Report on "Proof of a conjecture of Philippe Di Francesco and Paul Zinn-Justin related to the qKZ equation and to Dave Robbins' Two Favorite Combinatorial Objects".

(by P. Di Francesco)

The proof presented in this paper is very clear and concise, and beautifully written. It proceeds by induction, and uses the Lagrange interpolation polynomial in its concluding step, in a remarkably compact and efficient manner. The two following remarks could improve both conciseness and clarity though, the third is just a spelling correction.

1-the proof of the Simple Fact can be simplified, while keeping the same spirit, by noting that $\prod_{i<j}(z_j - z_i)(T + z_i + z_j) = \prod_{i<j}(w_j - w_i)$, where $w_i = (z_i + T/2)^2$, from which it becomes immediately clear that each monomial in the z expansion misses at least one of the z variables.

2-the proof of (IntriguingIdentity) might be made slightly more reader-friendly by adding some extra hint, say after the last equation: "manipulating the obvious cancellations, we find that the two last terms on the r.h.s. are equal to $(-1)^n$, and we finally get that (IntriguingIdentity) is indeed true".

3-the name Di Francesco is spelled with a capitalized "d", as is often the case when italian particles lose their nobiliary character over the years.