

THE PRISAMENT PAPER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Five upstate regions of New York met the criteria to begin incrementally re-opening their economies.
- A 6.5-magnitude earthquake hit a remote region of Nevada, the largest earthquake there in many decades.
- The *Prisament Paper* will not publish on Memorial Day weekend, with plans to resume in June. We hope you have enjoyed the first ten issues. Have a relaxing and healthy Memorial Day!

Op-Ed

Is TRUMP LOSING HIS LAST SUPPORTER?

by Cliff Prisament

Long before he was president, Donald the snake oil salesperson had a huge fan - me. I became obsessed with his buildings, casinos and soap bars that looked like gold. All throughout my time at University of Delaware, I wished I had gone to Trump U.

In 2008, I wrote to thank him for building Trump Chicago which, at the time, was the tallest American skyscraper since 9/11. No response, but since I sent it on Facebook messenger, I got relief knowing it had been "seen".

Shortly after relocating back to New York in 2010, I made my pilgrimage to the now defunct Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. At the entrance was a quote from Donald himself. I stood in awe reading it, "Within these walls lies the best hotel you will find anywhere in the world." My life was complete.

The over-the-top, musky and moldy Trump Taj Mahal was one of the more rundown places I've ever stayed, but I convinced myself it must be better than the Ritz Carlton Paris. Had a massive hurricane swept me into the Atlantic that night, I would have died happy in my bed-bug laced sheets.

Fast forward to election night 2016. It's 3:00AM and he won! He won! He won? Yes, it was an electoral college victory, but still counts. My idol, who everything he touches turns to chocolate gold, is now president. While the world wept, I celebrated. I joined the MAGA movement and agreed with almost everything he did and said, except one - China.

See, yes, I am a huge fan of Trump, but also love China. China is genuinely an amazing place. If you haven't been (as of late), it's a bit like the movie set for Disney's Tron Legacy. Part of the appeal I had for Trump is the same I have for China. It's a pro-development, highly capitalist country with great food and legitimately some of the nicest

Continued on Page 2 ...

IN MEMORIAM LUZMILA GRECO DE SALDAÑA MOTHER TO EVELYN, YETSI & DIOMY BIRTHDAY - MAY 16



Evelyn: Deseo hacerle un homenaje en nuestro periodico a mi mamá, Luzmila Greco de Saldaña para recordarla y honorarla. Le agradezco a Dios por habermela dado como madre, amiga, consejera y angel. Le agradezco por ella quien me vio nacer, me cuido y me dio amor desde pequeña. Con ella no siempre congenieaba, pero de alguna manera siempre encontrabamos forma de hacer las paces. Ayer, sábado 16 de mayo hubiese sido su cumpleaños. Hoy la recuerdo con tanto amor y la añoro! Te quiero muchisimo mamá, mi angel de luz.

More remembrances on Page 2 ...

Fiction

CHAIN STORY INSTALLMENT 8

by Marc Prisament

Please email us to sumit a continuation! The only rule is you can't end the story.

"Swish, swish, swish, swish..."

What was that repeating, rhythmic noise and where was it coming from?

I started to turn and look, but I soon realized I was hooked up to a number of gadgets."

I was very groggy and disoriented. What was going on?

I tried to remember how I got there, but the last thing I remember was some emergency at work and being told to evacuate right away. I wasn't sure, but I thought that may have been a number of days ago.

I decided to slowly take inventory of everything around me, to try to figure out where I was and what had happened.

The "swish machine" had a label saying "BAXTER MEDICAL" on it, and had some large bag of fluid connected to it, which lead down a tube to my arm. *Is that an IV pump? Why do I need an IV?*

The bed I was in said "Hill-Rom", whatever that meant, and had a slew of buttons that I didn't dare to touch.

On my chest were about 8 small "sticky tape" pads or electrodes, and they were wired back to what looked like a TV set above my bed, but it definitely had my heart rhythms displayed on it and gave a HR=99.

I had a small plastic devise snapped on my middle finger, and it was reading something like "O2 = 95".

And finally, I had a cuff wrapped around my arm, and it too had tubes and wires that led back to the TV monitor, and stated BP = 150/97. *Is that a good or bad number?* I wondered.

I was perplexed, but I soon deduced I must be in a hospital. I started to try to get up, but instantly some alarm went off, so I felt it was safer to just stay in bed for the moment.

After the alarm went off, someone came

There's more to this installment! Continued on Page 2 ...

Poetry THE BEAR

by Ray Prisament

Please don't stare
At the bear
In the chair
Over there
Don't you dare
Pull its hair
Or compare
It to Cher
I don't care
If you wear
Underwear
With a tear
Or you share
A big pear
With the bear
On the stair
Just don't stare
At the bear
In the chair
Over there
...
(That's not fair!)

Op-Ed

The Prisament Playlist

Clockwise from top-left: **Elena** performing *Again*; **Greg, Julie and Skyler** in their cover of *The Downeaster Alexa*; **Clayton's** electronic *Background Music* (audio only); **Noah** with his High School band **Blank Citation** performing *Overgrowth*; **Seth** leading **Chameleon** for *Vassar on Tap*; **Rob** in *American Idol* ...



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

by Greg Prisament

In this episode of Uncle Greg's Math Corner we ask, how big is infinity?

The numbers, starting from 1 and counting up by 1, are known as the Natural Numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, ...

What is the largest natural number? Well, no matter how high you count, you can always count one more higher. There is no largest natural number.

Let's ask a slightly different question. How many natural numbers are there? Yes, there are more than we can count, but we can give the quantity a name. We call it infinity and represent it with the symbol ∞ .

We can think of infinity as representing any quantity that is too large to be counted.

Which leads us to our next question (and some fun surprises): Are all infinite quantities the same size?

Consider even numbers (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, ...). One might assume that there are twice as many natural numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...) as there are even numbers. After all, the even numbers skip half of the natural numbers, right? However, there are, in fact, the same number of natural numbers as even numbers.

To see this, we use a technique called a bijection. If we have two collections of numbers, which we will call A and B, a bijection translates each value in A to a distinct value in B, and, in reverse, each value in B to a distinct value in A. If a bijection is possible, then the two collections are the same size.

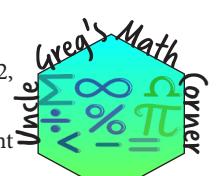
For example, if we consider A to be the natural numbers in English: "one, two, three, four, five..." and B to be the natural numbers in Spanish: "uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, ..." we can form a bijection by translating English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English. "one" \leftrightarrow "uno", "two" \leftrightarrow "dos", etc. A bijection simply gives each number a different name; it does not change how many there are.

We can also come up with a bijection that translates between natural numbers and even numbers: $1 \leftrightarrow 2, 2 \leftrightarrow 4, 3 \leftrightarrow 6, \dots$ Think of this as renaming 1 to 2 and renaming 2 to 4. Maybe on Saturn they always count "2, 4, 6, 8, 10" where 2 on Saturn is what we mean by 1 on Earth. Since we can translate between natural numbers and even numbers in this way, the two sets must have the same size.

But sometimes a bijection between two infinite collections is not possible, in which case one of the collections is a larger infinity in size than the other.

For example, there is a larger infinity of real numbers (numbers with digits after a decimal point) than natural numbers. We can easily translate each natural number to a real number. One choice of translation is: $1 \rightarrow 1.0, 2$

Continued on Page 2 ...



On page 2: Fun Zone! and more!

CHAIN STORY INSTALLMENT 8

By Marc Prisament, from Page 1 ...

into the room.

She was dressed in a 2-piece blue uniform, with baggy pants, and it said on her nametag she was Nurse Jones. There was also a label on her top with "TLRH" in red, which I saw stood for "The Last Resort Hospital".

Nurse Jones said to me, "Wow, you are finally up, Ms. Acorn or whatever your real name is."

I asked her, "For how long have I been here?" And she said, "about 6 weeks."

"Six weeks," I replied, "What has been wrong with me?"

Nurse Jones stated she did not know the underlining cause, but that I had been in a stage 4 coma and unresponsive. "You were brought here from work, after passing out in the elevator. The only obvious thing wrong that we can find is a little iodine in your blood, mixed with chlorine."

I was shocked. "Nurse Jones, I have such vivid memories of the past 6 weeks and a huge adventure with someone named Sofia."

"Ms. Acorn, I am sorry, but I can verify you have been here in this bed and no where else, and no one named Sofia has been here to see you."

At that moment, a man named Dr. Quack came in. "Well, I see you are finally awake! How do you feel?"

I stated I felt fine, I guess, but had no memory of the past, since leaving the office many weeks ago.

"That is normal for someone in your condition, especially with iodine and chlorine in your blood." Dr. Quack replied. "Any idea how that could have happened?"

"No, I do not know."

Dr. Quack then said they were going to draw some blood and that I should rest. I did ask, "So what do I do now? Will my memory come back?"

Dr. Quack replied, "We doubt it, but only time will tell."

So, they drew more blood, and I began to doze off. In what seemed to be just a few minutes, but it could have been a few hours, I was suddenly awakened. At the door stood the two men in black suits with Police Origins 1 SPL 872 sunglasses, from the black building I had been at with Sofia, or so I thought!

The men said, "Ms. Acorn, it is time for you to begin Phase 3. Please quietly get up and dressed and follow us."

"Follow you," I exclaimed. "Who are you and what is this about?"

"Ms. Acorn, there is no time for discussing this now. We must leave or Sofia will be in real danger."

"Who is Sofia again and why do I care about her? And this Phase 3, what was Phase 1 and 2?"

"Please Ms. Acorn, come with us." They took a gun out of their waist band and aimed it at me. "Either you come willingly, or you can come dead. Either way we need you to leave the hospital and we need some of your blood for the next Phase."

Seeing they were not kidding, I slowly got up and went to the small cabinet to look for my cloths. I started dressing and only wished I could remember if this was all just a large dream or truly real. Was I awake now or still asleep? I know I had tried the finger test before to see if I was dreaming, but to be very sure I did the stub toe test, where I kicked it into the bedframe to see what happened. It not only hurt like hell, but also began to bleed.

"Well," I said to myself. *I am awake and in the real world at this moment, but the whole past 6 weeks are still a big unknown.* As these men definitely seemed real and were being very insistent we leave, I started walking with them down the hall.

But in the background I still heard the "swish, swish, swish" of the IV pump growing softer with each step...

To be continued... by YOU!!!



Diomy: Quiero compartir que encontre esta cancion, ["Cuidate" por Bebe](#), en septiembre del 2009, el año en que fallecio mamá. Desde entonces he tenido la tradicion de escuchar esta cancion en el dia de su cumpleaños y en el aniversario de su muerte.



Yetsi: Hoy quiero agradecerle a Dios por brindarme el tiempo necesario para compartir lindos momentos con mi querida Madre Lumy durante el tiempo que estuve con nosotros. Tambien le agradezco a Dios todas las enseñanzas que recibi de ella, las cuales han influido en mi persona. Mama a ti hasta el cielo quiero decirte que te quiero y te extraño mucho y gracias por todo lo que hiciste y sigues haciendo por mi. Se que nos ves desde el cielo y siempre cuidas de nosotros. Gracias por ser mi Mamá"



Is TRUMP LOSING HIS LAST SUPPORTER?

From Page 1 ...

hotels "in the world".

I studied Mandarin, have huge respect for the people of China and their culture. I co-founded Sinoized Education which places American teachers in schools throughout the PRC. I believe the world is a better place when Sino-US relations are doing well. At a bare minimum, prices at Walmart are cheap.

I used to cringe when Trump talked about our need to be "tougher on China". I turned a blind eye when he started the Trade War. But, within the past month, his rhetoric has gone from "tough" to ridiculous. He is actively trying to start a new Cold War, threatening to end formal diplomatic relations and blaming them 100% for literally everything. I can no longer ignore Donald on this issue, and when it comes down to substance, his position is completely asinine.

For many US companies, in all industries, China is a top-market with huge earning potential. About a week ago, people waited three hours to buy fried chicken from Popeye's inaugural location in Shanghai. Someone should tell Donald, Beijing would be a great place for a new Trump Tower.

So, here we are, 5 months before an election and his one certain vote is now an uncertain one. Oh, and his soap bars never really lathered very well, either.

To INFINITY AND BEYOND

From Page 1 ...

→ 2.0. But we cannot translate the other way because there are too many real numbers. Any attempt at renaming fails because we exhaust the natural numbers before even making a dent in the real numbers.

The mathematician Georg Cantor in the late 1800's studied infinity and came up with a system for classifying infinite quantities. \aleph_0 ("Aleph-zero") is the smallest infinity and equals the quantity of natural numbers. \aleph_1 ("Aleph-one") is the next larger infinity and is believed to be the quantity of real numbers (Cantor called this the Continuum Hypothesis but could not prove it). And it keeps going: higher orders of infinity are \aleph_2 , \aleph_3 , \aleph_4 ... In total, there are \aleph_0 different sizes of infinity!

Infinite quantities follow different rules than normal numbers:

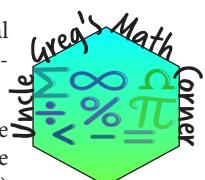
$$\aleph_0 + 1 = \aleph_0$$

$$2\aleph_0 = \aleph_0$$

$$\aleph_0^2 = \aleph_0$$

$$\aleph_0^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_1 \text{ (assuming the Continuum Hypothesis)}$$

$$\aleph_1 + \aleph_0 = \aleph_1$$



With Barbershops still closed (but hair still growing), Lucas and Clayton got their "Quaren-cuts" at the Evelyn Spa. 5 stars!

Fun Zone!

CHESS PUZZLES

by Clayton and Lucas Prisament



#1- Easy

If you move white, how do you threaten three pieces in your next move?



#2 - Hard

If you move white, how do you checkmate black in two turns?

Answers to Last Week's "Word Weaving"

- **small** → mall → ball → bale → bile → bite → bit → **big**
- **cold** → cod → cot → **hot**
- **dog** → cog → cot → **cat**
- **warm** → ward → card → cord → **cold**
- **far** → car → care → case → chase → chose → **close**
- **home** → hone → cone → con → son → sun → **run**
- **one** → tone → ton → **ten**