Following a year of embarrassment and uncertainty the mathematical community could at last rejoice. Every symposium, colloquium and conference had a session devoted to Wiles's proof and in Boston mathematicians launched a limerick competition to commemorate the momentous event. It attracted this entry:

> 'My butter, garçon, is writ large in!'
> A diner was heard to be chargin',
> 'I had to write there',
> Exclaimed waiter Pierre,
> 'I couldn't find room in the margerine.'
>
> E. Howe, H. Lenstra, D. Moulton

Great Unsolved Problems

Wiles realises that in order to give mathematics one of its greatest proofs, he has had to deprive it of its greatest riddle: 'People have told me that I've taken away their problem, and asked if I could give them something else. There is a sense of melancholy. We've lost something that's been with us for so long, and something that drew a lot of us into mathematics. Perhaps that's always the way with maths problems. We just have to find new ones to capture our attention.'

Even though Wiles has now disposed of the most famous problem in mathematics, puzzlers around the world need not lose hope, because there is still a multitude of unsolved mathematical conundrums. Many of these profound problems, like Fermat's Last Theorem, have their roots in the mathematics of ancient Greece and can be understood by a schoolchild. For example, there are still mysteries concerning the perfect numbers. As discussed in