

Editorial: Guinness World Record for the shortest lived moderated group, "scistatmath"?

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On October 30, 2006 believsky wrote about the Google group "scistatmath" he rashly and impulsively created, with the reason:

b> This group is devoted to mathematical statistics. It was created
b> because sci.stat.math has become too noisy.

believsky has a posting history of only 55 threads in sci.stat.math in 2006, and a life time history of not much more. He is apparently NOT a statistician (by qualification) and had engaged mostly in programming software newsgroups. Over 2300 or his 2620 life time posting history in newsgroups were in NON-statistical groups, the first 10 of 2620 threads named by Google were in:

comp.lang.fortran – Jul 10 2002, 6:20 pm by Beliaivsky
rec.games.chess.misc – May 17 2002, 8:49 am by believ...@xxxxxxxx
comp.graphics.apps.gnuplot – Feb 9 2003, 9:05 am by Beliaivsky
sci.math.num-analysis – Jan 9 2000, 6:09 am by Beliaivsky
comp.lang.fortran – Aug 22 2004, 3:40 pm by believ...@xxxxxxxx
misc.invest.financial-plan – Aug 2 2002, 4:05 am by Beliaivsky
sci.math.num-analysis – Feb 2 2004, 2:45 pm by believ...@xxxxxxxx
misc.invest.financial-plan – Jul 20 2002, 3:15 pm by Beliaivsky
comp.lang.fortran – Sep 16 2001, 7:30 pm by Beliaivsky
sci.math.num-analysis – Jan 31 2004, 10:41 pm by believ

believsky LEAPED (before he looked) on the NOISE raised by a few during 2006 that sci.stat.math needed a MODERATOR to cut down the noise, a proposal ALWAYS made by a few who hardly ever participate in this group, but were the noise makers themselves, INCLUDING believsky!

So, believsky made himself the czar of the group he created, to have the power of "booting" anyone off that he dislikes or anyone who expressed any view contrary to what HE thought inappropriate. His fame lasted more than 15 minutes, but short enough to be declared in Guinness World Record. :-)

scistatmath met its deserved short life in having had a TOTAL of

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three threads since its creation, and not a single post since Nov 9. while it acquired a subscription HIGH of 19, mostly with members of sci.stat.math who had been low participants but had made errors in sci.stat.math, pointed out by others, including myself.

It is reasonable to declare scistatmath DEAD as of Nov 9, 2006, having sustained a life of 11 days, clearly worthy of a Guinness World Record if belivsky would submit it to Guinness as such.

Meanwhile, the number of subscribers in sci.stat.math had INCREASED (during the same period of Oct 30 – Nov 21) from 1292 (noted by Ulrich) to a thigh of 1342 oday, in a completely monotonic increasing number of subscribers since I started tracking its subscription membership, tallied by Google:

G> sci.stat.math –
G> Group description: Statistics from a strictly mathematical viewpoint.
G> High activity, 1342 subscribers, Usenet

The "High activity" and diversity of statistical topics discussed is evidenced by the fact that there are NOW 18 different threads (consisting of 69 posts) whose latest posts were dated Nov 21 or later.

I hope this post of the short history of scistatmath (which I consider as an INAPPROPRIATE plagiarism of the USENET newsgroup name of sci.stat.math) a lesson to future NOISE makers who wants a moderator to act as censor in an Open Forum in which every member IS a moderator, if s/he acts responsibly.

— Reef Fish Bob.

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