

A newsletter by the students of the Graphic Communications & Production Technology Department of VCC

GCPT's 5th Annual BBQ at Hume Park

by Cathie Bolan

It was a hot and bright sunlit day for those who gathered at Hume Park on August 23rd. The students and staff of GC&PT took time out from the daily grind of school to attend the annual year-end BBQ (although some of the folks, were just beginning their term). The newest attendees of this function were the CTC students, fresh from graduating high school and plunging right in with all the chaos created by those finishing up their studies. In any event, it was a well-earned day off to enjoy a time of fun, food and fellowship that was held in that tiny little park in New West.

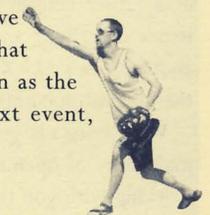
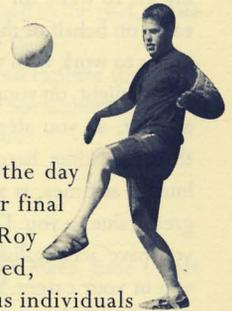
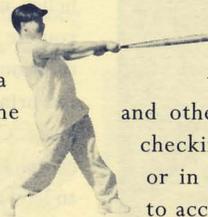
Starting mid-morning, the picnic was in full swing by the time the stragglers (such as myself) arrived on the scene. Easy access to the park was made possible by the existence of the Braid Station Skytrain a few blocks away. Folks on the playing field were involved in one or more activities such as croquet, lawn bowling, playing softball, kicking a soccer ball. (Hmm, seems that everything played was a ball of some kind, eh?) Still others chose to chase after the flying "round" called a Frisbee. Adding to the mix was the joy of watching the little ones at

play, some with their "Nana" learning to give the croquet ball a whack or two.

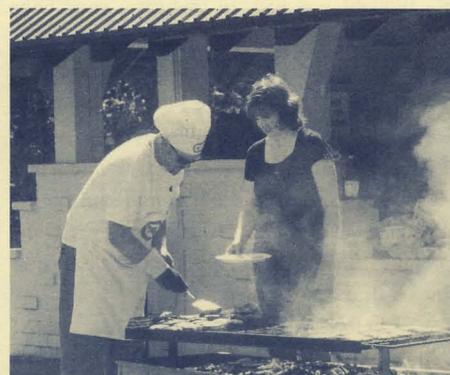
A sufficient supply of snacks and goodies kept the starving hordes at bay (yes, even Bob) while the wait was on for the barbie to be fired up. Lisa's man, Joe, was available once again to take on the duties of chef and a splendid job was done. With the food having been consumed, many of the folks took to the field in various forms, some in the prone position, some in the sitting position and others in the active position, either checking out the digs in Grant's camper or in roaming the field with a mission to accomplish – to hit that ball as far as they could. Afterwards, a tug of war ensued between the "Force" on one side and some valiant warriors on the other. We're not sure who really won that one, but onlookers were heard to be cheering for the dog! Later on another kind of cheering took place as the staff and students sang the birthday song to Lisa and Bob and for a short while it seemed that those sparklers were never going to get lit, but they did and the cake was sliced, diced and passed around.

The grand finale for the day came in the form of our final 50/50 draw for which Roy so graciously threatened, cajoled or bribed various individuals into contributing. As it turns out, the last person who gave of his wallet and plaintively whined that he wanted to win because he hadn't won all year was indeed the winner, Bob Grahame. And with this conclusion, the folks started to drift away and headed out the gate with a wave of goodbye. Some, however, chose to remain behind for a while longer, and I am told were the recipients of a wonderful treat as Jennifer gave the audience a chance to hear her play upon the strings of her guitar.

So while it was the event to end the year for some and a beginning of sorts for others, it was a wonderful day for all. To all who contributed either in the food department, the helping department or to the sporting department, we thank you and hope that you had just as much fun as the rest of us. Until the next event, it's time to log off.



A gorgeous view of Hume Park



Chief Cook and BBQ builder, Joe



Everybody enjoyed the 5th BBQ

Good Bye Ink Rag!

by Bob Grahame

With this issue of the Ink Rag, I, and the staff of the Graphic Communications & Production Technology (GC&PT) department, say good-bye to the GC&PT 2001-2002 second year students who have worked hard in their studies and endeavored to diligently publish this news letter nearly every month for the duration of their 10 month program. Thank you for allowing me to write for the Ink Rag and thank you each, on behalf of the GC&PT staff, for allowing us to work with you and have some impact, if only slight, on your learning and your life. Be assured, as you step forth into the industry, that your time here at VCC, even as it was bumpy at times, is and will continue to be of great value to you. Do not underestimate what you have accomplished and how it will assist you in your career. You will look back at your experiences here with thanks for years to come. Remember too, that you are always welcome to visit us in the future and we invite you to remain in contact with us, if only to let us know where you are in the industry. Take care, you have done wonderful work and produced a polished Yearbook!

We get to say hello to the classes of 2002-2003. You are in for a full and active year of learning, so get ready.

My contributions to the Ink Rag usually relate to the technologies used in the prepress side of the GC&PT department and consist of technical tidbits aimed at providing you with tints and hips (oops, I mean tips and hints) to assist you through your learning activities. Several months ago I began what materialized as a rather lengthy diatribe spanning several issues describing my escapades into learning about Apple's OS X (pronounced OS 10) for the Macintosh computer.

Well, since a large chunk of my job, after my main duty of opening doors all day, concerns working with you through your troubleshooting issues, I figured it would be best to mention here again what I related to you at the morning orientation meeting (you know the one, muffins, etc.) as the number one problem I deal with—printing using the wrong PPD. The remainder of this episode of my column will cover this subject.

The most blatant error in this category presents itself with a student hunting me down to inform me that they have printed and nothing has come out. Now, one must remember that the files produced in this department are most assuredly unusual in comparison to the world

of business printing. They are complex Postscript files and may simply take time to print. Most of the time you will be printing more than just text. Please check the status lights on the printer to see if it is processing. Look for a green flashing light, this is good, or other lights which might indicate a paper jam. On the Xanté printers (rooms 126 and 124) you can read the LCD panel on the top front left corner of the printer to note if it says processing or something else. In addition, check the Print Monitor by selecting it from the Application Menu in the upper right corner of



Year 2 group (2001/2002)

the computer screen. If you do not see the Print Monitor, one of seven situations exists. One, perhaps you did not print in the first place and only thought you had. In this case, your only recourse is to check your set up and print, then go outside and try to find some fresh air to breathe. Too often with the kinds of complex files produced in this business we encounter glitches, or transient errors. Try again, no troubleshooting can take place if you are unable to reproduce the problem. OK, three, so what you encounter is a Postscript error. In this case it is also worth trying again.

Now before you begin tearing your document apart element by element, a process of

systematically deleting items one at a time to determine the offending item in your document, CHECK YOUR PRINTER AND PRINTING SET UPS!!!!

Begin with the Chooser and the LaserWriter 8 driver. Hmmm... four, you may have printed to the wrong printer, most likely in another room (hopefully on the same floor). In the event that you actually do have the correct printer selected note to see if there is a colour icon just to the left of the printer name. If you do not see the printer name, then it may be turned off or another, more serious problem might be occurring. If you do not see an icon next to the name, then your computer sees the printer on the network, but does not know how to talk to it, or more accurately, how to format data for the printer. Situation five, the printer is not set up correctly in the Chooser. Click Setup and the Mac will attempt to talk to the printer, a process called a query, to find out what kind of printer it is. "Ah... hello, are you there? I need to find out who you are, what your paper sizes are, what your maximum image area is, what resolution you can print, what options you have installed, and more. Can you tell me these things please so I can pick a PPD for my user?" Suppose you see an icon next to the printer name, however, it is only a black outline. YOU'D BEDDA CHECK TA MAKE SURE YA AIN'T USIN' THE GENERIC PPD!!! This one may be fine for simple text files, but not for the stuff prepress folks send to these machines. Select the printer and click Setup. Look at the top of the box to see what PPD is in use. Click on Auto Setup. Or, to manually choose a PPD click on Select PPD... You will then have to locate the PPD. The path is System folder/Extensions/Printer Descriptions. More than likely your Mac will already be pointing to the correct folder when you click on the Select PPD... Locate the PPD for the printer type you are setting up.

Next, since most of your work will be printed from QuarkXPress, you need to make sure you have this side of the printing procedure correctly configured. This is situation six. QuarkXPress has two layers of print dialogue boxes. The white box with all the tabs relates to QuarkXPress. If you click on the Page Setup or Print buttons in the lower left corner you will enter the LaserWriter 8 dialogue boxes (they are grey).

...continued on page five

OS X Land (Part 3)

by Bob Grahame

If you have used a Mac for awhile, you know how many Control Panels and Extensions can pile up in your System Folder. Say goodbye to them when you switch to OS X. Preferences and Libraries are used to provide additional functionality or change functionality of the computer system and every user has their own private settings.

A word about fonts. So dear to the heart of anyone who works in prepress. OS X has some basic font management features built-in. One may create sets of fonts, however, if you use many fonts, a third party font management program will be a necessity. But, no Adobe Font Manager. OS X has display Postscript, so, here is the ultimate platform for publishing. Hold on, there is more. The ability to make and view PDFs is also built-in. Acrobat is still required for advanced features.

Well, I guess it is time to mention the Dock. This is a slightly odd feature with varying opinions of usefulness depending on who you talk to. The Dock is a long skinny panel which sits at the bottom of the screen (it can be set to run along the side of the screen). An application or file can

be dragged to the Dock which will then show the icon ready to be clicked on to launch the application or open the file. At first, my Dock had very little in it and the icons were huge. I found the Dock to be nothing better than annoying. The bottoms of windows were constantly disappearing under the Dock which rides on top of everything displayed on the screen. "What is the use of this," I thought to myself. It was always in the way. So it was that, with every icon I added, the other icons in the Dock grew smaller and thus the Dock shrank. But, it was still in the way. I decided it was time to set out to discover the alternative settings for the Dock. In the System Preferences was a Pane called Dock. "Yes, this is it," I thought. I clicked, and wow. My Dock now hides off the bottom of my screen. When I point to the bottom of my screen, the Dock pops-up and the the icon I am pointing to swells and the icons on either side swell, only less, and the next ones less, like a bubble or wow in the Dock. If I drag a window to the Dock, it pours like water with something called the Genie effect and does the reverse when I click on the icon in the Dock. When I double-click on a document in a window, I suddenly see the icon for the application opening the document

bouncing up from the bottom of my screen as if to say "hi, I am here." If I drag something I no longer want in the Dock off the Dock it vanishes in a poof cloud of smoke.

Apple's OS X is young. I find many areas of growth and features to add. In the meantime, third party add-ons are popping-up every day. There is power waiting to be unleashed to burst forth. In my opinion, OS X is worth keeping an eye on, no matter what area of computing you are involved in. If you can, jump in. It is leading the future of computing and, as so often has happened in the past, Apple is in the forefront.

The latest toy of OS X to capture the interest of my kids and I is the Speakable Items.

"Purputer, close window."

"Purputer, tell me a joke."

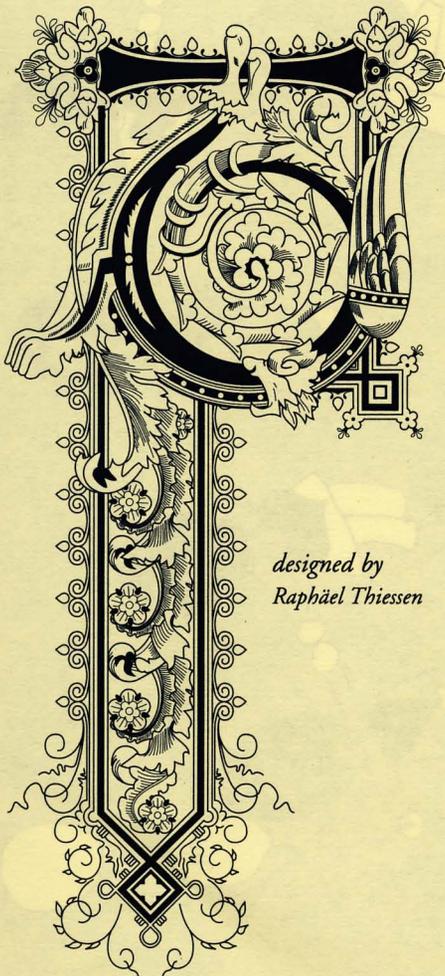
Reply: "Knock, knock."

"Purputer, Who's there?"

Reply: "Enough with the jokes, time to get back to work."

"Purputer, log me out."

Note: I wrote this article several months ago. Since then, Apple has released version 10.2, code named Jaguar. I have not had the opportunity to use this new version of the OS.



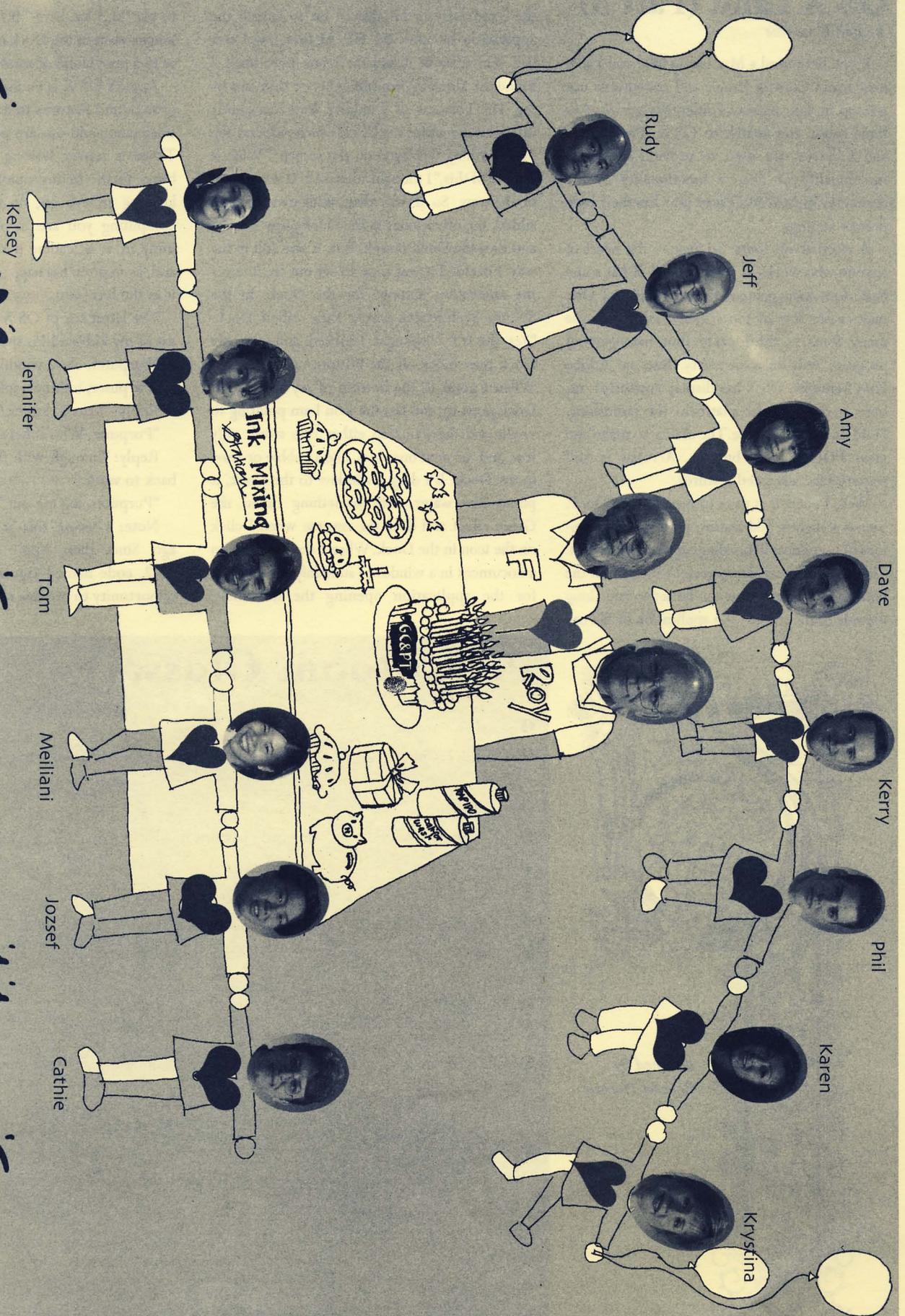
Press Room Glossary

by Gail Knight

- ① allen wrench: who knows?
- ② delivery pile: that growing pile of paper on the floor when you forget to turn down the gate
- ③ dot gain: the enemy!
- ④ eccentric roller: that little wooden dowl with two nails in it in Fred's pencil jar
- ⑤ imposition: homework
- ⑥ inch safe: taking two hours to register your side guide
- ⑦ ink fountain: runneth under when the keys are not tightened!
- ⑧ misfeed: Krystina's bribes to Roy & Fred (didn't keep her off the press—good try though!)
- ⑨ misregister: Class 3's lab day sign-in sheet
- ⑩ night latch: I forgot
- ⑪⑪ overinking: running the press without putting the dampeners down
- ⑪② patience: Fred & Roy
- ⑪③ Pile height: measure of Fred's marking pile
- ⑪④ pms: a very unfortunate acronym
- ⑪⑤ press room dress: not undress! (gentlemen!)
- ⑪⑥ rubber rejuvenator: smell enough of it and you're convinced you know what you're doing!
- ⑪⑦ signature: what we're always chasing Fred & Roy for
- ⑪⑧ trapping: more work! (Can't we just ask Jennifer?)
- ⑪⑨ work safe: "All Clear?" "yup"

★ Gum your Plates ★

Goodbye from all of us



continued from page two...

If at any time you do not see the options you are expecting, GO BACK TO THE CHOOSER and follow the steps in the previous paragraph and then click on the Setup tab in the QuarkXPress print dialogue box. When you launch QuarkXPress the application scans the folder of PPDs mentioned above and builds a list. This is the list you see when you click on the pop-up next to Printer Description under the Setup tab in the QuarkXPress dialogue box. Make sure you have set the other options correctly for the job you are printing. If you are printing to one of the Xanté Accel-a-Writer printers and select the Accel-a-Writer PPD you will also have to set the paper size or the printer may default to manual feed and sit waiting for you to feed it a piece of paper.

Now for situation seven. Your job disappears into the ether and it has not gone to another printer. Actually, this is usually related to the PPD issue. Sometimes, computers being what they are, smart enough to keep you in the dark, they do not tell you what is wrong, or if they do, it will not make much sense. This goes for Postscript errors too. Your job vanishes with no trace and the Mac says nothing, and the printer has its mouth closed too.

No matter what the case, DO NOT PANIC!!!! Just check over all your settings and setups. DO NOT KEEP PRINTING FOR HALF AN HOUR!!!! Doing so will annoy folks in another room if you have the wrong printer selected. It may fill your Print Monitor with useless files and tie up the printer your classmates are waiting to use.

Well, that's it! Remember, most problems are due to operator error. I have no space left to tell you how to print from Illustrator. Nobody should have to come to me about printing problems using QuarkXPress this year. I guess I have cut my work in half. Now what will I do?

THE FATHER OF COOL

by Jennifer Harder



Since our classrooms have had extreme fluctuations in temperature due to the air conditioning units, I thought I would tell you about an unusual fact I learned about the origin of these cooling systems.

In 1902 Willis Haviland Carrier (1876-1950), a graduate of Cornell University with a masters in Engineering, was trying to figure out a way to solve the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Publishing Company of Brooklyn's printing difficulties. During the summer the paper would absorb moisture from the air and expand so colours printed on humid days did not line up with those printed on drier days, thus causing misregistered or blurry images. Previously, in 1901, Carrier began working at the Buffalo Forge Company as a designer of steam heating systems to dry lumber and coffee. Faced with this new challenge he attempted to take the moisture "out" of the air by fanning it through pieces of brine-saturated burlap. This did not work and the salt residue blew off the burlap and began to cause the machinery to rust. Carrier then used his knowledge of heating objects with steam. Instead of sending air through hot coils, he sent the air over cold coils filled with water. The air blowing over the cold coils cooled the air and he was then able to control the amount of moisture the colder air could hold and in turn control the humidity in the press room. After being designed and built in Buffalo, New York, the new system began working at Sackett-Wilhelms on July 17, 1902. A stable environment was created and four-colour printing became possible on any day. In 1904 he devel-

oped the "air washer", a chamber installed with several banks of water sprays for air humidification and cleaning.

Carrier called his invention, "Apparatus for Treating Air". Later in 1906 the term "air conditioning", was developed by Stuart Cramer and I.H. Hardeman when they installed a Carrier cooling system at the Chronicle Cotton Mills in Belmont, North Carolina. Cramer also patented a device that same year that added water vapor to the air in textile plants to condition the yarn.

Air conditioning was later used for human comfort in 1914 when Carrier designed special equipment for the Charles Gates mansion in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The first home air conditioner was 20 feet long, 6 feet wide and 7 feet high, costing \$10,000.

Carrier continued to work on improving his machine finding safer refrigerant alternatives like Dielene replacing the dangerous ammonia. He was also interested in the possibilities of Freon. He and six other partners founded the Carrier Engineering Corporation in 1915 and by the 1930's, movie theatres, hotels, department stores, the US House of Representatives the White House and many other establishments had an air conditioner.

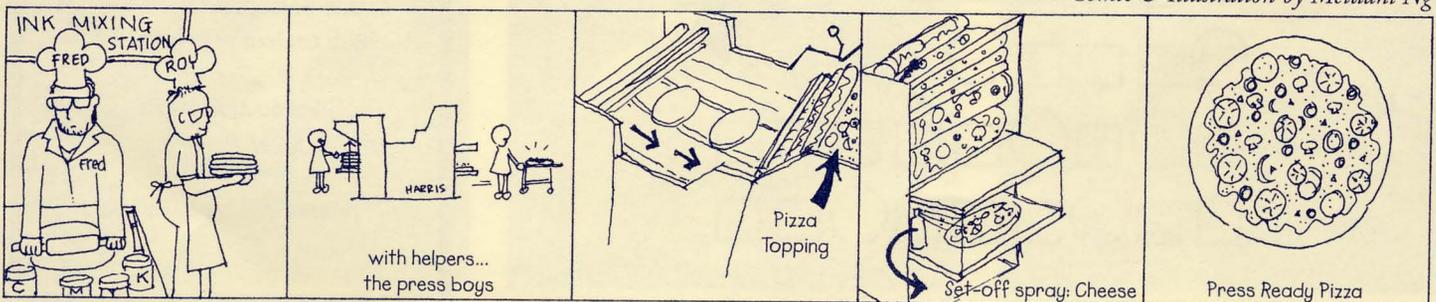
His method of regulating humidity and temperature by controlling the dew point of supply air is still used today in many industrial applications like cooling meat, medical capsules, conditioning for hospitals, and clean rooms for the production of computer chips.

It's amazing how the printing industry has affected us in ways we would never even consider.



F-ROY PIZZA FACTORY

Comic & Illustration by Meiliani Ng





Echinacea Butterfly – Photograph by Angie



Open House 2002 – Artwork by Krystina

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept 26, 2002

Special Guest Speaker (TBA by Fred Hill) and Pizza Party.

Sept 27, 2002

The last day of school for second year.

Oct 4, 2002 – PD Day

Oct 13, 2002

Graduation Ceremony for Class of 2001/2002 (Year 2, Year 1 class 1 & 2), 11am @ King Ed Campus.

ATTN: Class 2001/2002 and GCPT Staff

Yearbook 2002 is ready for pick-up.

Thanks for your participation!

Yearbook Committee 2001/2002

The Ink Rag

Volume 1, issue 8

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Pressman's Jumble

Jennifer Harder

Unscramble the letters, then use the letters in the circles to finish the secret message.

When the collator got his hand caught in the stitcher, he was in...

elspat □ ○ □ □ □ □ □

deleb ○ □ □ □ ○

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sngebioms □ □ ○ □ □ □ ○ □ □

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