

# *Spirit of 76*

*The Official Newsletter of Mensa 76, Fort Worth, Texas*

*Volume XXXVII, Issue 4*

*April, 2009*



## THIS MONTH

Many scientific sources make it appear that the Theory of Evolution is no longer a theory. Is that the truth? Is there any science that supports Creationism and Intelligent Design Theory, or has Darwin finally closed the book on the possibility of God and an intelligently designed creation? Chris Johnson, an Associate Pastor at Glenview Baptist Church, will be presenting scientific evidence for creationism and intelligent design at our April 13th meeting.

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**ILLUSTRATION:** *Actual photograph of the Creation taken with Hy Siegel's camera. Hy swears that he doesn't go back that far even though his camera does. Me? I'm keeping an open mind.*

## *Spirit of 76*

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INTERIM Editor: Bobby Bush

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“If you’re offered a choice between smart and lucky, choose lucky. If the choice is between smart and rich, choose rich. If you get stuck with smart anyway, just try to make the best of it.”

—Waylen Gitarz

This is YOUR newsletter. That means you also get to contribute to it - your witty sayings, puzzles, erudite articles or artwork are all welcome.

**Mensa 76's website:** <http://mensa76.us.mensa.org/>

**NTM (Dallas Mensa's) website/calendar:** <http://www.northtexasmensa.org/>

**American Mensa's website:** <http://www.us.mensa.org/>

**To join Mensa 76's online forum visit:** <http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/mensa76/>

**To post to the forum (after you've joined):** [Mensa76@lists.us.mensa.org](mailto:Mensa76@lists.us.mensa.org)

## FROM THE (NEW) RVC

by **ROGER DURHAM**

Greetings and most sincere best wishes from your new Regional Vice Chairman. While some of you may already have heard at least part of the story, I feel it is only fair that I begin by explaining why I am writing this column in place of Ralph Rudolph.

Last fall, Ralph published a comment that had been made in confidence in an AMC-only e-mail. Ralph says this was inadvertent, and I have no reason to doubt him, but nonetheless this was a violation of AMC rules, and resulted in disciplinary actions that Ralph felt would compromise his ability to represent the Region effectively. When the other AMC members declined to reverse these actions, Ralph considered it a vote of “no confidence” and resigned both his office and his candidacy for re-election.

Now, since Ralph was seeking re-election as our incumbent (and popular) RVC, no one had filed as a candidate to run against him. When his resignation was announced, there were only four days left in the filing period for election to office for the term beginning in July of this year. As soon as Ralph’s resignation became known, I received a call from a long-time friend, TJ Lundeen of Central Oklahoma Mensa, suggesting that I run for RVC. I immediately authorized the posting of a petition on the national website, and began e-mailing people to ask for their support.

No one else chose to run, so under American Mensa rules, when I was the only candidate at the end of the filing period, I was automatically declared elected. Then, since I was the duly-qualified RVC-elect, and the office was currently vacant, the AMC allowed me to take office early, thereby avoiding the necessity to appoint a non-voting representative to serve until July.

Now, about me: I am a 62-year-old attorney and part-time municipal judge, married (for 21 years) with no children. I joined Mensa in 1974 in Houston, where I served as a Board member and RG chair in 1983, but have spent most of my time in Dallas, where I have been LocSec (6 times), RG chair (several times) and AG Co-Chair (in 2001). I am a life member of Mensa, as well as a proctor, and currently serve as treasurer of North Texas Mensa’s local Scholarship Foundation. I am not, however, under the impression that I know everything about Mensa, and I would welcome your help, suggestions, and constructive criticism. I look forward to meeting many of you in the course of the next two years.

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## THE PREZ BOX

by **DAVE HODGSON**

Well, Spring is here and we're all ready for a great year with MENSA 76. We've had wonderful programs so far this year, and there are plans for more good ones. CultureQuest® is moving ahead, too, and that's always fun. The SIGs are well attended although we need more of them.

A word about those who serve MENSA 76: Bill Melms is now serving as our Ombudsman after the death of Judge Gordon Gray, who held the post from its inception. Charles West has been voted in by the Board as his replacement for Vice-LocSec. This keeps us in compliance with the National regulations. We still need volunteers for extra Proctors and Greeters, and the club really needs someone to help Bobby with the Newsletter. Step right up!

## MORE FUN WITH MACHINERY

*reprinted from the March '09 issue of Pensar (Paso del Norte Mensa)*

Do these calculations on your...uh....calculator....then turn it upside down and read the answer:

1. An ice house:  $33,587 \times 3$
2. A double reed musical instrument:  $385 \times 8$
3. Short for island:  $750.2 \times 5$
4. Where did you last get gas:  $14,215,469 \times 5$ , or  $2,366,851 \times 3$
5. When you turn your calculator on, tell it:  
 $26,933.5 \times 4$
6. A fat person is:  $4,422.5 \times 8$
7. Sick:  $257 \times 3$
8. An angry cat  $133,878.5 \times 4$
9. Thin as an  $25,781,887 \times 3 + 2$
10. To compel:  $45,222.5 \times 8$



“Once the lion has tasted elephant, he will never look at antelope the same way.”

—Waylen Gitarz

## THE STATUS OF CULTUREQUEST®

by **RUSS RUSSELL**

By the time you read this, the registration for CultureQuest® XX will have closed, so this is a notice to report that we have two teams participating:

### Adios Orgullo

- Bobby Grammer (Captain)
- Joel Beeson
- Larry Borne
- Sue Flynn
- Charles Ottinger

### Terrific Titans

- Russ Russell (Captain)
- Bobby Bush
- Leon Flusche
- David Hodgson
- Edwin Lee

The competition will be held on Sunday, April 19, and will begin at 3:00 PM and run for 90 minutes. Since we weren't able to find a location sufficient for multiple teams, the location(s) will be determined by the team members. All participants should arrive a half-hour early to ensure that they and the competition site is ready to begin precisely at 3 PM. The Captain will provide the timer. Each participant should provide their own writing instrument, preferably a pencil with an eraser. No calculator, study aid or reference is allowed.

**ADDENDUM** from your INTERIM editor:

I'm told that some of you hopefuls looked vainly through the March issue for details about CQ and never found them. Here's the solution to the puzzle: they were on page 14. I placed a subtle clue in the center of the second line of the body text: the word "**CultureQuest®**" in 18-point **BOLDFACE** type. I'm sorry, folks; I didn't intend for the *Spirit of 76* to turn into a preliminary qualifying round. Here's hoping the **next** editor will be a little less oblique about it so we'll have more teams and a central place to meet next year.

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## TALES FROM THE BUSH COUNTRY

by **BOBBY BUSH**, your **INTERIM** editor

On the bucolic TV show called *Hee Haw*, Roy Clark occasionally initiated a dialogue with one of my favorite comedians, Archie Campbell, that took this general form:

R: How you likin' that new car, Archie?

A: Oh, it rides like a dream.

R: That's good!

A: No, that's bad. I miss it. It rolled over a cliff and got totaled.

R: That's bad!

A: No, that's good. I got out from under those payments. They were eating my lunch.

R: That's good!

A: No, that's bad. I haven't got anything to drive and I have to attend a funeral.

R: That's bad!

A: No, that's good. My mother-in-law was in the car when it rolled off the cliff.

R: That's good?

A: You're durn tootin' that's good!

I love my own mother-in-law, so the joke's appeal to me has nothing to do with that. Rather, I like it because it highlights a deeper concept: the relative nature of good and bad. I'll get back to that in a minute. First, I want to ask you something.

Is 72 degrees hot or cold? For all you absolutists out there, consider this: what kind of degrees are we talking about? I didn't specify; they could be Celsius, Fahrenheit or even Kelvin or Réaumur. It makes a difference; it really does. OK, this is America, so we'll settle on Fahrenheit. Now, what context are we talking about? Nearly any American would call a beer at 72° F. hot. What if we were discussing a car engine or a sauna, though? How about the surface of the Moon? Obviously, our expectations have a lot to do with the matter. We have chosen to define the terms “hot” and “cold” differently in different circumstances. Now, is a room on the Earth's surface carrying an ambient temperature of 72° F. hot or cold? Two people might easily differ in their answers based on personal preference. The same person could even give opposing answers depending on what time of year and which climate zone (s)he was in.

Now, if a fellow wins the lottery, is that good or bad? Being freed from the necessity of making a living (and replacing it with the necessity of having to spend

(see next page)

## BUSH COUNTRY

*(from previous page)*

every moment obsessively trying to keep people out of my back pocket is a dream that consumes a goodly portion of my waking hours. However, entire books have been devoted to stories of people whose lives were effectively ruined by that very thing. Let's consider a less extreme example: on the way to a job interview a seeker is held up by a freight train that is switching cars. His/her resultant lateness gets the interview off to a bad start and (s)he isn't chosen for the position. Good or bad? We don't have enough data to make the call. The job the candidate missed could have been in a place where people are killed fairly often because of the unsafe nature of the work, or it could have been a white-collar position that would have landed the applicant in front of a Congressional hearing six months later. On the other hand, it could have been a job with the equivalent of Microsoft in 1980 and the employee would have been asked to accept payment in stock certificates that eventually turned out to be worth millions of dollars. (People who become millionaires in the course of being paid for workaday jobs don't seem to have nearly as many troubles as those who have the position thrust upon them unexpectedly.)

Here's my point: as with the terms “hot” and “cold”, we have chosen to define “good” and “bad” differently in different circumstances. While there are certain occurrences, such as losing one's entire family in a plane crash, that just about all of us would call bad (just as we can all pretty much agree that the -457° F. temperatures of outer space are pretty frankin' cold), most of the things that happen to you in the course of your life will not fall into that category. Even some (but not nearly all, of course) terminally ill patients have chosen to define their fates as good, pointing out how much more aware they are of the pleasures around them and remarking on all they were missing in their hurry to attain goals they now reject as inconsequential. You have that choice. I hope you choose wisely.

“Yeah, he’s had it in for me ever since he snuck up behind his wife one day and squeezed her butt and she said, ‘Don’t start that now, Waylen — he’ll be home any second.’”

—Waylen Gitarz

## APRIL 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	10	11	12
13 <i>6:30 pm</i> Board Meet  <i>7:00 pm</i> Monthly Meeting	14	15	16 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	17	18 <i>10:30 am</i> Mensa Brunch at Café On the Run	19 <i>1:00 pm</i> Shoot SIG <i>3:00 pm</i> CultureQuest ®
20	21	22	23 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	24 <i>7:00 pm</i> Movie SIG	25	26 <i>2:00 pm</i> GeoSIG <i>3:00 pm</i> Mensa 76 Book SIG
27	28	29	30 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group			

**Want to know what's going on at the other end of the metroplex?**

Check out the **North Texas Mensa** calendar at

<http://www.northtexasmensa.org>

## APRIL EVENTS

### Every Thursday Evening

7:00 pm - **Hang Out Together.** Denton Area Mensans at the Jupiter House Coffee Shop, 106 North Locust Street, Denton. (Cross Streets: Between W Hickory St/E Hickory St and W Oak St/E Oak St, located on the east side of the square). Contact Dave Hodgson at 940 626 4451.

### MONDAY, April 13

6:30 pm - **Mensa 76 Board Meeting.** Open to all members. Opportunity to ask questions and raise issues. Join us at the Coors location just prior to the monthly meeting.

7:00 pm - **Mensa 76 Monthly Meeting.** Free beer and coolers. You're invited to bring food to share. **No smoking** allowed at the facility.

### SATURDAY, April 18

10:30 am – **Brunch at Café On the Run** inside the Central Market, I-30 and Hulen in Ft. Worth. The Café On The Run is located in the front of the store on the western end (right side when facing the store from the parking lot). There is a breakfast buffet located in the soup/salad bar area that serves until 11 am on Saturdays, so we will start 30 minutes earlier than usual, at 10:30 am. The other dining options (soup, sandwiches, pasta, and a multitude of other delights) will be available for those so inclined. If the weather is nice, we will congregate outside on the patio. Afterward, we can peruse the 16 varieties of eggplant available in the produce section or gaze at the steaks and seafood that most of us cannot afford. So see you there on Saturday, April 18 at 10:30 am at Central Market in Ft. Worth.

No reservations are accepted, but for more info or directions contact Al Celaya at [al.celaya\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:al.celaya(at)gmail.com) or 817 946 0898.

### SUNDAY, April 19

1:00 pm - **Shoot SIG.** Please contact Bill Melms to let him know if you will participate. Contact him at [tbil\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:tbil(at)yahoo.com) or 817 246 0743.

(see next page)

## APRIL EVENTS *(from previous page)*

### SUNDAY, April 19 (continued)

3:00 pm - **CultureQuest®**. Alas, this only affects ten of us, but it's very important to those ten. See the article on p. 5.

### FRIDAY, April 24

7:00 pm - **Movie SIG**. At press time no details were available, so the status of the get-together will be determined at the April general meeting. If the gathering takes place, here are the terms: Bring a snack to share and whatever you want to drink. There are friendly cats and dogs in the house; smoking outside only, please. Vicki Page's house, 536 Bent Oak Dr., FW 76131. Call 817 847 9840 for directions or to RSVP.

### SUNDAY, April 26

2:00 pm - **GeoSIG**. For April, we are going to attempt to locate mystery caches near Trinity Park, off University Drive north of I-30. This GeoSIG trip will be a bit different from the previous GeoSIGs because you will have to solve some puzzles, which we love, right? We are Mensans, after all! You can be part of the this trip in two ways; you can help us solve puzzles and/or you can come with us to find the caches. We hope to see a good turnout.

We will send you more detailed information as the event date nears, so please send confirmation to Ujjwal at [ulahoti\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:ulahoti(at)yahoo.com) or call 817 207 0693.

3:00 pm - **Book SIG**. The same is true for the Book SIG: no details were available at press time. One can find out from Judith if the gathering is planned and which book will be discussed. If it takes place, the meeting will probably be from 3-5 at Judith Ray's, 10137 Buffalo Grove Rd, FW 76108. Phone is 817 246 7778.

“Tell her you're a musician. Girls love that.”

— Waylen Gitarz



## VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENTS

by **BILL MELMS**

**INTERIM EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The following is the opinion of one of Mensa 76's more outspoken members. That's all it is. This publication is a piece of paper and as such, can have no opinions. It exists as a forum for communication among the members, and that's why this article is being printed. If anyone wants to respond to his charges, (s)he can have space in the next issue.*

I know, I know; 90% of you don't vote. Mensa is just not that big a deal for you, certainly not worth the time wading through those long, boring bylaw amendments. So you didn't bother reading them in the January issue of the Bulletin, and you're not going to dig out your membership number and password and go to <http://www.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Members&Template=/MembersOnly.cfm&ContentID=10815>. to read them now, either. However, this time there are some very important amendments to consider, key to the future of our society, and I'll make it easy for you. Just read on. Come on, you aren't that busy.

We'll skip most of them. If you don't have the time to read them and make a decision, don't bother with them. An uninformed vote is worse than no vote. Let those of us who keep up with this stuff decide.

The first issue that merits your attention is the choice between Amendment 2 or 3, which lays out a course of action if an RVC resigns or, as in the recent case of our Ralph Rudolph, is hounded out of office by the powers that be. Amendment 2 says the Local Secretaries decide a replacement. Amendment 3 says we have a formal election and the members of the region decide. While on principle #3 is more democratic, #2 is far more practical. It can be accomplished much more quickly and cheaply than lining up candidates and sending out ballots to the membership. Our dues are high enough to justify making a big deal over the remaining months of a RVC's term.

And now for the biggies: Amendments 8 and 9 are competing amendments dealing with restructuring our infamous Hearings Committee. Those of us who attended the AG in Denver last summer were "treated" to the spectacle of another kangaroo court throwing out another perfectly good member because he incurred the wrath

*(see next page)*

## PLEASE VOTE

*(from previous page)*

of Dave Remine, the man who put together the ruling cabal that runs Mensa some 15-plus years ago. The cabal is a tightly knit group, like a family, whose members can be counted on to support one another. No one rises far in the AMC without their support. The Hearings Committee is composed of the three previous Chairmen. When Dave says he's going to throw you out of Mensa, believe him.

The Hearings Committee is a joke, barely going through the formalities of a "fair and impartial" hearing that is promised by our bylaws. The outcome is a foregone conclusion. From refusing to even define "acts inimical" that can get you booted from Mensa, to refusing to answer "what, specifically, are the charges?" before the hearing... oh, I could go on an on, but your time is valuable.

Amendment 8, presented by Dave Remine and the AMC, suggests improvement is necessary but leaves the composition of the Hearings Committee firmly in AMC control, right where they want it.

Amendment 9, presented by us members (many of you signed the petition), removes control of the Hearings Committee makeup from the AMC, specifying that members are to be selected from local group Ombudsmen. BIG improvement! This would be a HUGE victory by the members over the ruling clique.

One more to go. Our National Ombudsman is supposed to be the members' advocate. As it is, he is selected by the AMC and it seems the chief qualification is that he be an advocate of the cabal, firmly in their pocket. Amendment 10 fixes this problem by having the National Ombudsman selected by the local group ombudsmen. Passing this amendment would be another huge victory for us mere members. Many of you signed the petition; now let's get out the vote!

There you have it. For the good of Mensa, let's take these steps to return control of Mensa to the members! Remember:

Amendment 8, BAD!

Amendments 2, 9 and 10, GOOD!

When the ballot comes, please VOTE!

"If happiness is but an illusion, how can depression be real?"

—Waylen Gitarz

## GeoSIG: GOING STRONG

by UJJWAL LAHOTI

The highlight of February GeoSIG was Ujjwal's 100<sup>th</sup> cache. In this GeoSIG we also had our biggest turnout: 9, of which 4 were new to the SIG. I think we owe thanks to the beautiful weather that day. It was perfect for being in the park, walking, hiking and of course GeoCaching.

The group met at the parking lot at Oakmont Park off Bryant Irvin south of I-20. Our first cache was located just off the parking lot and having quickly found this we moved on to the next cache which was to be Ujjwal's 100<sup>th</sup> cache. All in all we covered the entire park, trekking and bushwhacking in order to find caches and enjoying the pleasant weather. The park itself was very beautiful and there is also a granite dome in this park which gives a very picturesque view of the surrounding area. Our next



*(Standing) Larry, Tom, Lu Curtis, Ujjwal, Mary, (Kneeling) James, Marilyn, Deepshree and Roger at GeoSIG in Oakmont Park, on Ujjwal's 100th Cache Find. Everyone is holding GeoCaching Sign.*

cache was the most challenging of all caches (it involved trekking through cactus ridden grounds and bushwhacking through thorny green briars) in the park and we spent 15 minutes trying to locate the cache. Just as we were about to give up, we found it and happily signed the log. The last cache was a magnetic, an easy grab (experience does count for something!) after which we all headed back. All in all it was a very satisfying afternoon and we headed back home tired but looking forward to the next GeoSIG. Geocaching is more fun when it's done in a group.

For April, we are going to attempt mystery caches near Trinity Park north of University Drive off I-30. This GeoSIG trip will be a bit different than the previous GeoSIGs, as you would have to solve some puzzles, which we love, Right? We are Mensans after all! You can be part of the this trip in two ways; you can help us solve puzzles and/or you can come with us to find the caches. If you're interested in either email: [ulahoti\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:ulahoti(at)yahoo.com). We hope to see a good turnout.

Photo by Ujjwal Lahoti



## Mensa 76 Executive Committee 2009

### Voting Board of Directors, a.k.a. Executive Committee

Local Secretary	Dr. Dave Hodgson	940 626 4451	no email
Vice Loc Sec	Bill Melms	817 246 0743	tbil@yahoo.com
Scribe	Vicki Page	817 847 9840	wtxyellowrose@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Carlos Webb	817 346 3687	jolligirl57@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large	Hy Siegel	817 457 2665	hysiegel@hotmail.com
	Randy Farmer	817 460 3458	w8fn@tx.rr.com
	Ujjwal Lahoti	817 207 0693	ulahoti@yahoo.com

### Non Voting Appointed Positions or Volunteer Positions

Curmudgeon at large	Hy Siegel	817 457 2665	hysiegel@hotmail.com
Denton Area Coordinator	Dr. Dave Hodgson	940 626 4451	
Disabilities SIG	Morie Janine Hutchens	817 732 7027	owvoltaire1.1@juno.com
Email List Coordinator	Judith Ray	817 246 7778	judithray@juno.com
Gifted Children SIG1	Rick Peters	817 283 3739	r.f.peters@ieec.org
Gifted Children SIG2	OPEN		
Greeter 1	Leon Flusche	817 804 4238	leon.flusche@twc.state.tx.us
Greeter 2	OPEN		
Hospitality	Pat Wilbur	817 472 9570	thepatwilbur@yahoo.com
Membership	OPEN		
Newsletter Circulation	Carlos Webb	817 346 3687	jolligirl57@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter Circulation	Gayle Webb	817 346 3687	jolligirl57@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter Editor	OPEN		
Ombudsman	Judge Gordon Gray	817 732 0798	mimi3917@aol.com
Proctor	Bill Melms	817 246 0743	tbil@yahoo.com
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	Marty Malone	817 832 0272	maloma@mansfieldisd.org
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S.I.G.H.T.	Bill Melms	817 246 0743	tbil@yahoo.com
Testing Coordinator	Charles West	214 709 6123	charlessouthwest@gmail.com
Webmaster	Bobby Bush	817 847 5365	anaax@charter.net

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## **Directions to the Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, the 2nd Monday of every month**

We meet in the Hospitality Room at Coors on McMillan Parkway, just south of Meacham Blvd., one mile south of where NE Loop 820 meets I-35W.

**Southbound:** Exit I-35W at Meacham and go east (under the overpass). Take the first right, onto the new Mercantile Plaza Drive. Where it ends turn right, cross McMillan at the crossover, then turn into the Coors parking lot.

**Northbound:** Exit I-35W at Meacham and turn right at Coors.

**Come for free beer and coolers, munchies (feel free to bring some, too), and lively fun - all at no charge!**