

# Cal Poly Department of Mathematics

## Puzzle of the Week

October 31 - Nov 6, 2013

A monster created by a mad scientist challenges you to the following game: On a large perfectly circular table you each are to alternately place quarters where ever there may be space; the first person to have no space to place their next quarter will lose (the quarters cannot be stacked). If you lose, the monster will devour you, but if you win you will be left unharmed. You are offered to choice of going first or second. Which should you chose and how can you ensure you will not be eaten?

*Solutions should be submitted to Morgan Sherman:*

*Dept. of Mathematics, Cal Poly*

*Email: sherman1 -AT- calpoly.edu*

*Office: bldg 25 room 310*

*before next Thursday. Those with correct and complete solutions will have their names listed on the puzzle's web site (see below) as well as in next week's email announcement. Anybody is welcome to make a submission.*

<http://www.calpoly.edu/~sherman1/puzzleoftheweek>