

CHRISTMAS SONGS

These Calculus Carols were published in Math Horizons, Winter, 1993 with the accompanying note.

Imagine a tall, dynamic teacher, head of the Society for Isaac Newton, and dressed as the Big Fig (we told you that you would have to use your imagination). That was Denis Gannon (1940-1991), an inspiring teacher at F. T. Maloney High School in Meriden, CT for 29 years. Gannon's hallmark was humor. Each year at the holiday season he bellowed out Calculus Carols that he wrote for his AP Calculus students. Here are two for your class to sing.

Fill the Boards with Differentials (To the tune of Deck the Halls)

Fill the boards with differentials,
FALALALALA LALALALA
Note that *du*'s are essential,
FALALALALA LALALALA
C's are constants here before us,
FALALA LALALA LALALA
Integration cannot floor us,
FALALALALA LALALALA

Quizzes always make us queasy,
FALALALALA LALALALA
Max and mins are never easy,
FALALALALA LALALALA
Conic volumes we can measure,
FALALA LALALA LALALA
Nine and tens we'll always treasure,
FALALALALA LALALALA

Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus! (To the tune of Oh Christmas Tree)

Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
How tough are both your branches.
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
To pass, what are my chances?
Derivatives I cannot take
At integrals my fingers shake
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
How tough are both your branches.

Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
Your theorems I can't master
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
My proofs are a disaster
You pull a trick out of the air
Or find a reason, God knows where
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
Your theorems I can't master.

Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
Your problems do distress me
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
Related rates depress me
I walk toward lampposts in my sleep
And running water makes me weep.
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
Your problems do depress me.

Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
My limit I am reaching
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
For mercy I'm beseeching
My grades do not approach a B
They're just an epsilon from D
Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus
My limit I am reaching.