

MYSTERY HUNT 1984 OFISHAL ANSWERS

Part 1

- A) This is the pinout diagram for a 74S182 chip. Even if you aren't a hot digital engineer, all that's involved is a search of Section 5 of the TTL Data Book, which isn't very long, and has just pinouts for all of the chips.
- B) The penthouse of building 12 is visible from the outside, the trick is how to get to the room. Go into building 12 from the infinite corridor, and go left at the T in the hallway (where the red maps are), then make an immediate right through the door into the skinny hallway. The first left then leads to another door, behind which is a stairway up. Go right at the top of the stairs, and about halfway into the room, there's a steep metal staircase on the right. 12-347 is the room on the left at the top of the stairs, and the extinguisher is numbered 753210.
- C) The split isn't as standard as I thought. According to the Mr. Boston Bar Guide, a pony is 1 ounce, and a split is 6 ounces.
- D) On the album "Surrealistic Pillow", (originally released as RCA AFL1-3766), the first song on side 2 is "3/5 of a Mile in Ten Seconds". This is equivalent to 216 mph.
- E) Some people have the hardest time when it comes to counting. 119.
- F) From "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" (or maybe the sequel, I never read it), the Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything is 42. Yes, there are 12 eggs in a dozen. $42 + 12 = 54$.
- G) On page 62, Discover mentions the work of (former) MIT grad student Brad Shaefer (sic). He used to run the Mystery Hunt. 62 upside-down is 29.
- H) These are views of MIT buildings traced from the map available in the Information Office. The prefix letters cancel when you subtract (sort of), so $(W84 - W8) + (E52 - E19) + (W31 - W74) = 76 + 33 + -43 = 66$.
- J) Enfield, MA, South Dana, MA, and a couple of other towns were flooded out when Windsor Dam was built to form Quabbin Reservoir, (the water supply for Boston), I think sometime around the '30's or so. The inhabitants were relocated, but the towns are still there (underwater), with population 0.
- K) Radiolarians are little microscopic, roughly spherical, little things that I guess live boring little lives somewhere. Their exoskeletons are a network of little polygons, mostly hexagons, but with some pentagons (and occasionally other polygons). A few times in history, people claimed to have found specimens covered with hexagons only, but they were obviously wrong. It isn't topologically possible to cover a sphere with hexagons. Note that there are only 5 Platonic solids, and none of them is made of hexagons. 0.
- L) Beats me. Nobody keeps stats on that sort of stuff. Of course, it doesn't matter, because L gets multiplied by 0 in the equation for x. Not even Simson knows. Gee.
- M) My good friend Kelly Miller tells me that the book "Crystal Data", a publication from the National Bureau of Standards, lists this monoclinic species as having an a/b ratio of 1.000.

x) Well it equals
$$\frac{(182)(3210)(6 + \sqrt[3]{216}) - [(119)(54^2 + 29) + 66]}{(0 + 0)(L) + 1}$$

which comes to 6660119. You might try dialing this on a phone, in which case you'll hear the high-pitched whistle of a 300-baud computer modem. This is connected to Clive Bolton's Franklin Ace (hence the name Boltix). If you dial it up from a terminal and hit a couple of <CR>'s, it will print out the message, which is listed on an attached sheet.