

NOESIS

THE JOURNAL OF
THE MEGA SOCIETY

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THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE OF YOU, INCLUDING CHRIS LANGAN AND ROBERT DICK, WHO ARE APPARENTLY USING IMPROVED PRINTERS OR SOFTWARE, MAKING YOUR MATERIAL PLEASING TO LOOK AT AND EASIER TO READ.

I HAVE A REQUEST--IF POSSIBLE, GIVE YOUR SUBMISSIONS A BOTTOM MARGIN OF AT LEAST THREE-QUARTERS OF AN INCH SO I CAN PRINT THE *NOESIS* FOOTER. (YOU'LL NOTICE I MESSED UP THIS ISSUE WITH INFRINGING FOOTERS.)

STANDARD ANNOUNCEMENTS: DUES ARE \$2 PER ISSUE, CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROSNER. AN EXTRA ISSUE IS ADDED TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR EACH TWO PAGES OF PUBLISHED MATERIAL YOU SUBMIT. WE'VE BEEN GETTING LOTS OF MATERIAL LATELY, BUT I KNOW MANY READERS WOULD LIKE MORE VARIETY, SO YOU SILENT MAJORITY MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS, GIVE IT A SHOT.

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LETTERS FROM ROBERT BURNS TO PAUL MAXIM
(SORRY THEY'RE HANDWRITTEN--DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TYPE THEM IN--ED.)

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A LETTER FROM CHRIS HARDING

ARTICLES ON THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND
THE TWIN PARADOX BY ROBERT HANNON

Robert Burns
3857 Brimwood St. Napa, CA 94558
STRAW? OR STRAWBERRIES?

Mr. Maxim,

I have read your letters in the newsletters of the Mega Society and the Prometheus Society with both admiration for your zeal and sadness for your destructive attempts to harm and discredit cartoon of these organizations members. If my directness causes you pain, I am sorry. But please try to understand that I am being so direct in a desperate attempt to root out the infection in your thinking which, - if left alone - will eventually poison you body as well as your mind and spirit. Though it may not seem so, I truly am sympathetic toward you and your frustration. But sometimes it is necessary to to cleanse a wound with pain-causing ~~alcho~~ alcohol, in order to save a friend's life. On to the point then.

Foolish is the man or woman who squanders his or her energy in an attempt to destroy another, rather than use that energy to build something great and admirable of his life

Can you grasp the idea that a razor-sharp intellect can be used in basically only two ways -

- 1) to whittle-down and destroy or
- 2) to carve and create something possibly quite noteworthy and even potentially very admirable?

I have no objection to truth being revealed. Because of your digging, some interesting things have Next Over, please come to light. However, ~~malice~~ and vindictiveness are counter-productive, and do you no honor.

Sir, when you have cut down all of those around you, who will be left to admire you? You may be feared, and from that gain a sense of power, but there will be none left to stand with you when you are alone, none to sing your praises.

You have obviously set your subconscious mind on a goal. Conquest. But because of the path you are taking to achieve it, it will not have a sweet or pleasant taste in your mouth when you have won. It will taste like straw in your mouth rather than strawberries.

Consider sir, that if you succeed in destroying the credibility of the organizations you seek to be a part of through casting doubt and through inuendo (sp?), when you are finally admitted to them you will have no credibility because they no longer have credibility.

There is a better way to achieve your ends. It has nothing to do with destroying others, but everything to do with building them up. (I do not mean flattery) People stop being road-blocks to your dreams when you befriend them and start to help them in realizing their dreams. Then they no longer hinder your progress, but actually go out of their way to help insure your success.

EDITOR:

THIS PARAGRAPH IS OPTIONAL. R.F.

True intelligence incorporates wisdom. Be wise, helpful, gentle, and kind. Then you will begin to have ^{what} you desire.

Mr. Maxim

It is obvious to me that you have a capable mind. But ~~it~~^{it is} also obvious that you are not using it in a way that will get you where you want to go most effectively. If I were to use the analogy of a car whose driver is impatient because the other drivers ahead of him won't move over and let him go ahead to his destination, I would say that you are the driver, your intellect is your powerful engine and that you are trying to use the power of your car's engine to ram others ahead of you out of your way, and off the side of the road. Aside from the damage this personal behavior does to the body of your car (your image), it just plain isn't real smart driving. (Politically speaking) If the lack of an entry in the last issue of GIFT OF FIRE by you is any indication, I would say your image has suffered and is now beginning to cause your odds of ^{ever} reaching your destination (membership) to decrease.

You want to be accepted into Prometheus and the Mega Society, and that is still an eventual possibility, because the rules of admission are made by the members and can be changed by the members. But right now you have so antagonized them and embarrassed them that you are further away from being able to realize this goal than ever.

But back to the main point, which is that you are going about the achievement of your aims (admission into Mega + Prometheus) in a somewhat less than optimum way.

Let's analyse this situation by stepping back from it a little way and looking at the larger picture. By doing so we may be able to see a solution to your problem.

First of all, you want to be accepted into the Mega Society and - I presume - also into the Prometheus Society. Why? Was Einstein a member? Or Gandhi? Or Davinci? Of course not. Yet they are widely admired for their genius and accomplishments.

Whom did they attack? They gained their reputations as great geniuses by unveiling, healing, and creating. But the unveiling they did was not of other people's weaknesses through violent personal attacks (verbal or otherwise) but of the mysteries of our world and universe. They were (and became) great because they sought to build understanding, and express beauty in magnificent, eternal ways.

Not one of these three great geniuses wielded a sword, but rather a light.

Second Point: These people were not merely recognized as highly intelligent, but also ^{as} geniuses because of what they did with their intelligence. Being a member of a high IQ group does not automatically confirm you as a great genius in the public's mind. Often it means you

you will be regarded as an oddity — someone who is not really a whole and well-balanced person, and therefore actually to be pitied, not admired and befriended.

My point is this. Do you want to be publicly regarded as a truly great man — a well rounded genius so to speak — or do you want merely to be known as someone who qualified for a high I.Q. club?

You can have it all, if you want it, but not if you continue to attempt to destroy other's reputations and peace of mind. That is the route of the small minded man — not the great man who is esteemed because of his high and noble lofty thinking, the man who builds rather than destroys and promotes rather than hinders the happiness and welfare of his fellow sojourners on this plane of existence.

But I am not going to allow myself to be guilty of merely criticising without ^{offering} constructive suggestions. Here they are:

- 1) Why wait to be let on someone else's train to prestige? If you strike out on your own with anyone willing to come with you, and attack some (or even one) of the most glaring problems that face American society today, I am very confident that you will get much farther toward your goals of recognition, respect,

honor and fame.

2) IF you succeed magnificently—as I am fully confident you have the potential to do—you will ~~for~~ be honored far beyond any of these members in the high IQ societies who do little of a constructive nature with their mental gifts.

3) **A** Select one of these American problems and analyse its cause:

a) the poor economy	e) homelessness	i) ETC
b) widespread illiteracy	f) the national debt	
c) rampant crime	g) the educational system	
d) pervasive drug addiction	h) AIDS, CANCER, MENTAL HEALTH	

B Form your own organization and with the ^{best} creative thinkers and achievers that you are able to draw to you cause/project, formulate creative potential solutions for the problem. Look for, and expect, a simple, economic, ingenious solution.

C Start a small scale pilot program to test your solution.

D Make sure it succeeds by personally overseeing it.

E Publicize it. Franchise it. Make a fortune consulting to city governments. Use the funds to start other pilot programs for other problems

F Be humble (hardest part—but important in getting the public to like you) when when you are honored with awards for public service like the Nobel prize, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (Genius Awards) and the the President's Medal of Outstanding...? or by the United Nations for outstanding contributions to world peace.

G G is for genius, for giants among men. Let people remember you as someone to be admired. Let them be prompted to say of you, "Paul Maxime Was Truly A Great Man—A MAN WHO MADE MAXIMUM USE OF HIS PRODIGIOUS INTELLECT for the public good."

H Humility revisited. Supposedly Isaac Newton said something to the effect of this: "People call me a genius. But I have only stood on the shoulders of the giants before me."

I Initiative. You have it—as well as intensity. Just make sure that you focus your efforts into productive channels, and not dilute your efforts by sniping at others. For some, membership is the thing that is most important to them. It is the highest level of their ambition. Don't let it be for you. Forge your own path to greatness. Let those follow who will. By such means will you stand out from the crowd, and society will see you more distinctly, along with your accomplishments. FEW; if any of the members of

J the high IQ groups have had the courage to take this path. BE the leader you are capable of being. BOLDNESS indeed has Genius, Magic, and Power in it. (J stands for Jump in, Begin it. Life can be an exciting adventure, or a hum-drum day-to-day existence. The choice is up to each of us.

4) Finally, back to the original concern, which is admission into the Mega + Prometheus Societies.

1 Most likely you have an admitting score on a standardized test, but since they presently are not accepted and you probably have taken but did not score high enough on the Mega or LAIT, you have not not officially been accepted as a member into either the Mega Society or Prometheus Society. True?

2 You presently have access to NOESIS as a subscriber and a contributor. Don't blow it. It gives you a channel of communication with official members of the Mega Society, some of which are obviously very bright by any standard. If you change your attitude, continue to contribute interesting, thought provoking, positive articles, and regularly express genuine appreciation for articles submitted by other contributors which you found personally helpful or enlightening, you will begin to gain their respect for your intelligence and the friendship of the readers. Somewhere down the line you will even have Kevin Langdon's friendship, if you stop sniping at him and start letting him know that you find he has some

very admirable qualities. As a matter of fact, he has a lot of them, including compassion for those who have unjustly criticised him through ignorance or colored emotions, once they have regained their sanity and had the courage to apologize sincerely.

Why do I stress this point of cultivating his and other members' friendship? Think, Paul. They have the thinking skills that you need to develop in order to effectively deal with the types of problems that are found on the Mega, Titan, LAIT and other tests of the same caliber of difficulty. And some of these members would make excellent tutors/mentors for you. Eventually another test will have to be developed and accepted for admission because the answers for the current tests will be too widely known by non-members who have pooled their answers and deduced the best ones by discussion. (And that does happen, as pointed out by ^{some source} ~~the~~ regarding a group which got together just for that purpose and came up with a passing score.) To my way of thinking, having a mentor teach you how to use more sophisticated thinking styles is perfectly ^{wise}. It is analogous to being raised in a family which only knew how to evaluate their world in terms of NO/NEVER and YES/ALWAYS and then going somewhere and learning the concepts of MAIBE Sometimes. It would obviously make one a more intelligent thinker. People do learn to think-in-part-from other people. Even geniuses.

- 5) And now for my closing point. Kevin has admitted that his test and others are not 100% accurate in precisely pin-pointing the testee's intelligence ~~score~~ relative to what is possible and in relationship to everyone else. There are multiple factors that can influence the clarity and insightfulness of one's cognitive processes at any given moment. (illness, hunger, pain, emotional concerns, prescription medication, etc.) But as a general guide-line, I believe that it is reasonable to state that his and some of the other higher level tests will be able to discriminate fairly accurately between testees who would never be able to score at the highest levels by quite a margin, and those who can. This is presuming of course, that the circumstances of that testee remain relatively the same throughout the testee's adult life. If ^{his} the testee gets a high-level thinking coach, recovers from a chronic long-term illness, or suddenly develops an intense motivation to become an excellent thinker and learns everything ~~they~~ he or she can about the subject, then all bets are off. As Kevin has stated, research indicates that approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of one's intelligence is determined by genetics, but if the educational system were to be dramatically improved, ~~that ratio could be potential dramatically different,~~

that ratio of genetic vs environmental influence on one's intelligence could, theoretically at least, be dramatically changed in favor of environmental influences. Aaron Stern, author of The Making Of A Genius and its sequel, The Joy Of Learning, would emphatically agree, as I believe Marilyn vos Savant would also, based on her books dealing with mental training.

So what is my point? Simply this. Don't fall into the trap of attributing too much importance to an IQ score. Intelligence is highly important as a tool, but living your life satisfyingly is the ultimate aim - or should be.

Robert M. Rennie

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Correspondence on this topic is invited. R.R.

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A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds—Emerson

April 12, 1996

Rick Rosner,
5711 Rhodes Avenue,
N. Hollywood, CA 91607-1627,
USA

Dear Rick,

I was caught unawares by this morning's double package of *Noeses*. Here's twenty US dollars to extend my subscription to number 126. I may even send in some material in order to extend it further, now that my life is getting back on an even keel.

Re the Stanford-Binet ceiling: my understanding is that for adults being tested, the ceiling is in the mid 150's, at a standard deviation of about 15 or 16. However, children can score much higher by the simple expedient of getting adult questions correct (and I believe that is how your fellow Megarian Marilyn vos Savant obtained her 200+ score). It's far from clear, though, how to convert such scores to percentiles. (At least, it's far from clear to me . . .)

Issue 116 of *Noesis* has left me a little concerned. I've quite enjoyed Maxim's stuff about Mallarmé, but I don't like to see *Noesis* filled up with complaints about other societies. OK, I'm not a member, so I have no vote: but I'd be surprised if the members were any happier about it. (I'm glad I'm not editor, with the resulting decisions about whether to include material and be castigated or reject it and be accused of authoritarianism.)

Best wishes.



Robert Low

PS I seem to recall that you were planning to acquire email. Are you able to accept submissions by that route yet? (Or are all such submissions best sent via Chris Cole?)

[Ed's comment: I'm borrowing an email account from Chris Cole. You could email stuff to him, including a message for him to tell me to take a look at it. Otherwise, I'm not going to open his mail. Sorry I'm still relatively low-tech.]

17 April 1996

Mr. Jeff Ward, Executive Officer
Mega Society
13155 Wimberly Square, No. 284
San Diego, CA 92128

Dear Jeff,

The dam is beginning to crack, and the house of cards is starting to crumble!

Kevin Langdon recently revealed to Bob Kopp (VIDYA Editor) that the norming of one of his tests was 5 points too high. Here's the way Bob phrased it to me: "He admits that one of his normings was about five points too high, adding that you already know about it." Since Langdon's LAIT was the only one of his tests I have ever analyzed, and since this remark was directed at a three-sigma society member, what Langdon was saying (in effect) is that the LAIT IQ threshold for admission to Triple Nine should be raised from 150 to 155. It also implies the necessity for a corresponding seven-point increase in the LAIT's 4-sigma threshold, from 164 to 171, which is pretty much what I've been recommending over the past few months. And, in addition, it would imply raising the Mega threshold for LAIT by eight points, from 176 to 184.

Someone sent me a copy of the March 1994 NOESIS, in which Robert Dick made a statement (Page 2) suggesting that he had qualified for Mega admission on the basis of LAIT, and LAIT alone. This would have required a LAIT IQ of 176 or higher, according to Langdon's "established" norming (which now must be changed to 184). But when Langdon sent me his list of 284 scorers who (he said) had qualified as "4-sigma," out of a LAIT sample of 20,000 testees, the highest score listed was 175. I am still investigating this situation, but my preliminary conclusion is that there is a serious discrepancy, which raises strong doubts as to whether Bob Dick has Mega-level credentials. I think it would also be very interesting to ascertain who admitted him into the Mega Society on the basis of his LAIT score...was it Langdon? If so, you may have evidence here of a collusive conspiracy.

Another tidbit of information which recently came my way (even though I did not seek it out) consists of a statement published by Ron Hoeflin, in the July 1995 issue of his OATH journal, to the effect that he scored at the "one-in-30,000" level on verbal tests, but only at the "one-in-3,000" level on numerical/spatial exams (this is equivalent to about 3.4 sigma). Does that sound like a Mega-level IQ to you? It doesn't to me -- in fact, someone else questioned whether he has the qualifications to belong to a "4-sigma" society. Somehow, I get the impression that Hoeflin granted himself a founder's exemption in order to qualify for Mega Society membership, just as Langdon admitted himself into the Four Sigma Society, even though he does not have valid "4-sigma" credentials.

To date, I have been exposed to information concerning the credentials of only four Mega Society members, and all of them have come up lacking, two of them via Langdon's "confession of fraud." It's all very well for Mega to call itself a "one-in-a-million" organization, but when the credentials of specific members are examined, and found to be deficient, the real casualty is the Society's reputation for probity and accuracy. I hope you can see the paradox inherent in this situation: i.e., Mega calls itself the world's most intelligent membership group, and yet it's not smart enough to insure that its members comply with its declared standards.

Maxim to Jeff Ward -- 17 April, 1996 -- Page 2.

Somewhere along the line (in my opinion), the Mega Society is going to have to "bite the bullet," or suffer a complete loss of credibility. This would be a shame, in my opinion, because the Society is capable of doing good work. It publishes one of the best journals in the high-IQ domain, and obviously has some very talented members. But so long as controversies swirl concerning the matter of standards and admissions (and you know these questions are not new), so long will the Society be prevented from establishing itself on a solid foundation, since its own credentials are being called into question.

Hence, in view of the new information which has recently surfaced, I would suggest the following course of action:

1. The Society should reduce its admissions standard to the "one-in-100,000" level. This is the same suggestion that was put forward by Ron Hoeflin in 1986.

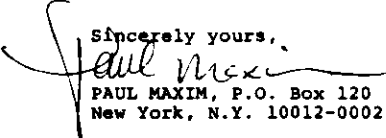
2. The Society should establish a "blue-ribbon" commission, and subject all its members and applicants to recertification, so as to insure fairness and accuracy. Where there has been evidence of fraud, bias, or the exercise of "insider's privilege," new certification of qualifications should be solicited.

There will, of course, be objections to such a program, particularly by those who fear that their membership status might thereby be called into question. But if such a reorganization is not undertaken, knowing what we know now, there will continue to be whispers, accusations, invidious comparisons, and calls for a "level playing field."

Although such a reorganization may prove painful to some, I feel that a stronger and more viable Mega Society will emerge from it. What is more, I believe that lowering the acknowledged admissions standard to the "one-in-100,000" level will in no way diminish the intellectual quality of the Society's discussions and productions, and may even serve to increase its membership base, if coupled with a recruitment program.

It seems to me that one of the hallmarks of a resilient society is its capacity to deal constructively with problems, as and when they arise. But if problems are not courageously confronted, and simply allowed to fester, the final effect can be corrosive. This is why I feel the Mega Society should now take the initiative to redefine itself, so as to provide a sounder base for future growth and achievement.

Sincerely yours,


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

Enclosures.

TITLE: Response to Kevin Langdon's Letters in NOESIS Nos. 117 and 118.
BY: PAUL MAXIM, P.O. Box 120, New York, N.Y. 10012-0002

I noted with interest the copy of Kevin Langdon's letter to Chris Harding, dated 11 January 1982, which Mr. Langdon reprinted on p. 16 of NOESIS No. 118. It is an honest letter, in which Mr. Langdon attempts to set the record straight as regards how he obtained entry into the "606 Society" (the predecessor to Mega), based on his performance on an unnormed test called "Cyr's Mobius," which Mr. Harding equated with 196 on the Stanford-Binet scale. The focus in this matter, in my opinion, now shifts to Mr. Harding, who (according to Mr. Langdon) resorted to some unscrupulous tactics in order to convince others in the high-IQ community that he and Mr. Langdon had phenominally high IQ's.

Y'know, I've been in this situation myself. At one point in time, I answered 84 out of 86 questions correctly on IBM's Revised Programmers' Aptitude Test (RPAT), which IBM told me was "an astonishingly high score." This test was much more widely taken than Cyr's Mobius, since at one point it was required for virtually every job-seeker in the data-processing field. But I didn't go around equating my score with 196 on the Stanford-Binet, or 186, or even 176, simply because I didn't have any proof. Compare this, if you will, with Mr. Langdon's statement on P. 17 of NOESIS No. 117, to wit: "...the only scores above the four sigma level I've made are on The Mobius Test and on Alan Aax's (also as-yet-unnormed) Eight Item Test."

QUESTION: If both these tests are unnormed, as Mr. Langdon concedes, how does he know that his score on them was equivalent to 4-sigma, or to 3-sigma, or to any sigma? -- **ANSWER:** He doesn't, and any assertion on his part to such an effect is deliberately deceitful.

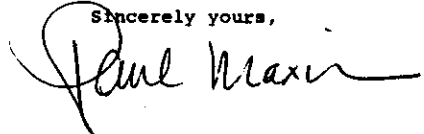
Now, if I may, I would like to relate a parable which, in my opinion, summarizes certain aspects of the Harding-Langdon situation: Señor Harding, a Mexican national, comes across the U.S. border one night, under cover of darkness, with Señor Langdon in his panel truck. They enter California, evading the Border Patrol, and live there peacefully for the next 15 years, without ever acquiring U.S. citizenship, or resident alien status. Then one day, Mr. Langdon is discovered by the I.N.S. In response to their questions, he says: "Sure, I know I'm illegal, but it was all Señor Harding's fault; I told him I didn't deserve to be here."

Here's another parable on the same theme: In 1982, Christopher Harding steals two valuable paintings from a museum, and gives one of them to his friend and confidante, Kevin Langdon. Mr. Langdon protests that he does not really "deserve" the painting, but he accepts it nonetheless, and hangs it in his livingroom, where, for the next 15 years, he uses it to impress his friends. Then, one day, the cops arrive. They ask Mr. Langdon whether he legally acquired the painting, and he replies: "No, but it doesn't really matter; Mr. Harding gave it to me."

The point I'm trying to make (if it's necessary to spell it out) is that Mr. Langdon does not have, nor did he ever have, valid Mega-Society credentials. Hence, it really does not make any difference how he got into the Society; he does not belong in the Society, and for 15 years he has enjoyed membership based on a false premise. As every businessman knows, fraud voids a contract, and the Mega Society Constitution specifies that membership in it shall be open only to those whose IQ's have been measured at the "one-in-a-million" level, equivalent to 4.75 sigma. Mr. Langdon has acknowledged that his best credential recorded to date on any properly normed test is 3.6 sigma (on Terman's Concept Mastery), which is far below the Mega Society threshold. In view of this circumstance, and regardless of how he was originally recorded, he does not belong in the Society. He consists on con-

tinuing to possess something which does not rightfully belong to him. Mr. Langdon has been caught with his credentials down, and he should therefore resign forthwith from the Mega Society, and spare us any further self-justificatory rhetoric. If he refuses to resign, I call upon the Executive Officer of the Mega Society to begin proceedings to terminate Mr. Langdon's membership, and wish to point out, in this regard, that such a procedure would represent a revocation, not an expulsion. In other words, just like the hypothetical Mexican wetback, Mr. Langdon is not entitled to due process, or to a hearing, because he entered the Society illegally in the first place.

Sincerely yours,



Copies: Jeff Ward, Executive Officer
Rick Rosner, NOESIS Editor
Chris Cole, NOESIS Publisher
Kevin Langdon

Date: April 27, 1996

Editor's comments: The concept of IQ itself is slightly obsolete and ridiculous. IQ testing has a history of unsavory agendas. The arena of superhigh IQ-ology is even more problematic. The problems lie in these areas:

- Lack of real-world performance by superhigh IQ people. (Nobel Prizes, etc.), often coupled with social awkwardness which further reduces credibility among stupid people who do have social skills.
- Lack of a real-world reason to measure IQ's above 150. As most of you know, the concept of IQ was introduced to make sure education met the needs of children with varying abilities by determining whether a student has low, medium or high ability. Schools are equally ill-equipped to meet the needs of a kid with a 150 IQ and a kid with an IQ of 170.
- Lack of acceptance in the psychometric community and lack of unassailable norms for superhigh IQ tests.
- The ordeal of taking a superhigh-ceiling test, which eliminates qualified candidates who are busy doing something other than taking IQ tests.
- Rule-bending and the dissemination of high-ceiling test answers.
- The possibility that, in the higher reaches of IQ, IQ is inherently indeterminate--that no number can be assigned, that no well-ordered relationship exists among high-IQ people.

I'd like to think that high-IQ people, keeping all that in mind, could treat the whole high-IQ thing with, I dunno, some lightness. Indeed, the Mega Society recently celebrated its ten-year anniversary, and only in the past few months has the issue of qualification been the site of real teeth-clenching contention. (And the recent contention resembles professional wrestling as seen through the eyes of fans who think that pro wrestling is real.)

The high-IQ world is fraught with ludicrousness, but so is everything—religion, science (The Copenhagen interpretation is pretty goofy.), any -ology. I'm sure people have been admitted to Mega through a combination of characteristics, especially persistence, augmenting less than one-in-a-million intelligence, but I doubt anyone will gain admission through unrelenting attacks and the complete destruction of an admittedly imperfect but reasonably efficient (and probably the only practical) admission system.

Let me respond to specific points:

- As far as I know, Ron Hoeflin has consistently asked to be included in the Mega Society as the founder, not as a member. He has never claimed to qualify, though I think that the general feeling among members is that he is on a par with the members.
- The Mega Society is actually a combination of two merged societies, one of which was, for part of its existence, a 1-in-100,000 society, largely because of fluctuating norms to the Mega Test. One-in-a-million is certainly a catchier cutoff, but beyond that, I don't think anyone would be too concerned about a change to one-in-a-hundred thousand. On the other hand, with all the varying norms flying about, I'm completely unpersuaded to alter the agreed-upon theoretical cutoff of one-in-a-million.
- No member will be booted out of the Mega Society or required to requalify. We suggested requalification a long time ago, and people were rightfully furious.

To get even more specific:

While Paul Maxim's analyses of Langdon and Hoeflin and their tests have a patina of objective analysis, most readers get the impression that they seethe with resentment predating his first submission to *Noesis*. I like any material which generates material from other people, which Maxim's material certainly does, but I don't like the distress which it causes me and seems to cause other people.

The history of *Noesis* is, to a large degree, the history of Chris Langan's presentation of CTMU as a guide to the solution of Newcomb's paradox and myriad other problems, and the sometimes-surly communication between Langan and other readers. Robert Hannon's material has also generated a lot of frustrated letters.

But both the Langan and the Hannon interactions seem to be conducted with more charity than the Maxim interactions, which make me fear for the continued existence of Mega.

AN OPEN LETTER TO KEVIN LANGDON from PAUL MAXIM

It has taken me awhile to respond to your letter of February 7, 1995, in which you presented me with the LAIT IQ scores of 284 testees you said you had "qualified" for the Four Sigma Society, based on a 20,000-testee sample which consisted mainly of OMNI readers. As you may recall, these LAIT IQ scores ranged from 79 in the "164" category to 2 at IQ 175.

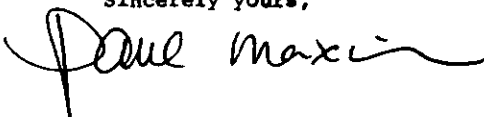
I computed the mean LAIT IQ for these 284 qualifiers, and it came out to 166.7, representing about 1 in 70,000 as compared with the general population. Then I also computed the mean IQ that the entire 20,000-testee sample would have had to have (assuming a normal distribution), in order for its top 284 scorers to achieve a mean IQ of 166.7...this came out to precisely 3 sigma, equivalent to the nominal entry level for ISPE, Triple Nine, and OATH. Hence, if your statistics are correct, these OMNI readers represent one of the largest and most intelligent groups in the world -- how clever of you to have discovered them!

As you are probably aware, the various high-IQ societies have, to date, reliably identified fewer than 1,500 individuals with 3-sigma IQ's. ISPE recently announced that, since its inception, it has admitted 1200 members, of whom about 500 have since lapsed; however, three independent studies demonstrated that ISPE's mean IQ is far below its vaunted 3-sigma standard, and that its members may, in actuality, be no more intelligent than Mensans.

An even more reliable statistic is represented by the relationship between the number of 3-sigma and 4-sigma scorers in any given sample, which should be 30 to 1 (that is, one in a thousand, versus one in 30,000). But if fewer than 1,500 "three sigmoids" have been reliably identified to date, this in turn means that only 50 of them were at the 4-sigma level...far fewer than the "284" you claimed to have qualified in one of your statements, or the 650 you listed in another. Somehow, I receive the impression that your claims have been vastly overstated, and that you conferred a 4-sigma IQ on several hundred individuals who did not really possess it.

What your statistics imply is that your OMNI testees, as a whole, had an IQ equal to or greater than that of most ISPE members, and at the same time formed a group 100 times larger than ISPE was in the early 1980's, when you did most of your LAIT testing. Doesn't this seem a little implausible to you, and why haven't you previously offered any explanation for this apparent impossibility? If these OMNI readers were as intelligent as your statistics make them seem, I can't understand why you didn't recruit them, on the spot, into your Triple Nine Society. In other words, whether or not they wanted to join, you could have attached their names to a piece of paper, just as you did in the case of your 650 "Four Sigma Society qualifiers"...then Triple Nine could have had 20,000 members, instead of a mere 300. I'm surprised you never thought of that!

Sincerely yours,



A LETTER FROM CHRIS HARDING

Dear Rick:

With reference to a diversity of what can only be referred to as odd items in Noesis for March 1996 please grant me my say; what follows is rough: It doesn't deserve much time be spent on it.

Guinness never ever appointed me to do/say/or be anything. I amongst others were singled out for mention prior to their having any knowledge of Mega - witness to the fact that they made no mention of it whilst mentioning other groups. The first inkling I had of being listed was a letter from Ron Hoeflin. Ron had been informed by someone else whom he named (the name now escapes me) making a short reference to the fact in a letter to me and telling me who'd alerted him. I looked up a copy as soon it was available in Australia - I think that would have been about two weeks later. I was surprised by what I saw and had no idea as to where the information had come from. None subsequently did any of the others listed. Only one person was quoted as having a 195 IQ - in the list published was one person previously quoted by them as having an IQ of 190. No other numbers accompanied the names. It was well known at the time that at least two or three people having mentioned it in letters to me that Kevin Langdon had a perfect score on the Mobius test. This was some years before Mega existed. This and other information was widely known to a great many people at the time. Who ultimately typed off Guinness remains unknown to me to this day. I suspect given the American frame of mind it probably came from a number of people (all foreigners like myself know Americans are great communicators). I'd bet Guinness ultimately put it together so to speak from a plurality of sources and I'd also guess that that is a standard procedure i.e. weighing up competing facts/claims etc. But all this is pretty much academic now. I'm not at all certain they ever claimed World record status for anyone listed. With a 5-6 billion world population that would seem unlikely and too easily challenged. I recall being one of those who later wrote to Guinness to try and get the Mega Society listed. Mega had much appeal in being the most selective society on earth. Something undisputed save for two other groups some time later. Ron's name made it into the book as founder.

I've since read of claims of scores from 199 to 200 plus. There would likely be some legitimacy to some and possibly most of the super IQ claims. I read of a family all of whose members scored in the 275-280 range - all 7 of the kids. By comparison my own post Guinness highest ever performance of 204 looks pretty weak. I was tested as early as 12 months and proclaimed destined for World fame but I suspect the prognosis was deference to ancestor worship something the British are all too prone to.

It is probably silly to attempt to compare statistical results from various samplings all derived from different sources. The sample populations are abnormal to begin with so the results from these will likely lead to contradictory outcomes. During the early part of this century when factor analysis of tests scores first started the British and American psychologists got totally different outcomes and this reached the point where both groups called the other liars. This was one of the most astonishing stories the field has to offer. The British used GENERAL POPULATION SAMPLINGS and the Americans COLLEGE POPULATIONS. It was more than a decade before the source of the error was spotted. We need to stop and think about this before condemning each other too loudly.

The Skyscraper and W87 were never intended to measure IQ but AQ. The difference is quite large at the high end of the scale. AQ was the ability to achieve success in the world at large unlike IQ which is merely intelligence. The achievement level of Skyscraper testees was quite enormous compared to equivalent IQ's. Two studies have to my knowledge been done here both published and accessible validating the power of the Skyscraper and later W87 to predict life achievements. The IQ of the super-achievers was lower something one would expect. I was not trying to replicate Mensa at some more lofty level. I was happy to let others do that if it made them happy. In contrast I cared a great deal about what one did or was capable of doing. The first of my tests is no longer used. No one else had my vision or observed the point of what I was trying to get across. The problem goes some what deep in that IQ as such has acquired a worldly status. Maslow called it "high IQ worship." His IQ was 195. The same fate befell my H.S.F.C.T. Some professional psychologist couldn't even score it ! let alone understand it as a measure of the long sought global compatibility equation. In reading most of their professional journals they do so badly come across as morons. I've learnt since that if you want something accepted you have to prod the right people ie. those who claim what can only be classed as "ownership" of the field and then have to plug away like a monomaniac for a lifetime something I was totally unprepared for. There is another aspect to success: I note that success in business is only a case of lowering the standards ie. create a lower common denominator. Take something and cross the bound and create a new context for it. That's how its done. Alas that doesn't require brains. In Science its a case of working with what is known absolutely. Relativity came out of Mitchelson-Morely Newtonian mechanics from the maths of the ellipse. The next step in physics will need to be just as thoroughly grounded in the certain and be just as surprise free. It is a wonder that Herman Kan (IQ 200) never saw the connection from his concept of future prediction on a surprise free basis to its application to Science. Perhaps we can as a group focus out the nut tripe something which even current Science is drowning in. The one who learns to swim properly is destined to be the first to reach the new shore.

All tests suffer high-end-skew effects. The LAIT and other such tests are no more troublesome in this regard than most others where statistics have been collected. I also quite independantly normed Ron Hoeflin's test from data he sent me using my own methods/standards and got the same results as others. For this reason I became a believer in his tests and remain so despite negative reviews he got for his work. I believe the motivating power here was straight envy.

Do you think we could just maybe manage to stop the violence that goes on in the pages of Noesis or is this just a reflection of the general state of American Society in the large ? If it is and nothing is done about it I have little doubt about the outcome. I'd like to write about my unified field theory of society based on the outcome of studies with my HSFCT. Problem with that one is that it will be met with disbelief - the theory accurately predicts its own failure to be accepted. It's all done via the personality types on a simple two axis structure that completely explains politics in its entirety. So much so that peoples behavior becomes only entertainment to me. No... America won't die in the fires of civil war despite the fact that a small scale "civil war" could be a real problem (definitely one on a limited scale !!). Put the right people in the right places and you can cut the throat of such changes. The answer really is simple. I am no ones enemy. It did for example predict that Magy Thatcher alone stood between a Britain that would go fascist and a free country. It predicted years ago the fall of communism and of its future return (in a revised condition). This is a real worry. The plus side will be future inflation and an elevated gold price and a chance to make money for the zone A types.

In the last two years I and my 2 co-authors have seen two puzzle books sold in the U.S.A. U.K. Canada Australia and India. This was constructive in terms of the High IQ Societies. HOW ABOUT WE DO A GROUP EFFORT - THE MEGA TEST BOOK ??

Chris. Harding

ON THE CO2 GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND GLOBAL WARMING

Robert J Hannon 4473 Staghorn Lane Sarasota FL 34238-5626

We hear of great concern about global warming supposedly caused by the "greenhouse effect" due to a significant and continuing increase in carbon dioxide (CO2) in Earth's atmosphere. Those who believe this to be true warn that we must immediately and drastically reduce combustion of carbon-based fuels in order to prevent the catastrophic climatic effects of a 1 to 3 degree C increase in the earth's average surface temperature in the near future.

Considering that the Earth's atmosphere weighs 5.8 million billion (5.8×10^{15}) tons: Is there a real cause for concern?

The percentage by weight of CO2 in the total atmosphere is the critical factor in the greenhouse effect. The Earth has a surface area of 196.8 million square miles. The atmosphere weighs 14.7 pounds per square inch, or 59 billion pounds per square mile. So the total weight of the atmosphere is 11.6×10^{18} pounds or 5.8×10^{15} (5.8 quadrillion) tons. While my recollection may be wrong, I remember that scientists (used to) estimate that increasing the CO2 content of the atmosphere by 0.1% of its total weight would be required to have any effect on the Earth's average surface temperature. This is (or used to be) the threshold increment required to cause any effect; a greater amount would be required to significantly increase the average surface temperature.

To convert 0.1% of the atmosphere to CO2, we must add carbon, which has the effect of increasing the total weight of the atmosphere by a very small amount. The percent carbon by weight of CO2 is $12/44 = 0.273$. The O2 is already part of the atmosphere, so to find the amount of carbon (C) we must add, we set:

$$0.1\% = 10^{-3} = \text{CO}_2 / 5.8 \times 10^{15}$$

and we find that $\text{CO}_2 = 5.8 \times 10^{12}$
therefore $C = 0.273 \times \text{CO}_2 = 1.58 \times 10^{12}$ tons

Thus 1.58 million million tons of pure carbon must be entirely combined with oxygen which is already part of the atmosphere. Most fuels are about 60% carbon, so we must completely burn about $(1/0.6) \times 1.58 \times 10^{12} = 2.6 \times 10^{12}$ tons of typical fuels to produce enough CO2 to increase its total percent by weight in the atmosphere by 0.1%.

Double or triple that amount would be required to cause a significant change (1-2 degrees C) in Earth's average surface temperature.

To simplify our calculation, let's assume that all CO2 produced by the combustion of fuels remains in the atmosphere; none is converted to O2 by plants, none is lost to other natural processes.

How much fuel do we burn per year? I can only offer a guess. Bearing in mind that a large fraction of the fuels we use are not burned, but converted to other materials such as solvents, fertilizers, industrial chemicals, lubricants, plastics, etc., I would hazard that the current annual worldwide combustion of fuels may be as great as 4.5×10^9 (4.5 billion) tons. During the last 200 years (the duration of the industrial age), it was not that large on the average; I guess an average of 1.5×10^9 (1.5 billion) tons/year for that entire period would be quite generous.

Therefore, to reach the threshold of a 0.1% increase in the weight of the atmosphere, we would have to have been burning 1.5 billion tons of carbon-based fuels every year for the last $2.6 \times 10^{12} / 1.5 \times 10^9 = 1733$ years, assuming that all of the CO2 produced would remain unchanged in the atmosphere. To have caused a significant change in the earth's average surface temperature through the CO2 greenhouse effect, we would have had to burn at least twice as much fuel for the same length of time, or the same amount per year for 3466 years.

What effect would burning 1.5 billion tons/year of fuels of 60% carbon-content for 200 years have on the atmosphere, assuming none of the CO2 produced is consumed by natural processes? Burning a total of 300 billion tons of fuel would have increased the CO2 content of the atmosphere as a percent of its total weight by:

$$0.6 \times 300 \times 10^9 / 0.273 \times 5.8 \times 10^{15} = 113.7 \times 10^{-6} = 0.0114\%$$

CO2 will not immediately distribute itself uniformly throughout the atmosphere, but one would expect that mixing would be pretty uniform after a period of 200 years, and certainly after 1733 years. However, let's assume that all the CO2 produced in 1 year remains entirely in the lower regions of the atmosphere, which contains about 30% of the weight, as the atmosphere thins out rapidly with altitude.

Assuming that the lower portion of the atmosphere weighs $0.3 \times 5.8 \times 10^{15} = 1.75 \times 10^{15}$ tons, and that none of the CO2 is consumed by other processes, completely burning 4.5×10^9 (4.5 billion) tons of fuel of 60% carbon-content will increase the CO2 percentage by weight of that portion of the atmosphere by:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 0.6 \times 4.5 \times 10^9 / 0.273 \times 1.75 \times 10^{15} \\ &= 5.65 \times 10^{-6} \\ &= 0.000565\% \end{aligned}$$

Even if we burned 10 times as much fuel in a year, the effect would still be trivial.

There are local situations in which the concentrations of CO2 will be significantly greater, but they can not contribute to global warming except as part of a global average.

Another aspect of the "greenhouse effect" must be considered. A large portion of the incident solar radiation is at frequencies (visible light and ultra-violet) which are not heat. In order for that portion of the incident radiation to become heat (infra-red radiation) it must undergo a rather selective energy-transformation process (absorption at its original frequency followed by re-radiation at a lower, infra-red, frequency). This is performed by certain natural molecules; typically by chlorophyl. Only a part (just a certain range of frequencies) of this infra-red (IR) re-radiation is (partially) trapped by CO2. Plant life is responsible for almost all of the conversion from visible light and UV to IR. Since, it is claimed, we are rapidly demolishing plant life over large areas of the earth, it is plain that we are actively decreasing the amount of IR that the CO2 in the atmosphere can "trap". Thus man must be causing global cooling.

It is also to be noted that CO2 will reflect IR coming to the earth from the sun. So as the CO2 content of the atmosphere is increased, less heat will reach the lower atmosphere, creating yet another cooling effect.

There are other gasses that some claim contribute to the greenhouse effect, but nature has been producing most, such as methane, for hundreds of millions of years on a scale that dwarfs our trivial efforts.

Not all scientists agree about the extent to which CO2 traps infra-red radiation, particularly in the range of frequencies radiated by plants. Some believe that the CO2 greenhouse effect does not exist. There are other factors, mostly not well-understood and certainly not within our control, which can significantly affect earth's average temperature. The extent, location, overall magnitude and intensity of local magnetic anomalies on the sun's surface affect Earth's temperature and climate. Scientists are only now beginning to have the technology necessary to investigate these phenomena. The energy output of the sun is known to vary over the years, and can do so in an as yet unpredictable manner.

If I am anywhere near right, Global Warming due to combustion of carbon-based fuels is not a cause for immediate alarm.

THE PARADOX OF THE TWINS PARADOX

20 Apr 96

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The Twins Paradox which purportedly arises from Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity, specifically from the Einstein-Lorentz Transformation (ELT), has been discussed and debated many times by numerous experts on that theory.

The paradox arises from the ELT equation:

$$T = (t - Vx/C^2) / \sqrt{1 - V^2/C^2} \quad (1)$$

which relates the times t and T which are measured by clocks located in separate systems of coordinates that are in constant relative translatory motion in a specific kinematic situation. (1) specifically describes the value of T as measured from the system whose time is t .

Einstein tells us that if we use (1) to relate intervals of time, (1) becomes:

$$T = t / \sqrt{1 - V^2/C^2} \quad (1a)$$

The paradox arises in the imaginary situation in which there are twins, A and B, who were born within seconds of each other on Earth. Both have perfect clocks. A and his clock stay on Earth, while B takes his clock with him on a trip in a spaceship. B's spaceship travels away from Earth at constant velocity V , which is a large fraction of C , the constant velocity of light in empty space. He travels at V for some significant interval of time, then turns his spaceship around and returns to Earth at the same velocity V .

Upon the spaceship's return to Earth, B's perfect clock says interval t has passed since he left Earth. According to (1a) the same interval will be measured to be T by A's perfect clock on Earth. This implies that twin A on Earth will be older than twin B when B returns to Earth. Let's put some numbers into (1a) as an example. Assume $V = 0.96C$, and $t = 10$ years; then:

$$T = 10 / 0.28 = 35.71 \text{ years}$$

So while B ages 10 years, A will age 35.71 years.

A will be 25.71 years older than B when B returns to Earth.

At the instant the spaceship returns to Earth, A's perfect clock says interval t has passed since the spaceship left Earth. According to (1a) same interval will be measured to be longer by B's perfect clock on the spaceship. This implies that twin B will be older than than twin A, when B returns to Earth.

B will be 25.71 years older than A when B returns to Earth.

The paradox is that there is no mathematical way to determine which twin is older when B returns to Earth. Many learned physicists and mathematicians have attempted to solve the Twins Paradox, using every imaginable assumption, but none has proven which twin ages more.

The real paradox is why all these experts have not understood that there is no paradox.

The ELT consists of four simultaneous equations:

$$T = (t - Vx/C^2) / \sqrt{1 - V^2/C^2} \quad (1)$$

$$X = (x - Vt) / \sqrt{1 - V^2/C^2} \quad (2)$$

$$Y = y \quad (3)$$

$$Z = z \quad (4)$$

These equations describe a specific kinematic situation, in which two identical systems of Euclidian Cartesian coordinates exist in empty homogeneous space and time. Their axes are parallel. Coordinate system S has axes x,y,z, and its time is t. Coordinate system M has axes X,Y,Z, and its time is T. The x and X axes coincide, but can slide relative to each other. At times t=0 and T=0, x=0 coincides with X=0. At the instant when time intervals t and T simultaneously exceed zero, two motions begin: a) the X-axis moves along the x-axis at constant velocity V in the direction of increasing x; and b) a wavefront of a ray of light (WRL) is emitted from X=0 at constant velocity C.

Equations (1), (2), (3), and (4) apply only to kinematic situations identical with the foregoing description. Equations (3) and (4) involve no change in values between systems S and M, and require no further consideration.

It is generally believed that (1), (2), (3), and (4) are a general coordinate transformation, analogous to the equations by which we may transform, for example, any point in a Cartesian coordinate system to a corresponding point in a Polar coordinate system, and vice-versa. This is not true. Assuming they are valid, (1), (2), (3), and (4) relate only the coordinates and times of the intersection of the WRL with the x and X axes at times t and T, in the kinematic situation described above.

It is of paramount importance to understand the physical meanings of x,X,t,T,V, and C in equations (1) and (2), which are as follows:

x is the coordinate of the intersection of the WRL with the x-axis of system S, measured from x=0.

X is the coordinate of the intersection of the WRL with the X-axis of system M, measured from X=0.

t is the interval of time in system S, measured from t=0, required for the WRL to reach coordinate x.

T is the interval of time in system M, measured from T=0, required

for the WRL to reach coordinate X .

V is the constant velocity of $X=0$ relative to $x=0$ in the direction of increasing x .

C is the constant velocity of the WRL relative to $X=0$ in the same direction as V .

$T=0$ when $t=0$, and then $X=0$ and $x=0$.

It must also be understood that t and T are intervals of time measured from $t=0=T$ and that coordinates x and X are lengths measured from $x=0$ and $X=0$.

The coordinates of the intersection of the WRL with the x and X axes, at times t and T , are the subject of equations (1) and (2). If a WRL moving as described above is not the subject of a physical situation, the quantities x, X, t, T , and C do not exist, and equations (1) and (2) cannot be applied to that situation. If (1), and/or (1a), and/or (2) are applied, they will yield meaningless results.

Clearly the clock on Earth and the clock on the spaceship are not measuring the intervals of time, measured from $t=0=T$, at which a WRL is located at x and X in two Cartesian coordinate systems. The times measured by those clocks have nothing to do with a WRL, so the quantities x, X, t, T , and C do not exist. The ELT equation (1) [or (1a)] is not applicable to the situation of the Twins, and no paradox exists.

PUBLISHER'S COMMENTS

Chris Cole

There are a couple of topics that have come up in the last few issues that I feel obligated to comment upon. The first is the validity of the election for editor, and the second is the legitimacy of certain members.

Chris Langan called for an election for editor upon the occurrence of the next foul-up by Rick. Since this is a highly subjective and contentious condition, I urged Rick to go ahead and hold the election immediately. In the spirit of self-effacement, he did. When some people objected to the deadline for voting being perhaps too short, we extended it. In short, we did everything we could to be fair and impartial. The outcome of the voting was a pretty clear mandate for Rick. Chris' objection that there was no time to make statements of editorial policy before the election sounds like sour grapes. I think all of us are very aware of the editorial policies advocated by Rick and Chris. The membership chose Rick's policies (by the way, as publisher I did not vote). So be it.

Paul Maxim has written several pieces questioning Kevin Langdon's qualifications to be a member of Mega. Mega was formed by merging the old Mega Society and the Noetic Society. As a condition of this merger, no requalification was required to be a member of the merged society. From the point of the merger forward, the criterion of acceptance was scoring at the one-in-a-million level on an intelligence test (as befits the name of the society). In practice, it's hard to find a test with validity in that range, and we have deferred the problem to our two experts, Kevin Langdon and Ron Hoeflin.

So, this is my position: Kevin's membership in the Mega Society is secured as a condition of the founding of the Society. In order for anyone new to get into the Society, they have to satisfy either Kevin or Ron that they have scored at the one-in-a-million level on an intelligence test.

I was going to include something with actual content as opposed to this administrative blather, but this issue is already too long. I promise I'll get it in the next issue!