INTRODUCTION

Not much serious to report so here are a couple of personal tidbits. I am the program chair for the International Parallel Processing Symposium that will be held this April in Geneva and, in trying to arrange flights, I was surprised to find that the lowest published one-way fare we could find was nearly twice the price of the lowest published round-trip fare. I realize that price is not a monotone function of cost but am still surprised to see such glaring exceptions. (I also realize that there are more restrictions on a round-trip ticket than on a one-way).

This year, for the first time, I have an hour drive to work. Let me offer a suggestion for any of you afflicted with the same problem−books on tape.

PROBLEMS

M/J 1. We begin with a Bridge problem from Tom Harriman.

	North
S	K 10 8
H	10 9 8
D	K 9 8 7
C	A 5 2

	West		**East**
S	A J 9 3	S	-
H	J 5	H	Q 6 4 3 2
D	A Q J 10	D	6 5 4
C	Q J 9	C	10 8 7 6 3

	South
S	Q 7 6 5 4 2
H	A K 7
D	7 3
C	K 4

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
1D	P	P	1S
P	3S	P	4S
P	P	P	

Opening Lead: C Q

M/J 2. Matthew Fountain wants you to find a pentagon with unequal integer-length sides that can be inscribed in a circle with an integer-length radius.

M/J 3. A ‘‘jigsaw’’ puzzle from Nob. Yoshigahara. Cut out the 9 squares below and arrange them into a 3x3 square so that all the (internal) edges match. There are six solutions.

SPEED DEPARTMENT

This one, from Al Zobrist, is perhaps a little harder than normal for a speed problem. But the answer is short enough. Give the next number in the sequence
7, 17, 19, 23, 29, 47, 59, 61, 97, ...

SOLUTIONS

JAN 1. I received a few letters saying that no solution was possible, but Alan Taylor found it. He writes.

By cutting the 10x10 square into two identical pieces, as shown on the attached diagram, and translating the upper half two units to the right and one unit down, one creates a 1x8 rectangular hole in the center of the resulting 9x12 rectangle which is just the right size to accommodate the 1x8 rectangular piece!

Please place figure number 1 here.

JAN 2. The following solution is from Jim Abbott.

Please place figure number 2 here.

OTHER RESPONDERS

Responses have also been received from D. Alexander, H. Amster, R. Bart, L. Bell, N. Cohen, T. Crack and O. Ledoit, J. Dike, S. Feldman, K. Haruta, R. Hess, P. Kramer, R. Lenoil, C. Muehe, P. Neirinckx , A. Ornstein, J. Prussing, K. Rosato, E. Sard, I. Shalom, T. Simpson, R. Sinclair, T. Weiss, D. Wellington and K. Woods.

PROPOSER'S SOLUTION TO SPEED PROBLEM

109. These are the numbers n such that the decimal expansion for 1/n has a repeating group of n-1 digits.