

Enigmas & puzzles

Three men and a goat

IAN STEWART

George, Harris and Jerome were shipwrecked on a desert island along with their pet goat. The only thing to eat (aside from the goat) was a crate containing 144 carrots that had washed up on the shore. However, some of the carrots had been damaged by saltwater so they fed those to the goat. As it was getting late, they agreed to divide the remaining carrots between them in the morning and went to sleep.

George woke up first. Seeing the others were sleeping, he divided the carrots into three piles, each containing the same number of carrots. There was one carrot left over, which he fed to the goat. He took one of the piles and hid it. Then he put the other piles back in the crate and went to sleep.

Harris was the next to wake and he did the same thing as George. He divided the carrots into three equal piles, threw a single leftover carrot to the goat, hid one pile,

put the other piles back and went to sleep.

Finally, Jerome woke up, and did exactly the same things as the others had done.

In the morning the three chums could see a lot of carrots were missing, but since they'd all stolen some, no one said a word. They divided the carrots from the crate into three equal piles, finding that this left one spare, which they fed to the goat.

How many carrots were fed to the goat?

LAST MONTH'S ANSWER

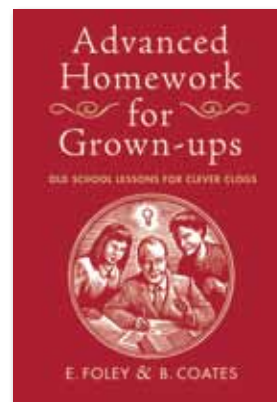
Whodunni's card is the ten of clubs, which has ten letters, the same as its value.

"Of clubs" has seven letters, "of hearts" and "of spades" have eight letters, and "of diamonds" has ten letters. The names of the numbers 1-10 (ace, two, three... ten) have either three, four, or five letters. The only way to get a total number of letters between one and ten is to use a three-letter name with "of clubs." Since $3+7 = 10$ the only possibility is the ten—which, fortunately for Whodunni, has three letters.

The winner is Andrew Smith, Buckinghamshire

COMPETITION

Prospect invites you to solve the puzzle and send us the solution. Correct answers will be entered into a draw. The winner will receive a copy of *Advanced Homework for Grown-ups* by E Foley and B Coates (Square Peg, £12.99). Send your solution to answer@prospect-magazine.co.uk by 4th December. The winner will be announced in our January issue.



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