

# The Most Random Number

Mathematician David C. Kelly, now an emeritus professor at Amherst's Hampshire College, long had an obsession with the number 17, calling it the most random number, and promoted it at the Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics for high school students for many years. (MIT's Random Hall's obsession with this number probably originated with alumni of this program.)

1. KWYFY MFY 17 CX KWYIY EMKKYFUI CX IZTTYKFZ AU EGMUY KAGAUHI:

— — —  $\frac{03}{17}$  — — — — — — — — —  $\frac{15}{17}$  — — —

2. PKD NXWA "17 UAULW" QUN ZDRXZODO SB PKLN AZXVY HDUPVZLWA UWWLD  
TDWWXG QKDW PKDB ZDVWLPDO LW 1999:  $\frac{02}{17}$  — — — — —  $\frac{10}{17}$  — — —

3. WJL QMLGYX Q-17 QMKQLT, AGILZV FPLI IFTGYX AMTZI AHT GG, AHP BYMAY  
QV WJGP YGSBYHKL:  $\frac{27}{17}$  — — — — — — — — —  $\frac{18}{17}$  — — — — —

4. "LVPE + 17" UCL JVGMJIVI SE YQRL JMGDCSRBBE SCFI WVCYZJRFH SJRCF  
LVYAVJ: — — —  $\frac{25}{17}$  — — — — —  $\frac{07}{17}$  —

5. MSOGYXS 17 SWYGAX KVR KR KQS KVR KR KQS KVR FAYX RHS, JK JX KQJX  
NJHI RZ HYEMSD:  $\frac{21}{17}$  — — — — — — — — —  $\frac{36}{17}$

6. 17 AW QOL TAFATGT FGTNLS EK VACLFW DEWWANUL AF J GFABGLUH WEUCJNUL  
AFWQJFXL EK QOAW DGIIUL: — — —  $\frac{20}{17}$   $\frac{14}{17}$  —

7. "17 JCAN", KGF P-NHJF KI "ZGFR JIWFN EYA", HN C NIRT PA KGHN  
XFTFRJCYA VONHEHCR: — — —  $\frac{16}{17}$  — — —  $\frac{08}{17}$

8. HWDEUJAW-UL-SGW LDYT EIGYGK 17 EIGWWAC IFDE GZIUW, SFU SUJ GJ  
UEZGW LUW FDE WUYA GE N.N. EALIUJ:  $\frac{06}{17}$  — — — — — — — — —  
— — — — —  $\frac{26}{17}$  —

9. 17 MLKBIOM OXHVI PGO SVIIOPG LG CTO HGLEOAMO PW CTLM MKVA-WVKOZ  
JLYVAZ: — — — — — — — — —  $\frac{19}{17}$   $\frac{12}{17}$  — — — — —

10. RDNA RDYVV-HNUV GUYDLIVO TFKFUVAV KCVRNP WCYI PCURFNUA 17

ALHHFJHVA:  $\frac{23}{29}$

11. YGN SNWUVIUF EVWL VE YGUK HVXI UOKNFY KSNOIK YGUWYNNO VW 17 JNRWK

XOINWCWVXOI MNEVWN NLNWCUOC:  $\frac{33}{09}$

12. QYFIF MIF 17 HUWZPSG US QYF WUSO GDAF UX QYDG OIFFC WMSAPMIC,

UIDODSMWWN M QFPLWF QU MQYFSM:  $\frac{17}{05}$

13. OLSC CSQXHB BHVHECHP "HPXH FG 17" FQ LHB GSBCO CFVF EVIYN KLSVH

CLH KEC COSVV EVCF E NHNIHB FG GVHHOKFFP NEA:  $\frac{34}{31}$

14. SVJVFLK LKV RINFDXB PJ LKV SFOT PQ F Z.U. PJV BPYYFN SXYY XU LKXU

17-YVLLVN YFLXJ RKNFUV:  $\frac{13}{28}$

$\frac{11}{11}$

15. VKP OITQPWV XDTTDTQ WVEPB Y DT TKO KDWVIEG XBW 17 QBCPW OITQ BTR

XBW BFKDPHPR AG VKDW VPBC:  $\frac{22}{32}$

$\frac{24}{24}$

16. XICL DHFB QBKBQL XV YQVGA 17 VD XIB ABQCV ECJ XHSWB VK XIB

BWBFBDXL:  $\frac{04}{30}$

17. NXYDQDUH LR DEH WXYBQAW RQUV KELNH DQDUH QN DEH BHNXUD LR

NXYDBCADQJT 17 RBLV DEH AXBBHJD ZHCB:  $\frac{35}{01}$

$\frac{35}{01}$