

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

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Super Pikachu Riddle Contest Issue!

... Riddle me this...

By Mookie Harrington

In my spirit of creating short-lived column ideas, here's this week's attempt at a puzzle. (Although, at a science university someone might actually find these sort of trite challenges *intriguing*. Shudder.)

Let's **pretend** *GDT* wishes to offend six different demographics. We can simply call them A, B, C, D, E, F, or if you prefer, Women, Minorities, Presidents of Certain Institutes of Technology, Religious Groups, Humanities Majors, and Official Campus-Approved Publications.

GDT could do it all in one issue, or they could offend a different group for six issues. Or they could offend groups A and B in the first issue, D in the next, then C, E, F in the third. You get the idea.

So, C. Diablo (our publisher) wants to know how many different possible combinations exist. Here are some important things to note:

Every issue must offend at least one different demographic.

The order of the issues does not matter, nor does the order of each offense within the issues.

Every demographic should be offended by one, but only one issue.

(For those more well-versed in math terminology, this problem deals with the number of possible partitions given the cardinality of a finite set is n .)

Answer entries should be submitted to:

gdtlovesmath@catsrules.garfield.com

You can address hint requests, further questions, and feedback there also.

If people show some interest, a general solution for being offensive to n -groups will appear in a subsequent issue.

The first correct answer will receive the copy of the Everclear Set List (from last Thursday at UR) that I picked up off the ground. Second place prize could be anything from some playing cards to used chapstick. There's no limit on entries. Void where prohibited?

SUBMIT.

gdt@hellskitchen.org

Ode to Trimethylxanthine

by Alex Moundalexis

Everyone has his addiction. Some people smoke cigarettes, others like beer, while some prefer acid or MDMA. I prefer 1,3,7-Trimethylxanthine ($C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$), a stimulant. The stuff isn't new—I'm surprised you haven't heard of it. To the contrary, it's been around for thousands of years. It comes in tabs to swallow or chew, or in liquid to drink (or inject in rare medical cases). It mixes quite well with other liquids, and is almost undetectable when mixed with food. The best/worst part, it's legal in the United States (and the rest of the world).

My drug of choice is caffeine. Now I know what you're thinking: *Caffeine? That's not a drug; what the hell is wrong with this guy?* Caffeine is a drug, and an addictive one at that. In one military test, 600mg of caffeine offered similar benefits as 20mg of amphetamine, without the side effects. Impressive considering that a five-year-old can buy the stuff at a grocery store, assuming they can reach the counter.

Caffeine (which is also known as guaranine¹) is an alkaloid, part of a group called methylxanthines. Caffeine shares that group with theophylline and theobromine, all of which are found in tea, coffee, and cocoa beans. A stimulant of the central nervous system, cardiac muscle, and respiratory system; caffeine delays fatigue and increases alertness. I find that it helps me concentrate and stay up later to accomplish schoolwork that should have been done weeks before.

My source of caffeine is usually Mountain Dew, which has approximately 55mg per can². Caffeine is bitter in taste³, and this is exemplified readily in black coffee. Coffee may have up to four times the caffeine content, but just to drink the stuff I have to load it with cream and sugar, the former tending to disturb my stomach more often than not. So I stick to the Dew. According to the Merck Index, "the presence of the other alkaloids in colas and tea may explain why these sometimes have a stronger kick than coffee." By comparison, Jolt Cola has 71mg per can, Coke & Pepsi between 35-45mg.

As early as 15 minutes after drinking (5 minutes if chewing, immediately upon injection⁴), the physiological effects kick in, and you'll be feeling better. 15 minutes later, the central nervous system joins the party. Upon entering the bloodstream, caffeine is rapidly absorbed and distributed in all body tissues and fluids. As long as caffeine is in the bloodstream, its effects will be seen, generally for 6-14 hours. Heightened awareness, a bit of extra energy. You'll experience a minor decrease in reaction time, specifically from visual and auditory stimuli. Caffeine does not affect your memory or reasoning abilities, although some might believe so. Effects vary depending on your speed of intake: a mellow and drawn-out time if you sip, or a more profound effect if you drain the whole 12oz. I can pound a cold Dew just a bit slower than my friends can funnel a beer, and a hell of a lot faster than you can drink a hot cup of coffee⁵.

Withdrawal. Yeah, the party always ends...and always too soon. 24 hours after caffeine intake, your blood pressure drops rapidly. This causes an excess of blood in your head that in turn leads to your headache. Irritability, drowsiness and restlessness will set in as well. One to five days of this leaves you with a few choices: endure it (not recommended), treat it with aspirin or Tylenol, or be a sucker and pop open a cold can and take a swig. You can guess what I end up doing.

You can overdose, which leads to jitters, shock, respiratory problems, your heart exploding, and other fun emergency room situations. You can die from caffeine intake, too. How much caffeine would that take, you're asking? Orally, about 10 grams. Intravenously, this requires 3.2 grams⁶. It works out to 150mg per kilogram of your body weight. For you non-metric people out there, between 50-200 cups of coffee or about 50 Vivarin tablets. In my non-expert opinion, that's a lot of damned caffeine.

Commonly passed off as an occupational hazard and a way of life on college campuses, caffeine is the substance that's used and abused by millions of people each day. Now you have most of the facts, and might believe me when I say that I'm an addict.

Thanks to the folks at erowid.org for all the information.

¹ So all those really expensive Sobe drinks that claim to offer extra energy from guaranine...are really marketing the power of old-fashioned caffeine—the same that has been around forever—under a new name.

² Except in Canada, where there isn't any caffeine in Mountain Dew. Silly people.

³ Barq's Root Beer uses approximately 25mg of caffeine per 12oz

can as a "flavoring agent", giving the beverage its slightly bitter taste.

⁴ Injection of caffeine is possible, but NOT recommended. It has been done under MEDICAL supervision and for TESTING PURPOSES. Don't try it.

⁵ To Starbucks—with your \$3 mini-cups, don't even try to compete with my 25 cent Mountain Dew (bought by the case).

⁶ Refer to #4.

How to Conquer Pokémon

as told to Andrew Gill by Kukai

As we all know, the television show *Pokémon*, and the associated movies, video games, birth control pills, CDs and formalwear have hit America hard. Pikachu, the rat bastard, seems to have become the ultimate fad for the late nineties, early oughts. I feel compelled to instruct the public on how to conquer this new fad.

To do so, I sought out an Eastern view—that of Kukai, a monk from eighth century Japan, and resurrected him. Let me tell you, resurrecting someone who has entered a state of bliss obtained through the extinction of the self is much harder than it sounds.

I asked Kukai for advice on conquering Pokémon, and here is his response:

To conquer the Pokémon, one must first examine it very closely. Does it have the Buddha-nature? We know that the Pokémon is created by man. Does man have the Buddha-nature? Of course. Thus, the Pokémon must be imbued with the Buddha-nature, as all things created by one who has the Buddha-nature must be.

Thus, there must be a state in which the Pokémon is approaching Enlightenment. To attain Enlightenment, the Pokémon must accept the four Noble Truths: Existence is Suffering; the cause of Suffering is Desire; to end Suffering, end Desire; and the last one I can never remember.

Therefore, for the Pokémon to attain Enlightenment, it must end its desire. To end its desire, it must enter a state where it is not trying to conquer. More than that, it must enter a state where it is not trying to avoid being conquered, for that, too would render one unable to conquer it.

For you to conquer the Pokémon, you, too, must seek to follow the way of the Buddha. To conquer the Pokémon, you must follow the four noble truths. You must seek not to conquer or be conquered. Then you will succeed. You will have conquered the Pokémon.

You have asked Kukai—is there a way to conquer the Pokémon? Of course. Stop playing the damn game!

Next week: *Star Wars* rumors with Lao Tzu.

GDT Challenge: Nr. Zwei

All proper respects to Paul Mischler, who came really really close. But Jeff Prystajko has struck again, thus furthering the irony. Any more wins on his part, and the folks here might have to update the contest rules.

So as promised, here are a few more questions that I believe to be more difficult. As usual, a 12-pack awaits the first winner—and I urge ANYONE else to enter...

1. The number of buttons on the television in 01-3355.
2. The third ingredient listed for Wrigley's Winterfresh Chewing Gum.
3. The chairs in 06-3215 are made by one manufacturer. In which city are they based?
4. Extension for ResNet.

5. Street address # for Fine Host.

For the rules, stipulations, and to enter ... head to the following address:

<http://luscious.rh.rit.edu/gdt/>

ENTER NOW AND
THIS COULD ALL BE YOURS!!!



Dear Editors of *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*,

I recently found myself looking at the back of your publication, (volume 17, issue 2) and I was a bit suprised. You have an illustration printed on page four, which would be considered by many to be offensive. Being that I am not a regular reader of your publication I must not have seen it when it was run in an earlier printing of your publication.

I find myself wondering why you decided to run something so potentially offensive. I fully understand that you have the right to do this, and that if we worried about everything that is printed being offensive, nothing would be printed. I was not especially offended by it, but there are many people on this campus who would be. My question is, to what purpose?

Are you trying to prove a point? If so, I don't understand what it is. Did you just think of it as a clever play on words, the meaning of which was not important? Or were you trying to shock the public in an attempt to gain readers? I suppose that if this last

point is correct, in some sense it worked on me.

I'd appreciate hearing your reasons for printing this material. Maybe I'm missing something. Thank you.

—Ben Hasty

3rd year photojournalism student, RIT

Ben,

The printing of this article was my bad judgement. Often when we lay out the magazine we end up with 1/2 page or so of blank space, and sometimes we pull old articles for filler. I pulled the "Spic and Spam" graphic from an old issue of *GDT* to use as filler, because we had always regretted not putting the article that went along with the graphic in the Big Red Book. What I did not do is put the rest of the article in, which gave the graphic context and made the joke.

To understand the graphic, please see *GDT*, Volume 10, Issue 2, available from www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf/Volume10

GDT prides itself on being an equal-opportunity offender, and would like to take this moment to imagine us hurling racial insults at everyone, including ourselves, so that people get a sense of perspective. As Mom always said, at least you aren't giving rimjobs in a Turkish prison.

To conclude: Lynch the cracker ass layout editor, 'cause he fucked up.

Thanks,

Adam Fletcher

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

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Send email to gdt@hellskitchen.org

Personal Ads will be back next week.

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