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Professor Compiles 4,000 Graphic Math Jokes, Comics and Cartoons



A cartoon from the researcher’s collection

A professor has compiled about 4,000 graphic jokes by more than 700 humorists from all over the world that are related to mathematics and its teaching, a tool he uses during his lessons of “Didactics of Mathematics” in the University of Granada’s Faculty of Sciences of Education.

Pablo Flores Martínez has devoted more than 14 years to compiling jokes, comics and cartoons with mathematics as a common theme. During his lessons, he uses these jokes to “raise a specific related to mathematics” and explain it to his students.

To that end, every day, he consults the graphic humor section of more than 20 newspapers, besides several specialized Web pages which compile jokes from all over the world.

“I enter them whenever I can, and I select the most interesting ones,” Martínez said.

In evaluating new material to add to his collection, Martínez considers mathematic jokes to be those that comply with at least one of the following conditions. They must

- include the word “mathematics” or a derivative
- use terms identified with mathematics, such as numbers, geometric figures usual in mathematics, graphic representations or mathematical signs
- present situations which can be mathematically solved
- deal with mathematics teaching

Martínez has prepared a database where he has classified his cartoons in different categories:

- numbers
- geometry
- algebra
- operations
- measure
- analysis
- statistics
- proportion
- functions

Part of his collection has been compiled in the book *Graphic Humor in the Classroom of Mathematics*, and will be object of study in another work which is about to be published.



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