BERKELEY PROFESSOR

ROBIN HARTSHORNE

Celebrated mathematician, expert in the field of Algebraic Geometry, author of numerous math bestsellers including
Algebraic Geometry (Springer 1977, 14th Printing) and
Geometry: Euclid and Beyond (Springer 2000, 4th Printing)

WILL TALK ABOUT

THE HISTORY OF IMAGINARY NUMBERS

At first, square roots of negative numbers were simply considered impossible. <u>BUT</u> when Raffaele Bombelli in the mid-16th century discovered that he could obtain real solutions of certain cubic equations by calculating with these impossible quantities, imaginary numbers started being used, and gave many important results even while remaining illogical. It was only at the beginning of the 19th century that the theory could be justified rigorously, thanks to the work of Wessel, Argand, Gauss, Cauchy and Hamilton.

Thursday -- April 6, 2006   **4:00-5:00 pm**
Room 153 -- Chemistry and Physics Building
Sponsored by the Math Department of the University of Kentucky

The talk is accessible to <u>all</u> undergraduates!

Coffee & cookies will be served at 3:30 pm -- <u>pizza</u>(!) at 5:00 pm (outside CP153)