

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

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- *From:* sg552@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 22 Nov 2006 12:48:18 -0800
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James Harris wrote:

It's all part of extreme mathematics.
That's a lot of what makes it extreme.

I see... so "extreme mathematics" consists of writing crap and then insulting people who disagree with the crap you write. Wow, that's a great way to make progress in mathematics. Much better than those medieval techniques used by today's mathematicians, such as reading books and going to classes, thereby preventing them from having such brilliantly creative insights as "an integer is an irrational" in the first place.

Clearly you have your continuing need to try and find some way to insult me for doing exactly what I've described I do.

But James, my insulting you was all part of the brainstorming process. It's "extreme posting".

I brainstorm.
The critical mechanisms are relaxed. You just kind of go with the flow, even if that flow means you are thinking something very wrong. The process is skewed here on newsgroups because of people like you who come in with harsh criticisms, so you are critical where the point of the process is not having a lot of critical feedback early on.

Except that this is not "early on"; you've been spouting the same shit for *years*.

But whether you like brainstorming or not, it is a known technique in MODERN problem solving, and the way posters like yourself go on and on despite my talking about it so much, you clearly do not do modern

problem solving.

Au contraire: I privately brainstorm all the time when I'm doing physics. Mostly when a certain approach to a problem doesn't work I can figure that out myself and discard that approach. Sometimes I will subject other people to my ideas and they will give me reasons why those ideas do not work. What doesn't happen is that I immediately post every thought to usenet and then call people liars and threaten them with secret trials or death at the hands of angry mobs when they point out that my thoughts are worthless.

And why should you? The academic math world today is a dinosaur that refuses to accept that it should be extinct, so it blunders on.

I am not part of the academic math world.

The way posters got excited about some error of mine despite my already having talked about brainstorming is an excellent demonstration of how alien modern problem solving is to math people of today.

To you mistakes are all that matter.

To me, mistakes are just along the way...

You are **still** missing the point. Yes, everyone makes mistakes. However, not everyone behaves in such an obnoxious manner when their mistakes are pointed out to them. See for yourself; if you were to read usenet threads other than your own, or even read the whole of your own threads, you will find that, when one of the mathematicians has a mistake pointed out, he or she will typically respond by /thanking/ whoever pointed it out. This is exactly as one might expect, of course. Real mathematicians would rather have a mistake pointed out quickly than make a tit of themselves by letting it stay in their work. You, it seems, would much rather make a tit of yourself indefinitely. And you're doing a very good job of it.

–Rotwang

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