

A.1 Alpha Ward



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Difficulty: Medium

cisra Puzzle Competition 2007
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

You wake up feeling groggy. What's that weight on your chest? You try to get up, but find you are strapped to your bed. Your vision clears in time to see a nurse in a white coat cajole a patient in a white strait-jacket down a sanitary white-walled corridor. You notice a sign on the wall – "Alpha Ward". A waft of insanity permeates the air.

You must have made some noise – an asylum nurse walks your way. Was that a predatory grin on her face? Panic rising, you try to talk to her: "What am I doing here? I don't belong here."

She smirks, "Be good and you can play a game today!" She pauses and looks around. "In fact, since you haven't soiled your bed today, I'll give you something to read! Do you know your ABC's?"

She picks up a folded sheet of paper from a clean white bin and stands it up on your chest, walking away. "Now just wait a minute..." you manage to sputter, before her brisk walk takes her around the corner. You try to calm yourself by studying the paper, but soon have a feeling of missing something. What kind of brain-washing mantra is this?

Repeat twice: Five guys, a girl and their father (in a radiation outfit) went to a country, a Canadian province and a city. There they met two Greeks, an African and an American. They danced twice (to critical acclaim), had a drink in a pub, played a sport, and before December they founded a software company.

