

**Mathematics Is A Language, A Game—It Can Be Fun**

By **MARIO G. SALVADORI**  
 From Harper's Magazine

I HATED mathematics. It was a symbol of everything that oppressed me in my childhood. I was afraid of it and resented it. Not until I psychologized myself by taking a Ph. D. in it did I overcome the fear and, with it, the resentment.

When I was a boy we lived for several years in Spain, and my parents decided to teach me at home. Mother provided most of the instruction, but for mathematics Father took over. He was a very positive man—the embodiment of authority. Every day I sat before him while he lectured at me, filled a blackboard with strange marks in chalk, and asked me questions which required exact answers. He had a lot of fun, I suffered.

My suffering, I realized later, is still felt by most youngsters who face the terrors of mathematics—terrors compounded of inflexibility, incomprehensibility, and authority in an amalgam that is thoroughly inhuman. The fact that it is one subject in which parents and teachers insist upon perfection adds to its grim reputation.

"How much is seven and five?"

If mathematics were used only



**MAYBE SHE ISN'T WRONG**

to discipline the mind—a meaningless concept I have sometimes heard teachers defend—this lack of understanding about it might not be so bad. But in fact mathematics is the common language and common tool of all science, upon which our world is coming to rely more and more.

**The Wrong Way To Fight Communism**

THE central purpose of laws regarding communism should be to decrease the threat of espionage and subversion. That purpose would not be served by outlawing the Communist Party, as the Senate unanimously voted to do Thursday.

FBI Director Hoover and Attorney General Brownell have made sound arguments against outlawing the party. It would drive the party deeper underground. It would thus make the FBI's job more difficult. It would negate several years of work done by the Subversive Activities Control Board pursuant to the law which requires foreign agents to register, because that law clearly states that those who register do not incriminate themselves by so doing.

Furthermore, if the party is outlawed, what is to keep it from continuing, for all intents and purposes, under another name? Congress might outlaw that new party, and another and another too. That would not inconvenience the Communists, who could stay a jump ahead of the law. But it might jeopardize other minority parties.

It is a very dangerous thing, of questionable constitutionality, to outlaw a party, no matter how repugnant its activities and program might be. And after all, it is not the party as such but the espionage and subversion which are engaged in by its members which is dangerous. Espionage laws and the Smith Act, which makes it a crime to conspire to teach or advocate overthrow of the government, by force, or to be a member of an organization which seeks the overthrow of the government by force, provide plenty of legal machinery for thwarting Communist intrigue in this country. At least 72 Communist leaders have already been convicted under the Smith Act.

This Congress seems bent upon establishing a record which politicians may hail as "anti-Communist," but which actually makes the job of combating communism more difficult and endangers basic freedoms. A short time ago a bill which requires any Communist front or action group to register all equipment it has access to for printing and publishing sailed through both houses, without debate or opposition, and was signed into law by the President. Registration of printing presses is as incompatible with democratic government as is the outlawing of a party.

Americans have been dangerously confused on the true nature of the Communist menace. They have been led to believe that the present danger of internal subversion is great, and the measures for combating it inadequate. Meanwhile, because of the inebriation over the purported domestic threat, neither the Congress nor the people have thought enough about the real Communist danger, as it presents itself clearly in country after country that the Communists ensconce themselves in while Americans rehash the era, long past, when communism was a greater menace in this country.

We don't think much of the skeleton-rattlers. The congressmen who are alive to the present danger of external communism, and vote the money and the programs to combat it, are the ones who get our nod of approval as effective "anti-Communists."

**Again, Eyes Turn To North Carolina**

ABOUT a century ago the nation looked to this state as its leading producer of gold. Today, 105 years after the mad rush to California, the nation again watches the North Carolina hills for a new gold.

Spodumene, mined in Piedmont North Carolina and a leading lithium-producing ore, is coming out of the earth in great quantities. At least 25 firms plan multimillion dollar processing plants in the Kings Mountain-Bessemer City area.

Lithium first attracted widespread notice last year when it was learned that it is a key element in the production of hydrogen bombs. However, lithium has been used in the manufacture of products ranging from cold tablets to lubricants.

The News' series by staff writer Julian Scheer on the new wealth in the state pointed out that defense work will be but a small part of the operation in this area. Many other products will result in the process.

Lithium metals, lithium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, lithium bromides and chlorides are other fields to be developed more fully. Presently one firm alone produces 25 different products from lithium.

Not only is the state likely to become the world's leading producer of lithium but the development of its other uses will be centered here. And, consequently, we may look for other industries to move southward close to the source of the new "gold."

Once again the nation looks to North Carolina.



"... I won't... I won't... I won't... I won't..."

**Time Is Ripe For Helicopter Planning**

EXPERTS say that within three years commercial versions of big multi-engine military helicopters will be available for a national network of rotary-winged civil air transportation. These commercial helicopters may usher in a new era in American helicopter transportation. For U. S. communities like Charlotte to take advantage of helicopter air service, however, it is recommended that planning be started now for heliport locations.

One airline is already operating a helicopter in experimental operations around one of its major terminal areas and one local service carrier has started helicopter operations on some of its regular routes. Three helicopter transport services are operating in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. The "egg beater" is here to stay.

Compared to modern airports which now dot the country, heliports will be relatively small and simple. But a complicated set of problems will be involved—including zoning requirements, building regulations and the other local laws. The fact that centrally located downtown sites are needed will not make planning any easier. It is not too early for Charlotte to be thinking about appropriate action.

**Groceries Alone Won't Satisfy**

An Editorial In The Saturday Evening Post

At the moment, the British appear to be facing a crisis, whereas Mr. Bevan or even Sir Winston Churchill could hardly fill the Haringay arena for more than a night or two. The weekly explains this extraordinary response by the assumption that "there exists among all classes of our population a deep unsatisfied hunger, a deep malaise."

Mr. Graham seemed able to convince multitudes of British people that this hunger was not something which should be concealed. "Because Mr. Graham has found a way of bringing God to men in a manner better adapted to the minds of men today than the conventional methods of the churches, men have flocked to hear him and thousands have found a new meaning in life..."

**MATERIALISM INADEQUATE**

Perhaps it is surprising to use an evangelist as a club with which to beat a politician, but England are not the only evidence of the possibility that politicians who cater exclusively to the material demands of men are overlooking something. The gathering of Protestant and Orthodox Christians at the convocation of the World Council of Churches at Evanston this month represents millions of people who understand that man does not live by bread alone and that without dependence on a Supreme Being his prospects in the kind of world we live in are dim indeed. Even the delegates from the Soviet satellite countries are compelled to speak in these terms, whatever their relations with the ruthless materialists who rule them at home may be.

**Free Lawyer**

SENATE leaders agreed yesterday to pay the salary of the lawyer who will help Sen. McCarthy in his defense against serious charges.

Well, then, how about the many persons against whom McCarthy made serious charges—and who paid their own lawyer—or didn't fight because they couldn't afford one?

McCarthy, it appears, is being coddled.

**Type In A Cotton Field**

PRINTERS are making up an unusual newspaper these days in Gordon County—a newspaper that is 120 years old. Using type excavated from a cotton field nearby, scholars have put out an edition of THE CHEROKEE PHENIX, the national newspaper of the Cherokee Indians.

The type was found at the site of the ancient Cherokee capital of New Echota, approximately four miles from Calhoun. The Georgia Historic Commission says it is unearthing the buried city and re-creating it as it existed in the 1830s.

The CHEROKEE PHENIX was a remarkable newspaper, a product of Indian civilization at its peak. The scientists working at New Echota have assembled the paper exactly as it was and put the "edition" on display at the New Echota museum in Calhoun.

The Indians used an alphabet of 86 characters invented in the 1820s by a half-breed named Sequoyah. Within three years of this invention, more than half the Cherokees had acquired a working knowledge of Sequoyah's written language.

In 1827, metal type, bearing these symbols, was cast and the CHEROKEE PHENIX was founded. The pages were made up in columns much like the modern newspaper. The weekly editions were circulated throughout the Cherokee Nation by means of the United States mail.

**Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round**

WASHINGTON

IT'S amusing what one senator can and will do to help his own friends regarding the construction of U. S. air bases abroad.

For months Nevada's silver-haired Pat McCarran has been beckoning the Senate and Defense departments in order to get contracts for German bombing units, which, in turn, has promised to buy its heavy equipment from one of his Nevada friends. He has cross-examined U. S. officials behind closed doors, called Spanish Cabinet members over the transatlantic phone—all in order to cut the Germans in on the construction of U. S. bases.

He has also used his seniority on the Senate Appropriations Committee to call repeated meetings and badger busy officials, taking care to keep the doors closed and the press barred.

This column, however, has reported what went on after each meeting, and here is a report on the last session.

This time, McCarran charged that though Spain didn't object to German contractors, the United States nevertheless was excluding them. Angry as he accused U. S. officials of favoring American firms over his German friends for the subcontract work, though later he denied this.

At one point, he exploded at undersecretary of the Air Force James Douglas, charging him with ineptness.

"Where do you get your idea of consistency?" stormed the Nevada. "They say consistency is a jewel."

"If I am right..." Douglas started to reply.

"How can you be right?" McCarran cut him off.

"It is my recollection that..." Douglas began again.

"I don't want your recollection! Never mind your recollection!" bellowed McCarran.

"I take it," barked Douglas still trying to get a senator's attention, "with respect to the possibility of American firms being associated..."

"Anything is not true, and there is nothing in there to justify that inference," the Nevada senator almost screamed, though he had previously complained that American firms were being denied work on the subcontracts ahead of German firms.

McCarran Interrupts

Douglas tried to answer a series of nagging questions, but McCarran cut him off again.

"Now you have engaged in about as much double-talk as I have heard in a short time," he snapped.

"If I am sorry the senator feels that way, it is not intended double-talk," replied the Air Force official.

"There is not anyone here who can give us information," McCarran added

When this point is reached in one of my courses, I introduce it something like this:

**A MOVIE PROBLEM**

"Gentlemen, I suppose all would rather be going to the movies than sitting in this classroom. Let us imagine, therefore, that we are doing just that. Let us imagine, further, that we have chosen in a particular theater, the house.

"How can we decide just where we will get the best view of the screen?

This is a problem that makes sense. By the time the class has taken all the factors into account and discovered the best vantage point in a particular theater, the students have also grasped the meaning of inverse trigonometric functions.

This is how mathematics came into being. Men set themselves a problem imaginatively and solved it. The great mathematicians were much more akin to poets than to pedants. They were full-blooded, too. Most of the papers published by the leading authorities in the field contain some mistakes in mathematics. Mistakes are not fatal.

One of the best ways to learn mathematics is to discover its truths for yourself. A few teachers are beginning to realize this. They have known all about it in the humanities for a long time.

**"WHY CAN'T I...?"**

The struggle the child in the third grade asked her teacher: "Why can't I divide by zero?" It's a good question, but by the time she is fifteen, the child will ask such questions. In this case her teacher unhappily did not know the answer, and did not like to give the usual one: "You can't—that's all." "Because the book says so." This teacher felt guilty and ashamed, and when she met me she asked me: "I countered with another question: 'How much is one hundred divided by fifty?'"

"And by five?"

"And by twenty?"

"And by one?"

"And by one-half?"

"Two hundred."

"And by one-tenth?"

"One thousand."

"And by one-hundredth?"

"Ten thousand... Oh, I get it. The smaller the number you divide by the larger the result. So when you divide by zero you get... infinity?"

The young teacher found the answer by herself. In doing so she also discovered an application of the limit and infinity obtained a better grasp of the concept of infinity. And she did all this in two minutes, in a manner which could use with her own grade students.

The right approach to mathematics, then, is to unburdle the imagination. This can only be done after the mistaken ideas and feelings about it have been cleared away.

**People's Platform**

The Story Of An Epilepsy Victim

Albermarle

EDITORS THE NEWS:

AS I read the story of the death of one of the Dionne quintuplets in The Charlotte News, my mind began to fill with wondering thoughts.

I began to wonder of my own self, as I am an epilepsy victim myself. I began to wonder of my own self concerning epilepsy attacks. It could help someone else who had them.

I want to sympathize with any one who has epilepsy attacks, as I understand well the meaning of the epilepsy. Not too many years ago I could work as a public job as other people could work. My epilepsy attacks began to strike me at the age of 18.

At that time I was working in a cotton mill in Norwood, N. C. I went to work one night not knowing fate was going to step into my life that night in September, 1946. Yes, one night in September my life was taken away from me because that night while working I started to having light fainting spells called epilepsy attacks.

My epilepsy attacks would strike me, and I couldn't tell when one would strike me, and I couldn't seem to remember much about my own self after an epilepsy attack. It seemed to me that part of my memory of anything that I had done was gone. My epilepsy attacks made me very weak, and I didn't have much strength after an attack. My mother and father said I wanted to sleep during an attack, and after an attack.

I remember going to bed one night in 1946, and I awakened the next day to find myself in a hospital. I have been having epilepsy attacks eight years now.

I am now under the care of an Albatonville doctor, and I seem to be doing fine by his medicine, because I don't have any attacks now that are hard like they once were. I am now 26 years old, and I give my thanks to God, and the people's prayers that have helped me to keep faith, and trust in God with prayer as my everlasting hope to live.

—MRS. LOUIS AUSTIN SHUR

Racial Segregation Called 'God's Will'

Camden, S. C.

EDITORS THE NEWS:

I WANT to write a few lines about this mixed school situation.

First I want to say Negroes don't have dark skin because they wanted it and asked for it. Second, white people are not white because they asked for it.

It's God's will for it to be so. The Bible tells us God is not the author of confusion. It also tells us the ways of a child are foolish.

To mix colored and white children in schools will cause confusion and in their foolish ways they will do things that cannot be undone. I don't blame the Negroes for wanting better schools. They should have better schools.

God is no respecter of persons. He wants us to be one body in Christ. He wants us to be one body in mixed schools where there will be confusion, fighting and intermarriage.

—MRS. HAZEL OLIVER

"I think some day or another the senator got the information from some source, but up to date there has been none."

"I think I have to say in reply that we had full hearings extending, according to my recollection, over three-and-a-half days," Douglas reminded the senator.

"I am going to say," Chairman, and say it for the record," threatened McCarran, "that I am going to oppose any appropriation for this work until the matter has been examined by this committee as to what is being done and who is doing it."

Real truth is that McCarran has been given full answers to all his questions, though they haven't always been the answers he wanted. So his crack was interrupted by the senator, over three-and-a-half days, Douglas reminded the senator.

"There is not anyone here who can give us information," McCarran added