

## Re: Math discovery versus math society

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*jstevh@msn.com* wrote:

- > *I am on my fourth major mathematical discovery. It is a new way to*
- > *factor integers. Mathematicians have so far managed to avoid*
- > *properly*
- > *acknowledging all four of my discoveries.*
- >
- > *I am an amateur mathematician. About three years ago I started on a*
- > *burst of creativity which has produced four major mathematical*
- > *discoveries. Before that I had over four years of failures, some of*
- > *them kind of big, as I'd proclaim I had wonderful simple proofs of*
- > *Fermat's Last Theorem, only to eventually find out I was wrong.*
- >
- > *What I learned from public humiliation, and outright failure that*
- > *happened more than once, is in mathematics, wishes don't make truth,*
- > *great desire does not mean you are right, and if you are wrong, then*
- > *you are just wrong.*
- >
- > *When you are wrong mathematically, it does not change. Giving it a*
- > *couple of days won't make it where you are right. Denial is just a*
- > *waste of time.*
- >
- > *Two of my four results are without debate in terms of actually*
- > *working,*
- > *but they are debated in terms of how important they are.*
- >
- > *I have repeatedly brought up one, which is a formula that counts*
- > *prime*
- > *numbers.*
- >
- > *There is no debate about whether or not the formula works.*
- >
- > *Math people just keep claiming it's not important.*
- >
- > *Now I have a set of equations with which you can factor:*
- >
- >  $Ax = Az(-Az \pm \sqrt{(Az - 2M^2)^2 - 4TM^2}) / (2j^2 - 2Az)$
- >

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- >  $Az = Ax(-Ax \pm \sqrt{(Ax - 2j^2)^2 + 4Tj^2}) / (2M^2 - 2Ax)$
- >
- > where  $T = M^2 - j^2$ .
- >
- > Here you have a two equations defining rationals  $Ax$  and  $Az$ , where  $M$  is
- > the number to be factored and  $j$  is an integer you pick to try and
- > factor it.
- >
- > They do work, if you can pick a rational  $Ax$ .
- >
- > So, at this point, I'm not doing so well picking that rational  $Ax$ , so
- > the math people are jumping up and down, getting excited, and
- > claiming
- > my result is not important, yet again.
- >
- > Um, it's a new factoring method, at a base level, at such a base
- > level
- > that no factoring method at this level has been discovered in
- > centuries.
- >
- > Yeah, I can't quite get it to factor really big numbers yet (like
- > hundrds of digit numbers but I can factor smaller numbers) but it's
- > new
- > factoring method.
- >
- > Supposedly mathematicians care about such things.
- >
- > One of the four results that is not so easily demonstrated, as a
- > prime
- > counting formula, or a new way to factor, I wrote up in a paper, and
- > sent to a math journal, which after NINE FREAKING MONTHS, told me
- > they
- > liked the paper and would publish.
- >
- > Well someone posted that they were publishing my paper on the
- > sci.math
- > newsgroup, and some sci.math'ers promptly began attacking the journal
- > and its editors in posts, talking about how horrible they were, etc.,
- > and THEN some of them decided it would be a good idea to send emails
- > challenging my paper.
- >
- > Well I got an email the NEXT FREAKING DAY from the chief editor of
- > the
- > journal who told me that publication was a mistake, and then he
- > claimed
- > that he'd accidentally told me the paper was accepted, but included
- > in
- > his email text posted by a sci.math'er the day before.
- >
- > Then they just yanked my paper.

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>  
> *An electronic journal so for those of you who have thought about using those, consider this experience. Some editor can try to just yank a paper.*  
>  
> *They didn't even leave anything there at first, so the pages were all off, and eventually they settled on saying it was withdrawn:*  
>  
> <http://www.emis.de/journals/SWJPAM/vol2-03.html>  
>  
> *And that's from a math journal, when maybe you thought math people followed freaking rules.*  
>  
> *That journal no longer exists. I don't know exactly why, but they just quietly shut down, though you can see what was in the journal from its mirrors which are still up.*  
>  
> *Weird math society. Freaking journal shuts down, its main website GONE but you can still see it on freaking mirrors.*  
>  
> *So what do you do?*  
>  
> *You're an amateur mathematician, got major mathematical results, lots of people on Usenet hate you and will email, get a paper shut down, what do you do?*  
>  
> *I don't know what you'd do, as you're not freaking me, but I re-wrote the goddamn paper and sent it to a BIGGER journal.*  
>  
> *That journal is at Princeton. The editor in charge of the section that has my paper is Andrew Wiles.*

Is that the same guy you've been calling a liar?

>  
> *I'm not freaking worried about freaking sci.math'ers and stupid emails with this goddamn paper!*

Do you have his e-mail address?

>  
> *So yeah, it's great being me in many ways. I can peruse my own research into prime numbers, or deep properties of algebraic integers, or play with my own method for factoring--trying to figure out how to*

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> *get the goddamn thing to work!!!*  
>  
> *But also, there are the negatives, the people still calling me names,*  
> *priding themselves on putting me down, feeling like they're doing*  
> *something with their hostile postings, and their webpages.*  
>  
> *Hell! Life is something, eh?*  
>  
> *...It's about time. History shows that what's happening now is what*  
> *happens with truly massive discoveries, as they so upset the status*  
> *quo.*  
>  
> *And don't yap about Einstein or some other discoverer who supposedly*  
> *didn't go through this crap, as I have read the history thoroughly,*  
> *and*  
> *you don't know as much as you think if you think even Einstein had an*  
> *easy going.*  
>  
> *Besides, I'm no Einstein. I'm some guy who found out that there were*  
> *these relatively simple equations and formulas that the math people*  
> *missed, and I didn't.*  
>  
> *But they want to make me hurt for it.*  
>  
> *I say, screw them. I'll outlast them. And someday I'll dance on*  
> *their*  
> *graves.*  
>  
>  
> *James Harris*