

## Mayhem Problems

Please send your solutions to the problems in this edition by **1 January 2008**. Solutions received after this date will only be considered if there is time before publication of the solutions.

Each problem is given in English and French, the official languages of Canada. In issues 1, 3, 5, and 7, English will precede French, and in issues 2, 4, 6, and 8, French will precede English.

The editor thanks Jean-Marc Terrier and Martin Goldstein of the University of Montreal for translations of the problems.

**M301.** Proposed by D.E. Prithwjit, University College Cork, Republic of Ireland.

The general term of a sequence is  $t_n = n^2 + 20$ , for  $n \geq 1$ . Show that for all  $n \geq 1$ , the greatest common divisor of  $t_n$  and  $t_{n+1}$  must be a divisor of 81.

**M302.** Proposed by Babis Stergiou, Chalkida, Greece.

A triangle  $ABC$  has  $\angle ABC = \angle ACB = 40^\circ$ . If  $P$  is a point in the interior of the triangle such that  $\angle PBC = 20^\circ$  and  $\angle PCB = 30^\circ$ , prove that  $BP = BA$ .

**M303.** Proposed by Neven Jurič, Zagreb, Croatia.

A curious relation among squares states that the sum of  $n + 1$  consecutive squares, beginning with the square of  $n(2n + 1)$ , is equal to the sum of the squares of the next  $n$  consecutive integers. (For example, when  $n = 1$  we have  $3^2 + 4^2 = 5^2$ , and when  $n = 2$  we have  $10^2 + 11^2 + 12^2 = 13^2 + 14^2$ .) Show that this property holds for any  $n \geq 1$ .

**M304.** Proposed by Mihály Bencze, Brasov, Romania.

Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be real numbers such that both  $a + b + c$  and  $ab + bc + ca$  are rational numbers. Show that  $a^4 + b^4 + c^4$  is a rational number if and only if the product  $abc$  is a rational number.

**M305.** Proposed by José Luis Díaz-Barrero, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain.

Find all real solutions to the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} + \sqrt{z} &= 3, \\ x\sqrt{x} + y\sqrt{y} + z\sqrt{z} &= 3, \\ x^2\sqrt{x} + y^2\sqrt{y} + z^2\sqrt{z} &= 3.\end{aligned}$$



