Brown University, in the mid-to-late 1970s, had one of the strongest geometry/algebraic geometry groups in the world. Robert MacPherson (1944– ), Jean-Luc Brylinski (1951– ), Paul Baum (1936– ), Benedict Gross (1952– ), William Fulton (1939– ), and Joe Harris (1951– ) all graced the halls of the Brown Math Building with their presence. They enjoyed vigorous mathematical activity and collaboration.
But one day Brown got a new Dean who decided that undergraduate education was really the thing. Of course Brown has always been famous for its undergraduate program, but this guy took it to the limit. He told the faculty that if they wanted to do research they would be doing it as a hobby. He would not support them financially or in any other way: not for colloquia, not for travel, not for anything. So these six guys decided to leave:

- Dick Gross is now a Professor at Harvard;
- Joe Harris is now a Professor at Harvard;
- Robert MacPherson is now a permanent Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study;
- William Fulton went on to be a Professor at the University of Chicago and is now at U. of Michigan;
- Jean-Luc Brylinski and Paul Baum are Professors at Penn State.

Nobody knows what has become of the Dean.