THE BACK PAGE

"I can cross a chasm in two leaps."

—Israel M. Gelfand (1913-2009)

In 2014, Mathematical Reviews added 126,077 items to MathSciNet®—that's more than one per minute.

Subjects with the most arXiv.org posts in math proper, first half 2015:

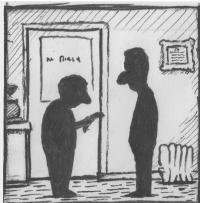
PDEs	1716
Combinatorics	1659
Probability	1548

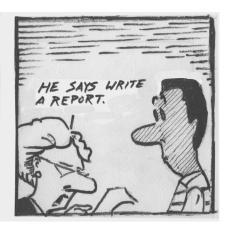
The January 2016 Caption Contest:



What's the Caption?Submit your entry by January 25 to captions@ams.org. Winning entries will be posted here in April.







January Back Page Artwork by Sam White.

QUESTIONABLE MATHEMATICS

Where ... the ENIAC is equipped with 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighs 30 tons, computers in the future may have only 1,000 vacuum tubes and weigh only 1.5 tons.

—Popular Mechanics, 1949

(Quotes in Jonathan M. Borwein, "The future of mathematics 2015–2065." Stephen F. Kennedy, ed., A Century of Advancing Mathematics, Math Assn. Amer., 2015.)

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.