STCH 250 - 2

Portfolio on "Mathematics in the Media"

Due Tuesday October 14, the day of the Midterm Exam (it will count as part of your midterm).

Mathematics in the media (TV, movies, literature, newspapers, etc); this is very similar to Exploration #2 in the first article in your Reading Packet (p. 6). You will need to have SIX different entries (From different sources, although I will allow you to have two from the same movie and three from the same book).
For each entry, you will have:

- The entry itself (e.g., if it is a cartoon, and ad, or a short article, you include a copy; if it is from a book, you include the excerpt; if it is from a movie, you describe the scene). Make sure you include the source.

- Your analysis of the entry: what view of mathematics is being conveyed? What do you think the impact may be on those reading / seeing this (in terms of their view of mathematics)?

Below are some suggestions for movies / books. The newspaper, the web, TV ads and sitcoms are all potential sources for your search. Enjoy it!! My goal is for you to become aware of the messages /images about math that all of us are constantly exposed to—some potentially harmful, some potentially constructive.

Movies:
Stand and deliver; Good will hunting; A beautiful mind
Books:
Leaning towards infinity by Sue Wolfe (Fiction); *Mindstorms: children, computers, and powerful ideas* by Seymour Papert (this is classic in education; great to understand what constructivism means); *Radical Equations: Math literacy and civil rights* by Robert P. Moses and Charles E. Cobb (this book is about the Algebra Project—an exemplary project in equity and mathematics).

The book *Popular culture, educational discourse, and mathematics* by Peter M. Appelbaum is likely to be rather demanding to read, but it may be a good reference for potential sources.

I am also giving you a copy of an article by F. Furinghetti (Images of mathematics outside the community of mathematicians: Evidence and explanations) as it may help you with the analysis part.