“My April Fools’ hoax... included a map that required five colors, a computer proof that Pawn to King’s Rook four is a certain chess win for white, the finding of a sketch by Leonardo da Vinci proving he has invented the flush toilet, a psychic motor that rotated when a head was held near it... Many readers... thanked me for alerting them to such important discoveries but chided me for being totally mistaken about one of them.”

—Undiluted Hocus-Pocus: The Autobiography of Martin Gardner

Submit your entry to captions@ams.org by April 25. Winning entries will be posted here in the June/July issue.

“What's the Caption?

The January Contest Winner Is...

Robert Haas, who receives our book award.

“It needs a couple more details before I can put it on the arXiv, but I wanted to post it somewhere.”

Artwork by Sam White.

Favorite Twitter Comedy:
Submitted by Shawn Rafalski.

Terry F @daemonic3 · Oct 19
"So how was your date?"

I talked about my obsession with reducing fractions too much

"That wasn’t a good idea"

Yeah well, hindsight is 1

Bad Predictions Department, 1959:

“Before man reaches the moon, your mail will be delivered within hours from New York to Australia by guided missiles.”


What crazy things happen to you? Readers are invited to submit original short amusing stories, math jokes, cartoons, and other material to: noti-backpage@ams.org.