

NOESIS

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All the material in this issue was written by Kevin Langdon, except as noted.

Three issues facing the Mega Society have been raised in recent issues of *Noesis*. The most pressing issue has to do with the needed review of admission standards. The next issue has to do with the governance of Mega. The third issue is Paul Maxim's application to join the society based on his scores on certain childhood tests. Each issue is addressed in two or more separate essays herein.

Another Reply to Chris Langan

Kevin Langdon

In Chris Langan's long letter in *Noesis* #121 (a copy of which Chris sent to me before it saw print), Chris pointed out that intelligence tests are not generally accompanied by examination of "[q]uestions about the deep connection between intelligence and wider reality." This is correct as far as it goes, but ignores the widely-cited conclusion of many studies that there is a "general factor," designated g, underlying performance on dissimilar measures of ability. I call this factor *attention in reasoning*, and this is what my tests attempt to measure.

Chris doggedly maintains that his CTMU has been sufficiently defined in his writings in *Noesis* that anyone should be able to understand it, but the fact remains that the vast majority of members of Mega still don't know what the hell he's talking about--and he still hasn't supplied us with an introduction to the subject that has a beginning, a middle, and an end. It seems reasonable that if someone maintains that his stuff is intelligible he should be able to get *somebody* to intellige it.

Some parts of Chris' exposition are true and interesting, but empirically testable propositions with relevance to the world beyond abstract logic are in short supply. We certainly live in a world in which logic can be used to solve certain classes of practical problems, but that doesn't imply that the world is isomorphic to a set of logical categories, which is what Chris seems to be saying.

Metaphysics is rightly considered by many people to be irrelevant to life, but the reason the conclusion is right is that when it is practiced incompetently, or in the absence of data, it doesn't give accurate results; on this point, I agree with Chris.

But a true metaphysic must not draw conclusions without data, though it starts from data on a different level from the data of physics.

According to the traditions of inner transformation which have existed in various times and places, what makes real knowledge possible is not a better theory of reality standing by itself, but new data which emerge through unknown modes of perception; only after this data appears can the intellect be made use of to conceptualize its implications on its own level.

According to the understanding at the heart of contemporary philosophy of science, a proposition that isn't falsifiable isn't meaningful. Chris gets little response to the more theoretical aspects of his CTMU material because nobody finds testable propositions in it.

On the other hand, we have sweeping claims, such as:

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.

We're waiting for some evidence that any of this is true. With regard to personal happiness, it's pretty clear that *Chris Langan is not a happy camper*.

Chris addressed the following remarks to Ron Hoeflin:

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.

Now there's a howler! A high I.Q. provides both formidable tools for intellectual understanding and great potential for self-deception. If what Chris wrote were true, this journal would not be full of the writings of various "geniuses" disputing one another's conclusions.

The history of science is replete with examples of great geniuses who turned out to be wrong. Let me cite three examples: Tycho Brahe never accepted the Copernican system; he placed the Earth at the center of the universe, but his work laid the foundation for Kepler's laws of planetary motion. Newton devoted as much time and energy to alchemy and theological speculation as he did to physics. And Einstein refused to accept the implications of quantum mechanics, a field he helped to found, dismissing them with the remark that "God does not play dice with the universe."

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.

Nonresponse is not necessarily inability to respond. It's nothing short of incredible that someone as smart as Chris Langan wouldn't understand the fallacy in this line of argument, even after it's been pointed out to him!

New mathematics is often not definitively confirmed or refuted when it is first presented to the community of mathematicians. It may take some time for people to absorb it. A particular mathematician may make an error in analyzing it, even if he is, in general, very brilliant. A great mathematician may not recognize that a paper he sees in a journal or receives in the mail is worth reading. Finally, and most likely, he may just be too busy to follow the fringes, relying on others to bring anything relevant to his attention.

On the other hand, if a paper does not succeed in proving what it purports to prove and it is put forward by someone outside the community of mathematicians, a given mathematician may decide that he has nothing to gain by arguing about its obvious fallacies unless notice is taken of it by other mathematicians. Why should he make an enemy of the author, who may well be a dangerous crank, when he can just keep quiet about it?

What has happened in this case? Who knows? And who cares?

The answer to the last question is very clear: Chris Langan. Perhaps proving abstract mathematical theorems is not the best way for Chris to get through to the Mega Society community of brilliant nonspecialists.

A Personal Reply to Chris Harding

Kevin Langdon

In a letter in *Noesis* #122, Chris Harding wrote:

As for [Paul Maxim's] assertion that Kevin Langdon and I are very good buddies, one only has to read some of Kevin's on-going comments to realize otherwise. Wasn't I the founder of that Society called I.S.P.E. from which Kevin was expelled (during the late 1970's)? No wounds have ever healed here.

One of the twisted notions of a paranoid with delusions of grandeur is that all his enemies must be friends--because the most important thing about a person is what that person thinks of *him*.

Chris is right that he and I don't get along well (though I don't think there's real enmity, either; I know there's none on my part) and, to a degree, in his characterization of the reason for it, though there's more to it than what Chris has said above.

It's clear to me that Chris is very bright. He also has a positive vision of community. I respect the impulse even when the expression doesn't work for me. But there are certain issues on which he has been less than forthcoming.

Although ethical analysis of Chris' conduct isn't important enough to me for me to make it a subject of frequent discussion, it became relevant when Chris touched on the rights and wrongs of what has transpired between us; I'd like to set the record straight on these matters.

I was an early member of the ISPE, or, as it was known when I joined it, The Thousand. Within a year or two, it became obvious that there were severe problems with the practice of democracy in the society. A small clique had manipulated the ISPE's operating procedures in such a way as to perpetuate their grip on power and prevent the expression of opposing views. The ISPE's antidemocratic practices have continued until the present time.

The four other founders of TNS and I were expelled from the ISPE by a secret committee (the identities of the members of this committee have never been disclosed), without being allowed to present a defense, without a vote of the membership, and without the ISPE leadership bothering to inform the membership--or even to inform those members whose membership privileges had been suspended without explanation, for several months after they took this action.

I am outraged by the ISPE's unjust actions in violation of my rights as a member and of the rights of many other people. It was incumbent on Chris Harding, as the founder of the ISPE, to speak up against this injustice perpetrated by the ISPE leadership against members of the society. He has never apologized for his cowardly inaction and has stood by while at least four other members were expelled for dissenting from the party line.

Chris did express his distress at the autocratic practices of the ISPE leadership a while ago in *Vidya*. I give him credit for speaking up, albeit faintly and belatedly and only when his personal interests were at stake.

Chris suggested that my reasons for criticizing him had to do with my expulsion from the ISPE. But, while I hold Chris responsible for not speaking up at the time, he was not, to my knowledge, directly involved in the unjust actions of the ISPE leadership with regard to the founders of TNS.

Chris, I ask you to state definitely one way or the other whether or not you were a member of the ISPE committee that expelled the five founders of TNS in a star-chamber proceeding. Whether you were a member of the committee or not, do you know the identities of the committee members? And, if you know, are you willing to divulge them? Those of us who were expelled still have a right to know and anyone who knows and withholds the information from us is committing an injustice.

There are other areas in which I have criticized or disputed with Chris, independently of this situation.

One separate issue involves both Chris and the ISPE. I regard the tendency of individuals and groups to invent honors and award them to themselves disgusting. The ISPE glories in high-blown titles ("Senior Research Fellow," "Diplomate," "Philosopher"), permits only positive remarks about the ISPE to be published in *Telicom*, and caters to the unlovely egotism of members in various other ways.

Chris Harding styles himself "Chev. Dr.," "Baron," and "Vice King." Chris, what's with these obscure "titles"? And why do you constantly blow your own horn? As long as you send up hot-air balloons, I consider it my duty to shoot them down.

Finally, Chris never provides reports on the norming of his tests which answer the key questions regarding the score distributions he's working with: correlations, item analysis, reliability, etc. Others have noted the questionable quality of Chris' norming work. The ISPE perceived a need to develop its own, separate scoring key for Chris' *W-87* in order to use it as an admission test.

When Chris speaks of his construction and norming of tests as serious statistical work, I must express the opposite view. The more he points to his so-called credentials, the more glaringly obvious it is that he can't defend his methodology. Chris would do well to get serious about psychometrics, learn how to do it right, and provide proper reporting on his norming methods if he wishes to continue practicing test design and norming.

I greatly appreciated Chris' remarks regarding Paul Maxim's many attacks on me and others, in *Noesis* #122. I find him very fairminded in this way.

Participation in the discussions in the pages of these journals sometimes results in personalities getting involved with issues. I try to be impartial in responding to other participants in this arena, and I believe that I'm usually reasonably successful, but it's always a delicate matter and it's usually not black and white. I've spoken of some negatives with regard to Chris Harding and a bit of the positive. I don't agree with everything that Chris has said and done, but he must be given credit for his part in creating the community of which the Mega Society is a part (including the founding of Mega's predecessor, the 606 Society), for a highly creative mind, and for voluntarily sticking his neck out and exposing himself to criticism, including mine.

I have gone into this much detail because, now that the matter has been broached, I want to bring the points on which I differ with Chris out into the open where they can be discussed and, possibly, resolved.

Reply to Rick Rosner on Comparative Statistics for the LAIT and the Mega Test

Kevin Langdon

Starting from questions raised by Paul Maxim, Rick Rosner published a study of comparative scores of a sample of tessees who reported *LAIT* scores on their *Mega Test* answer sheets in *Noesis* #121. Rick was surprised to find that the *Mega* scores of those reporting scores on both tests were significantly *lower* than their scores on the *LAIT*.

Persons who took the *LAIT* and the *Mega* usually took the *LAIT* first and were selected into the population exposed to the *Mega Test* through memberships for which their *LAIT* scores made them eligible. One-fourth of this sample reported *LAIT* scores above four sigma; over four-fifths were above three sigma, with a mean of 3.45 (I.Q. 155). Thus it is not surprising that their *LAIT* scores tend to be somewhat higher than their *Mega* scores and scores on other tests reported on *Mega* answer sheets.

I performed a norming of the *Mega Test* in September, using Ron's 1984 data set. I used 98 score pairs on five tests: the *AGCT*, the *GRE*, the *Terman Concept Mastery*, the *WAIS*, and the *LAIT*. Almost half the data (46 score pairs) was on the *LAIT*. The overall correlation between the *Mega* and the previous tests used (weighted by their correlation with the *Mega*) was only .36, primarily because its correlation with the *LAIT* for this sample was unusually low, .35, but composite correlations are generally somewhat lower than the average correlations for individual tests. My norming yielded a ceiling of 178 and a floor of 118.

I had put this aside as a statistical fluke, thinking that I had arrived at a result farther from Dr. Hoeflin's than is actually the case; over most of the test range, the I.Q. I assign to a given raw score is one to two points below that assigned by Dr. Hoeflin. It's only at the extreme ends of the scale that my figures differ markedly from his. I have added the "best fit" line to the chart on the opposite page, from Dr. Hoeflin's sixth norming report on the *Mega Test*.

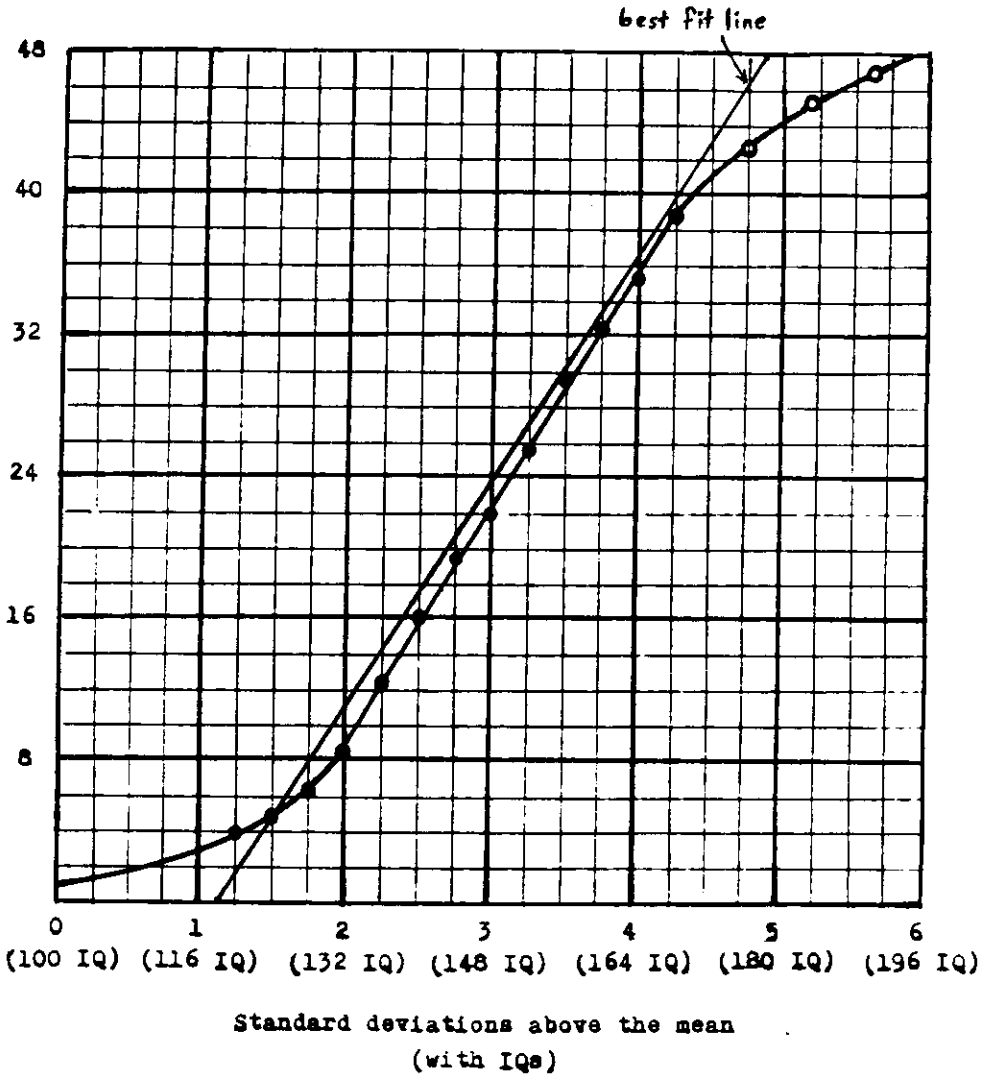
I didn't have Dr. Hoeflin's person x item data, so I could not perform an item analysis or calculate all the statistics I usually do for my own tests. I calculated the correlation between the *LAIT* and the *Mega* for this sample, which was .61. Given this correlation, some degree of regression to the mean is clearly to be expected. The actual mean was 24.0 (I.Q. 150, by Dr. Hoeflin's norms; I place it at I.Q. 148). It may be possible to refine the numbers a little bit by working with a larger sample, but any professional statistician (or competent amateur) would come up with a relationship very close to the one indicated here.

I also constructed a stratified sample of 26 *LAIT* tessees with the same distribution of *Mega* scores as that of *LAIT* scores in the *Mega* sample and calculated the correlation between the tests for this sample, which was .65. The mean *LAIT* score for this sample was 159.0. The mean *Mega* score was 30.0 (I.Q. 156, according to Dr. Hoeflin; 155 by my calculations). Simply matching the stratification of scores on the *LAIT* and constructing a subsample reduced the I.Q. discrepancy by almost half.

For an examination of the effect of different sampling methods, see "How Inflated Is Paul Maxim's Ego?" (p. 21).

Equivalences between Mega Test raw scores and standard deviations above the mean (with IQs)

- = calculated point
- = extrapolated point



The Mobius Test

by Cyril Edwards and Kevin Langdon

Statistical Report

Norming #1, October 29, 1996

The original version of *The Mobius Test* was developed by Cyril Edwards and circulated to a limited number of people in the 1970's. The current version was edited by Kevin Langdon in consultation with Cyril Edwards. The test is composed of twenty items, fifteen by Cyril Edwards and five by Kevin Langdon.

47 people had submitted their answers to *The Mobius Test* by the date of this norming. These 47 people reported a total of 82 scores on previously-taken tests, of which 24 (on four tests, the *Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale [WAIS]*, the *Langdon Short Form Intelligence Test [LSFIT]*, the *Four Sigma Qualifying Test [FSQT]*, and the *Langdon Adult Intelligence Test [LAIT]*) were used in norming *The Mobius Test*.

A sample of 47 is so small that this cannot be regarded as more than a preliminary norming, despite the fact that the distribution of scores is statistically reasonable. A further norming will be done after a more adequate sample is accumulated.

More than three previous scores were reported for only seven tests. Of these, two (the *Mega Test*, by Dr. Ronald K. Hoeflin, and the *Graduate Record Examination [GRE]*), did not show a positive correlation with *The Mobius Test* for the norming sample. The *Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)* was not used due to range restriction.

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

Test	Number	Prev. Mean	Scaled Mean	Correlation with Mobius
WAIS	4	144	7	.79
LSFIT	4	139	18	.75
FSQT	4	152	52	.64
SAT	13	140	50	.60
LAIT	12	157	51	.59
Mega Test	8	157	56	-.41
GRE	7	153	46	-.50

Preliminary weighted scores were calculated, with each item weighted by the reciprocal of the number of testees answering the item correctly. The point biserial correlation of each item with these weighted scores was computed. Scaled scores were calculated, with each item weighted by its point biserial correlation divided by the number of testees who answered the item correctly. A scaled score of 0 corresponds to an I.Q. of 136; a scaled score of 100 would correspond to an I.Q. of 175.

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Mobius/previous score pairs were weighted by the correlation of the previous test involved, for each pair, with *Mobius* scaled scores, in computing and equating scaled and previous score means and average deviations and in computing standard deviations and the overall correlation of scaled scores with previous scores used, which was .66.

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

The reliability of *The Mobius Test*, calculated using Kuder-Richardson formula 20, is .94. The standard error of measurement is 8.0 scaled score points, or 3.2 points of I.Q. The norming method used aims for maximum accuracy at the high end; *The Mobius Test* is probably most accurate between three and four standard deviations above the general population mean.

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

		Mobius Test										Total
		2.25	2.75	3.25	3.75	4.25	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	
P r e v i o u s	1.25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1.50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2.25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2.50	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2.75	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	3.00	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
	3.25	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
	3.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
S c o r e	3.75	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
	4.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	4.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Total	4	2	6	3	3	0	2	1	1	2	24

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

Test	Number	Mean	Average Deviation	Standard Deviation	Correl. with Mobius
Mobius Test Total (Scaled)	47	35.4	20.5	25.7	
Mobius Test Total (I.Q.)	47	149.7	8.1	10.2	
Mobius Test Used (Scaled)	24	35.8	23.2	33.5	
Mobius Test Used (I.Q.)	24	149.9	9.1	13.2	
Previous Test Scores Used	24	3.11	.57	.86	.66
WAIS	4	2.73	.50	.59	.78
LSFIT	4	2.43	.91	1.12	.75
FSQT	4	3.23	.27	.31	.64
SAT	13	2.52	.38	.49	.60
LAIT	12	3.54	.40	.50	.59
Mega	8	3.54	.38	.44	-.41
GRE	7	3.29	.35	.41	-.50

Note: Previous score means are in standard deviations above the mean of the general population; average deviations and standard deviations are in general population standard deviation units. Previous test scores used are score pairs weighted by the correlation of the test in question with *The Mobius Test*.

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

Scaled Score	I.Q.	Tested Group %ile	Scaled Score	I.Q.	Tested Group %ile	Scaled Score	I.Q.	Tested Group %ile
00	136	00	35	150	56	70	163	86
05	138	08	40	152	60	75	165	86
10	140	10	45	154	67	80	167	91
15	142	17	50	155	73	85	169	91
20	144	26	55	157	78	90	171	93
25	146	39	60	159	78	95	173	97
30	148	50	65	161	80	100	175	

Table 5
Distribution of I.Q. Scores Obtained by 47 *Mobius* Testees

IQ Range	Number	IQ Range	Number
136-139	5	156-159	3
140-143	9	160-163	5
144-147	9	164-167	1
148-151	7	168-171	1
152-155	5	172-175	2

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

Group	Number	Mean I.Q.	Society I.Q. Cutoff
Total	47	149.7	
Males	38	150.2	
Females	9	147.9	
Age 10-19	1	145.0	
Age 20-29	5	145.6	
Age 30-39	9	151.6	
Age 40-49	17	152.6	
Age 50-59	9	149.0	
Age 60-69	4	144.8	
Age 70-79	2	142.5	
Mensa	27	150.1	133
Intertel	2	141.0	138
Top One Pct.	9	151.1	138
ISPE	13	148.9	150
Triple Nine	18	149.6	150
One-in-1000	8	149.9	150
Prometheus	3	151.3	164
Four Sigma	3	159.0	164

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Concerning Mega Admission Standards

Kevin Langdon

The most important cause of the need to revisit our admission standards is the fact that we presently accept only one test which is currently scored, the *Mega Test*. For various reasons, it would be a good idea to find a few other tests to add to our list if we can do so without compromising our standards.

The standard tests are not designed to discriminate anywhere near the one-per-million level--and the psychometricians who designed them and work with them would be the first to say so. Even the new high-range tests are hard-pressed to determine who qualifies at the 99.9999th percentile. The upper limit of the ranges of the *LAIT* and the *Mega* just barely reach this level (see my remarks about the scaling of the *Mega* near the test ceiling, below). These tests permit discrimination superior to that of the standard tests above approximately I.Q. 150, and this is why they are the primary instruments for admission to the higher-I.Q. societies (those with cutoffs at or above three sigma).

The Mega Society is facing the difficult task of attempting to determine the practical limits of discrimination of the available high-end tests and then deciding on this basis whether a one-in-a-million claim is credible.

I have examined much of the available data on the tests we accept. Here are statistics on the highest scores on the *LAIT* (from *Sigma Four* #5, January 1980; out of 15,000 testees) and the *Mega Test* (sixth norming report, May 1989; out of 3920). The fifth column shows the number of *Mega* testees at each level per 15,000, to facilitate comparison. As about 27,000 people have taken the *LAIT*, I estimate that the current totals are about twice the figures for this early sample.

I.Q.	LAIT		Raw Score	Mega Test	
	Number			Number	Per 15,000
176	0		48	0	0
175	2		47	1	3.8
174	0		46	1	3.8
173	7		45	2	7.7
172	15		44	3	11.5
171	2		43	6	23.0
170	14		42	12	45.9
169	28		41	15	57.4
168	16		40	7	26.8
167	43		39	13	49.7
166	53		38	15	57.4
165	25		37	18	68.9
164	79		36	27	103.3

It should be clear that the ceilings of the two tests are comparable. A score of 43 on the *Mega* corresponds to an I.Q. of about 172, not 177 (with sigma = 16), according to my calculations. I view Ron Hoeflin's curvilinear fitting of raw score to I.Q. at the top and bottom of the test range as highly suspect because there is little real data very near the extremes of a test's range; the signal is drowned out in the noise, particularly near the top, where careless errors and subtle defects in the test become important. Multiple-choice tests have a lot of noise at the bottom end, too, due to rewards and penalties for right and wrong guesses.

I believe that we must apply the same standards to high-end *data* for the *LAIT* and the *Mega*, despite the differences between Dr. Hoeflin's *norming methods* and mine. *Mega* accepted a score of 173 on the *LAIT* before the membership voted to set our standards at 43 on the *Mega* or 175 on the *LAIT* (which I equate to a *Mega* score of 46). Therefore, *Mega's de facto* cutoff is either 43/172 (approximately the 99.9997th percentile, one in 300,000, or 44/173 (approximately the 99.99975th percentile, one in 400,000), and this is about as high as the tests currently in use can reasonably be claimed to measure.

We must face the question of the limits to discrimination of the available selection instruments. We must either make a serious attempt to accept members at the 99.9999th percentile and raise our standards to the one-per-million level or accept that our qualifying level is 2.5- or 3-per-million and cannot be higher (due to the state of the art of high-range psychometrics) and drop our qualifying scores. (The old *Mega Society Bylaws* provide some flexibility in this connection; Article IVa, Section 5 provides that *Mega's* qualifying score shall be no less than 4.25 and no more than 4.76 standard deviations above the general population mean.)

The one-per-million level is 47 on the *Mega* and 176 on the *LAIT*, by my calculations. But, as there have been no perfect scores on the *LAIT* or the *Mega* and frequencies of scores very near the test ceilings suddenly drop off, we can reasonably allow one point for ceiling bumping and accept 46/175 as our qualifying level and still claim to be accepting members at the 99.9999th percentile.

A preliminary and experimental precursor to the long-awaited third norming of the *LAIT* indicates a floor of 119 and a ceiling of 178. While psychometricians generally believe that item weighting does not significantly increase the accuracy of a measurement instrument, use of item weighting enables this norming of the *LAIT* to reach a ceiling two points higher than that of the second norming, by placing the greatest emphasis on difficult items that correlate well with total scores.

This approach could also be made use of to lift the ceilings of Dr. Hoeflin's tests slightly, compensating, to a degree, for the reduction in ceiling due to the strictly linear relationship of I.Q. to scaled score which I insist upon as reflecting the conclusions that can validly be drawn from the data.

Even if we reduce our cutoff percentile, we are still pushing the limits of the tests involved, which have ceilings in the vicinity of five sigma. There are new, somewhat-higher-range tests in various stages of development, including Ron Hoeflin's new *Hoeflin Power Test*, Alan Aax' *Eight Item Test*, and Polymath Systems' forthcoming *STAR*.

Other new tests are marginal or unacceptable as selection instruments. *Noesis #121* included a report on a norming (with a very small sample, $N=33$) of Ron Hoeflin's *Ultra Test*. This issue contains a report on a preliminary norming of *The Mobius Test* ($N=47$). According to Dr. Hoeflin's *Ultra Test* norms, a perfect score on the test is I.Q. 180, 13 points lower than that of the *Mega Test*. I agree that the *Ultra* has a lower ceiling than the *Mega*; I place it somewhere in the mid-170's, comparable to the I.Q. 175 ceiling of *The Mobius Test*, according to my preliminary norms.

I expect these points to be controversial. I hope that this controversy will lead to active scientific investigation by members of the *Mega Society* knowledgeable in psychometrics, and not only rhetoric, in order that we may arrive at a consensus of experts regarding these matters with a minimum of subjective wrangling.

Concerning Mega Governance

Kevin Langdon

Recent events have placed before us the necessity of examining our organizational structure and procedures and deciding how we want to govern ourselves.

In *Noesis* #121, Chris Langan once again criticized Rick Rosner for his uneven performance in producing *Noesis* and Rick and Chris Cole for the autocratic way they've been running the Mega Society. The point of view of the majority of members of Mega is probably quite different, something like this: "We're getting *Noesis* reasonably frequently. It's uncensored. The dues are cheap. How likely are we to find somebody who'll do a better job? Let's leave well enough alone." We are now beginning to examine the question of how much organization, and what kind of structure, we want in the Mega Society. If Chris participates in this process, he may find the result somewhat more to his liking than the present situation.

Jeff Ward raised some larger questions about governance in his letter in *Noesis* #121.

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.

The by-laws (or constitution) of an organization serve two principal purposes. They specify procedures beforehand, thus avoiding many disputes, and they serve as a charter protecting the rights of members from the arbitrary acts of officers.

As a member of the pre-merger Mega Society who was not offered the opportunity to vote on whether the Mega and Noetic societies were to merge, I feel that I am entitled to all the protections of the Bylaws of the old Mega Society. Members of the Noetic Society didn't have as clear a charter but are also entitled to similar protection against having the forms they value undermined.

To be on the safe side, we should require at least two-thirds approval of former Mega members (required for Bylaws changes by the old Mega Society Bylaws) and majority approval of former Noetic members for adoption of a set of operating rules for the Mega Society.

I recommend that we ratify the old Mega Society Bylaws, as they're not too bad, and amend them in accordance with our present concerns. The Bylaws and proposed amendments thereto could appear on the same ballot, along with whatever other proposals Mega members care to put forward.

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.

Paul Maxim's allegations regarding my eligibility for Mega membership are irrelevant to the question of how we determine that someone is eligible to join. This is a question that has already been resolved. The old Mega Society Bylaws (Article IVa, Section 1) state that "All members of the Mega Society as of April 15, 1984 are presumed to have satisfied the membership qualifications." A majority of the combined membership has also made it clear that anyone who has ever been a member is presumed to be qualified.

Determining whether somebody qualifies for membership is elementary. The membership officer examines the applicant's credentials for authenticity and correspondence with the society's admission standards, forwarding copies of the credentials and recommendations to the officers of the society for confirmation of his recommendation regarding admission or rejection of the applicant. (We might want to eliminate the circulation of credentials currently called for by the Bylaws, except in questionable cases in which the Membership Officer may wish to seek other officers' opinions.) The tricky part is how we set the standards to be used by the membership officer.

The Mega Society membership voted, several years before the merger, to accept scores on two intelligence tests--the *Langdon Adult Intelligence Test* (I.Q. 175) and the *Mega Test* (raw score 43). Alteration of what the members have established could only be accomplished through another vote of the membership. Until then, no officer of Mega should be admitting anyone on any other basis. Does anyone know of admissions using other tests since the merger?

The Prometheus Society Membership Committee just recommended that the *Titan Test* be accepted at the same cutoff score as the *Mega Test*. That seems reasonable for the Mega Society, too, though there's a question about equivalent scores on the *LAIT* and the *Mega* at very high levels (see "Concerning Mega Admission Standards," p. 12).

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.

We should publish a membership list (with a separate subscriber list), as soon as possible after allowing members time to submit information on their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to make the list more complete.

But how a member qualified is private information. It's technically part of the records of the Membership Officer; as acting Membership Officer, it's reasonable for Jeff to request this information, for his own use or to summarize data from it and publish his summaries (this would be very interesting; if possible, it should also summarize nonqualifying credentials examined). But I want to head off any movement in the direction of once again routinely publishing people's qualifying scores, as was done in the early days of the Mega Society. A number of members find this practice unseemly.

The rights of the membership as a whole, or the members as individuals, shall include:

4. the right to be protected against personal derogation, violation of privacy or intimidation.

9. the right to retain full control over any use made of test scores and dues waivers except that such information may be used in statistical summary form so long as such use does not allow identification of the members.

--(old) Mega Society Bylaws, Article IVd

Chris Cole raised a valid point in connection with his call for a vote on whether to have a constitution and whether to admit Paul Maxim, in #121. Regarding the existing (old) Mega Society Bylaws (printed in *Noesis* #123), he wrote, "Given the extremely low level of member activity in the Mega Society, I see no way this kind of organizational overhead would be supported."

The first question Chris presented to be voted on is a little vague, but it's clear to me that we need some kind of organizational structure, so I recommend a "yes" vote. The second is not an appropriate question for us to be voting on at all (see "Concerning Paul Maxim's Application for Membership in the Mega Society," p. 28); therefore, I recommend a "no" vote on it if it is put to a vote).

The first thing we need to consider is what questions we need to vote on in order to sort out the various concerns of members. With all due respect to Chris Cole, I believe that he was not the right officer to set ground rules for voting on these matters. Grouping matters to be voted on and setting forth detailed voting procedures are part of the duties of the chairman of a meeting. If we are operating under the old Mega Society Bylaws, the editor is responsible for overseeing the voting. If we're not, the guy editing *Noesis* seems to be the one obviously acting as chairman. I ask Rick to establish a set of procedures for debating and voting on the various issues before us. (Chris' period of six months to examine the issues before us does not seem excessive, given the complexity of these issues--and Rick is free to appoint Chris to arrange the mechanics of the vote.)

In order for us to move toward resolution of these matters, we need concrete proposals. To that end, I offer a number of proposals in the following pages.

Bylaws Amendment Proposals

Kevin Langdon

As we'll need to vote on matters of governance soon, I am presenting ten proposals for amendments to the old Mega Society Bylaws, assuming that the membership chooses to adopt them. If the Bylaws are not accepted, these proposals may serve to stimulate thought about these matters anyway.

The need for enough volunteers to fill the positions required to make a society work can be problematical for a very small membership organization like ours.

The Bylaws of the Mega Society call for five officers: the administrator, editor, membership officer, recording secretary/treasurer, and international secretary, and for an ombudsman who is not considered to be an officer..

The administrator could be dispensed with. And we surely don't need an "international secretary" to deal separately with matters affecting members outside the United States. The "recording secretary" designation seems unnecessary. The indispensable officers for a society like Mega are an editor, a membership officer, and a treasurer. And I think it's a good idea to have an ombudsman. Given the size and activity level of the society, perhaps we should cut back to just these four.

Here are the first three of my proposed amendments:

1. Replace all occurrences of "recording secretary/treasurer" or "recording secretary-treasurer" with "treasurer" in the Mega Society Bylaws (Article IVb, Section 7, Article IVf, Sections 1 and 2, Article Ve, Sections 4 and 5, and Article VI, Sections 1, 8 [5 occurrences], and 16).

2. In Article III, Sections 1, 2, and 3, change "administrator" to "newsletter editor." Delete "administrator" in Article VI, Section 1. Delete Article VI, Section 5, regarding the duties of the administrator, and renumber succeeding sections.

In Article VI, Section 11, replace two occurrences of "adminstrator" with "editor," adding after the second occurrence "(the membership officer in the case of a vacancy in the office of editor)."

In Article VI, Section 15, replace "the administrator may not appoint non-members" with "non-members may not be appointed."

3. Delete "international secretary" in Article VI, Section 1. Delete Article VI, Section 9, regarding the duties of the international secretary, and renumber succeeding sections.

Article IVb, Sections 1 and 2, now read:

1. Prospective members shall submit a request for membership, including proof of qualification, to the membership officer.
2. The membership officer shall forward an opinion on the proof along with a copy of the request and proof to all officers of the Society.

Sections 3 through 5 outline procedures for taking a vote of the officers on the admission of applicants for membership.

4. Replace Article IVb, Section 2, as follows:

2. The membership officer shall examine each application for membership. If he finds that the applicant's credentials satisfy the Society's membership requirements, he shall admit the applicant as a member, as provided in Article IVb, Section 6, forwarding a copy of the applicant's credentials to the Ombudsman. In cases where the Membership Officer is in doubt about the applicant's credentials, he may call for a vote of the officers on the application, forwarding a copy of the applicant's credentials to each other officer of the Society and to the ombudsman.

Article IVh, Section 3 now provides that members who resign from the Society may be required by the officers to requalify.

5. Delete Article IVh, Section 3.

Article IVj ("Termination of Membership"), as it is now written, defines termination of membership due to failure to pay dues as "expulsion." I propose to distinguish between expiration of membership and expulsion, by replacing this article. (Please consult *Noesis* #123, pp. 5-6, to compare this article, in detail, with the original.)

6. Replace Article IVj, as follows:

1. A member's Mega membership shall expire if he does not pay his dues, or request a dues waiver, by the due date. Expired members are free to rejoin the Society at any time.
2. A member who commits fraud in obtaining admission to the Mega Society or who engages in actions harmful to the Society may be expelled from the Society. A vote of the membership on a member's expulsion shall be taken on a majority vote of the officers or when a petition signed by the square root of the membership is submitted to the editor.
3. A member subject to an expulsion vote shall be notified by the editor that he or she may submit a defense of up to four pages for publication in the newsletter, in the issue containing the expulsion ballot. Two-thirds of ballots cast shall be necessary for the expulsion of a member.
4. Readmission of an expelled member shall require a majority vote of the membership.

Article Vb ("Date of Annual Meeting") of the Bylaws now reads:

An annual meeting to conduct routine business of the Society shall occur in the pages of the newsletter during the first three issues of the newsletter in each calendar year. The meeting opens with the first mailing of the newsletter during the calendar year and closes after voting is completed on all issues or at the mailing of the third newsletter in the calendar year--whichever is later.

Article Vc ("Special Meetings") provides two ways for meetings to be opened at times other than the first three issues of the newsletter in a calendar year.

7. Replace current Article Vb with the following:

Vb CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A general membership meeting to conduct routine business of the Society shall be open continuously in the pages of the Society's newsletter.

Delete existing Article Vc. Renumber Article Vd Article Vc.

Add a new Article Vd:

Vd PROPOSAL OF MATTERS TO BE VOTED UPON

1. Any member may call for a vote mandating or prohibiting any official action of the Mega Society, provided that such mandate or prohibition does not contradict any provision of these Bylaws.
2. After a member calls for a vote, the editor shall allow at least one issue for comments from other members. The editor shall print ballots and arguments on the proposed measure within 90 days, allowing a voting period of 30 days.

Replace the words "annual meeting" with "first quarter" in Article VI, Section 1.

Delete the second sentence of Article VII, Section 1, regarding special meetings.

I wish to propose adding a new section to Article IVj ("Termination of Membership"). In order to do this without creating confusion, I must propose some reorganization of this article.

8. Make the first four paragraphs of Article IVj Section 1. Change the designation of three reasons for expulsion from numbers 1, 2, and 3 to letters a, b, and c. Place these letters in the indented paragraphs, not at the left margin. Make the fifth paragraph Section 2. Add a new Section 3:

3. Nonmembers of the Mega Society may be permanently barred from becoming members of the Society for fraud in making application for membership or for actions harmful to the Society. Any nonmember whose debarment is proposed shall have the same rights (listed in Article IVj, Section 2) as a member subject to an expulsion vote, except that the vote to debar shall require only a simple majority. Removal of the bar to membership shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership.

Article VI, Section 16 allows only 15 days for the return of ballots in a recall election, effectively disenfranchising overseas members.

9. In Article VI, Section 16, replace the second occurrence of "15" with "30."

10. In Article VIII, Section 2, replace "*Megarian*" with "newsletter."

There are two sets of motions already before this assembly:

1. Chris Cole advanced two proposals on page 42 of *Noesis* #121 (Chris' call for a vote was omitted from the list of contents on page 1 of that issue). I commented on the first motion in "Concerning Mega Governance," p. 14, and on the second in "Concerning Paul Maxim's Application for Membership in the Mega Society," p. 26.

2. I made five proposals for editorial guideliness on page 2 of *Noesis* #122, with the intention of tightening up our standards and bringing certain abuses of the forum provided by the Mega membership--in the form of *Noesis*--under control.

The Bylaws currently do not specify a mechanism for proposing matters to be voted on (except that they provide that any member may propose an amendment to the Bylaws), but our precedent is that any member can call for a vote on anything at any time, subject to the limitations contained in the Bylaws. The Bylaws specify that it shall take *three members* to convene a special meeting (curiously, Article VII, Section 1 provides that only *two* members are needed to convene a special meeting to consider a Bylaws amendment), which also seems to imply that only one member is required during the first quarter of 1997.

I ask a second and (to be on the safe side) third member to join me in calling for a vote on each of these amendments and each of the editorial guidelines proposed in #122. The amendments are obviously contingent on the passage of the Bylaws themselves. Members who are interested in sponsoring any of the proposals advanced here should contact the Editor.

How Inflated Is Paul Maxim's Ego?

Kevin Langdon

Noesis #121 contained an article by Paul Maxim--entitled "How Inflationary Is LAIT?"--in which Mr. Maxim attempted, as he has in a number of other essays published in the journals of various higher-I.Q. societies, to establish that there is a major flaw in the norming of the *LAIT*.

Mr. Maxim began by exhibiting a table listing the *Mega* raw scores and *LAIT* and *Mega* I.Q.'s of 17 persons who listed *LAIT* scores at or above the four-sigma level when they submitted their answers to the *Mega Test*.

The mean *LAIT* I.Q. of this sample was 167.2. The mean *Mega* raw score was 31.65. (Mr. Maxim listed the mean *Mega* I.Q. as 158.94. This is within less than two points of my calculated value of 157.3. Thus my figures make the gap between *LAIT* and *Mega* scores even larger than Mr. Maxim's.)

Mr. Maxim wrote:

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.

This conclusion does not follow from the data provided by Mr. Maxim. The *LAIT* and the *Mega* are not perfectly correlated with one another. Various studies, by Dr. Hoeflin, myself, and others, have generally placed the correlation between these tests at between .6 and .7. Therefore, some regression toward the mean on the non-selection test is to be expected when score pairs are selected according to scores on one of the two tests in question.

I have a copy of the data set used by Mr. Maxim. When score pairs including *Mega* scores over four sigma are selected (there were five such scores in the sample), the mean *Mega* raw score is 38.6, corresponding to an I.Q. of approximately 167, while the mean *LAIT* I.Q. is 163.4.

My *LAIT* data set shows a considerably larger discrepancy. Five *LAIT* testees have reported *Mega* scores above four sigma. (This is a considerably smaller number than the 17 score pairs reported in Ron Hoeflin's November 1984 data set, and Ron has presumably received more reports of four-sigma-plus *LAIT* scores since that date, but this is a reflection of the fact that the overwhelming majority of those who have taken both the *LAIT* and the *Mega* took the *LAIT* first). The mean *Mega* raw score of these testees is 41.6. I place this raw score at an I.Q. of approximately 170, while Ron interprets it as corresponding to an I.Q. of about 174. The mean *LAIT* I.Q. of this sample is 162.4.

Does this mean that scores on the *Mega Test* are inflated? No. It's simply a matter of which end of the telescope one looks through.

Mr. Maxim's failure to take this well-known effect into account shows his ignorance of elementary statistical principles. He has shown no interest in learning, but continues to repeat the same stupid errors.

Mr. Maxim continued by repeating a slightly erroneous formula, which I have corrected in my previous writings, for converting *LAIT* raw scores to I.Q.'s. As the difference is trivial, I will not repeat the correction here. Mr. Maxim wrote:

Some idea of how Langdon did this ["deliberately misnormed the LAIT"] may be obtained by noting what happens when we apply his "IQ Conversion Formula" . . . 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.

A scaled score of zero is not the same thing as failing to answer any item correctly, due to the correction for guessing.

As I have pointed out previously, every test has a floor and a ceiling. If Einstein takes a test with a ceiling of 140 and gets a perfect score, that does not prove that Einstein has an I.Q. of only 140. Similarly, if an orangutan scores 113 on the *LAIT* it does not prove that the orangutan is as intelligent as a "grade B" college student.

No test discriminates well within about one-half standard deviation of its floor or ceiling, let alone outside its range. Tests like the *LAIT* and the *Mega* are intended to discriminate best within the range of interest for determining eligibility for membership in the higher-I.Q. societies.

Mr. Maxim wrote that "the brunt of the inflation fell on Four Sigma and on its 'successor' society, Prometheus"--coincidentally, the society to which Mr. Maxim attempted to gain admission by means of a score on a test which Prometheus does not accept. Mr. Maxim has been attacking me and the *LAIT* ever since. This is simply a case of sour grapes.

Reply to Jojo Einstein, As quoted by Chris Langan
in "News from Times Square,"(Noesis #123)

Kevin Langdon

Rick's liberal policy with regard to contributions by nonmembers has once again provided access to *Noesis* to Chris Langan's pal Jojo Einstein.

Jojo attacks geniuses because he was frightened by his Uncle Albert. I don't know what he'll do if he ever realizes that his buddy from Clown Kollege is one of 'em and that he even reads *and contributes* to that ratty hi-Q club snotrag, *Noesis*.

Jojo adapted the old "cannibal butcher shop" joke to make "Californians" (rather than Polacks) the dummies whose brains (for transplants instead of buying by the pound) were expensive because they "had never been used." As there obviously aren't too many very smart people on either coast or anywhere in between, I agree that most Californians are idiots but don't see the relevance of the characterization.

But since I mentioned the cannibal butcher shop joke, I must not neglect to say that I heard a rather different version of it. I present it here, slightly adapted.

A man walks into a cannibal butcher shop and sees signs reading "Common-sense-reasoner brains, \$1 per pound," "Scientific-method-practitioner brains, \$2 per pound," and "CTMU-understander brains, \$50 per pound." He asks the butcher, "Why are CTMU-understander brains so expensive?" And the butcher answers, "Sir, do you know *how many CTMU-understander brains* it takes to make a pound?"

A Letter from Paul Maxim to Bob Kopp

Bob Kopp sent me the text of this letter by e-mail in mid-November, immediately after receiving it from Paul Maxim. He also sent a photocopy of the letter, which I can't locate right now but which can be exhibited if anyone doubts that the author of the following words is Paul Maxim.

As I mentioned to you over the phone, Kevin Langdon has recently complained that I have made "personal attacks" against him, and has demanded that they cease. He has also threatened to sue the Editor of NOESIS, Rick Rosner, if NOESIS publishes any more material critical of Mr. Langdon. This threat could have a damaging and inhibitory effect on the operation of NOESIS, which up until now has been a free press. I believe Mr. Langdon has also threatened legal action in his conversations with Dale Adams, our Ombudsman (just as he did in his conversations with you last year), since Adams recently indicated to me that the "possibility of a lawsuit" was inhibiting him from performing his duties as Ombudsman (please see his letter to me of October 9, enclosed). Of course, Mr. Langdon ventures to object only when he alone is the target of attack, and finds it perfectly acceptable when he (and his henchman, Bob Dick) use their own organ to attack me, without allowing me right of response, as they have done consistently and repeatedly since 1995. HOWEVER, in the interest of promoting greater harmony within the high-IQ groups, and because our paramount objective is the pursuit of intellectual attainment, not polemical dispute, I am willing to make a conciliatory gesture toward Mr. Langdon, as long as he is willing to make one toward me in return. I am willing to suspend all personal attacks against Mr. Langdon, so long as he is willing to rectify his unfair and prejudicial appraisal of my IQ credentials, and accept them at the value as placed upon them by the professional psychometricians responsible for their generation. In other words, Mr. Langdon must stop attempting to impose on me and my credentials his own "personal" psychometric theories, which are aimed at derogating all standard tests, in favor of the products that he and Dr. Hoeflin produce. If you are willing to act as "go-between" or negotiator in this matter, I believe you may be able thereby to play an instrumental role in its resolution. Personally, I cannot think of anyone better qualified than you to do this, because of your reputation as a responsible officer of the TNS Society, as an "honest broker," and as a nice guy. Here is the statement I am presenting to you for transmittal to Mr. Langdon. If he is willing to endorse it and return it to you, I believe this conflict can be fairly and satisfactorily resolved: DRAFT STATEMENT BY KEVIN LANGDON: "I have recently been made aware of certain IQ credentials pertaining to PAUL MAXIM, which I was not aware of when I debarred his entry into the Prometheus Society in early 1995. In view of this new information, I am willing to acknowledge that Mr. Maxim's aggregate IQ score on three standard tests qualifies him for admission to both the Prometheus and Mega Societies. These tests cannot be characterized as 'midrange' at the point that Mr. Maxim took them, since at that point they each had a ceiling high enough to accommodate a 4.75 sigma score, as is attested (in part) by the data published by Dr. Hoeflin in connection with his Mega test norming."

PAUL MAXIM

The following letter is printed with the permission of Dale Adams.

Dale Adams
565 Fountain Way
Dixon, CA 95620-2484
November 23, 1996

Paul Maxim
P. O. B. 120
New York City, NY 10012-0002

Dear Paul:

Your "Triple Nine Memorandum" of November 18, 1996, is interesting and reasonable except for two fatal flaws. You are broadcasting this (but of course with no copy to Kevin Langdon) in the context of your supposed "olive branch" good-will offer to Kevin. Worse, you continue to misrepresent my position, and then use your false statements to berate me and reach conclusions that could only follow if the premises were correct. Otherwise, I could let this pass as far better than what you have usually been sending my way.

First, it is duplicitous to circulate these additional charges against Kevin Langdon when you yourself proposed a truce leading to cessation of hostilities. I am sympathetic to your basic position, but you have consistently gone about achieving your ends with unsuitable means.

Second, you have misstated my position again. I have time and again said that I have no power except to the extent my suggestions are reasonable and win adherence when presented. I can claim up to two pages in each Vidya, but I still must say something that will be respected. I have never given any "cease and desist" order to Kevin Langdon. I did tell him I would take certain actions if he took certain improper moves, but no one has told me about any case where he has done so. Nothing I could have done or threatened to do could have in itself made Kevin (or anyone else) stop doing something. (True, the example given from P. 3 of the Oct. 25 Psycom Newsletter is troubling, but perhaps Kevin was forwarding tests in which he is involved on behalf of some other member of the committee. This was neither a vote on one of his tests nor a formal proposal in Resolution form. Further, tests which are no longer being scored might be a gray area.)

Similarly, "If the Ombudsman...doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to enforce his own rulings" is nonsense, since the Ombudsman has no enforcement powers as such. Primarily, he has powers of persuasion. The Ombudsman's real power is gaining the respect that leads squabbling members to seek his arbitration. I have done that admirably in moderating the dispute between Kevin Langdon and Paul Maxim. My resolution was that I would keep neutral as much as possible. This clearly is what Mr Maxim does not want. I have to choose sides--his side. Let me make this perfectly clear--if I have to choose sides, I will choose against the aggressor, who clearly is Mr. Maxim, and using quite tactless and unreasoning means to boot. Already he is making end runs around me because I do not dance to his tune. He is using Robert Kopp as his intermediary in his "olive branch" ploy. (It happens that I approve of this, because the issues in dispute are tied to two other high IQ societies, not TNS. However, I had suggested

Greg Grove because of his expertise in the field. Clearly, Mr. Maxim will not accept any referee who is not on his side or whom he does not feel he can manipulate.) As for John Kormes's involvement, it may be an oversight, but I do not see his name among our "Officers and Staff" in the October 96 Vidya. Mr. Maxim may be trying to build a faction supporting him, or at least opposing Kevin Langdon, and nothing could be worse than this for TNS if the Vidya editor is one of the targets for this cabal.

Although it does not specifically come up in this November 18 letter, I want to clarify another point about which rumors are flying. I have never been threatened with a lawsuit by anyone in TNS nor about anything in TNS. My October 9, 1996, letter that alluded to the risk of lawsuits had Mr. Maxim in mind as the plaintiff. My letter would have been clear in context to anyone but Mr. Maxim that he himself was the one I was worried about. His current letter is filled with bravado about "violate law or public policy", "violation of law or public policy", "Mensa legally conducts", "research into Public Health law", and "legality of 'amateur' IQ tests". Clearly, my suspicions were correct. I suppose he will say that I put the idea of lawsuits into his head!

I don't want to bring personal matters into this, but it is relevant for the case at issue. Mr. Maxim and I used to correspond. At one point I told him I had him pretty well pegged as to his type. I told him that if I turned out to be right in my suspicions, I would become his strongest opponent. As Ombudsman I cannot sully myself by getting down to his level, but my office is all that is holding me back. Mr. Maxim apparently has not read much of my writings. In some of my works I shred my opponents to pieces (figuratively). I have a correspondence of that nature going on regarding a recent article in another high-IQ journal. If Mr. Maxim wants to see some teeth, just let him absolve me of my vow of restraint as the Ombudsman of Triple Nine Society. Creativity requires a killer instinct, they say, and I have plenty of both for my intellectual jousts.

Perhaps I am falling right into Mr. Maxim's trap. He claims to qualify for Prometheus and even the Mega Society. If true, he is quite superior to me in some mental capacities. I have seen no evidence of such a high intelligence in any of his writings or debates, so maybe I just do not get the picture because of my inferior intellect. Well, Mr. Maxim will not have me to toy with in this Master Plan or whatever it is. This mouse is at least smart enough not to play with the cat, so this is it. I want nothing further to do with Paul Maxim in any fashion. I will cede my TNS Ombudsman duties regarding Paul Maxim to some qualified person of higher IQ than mine who will not be a pawn (to shift metaphors) in Mr. Maxim's game. So that just leaves the issue of who that person should be. How about a notice in Vidya asking for someone who is also a member of Prometheus or Mega who is willing to assume Ombudsman duties regarding Paul Maxim? All suggestions or volunteering to be mailed to Bob Kopp, and Bob can communicate with me about who is suggested or available.

Tired of Non Sense,

Dale C. Adams, Ombudsman

No Deal, Paul

Kevin Langdon

Paul Maxim has made a clumsy attempt to blackmail me into certifying that his childhood test scores qualify him for admission to the Prometheus and Mega Societies. The deal he proposed in the letter to Bob Kopp, the Editor of *Vidya*, printed in this issue of *Noesis* shows the hypocrisy underlying his vendetta against me.

I tried to entice Mr. Maxim into going farther out on a limb by asking him, through Bob Kopp, if he would be willing to agree to the following statement (without giving any indication that I was willing to agree to Mr. Maxim's statement):

I have recently been made aware of the soundness of the norming of the *Langdon Adult Intelligence Test* and of Kevin Langdon's work in psychometrics generally. I am willing to acknowledge the correctness of Mr. Langdon's business practices and the absence of any fraudulent acts or intentions in his dealings with members of the high-IQ societies.

Mr. Maxim often does stupid things, but he didn't bite on this one.

I have a few comments on Mr. Maxim's letter:

As I mentioned to you over the phone, Kevin Langdon has recently complained that I have made "personal attacks" against him, and has demanded that they cease. He has also threatened to sue the Editor of NOESIS, Rick Rosner, if NOESIS publishes any more material critical of Mr. Langdon. This threat could have a damaging and inhibitory effect on the operation of NOESIS, which up until now has been a free press. I believe Mr. Langdon has also threatened legal action in his conversations with Dale Adams, our Ombudsman (just as he did in his conversations with you last year), since Adams recently indicated to me that the "possibility of a lawsuit" was inhibiting him from performing his duties as Ombudsman (please see his letter to me of October 9, enclosed).

I have mentioned legal action only with regard to Mr. Maxim's unsubstantiated accusations of fraud, which are libelous.

Of course, Mr. Langdon ventures to object only when *he* is the target of attack, and finds it perfectly acceptable when he (and his henchman, Bob Dick) use their own organ to attack me, without allowing me right of response, as they have done consistently and repeatedly since 1995.

Mr. Maxim's complaint to Harold Nickel, the Ombudsman of Prometheus, was published along with Mr. Nickel's conclusion that it was without merit, which did not include any personal attack on Mr. Maxim. He is not entitled to claim personal privilege on the basis of Mr. Nickel's disagreement with his opinions. Furthermore, I am not aware of a response of any kind being submitted by Mr. Maxim for publication in *Gift of Fire*.

HOWEVER, in the interest of promoting greater harmony within the high-IQ groups, and because our paramount objective is the pursuit of intellectual attainment, not polemical dispute, I am willing to make a conciliatory gesture toward Mr. Langdon, as long as he is willing to make one toward me in return.

Mr. Maxim is willing to be intellectually dishonest if I will do likewise.

I am willing to suspend all personal attacks against Mr. Langdon, so long as he is willing to rectify his unfair and prejudicial appraisal of my IQ credentials, and accept

them at the value as placed upon them by the professional psychometricians responsible for their generation.

The "professional psychometricians" responsible for creation of tests such as those to which Mr. Maxim refers very carefully avoid any claim that the tests are capable of measuring intelligence at the four sigma level, let alone at 4.75 sigma.

In other words, Mr. Langdon must stop attempting to impose on me and my credentials his own "personal" psychometric theories, which are aimed at derogating all standard tests, in favor of the products that he and Dr. Hoeflin produce.

The better standard tests do an adequate job of assessing intellectual ability up to about 3.5 sigma. Above that point, they don't discriminate reliably. I have nothing against standard tests when they are used for the purpose for which they were designed.

If you are willing to act as "go-between" or negotiator in this matter, I believe you may be able thereby to play an instrumental role in its resolution. Personally, I cannot think of anyone better qualified than you to do this, because of your reputation as a responsible officer of the TNS Society, as an "honest broker," and as a nice guy. Here is the statement I am presenting to you for transmittal to Mr. Langdon. If he is willing to endorse it and return it to you, I believe this conflict can be fairly and satisfactorily resolved: DRAFT STATEMENT BY KEVIN LANGDON: "I have recently been made aware of certain IQ credentials pertaining to PAUL MAXIM, which I was not aware of when I debarred his entry into the Prometheus Society in early 1995. In view of this new information, I am willing to acknowledge that Mr. Maxim's aggregate IQ score on three standard tests qualifies him for admission to the Prometheus and Mega Societies. These tests cannot be characterized as 'midrange' at the point that Mr. Maxim took them, since at that point they each had a ceiling high enough to accommodate a 4.75 sigma score, as is attested (in part) by the data published by Dr. Hoeflin in connection with his Mega Test norming."

Let's recall what "this conflict" consists of: Mr. Maxim wrote to me inquiring as to my opinion of the adequacy of the *CTMM* for measuring intelligence at the four sigma level, without revealing why he was asking. I replied that the *CTMM* is a poor test in general and that it lacks sufficient ceiling to discriminate at that level (I subsequently discovered that the ceiling for adults is 158).

Mr. Maxim then proceeded to apply for admission to the Prometheus Society and the Mega Society on the basis of his score on the *CTMM*. I advised the officers of the Prometheus Society that, as Prometheus does not accept scores on the *CTMM*, Mr. Maxim's application should be denied. After Prometheus declined to accept him as a member on the basis of his *CTMM* score, Mr. Maxim began a yearlong campaign of derogation of my work in psychometrics and personal attacks on me, including repeated accusations of fraud.

I had no power to "debar" Mr. Maxim's admission to the Prometheus Society. I am a member of Prometheus, but I am not an officer of that society. I did consult with the officers of Prometheus and urged them not to give in to Mr. Maxim's pressure to admit him despite his lack of the credentials required according to the society's admission standards.

His groundless accusations of fraud and his blackmail attempt show unmistakably that he is a man without principles willing to sell his soul to gain the object of his ambition.

I hope that members of Mega have recognized Mr. Maxim's true colors and will give no credence to his wild accusations in the future.

Concerning Paul Maxim's Application for Membership in the Mega Society

Kevin Langdon

In his editorial in *Noesis* #121, Rick Rosner brought up the question of Paul Maxim's application to join the Mega Society. Rick said that he's inclined to admit Mr. Maxim to the society, but there's more to the story than Rick knew when he wrote his editorial. I will have more to say about that below.

Rick wrote: "Langdon is a nice guy, but 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." I don't care whether people call me nasty names. I can always reply that Mr. Maxim is a poo-poo head himself. Where I draw the line is unsubstantiated accusations that I am guilty of criminal acts, e.g., *fraud*. These accusations shouldn't be too hard for even Rick to spot.

I now formally demand apologies for all such accusations that have been printed in the past, from both the Editor and Mr. Maxim. Failure to recant these accusations, or any repetition thereof, may have legal consequences.

With regard to the call for a vote on the admission of Paul Maxim to Mega, it is the wrong question to put to a vote. The Mega Society voted several years ago to accept as qualifying scores 43 on the *Mega Test* or 175 on the *LAIT*. The proper thing to vote on is whether to change our standards, by adding or deleting qualifying tests or by changing the required scores on the tests we accept. Furthermore, the motion is out of order because the Bylaws have delegated admission decisions to the officers of Mega.

We should not be admitting people as special cases. We should set our standards and measure each applicant's scores against them. Mr. Maxim has objected to *my* credentials. If he is right, it simply shows that we must shore up the rent as soon as possible so that no more cretins get in.

If someone is interested in bringing the question of the acceptance of any of the tests for which Mr. Maxim submitted scores to a vote of the Mega Society membership, that person should submit statistical documentation on the test(s) proposed for acceptance for publication in *Noesis*, so we know what we're voting on. (I doubt that most Mega members are familiar with the "*Pintner Intermediate A [Verbal Series]*," mentioned by Chris Langan in #123 as one of the tests for which Mr. Maxim submitted a score report).

Chris wrote: "So it looks to me like Paul has in fact presented a legitimate qualifying score, albeit on the basis of mental precocity rather than power." But this is precisely the point. "Power" tests have a much higher *g* loading than tests of "precocity," which rely largely on acquired information and which correlate poorly with adult tests.

The makers of standard tests for children and adults do not claim that these instruments are appropriate for measuring the I.Q.'s of the top tenth of a percent of the population. Scoring tables typically have white space beyond about three standard deviations above the mean.

To consider Paul Maxim's admission to the Mega Society as a body, the entire membership would need to be in possession of all the documentation submitted. But applicants are entitled to preservation of their privacy throughout the process of evaluation of their credentials (and also not to be put in the position of being under pressure to waive this protection). Therefore, the evaluation of credentials should properly be delegated to the Membership Officer, following guidelines established by the membership. It would be a good idea to *elect* a Membership Officer so that it's clear whose responsibility this is.

Mr. Maxim also wrote a letter to Professor Ulric Neisser of Emory (not "Emery") University, printed in #121, in which he objected to what he characterized as "Non-Professional IQ Testing" and impugned the admission standards of the higher-I.Q. societies. His attitude toward these societies seems to be "Let me in, let me in, or I'll blow your house down!" Mr. Maxim has a copious supply of hot air, but it's not enough to do the job. His disparagement of the Mega Society casts further doubt on his suitability for membership.

Additionally, Mr. Maxim has filed a complaint for "practicing psychology without a license" against me with the state of California. Mr. Maxim is trying to destroy the tests which are the only reliable admission tests for the "super-high-I.Q. societies." He is threatening our very existence.

Chris Langan's letter in #123 provides further confirmation of this: "I'd hope that we could accept Paul's word as a gentleman to curtail the vitriol in exchange for admission . . ." And Mr. Hitler was, oh, so sweet after the Allies handed over Czechoslovakia!

"Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!"

--U.S. Rep. Robert Harper, 1798

Furthermore, Mr. Maxim is guilty of committing fraud in the process of applying for admission to the Prometheus and Mega societies. See his letter to Bob Kopp, the Editor of *Vidya* (the journal of the Triple Nine Society), printed in this issue of *Noesis* (p. 23), in which Mr. Maxim offered to stop criticizing my tests if I would recommend his admission to Prometheus and Mega, and my reply ("No Deal, Paul," p. 26). Mr. Maxim's hypocrisy is evident.

The Mega Society Bylaws provide that "Members may be expelled from the Society for . . . proof of fraud in obtaining admission to the Society" (Article IVj).

We should not reward Paul Maxim's obsession with how smart he thinks he is, bad manners, and conscienceless actions against those who get in his way, by admitting him to the Mega Society, nor should we admit an applicant guilty of behavior for which a member could be expelled. I would hope to be protected by my fellow members from the entry into the society of someone who is conducting a campaign of character assassination against me as part of his vendetta against those whom he perceives as "enemies."

We don't currently have the constitutional machinery to do what needs to be done. Once we clarify which set of rules we're operating under, we should add a provision that non-members of Mega can be declared ineligible for membership, through the same procedures required to expel a member, so we don't have to let bullies and hypocrites like Mr. Maxim in and *then* expel them. As it now stands, if Mr. Maxim were to submit a score of 43 or higher on the *Mega*, we'd have to admit him.

Comments on Recent Issues of Noesis

Kevin Langdon

I was very amused by Rick's "True and False Facts about Celebrities," in *Noesis* #121. The cause of my amusement was my failure to read the title and the introductory paragraph before I read what were intended to be true or false questions. I took them all as *true*, assuming that Rick had simply assembled a collection of obscure facts about celebrities! This is probably not too different from the way many people read the *National Enquirer*. After I'd scanned all these tidbits of information, I read the introduction and realized that one was intended to read this stuff critically, with an eye toward determining which of them are really factual and which are made-up. I had a good laugh at myself. (I did begin to smell a rat when I got to the one about the Stephen King writing sitting naked on his front lawn, but I suppose the lawn could be behind an eight-foot fence. I'm not gonna guess on this one--or, for that matter, any of them. If Rick has done as good a job as I suspect him of, I doubt that I'd do significantly better than chance.)

I'm glad that Ron Hoeflin's new *Hoeflin Power Test* was published in *Noesis* #121. My most important criticism of Dr. Hoeflin's work has always been based on its inclusion of material with a low fluid-g loading. I expect that *The Hoeflin Power Test* has a much higher g loading, and will have a higher ceiling, than the *Mega*, *Titan*, and *Ultra* tests.

I've seen lots of stuff like Paul Maxim's "Use of Charts for Economic Forecasting" (*Noesis* #121), including the "triangle method" for determining "break-out points" (which gives different results if applied to the same data on a different time scale). If this stuff worked, Paul and a lot of other people would get rich quick.

I want to correct an error in my reply, in #122, to Paul Maxim's attacks on the norming of the *LAIT*. I wrote that Mr. Maxim's calculation of the "expected" number of four-sigma scores in my sample of 20,000 *LAIT* testees was off by a factor of two. He was actually off by a factor of only *approximately the square root of two*.

In Ron Yannone's article in #124, "In Defense of Masturbation, Fornication, Adultery, Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual, Transvestite, Zoosexual, Sadistic, Masochistic, Pedophile, and Bi-sexual Practices," Yannone wrote:

The original biblical plan was that sex between a man and a woman would result in progeny, or offspring. This Divine command from God had blessings and wisdom behind it. Over the years, since the "fall" of man, the procreative charter became lost sight of.

Yannone's dogmatic assertion actually has a grain of truth in it. It's part of *nature's* "plan" for the male and female of the species to mate and produce offspring. Because the powerful energy of the sex drive could be harmful to the organism if not discharged, the organism is capable of becoming imprinted on various substitute objects of desire, but the simulation is imperfect; acting out substituted desires does not include the organic synergy of male and female nervous systems in sync.

But Ron Yannone's notion, assuming a God who has laid down certain commandments, that this God doesn't distinguish degrees of breaches of these commandments doesn't seem reasonable.

Gates

Kevin Langdon and Anthony Robinson

Gates is a two-player game played on an ordinary chess board. Each player starts with sixteen identical pieces of his own color on the two rows of the board closest to him. A set of playing pieces can be obtained for less than a dollar if one player uses pennies and the other nickels.

Players move in turn.

Pieces move one square orthogonally or diagonally, like a king in chess. A piece may move to any vacant square (except the center square of one of the opponent's gates; see below) or to any square occupied by a single friendly piece (unless the square is frozen, as explained below). When a piece moves to a square occupied by a friendly piece it is placed on top of the piece already occupying the square.

When pieces are stacked, either the stack or the top piece can move in any way that a single piece can move.

A player may also move a piece through one of his own gates. A gate is a formation of two of the player's pieces with exactly one space between them, orthogonally or diagonally. A piece may be moved on a line perpendicular to a gate and passing through the middle square to a square symmetrically opposite the square from which it begins its move (relative to the gate), provided that no piece of either player intervenes. A piece may move through any number of gates in a single turn, but may not move through the same gate more than once.

A piece may be captured only by a move through a gate. Capture is effected by landing on the square of one of the opponent's pieces; the captured piece is removed from play and replaced by the capturing piece. A capturing piece may continue to move after the capture as long as it is moving through gates. A piece that is stacked is captured as if it were a single piece. A piece may not land on the center square of one of the opponent's gates unless it is capturing an opposing piece on that square. A piece may move through an opponent's gate only if it is passing through a gate of its own color.

Placing a piece on top of another piece of the same color is called "stacking." Stacking a piece freezes the piece opposite it, relative to the center line between the two players. A frozen piece may not move from its square until the stacked piece opposite is either moved or unstacked.

Stacking or unstacking counts as one move.

A piece may be moved onto a frozen square, but a stack may not be made on, or moved onto, a frozen square. Either a friendly or an opposing piece moved onto a frozen square is then frozen. A piece can pass over a frozen square, but may not stop there between multiple moves through more than one gate.

A stack may be created by moving through a gate. If the move continues through subsequent gates, however, only the moving piece--not the stack--may proceed.

Stacked pieces can move, capture, be captured, and participate in making gates, just like unstacked pieces.

The first player to move one of his pieces onto the opponent's back row is the winner.

Tao Garden

Kevin Langdon

The honeysuckle's
Wild blossoms spring
Amid the wide-ribbed
Leaves of meadow grass,
Wind swayed and sighing,
Rising from the
Dark, sweet nitrous loam.

A sparrow's startled flight
Spans earth and sky,
Touching in turn
A honey-rich bright bee
Among the blooms,
Fragrant pine-tops
And snow-brilliant peaks.

The sparrow's silver call
Floats on a high cloud
And abruptly drops
As through a deep pool;
Ripples of silence spread,
Unbroken by the
Sun-fed valley's drone.