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Press Release

Von Stutterheim Count Stuck At 200 Days

Bobitis Count Mysteriously Arrested
Homeland Security Dispatches Elite Unit

New York, November 12, 2002: A frightening anomaly has devastated the life of a Manhattan, NY man.

Klaus von Stutterheim, a peripheral player on the New York financial scene, had been anxiously tracking his Bobitis Count since his return from Montana in early September.

Bobitis is an incurable disease that creates a haunting obsession with the Bob Marshall Wilderness ("The Bob"), a desolate area in northwestern Montana with no hotels or restaurants. The *Bobitis Count* refers to the internal calendar of Bobitis victims, who measure time in countdown fashion until their next visit to The Bob.

Von Stutterheim, considered a particularly severe case by medical professionals and by his family, had been tracking his Count on a daily basis and had anticipated a minor celebration for the day when his Count should have dropped below 200 days, which was scheduled for November 6.

However when he checked his Count that morning in a cheerful mood, he discovered to his horror that it had **not** dropped, but remained at 200 days. Initially, von Stutterheim decided to "let it go" and revisit the issue the following morning, although with some anxiety.

"I thought it might be like the car that won't start, but if you walk away from it and try to forget it, and then later pretend nothing happened and turn the ignition key again with a fresh mind, you can often fool it into starting right up," he said. However, von Stutterheim pretend-it-never-happened strategy failed. When he looked at his Bobitis Count again the next and on subsequent days, disbelief turned into panic as his Count remained stubbornly stuck at 200 days.

“Initially I went to the police precinct to file a report, because I assumed someone had stolen my Bobitis Count in an identity swindle and was now enjoying my declining numbers, leaving me stuck at 200 days. The sergeant on duty did not seem to take me serious, and the police ended up taking me to the psychiatric ward at Bellevue Hospital. Fortunately for me, Dr. Buck A. Rue, whom I had met as an intern last year, was working admittance, and he immediately diagnosed my problem. After a careful examination, which included making sure that my departure date for Montana was still May 22, 2003, he confirmed that, indeed, my Bobitis Count had not moved below 200 days for over a week.”

When contacted, Dr. Rue commented that there was no previous record of a patient with a static Bobitis Count. “While it’s tragic for the patient, of course,” he said, “I am very excited at being first to document this phenomenon, and I have tentatively decided to name it *Calculus Interruptus*. However,” he continued, “I am not really sure that von Stutterheim’s day count problem is medical. I suspect that we’re dealing with an occurrence that is actually in conflict with the laws of nature. I have, therefore, referred the case to the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Physics at Princeton University.

A spokesman for the Institute, Albert Twostone, was reluctant to answer questions. “We do not comment on pending occurrences,” he said. When pressed, he confirmed that von Stutterheim’s case had been submitted. Requesting anonymity he explained: “We have pretty much narrowed it down to a crease in the fabric of the universe. What concerns us now is whether this crease occurred naturally, like from a passing Black Hole, or whether terrorists have found a way to manipulate the time/space continuum. I can’t say any more, but the Office of Homeland Security has dispatched its Elite Swatch Team (E.S.T.), equipped with portable automatic chronometers to investigate.”

As to what might become of von Stutterheim’s plight, he suggested that if the crease could not be “ironed out,” there always remained the option of a “manual override.”