

multiplying this number by the acceleration of gravity which is 9.8 m/s/s, and dividing by 2." "Do you really not know the standard method of determining the height of a building with a barometer?" asked the chairman of the department. Of course I do," replied the young physics student, "I am just tired of the instructors in this university trying to tell me how to think."

The arbitrator in this story was the great Lord Ernest Rutherford. The young physics student that refused to be told how to think was Neils Bohr.

By thinking unlike anyone who had gone before him, Neils Bohr would soon change the way we see the world.

Because of Bohr and his unconventional way of looking at the world, we now know that we live in a "quantum world."

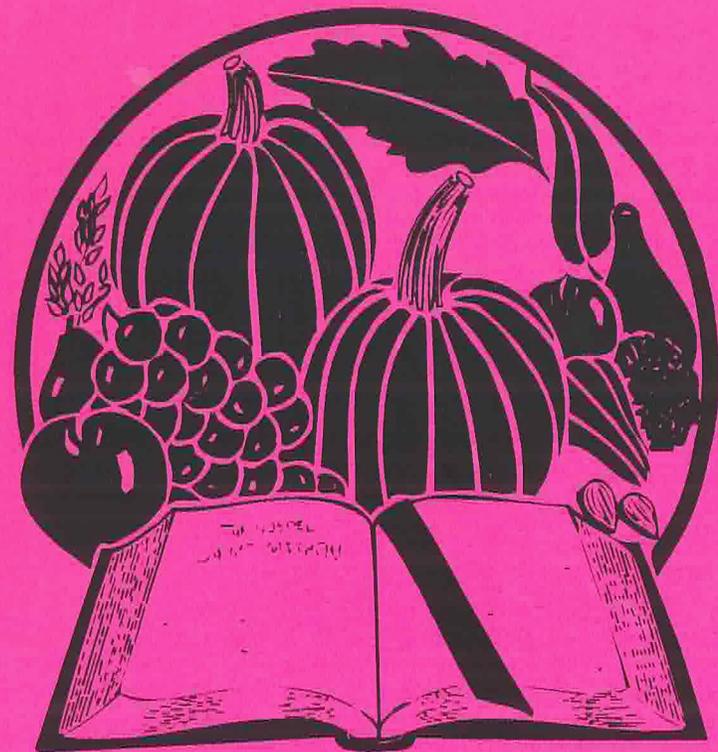
(I have heard this story off and on since I took high school physics twenty-five years ago. I recently saw a version of it in another Mensa newsletter. I have always believed this story of young Neils Bohr. After researching the millemium, however, I no longer believe it to be factual. Rutherford was Bohr's mentor, but, by the time Bohr left Denmark to study with Lord Rutherford, no one would think that this prodigy did not know the answer to such a simple question. I chose to publish it because it is such a super story about how genius works. I could also be wrong.)

The Leonids are Coming !!



M-Ark

The newsletter of Mensa Arkansas
November 1999 Vol 26 No. 8



Happy Thanksgiving!

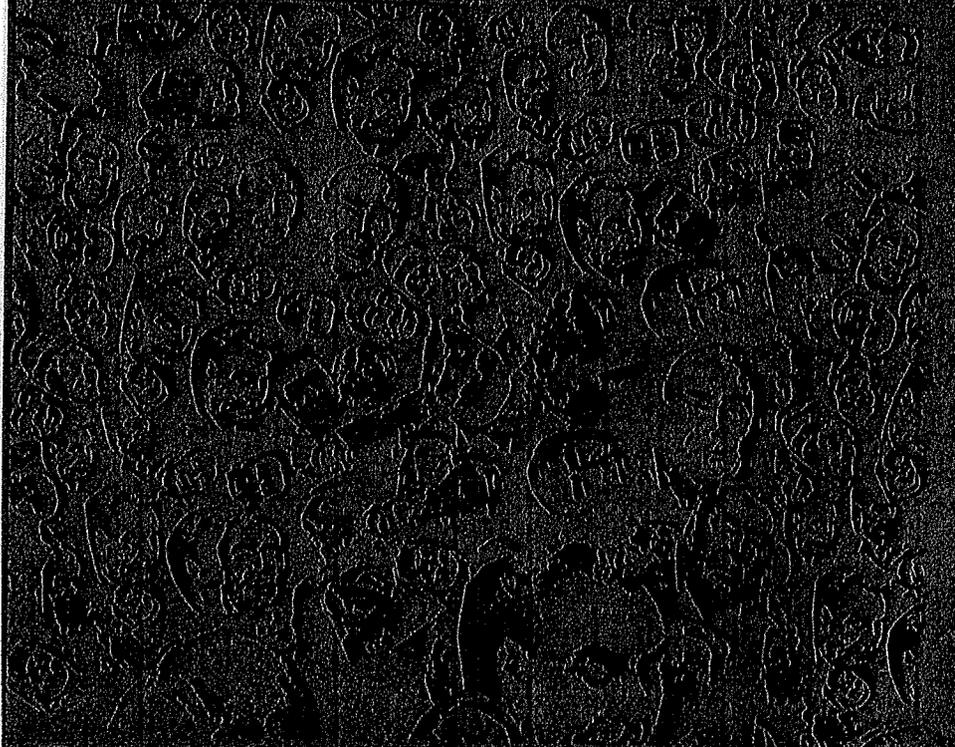
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The chairman in this story was the great Lord Ernest Rutherford. The young physicist mentioned here used to be called how to think was Niels Bohr.

By that time, millions of people had come before him. Niels Bohr would spend his life the way we see the world.

Because of Bohr and his unconventional way of looking at the world, we now know that we live in a quantum world.
(I have heard the story off and on since I took high school physics nearly five years ago. I recently saw a version of it in another Mensa magazine. I have always believed the story of young Niels Bohr. After researching the millennium however, I no longer believe it to be factual. Bohr did not see Bohr's mentor, but by the time Bohr left Denmark to study with Lord Rutherford, as one would think that this problem did not have an answer to such a simple question. Let's do physics because it is such a fun story about how things work. I could also be wrong.)

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HAPPY THANKS -
 GIVING

Happy Thanksgiving!

The average lead pencil will draw a line 35 miles long or write approximately 50,000 English words.

A Few Thoughts

By Duke Heath

There were 27 letters to the editor after the last issue finally went out. Several of these were submissions for this newsletter, including a poem by David Bradshaw.

All of the mail was stored on my server at Cross County Bank. The server crashed and lost every letter and address I have received since becoming editor. I have tried to contact David several times by phone to try and entice him to resubmit. I suspect, however, he has caller ID and is afraid to answer thinking I am going to ask for another poem. (David, please resubmit for next month.)

Charles Howard took me to task on two points. He suggested that part of the article on "Aids in Africa" was out of context. After rereading the story I realized he was correct. He also suggested I include the sources of the articles so Mensans could do further research on subjects interesting to them. Though this is a great idea, I found when I included the source after the article an even greater space problem ensued. Since "News from Medicine" is the most popular feature, I have decided to forego the source in favor of an extra article. The sources for the majority of these stories are "The Lancet," "JAMA" and "Nature." Should anyone desire the exact issue and page for further info on any of the articles I will be happy to forward it.

We had problems getting the last issue out. Time demands on both Jimmy and I are making it difficult to stay on schedule. An anonymous Mensan sent in a suggestion on how to solve the man hour and financial problems associated with publishing. In an effort to get this newsletter out in time for the Leonid meteor storm, I am pursuing the lead and will let you know next issue if our problems are in fact solved.

New Editors Needed!

The only thing certain in life is change. Recent events have conspired to rob me of the time and enthusiasm needed to continue editing M-Ark. Without the enthusiasm I have had since taking over, it has become extremely difficult to invest the hours needed. In the last issue, Jimmy stated he will be stepping down after the century ends. We have had a very good relationship and I am currently thinking it might be best to step down with him and let "new blood" take over. Anyone interested in the job should contact Jimmy, Delynn, or me.

I receive Mensa newsletters from across the nation. The best ones are not necessarily from larger groups, but from groups that share the load. M-Ark does not need only one editor. We need a humor page editor, who would be responsible for only two pages each issue. We need a movie and book review editor, who would be responsible for reviews each month.

A lightning bolt generates temperatures five times hotter than those found at the sun's surface.

We need a puzzle page editor to come up with interesting mind games each month. We need an individual responsible for the cover each month. We need people to write a regular column on a monthly, quarterly, or bicentennial basis. I cannot imagine a more diverse group of people with such intense and differing opinions on every subject imaginable. I am offering you a forum. **We need you to volunteer.** This is our newsletter. Interest seems to be on the rise. Let's keep it going.

One of the problems with an every other month issue is that the notices for monthly meetings disappear. I received a notice of a meeting in October but that was an off month. I also received letters requesting that notices of meetings be included again. Please forward info before the 20th of each month.

One thing I have tried to do to increase interest, is to include at least one error in each issue. On occasion I will throw in an extra one or two. I have hidden a select few errors in this issue and challenge you to find them. Starting next issue I will be announcing the winner of "Find the most errors" each month. So search this issue for that elusive grammatical or spelling error and the glory could be yours.

A special plea to Joe Barda and people like him who wonder who "The Sky this Month" is written for, if you ever in your life looked up into the night sky with awe and wonder, do so after midnight on Wednesday the 17th. It promises to be the greatest show of a life time. I have been looking forward to this night for more than ten years. I plan to leave the state should we be clouded in. Please check out this month's "Sky" for details.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

The term "the whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards."

The average adult pencil will draw a line .33 mill's long or write approximately 50,000 English words.

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Charles Howard took an to risk on two points. He suggested that part of the article on "Aids in Africa" was out of context. After rereading the story, I realized he was correct. He also suggested I include the sources of the material on Malaria could do further research on subjects interesting to them. Though this is a great idea, I found when I included the appropriate citations, my own opinion about the problem seemed slanted. Malaria from Malaria is the most popular feature. I have decided to forego the sources in favor of an extra article. The sources for the majority of these stories are "The Lancet," "JAMA," and "Nature." Should anyone desire the exact page and page for further info on any of the articles I will be happy to forward it.

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Mensa Arkansas Directory



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- Delynn Holleman, Assistant LocSec**.....501-513-0504
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- Richard Emmel, Treasurer**.....501-821-3747
24404 Knabe Lane Little Rock, 72210 e-mail: remmel@flash.net
- Duke Heath, Editor**.....870-256-4876
Box 544 Des Arc, AR 72040 e-mail:827374@crosscountybank.com
- Eileen Scarborough, Gifted Children Coordinator**.....501-521-0582
601 Lindell Fayetteville, AR 72701
- Sean McDougal, Scholarship Chair**.....501-996-4689
514 West Fresno Greenwood, AR 72936
- John W. Tibbs, S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator**501-967-5349
491 Meadow Road, Russellville, AR 72801
- Darryl Riser, Web Master**.....870-862-9094
Box1244, El Dorado, AR 71731 email: envoy@ipa.net
- Mensa Arkansas Web Site:** www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/8463
- Rik Hess Region 6 RVC**817-292- 9477
6052 Wormar Ave. Fort Worth, TX 76133 e-mail: rikhess@usa.net
Web Site <http://www.flash.net/~rikhess>
- Proctors:**
- Booneville, Donald Smith**..... 501-969-8631
- Clarksville, Ruth McAuley**.....501-754-7483
- Conway** Vacant
- Fort Smith** Vacant
- Hot Springs** Vacant
- Jacksonville, Franklin Duke**.....501-985-1965
- Little Rock, John Morgan**..... 501-224-8578
- Morris Middleton**..... 501-224-8771
- Pine Bluff, Emmitt Clark**..... 501-879-2414
- Russelville, Peggy Tibbs**501-967-5149

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Famous Birthdays

Arkansas Mensans in Bold Type

- November 3 Earl Douglas Weniger**
Adam Ant, Stephen F. Austin, Charles Bronson
- 4 Lewis Culver Dale Kriner Jr. Duke Heath**
William of Orange, Walter Cronkite, Ralph Maccio
- 5 William Seim**
Roy Rogers, Vivien Leigh, Art Garfunkel
- 6 John Summers Joseph Herman Scherrey**
Sally Field, John Phillip Sousa, James Naismith
- 8 Janina Eggensperger**
Edmund Halley, Christian Barnard, Bonnie Raitt
- 9 Jack Allen Sallee**
Ed Wynn, Gregory Pincus, J. William Fullbright
- 10 Lisa Dolejs James Montgomery**
Roy Scheider, Martin Luther, Sinbad
- 12 James Craig Walter Walker**
Neil Young, Rodin, Charles Manson
- 16 Joelle Pippen**
W.C. Handy, Tiberius Caesar, Burgess Meridith
- 19 William Westerman**
Jodie Foster, Indira Gandhi, Ted Turner
- 22 Thomas Rowland**
Jamie Lee Curtis, Bach, Tarzan
- 28 Robert Bradshaw Clay Robbins**
William Blake, Frederick Engels, Berry Gordy Jr.
- 29 Russel Redoch**
Christian Doppler, Louisa May Alcott, C. S. Lewis

Mensan Anniversaries

- 21 years** Richard Turner
- 18 years** Peggy Tibbs
- 17 years** Msgt. Jacqueline Wallace
- 16 years** Majorie LeClair
- 15 years** Alice Fleming
- 14 years** Deb'Y S. Gaj Lois Krantz
- 12 years** Steven Cooper
- 11 years** Shawn Fulpersmith
- 3 years** Charles Finnell
- 2 years** Harve Thorn III

The most common last name in the world is Wong



Rik's RVC Ramblings

The Mensa Region Six Report

by Rik Hess

With the talk going on about our Mensa dues recently, I thought it would be a good time to take a look at just where your dues money gets spent. Our Executive Director, Pam Donahoo, had prepared a sheet showing the "Program Cost Per Member" for the Financial Task Force last summer. I asked her to update it to show the most current breakdown using the best numbers available. I found the results interesting and wanted to share them with you.

Based on what I learned, I am instituting a challenge among the local groups in Region Six. You may help your local group to win \$50 to be used in any way your board decides -- read on, details are below.

Before we look at the actual numbers, there are a couple things to be aware of in the way Mensa works. First of all, the income is not figured by multiplying the number of members by the standard dues rate of \$45. There are a number of "Second Family" members who only pay \$30 per year. Then there are even more members who take advantage of the multi-year programs. They get a discount on their dues -- 10% for three year memberships, and 12% for five

year memberships. Then, too, there are the Life members who have paid in a set amount and will never pay dues again. We hope the investment income from their payment will subsidize their dues costs. All told, the actual amount received from dues averages about 90% of the \$45 dues.

Secondly, there are non-dues income sources. Things like the mail list rental (have you been offered an Mensa credit card, or other service?), licensing our name, and other programs add to the income. Even our testing is a significant income source. These non-dues income sources bring in about \$7.90 per member.

On the outflow side, Pam has allocated all expenses to the programs they serve. For staff time, this is broken out by the amount of time they dedicate to the various programs they work on. Other expenses have been allocated the same way. She has also allocated the income by program. The table below is based on the Net Cost per Member (CPM).

The first thing that I would like to point out on this table is that the three largest program costs items are returns to the membership.

There is approximately one chicken for each person in the world.

Local Group Dues, Bulletin costs, and Additional Local Group Support combine to total over 45% of the total program costs.

The next largest program cost is Membership Processing. The largest portion of this item consists of the mailings the national office sends to each member asking for dues. There is a series of three mailings, and each has historically paid for itself with returned results. But if there were some way to reduce the number of invoices the

national office had to send out it would free up money for other programs -- or to make dues increases even less common!

The remaining programs are pretty much self-explanatory. Together they account for less than 40% of the costs.

I wish we had more cash available to fund some efforts in these areas that could be used to help the local groups take on some increased activity, but this is pretty much a bare-bones operation at present.

Program Costs Per Member

1. Local Group Dues	\$7.12	Local newsletter
2. Bulletin	\$6.02	Printing and mailing
3. Local Group Support	\$5.97	Labels, postage, subsidies etc.
4. Membership Processing	\$5.87	
5. Recruiting/PR	\$3.59	
6. Administration	\$3.23	
7. International Dues		Based on 5%
8. MERF	\$2.03	Grant, OH, and Staff
9. AMC Meetings	\$1.34	
10. AMC Administration	\$1.32	
11. Insurance and Legal	\$0.71	Liability
12. Corporate Subscriptions	\$0.57	Inter-group newsletters

Because of the rotation of the earth, an object can be thrown farther if it is thrown west.

A sneeze can travel up to 100 miles per hour.

Some female cockroaches mate once and are pregnant for the rest of their lives .

13. RVC Support	\$0.48	
14. InterLoc	\$042	
15. Website and Services	\$0.19	
16. Elections	\$0.15	
17. Leadership Workshops	\$0.15	
18. Literacy Grants	\$0.11	
19. Hearings	\$0.07	
20. Gifted Children	\$0.05	
21. SIGS	\$0.03	
22. SIGHT	\$0.01	
23. Testing	\$0.48	Net income per member
Total	\$41.12	

All costs, including raw expenses, staff time and overhead has been allocated based on the approximate percentage of staff time spent on that project area. This also takes into account any offsetting income that is particular to that project area. (testing, marketing/bulletin ads etc.) These are estimates based on the budget for 1999-2000

Now, here is my challenge -- I will give \$50 to the local group that has the highest percentage of its members renewed by January 1, 2000. This counts those already on Life or multi-year programs. I simply wish to encourage early renewals.

Why do I want this? Each member who renews early saves Mensa money (several dollars each) in mailing costs for invoices. You can call the national office during normal working hours M-F, 8:30 - 5:00, and charge your membership to a major credit card. Or you can write to the office at: American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103 and enclose a check for the current dues (please confirm the amount if the dues increase has passed). While you are at it, you may want to consider a three or five year renewal. You save money, Mensa saves money, and you may help your group win the challenge. Or consider a Life membership and never worry about Mensa dues again.

$$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$$



Laws to Live By



Brought down to us by Joe Barda

O'Reilly's law of the kitchen:
Cleanliness is next to impossible.

Lieberman's law: Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter since nobody listens.

Denniston's law: Virtue is its own punishment.

Conway's law: In any organization, there will always be one person who knows what is going on. This person should be fired.

Finster's law: A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Lynch's law: When the going gets tough, everyone leaves.

Muir's law: When we try to separate anything out by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

Glyme's formula for success: The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can fake that, you've got it made.

Hanlon's razor: Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.

Handy guide to modern science:
If it's green or wriggles, it's biology.
If it stinks, it's chemistry.
If it doesn't work, it's physics.

Green's law of debate: Anything is possible if you don't know what you're talking about.

Stewart's law of retroaction: It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

First rule of history: History doesn't repeat itself, historians merely repeat each other.

Oliver's law of location: No matter where you go, there you are.

Harrison's postulate: For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

Gold's law: If the shoe fits, its ugly.

In the 3rd to 2nd century B.C., Eratosthenes measured the radius of the earth without the use of precision instruments and came within 1% of the actual value determined by today's space craft technology.

News from Medicine

Assimilated from various sources

World population reaches six billion.

October 12 has been designated as "The Day of six Billion," when the world's population will reach that figure.

The world's population has doubled in the past 40 years.

Ovaries successfully implanted.

For the first time, surgical re-implantation of previously frozen ovarian tissue has restored menstrual function to a woman who lost her ovaries to an earlier medical condition.

With this technology, women who need chemotherapy or radiation therapy for cancer treatment and want to preserve their fertility will be able to bank their ovarian tissue and have it transplanted when their cancer treatment is complete.

The patient lost her first ovary to a cyst when she was 17 years old. Her second ovary was removed -- and then cryogenically preserved -- after she was diagnosed with an undisclosed benign medical condition. The patient entered menopause soon after removal of the second ovary.

She responded to the treatment, developed an egg and ovulated. The

patient then had a normal menstrual period. The technique will also enable patients to prolong their reproductive life span, as banked ovarian tissue does not age.

New bacteria slays athletes.

Two young Swedes who died suddenly while playing ice hockey were felled by heart inflammation caused by a bacteria never found before in humans.

The finding suggests a new cause of sudden cardiac death in young people.

The bacteria, *Rickettsia helvetica* are from the family of microorganisms transmitted to humans by tick bites. *Rickettsia helvetica* is the eighth new rickettsia shown to cause human disease in the past 14 years.

Rats harmed by altered potatoes.

Evidence that rats developed tissue damage after being fed genetically altered potatoes has finally been published, renewing a fierce debate over the safety of such modified foods.

A component of genetically modified food seems to cause changes in rat intestines. There is also evidence that pollen from a genetically modified corn kills larvae of the monarch butterfly.

Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of the blue whale.

In the United States, a pound of potato chips costs two hundred times more than a pound of potatoes.

French zoo lemurs have "mad cow disease."

At least 20 lemurs, a type of primate, living in three different French zoos have been found to be infected with the same infectious agent that causes "mad cow disease," or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

The animals' diets included 15 percent beef protein produced by a company in the United Kingdom, suggesting that their feed was infected with the prion that causes BSE from slaughtered cattle.

Autopsies of the lemurs showed the presence of the prions in all the animals.

Prions are an abnormal form of a naturally occurring protein, which is thought to cause neurological degeneration and ultimately death in animals and people exposed to the mutant protein.

Researchers conclude that "BSE contamination of zoo animals may have been more widespread than is generally appreciated." (What about the British cattle that were given the same feed, and the people who devoured those cattle?)

Mad cow disease in humans.

An unusually high number of cases of new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.) - the fatal illness in humans that

experts believe is linked to "mad cow disease" - occurred in the United Kingdom in the last quarter of 1998, according to a report.

Experts fear that any increase in CJD is an indication that the epidemic of the disease is beginning.

An epidemic of BSE in cattle occurred in the UK, beginning with 60 cases in 1986, which escalated to 600 in 1987 and 3,000 cases 1988, and ultimately led to the slaughter of millions of cows and a huge weight loss for Oprah Winfrey.

Because the incubation period for these type of disorders can take years or even decades, experts are constantly on guard for any increase in cases of the human form of the disease.

Starve rather than poison cancer.

Experimentation with "anti-vessel forming" drugs have resulted in reports of "miracles" for people at death's door. One man had an extremely aggressive form of thyroid cancer. The tumor was so large there was no indentation between his neck and chin. The tumor began shrinking after the second treatment. By the end of six treatments the growth was no longer visible on scans. When the doctors operated to remove any traces of the cancer, none was found.

New technique aids heart bypass.

In an effort to keep vessels used in bypass surgery from reclogging, scientists have genetically altered the blood vessels. Up to 30 percent of bypass patients have their heart arteries relog in just a year. Few patients survive 10 years without needing retreatment, and high-risk patients - such as those who already have undergone repeat surgery - relog at even greater rates.

Clogged arteries are bypassed with veins taken from the leg. But a vein is not accustomed to the intense pressure, so, it reacts in shock, causing rapid growth of cells against the vessel wall that result in a flabby, dangerous thickening.

In the new procedure, the vein is bathed in a solution containing a short piece of DNA. This DNA binds to, or soaks up, a protein that otherwise would switch on the gene responsible for driving the cell growth that relogs the vessels.

Parasitic worm treatment.

Intestinal parasites actually benefit patients with chronic inflammatory bowel disease, a new study suggests. Six patients with either Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis that did not respond to conventional treatment volunteered to try an experimental treatment where they swallowed the eggs of an intestinal worm, known as a helminth. The researchers found the bowel disease went into remission. The researchers hypothesize that the common Western practice of

eradicating parasitic worms may have an inadvertent adverse effect in the human body, which has evolved an immune system that is designed to combat a barrage of parasitic infections. When there are no worms present, the immune system geared to attack them may instead attack the gastrointestinal tract in some people.

The research team developed this theory after observing that autoimmune disorders are rare in developing nations where parasitic worms are still a common problem. The researchers believe that the worms may have a natural property that dampens an arm of the immune system, reducing inflammation.

Africa addresses doomsday scenario.

More than two-thirds of all the world's people now living with the virus that causes AIDS - nearly 21 million individuals - and 83 percent of all the world's AIDS-related deaths since the pandemic emerged have occurred in Africa.

In Zimbabwe, alone, 1,200 people die each week from AIDS or AIDS-related illnesses. In the southern African nation of 12.5 million people, 25.84 percent of adults are estimated to be infected, trailed by neighbors Botswana, with 25.10 percent, and Namibia with 19.94 percent adult infection. In some southern African countries, life expectancy has plunged from around 60 years to 42, and is expected to drop another 10 years over the next decade if current infection trends are not slowed.

The Skeptic's Corner

The Kansas School Board

By Duke Heath

The Kansas school board recently passed a law requiring the de-emphasizing of science and the teaching of myth in the science classroom. They ruled that "scientific creationism" be given equal weight since evolution is only a theory.

The theory of evolution is far from just a theory. It is THE BASIC SCIENTIFIC FACT IN BIOLOGY.

The whole science of biology would make no sense without it.

The keystone of scientific creationism is a six thousand-year-old Earth. Without a young earth that theory makes no sense.

With all of the present scientific knowledge that we have today, what percentage of that knowledge indicates a six thousand-year-old Earth? What percentage indicates a four and a half billion years old Earth with life forms gradually going from simple to more and more complex as the billions of years passed?

One hundred percent of the evidence that God and nature give us shows without question that the Earth is indeed four and a half billion years old.

Young Earth creationists often point to the verse "a day is as a thousand years to the Lord." They insist that if God had meant millions or billions, he would have said millions or billions.

When the Bible was written, the word meaning the largest number known to man was the word "myriad" meaning a thousand. There was no use for any word of greater value because people of that time did not deal in numbers of that size. When calculating the number of poppy seeds in the entire universe, Archimedes used the expression "myriads of myriads of myriads."

The word "million" did not come along until around 1300. If the Bible were written today that verse might very well have said, "a day is as a million years to the Lord," or "a day is as a billion years," or "a day is as eons to the Lord."

The young Earth creationists are infiltrating positions of power across this country. In Kansas, the school board, by one vote, over ruled the objections of every expert in the field and the vast majority of Kansas theologians and teachers.

There is no better comment on the absurdity of this decision than the one the Kansas governor gave after being informed of the decision. He stated that he was ordering new signs to be placed on highways entering his state. The signs would read, "You are now entering the great state of Kansas, please set your watches back four hundred years."

The November Sky

By Duke Heath



This month provides the most spectacular heavenly sight that most of us will ever see, the Leonid Meteor storm. Even if you have never looked up into the night sky, even if you have no interest in astronomy or nature, even if you have no interest in beauty, I implore you to miss a little sleep this month in order to see the show of a life time.

The Leonids tend to storm every 33 years. Last year I counted eight hundred fire balls that turned night into day. I have never seen a more beautiful or spectacular sight. Last year was merely a taste of what may come this year. The last storm was in 1966. That year the storm produced more than 150,000 meteors an hour!

The 1998 fireballs came and went eighteen hours earlier than expected. Those that observed on the expected night of their arrival saw very little. This year, however, scientists feel a little more certain of the time of arrival. But, just in case, I will be observing several nights before and after. The expected time of the show will be after midnight the morning of the 18th. To be clear, if you are only going to watch one night, that night should be after midnight Wednesday the 17th.

Walt Whitman tells us of a time when Abraham Lincoln recalled the 1833 Leonids which produced more than 100,000 per hour. During the gloomiest days of the war Lincoln was confronted by a large delegation of bankers and asked if his confidence in the permanency of the Union had been shaken. Lincoln replied, "When I was a young man in Illinois, I boarded with a Deacon of the Presbyterian church. One night I was aroused from my sleep by a rap at my door, and I heard the Deacon's voice exclaiming 'Arise, Abraham, the day of judgement has come!' I sprang from my bed and rushed to the window, and saw the stars falling in great showers! But, looking back of them in the heavens I saw all the grand old constellations with which I was so well acquainted, fixed and true in their places. Gentlemen, the world did not end then, nor will the Union now."

Other great sights this month include bright Jupiter and companion Saturn. The great planet is the brightest object in the sky other than the moon. Saturn is just northeast of Jupiter (low and to the left). Both are incredible telescope objects this month. I enjoy watching the moons of Galileo orbit the planet, while wondering what the great scientist must have thought. The shadows of both Io and Ganymede can be seen crossing Jupiter's disk between 7:30 and 9:10 on Thursday the fourth.

One-fourth of the world's population lives on less than \$200 a year. Ninety million people survive on less than \$75 a year.

The Interview

Submitted by Joe Barda

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources person asked the hot-shot young Engineer, fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?" The engineer coolly said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer said, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5 weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years - for starters, say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer tried to control his excitement, but sat straight up and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

"Yeah," the interviewer shrugged, "But you started it."

Welcome New Member !!!

Ragavan Mahadevan

When the Mayflower, which took the pilgrims to America, had eventually outlived her usefulness she was dismantled and then reconstructed as a barn.

The Men of The Millennium

by Duke Heath

As we approach the end of the millennium, I have been thinking about who has had the greatest impact on civilization during the past thousand years. Why not consider the first millennium? In my humble opinion, the contest for the first millennium would be a run away in favor of the Man that time itself is named for.

Several of us thought it might be great publicity to send the Democrat/Gazette the selections of Arkansas Mensa for both the century and the millennium. Should we get an article in the newspaper, we could include, "if interested in joining Mensa or subscribing to M-Ark contact etc." This has the potential to boost membership and M-Ark operating capital. It might also be beneficial to us to try to interest local papers in running the article. Please send me input on this proposal.

The entire editorial staff researched the millennium from 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 1000 to 2:23 a.m. July 10, 1999. Many people of tremendous influence did not make the list. People that influenced millions did not make the list in favor of those that influenced billions.

The Millennium

11th century **Avicenna**-the most influential of all Muslim philosophers.

12th century **Averroes**-Arabic philosopher that brought the teachings of Aristotle to the west.

13th century

This was a century in which only one nomination was required. The man of the thirteenth century is the most remarkable military leader the world has ever known: **Temujin**. Of course you might recognize him better by his alias **Genghis Kahn**.

14th century

An unknown Kipchak commander. If I could locate this commander's name, he would "hands down" be my choice as man of the millennium. Not only did he invent biological warfare, but the entire course of human history changed due to his actions.

In early 1347, a Genoese trading post in the Crimea was being seized by the Mongols and Kipchaks. The Mongols had brought with them a new form of plague that was extremely virulent. During the siege, some of the Kipchak commander's men became ill and died. The commander decided to use this new deadly disease to his advantage and catapulted several bodies into the trading post. The results were devastating. The people of the city began dying at an unprecedented rate. The commander, however, made a crucial mistake that changed the course of history. He allowed one Genoese ship to escape. The ship arrived in Sicily in the summer of 1347. It brought gold, refugees, and the Black Death. The plague soon crossed to southern Italy where it marched northward at a steady rate of seven miles a day. Some estimates place the death toll in

Lightning strikes contain more than 1,000,000 volts and 200,000 amperes

Europe resulting from the plague to be almost 50% of the entire population. Nothing, no war, no epidemic before or since has killed such a high percentage of the population. It is an ill wind that blows no good. The Black Death was responsible for the birth of the Renaissance.

Since I have been unable to find the name of this Kipchak commander, I will award the next most worthy for this century: **Francesco Petrarck and Giovanni Boccaccio**.

Many scholars date the beginning of the Renaissance as being July 20, 1304, the birth date of Petrarch. Working together, these men initiated the Renaissance by seeking out ancient texts and translating them, particularly the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Their work encouraged a rebirth of learning.

15th century

Johann Gutenberg

Many people will probably go with Columbus for this era. Without Gutenberg's invention, however, the scientific revolution would never have occurred. Once bibles and other documents became more readily available, people could decide for themselves what was truth and what was not. Because of Gutenberg, people began to doubt beliefs that kept learning to an absolute minimum for a thousand years. **16th century** **Copernicus**, he gave us a different view of how we relate to the universe.

17th century

With the exception of the 20th, the

greatest century of discovery the world has ever known. The greatest mind the world has ever known makes for another easy choice; **Isaac Newton**. **Galileo** deserves an honorable mention.

18th century Napoleon

One of the toughest centuries to choose, Napoleon's major impact was in the 19th century, but he would not even have made the nominating list so great are that century's nominees. Other nominees include Jefferson, Madison, and Jenner.

19th century

Except for the 17th, this century had the strongest nominees that did not get chosen. How could you choose anyone over Thomas Edison? Karl Marx? I believe Marx or Edison would have won in any other century except the 17th. So, who could I pick that has had more influence than the man that invented the lightbulb, than the man that founded socialism and communism? The choice is simple, the greatest biologist that ever lived, **Charles Darwin**.

20th century

Adolf Hitler? FDR? Salk? King? Ford? Graham? Einstein? Watson and Crick? Hefner? No! These men only influenced millions.

Gates? Fleming? I can see the argument for either one of these and would have no problem if someone chose one of them.

Mosquitoes are attracted to blue twice as much as to any other color.

However, the man that has influenced the most people this century and gets my nod over Fleming and Gates is **Mao Zse Dong**.

Man of the Millennium

The selection for "Man of the Millennium" was the only name mentioned by every Mensan that took part in the survey. It is one of the few subjects that the majority of Mensans agree on.

My initial selection was the most remarkable mind the world has ever known; Isaac Newton. The Principia is the greatest, and most influential science book ever written. The industrial revolution would not have occurred if not for Newton.

Isaac Newton, however, might have been a farmer if not for Mensa Arkansas's selection for man of the millennium: **Johann Gutenberg**.

Gutenberg's invention of the printing press is directly responsible for the explosion of knowledge during the scientific revolution.

By 1500, nine million copies of 30,000 separate works were in print. Science became not the product of individuals working in isolation, but, of the scientific community as a whole.

Men like Newton were the result of combining the achievements of Gilbert, Galileo, Kepler and Descartes. Men standing on the shoulders of other men.

This was possible because of the invention of Johann Gutenberg, the most influential man of the millennium.

The Five Most Influential

I had an opportunity to view *The History Channel's* most influential men of the millennium show long after this article was written. I was pleased to see how similar our lists were.

1. Johannes Gutenberg
2. Isaac Newton
3. Galileo
4. Charles Darwin
5. Karl Marx

There are more than 1,000 chemicals in a cup of coffee. Of these, only 26 have been tested, and half caused cancer in rats.

THE MAKING OF A JOHANNY BOD

While reading a physics book, the convinced professor noticed that one of his top students had interest in a question on the test: *Determine the height of a skyscraper using a barometer.* The student's answer was: "Go to the top of the skyscraper, tie a very long string to the barometer, then lower the barometer to the ground, measure the length of the string and add to it the height of the barometer. This is the height of the building." The professor, although surprised that this brilliant young man did not know the answer, marked the answer wrong and gave no credit for it.

After seeing his grade the young man stomped into the professor's office and demanded full credit for his answer. "But you missed the question, you gave the wrong answer!" roared the teacher.

"Are you saying that my method will not give the correct result?" asked the impatient young student. "Of course it will give the correct answer, but you did not solve the problem by the conventional way!" replied the hazy instructor. The student demanded full credit, by reason or else, have an arbitrator settle the dispute.

The professor agreed to arbitration by the chairman of the department. After reading the boy's answer the concerned chairman suggested the student be given full credit because, even though he did not know the correct answer, he had in fact given a method, though somewhat unorthodox, of correctly determining the height of a building.

The student would not accept the compromise. He still demanded full credit. The arbitrator then suggested the boy be asked, with the understanding that his previous answer would be nonacceptable.

The student proceeded to give several ways of finding the height of the building using a barometer.

"The best way is to take the barometer to the basement and knock on the superintendent's door. When the janitor opens the door and asks you for an answer, tell him that you will give him this very fine building barometer if he will tell you the height of the building."

You can also go to the janitor and carefully place the barometer on the floor against the wall and mark its height. Then using that mark, place the barometer on that line and mark again, thus using the barometer as a yardstick.

Do this all the way to the top of the building. Multiply the number of marks you made by the height of the barometer to get the building height.

Another way is to measure the shadows of both the building and the barometer, measure the height of the barometer, then using simple proportions, determine the height of the building.

You could also go to the top of the building and drop the barometer to the ground, measure the time it takes the barometer to hit the ground. You then determine the height of the building by squaring the time it took the barometer to fall to the ground, then

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The Making of a Science God

While grading a physics final, the renowned professor noticed that one of his top students had missed the key question on the test: *Describe how to determine the height of a skyscraper using a barometer*. The student's answer was, "Go to the top of the skyscraper, tie a very long string to the barometer, then lower the barometer to the ground. Measure the length of the string and add to it the height of the barometer. This is the height of the building." The professor, though surprised that this particular young man did not know the answer, marked the answer wrong and gave no credit for it.

After seeing his grade the young man stormed into the professor's office and demanded full credit be given. "But, you missed the question, you gave the wrong answer!" replied the teacher.

"Are you saying that my method will not give the correct results?" asked the impudent young student. "Of course it will give the correct answer, but you did not solve the problem in the conventional way!" replied the irate instructor. The student demanded full credit be given or else have an arbitrator settle the dispute.

The professor agreed to arbitration by the chairman of the department. After reading the boy's answer the esteemed chairman suggested the lad be given half credit, because, even though he did not know the correct answer, he had, in fact, given a method, though somewhat unorthodox, of correctly determining the height of a building.

The student would not accept the compromise. He still demanded full credit. The arbitrator then suggested the boy be retested, with the understanding that his previous answer would be unacceptable.

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