

Humor (from a foreword):

I am a former library assistant and a fraternal twin. My name is David Ferola.

“No, no” says my friend. “Ya gotta start with humor.”

Take two.

I read books a lot. My brother says I’m going to turn into one someday, “I already have a spine.” I say.

I am a man with much to say, some of it even worth saying. I have a Rube Goldberg for a mind and a social life from K-Mart.

I read books like Asimov wrote them. If I ever write about libraries, the title will be “How to live in a library.” I take 3 books off the shelf and say “I’d like to charge out the rest, please.”

My memory is so bad, if I got Alzheimer’s it would be hard to tell.

Well, gotta go; those books won’t read themselves.

Discovering:

I took a few classes at CCSU in New Britain; while I was there I had an interesting math class.

When I was very young I wanted to be another Einstein. Fast forward to college days.

I took an introductory math class. For one homework assignment we had to find a pattern in the number of diagonals in polygons. I found an obvious pattern but they must have wanted more than that, so I drew squares, pentagons, hexagons, octagons, etc. and counted the diagonals. Worked for two hours and got nowhere.

Finally I said to myself, “I’m just going to look for a simple algebraic pattern; if it involves calculus, I give up. Know what? I found one.

The next day the professor selected me. I told her the equation and she said “Well, this is a nice start.” She tried it for pentagons and it worked. “Good, but does it work for every polygon?” she said.

She tried hexagons and counted the diagonals and said “By golly, it works!”

A student said “How did he do that?” It turned out that we were supposed to stop with the obvious pattern.

And that’s the true story of my one and only equation.

Love:

I have known my fraternal twin brother since before I was born, if you can know someone at that age.

In many ways he's different from me, even opposite.

I'm thin, he's fat. I love books, he loves talking.

I was moderately successful, having gone through college and jobs. He has had a different kind of success: he makes beautiful origami, he collects proverbs, and he often gives people gifts.

I like intelligence, creativity and optimism; he likes goals, enthusiasm and fun.

His problems are boredom and worry. Mine are poor posture and money worries.

If we die in a car crash, we may die at the same time. Otherwise, the other twin will grieve for years.

I'm an atheist, but it would be nice to think we will meet again in heaven.