DEAR EDITOR,

There is an error in Marián Trenkler's article on magic cubes [1]. The number 31 on the front should be 32. I discovered this when I followed up the author's suggestion to write a program to generate magic squares. So far I have found several hundred cubes of side 4 and, of these, 256 have the additional property that the space diagonals share the magic sum of 130. As an example of this we have

1	20	46	63		60	41	23	6		24	5	59	42		45	64	2	19
52	33	31	14		9	28	38	55		37	56	10	27		32	13	51	34
30	15	49	36		39	54	12	25		11	26	40	53		50	35	29	16
47	62	4	17		22	7	57	44		58	43	21	8		3	18	48	61

For example, $1 + 28 + 40 + 61 = 130$ is one space diagonal.

I suggest calling cubes meeting Trenkler's definition *semi-magic cubes* and reserving the term *magic cube* for examples such as the one above.

Reference

1. Marián Trenkler, Magic cubes, *Math. Gaz.* **82** (March 1998) pp. 56-61.

Yours sincerely,

GUSTAAF LAHOUSSE

St Donatuslaan 4, B-1850 Grimbergen, Belgium

DEAR EDITOR,

I liked the tone of your Editor's note on page 313 of the July 1998 *Gazette* but the line 'non-professional mathematician, such as students and school teachers' made me wish to enquire of you what your definition of a professional mathematician was. I would like to think of myself as both a professional mathematician and a school teacher, as I am paid to work with mathematics and to explain it and explore it with my students.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL BELCHER

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Editor's note:

I have received two letters of complaint concerning my use of the term *non-professional* in my reply to Harley Flanders' letter on p. 313 of the July 1998 *Gazette*. I welcome this opportunity to set the record straight.

The offending sentence said 'I am always pleased to receive articles from non-professional mathematicians such as students and schoolteachers'. I apologise if I gave the impression that I considered teachers to be *unprofessional mathematicians*. My intended meaning might have been better conveyed by one of the terms *non professional-mathematicians* or *amateur mathematicians*.