

PensaMensa Newsletter

April 2006

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Do you know someone you think is Mensa material? During the month of April, they can send in the results of any standardized intelligence test they've taken in the past, and we'll evaluate their scores for American Mensa membership for free. (There is usually a \$30 fee to review test scores.) American Mensa accepts the results from more than 200 tests; a partial list may be found at www.us.mensa.org/testscores. To take advantage of this offer, your friends and colleagues should visit www.us.mensa.org in April and follow the instructions on the home page.

This photo appeared on the print version cover with the question, "What is this?" If you know, send me an email and get brownie points, or come to Fold Staple Mutilate and Play Games and get real brownies.

"M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

We had an up tick at the end of February in membership of 4 members bringing our total to

April Brings Brews and Jazz

by Heidi Daniels

207. We had no losses during that month. Our current total is 8 behind our all time high of 215 set at the end of February 2005. To give you some historical perspective our roster totals at the end of February were as follows: 2000 - 146, 2001 - 149, 2002 - 162, 2003 - 184, 2004 - 197, and 2005 - 215. So based on those numbers, our total is still quite good.

One of our new members is a relocation move in. Mr **Tae Kim** has moved to Destin, FL from Sterling VA. I hope he enjoys our warmer climate. Two of our additions are former members that decided to rejoin after an extended absence. Back in the fold are Miss **Linda Binion** and Mr. **William Blount** both of Pensacola. Our last new "M" is truly new, as Mr. **Carey Huff**, residing in Niceville is a member who has just joined. So a big warm welcome or welcome back to the four of you. One more reminder that this may be the last newsletter you receive if you don't renew your membership. By the time you are reading this, the normal renewal date of March 31 will have passed, but if you act now there will be no missed PensaMensas and we will be happy you decided to stay. Call me or email me if you have any questions or need any help.

NEW ELEMENT FOUND!

Sent by Lars Runar

The recent hurricanes and skyrocketing oil and gasoline prices helped to prove the existence of a new element. In early October 2005, a major research institution announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element has been named "Governmentium."

Governmentium (Gv) has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held

We had a great turnout for our March events: Bowling Bring the Brats and Bar Bingo. We acquired two lanes for bowling and several Mensans were quite skilled. It was, for me, a delicate combination of hit- or-miss throws and attempting to thwart other players' performances via trash talking (to no avail). Bar Bingo rocked! Bingo was free. The bingo caller was hilarious with his saucy jokes. He engaged the patrons to say hello and good bye to whomever entered or left. The entire bar was participating so it made for quite an entertaining night. O69 was called 3 times which meant free shots for the entire bar. It was an experience that definitely calls for repetition.

Check out our two April events, Brews Brothers and Jazzfest and mark your calendar. Our May event will be a wine tasting at my house with games and the usual stimulating Mensan interaction. If you are not GenX but any of these events interest you, please come on out. No exclusivity here. Also, please email me your email address if you would like to receive an email reminder of GenX events.

April events:

JazzFest - Saturday April 1st at 12:00 PM, Seville Square park downtown Pensacola, <http://www.jazzpensacola.com/fest.htm>. FREE Jazz festival held outdoors. Bring a picnic, beverages, lawn chair and relax. Look for the green star balloon.

Brews Brothers - Saturday, April 15th at 6:00 PM, Brews Brothers in Pensacola. www.brewsbrothersusa.com. 20 beers on tap plus a full bar and pub fare. Complete their International Beer Tour (100 different beers) and get a Brews Brothers mug and drink discounts. Brews Brothers also has NTN trivia. Look for the "M" sign on the table.

May event:

Saturday, May 20th 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Wine tasting and games at Heidi's house, 221 Cevallos St. downtown Pensacola, 433-1465. Bring a bottle of wine (or your favorite beverage) and we will sample different wines, play games, and just hang

together by forces called 'morons' which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called 'peons.' Since Gv has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of Gv causes one reaction to take over four days to complete, when it would normally take less than a second!

Gv has a normal half-life of 4 years; it does not decay; but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming 'isodopes.' This characteristic of moron promotion leads most scientists to believe that Gv is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as 'Critical Morass.' When catalyzed with money, Gv becomes "Administratium" (Am) - an element which radiates just as much energy as Gv, since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

ExComm Minutes

by John Mochan

The Executive Committee Meeting was held during an open house at the Ulrichs' in Navarre on Mar 18, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 2:16 PM. Attending were: Terri Culbertson, John Mochan, Bob and Lynda Ulrich, Bill White, and Jerry Gilbert. **President:** Joanne Horne's Proctor Recertification is signed and in the mail to National HQ. We might have a second Proctor in the Panama City area.

The GEN-X activities are catching on and we will continue to search for events that will appeal to some of our younger members (and their children). Heidi Daniels is spearheading these events and wants to

out. Bring your favorite game. Light snacks will be provided. New members encouraged to attend.

Heidi Daniels - GenX Coordinator,
hsdaniels@gmail.com

The GenX group is comprised of all Mensans born between 1961 and 1981 whose sole purpose is to provide an opportunity to cavort with like-aged Mensans. No ID needed, so, if you aren't GenX but any event interests you, please join us!

Seven Trivia Questions

Dr. Dan Finley, Brain Bowl Coach & Health Sciences Professor, Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City.

Dr. Dan invites you to submit a guest trivia question to dfinley@gulfcoast.edu for possible inclusion in future columns.

1. What were the wars between Rome and Carthage called?
2. How did Tennessee Williams die?
3. What is "Jenny's number"?
4. From what song does the opening line "Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes" come?
5. What is the northernmost and southernmost capital cities in the world?
6. Who lives at 129 West 81st Street, Apartment 5-A, Upper West Side, New York City?
7. What were the fates of Lucretia Borgia's three husbands?

Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa

President: Terri Culbertson (850) 377-5042 2717
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terricultbertson@hotmail.com

Vice President: John Mochan (850) 585- 3194;
585-5067; 616 Overbrook Dr., Fort Walton Beach, FL
32547-3528; jmochan@cox.net

hear from you about what kind of things you would likely attend. THANKS, HEIDI! American Mensa is looking for reports of any members involved in Community Service Activities. If you, or someone you know, is going that extra step in serving your community, let us know about it.

Vice President: We will have another Yard Sale on May 27 at my house in Fort Walton Beach. Please contact any officer if you have something to donate to the sale. We will arrange for pick-up if needed. One of my neighbors is moving out and donated a truckload of Christmas decorations for our sale. Come on over and get a great deal on some! Then you can help assemble the newsletter afterwards.

Treasurer: The Semiannual Treasurer's Report includes details of our profit from the RG and is published in a separate article.

Editor: 74 out of our 124 e-mail addresses are getting PensaMensa by e-mail; that's a savings of over \$80 every month.

Membership: We now have 207 members! *Does someone in the Panama City area have Bob's cheesecake knife?* It was left there at some past event.

Nominations Committee: So far, John Mochan is running for President, Steve Brumm and Heidi Daniels are running for Vice President, and Jerry Gilbert is running for Treasurer. If you want to run or nominate someone, contact Bill Nichols or Mabel Loesch. Nominations must be made by June 15.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS - We will get an earlier start this year on advertising for the 2007 ValenTime RG.

Next month's meeting will be Saturday, April 22, 2006 at 2:00PM at the Mochans' house in Fort Walton Beach.

Adjourned at 3:20, and a good time was had by all.

Treasurer: Martha Porter (850) 433-7567

Membership Officer: Robert Ulrich (850) 939-6870; 7025 Pro Am Ct., Navarre, FL 32566
bulrich@mchsi.com

Editor: Bobbye Sikes Wicke (850) 862- 2874; P.O.Box 252, Mary Esther, FL 32569; bobwick@gnt.net

Northwest Florida Mensa Home Page:

<http://www.nwflorida.us.mensa.org>

Arbitrator/Mediator and Test Proctor: Steve Brumm (850) 747-3233; Panama City, FLAD4WT@aol.com

Gifted Child Coordinator: Jonathan Miller (850) 581-0245; 5 Tupelo Circle, Hurlburt Field, FL 32544; jonathan.miller@hurlburt.af.mil

Panama City Coordinator: George Chancellor (850) 874-0154; 7523 Coleridge Road, Panama City, FL 32404; georgec584@aol.com

Publicity Officer: Fraser Sherman (850) 863-3616; Fort Walton Beach, FL bogatyr5@aol.com

S.I.G.H.T Coordinator & Test Proctor: Mabel Loesch (850) 433-2358; 2140 E. Scott St., Pensacola, FL 32503-4957; mloesch@bellsouth.net

Test Proctor: Joanne Horne (850) 315- 0255, 641 Merioneth Ct., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547; johorne@cox.net

Webmaster & Test Proctor: John Mochan (850) 585-3194

Treasurer's Report

Martha Porter, Treasurer

As of February 28, 2006:

Checking account balance: \$3,734.97.

Major items of income in the past six months were \$1,095.66 from Group Funding (from our dues to American Mensa), and \$2,288.00 from the Regional Gathering.

Major items of expense were \$1,365 to print and mail PensaMensa, and \$2,109.83. Allowing for priceless work, fun, eating and drinking and milling about cheerfully, the group still netted \$178.17 on the RG.

Milestones

Value for the Money - Part 1

David L. Hecht

When I was a six-year-old kid back in Montreal, a relative of my mother's from the States, who was visiting us to attend a wedding, went into a drugstore with us and used some American money. He complained that his US dollars didn't "go as far." I had never experienced currency exchange before, so I was amazed that my Canadian dollar cost him \$1.08 US. Nearly ever since, the two dollars' roles have been reversed, and Canadian dollars became "cheap" – sometimes even below seventy cents US. I am told (by people who actually grasp economics) that this disparity is all part of the "law of supply and demand."

I only had a primitive sense of material values at that age. Money was only significant because, at the shops around the corner, I could spend my 25-cent allowance on a comic book and a couple of candy bars. Of course, back then that quarter was made of real silver. Now that the values of the currencies of all major countries are based on people's confidence in their treasuries' stability, rather than precious metal, things cost from 10 to 20 times what they did when I was six.

Values are about what we deem to be important or precious, and what we are willing to trade. When Europeans first began to trade with China in the 1500s, they were surprised that the Chinese weren't interested in their gold. They wanted silver. Lucky for Spain, their silver mines in Mexico were coming online; so they were able to destabilize the economy of Europe with too much gold, and of China with too much silver. Spain got wealthy and powerful on the backs of millions of Indians whose lands were stolen and bodies enslaved, and on the greed of Europeans and Asians who craved

Mensaversaries: As of this month, the following Mensans have maintained continuous membership in American Mensa Ltd. for the years shown. These anniversaries may not accurately reflect the total number of years in Mensa if a break in membership for one or more years has occurred.

34 Frank M. Butler
25 James R. Scholter
25 Lovic P. Thomas
22 David P. Dunlap
20 Leslie R. Fleischer
13 Elaine P. McDaniel
12 Carl Forester
11 Chris McArdle
7 Suzanne McKnight
5 Carver Byrd
3 London Jan Bradshaw 3 Kelcey Jasen
2 Ronald Aizer
2 Anthony Williams
1 Carol Buckman
1 Myron Creel

Happy April Birthdays!

1 Sherri Edwards
5 Archie Hovanesian
7 Robert Baucom
9 Paige Andre Hudson
10 Phillip W. Woolley
14 Kennard Porter
15 Brenda S. Austin
18 Jason D. Hatcher
19 Theresa Culbertson
21 Linda Diane Binion
25 Carl S. Reddish
28 Carl Forester

Answers to Seven Trivia Questions:

1. Punic wars; First 264-241 BC, Second 218-201 BC, Third 149-146 BC
2. He choked on a bottle cap from either an eye drops or aspirin bottle, in New York City, February 25, 1983
3. 867-5309; from Tommy Tutone's 1982 hit Jenny
4. Seasons of Love from Rent
5. Northernmost is Reykjavik, Iceland and

little metal disks. But later, as Spain lost one colony after another, it became poorer and poorer. Having used other people and places to create wealth, Spain's only big domestic crop was Conquistadors. When that supply had dried up and the colonies had all rebelled, Spain in the 20th Century became one of Europe's poorest countries, its former wealth utterly dissipated.

I'm not at all opposed to wealth in principle. I just don't want to harm anyone else to get it. I would not mind being rich; but I would not trade all my spiritual worth to get that way. Lust for wealth leads to crime, wars, lying, cheating and stealing. Integrity means that your honor can't be bought. A healthy money cycle is like a healthy hydrological (water) cycle: it circulates and is constantly renewed; it doesn't pool and stagnate. Money is simply what Gurdjieff called "Etheric energy locked into form." That just means that money's a material manifestation of will: you want it, so you buy it. But you can't buy a clean conscience or an easy night's sleep.

Before there were colonies, and people lived on their own lands without paying some foreign landlord rent, they did not have to work from dawn till dusk.

In those few places on earth that still support hunter-gatherers or subsistence farmers, there are people in small tribes who enjoy 4-5-hour work days, and spend the rest of their time playing and socializing. (Same thing goes on the Kibbutzim, where the members are not just workers – they're also their own landlords, bankers and business partners.) Half the money we "civilized" people make goes to support someone else – a boss, a bank, a government – that exploits our labor. So we have to work twice as long and twice as hard. So, from a certain point of view, those "primitives" are rich.

Money is fungible. This means it's interchangeable with everything, and you can trade it for anything. Sheep and crops are good currency only if you have shepherds who can mind the sheep, and dry, pest-free granaries that can store the crops – and

southernmost is Wellington, New Zealand

6. Jerry Seinfeld's fictional address in the television series, *Seinfeld*

7. First husband Giovanni Sforza: Marriage annulled because of alleged lack of consummation

Second husband: Alfonso d'Aragona, Duke of Bisceglie: Murdered by Lucretia's brother, Cesare Borgia

Third husband: Alphonse d'Este, the son of Ercole I, Duke of Ferrara: survived Lucretia who died in childbirth, June 24, 1519

Pedro Calderon was a lover of Lucretia's, between husbands number two and three, who was stabbed and found in the Tiber River, with his hands and feet bound

Précis

Fraser Sherman

JAY'S JOURNAL OF ANOMALIES by Ricky Jay collects all 16 issues of the eponymous magazine of entertainment history. With his usual enthusiasm for bizarre and oddball theatrical acts, Jay covers topics such as the original human fly, flea circuses, the world's fattest children (a subject for sideshow entertainment long before NATIONAL ENQUIRER), professional fasters (see them not eat for six weeks at a time!) and such now forgotten arts as ceiling walking and nose-cutting (a once-popular feat on the same lines as sawing a woman in two) Quirky, but entertaining.

THE GREAT MOVIE SERIALS by Jim Harmon and Donald F. Glut is a fun look back at the days of movie cliffhangers, grouped into various themes (jungle adventure, space opera, swashbucklers, gangster stories, etc.). Along with synopsisizing the good films (FLASH GORDON, SPY SMASHER, ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL) and the bad (THE PURPLE MONSTER STRIKES, ZOMBIES OF THE STRATOSPHERE) the book is full of details about the actors, the source materials, the stuntmen and the oddities of making films really, really cheaply (when Lionel Atwill died while playing the villain in LOST CITY OF THE JUNGLE, the producers simply had his henchmen ask questions, then showed stock footage of Atwill nodding, as the simplest way to keep

enough extra wealth to hire the shepherds and build the granaries. (Not to mention a customer for the crops and critters.) But money is a symbol you can spend, and can be stuffed into any old bank or mattress, which is a great convenience. Lydia in Asia Minor made the world's first coined money, and so also laid claim to the world's first bank robbers.

In earlier generations, money alone was not powerful enough to buy you respect. But while earlier cultures valued noble birth, skill at battle or keen judgment, ours exalts money. This is called a plutocracy: the wealthiest class rules. The very rich both make the rules and keep score. And they'll always try to set up the rules to keep you and me out of their club. Do you get the feeling these days that no matter how much harder you work, you keep falling further and further behind? This perception is not only correct, it is also unsubtle evidence of the "Unspoken But Worldwide Conspiracy of Very Rich People to Hog All the Wealth." (By the way, in case you think you're among the very rich: If you can still count all that you own, you aren't.) For those at the top, it isn't enough just to win; everyone else has to lose. Till now, it was never so blatant, in the U.S., at least.

The glory of America was that, with a little innovation and a lot of hard work, anyone could make it. The system was skewed toward helping the little guy get ahead. But now, the evidence is all around us that this has been reversed.

The Federal Government has been cutting taxes on the wealthiest, at the same time that it has been cutting those programs that help the lower and middle classes. (Amusingly, there are some billionaires – like Bill Gates and Ted Turner – who see the folly in this path, and don't want the tax cuts.) The result, of course, is that the deficits have gone in five years from zero to the worst in history; the national debt to more than all previous debt combined. The President ran on the premise that government was corrupt, confused, meddling, wasteful, bloated,

production going). Fun.

Dear Dogs and Cats:

Sent by Jerry Bradshaw, who knows his 4-legged friends



The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help since I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king-sized bed. I am truly sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. I have been using the bathroom for years--canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me and THEN go smell the

inefficient and not to be trusted. It seems he has spent the last five years trying to prove it by ensuring it!

This upside-down policy has escalated the disparity of income – that is, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer at a faster rate than ever. The speculation on real estate has resulted in a real estate market where the average home, in many cities, has now reached \$500,000. This rise means that the average person can no longer afford to buy his or her own home, because no normal wage-earner can qualify for so huge a loan. The costs of goods and services have escalated at a much, much faster rate than the growth in wages and salaries, so that all the pleasures and necessities of everyday life now bite off so much of our earnings that savings have diminished to almost nothing. Indeed, the rate of savings has reversed due to credit card debt; and more and more of us have a net worth in negative values. Two incomes today can't hope to sustain the lifestyle that only one income did 50 years ago.

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Part 2 will appear in the May PensaMensa

other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough! To pacify you, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:

Rules for Non-Pet Owners Who Visit and Like to Complain About Our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"niture.)
3. I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours, and does not speak clearly.

Remember: Even though they fart about the same amount, dogs & cats are better than kids because they: eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about having to buy the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and if they get pregnant, you can sell their children!

The photo shows the editor's good buddy, relaxing with one of his four-legged owners.

The Tenth Story

RVC Column for Region 10

Next month, May 26-29, Memorial Day weekend, means one of the best Regional Gatherings around! Tampa Bay Mensa is putting on "Sense and Mensability" that weekend, and I for one am ready for an RG. I won't go into all the details here. You can find them all on the Region 10 website - region10.us.mensa.org, click on "upcoming region 10 events".

Recently a member of my local group wrote to the LocSec to complain that there weren't any activities in his area. I got involved and made some suggestions about how to host an event. I suggested that he go to the national member directory and find his Mensa "neighbors" by typing in nearby zip codes and then contact them. He did that. I suggested that he schedule a meal get-together at a nearby restaurant. He did that. To shorten a long story, 7 people had a great time at lunch and plan to get together again next month. The

December 13, 2000

by Phillip W. Woolley

Down these times, they are not complete.
Only this time we do not cheat.
These hours and days they will pass
As if we could only ask.
These few words up in the sky
Were written here for you and I.
Given this time we must agree
You are neither over nor under me.
I see this Day and reach above
Far from what we formerly called love.
The Journey and Future I must confess
Goes way above this present mess.
How did this happen, the attraction of you

and me
The best of which leaves us both free.
I've thought this through, this adulation
Was a simple case of subtle manipulation.
Give me this time as you will have read
That these past times are over and move
ahead.
Give us this time that we will need
And here are my words that you may read.
Reach out now, Don't hold back
For now we know you are on track.
Given these words and you must agree Our
time together is mere destiny.
I look through these Eyes of Brown
And see before me a Halo and Crown.
Little did we know when we first met
Our time together had already been set
We circled, we ran. we danced all night
For long ago we had first seen this light.

only reason I mention this is to remind all of us how
easy it is to host an event on the calendar. It works!
I haven't seen many of you popping up on the Mensa
Discussion Forums. It is a great place to meet and
discuss things, without even having to get out of the
bathrobe! See you there! And if you don't see a topic of
interest to you, just like hosting an event, start one!
Maggie Truelove, RVC 10
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A Chess Problem

from Lars Runar

**Thanks to Lars, our chess reproduction problem has
been worked out.** Answer next month.

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Editorial Policy

**PensaMensa welcomes your articles and
artwork!!** Submissions must show name,
address, phone, and may be edited for clarity
and space. Please enclose an SASE if you
want your material returned. Deadline for
submission is the 15th of each month.

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Northwest Florida Mensa. Opinions
expressed are those of the contributors and
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its officers. Mensa is a not-for-profit
international society, whose sole requirement
for membership is a score at or above the
98th percentile on any of a number of
standard IQ tests. Please contact one of the
Test Proctors (see Officers) for testing in
Northwest Florida.
