

PensaMensa Newsletter

November 2007

- :: [ExComm Minutes](#)
- :: [Israel, Egypt and Jordan - The Journey of a Lifetime!](#)
- :: ["M"embership News](#)
- :: [Seven Trivia Questions](#)
- :: [Cryptograms by Jill Russ](#)
- :: [The Tenth Story](#)
- :: [Cryptogram solutions](#)
- :: [Calendar](#)
- :: [A Chess Problem](#)
- :: [Editor's Notes](#)
- :: [Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa](#)
- :: [Curmudgeon's Corner](#)
- :: [Happy Thanksgiving!](#)
- :: [And . . .](#)
- :: [What Is a Grownup?](#)
- :: [Meet Our New Veep:](#)
- :: [Answers to Seven Trivia Questions](#)
- :: [Milestones](#)
- :: [Précis](#)
- :: [Treasurer's Report](#)
- :: [Editorial Policy](#)



Is this "Profiles in Courage" or "Smooching the Sphinx"? Jim and Roberta Harris have completed a tour of Israel, Egypt and Jordan, and the first in a series of their report begins in this issue.

ExComm Minutes

by John Mochan

The Executive Committee Meeting was held at the Mochans' in Fort Walton Beach on October 20, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM. Attending were: Jerry Gilbert, John Mochan, Bobbye Wicke, Bob Ulrich, Bob Horne, Terri Culbertson, Dave Howard, Debi Dunkerley, Eric Peszko, Micah Butler, and Bill Whalen.

President: Micah Butler is elected to fill the office of Vice President until next year's election. Congratulations on your new job!! Mensa Testing Day was today. We will report the results next month. We have been approached by a Tampa Area Mensa member about joining with other Florida groups in the future and putting on a Regional Gathering covering many Regions. I'm asking for inputs from all members about how we might support such an event.

Membership: See details in Membership Officer's Report.

Treasurer: See details in Treasurer's Report.

Publications: Bobbye proposed that we publish an extra issue of the newsletter near the end of the year with the amended Bylaws and a Membership Roster. Please check that your personal information is correct at American Mensa and that your publication preferences are as you wish.

Old Business: None

New Business: A lengthy discussion ensued about the ValenTime Regional Gathering February 15-17, 2008 in Destin. We have a great program going including a chocolate orgy, speakers, food, drinks, games, a dance, howl at the moon, etc. We'll be asking many of you for contributions of food, drinks, and a little of your time to make this RG another rousing success. Look for an email or phone call and offer what you can to help. Details will be published soon on our Web Site and updated as needed. So far, 10 people are registered.

The next ExComm meeting will be in Pensacola at Micah Butler's home at 8196 Lode Star Ave on November 17, 2007.

Adjourned at 3:20 PM.

"M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

The group's total membership took another baby step forward in September with the addition of 1 new member. We had no relocations either in or out of our area (sorry Realtors) no one dropping out or rejoining. So this makes for a short column. Our new total is 187 members down slightly

from the past few years at this date.

Our new member is **Peter Griffiths** in Pensacola. Welcome to Mensa, Peter. In October was our National Testing day. As I write this column this date or dates have not yet occurred, but I hope we got a nice turnout to help bolster our ranks. A bit of information about our tests. The majority of people - 2/3 - who test for Mensa membership pass the test. So if any of you have friends or relatives who think they might qualify for Mensa, encourage them to test because they are probably right.

I hope the October Paella Party at Bill and Bel White's house went well and the weather cooperated. Lynda and I were unable to make this annual fun event as we were away on a trip.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Cryptograms

by **Jill Russ**

Easy Level

"MKR IBIYQRDZMF RDSR NSM GI NKTMRIW NKTMR,
SMW MKR IBIYQRDZMF RDSR NKTMR NSM GI
NKTMRIW."

~SCGIYR IZMERIZM

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.

NHWFCGJMG HKKEJUNGOLE

WOMTLFJECGJMG WFKIKF

~URVWHKWUGOWURVRFEK

The Tenth Story

RVC Column for Region 10

Life goes on. As I write this in early October, I am looking ahead at the LDW planned for November 3. There are about 30 Mensans signed up to attend at this point. Some Region 10 leaders have good reasons to not be joining us. One will be on vacation in France. One will be on a cruise. One will have just had wisdom teeth pulled the day before. But I am sadly disappointed to say that four of our twelve groups in Region 10 have NOT ONE person signed up to attend. I am hoping that it is a case of the groups feeling that they are in such good shape that they don't need any reinforcing rather than a serious feeling of ennui or laziness. But those of us who will be at the LDW will learn a lot and have an excellent time, besides.

There are many good things going on in Region 10. Most of our groups are participating in Mensa National Testing Day. Five of our groups are hosting Regional Gatherings, while another group has a "micro-G". Several of our groups sponsor scholarships, either through MERF or locally. Many of our groups have active programs for Young Mensans and/or gifted children. Most of our groups have growing and active GenX groups within them. And many members, whether they are able to attend activities or not, are participating in online Mensa things, whether it be through the official Mensa Discussion Forums on the national website or on Facebook or The Smart Life.

Don't forget - the American Mensa Committee (AMC - Mensa's board of directors) will hold its fourth quarter meeting at the Holiday Inn in West Palm Beach, Saturday, December 1, 2007. On Friday evening, November 30, the AMC members hope to meet local Ms in the hospitality suite, made inviting with appetizers and beverages. Interested in helping Palm Beach County Mensa throw out the welcome mat? We need volunteers to ferry arriving AMC members from the airport to the hotel and to keep the hospitality suite stocked. Contact Elissa Rudolph (elissa12@bellsouth.net) for details. NEW!! On Saturday evening there will be a catered dinner at a private home on Jupiter Island with views of the ocean. This dinner is open to everyone including spouses, partners, friends at a per person cost of about \$35.

THANK YOU - Aren't those lovely words to hear at any time? And yet, how many of us remember to thank the host/hostess at a Mensa party or the organizers of any Mensa event? I know that when I have hosted parties and RGs and other events, hearing a "thank you" or two is a good thing. And a hearty thank you to all of you who volunteer to keep Mensa thriving!

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

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." ~

Albert Einstein

Challenge Level

"Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever." ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

Calendar

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

Friday, Nov. 2, 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, Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday in Panama City. Lunch at Chef Imondi's Downtown, 448 Harrison Avenue.

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 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, Nov. 16, 5 p.m. Happy Hour! We will go to The Aegean, on Eglin Parkway - east side - opposite side of Cheers, next door to the Shalimar Library. It's Greek-owned, good food and prices. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Info: davehoward01@earthlink.net or 897-5702.

Friday, Nov. 16, 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, Nov. 17, 2 p.m. Open House and ExComm meeting at Micah Butler's home, 8196 Lode Star Drive, Pensacola. Bring your favorite snack and/or beverage and join in planning activities. Info: mjb28@cox.net or 723-8305.

Friday, Nov. 30, 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, Dec. 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 December Events:

Dec. 7, Lunch, Pensacola; Dec. 8, Lunch, Panama City; Dec. 11, Supper Club, Pensacola; **Dec.**

15, Annual Christmas Party (and ExComm meeting); Dec. 21, Happy Hour, TBD; Dec.28, Lunch, Shalimar; Dec. 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.

A Chess Problem

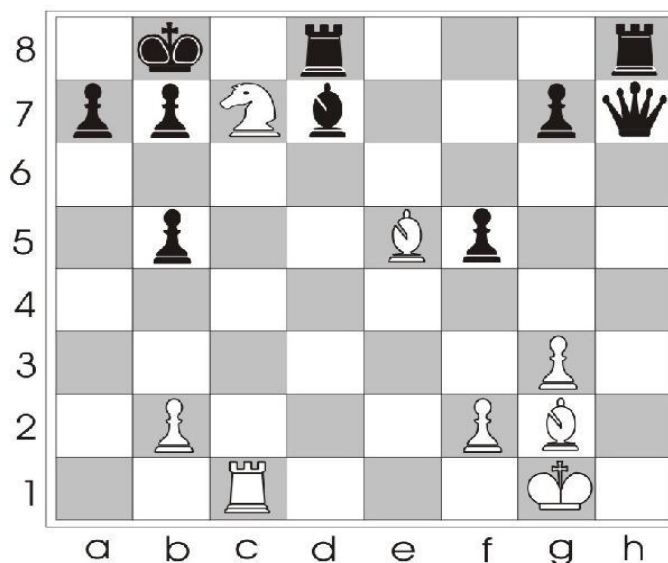
from Lars Runar

Solution to October problem:

1. - Qd3

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

MATE IN THREE - WHITE TO MOVE



Editor's Notes

and other tidbits

We get beautiful and technically fine photos from Christine Pincince, Jerry Bradshaw and Lars Runar among others, and we wish that space allowed us to use them all. But please keep sending them!

ExComm: How about a photo exhibit of M's favorite photos at ValenTime?

A tidbit from Kelly Scott: (Jerry's daughter in California)

PIN NUMBER REVERSAL: If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your Pin # in reverse. For example if your pin number is 1234 then you would put in 4321.

The ATM recognizes that your pin number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to help you. This information was recently broadcast on FOX TV and it states that it is seldom used because people don't know it exists.

[Editor's note: How about some adventurous soul who can afford to make bail checking this out?]

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: Bobbie 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!

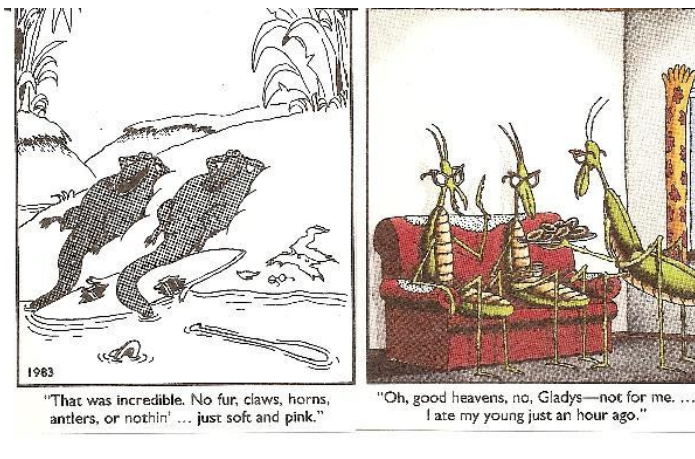
*Although yogurt containers have become 2 ounces or 25% smaller, in some stores the price also went up 20%. Obviously Corporate America thinks all consumers are mathematically challenged - and maybe CA is right.

*Incessant one-upmanship is a dreadful bore, and it's mean, too, because it robs your friends of the pleasure of sharing their own small achievements.

*Being a good test-taker does not automatically make you an interesting or admirable person.

*I am troubled by the use of the word "troubled" to describe infamous spoiled brats acting out. "Troubled" is when you're in the throes of a moral or legal dilemma.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Captions:

Left: That was incredible. No fur, claws, horns, antler, or nothin' . . . just soft and pink.

Right: Oh, good heavens, no, Gladys - not for me. . . I ate my young just an hour ago.

And . . .

from Fraser Sherman

As some of you may know, for the past couple of years I've been performing in murder mystery dinner theater shows with Act4Murder, a local group. Starting in November, I'll be playing a scheming businessman in "Fatal Football Fever," then the sleazy Dick Sticksit in our Christmas show, "Murder Under the Mistletoe."

If anyone wants to spend a fun evening watching theater-or match wits with our writer/director, Paula, and see if you can spot the killer- ***dates and times for our shows are on the Act4Murder.com web site.*** It's good food (we perform in a number of local restaurants) and an evening of fun if you care to check us out.

What Is a Grownup?

Steven Slon, Editor, AARP The Magazine

At a certain point in one's life, one makes the transition out of youth. Does turning 50 signify that we have crossed the line? Not necessarily, yet we tend to regard this birthday as a milestone. People like to document 50th birthdays with gag gifts. At mine, I got a cane and an ear trumpet. Funny, huh? How do you know when you're no longer a kid, no longer young. Well, for one thing you start noticing that young people call you "sir" or "ma'am." Maybe someone holds the door for you when you could perfectly well have opened it yourself. Cops no longer let you off with a warning for speeding; you know you're going to get the ticket. Some things change, and some things don't. (How many of you are still supporting your grown kids in some way?) In fact, there's a huge difference between getting older and actually becoming a grownup. Unlike aging, growing up is a project one embarks on (or fails to embark on), the success of which can be observed at practically any age. A thoughtful person of 25 may be considered wise beyond his years. An 85-year-old may be self-absorbed, childish. So, how do you know you're mature? For a few days I've been peppering some of the smartest people I know with this question. Here's what they said. You're a grownup when. . .

*You know there are many things much more important than yourself.

*You're willing to say, "I was wrong."

◆You're attentive to the footprint you will have left on the world.

*You forgive the carelessness of the young, regret the thoughtlessness of your own youth.

*You finally realize you have no one to complain to.

Growing up is a choice. The journey begins with the simplest of steps: identifying your values then acting accordingly. This means jettisoning the excuses that have previously blocked your path. And then the tricky part: doing all this while retaining your sense of humor. Few accomplish these goals. (Total success would mean being some kind of saint.) But the important thing is to point yourself in the right direction and start marching. The alternative is to have a life that has a beginning, a middle, and then just ends.

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

By Jim and Roberta Harris

Indeed, how does one start a discussion of such amazing experiences as we had in the Middle East! To have possibly walked on the same ground as Jesus; to personally marvel at the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx; to have reached inside the Treasury at Petra! Since this is such a daunting task, we promise to hit only the highlights and still hope you feel the same emotions we did!

Airport Security: Since our journey started on Delta and included seven flights on Egypt Air, we felt it important to start here. Roberta was put into the "penalty box" twice in Atlanta and once in New York. The second time in Atlanta had her handbag going through the x-ray a total of 4 times and someone going through it by hand three times. The culprit? A banana! They thought it looked like a weapon.

In New York we collected our boarding passes for an Austrian Air flight to Vienna and then to Tel Aviv. Since we were running a little late and had more security to go through, Jim only looked at his boarding pass and only glanced at Roberta's to ensure we were together. We both passed the "deep scrutiny" where they match your boarding pass to your passport. It was during boarding that the agent realized that Roberta had a boarding pass with someone else's name. Another penalty box for fifteen minutes while that was sorted out. Very frightening indeed!

The most disappointing of our airport screenings was leaving Tel Aviv, Israel. We expected to see high efficiency and learn how good security can be handled. They were every bit as disorganized and lackadaisical as anything observed in the U.S. Unless you are an Arab female who's packed an unopened soda in your luggage. We watched as agents taped nearly a roll of duct tape around, over and under the soda. We figure she is still trying to open it!

Personal Safety in the Mid East: Since so many were concerned for our safety, we thought we would also address our experiences and feelings of security. We felt very safe in all three countries. However, each country handled its tourist safety in different ways.

Israel: It is required that at age 18 all Israeli men spend a minimum of 3 years in the military and that all Israeli women spend a minimum of 2 years. As such, there are military personnel with automatic weapons everywhere. We were also advised to stay out of Palestinian Territories, such as Jericho and Bethlehem. We did, however, go to Bethlehem one day and were welcomed with great warmth and even given gifts for visiting the area. It was upon leaving the territory that we had to go through Israeli security and have our passports scrutinized.

Egypt: Security was very tight here! Mainly because of the German tourists killed at the Valley of the Kings back in the late 1990's. We had armed guards toting uzies on every bus and usually a police escort. Did it make us feel more secure? No, because the "bad guys" know where the guards sit and could easily have shot any or all of us. The real point is that we never felt unsafe anywhere or anytime, including when we walked the streets at night.

Jordan: Jordan also had an armed guard, but just with a pistol. He was also treated as part of the tour in that he was introduced and would answer tourists' questions.

Terrain: Never have we seen a more hostile environment as Israel! Mountainous, rocky and desert! Yet the Israelis have a knack for growing crops. Bananas, date palms, olive orchards plus numerous other crops were visible everywhere!

Egypt: Egypt is very much desert and mountainous, but not quite as rocky as Israel. Thanks to the Nile River, about five miles on each side of the Nile is green and used for agriculture. It is quite a contrast between the green of the Nile Valley and the adjoining desert.

Jordan: Also very mountainous and lots of desert! Unlike Egypt and Israel, Jordan has no natural water sources.

Antiquities, Churches and Temples: Words are just unavailable to adequately express the awe and range of emotions we felt in every country!

Israel: Even though we do not practice any specific faith, there is enough documented evidence to

support the existence of such people as Moses, David, Christ, King Herod, etc. Our first day in Israel had us standing at the crest of the Mount of Olives and overlooking the walled City of Jerusalem and the ancient city of David. From this vantage point we were able to see the entrance into Jerusalem used by Jesus 2000 years ago. After walking the path currently used by Christians on Palm Sunday, we sat in the Garden of Gethsemane and then proceeded to the Wailing Wall (which is called the Western Wall by the Israelis) just a short distance away. The wall became known as the Wailing Wall by the Arabs, who upon watching Jews pray, with the bowing towards the wall and prayers, thought the Jews were wailing.

Herod was quite a builder! Some of his many palaces that we saw included one in the walled city of Jerusalem, where Pontius Pilot tried and convicted Christ; one at Massada which was taken over by a number of Jews who chose to commit suicide rather than be taken as slaves by the Romans, and which later was also used as a place of Christian worship during the Byzantine period; and finally Caesarea, where Paul was held prisoner for 2 years and also converted the first Roman to Christianity.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a very Holy place for Roman Catholics and Orthodox Armenians and Greeks. They believe this to be the sites of Jesus' crucifixion as well as his burial. Part of this church also houses some of the original church built by the Mother of Constantine, Helena.

We took a private taxi to Bethlehem and visited the Church of the Nativity and the Milk Grotto. Politically, this was an amazing day and a subject we will cover shortly. The Church of the Nativity is managed by Orthodox Greeks and Armenians and the Roman Catholics. Should anyone watch the midnight mass on Christmas Eve, you will see the Catholic part of the church, which is only about 150 years old. The main part of the church, however, is 1,450 years old, the oldest church in the world. A section of this church was also constructed by Helena. Here one can "touch" the place Jesus was born and "see" his manger. The Milk Grotto is where Mary, while nursing Jesus, is believed to have spilt some milk and the area turned white.

These are merely highlights of our six days in Israel. We didn't even touch upon the Dead Sea, Qumran, Haifa (where the headquarters of the Ba'hi faith is located), Nazareth or our visit to the Sea of Galilee and walk into the Jordan River!

Continued next month

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 American professional sports team has incurred the most defeats?
2. Considering a baseball and a softball, which is heavier?"
3. What individual owns the most private land in the US?

4. For what event was the automobile's rear view mirror invented?
 5. What Mildred and Patty Hill song is the most sung song in the world?
 6. What is the number-one, best-selling single recording of all time?
 7. What is the number-one, best-selling record album of all time?
-

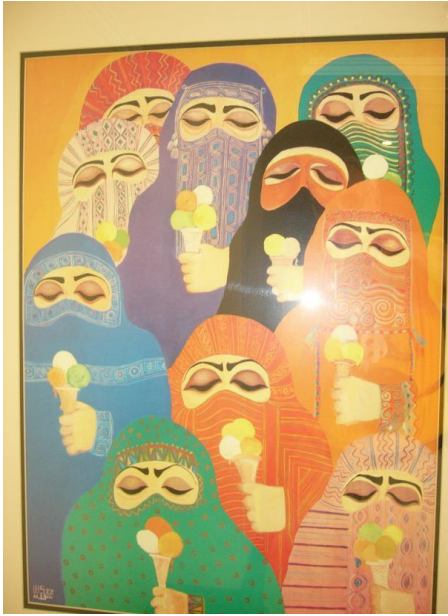


Photo of a painting of Muslim women in a hotel room: These women have the nectar of the gods (ice cream!) and can't eat it because of the veils they must wear.

Meet Our New Veep:

Micah Butler

I was born in Meridian, MS in September 24, 1981 and raised for the first 10 years of my life in Butler, AL. I am the youngest with one older brother. I began pursuing my private pilot's license at the age of 14 finishing at 17.

I graduated University of West Florida in 2003 with my bachelor of science in business administration specializing in Management Information Systems. I'm still rather new in my career field but I now work for a Navy contractor, CSC, as a Systems Administrator.

I love mountain biking, racquetball, sushi, cooking, making furniture, and MENSA GATHERINGS! I'm a happy person day in day out and try to make others around me just as happy. I also believe Captain Spock has nothing on Obi Wan.

I hope to bring fresh ideas and a new look to my local chapter of Mensa that has been so gracious to ask me to be the new Vice President. I think it's mostly because of my irregularly high midichlorian levels and my fellow chapter members believe I may turn to the dark side lest I am given the proper direction and guidance.

Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. The Philadelphia Phillies, which originated in 1883 as the Philadelphia Quakers and were briefly known as the Philadelphia Blue Jays in the mid-1940s, lost their 10,000th game to the Atlanta Braves on July 15, 2007. The Boston-Milwaukee-Atlanta Braves maintains second place in this category with 9,681 defeats, and the Chicago Cubs place third with 9,425. In contrast, the New York- San Francisco Giants won their 10,000th game in 2005.

2. Regulation softballs are 12" in circumference and weigh 6¼ to 7 ounces. Regulation baseballs must weigh between 5 and 5¼ ounces, with a circumference of 9 to 9¼ inches. The formation of the ball begins with a ½ ounce, 2.9 inch diameter cork core. A layer of black rubber is then applied, followed by a layer of red rubber, with each weighing 7/8 ounce. Next, 121 yards of blue- gray wool is applied, followed by 45 yards of white wool yarn. The ball is then wrapped in cowhide which is held in place by rubber cement and 216 stitches. Red stitches are placed on the ball to enable pitchers to throw curve balls, which curve because the air resistance on the stitches is non-uniform. 3. Ted Turner owns over 1.8 million acres. The US government owns the most land in the US, followed by the Catholic church.

4. It was invented for use by drivers in the Indianapolis 500-mile Race, better known as the Indianapolis 500. Before this innovation, the driver's mechanics rode in side-seats to serve as "spotters."

5. Happy Birthday or Happy Birthday to You was written by American sisters Patty and Mildred Hill in 1893, when they were teachers in Louisville, Kentucky. Mildred wrote the melody, and Patty wrote the lyrics. The verse was originally intended as a classroom greeting entitled "Good Morning to All." The lyrics were copyrighted in 1935, eleven years before Patty's death. The ownership of the song has "changed hands" many times, for millions of dollars, over the years.

6. Elton John's Candle in the Wind '97 has sold 37 million worldwide, which surpasses Irving Berlin's 1947 classic White Christmas, sung by Bing Crosby, with 30 million sold.

7. The Eagles Their Greatest Hits, 1971- 1975, has sold 29 million albums worldwide, which exceeds Michael Jackson's Thriller, which sold 27 million copies.

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.

33 Mabel L Loesch
22 Leo L Holland
17 John W Friedberg
13 Jason D.Hatcher
10 Robert Prescott Keller
8 L Michael McNab
6 George A Chancellor Jr
6 Karen Stripling

5 J Roger Landers
5 Janet N Evans
4 Brenda S Austin
4 Morrie P Beitch
4 Jennifer Jenkins
4 Della McGuire
4 William Ward
2 Paige Andre-Hudson
2 Dana Schack
2 Darryl Smith
2 Jennifer Watson
1 Reed Coker
1 Joesph Hobart

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

4 Larry B Caley
7 William Ronald Browning
15 Anthony Williams
16 Joseph William Weaver
18 Carol Buckman
23 Robert Elens
30 George A Chancellor Jr

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

Famous sinners!

MARY MAGDALEN: Myth and Metaphor by Susan Haskins is an exhaustive look at how Mary Magdalen has been perceived over the centuries starting with the early church proclaiming her "apostle to the apostles" for reporting the resurrection, then putting her in a solidly subordinate role by branding her a repentant prostitute (through blurring her with other Gospel sinners). Since then she's served as a symbol of repentance, symbol of the contemplative life (through confusion with one of the other Biblical Mary's) active missionary (one French church drew thousands of pilgrims by exhibiting her sposed bones) and of course, Jesus' alleged wife-and even before DA VINCI CODE and its sources, the idea Mary's initial interest in Jesus was erotic was fairly common, and critics often grumbled that paintings of the repentant sinner made her look ripe for sin rather than for repentance. Interesting, if sometimes more than I wanted to know.

MANHUNT: The 12-Day Hunt For Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson recounts the frantic search for John Wilkes Booth, his accomplices and the people presumed to be behind them ("Stanton

was convinced high-ranking Confederate officials had arranged the attacks.") as Booth escapes Washington only to die in a burning barn, Dr. Mudd tries to avoid becoming implicated and Booth himself is shocked to discover that publishing the justification for his attacks didn't trigger a groundswell of support for the confederacy. Taught me a lot I didn't know, from the multiple attacks on members of Lincoln's cabinet to how famous an actor Booth was before he reinvented himself as assassin. A good read.

Treasurer's Report

Jerry Gilbert

21 September Balance \$4,517.80

20 October Balance \$4,532.14

One check was written for the newsletter for \$140.00. Income was a newsletter subscription for \$10.00, which hasn't been deposited yet, and American Mensa funding of \$154.34.

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.