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AMSTATNEWS

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2016 POSTER AND PROJECT Competition Winners

ALSO:

Criteria for Open
Data Portals Offer Best
Practices for Websites

ASA Volunteers Create
Resource for Teachers:
Statistical Commons

SIDEBAR



The 2002 Joint Statistical Meetings paper titled "People Count: The Social Construction of Statistics" (<http://bit.ly/29OavUb>) by Joel Best and feedback from Milo Schield gave Lawrence Lesser of The University of Texas at El Paso inspiration to repurpose the Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." Here, he explores what it means to say statistics are socially constructed.

(THIS IS HOW) STATS ARE LIKE DIAMONDS

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Picture statistics in the newspaper
With context all missing or half summarized;
Somebody chose just who would be surveyed
And the order the items arise.
Stats are each chosen and given a setting,
polished and cut for a view:
Look for the angle that reaches your eyes
when they're done.

CHORUS: This is how stats are like diamonds,
This is how stats are like diamonds,
This is how stats are like diamonds, ahhh.....

Follow the chain of a long calculation
For students who view stats as math mechanized.
But when you tell them "all stats are constructed,"
Their eyebrows will rise up so high!
Newspaper numbers appear on page 4,
labelled and grouped for display:
Like a nice gem, this story now sparkled,
unlike rocks. (Repeat chorus)

Picture a stat with no error or bias,
Without a confounder that's lurking disguised.
Take care that you see how that stat is presented:
Most jewels have a flaw to apprise.
(Repeat chorus twice)

departments

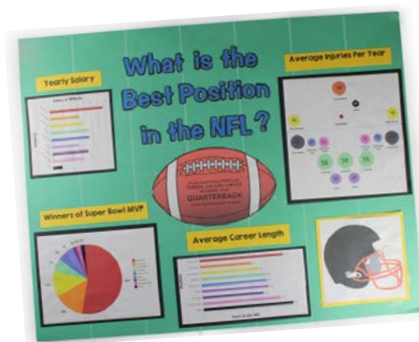
31 education



See **Page 31** to read about the third biennial Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS).

eCOTS 2016 Draws 600

2016 Poster and Project
Competition Winners



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40 awards & deadlines C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize

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