

Mblem

October 22, 2005 NATIONAL TESTING DAY

MENC's PARTICIPATION

publicized at American MENSA's website

www.us.mensa.org

Alert your Buddies,

Tell your friends,

Remind your Kin!

Nine available locations are as follows:

- Wednesday evening, October 12 - Apex*
- Saturday, October 15: Greenville.
- Wednesday evening, 19 - Greensboro
- Saturday, October 22: Wilmington, Greensboro, Apex*, Durham*, Fayetteville*
- Saturday, November 5, Jacksonville

*Subject to change, depending on the availability of locations. Our website at menc.us will post up-to-the-minute dates and times.

Questions? Contact Proctor coordinator

last month, many of us gathered in New Orleans for our Annual Gathering.

Several hundred Mensans live in the hurricane region and we have been contacted by many members with offers to help them. We have set up a special email address, hurricanerelief@americanmensa.org to facilitate communication during this crisis. Please use this email address if you have assistance to offer (housing available, supplies, transportation, employment) or if you are a Mensa member who has been affected, or had family affected, by the hurricane. Please be very specific in your email; let us know your name, member number, location and specific needs or ability to help. The National Office will review these emails and attempt to connect members who can help each other.

Many members have asked about donating through American Mensa to the Red Cross. We are happy to facilitate this effort. Checks should be made out to Red Cross - Disaster relief and sent to the National Office. We will collect the donations and present them to the Red Cross in the name of concerned Mensans in a few weeks. There are other organizations which are collecting for these efforts as well and we encourage you to give to the organization of your choice.

The National Office is located in Arlington, Texas, where local shelters are being overrun with storm refugees. If you live in the area and would like to donate supplies to the relief effort, please feel free to bring them to the National Office, M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. We will distribute the supplies to area shelters. Current needs for area shelters are bottled water, non-perishable food, toiletries, cleaning products and paper goods. The National Office is located at 1229 Corporate Dr W, Arlington, TX 76006.

Thank you to each person who has already contacted the National Office with offers of assistance. Many members call Mensa their family and it is truly wonderful to see this organization pull together as a true family. (This message was dated September 1, 2005. -- editor)

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Really nothing interesting in this issue*
- *Well, try the puzzles on pages 2, 5*
- *Are you interested in Music, Women, and/or Composers? Page 4*
- *Becoming a god? Page 6*
- *Look for Page 10 in this ten page publication*

WE ARE SORRY KATRINA HIT

From: "David Schulman"

To: "Russ Bakke" <Chairman@us.mensa.org>

Subject: Katrina

My thoughts are with you and all American Mensans as I view the terrible pictures showing the devastation caused by the hurricane.

Whilst I pity all who lived in the area I must feel particular concern for any fellow members of Mensa who have been affected and hope that there has been no loss of life amongst them.

Sincerely,

David

(David Schulman is the International Honorary President of Mensa. --- Editor)

From: Pam Donahoo

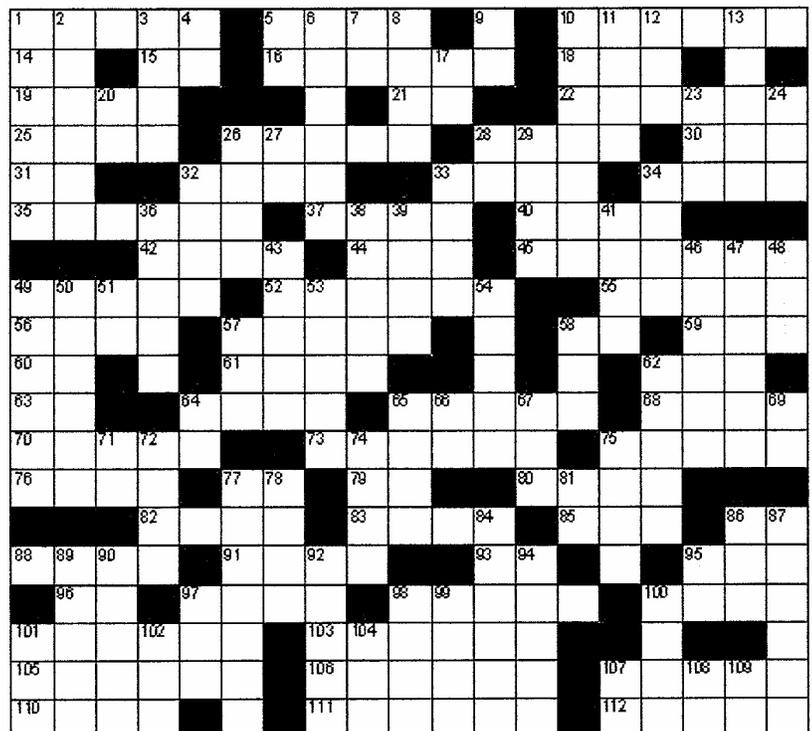
Subject: [AMLNews] Mensans Supports Hurricane Relief

Our thoughts are with the millions of people affected by Hurricane Katrina. This tragedy hits close to home as, just

“Weatherwise” – a crossword puzzle by Kim Oliver

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Leaf picker-upper</p> <p>5 Membrane</p> <p>10 Bell ringer</p> <p>14 Diphthong</p> <p>15 Radon symbol</p> <p>16 Russia city</p> <p>18 Uproar</p> <p>19 Gambler's calculations</p> <p>21 Pennsylvania</p> <p>22 The Jungle Books character</p> <p>25 Mah-jongg piece</p> <p>26 Ice pellets</p> <p>28 Celebrity</p> <p>30 Fink</p> <p>31 Train variety</p> <p>32 Prescriber's group</p> <p>33 Frost</p> <p>34 Cookware</p> <p>35 Send back</p> <p>37 Epic</p> <p>40 Big ice pellets</p> <p>42 Flaky stuff</p> <p>44 Name</p> <p>45 Diana's monkey</p> <p>49 Brownie</p> <p>52 Jehoshaphat's father</p> <p>55 Military storehouse</p> <p>56 Food safety group</p> <p>57 Seaman's coat</p> <p>58 Popular auto style</p> <p>59 Shred</p> <p>60 Japanese theater</p> <p>61 Salt away</p> <p>62 Ibsen character</p> <p>63 Columbian symbol</p> <p>64 Stormy wind</p> <p>65 Cumulus</p> <p>68 Biblical valley</p> <p>70 Several feet</p> <p>73 Evil spirit</p> <p>75 Second growth grass</p> <p>76 Killer whale</p> <p>77 Quick communication</p> | <p>79 Russell (G.) pen name</p> <p>80 Biblical name</p> <p>82 Rice-a-____</p> <p>83 Loosen</p> <p>85 Pen point</p> <p>86 Sumerian god</p> <p>88 Ethiopian lake</p> <p>91 Commercial sign type</p> <p>93 Cesium symbol</p> <p>95 Roman greeting</p> <p>96 Arizona</p> <p>97 Breeze</p> <p>98 Cold _</p> <p>100 Inland sea</p> <p>101 Hot</p> <p>103 Tuatara</p> <p>105 Mummery</p> <p>106 Overcoat</p> <p>107 Bell sound</p> <p>110 Son of Noah</p> <p>111 European bird</p> <p>112 Quality</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Fan</p> <p>2 Acoustic</p> <p>3 Gaelic</p> <p>4 Radon symbol</p> <p>5 __ Young, baseball player</p> <p>6 Trojan warrior</p> <p>7 Testing group</p> <p>8 Thin combining form</p> <p>9 Written addition</p> <p>10 Philippines buffalo</p> <p>11 Effluvium</p> <p>12 Rain maker</p> <p>13 Israel seaport</p> <p>17 Pagoda</p> <p>20 NYSE symbol, Dial Corp.</p> <p>23 Miracle ____</p> <p>24 Possessive pronoun</p> <p>26 Four-wheeled carriage</p> <p>27 Old record</p> <p>28 Accordingly</p> <p>29 Himalayan goat</p> | <p>32 British princess</p> <p>33 Poisonous snake</p> <p>34 Machinate</p> <p>36 Ore analysis</p> <p>38 Italy river</p> <p>39 Wolverine genus</p> <p>41 Holly genus</p> <p>43 Lizard</p> <p>46 World War II battle</p> <p>47 Individually</p> <p>48 Aye</p> <p>49 Papal ambassador</p> <p>50 Weather map line</p> <p>51 South Dakota</p> <p>53 Rubber tree</p> <p>54 Actor William</p> <p>57 Scouting group</p> <p>58 Operculum</p> <p>62 Weapon</p> <p>64 Soldier</p> <p>65 Spring combining form</p> <p>66 French the</p> <p>67 Type of illness, abbrev.</p> <p>69 Sumerian god</p> <p>71 Toastmaster</p> <p>72 Italy seaport</p> | <p>74 Sylvan deity</p> <p>75 Shower</p> <p>77 Cricket term</p> <p>78 Demeanor</p> <p>81 Nursing degree</p> <p>84 Indian tribe</p> <p>86 Command to go</p> <p>87 Nebraska city</p> <p>89 Vigil</p> <p>90 Nitrogen</p> <p>92 Hatred</p> <p>94 Tangle</p> <p>95 Arkansas</p> <p>97 Anglo-Saxon letter</p> <p>98 Ruckus</p> <p>99 Exclamation of disappointment</p> <p>100 Flute combining form</p> <p>101 Software company</p> <p>102 Denmark fjord</p> <p>104 Italian article</p> <p>107 Country singer McCall</p> <p>108 Argon</p> <p>109 Windows version</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

(Answer on Page 6)



My Experience as a Hotel Manager

by Ed Williams

I have written before about some experiences in the Army – such as having been, for a short time, the CEO of a major U. S. railroad company. But you may be surprised to learn that I was also the manager of a group of 5 hotels in a hot springs resort. I was a 19 year old second Lt. stationed on the southern-most of Japan's main islands:- Kyushu. For three months in the summer of 1947, I was detached from my artillery unit and assigned as the manager of a group of Army rest hotels in the resort city of Beppu, on the northeast coast of Kyushu. It was widely known for its spas, and its beautiful harbor and beaches. The Army had taken over these hotels for soldiers to come for R&R – three day passes or a week's leave. Four of them were for enlisted men and one was for officers. All had hot mineral springs in the hotel or on the grounds. I had a staff

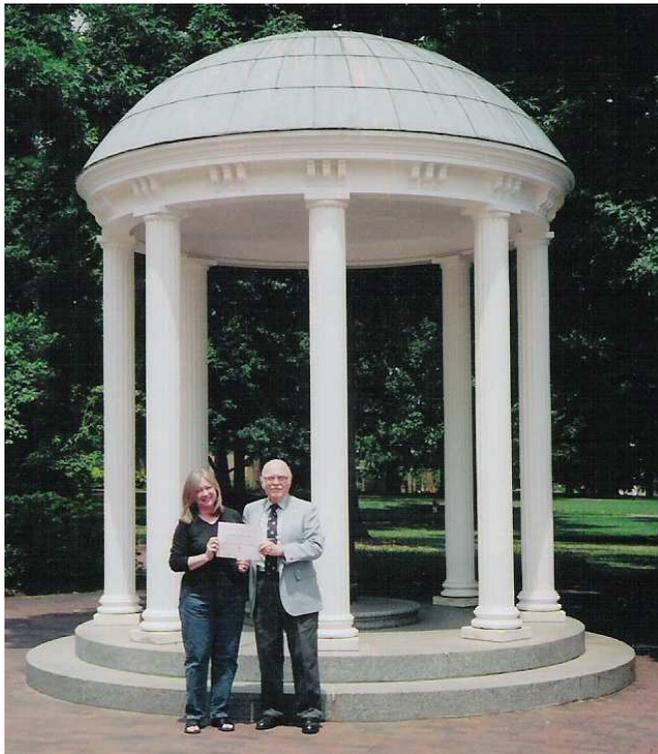
of Japanese who were quite experienced at running hotels, a couple of Army enlisted men, and a beautiful Japanese-American (Nisei) girl as my interpreter. She was born in Hawaii but had been taken to Japan by her parents on a visit and they were caught there by the outbreak of the war.

For several weeks, I stayed at the officers' hotel. But then I heard that boats were available at the naval base at Sasebo, on the other side of the island; so I went there requisitioned a boat for use at the hotels, had it loaded on an Army LST and shipped to Beppu. When it arrived, I decided to go stay in one of the downtown hotels – right on the waterfront (the officers' hotel was on a hill above the city). In the waterfront hotel, I could take small groups of soldiers out in the boat around the harbor at least twice a day. It was a great boat – like an old ChrisCraft but a bit bigger. Incidentally, I found that just north of Beppu was a

town called Usa, where various goods were made that were exported with a marking "MADE IN USA".

All good things come to an end, and I was transferred back to my field artillery unit, where, at least, I got to make things go "BOOM"! But one thing from that time has stayed with me since then. I became close friends with Captain Mick Murray, of the New Zealand Army, who was running a British Army rest hotel. When I went to N. Z. on a Fulbright in 1952, I looked up Mick. We renewed our friendship – which included his new wife and kids. When I went back to N. Z. as the U. S. Consul General at Auckland (1975 – 78) I become even closer with him and his enlarged family. Mick died 4 years ago, but I still correspond with his widow and one of his sons. A great friendship, from an unusual beginning.

One day, I'm going back to see what Beppu is like today, and think about old times – "a la recherche du temps perdues".



Giving Award: This photo shows our Scholarship Chairman, Ed Williams, presenting the award certificate to one of this year's scholarship winner at the Old Well in UNC. Ed says: "Cathy East Dubowski won a national-level Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship. She is a "non-traditional" student (age 50). A resident of Chapel Hill, she returned to college (Vermont College) after 18 years as a free-lance writer, to work for a MFA degree in creative writing for children and young adults."

Hard Act to Follow

Mblem Meditor

by Shiangtai Tuan

Yes, it is indeed a hard act to follow after Gwen Potter as well as a long stream of Mblem editors. Lucky for me, I only admit to be Interim Editor – sitting in this prestigious chair, waiting for someone else to take over.

Finding no clever, intellectual words to say, let me simply mention a few things mechanical. The practice of putting the calendar in the middle of Mblem started when we had small pages by folding the 8.5 by 11 paper in two. When the members received Mblem they could pull the full-page "center fold" out and post them on their fridges. Since we use full page, there is no reason to hide the calendar in the middle. So, I print it before page 1. You can pull it out easily as soon as you open your Mblem. On the same line of reasoning, I have shifted the pages to even/odd formatting. This way, the wider margins are on the same side of the paper, not on the same sides of "pages". As a result, you can

easily hold (or even staple) the left side and turn the pages like a book.

I will, of course, follow the good Mblem tradition of printing any MENC members' submission whenever it is possible. This promise reminds me of our editor Dave who promised to type out any submission, legible or not. Once there was something no one could understand. When I called him, he told me that he typed out everything on the post card, letter by letter in the original order. So, tell the rest of us about your trips, vacations, your new born Mensan, your graduation, your crazy thoughts, what you heard ... etc.

Ideally, I think the calendar should be what happens this month, not only the monthly events. I will do my best to reflect the Present. If there are items I forgot to put in or last month's event I forgot to take out, come and shoot me.

Gee, I worked so hard I cannot squeeze in my own "Trip to Forbidden City, Beijing, China."

View from a Southern Porch

RVC5 column

by Mike Seigler

The best thing about Mensa is its members. You can spend hours in lively debate about everything from the best flavor of Kool-Aid to existential philosophy. (Sometimes that's the same discussion.) It's also nice to kickback and relax with friends.

I went to the Alabama RG in Huntsville last weekend and it really was about being with friends. The theme set the tone "Welcome Home - Set a Spell". There were great programs, terrific speakers, and lots of activity. (Check out North Alabama's website at www.northalabama.us.mensa.org to see pictures of the bearded lady at the dance.) There was also time to just enjoy each other's company. The Alabama RG managed to be a no pressure gathering where everybody left feeling refreshed rather than exhausted. I highly recommend it to you for

next year.

My local group has an RG coming up with a significantly different theme. This is the thirtieth RG that Mensa in Georgia has hosted and it's appropriately named "Peachtreat! XXX". I don't know what they have in mind, but they promise "XXX-Large fun for all ... XXXtremely interesting speakers, Mensa Bowl, XXX-size movie room, XXXemplary hospitality, (and) XXXciting games can all be expected." It should be fun and Atlanta's the place you want to be September 16-18 for the party.

As most of you know, I like parties and Mensa gives me some discretionary funds for my expenses and to supplement local group activities. If your group would like to hold an RG and hasn't for a while, I will be happy to provide you with \$300 to \$500 in seed money. This will help you cover several small start-up expenses that come from hosting an RG.

October 22 is going to be a special day this year for Mensa:

American Mensa has designated the 22nd as National Testing Day and it's being promoted nationwide. Everyone has friends that should be in Mensa. Tell them about NTD and get them to register. Your local group will receive a small stipend from American Mensa for every test that is taken. This is a way to recruit the people you want as members and shore up the treasury at the same time.

Obviously, all the proctors will be busy, but there is an activity for everyone else. October 22 is also Make a Difference Day. This is a nationwide program where thousands of volunteers give their time to help others in their community. Activities vary widely and have included everything from reading to children to repairing senior citizens' houses. Make a Difference Day is different from every other program, because the volunteer decides how he wants to help. It is a tremendous opportunity to increase Mensa's profile in the community and feel good doing it.

(Received 8/25/2005 — editor)

Women Composers

LG News

by Shiangtai Tuan

This will be a special treat for the classical music lovers. Among us there are several great musicians, piano virtuoso, teacher ... but they have successfully kept incognito. The one I am talking about this time is Mary Ann Nilsson. She is not only a great pianist but also an educator with a special way of teaching. She would start from analyzing pieces and eventually lead you to appreciate music in general.

Ordinarily she would lead her audience to learn what puts a piece of music together by exploring the form and genre of several pieces. She would take each piece apart; examine its structure; demonstrate at the piano; and then put it all back together again; play it in its entirety. The historical period and lives of each composer will also be discussed. Members of the audience will leave with a clear understanding of form and function and a better ability to appreciate and enjoy classical music. However, for this meeting, she will do something different and special for us. Her topic will be Women Composers. She would talk about the lives, works, and the times of Clara Schumann, Amy Beach, Fanny Mendelssohn, and others; how their music was influenced and how they influenced others. Of course, one of the major part of her presentation is to sample some of their compositions.

SELECT YOUR ExComm by Shiangtai Tuan

I was really happy to work with a Executive Committee with five out of seven new members. I was new too but since I was on the ExComm before so it did not count. We lost three members by moving away or too busy working on other aspects in MENC. So, we got two more, again, new in committee capacity. The year is up and election comes soon. Please come and do some volunteer work for MENC while gaining your experience as leader. One of the MENCans, Ellen Muratori, is so tired of hearing my name she is having a plea for you to volunteer your self. (See right, I think Ellen knows me enough to forgive me for this joke.) I will not run the coming year. In fact, in MENC, Mblem editor is much more important than a LocSec. Too get rid of me, y'all please volunteer to take over the editor ship, so Mensans from other group will not laugh at us: "Look, MENC got an editor who does not even speak English."

Election Proctor: Ed Williams, see page 7 for contact info.

Consider the fact that my piano is out of tune and the piano room cluttered, Mary Ann has provided even her own house for this event. Our deepest thanks for that. Since Mary Ann enjoys an early morning life style, we will start on time. Please note that the gathering time is 7:15 PM and the program starts at 7:30. PM sharp, very sharp. RSVP preferred but not absolutely necessary.

Finger food, soft drinks will be provided and there will be a kitty of \$3, as usual.

Date: 2005.10.15, the third Saturday.

(continued from P.6)

With the big bed. So he figured out what to do. He had his people arrange a series of ropes and pulleys, so that they could hoist the bed up and stow it under the thatching during the day, and do the same with the throne at night. One morning, there was a tragic accident when he was having his formal "arising". The strain on the roof and poles was just too much, and the throne came crashing down, crushing the "king" in his bed. The moral of this story is:- people who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones.

ELLEN'S PLEA Ellen Muratori

The Executive Committee reminds us that:

MENC's By-Laws specify: Article V - Elections

#2. No later than November 1st the Executive Committee shall name an Election Chair who shall be responsible for conducting the election, ...

#3. Nominations shall be tendered for the Executive Committee no later than the deadline (each December) for the January issue of the local newsletter...

The entire By-Laws can be read at www.menc.us/bylaws.html

That leaves us two months in which to alert our members to come forward to guide Mensa of Eastern North Carolina in continuing on its successful course of existence.

MENC already has an Election Chairman in place (according to the masthead of MBLEM, namely Ed Williams.) Therefore, all that remains is that the members of MENC proceed with the gathering of nominees.

LocSecond

LocSec Column by Shiangtai Tuan

It is good to keep people informed. However, since I don't like to say things like "Ahem, this is your LocSec speaking". So I try not to run this column too often, only when there are important things to say.

Well, this is a busy month. First of all, Katrina caused the worst disaster ever in the U. S. history on our land. The initial storm surge wiped out towns as far as a mile from the coast line. One of our largest, most colorful cities, New Orleans, was mostly under water for days and the whole city is uninhabitable. Several off shore oil wells and some oil refineries are badly damaged. It is worse counting the loss in the human sense. Thousands lost lives. Millions became homeless. Not only their houses, but even their belongings were either washed away by water or looted out of their damaged houses. Their loss was so great that some lost their human nature – to the point they

loot and rape their fellow victims in broad daylight in the Superdome. I wonder how long before our country can restore herself. Let's do our best to help.

In comparison it is so insignificant but it is still a disaster for us that our Mblem editor resigned. We shall miss Gwen who has been so good and successful for the last four issues. Since I only got a 21 hour notice and there were only about 20 days before printing time, I did not think we had time to look for a "real editor". So, I took the emergency measure and looked for a publishing software so I can cut and paste – still better than using scissors and glue, the way people used to print newspaper. As you can see, this is probably as poor a job as you can expect. I will do this for a few months and shamelessly call myself a interim editor until someone cannot stand it any more and comes out to volunteer.

There is another personnel change: Bill Holt from Wilmington send out a request

earlier to ask if anyone would come forth to help because he had been the area contact for a long time. Chris Barnett came to the rescue. Please see Bill's message in the box below. The way I look at it, MENC is a whole. I had asked Bill to encourage all Wilmington area people to join the MENC announcement list (see page 7) so all activities can be shared without having to make a sub-local group effort from this local group, MENC. Bill has maintained that Wilmington is only a small area, not worthy for the MENC involvement. However, I feel that all of us are here together. Greensboro, Fayetteville ... activities are all on the Mblem calendar. Please, Wilmington people, open up to us, let Mblem and the announcement list serve you as we serve the rest of MENC area and let whoever wants to go to the beach know what is going on in one of the most beautiful places covered by MENC. You see, the rest of America shares the pain and the rescue effort of New Orleans. We, in MENC, are one also.

Mensans, Chris Barnett has stepped up to be the Wilmington Area contact. What a Guy! Chris is not only our Local Proctor, but now the Contact. We will get the info to Chris as soon as possible so that we can have a new slant on our local activities. I want to work with Chris and invite ALL our members to renew membership if you are due to renew and put the enthusiasm in our meetings and activities. I will send this to MBLEM and the statewide officers. Regards, **Bill Holt**

Where will you be next April?

by David Skaar

I know one place I'll be, participating in Culture Quest. Why am I writing about something nine months away? Sharon, our able past captain of previous years has handed the duties off to me, and since I spend most of the year between CQs (the abbreviation for those in the know) thinking about the next one, I'll inflict it on everyone else too. For those who don't know, Culture Quest is the annual trivial/general knowledge/arcane knowledge/cultural literacy trivia contest usually held in April. Five member teams across the US and Canada simultaneously take this brain draining, soul crushing, heart rending test. Every time I've participated, as soon as time runs out, I've found at least five more questions that I could have answered. Then I show the test to my wife, and she finds another 10 or 20 that she could have answered. Thanks to her, I will never forget who wrote "April is the cruelest month".

If CQ is that miserable an event, why participate?

Bragging rights. If your team places near the top, you get to feel superior, and win money for the local scholarship fund too. I guess the money is nice, but still secondary for me.

What sort of questions are on CQ? I'm glad you asked. Just about anything. History, literature, science, old music, new music, pop culture, geography, vocabulary, and lots and lots of odd facts. I get a kick out of it because I collect odd facts for just such an occasion. I save up what I think are good trivia questions, in the hopes I'll get asked them someday. I get upset when Jeopardy or (when it was on) Who Wants to be a Millionaire uses one of my good questions, because then I probably won't get to answer it. In a game of Trivial Pursuit, I knew what a bolide was from a comic book I'd read 10 years before. In previous Culture Quests, I knew the name of a Tchaikovsky opera from reading *The Eight* when I was 14, and I was able to come up with the genus and species *Yersinia pestis* (the bacteria that causes plague) because the protein that I wrote my thesis on has similarities to a protein of *Y. pestis*.

I expect I'll be popping up from time to time to remind people that CQ is coming, and the closer it gets, the more arm twisting I'll be doing to assemble a team. Until then, I encourage you to go out and collect interesting facts, and I'll be sharing some of my stranger ones with you to inspire and keep the brain cells nimble. And of course, if you disagree with my facts, please, prove me wrong.

This month's challenge – name changes. I have collected a list of famous people best known by names other than their birthnames. The new names may be married names, legal name changes, nicknames, pen names, or other such pseudonyms. There are people living and dead, real and fictional, interesting and not in this list, some of these name changes have been the subject of previous CQ questions. When a part of the birth name is too big a hint, I've Xed it out. Sorry. Some are easy, some I'll probably get complaints about being too sneaky. Too bad. Have fun.

(Answer on Page 6)

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) Mary Ann Evans | 8) James Alfred Wight | B. Lee | vanni Pacelli |
| 2) Mohammed X Abdul-Ra'ouf Qudwa Al-Husseini | 9) Albert Edward Saxe-Coburg-Gotha | 15) Reginald Dwight | 22) Josip Broz |
| 3) X Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili | 10) Marvin Lee Aday | 16) Richard Starkey | 23) Nguyễn Sinh Cung |
| 4) X X Ulyanov | 11) Gordon Shumway | 17) Marion Morrison | 24) Steve Rogers |
| 5) X Skłodowska | 12) Eric Blair | 18) John Reid | 25) Leslie King |
| 6) Doménikos Theotokópoulos | 13) Samuel Clemens | 19) Norrin Radd | 26) Three pseudonyms that are no longer famous, Acton, Currer, and Ellis Bell – what are the real names that are better remembered? |
| 7) David John Moore Cornwell | 14) Frederic Dannay and Manfred | 20) Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxh | |
| | | 21) Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Gio- | |

How I Became a God

by Ed Williams

I've previously written about my time as a Fulbright scholar in New Zealand in 1952-1953, and my return to the US in March-April 1953. Three buddies (on different scholarships) and I came home the long way - across the Tasman Sea to Australia, across the Indian Ocean, with stops in (then) Ceylon and Aden, through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, and into the Mediterranean. We left the ship at Malta, to travel by land across Europe to England, where we would take another ship to New York. We spent several days touring around Malta - a very interesting place with remains of different civilizations going back over 5000 years. It was fascinating to see the old fortresses at the port of Valletta, where the Knights of Malta (formerly the Knights of Rhodes) withstood a long Turkish siege in 1565.

As we wandered around the island, we saw old temples and sites of various religions. The island had been occupied by the Philistines, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, etc., all of which imposed their own religious beliefs on the ancient religion (whatever it might have been) of the Stone Age and Bronze Age inhabitants. (The Maltese language is a mixture of Arabic and Italian). One day, we came to one of the old caverns which had obviously been used for worship by the ancients. It was full of tourists. Deep inside the cavern was a large area which had a stone altar at the far end, big enough for a human sacrifice. Looking around and up, I noticed a small hole at the top, which might have allowed smoke from sacrificial fires to escape. When we went out, we climbed up to the top of the small hill, directly over the cavern. We four were the only ones who went up there. I saw the small hole I had seen from the inside, looked

through it, and saw many more tourists down there - mostly Italians. Suddenly, an idea struck me and I acted on it almost without thinking. I put my face down close to the hole and, using my deep Army command voice, called out into the cavern, in Italian: "Io sono il dio da questa caverna!" ("I am the god of this cavern!") and, not knowing what else to say, I recited the stanza from Dante's tour through hell: - "Lasciate ogni speranza, voi qu'entrate!" ('Abandon all hope, ye who enter here!'). We then went down the hill, where we saw tourists, apparently fearful, pouring out of the mouth of the cavern. I was amazed that so many people took it seriously. Later, I thought that this might become a legend and that this cavern might become even more of a tourist attraction. So should I have asked for a percentage? No, that would not be worthy of a god.

A Feghoot

by Ed Williams

In West Africa - Nigeria, Ghana, etc. - many tribal and village chiefs think of themselves as "kings" and act accordingly. In one big village, there was a "king" who had actually been to England and France, and therefore knew how kings were supposed to act. He lived in an extra-large thatched hut, in which the grass thatching rested on wooden poles. In the main space, there was a big brass bed (looked like gold), and every morning he had a formal "levée", as he had heard that Louis XIV always did, attended by his courtiers. After a time, he decided that, as a king, he also needed a throne. So he wrote to a prominent British throne manufacturer and ordered one. When it arrived, he found that it was quite large and heavy - too large to fit in the main space along

(continued to Page 4)

Answer to "Where will you be next April"

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) George Eliot | 11) ALF | 21) Pope Pius XII |
| 2) Yasser Arafat | 12) George Orwell | 22) Marshall Tito |
| 3) Josef Stalin | 13) Mark Twain | 23) Ho Chi Minh |
| 4) V.I. Lenin | 14) Ellery Queen | 24) Captain America |
| 5) Marie Curie | 15) Elton John | 25) Gerald Ford |
| 6) El Greco | 16) Ringo Starr | 26) Anne, Charlotte, and Emily Bronte |
| 7) John LeCarre | 17) John Wayne | |
| 8) James Herriott | 18) The Lone Ranger | |
| 9) King Edward VII | 19) The Silver Surfer | |
| 10) Meatloaf | 20) Mother Teresa | |

GREENSBORO COORDINATOR'S CORNER

by Ellen Muratori

The Triad area's Saturday Night Special continues to bring out friendly folks. Last month we enjoyed the company of Stephen Madison from High Point, Cathy and Max Harless, with Cathy's adventures in cat-sitting always a treat. Brian Stumpfing drove in from Whitsett, Melinda Kite and myself listened to the stories of Alan and Kathy Field's daughter, Roberta, regarding her experiences for two months at summer school in Israel. Now, THAT's experiencing the Middle East first-hand! And we comforted the Fields' other daughter, Caroline, who was nursing a summer cold. I forget which topic of conversation suggested that we cover the youngsters' ears, but it couldn't have been too raunchy - or I'd have remembered it!

Games night brought out a long-lost couple, Henry Sink and Susan Sadtler-Sink. Susan was sporting a colorful head covering that was a conversation grabber. A new member, Jim Graznak, grinned at the intricacies of Carcassonne and then joined Melinda Kite and Tom Zavist in a yo-ho-ho game of Loot. Henry, Susan, Brian Stumpfing, Robert Jones, from Charlotte, and I plodded through a slow-pokey game of Anagrams (too many zzzzs, uuuus, and qqqqs!). Earlier we had giggled, gasped, and grinned through Perudo, a liar's game of dice, a Peruvian game of bluff, guesswork and luck. Who said you have to be smart to play with Mensans? A good bluff works just as well.

Answer to "Weatherwise"

R	A	K	E	R		C	A	U	L		P		T	O	L	L	E	R	
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T	I	L	E			S	L	E	E	T		S	T	A	R		R	A	T
E	L			A	A	P	A			H	O	A	R		P	O	T	S	
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A	C	T	I	N	G		U	L	S	T	E	R		C	L	A	N	G	
S	H	E	M		S		M	I	S	S	E	L		W	O	R	T	H	