

# PensaMensa Newsletter

April 2007

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*Photo by Christine Pincine*

**Spring is here! Christine Pincine photographed this Mourning Dove and her chicks nesting in an empty hanging petunia pot.**

Christine says the doves usually nest in a pot full of flowers, which ends up killing the flowers because she can't water while the babes are in there.

**Saturday, April 28:**

**"4 birds with one stone" event!**

**7 a.m. - 12 noon: Spring Yard Sale**

**12 noon til ?: Picnic, Newsletter**

**Assembly and Games, and ExComm meeting.** Potato salad, giant sub and drinks furnished; bring your favorite goodies and beverages.

**Donate your white elephants!** Call any NWF Mensa officer for pick-ups or drop-offs, or bring your stuff to the Mochans at 616 Overbrook Drive, FWB. Buy better white elephants at the yard sale, and stay for lunch and whatever turns you on.

Directions, info: John Mochan, 585-3194 or [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net)

## Editor's Notes

### and news from all over

Dear Readers, please don't get your tights in a twist when you read Dr. W's Rx, which appeared in Space Coast Area Mensa's newsletter in March. It's not another scurrilous attack on the Prez, but a careful analysis of how the math would work in the proposed "Health Savings Plan" for a median income family. We'll be happy to print your views.

**Congratulations to Clay Ford of Gulf Breeze**, recently elected to fill State Representative Holly Benson's seat in the legislature. Clay served in the Arkansas State Legislature during the 1970s, and we will look forward to hearing him compare that experience with his new position.

**Do you like puzzles?** Check out the new monthly Cryptogram Puzzles on the Northwest Florida Mensa website at [www.nwflorida.us.mensa.org](http://www.nwflorida.us.mensa.org). Two new puzzles will be added each month. Have fun with the "Easy" level, or strain your brain with the fiendishly hard "Challenge" level. Email your answers to the Webmaster, and your name will be added to the "Page of Fame."

You can also challenge your visual IQ with the long running Pensa Pieces game. The object of Pensa Pieces is to try and figure out what landmark or scene is shown in the picture. One piece of the picture is revealed each day. You never know what it might be!

**Our nominees for the Publications Recognition Program** this year were: Non-fiction - **China and Beyond by Jim and Roberta Harris**; Artwork - **May 2006 cover photo by Jo Horne**; Humor - **Don't Get Old - there's no future in it by Bobbye Wicke**; Puzzles and Games - **7 Trivia Questions by Dan Finley**; Continuing Item - **Precis by Fraser Sherman**.

**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 Mensa membership *for free*. American Mensa accepts the results from more than 200 tests; a partial list may be found at [www.us.mensa.org/testscores](http://www.us.mensa.org/testscores). To take advantage of this offer, your friends and colleagues should visit [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) in April and follow the instructions on the home page. *(From Catherine Barney, Marketing Director; American Mensa, Ltd. MarketingDirector@AmericanMensa.org)*

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## "M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

The membership total for Northwest Florida Mensa took a small step upward in February as three people joined our local group and we suffered no losses. So our new total is now 203 "M"s. This is the highest total of members we have had since the end of March of last year which is our annual renewal month.

Historically the group loses between 9% and 15% of the membership at the end of each March. Some of the members who do not renew in March invariably do rejoin at a later date.

Speaking of renewal, some of you who are reading this column have probably not sent in your renewal forms and dues yet. I encourage you to do so. Otherwise you will miss out on the sparkling wit and life changing information disseminated on these pages.

The membership gain of three was due to one Mensan moving to our area and two new joiners. Moving in from Atlanta, GA to Pensacola, FL is **Chris Postanowicz**. The two new enrollees both live in the Panama City area. They are **Daniel Cole** in Panama City Beach and **John Graham** in Panama City. A hearty welcome to the group to all three of you.

### **Renew your Membership!**

#### **From Webmaster Jill Russ**

Pictures wanted for the online Photo Gallery! If you have pictures of any Mensa event, your vacation, your pets, your grandchildren, or just about anything else you want to share, you can have them included in the Photo Gallery on the Northwest Florida Mensa website. Email your photos to the Webmaster, or bring a CD of pictures to the next Mensa event.

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## **Dr. W's Rx: If at first you don't succeed**

### **from the Village Idiot; SCAM. March 2007**

Once again our Fearless Leader has spoken. As I write this column, a little more than a week has passed since the President's annual State of the Union Address. This time, the President appeared to focus more on domestic issues. If nothing else, our Commander-in-Chief does have a sense of humor as evidenced by his statement "First, we must balance the federal budget. We can do so without raising taxes. What we need is to impose spending discipline in Washington D.C." Exactly six years ago, when George W. Bush assumed the Presidency, the federal budget had a sizeable surplus. Surely he jests. . . or did we all forget?

One domestic issue, again the subject of this column, is how we should resolve our country's health care crisis. The cost of health care still continues to rise, while increasing numbers of Americans continue to find themselves without health care coverage. According to the U. S. Census, as of 2005 (the latest available figures), the number of uninsured Americans is 46.6 million. Almost two-thirds of that number (29.6 million) are in households with total annual income of less than \$50,000. Slightly more than half of that number (14.6 million) are in households where the total annual income is less than \$25,000.(1) The median household income of all Americans as of 2005 is \$46,326.(2)

The solution, our President declared last year, was for us to open and maintain "Health Savings Accounts" (HSAs) to take care of our health care needs. This would happen through the alleged tax advantages an HSA offers. In last year's column (March 2006 SCAM), I offered a brief description of an HSA. Despite last year's prescription by the "Doctor-in Chief", the symptoms, and evidently the disease, still persists. Time for yet another prescription. Yes, he still recommends HSAs, but this year's focus is on a new plan.

The new plan, in "Doc's" own words: "*First, I propose a standard tax deduction for health insurance . Families with health insurance will pay no income on payroll taxes on \$15,000 of their income. For*

*Americans who now purchase health insurance on their own, this proposal would mean substantial tax savings. For the millions of other Americans who have no health insurance at all, this deduction would help put a basic private health insurance plan within their reach.(3)*

Is this so, will “Dr. W’s Rx” work this time? Let’s find out. As it is tax time, I shall prepare a 2006 tax return for the Medians, our mythical family of four with the median household income of \$46,326. We met them last year: Mike still works as a manager at Midland Bank. Mike has contributed \$3500 to his company 401 (k) plan. His wife, Midge, is a part-time secretary at the Midway Christian Church. Their two children, Heather, is now 11, and Justin is now 13.

For their 2006 tax return, there are two W-2 forms totaling \$42,826 (Mike’s \$3500 contribution to the 401 (k) is excluded). They have no other income, and will not be itemizing deductions. The standard deduction is \$10,300; they have 4 exemptions of \$3300 each (total exemption: \$13,200). \$42,826 minus \$23,500 equals \$19,326, their taxable income. Using the Tax Tables provided with their Form 1040, their tax is \$2144.(4) Next, the Child Tax Credit is applied (\$1000 each child). The \$2000 subtracted brings their total tax liability to \$144.

The Medians have no health insurance. Mike is offered a health plan for about \$12,000 for a year of coverage. This is close to the average price for such insurance. At \$1000 per month, it is also not affordable to the Medians. Enter “Dr. W.”, will his prescription work this year? The HSA idea didn’t work out, but this is different - or is it?

The proposed \$15,000 “health standard deduction” would result in a tax savings for the Medians: all \$144 in taxes would be wiped out. This would bring the net cost for the health plan to \$11,856, a monthly savings of \$12. If the Medians cannot afford \$1000 each month, would they now be able to afford the bargain basement price of \$988 per month? Not likely.

What about their fellow citizens (in this case, real Americans), especially the half of the American population with lower income than the Medians that represent the overwhelming majority of uninsured Americans? Where is the benefit to them? Once again, I believe we’ve been had. At this point, perhaps we should sue “Dr. W.” for malpractice in dispensing bogus (and dangerous) prescriptions. Sadly, we cannot, as “tort reform” is now the law of the land - in the name of containing health care costs!

Can we talk about a real solution yet?

**Sources:**

1. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-231, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2005

2. Economic Statistics Briefing Room, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/income.html> (printed 1/30/2007).

3. President Bush Delivers State of the Union Address: [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/01/print/20070123-2.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/01/print/20070123-2.html) (printed 1/24/2007)

4. Internal Revenue Service, 2006 (Form) 1040:

Forms and Instructions. Includes Tax Tables.

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## The Tenth Story

### RVC Column for Region 10

There has been a lot of reaction to my mentioning last month about the option of receiving your newsletters electronically rather than in print. I do wish to make a couple of comments regarding this issue. First, it is only intended to be an OPTION for members to CHOOSE to receive them that way. At no point is anyone going to be required to have anything other than their paper-in-hand. Second, I am rather pleased to note that some members are actually reading my column! Thank you!

Both national and international Mensa elections are upon us, and I encourage you to vote! At the national level, there is strong competition for all but one (1st Vice Chair Elissa Rudolph) of the AMC ExComm positions. I urge you to take the time to read the candidates' information and vote for those you think will do the best jobs. At the international level, I know that many of us don't vote, probably because we don't know the candidates or much about them. Sad to say, American Mensa has more than twice as many members as UK Mensa, yet in the last heavily contested election (2003), UK had more votes cast than American Mensa. As an informational item, here are those candidates for international office who were nominated or endorsed by the AMC, basically being given AML support: Jim Werdell for Chair, Stacey Kirsch for Director of Administration, Willem Bouwens for Director of Development, and Godwin Zwanenburg for Treasurer. Jim and Stacey are members of American Mensa. Now, please join me in voting.

Much attention has been paid lately to an article being sent to various newsletters around the country, stating that Mensa was better in the good old days, and perhaps we should go back to the good old days. This was written by someone who could speak knowingly, having been a member since the good old days. For myself, I have only been a member for 25 years, so my good old days aren't quite so far back.

However, I did want to comment about this situation. For many of us beyond our GenX years, we can hark back to things that were great way back when, but we should also remember that the whole world is different now than it was back then. Rather than going on about things that have changed, I will just say that I truly do like Mensa administration better now than back in the good old days. I like receiving prompt attention from the national office in Texas rather than waiting forever for a response from an apartment in Brooklyn! I like the fact that our name and logo are being protected. I like the fact that hospitality people are being trained in food safety, to protect our health. And so on. If things at the national level were still being done the way they were in the good old days, I am not sure that Mensa would have survived at all!

Remember the upcoming events - Tampa Bay's ARRR-G in May, the AG in Birmingham in July, and FloRanGe a Trois in Fort Lauderdale in September. See you there!

**Maggie Truelove, Regional Vice Chair, Region 10**

3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Orlando, Florida 32812;

## Gulfbreeze Cinemax4

by **Bill White**

This theatre in Gulfbreeze (left side before coming to the Pensacola Beach overpass) shows foreign and independent films, some of which never make their way over here. Or that you might have missed. They advertise in our paper each Friday, but you can Google their website and also see what's playing. Admission is five dollars and there are NO commercial messages or previews. Just the movie you're there to see. Of course it's a pretty good drive over there, but Bell and I often make a day of it, take a picnic by the bay between flicks, hit the nearby Starbucks etc.

We've been going over there quite a while now, and in hopes of steering other movies aficionados over there, we thought it a good idea to share this find with you. Bookmark their website, or if you go over there, they'll also send you email updates on programs. A good flick can be a pretty spiritual thing, so that's the religious rub. . .

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## Calendar

Where no specific phone number is given, call 850-585-3194.

**Friday, April 6, 11 a.m. 1 p.m. First Friday in Pensacola, L-o-n-g Lunch at Scenic 90 Café**, 701 Scenic Highway, Pensacola. Drop in for a long visit if you can, a short one if you can't. As you enter the restaurant, go to your right and to the rear.

**Tuesday, April 10, 6 p.m. Supper Club in Pensacola, Hall's Seafood**, 920 E Gregory St downtown Pensacola. Call Dan Murray on his cell phone, 455-6339, after 7 p.m. or on weekends please.

**Saturday, April 14, 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday in Panama City. Lunch at Chef Imondi's** Downtown, 448 Harrison Avenue.

**Friday, April 20, 5 p.m. Happy Hour! at the Bitburger** in Bluewater Bay. It's in the Winn Dixie Shopping Center on Highway 20. From Destin, cross the mid bay bridge, turn left on Hwy. 20, go through one light, and look for Winn Dixie on the right. From Fort Walton Beach, go north on Highway 85, turn left on John Sims/Hwy. 20, continue through Niceville, cross the Rocky Bayou bridge, and look for Winn Dixie on the left when you reach Bluewater Bay. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Info: davehoward01@earthlink.net or 897-5702.

**Saturday, April 21, 7 p.m. GenX Event: Trivia @ Brews Brothers**, 830 N. Navy Blvd in Pensacola. Brews Brothers has a multitude of entertainment options: NTN trivia, pool, darts, and karaoke begins at 9:00. Also enjoy a wide beer selection, full bar, and decent food. Bring a friend and look for the sign on the table. Info: Heidi Daniels 850-433-1465.

**Friday, April 27, 11:30 a.m., Last Friday in Shalimar. Lunch at Shalimar Cheers Pub**, 1270 North Eglin Parkway: their # is 651-2740. It's at the back of a yellowish office building immediately

north of the courthouse, turn at the red-and-yellow sign and go through the parking area all the way to the back and to the right.

**Saturday, April 28, Yard Sale - picnic - newsletter assembly festival at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan**, 616 Overbrook Dr., FWB - see the cover story. ExComm will meet in a corner somewhere after noon. Potato salad, giant sub and drinks furnished; bring your favorite goodies or beverage, fold, staple, mutilate and stamp, get your newsletter early and play games. Info: [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net) or 585-3194.

**Tentative May events:** May 4, Lunch, Pensacola; May 8, Supper Club, Pensacola; May 12 Lunch, Panama City; May 18, Happy Hour, TBD; May 19, ExComm, Pensacola; May 25, Lunch, Shalimar; May 26, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB

### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**Photography SIG.** Dan Murray in Pensacola (455-6339) found out there was no camera club anywhere near him, so he started one.

**Pinochle SIG.** Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at (850) 939-5882 or [pinochledd@aol.com](mailto:pinochledd@aol.com). He will coordinate dates/times/schedules and is willing to host the games. For beginners too.

**Shooting SIG.** Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at [pinochledd@aol.com](mailto:pinochledd@aol.com) or 939-5882 to go shooting during the week at the Escambia River Muzzleloader's range - modern small arms allowed.

### **Carolinah RG 007 – License to Thrill! Spartanburg, South Carolina - May 4-6, 2007**

An RG for your fun only, and hospitality from Carolinah with love! Join us in May at a spectacular new location in Spartanburg, SC, just up the road from Greenville.

As always, we will have plenty of good food, friendly people and great programs! Dance another day at our Thunderball masked ball, with live music from the same great band we had last year. Bond with friends old and new. Fill your belly with good meals. Revel in our famous hospitality. Nobody does it better!

Registration: \$49 to Dec. 31; \$55 to Mar. 31; \$65 to Apr. 30; \$70 after May 1. Includes all programs, Saturday lunch and deluxe Sunday brunch in the Blue Ridge Café, plus all other meals in RG Hospitality.

Registrar: Mary Ann Cox, 509 Bethel Drive, Mauldin, SC 29662-1840; Phone: (864) 963-2335 email: [maryacraig@juno.com](mailto:maryacraig@juno.com)

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## **Technical talk among Mensa editors**

### **from the Newsletters Digest**

**Ever wonder what weighty subjects Mensa newsletter editors talk about? Here's a recent exchange:**

*From E:*

"The best investment you can make to secure data is the big external hard drive with USB connection. No matter what happens to your computer, you can just put that hard drive under your arm, move into your mistress' flat, and plug into her box, and bingo, everything's swell again."

*Response from S:*

"E - thanks for the Sunday morning smile. Now step away from the little blue pills and no one will get hurt."

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## **Goin' Roamin' and Back Across the Pond - Part 2**



*Photo by Bob Ulrich*

**by Bob Ulrich**

This part 2 article was supposed to be in last month's newsletter, but our editor, Bobbye, asked me to hold off one month because she had so much to print about our February Regional Gathering, which was great by the way, sorry if you missed it. As Paul Harvey used to say "So here comes the rest of the story".

When we last left our intrepid adventurers (aka Lynda and Bob Ulrich) we were about to board the Carnival Cruise Ship Liberty for a 16 day transatlantic voyage. This trip would be our tenth cruise overall so we pretty much knew what to expect. Our journey to the cruise port was smooth but expensive. Rome is not on the Mediterranean Sea so the cruise port is about a 90 minute drive away. Carnival wanted \$70 per person to get on their chartered busses. Our Bed and Breakfast host arranged for their car service to take the 2 of us in one car for a fee of 100 euros (approx \$127 at that time). Better price and convenient door-to-pier service.

The embarkation process was fast and smooth. We did get a warning sheet handed to us that discussed the norovirus, something that had never happened to us before. Lynda thinks the reason we got the info sheet was that the virus was more prevalent in Europe. I think the Liberty may have already had some cases, but we will never know.

The Liberty is Carnival's newest ship and it is a large megaliner with many dining and entertainment options. Carnival like many other cruise lines offers assigned dining room service only at dinner. There are 2 dining rooms each with 2 seating times. So available dinner seatings are at 5:45 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. We don't like to eat late so we chose the 6:15 slot. We ended up at a table for 8 with a couple from New York City, a couple who retired to Arizona from Michigan, and a brother and sister from south Florida. I almost always find the food on Carnival ships to be very good. Because the dining rooms are serving so many people at one time the food is not always piping hot, but quite acceptable.

The cuisine on this cruise was no exception. Because of the 16-day length we did see more repeated offerings, but also had a number of choices we had not seen before. A nice thing about cruise ship dining is that you can ask for as much as you want. The waiter will not even blink if you order 4 different appetizers and 2 entrees. I never did that but I did often order 2 or 3 appetizers.

The ship departed on Friday 11/3 at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday was an uneventful day at sea. We were uncertain what to expect as far as weather and temperatures on this cruise. I had done some online research and felt that we would probably see highs in the sixties. We were pleasantly surprised to have

highs in the mid to upper seventies on most days. On Sunday 11/5 we stopped in Barcelona, Spain. The dock was a ways away from the city and we had to take shuttle busses to get to downtown. Barcelona is like many other older European cities with old buildings narrow streets and many small shops.

On Sunday 11/6 we stopped at Palma de Mallorca or the isle of Majorca. This port had a large beautiful marina with many expensive boats. It was also a very clean and attractive city. We stumbled into a downtown shopping center that was anchored by a large Carefours store which is similar to a Walmart or Sam's Club. Even in a discount store most of their prices were much higher than here.

After another sea day on Tuesday we arrived at Malaga, Spain on Wednesday 11/8. It was raining most of the day and for a while we were uncertain if we would even get off the ship. By mid afternoon the rain finally stopped and we decided to venture off. Once again the port was a long way from anywhere. After walking for about 45 minutes and not finding anything significant we headed back. We did briefly stop at a park that had a nasty dirty and rocky "beach" on the Mediterranean Sea. Lynda stepped into the very cold water just to be able to say she had been in the water. After a sea day on Thursday we arrived on Friday 11/10 at Funchal on the Portugese island of Madeira. This city is very quaint and clean. Many of the sidewalks are made from small stones that have a flat glazes side that give them the appearance of mosaic tile. Most have attractive designs in the pattern. There were nice shops and attractive buildings. We picked up a bottle of Madeira wine here.

Friday evening we left Funchal for the 5-straight-sea- day crossing of the Atlantic. Friday evening was also when I was attacked by the norovirus The norovirus is a highly contagious stomach flu that generally lasts from 24 to 72 hours with little if any long term consequences. About 1/4 of the passengers and crew reported being affected by the bug, there were probably more that did not report. So I was unfortunate to catch the virus, but fortunate to only feel the effects for a short time. I started to feel queasy during dinner and we returned to our cabin. I was violently ill for about 6 hours, got a fitful nights sleep, but felt much better the next morning. It was the first of 5 days at sea and the weather was rainy and overcast. So I essentially rested that day and was pretty much fine that evening.

The sea days were filled with typical cruise activities and on Thursday 11/16 we arrived at our last stop the island of St. Maarten. St Maarten is the Dutch side of a small island that has 2 nationalities. The other half, St. Martin, is French. We rented a couple of beach chairs had some beers and pina coladas and enjoyed the warmth and the ocean. After another day at sea we arrived back at Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday 11/18. Because the Liberty had been gone from the U.S. for 7 months sailing in Europe the wait for the ship to clear customs and immigration was long. The whole debarkation process was slow and laborious.

Some final general observations about this cruise. Because of the length and timing of the cruise many if not most of the passengers were older and retired. Quite a few had mobility issues with canes, walkers, or wheel chairs. This caused the whole tenor of the "Fun Ship" to shift. Most games, activities and shows were geared to an AARP type audience. I am no spring chicken myself but the overall mood seemed more stodgy and reserved. I am sure this was also caused by the large number of people who were ill. Another side effect of the virus was the way the buffet restaurant operated. Many, if not most passengers eat breakfast and lunch in Emiles, the large mostly buffet restaurant, with many serving stations. Because the norovirus is so highly contagious, on about the 3rd day of the cruise all the self-serve lines became crew served. Since this is not normal and because many crew members were unable to work, this system was far from ideal. There were significant slowdowns as you might imagine.

In total we enjoyed the trip. Some things could have gone better but you make do and move on.

## 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](mailto:dfinley@gulfcoast.edu) for possible inclusion in future columns.

1. What was the brand name of the first American sedan type automobile?
2. Who was the first actor to appear on television during an experimental broadcast in 1928? Hint: He later became known as "Mr. Television."
3. What four state capitals are named for U.S. Presidents?
4. Who is the most recent Secretary of State who became President?
5. Who was the first US presidential candidate to represent the Republican party?
6. What was the first name of the legendary cartoon character, Mr. Magoo?
7. On October 4, 1957, Soviet-made Sputnik-1 became the first artificial satellite to be launched into space. What was America's first successfully launched satellite?

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## Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa

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

**Vice President:** Heidi Daniels (850)433- 1465; 221 Cevallos St. Pensacola, FL 32503; [hsdaniels@gmail.com](mailto:hsdaniels@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jerry Gilbert (850) 862-4800; 700 Trowbridge Ave., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

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

**Editor:** Bobby Sikes Wicke (850) 862- 2874; P.O.Box 252, Mary Esther, FL 32569;

**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) 939-9785; 8214 Riverside Landing Way, Navarre, FL 32566; [jonathan.miller7@mchsi.com](mailto:jonathan.miller7@mchsi.com)

**Panama City Coordinator:** George Chancellor (850) 874-0154; 7523 Coleridge Road, Panama City, FL 32404; [georgec584@aol.com](mailto:georgec584@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](mailto:mloesch@bellsouth.net)

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

**Webmaster:** Jill Russ (850) 678-9169, 12 Corbin Ct., Niceville, FL 32578; [jillsruss@yahoo.com](mailto:jillsruss@yahoo.com).

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## Milestones

**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.

35 Frank M. Butler  
26 James R. Scholter  
26 Lovic P. Thomas  
23 David P. Dunlap  
21 Leslie R. Fleischer  
14 Elaine P. McDaniel  
13 Carl Forester  
12 Chris McArdle  
8 Suzanne McKnight  
6 Olest Carver Byrd  
4 London Jan Bradshaw  
4 Kelcey Jasen  
3 Anthony Williams  
2 Carol Buckman  
1 Robert Hock Jr.  
1 June Jason  
1 Sterling Underhill

### HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

3 Raymond Jones  
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  
28 Carl Forester

*If your birthday isn't listed, it's because it is not on the membership roster we get from the national office each month - and that's because you instructed National to withhold it. Please go to [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org) and change your listing (or write to the address in your Mensa Bulletin, or call them). We promise not to tell anyone how old you are.*

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## Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. Hudson; made by the Hudson Motor Car Company (1909-1957) in Detroit, Michigan. A sedan is a two- or four-door automobile, designed to seat four or more persons. The sedan was an innovation from a coupe, which is a two-door automobile that seats two persons.
2. Milton Berle (1908-2002). His birth name was Milton Berlinger (also recorded as Mendel Berlinger).
3. Jackson, Mississippi, Jefferson City, Missouri, Lincoln, Nebraska and Madison, Wisconsin.
4. James Buchanan, 1856-1861
5. Senator John C. Fremont of California, in 1856. Fremont was also the first presidential candidate whose platform opposed slavery.
6. Quincy. Mr. Magoo, created in 1949 by John Hubley, was based on a college professor of Hubley's whose name was Francis Peabody Magoun. The character was voiced by Jim Backus.
7. Explorer-1, whose official name was Satellite 1958 Alpha, was launched on January 31, 1958.

## Précis

### Fraser Sherman

*Whom the Gods destroy, they first make .... funny.*

**NIGHT LIFE OF THE GODS** by Thorne Smith (best known for TC half-dozen Olympians to run loose in Manhattan, leading to scenes such as a brawl on the docks, the gods explaining how Athena became a virgin, and, being a Thorne Smith book, a lot of drinking, suggestiveness and downbeat ending than most of his books, but still fun even after 60 years).

In **ANANSI BOYS** by Neil Gaiman, no sooner does nebbishy Charlie, the African spider god and trickster, than Charlie discovers he has a big personality, powers and personality, and proceeds to move in and turn Charlie's life funnier, but this is still a good read.

## Birmingham - a popular Annual Gathering spot

**Athirst for an Old-Time AG?**

Slake that thirst July 4-8, 2007 at Birmingham, Alabama. Register now for old-fashioned prices: \$60 until April 25th (Ages 4-12 \$30; 13-20 \$45).

- Registrations at \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 - Registrations at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (children)  
 - Registrations at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (under 21)  
 - Meals at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (see meal plan below)  
 Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #1   Registrant #2   Registrant #3   Registrant #4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

City for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Age if under 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to '2007 Old Time AG'. Confirmation preference: email snail mail... telephone... I would like to be an **Old Time AG 2007** volunteer... Area preferred \_\_\_\_\_ **Meal Plan = \$60** (Friday buffet lunch, Saturday banquet, Sunday buffet). If purchased separately, Friday = \$19, banquet = \$29, Sunday = \$18.

Mail form and check to Mary Ambridge, 8444 Sixth Avenue, S., Birmingham, AL 35206-3436. Or register online at [www.ag2007.org](http://www.ag2007.org). After April 25th, registration rates go to \$70 (Ages 4-12 \$35; Ages 13-20 \$53) until June 18th, then are \$80 (Ages 4-12 \$40; Ages 13-20 \$60) afterward up to walk-in.

Hotel Reservations must be made separately by contacting the hotel directly. Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington Blvd. N., Birmingham, AL 35203. Phone (205) 324-5000 or (888) 625-5144. [www.sheraton.com](http://www.sheraton.com). AG rate only \$89.25 per night, S/D/T/O plus tax. Free parking & airport shuttle.

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# A Chess Problem

from Lars Runar

## March Solution:

1. Qh2
2. Kh2 Nf3
3. Kh1 Rg1 Mate

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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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