

NOESIS

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EDITOR

R. Rosner

5711 Rhodes Ave

N. Hollywood CA 91607-1627

(818) 985-5230

THINGS FALL APART ISSUE FROM THE EDITOR:

What's going wrong:

1. After being caught up for a few months, I've reverted back to late issues and double mailings.
2. We have a prospective member who wants to join on the basis of some very old (and somewhat obscure) but very respectable childhood IQ scores. Since I personify laziness, I say, "Let him in," but Cole for one says that we're operating under Mega Society by-laws which limit the acceptable tests to Langdon's and Hoeflin's. The upshot of this is that we'll probably have to put the Mega Society on some strict constitutional basis with all sorts of formal rules and more elections, etc., none of which I find too exciting and not just because I'm kinda the dictator.
3. Maxim continues to attack Langdon. Langdon is a nice guy, but he says he'll sue Maxim and me if libelous stuff continues to show up in *Noesis*. So I'm supposed to actually read submissions and decide what is and isn't libelous? Good luck. Maxim says Langdon's tests are inflated. I've always found Langdon's tests harder than Hoeflin's, or at least have performed worse on them. I took the Mega twice and the Titan once, and the average of my IQ scores on those three attempts is 23 points higher than the average of my IQ scores on the two Langdon tests I tried.
4. My hard drive just had a spasm. I might have to unscrew all the ports and drag the mini-tower to Fry's, a very annoying computer superstore (average wait time to talk to a technician, 75 minutes (65 minutes if you simulate an attack of Tourette's)).
5. Given all these issues, my plan is to toss in anything that looks remotely publishable and that I haven't misplaced. **STANDARD NOTICES: Dues are two bucks per issue. Back issues are a buck fifty. Checks are payable to Rosner, not Noesis or Mega. One free issue for each two pages of published material you submit.**

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ALL BY PAUL MAXIM

TO RONALD HOEFLIN (regarding Noesis 118, page 9):

LO! MEGA-MANIA

Okay, Ron, last things first. Most of the people in this group already know that you claim to have achieved a synthesis of philosophy and Freudian psychology, that your mind contains an exhaustive set of psychological compartments, and that I occupy the one labeled "megalomania". So please don't think you have to go out of your way to work this label into every comment you direct at me. After all, my puny claim to megalomania resides only in an uncompromising affinity for truth. It cannot compare with the megalomania displayed by countless others who demand that truth conform to their personal interests, unreal expectations, or minuscule cookie-cutter brains. Accusations of megalomania are particularly hard to figure when they come from someone who long ago took it upon himself to single-handedly sort and stack the world's supply of mega-level geniuses. I refer, of course, to you.

HUMOR WITH SUBSTANCE

That being said, let me explain the sense in which the CTMU can be considered an "intelligence test". First, I'll admit that the idea began as somewhat of a put-on. However, like my pal Jojo Einstein, I always structure my gags in such a way that they have at least as much substance as any wet-blanket criticism that might be flung at them. In this case, the gag morphs into a whole new approach to intelligence testing.

THE RELATIVITY OF IQ

IQ testing as you and others know it is a relative affair. You design tests and administer them to numbers of people, construct statistical graphs of the results, and define "intelligence" as that which is measured by these procedures. In effect, you give many contingent definitions of intelligence based on relative comparisons within statistical samples. Although you try to statistically correlate these relative definitions with each other, at no point do you seriously attempt to embed the intelligence concept in a comprehensive model of external reality. All you do is observe that the problems in your tests are similar to some which occur in the real world, and that success in solving them "seems to correlate" with academic success and intellectual achievement. Questions about the deep connection between intelligence and wider reality are pretty much begged, presumably until some other field like physics or computer science comes up with the answers.

Unfortunately, whatever its putative social utility, this approach can never give us a better understanding of intelligence. Here in the late twentieth century, with AI buzzing in the wind and humanity up to its eyeballs in real-world problems, we have to do better. What follows may be new to you, but is actually a belaboring of the obvious.

ALL TREES HAVE TRUNKS

You correctly point out that high-level human intelligence "goes in different directions, like the uppermost branches of a tree". However, you surmise from this that bias must inevitably attend a high-ceiling tester's own tendency to specialize, effectively asserting that only specialized items exist for such tests...that if we take a general intersection of all possible intellectual specialties, there won't be enough to test on. You thus seem to be taking the position that the tree of knowledge has no trunk, at least at the high level of complexity required for mega-level test items.

This no-trunk assumption turns out to be hollow. You see, all intellectual specialties claim mathematical isomorphism to logic. In claiming a logical basis, each of them tacitly claims that every statement, problem and chain of reasoning formulated within its special terminology, regardless of complexity or decidability, can be placed in literal one-to-one correspondence with a well-formed expression of higher-order predicate logic. Since we know that logic can be placed in similar correspondence with basic intellectual categories like "numerical" arithmetic, "spatial" geometry, and natural "verbal" language, it constitutes a universal knowledge-intersect which affords an endless supply of high-end test items...provided, of course, that we know how to effect the required correspondence without invoking special knowledge external to the test environment, or shorting that dimension of intelligence which prioritizes problems, motivates solutions, and budgets time and energy.

IT TAKES MORE THAN LOGIC TO FILL A TRUNK

Actually, the trunk of our "knowledge tree" does not consist "only" of logic, at least in the dry academic sense. All of its specialized branches also consist of *information*, and all of this information is subject to *cognition*. The relationship of these concepts is every bit as ubiquitous as logic, and indeed characterizes the discipline of logic itself. On the other hand, the relationship in question can only be characterized in logical terms. It follows that all of these concepts - logic, information, and cognition - can be described, and in fact defined, in terms of each other. I.e., there is a natural system within which these concepts, and all to which they apply, can be mutually understood. Because this system is intellectually universal as opposed to "specialized", it is a fitting source of content for high-end IQ tests.

YOU CAN'T GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT MAPS

The concept of mathematical correspondence, or "mapping", can be taken much farther than we have so far taken it. When testers claim that the items in their tests are similar to problems which might be encountered in the real world, they are asserting the existence of a transitive similarity mapping from the subjective cognitive world ("mind") of an arbitrary test subject, through their test problems, to general classes of problems

in the objective real world. Such "morphisms" are the basis of all communication not only between minds and minds - e.g., the minds of test designers and test takers - but between minds and universes.

Systems of similarity mappings have been formalized in two closely related branches of mathematics fittingly entitled "universal algebra" and "categorical algebra" (or category theory). Universal algebra is just a generalized version of abstract algebra in which the factors common to all algebraic systems, including universal, categorical and Boolean (logical) algebra themselves, are spelled out and quantified; on the other hand, categorical algebra can be viewed as a generalized version of universal algebra in which the objects under study include arbitrary sets and spaces in addition to the abstract algebraic systems whose n-ary (e.g., binary) operations apply to them. In the joint language of universal/categorical algebra - a language which seems specialized due to its unavoidable technicality, but is actually of such extreme generality as to be intellectually indispensable - there is an aptly named class of elements called "identities" and "universal objects". The conceptual system whose existence we have just established is such an object. By virtue of the fact that this system applies even to universal algebra itself, it describes (descriptively contains) its own mathematical development, invoking an "endomorphich" cognitive similarity mapping between itself, generalized as a universal object within universal algebra, and its own universal-algebraic component. In other words, it is a self-inclusive self-cognitive system effecting its own containment by means of intrinsic cognition.

PARADOX IN RETREAT

This kind of "self-inclusion" can be regarded as the self-contained resolution of a class of paradoxes with which you should be familiar as a philosopher, namely, those based on Cantor's "set of all sets". It is this "set", outlawed by type theory and renamed "Cantor's Absolute", which has provided the main apparent obstacle to a unified theory of metaphysics (I refer you to Paul Davies' popular book The Mind of God for an account of the problem in plain English; Davies, like many others, mistakenly considers the problem insoluble despite the evident fact that nature has solved it). Concisely, the resolution is itself such a theory. It is "known" to the members of this group as the CTMU, or Cognition-Theoretic Model of the Universe.

CTMU: THE CAT MEWS AGAIN

You'll note that our discussions of the CTMU, which I introduced here in 1989, have not relied on the specialized language of universal algebra. Thus, anybody's failure to understand them cannot be blamed on excessive specialization. Nor can it be blamed on any lack of writing skill; the terms I've used, even when neological, have all been unambiguously related within these discussions at a level of meaning sufficient for understanding. If my communication skills are in any way to blame, it is because they

are too good rather than too poor (much like those of someone whose IQ exceeds the IQs of his audience by more than 30 points; naturally, this is only an analogy). I simplified as much as I could within the "no-background" constraint of IQ test design.

This is all especially amusing when one considers that several high-profile members of the Mega Society consider themselves experts in metaphysics. Metaphysics is the level of discourse that one inevitably reaches in an effort to justify what he thinks he knows. The terminus of a rational explanative regress, it is that common ground to which all specialized thinkers are driven in their efforts to justify their specialties and the lines of thought they pursue...notably including the field of psychometrics, and the lines of thought pursued in the design and taking of IQ tests. As I demonstrated in *Noesis* 76, "metaphysics" is just an antiquated synonym for "CTMU".

RELATIVISM GENERATES ABSOLUTISM

Because the CTMU is by definition an algebraic identity of the process of cognition, it provides a basis for the measurement of "absolute intelligence". Being a universal invariant of intelligent processes and relative measurements thereof, it severs the obsolete psychometric bootstrap by which we measure our own intellects relative to masses of "average" people whose mental limitations make them all but incomparable to the best of their species. Instead, we can specify the exact amount of intelligence needed to complete a standard justificative regress regarding ourselves, our knowledge, and our existence. This is the amount of intelligence necessary to recognize the CTMU...i.e., the minimum amount necessary to comprehend the real nature of intelligence, and thus the reality against whose absolute scale intelligence can be measured. Quite simply, it marks the threshold of valid self-intellection.

Let me elaborate a bit. As a philosopher, you're familiar with all kinds of "-isms": idealism, realism, nominalism, materialism, pragmatism and so on. Each of these -isms is a theory about the constitution and/or justification of reality. Some place mind over matter; some place matter over mind; some place other things, like God or purpose, over either. The CTMU is just another -ism, "transductive algebraism". Concisely, it depicts reality as a self-cognitive algebra, or *self-configuring self-processing language*. "Intelligence" is analytic in this description, a primal systemic attribute measured by comparing a subsystem's self-intellection with that of the whole system. Specifically, it is the quantifiable ability of a local self-processor to communicate, in a generalized sense, with the whole...its ability to integrate a valid internal representation of itself with a valid internal representation of the whole system. This representation is the CTMU.

THE TASTIEST FRUITS HAVE THE BITTEREST RINDS

Admittedly, there are certain impractical aspects to this kind of test. First, there is no guarantee that a given test subject, even one with a high relative IQ, will show up on

the scale. This fact is analogous to that by which a zero score on the Mega Test corresponds to a superior IQ. Even worse, those who cannot pass the test cannot even recognize the test (just as you, I suspect, still cannot). These poor souls are doomed to wander through life in ignorance of their definitive mental attributes, forever believing that intelligence is incapable of understanding itself or its place in wider reality.

...BUT THE MEAT IS STILL SWEET

However, the upside is just as dramatic. The statistical uncertainty associated with relativistic, mean-based measurements of intelligence is no longer a limiting factor. And instead of remaining a nebulous quasi-concept which nobody can define or mechanically simulate, intelligence is related to meaning as both source and medium. Through advanced CTMU logic - that is, logic fortified with a deep understanding of information and cognition - we can open new highways to mental improvement and personal happiness, social equilibrium and economic wellbeing, and the intelligent "machinery" necessary to make this world what it was always meant to be: a relative paradise in which the universe, through the mind of man, can awaken to its own nature and thereby realize its being.

SALVATION AS A PURPOSIVE ACT

An ultimate theory of metaphysics can go a long way towards bringing this to pass, but is not alone sufficient. There is another factor which such a theory explains but cannot completely control: the human will. Good things happen only when people voluntarily make them happen, or at least stop preventing them. All the CTMU can offer us is a chance to find common intellectual ground on which to grow and harvest the bounty of cooperation. Unfortunately, knowledge of past failure breeds negative expectations, and these can function as self-fulfilling prophecies. When it bears this kind of fruit, knowledge becomes a curse.

RACIAL IQ

Every intelligent species in the universe - and since it is a big universe, we can assume that we are not the only one - unavoidably creates for itself a pass-fail "IQ test" which is scored not on a gently sloping curve, but on an absolute scale of life or death. If it has enough well-distributed absolute intelligence to pass, it lives. If not, it dies. A species whose most intelligent members can do nothing but peer at the test and blink stupidly might as well bend over, put its insufficiently brainy head between its legs, and kiss its bruised rump goodbye. This includes species whose members peer jealously at it and deliberately withhold recognition for pure spite (you know - "My theory is better!" "No, mine's the best!" "Fools! Kneel and kiss *my* theory!" "You're ALL nuts! I've got *credentials*, and according to MY theory, all of *your* theories are impossible!" etc.). When licensed curators of ideological wreckage are encouraged to parade around

wearing tall hats and generating noise, they can create enough diversion to prevent anybody less idiotic from separating fact from fiction in time to pass the test...i.e., in time for the sentient race to dodge catastrophe in the hazardous phase space it has created for itself.

SOME JOKES JUST AREN'T FUNNY

I have a nagging little hunch that your letter was itself half-meant as a joke...a lure to see how far you could get me to carry my CTMU-IQ thesis. Now that you've found out, I also have a hunch that you'll dismiss all of this. You'll probably assume that this is just more of "Langan's megalomania" and guess that it could easily be dismantled by somebody with sufficient knowledge (other than you, of course). I've warned you before not to do this kind of guessing, but you ignored me then and will probably ignore me now. If so, your understanding will surely suffer as a consequence. So will the understanding of those who look to you as a source of insight.

The CTMU differs from other theories of metaphysics not only in that it is mathematical, but in that the mathematics on which it relies are relatively new. This explains why such a theory has had to wait until now to be discovered, and why it eluded discovery for so long that it is widely reckoned an impossibility. This situation is an old one in science and philosophy: failures pile up until they obscure the horizon; those responsible offer all kinds of plausible excuses, often declaring success impossible; and discovery, all hope for which has been systematically killed, seems miraculous when it finally arrives. The only "miracle" actually required is that of a clear mind in a cloudy world...and an even break for the one who worked it.

SPEAKING OF EVEN BREAKS...

It may seem anomalous to you, after your long experience with the quarrelsome and sophomoric members of high-IQ clubs, that someone like me should be privileged to pluck the golden apple of metaphysics. It probably doesn't help that you have a Ph.D. in philosophy, and thus hold peer status in a group of people whose intellectual self-importance is matched only by their disregard for each other's viewpoints. Then again, the problems of philosophy are profound, and it is natural to resist solutions which seem overly facile or too painlessly acquired. For these reasons, I give you the benefit of the doubt in spite of your evident disrespect.

Once again, I'm asking that you return the favor. I do, after all, possess a credential that you "invented" yourself. If your work in psychometrics has any validity whatsoever, then so does the credential, and so in all likelihood does my work. Deny this, and you relinquish all credibility as a designer of IQ tests. Many great geniuses throughout history have been afflicted with some degree of (well-justified) "megalomania", and making such a diagnosis cannot provide you with reason to discount their contributions.

If the verdict of posterity means anything to you - indeed, if posterity itself means anything to you - then you will either produce a sound reason why the CTMU can't work, or publicly change your attitude regarding it.

If you choose the former alternative, then you of course understand that you are not playing word games with an ordinary purveyor of metaphysical claptrap. You are playing against someone who has already provided dramatic mathematical applications of his ideas to somebody who would, if it were possible, have refuted them. This person is not in a position to deny that he has been given every opportunity, and every encouragement, to do just that. What he has in his possession is even better than Andy Wiles' proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, and it didn't take me anything like "a lifetime" to produce it. Note that in addition to numerous other honoraria, he too is a holder of your mega credential.

As usual, I invite your well-reasoned response. I'm sure the readers of *Noesis* would find it both interesting and educational.

TO CHRIS COLE:

On the back page of *Noesis* 119, you dutifully discharge your "obligation" to comment on the recent election for editor (for someone accustomed to having the last word, what better place than the last page?). Since your comments amount to little more than a jab at me, I guess I'll have to respond.

First, let's avoid misunderstanding. As I have in the past, I'd like to thank you for your voluntary service as publisher of *Noesis*. We all appreciate your time, attention, and erstwhile use of your reputedly extensive financial resources to float what was once a losing proposition (especially me, since I know even better than you what it feels like). You've done more than your part in what was always supposed to be a team effort.

However, it is harder to appreciate your pedigree as kingmaker. Having pressed Rick to declare his own candidacy (as well as mine!), you admittedly served as Rick's political advisor. If the past be any sort of guide, you probably also served as his campaign manager. When you "impartially" extended the deadline for voting, you functioned as election administrator. Now you're Rick's press agent. Unfortunately, since both you and Rick are political appointees of another former editor, Ron Hoeflin, it is not immediately clear how you can fill all of these positions, plus that of publisher, without precipitating a conflict of personal and societal interests.

As you're well aware, I suggested an election because a lack of explicit editorial guidelines was encouraging Rick to function in a highly arbitrary manner. Everyone knows that the journal was always late, and many of us could only read it wearing gloves and nose plugs. You're aware of my reasoning because I explained it not only

in writing in *Noesis*, but personally to you by telephone (back when you were taking calls). Guidelines were the whole point of my suggestion. I never stated that I'd run personally. So if I'm tasting "sour grapes", it's not because I "lost the election". It's because you've been sprinkling them on my cornflakes.

In order to qualify for the Mega Society, each of us had to demonstrate an ability to understand the meanings of words. What meanings do you attach to the words "mandate", "policy", and "self-effacement"? Rick can't convince a third of the voters, and you award him a clear mandate. Rick had no discernible editorial policy but a steadfast refusal to adopt any policies at all, and you dub him the people's policymaker. Rick clings to the editorship against all opposition, and you call him self-effacing. Are we writing in the same language? If so, here's another word I'd like you to consider: "doublespeak".

You claim that identifying foul-ups is a "subjective and contentious" enterprise. Maybe so, when there are a lot of unknowns. But in the world of international publishing, foul-ups are often clear-cut. For example, profanity is admittedly in the ear of the listener, and profane language has often been used to draw attention or add emphasis to important points. But when there is no point but to prove the total autonomy of the editor, it becomes even more offensive than when it stands alone. It becomes a kind of puerile ego-trip that makes those who use it, and all of their close associates, look like dime-store punks. I don't think you need call those of us "contentious" who prefer to project a less obnoxious image.

Maybe, as you say, the membership "chose Rick's policies". If so, most of them did it by not voting at all. Assuming that the election was valid, why didn't they do their duty as members and vote? That's easy: they want to maintain their "one-in-a-million" credentials, but don't want to dirty their hands by direct participation. The reason they fear dirtying their hands is the former state of *Noesis*, a state created by Rick (on the throne) and you (behind the throne). If you and Rick had been among the rank and file, maybe this "election" would have been a race. But since the two of you have been calling the shots for the better part of a decade, you're incumbents, and it's a fix (incumbents aren't allowed to stage their own reelections, which is essentially what you confess to doing). That's all there is to it.

Anyway, it's all moot. My willingness to serve as editor was always a last-resort scenario predicated on continued editorial malfeasance, and you and Rick seem to have shaped up for the time being. In that sense, my mission has been accomplished...for now.

TO RICK ROSNER:

Much to my pleasant surprise, you've been doing a good job lately. Congratulations.

If I may, I'd like to comment on some of the points you made in *Noesis* 119, pp. 17-18. Because you seem to be saying that the Mega Society should adopt a light attitude towards IQ (its *raison d'être*), you also seem to be saying that it should stop taking itself seriously. Since organizations which don't take themselves seriously have no reason to exist, this is a topic of some urgency for our membership.

First, your remarks concerning the obsolescence of the IQ concept are well-taken. Certain factors in the measurement of relative intelligence make it quite problematic, especially at the right tail of the curve. These difficulties have not been properly accounted for by the designers of high-end IQ tests, most of whom pretend that they simply don't exist.

However, this does not mean that the difficulties are insoluble. All we need is a theoretical language in which they can be identified and logically interrelated. It all comes down to devising a comprehensive theory of intelligence, something which statistical psychometricians consider outside their job description. (Way back when, some of us hoped that this group might prove instrumental in devising such a theory; in a sense it has been, although some of us are not fair or insightful enough to admit it.) But in any case, simple logic is enough to dispose of most of the problems you cite.

Let's have a look at the first of your problems: lack of real-world performance by super high-IQ people. Certain aspects of the real world can interfere with establishing a correlation between IQ and success. For instance, there is the matter of how to get your real-world accomplishments recognized. Extremely intelligent people are often too occupied with abstractions to bother with politics, and this can work to their detriment. On the other hand, many political types succeed in getting recognition for the accomplishments of others. For example, those who wangle political appointments as leaders of large research projects often find it easy to take credit for the intellection of much smarter people who work under them. This kind of thing happens all the time.

Similarly, there is a transparent eagerness on the parts of average people, who vastly outnumber far-above-average ones, to discount the kind of achievement associated with superhigh IQ. People tend to choose their leaders and exemplars by similarity to themselves. Since these are usually the ones who initiate recognition and distribute the credit for intellectual contributions, the resulting environment is strongly prejudicial to mediocrity. It breeds the lugubrious image of the ineffectual "brainy nerd" who daydreams while the world rolls on around him, making high-IQ people ready targets for theft, ingratitude, and deliberate discouragement. The worst thing an intelligent person can do under these circumstances is lower his self-opinion to please his persecutors, something you seem to be doing on behalf of all of us. It may not be intelligent people who are out-of-sync with the world; it may be the world that has undervalued superhigh IQ's. Providing a refuge for the undervalued has always been an express justification for the existence of the Mega Society.

This leads us to the second problem you cite: lack of a real-world reason to measure IQ's above 150. The apparent fact that schools are equally unequipped to accommodate IQ's of 150 and 180 is very much beside the point. Problem-solving justifies education, not vice-versa. The world has a lot of very urgent problems whose solutions it hopes to obtain by educating children to solve them. However, just as one can train a dog to roll over but not an ant, children can only be educated to the extent of their innate abilities, and some real-world problems require a lot of ability indeed. This constitutes a real-world reason to try to measure high levels of ability. An ant, a dog, child A, child B... each has a brain, and the potential for functional distinctions is real. This too is a primary justification for the existence of the Mega Society.

You are correct about the way personal time constraints affect performance on long, power-oriented IQ tests. The general problem of motivation is thorny and requires much attention. However, in your comment regarding "the possibility that (high-end) IQ is inherently indeterminate", the word "indeterminate" should be changed to "uncertain" or "undecidable". Since one either can or cannot prioritize and solve a given problem under any finite set of explicit conditions, intelligence *per se* is deterministic and quantified, at least in principle. We're merely uncertain about what the quantifiers should be in given instances.

Similarly, it is less likely to be the world that "is fraught with ludicrousness" than the opinions of average men regarding it and their responses to it. For example, you say that "the Copenhagen interpretation (of quantum mechanics, as opposed to quantum mechanics itself) is pretty goofy". But if you were to argue this point logically, you would risk being tied in knots by a more knowledgeable person. How one views the Copenhagen interpretation strongly depends on how much he understands about the physical and logical contexts in which it is stated. For all you know, it may be embeddable (have a natural interpretation) in a global model of reality in which it really makes sense. Yet, the intellectual requirements of the model may simply be too high for some people - even some relatively high-IQ people - to meet.

Thus, when you compare the membership of this society to pro-wrestling fans too stupid to distinguish competition from showmanship, you are not being entirely fair (though the analogy does have its strengths). The two members to whom you are being the most unkind are Ron Hoeflin and Kevin Langdon, who, it might be supposed, have not spent years of their lives designing high-ceiling IQ tests just to fill in your laugh-track. Their efforts may leave room for improvement, but what they are doing has a valid basis. And so, for all its faults, does the Mega Society, at least in concept.

Again, keep up the fine work. When you properly perform your editorial duties, you make everybody look good.

Chris Langan

TRUE AND FALSE FACTS ABOUT CELEBRITIES

by Rick Rosner

I just got done working on a game show pilot concerning celeb gossip. Needing a page 12 for this *Noesis*, I thought I'd put in some of the true and false celeb facts we came up with. Most of you probably steer clear of celeb culture, but it was this or an empty page. Anyone who answers 17 or more of these correctly gets two issues added to their *Noesis* subscription.

1. Some of Steven Segal's hair transplants were grafted from his groin area.
2. While in jail, Mike Tyson read over 300 books.
3. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's original first name was Ferdinand.
4. Johnny Whittaker, the child star who played Jodie on *Family Affair*, now plays Barney the dinosaur on public TV.
5. Author Stephen King writes the last chapter of his novels sitting naked on the front lawn of his house in Maine.
6. Lions and tigers have relieved themselves on Sylvester Stallone.
7. Chicago Bulls star Dennis Rodman was once arrested for walking out of a supermarket with a box of Triscuits in his pants.
8. Richard Simmons' license plate reads Y R U FAT.
9. The Three Stooges' real names were Moses, Jerome, and Samuel Horowitz.
10. Dan Ackroyd has webbed feet.
11. Glenn Close was the voice of Scooby Doo.
12. A drunken Bruce Springsteen once climbed the fence at Graceland so he could meet Elvis.
13. As a sperm donor in college, comedian Chevy Chase is the surrogate father of dozens of children.
14. Charles Nelson Reilly discovered acetaminophen.
15. Whoopi Goldberg used to have a job putting makeup on dead people.
16. Singer Sheryl Crow eats grasshoppers.
17. Barry Manilow wrote the "You Deserve A Break Today" song for McDonald's.
18. Luciano Pavarotti was sued by British TV for lip-synching a concert.
19. James Caan won \$200,000 from a plastic surgeon in a lawsuit over bad liposuction.
20. Actor Brad Pitt's first job was standing outside El Pollo Loco in a chicken costume.
21. Robert Redford used to make money by stealing hubcaps.
22. The Reverend Louis Farrakhan's closest friends call him "Binky."
23. Meryl Streep, Carrie Fisher, Tracy Ullman, and Annette Bening babysit each other's children.
24. Johnny Depp had a tattoo that read "Winona Forever" altered to read "Wino Forever."
25. Model Cindy Crawford went to Northwestern U on a Chem E scholarship.

ULTRA TEST RESULTS

As of July 1, 1996, 33 people have attempted the Ultra Test. Their scores, on a scale from 0 to 72 (with verbal problems counting one point and nonverbal problems counting two points, with half a point for slightly incorrect verbal answers), were as follows:

9	34	51
14	36	52
16	36	59
17	37.5	62
27	38	62.5
28	41	64.5
30	43.5	65
30	45	67
30	47.5	68
30.5	49.5	68
34	50	68

The median score (50th percentile) was 38 and the mean score was 42.77, or rounded off, 43.

There were 79 usable scores from previous tests reported, yielding 79 pairs of scores, the other half of each pair being the score achieved above on the Ultra Test. I arranged each group of 79 scores in numerical order from lowest to highest, smoothed the rough edges a bit, and arrived at the following norms for the Ultra Test. IQ's are based on a normal distribution curve and 16 IQ points per standard deviation. Some extrapolation and interpolation was required, of course, to arrive at these results.

Raw score	I.Q.	Percentile	Raw score	I.Q.	Percentile	Raw score	I.Q.	Percentile
1	100	50	25	133	98	49	149	99.89
2	102	55	26	134	98	50	150	99.9
3	104	60	27	135	99	51	150	99.9
4	106	65	28	136	99	52	151	99.9
5	108	69	29	137	99	53	151	99.9
6	110	73	30	138	99	54	152	99.9
7	112	77	31	139	99	55	152	99.9
8	114	81	32	140	99	56	153	99.5
9	116	84	33	141	99	57	153	99.95
10	118	87	34	142	99.5	58	154	99.96
11	119	88	35	142	99.5	59	155	99.97
12	120	89	36	143	99.6	60	156	99.98
13	121	90	37	143	99.6	61	158	99.985
14	122	92	38	144	99.7	62	160	99.99
15	123	92	39	144	99.7	63	162	99.995
16	124	93	40	145	99.8	64	164	99.997
17	125	94	41	145	99.8	65	166	99.998
18	126	95	42	146	99.8	66	168	99.999
19	127	95	43	146	99.8	67	170	99.9994
20	128	97	44	147	99.8	68	172	99.9997
21	129	97	45	147	99.8	69	174	99.9998
22	130	97	46	148	99.87	70	176	99.9999
23	131	97	47	148	99.87	71	178	99.9999
24	132	98	48	149	99.89	72	180	99.99997

Regarding the last five problems in the Ultra Test, the spatial sequences, the performance of the 33 participants, when they are divided into the top eleven scorers, the middle eleven scorers, and the bottom eleven scorers on the test as a whole, looked like this:

The top eleven scorers had a 64 percent success rate (i.e., they solved a total of 35 right out of 55 attempted problems), the middle eleven scorers had a 25 percent success rate (i.e., they solved a total of 14 problems out of 55), and the bottom third had a success rate of 16 percent (i.e., they were successful a total of 9 times out of 55 attempted problems).

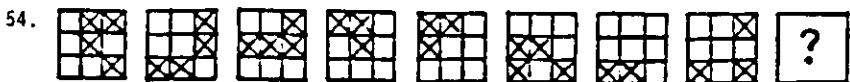
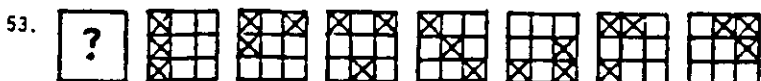
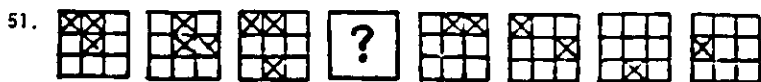
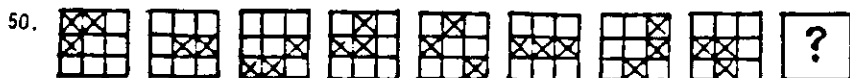
For problem 50, the top eleven all successfully solved the problem; the middle eleven were successful 7 times out of 11; and the bottom eleven were successful 5 times out of 11.

For problem 51, the top eleven were right 4 times out of 11; the middle third were successful 2 times out of 11; and the bottom third were successful 1 time out of 11.

For problem 52, the top third were successful 9 times out of 11; the middle third were successful 5 times out of 11; and the bottom third were successful 2 times out of 11.

For problem 53, the top third were successful 4 times out of 11; the middle third were successful 0 times out of 11; and the bottom third were successful 0 times out of 11.

And for problem 54, the top third were successful 7 times out of 11; the middle third were successful 0 times out of 11; and the bottom third were successful 1 time out of 11.



July 15, 1996

Ronald K. Hoeflin
P. O. Box 539
New York, NY 10101

Dear Rick:

Newcomb's Paradox was a topic of discussion in Noesis a few years ago, prior to the amalgamation of the two mega-level societies. Since probably not all current subscribers to Noesis were privy to that discussion, I will simply paraphrase the paradox here, as best I can recall it. One is to suppose that there are two boxes, in one of which is one million dollars, and in the other box an omniscient being has placed \$1,000 if he believes that you will take only the box with one million dollars in it, but in which he places nothing if he predicted that you will take both boxes. So the question is, Should you take both boxes or just the box you know has one million dollars in it, given that that omniscient being can no longer alter what is in the boxes? I may not have this stated exactly right, but you or another member can correct me if I have it wrong.

I have been reading through the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, as you know. Although there is no article on Newcomb's Paradox, today I came across a passage that appears to reveal the origins of the paradox. In the article on Frank Plumpton Ramsey (1903-1930), there is a paragraph on Ramsey's views on probability (vol. 7, p. 66) which reads as follows:

Ramsey sketched a theory of probability considered as measuring a degree of "partial belief," thereby providing a stimulus to what are sometimes called "subjective" or "personalistic" analyses of probability. His most important idea was an operational test for degree of belief. Suppose somebody, P, has no preference between the following options: (1) to receive m_1 for certain, and (2) to receive m_2 if p is true but m_3 if p is false, where p is some definite proposition and m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 are monetary or other suitable measures of utility for P. Then P's degree of belief in p is proposed to be measured by the ratio $(m_1 - m_3)/(m_2 - m_3)$ --roughly speaking, therefore, by the betting odds that P will accept in favor of p's being true, given the relative odds to him of the possible outcomes.

The author of this article on Ramsey, Max Black, also wrote the article on "Probability" for the Encyclopedia, in which he divides theories of probability into three kinds: logical, frequency, and subjective, each with various subvariants.

Newcomb's Paradox is evidently an effort to show that Ramsey's theory of probability cannot be correct. Black himself ends his discussion of subjective theories of probability (vol 6, p. 477) by saying that their "departure from the preanalytical common-sense concept [of probability] seems too drastic to be ultimately acceptable.

I have a section on the three main types of philosophical theory of probability in the book I am writing, where I classify subjective theories

in the DA phase, frequency theories in the AG phase, and logical theories in the GQ phase, where DA, AG, and GQ can be called the ethical, epistemological, and aesthetic phases, respectively. An overemphasis on one of these phases will obviously shortchange the full structure of a purposive act. Subjective theories of probability, in particular, overemphasize the drive (D) and anticipatory (A) aspects of a purposive act at the expense of the goal-object (G) and the quiescence (Q) aspects. In other words, it overemphasizes the choice- or decision-aspect of our transactions with reality while neglecting or minimizing the reality-aspect of such transactions. Moving from D to A is to make a choice of strategies; moving from A to G is to put that strategy into effect; and moving from G to Q is to assess the outcome of the preceding moves. For example, if we are hungry, D, we may choose to eat an apple as our strategy for appeasing this hunger, A, and we may choose to implement this strategy by plucking an apple from the neighbor's tree, G, but that may yield an apple with a worm in it, or the neighbor may call the police and have us arrested, yielding a not altogether satisfactory outcome, Q. The only way Ramsey's subjective approach to probability can work is if there is information from the AG and GQ phases that has been acquired from previous purposive acts. In the case of a supposed omniscient being, we would be able to give meaning to the expression "omniscient being" only if we had already had previous transactions with this being that would enable us to have acquired some information about the AG and GQ phases. To "solve" the paradox is simply to recognize that these previous transactions are relevant to our current decision in the DA phase. In other words, philosophical problems can generally be "solved" by recognizing that some narrow segment of a purposive act has been fixated on to the neglect of the rest of the purposive act's structure.

Ron Hefflin

THE HOEFLIN POWER TEST

Introduction

The Hoeflin Power Test, like the Raven Advanced Progressive Matrices and the ACT (akin to the SAT), measures intelligence or general aptitude on a 36-point scale. It is based on the best problems from my Mega, Titan, and Ultra tests, omitting verbal analogies and number sequences. The main objection to verbal analogies is that they are fairly culture-saturated, whereas the prevailing opinion is that a valid test of intelligence should downplay cultural mastery as much as possible. As for number sequences, some people do not even attempt them on the assumption that they require a significant background in mathematics. The advantage of a predominantly spatial test such as the present one is that it does give most people the feeling that they are exercising their intelligence when they try to solve the problems. These problems are not purely spatial but have significant verbal and numerical components inasmuch as one must understand the wording of the problems, which is occasionally rather intricate, and one must be able to perform various calculations, which is sometimes also a rather intricate task. In general, then, the test offers a fairly well-rounded intellectual exercise well suited to the assessment of general intelligence.

Instructions

(1) Answer sheet: Write your answers on the answer sheet provided at the end of the test. Provide the other information requested, too.

(2) Time limit: There is no enforceable time limit, but it is suggested that you allot yourself an average of one day per problem, or a total of 36 days, which you can spread out over a several-months period, as for example if you only work on the test on weekends.

(3) Aids: Use no calculating devices (except paper and pencil), and consult no books (except where indicated), or people (except RKH).

(4) Scoring fee: There is a \$36 scoring fee, payable to "Ronald K. Hoeflin" at P. O. Box 539, New York, NY 10101. There is a reduced fee for those paying in advance: \$24 for fees mailed in July, \$26 for those mailed in August, \$28 for September, \$30 for October, \$32 for November, and \$34 for December. But if answers are not mailed by December 31, 1996, you must pay the full fee, i.e., those who paid \$24 initially must pay \$12 extra, etc. Those residing outside the U.S. must pay in U.S. dollars drawn against a U.S. bank or U.S. post office.

(5) Additions and corrections to answers: No additions or corrections to your initial set of answers will be accepted. You get only one try at this test, so do your best the first time.

(6) Previous attempts: If you tried any or all of my previous tests upon which this test is based, you can still try this test if you believe it would give a valid measure of your intellectual ability.

Overlapping Square Problems

1. What is the minimum number of square sheets of paper sufficient to replicate the pattern shown in the figure if the sheets of paper are unfolded, uncut, unmarked, and opaque and are placed flat on top of one another so that each line shown represents the edge of one of the squares insofar as it has not been occluded by an overlapping square? (See Figure A.)
2. As in the foregoing problem, find the minimum number of square sheets of paper sufficient to create the pattern shown in the figure. (See Figure B.)

Figure A

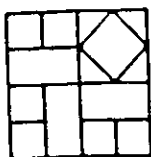
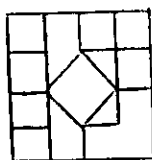


Figure B



Intersecting Surfaces

3. Suppose that three intersecting rectangles are drawn on a flat surface. What is the maximum number of completely bounded areas, not further subdivided, that can thereby be formed, considering only the sides of the rectangles as boundaries? (Figure A illustrates two intersecting rectangles.)
4. Three mutually intersecting circles (as illustrated in Figure B) can yield a maximum of seven completely bounded areas, counting only areas that are not further subdivided. What is the maximum number of completely bounded areas not further subdivided that can be obtained using three mutually intersecting circles plus two triangles?

Figure A

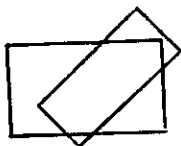
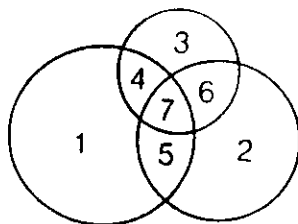


Figure B



Lightbulb Problems

5. If lightbulbs are placed at any two distinct vertices of a regular, i.e., perfectly symmetrical, dodecahedron, how many distinct patterns are possible, counting as one pattern any patterns that can be made to coincide with one another by merely rotating the dodecahedron in various ways as one solid object? (See Figure A.)
6. Suppose that lightbulbs are placed at any three distinct vertices of a regular, i.e., perfectly symmetrical, icosahedron, as illustrated in the figure. How many distinct patterns can thereby be formed, counting as one pattern any patterns that can be made to coincide with one another by merely rotating the icosahedron in various ways as one solid object? (See Figure B.)

Figure A



Figure B



Painted Polyhedra

7. If each side of a tetrahedron is an equilateral triangle painted white or black, five distinct color patterns are possible: all sides white, all black, just one side white and the rest black, just one side black and the rest white, and two sides white while the other two are black. If each side of an octahedron is an equilateral triangle painted white how many distinct patterns are possible?
8. If each side of a cube is painted red or blue or yellow, how many distinct color patterns are possible?

Drawing Problem

9. Several identical cubes are fused together to form a solid object. Given the following five external views of such an object, draw the sixth external view. Clockwise or counterclockwise rotations of the sixth view are acceptable, but a mirror image (the sixth side as viewed from inside the solid) is not acceptable.



Slicing Problems

10. Suppose a perfectly spherical onion is sliced six times by perfectly straight (i.e., planar) knife strokes, the pieces thereby formed never moving from their initial positions. What is the maximum number of pieces into which the infinitesimally thin outer skin of the onion can thus be divided? (Figure A illustrates two knife strokes.)
11. Suppose a tetrahedral lump of clay is sliced by six perfectly straight (i.e., planar) knife strokes, the pieces thereby formed never moving from their initial positions. What is the maximum number of pieces--tetrahedral in shape--that can thereby be formed?
12. Suppose a cube of butter is sliced by five perfectly straight (i.e., planar) knife strokes, the pieces thereby formed never moving from their initial positions. What is the maximum number of pieces that can thereby be formed? (Figure B illustrates three knife strokes.)
13. Suppose that a doughnut (i.e., a torus-shaped solid object) is sliced three times by a knife, the intersection of the knife with the doughnut each time creating the shape of a Mobius strip. What is the maximum number of pieces into which the doughnut can thereby be sliced if the following definitions and restrictions are observed? A Mobius strip is a one-sided surface that is equivalent to the shape that would be formed by holding one end of a rectangle fixed, rotating the other end of the rectangle 180 degrees, and attaching it to the fixed end. A torus is created by rotating a circle about an axis in its plane that does not intersect the circle. The Mobius strips are to be regarded as perfectly elastic so that they form perfectly smooth surfaces free of any undulations or other distortions, and each making exactly one loop about the torus. The pieces formed never move from their initial positions in the torus. (Figure C illustrates a Mobius strip.)

Figure A

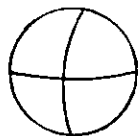


Figure B

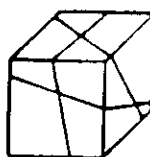
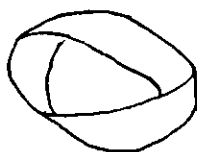


Figure C

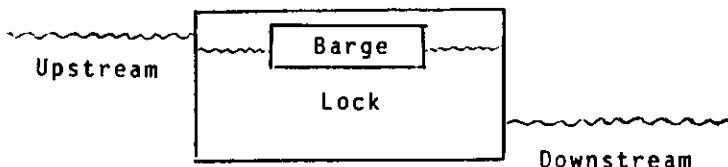


Weight Problems

14. The figure illustrating this problem shows a scale for weighing objects, consisting of a lever resting on a fulcrum with weighing pans at each end of the lever equidistant from the fulcrum. Suppose that the objects to be weighed may range from 1 to 100 pounds at 1-pound intervals: 1, 2, 3, ..., 98, 99, 100. After placing one such weight on either of the two weighing pans, one or more precalibrated weights are then placed in either or both pans until a balance is achieved, thus determining the weight of the object. If the relative positions of the lever, fulcrum, and pans may not be changed, and if one may not add to the initial set of precalibrated weights, what is the minimum number of such weights that would be sufficient to bring into balance any of the 100 possible objects?

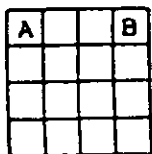


15. Suppose there is a certain lock for raising and lowering barges from one river level to another that is a rectangular parallelepiped 200 meters long, 50 wide, and 20 deep, and suppose a barge is floating in the lock that is also a rectangular parallelepiped, this one measuring 80 meters long, 25 wide, and 5 deep. Suppose the barge contains 3,000 barrels of toxic chemicals and displaces 8,000 long tons of water. The water has a density of one long ton per cubic meter. Each barrel is watertight, with a volume of one cubic meter and a weight of two long tons. A group of terrorists render the lock inoperable and attach a time bomb to the side of the barge set to go off in three hours. The barge contains elevators for moving barrels quickly to the deck, but the crew is too shorthanded to roll the heavy barrels up an inclined plane in the time allotted. The deck is only ten centimeters below the top edge of the lock, from which the barrels could be rolled to dry land. If no water is entering or leaving the lock, how many barrels at minimum would have to be rolled into the water in the lock in order to raise the level of the barge so that its deck would be even with or slightly above the top edge of the lock so that the remaining barrels can be rolled to dry land?

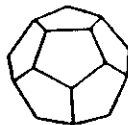


Game Problems

16. In going from square A to square B in the figure, what is the maximum number of squares that a chess knight could touch, including A and B, if the knight makes only permissible moves for a chess knight (consult a book on how to play chess if in doubt), does not touch any square more than once, and does not go outside the 16 squares shown?

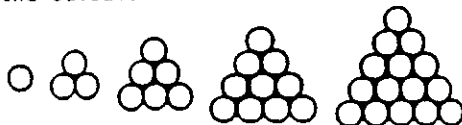


17. Suppose a modified version of the dice game craps is played with two regular (i.e., perfectly symmetrical) dodecahedra. Each die has its sides numbered from 1 to 12 so that after each throw of the dice the sum of the numbers on the top two surfaces of the dice would range from 2 to 24. If a player gets the sum 13 or 23 on his first throw (a natural), he wins. If he gets 2, 3, or 24 on his first throw (craps), he loses. If he gets any other sum (his point), he must throw the dice again. On this or any subsequent throw the player loses if he gets the sum 13 and wins if he gets his point but must throw both dice again if any other sum occurs. The player continues until he either wins or loses. To the nearest percent, what is the probability at the start of any game that a dice thrower will win?



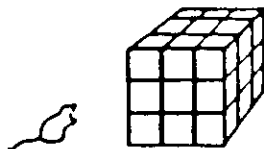
The Crystal Problem

18. Suppose a tetrahedral-shaped crystal is formed, like a giant pile of apples or oranges at a greengrocer's store, consisting of one atom on the top layer, three on the next-to-top layer, six on the third layer, ten on the fourth layer, and so forth as illustrated below. If there are exactly 1,000,000 layers, specify the total number of atoms in the entire crystal. Give an exact answer, not an approximate one or a formula for making the calculation.



Cube Stack Problems

19. Suppose 27 identical cubes are glued together to form a cubical stack, as illustrated in the figure. If one of the small cubes is omitted, four distinct shapes are possible: one in which the omitted cube is at a corner of the stack, one in which it is in the middle of an edge of the stack, one in which it is in the middle of a side of the stack, and one in which it is at the core of the stack. If two of the small cubes are omitted rather than just one, how many distinct shapes are possible?
20. Suppose 27 identical cubical chunks of cheese are piled together to form a cubical stack, as illustrated in the figure. What is the maximum number of these cheese chunks through which a mouse of negligible size could munch before exiting the stack, assuming that the mouse always travels along the grid of 27 straight lines that pass through the centers of the chunks parallel or perpendicular to their sides, always makes a 90 degree turn at the center of each chunk it enters, and never enters any chunk more than once?



Crawling Ant Problems

Suppose there are ants at each vertex of a triangle and they all simultaneously crawl along a side of the triangle to the next vertex. The probability that no two ants will encounter one another is $2/8$, since the only two cases in which no encounter occurs is when all the ants go left, i.e., clockwise--LLL--or all go right, i.e., counterclockwise--RRR. In the six other cases--RRL, RLR, RLL, LLR, LRL, and LRR--no encounter occurs. Now suppose that, analogously, there is an ant at each vertex of a polyhedron and that the ants all simultaneously move along one edge of the polyhedron to the next vertex, each ant choosing its path randomly. For each of the following polyhedra, what is the probability that no two ants will encounter one another, either en route or at the next vertex? Express your answer reduced to lowest common denominators, e.g., $2/8$ must be reduced to $1/4$.

21. A tetrahedron.
22. A cube.
23. An octahedron
24. A dodecahedron.

Interpenetrating Solids

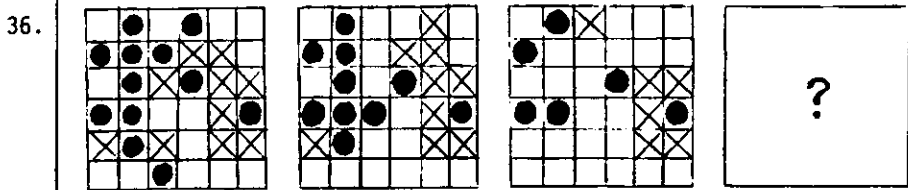
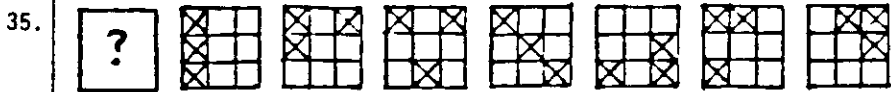
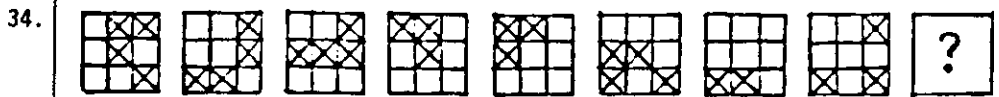
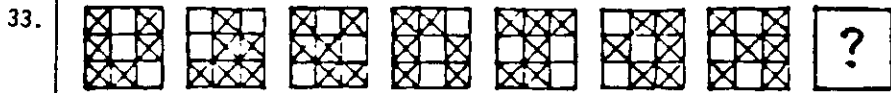
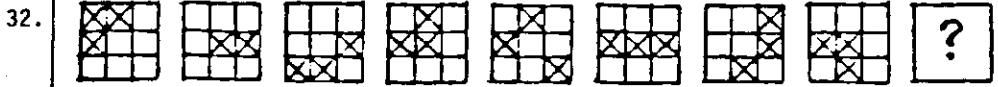
25. If a cube and a tetrahedron interpenetrate one another, what is the maximum number of solid pieces (i.e., completely bounded volumes not further subdivided) that can thereby be formed?
26. What is the maximum number of completely bounded volumes that can be formed by three interpenetrating cubes, considering only the surfaces of the cubes as boundaries and counting only volumes that are not further subdivided?
27. Suppose two right circular cones and one right circular cylinder mutually interpenetrate, with the bases of each cone and both bases, i.e., both ends, of the cylinder sealed by precisely fitting flat circular surfaces. What is the maximum number of pieces, i.e., completely bounded volumes, that can thus be formed, considering only the surfaces of these three figures as boundaries and counting only pieces that are not further subdivided? If needed, consult a book for the definitions of "right circular cone" and "right circular cylinder."

Miscellaneous Problems

28. Suppose five dots are arranged in a three-dimensional space so that no more than three at a time can have a flat surface pass through them. If each set of three dots has a flat surface pass through them and extend an infinite distance in every direction, what is the maximum number of distinct straight lines at which these planes can intersect one another?
29. Suppose a diagonal line is drawn across each of the six sides of a cube from one corner to the other. How many distinct patterns are possible if one includes all six sides of the cube in each pattern and counts as one pattern any patterns that can be made to coincide by various rotations of the cube as one rigid object?
30. Suppose the thirty edges of a regular, i.e., perfectly symmetrical, dodecahedron are rods, two of which are painted white and the rest black. How many distinct patterns can thus be created, counting as one pattern any patterns that can be made to coincide by various rotations of the dodecahedron as one rigid object?
31. Suppose ten marbles are inserted into a box based on the tosses of an unbiased coin, a white marble being inserted when the coin turns up heads and a black one when the coin turns up tails. Suppose someone who knows how the marbles were selected but not what their colors are selects ten marbles from the box one at a time at random, returning each marble and mixing the marbles thoroughly before making another selection. If all ten examined marbles turn out to be white, what is the probability to the nearest percent that all ten marbles in the box are white?

Sequence Problems

For each of the following sequences of square patterns, determine the principle that underlies the organization of the sequence and draw the pattern that would appropriately fill in the square with the question mark in it.



End of Test

Answer Sheet

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____

Previous test scores (will not affect your score on this test):

Mega Test (raw score): _____ Other tests (specify test + score):

Titan Test (raw score): _____

Ultra Test (raw score): _____

S.A.T. (V + Q aptitude): _____

G.R.E. (V + Q aptitude): _____

Miller Analogies (raw score): _____

32.

1. _____ 10. _____ 21. _____

33.

2. _____ 11. _____ 22. _____

3. _____ 12. _____ 23. _____

34.

4. _____ 13. _____ 24. _____

5. _____ 14. _____ 25. _____

35.

6. _____ 15. _____ 26. _____

7. _____ 16. _____ 27. _____

8. _____ 17. _____ % 28. _____

36.

9. _____ 18. _____ 29. _____

19. _____ 30. _____

20. _____ 31. _____ %

July 24, 1996

Ronald K. Hoeflin
P. O. Box 539
New York, NY 10101

Dear Rick:

The Hoeflin Power Test contained a few errors that were pointed out to me by Jim Thompson, specifically:

Problem 7: Change "white how" to "white or black, how"

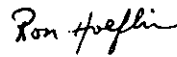
Problem 9: Change "to from" to "to form"

Problem 10: Change "infinitessimally" to "infinitesimally"

Problem 20: Change "--no encounter" to "--an encounter"

These changes have been made on the enclosed version of the test.

Sincerely,



P.S. Also enclosed in the enclosed booklet is a norming of the Ultra Test.

13155 Wimberly Square #284
San Diego, CA 92128
(619) 679-0273
May 28, 1996

Dear Rick and Chris,

In the past few weeks, I have received two requests for admission to the Mega Society based on what I consider marginal test results. Along with Paul Maxim's allegations regarding the validity of Kevin Langdon's membership, these requests point out the need for a more formal, objective means of dealing with membership issues.

I checked the Mega Society "by-laws" (copy enclosed) to determine how this kind of situation was handled in the past. This raised some significant questions:

1. Are we still governed by these by-laws? When the Mega and Noetic Societies merged, did Noetic have a constitution or by-laws? If so, which set operates today? Do we even want by-laws, etc.? I think at some point we should have some written rules to deal with certain sensitive issues.
2. Who are our officers, and what are their titles? Rick is obviously the Editor and I have been acting more or less as the Membership Officer. But we have had only one election (the ad hoc one for Rick). We need elections and official titles of officers to operate under the Mega by-laws.

I believe there are other questions that need to be addressed sooner or later. Exactly how do we determine that someone is eligible to join? The fact that Paul Maxim has raised this issue with respect to Kevin Langdon serves to emphasize that this is something we should not put off any longer.

In this regard, I feel there are two principles we should adhere to. First, prospective members may be admitted if they demonstrate, through a valid score on an "acceptable" IQ test, that they rank in the top one millionth of the general population. Just what is "acceptable" is, of course, subject to debate. The important point, however, is that it represents a good faith effort on our part to provide an objective cut-off. Yes, we recognize the inherent major weaknesses in IQ testing. But we do the best we can. Any member so admitted is a member permanently. If, later on, new norming data or other evidence suggests that a member does not rank that high, that person's membership is not in jeopardy.

Second, fraudulent IQ scores and other evidence used to gain admission is not acceptable. If fraud is later discovered, that member can be expelled. Before the merger, I discovered that a member gained admission by substantially altering his Mega Test score report from Ron Hoeflin. I wrote this person requesting an explanation for the serious discrepancy between what he submitted and Ron Hoeflin's records. I never received a response. As a result, I removed him as a member.

Hopefully, adhering to these principles will avoid some potential bitter disputes over membership issues while keeping out at a few "cranks."

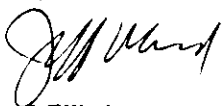
Let me add, somewhat parenthetically, that I would like to see a current listing of who is a subscriber, who is a member, and how each member qualified.

Regarding the enclosed two requests for admission, my feeling is "no" for [REDACTED] and "yes" for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

However, [REDACTED] score is not in the Mega range. Even if it were, I think strong doubts have indeed been raised about the validity of Kevin's norming. On the other hand, [REDACTED] score does appear to be in the Mega range on a valid, objective test.

Please let me know your views on these issues. I believe these questions need to be resolved, and, of course, the applicants deserve a response.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ward

cc: Rick Rosner, Chris Cole

[Editor's comment: In response to Jeff's comment at the end of this letter about the validity of Kevin's LAIT norming, and because of Maxim's article which follows, I looked at some old LAIT vs. Mega numbers published by Ron Hoeflin. I fully expected to vindicate Kevin. Now I'm sorry I stuck my nose into it. Anyway, check out what follows. I'm not sure what it means except that I've unwisely invested some of my time, and that this investment will result in other people having to waste theirs.]

RICK ROSNER'S SOMEWHAT INCOHERENT COMMENTS ON LANGDON'S TESTS AND RELATED ISSUES

1. In the nearly six years I've been editing Noesis, no one has applied for membership on the basis of a score on a Langdon test. It's just too hard to score at the Mega level on them, mostly because of test ceilings that are too close to the Mega cutoff (unlike Hoeflin's tests, which have ceilings more than a dozen IQ points above the Mega cutoff. So any norming inflation on a Langdon test hasn't affected Mega membership since at least as far back as 1990.

2. In the early to mid-80's, people were admitted to Mega on the basis of scores on a variety of tests. In addition, people were admitted to the Titan Society, the precursor to the Noetic Society, which is now merged into Mega, at the 1 in 100,000 level. But, at the time the Titan Society was formed, the 1 in 100K cutoff score was 43 on the Mega Test, and the 1 in a million cutoff was 46. Hoeflin's subsequent renormings, based on new information from ETS and on new norming techniques, eventually lowered the 1 in a million cutoff score to 43.

What I'm trying to indicate is that over the long history of Mega, people have been admitted based on a variety of tests and at an exclusivity level as low as 1 in 100K. When we suggested a recertification after the merger of the Mega and the Noetic Societies, people were immediately and justifiably indignant, and it became a provision of the merger that anyone who had qualified for any of the societies now merged into Mega with a good faith effort would be grandfathered into Mega in perpetuity. (You have to pay dues to be an active member, but any former member could return to active membership by doing so.)

3. Members' test performances do not discernably correlate with the quality of their submissions. That is, I am not able to conclude anything about members' intelligence or test performances by their submissions. I can't say, "Hmmm. This article seems to be from someone who got a 43 instead of a 47 on the Mega, or maybe was admitted in 1985 on the basis of an IQ test taken in childhood." Old members (to the extent they're around) do not drag down the level of discourse. (Not that the average level of discourse is so high anyway.)

4. I'm putting this sloppy article right after Jeff Ward's comment that "...strong doubts have indeed been raised about the validity of Kevin's norming." I personally don't think that his norming is seriously in question. However, I haven't really read all of Maxim's mathematical attacks on Langdon. I have thoroughly read the latest—"How Inflationary is LAIT?"—and disagree with most of its conclusions, both because of personal sentiments—that Langdon's tests have kicked my butt and that knowing Langdon for seven years, I find him erudite and pretty reasonable—and statistical/procedural objections.

My statistical/procedural objections are:

A. My guess is that the people scoring highest on the LAIT would tend to have lower scores on other tests because of regression to the mean and that among the many people who took the LAIT and didn't get the top 17 scores, you'd find a few who got

higher scores on other IQ tests. I dunno. When norming their tests, how did Hoeflin and Langdon deal with regression to the mean?

B. There is what I call the Savant factor—because Marilyn vos Savant has no reason to take any more IQ tests. At best, she could only max a test and still get a score far below her childhood Stanford-Binet or her 46 on the Mega. At worst, she could make a couple careless errors and get a score of 170. Why would she, or anyone who's already scored super-high, want to take a test with a ceiling of 176 or 180? (Plus, Marilyn vos Savant has a life—she has better stuff to do than take tests.) So I figure the very highest scorers on other tests wouldn't take the LAIT. Many of the LAIT's high scorers would be close-but-no-cigar scorers on other tests. Hey, if you gave somebody 10 different IQ tests, and they got a 108, four scores in the 110's, four scores in the 120's, and a 134, what do you think that person will claim as his IQ?

C. I started writing this in July. Now it's October. For two months I didn't work on it. I don't remember what point C was supposed to be, and I now strongly suspect points A and B are stupid. But I'm sick of this subject. I want to finally get these issues out, and I don't want to spend the time and mental effort to figure out whether points A and B have any bearing or legitimacy. (Ach, my crummy hard drive makes crashing noises every two minutes. I don't have autosave, so I'm closing this doc after every sentence. Now the baby's awake—she's gonna want to play on the computer.) Back in July, I looked at a bunch of LAIT vs. Mega Test scores—check out the following table—and was surprised to see that people reporting LAIT scores did tend to achieve lower IQ scores on the Mega. Is there an issue here? I doubt it, but check out the numbers for yourselves.

New point C—the overconfidence factor. The LAIT is a multiple-choice test. Doing a thorough job on it might take 40 hours of work. (Question to Kevin Langdon: How many hours of work do you think it takes to do a good job on the LAIT?) Hoeflin's Mega Test isn't multiple choice, and a thorough job on it takes 80 to 100 hours of work. It's possible that people thought they'd do well on the Mega simply by virtue of having done well on the LAIT and didn't put sufficient effort into the Mega. I did exactly that on the second Langdon test I took; I figured, "Hey, I did pretty well on the LAIT, I should do well on this other test of his. (I forget which one it was.) I gave it insufficient attention, made careless errors, and got an IQ score 12 points lower on the second test. (I don't tell people that the lower score is my IQ.)

New point D. Did some people exaggerate their LAIT scores when reporting them to Hoeflin? I doubt many did, because, if many did, one or two would have been goofy enough to report scores above the LAIT's ceiling, and I don't see any scores like that.

Anyway, this is old news and not pertinent to the composition of the Mega Society, but I'm sure the debate will continue.

MEGA TEST (RAW SCORE)

45

40

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

100

110

120

130

140

150

160

170

180

LANGDON ADULT INTELLIGENCE TEST (I.Q.)

MEGA 13's
-ACCORDING TO HOFFMAN'S
SIXTH WARNING, JAN. 1991

183

169

163

157

151

145

139

133

124

- 3 -

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LAIT SCORES VS. MEGA TEST SCORES
ARRANGED IN A TABLE BY RICK ROSNER
BASED ON DATA INCLUDED IN RON HOEFLIN'S ARTICLE
"A THIRD NORMING OF THE MEGA TEST"
PUBLISHED IN INSIGHT--THE JOURNAL OF THE TITAN SOCIETY
ISSUE 13, APRIL 1987

Approximately 140 people who took the Mega Test reported previous scores on the LAIT. The Mega Test scores of people reporting LAIT IQ's are given in the following table. The difference in IQ points between Mega IQ's and LAIT IQ's are given in the fourth and eighth columns. Differences where the Mega IQ exceeds the LAIT IQ are in bold print.

LAIT IQ	MEGA SCORE	MEGA IQ	Δ IQ	LAIT IQ	MEGA SCORE	MEGA IQ	Δ LAIT MEGA IQ
118	6	127	11	154	20	145	9
120	3	116	4	155	15, 18	139, 142	16, 13
127	5, 13	124, 136	3, 9	156	17, 33, 18, 26, 19, 27, 17	141, 160, 142, 152, 144, 153, 141	15, 4, 14, 4, 12, 3, 15
132	16	140	8	157	19, 31, 34, 19, 36, 29	144, 158, 162, 144, 164, 156	13, 1, 5, 13, 7, 1
136	13	136	0	158	20	145	13
138	7	129	9	159	22, 22, 33, 17	147, 147, 160, 141	12, 12, 1, 18
140	20	145	5	160	24, 29, 34, 27, 18, 31, 22	150, 156, 162, 153, 142, 158, 147	10, 4, 2, 7, 18, 2, 13
141	10	133	8	161	28	152	9
143	23	148	5	162	32, 31, 21	159, 158, 146	3, 4, 16
144	11, 26	134, 152	10, 8	163	29	156	7
146	40	169	23	164	11, 34, 15, 27	134, 162, 139, 153	30, 2, 25, 11
147	30	157	10	165	39	168	3
148	24, 20	145, 150	2, 3	166	29, 29, 25, 16, 37	156, 158, 151, 140, 165	10, 10, 15, 26, 1
149	20	145	4	167	31, 27, 41	158, 153, 172	9, 14, 5
151	23, 29, 28	148, 156, 154	3, 5, 3	169	27, 29	153, 156	16, 13
152	27, 23	153, 148	1, 4	170	21, 44	146, 160	24, 10
153	16, 21, 22, 24	140, 145, 146, 150	13, 8, 7, 3	171	36	164	7
				173	35	163	10

LAIT IQ RANGE	# OF MEGA IQ'S UNDER, OVER LAIT	LAIT IQ RANGE	# OF MEGA IQ'S UNDER, OVER LAIT
116-151	8, 11 (& one tie)	152-157	17, 5
158-164	19, 2	165-173	12, 3

How Inflationary Is LAIT?

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In an attempt to obtain a clearer picture of the inflationary effects of Kevin Langdon's LAIT testing program on upper-level IQ's, I compiled the following Table from data supplied by Ron Hoeftlin, as an outgrowth of his Mega testing program of the mid 1980's. Seventeen cases were reported by Dr. Hoeftlin of Mega testees who had reported prior IQ scores they had attained on LAIT, at the 164 IQ level and above (4-sigma), and these are tabulated below:

NO. CASES	LAIT IQ	MEAN MEGA SCORE	MEGA IQ
3	164	25.7	151
2	165	36.0	164
4	166	31	158
1	167	41	172
0	168	--	---
3	169	27	153
2	170	32.5	160
1	171	36	164
1	172	42	174
17 (Total)	167.2 (Mean)	31.65 (Mean)	158.94 (Mean)

Here, the mean LAIT IQ for the 17 testees, based on their own score reports, was 167.2, while their mean Mega IQ score, recorded a few years later, was 158.94, about 8 IQ points lower.

In assessing the validity of this data, one must note that the 17-case sample, while fairly small, is nonetheless representative of the number of ultra-high IQ individuals who went through first the LAIT, and then the Mega testing program, with their IQ differential of 8 points representing roughly half a standard deviation on LAIT. A much wider study of LAIT score inflation could be assembled from the data Mr. Langdon has in his files, since most of his 25,000 testees submitted prior score reports, but so far, Mr. Langdon has refused to release this, presumably because it shows that LAIT scores were consistently higher than scores attained on tests such as Cattell, SAT, CTMM, GRE, and the like.

The conclusion is therefore inescapable that Mr. Langdon deliberately misnormed the LAIT, so as to produce inflated IQ scores, which in turn led to the overqualification of numerous LAIT testees at the 3-sigma, 4-sigma, and "Mega" levels. Some idea of how Langdon did this may be obtained by noting what happens when we apply his "IQ Conversion Formula,"

$$I.Q. = \frac{(\text{Scaled Score} - 466.990)}{222.501} \quad 13.84 + 142.34$$

shown at left, to a "scaled score" of zero -- that is, to a case in which the testee failed to answer any questions correctly. Here, the LAIT IQ equivalent comes out to 113.3, approximately equal to the IQ of a typical "grade B" college student. In other words, Langdon's test represents a perfect vehicle, if you should wish to qualify your pet orangutan for college admission. Unfortunately, in this case, the people he "made a monkey out of" consisted chiefly of his colleagues in the high-IQ societies, who trusted him to perform his testing functions honestly and responsibly.

The reasons for this systematic IQ inflation relate to the fact that, at the same time as he was conducting his testing program, Mr. Langdon was simultaneously recruiting "qualifiers" into the two IQ societies he had founded: Four Sigma (begun 1977), and Triple Nine (begun 1979). For

one reason or another, the Triple Nine group appears to have escaped most of this score inflation (perhaps because only a small percentage of its members were recruited via LAIT), and so the brunt of the inflation fell on Four Sigma and on its "successor" society, Prometheus.

For example, Mr. Langdon recently published (in NOESIS, February 1996) a compilation of statistics derived from his LSPIT testing program, which showed that four Prometheus members had attained a mean IQ of only 153.8 on LSPIT. This is a fairly small sample, but it nonetheless suggests that the mean IQ of Prometheus members (during the early 1990's) was about 13 points below where it should have been, if this society had a strict "4-sigma" admissions threshold.

Basically the same conclusion was reached a few years earlier by Grady Towers, who in his 1989 article, "Drunkard's Walk" (VIDYA No. 101), cited the mean Mega test score for 16 Four Sigma Society members as "30.062," equivalent to 3.55 sigma, or 157 IQ on the Stanford-Binet scale. This suggests that the Prometheus group should more properly be called the "3½ Sigma Society," or even the "3.4 Sigma Society," since this is where its admissions requirement would have to be set in order to result in a mean IQ in the 154 to 157 range.

Another conclusion which may reasonably be drawn is that only a small percentage of Prometheus members have (or had) true "4-sigma" IQ's, since we are dealing with a distribution (at the extreme right end of the bell curve) which skews sharply toward the left. This means that most of the scores would fall below the mean but reasonably close to it, while a few would "tail off," further toward the right. I am not the first analyst to reach this conclusion, since it was articulated a decade ago by Ron Hoefflin in a Gift of Fire article. Hence, if Prometheus calls itself a "4-sigma" society, while at the same time only about 10% to 15% of its members have valid 4-sigma IQ's, this provides an index of the falsity and pretense that Langdon's LAIT testing program brought to high-IQ psychometrics.

Although Grady Towers had the numerical data in his possession to demonstrate LAIT's inflationary effect, his article focused on everything but. The reason for this may perhaps be linked with the fact that, if Towers' own LAIT IQ score was deflated by any significant amount, this would have reduced him below the magical "4-sigma" level, meaning that he would have had to renounce his membership in Four Sigma/Prometheus. Hence, he accepted LAIT's norming, while heaping scorn on the testing and selection procedures that ISPE had employed, a decade earlier. He also said, "both (LAIT and Mega) have high reliabilities..." and "the LAIT is known to have a boosted split-half reliability of .898." This sounds terribly impressive, but completely ignores the main problem, which was that the vast bulk of Langdon's "qualifiers" did not have 4-sigma IQ's.

It is really a pity that some of the amateur psychometricians who have plagued the high-IQ societies over the past two decades never had the courage to publish their theories in professional psychometric journals, where statistical psychologists would have had a chance to "take a whack" at them, since I suspect that their grotesqueries would never have survived the assault. The only reason why Mr. Langdon has retained any semblance of repute is because he restricted his activities to the IQ groups he himself had organized, where his testing methodology became a cult phenomenon, supported by those he had falsely "qualified" for membership therein.

RESPONSE TO CHRIS COLE'S REMARKS IN NOESIS NO. 119 (May 1996), by PAUL MAXIM.

1. In response to my request, Jeff Ward sent me a copy of the Mega Society By-Laws, noting that they antedated the merger of Mega with Noetic. The By-Laws carry the date, "April 15, 1984," and according to Jeff, they have never been updated to reflect current practices. They mention officers such as the Membership Officer, and the Ombudsman, who do not presently seem to be functional. Hence, I recently suggested to Rick Rosner that it might be well to consider revising the By-Laws, and I believe Jeff Ward concurs with this sentiment.

2. On the matter of admissions requirements, the By-Laws specify that the Mega Society membership shall set standards "no higher than 4.76 sigma above the mean, and no lower than 4.25 sigma above (it)." From my correspondence with Rick, it appears as though a standard of 4.75 sigma is currently in effect.

3. According to Mr. Langdon (and others), certain members were admitted into Mega based on LAIT IQ scores between 173 and 175 (I do not know when these admissions occurred). However, again according to Mr. Langdon, his LAIT IQ assessments were "five points too high" at the 4-sigma level, thus making them about six points too high at the Mega level (this observation is confirmed by statistics arising from Ron Hoeftlin's Mega testing program, and by Ron's 1986 article in Gift of Fire, which was recently reprinted in NOESIS).

4. When the LAIT "qualifying IQ's" are adjusted downward by six points, it means that "173 IQ" on LAIT was really equivalent to 167 on Stanford-Binet, meaning that someone was admitted to the Mega Society with an IQ equivalent of 4.2 sigma. I have little doubt that Langdon was instrumental in engineering this admission, since one of his overall objectives has been to "stock" the high-IQ societies with his own tasters (the Langdonoids), even though they may have been underqualified for the Societies he enrolled them in.

5. I also suspect that, for at least a decade, Mr. Langdon knew that his LAIT testing program was producing inflated assessments, and that LAIT suffered from low reliability, but he nonetheless continued with his testing and enrollment activities, since they represented his chief sources of income and power in the high-IQ community.

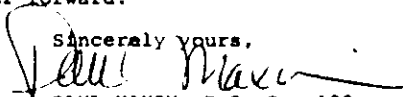
6. The question therefore arises as to whether any statutory provisions were violated when the "Langdonoids" were enrolled in Mega with sub-standard "real" IQ's. In part, this depends on whether the Mega membership ever voted to adopt any admissions standard lower than 4.75 sigma. In his Four Sigma Bulletin No. 2 (Summer 1989), Langdon said that "the (Mega Society) membership has voted not to discriminate at (the one-in-a-million) level," but I would like to know specifically when this vote took place, and whether Mr. Langdon's statement is accurate. If Mr. Langdon knew his "Langdonoids" did not meet Mega Society standards when he enrolled them, then at the very least, he can be accused of irresponsibility, and at worst of fraud.

7. Section IVj of the By-Laws is headed, "Termination of Membership," and contains the following statement: "Members may be expelled from the Society for one or more of the following reasons:...(2) Proof of fraud in obtaining admission to the Society." It does not say that fraudulent enrollees must be expelled, merely that they may be expelled. Nonetheless, the intent of the By-Laws seems clear, and that is to discourage fraud in the enrollment process, and to provide a remedy if fraud occurs.

8. Recent issues of NOESIS have carried evidence that Kevin Langdon entered the Mega Society fraudulently, based on the documented collusion between him and Chris Harding. In NOESIS No. 119, Chris Cole stated his "position" that "Kevin's membership in the Mega Society is secured as a condition of the founding of the Society." But this is not in accord with the By-Laws, which indicate in two places that evidence of fraud by a member must be followed by prosecution with the objective of expulsion (see Sections IVj(3), VI(7)). In order to remain a lawful society -- that is, one that respects its own statutes -- there is a responsibility incumbent on Mega to act when evidence of fraud is obtained; it cannot simply be kicked under the rug, as a matter of political expediency. Furthermore, no officer has the power to circumvent the By-Laws, or to substitute his judgment for what the By-Laws actually say.

9. Since the By-Laws confer on the Membership Officer the responsibility for prosecuting fraud and "expelling members," it therefore becomes necessary to determine who is acting as *de facto* membership officer, since he is the one responsible for carrying this matter forward.

Sincerely yours,


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

[Editor's comments: What I said a few pages earlier bears repeating--

- A. In the last six years, no one has applied for admission using a score on a Langdon test.
- B. The Mega Society includes as members people who qualified years ago for the Titan Society at the 1/100,000 level.
- C. When Mega and the Noetic Society merged, members were promised that they would remain members, regardless of what tests they used to qualify.
- D. Though a necessary hurdle for admission, test scores have almost nothing to do with what would be the lively interaction among members and readers if I could get these dang issues out in a timely manner

And here's an additional point--

There are members who qualified for Mega membership eleven and more years ago, before there were any Hoefflin tests. They qualified on the basis of a wide assortment of tests, mainstream and otherwise, and only Maxim seems interested in reconstructing this chunk of the ancient world. Mega consists of people with a variety of testing histories who proved themselves highly qualified in some way at some point. More stringent standards (based on the same old wobbly foundations) are fine for the future, if that's what members want. I don't think many people want to quibble about five-IQ-point adjustments from a decade ago |

Triple Nine Society

August 6, 1996

Prof. Ulric Neisser
Department of Psychology
Emory University
Atlanta, GA 30322

SUBJECT: Non-Professional IQ Testing

Dear Prof. Neisser:

I recently had the opportunity to review the article, "Intelligence: Knowns and Unknowns," produced by the Task Force you chaired, and found it a useful document.

I am a member of several high-IQ membership societies, which select their members based on IQs of 150 and up. Over the past two decades, several amateur psychometricians associated with these groups have developed a novel form of IQ assessment, based on non-standard tests of their own design. These tests are disseminated either by mail order, or through publication in a magazine -- in other words, no attempt is made to control the confidentiality of the questions. There is no supervision of the testees, and no time limit in answering the questions. The only person authorized to score the test is its author-distributor, who at the same time recruits high-scoring testees to join a "high-IQ society" which he has founded, and from which he derives revenue and prestige. This situation creates an automatic conflict-of-interest, since the test-maker has a built-in incentive to promote high scores.

Since these tests deal with a very select population at the extreme upper end of the IQ spectrum, they are not normed in the same way as standardized tests. Instead, every testee is asked to submit a record of scores he attained on prior IQ exams, and an implicit assumption is established that the testee's performance on the "take-at-home" test will be equivalent to his highest prior IQ score. In certain cases, reports emanating from relatively low-scoring tests such as Cattell and CTMM have been systematically discarded (during this norming process) in favor of higher-scoring tests (including those of the author's own manufacture), so as to produce an inflationary instrument. In most cases, the norming is completed on fewer than 1,000 prior score reports...for example, in one recent case, 175 testees took a test called the "LSFIT," and submitted 217 prior score reports, but the test wound up being "normed" on only 62 of these. Needless to say, these procedures greatly impair the reliability of the "take-at-home" tests, and enormously increase their degree of statistical error, in comparison to that of standardized, professionally-designed products.

Although these non-standard tests have generally not been used in educational or psychological research, they have developed a "cult following" among members of certain high-IQ societies, where they have produced -- predictably -- a good deal of score inflation; in other words, to a large extent, they are creating, rather than identifying, ultra-high IQs. Moreover, over the past 17 years, OMNI Magazine has published three or four such tests (each one billed as "World's Hardest IQ Test"), which resulted in their being exposed to the general public. In other words, this mode of testing, which is fundamentally amateurish in concept, and does not comply with any APA standards, has become a "cottage industry" among a certain non-negligible part of the population. For this reason, I feel that it warrants review by the BSA and the BAPPI.

(Continued)

PAUL MAXIM to Prof. Ulric Neisser -- August 6, 1996 -- Page 2.

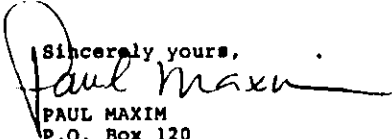
NOESIS Number 121 July 1996 page 39
The problem with non-professional IQ testing, as I see it, is very similar to that raised by amateurism in any area of medical or psychological practice. None of the amateur psychometricians described above has any credentials in this area; none has a degree in mental measurement, and none is a Registered Psychologist. Since they are not qualified to administer standard tests, and since they are intent on promoting their own products and services, they have gone to the extent of derogating standard tests as being "inadequate" to differentiate upper-level IQs. In other words, they are attempting to turn traditional psychometrics on its ear, so as to further their own interests.

The use of these "take-at-home" tests has now become so widespread, in the high-IQ groups, that they can no longer be considered a matter of "fun and games," but represent a serious challenge to professional standards of assessment. I would therefore be appreciative if you and your Task Force would take this matter under advisement, with a view toward publishing some sort of supplemental document, containing guidelines for sound intelligence testing.

In addition, I should like to ascertain whether any attempt has been made, at the state level, to regulate IQ testing and assessment, in the same way that regulation is imposed over the administration of therapy and counseling. My direct observations, and my research, has demonstrated that use of amateur IQ tests is causing damage through inaccurate assessments, and through spread of unscientific theories; therefore, it seems to me that some kind of professional review is warranted.

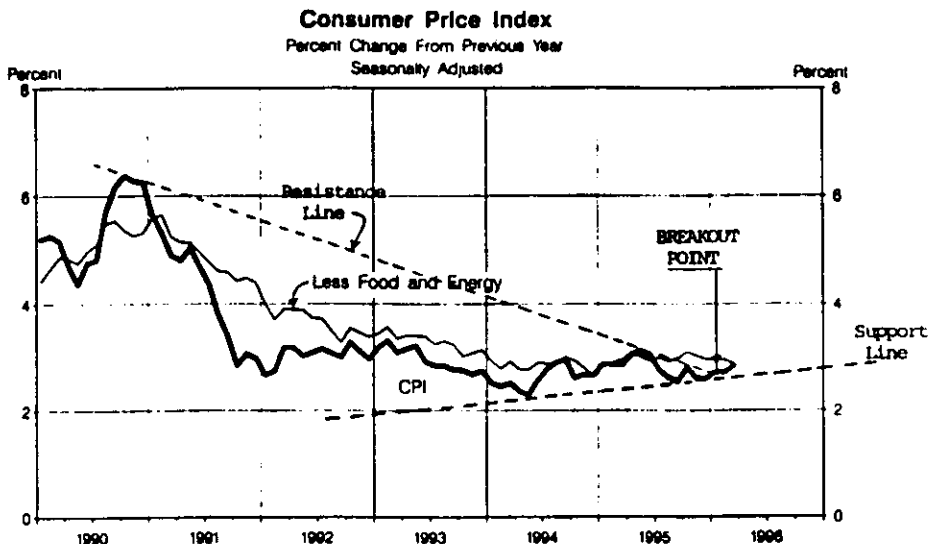
I have a good deal of additional material on this subject in my files, and would be willing to make it available to you, on request.

Sincerely yours,


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

Enclosure.

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The above chart of the U.S. Consumer Price Index appeared in the May 1996 issue of "National Economic Trends," a free monthly publication of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The chart shows a fairly steep decline in CPI inflation during 1991, followed by the formation of a "saucer bottom" extending over four years (1992-1995).

Recently (January/February 1996), the chart emitted a distinct upturn signal, which can be identified analytically as follows:

1. Construct a "descending resistance line" connecting the peaks (on the dark CPI change line) of 4Q1990, 2Q1995, and 4Q1995. It will be seen that this resistance line shows a very neat "fit" to the CPI Change Line at five chart points, and it is this "neatness of fit" which enhances the resistance line's validity.

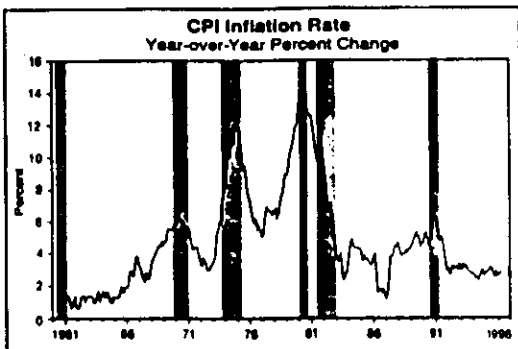
2. Construct a support line connecting the lows of 2Q1994, and 3/4Q1995. This appears to converge with the descending resistance line during 1Q1996.

3. Note that, in 1Q1996, the CPI Change Line "broke out" from under the descending resistance line, and headed upward, but that the support line is still intact.

4. Since the descending resistance line spans five years, this breakout indicates a major uptrend signal. In other words, rampant consumer price inflation has been "repressed" for five years, but now should attempt to "catch up" for lost time. Initial chart target for the CPI Change Index is 4% per annum. This is bad news for bonds, and for the U.S. dollar versus foreign currencies showing lower inflation rates.

Remarks. The chart may be regarded as an algorithm capable of coordinating or correlating all economic forces bearing on the variable charted -- both those we know about, and those we don't. This chart is reliable because it is drawn with great accuracy from data gathered with consistency and thoroughness. Other charts, dealing with correlated variables, may be called upon to verify the accuracy of the implied forecast; for example, since the CPI Change chart issued its up-signal, bonds have retreated several points, in anticipation of higher consumer price inflation ahead.

At right is the 35-year chart of the CPI Inflation Rate, which may lend some perspective to the intermediate-term chart we analyzed.



A CALL FOR VOTES

Chris Cole

Paul Maxim has asked to be admitted to the Mega Society on the basis of scores on one or more mid range IQ tests. His argument is that these tests have a certain mean and standard deviation, and that by extrapolation his raw score equals an IQ at the 1 in a million level. My concern is that the conclusion does not follow from the premises. The Noetic Society was founded by Ron Hoeflin as a testing ground for high range tests. If we can simply use mid range tests and extrapolate high raw scores, what were we thinking of when we founded the Society?

I believe we should only accept as instruments of admittance high range tests (in the future -- more on this below). High range tests are tests that are credibly claimed by their authors to reach the 1 in a million threshold. A claim gains credibility by a norming procedure which is publicly explained and generally received as valid. At the moment, the only such tests are those produced by Hoeflin and Langan. This is why we value the contributions of Langan and Hoeflin. Creating high range tests is a difficult art form.

In previous issues I've already noted that the grandfathering of all existing members was a condition of merging the Mega and Noetic Societies. Paul complains that it is not fair that others should be admitted on a basis similar to his own, and that he should be denied admission. But historical processes always lead to outcomes that are different than they would be if they were done over today. This is a fact of life that goes far beyond the Mega Society. As an organization, Paul would have us either expel a large proportion of our members, or lower our standards. Neither of these alternatives is palatable. So, is it unfair? Yes. Should we fix it? No.

But this is only one man's opinion (namely, mine). So how do we deal with this issue as an organization? So far we've been blessed with little need for organizational structure. I'd like to see it stay that way. I received a copy of the Mega Society constitution, and it calls for all sorts of officers, elections, parliamentary procedures, etc. Given the extremely low level of member activity in the Mega Society, I see no way this kind of organizational overhead would be supported. So instead, I'd like to propose that we stick with a strictly democratic system. If an issue comes up that generates any kind of disagreement, we simply call for a vote. If you don't care, don't vote. If you care, vote. The majority of votes will carry the day.

So, I'm now calling for a vote on two issues:

- 1. Should we have a constitution (and officers, elections, etc.)?**
- 2. Should we admit Paul Maxim as a member?**

Please send your votes on both subjects to Jeff Ward. If you want to vote, do it soon.