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Joseph P Kung* (kung@unt.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of North Texas, P.O. Box 311430, Denton, TX 76203-1430. *Of Cabbages and Kings*. Preliminary report.

A mock or almost variety \mathcal{C} is a minor-closed class of finite matroids such that for each rank n , there is a unique “largest” rank- n matroid containing all rank- n matroids in \mathcal{C} as submatroids. Jack Edmonds proposed calling the largest matroid the “king”, but being a good (lower case) republican, I would rather call them cabbages. We will discuss results and conjectures about mock varieties; in particular, we will show how they are finite perturbations of varieties. We will also discuss other questions about minor-closed classes, such as the current state of the growth rate conjecture, and the conjecture that the size function of a minor-closed class with linear growth must be ultimately periodic. (Received January 22, 2008)