

# SF WEEKLY

## BEYOND GREEN BEER

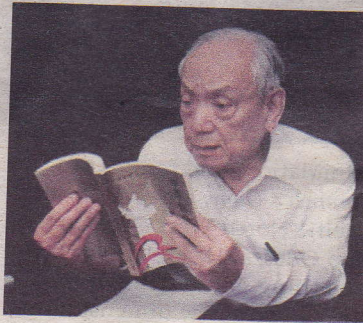
Where to eat (yes, eat) on St. Patrick's Day **P14**

## TRUTH AND DARING

Must-see docs highlight renamed CAAMFest **P17**

# GUARDIAN

usually portrayed as wack jobs (Russell Crowe in 2001's *A Beautiful Mind*; that dude in 1998's *Pi*), though you could make a case for the "hunky-



yet-emotionally-damaged" blackboard bandit in *Good Will Hunting* (1997). Bay Area filmmaker George Csicsery's "Math Films Mathathon" docs sidestep the clichés, thankfully. Tonight brings the local premiere of *Taking the Long View: The Life of Shiing-Shen Chern*, about the co-founder of Berkeley's Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, as well as *Julia Robinson and Hilbert's Tenth Problem*, notable not just for its famous equation but also for focusing on a female numbers whiz. March 20's docs spotlight both the legendary (*N is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdos*) and the up-and-coming (*Hard Problems: The Road to the World's Toughest Math Contest*). (Cheryl Eddy)

Also March 20

## Two-Night Mathathon: Four Films by George Csicsery

Since 1970, Bay Area filmmaker George Csicsery has been making short films about a wide range of subjects, with math emerging as his primary interest. Four of Csicsery's math films will play at the Roxie Mon., March 18, and Wed., March 20. Monday night's lineup features 2008's *Julia Robinson and Hilbert's Tenth Problem*, a look at the American Mathematical Society's first female president, and how her major contributions to the solving of Hilbert's allegedly unsolvable Problem aided in the development of computers. It's paired with 2010's *Taking the Long View: The Life of Shiing-shen Chren*, about the



**Julia Robinson and Hilbert's Tenth Problem**

Chinese mathematician regarded as one of the fathers of modern differential geometry. The Marathon picks back up on Wednesday with what may be the gem of the bunch: 1993's *N is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős*, a portrait of the wandering (and mercifully subtitled) Hungarian mathematician who published about 1,525 papers with more than 500 collaborators. While you come to terms with the fact that your Erdős Number will never be less than 5, consider the travails of the teenagers in the evening's other film, 2008's feature-length *Hard Problems: The Road to the World's Toughest Math Contest*. Thankfully, a talent for math is not required to enjoy Csicsery's engrossing documentaries.

The **Two-Night Mathathon: Four Films by George Csicsery** is March 18 and 20 at The Roxie, 3117 16th St., S.F. 863-1087 or roxie.com. (S.C.)

Not Rated. Plays Monday and Wednesday at the Roxie.

MONDAY 3/18

### "MATH FILMS MATHATHON"

Mathematicians in films are