

PensaMensa Newsletter

August 2007

- :: [President's Page](#)
- :: [Pool Party and Cookout!](#)
- :: ["M"embership News](#)
- :: [Seven Trivia Questions](#)
- :: [Cryptograms by Jill Russ](#)
- :: [The Tenth Story](#)
- :: [Cryptogram solutions](#)
- :: [Calendar](#)
- :: [A Chess Problem](#)
- :: [Where does all our money go?](#)
- :: [Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa](#)
- :: [Curmudgeon's Corner](#)
- :: [I want to be a scientist](#)
- :: [A Dual Career](#)
- :: [Answers to Seven Trivia Questions](#)
- :: [Milestones](#)
- :: [Dog days:](#)
- :: [Précis](#)
- :: [Editorial Policy](#)



Top of page: Will she make it? Robert and Jim Harris, Kelly Gilbert Scott, Marya Bard, and Tom Scott watch Jerry Gilbert's grandkids face off at the June Cheers lunch.

Left: She made it! l-r John Scott, Carlie Scott and Jerry Gilbert.

This issue honors our two scholarship winners by printing their winning essay. Do you know someone who should be considered for a scholarship?

President's Page

and other news

July was a very good month for us. It started off with not one, but two people appointed to the position of Gifted Children Coordinator! A recent news story about a two year old genius sparked an interest for these individuals to step up to the challenge. Jill Russ (our Award-winning Web Master) and Debi Dunkerley (a Brand-New Member) are now Co-Chairs of our program. The first thing on their agenda is to identify our Young Mensans and their gifted children to start events especially for those ages. If you are related to a child who can benefit by spending time with other gifted children, you need to get involved. Contact Jill in Niceville or Debi in Pensacola and discuss your child's interests.

We also had the Mensa Annual Gathering in Birmingham this month. There were some serious last minute changes to the management of the event. And schedule changes caused many of our members to change their plans for attending. But it went on almost as advertised. We met with old friends and made some new ones. And a good time was had by all.

And here's a message from Trish Nelson of Memphis Mensa:

M-Friends, a SIG of Memphis Mensa, is having an After AG Un-Gathering in September. Many of the wonderful foods that should have been available to attendees at the Annual Gathering will be available at the UG, so please invite your members to attend and sample some great southern hospitality.

Information and registration at www.ungathering.m-friends.org, or contact Trish at trisha@m-friend.org.

"M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

Our local group took another baby step forward as we had a membership roster gain of 2 members. Our new total is 181 members. As I have mentioned a number of times in the recent past our local membership list has been hurt by relocations.

As you all know Florida has been adding population on a large scale over the past years. You would expect this to lead to adding members as existing Mensans move into our area. Well, recently this has not been the case. In reviewing the last 12 months rosters I discovered that while we did have 8 M's move in we have had 20 move out for an obvious net loss of 12 members or more than 6% of our total. Maybe the insurance and property tax pressures are worse than thought. Or maybe the military moved out more smart folk than they moved in. Or maybe the number is a short-term aberration that is meaningless.

In June we had 2 members move out, **Olest C. Byrd** moved from Panama City to Blairsville, GA, and **James Grady** moved from Navarre to Ayer, MA. Good luck to you in your new locales. As mentioned above the relocation equation has not been good to us because no members moved into our area in June. The 4 additions are 2 members renewing a couple months late and 2 new members. **Kristen Augustine** and **London Bradshaw**, both from Pensacola, are back after a very brief absence. The new members are **Debi Dunkerley** of Pensacola and **Fred Mahoney** in my home town of Navarre. Debi, thanks for jumping right in as Co-Gifted Child Coordinator. Fred, I hope you were able to get your prior proof of qualification submitted in April to take advantage of the fee waiver month. In either event, welcome to Mensa, and welcome back Kristen and London.

I hope to see many of you at the Ex-com Pool Party at my house at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 18th.

Cryptograms

by **Jill Russ**

Easy Level

ASWN UKFAN MKXXPHNAA DMNENGNE

YMNB LS; SYMNEA, DMNHNGNE YMNB LS.

~SAUKE DPVJN

Challenge Level

The Challenge Level includes the "space" as part of the cryptogram. In other words, the letter R might actually be the space, and a space might be a letter. The end of each line of the cryptogram is the end of a word.

HPMIUTNQDMGIRXHPMIOMSMIUNND

XZIHPPWHIHPMTMZISNIDXEMOFWTC

~CWKXCIOMTTNDC

The Tenth Story

RVC Column for Region 10

Between attending the AG and the vacation we have attached to it, I am not sure I will have computer access when it is the normal time to write my column. We are leaving on said vacation in a matter of minutes. OOPS! This will need to be quite brief.

I do want to let you know that the LDW plans are set. Mark your calendar for November 3. (I made sure we miss the weekend of the Micro-G in the Keys.) Set your GPS for Plant City. We found a terrific hotel (thanks to Merrell Fortner) right at an I-4 exit, and we contracted a \$75 room rate (which includes full breakfast buffet) for those of you staying over. Your lunch will be provided by the LDW - a lovely full buffet meal. There will be a maximum of 50 able to attend, including speakers, so make your decision about attending early. Next month will include full details, including topics planned, hotel info, and how to reserve your space at the LDW.

See you Labor Day Weekend in Ft. Lauderdale for the FLorange a Trois. Details and link to the registration form are on the Region 10 website. (region10.us.mensa.org) And now off to the AG!

Maggie Truelove, Regional Vice Chair, Region 10

3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Orlando, Florida 32812;

407-855-9078; truluvs@cfl.rr.com; rvc10@cfl.rr.com; rvc10@us.mensa.or

Cryptogram solutions

Easy Level

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." ~ *Oscar Wilde*

Challenge Level

The problem with the gene pool is that there's no lifeguard. ~ *David Gerrol*

Calendar

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

Friday, August 3, 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.

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

Tuesday, August 14, 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.

Friday, August 17, 5 p.m. Happy Hour! We will go to Fokker's, on Brooks Street in Fort Walton Beach. It's more or less across from the Magnolia Grill, south of Hwy 98 (Miracle Strip Parkway?) near the FWB Science Center, just west of the Brooks Street Bridge. Kind of a sports bar - pizza and burgers. Tom reports it as good. There is municipal parking nearby, as well as on-street parking. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Info: davehoward01@earthlink.net or 897-5702.

Friday, August 17, 6 p.m. Bryan and Jennifer Clark have started a monthly poker night (Texas hold 'em) at their house in Pensacola and would like to invite Mensa folks. It's for all skill levels - beginners welcome. They will also start up other games for those who don't want to play poker. Kids are welcome. For details, email Jennifer at jenniferwclark@gmail.com and she will email you an e-vite.

Saturday, August 18, 2 p.m. Pool Party and Cookout at Bob and Lynda Ulrich's home, 5025 ProAm Ct., Navarre. ExComm will meet. They will provide beer, some wine, hamburgers, veggie burgers, barbecued chicken, coleslaw and of course a cheese cake. Please come, and if you desire, bring a beverage or appetizer, or salad, or dessert to share. As was the case last year, a special invite goes out to anyone who has become a member in the last year or any member who has never attended a local event.

Directions/info: bulrich@mschi.com or 939-6870 From the east: Hwy. 98 to north on Hwy. 87 (just after the Navarre Beach Bridge); turn left at the 3rd stoplight on CR 399. Go 3.4 miles to left on PGA Blvd. into Hidden Creek Estates; take 2nd left on ProAm Ct. to #7025. From the west: Hwy. 98 through Gulf Breeze to left on CR 399 N (about 3.7 miles past the stoplight at Lowe's). Go 6.5 miles to right turn on PGA Blvd., then take 2nd left on ProAm Ct. To #7025.

Friday, August 31, 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, September 1, Newsletter Assembly and Games at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan, 616 Overbrook Dr., FWB. John will make brownies; bring your favorite goodies or beverage; fold, staple, mutilate and stamp, get your newsletter early and play games. Info: jmochan@cox.net or 585-3194.

Tentative September Events:

Sept. 7, Lunch, Pensacola; Sept. 8, Lunch, Panama City; Sept. 11, Supper Club, Pensacola; Sept. 21, Happy Hour, TBD; Sept. 21, Poker Night, Pensacola; Sept. 22, ExComm, FWB; Sept. 28, Lunch, Shalimar; Sept. 29, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

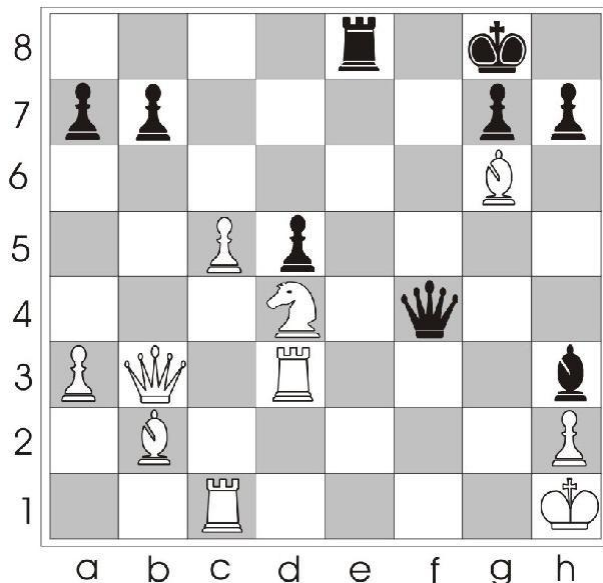
Motorcycles SIG. Dan Mazzeo of Gulf Breeze is vetting the idea of a SIG for anyone having an interest in motorcycles (owning one is not a requirement). Contact Dan at onegoodengineer@aol.com or 850-206-4213.

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 .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 or 939-5882 to go shooting during the week at the Escambia River Muzzleloader's range - modern small arms allowed.

MATE IN THREE – BLACK TO MOVE



A Chess Problem

from Lars Runar

Solution to July problem:

1. Qf8

(Algebraic notation) Reprinted by permission from
Chess Training in 5333+1 Positions by Laszlo
Polgar © 1994 Konemann Verlags gesellschaft

Where does all our money go?

by Jerry Gilbert

At our ExComm meeting on 19 May, it was mentioned that in my monthly report the current balance was always given with the income and costs for the month. It was suggested that it might be of interest to the group where the money comes from and where it goes.

Basically our income is derived from our garage sales, our yearly regional gatherings, and our monthly local group support funding from American Mensa Ltd. The first two items are self-explanatory. The national support for local groups breaks down as explained below:

1. We get \$1.00 for each new member the month that they join.
2. We get \$1.00 for each member that reinstates after a lapse of more than one year.
3. We are paid \$15.00 for every person tested by our proctors. This has been increased from \$12.50 per candidate just recently.
4. Since November 2006 we have awarded two scholarship awards of \$200 each for the winners of our sponsored writing competitions.

5. We receive \$0.82 per member per month, which is supposed to cover the cost of the newsletter and all other services to members.

6. We are paid \$0.65 by American Mensa for each copy of the newsletter we send to Mensa Corporate Subscriptions.

Using the average monthly costs for 2005, the newsletter cost us approximately \$1.14 to print and mail to each member. In January of 2006, we initiated the option of members receiving the newsletter by e-mail only, which dropped the average cost to \$0.88 per member, a savings of \$0.26/member. Thanks to additional members electing to get their newsletter by e-mail only, so far in 2007 the average cost has dropped to \$0.82/member even though the costs of printing and postage have increased.

Obviously, you don't have to be a "member of Mensa" to realize the benefit of receiving your newsletter by e-mail. E'nuf said!

Generally speaking, we are in very good financial condition, slowly building a balance that can handle our regular obligations and our occasional awards.

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

Vice President: Heidi Daniels (850)433- 1465; 221 Cevallos St. Pensacola, FL 32503; 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
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bobwick@cox.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 Coordinators: Jill Russ (see Webmaster listing below for contact info), and Debi Dunkerley, 850-469-4602; 3941 McClellan Road, Pensacola 32503; davendebi@cox.net

Panama City Coordinator: George Chancellor (850) 874-0154; 7523 Coleridge Road, Panama City, FL 32404; 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

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

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

Curmudgeon's Corner

Feeling curmudgeonly? Send it in!

😊 Men who are fixated on huge mammary glands (a.k.a. breasts) should buy a cow: it's a hands-on operation producing free milk, cream and butter and later, hamburger. Tip: Jerseys produce the best milk, Holsteins the most.

😊 The Democrats have been suffering from subpoena envy for 6 years. No more! After stumbling across the desert, they found a Roman feast of lies and corruption almost too big to consume in two years. So many goodies, so little time.

Pool Party and Cookout!

It is time for our second summertime Pool Party. In June the Hornes invited us all to their home and pool and we had a wonderful function with a very nice turnout.

On Saturday August 18th we will try it all again, only this time at the Ulrich's in Navarre. We will provide beer, some wine, hamburgers, veggie burgers, barbequed chicken, coleslaw and of course a cheese cake.

Please come, and if you desire, bring a beverage or appetizer, or salad, or dessert to share. As was the case last year a special invite goes out to anyone who has become a member in the last year or any member who has never attended a local event. Y'all come, ya hear?

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. How far is it to the 'Love Shack?'
2. What is the length of the 'Camptown Racetrack?'
3. What 1967 pop song makes reference to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales with the following lines, "And so it was that later / as the miller told his tale / that her face, at first ghostly..."?'
4. Who is the current president of The People's Republic of China?
5. What is the only state in the US in which coffee is naturally grown?
6. What is the meaning of the abbreviation Q.E.D.?

7. Name the five rivers of Hades.

I want to be a scientist

by Jessica McClure, Winner, Mossip Scholarship 2007

"I want to be a scientist." That was the introductory sentence of my fifth grade speech on what I wanted to be when I grew up. In the ten years that have passed since then, that goal has had a lot of time to develop and become more focused as my education has shaped my interests and aspirations. After countless hours of chemistry, biology, and physics, lectures and seminars, and a few influentially unpleasant life experiences, I can proudly state with absolute certainty that I have found my calling in life. I want to be a forensic scientist.

As a third-year college student, I am very close to achieving my goal and realizing my nearly life-long dream. I am on track to graduate in May 2008 with a major in biological sciences and a minor in chemistry, both of which will help me greatly in my future career. I have studied hard and excelled in all of my classes, so I have a remarkable transcript and a noteworthy resume. While my previous summer jobs have not directly assisted me in my quest to become a forensic scientist, my two short terms served as a painter did help me start proving to the world that I have a strong work ethic. My employers were thoroughly impressed at my performance and dedication, and I have every confidence that they will give me strong recommendations when I need them in the future.

Much to my delight, my preparations for my career in forensic science have already begun to show promising results. I was recently selected to be one of the participants in the nationally competitive Federal Bureau of Investigation Honors Internship Program for the summer of 2007. During my ten-week internship with the FBI, I will be working in the world's largest forensics laboratory in Quantico, Virginia. Under moderate supervision, I will be working on real, ongoing investigations already being conducted by the Bureau. This internship will afford me the opportunity to gain the first-hand knowledge and experience necessary to make myself competitive as an applicant to graduate school and for permanent employment in the future.

While I have already taken many steps in securing my future as a forensic scientist, I am not finished yet. I will soon begin studying and practicing for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and applying for graduate school at Sam Houston State University, where I will obtain a master's degree in forensic science. This particular graduate program ensures that each student has the opportunity to complete an internship during the course of his or her graduate experience as a prerequisite for receiving a diploma. Therefore, by May 2010 I will have a graduate degree in forensic science, an excellent education, and an impressive collection of experience in the field. When I am then ready to enter the so-called job market, my level of both experience and education will make me a prime candidate for almost any job available in forensic science.

A Dual Career

by Daniel J. Gough, 2007 Northwest Florida Mensa Scholarship Winner

"Figures who pursue dual careers as accomplished concert performers and serious scholars are rare."⁽¹⁾ As a talented undergraduate student who had already enjoyed significant achievements in both the performance and research of music, I read these words from the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians during the final semester of my undergraduate education with a mixture of frustration, confusion, and determination. After an undergraduate education whose two foci initially seemed so disparate (clarinet performance and Latin American history), my first fruitful foray into original music research during a self-organized 2004 semester abroad in Brazil had proven both rewarding and instructing. However, when I was the lone undergraduate in a "Current Trends in Musicology" pro-seminar, this sentence from an assigned Grove article raised a paramount question in my mind: would it be possible both to perform and to publish?

Throughout my life music has been the most influential aspect in my personal and intellectual development. Even as I undertook a rigorous academic curriculum that offered me myriad possibilities, music remained my most important pursuit. Performing as a clarinetist in solo recitals, chamber music groups, and symphony orchestras are among my most rewarding experiences. Nonetheless, reading and writing about music has also become an important part of my life. Exploring the musical context that I am a part of has given me greater awareness of what it means to be a performer, and my work in musical traditions outside my own has cast light onto what is essential about human participation in music, whether it occurs in a European concert hall or the religious space of an Afro-Brazilian religious cult.

As a clarinetist, I have performed in a variety of capacities, ranging from annual hour long solo recitals since 2004 to frequent opportunities as the principal clarinetist in large ensembles. Furthermore, I have fostered the development of the musical life in my community in such activities as working with beginning clarinet students and the founding the UGA Clarinet Association, a group that sponsored guest artist recitals and master classes through independent fund raising. Having discovered that my background in history, foreign language, area studies, and music was well suited for the multi-disciplinary nature of research in music, I had the opportunity to present my work concerning the musical practices of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé at the Fiftieth Annual Conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology in 2005. In addition, the Honors Program at my undergraduate institution recognized my academic and research achievements in both music and history with the 2006 award for "Outstanding Honors Student in the Humanities." I have recently commenced studies for a Masters of Music in clarinet performance. I am currently serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (teaching five lessons a week to college-level music majors) and pursuing my performance goals both successfully and enthusiastically. I am also continuing my work in music scholarship, taking courses in musicology and preparing several academic articles for publication. I hope to earn a Doctorate in Music and continue my activities as a performer, writer, and teacher as a professor at a college or university.

As I reflect upon my education so far, that one question returns to mind: to perform or to publish? I plan to do both.

(1) V. Duckles and G. Tomlinson. "National Traditions of Musicology: The USA," Grove Music Online, ed. L. Macy (Accessed January 1, 2007), www.grovemusic.co

Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. Fifteen miles, according to 1989 hit by the B52s, which began, "If you see a faded sign at the side of the road that says 15 miles to the Love Shack...". The song is about a cabin with a tin roof, near Athens, Georgia, where singer Kate Pierson lived in the 1970s. The cabin was destroyed by fire in 2004.
2. According to Stephen Foster's song, Camptown Races, it is "five miles long". Oh, do dah day!
3. Whiter Shade of Pale by Procol Harum, which, in 2004, was rated the 57th best song of all time, by Rolling Stone magazine. The Miller's Tale is a fabliau, which is a vulgar, ribald, satirical tale, and, in this case, is told by a drunken miller. The name Procol Harum was chosen by the band's manager from band member Keith Reid's cat's name. It is a misspelling of the Latin term procol his which translates "beyond these things".
4. This is my favorite current trivia question, "Who is the current president of China?" The answer is Hu, a homonym for who. His full name is Hu Jintao, and the first name in China is the family name. 5. Coffee arabica grows on each of the five major islands of Hawaii.
6. It is Latin for quod erat demonstrandum, which translates "which was to be shown or proven." Q.E.D. is often shown at the end of a math proof indicating that the concept has been proven.
7. The five rivers of Hades are (alphabetically), Acheron (river of sorrow), Cocytus (river of lamentation), Lethe (river of forgetfulness), Phlegethon (river of fire), and Styx (river of hate). In the Aeneid VI, Virgil mentions a sixth river, the Eridanos. Considered the boundary of the upper and lower worlds, the Styx is also the river that provided Achilles his invulnerability (except for his heel), when his mother, Thetis, dipped him there. The dead entered the underworld by crossing the Acheron that was ferried by Charon

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 of one or more years has occurred.

38 Marianne McDonald
28 Nora B. Wilcox
21 Leslie L. Grill
16 Christine H. Aufderheide
7 David A Akerman
7 M.E. "Buddy" Hall
7 Fraser Sherman
4 Lyle Kent Burkhart
4 Michael L. Peller
3 Anthony Cole
2 Christopher Peavy
1 Laura Dolly

1 Jill Russ

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

4 Eugene Hooprich
8 Donald P. Hines
9 Harold Casey
9 William Herchel
10 Jay Worthington
11 Rhonda Wallis
12 Christopher Peavy
16 Michael L. Peller
17 Jerry W. Bradshaw
17 Joanne A. Horne
22 Shirley A. Defries
23 James W. Harris

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 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.



Dog days:

hurricanes, jellyfish, more squirrels

A new crop of squirrels is due in August, and this mama is stocking up on the editor's state-of-the-art squirrel feeder. (Okay, so it's an angle iron, a board scrap, and a long nail.)

Précis

Fraser Sherman

Don't think location, location, location; think evil, evil, evil!

Mark Danielewski's **HOUSE OF LEAVES** by **Zampano**, edited by Johnny Truant is a multi-layered novel in which Zampano writes a scene-by-scene synopsis of that legendary film THE NAVIDSON

PROJECT, about a house that turns out to be much, much bigger on the inside than it is outside. Then we have Truant, who edits and annotates the manuscript after Zampano dies mysteriously - plus Truant recounts his own feeling that since he found the manuscript, his perceptions of reality are starting to change ... A good variation on both THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT and the magical realism of Jorge Luis Borges, this book doesn't always work but it's still worth the time to read.

THE HOUSE ON THE BORDERLAND by William Hope Hodgson has a lot in common with the later HOUSE OF LEAVES (whether or not there was a direct influence) as a manuscript found in a ruined, isolated mansion reveals how the writer arrived while the house was still standing only to face increasingly terrifying manifestations of otherness, culminating in a vision of the entire universe, start to finish. A classic of supernatural fiction, and deservedly so.

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.

PensaMensa is the official newsletter of Northwest Florida Mensa. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of any Mensa group or 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.