Totally and Completely Random

Seen Good Will Hunting?

It turns out that the 1997 movie about a kid from Southie whose mathematical genius exceeds that of every professor at MIT is based on a true story. In 1939, George Bernard Dantzig, a doctoral candidate at UC Berkeley, arrived late for his statistics class when he found two problems on the board. Unaware that the two problems were examples of unsolvable statistics, he assumed that they were for homework and jotted them down. A few days later, he apologized to his professor for taking so long to hand them in, as he had found them slightly more challenging than usual. The professor told him to throw the work on his test, and Dantzig “did so reluctantly, because his desk was covered with such a heap of papers that [he] feared his homework be lost forever.”

Six weeks later, Dantzig was awakened by a banging on his front door. There stood his professor, Neyman, who excitedly rushed in, papers in hand, and informed Dantzig: “I’ve just written an introduction to one of your papers. Read it so I can send it out right away for publication.” For a moment, Dantzig, “had no idea what he was talking about.” This was the first inkling Dantzig had that there was anything special about the problems.

One year later, when Dantzig began to worry about finding a thesis topic, Neyman “just shrugged” and told him to wrap the two problems in a binder and he would accept them as his thesis.

The second of the two “homework” problems was not published until after WWII. In 1950, Abraham Wald sent Dantzig a letter enclosing the final proofs of a paper which was about to go to press. Someone had informed him that this was the second problem in Dantzig’s thesis. Dantzig suggested that they publish jointly and Wald inserted his name as coauthor.

Get out of Here! Events in Boston

- Lord of the Dance: Fri 8:00pm, Sat & Sun 2:00p, Boston Opera House
- SoWa Open market: Sat, May 16th, 10a-5p, South End Open market, Boston. Offers the opportunity to meet the artists, vendors, and farmers behind the work
- Laser Beatles: Sun 17th, 5:30, Museum of Science

Questions to Ponder

- Would you rather be friends with the men of G-25 or the ladies of D-41?
- Would you rather graduate in 3 years or 5 years?
- Would you rather have a great job in a mediocre location or a mediocre job in a fabulous location?
- Would you rather get caught in the rain or fall asleep in the sun and get burnt?
- If you could relive one day in your Harvard career, what would it be?
- If you could redo one day in your Harvard career, what would it be?
- Are you happy?

Check it out

Issues of the latest Saturday Night at Harvard Magazine are available in the magazine stand between the SCR and JCR. Pick one up to see what Lev’s own Caroline Bleeeke and May Zhang laid out! For more info, check out http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~osapr/saturdaynight.html

Upcoming Levy Events

- Joint Study Break by tutors who are leaving (Bilal, Laura, Zayed, Uzma, Adam, Galit): Mon, 8:30p (SCR)
- Leverett SASH will host a showing of 'Dreamworlds', a documentary on desire, sex, and power in music videos. Mon, 11, 4 PM (G-107). Home-baked caked, tea (hot and cold), and assorted snacks.
- Donut Bash: Weds, 10:00p (dhall)

Take a break from memorizing random facts to learn some others

- The elephant is the only animal with 4 knees.
- The Baby Ruth candy bar was named after Grover Cleveland’s baby daughter, Ruth.
- Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.
- The word "nerd" was first coined by Dr. Seuss
- You burn more calories sleeping than watching TV.
- The three best-known western names in China: Jesus Christ, Richard Nixon, and Elvis Presley.
- Elephants are the only mammals that can’t jump.
- 1 in 5,000 north Atlantic lobsters are born bright blue.
- The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in jelly.
- Each of the suits on a deck of cards represents the four major pillars of the economy in the middle ages: hearts- Church, spades -military, clubs- agriculture, diamonds -merchant class.
- The most money ever paid for a cow in an auction was $1.3 million.
- Isaac Asimov is the only author to have a book in every Dewey-decimal category.
- The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
- The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
**LEVERETT HOUSE**

**DOMINATION**

• **Spring B Volleyball won** in an epic match down to the third set versus Dudley. Palak (c), Austin, Tomo, Karl, Antonio, Santosh, with subs Charles and Fabian. Monday 7:30pm is the next match, versus Eliot.

• **Spring Tournament Kickball** had a 11-6 win versus Dunster. Captain Charles James blasted the music, and Alek, Jeremy, Ryan, Cheng, and Santosh rocked out with their sweet dance moves to intimidate the opponents on the field.

• **Spring B Women's Crew CAME IN SECOND PLACE IN THE HEATS AND will be racing in the finals. Congrats!**

• **Spring A Volleyball** beat Dunster AND WILL PLAY Quincy in the SEMIFINAL MATCH MONDAY 8:30pm, Mac. COME WATCH A BEAT DOWN.

• **Spring A Crew:** Women CAME IN FIRST PLACE FRIDAY AND WILL PROGRESS TO THE FINALS NEXT WEDNESDAY, congrats! Men placed third in their race, and unfortunately did not make the finals. Great job regardless, and thank you all rowers for your time and commitment, especially for those 6:30am practices.

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• **Final exam for a creative writing class:** 60 minutes to write a short story that included religion, royalty, sex, and mystery.

  After ten minutes, a student handed in his bluebook. Inside was written: "Excuse me," said the Pope to the King, "have you seen my pants?"

  The student got an "A".

• **2003 Chemistry exam questions and answers:**

  Q: when acidified Potassium permanganate is added to a solution of Sodium iodide, a reaction occurs. Write a balanced equation for the reaction by writing balanced half equations and combining them.

  Write a balanced half equation for the reaction at the positive electrode

  Write a balanced half equation for the reaction at the negative electrode

  Explain why the concentration of sulfite ions increases in the electrolyte

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:**

Deadline for Leverett House newsletter submissions is Thursday at 12:00 am.

Please e-mail Leverettnews@gmail.com

~Co-editors for Hare Today

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