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PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

11/8/11 due NOON 11/21/11

CAN YOU GIVE US A SOLUTION?

Problem No. 11 (Fall 2011 Series)

There are n men in a warehouse, with no three in a straight line, and so that the distances between pairs of men are distinct.

Each man has a loaded pistol. At a signal, each shoots the man closest to him. Show that if n is odd, then at least one man remains alive. Show also that if n is even, then it is possible that every man dies.

A panel in the Mathematics Department publishes a challenging problem once a week and invites college & pre-college students, faculty, and staff to submit solutions. The objective of this is to stimulate and cultivate interest in good mathematics, especially among younger students. Solutions are due within two weeks from the date of publication. They can be faxed to (765) 494-0548 or sent by campus or U.S. mail (no E-mail please) to:

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK, **5th Floor**, Math Sciences Bldg., Purdue Univ.,
150 North University St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2067

Solvers should include their name, address, and **status at the University or school**.

The names of those who submitted correct solutions will be posted in the Math. Library, along with the best solution. Every Purdue student who submits three or more correct solutions will receive a Certificate of Merit. A prize fund of \$300.00 will be distributed among the Purdue undergraduates who have contributed at least six correct solutions for the total Fall 2011 series.