technology, future wars may be based totally on software skills and Atari education will prove to be a definite asset to our troops, claimed one army commander.

"Not many people can hit five thousand points in the *Asteroids* game but my men are breaking fifteen thousand per game," said one commando at the Atari controls.

No increase in sick leave or tardiness has developed since the video game fever began but army officials speculate this to be a future problem if the Atari battles override the taste for the real horrors of war.

Canajen, eh!

DAYTON (CUP/ZNP) — Ohio State University has announced the implementation of a Canadian Languages Study program.

The announcement accompanied the bestowing of Honorary Fine Arts degrees to entertainers Bob and Doug MacKenzie.

"Howz it goin', eh!" they said to a large audience.

"Like, we feel really honored, ya know, eh," Bob MacKenzie added.

"And since you made us like honorary students, we would like to make you honorary Canadians, eh," Doug MacKenzie said. "But, like eh, you all talk with funny accents so you wouldn't pass for real hosers."

On a split second decision by the Board chairman, Mel Geewhiz stood up and announced to the audience that Ohio State would implement a Canadian Language Studies program next term. He then asked the MacKenzie brothers if they would accept co-chairmanship of the newly created department.

"Like sure, eh! Ten bucks is ten bucks," Bob MacKenzie replied.

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