

Holden Keeps Snowing — We Get the Drift

Out of the quagmire of scientific equations, like Aphrodite rising from the sea, comes a "bemused, bespectacled and bearded geologist — a dropout who headed for the hills of north central Washington in 1974," poking fun at scientific stuffed shirts and getting paid to do it.

John Holden of Winthrop, Wash., was written up recently by the Associated Press — an article accompanied by a photograph of Holden displaying one of his own designer T-shirts. The shirt's legend, under a formula that reads πR^2 , declares: "No! Pi are round. Cake are square."

A serious geologist, writer and illustrator, Holden frequently contributes to the Chicago-based **Journal of Irreproducible Results** — all, according to the AP, "in the lofty cause of needling." He also produces such bumper stickers as "Stop Continental Drift" — a theme that inspired his cartoon of people aboard the North American continent screaming, in panic, "Look out — here comes Africa!" Holden has suggested bolting the continents in place to end the worry. He also has counter-theorized "continental drip" . . . postulating that all continents "dribbled off the South Pole." He is the founder of the International Stop Continental Drift Society, whose goal, he said, is "immediate cessation of sea-floor spreading, cooling of orogenic magmas, quiescence of large volcanoes, damping of seisms greater than 4.0 on the Richter scale, and the ending of subduction and other crustal discriminations." It costs \$5 to belong.