Sneva - Mind

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 35, Issue 3, March 2011



Northern Nevada Mensa Volunteers

Executive Committee

LOCAL SECRETARY
Robert McAllister 849-2269
LocSec@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

FIRST VICE-SECRETARY
Annemarie McTaggart 747-7636
jsbach1630@sbcglobal.net

SECOND VICE-SECRETARY
Gerald Lockhart 882-0868
g-lockhart@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER
Carole Preisach 847-4431
Treasurer@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

PAST LOCAL SECRETARY
Ed Hanley 746-0741
ezeflyer@nvbell.net

***NEVA-MIND* EDITOR**
Anna Wright 423-4694
Editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Appointed Officers

PROGRAM CHAIR
Richard Arbib
Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

GIFTED CHILDREN COORDINATOR
Jennifer Sanches 867-3878
GiftedChidren@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

WEBMASTER
John Preisach
Webmaster@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

TESTING COORDINATOR
Mindy Hsu
mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com

TEST PROCTORS
Fallon
Anna Wright 423-4694
pirsqrd@charter.net
Reno/Sparks
Annemarie McTaggart 747-7636
jsbach1630@sbcglobal.net
Other Areas Volunteers needed

MEDIATOR/ARBITRATOR
Bill Jacobsen 323-8990

HISTORIAN
Gary Marks 331-7581

AREA COORDINATORS
Churchill County
Ken Wright 423-4694
strtwlkr2@charter. net
Other Areas Volunteers needed

***NEVA-MIND* DISTRIBUTION**
Robert McAllister 849-2269
robertjmcallister@earthlink.net

RG CHAIR
Ken Wright 423-4694
RGChair@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

REGIONAL VICE-CHAIR
Debra Reiger
rvc8@us.mensa.org

Volunteers Needed:
S.I.G.H.T. COORDINATOR
RECRUITMENT
MEMBERSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP
UNR PROCTOR



Cover Credits

Bill Kositzky



Bohemian Burlesque performance 2009.

— Bill

Our cover shot and poem this month are from Mensan Bill Kositzky. Thanks, Bill.

Note from the Editor

by Anna Wright



What a fun issue we have for you this time! It's a party and Mardi Gras is our theme.

Unfortunately, I've never had the opportunity to attend the celebration in New Orleans. So, if you're a novice, like me, then the article by Anne Stewart is just what we need to get our facts straight. (page 16)

Our Gatherings Chair, Ken Wright, has just returned from Las Vegas with information to share. We've got plenty of 2011 RG planning and 2012 AG planning ahead for us. Volunteer and get your chance to participate in on the fun. (page 9)

Traveling in a different direction? See Pompeii, from an engineer's perspective with Maurice Pollack. (page 10)

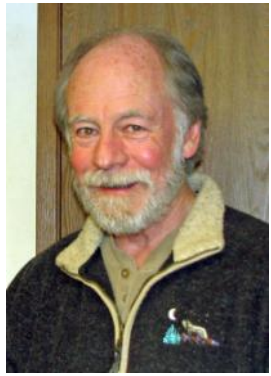
And, be sure to try the new puzzle by Travis McCord. Have you ever played Balderdash? I tried it for the first time at "Game Night at Joe's" last month. It's a hoot! (page 6)

As always, we encourage you to send us your thoughts, artwork, humor, or recommendations. We included a number of great websites that you recommended this month. (Most are found in Mensa for Kids! See page 18)

Next month we celebrate April showers, water, and all things weather related. We welcome your contributions. C'mon! Join the conversation. It's your newsletter. Email me, editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org. ■

From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister



This month's column is an email dialogue between Mensans Bob McAllister and Mauri Pollack.

Bob,

FACTS AND OPINIONS — ARE THEY DISJOINT?

I recently read an interesting essay on opinions and facts, and I will mail a copy to you*. It was written over 100 years ago. It got me thinking more about this topic, since you also wrote about it a couple of issues ago, in *Neva-Mind*. For myself, I think that facts are like boiled eggs: hard, medium, and soft-and-mushy.

HARD

- The prime numbers 2, 3, 5, etc. are still prime numbers even in another civilization in a far off galaxy — even if such a civilization exists.
- Water is H_2O even on the planet Mars.

MEDIUM

- Global warming is only a short-term trend, and may (or may not) also be a longer-term trend.
- Dinosaurs were wiped out by a large meteorite hit on planet Earth. (Really??? Every single dinosaur? Over this entire planet? Even the ones that were only a few feet long? All at the same moment?) Many scientists now are reasonably certain of this. My own opinion is that the "level-of-factness" is between "medium" and "soft-and-mushy" — and today I am leaning more towards "medium." But, next month, or next year, my opinion of the "level-of-factness" may change.

SOFT-AND-MUSHY

- Political Science, Religious Science, and Military Science and Tactics (MS and T) are, or are not, very scientific.
- Sarah Palin always looks the same. Lady Gaga always looks different. Thus, Lady Gaga is obviously the most interesting of the two.
- Charter high schools are better than public high schools. This fact is backed up by several recent "scientific-type" studies. Also, it is a fact that several other recent "scientific-type" studies have found the opposite conclusion.
- The threat of the death penalty deters (some?) people from committing violent crime.

There are also facts that are totally irrelevant, even if they are 100% true.

- Some people go to university and drop out before they graduate. Some of those drop-outs go on to become very wealthy and/or very famous. Thus, university-drop-out can be a good strategy for some young students to adopt.
- On the TV news the other night, it was stated that a recent study of many college graduates, a high percentage could not distinguish facts from opinions.

I have a B.S. and M.S. in engineering from UCLA, and have been a professional systems analyst for over 30 years; and I still cannot tell the difference (between opinion and fact) for many things that I read or hear.

Maurice Pollack

(*Reference: see page 23)

Mauri-

I finally received your Clemens/Twain “opinion” piece.

It is true that I come across as opinionated.

All that any of us know is what we’ve experienced, seen and heard. Seeing isn’t necessarily a path to truth. One can’t believe everything that they hear.

I can only write about that which I have personally experienced and generally I write it in a dogmatic fashion.

This is partly intended to stoke a readership response. You are one of the very few who has responded.

When I was in the service, they taught me Russian and sent me to Germany for a three-year paid European vacation. Basically I spied on the Soviets. I had a Top Secret-Crypto clearance and knew a lot of that about which the public was kept in the dark.

What the Soviets did may not have necessarily mitigated a lot of what we did – and I still was aware of how their approach to things social was to severely subjugate.

My 35 years in the San Francisco Police Department (again in positions of interest) left me experiencing the intolerable consequences of hypocrisy and double standards that we were supposed to pretend away or apparently were too stupid to notice.

I’ve said before, everyone is entitled to their own opinion and not to their own facts.

I agree with you. Discerning the difference between facts and opinions is not an easy task. And we are in a position wherein we are obligated to act as though we’ve been educated by more than spending a questionable amount of time reviewing the likes of re-runs of such fare as “The Dukes of Hazard.”

Thanks for having contacted me.

I hope to hear more from you.

Bob McAllister

Solitaire Balderdash!

by Travis McCord

A semi-regular feature of Game Night (inasmuch as anything about Game Night is regular) is playing Balderdash®. The basic play of the game itself is simple: one player reads an obscure word, the other players write down either a guess as to the definition or a definition they think will fool the others, and then they all guess which one's correct.

Apparently obscure words have their own appeal. These are some of the recent weird words featured on the website "Futility Closet."

www.futilitycloset.com

1. piscation, n.
   a. mountain climbing
   b. drawing computer graphics
   c. scratching oneself
   d. fishing
   e. pipe dreaming

2. ultracrepidarian, adj.
   a. covered in an overabundance of crepe
   b. aging rapidly
   c. giving opinions and advice on topics beyond one's knowledge
   d. above a layer of air pollution
   e. artless in a particularly bombastic way

3. expergefaction, n.
   a. waking up
   b. throwing up
   c. giving up
   d. sending up (say, in a balloon)
   e. sending up (i.e., satirizing)

4. syrtic, adj. relating to:
   a. halitosis
   b. printing
   c. quicksand
   d. floor wax

5. avetrol, n.
   a. airborne non-avian animal
   b. bloody ill-bred bastard
   c. Cunning misconstrued con
   d. dimwitted drawling drunk
   e. effectively engineered effluence

6. cark, v. give or take:
   a. give a gift
   b. take a nap
   c. give blood
   d. take from another
   e. give a damn

7. tauromachy, n.
   a. artistic keening
   b. bull fighting
   c. carving ivory
   d. dancing style
   e. etching metal

8. nullibiety, n. means you're...
   a. lost
   b. thinking
   c. hungry
   d. nowhere
   e. unconscious

9. mulierose, adj.
   a. liking women
   b. adorned with flowers
   c. melancholy
   d. just woke up
   e. lost again

10. sialoquent means speaking:
    a. softly
    b. with a lisp
    c. confidently
    d. with a growl
    e. wetly

Bonus question: one of the legendary traits of vampires is that they vespertilionize, which means... what?

Happy Birthday

Birthstone: Aquamarine, Bloodstone

Flower: Jonquil

Astrological Signs:

Pisces: February 19 - March 20

Aries: March 21 - April 19



3	**Sandra Hughes**	Truckee
5	**Steven Silva**	Reno
12	**Jeffrey Milligan**	Reno
15	**Mark Pipes**	Reno
20	**Scott Kressmann**	Reno
23	**Brett Boge**	Reno
26	**Dr. William Downie**	Carson City
26	**Donald MacGregor**	Reno
27	**Loren Loiseau**	Reno
27	**Dwayne Palos**	Sparks
28	**Jenny R Reichert**	Reno



Welcome!

and Welcome Back!

Ed Hanley, Reno; Dwayne Palos, Sparks;
Dr. Bradley Pastro, Carson City;
Rebecca Weber, Reno

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

Notes From Your ExComm Feb 19, 2011

- Present were Annemarie McTaggart, 1st Vice-Secretary; Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; Anna Wright, *Neva-Mind* Editor; and Ed Hanley, Past LocSec.
- Also present were Richard Arbib, Program Chair; Mindy Hsu, Testing Chair; and Ken Wright, RG Chair.
- The ExComm did not convene an official meeting.

From Your Gatherings Chairman

by Ken Wright

In January I attended the Southern Nevada Mensa Leadership Development Workshop (LDW,) "Retreat to the Future," moderated by RVC9 Art Mattson. The focus of the event was to identify strengths and weaknesses of the group, set goals, and outline a course of action to reach them. During this all-day session, attended by thirty-five members of varying age and experience, there were numerous spirited discussions and ideas offered illustrating the immense diversity of Mensa minds.

As an outsider, I refrained from interfering as much as possible in order to allow the Southern Nevada members to get involved and become part of the process. When asked, I did offer my opinions and conversed with RVC Mattson during breaks. Having attended numerous LDW workshops myself, I knew both scenario and syllabus and the event went as expected. Goals were set, an action plan was created and volunteers raised their hands. A lot of the success will depend on the follow up efforts by the leadership of the local group.

One idea that arose during the workshop was to have those in attendance write down on a piece of paper, an event or activity that they wanted to see happen and were willing to volunteer their time and effort on. I would like to pursue this idea within Northern Nevada Mensa via our Neva-Mind, e-list and by word of mouth at meetings and functions.

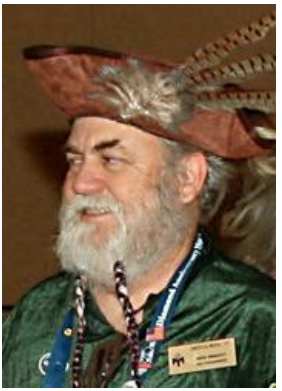
If there is an event, activity, or idea concerning our local Mensa group that you would like to see go forward, and would be willing to give any amount of time or effort to make it happen, please contact any member of the ExComm or send it to: editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org.



Speaking of ideas and events, your next regional gathering, "Wild West Reno Style," will take place September 30 to October 02, 2011, at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno. Local participation has grown steadily over the last three years, as has attendance, and we want to keep the momentum going.

At last year's RG a long-time member, but first time volunteer, said to me, “I had no idea that I would have so much fun. I want to help

again next year." And she will be welcomed, as will anyone who wants to be a part of our crew.



Gatherings are about having fun and learning new things. It has been our goal since the beginning that everyone should have a good time at a Reno gathering, and that specifically includes the crew. I take it as a very good sign that our host hotel staff vie for the chance to work with us and give up their own free time to attend and watch our presentations and events, because they are fun and interesting.

I ask that local Northern Nevada Mensans give us a try and see for yourselves just what it is we are doing and why this RG has so quickly become the "can't miss it" gathering.

AG 2012 News



We have been traveling from group to group recruiting volunteers for the big show in 2012, and have been very successful so far. The "End of Time AG" will be the event that will be remembered for decades to come as the party that rocked the house! This AG will be one for the record books in multiple ways, two of which are; this will be the 50th AG held in United States, and I believe that we will have the most past AG Chairs on the crew of any ever held.

I am making a special request that as many Northern Nevada Gathering Crew as possible, attend the Portland AG in July. It is especially important for those who have never experienced an AG to see and feel first-hand the energy generated by thousands of Mensans in one spot.

Local members will be needed at our AG to help as speaker shepherds, tour leaders, security, at the information desk, in hospitality and countless other jobs. You can put in as few as two hours or many as you would like. There are sitting jobs and walking jobs, literally something for everyone.

The members asked me to bring them an AG and I have done so. Now I am asking the members to attend their own party. It is as simple as that. Join us and make it so. ■



POMPEII AND THE CHARIOTS *by Maurice Pollack*

For many years I worked at the commercial division of Lockheed Aircraft; where the L-1011 Tristar was produced. During that period I had a trip to a transportation conference to be held in Vienna, Austria. I was to fly from LAX to New York, then to London, and finally to Vienna, with the reverse itinerary upon return. Part of the trip was via Trans World Airlines (TWA), which had purchased the L-1011. The Lockheed facility was adjacent to the Hollywood-Burbank airport. One day, during the lunch hour, I walked over to the TWA ticket counter. I asked what the additional air fare would be if I added a side trip. Instead of returning direct from Vienna to London; I wanted to go from Vienna to Rome and then to Naples, and return from Naples to Rome and to London. The side trip would cost me $25. I grabbed it. (I don't know if this was the normal amount, or because I worked at Lockheed. I didn't ask.)

At Naples I rented the smallest Fiat they had, with stick shift. Gasoline was (and still is) very expensive in Italy. In the immediate vicinity of Naples there is an incredible number of things to see — other than Naples itself.

I also went to Pompeii in January, but there were many tourists from bus tours. After listening to some of the guides, I started to explore the city on my own. I had checked out of my motel that morning, but because the city was so interesting, I spent the whole day there and checked in that evening to the same motel.

For many years I was a systems analyst, specializing in logistics and transportation. I thus started to pay attention to the street system. The city streets are primarily laid out in a rectangular fashion. Most of the streets are narrow, some are wider, and exactly two are the widest. The two widest streets are perpendicular to each other and at their intersection there is a large open area and a statue at the center.

The stones that pave the streets are not cobblestones. They are large flat-surfaced blocks. Many of the streets have deep chariot tracks. The narrow streets have one pair of tracks. The wider streets have three tracks. And, the two widest streets have four tracks.

All of the tracks are deep, which to me, means that the chariots were going quite fast. The streets with three tracks were (and still are,) a mys-



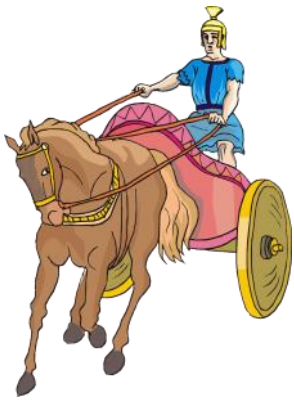
tery to me. “Three” means that these streets had some two-way traffic.

But, if two chariots are approaching in opposite directions, then at least one of the chariots must get off his track to let the other pass by. But, which chariot got off his track? It seems like an ancient game of chicken. And, thus a 3-track street doesn’t seem any better than a 2-track street.

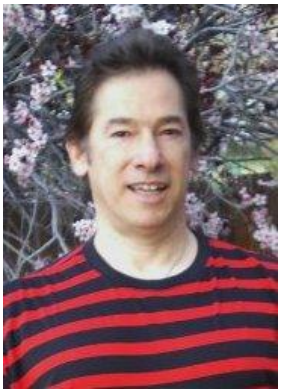
(Years later I read that modern railroad tracks are the same distance apart as these ancient chariot tracks. It didn’t occur to me to measure the separation of the chariot tracks, and I cannot add to that statement.)

The city site itself is flat, but it is not altogether level. A few of the streets that go to the upper end of the city, begin to converge. At their end, they come together. And, at that spot there is the outlet of a water reservoir. At the outlet itself is a large smooth beautifully sculptured block of white marble, whose function is to split the outgoing stream of water into the gutters of the converging streets.

Much later in the afternoon, the crowds had mostly left. I was wandering in the lower part of the city, where the flat area comes to an abrupt end. Streets here ended suddenly, and one must turn either right or left to continue. On one of these streets, with a deep chariot track, there was a sharp right turn. How did the driver, who was also going fast, know that there was a sharp right turn just ahead? And, that driver was indeed going fast — there is no other logical explanation for the formation of deep tracks. For no conscious reason, I began to look up. There, higher on a wall, was a right-turn arrow made from white and black pieces of mosaic stone!



It was very quiet, no people in sight, no sound of hoof beats, just a pair of chariot tracks, and a 2,000 year-old chariot right-turn traffic sign, a bit surreal, and more than a bit amazing. ■



by Richard Arbib

March Monthly Meeting

Saturday, March 19
Dinner at Round Table Pizza Restaurant
Time:
Arrive at 6 p.m. sharp

Program Listing

Speaker, Gary Campbell
Address: 801 West 4th Street Reno (Near Keystone Ave.)
The restaurant is giving us a separate room with a large television.
Speaker: Mensa member, Gary Campbell, will give a slide show of his motorcycle trip at the Moab Slickrock Bike Trail.

Next Month:

April Monthly Meeting

Saturday, April 16

Speaker: Joey Ray, NRA instructor and owner of local company, Family Defense, will present his seminar, "Refuse to Be a Victim."
Host: Mark Simkin
Address: 550 Creighton Way, Reno, NV 89503 (Northwest Reno)

It really *IS*



THAT SIMPLE!

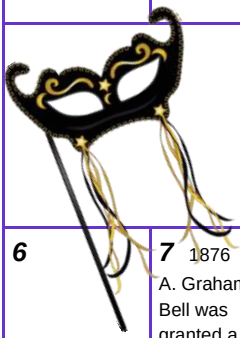
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888/294-8035 ext. 199



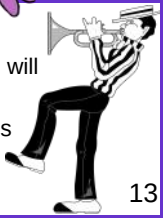
Registration is just a few clicks away:
http://www.ag2011.us.mensa.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home13

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		***1*** 1921 Harry Houdini was granted a patent for a "diver's suit"	***2***	***3*** 1821 T. Jennings received a patent for "dry scouring of clothes."	***4*** 1955 The first radio fax transmission was sent across the continent.	***5*** **Game Night at Joe's**
6	***7*** 1876 A. Graham Bell was granted a patent for the telephone.	***8*** Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras 	***9*** Ash Wednesday	***10*** 1862 The first United States paper money was issued.	***11*** **Sacramento RG**	***12***
13 Daylight Savings Begins 	***14*** 1794 Eli Whitney was granted a patent for the cotton gin.	***15*** Ides of March 	***16***	***17*** St. Patrick's Day 	***18*** 1910 Rose O'Neill's *Kewpie* doll was copyrighted.	***19*** **Mensa Meeting**
20 Spring Equinox & Purim	***21***	***22*** **Lunch Bunch**	***23*** 1956 *West Side Story*, by Leonard Bernstein, was copyrighted.	***24***	***25***	***26*** 1895 Lumiere and Jenkins each patent a motion picture machine.
27 1790 The first shoelaces were invented.	***28***	***29*** 1933 *42nd Street*, the movie, was copyrighted.	***30*** 1956 Woody Guthrie's song, *This Land Is Your Land*, was copyrighted.	***31*** 1981 Ananda Chakrabarty patented a new single cell life form.	***April 1*** April Fool's Day 	***April 2*** **Game Night at Joe's**

Game Night at Joe's Place:
Saturday March 5. Potluck.
4:30 until 8:30 p.m.
1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks
Contact: Joe (775) 338-6521or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch:
In honor of Mardi Gras where else but Jazz will do? Join us at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday March 22 at Jazz Restaurant in the Legends Shopping Center, 1180 Scheels Drive, Sparks. Contact Loren 746-2938.



It's Mardi Gras *by Anne Stewart*



When?

Mardi Gras is actually the end of the party! In 2011, it falls on March 8 (Fat Tuesday).

The festivities really start with ***Carnival*** beginning on Twelfth Night (January 6). The date changes every year because it's connected to Easter, which can fall on any Sunday between March 23 and April 25. Mardi Gras is scheduled to be 47 days before Easter. Fat Tuesday is the final day of revelry before Ash Wednesday when Lent begins.

The first Mardi Gras parade was held in New Orleans on February 24, 1857, by *Ye Mystick Krewe of Comus*. They began the tradition of presenting a parade with floats and following it with a private, formal ball. In 1875 Louisiana declared Mardi Gras a legal state holiday.

In New Orleans, the formal end of Mardi Gras arrives with "the Meeting of the Courts," a term describing the ceremony at which Rex and His Royal Consort, the King and Queen of Carnival, meet with the King and Queen of the Krewe of Comus at the conclusion of the two groups' masked balls.

Where?

We may think of Carnival in the U.S. as unique to New Orleans, but in fact the oldest American celebration started in Mobile, Alabama, in 1830. Pensacola, Florida started it's own tradition in 1874. Today there are also huge celebrations across the south and Mardi Gras is spreading across the country, with more and more communities sponsoring events each year.

Who?

Throughout Carnival, parades and balls are sponsored by clubs called ***Krewes.*** The parades are free and open to the public. The balls are usually reserved for Krewe members and invited guests. Each Krewe has its own themes and traditions based on a vast number of subjects. For example, the Krewe of Barkus is the only one in New Orleans by and for the canine population! Many Krewes are active year-round, sponsoring fund raisers and participating in community service activities.

The second oldest club is the Krewe of Proteus, founded in 1882 and basing its theme on Egyptian mythology. A good list of Krewes can be found at: www.mardigrasneworleans.com/parades.html.

Traditions

Throws

The tradition of “throws” started in the 1870s when float riders from the Twelfth Night Revelers began tossing trinkets to the crowds. Popular throws are beads, cups and stuffed animals. In 1884, the Krewe of Rex started using medallions featuring the parade theme and the Krewe emblem. Also called Dubloons, they are still among the most coveted souvenirs.

Lots of Color!

The Krewe of Rex selected purple, green and gold as the official Mardi Gras colors in 1872. The 1892 Rex parade theme “Symbolism of Colors” gave them their meanings: purple for justice; green, faith; and gold, power.

Mardi Gras even influenced the choice of school colors for arch rivals Louisiana State University (purple and gold) and Tulane University (green and blue).

Masks

One of the key traditions in the New Orleans Mardi Gras celebration is the wearing of masks to conceal your identity while you party. The masks are worn at balls as well as parades and parties. Many resemble Venetian half-face masks with gems, feathers and colored paint.

Masks are worn by Krewe members, tourists, and citizens during the last hours of Fat Tuesday. Laws against concealing one's identity with a mask are suspended for the day. Banks are closed, and some businesses and other places with security concerns (such as convenience stores) post signs asking people to remove their masks before entering.

The King Cake

An old European tradition, King Cake, is associated with Twelfth Night and the Feast of Epiphany. The cake has a small trinket (often a small plastic baby) inside. The person who gets the piece of cake with the trinket has various privileges and obligations (such as buying the cake for the next celebration!).

New Orleans king cakes come in a number of styles. The most simple, said to be the most traditional, is a ring of twisted bread topped with icing or sugar, usually colored purple, green, and gold, the traditional Carnival colors. Cajun king cakes are traditionally deep-fat-fried like doughnuts, and there are many variants, some with fillings such as cream cheese and praline. ■



This photo has been released into the public domain by its author, Darjeelingtea at the wikipedia project.

Mensa for Kids!

(and kids at heart)
by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

Geronimo Jones:
In the following problem (Problem 1), how are the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 assigned to the letters A, B, C, D and E, so that the answer to the multiplication problem results in the largest answer?

PROBLEM 1:

```
  A B C D
    x   E
 ----------
 ? ? ? ? ?
```



PROBLEM 2:
Problem 2 is more interesting, and also more difficult. Assign the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 to the same 5 letters, so that the multiplication problem results in the largest answer.

```
  A B C
  x D E
 ----------
 ??????
```



Check out this event happening in Reno,
Dragons & Dinos, Breathing Fire
from Feb 12 - June 12
at the Wilbur May Museum
http://www.Maycenter.com.
Thanks for this notice goes to Mindy Hsu.

We've also got an easy computer graphics program where you can explore fractals and chaos.
See page 20.

"Surf's up, Dude!
Look at all these great websites!"



Awesome new link added by our new webmaster to the *Mensa for Kids!* page on our own website: http://www.howstuffworks.com/.
Thanks John Preisach!
http://www.northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Here's a cool site to watch a simulation of our solar system in action:
http://dd.dynamicdiagrams.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/orrery_2006.swf .
Thanks for the link goes to Anne Stewart.



One way to begin to solve this problem is by "brute force." The number "1" can be placed in any of 5 places. Then, the number "2" can be placed in any of the remaining 4 places, etc. Thus, there are 5x4x3x2x1 = 120 possible ways to place these numbers. One of them must have the largest answer.

A second way to begin is to recognize that the numbers 5 and 4 must be assigned either to "A" and "D," or to "D" and "A." (Why?) So, the problem is now either 5BC x 4E or 4BC x 5E.

For either of these two assignments, there are then 6 ways to assign the numbers 1, 2, and 3 to the letters B, C, and E. So now, in total, there are only 12 multiplication problems to solve. This is a big improvement over the brute force approach that needed 120 answers.

Geronimo, being a bit lazy, tried a third approach. He simplified the original problem, and asked himself how the simpler numbers 5, 4, 0, 0, and 0 should be assigned to the 5 letters. His problem was then: 500 x 40 or 400 x 50. In both cases the answer is 20,000. (So, the final answer must be larger.)

His next task was where to place the number 3. And, his plan was not to move the 3 once he placed it. There are only two good places to put it. Notice that would be better to have "3" multiply a "5," than to multiply a "4."

Next place the number 2. There are three good places to consider. And, then there is only one place left to put the number 1. So, Geronimo now only had three multiplication problems to work out and not 12.

- 521 x 43 = ?
- 432 x 51 = ?
- 431 x 52 = ?

Taking a given math problem, and first trying to solve a simpler version, is one of the suggestions that Polya describes in his book *How To Solve It*. He published this book many years ago, and it is still available from Amazon.com. In paperback, it is less than $10.

About 50 years ago, Geronimo was employed at Stanford Research Institute, in Menlo Park, CA.. His wife was working at the American Trust bank, in Palo Alto, which was located at the edge of the Stanford campus. Polya was then on the faculty of Stanford University. He sometimes went to the bank to ask for help in balancing his checkbook register. Many good mathematicians are not very good at simpler arithmetic. The staff at the bank had no clue that he was world famous. So, if you are having some difficulty with school math, don't be discouraged.

Fifty years later some things have changed: Stanford Research Institute is no longer affiliated with the university. Because the university administrators did not want to be associated with the military research at the institute, it is now simply SRI International. American Trust bank is now part of Wells-Fargo. The sports teams at Stanford University are no longer the Indians; they are now the Cardinals. But, Polya's book is still very much in print, more that sixty years after it was first published. ■

Virtual Mardi Gras Masks *for an imaginary party*

by Anna Wright

I used to be a computer programming teacher and the beauty of computer generated art forms really appeals to my inner geek. I created all of these masks with a free (and safe) computer program that I downloaded from the internet. It is called *Chaoscope*. It can draw a variety of iterated chaos and fractal images with only a little direction from the artist. As a matter of fact, it's highly usable even by a "mathematically challenged" computer artist.

To create the masks I first chose a color palette and then made a pleasing image with a center hole. Using a computer graphics program, I duplicated the picture in mirror form and pasted the two together. Add a little virtual ribbon or a stick and "presto!" you've got an original Mardi Gras mask. Now, to find that party… (www.chaoscope.org) ■



Meet an AMC Secretary Candidate *by Jared Levine*

As the American Mensa Committee (AMC) Secretary, I will provide swift mini-minutes, less than one week after AMC meetings, so that the membership, in a timely manner, can keep abreast of the results of issues that were considered by the AMC. I will draft and make available Annual Business Meeting (ABM) minutes less than one month after the ABM is conducted. This will enable attendees to have a fresh recollection of what occurred and who said what, for attendees to provide any relevant suggestions for changes they might choose to submit well in advance of the subsequent year's ABM at which the minutes are voted on. Not only does the incumbent frequently take several weeks or longer to provide mini-minutes, she has also continued the practice of not providing draft ABM minutes until approximately a month before the meeting where they need to be approved, i.e., eleven months after the meeting they are recounting, when memories are hazy.

Not only do I differ from the current Secretary in the functional ways above, but we are also quite different in our views on some major policy-oriented items. I have advocated RVC replacement methods that would provide the full Regional membership a say; not only would electing an alternate simultaneously provide the membership that say, so would allowing a Special Election of the full Regional membership once a vacancy occurs. The incumbent, however, voted in favor of allowing only LocSecs that vote when the measure was before the AMC – a measure which, to many, is of dubious compliance with NY state law. I have supported bylaws amendments which would have explicitly provided for the AMC's ability, and even requirement, to review the decisions of the National Hearings Committee when there is any sanction recommended, rather than just the mandatory review when expulsion or suspension is recommended; the incumbent has voted against such measures. I authored and championed the bylaws amendment approved by the membership in 2009 which set the National Ombudsman's term of office to six years and revamped the procedure by which he is chosen. The incumbent favored changing that procedure before the inaugural election of the National Ombudsman was even finished.

Look to my blog – http://boxmasterscorner.blogspot.com – to see my views on other matters that have come before the AMC and even on local Metropolitan Washington Mensa matters. Also feel free to write me with your questions.

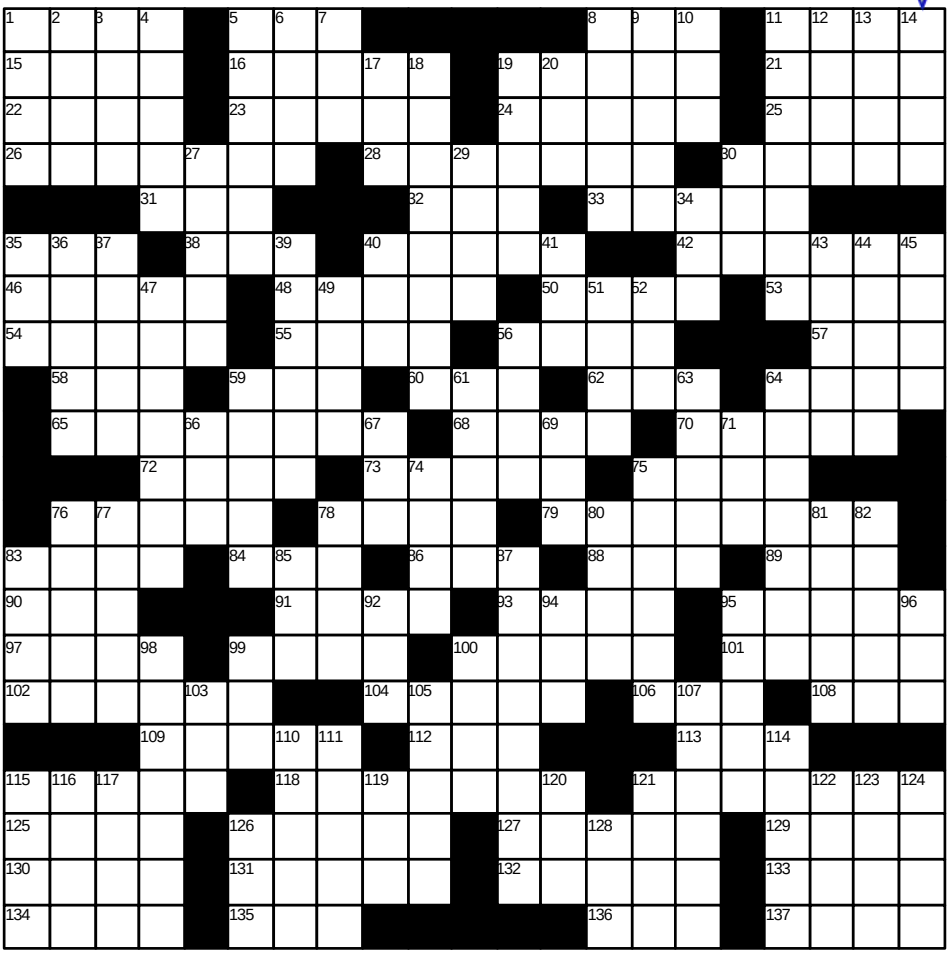
The *Neva-Mind* holds no opinion on any of the Mensa candidates or any statements made by them. All candidates are welcome to submit a single campaign statement of 500 words or less. Deadline is the 10th of each month.

Sincerely,
Jared Levine
Candidate for AMC Secretary
locsec@mwm.us.mensa.org

I Could Have Danced All Night…

crossword by Anna Wright





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ACROSS

1 The alphabet
5 Constrictor
8 Historic Irish dance
11 Hack
15 Droop
16 More adept
19 Glisten
21 Aloha!
22 Smell
23 Depart
24 Shack
25 Gets older
26 Lawfully
28 Writer
30 Sound of a sneeze
31 Misery
32 Actress Dawber
33 Hoard
35 Mexican dance easily learned by children
38 Heat unit
40 Motel
42 Beeped
46 Degrade
48 Susceptible

50 Always
53 Aching
54 Fender blemishes
55 Body builder's concerns
56 Seaweed substance
57 __ fire
58 Past
59 Digit
60 Keyboard back out key
62 Married woman
64 Idols
65 Jackson taught us
68 Hit
70 Cake
72 Any dance style with two partners
73 Heartache
75 __ fide
76 Dancer's concerns
78 Black
79 Expressive dance originated by Spanish Gypsies
83 Multicolor
84 Sticky black substance
86 "Good grief!"
88 Rascal
89 Crest
90 Extremity
91 Definitions book (abbr.)
93 Vegetable
95 Airways
97 Mo. originally named for the number seven
99 Sign
100 Dance b-boying style
101 Armor plate
102 Precipitated
104 Hung over one's back
106 Aged
108 Feign
109 Musical production
112 Ref
113 Possessive pronoun
115 Fiery Cuban dance
118 About an ancient Pan-Hellenic game/festival
121 Lively Polish folk dance
125 Draw
126 Spring flower
127 Donned (2 wds.)
129 __ St. Michel, France
130 Theatrical part
131 Coldhearted
132 Delete
133 Entice
134 Bark
135 Bench
136 Doctoral deg.
137 Pretentious



DOWN

1 Army truancy
2 Wait
3 You might need wooden shoes.
4 Hay
5 Highly structured performance dance
6 Comply
7 __ mode
8 Faster jitterbugs
9 Inactive
10 Harden
11 Dances in a Cuban style (and counts to three?)
12 Mr. Downs of 60 minutes
13 Margarine
14 __ Doble: Latin dance meaning two-step
17 First woman
18 Reaction
19 Disgrace
20 Today in Spanish
27 Ear parts
29 Fill
30 Sign lang.
34 Shortened book (abbr.)
35 Held
36 Right angle to a ships length
37 The last one was in Paris?
39 Clamor
40 Even bunnies do it
41 Lower limb
43 Mechanical dance style emanating from Disco
44 Wear away
45 Lairs
47 Crouched
49 Historic dance associated with a state name
51 Femme fatale
52 Make a mistake
56 Suffer
59 Chubby Checker's dance craze
61 __ *Kids*: dance featured in movie about Hitler youth
63 South African Gumboots
64 Recipient
66 Doze
67 Former USSR's secret police
69 Disconnected
71 Single
74 Trounce
75 Capital of Mali
76 Signal
77 Musical time
78 Canal
80 Pre-Euro Italian currency
81 Join in the line of dancers!
82 Visual
83 Elapse
85 High naval rank (abbr.)
87 Sailor's favorite
92 Nervous system (abbr.)
94 Barrel
95 Capital of Liechtenstein
96 Concord e.g.
98 Popular dance step today with origins in the 19th century Polka (two wds.)
99 Lyric poem
100 1970's fad dance with Disco origins
103 Government agcy.
105 Nubby
107 Lent
110 Course
111 Sanction
114 Cuban dance style
115 Quick
116 Healing plant
117 Lounge
119 Yang's partner
120 Mutt
121 Teens dance it in a "pit."
122 Howl
123 Loop
124 Lawyer (abbr.)
126 Cooking measurement (abbr.)
128 Bo Jangles; need I say more?



Answers

I Could Have Danced All Night answers:

A	B	C	S	■	B	O	A	■	■	■	■	■	J	I	G	■	C	H	O	P
W	I	L	T	■	A	B	L	E	R	■	S	H	I	N	E	■	H	U	L	A
O	D	O	R	■	L	E	A	V	E	■	H	O	V	E	L	■	A	G	E	S
L	E	G	A	L	L	Y	■	E	S	S	A	Y	E	R	■	A	C	H	O	O
■	■	■	W	O	E	■	■	■	P	A	M	■	S	T	A	S	H	■	■	■
H	A	T	■	B	T	U	■	H	O	T	E	L	■	■	B	L	A	R	E	D
A	B	A	S	E	■	P	R	O	N	E	■	E	V	E	R	■	S	O	R	E
D	E	N	T	S	■	R	E	P	S	■	A	G	A	R	■	■	■	B	O	N
■	A	G	O	■	T	O	E	■	E	S	C	■	M	R	S	■	G	O	D	S
■	M	O	O	N	W	A	L	K	■	W	H	O	P	■	T	O	R	T	E	■
■	■	■	P	A	I	R	■	G	R	I	E	F	■	B	O	N	A	■	■	■
■	S	T	E	P	S	■	E	B	O	N	■	F	L	A	M	E	N	C	O	■
P	I	E	D	■	T	A	R	■	U	G	H	■	I	M	P	■	T	O	P	■
A	R	M	■	■	■	D	I	C	T	■	O	K	R	A	■	V	E	N	T	S
S	E	P	T	■	O	M	E	N	■	B	R	E	A	K	■	A	E	G	I	S
S	N	O	W	E	D	■	■	S	L	U	N	G	■	O	L	D	■	A	C	T
■	■	■	O	P	E	R	A	■	U	M	P	■	■	■	O	U	R	■	■	■
S	A	L	S	A	■	O	L	Y	M	P	I	C	■	M	A	Z	U	R	K	A
P	L	O	T	■	T	U	L	I	P	■	P	U	T	O	N	■	M	O	N	T
R	O	L	E	■	S	T	O	N	Y	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	B	A	I	T
Y	E	L	P	■	P	E	W	■	■	■	■	■	P	H	D	■	A	R	T	Y

Mensa for Kids! Answers:

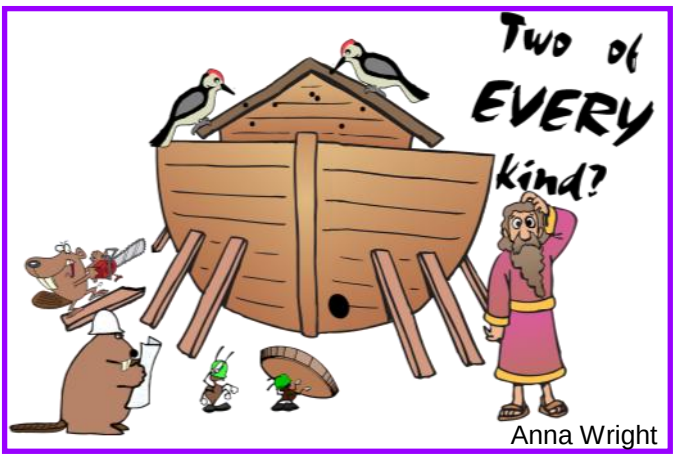
Geronimo Jones: Problem 1 = 21,605
Problem 2 = 22,412

Here is some Interesting reading: Singularity.org
Thanks Mindy!

Balderdash! answers:

1. piscation: d, fishing
2. ultracrepidarian: c
3. expergefaction: a
4. syrtic: c
5. avetrol: b (actually just 'bastard')
6. cark: e (to care or worry)
7. tauromachy: b
8. nullibiety: d
9. mulierose: a
10. sialoquent: e (spraying saliva when speaking)

Bonus Question: vespertilionize = turn into a bat



Anna Wright

Mensa-Speak *What are we saying?*

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)



* Reference from page 4: Mark Twain's essay "Corn-Pone Opinions," is in the book *The Best American Essays of the Century*; Joyce Carol Oats, editor; Houghton Mifflin Company 2000. It was purchased at Barnes and Noble, in Oakland, CA. (If you send your name and address to MCLPOLLACK@HOTMAIL.COM, I will mail a copy of the essay to you.)



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!**

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