



A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper

By John Allen Paulos

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With the same user-friendly, quirky, and perceptive approach that made *Innumeracy* a bestseller, John Allen Paulos travels through the pages of the daily newspaper showing how math and numbers are a key element in many of the articles we read every day. From the Senate, SATs, and sex, to crime, celebrities, and cults, he takes stories that may not seem to involve mathematics at all and demonstrates how a lack of mathematical knowledge can hinder our understanding of them.

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A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper By John Allen Paulos Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1098495 in Books
- Published on: 1997-09-26
- Released on: 1997-09-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.01" h x .63" w x 5.17" l, .43 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Math professor Paulos's irreverent investigation of the often faulty use of statistics and fact in newspaper articles.

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Review

... this book should be mandatory reading for every journalist - as well as the readers, viewers and former tutors they supposedly serve. -- *Robert Matthews, New Scientist, 1995*

A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper is irresistible. -- *Rudy Rucker, Scientific American, 1995*

Although the combination of math and newspapers sounds uniquely unappetizing, John Allen Paulos creates a truly thought-provoking book from that mixture. -- *USA Today, Best Bet, 1995*

But the dirty secret about the media's contribution to American "Innumeracy," first examined in a delightful book by that title by John Allen Paulos, is about to be revealed in his sequel, "A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper." -- *Max Frankel, New York Times, 1995*

Even better, Paulos' wit and humor - admirably displayed in *Innumeracy* - are in top form. His irreverent and pointed comments entertain as well as educate. Though Paulos writes about a bewildering number of topics, he has something fresh and interesting to say about each. -- *Charles Seife, Philadelphia Inquirer, 1995*

In his new book, the mathematician John Allen Paulos continues his witty crusade against mathematical illiteracy Mr. Paulos's little essay explaining the Banzhaf power index and how it relates to Lani Guinier's ideas about empowering minorities is itself worth the price of the book. -- *Richard Bernstein, New York Times, 1995*

It would be great to have John Allen Paulos living next door. Every morning when you read the paper and came across some story that didn't seem quite right - that had the faint odor of illogic hovering about it - you could just lean out the window and shout, "Jack! Get the hell over here!" Paulos, who wrote the bestseller *Innumeracy* (the mathematical equivalent of illiteracy), has now written a fun, spunky, wise little book that would be helpful to both the consumers of the news and its purveyors. -- *Joel Achenbach, Washington Post, 1995*

Paulos uses his considerable talents and a breezy style to discuss many ways to apply simple, or at least simply explained, mathematics and logic to analyze the contents of the newspaper. ... the book is a compendium of unusually sound advice, which, if widely read and understood, could improve a lot more for us than the way we read the newspaper. -- *Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995*

This is press criticism, but not of the usual kind This is press criticism of the sort that George Orwell had in mind when he observed that what's important isn't news, and what's news isn't important. This is a subversive book. Paulos argues that the world is so complex that it cannot be accurately described, much less manipulated. a wise and thoughtful book, which skewers much of what everyone knows to be true. -- *Lee Dembart, Los Angeles Times, 1995*

From the Publisher

"After reading *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper*, it will be impossible to look at the newspaper in the same way."--*Philadelphia Inquirer*

"It would be great to have John Allen Paulos living next door. Every morning when you read the paper and come across some story that didn't seem quite right--that had the faint odor of illogic hovering about it-- you could just lean out the window and shout, 'John! Get the hell over here!'. A fun, spunky, wise little book that would be helpful to both the consumers of the news and its purveyors." --*Washington Post Book World*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ethel Davidson:

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