Preprint: A piece of rambling

A study of the miserableness of being alone in one’s flat on a cold summer’s evening, for where has the sun gone this year?

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Abstract: Oh! Oh! Oh!, it’s all so boring and sad. I try to make a decent job of things, and whenever I speak to anyone I offend them. I can’t see a future for myself. Betsy, what do you think? Grrrrfff.

Key words: wastewater, treatment, cold climate, lagoon, design, guidelines.

Résumé : Merde! Ou . . . Les étangs constituent le moyen do traitement des eaux usées le plus couramment utilisé au Canada, particulièrement dans les provinces de l’Ouest et les territoires du nord.

Mots clés : eaux usées, traitement, climat froid, étang, conception, marchés à suivre.
[Traduit par la Rédaction]

1. At least *something* is OK — we can at least tell silly jokes . . .

Here’s a jolly thing. Schnabel’s secretary mistyping ‘whore’ of the piano when he meant ‘hire’. (Secretary tells a story against himself . . .)

[1.1] $$e = mc^2$$

2. And we can play around with that, can’t we?

By playing around with the rest-mass equation 1.1 we can get some other astounding factoids:

[2.1] $$m = \frac{e}{c^2}$$

and

[2.2] $$c = \sqrt{\frac{e}{m}}$$

3. Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony

A managed care company president was given a ticket for a performance of Schubert’s ”Unfinished Symphony.” Since he was unable to go, he passed the invitation to one of his managed care reviewers. The next morning, the president asked the reviewer how he had enjoyed it, and he was handed a memorandum, which read as follows:

1. For a considerable period, the oboe players had nothing to do. Their number should be reduced, and their work spread over the whole orchestra, thus avoiding peaks of inactivity.
2. All twelve violins were playing identical notes. This seems unnecessary duplication, and the staff in this section should be drastically cut. If a large volume of sound is required, this could be obtained through use of an amplifier.
3. Much effort was involved in playing the 16th notes. This seems an excessive refinement, and it is recommended that all notes should be rounded up to the near-

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This paper is dedicated to computer programming dogs everywhere

Abbreviations: CLI: Calling Line Identification, CLIP: CLI Presentation, ACR: Anonymous Call Rejection, PI: Presentation Indication flag

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Table 1. Multicultural and transcontinental woodcraft notes of a rather less than serious kind; taken, without permission, from that seminal work on the topic [10]

Animal	*Quick ID*	**Subtle signs of presence**
Rabbit	long ears	small raisin-like droppings
Elephant	small tail	huge toe-marks in spoor
Porcupine	quills	gnaws on tool handles
Serval cat	spotted fur	cry “no no no no”
Skunk	white stripe	odour ‘like neoral’
Red fox	red dog	white tail-flash

est 8th note. If this were done, it would be possible to use paraprofessionals instead of experienced musicians.

4. No useful purpose is served by repeating with horns the passage that has already been handled by the strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated, the concert could be reduced from two hours to twenty minutes.

5. This symphony has two movements. If Schubert did not achieve his musical goals by the end of the first movement, then he should have stopped there. The second movement is unnecessary and should be cut.

In light of the above, one can only conclude that had Schubert given attention to these matters, his symphony would probably have been finished by now.

4. Peter Maurice Wilma Fairbairns’ Trip to Darjeeling in 1943

Darjeeling: you approach the place by a railway which climbs gradients that are impossible, twisting, turning, backing and shunting all over the place in the process. The gauge of the rails is about a metre, the engines and coaches are like toys and the whole process is pretty uncomfortable but wonderfully worth-while. At half-distance you dismount at a station called Kurseong and walk through streets for about 3/4 mile to get something to eat, but you don’t have to walk back [*to*] the station because the train, after the engine has picked up some more water, comes up after you and picks you up at the door! . . .

And so we arrived in the home of tea at its best and the great views of the Himalayan mountains. The whole place is green — lawns, flowers, shrubs and trees of which so many are exactly the same as those that grow at home — and the general effect is as unlike India as anyone could expect. The weather at the moment, too, is truly British. If we had as much rain on a holiday at home we should curse and rave and think ourselves “very hard done by” but here the fact that it’s cool and raining, that there are clouds and mist about all combine to increase the illusion of being out of India and near home which from any point of view is a good thing. We’ve been lucky enough to get a civvy billet under the auspices of of a funny little woman with a frizzy mop of grey-white hair who talks ninety to the dozen most of the time and feeds us like fighting cocks.

The weather being as it is, we only see the famous views now and again and usually a bit at a time but yesterday morning we were up at 4.30 and away on a 7 mile trek by pony over mountain roads and tracks to a point called Tiger Hill where we were rewarded for our labours by an all-round view which would have excited the most hardened, blasé tourist in the world. Miraculously, everything was perfectly clear and on one side were the massive white peaks of the Himalayas shining in silver and gold with the tip of Everest just appearing above the top of it all, well over a hundred miles away. Then on the other side were vast stretches of plain with a river that looked like something in an infra-red photo. Just why the rain should hold off on the one day when we really needed it to be fine is a mystery but it did and it was all very wonderful . . .

“We” incidentally comprise 6 men from various parts of the regiment who happened to be going away at the same time: by a lucky coincidence the other five were all blokes I knew more or less well and as a clique for spending leave together we seem to be ideally suited — everything runs smoothly, no disagreement, no friction. There’s a couple of cinemas in Darjeeling which we patronise quite freely, especially welcome since there is none in our own camp and we have to depend back there on occasional visits to the local garrison town for any entertainment of that sort.

And there’s a place called Pliva’s where you can go drink *real* coffee in the mornings to the music of two violins, cello, piano and drums. Of course, since the food in the billet is so good, we don’t have to bother with cafe meals which is an important point because these things are either very expensive or very bad in India and mere common soldiers have *very* little money . . .

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