Our speaker for this month is Ken Murphy who will be discussing Cislunar Space with us. For those not “in-the-know” about what exactly Cislunar Space refers to (including me; I had to look it up), it is the volume of space between Earth and the Moon’s orbit. Ken will also be addressing other Moon related topics. Below is a brief bio on Ken:

Ken Murphy is someone you would not normally associate with space. Professionally, he has a 20-year history in international banking and finance, and currently works as a portfolio manager for a private local bank. He wasn't inspired by sci-fi to pursue the stars, and Challenger was the end of any innocence in that regard. Then, in 1999, in NYC, something happened.

(continued on Page 4)
“He who joyfully marches to music in rank and file has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him the spinal cord would surely suffice.”

— Albert Einstein

This is YOUR newsletter. That means you also get to contribute to it - your witty sayings, puzzles, erudite articles or artwork are all welcome.
By now you may have heard that American Mensa ended the membership year on March 31st with an all-time record membership of more than 57,800. Considering the state of the economy, that is little short of amazing. Our national office staff deserves our thanks and hearty congratulations for their efforts. However, the end of the membership year also saw the usual percentage of members not renew their membership for another year. If your local group has not participated in the annual lapsed member campaigns in the past, I encourage you to contact your local officers now and urge them to take part this year.

American Mensa will pay your group cold hard cash to contact your lapsed members and ask them to rejoin. The national organization will be doing that too, but it’s not nearly as effective coming from them. Many former members, when asked to rejoin, have said, “Why should I? No one from my local group cares whether I am a member or not.” So why not get a committee together and mail some postcards or send some e-mails to those lapsed members? Make them feel wanted, and they just might be inspired to get active and help provide new leadership for your group.

Also, if you haven’t voted in the American Mensa election yet, please take a few minutes to do so. Although there’s no contest here in Region 6 this year, there are a number of candidates for other national offices who would like your support. The election materials won’t be in the Mensa Bulletin this year; they have been mailed to everyone separately. The materials for the International election, however, are in the Bulletin as usual.

Finally, don’t forget SynRG, the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering, in Houston over Memorial Day weekend. Registration information can be found on the national website, www.us.mensa.org. If you’ve never been to a Regional Gathering, you can’t imagine what a wonderful experience it can be to spend an entire weekend with dozens of Mensans. And if you really want a mind-blowing experience, there’s still time to register for the Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh the first week of July. Nearly 2,000 Ms are expected to attend, and that means non-stop excitement. More about that next month.
The Prez Box
by DAVE HODGSON

We had a very stimulating program in April, and I think you will find this month's meeting equally exciting. MENSA 76 is going strong and our attendance is picking up. Our SIGs are thriving and growing.

That's the good news. The bad news is that we still need volunteers for a back-up greeter and more proctors. It would be nice if we could start some additional SIGs.

It's a great pleasure to introduce our new Editor of Spirit of 76. Shane Parkerson is starting off his MENSA 76 career with the right spirit – volunteering to edit the newsletter. Give him your cooperation - and a pat on the back for helping out.

This Month (cont’d from cover page)

Ken had been working with various civic organizations, such as the Rotaract Club at the UN and the UNA-USA Young Professionals Group, on a variety of community projects. One was a Model United Nations that gathered inner-city students at the UN to play delegates for a weekend. In 1999, the topic was the UN Outer Space Treaties given John Glenn's recent return to space and start of ISS orbital construction, and the UN was holding a space conference that summer in Vienna - UNISPACE III. He wrote the briefing paper on short notice, and chaired the General Assembly portion of the event.

Ken ended up attending the UNISPACE III Space Generation Forum that summer as a US delegate. There he learned of International Space University in Strasbourg, France, and given his interest in obtaining a non-MBA Masters degree, he decided to learn more about this space thing. He went to Adult Space Camp that Fall, and attended a technical space conference in the Spring. His application was accepted, and the adventure began.

With his Master of Space Studies, cum laude, he returned to the US broke and jobless to try to find a position in an industry that didn't want his skills. Working program support at the NASA Academy didn't help, so he returned to finance. Nevertheless, he has still found ways to advance the space cause. Ken is a member of the National Space Society, and currently serves as president for the local North Texas chapter. He co-chaired the 2007 International Space Development Conference in Dallas, and currently runs the 'Out of the Cradle' space blog website, which hosts the renowned online Lunar Library.
Treasurer Report
MENSA 76 April 2009
Carlos Webb, TREASURER

Scholarship Fund
As of Feb 28, 2009 $1372.32
As of Mar 31, 2009 $1372.32

General Fund
As of Feb 28, 2009 $2707.94
National HQ Funding + $468.22
New Members + $7.00
Reinstating Members + $5.00
Corporate Subscriptions + $5.20
Testing Fees + $75.00
Double Testing Promo + $75.00
Newsletter Printing - $223.26
Bulk Mail Account - $100.00
Meeting Snacks - $24.99
As of Mar 31, 2009 $2995.11

Brick Fund $55.00

Total Balance
As of Feb 28, 2009 $4142.18
As of Mar 31, 2009 $4422.43

Vote for Hope and Change!
by Bill Melms
If you haven't cast your ballot yet, what's the matter with you? Apathetic? Don't care about the future of Mensa? 90% of members don't, meaning about 5000 do, which means your vote can actually make a difference! YES YOU CAN! Even if you lost your ballot by now, you can still vote online. No excuses!

So let's get those ballots in and HOPE we can bring CHANGE to Mensa! Let's HOPE we can change Mensa back to a member run organization! Let's return the Bulletin and the Annual Gatherings to MEMBER control, instead of having them produced by our Executive Director! Mensans do a better job of running Mensa than the hired help because we care and we're pretty good at doing things.

Your HOPE for CHANGE candidates are Swanka, Recht, Conti, Chilson and...aw what the heck, let's vote for Burg too on the lesser of evils theory. And YES on Prop 9.

What is it that the more you take, the more you leave behind?
Answer: Footsteps
Media people who specialize in the art of making money by ranting about things that bother them usually maintain a short list of evergreen topics they can return to any time they need to crank out a few hundred words without breaking a sweat, whether it be Jews controlling the media, obscenely overpaid CEOs, the secularization of Christmas, or mankind's destruction of the environment. In spite of the truism that a poor salesman works by knocking the competition, they often include the incompetence of certain others who work in their field on their lists. As a semi-pro painfully dragging myself on elbows and knees to full employment in the field, I'm building my own list. Here's an outburst directed at one of my favorite targets.

In spite of the fact that I make a living writing about television shows, I haven't watched very much TV of my own volition since the early 1980s, so Bill O'Reilly, the host of the most-viewed program on any of the all-news channels, never really appeared on my radar (even though he worked for a time at a Dallas station and won an award from the Dallas Press Club) until I went to Nashville in 2003. When I arrived there, a company was putting out a free advertiser-supported semi-weekly newspaper. One of the first issues I picked up had a guest editorial by Mr. O'Reilly on page 2. He was trying unsuccessfully to alarm me with the fact that one could get on the Internet and say just about anything he wanted with no one to stop him.

As I read it I thought to myself, “Bill, it's much worse than that! Not only can they do it on the Internet, but they can print that kind of stuff in newspapers, magazines, or even in books and distribute it all over the country. They can even get on TV or radio stations and say it out loud, and it doesn't even have to be true! You know why? One time some flaming liberals made an end run around the Constitution and tacked some stuff on there before anyone was really aware of what was going on. The year was 1791. You might have heard it mentioned when you were in college. They called it... the Bill of Rights!”

While Mr. O and I obviously didn't get off to a good start together, and he's done or said almost nothing to make me feel better about him since then except for giving the world Stephen Colbert, in this case I'm merely using him as an archetype for all those
folks who feel like those 18th-century amendments just went a little too far sometimes. This describes much of the country at one time or another; in the long run, not many people have the stamina to resist the sirens' call of the logic which infers that something should be illegal just because the person being asked doesn't like it.

Here's why those citizens are so dangerous: there is a small core of people who believe that they could manage the lives of everyone in the country better than they themselves can, whether it's because they're smarter or of better character than most or even because God chose them to do it. Mensans should know this better than anyone else. No one wants to believe this, especially since the Cold War fizzled out, and they never wanted to believe it of native-born citizens even before then. I swear to you that it's true, though. That's why we need to be absolutists about every one of those ten amendments, assuming we haven't let things go too far already; once we start making exceptions, the process will never end. Well-meaning people who have no nefarious intentions will discover a particular problem that they think can be solved by poking another small hole in the fabric of the tent that protects us. When one does that over a long period of time, say 220 years or so, eventually he is no longer protected and the environment inside the tent ceases to differ from the one outside. The people who see nothing wrong with that are our greatest threat because there are so many of them.

**Congratulations Bobby!**

As some of you may already know, the members of Mensa 76 presented Bobby Bush with an award for the “Greatest Newsletter Editor in the Known Universe” at our April meeting. Bobby tells me this is untrue; however, being a new member I will assume everyone else knows what they’re talking about and he is just being modest. Congrats Bobby; I will try to keep the newsletter up to your standards.
May 2009

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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
MAY 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, MAY 11
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, MAY 16
11:00 am – Brunch. For May we will meet at Lucile’s at 4700 Camp Bowie Blvd. Lucile’s has RESERVED space so if I could get a head count that would be helpful. Huevos rancheros and Eggs Benedict are on the menu so bring your best taste buds with you. Lucile’s is just west of Hulen on Camp Bowie. Call D Bannen at 817 361 0578 or e-mail dabannen(at)sbcglobal.net.

SUNDAY, MAY 17
1:00 pm - Shoot SIG. Please contact Bill Melms to let him know if you will participate. Contact him at tbil(at)yahoo.com or 817 246 0743.

2:00 pm - GeoSIG. For May, 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 this
MAY EVENTS  
(from previous page)

SUNDAY, MAY 17 (continued)

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 or call 817 207 0693.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

7:00 pm - Movie SIG. At press time no details were available, so the status of the get-together will be determined at the May 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.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Newsletter deadline. Please submit all info to Shane at sasboo21(at)yahoo.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

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.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

6:00 pm - TGIF. Good company, conversation, and fun! Light refreshments and wine will be available along with board games, card games, and/or chess. Bring your drink of choice or something to share with the others. Last call at 9pm; stay until you're sober. RSVP to Ezra Christensen at ezrac(at)symbioticcreations.com or call at 817 232 3838.

“A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.”

— Mark Twain
Exercise Your Mind
by UJJWAL LAHOTI

This month we will discuss “Magic Squares”. A magic square of order $n$ is an arrangement of $n^2$ numbers, in a square, such that the $n$ numbers in all rows, all columns, and both diagonals sum to the same constant. Let’s look at Magic Square of Order “3”. All rows, columns, and diagonals add to value of 15. As a kid I was intrigued by them. I used to spend hours trying to build Magic Squares of different sizes, until I came to know the secret. We will try to arrive at the secret as part of this exercise.

Now your task is to construct a Magic Square of Order “5” (each row/col/diagonal will total 65), once you are done with “5” try to build Magic Square of Order “9” (each row/col/diagonal will total 378). When you are done with these do you see a pattern? We will talk about it in next month’s column.

If you have an original puzzle that you want to share with other Mensans, please send it to me with the answer. The puzzle will be published with due credits.

If you can’t stand the curiosity, email ulahoti(at)yahoo.com for the answer.


Answer to the Last Month’s number puzzle:

Minimum number of piles we need to divide 1000 dollars in is 10, so as to be able to combine them to total any dollar amounts up to 1000 dollars. First 9 piles would be of the following dollar amounts: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, and 256. If you add all those up, that's 511 dollars. One interesting about these numbers is that each amount is sum of all the previous amount plus one, e.g. - 32 = (1+2+4+8+16) + 1. Another interesting thing to notice is that all these numbers are powers of 2.

So if you are asked for any amount up to 511 dollars, you would give some combination of those piles, and if asked to give 511, you would give all of them.

But the total amount given to you was 1000 dollars, so you would make a 10th pile of remainder of the money, i.e. 489 dollars. Now let’s do an example. Let’s say you are asked to give 671 dollars, you would take the pile that's 489 dollars (since 671 > 511),
Last Month’s Fun
by Shane Parkerson

Last month we welcomed Chris Johnson, Associate Pastor at Glenview Baptist Church and fellow Mensa 76 member, to speak with us about the scientific evidence supporting Creationism.

Always a spirited discussion, Chris presented some of the Creationists’ arguments regarding the age of the Earth, the Great Flood, and other scientific support for their beliefs. He was very gracious in accepting all questions and remarks, presenting the arguments for Creationism and Intelligent Design. Chris also pointed out some of the shortcomings of Evolution and the other theories about the origin of life on our planet. He also referenced a man at the forefront of the Creationist argument, Kent Hovind, about whom many members were interested in researching. You can find many videos online by Mr. Hovind expressing other arguments in favor of Creationism.

Also, last month we welcomed four new Mensa 76 members and one returning member (pictured below). Bobby Bush was also recognized for his many contributions to Mensa 76 and the Spirit of 76 newsletter.

From Left to Right: Rachael Singleton, David Johnson, Claudia Angenendt, Shane Parkerson, and returning member Lynn Folsom
Why Walk 60 Miles in 3 Days?

To my fellow Mensans,

I'm doing it again! I've signed up for the 2009 Breast Cancer 3-Day. I had such an incredible experience doing the 3-Day the last two years that I'm going back for more. I'm so excited about this event, even though this year I really know what I've gotten myself into. I am going to be walking 60 miles over the course of three days (which doesn't seem so bad after walking 800 miles of training - quite often carrying golf clubs).

I need your help. The minimum donation required is $2300 per walker, but I am planning on surpassing the $3,600 that you - my friends and family - gave so generously last time around to help fight breast cancer.

So, yes, this is a plea for your emotional and financial support. All donations, no matter how large or small, are really appreciated. I thank you in advance for whatever you can give.

Just go to my personal fundraising webpage listed below and donate online or contact me at 817-312-7446 for information.

If you have any questions or want to hear more about what I'm doing, I love talking about the event. Thanks for all of your support. I'm incredibly lucky to have people like you in my life!

Sincerely,
Renee Allen
www.the3day.org/goto/renee
**Mensa76 Participates in CultureQuest® XX**

*by RUSS RUSSELL*

CultureQuest is an annual national competition sponsored by America Mensa. Teams of up to five members participate in answering 271 (this year, the number varies annually) questions of a cultural and trivial nature. This year’s questions included: What’s the molecular formula of ATP, what was Annie Oakley’s real (birth) name, and what is the book’s title and author which has this first line, “Call me Jonah”?

The test was given on Sunday, April 19, starting at 3:00 PM CDT and ending precisely at 4:30 PM. Prizes are awarded to the top 20 teams with the highest scores. Usually more than 100 teams participate. The winners will be announced at the July 2009 Annual Gathering Awards Luncheon in Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to the following members who participated this year:

---

**The Terrific Titans** - Bobby Bush, Leon Flusche, Dave Hodgson, Edwin Lee, Russ Russell (Captain)

**Texas Hurricanes** - Allene Nichols, David Nichols

**Adios Orgullo** - Joel Beeson, Larry Borne, Robert Grammer (Captain), Sue Flynn, Charles Ottinger

**The Wild Bunch** - Chuck Briggs, Suzanne Deats, Kathleen Holley (Captain), Ujjwal Lahoti, Carol Raymond
### Voting Board of Directors, a.k.a. Executive Committee

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Local Secretary</td>
<td>Dr. Dave Hodgson</td>
<td>940 626 4451</td>
<td>no email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Loc Sec</td>
<td>Bill Melms</td>
<td>817 246 0743</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tbil@yahoo.com">tbil@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scribe</td>
<td>Vicki Page</td>
<td>817 847 9840</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wtxyellowrose@earthlink.net">wtxyellowrose@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Carlos Webb</td>
<td>817 346 3687</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jolligirl57@sbcglobal.net">jolligirl57@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Hy Siegel</td>
<td>817 457 2665</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hysiegel@hotmail.com">hysiegel@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Randy Farmer</td>
<td>817 460 3458</td>
<td><a href="mailto:w8fn@txrr.com">w8fn@txrr.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ujjwal Lahoti</td>
<td>817 207 0693</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ulahoti@yahoo.com">ulahoti@yahoo.com</a></td>
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### Non Voting Appointed Positions or Volunteer Positions

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<td>Curmudgeon at large</td>
<td>Hy Siegel</td>
<td>817 457 2665</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hysiegel@hotmail.com">hysiegel@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Denton Area Coordinator</td>
<td>Dr. Dave Hodgson</td>
<td>940 626 4451</td>
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<td>Disabilities SIG</td>
<td>Morie Janine Hutchens</td>
<td>817 732 7027</td>
<td><a href="mailto:owvoltaire.1.1@juno.com">owvoltaire.1.1@juno.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email List Coordinator</td>
<td>Judith Ray</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:judithray@juno.com">judithray@juno.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifted Children SIG1</td>
<td>Rick Peters</td>
<td>817 283 3739</td>
<td><a href="mailto:r.f.peters@ieee.org">r.f.peters@ieee.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greeter 1</td>
<td>Leon Flusche</td>
<td>817 804 4238</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leon.flusche@twc.state.tx.us">leon.flusche@twc.state.tx.us</a></td>
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<td>Hospitality</td>
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<td>817 472 9570</td>
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<td>Ombudsman</td>
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<td>817 732 0798</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marty Malone</td>
<td>817 832 0272</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maloma@mansfieldisd.org">maloma@mansfieldisd.org</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>214 709 6123</td>
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<td>Program Chair, Asst</td>
<td>Judith Newkirk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Chair</td>
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<td>Testing Coordinator</td>
<td>Charles West</td>
<td>214 709 6123</td>
<td><a href="mailto:charlessouthwest@gmail.com">charlessouthwest@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Bobby Bush</td>
<td>817 847 5365</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anaax@charter.net">anaax@charter.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 and non-alcoholic drinks, munchies (feel free to bring some, too), and lively fun - all at no charge! Feel free to bring a guest along.