

The Persistent Mathematician

Smith is one who will not give up easily. This is obvious in her work, and her many accomplishments. She did have a support system, but there were men and women who tried to discourage her in continuing to research mathematics. She did not let this stop her. I believe that any mathematician will tell you that you need a lot of confidence in yourself to prove new theorems. One simple comment addressed to a mathematician can have a strong psychological effect on him/her. Since Smith received a Ph.D. in mathematics, I can assume that she remained focused and was not affected by sexist comments.