

THIS ISSUE'S PUZZLE

1. Cave problem. Four people are in a treacherous cave and need to get to the other side. They can travel at most two at a time but need the sole flashlight to make their journey across the narrow path. They know that the flashlight has only 12 hours of power. They are aware that each of them travels at different maximum speeds: one travels either way in one hour; another takes two hours; another takes four hours; and another takes five hours.

How do they do it?

2. Penny for your thoughts random generator. You are taking a difficult examination. At one point you decide that your best strategy is to take a purely random guess between two alternative choices. You reach in your pocket and pull out a penny, but you suspect that this is most likely a biased coin. Can you derive a good strategy to determine a 50/50 random selection using this coin?

Please submit the answers via e-mail to Puzzles@aol.com or by mail to Puzzles, 17 Ravine Rd., Great Neck, NY 11023. No solution is required. Please submit your answer as soon as possible to make the solvers list, especially those outside the United States.

ANSWER TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

A dog is chained to a point of the side of a circular lighthouse of radius 1. The length of the dog's chain is π . The dog may not go inside the lighthouse. How much area can the dog cover?

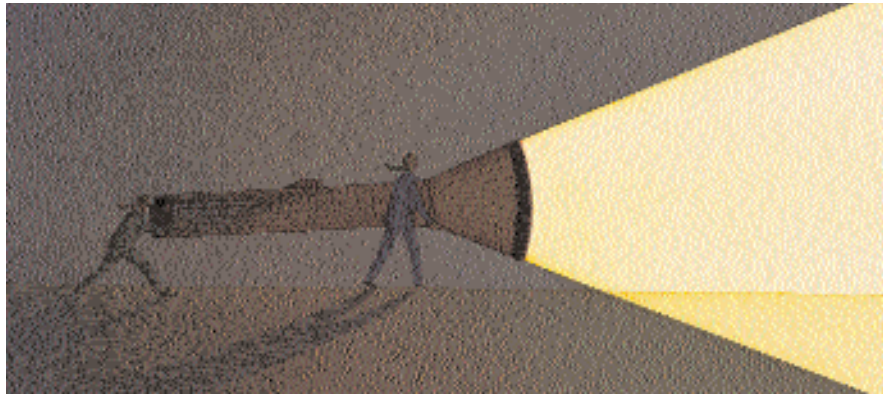
The answer is $5/6 * \pi^3$.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SOLVERS

Gerry Anderson, Francis Bernardi, Boris Brizeli, Paul Budde, Roy Costa, George Crosby, Andrew Dean, Lance Dyrland, Mark Evans, Yu Feng, Yan Fridman, Ralph Garfield, Jin Liu, Matt Neuhaus, David Oakden, Kurt Schneider, Neil Stigliano, David Thaller, David Uhland, Darin Zimmerman

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SOLVERS

Gerald Anderson, George Crosby, David Thaller, Kevin Trapp



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