

PensaMensa Newsletter

January 2008

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Come to the Annual New Year Party/Open House at Mabel and Hal Loesch's home! It's one of our favorite events (and Mabel is renowned for her tasty treats).

Saturday, January 19, 2 p.m., at 2140 E. Scott St, Pensacola. Help us ring in the new year - and bring your favorite dish or beverage to share. All members and their families and friends are welcome.

Info: Mabel at mloesch@bellsouth.net or 433- 2358.

This month only, we include pictures of some of our regular contributors (sorry, I've lost Dr. Dan's jpeg). They're not usually in the e-mail newsletter because our service limits us to 5 pictures or icons; this month we didn't have any current events photos to fill our quota.

If you watch the Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day, see if you can spot James Russ in the Niceville High School Band - it's the 39th entry in the parade, 2 entries behind the Grand Marshall. Jill, Tom and Alexander will be in the grandstands, and they've promised a report and pictures for the February newsletter.

Don't forget to register for ValenTime! A flyer will be sent separately again this month.

ExComm Minutes

by Micah Butler

The ExComm meeting was called to order at 14:52 in Bob and Joanne Horne's home. Attending were Bobbye Wicke, Jerry Gilbert, John Mochan, Micah Butler, Chris McArdle, Mary Ann Mochan, and Tom Stewart.

President's report: Bylaw change approvals not all in since published. Members have 90 days to return the ballots. So far we have but six returned. If you plan on submitting your approval/disapproval please do so as soon as possible.

Vice President's report: As Sgt. Schultz would say, "I have nuth-ZING".

Treasurer's report: Please see separate report. Annual financial review was completed by Lars Runar

Editor: Nothing new to report.

Old Business: zilch

New Business: The RG planning is coming along beautifully. Thanks to everyone who has registered early and paid in full. Currently we have 36 registered attendees with more expected. The RG program is almost complete and will be released as soon as it is. Reminder: there will be a Mensa Admissions test for anyone wishing to take it. The special will be "buy one, get one free" for anyone wishing to test. Please bring friends and friends of friends to the RG if anyone is wishing to be tested.

Meeting adjourned at 15:03. HOO-RAH!

"M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

October 2007 was a good month for membership news in Northwest Florida Mensa. We gained 4 new members to bring our total to 194 members. This is the highest total we have had since the annual renewal date at the end of March. Immediately after the

renewal date we had 177 members so we have increased our roster by 17 members since then.

It was a somewhat unusual month in that we had no relocations either in or out. We also had no previous members rejoin. All of the additions represent brand new first time members. In Pensacola there are **Cheryl Cullison** and **Daniel Ryan**. Residing in Milton is **Dean Emerson**. And the final new member, who calls Gulf Breeze home, is **Tulla Picardi**. We welcome these 4 new M's to the group and hope they have a long and fruitful time in Mensa.

On a note unrelated to membership, our Regional gathering is fast approaching and will, like always, occur next month. I will once again be overseeing the Friday night Chocolate Orgy. I want to again thank all the wonderful members who have contributed in the past and made this portion of the



gathering so popular and successful and delicious. All of you past contributors know that I have or will be contacting you individually to hit you up for a contribution again. However, since it seems that a core group of folks always seem to be the givers , it would be really nice if some of the other local members who will be coming take it upon themselves and pitch in with a dessert contribution. Chocolate is the theme but if you have a favorite non-chocolate sweet that you make or buy, it would be welcomed also. Thanks in advance for your help.

Cryptograms by Jill Russ

Easy Level

ZICQ G V U N Y L G T U Y I R A G C G V U

LRNUAG NRHDC CJ G V U Q Y L G . NUG RG

XC, JCI RG MYL RHQUIJUPG, YAZ

G V Y A B X C Z G V Y G R G P Y A X C .

~DICCBL YGBRALCA

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.

SBXTAQBFMQHAQFBHEPBTQXFQBFM

FZTQXQRBIHFFHFIQR_EQXQIZHFIQZF

GHEPQXUUQEPBQGHAMZKQEPXE

BDOBTHBFNBQNXFQHFAEHUUQHFQ_A

~PXUQRZTUXFM

The Tenth Story

RVC Column for Region 10

One of our Region 10 editors has taken me to task in his December column for holding and promoting attendance at the November LDW, and I feel I must respond to that, since many of you may have had occasion to read his writings.

He stated that only those wishing to become a regional or national officer would want or need to attend an LDW. I can only guess that his erroneous views about a Leadership Development Workshop may come from the name of the event. Perhaps it would be better called a Local Group Improvement Workshop, as that is the function of an LDW. The sessions held included such things as "ExComm Basics" and "Whole Family/Child Friendly Events" and "Welcoming New Members" and "Special Events and Speaker Meetings". These were all things listed as items of interest from those leaders and members around the region who responded to a survey sent out back in the Spring, things they felt their groups needed help with. They are also topics designed to improve either the workings or the activities of local groups, not grooming someone for higher office, as the editor stated.

He also stated that I implied that "local group officers are somehow obliged to attend such a workshop as part and parcel of their positions." If anyone else felt that I had made such an implication, I certainly apologize.

The LDW is put on for those current or future officers wishing to somehow improve the things done by their local group. No one is obliged to attend, although I hope that most of the 36 people who did attend benefit from it in some way.

I did find it interesting that there were only two negative responses about attending the LDW, both editors, one in a column and one in a private email.

On December 1, the AMC held its Winter meeting in West Palm Beach. Most of the Mensans attending, other than AMC members, were from the West Palm or Broward groups, except for another of our regional editors, who drove all the way from Orlando to see the AMC in action. As far as I know, no one told him he was "obliged" to attend.

At the risk of being redundant, I share these upcoming events with you:

Smarti Gras RG - January 18-20 - Renaissance Hotel near Orlando's airport - form on the region 10 website (region10.us.mensa.org)

February 15-17 - ValenTime RG - Holiday Inn in Destin - link is on the region 10 website

May 23-26 - ARRR-RG - Hampton Inn and Suites in Ybor City - Contact registrar katshe@aol.com

July 2-6 - Rocky Mountain High AG - Adam's Mark in Denver - Info on national website (ag2008.us.mensa.org)

May all your New Year's resolutions be reasonable.

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.org

Cryptogram solutions

Easy Level

Drop the last year into the silent limbo of the past. Let it go, for it was imperfect, and thank God that it can go. ~*Brooks Atkinson*

Challenge Level

Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. ~*Hal Borland*

Calendar

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

Friday, Jan. 4, 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, Jan. 8, 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, Jan. 12, 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday in Panama City. Lunch at Chef Imondi's Downtown, 448 Harrison Avenue.

Friday, Jan. 18, 5 p.m. Happy Hour! We will go to Perry's in Palm Plaza, on the south side of Hwy. 20 in Niceville. It's popular for good food, ambience and prices. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Info: 897-5702 or dave_howard@prodigy.net.

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2 p.m. Annual New Year Party/Open House at Mabel and Hal Loesch's home, 2140 E. Scott St, Pensacola. Help us ring in the new year - and bring your favorite dish or beverage to share. All members and their families and friends are welcome. Info: Mabel at mloesch@bellsouth.net or 433- 2358.

Friday, Jan. 25, 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, Jan. 26, 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 February Events:

Feb. 1, Lunch, Pensacola; Feb. 2, Lunch, Panama City; Feb. 12, Supper Club, Pensacola; Feb. 15, Happy Hour, TBD; Feb. 15-17, ValenTime; Feb. 29, Lunch, Shalimar; March 1, 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.

And then there's -

Central Florida presents SmartiGras 2008, January 18-20, in Orlando. Eddie Truelove at 407-855-9078, or www.cfm.us.mensa.org/rg2008; smartigras@cfl.rr.com.

A Chess Problem

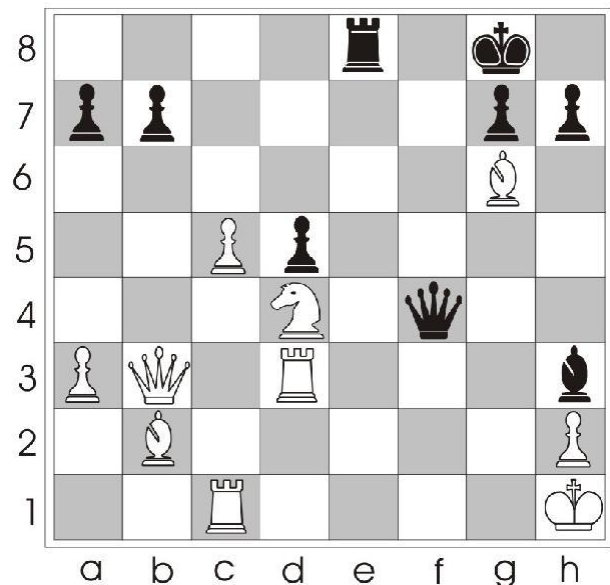
from Lars Runar

Solution to December problem:

1. Knd5 Ka8
2. Knb6 ab6
3. Ra1 Mate

Reprinted by permission from Chess Training in 5333+1 Positions by Laszlo Polgar © 1994 Konemann Verlags gesellschaft (Algebraic notation)
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MATE IN THREE - BLACK TO MOVE



President's Page

by John Mochan

I hope all of you got everything you wished for at Christmas. And are you still sticking to your New Year's Resolutions?

We have some great events planned for January. So find one near you and join in the fun. There will be a party at Mabel and Hal's in Pensacola on January 19th. I hope to see many of you there.

I've got 37 people signed up for the ValenTime RG in Destin February 15- 17. Make your Holiday Inn reservations now and send me your registrations soon. We've got another great program ready for this year.

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: Micah Butler (850)723-8305; 8196 Lode Star Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514; mjb28@cox.net

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

Editor: Bobbye Sikes Wicke 850-862-2874; P.O.Box 252, Mary Esther, FL 32569; 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!

The "prosperity cult" is expanding: Front page, Sunday Dec. 23 NWF Daily News: "Reeling market taught homeowners hard lesson . . . On June 21, hundreds of real estate agents held a public prayer luncheon at Destiny Worship Center to ask God to energize the area's flat sales." And Georgia's Governor recently held a prayer meeting for rain.

Realtors: Who drove the money changers out of the temple?

Governor: Shakespeare said: . . ."it falleth upon the godly and ungodly alike."

Why is erectile dysfunction covered by Medicare/Medicaid and dental care is not?

Because you can't have your cake and eat it too?

Written for??*

A. E. Krzeminski

Might you be with me in my dreams,
free, unbound spirit. And sing to me, a mind song
of harmony and feeling.
Rightly share those singular
moments of being one.
Imagine! They are our dreams,
songs and moments.
And remember in those quiet
recesses of your mind
Not to let time dilute those
dreams,
Nor distance fade the vision
Eagerly sought after by those
free to dream.

Art Krzeminski, CAPT DC USN RET, lives in Pensacola.

**Art Krzeminski wrote this poem for Marianne, the girl friend of a Navy buddy. The first letters of each line spell her name*

Slouching to Bethlehem

L. Michael McNab

There watched the whitened Mother from a pallet of straw;
The Father, involved somehow, hovered in the background;
Perhaps a half-dozen Herders, half-scrubbed, milled around
While two unbroken calves stood, on one side thrust: Ah!
--There lay the Prince just born, he with the striking aura.
Peace, know, was not the word.
Stilled at length, our Star
Hung poised on the threshold of that darkened room
For certain, gave some pause. He, cause of our roaming,
Transfixed, made us reel... He held our gifts of gilt with awe- Some force. And there we burned
incenses, then left sparring.

** Poet's Note:*

In form, this is a curtal, or 'curtailed sonnet', as pioneered by Gerard Manley Hopkins. In subject, it is a Nativity/Epiphany poem, recounting the Biblical visit to the Christ child by 'Magi' from the East... However, in the disruptive manner of William Blake (The Tyger), Yeats (The Magi) and T.S. Eliot

(Journey of the Magi), this poem packs the tale with portents of the Crucifixion and humanity's subsequent wrath-strewn, wonder-filled history of these past twenty centuries, and counting.

Annual Financial Review

and Treasurer's Report

Annual Financial Review: Northwest Florida Mensa, Oct. 1, 2006 - Nov. 30, 2007; Prepared by Lars E. Runar, Life Member in Good Standing

The financial records for the above cited time period were reviewed with Jerry Gilbert, the current Treasurer. The review was not conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and was limited in scope. Findings:

1. The opening balance was reviewed and matched against bank transfer statements from the Warrington Back, Pensacola, Florida to the Compass bank, Pensacola Florida. All were found to be correct.
2. Income transaction were reviewed to source documents and all found to be correct.
3. Expense transactions were reviewed to source documents and all found to be correct.
4. All bills were paid on time.
5. Cancelled checks are no longer provided by banks so it was not possible to verify that all checks were signed by someone other than the payee.
6. All deposits, with the exception of an overpayment by the AMC in December 2006, which was corrected in January 2007, were received on a timely basis.

Conclusions:

1. Financial statements indicate that the Northwest Florida Mensa group has operated at a net profit for the period reviewed. A significant percentage of the profit was due to revenue generated by the sale of Northwest Florida Mensa group T-shirts and their "Valentine" RG.
2. All source level documents are kept in an orderly fashion and appear to be complete.

Treasurer's report

Balance 15 Nov '07 - \$4849.00

Income:

American Mensa \$241.60

RG registrations \$450.00

Total \$691.60 \$ 691.60

Expenses:

Dec. Newsletter \$ 64.86

RG expenses; stamps \$113.62

Bylaws printing; Jan. Newsletter \$236.59

Stamps \$ 82.00

Total \$497.07 (\$ 497.07)

Balance 15 Dec 07 - \$5043.53

~ *Jerry Gilbert*

Israel, Egypt and Jordan - The Journey of a Lifetime!

By Jim and Roberta Harris

Cultures: Other than the Hasidic Jews and the Muslim women with their veils, Israel could be any modern city in the US. Streets are barricaded on the Sabbath in all Hasidic areas, preventing anyone from driving through their neighborhoods. As an FYI, Hasidic Jews are not Israeli citizens and as such, do not serve in the Israeli military nor vote in national elections. While many businesses are closed on the Sabbath, not all are. The other difference we observed was one elevator in our hotel, out of three, stopped on every floor so that an Orthodox Jew would not need to "push" a button, thereby "working" on the Sabbath.

In Egypt and Cairo, we saw many veiled women, some with only slits to see through, and men in galibeyas - the white dress-like garment worn by many Arab men. In Cairo and most of the larger cities, dress was more western. Many young Cairo women would wear blue jeans (very tight), a long sleeved blouse and veil. The further away from the cities, however, the men wore the traditional galibeya and tophias (head coverings) while the women would be in long dresses and veils. If she was married, she wore black. It was explained to us that these long dresses and veils the women wore kept them much cooler than having their extremities bared. Personally, we didn't believe it then and still don't now. We were also told that women have all the freedom they wish for and don't have to wear the traditional veils. Again, we didn't believe it then and certainly don't now.

There are Orthodox Christians in all three Countries. Most Christians in Israel live in Jerusalem or Bethlehem. In Egypt, the "Coptic" Christians live in the old city of Cairo. If one were to talk to a Coptic Christian in Egypt, you would be told that he has no job opportunities and experiences discrimination. Should you speak to a Muslim, however, he will tell you that the Muslims love and get along with both the Christians and the Jews. While many Jews left Egypt after the formation of Israel, most were forced to leave because of the conflicts with Israel.

Our treatment by all that we met was friendly and outgoing. Almost every Muslim man smokes and boys as young as 12 would also smoke. We found it interesting that the ubiquitous water pipes are smoked by both men and women. Another interesting difference we observed was men holding hands while walking down the street; women also showed great affection with each other. But men and women never walk hand in hand in public or display any physical intimacies in public.

One other observation was the non-use of trash cans by the Arabs. Our Israeli guide said that the Arabs are wonderful housekeepers and keep an amazingly clean house - inside. But think nothing of opening a door and tossing trash outside. We personally observed people just dropping finished items on the ground in Egypt, but not as noticeable in Jordan.

In Israel the only street vendors we encountered were Bedouins and we encountered none in Jordan. However, the street vendors are everywhere in Egypt and "very persuasive" in their selling techniques. In the small shops, after a price had been agreed upon, it was very common to be asked to give an extra dollar for the salesperson. "Tips" (baksheesh) were also expected in Egypt. Areas would be roped off, but the "guards" would invite you over to step into the roped area and take your picture, after which

you would be expected to tip. Often times we were asked for money from the guards for no reason at all.

Interactions between Cultures: There are no obvious interactions between the Muslims, Jews and Christians. As stated earlier, the Hasidic Jews stay very much to themselves but an Arab that is not a Palestinian is free to move about the country. In Israel we were advised to not enter the Damascus Gate to Old Jerusalem as it was an "Arab" territory, but to enter through the Jewish Gates as it would be safer for us. Our Israeli guide tried to dissuade us from going to Bethlehem for similar reasons.

Sunni Muslims make up the majority of the population of Egypt while Coptic Christians make up less than 10% and are segregated in the Old City of Cairo. In Cairo we saw women walking together, some wearing veils and others bareheaded. The Muslims say everyone gets along and lives in harmony; the Christians claim they are discriminated against. Since all Egyptians carry a national I.D. card that also states one's religion, you be the judge. At Giza we encountered a ticket salesman who was very slow in giving our change (a technique we've experienced in many other countries), hoping we'd walk off and they'd make a little extra money. We mentioned this to our Egyptian guide who quickly said, "Oh no - you're not in Israel anymore."

Next month - Politics, and Our Take

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 is quid?
2. What is a stone fruit?
3. What is the meaning of the word 'atavistic'?
4. What is Schrödinger's cat? 5. What was the first man-made object to reach the Moon?
6. What is an "earworm"?
7. Who was the inspiration for George Harrison's song Something and Eric Clapton's songs Wonderful Tonight and Layla?

Bonus Question 8: Name the only two states in which a woman has never been elected to a state or national office.



Editor's Notes

by Bobbye Sikes Wicke

Despite a toad-strangler rain, there was a fine turnout for the annual Christmas party at Jo and Bob Horne's home - lots of new faces and delicious food, just what we expect from our "hostess with the mostest." Sorry, no pictures - the "photographer" didn't deliver.

The annual New Year Party at the Loesch's always brings a good turnout from our westerly members - and Mabel is renowned for her tasty treats. See you

there?

Thanks to Art Krzeminski and Michael McNab for contributing their original work to this issue!

PensaMensa needs a new editor because I am resigning when the March issue is mailed. It has been an enjoyable and creative job, but it's time for new faces. As *Horace* said:

*Men ever had, and ever will have leave,
To coin new words well suited to the age,
Words are like Leaves, some wither every year,
And every year a younger Race succeeds.*

Try it - you'll like it. Contact John Mochan for a full job description and put your name in the pot.

Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. Quid is a cud or wad of something chewable. The DNA from dried saliva of quid, or chewed yucca, of the Mesoamericans of 2,000 years ago is studied, which enables anthropologists to infer how and when man might have reached and began to inhabit the Americas. The better known meaning of "quid" is British slang for a pound sterling, probably after the Royal Mint at Quidhampton, Wiltshire, England.

2. A stone fruit is scientifically known as a drupe. In botany, a drupe is a fruit that has an outer fleshy skin known as the exocarp and a fleshy part known as the mesocarp, both of which surround a pit or "stone" of hardened endocarp, with a seed inside. All members of the genus *Prunus*, including the almond, apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach and plum, are drupes. Some flowering plants that produce drupes are coffee, jujube, mango, olive, most palms (including date, coconut and oil palms) and pistachio.

3. It is a recurrence of, or reversion to, a past style, manner, outlook, approach or activity, e.g.,

architectural atavism. (Synonym: "throwback") In science, it is a recurrence, in an organism, of a trait or characteristic typical of an ancestral form and usually due to genetic recombination.

4. Schrödinger's cat is an illustration of the principle in quantum theory of superposition, proposed by Erwin Schrödinger in 1935. Schrödinger's cat serves to demonstrate the apparent conflict between what quantum theory tells us is true about the nature and behavior of matter on the microscopic level and what we observe to be true about the nature and behavior of matter on the macroscopic level.

In his theoretical experiment, a living cat is placed into a steel chamber, along with a device containing a vial of hydrocyanic acid. Also in the chamber is a very small amount of a radioactive substance. If even a single atom of the substance decays during the test period, a relay mechanism will trip a hammer that will, in turn, break the vial and kill the cat. The observer cannot know whether or not an atom of the substance has decayed and, consequently, cannot know whether the vial has been broken, the hydrocyanic acid released and the cat killed. Since we cannot know these facts, the cat is both dead and alive according to quantum law, in a superposition of states. It is only when we break open the box and learn the condition of the cat that the superposition is lost, and the cat is observed to be either dead or alive. This situation is sometimes called quantum indeterminacy or the observer's paradox, which refers to the observation or measurement that affects an outcome, so that the outcome, as such, does not exist unless the measurement is made. That is, there is no single outcome unless it is observed.

5. Luna 2, the second of the Soviet Union's Luna Program spacecrafts, was the first to reach the surface of the Moon. On September 14, 1959, radio signals from Luna 2 indicated that it had impacted the Moon. In January 1959, Luna 1 was unsuccessful in its attempt to reach the Moon and, thus, became the first spacecraft to fall into orbit around the Sun.

6. An "earworm" is a term that refers to a song or tune that is "stuck in one's head." It is a loan translation of the German word ohrwurm. Theoretically, these "earworms" become "trapped" in the phonological loop of the brain, which is the region that rehearses verbal information. Synonyms for "earworms" include "Last Song Syndrome", "repetuneitis" or "melodymania." You are going to hate me for this, but an example of an "earworm" is the nonsensical ditty "papa-oom-mow-mow, papa-oom-mow-mow," from the 1963 hit Surfin' Bird, by The Trashmen. Another definition of earworm is a larva that eats corn; a large, striped American moth larva that feeds destructively on corn, tomatoes, cotton bolls, and many other plants.

7. Patti Boyd, former model and wife to both Harrison (1966-1977) and Clapton (1979- 1989)

8. Iowa and Mississippi

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.

41 Suzanne K. Zoss

23 Glenda Martin Michallidis

21 C.V. Ford Jr.

10 Harold Casey

8 Bob Teasdale
7 Arthur Krzeminski
7 James 'Cheever' Lambert
6 Nicki Dalton
6 Kelly M. Hannum
6 Daniel Stevens Murray
6 Ralph R. Ruyle Jr.
6 Donald G. VanNorman
5 Sandra Bast
5 Lauren Smith
4 Stephanie Mather
4 Philippe Petit
3 Merrily Teasley
2 Robert Ignasiak Sr.
1 Larissa Timper

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

4 Bob Horne
13 Robert F. Mundorff
17 Christine Smith Pincince
18 Scott Mark Kaufmann
25 John Graham
28 J. Roger Landers
30 John W. Friedberg

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.



Précis

Fraser Sherman

Islands where monsters dwell-

KING KONG: The History of a Movie Icon from Fay Wray to Peter Jackson by Ray Morton is an impressively encyclopedic look at film history of Meriam Cooper's idea "giant terror gorilla," covering the movie and sequel SON OF KONG, the awful seventies remake (which Morton likes much more than I did) and work on the Peter Jackson version which hadn't hit theaters when

this came out. What makes the book more interesting is that it also covers every other manifestation of Kong, from KING KONG VS. GODZILLA, spoofs such as PEKING MAN and QUEEN KONG, the two King Kong TV cartoons, planned but never-made remakes and sequels and such oddities as a King Kong opera. Well worth reading for fans of movie history.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE WAR THAT TIME FORGOT collects 500-plus pages of a series that ran in one of DC Comics' war books back in the sixties, in which various commando teams, PT boats, air-force crews and leathernecks wound up on an isolated island where dinosaurs (not to mention, inevitably, a giant Kongesque gorilla) survived into the present and are perfectly happy to snack on a few GI Joe's (not to mention the Nazis who frequently wound up on the island too). Not a high-point of comics history, but there's some great art by the legendary Joe Kubert, so if you like to see men battle dinosaurs (and who doesn't?), why not?

Thoughts for a new year

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. - Dr. Seuss

And Rick Boswell sent:

Happiness in intelligent people is the rarest thing I know. ~ Ernest Hemingway

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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