

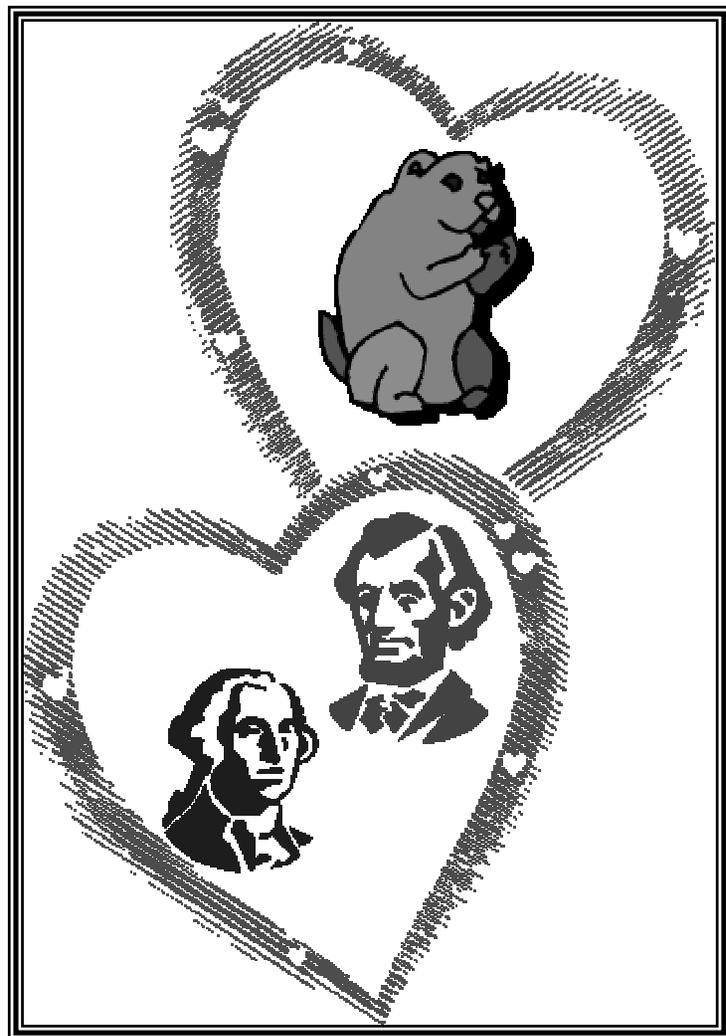


Tampa Bay Sounding

A Publication of Tampa Bay (Florida) Mensa

Vol. 30, No. 1

February 2005



Mensa is an international society whose sole qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on a standard IQ test. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of the editors or officers of Mensa. Mensa as an organization has no opinions. Visit American Mensa at <http://www.us.mensa.org>.



Tampa Bay Sounding is the official newsletter of Tampa Bay Mensa. See the inside back cover for copyright information. Tampa Bay Mensa, which split off from Central Florida Mensa in 1975, serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties. Visit TBM at <http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org>, which provides full instructions on how to join *tbm-gm* and *tbm-discussion*, our two Yahoo Groups.



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Editor's Column

Thomas George Thomas

As I adjust to this new role of Editor I discover a number of unforeseen aspects to the job. Primarily, there is the constant sense of being caught in a time warp!

For example, as I write this column on the day the Sounding goes to press, there are a number of activities coming up – such as Smarti Gras 2005 in Orlando or Gasparilla closer to home here in the Tampa Bay area - which may provide grist for the word mill. And yet, by the time you receive this publication, both events will already have come and gone!

Fortunately, we don't have to be as topical as the newspapers that have to carry up-to-date reports of ongoing events (what ever happened to President Thomas Dewey, anyway?).

We have plenty of other items this month to offset the question of immediate topicality. In addition to the usual reports from our various SIGs, we have stories from Phoebe McCann (both shaggy-dog and non-shaggy) and the first in a series of profiles on local Mensans by Ellen Berry.

Speaking of SIGs, included is a request for interest in a new Singles SIG by U.K. Wabi, and I'll add that while at other events I've heard interest voiced for a Games Night in the St. Petersburg area to complement the ones normally held in Oldsmar and points North. Normally I would suggest that if you are interested in a SIG, then by all means start one - don't wait for someone else to do it for you! But in this case those interested don't have room to host, so if anyone is amenable to do so, you would have eager participants. And remember – those of you who participate in Mind Games in April may come home with some great games, which you're going to want to share! (Naturally, I had to get in that shameless plug...)

I look forward to hearing from and meeting more of you in the coming months.

And now, on to the good stuff...

February Birthdays

- 1 John Ganno, Stuart Marchant
- 2 Ronald Croft, Eve Weiss
- 3 Gerri Almand, Billie Noakes
- 4 Elaine Fry
- 7 Jeffrey Croker, Martin Jenns,
David Johnston, Robert Mitchell
- 8 Carol Dressel
- 10 Esther Snook, Robert Topper, Norman Urich
- 11 Diane Church-Smith, Philip Watson
- 12 Wendy Coughlin, David Gunn
- 13 Joseph Hickey
- 14 Kevin Drew
- 15 Mark Komula
- 16 Albert Church
- 17 Darlene Cerullo, Peter Fournier
- 19 Janet Irish, Ned Moren
- 20 Bob Hickstein, John Reece
- 21 Rudolph Trosin
- 22 Joseph Welch
- 23 Carl Regenhardt
- 25 Elizabeth Maguire, William Schneikart
- 26 Danielle Dahl, Arthur Kelland, Gregory Pitts, John
Woerner, Jeffrey Yorns
- 27 Maryl Curry, Ben Pethe
- 28 Barbara Nichols



Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!

Patrick Bastien
Glenn Best*
Jimmy Buford*
Joseph Davis*
Deanna Dudley*

Stanley Galewski*
Ian Ippolito*
Ramon Martinez*
Isaac Wilks*
Madeline Wilks*

*= new member; others are moves in, preferences in, or reinstatements.

February Mensaversaries

- 1 Kevin Clark, Daniel Gil, David Gil, Curt Grogan,
Calvin Gross, Mary Jarrett, Gretchen Kulisky, Luke
McCoy, Robert Miller, David Shahan, Julie Spiegel,
Barbara Stetzko
- 2 Pamela Dodge, Wilma Genter, Keith Halbasch, Janet
Irish, David Johnston, Sheldon Livingston, Kris
Robinson, Thom Thibodeau
- 3 Jeffrey Croker, Jason Doolittle, Max Epstein, Andrea
Fisher, Carlos Hernandez, Sharon Johnson, Sean Smith,
Marianne Tucker
- 4 Nancy Mitchell, Diane O'Meara
- 5 Billy Noakes, Don Ridgway, Newton Wilson
- 6 John Tiffany
- 8 Stuart Marchant, Eve Weiss
- 9 Cameron Brooks
- 10 Patrick Rhodes
- 12 Michael McBride, Amy O'Hara
- 13 Reeve Fritchman, Paul Smith
- 14 Peter Forret, Delphine Jenness
- 15 Carol Partington, K.E. Schneider
- 18 S. Mason Phillips
- 19 Norman Cleghorn, Susan Gravestock
- 20 Patricia Johnston
- 21 Henry O'Neill
- 22 Ellis Blanton, Pamela Farnsworth
- 23 Edwin Kelley
- 24 LeGrand Jones
- 31 Patricia Bowker
- 32 Jean Chambliss
- 33 Gregory Cowsert

** Mensaversaries come from the membership list provided by national Mensa; some may represent rejoin dates after a lapse in membership.*

Letters To The Sounding

After reading Dan Chesnut's article on Global Warming in the December Sounding and then Ronnie Dubs' letter in the January issue about Dan's article, I felt compelled to respond. Ronnie writes, "The truth he expects us to believe is: man is on the earth using fossil fuels, the earth is growing warmer at the same time, so ergo man must be responsible." Dan made no claims in his article that man was responsible for global warming. He wrote, "Climate has fluctuated naturally since the Earth began and no experiment can test whether our lifestyle causes or even contributes to the warming trend. One should ask, however, how likely is such a coincidence?" The rise in atmospheric CO₂ levels reported by Dan can be found in any chemistry book. Knowing that Ronnie is a chemist, I am confident he will agree that there has been a significant increase in CO₂ levels since the industrial revolution. This may or may not have anything to do with global warming. Dan leaves it up to the reader to draw his or her own conclusions.

Ronnie also states, "I shall leave the math for others here but the idea that the exhaust fumes from my SUV are somehow polluting that astronomical quantity of air is preposterous." I agree that this statement is preposterous. Dan didn't mention any cars, trucks, or any other vehicle in the article, let alone an SUV owned by Ronnie. Ronnie also made a comment about wildfires raging uncontrolled spewing carbon oxides, before our planet was civilized. The air pollution attributed to vehicle exhaust comes from nitrogen oxides, not carbon oxides. This is a contributing factor to acid rain, not global warming.

When evaluating scientific data, it is necessary to have the data come from a scientific journal, where articles must be subjected to peer review – not the popular press. Dan's article cited several authoritative and scientific sources of data, whereas Ronnie's only citation was from the New York Times.

Dana Groulx
lemmiwinks@tampabay.rr.com

GLOBAL WARMING?

Having read several things on the subject, I cannot pronounce myself quite yet an expert: however, I welcome suggestions to consider possibilities.

Our "Global" is warming, whatever the prime cause, and there is no denying that we are adding to this by our proclivities.

I'm sorry that Mr. Dubs' comments avoid all but confrontation. There is much room for discourse, and I thought Mr. Chesnut's article made this clear, but Mr. Dubs seems bent on denying the hand of mankind in this cycle - a possibility, of course - instead of offering more information to support his position.

It has been, in the last mumble-something years, really unpleasant to find out that I'm wrong now and then, but... I insist on listening carefully to others without this kind of reflex attack. Well, I think I do.

C'mon Ronnie, you know better. Lighten up and listen a little...

Max R. Loick
oldmax1@juno.com

...FULL OF SOUND AND FURY, SIGNIFYING NOTHING

My "Archaic-Word-Of-The-Day" calendar for 2005 contains the fascinating term "Roaring-boys", which seems apropos to the correspondence on this topic. The definition in The Elizabethan Underworld Glossary reads, "Young bloods and rascals who amused themselves by annoying respectable citizens."

There were letters received that I could not justify including because of the angry or personal tone they took, and upon my rejection one correspondent responded that their letter was appropriate because I had opened that door with the inclusion of Ronnie Dubs letter in last month's Sounding. I now acknowledge that this was a mistake on my part; please
(continued next page)

consider the door on deliberately confrontational material hereby closed. Another letter I received last month contained this interesting citation, concerning these types of debates:

Definition of "straw man" rhetorical argument from Wikipedia free encyclopedia:

"The straw-man rhetorical technique is a the practice of refuting weaker arguments than one's opponents actually offer. To "set up a straw man" or "set up a straw-man argument" is to create a position that is easy to refute, and then attribute that position to your opponent.

One can set up a straw man in several different ways:

Present only a portion of the opponent's arguments (often a weak one), refute it, and pretend that all of their arguments have been refuted.

Present the opponent's argument in weakened form, refute it, and pretend that the original has been refuted.

Present a misrepresentation of the opponent's position, refute it, and pretend that the opponent's actual position has been refuted.

Present someone who defends a position poorly as the defender, refute their arguments, and pretend that every argument for that position has been refuted.

Invent a fictitious persona with actions or beliefs that are criticized, and pretend that that person represents a group that the speaker is critical of.

Some logic textbooks define the straw-man fallacy only as a misrepresented argument. It is now common, however, to use the term to refer to all of these tactics. The straw-man technique is also used as a form of media manipulation."

Thomas George Thomas
FardleBear@aol.com

Last Months' Games Nights

Sylvia Zadorozny

Well, normally I'd write more about the December 18th Holiday Party/Games Night, but unfortunately I missed all but the tail end of it. Attendees included those at the preceding ExComm meeting (which I also missed), plus a few who came just for the party: Theresa Hohmann, Ellen Berry, Louise Kelly, Keith Kelly, Ashley Kelly, Jamie Heuer, Charles Godfrey, Max Loick, Barbara Loewe, Dana Groulx, Thomas Thomas, Dan Chesnut, Ronan Heffernan, Maxine Kushner, Richard Manno, and (eventually) Sylvia Zadorozny. Charles Godfrey decorated my Christmas tree (his first ever!) with some help from a few of the early arrivals, and he and Richard Manno handled putting out the snacks. When I eventually got there, everything looked great and the few guests remaining looked like they had been enjoying themselves. Thank you all for all your help.

One of the things I love about Mensa is that you can host a party and everyone will help out, even if you don't make it there yourself! To all who inquired about my daughter Kathy, who was in the hospital having surgery (the reason for my absence), she is doing much better now, thanks.

Fortunately, I was there for the January 15th Games Night. Many of the same people attended, but there were a few changes: Elaine Somoza, Christine Hampel, Delphine Jenness, George Zadorozny, Don Davis, J. Heuer, Ellen Berry, Ronan Heffernan, Theresa Hohmann, Max Loick, Dan Chesnut, Thomas Thomas, Barbara Loewe, Dana Groulx, Richard Manno, and me. We ate lots of yummy snacks (including warm brownies), and played the new version of Celebrity Taboo, Tribond, Brainstrain, Smarty Party, 25 Words or Less, Wit's End, and Boggle. The last guests headed home in the wee hours, after a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Tenth Story: RVC Column for Region 10

Elissa Rudolph

Exercise your brain to get ready for CultureQuest®! Here's a tough question to ponder:

Name a feat that became one.

- a. A woman in Brazil tapdanced for exactly 23.58 days in 2001. She was allowed to eat and use the bathroom, of course, but those feet had to keep going as she did both.
- b. Now here's a weird one. A 38-year old magician in Quebec learned how to swallow his entire hand [up to his watch]. In 1987 he managed to keep it engorged for 28 hours and 17 minutes. He claims he could have gone longer but got hungry.
- c. A young man in Milwaukee (just 17 years old) made 604 successful foul shots in a row in 1999. The oddest thing about it is that this fellow named Kevin Humphries was not even on his high school basketball team!
- d. In 2004 a man in Germany took only 11.8 seconds to calculate the 13th root of a randomly given 100-digit number in his head. The big question now is: Can he balance his checkbook?

While you're pondering the answer (or maybe googling to find it), mark your calendar for Sunday, April 10, CultureQuest day. CQ rules and application are available under Event Registration in the Member Resources area of the Mensa website: <https://secure.us.mensa.org/members/eventreg.php>. Or email CQ Chair Mick Richmond at CultureQuest@us.mensa.org. The answer to the silly question will be in this column next month; it's true that one feat is documented fact and the others are total fiction. If you can't wait, contact me.

Have you renewed your membership? At the end of 2004, Mensa went over the 50,000 mark, doing better than 2003's 49,337. Renew via the website to save time, www.us.mensa.org. To make things even easier, Mensa now accepts American Express and Discover in addition to Visa and MasterCard. You can also do a debit from your checking account. So there's no excuse. Do it today!

Have a sweet and loving Valentine's Day!

Coming Events:

Colloquium 2005, Earth in Mind: Fueling the Future, March 4-6, 2005, Tucson, AZ, www.colloquium.us.mensa.org

MindGames, April 15-17, hosted by our very own Tampa Bay Mensa, Double Tree Hotel-Tampa Westshore Airport. Registration-\$65 to 4/1. Send registrations to MindGames 2005, 1229 Corporate Drive W, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

FloRanGe '05-Suite Mayhem, Broward Mensa's RG over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, Tampa Bay Mensa's traditional spot on the calendar. Since that group is doing MindGames, Broward Mensa is hosting the 3-day RG in Fort Lauderdale. Can't miss a chance to party! Contact Robin Rhea, 954.575.1639, robinrhea@bellsouth.net for information.

Elissa Rudolph, RVC10
5054 Lakefront Blvd, Apt D
Delray Beach, FL 33484
elissa12@bellsouth.net
561-496-0124

GRINS N' CHUCKLES

The History Channel aired a program about the Pyramids of Egypt and how they were constructed. It was called "Modern Marvels."

Found on the label for a life preserver: "Do not try to swim carrying heavy objects."

Listed on the Sunshine Network's program schedule: "ENDLESS GOLF" (from 5:30 to 6:00).

After a major cold front and storm system came through the area, the Weather Service issued a marine report warning of "heavy surf near the coast." (Good thing they specified "near the coast" so we wouldn't expect it on, say, the Hillsborough River.)

Cryptopoem by Sylvia Zadorozny

GLYO SNOHO MBF B FLGMWBL

FSGGT GISFETO SNO TGGH;

SNGIUNS NO'T REPO SG YGWO ELFETO

BLT HIL BHGILT SNO ARGGH;

SNGIUNS NO'T REPO SG MBHW NEWFORA

CZ SNO AEHOREUNS HOT;

SNGIUNS NO'T REPO SG YREW ID

GL SNBS CEU MNESO COT.

FG NO YBRROT SNO LGHSN MELT:

"NORD WO LGM, E DHBZ.

E'W YGWDROSORZ AHGKOL,

FSBLTELU NOHO BRR TBZ."

FG SNO LGHSN MELT YBWO BRGLU

BLT CROM NEW EL SNO TGGH,

BLT LGM SNOHO'F LGSNELU ROAS GA NEW

CIS B DITTRO GL SNO ARGGH!



LocSec's Report

Maxine Kushner

Hello Tampa Bay Mensans!

Local elections will be held in June, and we are in need of three local members to volunteer for the Election Committee. This job requires a minimum of time. The main activity takes place at the June Elections/ExComm meeting. At that time, the committee will open the ballots received, count the votes, and announce the results. If you are interested in volunteering for a spot on this temporary committee, or have any questions about what it involves, please contact me at maxine.kushner@verizon.net.

After a long break in testing, we recently held a session. We plan to hold another session soon, so please check back to the web site or contact Testing Coordinator Barbara Counts (barbruns@earthlink.net) if you know of anyone interested in sitting for the test.

Mind Games is only two months away. If you haven't registered yet, why delay another day? If you are interested in volunteering to help with hospitality (there might be perks involved...), please contact Mind Games Coordinator Sylvia Zadorozny (sylviachocolate@juno.com).

Until next month,
Maxine

Answer to January Cryptopem

When Noah sailed the waters blue,
He had his troubles same as you.
For forty days he drove his ark
Before he found a place to park.
--A. Nonny Mouse

Mind Games® 2005
Hosted by Tampa Bay Mensa
April 15-17, 2005

Mind Games® is an intense weekend of play. Mensans judge and critique games released in the past year and award the coveted Mensa Select® seal to the top five. Past winners include Scattergories®, Trivial Pursuit®, and Taboo®. Mind Games® begins on Friday afternoon and ends Sunday morning. Participants, called "Judges," tend to play around-the-clock, with breaks only for food, drink, and sleep. Hospitality is open 24-hours, but it is intended for quick refreshment between games.

WHERE: DoubleTree Hotel — Tampa Westshore Airport, 4500 W. Cypress St., Tampa, FL, 33607, 813-879-4800. Mention "MENSA" to get special hotel rate of \$99 per night (plus tax). The cut-off date for getting the special Mensa rate is March 15, 2005.

- Free airport shuttle to/from nearby Tampa International Airport. Free parking. Free shuttle to nearby malls.
- Heated pool and whirlpool. Fitness center.
- Huge game room with hospitality adjacent.
- Friday dinner and Saturday lunch catered by the hotel.

Registration through April 1 = \$65.

Contacts: Sylvia Zadorozny, Mind Games 2005 Chair
Kathy Crum
Registration

MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org
AsstMGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org
Registration@mindgames.us.mensa.org

Registration Information:
Please include complete name for all registrants and Mensa membership number(s), if applicable. Membership will be verified at the time of processing. Enter "NM" for Member # if non-Mensa. We reserve the right to limit non-Mensa registrations.

Primary Contact _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () - _____ Email _____

Registrant(s)	Badge Name	Member #	Amount
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
Registration Total			\$ _____

Payment Method: Visa MasterCard Check, payable to Mensa Mind Games 2005

Card _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Name as on card _____
Charge will appear on cardholder's statement as a charge from American Mensa, Ltd.

Signature _____

Register online now at mindgames.us.mensa.org

Send your registration to: Mind Games 2005
American Mensa, Ltd.
1229 Corporate Dr. W.
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

You can also call 817-607-0060 x122 using your Visa or MasterCard. Please direct registration questions to registration@mindgames.us.mensa.org.

04MG02

MindGames will be hosted right here in Tampa at the Double Tree Hotel-Tampa Westshore Airport, April 15-17. Registration is \$65 to 4/1. Send registrations to MindGames 2005, 1229 Corporate Drive W, Arlington, TX 76006-6103, or online at mindgames.us.mensa.org. See your September 2004 Sounding for full page registration form, which is also available at the MindGames web site.

Broward Mensa Presents FLoRanGe '05

Suite Mayhem!

Memorial Day Weekend May 27-30, 2005

A mélange of speakers, demonstrations, contests, tournaments, an auction, Charlie Steinhice and his Trash Bowl, Rick Friedman, Joke-off, paper games, Pundemonium, John Klase's Treasure Hunt, Wit Tee Shirt Contest, special activities for Teens and Tweens, 24 hour Game and Hospitality Suites, pool, hot tub, all meals except Saturday Night on the Town, plus all the old and new friends you can stuff into a steamer trunk!

Location:

Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek
 All rooms are suites.
 \$79.00 per night for 1-4.
 Must reserve by May 6, 2005

Registration:

\$75.00 until January 31
 \$80.00 after January 31
 \$37.50 for children under 12
 Make checks payable to:
 Broward Mensa

Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek
 555 West Cypress Creek Road
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
 Phone: 954-492-5849
 1-800-325-3535

Mail to: Darcy Schiller, Registrar
 6075 N. Sabal Palm Blvd. #313
 Tamarac, FL 33319-2645

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Officer/Position _____
 Name on Badge _____
 Email address _____



Want more information?

Contact RG Chair Robin Rhea (robinrhea@bellsouth.net)
 954-575-1639

ANA, APS, PC-LM, USPCS-LM, USCS, FUN-LM, FAS-LM, MPOS
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Dolores Puterbaugh, LMHC, PA

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 The Wachovia Bank Building

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- Family & couples counseling
- Anxiety, depression, grief
- Stress, anger
- Personal growth/development
- Consulting/Coaching services

727-559-0863
 puterbaugh@mindspring.com
 balancedlifestylecoaching.com

Personal Ad Abbreviations
Maxine Kushner*

Looking to meet someone new? Here are some abbreviations used in personal ads. Answers on page 27..

1. SOH _____
2. WMP _____
3. WLTM _____
4. NTW _____
5. LTR _____
6. OHAC _____
7. PA _____
8. ALA _____
9. BHM _____
10. SWF _____
11. SBM _____
12. SPARK _____
13. NLP _____
14. ANI _____
15. GRO _____
16. NS _____
17. LTM _____
18. DTE _____
19. FS _____
20. 4TLC _____

*This information appeared in *Schott's Original Miscellany*.

CALENDAR

February 2005

Ronan Heffernan, Calendar Editor

Mensa events are open to all Mensans, their spouses, and accompanied guests. A party at a private home is a private event, and who may or may not attend is at the complete discretion of the host. While kitty amounts are mandatory, hosts often spend far more than the specified amount. Donations excess of the kitty amount will be appreciated.

Ronan Heffernan (813-907-8147) is the Calendar Editor. Please e-mail your calendar event notices to Ronan@tampabay.rr.com, or visit <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal> for complete instructions. Your deadline for the following month's calendar is the 12th of the preceding month.

Hosts: Please remember to mention any special concerns about your location, such as limited access for the handicapped, smoking restrictions, or presence of pets.

Guests: If you have special needs or restrictions, it is prudent to discuss them with your host before attending an event.

February - 2nd - Wednesday - 7:00 PM*Erudite Lite Reading Group*

Location: Borders Books & Music - 909 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa

Join us for the next meeting of the new TBM reading discussion group! We'll spend time catching up on what we've been reading, and recommending readables and topics. When you arrive, look for us in the coffee shop inside Borders. Bring along books you'd like to exchange or give away.

Check out our new website: www.rovingarts.com/eruditelite

Ellen Berry - 727-480-7938 - eberry@rovingarts.com

Borders Books & Music - 909 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa

February – 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - Thursdays - 12:30 PM

Lunch Bunch

We meet at Piccadilly Cafeteria, on 11810 North Dale Mabry Highway (next to Barnes and Noble Bookstore), in Tampa. For directions, descriptions, and/or encouragement to attend, call:

Jim Perry - 813-837-3473 - philart@gte.net

February – 7th, 21st - Mondays - 3:30 PM - \$2

Children's Game Day/Play Day

For ages 0-10. Come join us. Bring your favorite games. For directions contact:

Linne Katz - 727-372-9438 - LINNEKATZ@aol.com
10037 Wheatland Road - New Port Richey

February - 10th - Thursday - 7:30 AM

Breakfast Gathering

Breakfast Gathering, Village Inn at Walsingham Road in Largo, 7:30 AM, 2nd Thursday of every month. Gather for food and conversation. Please call Lori Puterbaugh at 727-399-2419 for directions and so we have a headcount.

Lori Puterbaugh - 727-399-2419

February - 12th - Saturday - 3:30 PM

ExComm Meeting

Executive Committee Meetings are open to all Tampa Bay Mensans.

This month's meeting is at Barbara Loewe's and will be followed by a Games Night.

Directions from Tampa and points south: Go N. on Hwy 41. Six miles north of SR54, on the right-hand side, is a housing development called "The Groves Golf and Country Club". Turn into the development. After the guard gate, go to the first stop sign and turn right. Go to the next stop sign and turn right. Go one block and turn right onto Nectarine Place. Barbara's house is the second house on the left. Smoking is allowed outside, and there is one dog in residence.

Barbara Loewe - 813-968-3343
20810 Nectarine Pl. - Land O'Lakes

February - 12th - Saturday - 7:30 PM - \$2

Games Night

See the "ExComm Meeting" calendar entry for directions.

Barbara Loewe - 813-968-3343
20810 Nectarine Pl. - Land O'Lakes

February – 20th - Saturday - 2:00 PM

FSM

This month we'll Fold, Staple, and put Mailing labels on our Mensa newsletters at Sylvia's in Oldsmar. Everyone is encouraged to come help out. You can get your newsletter early, and if any one is interested in staying for games after we're done, that would be great with me! Hope to see you here.

Sylvia Zadorozny - 813-855-4939 - sylviachocolate@juno.com
651 Timber Bay Circle West - Oldsmar (call for directions).

February - 25th - Friday - 6:00 PM*TGIF*

You don't have to be an Anglophile to enjoy the Horse & Jockey British Pub, but you do have to be prepared to celebrate TGIF! The Horse & Jockey is located at 1155 Pasadena Avenue South, South Pasadena. State law does not permit smoking in restaurants.

Brigitte Walker - 727-346-0656

February - 26th - Saturday - 7:30 PM - \$2*Last Saturday Games Night*

Directions:

Take the Veteran's Expressway North and exit at Dale Mabry. Head north on Dale Mabry which will merge with U.S.41. Wilderness Lake Preserve is approximately 5 miles north of State Road 54, across from Land O' Lakes High School on the east side of U.S. 41. Once inside the community, tell the friendly ranger where you are going. Follow the signs to the Wilderness Lodge. Look for Osprey Point, which is the subdivision directly across from the lodge. It will be on your left hand side. After turning into Osprey Point, turn right on Cypress Tree Court. Dana's house is a two story with green shutters. The streets are narrow, so if you can't find a place to park, park at the lodge and walk. It isn't very far.

Dana Groulx - 813-996-5552

21416 Cypress Tree Court - Land O' Lakes

Growing Up Gifted

Ellen Berry

Introduction

It's fascinating to think that in every group of 100 adults, there are 100 unique character sets represented, each made up of countless variables: DNA, environmental factors, unique experiences, family history, demographics, cultural influences, degree of well-being, and perhaps... a soul. Yet, within this varied soup we find commonalities, shared interests and abilities, mutual sense of purpose, a sense of connection. We seek these relationships out, looking for mirrors of our inner selves - a sense of recognition. Without them, we feel misunderstood, different, unanswered.

Keeping things interesting is the degree of variation among our commonalities. How much we as individuals recognize the presence of own unique attributes, and how much we embrace them, contribute greatly to our success in finding a sense of belonging. We as Mensans are fortunate to have a place to celebrate one shared commonality we can count on - giftedness. We know that we will at least be recognized and accepted for that one personal attribute (and hopefully others as well). We are also fortunate that we are able to recognize the presence of our own unique attribute, and embrace it.

Which brings me to the point of this new column. With giftedness as the sun in our Mensan solar system, our other personal attributes and shared commonalities circle around us in orbit. As a new member, I have an interest in mapping these heavenly bodies - familiarizing myself with other shared interests and mutual purposes that also reside within our expanding microcosm.

I thought I'd start at the beginning -- by exploring how and when we as children discovered our difference from others, how it was recognized or denied, how it isolated or united us with loved ones and peers. Here's my story... I'd love to hear yours.

Ellen Berry

In each group of 100 adults are 100 former children. They may have been fortunate enough to be recognized by others early; their difference only mildly egregious to the people they encountered over time. They have grown up with a sense of belonging and validation. But for many, the search took many years, or continues even now...

When I was in fourth grade, my teacher Mrs. Franklin came to my house to have lunch with my mother. (Fort Collins, Colorado in 1976 considered itself progressive for its size of 50,000.) She explained that although she appreciated my enthusiasm, my behavior in class was disruptive. I kept raising my hand, and hurrying her along to the next topic. I remember feeling disappointed in her and my mother for conspiring to suppress my inner drive for learning, which had the power of a steam engine.

So in fifth grade, I took to propping up the lid of my desk with a book and reading during class. I was reading at a college level by then and didn't miss one spelling word that year. But I didn't win the annual fifth grade spelling bee, and I was sorely disappointed in myself. I knew I could do better.

Shortly after, I was watching Jeopardy while Dad read the newspaper, and Alex Trebek mentioned that one of the contestants was a member of Mensa. I asked Dad what Mensa was, and he told me. I secretly decided then, though I knew the odds were against me, that I would be a Mensa member when I grew up.

By the first year of junior high, seventh grade, I had nearly flunked out. The lack of individualized attention from teachers, and their marked lack of enthusiasm compared to elementary school, ganged up with after school bullies to put learning at the back of the class. But at home, I was an avid reader. Although my bedtime was 7:30 p.m. – a convenient way to keep the kids out from underfoot -- by the light of the nightlight I was reading a different 800-page novel every night.

Teachers, the school counselor and my mother got involved, and somehow I made the necessary adjustments and my grades started improving. The panic attacks started then – eyes rolling in the back of my head, convulsing, losing consciousness, throwing up.

In high school I went to a counselor about the panic attacks, which were accompanied by a generalized anxiety that made me restless. In our fourth session, he expressed interest in the “to do list” I mentioned – a list of things I was frustrated about not accomplishing yet. There were 150 items on the list, and included things like “learn French”, “study architecture”, “publish a book of poems”, and “create a list of all books I’ve read and want to read”. He was also surprised to find out that I was discouraged about my ability to accomplish any of these things because I felt they were beyond the scope of my ability.

He pointed out that I was going at 90 miles an hour when everyone else was going about 35, and suggested I would be pleasantly surprised by the results of an intelligence test. When the results came back, I was genuinely surprised, and shortly thereafter uncomfortable. Surely if I was that intelligent, my life would be different? More accomplished... recognized... successful... I entered into the long process of working through the label – getting past the expectation of what a gifted person was, to who I was as a gifted person.

I worked as a nanny full time for several years after high school, and although the intellectual stimulation was lacking, I thoroughly enjoyed working with the gifted children in my care. I enjoyed seeing them make the mental leaps I recognized as special, and it reminded me of the leaps I’d made at their age. I finally reached the point where I could accept the fact, without fear of being considered arrogant or superior, that I was a human being that happened to be unique in a certain way. The question became “so you’re gifted - now what?”.

Ten years later I graduated from college Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude (it would have been magna cum laude but I got a D in logic – go figure). At my first real job, one of my responsibilities was to create a company newsletter. It was a new venture for me, laying out design elements on a computer. And in the process of it, I discovered something.

Every component of the design – every sentence, picture, line, and dot – had only one “yes” position in relation to the other components. My intuition decisively said “yes” when I placed the item where it belonged, and resounded with a “no” when I didn’t. It was something I had never encountered in freehand artwork.

The next morning, a Saturday, I woke up with a spontaneous mission – I dug out a book of Mensa puzzles, and started working them out. After several hours, I was discouraged. I had solved most of the word puzzles, but I just didn’t get how other people saw the solutions for numbers-related problems so easily. And then I realized I had begun putting the new skill I had identified into play. I was looking for the “yes” solution strategy in relation to other solution strategies. My intuition kicked in, and I solved every problem in that book. Three months later, I received my letter of acceptance to Mensa.

If you would like to share your story about growing up gifted, contact Ellen Berry. Writing assistance is available by request. TEL 727-784-6053 / EML eberry@rovingarts.com

Personal Ad Abbreviations answers

From page 17.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. sense of humor | 11. single black male |
| 2. woo me please | 12. single parent raising kids |
| 3. would like to meet | 13. no losers please |
| 4. no time wasters | 14. age not important |
| 5. long-term relationship | 15. genuine replies only |
| 6. own house and car | 16. non-smoker |
| 7. photograph appreciated | 17. longing to meet |
| 8. all letters answered | 18. down to earth |
| 9. big handsome man | 19. friendship |
| 10. single white female | 20. for tender loving care |

A Night At The Races

Who would think a trip to the dog track would be funny?

Phoebe McCann

Dan and I went to the dog track last night. It's the 80th anniversary week and they're giving away all sorts of goofy stuff and having 50-cent hot dogs, etc. Well, we sit in the lower part of the club house by the windows right at the first turn where we can see who gets bumped and who seems to be ahead of the pack. Everything went fine for the first few races then everything went to weird.

I think it was the 5th race; the Number 5 dog had finally had enough of running around that track and never getting a taste of that rabbit. He finished the race and barreled forward to the first turn where the rabbit goes behind the fence. He went headfirst into the hole after the rabbit. At first we thought the reason his handler couldn't get him out was perhaps because his muzzle was caught on the fence. Then we noticed the forelegs ... that dog was digging for all he was worth, trying to get under that fence to get that rabbit. It took THREE, yes, THREE grown men to get the dog out of there. We were laughing so hard!

Well, that was funny enough. The very next race, along come the dogs hell bent for leather and at the first turn, the Number 1 dog got bumped. He went ass over teakettle and seemed really disoriented. He shook himself all over and started after the other dogs but it had taken him so long to recover that by the time he got to the halfway point, he could see that the other dogs were at the final turn. He said to himself, "Hell, I'm no dummy!" He turned around and raced for the spot where the rabbit goes into the hole going the WRONG WAY around the track. When he got to his handler, his tail was wagging a mile a minute and he was dancing all over the track with his tongue hanging out, laughing! He was obviously saying, "Look at me! I won! Ain't I smart?" Everyone in the entire clubhouse and I'm sure, the entire track was laughing hysterically. I laughed so hard I blew hot tea out my nose. It

made my night! Absolutely one of the cutest things I've ever seen in my life.

We did win a couple of races where we bet a single dog across the board but we only broke even. All in all it was a really FUN night at the track!



Tampa Bay Mensa Singles Age 25-35

Dear Post-College Pre-Family Mensans,

Upon making some inquiries, here is what a Tampa-Bay Mensan emailed me:

"We also used to have a singles SIG, where all the unattached people could do something as a group. There are some young people [ages 25-35] out there, so just give it a shot. I think some of the events you posted sounded really fun."

Therefore, I'm inviting you to connect with me, so we can enjoy active interests together, such as: dancing, triathlons, swimming, biking, running, roller-blading, sailing, skiing, Club Med, Windjammer Barefoot Cruises, Super-Clubs, roller-coasters, SCUBA diving, volleyball, Frisbee, vegetarian restaurant-dining, co-investing, Renaissance-fairs, masquerade-dance-parties, improving the world's happiness quotient through the exploration of U-U-ism, New Thought, Noetic Sciences, Episcopalian creative-tension, Freemasonry, etc., etc.

U.K. Wabi
 Mensa #1067640
 Intertel #85-04-20 85 2 1 4
 interfaith2000@yahoo.com

The Faithful Steed

Maxine Kushner*

Can you match the horse associated with each of these famous riders from history or fiction? Answers on page 33.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ 1. King Arthur | ___ 11. Buddha |
| ___ 2. Chief Sitting Bull | ___ 12. Emperor Hirohito |
| ___ 3. George Washington | ___ 13. The Lone Ranger |
| ___ 4. Xerxes | ___ 14. Archangel Gabriel |
| ___ 5. Dick Turpin | ___ 15. Wellington |
| ___ 6. Don Quixote | ___ 16. Gandalf |
| ___ 7. Hercules | ___ 17. Alexander the Great |
| ___ 8. Napoleon | ___ 18. Roy Rogers |
| ___ 9. Neptune | ___ 19. Heraclius |
| ___ 10. Lt.-Col. Custer | ___ 20. Charles VII |

=====

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. Arion | k. Silver |
| b. Shadowfax | l. Blackie |
| c. Trigger | m. Bucephalus |
| d. Kantaka | n. Savoy |
| e. Copenhagen | o. Lamri |
| f. Magnolia | p. Vic |
| g. Marengo | q. Black Bess |
| h. Haizum | r. Phallus |
| i. Hippocampus | s. Rosinante |
| j. Strymon | t. Fubuki |

*This information appeared in *Schott's Original Miscellany*.

ExComm Minutes

Richard Manno, Substitute Scribe

Tampa Bay Mensa Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for Saturday, December 18, 2004

ExComm members present: Maxine Kushner, Dana Groulx, Barbara Loewe, Ronan Heffernan, Dan Chesnut, Thomas Thomas, Richard Manno (substitute scribe)

Others present: Charles Godfrey, Max Loick, Jamie Heuer

ExComm members absent: Kathy Crum, Sylvia Zadorozny

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in the Tampa Bay Sounding.

Editor: Thomas will continue as Editor. He inquired re guidelines for Sounding content; the ExComm expressed confidence in his independent judgment. Printing for the January Sounding was expensive--in part because it was a larger issue--but we want to check if we were charged the correct price. Kinko's needs a call from Kathy or Max to get the correct price.

Proctor: Dan will proctor another Mensa entrance test, date to be announced. Others are going through the process of becoming proctors.

Gifted Children Testing: Richard reported that Hernando and Pasco counties are still possibilities for testing gifted children; the other three counties seem to be out.

Treasurer: We are okay fiscally, but the numbers appear better than reality because Mind Games income has come in; we haven't yet incurred those expenses.

Calendar: The calendar website was down for a while, but it is being fixed.

New Business: Barbara moved (Dan seconded) that Mensa activities listed on the calendar, held in a non-commercial establishment, and where the host incurs expenses, be subsidized \$2.00 per attendee. Passed (5 for, 2 against).

Next meeting: Saturday, February 12, at 3:30 pm at Barbara's.

December TGIF

Phoebe McCann

Wow Zowee, ain't we got fun?! Even without Ronnie Dubbs there we talked politics. My theory is that the reason nobody "wins" in political arguments is that nobody is really listening, as a rule. Each person is simply waiting for the other to shut up so that s/he can hold forth again. Makes for some pretty boring debates, actually. But some are interesting.

Gifts were exchanged and we talked about Bob Topper's upcoming cruise around the world. He spends most of his time traveling and the rest of his time playing poker and coming to TGIF. Sounds like a pretty good life to me. Brigitte Walker was in Colorado Springs while we were holding our November meeting. Her significant other, oft-mentioned Billie Ernard, died last month. He'd been ill more than well since August but his passing was mercifully quick. Gitti will now be moving to Colorado Springs in February to help out her son and his wife who has been very ill.

Husband Dan and I were tossing around an economics question I'd like to throw out to the local membership for consideration. Howzcome, when the stock market tanked in 1929 and the Depression kicked in, prices went down because no one could afford to buy anything and yet when the stock market tanked in 1994 (have I got that year right?), people couldn't afford to buy stuff and yet prices went UP? There were a few answers given at the dinner meeting. Bob Topper says it's a vast conspiracy, which no one accepted. I wanted to know between whom and he said, "Alien lizards." Well, not that I don't believe in alien lizards but I think there's got to be more to it than that.

Lots of good jokes were told. Lots of bad jokes were told. I still like my longest joke the best and it's POSSIBLE you haven't heard it on the Internet. Joke follows.

It seems Jesus needed a new robe. He wandered the streets of Jerusalem until he found a dressmaker's shop. He wandered in and there sat an old man who introduced himself as Mr. Goldberg and asked how he might be of service. Jesus introduced himself as the Son of God and said he needed a new robe. Mr. Goldberg said, "Not only can I make you a new robe, I can make it seamless!" Jesus was thrilled. He said he wanted a red one and was told to come back in a week. When he returned to the shop, Mr. Goldberg had the robe finished and it was a beauty. Jesus was so pleased he announced that he wanted to order 12 more for his apostles. Mr. Goldberg said, "Oy, vey, in dat case, I can get dem for you wholesale and ve should go into business together because everyone who asks ver you got your robe, you say, 'At Goldberg and God's' and I give you huge discounts." Jesus thought that was great but thought the name of their partnership should be, "Jesus and Goldberg's." They discussed names for a few moments until finally Mr. Goldberg snapped his fingers and said, "Oy, I've got it! How about, 'Lord and Taylor?'"

Badabadabada, that's all folks!

The Faithful Steed answers

From page 30.

1. o	6. s	11. d	16. b
2. l	7. a	12. t	17. m
3. f	8. g	13. k	18. c
4. j	9. i	14. h	19. r
5. q	10. p	15. e	20. n

Erudite Lite

Ellen Barry

Read anything thought provoking lately? Our reading discussion group members certainly have. We discussed nearly 30 different readables during our monthly meeting January 5, and stayed well past the scheduled end time as our enjoyable conversation continued.

Two new members contributed their unique interests and insights - Tom Handcock, whose background as an economist prompted discussions of US aid to Tsunami-affected countries, and Rick Konopasek, whose diverse range of interests from guns to The Celestine Prophecy kept us on our toes.

Completing the widening circle of those who have expressed a desire to participate or contributed to Erudite Lite are George Zadorozny, Don Ridgway, Maxine Kushner and Shoshana Shay.

Other members who have attended events include Ellen Berry, Randy Chan-A-Shing, Ronan Heffernan, and Thomas Thomas.

Topics discussed included:

- Several folks had read *Diamond Age: Or a Young Lady's Illustrated Primer*, a science fiction book by Neal Stephenson, after a recommendation from Ronan in the previous group meeting. Stephenson looks at a future ruled by Neo-Victorian thought, and tells the story of a brilliant technologist who publishes an illegal primer designed to encourage girls to think for themselves. Thomas Thomas and Ronan Heffernan exchanged lively reviews of the book and the implications therein, while Randy Chan-A-Shing and Ellen Berry struggled with the degree of "suspension of disbelief" required to be engaged in the science fiction writing.

- What defines the genre “creative nonfiction”? *The Rule of Four* and *The DaVinci Code* – both books with premises based on fact, yet written as novels, with no clear distinction between what is actual versus fictional – seem to occupy a hybrid genre between creative nonfiction and fiction.
- *The Cluetrain Manifesto*, as it explores the attributes of new markets in our e-economy and challenges corporations to question their assumptions as they market to us. The entire book is available, free, on the website: www.cluetrain.com
- *The Celestine Prophecy* and if there really is such a thing as coincidence
- Marx's *Das Kapital* as a treatise on capitalism, not communism
- *Bartleby.com* and *Project Gutenberg*, free online repositories of electronic books that are no longer under copyright. Ellen enjoyed reading *The New Atlantis* by Francis Bacon, a story about a Utopian society that Bacon wrote after his political efforts failed
- Also a Utopian book, *The Second Bill of Rights: FDR's Unfinished Revolution and Why We Need It More Than Ever*
- Randy brought a well-loved health-management workbook that he has found to work well with his routine and be helpful in balancing exercise and nutrition: *Body for Life Success Journal* by Bill Phillips. He found the approach to apply well to other areas in life too.
- Oliver Sacks' *The Island of the Colorblind* and it's perspective on a people who have always seen the world differently
- Tom Clancy's books – after a while Ronan found them to be predictable in their cataclysmic chains of events

- *The Meaning of Everything: The Story of the Oxford English Dictionary* and the one man who's job was to decide which words went into the dictionary, and which were left out. Neologisms, and how the English language contains the most words of any language, and keeps expanding
- *Healing ADD: The Breakthrough Program That Allows You to See and Heal the Six Types of Attention Deficit Disorder* and identifying behaviors potentially caused by ADD

After quite a lengthy discussion about reading, our conversation turned to being Mensans, and growing up as gifted children. We discussed ways that we as individuals, as a group of avid readers, or as Mensans could benefit society, through perhaps sharing our passion for learning, or working with gifted children in the schools to help them not feel so out of place.

Several folks expressed interest in reading a book Randy recommended - *Leadership and Self-Deception: Getting out of the Box* by The Arbinger Institute for discussion at our next meeting.

For a list of Erudite Lite recommended readings, and to find out more about the group and when we meet, visit our website: www.rovingarts.com/eruditelite.

Getting "More" Out Of Your Mensa Membership

Doug Miller

A question frequently asked by Mensans, both new and old, is "Why doesn't Mensa do more?" The question within the question is just what does "more" mean to you? On any weekend chances are that you can find a Regional Gathering somewhere in the country. Many Mensans enjoy attending RGs but a common reason given by some of the Mensans who don't attend them is because the program isn't "serious" and the focus is on such seemingly frivolous activities as games, chocolate, and humor.

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Tampa Bay Sounding encourages submissions from all members. Submissions must be signed, but names may be withheld or pseudonyms used if requested. All letters to the editor will be subject to publication unless the author specifically requests otherwise. All material submitted will be considered for publication, but nothing can be guaranteed. Everything is subject to editing. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Articles, casual essays, opinion pieces, poems, short stories, puzzles, and artwork are all encouraged.
- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are preferred, either embedded or in Word-readable attachments. Computer printouts and typewritten pages are fine. If you submit hard copy, please make sure your printer has enough toner or your typewriter has a fresh-enough ribbon. *Legible* handwritten submissions will be considered (but not given preference).

You may send your submissions by either of the following means:

- (1) E-mail — FardleBear@aol.com (Please indicate "TBM" in the subject area.)
- (2) U.S. Mail — Thomas G. Thomas, 27647 Sky Lake Circle, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 (Telephone 813-994-3981)

Unless otherwise specified in the calendar, the deadline for unsolicited contributions is the tenth day of the month.

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