Mathematics 3830H – A Survey of the History of Mathematics
Trent University, Winter 2025
Assignment #5
Unusual Applications of Higher Mathematics
Due on Friday, 4 April.*

Read *A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Big Game Hunting* by H. Pétard, which can be found in various formats on the internet, and then answer the following:

1. Find out as much as you can about the author, H. Pétard, and the author's spiritual ancestor, N. Bourbaki. *[5]*

2. Devise an original contribution or three to the mathematical theory of big game hunting. *[5]*

Reference

1. *A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Big Game Hunting*, by H. Pétard, *The American Mathematical Monthly*, Vol. 45, No. 7, (Aug.–Sept., 1938), pp. 446-447. A scanned pdf of this publication can be found at

   `https://gwern.net/doc/math/humor/1938-petard.pdf`

   among other places and formats. Many followups to this article are out there as well.

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*   Please submit your solutions, preferably as a single pdf, via Blackboard's Assignments module. If that fails, please submit them to the instructor on paper or via email to `sbilaniuk@trentu.ca` as soon as you can.