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PAYDIRT

SGA VP Candidates
p. 7/8

Math and Dinosaurs
April 4th, 2022



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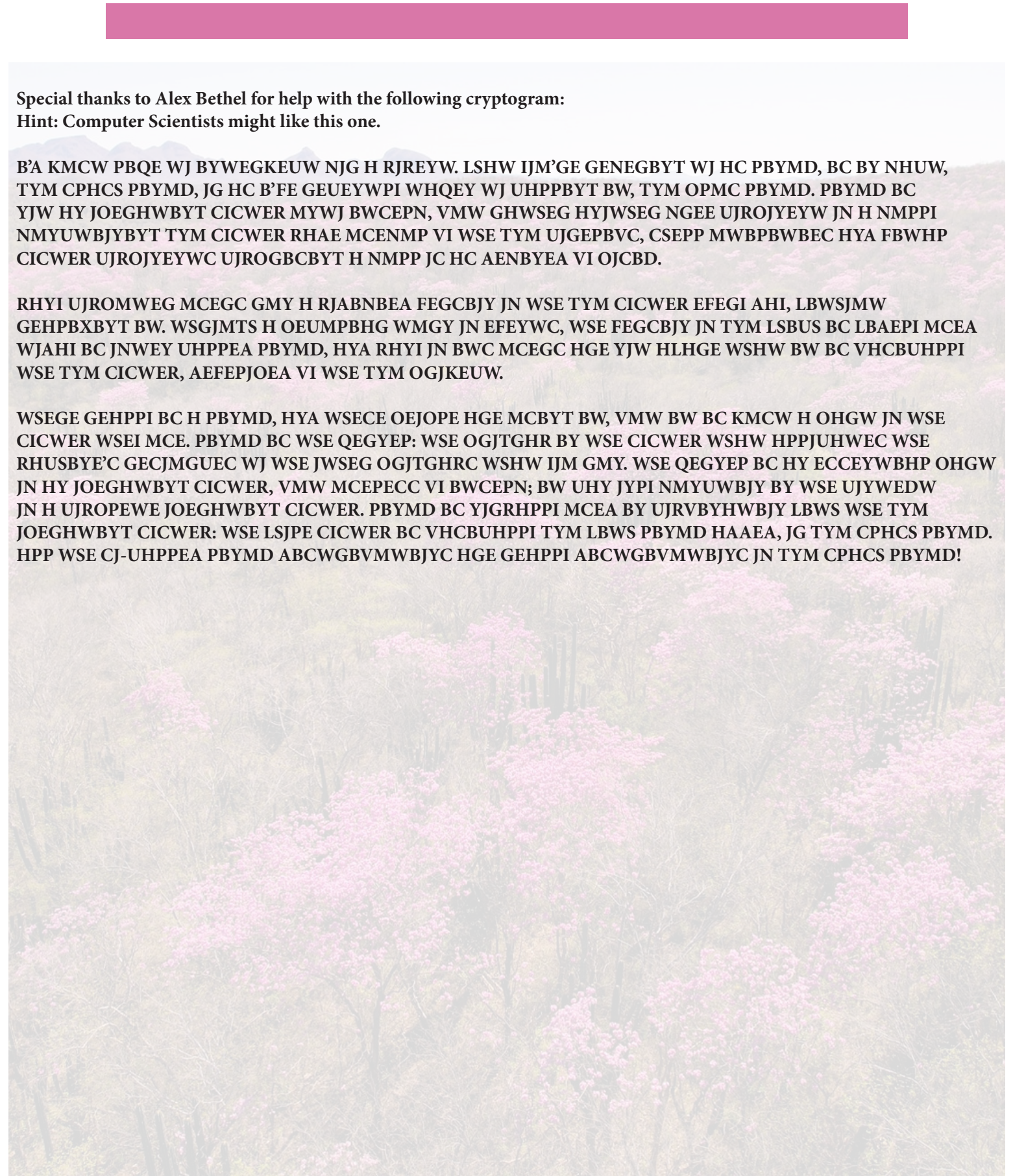
Special thanks to Alex Bethel for help with the following cryptogram:

Hint: Computer Scientists might like this one.

B'A KMCW PBQE WJ BYWEGKEUW NJG H RJREYW. LSHW IJM'GE GENEGBYT WJ HC PBYMD, BC BY NHUW, TYM CPHCS PBYMD, JG HC B'FE GEUEYWPI WHQEY WJ UHPPBYT BW, TYM OPMC PBYMD. PBYMD BC YJW HY JOEGHWBYT CICWER MYWJ BWCEPN, VMW GHWSEG HYJWSEG NGEE UJROJYEYW JN H NMPPI NMYUWBJYBYT TYM CICWER RHAЕ MCENMP VI WSE TYM UJGEPBVC, CSEPP MWBPBWBEС HYA FBWHP CICWER UJROJYEYWC UJROGBCBYT H NMPP JC HC AENBYEA VI OJCBD.

RHYI UJROMWEG MCEGC GMY H RJABNBEA FEGCBJY JN WSE TYM CICWER EFEGI AHI, LBWSJMW GEHPBXBYT BW. WSGJMTS H OEUMPBHG WMGY JN EFEYWC, WSE FEGCBJY JN TYM LSBUS BC LBAEPI MCEA WJAHИ BC JNWEY UHPPEA PBYMD, HYA RHYI JN BWC MCEGC HGE YJW HLHGE WSHW BW BC VHCBUHPPИ WSE TYM CICWER, AEFEPJOEA VI WSE TYM OGJKEUW.

WSEGE GEHPPI BC H PBYMD, HYA WSECE OEJOPE HGE MCBYТ BW, VMW BW BC KMCW H OHGW JN WSE CICWER WSEI MCE. PBYMD BC WSE QEGYEP: WSE OGJTGHR BY WSE CICWER WSHW HPPJUHWEС WSE RHUSBYE'C GECJMGUEC WJ WSE JWSEG OGJTGHRC WSHW IJM GMY. WSE QEGYEP BC HY ECCEYWBHP OHGW JN HY JOEGHWBYT CICWER, VMW MCEPECC VI BWCEPN; BW UHY JYPI NMYUWBJY BY WSE UJYWEDW JN H UJROPEWE JOEGHWBYT CICWER. PBYMD BC YJGRHPPИ MCEA BY UJRVBYHWPBJY LBWS WSE TYM JOEGHWBYT CICWER: WSE LSJPE CICWER BC VHCBUHPPИ TYM LBWS PBYMD HAAEA, JG TYM CPHCS PBYMD. HPP WSE CJ-UHPPEA PBYMD ABCWGBVMWPBJYC HGE GEHPPI ABCWGBVMWPBJYC JN TYM CPHCS PBYMD!



Five grad students bought all the club crackers in Walmart for a study session. One student divides the pile into five equal piles, giving the one left over club crackers to a passing rat, and takes away his own share. The second student then repeats the procedure, dividing the remaining pile into five and taking away his share, as do the third, fourth, and fifth, each of them finding one club crackers left over when dividing the pile by five, and giving it to a rat. Finally, the group divide the remaining club crackers into five equal piles: this time no club crackers are left over.

What is the smallest amount of club crackers that could have been in the original pile?

A beetle is crawling along a meter-long rubber tube at 1 cm a second. At the same time, the rubber tube is stretching at the speed of 15 cm a second. Will the beetle ever reach the end of the tube and if so how long will it take?

SGA Meeting Rundown: 03/22/2022

- To put it lightly and briefly, Res Life concerns are high. As of now, I am taking over all matters related to the subject, and I plan to write a comprehensive final addition for Issue 6, to be released 4/18. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions, and I would also like to remind everyone that these articles are not written to attack anyone, but to provide information.
- The SGA Engagement Survey completed a few weeks ago gave insight into what avenues the body may explore in order to drive up attendance and approval. Most of these center on communication, and the SGA has already made improvements. The survey results are available by email: sga.vp@npe.nmt.edu.
- On April 16th 2022, there will be CPR training for \$20 in Workman 101 from 9am-12pm and 12:30-3:30pm. The certification lasts 2 years. Here is the link to register: <https://forms.gle/Xh34ovEe7CS1gJtm6>
- President Wells would like to move the Student Forum to April 12th due to scheduling issues. Again, mark this on your calander to ask pressing questions!
- The Student Advisor committee is actively discussing the role of 'advisor.' The position will be undergoing changes to more effectively help students.
- Chartwells Cook-offs are still planned to take place, with the winners' dishes being presented and offered at Chartwells in a 'Winner's Week.'
- SGA elections are the 13-15th of April.
- Tuition has been increased by 9% for a myriad of reasons. You may contact Veronica Espinoza, the student regent, to answer your questions. Call 575-835-5600 and ask to speak to Veronica.



Jeholopterus Jabber

Written By: Ella Eleven

I am willing to bet that there has been a time, in almost all of our lives, where we have been deliberately misinformed. Siblings and grandparents are frequent perpetrators; 'If you call your own number, your phone will explode.' 'If you eat a watermelon seed, it will grow in your stomach.' 'Jeholopterus is a vampire.' (One of these is not like the other.)

These examples are harmless, for the most part. No one is growing a watermelon in their stomach. But paleontologists have had issues with the 'bloodsucking' *Jeholopterus* since 2003, when David Peters published his article "The Chinese vampire and other overlooked pterosaur ptreasures" in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Peters began his career around the 1990s. He is credited as an illustrator in six published books, all from 1989 to 1997. They are lovingly illustrated and quite accurate. In *Gallery of Dinosaurs* (1989) we can even see a *Coelophys*, our New Mexico state fossil, rendered in shiny black and white. Only in later years did his findings stray far from the established dinosaur literature— and herein lies the issue.

Jeholopterus is a Rhamphorhynchoid (a suborder of Pterosauria). The only known *Jeholopterus* fossil has a severely crushed head and completely absent tail. Peters, in his reconstruction, included elongated teeth "like a rattlesnake" and a whip-like head crest which could be used to "swat at flies." He proposed that the pterosaur would have fed almost exactly like a vampire bat; by attaching to a larger animal, punching a hole, and lapping up the blood.

Sounds cool, right? Well, David Peters is not a paleontologist. He is a paleoartist. Instead of seeing fossils in person, or using 3D scans, Peters finds an image of the specimen, scans it, and traces areas of contrast in Adobe Photoshop to discover 'previously unseen' bone and soft tissue. He calls this technique Digital Photographic Separation. Other paleontologists call it pareidolia: seeing patterns that aren't there.

"The thing is, they think I see things that aren't there, and I think I see things that they overlooked," Peters rebutted. Most often Peters adds massive, asymmetric frills and fringes. Additionally, the conventionally accepted evolutionary history for Pterosauria nests the taxonomic order within Archosauria (closely related to true dinosaurs). Peters has proposed that pterosaurs are within the Squamata order, containing lizards and snakes. This is a difference of an entire taxonomic 'class'—

akin to saying grizzly bears are cows.

Peters' views have certainly caused some hubbub in the fossil-reconstruction community, and it only took a few years after the *Jeholopterus* article for Peters to start having trouble getting his work into scientific journals. Instead, he posts regularly on his two blogs, PterosaurHeresies.wordpress and ReptileEvolution.com.

Still, Peters regularly embroils himself with academic researchers. Darren Naish is a British researcher with a PhD in vertebrate paleontology who's corresponded with Peters since the beginning. Naish stated that "it was obvious right from the start that Dave was adept at using his skills in graphic design and image interpretation to 'see' stuff that was generally ignored or dismissed by other researchers, and that he was unafraid of making wholly novel proposals based on these new and unusual observations."

In at least one case, a paleontologist reviewed Peters' work and found that Peter had "ascribed biological significance to some visible marks" made during the fossil's preparation. Scratches, shadows, dust, and digital artifacts can appear to be fossilized tissue when the only reference is one scanned image. To use *Jeholopterus* again, the tail was completely absent in the fossil. While Rhamphorhynchoids tend to have long tails, proposed relatives of *Jeholopterus* tend to have short tails. Popular reconstructions go with a small tail. Peters chooses a long tail.

So who's right? We won't know unless we find another *Jeholopterus* fossil. But good research is repeatable. Even Peters reiterates this at the end of his PterosaurHeresies articles; "As always, I encourage readers to see specimens, make observations and come to your own conclusions. Test. Test. And test again." And yet Peters' process hasn't been shown to be repeatable. Christopher Bennett, a paleontology professor at Fort Hays, wrote an article specifically analyzing *Anurognathus* (close relative of *Jeholopterus*): "Peters' ideas about *Anurognathus* are presented on his website and are based on his interpretation of a small (126 mm square) photo with strong shadows ... the limestone around the first specimen, upon which Peters based his reconstruction, shows random irregularities resulting from splitting it into layers, but neither specimen has any evidence of a bony crest, frills and lures, or a long tail, and neither specimen supports Peters' reconstruction."

Despite the critiques, Peters perseveres. He has progressed

If you betray you will serve 0 to 2 years with an average of 1, if you stay silent you will serve 1 to 3 years with an average of 2. It is always beneficial to betray. The Prisoner's Dilemma is a great example of a math game with very real practical applications, specifically in criminal justice, where the name originates.

Since the problem's introduction, cooperation between prisoners has been the most observed outcome, with both parties working together to get the minimum sentence instead of one person going free, hence the creation of the term "snitches get stitches" for people who act in self-interest. Additionally, The Prisoner's Dilemma is also the basis of The Tragedy of the Commons, a situation in which a public unregulated resource, like a pond of fish, will eventually be used up due to overuse by an uncoordinated population.

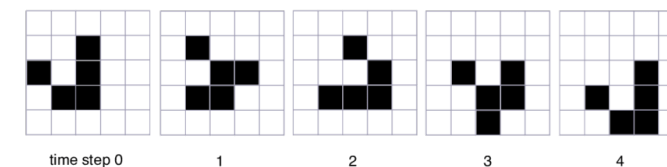
If enough people don't act in self-interest, the resource won't run dry, but the people who don't overuse the resource miss out on an advantage. The Tragedy of The Commons, and related thought exercises, were key philosophical ideas in many revolutions, and lead to famous quotes such as the saying attributed to philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau: "When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich."

The St. Petersburg Game is a thought experiment: The player is asked to place money in the pot, a fair coin is flipped, and when the coin comes up heads the pot is doubled, when the coin lands on tails the player collects the pot. So what is the optimal wager to put in the pot? Because at each flip there is a 1/2 chance the game will continue, the game can carry out to infinity. Therefore an infinitely large bet, or as large as possible, is reasonable.

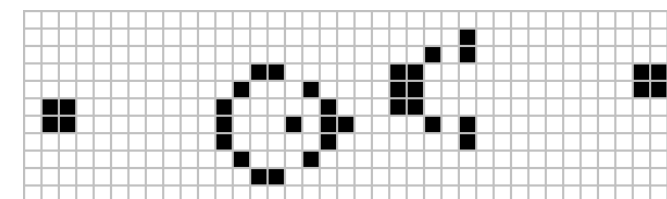
In a realistic application of this game, there would be a fail state, such as in this modified version: The player is asked to place money in the pot, a fair coin is flipped, and when the coin comes up heads the pot is doubled, but when the coin lands on tails the dealer collects the pot. At any time the player can walk away with the pot. So at any given flip, there is a 1/2 chance that the game will continue, and a 1/2 chance the player will end up with nothing. Because the player is just as likely to walk away with nothing as to double the pot the answer is inverted to bet as little as possible. The infinite payout is still as likely, however. This is the model many casinos operate on in addition to the sunk cost fallacy that states: "A cost has already been incurred and cannot be recovered."

The envelope paradox goes as so: You are presented with two envelopes. You are asked to choose one, but after you have chosen you are informed that one of the envelopes has twice the amount of money as the other and are given the option to switch. So do you switch? Let's represent the amount in the selected envelope as X, the other envelope could be 2X or X/2. There is a 1/2 chance of either option, so the amount in the other envelope can be represented as 1/2(2X)+1/2(X/2)=5/4X. So the answer is to switch. The paradox is that once you switch the same equation applies so the most optimal thing is to just keep switching and never opening one.

Conway's Game of Life is a zero-player game meaning that the initial state is set and then allowed to play out following a mathematical sequence. The game is played in a grid of cells: each cell can be live or dead and each cell interacts with its neighbors in the following ways: any 'live' cell with two or three live neighbors survives, any 'dead' cell with three live neighbors becomes a live cell, all other live cells die in the next generation, and all other dead cells stay dead. Attached is an example of a simple pattern you can create with this set of rules. This pattern is called a glider and is the simplest traveling pattern possible.



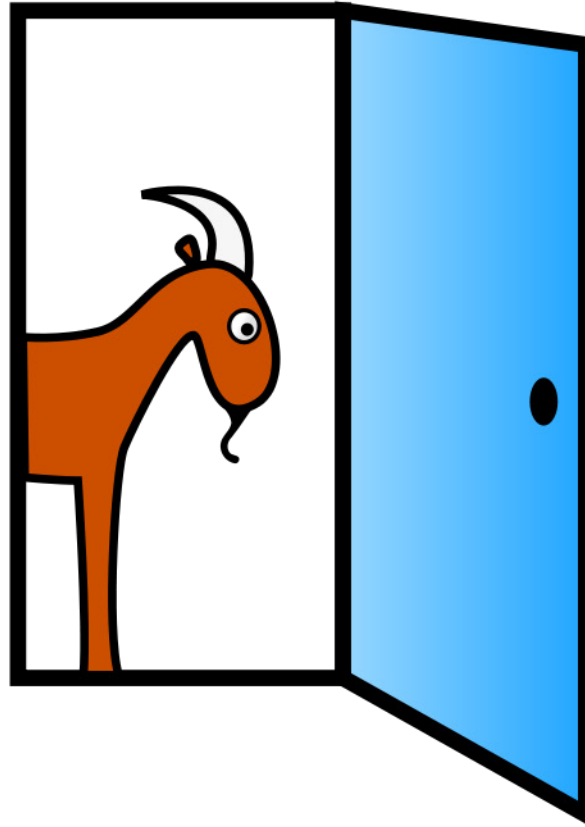
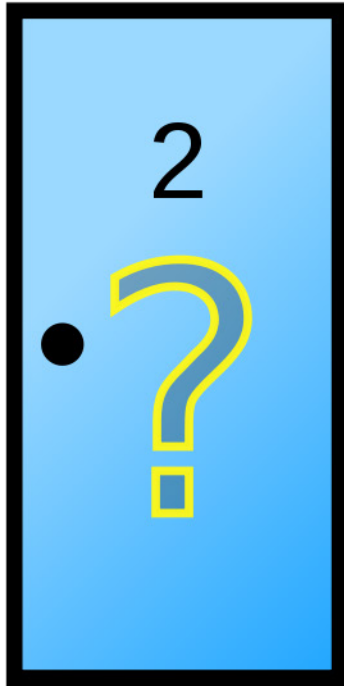
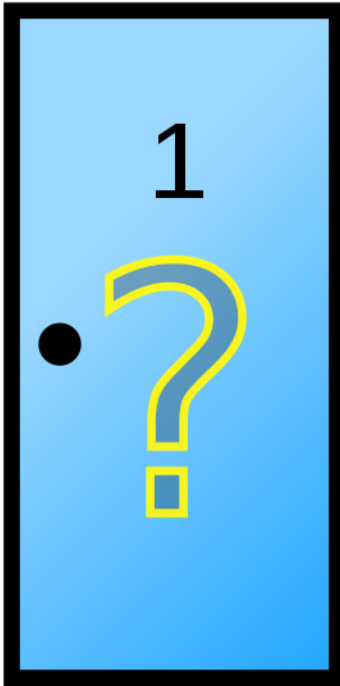
For readers seeking a challenge feel free to use the rules above to show step by step a complete cycle of the following pattern that creates gliders.



There is a whole world of theoretical and unique problems in math. Right after this article, at the back of this issue, is a selection of math problems that are meant to be both challenging and fun; the team at Paydirt would like to encourage our readers to give them an attempt and send in their answers.

Crystal Math

Written By: Nyx Dixon



Fun and Addictive!

It is well known that Math is not a particularly popular subject with the majority of people, even at Tech. However, the following is a collection of fun and interesting concepts, problems, and thought experiments. Additionally, I encourage you, the reader, to participate in the problems associated with this article.

The Monty Hall Problem is loosely based on the game show Let's Make a Deal. The problem goes as follows: The player is presented with three doors: one has a new car behind it and the other two have a goat. The player is asked to pick a door and afterward, a goat is revealed from one of the doors they did not choose. The player is then asked if they would like to switch doors.

The math comes from the question of whether or not it's beneficial to switch doors. At face value, it seems like a fairly simple question, what difference is there in the choice? The way to solve this is to not worry about the first choice and to focus on the second. The chance of choosing the car for the first choice is $\frac{1}{3}$, while the chance of choosing the car for the second choice is $\frac{2}{3}$. So when the second choice is given to the player,

the percentage of the player's first choice being the car is $\frac{1}{3}$, and the chance of the second door being the car is $\frac{2}{3}$. Therefore you should always switch. But why is the probability different in the second choice?

This has been the subject of much debate between some of the most prolific and talented mathematicians of the past hundred years, and they all came to the same conclusion that it is because of the reveal of the goat. To sum up 5 different proofs, the probability of any given choice being the car carries through to the next choice, so there is a $\frac{2}{3}$ chance the other two doors have the car in the first problem, so in the second problem when you switch it's like you are choosing two doors instead of one. This is however assuming the player wants to win the car and not the goat.

Moving from probability to game theory, The Prisoner's Dilemma is a math problem in which two players play a game of trust. The problem goes as follows: Two prisoners are given the choice to betray the other prisoner or stay silent. If both stay silent they are imprisoned for one year, if they betray each other they are imprisoned for 2 years, and if one betrays while the other stays silent the betrayer goes free and the other prisoner is imprisoned for 3 years.

his reconstructions to the 'large reptile tree,' a reconstructed phylogeny of just about everything. Essentially: a program meant to compare pterosaur features now compares rodents to turtles. Peters' tree leads him to propose that, for example, dolphins are descended from shrews, to the contrary of DNA evidence.

Paleontology is a science, but with poorly-preserved specimens, interpretation can become an art. So David Peters, paleoartist, certainly has something to contribute. David Peters, paleontologist, has flawed execution. Still, new ideas are good! That's how science advances. Paleontologists can filter the good new ideas from the bad ones.

But not everybody is a paleontologist, Naish remarks: "His efforts to instigate paradigm change have failed and are being ignored by working scientists. If, however, you think that material shared online- in blog articles and so on- has some impact on what people think worthy of attention or allocation to memory, Peters is successful."

"Peters is not, dear reader, just doing his own thing in some quiet corner of the internet, beaver away in earnest, minding his own business. He is instead on some kind of eternal crusade to promote his ideas ceaselessly. I can confirm from working with students, the interested public and even other qualified scientists that his stuff is often assumed to be real science, on equal footing with that of those he criticizes. All of which means that his efforts need countering." Indeed, searching

'pterosaur evolution' gives two David Peters results in the first ten images. It means that a fair amount of people are going to see Peters' reconstructions before more legitimate works.

Naish, again: "I'm not saying that he should be censored, and I think that he has every right to share his observations and ideas" but paleontologists are also correct in critiquing Peters. "It is not an attack on Dave Peters. It is not an effort to muzzle him. Plain and simple, it is an effort to strongly express the opinion- as best as I can- that Dave's observations and ideas represent an almost certainly erroneous view of tetrapod anatomy and evolution."

Misinformation spreads like hotcakes on the internet. Peters reconstructions are popular because they are 1: interesting, like *Jeholopterus*, or 2: seemingly professional, like most of ReptileEvolution.com. Peters does not spare New Mexico; he has reconstructions of *Revueltosaurus* (Dockum Group), *Tanytrachelos* and *Drepanosaurus* (both from the Chinle Formation). He changes the phylogenetic placement of *Tanyrhynchthys* (Kinney Brick Quarry), *Tanystropheids* (Hayden Quarry), *Dromomeron* (Ghost Ranch), and many others. Just looking up these species comes up with a David Peters result in the first page of images.

So: be very afraid of unfounded dinosaur theories. Be afraid of unfounded things in general. We live in a frightening world, full of misleading information. Just do your part to watch out for bloodsucking pterosaurs.



Introducing Katie Bauer

Written By: Ella Eleven



Hearing about new faculty is always a bit scary– are they good at their job? What even is their job? Do they like cool rocks?

These worries are fair. But they do not apply to one of our newest faculty members, Katie Bauer. She signed on as NMT's new Communications Specialist on February 14th. From the great state of Minnesota, Katie Bauer has had years of experience reporting, coordinating, and informing: "I worked for the state of Minnesota for thirty four years, and before that I was a newspaper reporter and editor for six years. [At NMT] I'm an in-house journalist. My job is to write about interesting things that students, faculty, and staff are doing, help manage the media inquiries, send news out to the news media, and post things on the website. I get to write about all these cool things students experience." (So, she kind of has my job, but she gets a whole office.)

To top it off, Katie does, in fact, like cool rocks. "[Me and my husband] are officially 'rockhounds.' And this has always been his hobby, one I've kind of married into. You have to marry the rocks as well." She is also interested in ice skating, kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, astronomy, and antiquing. After a long

tenure in Minnesota she's very excited to live in Magdalena: "I'm just looking forward to having time for all of my hobbies, and not keeping track of stuff."

Katie was drawn into the reporting field after watching *All The President's Men*, a dramatization of the Watergate incident. "Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. And the power of journalism. [I've] been on both sides, journalism and working for the government. The thing about government, you're there to provide good services for people, but there's an obligation to openness and transparency."

"I was on the Minnesota Daily staff when I was in school. That helped me land my first job; right out of school, I went to a large daily newspaper." She started with advertising for the Minnesota Daily. Then to freelance reporting, and she eventually became the assistant managing editor of the Saint Cloud Times. "Then I worked at the state legislature, the Minnesota House of Representatives. I was a media writer, which means I was assigned to a certain number of legislators to do their [ghost] writing. I did their newsletters, speeches, all their special events. And then I moved to the radio/TV position

family had to move, so my wife and I ran the shop with a lot of help from our youngest. By January of 2020, I was running the place mostly by myself. Then in June of 2021, one of my customers offered me the space we are in now, on Fisher Street. I jumped at the chance, and in July of 2021 I opened the shop in the new location."

The shop is a specialty store that focuses on tabletop gaming. The location acts as a dealer for major distributors in the gaming industry. This includes Wizards of the Coast, Games Workshop, Fantasy Flight Games, and many more.

Magic the Gathering, the largest tradable card game on the market, is a staple of the store. World Tree participates actively in the secondary market for Magic, buying and reselling cards from people who come into the store. The location hosts multiple opportunities for people to come in and play games every week including Thursday night Commander, Friday Night Magic, and various pickup games.

World Tree also has a large selection of Dungeons & Dragons products including all the associated accessories and merchandise. This includes dice, miniatures, rule books, reference cards, plushies, posters, and more. World Tree also sells a large number of other role-playing games such as GURPS, Cyberpunk, the ROOT RPG, various Star Wars-



themed games, Shadowrun, and on occasion some smaller limited-run RPGs.

In addition to games with a more collectible aspect, World Tree has a wide selection of board games. They stock all manner of games from more boutique, niche games to your average family games that are commonly found at Target or Walmart. They also have a wide selection of smaller party games that are perfect for the dorm environment given their cheap and easy-to-learn nature.

One of the most notable things about World Tree is its position as the only Games Workshop dealer in town. They host many events for GW games and receive new releases on time with the rest of the world, including digital distribution. Erin is also happy to make special orders from his distributor to help customers avoid shipping costs and potentially damaged products.

World Tree Games is open Tuesday to Saturday from 1 pm to 8 pm, but the store will stay open for as long as people are gaming and having fun. The store's address is 215 Fisher Ave, just across from the fire station, next to town square.



World Tree

Written By: Nyx Dixon

Socorro is famous among students and alumni for being a place where there isn't much to do. Whether it is in the form of clubs, parties, or deciding to double major, it's on the students to make their own entertainment. However there are some places in town where students can go to do stuff and hang out, and among them is World Tree Games. This was the intent of the shop's owner, Erin.

"I grew up in Socorro, and at the end of middle school and into high school I was getting into more and more trouble. But there was a card and comic shop that opened up in town. I started to spend all of my time there. I hung out with the owner and the crew that ran the place. I stopped getting in as much trouble. That card shop saved my life, and I wanted to ensure my kids, and their friends, and the kids I didn't know yet had a place to hang out and not get in trouble."

Erin makes a point of trying to make his shop welcoming to everyone. He has a zero-tolerance policy for "being a dick," and will intervene in problems to find a compromise to facilitate a good gaming environment. A way in which Erin has done this is by ensuring his space is Queer friendly. "My oldest son, just before his suicide, came out as non-binary. My former business partner is bi, and they have a child that is transitioning. I have regulars that are LGBTQ, and I want to ensure they have a haven. As a CIS white male, I can never fully understand

prejudices against marginalized people, but I can do my best to make sure my shop always welcomes them." Erin proudly displays a pride flag in the window of his shop, in addition to implementing it into the business's logo.

The game store wasn't Erin's first endeavor - he has a varied skillset and background. "I went to art school to do practical special effects, then later to be a welder. I lived in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and most recently Maryland. When I moved back to Socorro I got into the movie industry doing locations, and chances are if my shop is closed when it should be open, I'm filming a movie in town. I also worked at Macey Center for a few years. But I have worked in so many different industries, I installed both Cat5 and Fiber optic networks, I managed a U-Haul moving center, and I have worked in two different laboratories."

Erin has been running World Tree for just under four years, and he summarized the history of the shop as such: "In April of 2018, I reconnected with a childhood friend. Our families started to spend a lot of time together. We joked that we should open a game store in town, it was something my wife and I had already been discussing since we moved back to NM in 2015. But this friend was the nudge I needed to open the shop. Our original location was on California Street, we opened on Halloween 2018. Then in April of 2019, my friend and his



where I produced radio shows for a lot of legislators that we would send back to the district. I put together little news stories with clips that I would send out to radio stations in a five state area. Also I was booking them on cable, all that kind of stuff. I was very active in that for a long time."

After working from her basement during the pandemic, Katie was itching to get out there and make a change. "It was very interesting work, but I'd been there a long time and was looking for something completely different." And yet, where to find it? A new place, a new job, in this economy? Then, on a fateful trip to the Very Large Array: "we caught the fever of New Mexico. I was just so impressed with it. It's very exciting for me as a Minnesotan to be able to eat outside in March."

Katie and her husband fell in love with our humble little state. After a bit of work, they bought a house. After a lot more work, they're now able to live in it. "We have eleven acres south of Magdalena. It's heavily wooded, up against the National Forest. Nobody had been on that property in a really long time." There was no electricity, water, heating, or septic. Fun! "And the day we got the internet! The wifi! I felt like one of the kids- well, this dates me- in *Little House On The Prairie*. But it was like, a modern convenience, you know?"

"The commute in from Magdalena is very scenic, you know. Nothing like my old commute, where you get stuck in traffic or stuck coming over a bridge or whatever. It's actually kind of pleasant. I'm enjoying it- except for the gas prices."

Now the matter of living was settled. Employment had yet to be decided. Then, against the odds; New Mexico Tech's looking for a new Communications Specialist. "This opportunity presented itself and I grabbed it! How often do you have an opportunity like that here? To be able to do professional work that I'm trained to do, and in an area where there's not a ton of business."

"I was really excited [about the job] because I don't know anything about New Mexico except for being a tourist. But in some ways maybe that's good, because I don't know anyone here and I'm not related to anyone, and I can really just be objective. But I do have an extensive background in communication. [At

the House of Representatives] I was kind of like a newspaper editor with 72,000 employees all over the state. We had a daily internet newsletter, and [the stories were] personalized to their location. We'd have five to seven stories a day."

At NMT, she hopes to keep up this record of high-stakes exposure. "[My goal] is to be prolific. To do a lot of stories. To meet a lot of people. I kind of got the impression, in the interview and stuff, that this university is kind of like a hidden gem? But there's an opportunity to raise the national profile, as well. I do have some experience with that, having dealt with some issues that were national- I've dealt with the New York Times, and the Washington Post. There's awesome stuff here that people should hear about, and there's just some really exceptional faculty. I think the students who are here, they're focused and career oriented. They really seem to have an idea of where they want to go. They don't want to waste any time. I applaud that. You get into your twenties, it goes by fast. Right now, there's so many opportunities for people who are bright, enthusiastic, and want to learn. Employers are looking for that. I think everyone here, they're here because they want to be contributors and leaders in the future."

Since Katie's only been employed for a few months, we'll have to wait to hear about the really cool stuff. But she sets her goals high. "I see myself as a support person. I really want to support the efforts of the university, help it be more successful, and help students be more successful. I'm gonna come in everyday thinking 'what can I do today?' to help further the mission."

"If you had asked me five years ago if this is what I'd be doing, it would not have been on my radar. I didn't know what I was gonna do. But things have kind of fallen into place for us, and we've been really excited for the future. I don't know what's ahead. I'm just kind of jumping into the deep end. But I have faith that it's going to work out. I gotta take some risks. Get outside of my comfort zone, you know. A lot of people when they get older, they just are in a rut, they're settled. For me it's like, you know, just take a step every day. There is a lot more to life. It doesn't end when you turn forty or fifty or sixty or whatever."

SGA Vice President Candidate Responses

Kenyan Phlieger



Q: What are your goals for the Vice Presidency within the SGA?

Kenyan: I would like to bring the SGA to a more positive light; I feel that a lot of the discontent that is directed toward the SGA is not a direct reflection of the current Executive branch and what they stand for. In addition, by increasing student engagement and representation, I would like to show current and incoming students that we are here to help them feel that their voices are heard and taken seriously.

Q: What duties and responsibilities will you be undertaking in this role?

Kenyan: In addition to duties and responsibilities laid out in the SGA constitution and Book of Law, I plan on working closely with all of the Senatorial Committee heads to ensure that their needs and projects are met to the benefit of all students, as well as working with the Student Activities Board to plan fun and engaging activities for the greater student body.

Q: If elected, are there any initial SGA policies that you are hoping to accomplish?

Kenyan: The first initial policy would be to make the Mental Health committee a permanent addition to the SGA as it has proven to be a major benefit to the student body this semester. The second would be to combine the Online Community and Social Media committees into one larger committee that would work with the PR committee to ensure that student and club run events can reach the greatest amount of people on campus as possible and ensure that students feel that they are heard.

Q: In one statement, how would you describe the SGA?

Kenyan: A student-run organization dedicated to encouraging student discourse and campus-wide engagement.

Q: What are the top 3 qualities you think an SGA President or Vice President needs to have?

Kenyan: Honesty, integrity, and a willingness to communicate effectively and transparently with both students and the administration.

Q: If elected, how will you make more student community outreach and respond to the requests of students?

Kenyan: Firstly, by continuing with a semesterly Student Engagement Survey which would also include new questions about what seems to be favorites amongst students, as well as what sort of things they would like to see in the future. In addition to this, I aim to interact with students and maintain open communication overall. Secondly, If the acting Committee heads would be willing, I would like to have regular meetings to make sure that any interactions they have with students result in beneficial changes that we can institute. Finally, I would be holding the regular office hours in an attempt to facilitate open discussions with any students that would like to speak with me.

Preston Kite



Q: What are your goals for the Vice Presidency within the SGA?

Preston: As Vice PREST-ident, I will make sure that students' voices are more impactful, especially in decisions that directly affect Tech students. Not only will I listen, but I will also make sure the SGA is actively representing the student body within all departments at Tech. I will financially and organizationally support clubs so that new clubs can be created and existing clubs can thrive. I will achieve this by regularly interacting with clubs to understand what clubs actually want from the SGA.

Q: What duties and responsibilities will you be undertaking in this role?

Preston: It will be my responsibility to build a Chick-fil-A at Tech (Just kidding, I wish). It is to ensure the senate runs smoothly, assist the President in making responsible long-term decisions, and be accessible to all students. Since I am the current Chief Financial Officer, I have worked closely with the current Vice President and led the Financial Committee for the senate. Many of the duties and responsibilities overlap with my current position; therefore, I am confident that I can fulfill and exceed the expectations.

Q: If elected, are there any initial SGA policies that you are hoping to accomplish?

Preston: On the first day in the position, I will ban toasters from the SGA office (because I have a fear of toasters). Secondly, I will create an event committee that assists SGA events and provides input on what students want. Lastly, I would like to improve club-related paperwork and communication so that clubs can operate more efficiently with the SGA.

Q: In one statement, how would you describe the SGA?

Preston: The purpose of the SGA is to be an extension of the student body and support the goals of clubs and individuals at Tech (Always gotta support the homies).

Q: What are the top 3 qualities you think an SGA President or Vice President needs to have?

Preston: First, the Vice PREST-ident must be a great problem solver because the SGA is a dynamic and complex organization. One time, I encountered one of the most challenging situations known to man. I wanted my pants warm before a computer science final, but the dryer was full. So, I microwaved my pants and achieved the optimal pants temperature despite the odds. Secondly, it is very important to be open-minded so that the Vice PREST-ident can represent all viewpoints of the student body. Lucky for you, my brain is very empty so there is plenty of space for your ideas. Lastly, and most importantly, the Vice PREST-ident MUST be a gamer. So, it is pretty convenient that I am the President of NMT Esports and help command my fellow gamers in battle.

Q: If elected, how will you make more student community outreach and respond to the requests of students?

Preston: If I am elected, any Tech student can set up a meeting with me to discuss questions or concerns regarding the SGA or the NMT community. If there is a widespread issue regarding students, I will push for a positive policy change. I care about every club on campus and I will personally attend club meetings to build greater relationships between all clubs and the SGA.