

The Story of Pi

The first thing you need to know is that I have always been fascinated with numbers—certain special numbers in particular—anything having to do with my birthday! Numbers such as “27” and “227” to be specific.

Six months before Carolyn was born, we received our two new license plates in the mail. In the State of Maryland, the last three digits were numbers then. These two plates contained the numbers “227” and “228”—very prophetic, to be sure! Despite Carolyn’s due date, she was born on February 28—or “228”—just as the license plates predicted!

But what about Laura and her special birthday numbers—April 26 and “426”?

It took me many years to figure this one out. But it finally came to me early one Saturday morning in February 2006. I was lying in bed trying to wake up. On Saturday mornings, I sometimes will turn on the NASA channel to see what is going on in the world of astronomy and space science. For some reason, the usual blip was pre-empted by a show devoted to the history of “pi.” What does this have to do with Laura’s birthday, you ask? Here goes!

In all of the years I have paid special favor to the number “227,” I never realized the connection to “pi.” The earliest approximation for “pi” was “22/7!” While this is interesting, it was not until after the show that the next revelation hit.

I have always thought of the year as a big circle—much like Planet Earth’s orbit around the Sun. For some reason or another, I had the following thought—

If the year is a circle and if that circle has a circumference of 365.25 days, then what is the radius of that circle? And what is the circumference?

The circumference is ... 365.25 days divided by $22/7$... or 116.2 days.
The radius, of course, is one half of that ... or 58.1 days.

It also just so happens that April 26 is the 116th day of the year!

It just so happens that February 27 is the 58th day of the year!

Now this might seem a bit far fetched, but I am always fascinated in the patterns that the Universe lays out for us to trip over—if we are paying attention! Whether license plates and “pi” have anything to do with it, I do not know. But what I do know is that I have always felt that the numbers “227,” “228,” and “426” are special—and I suppose that is all that really matters!