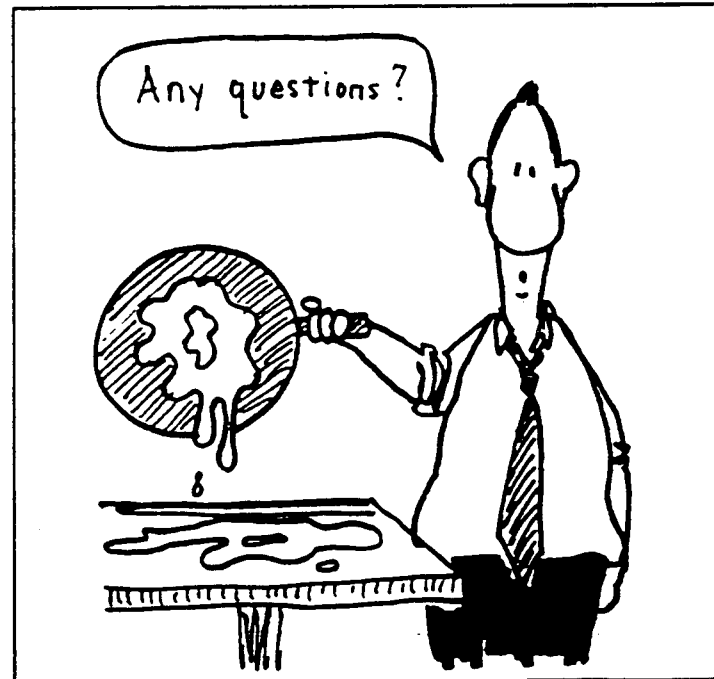
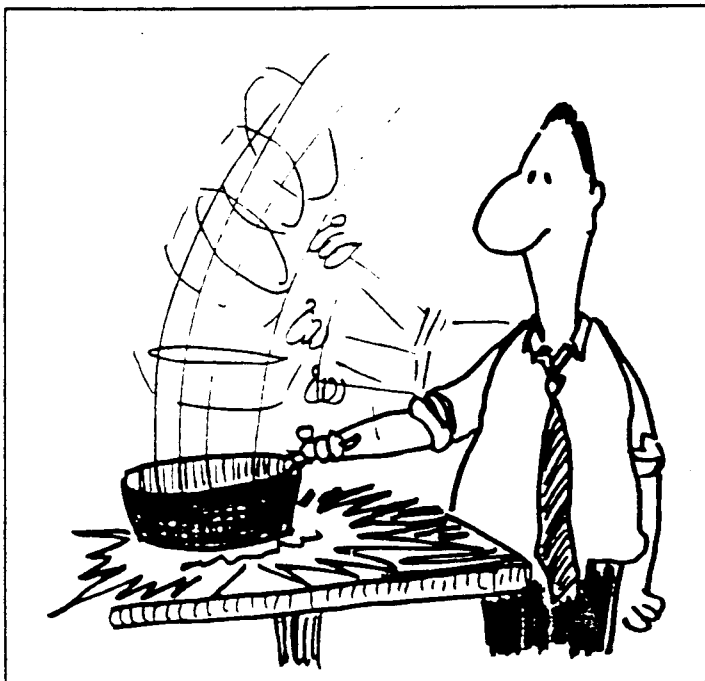
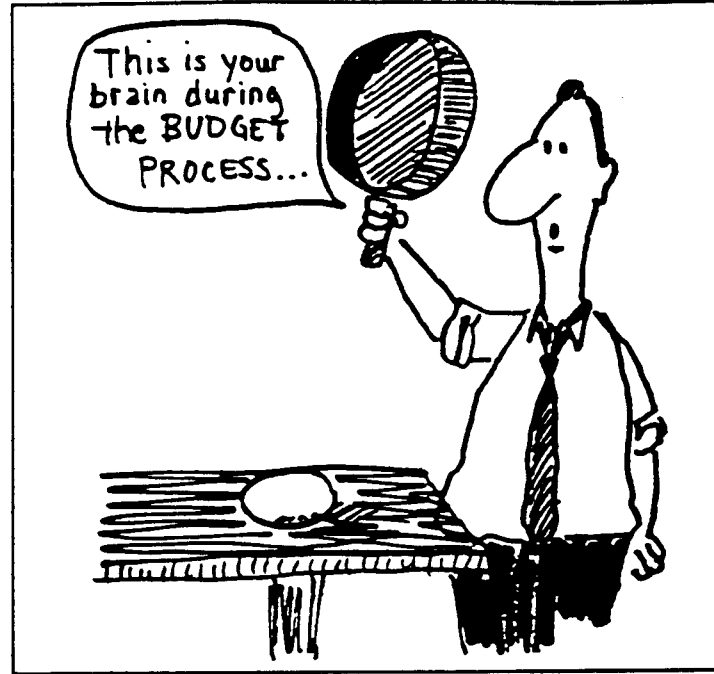
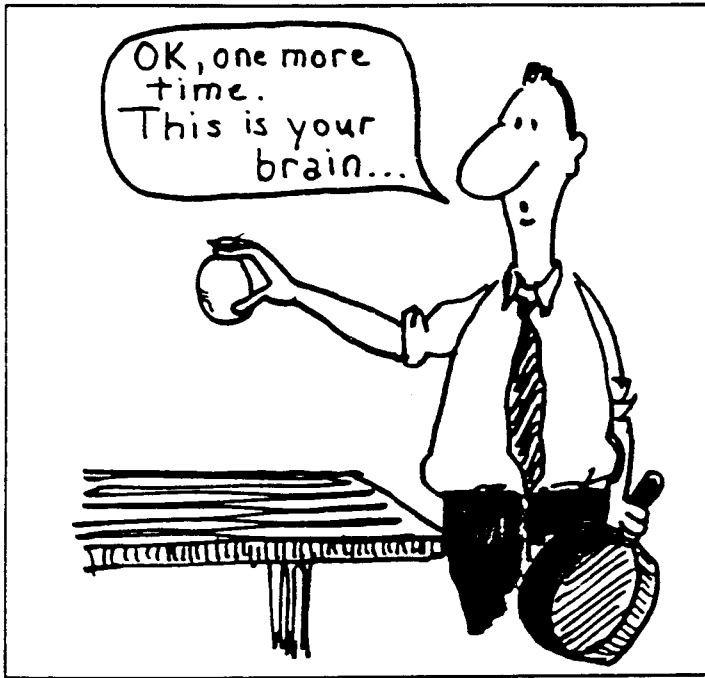


# the Bank's

# Wordy



# THE BANK'S WORDY

The Magazine For Anyone Who'll Read It

Vol. 7, No. 1 April 1, 1991

"Creativity is great, but stealing other people's work is faster." — Frederick A. Clay

## ZJERKO II

Ignacia Zjerko, twin sister of the late contemporary Patagonian Sheep Music folk singer Ignacio Zjerko, will make her debut World Bank performance at 10:21 p.m. tonight in the I-building Meditation Room. Ignacio Zjerko died one year ago in a tragic accident: dressed in a peanut suit for a children's benefit concert, an elephant ate him.

Zjerko will sing songs from her first album, *Even Investment Officers Get the Blues*, including:

We Used To Have A Long Bond, But All You Left  
Me Was A Note And Your Bills

My Interest In You Just Won't Accrue

Your Portfolio Isn't The Only Thing About You  
That's Short

Go Away, With Zero Rate Of Return

My Love For You Has No Duration, So Get Out

You Optioned Me Like I Was A Pork Belly

Our Love Is Over-Leveraged, And I'm Calling In  
The Loan

I'm Gonna Put My Trust In Municipal Bonds Since  
I Lost My Faith In You

A glockenspiel virtuoso, Zjerko will also feature scores from her upcoming tour, *I Ain't No Yuppie, But Get Away From My Volvo!* such as:

Fax It To Me Gently

I'm A Wedge Of Brie Living In A Cheese-Whiz  
World

There's A Domestic Tear In My Imported Beer

I've Been So Alone Since You Said Goodbye At  
The Tone

Your Love Faded Like A Car Phone Signal

White Silk, Black Lace, Blue Nun

Seating is limited — in fact, there isn't any! So come early! Balo Macho!

## MAIN COMPLEX HALTED!

Announcing "a mistake that has caused more than a little inconvenience," ITF Director Hywel Davies suspended further work on Phase I of the new Main Complex.

Reading a prepared statement, Mr. Davies explained that during an international conference on engineering in Saudi Arabia two years ago, representatives of the Anglo-French Channel Tunnel Project and engineers from the Bank's design firm Kohn, Pedersen & Fox accidentally exchanged blueprints for their respective projects. "The results are very embarrassing," Mr. Davies explained. "Because of this mistake, there is now a 13-story building at the bottom of the English Channel north of Calais, while here in Washington we've dug a tunnel under the Potomac to National Airport."

Speaking with guarantees of anonymity, senior ITF staff pointed out that someone should have noticed something was wrong after three West Virginia landfills were completely filled with earth from the project. "That should have taken 45 years to happen," confided an ITF insider. Other ignored warning signs included extremely poor natural lighting within the structure.

Meanwhile, in Europe, architects and construction workers are toiling frantically to salvage use from the Chunnel Office Building. "It's really hard to keep the kitchen clean with all this silt," said one British designer. "I doubt we'll pass the code inspection."

ITF is considering its options in the wake of the Chunnel debacle, the latest of four major departmental disasters: the inadvertent demolition of the J-building and the Old Executive Office Building in 1990, the accidental detonation of a small thermonuclear device in the H-building in 1987, and the selection of the ITS X-Turbo Personal Computer as the Bank Standard Work Station.

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Michael Irwin, M.D. has been reappointed to the newly-created position of Director, Staff Compensation and Travel Policy in the PAA Complex. "This ought to be really, really interesting," said Dr. Irwin at a noon news conference.



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# The Absurder

By Boris Summoor

**M**y sister just announced her engagement to the 17th Earl of Quackenbos. This is incredible, for she has married so many times she has rice scars on her face. An amazing thing: she is so ugly that when she was born, the doctor slapped our mother. But she is my sister, and I love her all the same.

## GRRRRR, NU?

I was off to Tel Aviv on El Al last summer for another interminable conference. The elderly woman next to me in first class was fretting over her cocker spaniel, which she had checked as baggage. When we landed, El Al lost the dog. For twenty minutes the woman cried hysterically as we combed Ben Gurion. Finally, they found the dog cage, but when they looked inside, the dog was dead. Taking charge, I quietly dispatched a worker to the nearest pet store. "All cocker spaniels look alike," I said. "She'll never know the difference." Thirty minutes later, the man was back, and we switched animals. "Lady, we found your dog!" he cried. The old woman was overjoyed, and flung open the cage. Her relief turned to confusion. "That's not my dog," she said. The man replied, "Lady, only one dog was on the plane, and you said it was a cocker spaniel. *It's your dog!*" "No," said the old woman, "my dog's *dead!* I was taking him to Israel for burial!"

## JP2

During an economic development conference in Rome, I was taking tea on the plaza by the wondrous Spanish Steps near my Intercontinental Hotel suite, when I noticed that the man at the next table was the spitting image of my very dear friend and former student Karol Wojtyla, now

The earthquake was a disaster of enormous magnitude and unspeakable horror. It was not a time to consider class or pedigree or bloodlines. The man from the Red Cross asked for volunteers who spoke French. I raised my right hand, stepped forward, and said, "Je."

Pope John Paul II. Despite the fact that he was shabbily dressed and drinking whiskey, I was quite sure that it was my courageous friend. I went up to him and said, "Aren't you my dear friend Karol?" He looked up angrily and told me to go to hell and mind my own damned business. Then he threw his whisky in my face and shuffled off. I'll never really know if it was the Pope or not.

## LINGA FRANCA

Being multilingual (like my good friend Prince Charles) has its drawbacks. Once I was first class on the Orient Express to Ankara when a South American in the next compartment kept gesturing in the direction of the fire extinguisher and asking the conductor, "Denj-roos? Denj-roos?" His English accent was terrible, and the conductor was bewildered. Ever anxious to help, I stood up, clapped the man on his back, and said, "I say, old boy, of course they are his own teeth!"

## A BETTER IDEA

After Christopher Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, he was sailing north into what is now the Gulf of Mexico with his three ships, the *Niña*, the *Santa Maria*, and the *Pinto*. Sadly, the *Pinto* exploded off the Florida Keys after it was rear-ended by a pirate sloop.

## LA LATCHEE

I was off to a board meeting one day when at the corner of 19th and F Streets I saw a well-dressed young woman walking away from the World Bank Day Care Center, with one of her breasts exposed. "Excuse me, ma'am," I said, "I believe you need to button up your blouse." She looked down, startled, and said, "Oh, my God! I've lost my baby!"

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*es*

*su casa.*

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# Nowhere Near The Record

*As the World Bank adjusts to a new leadership, dialogue concerning our economic policies has never been more critically needed. Fortunately, Mr. Novid Mymoni, Chief Economic Policy Advisor in the International Economics Department, agreed to this candid interview.*

**NNTR:** In your position at the Bank, you have outlined the need for structural change in LDCs to enable them to cope with the increasingly difficult challenges in the global market.

**Mymoni:** So what?

**NNTR:** Well, what does this mean in a practical sense?

**Mymoni:** You ignorant slimeball. I envision a system by which LDCs provide raw materials to industrialized nations. LDCs are niche-players, nothing more.

**NNTR:** This sounds like mercantilism and colonialism! The West discarded those exploitative economic policies years ago.

**Mymoni:** Who cares?

**NNTR:** But they lead to revolution! Western imperialism engendered bitterness and suspicion throughout the developing world — it still persists today!

**Mymoni:** You liberal dog! I'm sick of hand-holding the sick and restraining the strong. Next, you'll advocate anarchy, free love, drug use, gun control, and a national health care system!

**NNTR:** But isn't your view antiquated?

**Mymoni:** I like antiquity. My house is 18th century modern. My wife is 40 years older than I am.

**NNTR:** Are you afraid of change?

**Mymoni:** I see no need for it. The world moves too fast. Why can't we try to engender old-fashioned values as well as economic reform? Permanence is stable. Stability is easy to manage.

**NNTR:** I thought the only things that were permanent in this world were death and taxes.

**Mymoni:** Listen, you idiot. Death doesn't increase every time Congress meets. Death doesn't pay for our highways and schools and police and firefighters.

**NNTR:** But taxes do.

**Mymoni:** They do?

## AnswerLine

*The purpose of this column is to answer questions of puerile interest concerning the World Bank Group's policies and procedures. Please send us your name and room number so that we can alert your supervisor and your Personnel Officer that you are a suspicious, untrustworthy, disgruntled employee. All questions must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$500 cashier's check made out to "Chico's Bail Bonds." Send your questions to: AnswerLine, c/o The Bank's Wordy, Ollagaska State Prison, Cell #214, Intercourse, PA 13821.*

**Question:** I am trying to lose weight, so I have started eating salad for lunch. Most of the ingredients are fine, but the ranch dressing in the E-building cafeteria has so much cholesterol that if you eat it quietly you can hear your arteries harden. What about some low calorie, low cholesterol dressing for the salad bars?

**Answer:** This question is yet another example of the mindless drivel endlessly gushing from picky dieters, who are typically overweight slobs that deserve to be shot. I will not dignify it with a response. *Oscar Omelette, General Manager, Marriott Food Services*

**Question:** Can't the Bank management make up its mind about office technology? Just when I was getting used to MASS-11, everyone starts using Word Perfect. Why can't someone just stick to a decision around here?

**Answer:** Regarding OT decisions, I am not indecisive. Am I indecisive? *Hywel Davies, Director, ITF*

**Question:** All this computer lingo really upsets me. RAM, ROM, bits, bytes, bugs — I can't understand a word of it. For example, what is a "loop"?

**Answer:** Ask me the question again. *Carlos Ferreira, Chief, End User Support Division, ITF*

**Question:** Why is the first syllable of MIGA pronounced to rhyme with "tree" and not "bit" or "why"?

**Answer:** Re: "Mee-ga"... Gee. We see. "Mee-ga" be easy. Easy be key. We keep "Mee-ga." *Lee Rhee, Public Affairs Officer, MIGA*

**Question:** I am still perplexed by the design selection for the new Main Complex. I spent some time studying the models displayed in the H-building lobby, and I thought I.M. Pei's design

was beautiful, logical, sensitive to the sight, and philosophically sound. How did the review panel feel about it?

**Answer:** The panel agreed entirely with your assessment. That, of course, is why we rejected it. *Ralph Blackwell, Head, Facilities Staff, ITF*

**Question:** I am a division chief in a regional TD. I have a vacancy that I want to fill with a health economist. I interviewed two women for the job, and their qualifications and backgrounds are remarkably similar. For example, both have doctorate degrees, fluency in French, and about ten years of relevant experience. One, however, is about five years younger than the other. Who should I hire?

**Answer:** A man. *Charlotte Hunter, Chief, International Recruitment Division, PER*

**Question:** I have an overpowering phobia, and I think I need urgent medical attention. I am convinced that everyone ignores me, no matter what I say. Can I get some help from the Bank's medical staff?

**Answer:** Next! *Vena Darling, Chief, Staff Counseling Services, HSD*

## SSASG PAPER TO BE REVIEWED

World Bank Vice President Stephen Eccles, proclaiming that the SSASG Study "ain't over until the fat lady sings," announced the appointment of the Second Support Staff Additional Action Advisory Steering Group (SSAAASG) to make further recommendations and proposals on support staff issues. Apparently some support staff are mildly uncomfortable with the SSASG recommendation to prohibit promotion to levels 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 unless the candidate can demonstrate the ability to type three single-spaced pages underwater at 85 words per minute with no errors.

### THE NEW BANK

Reacting to President George Bush's call for a "new world order," the World Bank today announced new policies governing the type of sanctions that may be imposed upon member states in event of default on obligations secured through the Bank, IFC, or the IMF.

During a press conference in the newly completed World Bank "pit" at the corner of 18th and H Streets NW, World Bank President Barber Conable, described the new measures, including corporal punishment. "Representatives or duly recognized agents of nations that have defaulted on obligations to the Bank or its sister organizations may be spanked, depending, of course, on the severity of the default," Conable explained.

Conable surmised that this punitive approach to lending might cause a ripple in the international finance community. "We have recently seen that punitive measures can be effective in facilitating movement or even radical change where there was intransigence."

In addition to corporal punishment, Conable also outlined other measures that might be considered in event of default. Those include: grounding, suspension of allowance, going to bed without supper, writing *MY GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DEFAULT ON LOANS* 1,000 times on the blackboard in the World Bank day care center, eating lunch in the J-building cafeteria for six months, or standing on the steps in the E-building lobby and reading the SSASG report aloud.

**The Reunification of Germany.  
The Fall of Communism.  
The Persian Gulf Crisis.  
The Common Market.**

## EMENA

**The Bank's Most Exciting Region.  
Just Don't Mispronounce Our Name.**

## REASSIGNMENT UP, RECRUITMENT DOWN, ADS TO STAY

Internal reassignment rates have doubled and external recruitment has halved due to Personnel's year-old decision to replace its aging Vacancy Information System (VIS) with advertisements in *Bank's Wordy*, according to a recent \$10.6 million consultant's study. "We are absolutely ecstatic with the response," said Personnel Operations Director Alberto de Capitani, whose department includes both the old VIS function and the Bank's Recruitment Division. "The indicators show success in every part of the Bank."

Mr. de Capitani added that he is currently considering a proposal to replace his entire recruitment team by entering a contractual arrangement with a prestigious London advertising agency.

"We just can't believe how well the ads work," said de Capitani. "They draw an incredible response from Bank staff. In my view, this is only fitting, because *Bank's Wordy* is without a doubt the most well-written, informative, and useful publication I have ever read, and I mean that sincerely."

### TRAVEL NEWS

The American Express Travel Office has announced a low, introductory fare for Time Travel, as long as departures occur within the next 30 days. The special fare is restricted, and includes travel into the future only. Travel into the past will remain at the exorbitant pre-Reorganization rates.

"We highly recommend this to senior managers," said Jacobus Van Den Berg, Chief of the Bank's Travel and Shipping Division. "I just returned from a trip twenty years into the future, and was amazed at how far the Bank has come. For example, dollar budgeting is under active consideration, the SSASG paper will soon be submitted to the AAC, and the petty cash limit is \$50."

### PRESTON ANNOUNCES REORGANIZATION

Lewis Preston, slated to become World Bank President after the retirement of Barber Conable on September 1, will completely reorganize the Bank as his top priority.

Preston was purposefully vague as to the specifics of the Reorganization, although some details were made available to the press. Apparently, the Africa and Asia Regions will be split into four regions (Eastern and Southern Africa, West Africa, South Asia, and East Asia). Technical Departments and Country Departments will be scrapped and replaced by "Programs" Departments and "Projects" Departments.

### PHOTO BOOK

The Information and Public Affairs Division of the World Bank's External Relations announced today a forthcoming Special Appendix to its January 1991 Special Edition of *The Bank's World*. The Special Appendix will contain names, photographs and titles of "the many staff who wanted to be included in the Special Edition, but didn't make the cut," according to Thierry Sagnier, Editor of *The Bank's World*. Over 600 staff will be listed.

## BUDGET STORM

**DATELINE:** Somewhere in the N-building, April 1, 1991

The 365-day financial battle, code name *Budget Storm*, continued yesterday with the Bored discussion of the 40-year Frame-Up Paper (FUP). The FUP is the cornerstone of the annual exercises directed by the Polluted Budget Decisions (PBD) department and aims to exhaust the United Complex so they cannot defend themselves against CLawbacks, Undercuts and Deflators (CLUDs).

The cycle begins with Prior Tease, the Bidding Plans, and the B-Pix Reports (previously A-Pix Reports, but they were downgraded), continues with the Middle Age Review and the Budding Proposition, and ends with the Man O' Jeering Contract and the Smart Aleckation. A ceremony for those lost during the cycle is part of the Retrogressive Review. To maintain momentum, all exercises overlap.

The United Complex, commanded by Spendin' Tender Dummkopf, is currently at a standoff with the elite Pecuniary Guard, loyal to S. Picaroon, head of the PBD forces. When unable to negotiate a peace settlement with PBD, the United Complex overcame their own internal strife and joined against Picaroon.

*Budget Storm* began with an airy attack using outdated Mindlessly Exhausting Missives Often Sent (MEMOS), an ineffective but time-worn strategy. PBD easily countered these attacks with Extremely Moronic statements (EMs). "Our detection system is superior to any attack of MEMOS. We are unaffected by MEMOS. They are strategically totally irrelevant," said a Guard member.

The latest attack aimed at PBD's proposal to increase its own staff yet to disregard the 4,287 tables prepared, revised, and re-revised for the Budding Proposition by all non-PBD units. In a statement read over Radio Free N-building, Picaroon defended his position to journalist Peter R. Not: "An increase of PBD positions implies efficiency, not growth. For each new PBD position, we eliminate 10 staff-years elsewhere. We've tripled our inputs, but we are so efficient, we don't even measure our outputs. We are also reducing costs in other ways, like eliminating budget guideline instructions."

In spite of their purported success, the Pecuniary Guard is apparently experiencing desertion. Rumors abound of a war-torn life in the N-building, with the ever-present threat of Grey Poupon gas. After public criticism of these methods in the Attitude Survey, Picaroon acted quickly to squelch unrest by moving all PBD staff to a 24-hour work day. Each Guard now has three direct managers who provide instructions: it is the staff member's responsibility to figure out who gives the correct guidance.

Picaroon himself is well-known for his ability to absorb MEMOS and EMs at incredible speed. Picaroon never sleeps and often launches his own EMs in the middle of the night. Reportedly, Picaroon himself is PBD's secret weapon: as long as he is in place, the United Complex is unlikely to have its issues heard.

According to Spendin' Tender, only one hope exists for the overthrow of Picaroon and victory over the Mother of all budget cycles. "We look ahead to PMS, the new Preston Missile System. Its characteristics are classified, but suffice it to say that the effect of PMS has been known to topple some women and most men." The world waits.

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

On March 31, as the third quarter ended, the BAS was hit by an unidentified flying object and fell dead in its tracks. All efforts to revive it were abandoned following a 5-second attempt by a Bank temporary who didn't know any better. When asked about the demise of the BAS, most people claimed they never really understood the BAS functionality (the specs and manuals were lost) and they expected its death to expedite their work. "In fact," said one budget officer, "we couldn't have planned it any better — and believe me, we tried." No funeral service will be held.

## SQUASH CLUB REVIVAL

The World Bank Squash Club has resumed activity after several years of dormancy. The Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Hill Squash Club for a round-robin tournament.

New members and interested staff are always welcome. Please note, however, that the tournaments are played using the international rules of squash, not the American rules. Thus, participants must make sure they have yellow dots on their balls.

## NEW ALL-IN-1 SERVICE

The latest release of All-in-1 includes a new feature: video dating. Simply choose RS for "request services," followed by VD for "video dating." All electronic mail associated with this feature will be printed in later issues of *Bank's Wordy*.

## BAD ATTITUDE SURVEY

Due to an erroneous "minus" sign in a computer program, all previously reported Attitude Survey results are wrong. The correct value is exactly inverse to what was previously reported. The Bank (and even more prominently, the Staff Association) deeply regrets the error.

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

**Where you are a number,  
not a person.**