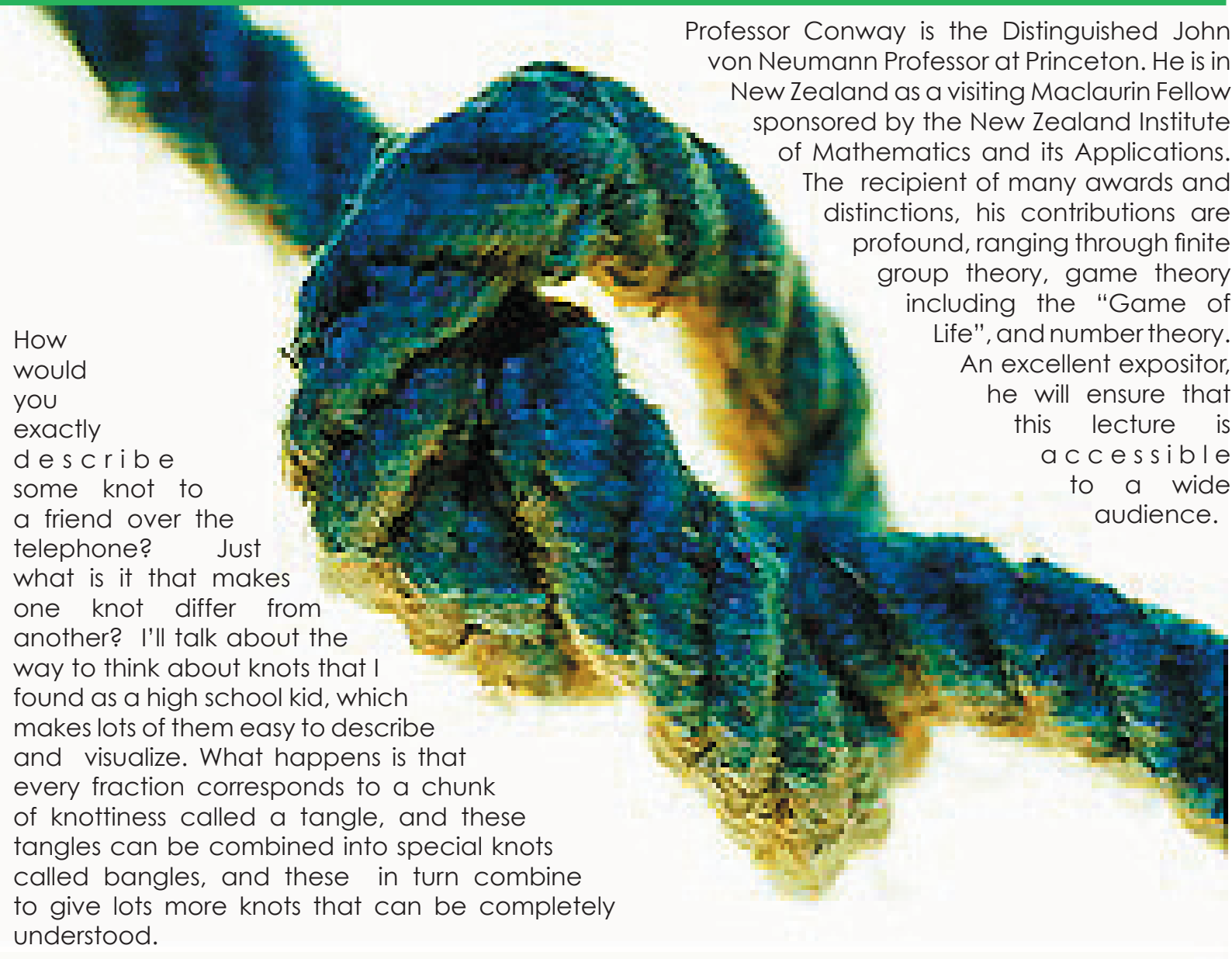


Tangles, bangles and knots

A PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROFESSOR JOHN H. CONWAY

SLT 1
Ground Level
Science Centre Building 303
38 Princes Street
The University of Auckland

Wednesday 25 January
Lecture - 7pm
Refreshments - 6.30pm



Professor Conway is the Distinguished John von Neumann Professor at Princeton. He is in New Zealand as a visiting Maclaurin Fellow sponsored by the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications. The recipient of many awards and distinctions, his contributions are profound, ranging through finite group theory, game theory including the "Game of Life", and number theory. An excellent expositor, he will ensure that this lecture is accessible to a wide audience.

How would you exactly describe some knot to a friend over the telephone? Just what is it that makes one knot differ from another? I'll talk about the way to think about knots that I found as a high school kid, which makes lots of them easy to describe and visualize. What happens is that every fraction corresponds to a chunk of knottiness called a tangle, and these tangles can be combined into special knots called bangles, and these in turn combine to give lots more knots that can be completely understood.

How do you understand all that?
Just be prepared to dance!

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