On 23 June 1993 Wiles gave a lecture at the Isaac Newton Institute in Cambridge. This was the moment immediately after he announced his proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. He, along with everyone else in the room, had no idea of the nightmare ahead.

Hi. Andrew gave his first talk today. He did not announce a proof of Taniyama-Shimura, but he is moving in that direction and he has two more lectures. He is still being very secretive about the final result.

My best guess is that he is going to prove that if \( E \) is an elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{Q} \) and the Galois representation on the points of order 3 on \( E \) satisfies certain hypotheses, then \( E \) is modular.

From what he has said it seems he will not prove the full conjecture. What I don’t know is whether this will apply to Frey’s curve, and therefore say something about Fermat. I’ll keep you posted.

Karl Rubin
Ohio State University

Date: Tue, 22 Jun 1993 13:10:39
Subject: Wiles

No more real news in today’s lecture. Andrew stated a general theorem about lifting Galois representations along the lines I suggested yesterday. It does not seem to apply to all elliptic curves but the punchline will come tomorrow.

I don’t really know why he is doing it this way. It’s clear that he knows what he is going to say tomorrow. This is a truly massive piece of work that he has been working on for years, and he seems confident of it. I’ll let you know what happens tomorrow.

Karl Rubin
Ohio State University

Subject: Gap in Wiles proof?
Date: 18 Nov 1993 21:04:49 GMT

There are many rumours buzzing around about one or more gaps in Wiles' proof. Does gap mean crack, fissure, crevasse, chasm, or abyss? Does anyone have reliable information?

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