

Noesis

The Journal of the Titan and Mega Societies
(Issue 23, February 1988)

Editorial

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Omni: I received a phone call from Scot Morris, the puzzle editor for Omni magazine, on Monday, February 8, in which he indicated that he would recommend that my Titan Test be published in a future issue of Omni. The version that will be published differs somewhat from the version that I included in the October issue of Noesis, but at least two-thirds of the problems will be about the same.

Dues: The dues for issues 25-36 of this journal will be \$20.00, but you can reduce this by \$1.00 for each page of publishable material you send me for this journal (up to 10 pages). I prefer material specifically written for this journal. It should be typed or neatly printed on 8½ by 11 inch paper, with margins of about three-quarters of an inch on each side, and preferably using double spacings only between paragraphs, as you see here. The material should accompany your dues in order to receive credit. Completion of the questionnaire that appeared in issue 19 (October 1987) can be used as one of your pages, if you have not already submitted it. Subscribers may also submit material for reduced dues, not including the completed questionnaire. My goal is "fish or cut bait," i.e., you should help me out more either financially or by contributing more material to this journal. I have marked as already paid up for this coming year Marilyn vos Savant, Anthony J. Bruni, Keith Maniere, Johan Oldhoff (see below), Barry Kington, Robert D. Russell, and S. Woolsey.

New member: Johan Oldhoff of Sweden has agreed to become a member. His letter is reproduced in this issue. We now have 17 members and 4 subscribers, not counting myself. I will include a list of their names and addresses in this issue. Another list will be included in two or three months showing which members and subscribers have elected to remain with us.

New norms: Keith Maniere has suggested a new norming method for the Mega Test. I have outlined his method as well as I currently understand it in an essay in this issue. The preliminary indications are that the one-in-a-million level may occur as low as a raw score of 41 rather than the current 45 and the one-in-ten-million level at 44 rather than the current 48. If so, then the Titan is already, in effect, a new mega-level group. The admission cut-off may be reduced from 42 to 41 if Keith's preliminary figures hold up, but I'd rather err on the side of caution for the time being.

New patent: Member Richard May indicates that he will soon be issued a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for a board he designed for playing a variety of board games he has invented of a geometrical nature. If you have any suggestions to Richard on how he might market his game, I'm sure he would welcome your correspondence.

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Towards a Fifth Norming of the Mega Test

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Most adult intelligence tests are normed using random samplings of the general population that are fairly modest in size--say 3,000 people or so. The problem is how to norm tests with much higher-than-normal ceilings without testing a relatively huge sample of the general population.

Suppose that 10 people with an average IQ of 100 achieve a raw score of one right on a certain test. Suppose half of them solve problem A and half do not, and suppose that one solves problem B and 9 do not. Thus the ability to solve B places one within the top 10% of the general population. Suppose 20 people get 2 right on this test and that half of them solve problem B and half do not while one solves problem C and 19 do not. Thus the ability to solve C places one within the top 1% of the general population--the 99th percentile. Suppose that 20 people get 3 right on the test and that half of them solve problem C and half do not while one solves D and 19 do not. Thus the ability to solve D places one within the top 0.1% of the general population--the 99.9 percentile. Suppose 20 people get 4 right on the test and that half of them solve problem D and half do not while one solves problem E and 19 do not. Thus the ability to solve E places one within the top 0.01% of the general population--the 99.99 percentile. Proceeding in this way, the ability to solve problem F would place one in the 99.999 percentile, G in the 99.9999 percentile, H in the 99.99999 percentile, and so forth. Likewise, one right on the test equals the 50th percentile, 2 right the 90th, 3 right the 99th, 4 right the 99.9th, 5 right the 99.99 percentile, 6 right 99.999, 7 right 99.9999, and 8 right 99.99999.

In general, then, it is possible to start from a sample having an average percentile rating that is well within the range of standard intelligence tests and then to compare the performance of this group on individual problems with the performance of higher-scoring participants on the same problems, as illustrated above, and thereby one can extrapolate to extremely high percentile levels without testing a correspondingly huge sample of the general population. The example given above is, of course, somewhat oversimplified for purposes of illustration. In actual practice, a computer apparently is needed in order to apply the method accurately since one has to trace the percentiles through many branching chains of problems instead of just a single chain. For a 48-problem test like the Mega Test, for example, there would be $48!$ (i.e., $48 \times 47 \times 46 \times \dots \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$) different chains to explore, although many of these chains can be ignored as having negligible impact on the final results, leading to a certain amount of simplification.

Preliminary indications are that, using this method, the norming of the bottom half of the test (i.e., from a raw score of 1 to 24) remains unchanged from the fourth norming (i.e., 1 right = 100 IQ or the 50th percentile while 24 right = 150 IQ or the 99.9 percentile). But the test appears to have more ceiling than previously calculated, the one-in-a-million level (99.9999 percentile) occurring at a raw score of 41 rather than 45 and the one-in-ten-million level (99.99999 percentile) occurring at a raw score of 44 rather than 48.

Solna Sweden

28 Dec 1987

Dear Mr Hoeflin,

Despite my delay in answering, I gladly accept your invitation to join the Noebic Titan society. Consequently, \$5 are enclosed.

I don't know if you intend to publish member autobiographies regularly, but here is mine:

I'm born, and raised, in Sollentuna, a suburb of Stockholm in 1965. My father is an MBA and my mother a welfare officer.

My elder brother studies physics at the University of Hamburg.

I decided, when 7 years old, that I should try to acquire some knowledge in as many fields as possible, and avoid over-specialization.

My first school-years were quite boring. The Swedish school-system is excellent at providing basics to the majority, but is noticeably bad at providing for high-achievers.

Presently, I'm studying theoretical physics at the Royal Institute of Technology and economics and business administration at the Stockholm School of Economics. I study these at the intended speed or faster, thus twice the normal speed.

To improve my Russian, I will begin studying at the University, etc.

Most of my time is free, though, as the gain from studying on my own, and never attending non-obligatory lectures, outweighs the disadvantages.

My main interests are history, foreign policy and travelling. Europe is on the agenda, as I intend to use the Europeans optimally.

As my interests are so many, I don't know where I want to work in the future. Of course, I prefer a position where knowledge of different fields is beneficial.

Life is not solely books, and I acknowledge that too. I enjoy table-tennis, travelling, cooking, music, (I play the trombone) and writing.

I spend most of this holiday, writing a students' paper, which will be presented to the world in late February.

You have my permission to share this text as I like, without distorting it completely, or, of course, ignore it.

The newest Swedish edition of Guinness Book of Records mentions Mega Society, and says it has 26 members. Is that reasonable? I guess many (?) of these would not make the newer limits proposed by you in Insight, May 87. The limit is put at 193 and maximum at 197. I guess the latest figure is 226 $[184 \times 1.5 - 50]$ but what is the present limit? *

Sincerely,

- 5 - Johan Oldhoff

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A HIGH-IQ CONSULTING PROJECT

A small group has pooled its collective experience and resources with the goal of providing high-IQ consulting talent to the world of business and government. In addition to your intellects, many of you have skills which may very well be marketable to the appropriate customers. We know that this exercise has been attempted before without great success but we are determined, this time, to exploit the possibilities thoroughly until we attain our goal. Our entrepreneurial group includes members with successful business and consulting histories as well as experience in the marketing of consulting skills.

A viable business is possible within one or two years. During this time, we need to convince the business community that we have something special to offer it. The major challenge consists in learning how best to package and market our many skills.

We are temporarily using the name "Trinity Resources Inc." until we come to a final decision and until the chosen name clears a full trademark search. If you are interested in becoming associated with our project, please read the rest of this presentation. Even if you are currently and happily employed, this effort may provide something of value for your career.

As you read the following, please bear in mind that TRI will not compete with high-IQ societies but will complement them. The societies will enhance our efforts to provide interesting professional opportunities for qualified members.

Our first major step is to acquire commitments from a sizeable pool (50-75) of experts, since we're offering an eclectic mix of marketable skills. Potential clients want to see documentation of real people. Otherwise, they will classify us as just another temporary-help agency. We want to stress here that the client will only be shown names, skills and experience data but never a consultant's address nor telephone number. Our roster of "members," as defined below, and their skills, accomplishments and societal memberships will effectively evolve into a "Who's Who" compendium for use in our marketing efforts.

Applicants must either belong to high-IQ societies or supply verifiable documentation which supports their inclusion in a level at or above the 99.9th percentile. Upon acceptance, applicants will become members of our TRI Advisory Board and be assigned the title "Research Associate." Should a Research Associate make significant contributions in his/her selected field, he/she may then, at our discretion, be upgraded to "Research Fellow." The ultimate title will

be "Senior Research Fellow." We may decide, at some point, to give certificates to members. Potential clients will be advised that it is an honor to be accepted onto the Advisory Board which consists of a select, screened group above the 99.9th intellectual percentile.

Membership on TRI's Advisory Board will not conflict with nor compromise any existent, concurrent job, since it's an unpaid honorary position. If and when paid consulting opportunities arise, members whose skills best match the potential client's needs will be asked if they want to participate. We anticipate encountering projects which entail part-time (moon-lighting, if necessary) and/or full-time commitments. The former are more likely to be off-site. Members who are polled will always have the right to refuse participation.

Our initial sales targets will be the Fortune 1000 corporations and governmental agencies. Since we're offering rare and unique talents, our short-term (i.e., one month or less) fee structure will be high. Our current goal for time-and-material, short-term on-site client fees is \$1,000 per 8-hour day, for Research Associates, in such major metropolitan areas as NY/NJ/CT. Research Fellows should command higher rates. We may have to revise this after we find out what the current market will support. The "\$\$\$" split will be 70/20/10 in favor of the member consultant. The 20% covers Trinity's operating expenses. Sales personnel are entitled to a good commission - 10% of the total. Make note that we consider sales the primary and most difficult operation in any business. If payroll taxes (refer to Section 1706 of the Tax Reform Bill) are required for T&M (time & material) work at the client's site, they will, of course, come out of the member's 70%. Should our efforts be successful (and that is our first priority), there will be corporate benefits for those individuals who are outstanding in the sales and/or paid consulting areas.

If the foregoing has piqued your interest, please fill out the following application and mail it with the other requested data to:

Eugene H. Primoff
R.D. 1, Box 171 A
Roxbury NY 12474
Tel: (607) 326-4070

We hope that our efforts will bring real meaning to the old proverb, "A person is not rewarded for having brains, only for using them."

TRINITY RESOURCES INC.

Application for Advisory Board Membership

Name: _____ Vocation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Country: _____

Tel. No(s): () - () - _____

Degree(s) with associated major/college/date: _____

List your best skills (max of 12) in order of expertise:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (1) _____ | (7) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (8) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (9) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (10) _____ |
| (5) _____ | (11) _____ |
| (6) _____ | (12) _____ |

For example, "immunology" and "FORTRAN" are skills which belong, respectively, to the vocations of medicine and computer programming.

Attach an up-to-date resume, if it exists, or a concise professional biography and a list of any awards, notable publications, significant accomplishments and memberships in high-IQ societies.