Neva-Mind

Northern Nevada Mensa

Volume 34, Issue 11, November 2010



There is a harmony in autumn, and a luster in its sky,
which through the summer is not heard or seen,
as if it could not be, as if it had not been!

Percy Bysshe Shelley (Poet, 1792 - 1822)

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Cover Credits:

Our cover this month was graciously submitted by local Mensan, Jim Poston. Thanks, Jim!

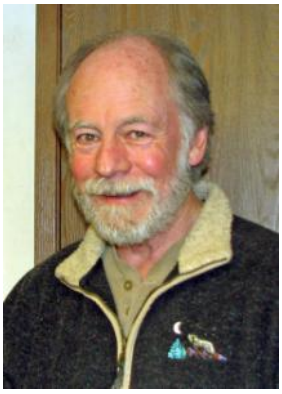
If you're not seeing these photos in gorgeous color, email me at editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org and I'll email you our non-paper version **IN COLOR!**

"I live in the Virginia City Highlands. One day I was marveling at the fall colors, and when I looked up I saw the house on top of Castle Peak in the distance. I was looking for a picture that would say 'fall,' so I framed the scene and recorded it for posterity."



From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister



Better Than 100 %

During a recent discussion with our Gatherings Chair, Ken Wright, I made mention of our AMC chairperson's (Elissa Rudolph) editorial for this month. She mentioned that of our 58,000 national members, only about ten - 12 percent can be counted on to be active participants. I mentioned further that that seems to be true for our group. We cover an area of approximately 50,000 square miles -given that Nevada has more than 110,000 square miles and that Mensa divides the state between north and south.

In that very large area (Nevada is the fifth largest in the U.S.), we have a sparse population. Of that population, we have a fluctuating membership; sometimes nearly 200, currently 163. Of that number, there is a core ten percent that can be counted upon to participate in activities, even if only to attend events. When I said to Ken that it was interesting that only ten percent seemed to represent our chapter at the recent (successful) Regional Gathering and that people from out of state comprised the majority, Ken replied that we had had, in fact, nearly three dozen participants and attendees from our local group. That's more than a hundred percent more than our expected local usual.

Fortunately for us, people like Ken aren't wet blankets, see the upside of what others may tend to regard as insurmountable and get a lot done.

Many who attended our recent RG commented on how ours stand out as memorable and better appreciated than those done by larger groups. This is all the more remarkable because we are a "small" group.

Kudos to our "small" group and to its movers and shakers.

An Aside

I occasionally try to provoke people to respond to the *Neva-Mind* by using my column as a soapbox. This is usually done with little success. A comment that I received last month suggested that I didn't fairly disperse my castigation of purveyors of misinformation by not including a broader spectrum of examples and that, if I didn't like how social/political ploys may be perceived by me, I merely need not to pay it any attention. I certainly agree with this point of view. The point of my article, though, was to say that if the herd mentality is engaged, then there is a danger that masses of people will base decision making votes predicated on questionable information and that would affect everyone. Being informed is a huge responsibility. ■

A Note from the Editor

by Anna Wright



Welcome to our special edition! We are experimenting with a different format for the *Neva-Mind*. Changes in postal regulations and the ever rising cost of doing business motivates me to try to save a little bit of our small budget whenever possible. I know that if we published only our e-version, the cost would seem to be free. But the truth is that we must provide a paper version for any member who does not wish to receive an email edition. So where does that leave us? The most cost-effective way to mail our bulletin is with a bulk mailing permit which requires a minimum mailing volume of 200 issues. We have about 160 members (a number that has varied to as high as 180+ in the past.) This means that in order to save money I must send more issues rather than fewer. So, if you are one of the locals who would actually prefer an e-version only, we need you to recruit more members! Passing the 200 mark is our goal.

I would love to hear your feedback about this experimental-size version. Please email me.

Lastly, you are also invited to enjoy the photos of our own Regional Gathering (RG) and see for yourself the fun that was had by all (page 8.) Thanks to the many amateur Mensa photographers who donated their snapshots so that you could enjoy them too. If you haven't been to an RG before, take a peek; you don't know what you're missing.

editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

From the RVC

by Debra Reiger



Region 8 Rocks!

I have a few congratulatory announcements this month. I'm so proud of our Region 8 membership and leaders!

Region 8 member, Jerry Martin of Grass Valley, CA, is the 2010 winner of the prestigious Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement. This Mensa Educational and Research Foundation (MERF) award is awarded to only one person each year. Jerry has developed and implemented an innovative program to motivate youngsters to read, Saluting New Readers. Providing this program in his community for 13 years, he finds that the teachers, students, and families love it. His program uses low budget video, with showings on local public access television stations, to show classrooms of students individually reading books or poems. It's great! Congratulations, Jerry!

Check www.saluting-new-readers.org.

Five of this year's larger MERF scholarship awards went to people living in Region 8 communities. Many thanks to the organizers and readers who do the work to make these awards this possible!

I just attended the Reno Regional Gathering (RG), and found it to be great fun and enlightening, as always. Ken and Anna Wright, and the rest of the Northern Nevada Mensa RG crew, did an outstanding job on the whole event. I hope you will plan to attend future Reno events. Congratulations on a fun RG, Reno!

Have a great month, and best regards,
Debra Reiger, RVC 8
Rvc8@us.mensa.org

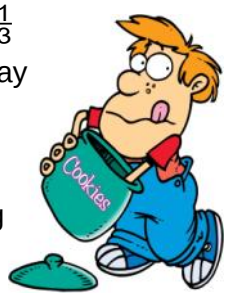


Jerry Martin accepts the Copper Black Award. Photo by John Reiger

Mensa for Kids! *(and kids at heart)*

by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

Geronimo Jones bought a bag of Crunchy cookies. He ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of them. The next day he ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the remaining cookies. On the third day he had 6 cookies left.



. . .

The next week he bought a bag of Munchy cookies. He reversed his eating pattern. He ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cookies when he bought them. On the second day, he ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of the remaining cookies. On the third day he was surprised to find that he had 6 cookies left.

. . .

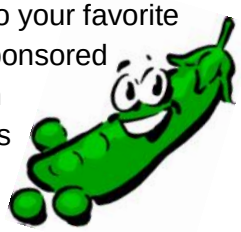
How many cookies were in each bag when he bought them?



Attention Parents and Teachers:

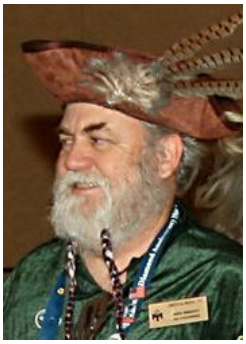
"**Peas in a Pod**," a lesson plan devoted to Mendelian genetics, has been added to the plans posted at http://www.mensaforkids.org/teachers; you can also access these in our Officer Resources section -- visit http://www.us.mensa.org/officertools and select GCC Educational Resources from the left menu. The most recent addition is designed for sixth-graders; grade levels now available range from Kindergarten to 12, and subjects range from the moon to Fibonacci numbers to teaching literary concepts through song lyrics.

Since these plans are designed to be completed with minimal supervision, they serve as independent coursework either in the traditional classroom or outside it. You can view the course materials online and download complete copies to hand to your favorite gifted student(s). These plans are sponsored by the Mensa Education & Research Foundation. You can receive updates to the Mensa For Kids Web site by subscribing to our "MFK Update" enewsletter at http://ww.us.mensa.org/enews.



Thank You Northern Nevada Mensa RG Crew

by Ken Wright



Local member volunteers:

Arbib, Richard
Beatty, Jenny
Beckerman, Howard
Beckerman, Sam
Campbell, Jerri
Chen, Chelsea
Dotten, Suzanne
Hanley, Ed
Hsu, Mindy
Kisenwether, Joe
Kositzky, Bill
Lockhart, Gerald
MacGregor, Don
MacGregor, Laura
McAllister, Bob
McTaggart, Annemarie
Preisach, John
Preisach, Carole
Smith, Becky
Stewart, Anne
Sullivan, Tim
Wright, Anna
Wright, Kenneth

and, our non-member volunteers too:

Bertrum, Christopher
McAllister, Mary
Page, Marilyn
banquet entertainers

also
local members who made presentations:

Chen, Howard
Chenin, Arthur
Sven, Kovil

plus M's from other groups who helped:

Norman, Alice (charter member of Reno RGs)
Pokosh, Terri
Recht, John (2VC)
Reiger, Debra (RVC8)
Reiger, John
Roach, Linda (not a member)

And,

Andrea Raines from Great Basin Brewery who gave up her Friday evening to do the beer tasting for us for free. We bought the beer, not her services.

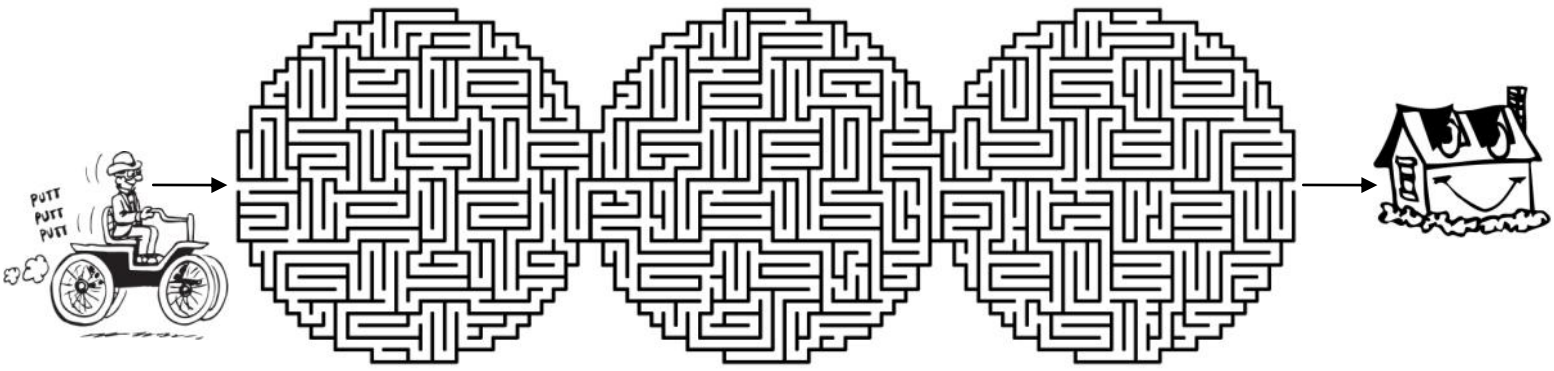
Let me begin my article by dropping a number on you. One hundred and sixty (160). That is the number of members in group 08-893, Northern Nevada Mensa. Traditionally, historically, and statistically, you can only get ten percent of a group to participate in anything in Mensa. That would be sixteen.

We measure the success of a gathering in different ways, depending on our interest or relationship to the event. You can judge by the financial bottom line: did we make or lose money? We are in the black. Relative success can be measured by the number of people in attendance, which ties back to profit/loss or the "break even number." We had 173 people participating in the Biggest Little RG, which is well beyond the critical magic number.

The number of major problems which made it to attendee knowledge is a factor, you want to make everything appear seamless and smooth. I believe we handled nearly everything invisibly and without discomfort to our guests.

Certainly the number of guests who expressed their satisfaction with our RG both during and after the event is a good sign. We intended for everyone to have fun. It appears that they did. Our crew seemed to be entertained and I know that the Silver Legacy employees had a ball.

Personally, my measure of success, admittedly along with those mentioned, is the number of local group members involved with the RG. I will wait while you go back and count the names... I would say that we kicked some serious statistical butt. When volunteers write, call, and tell you in person that they had a blast and want to sign up for next year and the AG in 2012, you know that what happened was a very good thing. ■



Happy Birthday

November

Birthstone: Topaz, Citrine

Flower: Chrysanthemum

Astrological Signs:

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21





1	**Michael Shore**	Dayton
6	**Nathaniel Burkett**	Washoe Valley
7	**David Williams**	Incline Village
11	**Patrick Wright**	Sparks
13	**Anna Wright**	Fallon
14	**Frank Riley**	South Lake Tahoe
18	**Diana Carter**	Reno
18	**Maurice Pollack**	Reno
20	**Richard Arbib**	Reno
21	**Keith Winchester**	Carson City
22	**Arthur Chenin**	Reno
22	**Andrew Sadler**	Carson City
24	**Alan Cranford**	Carson City
30	**Govi Hines**	Sparks



Welcome!

Denis Begin, Reno

Willkommen, Bienvenidos, Chaire,
Irashaimasu, Dobro pozhalovat', Bienvenue

Notes from the ExComm:

Because of the Regional Gathering,
the ExComm did not meet in October.

PUZZLE PAGE

by Joe Kisenwether

This month's puzzle is a maze of sorts, but instead of wandering from room to room in a labyrinth, you'll be wandering from topic to topic in your head. On the right is a list of 17 categories. Your goal is to start at any topic you choose, visit every other topic once, and return to your starting point. You can move between topics by coming up with a word that fits both categories. For example, you could start at Place Names, and use "Virginia" to go to Girl's Names, since Virginia is both a place name and a common girl's name. From there you could use "Mercedes" (a less common girl's name) to go to Cars, and Civic (a model of Honda) to go to palindromes, and so on. You're not allowed to use the same word twice in your chain; you must visit every topic along the way, and return to the one you started with. There are lots of solutions to this, so just because you find one is no reason to stop looking…

Signs of the Zodiac

Place Names

Girl's Names

Boy's Names

Palindromes

Computers

Mammals

Elements

Baseball

Money

Planets

Drinks

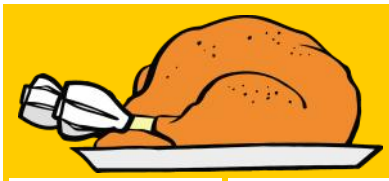
Colors

Food

Birds

Tools

Cars



November 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Stephen Crane Birthday	2 **Election Day**	3	4 Will Rogers Birthday	5 Roy Rogers Birthday	6 **Game Night**
7 **Daylight Savings Time Ends**	8 Margaret Mitchell Birthday	9 Carl Sagan Birthday	10 Martin Luther Birthday	11 **Veteran's Day**	12 Auguste Rodin Birthday	13 **Mensa Meeting**
14 Robert Fulton Birthday	15 Georgia O'Keefe Birthday	16 Islamic Eid al-Adha	17	18 Eugene Ormandy Birthday	19 Tommy Dorsey Birthday	20 Edwin Hubble Birthday
21 Voltaire Birthday	22 Benjamin Britten Birthday	23 **Lunch Bunch**	24 Bat Masterson Birthday	25 **Thanksgiving**	26 Charles Schultz Birthday	27 James Agee Birthday
28	29 Louisa May Alcott Birthday	30 Samuel Clemens Birthday	Dec 1	Dec 2  Jewish Hanukkah Begins	Dec 3 Joseph Conrad Birthday	Dec 4 **Game Night**

Fourth Tuesday Lunch: The Lunch Bunch will meet on November 23 at 11:45 a.m. Taste of India will be our destination, 315 East Moana Lane, Reno. For more information contact Don or Laura: (775) 826-5904.



Game Night at Joe's Place:
Saturday November 6. Potluck. 4:30 until 8:30 p.m. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks Contact: (775) 338-6521or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.

December Monthly Meeting & Christmas party. Saturday, December 18. Arrive after 6 p.m. Potluck dinner and Christmas party (no speaker.) Note that this Christmas party and meeting is on the third Saturday. Location: To be announced.

Program Listing

by Richard Arbib



November Monthly Meeting

Saturday, November 13

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Speaker at 7. Potluck dinner: Bring a dish to share.
Speaker: Gary Campbell will present a digital slide show from his recent travels around the world.

Host: Thomas Sharpton
Location:14805 Parisian Court, Reno
Directions: Take 395 south to Mt. Rose highway and continue up the highway to Callahan Road on the left; then first right on Napoleon Dr. And next right will be Parisian; the house is the farthest left on the court.







Entertainment Wows!

Costume Winner: Mary Prior, Steam Punk Robot





F = m·a as demonstrated by Ali.

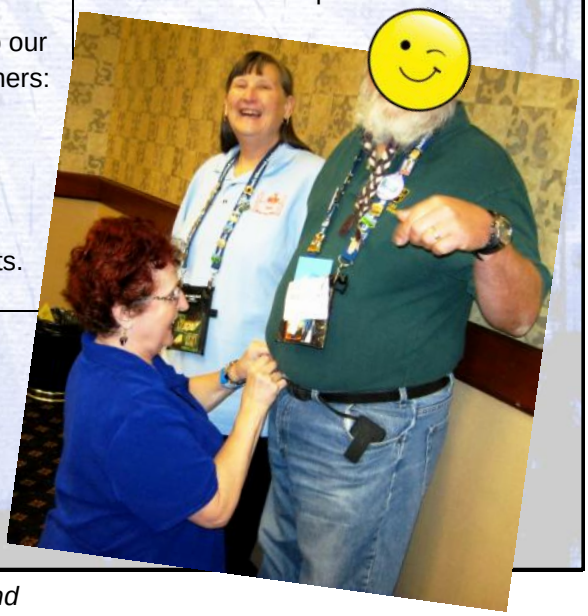


Mary Prior pins Special Award — identity hidden to protect the *innocent*?



Costume Contest Winners: Joyce and Bob Patterson Rogers, Aliens from Uranus

Many thanks go to our Mensa photographers: Richard Arbib, Bill Kositzky, Mary Prior, and Anna Wright for these snapshots.





Special guest appearance: E = mc^2 as portrayed by Don.

Costume Contest Winners:
John Recht and Linda Roach,
Mad Scientist and Alien





Costume Winner: Anne Stewart,
Area 51 Denizen



A little intergalactic diplomacy?



Steam Punk Ladies: Laura and Anna

RVC Region 8 Debra Reiger and Copper Black Award winner Jerry Martin





Star Trek Officers:
Michael and Susan



Oh, what a show, Chelsea!

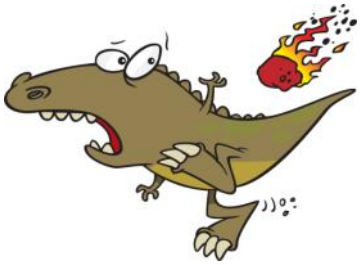
CRACKED

by Travis McCord

Some of you may be old enough to remember *Cracked Magazine* — a competitor to *Mad Magazine*, though a little less "edgy." In the 21st century, it turns out "Cracked" is still around, but substantially changed... specifically, it's now the website http://www.cracked.com, which is rapidly making a name for itself with lists of weird facts presented in an amusing manner.

To show you what I mean, I've put together a little quiz based on lists from the site -- complete with the names of the lists. (By the way, it's worth noting that the website includes "strong language and adult situations," so to speak.)

1. In 1933, a group of businessmen hatched a plot to change their country's government into a fascist dictatorship. They tried to recruit a general in the army to help; unfortunately for them, he was loyal to the government, and went to the authorities to spill the beans. The conspirators did OK, though--in fact, one of them was the father and grandfather of future leaders of the country. This sordid episode happened in: ("7 Insane Conspiracies that Actually Happened")
   a) Mexico
   b) Paraguay
   c) Serbia
   d) the United States



2. *Jurassic Park* introduced people to the velociraptor, a small, yet incredibly dangerous dinosaur (especially in packs) that was used to great effect in the sequels and various documentaries on the nature channels. Trouble is, recent research has determined that the velociraptors on those movies and shows are missing one crucial detail... what? ("6 things From History Everyone Pictures Incorrectly")

3. The following list is mostly true. In fact, there's only one wrong answer. Spot the ringer. (Or at least the one not mentioned in "5 Retarded Health Campaigns that Backfired Hilariously," "The 5 Most Popular Safety Laws (That Don't Work)" and "6 Laws that were Great on Paper and Insane Everywhere Else")
   Studies have shown…
   a) the D.A.R.E. program may increase drug use in kids.
   b) the Endangered Species Act endangers species.
   c) educational programming results in dumber kids.
   d) sexual offender registries result in more crime by the people listed.
   e) speed bumps kill people by slowing down ambulances.

4. Research says, letting your anger out (by yelling, or punching on a punching a bag, or something like that) results in: ("6 Bulls#!t Facts About Psychology That Everyone Believes")



   a) lower stress
   b) better ability to deal with the stressor
   c) being more likely to be angry later
   d) not much except looking like a fool

5. Fill in the blanks (with facts from "6 Slacker Behaviors that Science Says Are Good For You")
   On average:
   a) education is (directly/not/inversely) correlated with susceptibility to depression.
   b) people who are overweight (but not obese) live (shorter/about equal/longer) lives than skinny people.
   c) intelligence is (directly/not/inversely) proportional to how much sex you have.

6. The 'lifespan' of a Twinkie is: ("7 Retarded Food Myths the Internet Thinks are True")
   a) 1 month
   b) 1 year
   c) 5 years
   d) 20 years
   e) No one's sure



7. This was supposedly among the works Nikola Tesla lost in a fire — which is why modern day scientists are still searching for it ("7 Lost Bodies of Work (That Would Have Changed Everything)"):
   a) theories of Perpetual Motion
   b) Zero-Point Energy
   c) a Superconductor (or something close to it)
   d) a Unified Field Theory
8. You're on a high school athletic field.
   a) To one side is the football team, running into each other.
   b) On the other side the baseball team is hitting fungoes.
   c) Over there the track and field team is doing pole vaults.
   d) Inside the gym, gymnasts are doing routines on the uneven bars and pommel horses.
   e) And, of course, cheerleaders are cheering everyone on (well, maybe not the gymnasts).

Going by relative numbers of injuries and their severity, which group is most likely to get badly hurt some time in the school year? ("6 Organizations You Didn't Know Were Secretly Badass") ■

Encourage your family and friends to test for Mensa Admission:

We've set up four testing dates through January 2011. If you can't make one of these testing sessions, please contact me and we will work on setting up individual appointments. The test is $40 and takes about 2 hours. You will need to bring picture ID and your favorite #2 pencil.

- **Sat, Nov 6 - 10 a.m. to noon** University of Nevada, Reno - Ansari Business building room 107 (see map http://www.unr.edu/parking/documents/CAMPUSPARKINGMAP2010-2011ParkingFeeLocationsMap8.5x11_002.pdf)
- **Sat, Jan 8 - 10 a.m. to noon** University of Nevada, Reno - Ansari Business building room 201 (same location see map reference above.)

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thanks, Mindy Hsu cell (626) 230-0466

Help Wanted!

If you are interested in getting more involved and proctoring tests for Northern Nevada Mensa, please contact the Testing Coordinator

Mindy Hsu at mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com

Answers to October Puzzle Page:



FISH = GHOTI
PRIZE = GHLOUYSS
WEDGE = UAIDI
VISION = FOGEOOKN
YES = LLAIC
COUPE = QUWOGH
SHAVE = TIEIF
FUSE = GHLLWOSS
ASIA = EIGEOO
SCREEN = CQULOYKN
JUDGE = DIOODI
SWAY = CUEI
WIREY = UUYLOY
SWIPE = CUUYGH
FRINGE = GHLOOKNDI

Key:
GH sounds like F as in enough, or like P as in hiccough
O sounds like short I as in women
TI sounds like SH as in motion
LO sounds like R as in colonel
UY sounds like long I as in guy
SS sounds like Z as in scissors
F sounds like V as in of
GE sounds like ZH as in rouge
OO sounds like UH as in blood
KN sounds like N as in know
DI sounds like J as in soldier
UI sounds like EE as in suite
LL sounds like Y as in tortilla
AI sounds like EH as in said
C sounds like S as in cell
QU sounds like K as in liquor
WO sounds like OO as in two
EI sounds like A as in neighbor

Mensa-Speak

AG	Annual Gathering (Conference)
AMC	American Mensa Committee (National Elected or Appointed Officers)
AML	American Mensa Ltd. (National Office Employees)
ExComm	Executive Committee (Local Elected Officers)
LDW	Leadership Development Workshop
LocSec	Local Secretary (Local President)
M/Ms	Mensans
MERF	Mensa Education & Research Foundation
MIL	Mensa International Ltd.
NNM	Northern Nevada Mensa
PRP	Publication Recognition Program
RG	Regional Gathering (Conference)
RVC	Regional Vice-Chair
SIG	Special Interest Group
SIGHT	Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers
WG	World Gathering (Conference)

Mensa for Kids! Answers:

Geronimo Jones: Each bag had 18 cookies in it.

Cracked Answers:

1) D, the United States. This was the "Business Plot." One of the conspirators was Prescott Bush (George Bush's father & George W. Bush's grandfather)
2) feathers.
3) the ringer is "educational programming results in dumber kids"
4) C -- "letting out" your anger feels good, which means you're more likely to repeat it.
5) directly, longer, and inversely, respectively.
6) A, one month. (longer than a standard cake but nowhere near the myths)
7) D, a Unified Field Theory
8) Of those groups, it's the cheerleaders that get the worst injuries. ■

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