Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 36, Issue 11, November 2012



Neva-Mind

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S.I.G.H.T. COORDINATOR
RECRUITMENT
UNR PROCTOR



A Note from the Editor

by Anna Wright



On the cover: A few years ago, Ken and I traveled to Sacramento *via* the California Zephyr. I photographed this beautiful tree from inside the train while we waited for the loading and unloading at one of the stops on the western side of the Sierra. It's a beautiful relaxing trip, especially in the fall.

I was asked to explain some of the math behind last month's cover picture. [For those of you with extensive mathematics knowledge, please forgive me if I paint with wide strokes and lots of generalities. A short, easy-to-understand explanation is my goal.]

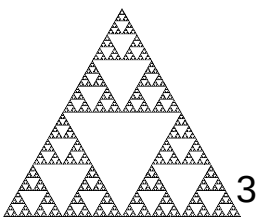
The basic definition of a fractal is a form that is self-similar. In other words, breaking off and looking at a small portion of the form reveals that it is identical to the larger one we started out with. Beginning with clouds, as the example, is usually the easiest for novices to visualize. If you break off a piece of cloud and look at it, it looks just like a cloud.

Mathematical fractals are often described in geometric terms as starting with a basic shape of some sort, applying a transformation to it. Then the new shape is subjected to the same transformation all over again, and again, and again, *ad infinitum*.

Then we add the idea of chaos. To almost everyone "chaos" implies an incomparable randomness, an unpredictability.

Before I retired, I was a high school math teacher. To introduce the chaos-fractal connection, I used to lead an experiment in my classroom. My students all began with the same large triangle. I had them choose any point, at random, inside their triangle and mark it as their starting point. Then using dice, they randomly chose a target vertex (1, 2, or 3) and moved their point ½ of the way towards that new vertex, drawing a new ending point on the picture. By iterating, that is repeating the process over and over again, they plotted (drew) many different points in their triangles. Predictably, it wasn't long before they were certain that I was wasting their time on what would eventually become a big scribble. I asked, "Did their drawings look alike?" "No." "Did their drawings appear to be random points?" "Yes."

Here's the kicker. By having the kids transfer their "random" points all onto one overhead transparency, a very distinct fractal began to form. What appeared to be chaotic or random points became the Sierpinski Triangle fractal — but only if enough iterations could be combined.



(Continued on page 4)

(Editor** continued from page 3**)

So why is this important? Suppose instead of starting with geometry, we start with algebra. How does one then "iterate" an equation?

We substitute a number (called the seed) into the equation, calculate, and get an answer. Then take that answer and substitute it back into the equation again to get another new answer.

Here's an example: $y = —.5\ x^2 + 1$

So, I pick a seed like 1 and use it as the x: —> $y = —.5(1)^2 + 1$

The answer is y = .5 Then I do it again: —> $y = —.5(.5)^2 + 1$

The next answer is y = .875 Do it again: —> $y = —.5(.875)^2 + 1$

That answer is approximately .6172

Are you bored yet? The answers don't really seem to be forming any obvious pattern… But, I did do this one lots of times (25 in this example) and I got the list of answers that I placed in the column to the right. I've also rounded off the answers to 3 decimal places. After a while, the answers all seemed to be coming out the same. Yahoo! It's .732.

When an iteration does this we say it "converges" and we can then plot that point (and only that one point) on the graph paper. Now I choose another seed number and start all over again to get another single point. Sometimes the seed number I have chosen does not settle in on any particular answer number within the number of iterations I say I'm willing to do. Some never do. Then there will be no point plotted for that seed at all. And, I start all over again with another seed number. Because the process is very labor intensive — that's a heck-of-a-lot of calculations — computers are much better at creating the images than we slow, cumbersome folk.

One more step is to set up a color palette that assigns ranges of colors to the number of times we have to iterate. Perhaps, we choose to use reds when the answer converges "quickly" (definitely a relative term) and blues when it takes many more iterations. Or greens and purples or … whatever.

Because we can use much more complex equations with computer assistance and allow for thousands of iterations for a myriad of seeds, what might have appeared to be a chaotic mess takes on shape and color when it's drawn.

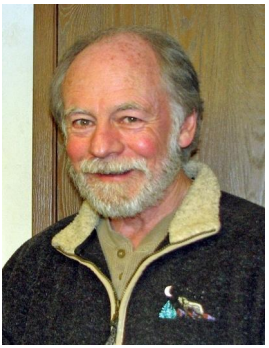
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This particular graphic, that I used as part of last month's cover art, took over 5 minutes for my computer to complete, once I had the correct equation(s), color palette, and seed numbers. It's actually a 2-dimensional drawing of a 3-dimensional form.



So, that's it. I created many images and then put together the ones I thought would work in the art piece. It's math, it's algebra and it's beautiful! ■

From the LocSec



by Bob McAllister

Not too Particularly Poor Me

There is a lament that I frequently find in writings of Mensans.

They were misunderstood and not appreciated.

I'm sure that is a dynamic that happens and that it has happened for a long time. It's not part of my experience.

In growing up, I occasionally would encounter an older, larger people who also happened to be a bully. Their attempts regarding me were lame, went no where and ultimately were a non-problem.

In my own life, I came across people who seemed initially to be resentful at my being able to understand new information without needing to be hand-held to get through it.

I knew people who, on first meeting me, were obviously suspicious. They had to be won over and, at worst, became resentfully respectful.

In my prior career, I was a maverick — neither a follower, nor a leader. My sometimes unorthodox approach to problem solving, again, gained respect and trust. They couldn't figure me out, but what ever it was that I did, it worked. So most try to follow the same path.

In spite of this, I do have a lament.

It was easy. I didn't have to try. I never seemed to have to put myself "out there" for a "test." To be sure, there were occasions in which I found myself in the midst of very hair-raising situations. I would have to admit, though, that I survived them not due to innate moxie or a to knack of turning bad stuff into acceptable outcomes. Often, the bottom line was that I merely was lucky.

I'm also lucky for not having been born into the God-forsaken likes of Sudan, the Black Hole of Calcutta, Rwanda, Afghanistan, the Iraqi desert, Pakistan. There are a many unforgiving places in the world when compared to here.

In a scientific sense, we are blessed, and we are in a place and time where its benefits can be accessed.

I feel very grateful. And I have a lament.

Having had it easy made me not just laid back, it made me lazy. Not a very commendable attribute. If I were to have to prove my self in another place or time, I very likely wouldn't be here writing this. ■

Additional Note:

The ExComm did not meet in October due to lack of a quorum.

Meet a Mensan an interview by Mindy Hsu

Meet Thomas Hall.



Tell me something I would know about you if I knew you well for a year.

If you knew me well for a year, you would know that I have a strange sense of humor. I enjoy inappropriate humor and dark comedy. I also tend to laugh at things most people consider juvenile. This does not mean that I am a mean or vindictive person, but I do try to find humor in most situations. I believe humor and laughter are essential to maintaining a small level of sanity, even if it makes you appear crazy to others.

What was the first time you knew you might be different from other people?

The first time I noticed the difference between me and my peers was in the third grade. I had moved from a large city school in Houston, TX to a small country school in Michigan. The teacher noticed I was finishing the work assignments much faster than the other students. I was given my own work area, behind her desk and allowed to work at my own pace. Halfway through the school year, I was working on fourth grade level text books.

What are the Pluses/Minuses/Interesting things about your job/ career?

I am currently 36 years old and finishing my undergraduate degree with a double major in Art and English. I never graduated high school. After changing schools 18 times by my junior year, I dropped out and worked a variety of odd jobs that included telemarketing, restaurant work, retail, warehouse, and household moving. At 21, I got a commercial driver's license and drove across country for three years before settling down with a local truck driving job in the Chicago area. Three years ago, my wife and I decided to start over, and so we moved to Reno so I could attend UNR. While I enjoyed the traveling I did as a truck driver, it was often very mind-numbing work. I really like the mental challenges of school, and am planning on attending law school in the fall of 2013.

(Continued on page 22)



Happy Birthday!



November

1	**Michael Shore**	Dayton
6	**Nathaniel Burkett**	Washoe Valley
7	**David Williams**	Incline Village
12	**Travis McCord**	Reno
12	**Rachael Pruyne**	Reno
13	**Anna Wright**	Fallon
14	**Frank Riley**	South Lake Tahoe
15	**Dr. William Jacobsen, Jr.**	Reno
16	**Darrell Rucker**	Sparks
18	**Diana Carter**	Reno
18	**Maurice Pollack**	Reno
19	**Melanie Supersano**	Reno
20	**Richard Arbib**	Reno
20	**Brian Carlson**	Truckee
21	**Dr. Bradley Pastro**	Carson City
21	**Keith Winchester**	Carson City
22	**Arthur Chenin**	Carson City
22	**Andrew Sadler**	Sparks
30	**Govi Hines**	Sparks



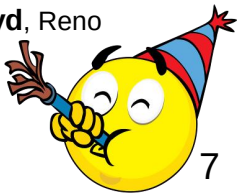


Welcome and welcome back!

Ashley Cullins, Reno

Karin Dixson, Reno

Andrew Floyd, Reno



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

The Romance Scammers

*by Mark G. Simkin**



They come from Nigeria, Ghana, and even the United States. They are not handsome men, but they send pictures of other, handsome men to make themselves more attractive to the women they befriend. These are the "romance scammers," but their goal is not love: it's money!

Dena White's story is typical. Her husband had died several years earlier and she was lonely. Her friends encouraged her to try Internet dating — the modern way to find a mate — and after several false starts, she met "Steve" online. He claimed to be a retired American army officer who had divorced several years earlier. Friendly patter over the Internet quickly gave way to daily conversations, instant messages, and increasingly romantic overtures on both sides.



Dena White

But after about a month, Steve suddenly stopped writing and Dena became more frantic with each passing day. Finally, after about a week, she got an email from someone claiming to be Steve's sister. Steve was in the hospital and had asked his sister to write to Dena, just to tell her how much he still cared for her. The sister wrote that Steve was in an Iraqi hospital and in desperate need of an immediate heart operation. He also needed $45,000 right away. Could she help?

Dena was so happy to hear that Steve was alive and thinking of her that she never gave the request for money another thought. After speaking to the woman long distance, Dena cleaned out her bank account and wired the money to "a foreign bank." Soon thereafter, further requests for funds arrived because "Steve wasn't doing well and needed expensive medicines he couldn't afford." Dena was about to mortgage her house and send yet additional funds, but the authorities stepped in. "Steve" was the creation of a scammer from Ghana, Steve's sister was really his wife, and Dena was one of several women on Steve's list of active targets.

Synopsis

The Internet provides the perfect cover for romance scammers on the prowl. They can operate anonymously, scam multiple women at the same time, and

provide fake pictures to increase their attractiveness. Older women are certainly not the only targets, but older women are especially vulnerable because they are often lonely and easily convinced they've found true love.

The stories come in endless varieties, but the basic pattern is the same: the scammer quickly declares his true love, and then — seemingly reluctantly — confesses that he needs money for some emergency. The target is always the only person who can help. Sometimes, the scammer begins with requests for small amounts — testing the waters. But these requests quickly escalate if the victim complies and her willingness and ability to send money becomes known.

The more people a con artist tries to scam at the same time, the more likely it is that he or she will make a mistake and tip off the recipient. In this case, if Steve is a "retired army officer," what is he doing in an Iraqi hospital?

The best protection against romance scammers is a simple matter of following one basic rule: never send money to an Internet date! Think about it: even if you are single and looking for that special person, are you really looking for a financially-bereft partner?

(Continued on page 22)



From the RVC

by Debra Reiger

If you get this in early November, remember to check out the RG that San Francisco Regional Mensa will be holding on November 16-18. It will be across the bay from San Francisco in Pleasanton, with optional tours of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Discovery Center and of Livermore Valley wineries. To find out more, check this web site: http://sfmensa.org/events/gatherings/rg2012/

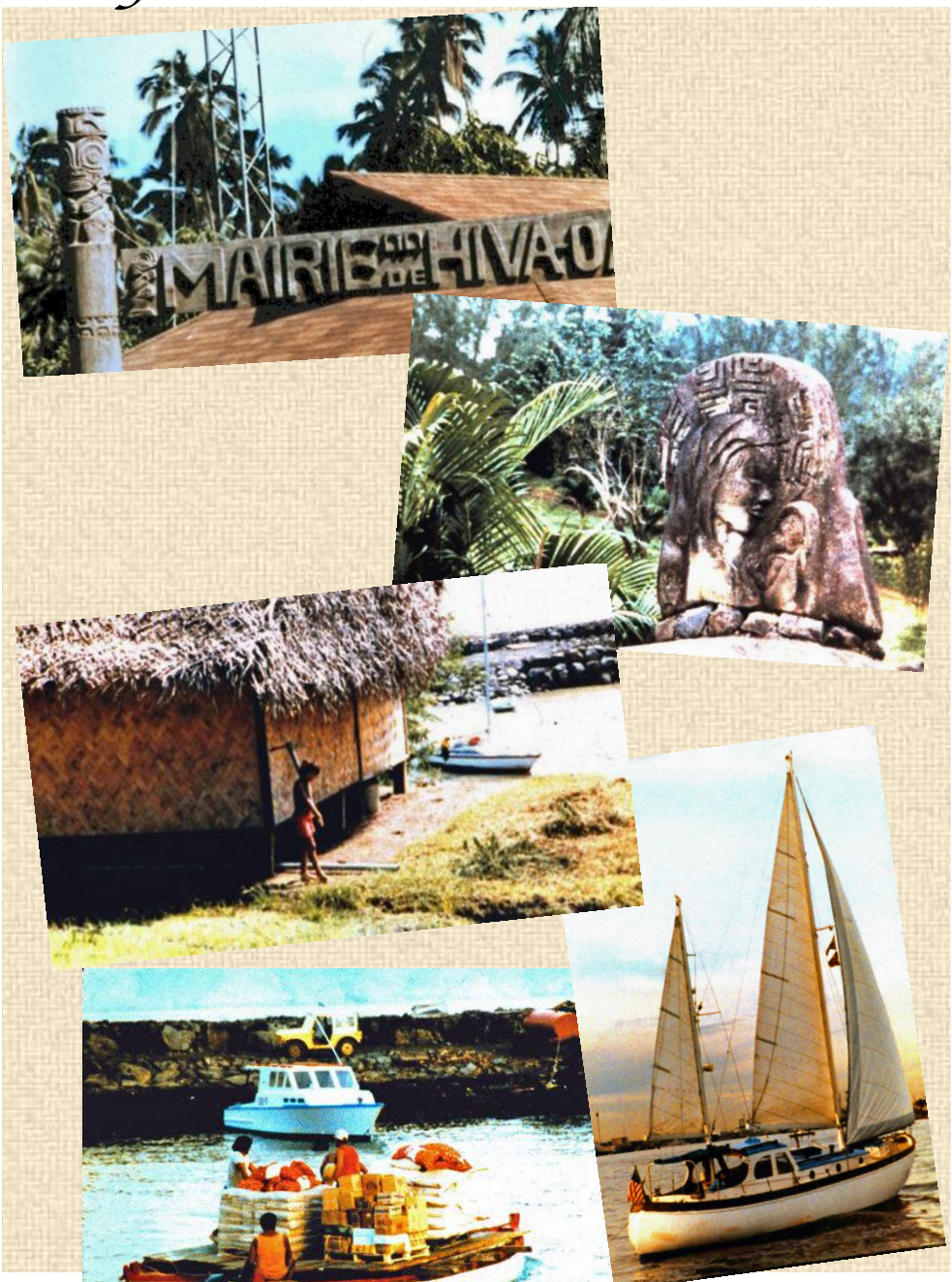
This is the time of year that I often think about family and friends, and am reminded to be thankful for what is good in my life. I'd like to encourage you to reach out to people with whom you have lost touch, to people that may need a little help, and to spend quality time with the people you care about. This is also a good time to think about donating gently worn clothing to community centers that provide for the poor and homeless. As winter approaches, the needs are greater. Food is always a big help too, if your community has a food bank or some kind of similar program.

I wish you a happy Thanksgiving (and other winter holidays, if you get this in December).

Best regards,
Debra, Rvc8@us.mensa.org

Postcards from French Polynesia

by Louise Lang



I asked Ms. Lang to add a paragraph (or two) about the trip:

"A paragraph doesn't begin to cover that trip. My husband and I (and my sister) sailed our own ketch there from Long Beach. I have written a book, *How to Scratch that Midlife Itch.*"









How to Scratch that Midlife Itch
PublishAmerica.com
http://www.publishamerica.net/product42213.html

Puzzle Page

by Travis McCord

So, I was putting together an article for the latest *Neva-Mind* — follow-ups to a couple of my previous masterpieces of journalism — when I remembered, oops, they want puzzles. No problem, I thought — Cryptograms! Everyone loves those! (And the fact that a computer can put it together didn't factor into this at all, nope, nosiree.) This is a short follow-up article to one of my prior pieces. Can you decode it?

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Eno pnel ciosw ors sfganms cgwsm ors bcuypcar aocwosm. Go ojwea njo orco ge ors fwnmjuswa' dscp on cffscp on orsgw icea orsv inwlno on mn anxs bcagu wsascwur.

Gi vnj mn c Lnnlps ascwur inw ors oswx "mswfv", ors igwao pgey orco'a eno cbnjo ors XPF:IgX urcwcuosw lnsa on jwbcemguognecwv.unx. Orsws vnj uce pscwe orco ors oswx "mswfv" rca c asunemcwv xscegel: "wsocwmsm". (Ors ecxs "Mswfv Rnnqsa" hca, wsxsxbsw, ungesm bv c fnaosw ne ors geicxnja hsbagos 4urce, hrgur co pscao nes unxxseosw wsiswa on ca "Ors Geosweso'a Caarnps".)

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Rcabwn injem njo cbnjo ors fwnbpsx c pgoops pcos ca hspp. Ors sfganms hca fjppsm iwnx gOjesa eno pnel ciosw cgwgel, cem pcosw wsfpcusm hgor nes ge hrgur ors ecxs "Mswfv" hca smgosm njo. Orsws hca cpan co pscao nes norsw urcels orco ors icea mgme'o clwss hgor: rsw qngus hca ahgoursm iwnx Ocbgor-c'a pnqscbps-lnnibcpp on anxs lseswgu mjxb-bpnems qngus.

Answers to both puzzles begin on page 23.

Orsws rca bsse anxshrco ni c bcuypcar, hgor c axcpp bjo qnucp lwnjf ni icea geagaogel orco ors ecxs “Mswfv” aocv. Bjo uneagmswgel go ga jpogxcospv Rcabwn — c “icxgpv-iwgsempv” unxfcev — orco ucppa ors arnoa, orsws’a c lnnm urceus ars xcv eno lso pgesa clcge. Orse clcge, orceya on ors cegxconwa ars’a aogpp ors bcuylwnjem “Hrsws’a Hcpmn” inw ors aswgsa.



COMPLEX LYRICS

That music magazine editor here again. I’ve talked to that one author; finally impressed upon him the need for simpler language. Not to say he doesn’t do it — but he sometimes does that over-educated language just to bug me. Here’s a great example. I asked him to transcribe the lyrics of a classic rock song. This is part of what he gave me. The weird part is, the original lyrics are almost as goofy as this. Can you name that tune?

(For extra fun, I've made it Cryptogram Challenge #2! — TM)

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Program Listings

by Richard Arbib

Program Nights: Second Saturdays, 6 p.m.

- November 10: Famous Dave's Restaurant is our destination for great BBQ and a presentation by local member, Dr. Howard Chen. Topic: "Ask the Doctor."
- December 15: Christmas party at the home of Loren MacArthur.

Contact Richard Arbib, Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org.

Supper Club: Third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

- November 20 - Niko's Greek Kitchen, 148 West St., Reno 284-3678
- December 18 - Hiroba Sushi (and, it's not just sushi), 3005 Skyline Blvd., Reno, 829-2788

For more information or to offer suggestions for future dinners contact Sandra Lackovic at ssmarticle@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch Fourth Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.

- November 27: Tired of eating turkey leftovers? Come to the November lunch at Burger Me, 6280 Sharlands, Reno, 737-9404
- December 25: Cancelled for the holidays

Contact Don or Laura MacGregor: 826-5904.

Mensa Admissions Testing:

Saturday from 3-5 p.m. at Grassroots Books, 660 E Grove St, Reno

- November 3 and December 1

Your contact is Mindy Hsu: mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com.

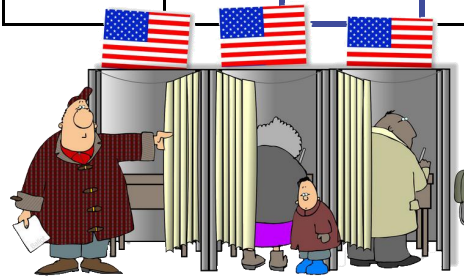
Symposi-M: On-line second Sundays, 5 p.m.

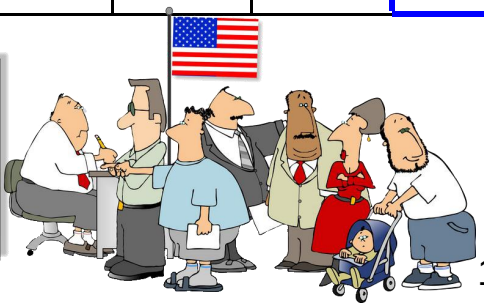
November 11: "The Game That Can Give You Ten Extra Years of Life" by game designer Jane McGonigal, who researches and employs gaming theory and design to promote improvements in our non-digital lives. She suggests that games can actually lengthen our lives by tapping into and promoting improvements in our individual mental, physical, emotional and social spheres of life. Watch the 19-minute video at http://www.ted.com/talks/jane_mcgonigal_the_game_that_can_give_you_10_extra_years_of_life.html.

After you watch each month's video, attend the live, Mensans-only online discussion at 5 p.m., Pacific time, in the General Chat room of the American Mensa online Community (http://www.community.us.mensa.org).

November 2012

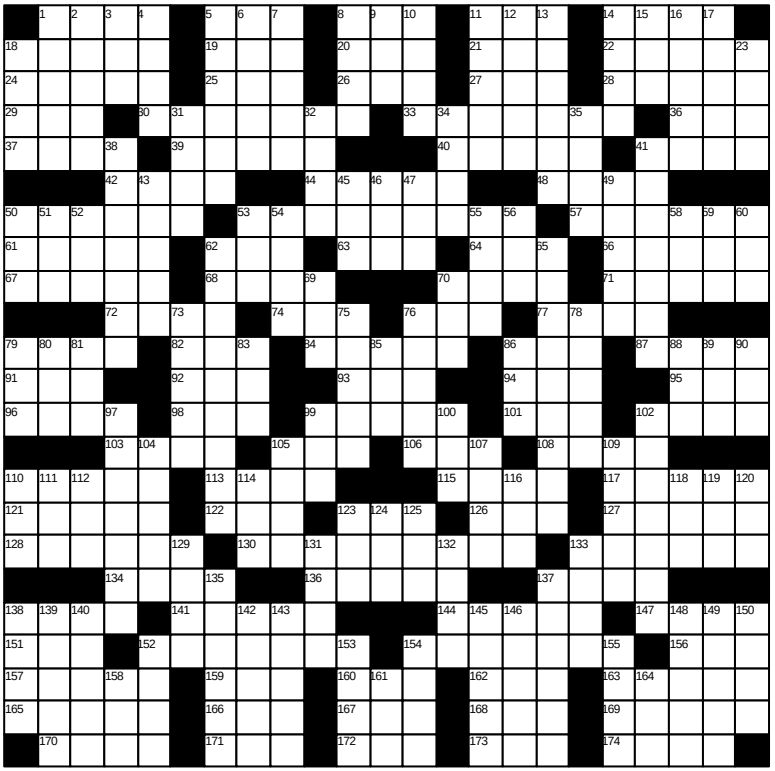
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Game Night at Joe's Place: First Saturdays, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Potluck. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks. Contact: Joe (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.				1	2	3 Game Night at Joe's & Testing
4 End of Daylight Saving Time	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10 Mensa Program: "Ask the Doctor"
11 Symposi-M & Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Supper Club	21	22 Thanks-giving 	23	24
25	26	27 Lunch Bunch	28	29	30	Dec 1 Game Night at Joe's





… and I Approved this Message."

by Anna M. Wright



© 2012 by Anna M. Wright

ACROSS

1 Jam
5 Tempo
8 Pay attention!
11 Reservoir
14 Reverberate
18 British county
19 Pub potable
20 North American Indian
21 Epoch
22 Exits
24 Animal enclosures
25 Rent
26 Miss
27 Not (prefix)
28 Extort
29 Fire remains
30 Not committed to a particular 43-d (2 wds)
33 One of the options for a 43-d to select its candidate
36 Deplete
37 Unpolished version
39 Helicopter "wings"
40 Adult insect
41 Penny
42 *Dick and Jane*'s pooch
44 Jacob's father
48 __-a-sketch
50 Lynx cousin
53 Government where the rulers are ruled by those they rule
57 One of the options for a 43-d to select its candidate
61 External
62 Heavens
63 Pose
64 Lube
66 Impetuous
67 Main impact
68 Family chart
70 Columbus' ship actually named the "Santa Clara"
71 Wood decoration
72 Colorer
74 __ Remo
76 Klutz
77 Not any
79 Slant
82 Strike sharply
84 Count
86 Dept. which checks food safety
87 Cafe
91 Throw
92 Hole punching tool
93 __ Squad
94 Query
95 The $$$ behind the campaign
96 Swivel
98 Mole
99 Sire
101 Bullfight cheer
102 Crafty
103 Dunking cookies
105 Family member
106 Fresh
108 Within
110 Mother
113 Cut of beef
115 Desire

117 Binary star
121 Arab chief
122 Schlep
123 "New" sub-group aligned with 118-d
126 Cutting tool
127 Tills
128 Leather maker
130 Office holder
133 Peeked
134 Blue-pencil
136 Misuse
137 *Star Trek* automatons
138 Tardy
141 Outstanding
144 Endemic
147 Zeal
151 Lea lass
152 Formal verbal confrontations
154 Attacks
156 “One” card game
157 Soft drink brand
159 Good grief!
160 Friend
162 July time in Des Moines
163 Stabs
165 Shoe bottom
166 Downwind
167 45, 78, or 33 1/3
168 Grow older
169 European country
170 Gas burner
171 Goof
172 Congressional vote
173 Scarlet
174 Infamous emperor

DOWN

1 Tag
2 Direction usually associated with conservatism
3 Be
4 Tableland
5 Voting paper
6 Skirt fold
7 Railway
8 Big
9 Terminal abbr.
10 Bark
11 Cloth
12 Scent
13 Supervise
14 Fidgety
15 Speak softly
16 12th amendment location for a tie-breaker decision
17 Piano-like instrument
18 Replace a striker
23 Mo. named for the number 7
31 Horse gait
32 Stern
34 Costa __
35 High School or College mil. training class
38 Rises
41 Stirred
43 Self-identified group of voters with similar ideology
45 Distress call
46 Expert
47 Creative work
49 Log house
50 Float up and down
51 Possessive pronoun
52 Energy unit
53 Danish money (abbr.)
54 Ocular organs
55 Do
56 Yang's partner
58 Thermal food unit
59 Where it's all happening this Nov
60 Bashful
62 A vote with non-binding results
65 Victory by an overwhelming margin
69 Dine
70 Congressional vote
73 Take away
75 Dubs
76 __ days (long ago)
78 Similar to an acorn parent
79 Sandwich
80 Promissory note
81 Reduced (abbr.)
83 Layer
85 Record
86 __ Schwarz
88 Government agency founded in Nixon Admin.
89 Dawdle
90 Arctic
97 Candidate
99 Container
100 X
102 The Constitutionally defined electors
104 Gathered the leaves
105 Ratify
107 Deprive
109 Candle
110 December in Denver time
111 Expression of surprise
112 Males
114 Yves’ "yes"
116 Extension (abbr.)
118 Republican (abbr.)
119 To be in debt
120 Hallucinogen
123 Basin
124 Flightless bird
125 Workout targets (abbr.)
129 Ascend
131 Upkeep
132 Sushi choices
133 Count opinions
135 Small tube
137 Lured
138 Direction usually associated with liberalism
139 Hip
140 Dogma
142 Beeper
143 Anesthetic
145 Award
146 Grub
148 Relating to the moon
149 __ Saxon
150 Snoopy
152 Twentieth century art philosophy
153 Energetic
154 __ mater
155 Strategy to use events or information to the candidate's advantage
158 Summer skin color
161 Baboon
164 Snacked

Answers on page 25

A Space Nerd Speaks by Ken Wright

Greetings sky watchers,

The "Leonids" may provide some good meteor shows for us this month, and the skies should be fairly dark at viewing time. I have included a couple of sky events that while not visible in our area are still noteworthy and good to know information.

Current news from NASA/JPL and the U.S. education world shows the interest in space science is once again increasing in our young people. I look forward to seeing and reading about the new wave of Americans who will brighten our future with their innovations.

The spacecraft in the NASA missions have really long service times. The investments made in these spacecraft have to be among the best deals going, as they routinely exceed the predicted lifetimes by double or more. If we could get the rest of the manufacturing world to adopt those standards we would only have to buy one car, or one phone. Just think, a new artificial heart might keep us going to 150 years old or more!

In the skies for November:

- November 04 - Time changes to PST at 02:00 local time. (Fall back one hour).
- November 13 - New Moon. The Moon will be directly between the Earth and the Sun and will not be visible from Earth. This phase occurs at 14:08 PST (22:08 UTC).
- November 13 - Total Solar Eclipse. The path of totality will only be visible in parts of extreme northern Australia and the southern Pacific Ocean. A partial eclipse will be visible in most parts of eastern Australia and New Zealand. (NASA Map and Eclipse Information <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEplot/SEplot2001/SE2012Nov13T.GIF>)
- November 17, 18 - Leonids Meteor Shower. The Leonids is one of the better meteor showers to observe, producing an average of 40 meteors per hour at its peak. The shower itself has a cyclic peak year every 33 years where hundreds of meteors can be seen each hour. The last of these occurred in 2001. The shower usually peaks on November 17 & 18, but you may see some meteors from November 13 - 20. The crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Look for the shower radiating from the constellation Leo after midnight, and be sure to find a dark location for viewing.
- November 27 - Conjunction of Venus and Saturn. These two bright planets will be within 1 degree of each other in the morning sky. Look to the east around sunrise.

- November 28 - Full Moon. The Moon will be directly opposite the Earth from the Sun and will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth. This phase occurs at 06:46 PST (14:46 UTC).
- November 28 - Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of Europe, eastern Africa, Asia, Australia, the Pacific Ocean, and North America. (NASA Map and Eclipse Information <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEplot/LEplot2001/LE2012Nov28N.pdf>)

Mission Control:

The missions I have chosen to highlight for this month are a dynamic duo working together to study the oceans on planet Earth:

Launched December 07, 2001 from Vandenberg AFB, CA, Jason 1 is an Earth satellite designed to monitor global ocean circulation, study the ties between the oceans and atmosphere, improve global climate forecasts and predictions, and monitor events such as El Niño conditions and ocean eddies.

Sent up to join Jason 1 on June 20, 2008, also from Vandenberg AFB, CA, the Ocean Surface Topography Mission /Jason 2 is an Earth satellite designed to make observations of ocean topography for investigations into sea-level rise and the relationship between ocean circulation and climate change. The satellite also provides data on the forces behind such large-scale climate phenomena as El Niño and La Niña.

These two orbiting platforms are providing real time data to improve forecasting of storms and statistical data to provide accurate sea-level rise tracking. We are getting a tremendous amount of work out of the Jason missions, and combined with the unmanned drone missions added this summer, NASA and NOAA are able to pinpoint storms within hours of formation and more accurately predict intensity and movement.

Jason 1 http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/details.php?id=5887

Jason 2 http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/details.php?id=5927 ■



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Thanks!



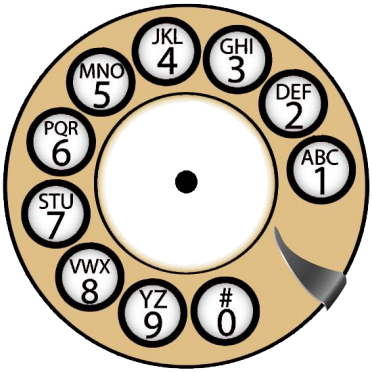
GrassrootsBOOKS

Mensa for Kids!

(and kids at heart) by Anna Wright

Use the old-fashioned rotary telephone dial to help you decode these election related words. Then use the special letters to find one more related word.

1. 7 2 **6** 5
2. 7 **3** 1 4 2 7
3. 2 5 2 5 6 **7** 2
4. 1 1 5 6 1 **3** 2 5
5. 5 5 5 3 5 1 **7** 2
6. 4 5 **1** 1 9 3 7 7
7. **6** 4 1 7 2 5 6 5
8. 7 7 6 **1** 7 2 3 9
9. 7 7 6 5 **5** 7 7
10. 7 7 2 2 2 6 **1** 3 2



Want to "Wow" your friends? Check out these amazing facts:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ni5HOdGtzM&feature=player_embedded



We've linked to some awesome optical illusions before and this one is no exception. From Brasspup on Youtube here's an animated optical illusion that you can make too.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=zdW7PvGZ0uM#!
Here are links for you need to make the same illusions. Use transparency film — only the kind made for your printer! Be careful; if any of the sizes change the effect will not work.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=DkaUsBwe0fo

↑ Here's something that's fun just to listen to. *Somebody that I Used to Know* by Gotye as played on electronic equipment (and, not necessarily musical equipment.)

http://i.imgur.com/OjcTQ.jpg
http://i.imgur.com/PTAm3.jpg
http://i.imgur.com/l2hoW.jpg
http://i.imgur.com/sm2dv.jpg
http://i.imgur.com/RvTpQ.jpg
http://i.imgur.com/rmhP0.jpg
http://i.imgur.com/JUjKj.jpg

GRAFFITI WALL







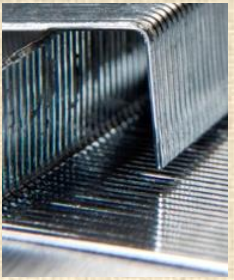




What *IS* it?

All of these extreme close-ups are of common objects you might find at home or at school. Can you identify them?

















Answers on page 24

(Meet a Mensan** continued from page 6**)

If you were to put a bumper sticker on your car, what would it be? / What is a principle that you live your life by?

I'm really not into bumper stickers that much, but I did once have a bumper sticker that said "Obviously you don't golf." It is a quote from the movie *The Big Lebowski*. In context, the quote is a response from *The Dude* to a question about what a bowling ball was. I liked the sarcasm of the quote, and the fact it was obscure enough that only fanatics of the movie would recognize it.

I don't know that I really have a principle that I live my life by. I could always say something cliché like "Stay positive." Or "Don't sweat the small stuff." But that wouldn't be very accurate. I try to do those things, but in reality I am such a mess. My life is not regulated enough to fit into one defining principal.

If you gave a 30-minute talk to Mensans, what would the topic be?

I don't know what I could talk about for thirty minutes. I know a little bit about a lot of stuff, but I don't really know a lot about any one thing to talk expertly about it for 30 minutes. I really like astronomy, comedy, and art, so I guess I could try and talk about those things, but I lack the confidence to say that I am an expert in any one of those fields. ■

(Romance** continued from page 9**)

For further reading, see: http://www.bbc.co.uk/crimewatch/solved/howtheycaught/ghana_datingscammers.shtml, and http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1358003/Woman-handed-50-000-dashing-American-general-met-dating-site--African-fraudster.html. ■

*Mark G. Simkin is a Professor of Information Systems at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Photo source/credit: Chris Brooke, "Woman Handed £50,000 to Dashing American 'General' She Met on Dating Site — And Then Found He Was an African Fraudster" Mail Online. Accessed at: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1358003/Woman-handed-50-000-dashing-American-general-met-dating-site--African-fraudster.html.

American Mensa's CAREERLINK

Cryptogram #1: answer

The Derpy Controversy

Fans of the wall-eyed background Pegasus from Friendship is Magic were extremely happy with the episode “The Last Roundup” — she actually got lines!

In a move that completely stunned the audience, “Derpy” was not only addressed by (fan) name but actually got a bit of dialogue that turned out to be a somewhat important plot point for the episode. It was later revealed that her voice was done by voice-of-Rarity Tabitha St. Germain. There were, however, some glitches... (Not the least of which was that Tabitha apparently thought Derpy was a boy.)

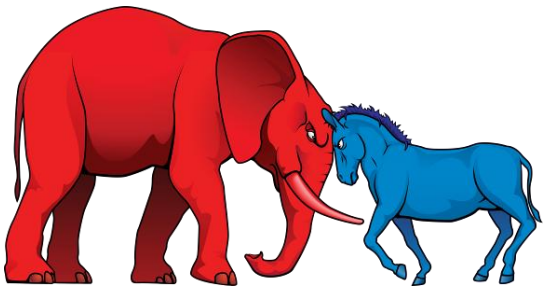
Not long after the episode aired the backlash started. It turns out that in the producers’ zeal to appeal to their fans they forgot to do some basic research.

If you do a Google search for the term “derpy”, the first link that’s not about the MLP:FiM character goes to urbandictionary.com. There you can learn that the term “derpy” has a secondary meaning: “retarded”. (The name “Derpy Hooves” was, remember, coined by a poster on the infamous website 4chan, which at least one commenter refers to as “The Internet’s A - - hole”.)

This little tidbit caused considerable controversy and a bit of irony in that the episode’s author, Amy Keating Rogers, has a retarded child (forgive the term, but typing out any of the various politically correct alternatives would be a pain in the flank) and is therefore very interested in avoiding the use of derogatory terms such as “Derpy”.

Hasbro found out about the problem a little late as well. The episode was pulled from iTunes not long after airing, and later replaced with one in which the name “Derpy” was edited out. There was also at least one other change that the fans didn’t agree with: her voice was switched from Tabitha’s loveable-goofball to some generic dumb-blonde voice.

There has been somewhat of a backlash, with a small but vocal group of fans insisting that the name “Derpy” stay. But considering it is ultimately Hasbro — a “family-friendly” company — that calls the shots, there’s a good chance she may not get lines again. Then again, thanks to the animators she’s still the background “Where’s Waldo” for the series. ■



Mensa for Kids! answers:



Telephone Dial answers:

1. T E **R** M
2. T **I** C K E T
3. E N D O R **S** E
4. C A M P A **I** G N
5. N O M I N A **T** E
6. L O **B** B Y I S T
7. **P** L A T F O R M
8. S T R **A** T E G Y
9. T U R N **O** U T
10. S U F F E R **A** G E

B I P A R T I S A N

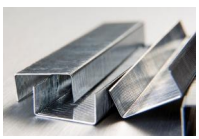
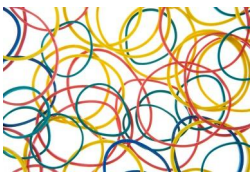
What *IS* it? answers

Staple puller
Clothes pin
Stapler
Cassette tapes
Adhesive tapes
Computer cord
Staples
Rubber bands
Pencils (unsharpened)
SD media card
Spiral notebook
Paperclip











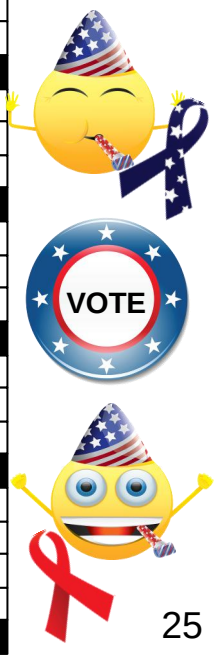

COMPLEX LYRICS (translation step)

Schizophrenic percussionists, disappointing experiences
Native Americans during the warm months accompanied by an adolescent arbitrator.
At the local landfill with epidemic parotitis as the near mature human drives fluid as a method of entering headgear.
Supporting a large lithoform upon my torso-arm connection experiencing the physiological and psychological effects of aging
I physically impeded the progress of the carousel
Accompanied by its extremely un-aesthetic nasal irritant expulsion and labored breathing the steam-powered whistle instrument experienced catastrophic gravitational acceleration and impacted the firmament.
Because she was…

(Cryptogram #2 final answer on page 26)

...And I Approved This Message answers:

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



Cryptogram #2 (final answer)

Madman drummers bummers,
Indians in the summer with a teenage diplomat
In the dumps with the mumps as the adolescent
pumps his way into his hat
With a boulder on my shoulder, feelin' kinda older,
I tripped the merry-go-round
With this very unpleasin', sneezin' and wheezin,
the calliope crashed to the ground.
Because she was…

Blinded by the Light
written by Bruce Springsteen,
covered by Manfred Mann's Earth Band.





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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)



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