

CHANCES ARE

Georgia Tech's Peter J. Mucha spends long hours contemplating the mysteries of particle systems and creating models of, say, velocity fluctuation in sedimentation. At our request, he applied his prodigious mental powers to less academic theorizing. Using order-of-magnitude calculations, Dr. Mucha calculated the odds of:

Attending an Atlanta sports home game and seeing a win (based on combined at-home records for Braves, Falcons, Hawks and Thrashers for the past five years):

49%

Winning the Georgia Lottery's standard "Cash 3" game at least once out of 500 tries (using the same three-digit number each time):

39%

Meeting a person at random in Atlanta who was actually born here (based on migration data from the Chamber of Commerce and some admittedly broad assumptions):

33.3%

Missing school because of snow (based on reports by Fulton County Schools in the past five years):

0.2%

Getting caught on the Atlanta Hawks "Kiss Cam" and forced to smooch the person next to you (based on demographic data and "Kiss Cam" details provided by the team):

0.1%

—JOEL GROOVER

CORPORATE ESPIONAGE

DRUMMING UP BUSINESS

An Atlanta consulting company claims that employees who make **MUSIC** together stick together.

By Collette Parker

THE SEMINAR BEGINS WITH coffee, lectures and name badges.

Then, returning after a break, you notice a beautiful, handcrafted drum on your chair—on every chair. Five musicians in African clothing begin drumming. No one has introduced them, but all eyes are on the musicians. After a minute your co-worker from three cubicles down picks up her drum and joins in. Before you can say "percussion," the entire auditorium is drumming to one beat.

You and your colleagues have fallen under the influence of Drum Café, an unconventional alternative to tired human resource-plays like trust walks and train diagrams. The experience is about nonverbal connections and finding one rhythm—just as a company must find one vision for its employees. "When people play music

together, they become part of the same team," says Jo-Ann Radus, director of the Atlanta office and one of the group's founders.

Drum Café has performed for 180 of the world's top 400 corporations in 19 countries, according to Radus, and for audiences as large as 3,000 or as small as a handful of people. Atlanta clients have included

began to join in. "I didn't want to tell anyone ahead of time because I didn't want them to have preconceived notions," says Hansen. She and Radus had discussed SunTrust's message for the retreat, which was

that while busy employees don't always have time to communicate, they need to stay in tune. To reinforce the concept, Radus presented messages about the value of synchronization between drumming exercises. "It was an incredible experience," says Hansen. "Even reserved and serious people were drumming. . . . I had no idea how captivating it would be."

Drum Café was the brainchild of master drummers from Johannesburg, South Africa. "Apartheid was ending at that time, and South Africa had 11 national languages," explains Radus. "We figured we could use drumming to bring unity to businesses that badly needed it." Nine years later, Drum Café has grown to England, Australia, Canada and the United States.



Georgia Power, Georgia-Pacific and Delta Air Lines.

Last winter, Gail Hansen, director of corporate training for SunTrust, booked Drum Café as a surprise for training staff. As the 75 SunTrust trainers entered the room, drummers played for 20 minutes while tentative employees