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## Shaking Heads in Copley Square

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gress for the Determination of Average Precipitation in Lombardia (ISTDAPL), which was held in Tokyo.

Now Paul-Ernest saw his chance. Over time, he had grown more and more frustrated with all the decimals and fractions he was constructed to live after. Dr. Frankenstein was caught in his own trap: he had not considered certain facts pertaining to normal human reactions versus statistical patterns of behavior. If one is intimate with one's wife 0.21 times a day, as Paul-Ernest for a long time had been, statistical proof indicates that one finally becomes rather frustrated.

That was why Paul-Ernest now rebelled against the decimals in his life. He began a Saturday night at 8 o'clock not by watching 2.6 hours of television but instead by drinking two whole beers (compared to the dictated 1.37). Thereafter he made love to his wife two whole times (an increase of 1.79 times!), took a whole bath (compared to the usual one third), smoked two pipes of Dunhill Mixture (instead of the three Marlboros) and finally went to bed without a pajama (not the prescribed 0.75 pajama). He felt rather good by the time he fell asleep.

The behavior of Paul-Ernest Average turned out to have unforeseeable consequences for the patterns of behavior for all other Americans, because Paul-Ernest was the national standard for all American life. TV polls showed all time lows, the consumption of beer increased so much that AAA had to call an emergency meeting in Boise, Idaho, sales of prophylactics boomed, and pipe smoking, bathing and sleeping naked experienced a renaissance. And when Paul-Ernest decided not to go to work the following Monday, the production of the country stopped as if by a stroke of magic. So much loafing around has never before been seen in the United States of America.

\* \* \*

When Dr. Frankenstein came home from Tokyo he was, as statistical evidence shows most people would be, in dismay. What should he do? He could not well dispose of the Averages, because that would do it for the whole American population. He could hardly even quarrel with Paul-Ernest Average, because that would mean running the risk of provoking him, and thus all American men, to anger. And one knows what an angry American might do, not to talk about what 75 million could cause!

Dr. Frankenstein settled for the only possible solution: he talked gently with Paul-Ernest Average with compromise in mind. "Tell me, what do you want?" he said mildly.

"Just whole numbers" Paul-Ernest replied. "No decimals, just whole numbers. Rounded off to the nearest larger integer. Shoo-bidoo."

So if you feel like having another drink before bedtime, remember that it is thanks to Paul-Ernest Average.

### *Shaking Heads in Copley Square*

Three,  
Three piece and pin-striped vested  
Minds left their lunch to  
Frown.

Frown  
Upon roller-footed youth skating and be-bopping to  
Funk music spilling their fluid joy into the  
Bricked square unaware they were being  
Jiggled.

Jiggled  
Back and forth by arrogant eyes which  
Then  
Snuggled back to the news  
Content.

Uncontent  
I  
Frowned  
And  
Jiggled  
The  
Three.

Gregor Macdonald