

# NOESIS

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EDITOR

R. Rosner

5711 Rhodes Ave

N. Hollywood CA 91607-1627

(818) 985-5230

Note: Dues remain \$2.00 per issue, payable to Rosner, not Mega or Noesis. You still earn one issue per two pages of published items. Please submit mucho (concise, interesting) material.

(I recently received a small item concerning a guy ejaculating in his pants. I've learned from running my own material in that vein that it angers too many readers. So, no more stuff about spoojing unless it's so damn wonderful it cannot be denied.)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

LETTER FROM CHRIS LANGAN TO ROBERT DICK

NORMING #1 OF THE LANGDON INT. GRADIENT HIGH-RANGE TEST

THE MÖBIUS TEST, BY CYRIL EDWARDS AND KEVIN LANGDON

LETTER FROM PAUL MAXIM

HOW INTELLIGENT IS ISPE? BY PAUL MAXIM

LETTER FROM PAUL MAXIM DISSING KEVIN LANGDON'S IQ  
ACCOMPANIED BY MATERIAL WRITTEN BY KEVIN LANGDON

THE KORMES CASE AND ITS AFTERMATH, BY PAUL MAXIM

LETTER FROM PAUL MAXIM TO SOME ISPE GUY ABOUT, AMONG OTHER  
THINGS, USING NOESIS AS AN OPEN FORUM

## LETTER FROM CHRIS LANGAN TO ROBERT DICK

Dear Bob Dick:

I'm pleased that you've replied to my letter in a more or less coherent way, at least as regards form. That is, content aside, you put your remarks in a way that seems to admit of meaningful response. I'll proceed in chronological order.

In your first letter, you begin by inviting me to insult you at will. Inasmuch as *you* were the one calling *me* stupid, your invitation seems a bit hypocritical. If insults damage the credibility of those who use them, then I suggest that you reassess your own before carrying on.

You say I have a "remarkably short memory" But I don't, at least by common standards. What I *do* have is an apparent tendency to overestimate the extent to which others can comprehend and recall what I've written. If I err, it would seem that I err in your favor.

You say you don't know what I mean by "reality". In light of our interaction to date, I confess that this doesn't surprise me. Reality is defined on two mathematical concepts, *relevance* and *closure*; it is a mathematical system, generated by cognition, which is closed with respect to relevance. I.e., that which has an effect that you can perceive is real; by extension, so is anything that has an effect that has...an effect that can affect either you or that which you can ultimately affect. Nothing else is. This "recursive definition" requires a set of careful qualifications, but suffices for purposes of logical analysis. Notice that it is a doorway through which all kinds of fantasy and irrationality can gain access to reality, given only a foothold in the mind of an intelligent creature such as you...to which, however, they are confined in certain important respects.

Next, you admit that your remarks have been "rather hostile". I commend your honesty.

You profess indifference to the physical thrust of Newcomb's paradox, then claim interest in its "religious and interpersonal" aspects. Yet, any religion which fails to account for physics, especially as it relates to free will, is a joke. Personalities, of course, have no bearing whatsoever.

You claim I garbled your remarks about the Pope and Mensa. I disagree. While I concur that the reigning Pope is relatively intelligent, he is a human being with a weighty interest in denying and suppressing any ideology which, by claiming logical dominion over his own, provides an avenue through which his "divine authority" might be challenged. This would seem to render otiose any attempt to convert him to a disinterested way of thinking. Second, religious language - especially as Popes are wont to use it - appeals more to tradition and the emotions than to logic and the intellect. Thus, regardless of his personal saintliness and intelligence, the Pope is unlikely to display much understanding towards anything that falls outside an artificially narrow range of discourse (with due respect to the papacy of John Paul II, once you begin talking about politicized institutions and the mentalities they breed, you are obviously no longer talking about pure spirituality).

On the other hand, some intelligent people may still see the value of logical discourse about religion and admit the possibility that someone has achieved a verifiable formulation of religious knowledge. But regarding them, your point is trivial.

You imply that I judge a person's intelligence by whether or not he agrees with me. On the contrary, I judge him not by his unconditional agreement with everything I say, but by his considered agreement with that part of my work which has already been logically justified. However, as I carefully justify most of what I write in *Noesis*, your statement is as good as true for its readers.

I agree with you that I should be trying to convince people that my religious insights are good. But persuasion is a two-way street, and failure can be less the fault of an expositor than of his audience. Had Einstein's primary audience consisted of art historians instead of other theoretical physicists, he could scarcely have been blamed for an inability to persuade them of relativity theory. Thus, when you

suggest that my (Mega Society) audience is free of blame in the persuasion department, you seem less than evenhanded. After all, if my explanations were always as opaque as you imply, you or any other member could at any time have requested clarification. In any case, I have a hunch I'll soon be concentrating on a larger and somewhat less passive readership.

In your second letter, you accuse me of saying that "everyone has his price". This is very close to the exact opposite of what I actually said. What I said was this: there is a definite threshold above which individual human utility is priceless, but below which it can be represented by a universal social convention called "money", and that it is in principle mathematically possible to achieve a monetary definition of rationality within this restricted economic domain.

You state that I write in "an unconventional uneducated style", and then ask that I correct you if you are wrong. Well, your wish is my command. First, synopsis and didactic repetition are devices I've used many times in *Noesis*. Second, a proposal for further work would be appropriate only in a grant proposal or in communicating with a research group whose members invest time and credit in each other's work. And third, when your readers are playing blind, deaf and dumb, the last thing you want to do is bury them under a pile of "lemmas, theorems, and corollaries". The axiomatic method may be welcome in math journals and textbooks - I used it to communicate some of my work to our famous fellow member, Professor Thorp - but is a calculated turnoff anywhere else. Good math instructors usually avoid it in their introductory courses, and even bad ones know that certain logical relations - e.g., much of what you call "spaghetti code" - unavoidably involve looping, recursive definitions best conveyed by analogy and generalization.

Last but not least, we come to what seems to be the real problem. Having cataloged my "defects" as a writer, you crown your critique with my worst "character flaw" of all: I like to get the last word, use it in my own behalf, and convey the impression that I'm right.

If defending truth is the same as pretending to be infallible, then I'm guilty as charged. One who lets his audience be distracted by smut, crankery or diversionary trivia gives up any hope of communicating anything of value to anybody, and I'm not one to roll over so easily when I see a lot at stake. Now, I don't deny having made my share of minor mistakes in life, and I reserve the right to make yet more. That is, I make no effort to deny that I'm human, at least with respect to the occasional oversight. But when it comes to things I consider important, the care I take in forming my conclusions makes them highly resistant to criticism, particularly of an emotional or inexperienced variety. If it makes you feel better, I can apologize for being right so often. But since the effect on your feelings would be temporary at best, you'd be better off resigning yourself to the facts.

Aside from my timeworn, repetitive request that you take the time and care to read what I write, that's the best advice I can give you. Since I'm in the process of taking some of *yours*, you might finally consider reciprocating.

As an inducement, let me close with the opinion of a reasonably intelligent acquaintance of mine who happened to see a couple of back issues of *Noesis* lying on my desk. Scanning them, she asked to know the "grade level" of its contributors. When I informed her, not without embarrassment, that these contributors were supposed to have some of the world's highest IQ's, she revealed her initial estimate: "in or near the eighth grade", which she associated with a level of maturity above which nobody could possibly countenance such puerile nonsense. I told her that I was trying to improve the journal's quality, but was getting little cooperation. Then she inquired how long I'd been at it. At this point, embarrassment gave way to something uncomfortably like apology. Given the likelihood that other members have had similar experiences, don't you think it's time we all pulled together to bring this group more in line with rational expectations arising from its exalted definition?

Chris Langan

# Langdon Intellectual Gradient High-range Test

by Kevin Langdon

**Statistical Report**  
Norming #1, February 1, 1996

The *Langdon Intellectual Gradient High-range Test (LIGHT)* was distributed to attendees at American Mensa's Annual Gathering in San Francisco in July 1992 and printed in a number of high-I.Q.-society newsletters. The test is composed of 40 items, including 30 items drawn from the *Langdon Adult Intelligence Test (LAIT)*, 1977, published in *Omni*, April 1979; no longer scored) and ten new items. The scoring deadline for the test was December 31, 1993.

Thirty people submitted answer sheets before the deadline. They are the population on which this norming study is based. These 30 people reported a total of 52 scores on previously-taken tests, of which only 22 (on three tests, the *LSFIT*, the *Graduate Record Examination* and the *Mega Test*) were used in norming the *LIGHT*. The author and publisher of the *Mega Test* is Dr. Ronald K. Hoeflin (P.O. Box 539, New York, NY 10101).

A sample of thirty is so small that this cannot be regarded as more than a preliminary norming, despite the fact that the distribution of scores is statistically reasonable.

More than three previous scores were reported for only six tests. Of these, three (the *Scholastic Aptitude Test*, the *California Test of Mental Maturity*, and the *Cattell Verbal*), do not have sufficient ceiling to discriminate accurately within the highly selected population of testees reporting usable previous scores, whose mean I.Q. was 151.0 (the mean for all testees was 140.8).

Table 1  
Number, Mean I.Q. on the Previous Test (sigma = 16),  
*LIGHT* Scaled Score Mean, and Correlation with Scaled Scores  
for the Six Most Frequently Reported Previous Tests

Test	Number	Prev. Mean	Scaled Mean	Correlation with LIGHT
SAT	7	147	61	.87
LSFIT	9	151	63	.85
GRE	4	153	63	.56
Mega Test	9	150	64	.54
CTMM	5	135	14	.50
Cattell Verbal	6	135	28	.47

Preliminary weighted scores were calculated, with each item weighted by the reciprocal of the number of testees answering the item correctly. The point biserial correlation of each item with these weighted scores was computed. Scaled scores were calculated, with each item weighted by its point biserial correlation divided by the number of testees who answered the item correctly. A scaled score of 0 corresponds to an I.Q. of 113; a scaled score of 100 would correspond to an I.Q. of 173.

*LSFIT*, *GRE*, and *Mega* score pairs were weighted by the correlation of the previous test involved, for each pair, with *LIGHT* scaled scores, in computing and equating scaled and previous score means and average deviations and in computing standard deviations and the overall correlation of scaled scores with previous scores used, which was .65.

Average deviations were used instead of standard deviations in test equating, because the standard deviations of the far-right-tail samples involved in norming tests designed to assess very high I.Q.'s are highly susceptible to distortion by a few outlying points, due to the squared term involved. Using average deviations reduces this problem to a manageable level and improves the accuracy of the resulting scaling of raw scores to I.Q. Standard deviation was set at 16 in calculating I.Q.'s.

The reliability of the *LIGHT*, calculated using Kuder-Richardson formula 20, is .98. This is extremely high, especially for such a small sample, and must be regarded as a statistical anomaly. The standard error of measurement is 5.2 scaled score points, or 2.7 points of I.Q. The norming method used aims for maximum accuracy at the high end; the *LIGHT* is probably most accurate between two and four standard deviations above the general population mean. The floor of the *LIGHT* is three points lower than that of the *LAIT*, as is its ceiling.

Table 2  
Scatter Diagram of *LIGHT* and Previous Scores  
Used in Norming, in Standard Deviations Above the Mean

		LIGHT													
		1.25	1.75	2.25	2.75	3.25	3.75	4.25						Total	
		1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00								
P	1.25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
r	1.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
e	1.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
v	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
i	2.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
o	2.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	
u	2.75	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	
s	3.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	6	
S	3.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
c	3.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	
o	3.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	
r	4.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	
e	Total	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	2	0	3	22

Table 3  
 Mean, Average Deviation, Standard Deviation,  
 and Correlation with *LIGHT* (where applicable) of *LIGHT*  
 and Reported Previous Score Distributions

Test	Number	Mean	Average Deviation	Standard Deviation	Correlation with LSFIT
LIGHT Total (Scaled)	30	44.8	32.5	35.1	
LIGHT Total (I.Q.)	30	140.8	19.5	21.1	
LIGHT Used (Scaled)	22	63.4	14.5	26.1	
LIGHT Used (I.Q.)	22	151.0	8.7	13.1	
LSFIT/GRE/Mega	22	3.19	.55	.82	.65
SAT	7	2.97	.27	.34	.87
LSFIT	9	3.19	.74	.91	.85
GRE	4	3.29	.39	.47	.56
Mega Test	9	3.15	.30	.43	.54
CTMM	5	2.21	.55	.63	.50
Cattell Verbal	6	2.21	.23	.28	.47

Note: Previous score means are in standard deviations above the mean of the general population; average deviations and standard deviations are in general population standard deviation units.

Table 4  
 I.Q.'s and Tested Group Percentiles  
 Corresponding to Scaled Scores

Scaled Score	I.Q.	Tested Group %ile	Scaled Score	I.Q.	Tested Group %ile	Scaled Score	I.Q.	Tested Group %ile
00	113	00	35	134	33	70	155	76
05	116	13	40	137	33	75	158	80
10	119	13	45	140	36	80	161	90
15	122	23	50	143	36	85	164	90
20	125	30	55	146	36	90	167	90
25	128	30	60	149	46	95	170	93
30	131	33	65	152	66	97	171	96

Table 5  
Distribution of I.Q. Scores Obtained by 30 *LIGHT* Testees

IQ Range	Number	IQ Range	Number	IQ Range	Number
113-115	5	136-139	1	160-163	3
116-119	0	140-143	0	164-167	0
120-123	3	144-147	2	168-171	2
124-127	2	148-151	6	172-173	0
128-131	1	152-155	4		
132-135	0	156-159	1		

Table 6  
Number Tested and Mean I.Q. for Selected Groups

Group	Number	Mean I.Q.	Society I.Q. Cutoff
Total	30	140.8	
Males	24	143.3	
Females	4	129.0	
Age 20-29	1	121.0	
Age 30-39	10	142.6	
Age 40-49	6	143.2	
Age 50-59	2	160.0	
Age 60-69	1	113.0	
Age 70-79	2	113.0	
Mensa	16	140.6	133
Top One Pct.	5	138.8	138
Intertel	8	140.6	138
ISPE	3	145.0	150
One-in-1000	2	149.5	150
Triple Nine	8	151.6	150
Prometheus	2	158.0	164
Four Sigma	1	169.0	164
Mega	2	151.0	176

Polymath Systems, P.O. Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701

# The Möbius Test

by Cyril Edwards and Kevin Langdon

This is a high-range intelligence test of an unusual type. It is highly loaded on both *g*, the general factor in intelligence, and intellectual creativity.

A preliminary version of this test was developed and circulated by Cyril Edwards in 1978. The preliminary test was taken by a number of members of various high-I.Q. societies, but was never normed. The test in its present form contains fifteen items by Cyril Edwards and five items by Kevin Langdon, who edited the present form.

It is assumed that the testee has been exposed to the subject matter of a college-preparatory high school curriculum. No additional background is needed to solve the items contained in the test.

While some of the items may seem strange, each item has at least one correct answer. Most of the items have a single correct answer.

*The Möbius Test* does not have a separate answer sheet. Please provide the general information requested on page one, mark your answers on the test itself (or a copy), and submit it for scoring, with a scoring fee of \$12 (U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank, please). You will receive a score report, including a scaled score, tested-group and general-population percentiles, and I.Q., within six to eight weeks.

Because your markings may provide help for others taking the test, please do not share a marked-up copy of the test with another person. You may obtain a fresh copy of the test by sending either a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope or a dollar bill to Polymath Systems, P.O. Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships in High-I.Q. Societies (past and present): \_\_\_\_\_

## Scores on Previously Taken I.Q. and Aptitude Tests

Please provide total I.Q. score for Polymath Systems tests, raw score for tests published by Dr. Ronald K. Hoeflin, and total scaled score for the SAT and GRE. Do not list tests whose names you don't know, percentiles, or scores indicated as a range or with a plus sign (e.g., "150 +").

Test	Score	Year Taken
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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13



How many of the above constitute a complete set? \_\_\_\_\_

29

1. This problem, along with the clues for its solution, is composed of exactly one hundred words grouped into nine sentences of various lengths.
2. No two are of the same length and they have been numbered to make it easy to count them.
3. They are arranged by length, and you are encouraged to verify that fact if you doubt it.
4. If this arrangement seems odd, you are primarily correct, with one minor exception.
5. Careful examination of the clues provided should reveal the correct solution.
6. Indicate the solution by underlining one word.
7. A lucky guess is unlikely.
8. You are warned.
9. Happy hunting.

14

Although Bill can't detect every false greenback, he is judiciously keeping less money...

Select an appropriate continuation for the sentence above by underlining one word in each column.

currently

above

expenditures

lately

beyond

necessities

now

exceeding

purchases

today

over

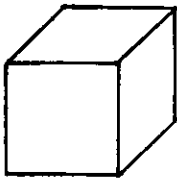
requirements

17

Having solved the preceding problem, you should now be able to provide an equally appropriate three- or four-word comment to justify your choice.

\_\_\_\_\_

5



8

S \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_  
M \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_  
G \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_  
L \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_  
R \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

3

Complete the indicated multiplication.

$$\begin{array}{r} \phantom{x} \phantom{2} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \\ x \phantom{2} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \\ \hline \phantom{2} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \\ \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \\ \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \\ \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \\ \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \\ \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \phantom{-} \end{array}$$

7

Complete the words in the true statement below:

All T \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_.

10

On entry to this problem, it would be well to begin with reexamination of our counting and spelling. (If I've any doubts, I X-ray.) You might perhaps even weigh this problem; if you use the proper instrument, this won't be an inept endeavor.

Please underline your solution.

6

!

—

2

All of the terms below relate, directly or indirectly, to the use of language. Additionally, a number of them indicate another set. Provision has been made for you to identify them in an appropriate manner.

I  
 D O  
 A C T  
 T A L K  
 F A B L E  
 S C R E E D  
 O R A T O R Y  
 P A R A B L E  
 E L U C I D A T E  
 E L L I P S I S  
 H Y P E R    B O L E  
 D I A L E C T O L O G Y  
 P R E V A R I C A T O R Y  
 C I R C U M L    C U T I O N

31

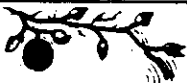
J	3
A	2
M	2
—	1
—	1
—	1
—	1
—	1

10

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \hline \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

The sum of the above answers is 1011.

3



-----



2

Finding a pattern embedded in this, the echo cognition problem, engenders insight. Work out unknown condition. Group units; like elements go together.

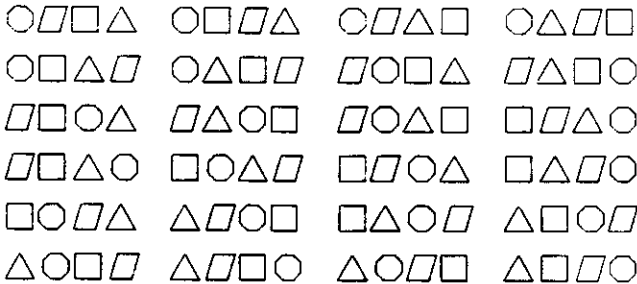
6

Complete the rightmost column of the table appropriately.

⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊖	
⊘	⊘	⊖	⊖	⊖	
⊘	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	
⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊖	
⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊖	
□	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	

26

There are twenty-four possible permutations of any four objects. The ones below have been arranged in four columns of six groups each. All of the groups in one of the columns share a certain unique property. Once you discover this property, you should be able to indicate your solution in the figures of the appropriate column.



11

Perpendicular alignment supplies concealed algebraic line.

1

2

6

20

70

\_\_\_\_\_

2

Study and, finding new forms, solve logical conundrum. Key concept, discerned, links central words elegantly--isolate.

7

Although some of these problems may seem impossible to solve, each of them has a logical solution. Attempts to work the problems should not degenerate into making random associations. Some of the problems have hidden aspects; one must carefully examine parts of speech, tenses, and cases. Unexpected connections may appear. For example, one of the problems features two additional members of a class defined by another problem. You may indicate your answer by underlining two of the words in the problem you are reading now.

Submit your completed test form, with \$12 for scoring  
(U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank), to:

Polymath Systems, P.O. Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701

There is no scoring fee for test answers postmarked on or before June 30, 1996.

Mid-March, 1996

Mr. Rick Rosner  
NOESIS Editor

Dear Rick: I received on March 16 my copy of NOESIS No. 114 (January). Hence, I would like to congratulate you on getting yourself "back into business" after your relocation.

My first order of business is to correct certain mistakes and errors which have appeared in my prior NOESIS submissions, to wit:

1. In the second part of my monograph, entitled "A Cryptopoeia by Mallarmé" (NOESIS, December 1995), I incorrectly listed the perihelion velocity of Comet 1882 II as "360 miles per second," whereas it was closer to 297 miles per second. The "360" number pertains symbolically to sungrazing comets by representing the fastest velocity attained by any of these comets, particularly those which came within .005 A.U. of the Sun. Hence, if we were to phrase a question, "What solar system object reaches a velocity of 360 mps, and "live to talk about it," the only answer would be, "A sungrazing comet."

2. I am informed, by an expert on comets, that in 1870 the astronomer Pontecoullet forecasted a date of "24 May 1910" for the return of Halley's Comet. However, "76 years was the comet's mean period back to 1531, and its minimum osculating period since 1531." Hence, the date "1911," which I interpreted as a symbolic reference to this comet's return, is still valid, since it represents the date of the Comet's previous apparition (1835), plus its mean or "nominal" orbital period (76 years).

3. The middle six letters of the poem's opening line (Toute l'âme résumée) spell la mère ("mother"). I did not notice this, until it was pointed out to me by the Editor of WORD WAYS (Ross Eckler); the positioning of these six letters indicates that they represent the poem's disguised title. Thus, I arrived at the conclusion that the poem concerned Mallarmé's mother via a torturous process of numerical analysis, whereas Eckler arrived at the same conclusion via a more direct route.

4. In my letter on pp. 15-16 of the January NOESIS, I stated that Ron Hoeflin did not wish to grant me access to his psychometric data on LAIT Norming. However, he has now changed his mind, and is providing me with photocopies of this material, at a nominal price.

I am submitting herewith some new material, including a three-page article, entitled: "How Intelligent is ISPE?" Data contained herein has been derived mainly from Langdon's "LAIT Norming Report No. 2," plus Grady Towers' article, "Drunkard's Walk," in VIDYA No. 101. However, I think this is the first time these two articles have been brought into a single focus, with "real" IQ numbers attached to the raw score numbers published by Langdon and Towers.

I am also submitting a two-page article entitled, "The Kormes Case and Its Aftermath," which is accompanied by an eleven-page ruling emanating from the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia. This material does not pertain directly to the Mega Society, but rather to ISPE and Triple Nine. However, since a few NOESIS subscribers are also ISPE members, and since the subject of expulsions is of general interest in the high-IQ world, I thought the material would be useful...please publish as much of it as you see fit. Even though the Judge's ruling in this case directly affects the governance of ISPE, ISPE's controlled press never mentioned two of the principal points covered by this ruling, because they found fault with the ISPE administration...in other words, a cult always strives to suppress anything detrimental to its own false image.

Best Wishes,

*Paul*

PAUL MAXIM, P.O. Box 120, NYC 1001.

## HOW INTELLIGENT IS ISPE?

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Since its establishment in 1974, ISPE has billed itself as a "one in a thousand" society, whose members are all (or mostly all) at the 3-sigma level in terms of IQ; this equates with the 149 mark on the Stanford-Binet scale. Since Mensa claims to recruit at the "upper 2%" level, this would tend to indicate that ISPE members are 20 times rarer in the general population than are Mensans. ISPE has made the most of this presumed differentiation, going so far as to call itself "The Thousand," which (as someone pointed out) should more properly have been, "The Thousandth." But is their IQ really that high? In other words, how would they, as a group, score on an IQ test administered at the same time to Mensa, and to other high-level groups?

To the best of my knowledge, there are only two case studies on record, in which an IQ test was administered in such a manner. One resulted from the LAIT testing program conducted by Kevin Langdon between 1977 and 1979, which was reported by him in his "LAIT Norming Report No. 2" (July 1979), and the other consisted of a study conducted by Grady Towers, about a decade later, which he reported in an article entitled, "Drunkard's Walk" (VIDYA #101

). Here, he described the relative performance of six high-IQ groups on Ron Hoeflin's Mega test during the latter 1980's; they included Four Sigma Society members, Mensa members, ISPE members, Triple Nine Members, Intertel members, and individuals who belonged to both ISPE and Triple Nine.

1. Langdon's 1979 study was fairly extensive, and covered 553 testees who had taken LAIT, before it was published in OMNI; among these were 442 Mensa members, and 61 ISPE members. This may be considered a representative sample, since in 1979, ISPE's membership was somewhere around 125. Here is the way the scores came out: The Mensa members recorded a mean LAIT IQ of 141.48, while the ISPE members had a mean LAIT IQ of 142.88, only 14 points higher.

These figures begin to take on meaning when compared to the "entry threshold" and "theoretical mean IQ" for both groups. In the case of Mensa, the threshold would be 133, and the theoretical mean around 137, while for ISPE the threshold should have been 149, and the "theoretical mean" around 153. This means that the Mensa members tested considerably more intelligent than they should have, and the ISPE members considerably less. In addition, the amount of statistical separation between these two groups was so small as to be negligible -- in other words, insofar as "testable" intelligence is concerned, ISPE came off as just an "extension" of Mensa, without any indication of a "20 to one" selection differential.

2. Grady Towers's study was based on statistics supplied to him by Ron Hoeflin; some excerpts from it are tabulated below:

	Membership	No.	Mean Mega IQ	S.D.	S-B IQ
1.	ISPE + Triple Nine	15	28.133	8.167	155
2.	TNS Alone	29	21.724	7.713	148
3.	Mensa	27	18.963	7.613	144
4.	ISPE Alone	18	16.444	4.382	141.5

Here, I have added equivalent Stanford-Binet IQ figures, drawn from Hoeflin's sixth norming of the Mega test (OATH No. 7, January 1993). It will be noted that we are dealing here with a much smaller sample than in Langdon's study a decade earlier. By 1990, ISPE had grown to around 400 members, and so a sample of "18" is not nearly so significant, statistically, as Langdon's "61."

Mensa also had grown, and was showing a membership of about 50,000; hence, the 27 testees in this study represent a much smaller proportion of that society than did Langdon's 442.

Here are some observations to be drawn from Towers's study:

- a) It did not contradict the earlier Langdon study, but reinforced it;
- b) It showed the Mensa testees as having an even higher relative IQ;
- c) The ISPE members (who were not also TNS members) ranked lowest of the four groups shown above, and about 2½ points below the Mensa members; they were also about 6½ points below the TNS members.

d) Testees who were members of ISPE and Triple Nine scored the best of all four groups shown above, and were a whopping 13½ IQ points above those who belonged to ISPE alone.

e) The mean IQ manifested by the ISPE members is about twelve points below the "theoretical mean" for a group with a 3-sigma threshold.

Interpretation. In searching for some possible explanation for these unusual results, a number of theories might be considered, as follows:

I. The Mensa members enjoyed some special "advantage" as compared to the ISPE members, such as "self-selection": i.e., only the most intelligent Mensans came forward to take Mega.

\*This theory doesn't seem to hold any special plausibility, since by the late 1980's, there were enough ISPE members to allow "self-selection" to operate there as well. In fact, the results of this study appear to argue against the entire concept of "self-selection," precisely because the ISPE members did so poorly.

II. The Mensa members were more familiar with unsupervised tests such as Mega.

\*Just the reverse seems to be true, since Mensa does not permit admission on the basis of "super" tests such as LAIT or Mega, whereas numerous ISPE members had gained admission via LAIT and Harding's "Skyscraper," another "super" test.

III. For various reasons, "super" tests distort the true IQ of their testees

\*This may be true, but it must nonetheless be acknowledged that most LAIT testees, and most Mega testees, took these tests under pretty much the same conditions; that is to say, there is no reason to presume that any one group enjoyed an advantage over any other. Hence, even though the resultant scores may not be absolutely accurate as regards comparison to a "standard" scale, they nonetheless appear to manifest relative validity -- that is, they can reliably be compared against each other.



Further Confirmation Needed. One further mode of confirmation which might be applied to the above studies would be to gather statistics pertaining to the performance of both Mensans and ISPE members on standard tests. The main difficulty here is to obtain the data from those who (presumably) have it; both Mensa and ISPE have proven uncooperative in this regard. After all, it is now rather late in the day; had they wanted to perform these kinds of studies, and make their results public, they would have done so a long time ago.

A certain amount of data pertaining to standard test scores reported by members of these two societies is also in the possession of Messrs. Langdon and Hoeflin, since each LAIT and/or Mega testee was called upon to report such scores along with submission of his test form for scoring. So far, to the best of my knowledge, such "standard" score data has never been compiled and published, but perhaps these two testmakers will now come forward, and shed a little more factual illumination on this important topic.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION. Based on the two studies cited above, I reach the same conclusion as did Grady Towers in his "Drunkard's Walk" article: namely that the IQ level of ISPE members shows no statistical differentiation from that of Mensa members, and is at least ten points below what might be expected from a true "3-sigma" society. Towers hypothesized that much of this "IQ inadequacy" might have stemmed from weaknesses in the Skyscraper test, but I do not believe there is enough evidence on hand, at this point, to warrant such a conclusion.

A Closing Note. The relatively high performance manifested by Mensans in these two studies appears to cast additional lustre on this society's overall IQ. But there may be a negative side to these statistics as well, since they imply that Mensa is actually recruiting at a threshold above the "top 2%" it advertises, which in turn suggests that numerous applicants at or slightly above the "top 2%" have been unfairly rejected; if true, this would mean that Mensa has artificially delimited its own size and growth.

This possibility would be much easier to appraise, were Mensa in the habit of occasionally publishing its IQ statistics, but it does nothing of the sort. Rather, Mensa appears to have adopted a "bunker attitude" toward any inquiries concerning its own testing and evaluation procedures, and now characterizes them as invasion of its privacy, etc.

Over the past 50 years, International Mensa has tested or evaluated close to a quarter of a million applicants, thus providing it with an outstanding opportunity for compiling an unmatched high-IQ data base. Since Mensa has described its purpose as the "fostering of human intelligence," and since (alone among the high-IQ societies) it maintains a Research Foundation, and publishes a Research Journal, one would imagine that it would do everything in its power to preserve and classify valuable psychometric data.

Unfortunately, just the opposite is true. We have been told, by a responsible Mensa officer, that, following the testing and/or evaluation of each candidate, all test data is destroyed, save for a notation, in the member's file, as to which test he or she qualified on. Had Mensa wanted to do so, it could (by this time) have compiled extensive statistical surveys, showing items such as the mean IQ of its members, the mean IQ of its unsuccessful candidates, the mean IQ of all applicants, broken down by age, sex, country of origin, and the like. A good deal of valuable data might also have been compiled on IQ tests themselves, which would further help in evaluating their effectiveness as selection instruments. But Mensa did none of these things, and is not likely to do them, for reasons that the reader can infer for himself.

Late January 1996

Mr. Jeff Ward  
Executive Officer  
Mega Society  
13155 Wimberly Square #284  
San Diego, CA 92128

Dear Jeff,

Thanks for your letter of last October 10, and for the information contained therein.

You may (or may not) be aware of the existence of a publication, by the Triple Nine Society, called the "Executive Committee Memorandum," which circulates to about 45 members of that organization, and represents its political "laundry sheet."

In a recent issue of this publication, there was reprinted the same statement (from a "reliable source") concerning Kevin Langdon's IQ qualifications that I sent you last Spring. I submitted this for publication, not primarily to embarrass Mr. Langdon, but because I felt he had not been sufficiently forthcoming concerning the matter of his credentials for participation in groups such as Mega and Four Sigma. (Also, since he attacked my credentials, I thought I would "return him the compliment," if you know what I mean.)

In the January 15, 1996 issue of the TNS ExCom Memo, Mr. Langdon responded to the statement concerning his IQ credentials with a statement of his own, in which he acknowledged the correctness of what had been said about him, and also added further information concerning his score on the Stanford-Binet exam (I am enclosing herewith a photocopy of Mr. Langdon's published statement).

The gist of his disclosure is as follows:

- a) He acknowledges that he never scored "four sigma" on any generally recognized IQ test.
- b) At the time that Chris Harding erroneously attributed to Kevin Langdon a Stanford-Binet IQ of 196 (which was used as the basis for Mr. Langdon's admission to Mega), Mr. Langdon was aware of the error, but he nonetheless accepted membership on this improper basis.
- c) When Mr. Langdon took the Stanford-Binet test in high school, he scored 155, which is equivalent to 3.4 sigma. I suspect that this score is representative of Mr. Langdon's performance on "standard" or conventional tests -- i.e., he generally scores in the 3-sigma, not the 4-sigma range.

I have also attempted to conduct an independent verification of the accuracy of Mr. Langdon's listing of 650 "Four Sigma Qualifiers," which he published in his Summer 1989 issue of the Four Sigma Bulletin No. 2. My purported methodology was fairly simple: i.e., I intended to tabulate all non-LAIT scores that these 650 individuals had on file, to ascertain what percentage of them had scored 4-sigma on any test other than LAIT; in this way, I hoped to obtain a rough indication of whether Mr. Langdon's LAIT assessment procedures were producing inflated scores.

So far, Mr. Langdon has refused to cooperate with this investigation, and he recently stated (to one of my colleagues) that he regards his testee files as "confidential." In other words, they are not open to other psychometric researchers.

/...

Paul Maxim to Jeff Ward -- Late January 1996 -- Page 2 of 2.

Please be so good as to also note the statement Mr. Langdon makes on Page 6 of his recent disclosure, to the effect that he's a member of the Four Sigma Society (and of its successor, Prometheus) because he founded Four Sigma, and not because he has "4-sigma" credentials. It therefore turns out that his status vis-a-vis Four Sigma/Prometheus is almost identical with his status as regards the Mega Society -- that is, he has been a member for many years, and has enjoyed the benefits thereof, without possessing the qualifications that were demanded of other members. Apparently, he was quite content to accept this situation, while at the same time denying admission into Prometheus to another applicant who offered valid four-sigma credentials -- that is, myself.

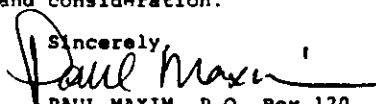
Finally, I obtained (from another intermediary) a copy of the formula Mr. Langdon uses to convert "scaled scores" on the LAIT to IQ ratings, which he contends are comparable to the Stanford-Binet scale. This formula is as follows:

$$IQ = \left( \frac{\text{Scaled Score} - 466.990}{222.501} \right) 13.84 + 142.34$$

I am told that it was published in Mr. Langdon's "LAIT Norming Report No. 2." Please note that, if the "scaled score" is zero -- that is, if the testee fails to answer any questions correctly -- the resultant IQ value is 113.3, about equal to that of a "grade B" college student. Now, I fail to understand this strange type of psychometrics, and suspect that such a thing could never occur on any of the "standard" or "conventional" IQ tests -- the ones that Mr. Langdon has been attempting to discredit and outlaw for the past decade. Mr. Langdon has frequently attempted to argue that "self-selection" automatically boosts the IQ's of those individuals who take (or have taken) his tests, but I don't see how "self-selection" can turn an idiot into a genius, or why the LAIT should be accepted as an accurate instrument for mental measurement, if it can produce such grotesque results as that shown above.

Mr. Langdon's statement, in the TNS ExCom Memo of January 15, 1996, is a public document, since it was published without copyright. Hence, you are free, if you so desire, to republish it, along with this letter.

I thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
PAUL MAXIM, P.O. Box 120  
New York, N.Y. 10012-0002

Enclosure.

[Editor's comments--A. I don't mind people npping into each other in *Noesis* over ideas or even personalities but I'm not so happy about attacks on qualifications especially when B. the conflict started in another high-IQ group, and C. much of the pertinent material has appeared in one or more other journals. We haven't had major strife over qualifications. I hope we can avoid most such misery. D. I was very, very bummed when I found out that my high school Stanford-Binet was only in the 150's. Years later, I found out that the test doesn't go any higher.]

Comments on the November 8 ExCom Memo

I agree with almost everything in Lorea's lengthy memo--and his memos are always a good read. We've been over the main point on which we disagree many times and I have nothing to add to that here.

Paul Maxim's idea of a "Central Registry for High I.Q. Certification" is such a natural it's a wonder the ISPE didn't think of it long ago. Now even those who aren't listed in the Guinness Book of World Records Hall of Fame can achieve the world's recognition (and adulation) for their incredibly high I.Q.'s. Although I am not a member of the Registry, I resign anyway.

Nonetheless, Paul makes some valid points in his discussion under this heading. I agree with him that it's regrettable that the various high-I.Q. societies have not done a better job of keeping track of admission records; it would be very useful to have statistical breakdowns of scores submitted by both accepted and rejected applicants. This would help the societies to determine actual vs. theoretical distributions of scores on certain tests. As an example of the kinds of problems that arise, Mensa often reports high scores on the tests it gives in a form such as "170 +," which creates difficulties for any society whose cutoff is above 170 on the test in question.

It's true that psychometric expertise is in short supply, as I noted above in my remarks about the Psychometrics Committee. What generally happens in almost all the high-I.Q. societies is that committees are established, lists of qualifying scores are hammered out (sometimes too hastily) and then nobody thinks about whether the list is accurate or the changing picture of test availability for many years.

Paul's memo also contains an attack on me, my (so far) principal test, the LAIT, and my psychometric credentials. I responded in detail to his remarks about the LAIT in *Vidya* #147/148; what it boils down to is that Paul didn't take the trouble to get his facts straight.

I do want to respond to two of Paul's allegations. He wrote:

I have received information to indicate that at least two prominent amateur psychometricians have operated for years on the basis of false credentials, which has resulted in the deception of everyone in the high-IQ community, as well as the Guinness Book of World Records, etc.

Paul has a propensity for citing unnamed sources. Did this information come directly from God or did Paul receive it from some lower authority?

I suppose that I am one of the two "prominent amateur psychometricians" that Paul is referring to (although I've actually lost my amateur standing, as I've been paid--though not very well--for my work in psychometrics).

Long, long ago, the Guinness people, after their original mistake of selecting "I.Q." as a world-record category in the first place, made the additional mistake of consulting Chris Harding about listings under this heading. On the basis of information furnished by Chris, they listed both Chris and me as having obtained Stanford-Binet I.Q.'s of 196; I was never consulted.

Chris later claimed that he had told Guinness that these were Binet-equivalent scores, not scores on the test itself, and perhaps this is the case. But the Guinness people should have known that the Stanford-Binet yields too many high scores--by orders of magnitude at the highest levels--and that many people have obtained scores over 200. (Marilyn vos Savant's 228 was hardly the highest ever; there was a recent news story about a boy whose Binet I.Q. tops 300 and I've heard of several other people with scores in the neighborhood of 250.) I took the Binet in high school, but was already old enough that it didn't have a lot of ceiling; I scored 155.

Chris never explained the basis on which he calculated "Binet-equivalent" I.Q.'s. I have speculated that Chris was relying on my performance on the experimental Mobius Test around 1980; Chris has neither confirmed nor denied this. The test was not normed at that time, but Ron Hoeflin and I outscored a number of other Mega members by a very considerable margin. A new version of The Mobius Test will be published within the next few weeks by Polymath Systems.

I have written to various high-I.Q. society journals to set the record straight regarding this matter several times, but old rumors are like old soldiers.

Paul wrote:

Certain members of certain societies (such as Prometheus) refuse to disclose their own IQ's, but have no objection about excluding from membership in their organization, applicants whose IQ's are equal to, or greater than their own. This once again perpetuates an invidious, inequitable, and (in the final analysis) destructive situation, which undermines the raison d'être for the formation of high IQ associations.

Many people feel that disclosure of I.Q. scores is a form of egotistical boasting and choose to keep their scores private. But someone generally examined their scores before they were let into the club. I'm an exception with regard to Prometheus. I'm a member of Four Sigma because, founded it, and Four Sigma members were grandfathered into Prometheus when it was founded. I have not taken any of Ron Hoeflin's tests (but I'm working on his new Uru Test), so the only scores above the four sigma level I've made are on The Mobius Test and on Alan Aas (also as-yet-unnormed) Eight Item Test. Maybe I'm really stupid! But I'm not stupid enough not to see that Paul's remarks are self-serving, ignorant, and illogical.

Paul's demand for the disclosure of I.Q. scores reminds me of his earlier demand that the names of voters be disclosed--after they had been promised a secret ballot--so that we could tell whether TNS is wasting money wending the ExCom memo to people who don't vote.

In his August 23 memo, Larry Jess suggested Paul Maxim for the post of Ombudsman. In view of the above, and of his propensity for seeing injustice every-where but in his own back yard, I do not believe that Paul is qualified to be Ombudsman, a position for which tact and impartiality are important qualifications.

I would like to ask Syd why the bottom half of John Korman's memo of September 5 was printed when it was designated "NOT FOR PUBLICATION."

## THE KORMES CASE AND ITS AFTERMATH

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In 1990-1991, a political upheaval occurred within the ISPE Society which has represented a source of controversy, and of legal wrangling, ever since. Here is a brief synopsis of what happened:

1. In 1989, Betty Hansen took over as ISPE's President, and promptly began imposing her "stamp" on this organization.

2. In 1990, Clinton C. Williams, then ISPE's Director of Admissions, attempted (acting unilaterally) to replace ISPE's logo with a picture of "a bearded man" (Christopher Harding). He was rebuked for this by President Hansen, who ordered him removed from his position as Director of Admissions.

3. Williams retaliated by criticising ISPE as phony, and by establishing a mock IQ society named "Cleo," after Mrs. Hansen's cat. Thereupon, Hansen demanded that ISPE's Trustees expel Williams (a life member), which was done, without a hearing, in late 1990.

4. By order of President Hansen, the TELICOM issue of November-December 1990 contained a five-page denunciation of Williams, who was not accorded right of response. Thus, he was pilloried before the Society he had once served as an officer.

5. During 1990, John Kormes, ISPE's Legal Officer and Vice President, had represented one of Williams's chief accusers, and had recommended his ouster without a hearing. But in 1991, a political dispute broke out between Kormes and President Hansen, which led to Kormes' own expulsion in December 1991. As in the Williams case, Kormes was denounced via a five-page accusation in the TELICOM issue of November-December 1991, without being accorded right of response.

6. Kormes, an attorney, filed suit against ISPE, claiming wrongful expulsion, and requesting reinstatement, and demanding that the Court impose certain reforms on ISPE's method of disciplining its members. This case became infamous as the "Kormes affair," and Kormes was repeatedly denounced and scapegoated in the pages of TELICOM, without ever being allowed to present his side of the story. Instead, he used the Triple Nine journal, VIDYA, to denounce ISPE for its lack of democracy.

7. This case wound up costing each side over \$5,000 in legal fees. On the ISPE side, most of the cost was borne by its Chairman, W.I. Head. ISPE also used its journal to solicit contributions to an "anti-Kormes" fund from its general membership, which was wrongfully told that these donations were deductible from their federal income tax, under the aegis of "educational and charitable contributions." Although ISPE does have a Section 501 (c) 3 exemption, legal expenses are not deductible under this rubric.

8. In July 1995, Judge Bernstein of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia handed down his verdict, which contained three major points, to wit:

a) The Judge stated that, according to the provisions of ISPE's Charter, any member faced with expulsion was entitled to a hearing.

THE KORMES CASE AND ITS AFTERMATH -- Page 2.

b) The Judge stated that, by expelling Williams and Kormes without a hearing, the ISPE Trustees had exceeded their authority, and had violated the contractual rights of the two expelled officers.

c) The Judge refused to reinstate Kormes, on grounds that he had "dirty hands" -- that is, the Judge decided that Kormes was not entitled to reinstatement in ISPE, because of his implication in the wrongful expulsion of Williams in 1990. In my opinion, this is a highly questionable and self-contradictory ruling. Under the U.S. judicial system, due process rights are inalienable, and cannot be "sacrificed" by any defendant, no matter how heinous his conduct.

9. When ISPE reported the outcome of this case to its members, via an "official" announcement in TELICOM, they merely stated that Kormes's claim for reinstatement had been denied, and neglected to mention the other aspects of Judge Bernstein's ruling, designated above as 8 a) and 8 b).

COMMENTARY. Ever since 1979, when ISPE expelled six of its members by fiat, without a hearing or a statement of charges, this Society has held the threat of expulsion over the heads of its members, in order to stifle freethought, and prevent any challenge to the power of its controlling officers. So far as is known, Mensa has expelled only one of its members, and Intertel has expelled two; thus the "expulsion-to-member ratio" in ISPE is far higher than that of any other high-IQ society, and projected proportionally on an organization the size of Mensa, would be equivalent to one thousand expulsions.

The worst part of ISPE's attitude, in the opinion of many observers, is its direct repudiation of the tenets of American democracy. This organization claims a tax exemption from the U.S. Government, but has nothing but contempt for American principles of due process and freedom of the press. Even now, faced with a Court ruling condemning their illegal expulsions, the ISPE Trustees refuse to acknowledge that they have done anything wrong, and have presented the ISPE membership with a misleading and incomplete account of what the Court actually said.

I am attaching herewith a verbatim reproduction of Judge Bernstein's Ruling of July 18, 1995, so that all interested individuals can read it for themselves:

CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

JOHN W. KORMES

: MAY TERM, 1993  
: No. 5236  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:

vs.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
PHILOSOPHICAL ENQUIRY

OPINION

Plaintiff, John W. Kormes, filed a declaratory judgment action against defendant, The International Society for Philosophical Enquiry (hereinafter ISPE). Plaintiff, a life member, contends that he was wrongfully expelled from the association. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief compelling defendant to restore plaintiff to membership and a declaration reforming the charter to include several requirements associated with basic due process with regard to the expulsion of members. A bench trial was held on February 6, 1995.

Plaintiff, John Kormes, resides at 1070 Edison Avenue, Philadelphia. ISPE is an unincorporated, non-profit organization, whose principal office changes with the residency of its President.<sup>1</sup> ISPE has no formal meetings, but corresponds with members through monthly mailing of the organization's newsletter, Telicom. Plaintiff applied for, and was granted lifetime membership in ISPE in 1986. ISPE accepted plaintiff's dues as full payment for his lifetime membership.

The Board of Officers consists of both elected and appointed officers. Elected positions include President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Editor, and Personnel Consultant. (Article VII, section a). Appointed positions include Director of Public Relations, Director of Testing, Director of Admissions, Special Projects Coordinator, Legal Officer, Historian, Computer Services Manager, Information Services Manager, Welcome Program Manager, and Supervising Psychologist. (ISPE Charter, Article VII, section d).

Plaintiff served as Legal Officer of ISPE in 1990. The charter defines the duties of the Legal Officer. The Legal Officer "[a]dvises the Board of Officers on all legal matters affecting the Society, and serves on the Whiting Memorial Fund Committee." (ISPE Charter, Article VIII, section j).

In the November/December 1990 issue of Telicom, a member, Clint Williams was expelled from ISPE. In that issue, ISPE President Betty Hansen wrote an "open letter" which expressed the unanimous view of the Board of Trustees, that Mr. Williams should be expelled. Ms. Hansen stated, "Under Amendment #6 of the Charter, Section 1 (c), the Board of Trustees is empowered to rule on '... behavior of officers and members' and their recommendations will be honored and adhered to by officers and members alike." (Defendant's exhibit no. 6) (alteration in original).<sup>2</sup> Mr. Williams had been expelled by a majority vote of the four member Board of Trustees. Mr. Williams was afforded no notice prior to this vote and was given no opportunity to contest any allegations against him.

In a November 8, 1990 letter to ISPE President Betty Hansen, plaintiff herein, while the association's "Legal Officer," approved the "procedure" used to expel Mr. Williams. Plaintiff wrote, "[y]our letter to Clint Williams was great. I am especially pleased that you are putting it in the journal as I think it will go a long way toward 'silencing' any potential criticism of ISPE or you or the Trustees. It is a fine and well-thought-out letter and you are to be commended for it."<sup>2</sup>

One year later, on November 6, 1991, plaintiff was expelled from ISPE under the same "procedure" as the expulsion of Clint Williams.<sup>3</sup> He too received no prior notice, was expelled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, and an announcement was published in Telicom. Two members voted for expulsion while one abstained. The fourth member of the Board did not participate.

There is no express power of expulsion granted to the Board of Trustees within the ISPE charter. In fact, the charter is completely silent on the issue of member discipline.

Other charter provisions relate to the issues presented in this case. With regard to the Board of Trustees' discretion to implement policy, the Charter states in relevant part: "[r]ecommendations of the Board of Trustees, representing a majority decision of the Board of Trustees, provided they do not contravene the provisions of this Charter, shall have equal authority with the Charter." (emphasis added) (ISPE Charter, Article IX, section 1).

The ISPE charter also states specifically that "[t]he revised edition of CUSHING'S MANUAL OF PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE shall be used to govern the

administrative activities of the Society in all cases where its code of procedure is an aid in the dispatch of Society business is applicable, and in which it is not inconsistent with these guidelines or any special form of procedure the society may adopt." (sic) (ISPE Charter, Article XII, section 1).

Plaintiff filed this lawsuit seeking injunctive relief compelling defendant to restore him to membership and a declaration reforming the ISPE charter to include several requirements associated with a basic understanding of due process. The propriety of plaintiff's claim depends upon the relationship between an association and its members. The relationship between unincorporated voluntary associations and their members was long ago established under Pennsylvania law. In Blenko v. Schmelz, 362 Pa. 365, 67 A.2d 99, plaintiff, a patent attorney, brought suit to restrain the board of managers of the Patent Law Association of Pittsburgh from expelling him. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court found that the relationship between a voluntary association and its members is grounded in a contract, holding:

"The right of property vested in members of unincorporated associations rests on the agreement of the associates and may vary with the nature and purposes of the association. The contract creates the right and even the state may not impair the obligation of the contract."<sup>4</sup>

In that same case, the Court favorably cited President Judge Thayer, in Metropolitan Baseball Association v. Simmons et al., 17 Phila. 419, who said:

"Now, membership of such an association, after it has been

<sup>2</sup> Defendant's Exhibit No. 1.



acquired in pursuance of the constitution, is a matter which is in itself legal property even in an unincorporated association; the right of membership in such an association is recognized in the courts of Pennsylvania as property, and no man can be deprived of it without having forfeited it by some act which was lawful ground and cause of forfeiture, and without notice and trial."

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has addressed the specific issue of expulsion from voluntary associations. In Berberian v. Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital Association, Inc., 195 Pa. 257, 149 A.2d 456, plaintiff sought to restrain the defendant hospital from depriving him of staff and hospital privileges. The Court concluded that "the remedies extended by the internal regulations of a voluntary association in respect of the expulsion of members must be given strict compliance. . . This is particularly true where individual rights may be adversely affected." The Pennsylvania Supreme Court further noted: "that the adjudication of the highest tribunal of a voluntary association is final only if 'it is determined that the laws of the society were strictly complied with, and that the officers acted reasonably and in good faith.'"

ISPE has not complied with the terms of its own charter when it purported to expel plaintiff. There is no provision in the charter governing the expulsion of members. Accordingly, the ISPE charter requires reference to Cushing's Manual. The charter provides:

"[t]he revised edition of CUSHING'S MANUAL OF PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE shall be used to govern the administrative activities of the Society in all cases where its code of procedure is an aid in the dispatch of Society business is applicable, and in which it is not inconsistent with these or any special form of procedure the society may adopt." (sic) (Article XII, section 1). This language, as written is unintelligible. Only if a comma is added between the words "business" and "is" does this paragraph make any sense. This Court will interpret the language of this section in a manner which makes these words intelligible. Accordingly, Cushing's Manual is incorporated into the bylaws whenever it is an aid in the dispatch of business, is applicable, and is not inconsistent with adopted procedures. Cushing's Manual must be referred to with regard to expulsion of ISPE members.

Cushing's Manual contains several procedural requirements before a member can be expelled. Cushing's Manual provides members with the right to both prior notice and an opportunity to defend against charges. Cushing's Manual provides:

"The ordinary resolutions, where the member is recommended to be expelled, are (1) to fix the time to which the society shall adjourn; and (2) to instruct the clerk to cite the member to appear before the society at this adjourned meeting to show cause why he should not be expelled, upon the following charges which should then be given... The clerk should send the accused a written notice to appear before the society at the time appointed, and should at the same time furnish him with a copy of the charges... the accused should be allowed to make an explanation and introduce witnesses, if he so desires."

Since this procedure is incorporated into the charter, the Board of Trustees exceeded its authority in the manner in which it purported to expel plaintiff. The ISPE charter grants the Board of Trustees discretion in implementing policy, however, the Board is specifically

forbidden from adopting procedures which contravene the provisions of the charter." By expelling Mr. Kormes without affording him any opportunity to contest any allegations, in direct conflict with the charter provision incorporating Cushing's Manual, Mr. Kormes has been deprived of his contractual rights by the unilateral decision of the ISPE Board of Trustees.

Plaintiff asks that this Court fashion due process requirements for ISPE. This is both inappropriate and unnecessary. This Court has no authority to generally impose due process requirements on a private association.<sup>11</sup> The ISPE charter, as properly interpreted, does provide for notice and an opportunity to defend prior to expulsion.

Plaintiff asks this Court, sitting in equity, to order plaintiff's reinstatement to ISPE. Two fundamental principles of equity are relevant to this requested relief. A court of equity acts only when conscience commands.<sup>12</sup> It has become a truism that "he who cometh into equity must come with clean hands."<sup>13</sup> These ancient principles were articulated by the United States Supreme Court in 1945. Justice Murphy, writing for the Court, stated:

"[H]e who comes into equity must come with clean hands. This maxim is far more than a mere formality. It is a self-imposed obligation that closes the doors of a court of equity to one tainted with inequableness or bad faith relative to the matter in which he seeks relief, however improper may have been the behavior of the defendant. . . Accordingly one's misconduct need not necessarily have been of such a nature as to be punishable as a crime or as to justify legal proceedings of any character. Any willful act concerning the cause of action which rightfully can be said to transgress equitable standards of conduct is sufficient cause for the invocation of the maxim by the chancellor."<sup>14</sup>

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has held to the "clean hands doctrine" since the nineteenth century.

"It is one of the elementary and fundamental principles of equity that 'he who seeks equity must do equity,' and another, that 'he who cometh into equity must come with clean hands.' The doors are shut against one who, in his prior conduct in the very subject-matter at issue, has violated good conscience, good faith, or fair dealing."<sup>15</sup>

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court commented in 1930:

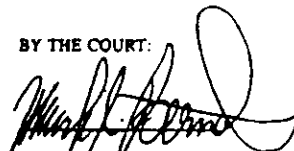
"This maxim [that he who comes into equity must come with clean hands] expresses rather a principle of inaction than one of action. It means that equity refuses to lend its aid in any manner to one, seeking its active interposition, who has been guilty of unlawful or inequitable conduct in the matter with relation to which he seeks relief."<sup>16</sup> (alteration in original).

Mr. Kormes, while Legal Officer, approved of and supported the Board of Trustees' procedure for expelling Clint Williams in 1990. As Legal Officer for ISPE, plaintiff had a duty to bring any unlawful Board of Trustees actions to the attention of the Board of Officers. Instead of condemning the procedure which he now claims fails to "comport with due process, fail(s) to provide to the Society an express power of expulsion, denies the opportunity to be heard by an impartial tribunal, the ability to confront or cross examine witnesses, present testimony or exercise any other fundamental rights providing the semblance of a fair and impartial hearing,"<sup>17</sup> he commended its authors.<sup>18</sup>

Plaintiff's request for equitable relief from procedures of expulsion which he wholeheartedly supported as Legal Officer is denied.

Accordingly, the Court finds for the defendant.

BY THE COURT:



MARK I. BERNSTEIN, J.

7/13/95  
DATE

ISPE Memo To: Dr. Robert J. Davis, Trustee, 307 Pleasant Street, Belmont, MA  
From: Paul Maxim, Fellow, P.O. Box 120, New York, N.Y. 10012-0002  
Subject: Year-End Report, 1995-96.

1. Kormes Verdict. I obtained a copy of the Court's Final Ruling in the case of John Kormes v. ISPE, and by reading it, I concluded that TELICOM's report on this verdict (September 1995, pp. 6-7) was inadequate and incomplete. TELICOM correctly reported that the Court (ruling "in equity," not "in law") had denied Kormes' plea for reinstatement into ISPE, following his 1991 expulsion. However, it failed to note other, even more important portions of the Judge's ruling, such as the following:

"ISPE has not complied with the terms of its own Charter when it purported to expel Plaintiff. There is no provision in the Charter governing the expulsion of members." (This was obviously written prior to ISPE's adoption of "Amendment No. 1," which specified automatic expulsion for anyone suing ISPE.)

"Cushing's Manual (of Parliamentary Practice) provides members with the right to both prior notice and an opportunity to defend against charges. Since this procedure is incorporated into (ISPE's) Charter, the Board of Trustees exceeded its authority in the manner in which it purported to expel (Plaintiff). By expelling Mr. Kormes without affording him any opportunity to contest any allegations, in direct conflict with the Charter provision incorporating Cushing's Manual, Mr. Kormes has been deprived of his contractual rights by the unilateral decision of the ISPE Board of Trustees."

This ruling, as I understand it, also found fault with ISPE's 1990 expulsion of Clint Williams, for the same reasons as were cited in the instance of John Kormes ---- that is, Williams had been expelled via unilateral action of the Board of Trustees, and had not been accorded either a hearing or a presentation of charges, or an opportunity of defending himself against the charges before an impartial panel.

I am having some difficulty understanding why TELICOM chose to publish such a one-sided account of the Court's decision in this case. After all, this is the first time that any of ISPE's member expulsions has been subjected to judicial review; in other words, the Court's ruling represents an extremely important document as regards ISPE's policies and governance. In light of this, shouldn't the verdict have been published in full, so that all members could read it? If TELICOM publishes a slanted or one-sided account of the verdict, and if some member (such as myself) subsequently discovers that there was more to the verdict than was reported, doesn't this tend to cast doubt on TELICOM's integrity, or on the willingness of ISPE to fully inform its members? I am reminded somewhat of the editorial policies of the "old Pravda (under the Soviet regime), which published nothing but the "party line." With the advent of glasnost, open journalism returned to Russia, but it apparently hasn't returned to ISPE. Therefore, I recommend that TELICOM publish the Kormes verdict in full.

2. Membership Roster. As you are undoubtedly aware, there has been no publication of an updated Roster since March 1994, although many personnel changes have occurred since then. In the September 1995 TELICOM, members were informed that a more current version of the Roster could be downloaded from the ISPE BBS network, by means of an online system. Subsequently, I wrote to Marina McInnis, to request a copy of this current Roster, but never received a response; several other members I correspond with are likewise lacking a current Roster.

P. Maxim to Dr. Robert J. Davis -- "Year-End Report" -- Page 2.

According to TELICOM, approximately 90 ISPE members now have online systems, as indicated by their e-mail addresses. This means that about 600 members do not have online systems, and hence cannot "download" the new Roster, or any other materials that are being disseminated via the BBS network. Doesn't it seem as though this arrangement is discriminatory, and is creating a "two class" system within ISPE? In other words, the online members are clearly enjoying greater privileges, and accessibility to information, than the "offline" members. I personally have nothing against technology, and recognize it as the "wave of the future," but at the same time I am struck by ISPE's failure to acknowledge, or confront, the problems that are being created by this de facto discrimination. Consequently, I recommend that the Society immediately establish a committee to study the impact of online systems on its operations, and that input on this subject be solicited from the membership at large.

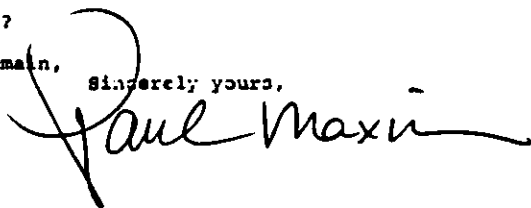
3. NOESIS as a Vehicle for Dialog. I recently became affiliated with the Mega Society, as a subscriber and contributor to its journal, NOESIS. As you may be aware, this Society is somewhat smaller than ISPE, but its journal is nonetheless an excellent publication, and provides a truly open forum, in which contributors can address each other without editorial repression or censorship. This is why I am publishing my Report to you in NOESIS, and not in TELICOM, since I know that, if I submitted it to ISPE's journal, it would never appear in print. I notice that you, yourself, have made no contributions to TELICOM over the past few years, and hence I wonder whether you also have been precluded from publishing your submissions therein.

A few years ago, I was informed, by Mr. Doak, that you had an extremely high IQ, which I was very gratified to learn. But even if you don't measure up to Mega Society's admissions standards, you are nonetheless welcome to subscribe to NOESIS, and I cordially invite you to do so -- in fact, I am willing to buy you a subscription for 1996. My thought is that, if you are willing, we could carry on a dialog therein concerning key issues in ISPE and the high-IQ community, free from TELICOM's editorial interference.

Will you accept my offer?

Wishing you a Happy New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



[Ed's comment--Some Noesis readers receive many other high-IQ journals. Some receive only Noesis because it avoids much of the political wrangling seen in other high-IQ publications. I don't want to do much censorship, neither do I want a whole lot of ISPE business transacted in Noesis.]