

[Published 2006]

To the Editor,

In 2005, the *European Journal of Parapsychology* carried an article on the effect of weak magnetic fields on an electronic random event generator (REG). The paper was by the editor of that *Journal*, Paul Stevens.

In the paper, Table 1 (page 143) presents 20  $z^2$  values. Those values are apparently squares of standard normal deviates derived from the output of the REG (though the article is not completely clear on this point). Squares of randomly selected standard normal deviates are chi-square distributed with an expected value of 1 (Chou, 1975, p. 315). However, the largest of the 20 values is  $2.06 \times 10^{-2}$ ; the smallest is 0.00; the next smallest is  $3.75 \times 10^{-8}$ .

I have made a number of attempts to contact editor Stevens in order to gain clarity about his method of computation, but I have received no reply from him. I e-mailed the Associate Editor, Ian Baker. He responded, saying that I should contact the author, i.e. Stevens (personal communication, June 6, 2006).

Until Dr Stevens clarifies how the  $z^2$  values were computed, I believe that his results should be treated with caution.

*Princeton Arms North 1, Apt. 59  
Cranbury, NJ 08512, U.S.A.*

GEORGE P. HANSEN

#### REFERENCES

- Chou, Y.-L. (1975) *Statistical Analysis: With Business and Economic Applications*. New York, NY: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Stevens, P. (2005) The effect of weak magnetic fields on a random event generator: reconsidering the role of geomagnetic fluctuations in microPK studies. *EJP* 20, 135–149.