

Adventures with Cláudio at 70 and beyond

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Figure 1: Back to the roots, Lucca (2008)

I am unable to be present at the event at USP to celebrate the seventieth birthday of my good friend Cláudio Lucchesi. So, at the suggestion of Yoshiko, I am sending this message to the participants,

partly to convey my congratulations to Cláudio, and partly to recount some of my adventures with him during my recent visit to Brazil.

I DON'T NEED TO TELL THE FRIENDS OF CLÁUDIO WHO ARE GATHERED AT USP ABOUT HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH AND TEACHING, ABOUT HIS VALUABLE SERVICES TO THE BRAZILIAN COMPUTER SCIENCE COMMUNITY, ABOUT HIS INTELLECTUAL HONESTY, AND LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST, ABOUT HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR LIFE. (THERE ARE ALWAYS A FEW DETRACTORS WHO WOULD SAY THAT HE IS TOO JUDGEMENTAL, ETC., ETC. BUT WE DON'T NEED TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO SUCH PEOPLE WHO LACK PROPER JUDGEMENT!)

Cláudio's Magic Wand

Harry Potter's wand was made of holly with a Phoenix feather at its core. Cláudio's is a simple electronic contraption which some refer to as a *radinho*. Yes, in the hands of ordinary folks it is just a garage door opener. But in the hands of Wizard Cláudio it has many magical powers; it can open gates, switch on lights, turn on the television etc. Unfortunately, as he gets older, our friend has been forgetting that it can also open garage doors. I won't embarrass him by telling you what happened to the rear end of his Honda Civic in August when he was backing out of his driveway. But I will tell you that he was kind enough to hire a car with a driver to pick me up from the bus station in Campinas when I arrived there on the first of September.

His car was at the *funilaria* the day I arrived, and it was back there six weeks later on the day I left. But that is another story!

Some Hit the Jackpot and Some Hit the Potholes¹

I gave Cláudio a ticket for Mega Sena valid for five draws. He did not manage to match even a single number on any of those draws, but he managed to hit two sizable potholes within the space of three days. You may blame it on the rains, or on the roads, or even on Dilma. But you have to admit that Cláudio must have special abilities to achieve something like that. On each of those occasions, his yellow car's tires were punctured; the first happened at a location where there was a big signboard with the ominous words FOME E SEDE written on it.

I have to say one thing though, Cláudio was able to convince the insurance guys to come and rescue us in less than half an hour after the incident. Impressive!

One with the Gift of the Gab

As a true Italian-Paulistano, Cláudio has the gift of the gab (*habilidade e inclinação para bater papo*). He can strike up a conversation with

¹Buracos nas ruas



Figure 2: Dois amigos, Florence (2008)

anybody anywhere. These days, jokes concerning a certain politician are his favourite!

When he is in Campinas, he goes to a Gym five days a week. He spends an hour and a half there and comes home happy, having sufficiently exercised his lungs, and also some other parts of his body.

Life is hardly ever dull when Cláudio is around.

A Family Man and a Good Friend

Cláudio's late wife Luisa was a lovely person. The three of us had a memorable time visiting Tuscony and, especially, Lucca. Maybe that is where the *loucura* comes from!

He has three amiable children and is close to them. They reciprocate his affection and look after him well.

Cláudio has been a steadfast friend to me. On my recent visit to Brazil, he put me up and put up with me!

Marcelo, Cláudio and I have been working together for nearly twenty years. I am losing steam, but Cláudio shows



Figure 3: With Luisa and Cláudio, Tuscany (2008)

no sign of slowing down. May that remain the case for many more years to come!



Figure 4: Father, Son and the Unholy Devil, Waterloo (2015)

Cláudio with Two Infamous Authors



Figure 5: Budapest (2008)

Our Guru with his Guru



Figure 6: Them, of that Famous Eponymous Theorem, Waterloo (2015)

And a Good Example

Cláudio is a well-rounded man in the sense that he is many faceted; he is learned, honest, a good teacher and a good friend.

As his students would vouch, there is a lot to learn by following his example.

But I should end with a word of caution:

BE AWARE THAT INTELLIGENCE HAS ITS
HAZARDS.

(This is a repetition of what I had said at Cláudio's sixtieth birthday conference in Rio. He is now ten years older, but is no less smarter.)

Happy birthday Cláudio

May you live a long time to enlighten and entertain
us

Your friends and well-wishers