



# The 109 Times

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## Inside This Issue...

Mr. Huang Pressured to Appoint Attorney General ..... 2

Lin Causing Problems...Again .....2

Zhang Continues to Exclaimate ..... 2

Kang Still on Pace to Break Record ..... 3

Shukla Shutdown Avoided ..... 3

John is a Loser...of Notebooks ..... 4

Skill Drills ..... 3

Ask Arvid ..... 4

## Thank you....

2nd Q Flagbearers:  
 1st: Praha Stafford  
 2nd: Grace Guan  
 3rd: Ramya Reddy  
 6th: Vihaan Mathur  
 7th: Oliver Tu

DM: Kristina Knauss

Ambassador: Audrey Czarnecki

Attorney General: ??

## Bubbling Baffles 109 Citizens

By Gordon McKellen, Jr.

On Nov. 13, the day before the annual AMC8 contest, 109 citizens filled in their personal information on scantron bubble sheets. Unfortunately for some citizens, the task was not as easy as it sounded.

In 1st period, only 17/26 citizens filled in the information correctly. In 2nd, 22/26 did it correctly. Then things went horribly

wrong. In 3rd, 6th and 7th periods, not even half of the citizens could properly fill out the scantron. Overall, 51 citizens had to either correct or put more information on their second attempt, and a handful of citizens needed three attempts..

"Bubbling is more difficult than it seems," said one citizen. "Just seeing all

those bubbles confused me."

"I couldn't remember personal information about myself," said Oliver Tu. "That's why I needed three tries at it.

"I switched my first and last name," said Kat Rylatko (or is it Rylatko Kat?).

"It's a good thing I didn't grade them on filling that out," said Mr. Huang. "Perhaps we need a quiz on filling out forms.

## Moutaouakil Struggles with Cap

By Robert Bradshaw

On Nov. 10, Moutaouakil was going to explain how to solve  $f(x) = x^2 + 9$  when all of a sudden, while in mid-sentence, he couldn't get the marker cap off.

"I was worried he might injure himself," said one citizen.

A quick thinker, Moutaouakil remedied the situation by using a different marker.

"I was relieved," said another citizen. "I really wanted to know

why that problem had two answers. Ameer really pulled through for me."

This isn't the first time sticky marker caps have derailed students or Mr. Huang.

"You have to make sure you do your hand exercises," said Mr. Huang. "Fingertip pushups and playing a racket sport will help train your hands and wrists for those especially sticky marker caps."

## Lin Causing Problems...Again

By David Santee

Isaac Lin is causing problems in 7th period again. This time, he has defenders who claim that even when people spread idiotic ideas, they have a right to be heard.

It all started on November 10, when Lin offered to present a solution to a more challenging homework problem involving radicals in an equation. Students had already presented intricate valid solutions when Lin claimed he had one that was much faster.

It was faster. Much faster. However, Lin used an identity that has proven to be *false*:

$$\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} = \sqrt{a+b}$$

The false identity did lead to the right answer, but Mr. Huang attributed that to coincidence. Then Lin changed the equation to show that the false identity worked again. At that point Mr. Huang vigorously erased Lin's work.

"It's works!" said one citizen. "Isaac got censored unfairly. I say global warming and adding unlike rads are both true!"

Mr. Huang later issued a statement:

"Weird coincidences do not generalize. Isaac Lin should stop spreading lies and corrupting our young people."

## Mr. Huang Pressured to Appoint Attorney General

By Terry Kubicka

Citizens are beginning to worry that the delay in appointing an Attorney General may be a ploy by Mr. Huang to avoid constitutional crises.

It is the job of the Attorney General to bring charges against any citizen or Mr. Huang if they violate the 109 Constitution. The job was created last year, and the first AG was Alyssa Gorbaneva who vacated the job this year.

The vacancy became a concern when Mr. Huang announced LDOQ 109 business, including music, would be delayed a week. Someone asked what would happen if Mr. Huang

failed to complete 109 business. That would be a violation of the constitution, and the Attorney General would then press charges. Who appoints the Attorney General? Mr. Huang.

Citizens immediately began to think something might be wrong with this system.

"This can't stand," said one critical citizen. "Let's say hypothetically that Mr. Huang gets secret money from a large cold climate country to build a really gigantic structure between 109 and a neighboring country. That would be illegal, right? But he can just fire the AG if the AG is going to bring up charges. That's ridiculous!"

## Zhang Continues to Exclaimate

By Linda Fratianne

As of Test #4 on 12/6/17, Eric Zhang of 3rd period is still adding exclamation points to his name, and no one knows why.

The unusual tradition dates back to an earlier quiz where Mr. Huang gave extra credit for putting an exclamation point at the end of one's name. This option has not been given since.

Therefore, the motivation behind Zhang's continued exclamation point must be something other than grade gain.

"It's possible he's trying to send a message," said Dr. Peter Wenger., head psychologist at

the Center for the Study of Weird Habits. "He might be 'shouting' his name to Mr. Huang because he wants to be heard and treated like an important individual. That would be the deeper psychological explanation. However, it's also possible that he has trouble remembering his own name. This is his way of shouting his name to himself so he doesn't forget it next time around."

If Zhang is actually forgetting his own name, we may one day see a question mark instead of an exclamation point.

## Kang Still on Pace to Break Record

By Bobby Beauchamp

Michelle Kang’s amazing run to start the year finally ended in Week 11, but she regrouped and now has 12 perfects out of 13 after the first half of the year.

Kang’s stumble came when she made up a Week 11 Friday SD just before beginning Week 12. The rush to finish the previous week’s SD caused her to overlook something.

“I should have just finished Week 11 at a different time,” said a disappointed Kang.

Her fellow citizens were shocked not to see her name among the Week 11 perfects.

Most, however, are still in awe that she has only missed one question all year. At this rate, she will have 24 perfects at the end of the year, besting Adam Ardeishar’s 2014 mark by three.

“What we are seeing is unprecedented,” says Mr. Huang. “It’s a shame about Michelle’s mistake in Week 11. We have someone who could have run the table this year.”

Fellow 2nd period citizens Ziyao Wei and Max Wang are well behind in 2nd place with 8 and Hyunjae Chung of 3rd period is third with 7 perfects.

## Skill Drills Standings (after SD #13)

- 12: Michelle Kang
- 8: Ziyao Wei, Max Wang
- 7: Hyunjae Chung
- 5: Kristina Knauss, Brian Du, Bethanie Hackett, Ramya Reddy, Ellie Chen
- 4: Alina Chen, Seonghyun Park, Shi-Woo Yoo
- 3: Noah Chin, Ritika Rohatgi, Laura Zhang, Tim Johanson, Lianhao Li, Elliott Lee, Aditi Shukla, Antigone Stark, Vayun Malik
- 2: Jackson Baldrate, Rhea Chanda, Logan Pinkston-Sayers, Grace Guan, Eujin Lee, Justin Murri, Eric Zhang, Ram Reddy, Yejun Lee, Elaine Liu, Vihaan Mathur, Odessa Zhang, Victoria Wang
- 1: Winston Gan, Thomas Ham, Peter Hinckley, Derek Li, Vivian Shen, Nidhi Sathyanarayanan, Russell Karlin, Kaiden Wu, Yewon Choi, Rahil Naik, Sabrina Berry, Shin Matsumoto, Keenan Powell, Audrey Czarnecki

## Shukla Shutdown Avoided

By Wendy Burge

A proposed shutdown of Aditi Shukla narrowly missed approval in 3rd period on January 25.

Connor Humphreys, speaking on behalf of frustrated citizens in 3rd period, proposed a gag order on certain types of questions posed by Aditi Shukla. For weeks, citizens have been frustrated by Shukla’s questions that require long discussions led by Mr. Huang. Often, the discussion must be carried over to a 2nd or 3rd day.

“I don’t want to know about extra stuff,” complained one citizen. “I only want to know

what’s on the test.”

In a rare show of democracy, Mr. Huang allowed for a class vote on the Humphreys bill which . On a whim, he said the motion needed 2/3 to pass the bill that would have prohibited Shukla from asking any unusual math questions. When the votes were tallied, the vote of 17-8 was not enough to shut down Shukla.

For now, Shukla’s probing questions are still legal, but the vote showed a majority of citizens in 6th period want that to change. The Shukla issue is certainly not over.

## Ask Arvid

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### Answers to Questions in an Ever-Changing World

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**Dear Arvid:**

I think one of my fellow citizens is using a neighbor as her erasing slave. I feel that this is wrong. What should I do?

**Dear Neighborhood Watch:**

Read the constitution. It might say it's illegal to use a fellow citizen as a slave. If so, you can ask the Attorney General to bring up charges, if there is an AG.

**Dear Arvid:**

I'm really bothered by the hair of the boy who sits in front of me. The back of his hair sticks up, and it blocks my view. I have tried to bend my neck but to no avail.

**Dear Hairy View:**

That's a tough one. Do you carry scissors? You could suggest that he change his hair-style. You could also change seats, but then someone else would struggle with what you struggle with.

**Dear Arvid:**

Is it true that we should try to help small numbers become more equal to large numbers?

**Dear Champion of Equality:**

No. That view illustrates a fundamental misunderstanding of math. We should not treat numbers like people. Numbers don't change. They are eternally constant. People do change. That's why friends don't always stay friends.

## John is a Loser...of Notebooks

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By Marianne Barr

Admitting that you have a problem is never easy, but it is the first step on the road to recovery. On January 17, 2018, Joshua John's admitted that he is a loser...of notebooks.

In 1st period, pointing to his shiny new spiral, John admitted that he had lost his second math notebook of the year.

He isn't a loser of pencil bags however. 109 investigators found that his pencil bag is quite packed. The current theory proposes that there is a notebook-sized hole in his backpack that a fat pencil case can't fit through.

"We are considering this theory as well as several others," said Lt. George Romey.

There could be another cause of his losing

notebooks. It is well known that John often drops objects from his desk onto the floor. In fact, he did it again just after admitting his losing problem. Gravity could have been behind the loss of his previous two notebooks. It is also well known that there is a lot of gravity in 109. The force is *especially* strong around John's desk.

"Yes, the force is strong here," said Mr. Huang. "Over the years, citizens that have sat there had a special burden to deal with, but it's ok for them. Having burdens builds character. A 109 citizen can deal with it."

John is now considering a training regimen that includes dexterity and strength exercises that will help him quickly catch falling objects.