

---

# Problem of the Week

## Number Nine

### November 28, 2016

---

I seem to be out of clock-related filler this week, so I googled, “Funniest Jokes Ever.” Here is some of what came up:

A guy sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there’s a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says, “What the heck was that all about?”

A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells, “You should have been here at 8:30!” He replies, “Why? What happened at 8:30?”

A young boy enters a barber shop, and the barber whispers to his customer, “This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you.” The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, “Which do you want, son?” The boy takes the quarters and leaves. “What did I tell you?” said the barber. “That kid never learns.” Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store. “Hey son,” he says, “may I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?” The boy licked his cone and replied, “Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!”

Why can’t you hear a pterodactyl in the bathroom? Because it has a silent pee.

Since there’s no way to top that last one, here’s this week’s problem:

---

One fine day, sometime in the afternoon, the hour hand of Jane’s clock started moving backward at the same speed at which it had previously been moving forward. The minute hand continued moving as it always had. Later that same day, Jane noticed that the hands of the clock displayed the time 6:35. This differed from the correct time by exactly five hours. At what time did the hour hand begin to move backward?

---

Think you have it figured out? Then follow these instructions to the letter:

*Submissions are due to Jason Rosenhouse by 5:00 on **Friday, December 2**. Solutions should be written on the back of an official POTW handout. Place your name, e-mail address, and the section numbers and professors of any math courses you are taking, in the **upper right corner** of the front of the page. One weekly winner will receive a five-dollar gift card from Starbucks. Solutions will be posted at this website, by the Monday after the problem is due:*

<http://educ.jmu.edu/~rosenhjd/POTW/Fall16/homepage.html>