

Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>

Sun 9/26/2021 10:26 AM

To: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>

Maxie,

I will talk to Sally tomorrow.

I will do what I can, but ultimately, the administration will be making any disciplinary decisions. I am on your side.

Best wishes,
Klara

Klara Grodzinsky
Senior Academic Professional
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she/her

From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>

Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 5:38 PM

To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>

Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

Is Sally good to talk with you? I am very happy to have you handle this because BS just slips in from young males sometimes, with James just more over the top and flagrant about it than most. Imagine if he were to get a faculty position in a few years? I have had to deal with sexual harassment by lecturers (in CS) where I was an undergrad and naive freshman. At 18-19, most women are not assertive enough nor do they know how to handle that situation. It's one thing for me at 35 to give James the finger openly for an obnoxious combo HW question or two walking through the apartment courtyard. The worst thing in the world would be for a young student in his class to experience it not knowing the difference with some life experience. Let him have it! I'm still happy to help if I can.

Maxie

From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 7:14 PM

To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>

Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

Would you please obligate Sally in that direction for me? My advisor Lacey sent me the tweet. He might be good for information as well.

Maxie

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From: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 7:12:35 PM
To: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Maxie,

Also updating you that Josephine pointed me to Sally's twitter post as well. Being that this post is public, and it is relevant to your Title IX report, it seems that Sally has involved herself even if she does not feel comfortable coming to me. So, you may just want to let her know, and if she would prefer, she can talk directly with Dr. Kyla Ross about the situation.

Best wishes,
Klara

Klara Grodzinsky
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From: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Maxie,

Just letting you know that in reviewing James' other HW problems, there was another question that seems inappropriate.

I will be working with the administration on this case, and will keep you updated.

Best wishes,
Klara

Klara Grodzinsky

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From: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:55 PM
To: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Maxie,

Ok, thanks for the update.

Thanks for educating me. Now I understand. And I'm sorry I did not realize how bad this was when you first brought it up.

Best,
Klara

Klara Grodzinsky
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From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:05 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

I received an email that Sally is not comfortable talking with you about the confidential incident. Sorry.

Maxie

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From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:43:30 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

I asked Josephine to correspond with you.

Following up on "blue balls" (the slang definition), this is what [Cosmo magazine](#) says:

A slang term, not a medical term, "blue balls" refers to the pain a man feels in his scrotum from prolonged sexual arousal without ejaculation. Basically, if a guy gets turned on and doesn't climax, it can cause an aching sensation in his balls. But don't worry, he'll live. Blue balls is not dangerous and doesn't cause any long-term damage. (Though it has been known to cause severe and highly obnoxious complaining from dudes.)

Considering that women bleed out of their genitals once a month for 30 years, it doesn't seem *that* bad.

From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

Thanks for the understanding about the math lab hours. I will stay for two next Wednesday if I am feeling better.

As for the definition of "blue balls", please see here: <https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/blue-balls/>. It refers to a condition that happens with male genitalia after sustaining an erection for a long time without climactic sexual satisfaction. Not cool on combo homework to count pair after pair in a line!



blue balls - Dictionary.com

According to slang lexicographer Jonathon Green, the term blue balls for "intense sexual frustration" dates back to at least the 1910s. In the 1920s, Green notes, blue balls was also used as slang for a venereal bubo and gonorrhea. Blue balls has since gone on to specifically describe a dull, aching sensation that occurs during sexual arousal before or without ejaculation.

www.dictionary.com

As far as I know it's just James. He is a pig and obnoxious! Jack is not sexist; we just do not talk anymore.

Maxie

From: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Maxie,

Thank you for bringing all of this information to my attention. It seems like there is a history that I wish I had known about before making the TA assignments this fall.

Maybe you can catch me up to speed on the lingo... I am starting to feel very old. 😊

If Sally is willing to talk with me, I would be very happy to hear from her as well.

Are these issues limited to James, or is there anyone else about whom we should be concerned?

And I'm sorry that this conversation is bringing up bad memories for you. Please take care of yourself first and foremost. Just keep Ms. Reikes updated about your situation; we understand. Whenever you are feeling up to making up an hour here and there, that will be fine.

Best,
Klara

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From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Sorry for the repeat emails. This did not get captured in the print friendly email exchange from the last. Enough for now unless I think of anything else.

MDS

From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

Also, here is some correspondence with Sally about what a sexist a-hole James is.

You are familiar with the term "blue balls" and what it means, right? I had to tell my 68 yo mom what it meant on the phone last night to convince her I was ok after the panic attack. Maybe it's generational vernacular. I can explain it succinctly if you do not understand.

Maxie

From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Attached tweet.

MDS

From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

I do not have a copy of the actual homework problem. It would have been on the HW for James Wenk's section of 3012 the same week I sent you the initial email. A student shared it with BlueJeans screen share. Let me send you the title IX email I used to report the incident after I send this one.

As for the comments, you can see Sally's attached tweet about it. She (S. Collins) might be willing to fill in more information, but I haven't asked her for confirmation. Josephine Yu, my co-advisor, confirmed it was James Wenk that had said this after I talked with her over email. I'm sure she would be happy to talk with you as well.

Rehashing all this gave me a panic attack yesterday. I had to take Vistiril on doctor's orders which makes me extremely drowsy (gentler, however, than benzo-based medication options I have had to take in the past). Last week I had to miss my virtual hours with an upset stomach, but I stayed for two hours at the in-person math lab hours on Wednesday after communicating this to students to make up for it. I can do the same next week if you want me to so I can make up the missed time. I am in the process of dealing with anxiety and getting a sleep apnea diagnosis with a local sleep neurologist. I am just exhausted and feeling down in general, I guess.

Maxie

From: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Hi Maxie,

I appreciate this follow-up. Yes, can you please send me the Title IX email and the actual HW problem that is in question?

I will most likely need to speak with Dr. Xingxing Yu about this, but I will keep the source strictly confidential, of course.

Do you have any first-hand witnesses who are willing to talk to me about these supposed comments that have been circulating? Again, I will absolutely keep it confidential. That is very disturbing to hear.

I hope you are feeling better. What is your current health situation? Ms. Reikes mentioned that you have missed several math lab hours.

Best wishes,
Klara

Klara Grodzinsky
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From: Schmidt, Maxie D <mschmidt34@gatech.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Grodzinsky, Klara J <klara.grodzinsky@math.gatech.edu>
Subject: Following up about the counting pairs of blue balls question with James Wenk

Klara,

I did follow Michael Lacey's advice and report the incident to title ix. I can forward you the email if you need it. It is more than just accidental wording with him. I'm going to ask that you exercise caution in only letting him off with a quick warning when a "talking to" mafia style (so to speak) is more in order. I could clobber him the next time I see him at grad housing right now!

I confirmed with Josephine that he is active in making heinously sexist remarks to female grad students vis a vis his perception that women are inferior mathematicians, but that it's not our fault, it's our hormones, or something like that (I heard about this particular comment second hand). Would mind expressing to him again that this behavior and unwholesome jack-assery is unacceptable in the department?

Pardon my language for I am frustrated at the situation. I think you know me well enough to keep it between us.

Maxie

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