

Mathematical genius reaches for infinity

By Ralph R. Echlin
staff writer

When he was 4 years old he could add, subtract, multiply and divide, in his head.

When he was in the eighth grade an algebra teacher suggested he skip Algebra II and go directly to nuclear physics.

In his senior year at West Bloomfield High School his whole curriculum consisted of independent study, and he graduated four months early as the class of 1974's valedictorian.

IN HIS POCKET he carries a sheet of notebook paper jammed full of ideas written in microscopic print with a ball-point pen.

And inside his head is a brain that craves and digests information like an F-15E Strike Eagle uses jet fuel.

"If I wanted to complete all my major theories — I made an estimate — it would take 400 years," said the 35-year-old Allen Klein, whose I.Q. exceeded 200 when it was last measured 30 years ago.

Sitting in Marilyn and Morris Klein's kitchen, listening to their son, one marvels at how someone so capable and so accomplished can be equally bereft of braggadocio.

It's difficult to get Klein to talk about himself because at every opportunity he expounds with great animation on his ideas and theories that seem as limitless as the new system of mathematics he created, which uses infinity as a base number.

Yet his love of family is also obvious, particularly when he talks about his two fleeces, Julie, 5, and Danielle, 2. "We were playing all day yesterday," he said. "They were jumping on my shoulders. They love piggy-back rides."

With a degree in nuclear physics from Lawrence Technological Institute, Klein works for the Systems Engineering & Management Association in Falls Church, Va., where he does work for the federal government's Strategic Defense Initiative program.

But in his spare time he's an "amateur" theoretical physicist with theories on quarks and the cumulative effect of fields already published, and more on the way.

Klein is shooting for the big time now, trying to finish Albert Einstein's unified field theory that attempts to prove the existence of a massive force, stronger than gravity, that holds galaxies together. "It's been like a dream of physicists for the last 40 or 50 years to complete this unified field theory," he said.

Klein researches the existence of this force in a novel way. Whereas most scientists to date have based their theories on a finite universe, Klein invented "infinimatics" and predicated his work on the supposition that the universe is infinite.

From two teachers in West Bloomfield schools, Jim Robinson and Stewart Schultz, Klein learned not to set road blocks of preconceived notion in the path of discovery. "[School] was really a good

experience for me because my teachers really encouraged me to look at things in a different way," he said. "It has allowed me greater flexibility in ways to solve problems."

CONTRARY TO POPULAR belief, Klein said an active imagination is a prerequisite to great scientific achievement. In other words, dreams and science fiction novels are the framework on which scientists build theories. Klein likes to quote Einstein in this regard: "Imagination is more important than knowledge, whereas knowledge is limited, but imagination embraces the entire world."

Ergo, it's no coincidence that some of Klein's favorite activities include reading Jules Verne novels and watching "Star Trek."

"I see myself almost as an explorer, basically on the 'Star Trek' theme, going 'where no man has gone before.'"

Speaking of "Star Trek," Klein is also toying with the idea of inventing a transporter such as Captain James T. Kirk used to beam down to planets. "I'm actually working on that," he said. "I've got a few ideas that may pan out." Along the same lines, Klein also believes in "The Force" made famous in George Lucas' "Star Wars" trilogy.

In fact, when he's struggling to grasp some concept (although that's hard to believe), "I think, 'Come on now, use The Force.'"



She's a kite

"Sometimes I am a Kite," a book by Kathleen Thompson (above) of Farmington has recently been published. Illustrated for children but containing an adult theme, the book "is for children of all ages and people young at heart," Thompson said. The kite is a metaphor for how to make relationships work, she added. Thompson is employed at Madonna University in Livonia as a writer and photographer. She is currently working on a second book.

Local police run for the handicapped

If you were anywhere near 12 Mile and Haggerty roads Friday at 12:18 p.m., you would have seen six Farmington Hills police officers doing their part in the Seventh Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Officers Charles Hubbard, Pat Sidge, Sandy Rochford, Pat Brown, Mike Farley and John Crump formed the Farmington Hills law enforcement team, running miles to raise money for Michigan Special Olympics.

The Torch Run is hosted by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Little Caesars Plaza, which donated \$25,000, is the official state sponsor. The Farmington Hills police unions also donate to the Special Olympics.

Three runs were conducted Friday, one beginning in Milford, Waterford and Rochester Hills. All three ended in Berkley at the Little Caesars on Coolidge.

In addition to raising money, the Torch Run is also meant to increase public awareness of the Special Olympics' year-round sports training and competition programs for mentally retarded citizens of all ages.

This year's fund-raising goal is \$300,000, which would bring the total raised by Torch Run for Special Olympics to \$1 million.

The law enforcement run also included a marathon non-stop relay from Copper Harbor in the Upper Peninsula to metro Detroit.



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