

“Politics is for the present, but an equation is for eternity.” —Albert Einstein

The Trivial Notions Seminar  
Proudly Announces

How to vote

A talk by  
Thomas Barnett-Lamb

**Abstract**

With the midterm elections approaching, our minds naturally turn to voting problems. This talk will be a smorgasbord of topics connected by this common theme. For example, I will talk about Arrow's theorem, which shows that if there are more than two possible outcomes, designing a reasonable voting system is not possible with a finite population, and about some combinatorial results about what happens when you hold elections where every voter is completely clueless about which way they should vote. Applications or otherwise of the latter topic to contemporary politics will not be covered.

Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 2:00 pm  
Science Center 507