Conference Announcements

GROUPS 1993 GALWAY / ST ANDREWS

An international conference on groups will be held in Galway from 1st to 14th August 1993. It will be the next in the sequence Groups–St. Andrews 1981, 1985, 1989. The speakers will include J. L. Alperin (University of Chicago), M. Broué (École Normale Supérieure, Paris), P. H. Kropholler (QMW, London), A. Lubotzky (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and E. I. Zel'manov (University of Wisconsin at Madison). A GAP workshop will be led by J. Neubüser and M. Schönert (RWTH Aachen). Further information may be obtained:

from C. M. Campbell or E. F. Robertson, Mathematical Institute, University of St Andrews, St Andrews KY16 9SS, Fife, Scotland (e-mail: `groups93@cs.st-andrews.ac.uk`);

or from J. J. Ward, T. C. Hurley, or S. J. Tobin (Honorary President) University College, Galway, Ireland (e-mail: `matward@bodkin.ucg.ie`).

GROUPS IN GALWAY 1993

The annual Groups in Galway meeting will take place in University College Galway on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th May 1993. Further information will be available from Dr John McDermott, Department of Mathematics, University College, Galway, or from `matnewell@bodkin.ucg.ie`

Correspondence

THIS BODE'S ILL FOR BOOLE

Dear Sir,

The 'Numerical Recipes' books of Press et al. have gained a wide following and look set to become standard classics. The same basic book appears in FORTRAN, Pascal, and C flavours, with accompanying diskettes of canned software. The no–nonsense approach is designed to appeal to practical people, and one finds the book on the shelves of researchers and teachers in every scientific and technical area.

It follows that the opinions of Press et al. are likely to become gospel, and the nomenclature used by them is likely to become standard.

Now in fact, their opinions are just their opinions and although some of the recipes are simply awful, what prompts us to action is a curiosity of their nomenclature.

They introduce integration rules by presenting the Trapezoidal Rule, Simpson's Rule, and Bode's Rule, and then say:

"At this point the formulas stop being named after famous personages, so we will not go any further".

So who is this famous personage, Bode?

Given the fact that Bode's rule is identical with Boole's rule, we are led to conjecture that Bode and his rule came into being through the close juxtaposition on some blackboard of an 'o' and an 'l'.

Boole has been robbed by a phantom!