

5-1-2008

Since you're here : vol. 02, issue 06 (May 2008)

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/npml_syh



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, "Since you're here : vol. 02, issue 06 (May 2008)" (2008). *Since You're Here*. 22.
https://digital.usfsp.edu/npml_syh/22

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Library Publicity and Events at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Since You're Here by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.



Since You're Here...

National Science Foundation: Science Hard

The Onion, June 5, 2002 | [Issue 38•21](#)

INDIANAPOLIS—The National Science Foundation's annual symposium concluded Monday, with the 1,500 scientists in attendance reaching the consensus that science is hard.

Farian explains the NSF findings. "For centuries, we have embraced the pursuit of scientific knowledge as one of the noblest and worthiest of human endeavors, one leading to the enrichment of mankind both today and for future generations," said keynote speaker and NSF chairman Louis Farian. "However, a breakthrough discovery is challenging our long-held perceptions about our discipline—the discovery that science is really, really hard."

"My area of expertise is the totally impossible science of particle physics," Farian continued, "but, indeed, this newly discovered 'Law of Difficulty' holds true for all branches of science, from astronomy to molecular biology and everything in between."

The science-is-hard theorem, first posited by a team of MIT professors in 1990, was slow to gain acceptance within the science community. It gathered momentum following the 1997 publication of physicist Stephen Hawking's breakthrough paper, "Lorentz Variation And Gravitation Is Just About The Hardest Friggin' Thing In The Known Universe."

This weekend's conference, featuring symposia on how hard the Earth sciences are, how confusing medical science is, and how ridiculously un-gettable quantum physics is, represented a major step forward for the science-is-hard theorem.

"We now believe that the theorem is 99.999% likely to be true, after applying these incredibly complex statistical techniques that gave me a splitting headache," Farian said. "A theorem is like a theory, but, I don't know, it's different."

Members of the scientific establishment were quick to affirm the NSF discovery.

Semester Break Library Hours

Saturday, May 3	CLOSED
Sunday, May 4	CLOSED
Mon.-Thurs. May 5 - 8	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, May 9	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, MAY 10	CLOSED
Sunday, May 11	CLOSED
Monday, May 12	Regular Hours Resume

