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Issue 41

features...

This issue of *Plus* is devoted to the winning entries of the *Plus* New Writers Award 2006.

Secondary school

Winner



Let 'em roll

Dice are invaluable to many games, especially gambling games, but instead of playing with ordinary 1–6 numbered dice here are two interesting alternatives – with a twist!

Runner-up



Drinking coffee in the Klein Café

Dusty books, chalky blackboards and checked shirts are all things usually associated with maths. But according to **Jonathan Tims**, pubs, hot chocolate and cats can be far more inspirational. Join him on a trip through shadow land.

features...

General public

Winner

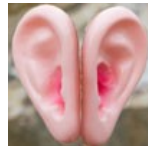


An enormous theorem: the classification of finite simple groups

Enormous is the right word: this theorem's proof spans over 10,000 pages in 500 journal articles and no-one today understands all its details. So what does the theorem say?

Richard Elwes has a short and sweet introduction.

Runner-up



Damn lies

"Lies, damned lies, and statistics..." **Ben Parker** tells us how to tell good statistics from bad, and make sure your cat is well-fed.

Runner-up



The death of the lightning calculator

Being good at mental arithmetic isn't going to gain you much street cred these days. But, as **Owen Daniel** explains, not so long ago it was a sure route to fame and fortune even if you were a horse.



Career interview: Business analyst

From Einstein to water power, *Plus* author Anita King explains where maths has got her.

Runner-up



We must know, we will know

Great minds spark controversy. This is something you'd expect to hear about a great philosopher or artist, but not about a mathematician. Get ready to bin your stereotypes as **Rebecca Morris** describes some controversial ideas of the great mathematician David Hilbert.



Plus is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.