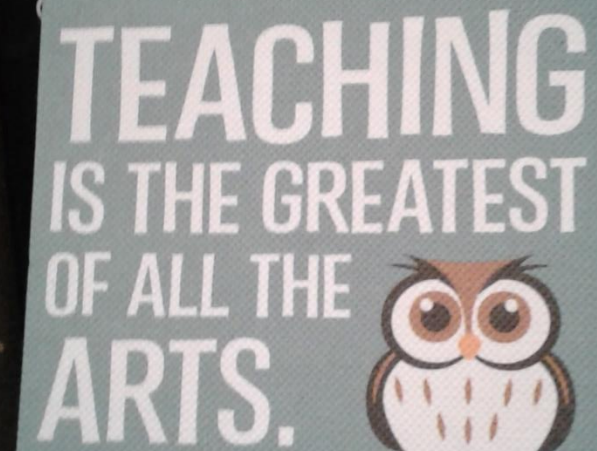


Call Me Mete: A Remembrance

P. Gülkan



TEACHING
IS THE GREATEST
OF ALL THE
ARTS.



- Reductionist
- Iconoclast
- Scientific method or death: all theories needed to be confirmed by rigorous observation or be discarded.
- Erudition
- Held that teaching was the greatest of all arts.
- Did not suffer fools or supercilious individuals.
- Believed insurmountable odds could be overcome.
- Took pleasure to shock.

Reductionism:

Procedure or theory that reduces complex data or phenomena to readily understood, simple terms.

Iconoclast:

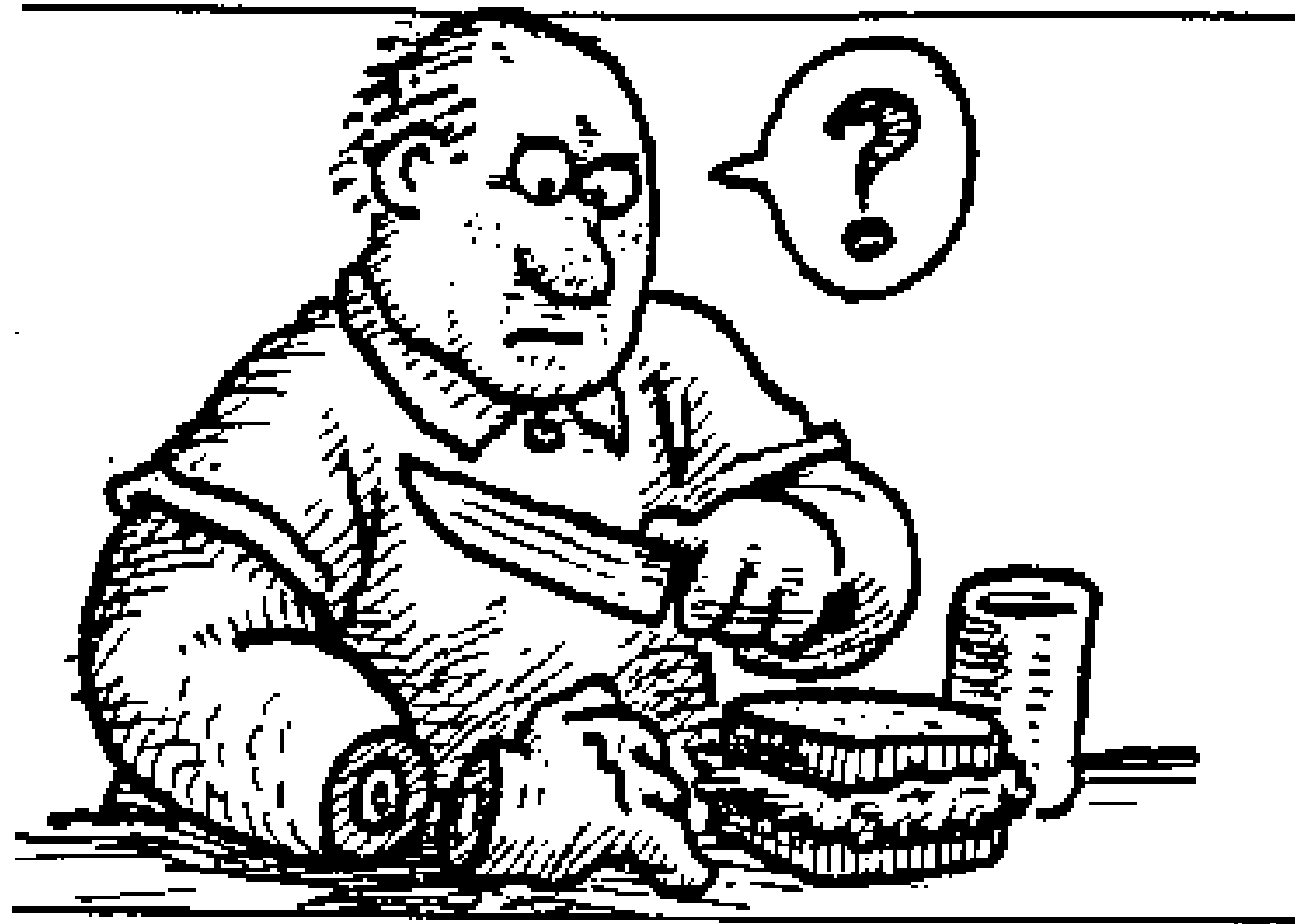
Critical of settled beliefs or institutions (and, not infrequently, people)

THE BASIC LAWS OF HUMAN STUPIDITY

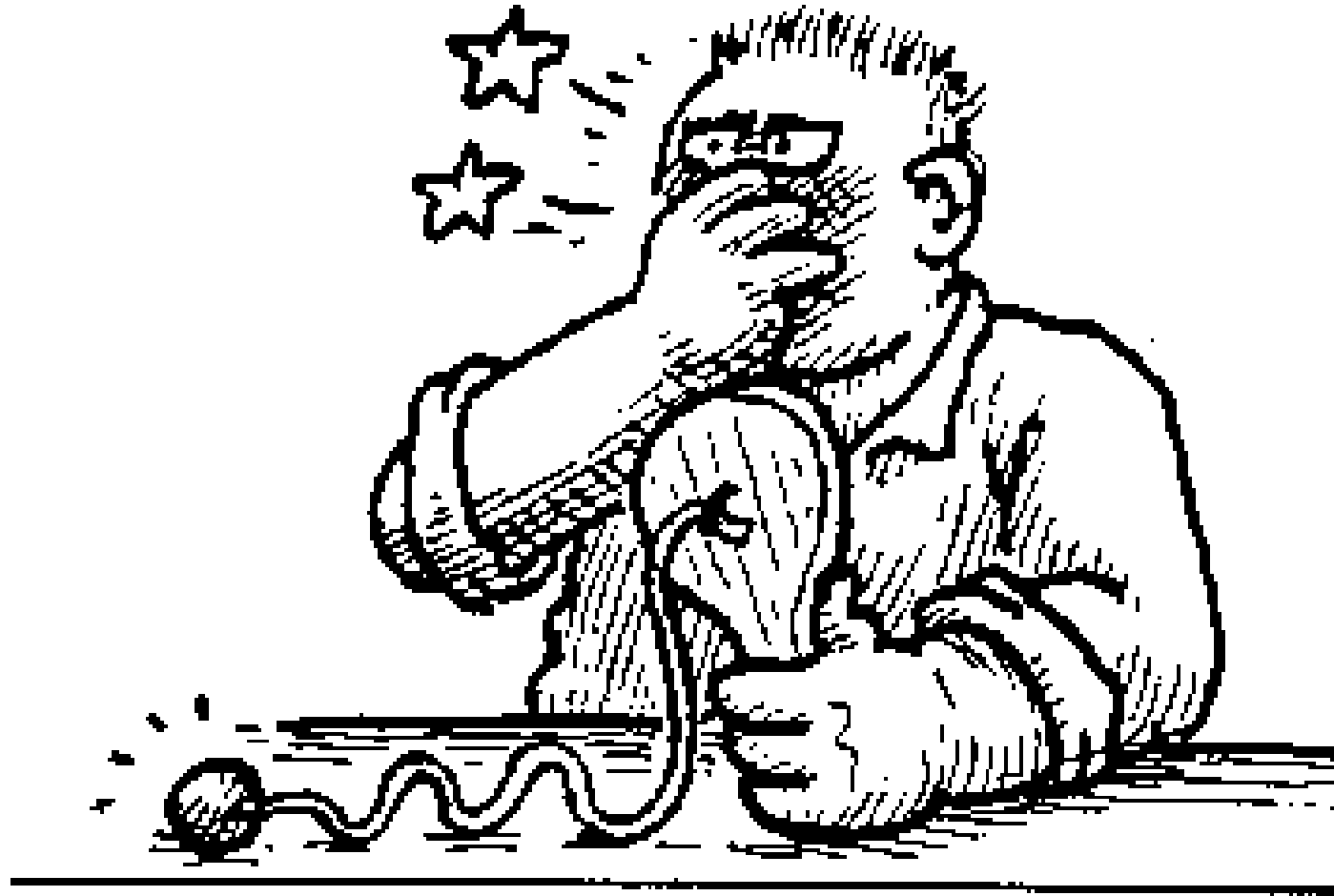
By **Carlo M. Cipolla**

Illustrations by James Donnelly

Law #1: Always and inevitably everyone underestimates the number of stupid individuals in circulation.



Law #2: The probability that a certain person be stupid is independent of any other characteristic of that person. The most remarkable fact about the frequency of stupidity is that Nature succeeds in making this frequency equal to the probability quite independently from the size of the group.



Flair and a rare flamboyant style in writing:

The SDOF has two supreme advantages. It is easy to implement and it is difficult to believe it is an accurate representation of the building.

About design for earthquake demands: The only thing that matters is deflection.

Analysis is done to compare competing systems, not to predict!

There are two types of engineers: those who look and don't think and those who think and don't look.

There is a tendency that engineering runs the risk of becoming a pseudoscience because there are many who can't tell the difference between factual statements and empty logical formulations born from sloppy thought.

We learn more from failures than from successes.

My colleagues design tests of structures to failure, and then are very surprised to find that they do fail.

There is no logic to testing specimens according to a protocol of seismic loading that will never materialize during an earthquake.

Always guess before you calculate.

A column in a modern multistory building is to a classical temple what a caryatid is to a Daliesque beauty.

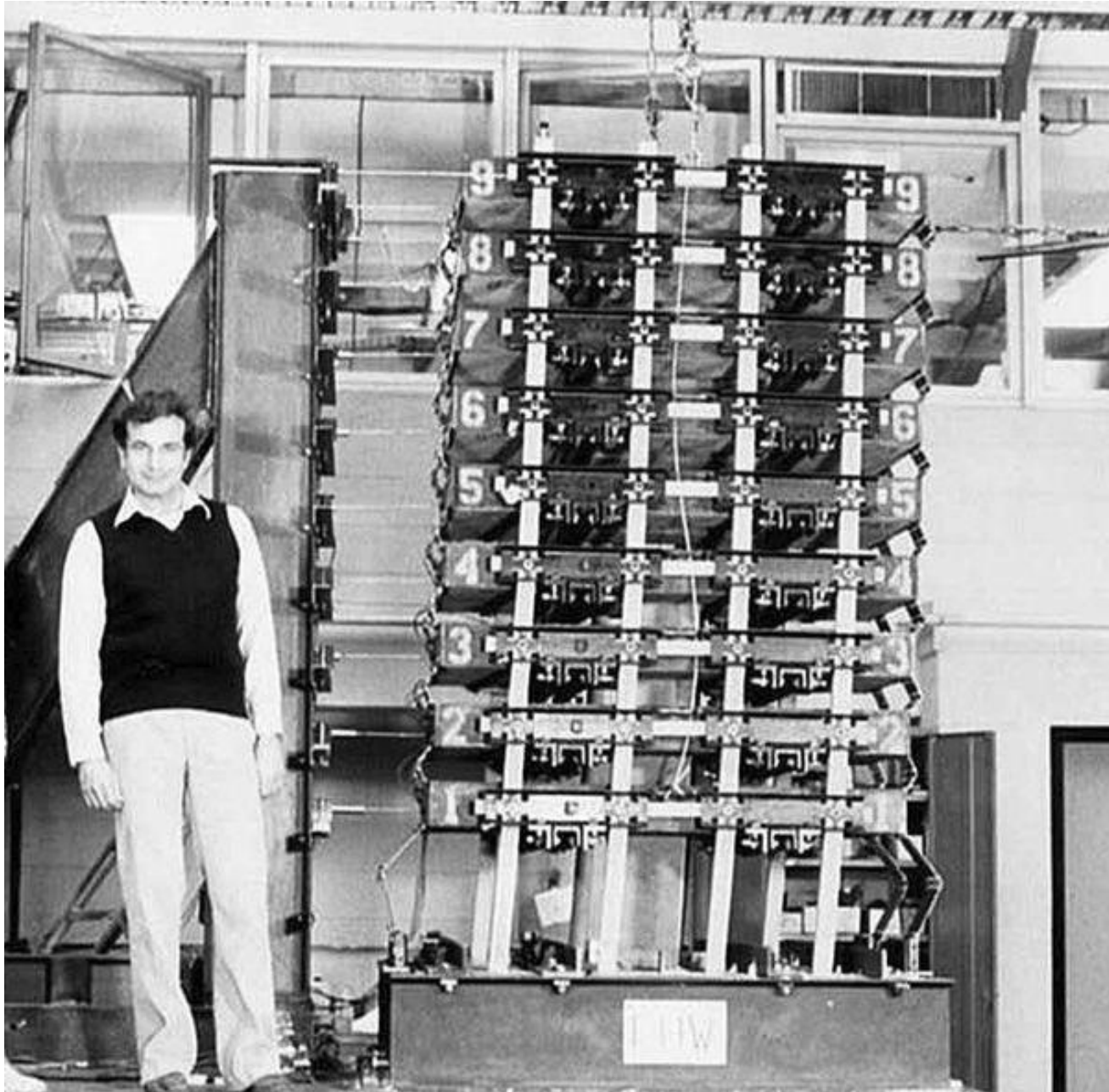
Westergaard said: a simple device yields 80 percent of the truth. (The rest requires not-so-simple devices.)

Is the exact analysis of an approximate model good enough as an approximate analysis of the exact model?

It has been said that it took an age to understand Aristotle and another age to forget him. Hardy Cross may have been forgotten even before he was understood.

A statistician always carries a bomb in his bag each time he boards a plane because he figures that the chances of two passengers doing so on the same flight would be negligibly small.

Sometimes the silliest drivel comes adorned with the most arcane mathematics.



The shake table story.





What if one those earthquakes that we know occurred in Istanbul in the past were to occur again?

The Doğanbey group of policy makers who assembled to formulate a governmental policy to respond to the question above (June, 2005).

Several of the participants had served in state or national governments, and knew what language needed to be used to make them hear the message.

