

In a 1966 lecture at Sussex, Hugo Steinhaus (author of *Mathematical Snapshots*) conjectured that every smooth loop in  $R^3$  has a pair of parallel tangent lines. The very next day, Beniamino Segre responded with a lecture claiming to construct a loop having no such pair—what M. Ghomi and I term a **skewloop**. Segre's construction had gaps, but he eventually published a correct version, together with many other interesting results, such as:  $S^2$  admits no skew loops. I will discuss Segre's work and explain recent extensions by Ghomi and myself. Studying the relationship between skew loops and surfaces, for instance, we prove a strong converse to Segre's result which implies in particular that among all compact surfaces in  $R^3$ , ellipsoids admit no skew loops.