

THE NORWICH BUMSTEAD DIVINATION

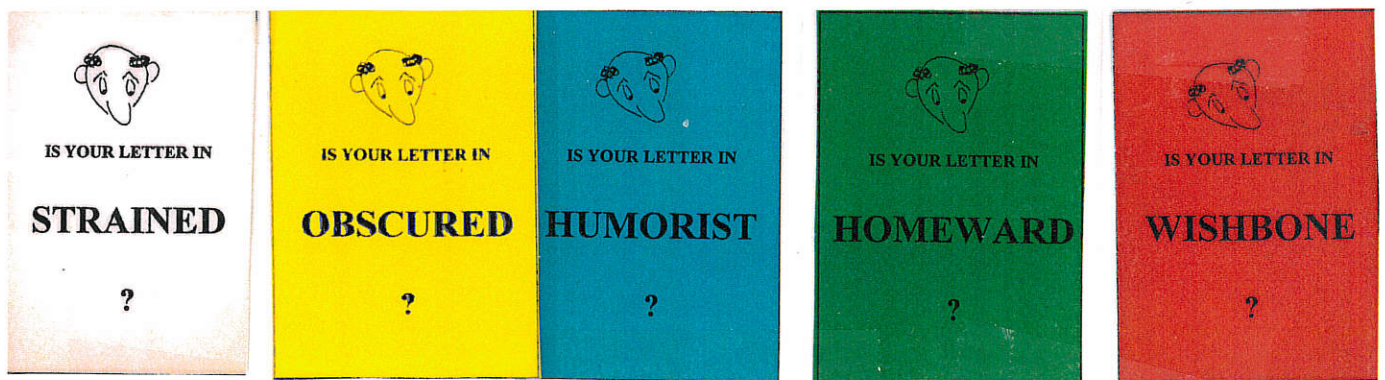
by Jeremiah Farrell

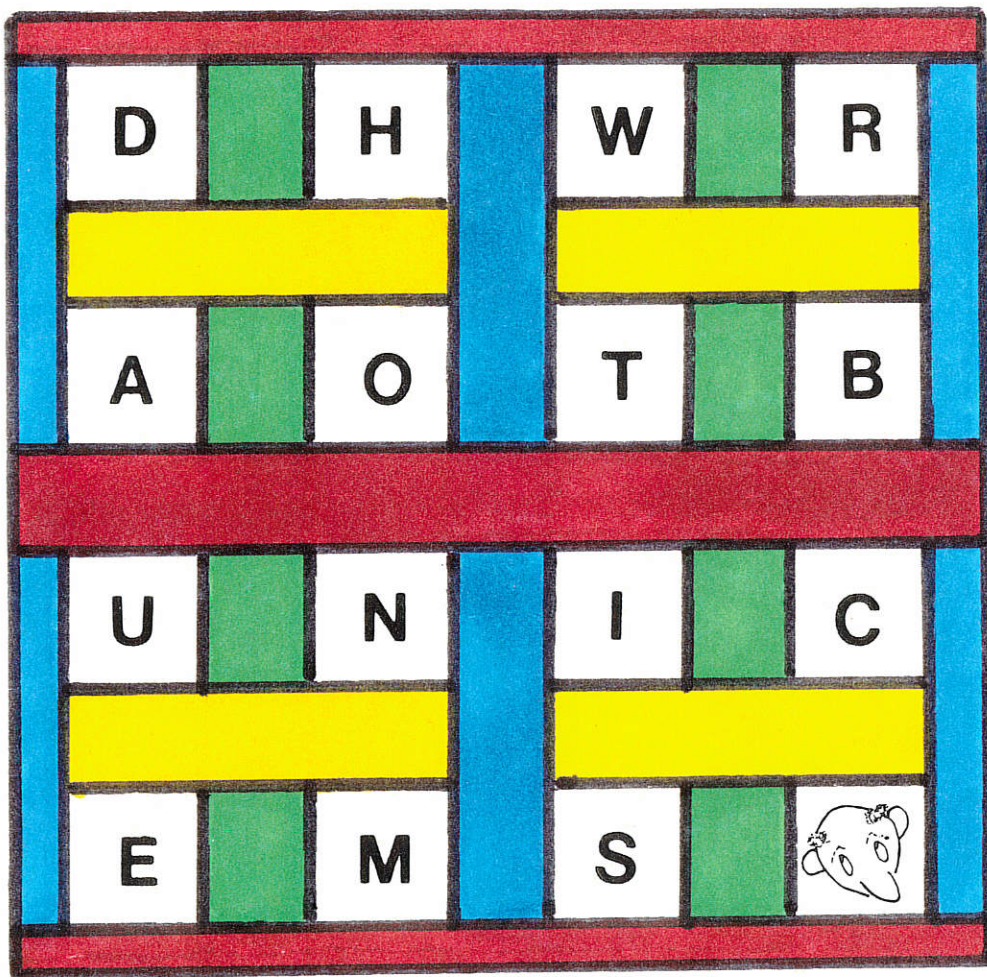
The effect: The subject secretly chooses one of the fifteen letters in the name NORWICH BUMSTEAD. The magician then asks the subject to separate the five colored cards into two piles; one that contains the words that have his chosen letter in them and the other that contains those words that do not have his letter.

Even though the magician does not know which pile is which, he is quickly able to discern that subject's choice by a mere glance at the mystic NORWICH BUMSTEAD diagram.

The method: The mystic diagram can be thought of as a torus, or doughnut shape, by bending the half-red upper edge over to join the half-red lower edge, and then joining the half-blue ends to form the torus. This need not actually be done, of course, since it is easy to imagine that "A" is connected to the "B" via a blue edge, or that the "W" is connected through a red edge to the "S", and so on. With this proviso, every letter (and Norwich himself in the lower right-hand corner) is connected to exactly four other letters by crossing one of the four colors Red, Blue, Yellow or Green.

When the subject separates the five colored cards, the magician simply notes the colors in either pile. He mentally traces the colors in that pile, starting from the Norwich square in the lower right. If the white card is in his chosen pile, the magician makes a (unique) diagonal jump over one square to account for it. For example, suppose Red, Green and White are in one pile. From Norwich the magician crosses Red to "R", Green to "W" and then does the White diagonal hop to land on "U", the chosen letter. Had he traced the other pile instead, i.e., Blue and Yellow, he could have gone Yellow to "C" and then Blue to "U" reaching the same spot. It is worth noting that the colors in any pile may be traced in any order; they will always locate the same letter.





**NORWICH BUMSTEAD
DIVINES ALL!**