



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**MERF News**

Help raise \$10,000 for the Mensa Foundation!

[Editor's note: This is a message from Catherine Barney of the Mensa National Office.

Her email address is

<CatherineB@americanmensa.org>]

Microsoft's QnA Live and American Mensa have teamed up to create a lively "Ask Mensa" contest for the month of March that will give your brain a workout while raising money for the Mensa Education & Research Foundation. Our goal is to gather 50 Mensans - 10 teams of 5 people - to log onto QnA Live throughout the month of March to ask questions, give answers and vote for the best answers. (The emphasis is on answering questions, so the public can see how Mensa members respond to their queries.) As Mensa's teams engage more with QnA members, the money rises, until we hit a \$10,000 donation\* to the Mensa Foundation!

**How do I sign up?**

If you have 4 friends in Mensa who want to form a team, appoint a team leader who will then send the names, email addresses, and member numbers of your team of 5 to Catherine Barney at [catherineb@americanmensa.org](mailto:catherineb@americanmensa.org). *Please note, your name/email address will be sent to QnA Live. They will keep the addresses on file until the end of the promotion in April.*

To create a QnA Live ID, each team member

will need to visit

<https://accounts.services.passport.net/ppnetworkhome.srf?vv=450&lc=1033>. Please email your QnA Nickname and User Profile URL to Catherine, so your account can be tagged "Mensa" during the month of March. We'll need this information by February 2.

If you want to join a team, but don't have enough members, send Catherine your name and we can try to place you in a team that isn't full yet.

Unfamiliar with QnA Live? Visit

[www.qna.live.com](http://www.qna.live.com) for more information.

*\*Each time a Mensa member participates in March, it adds to the total donation, with a maximum donation of \$10,000*

**CultureQuest**

A message from the National Office  
Heather Spillers, National Groups Coordinator  
[heathers@americanmensa.org](mailto:heathers@americanmensa.org)

This year's CultureQuest(r) will take place Sunday April 29th. Set your calendars and register your teams now. CQ rules and application are available at [www.us.mensa.org/cq](http://www.us.mensa.org/cq)  
<[www.us.mensa.org/cq](http://www.us.mensa.org/cq)>

For more information on CultureQuest(r), contact CQ Coordinator Jonathan Elliott at [CultureQuest@us.mensa.org](mailto:CultureQuest@us.mensa.org).

An Announcement for Club Med SIG

**SIG Gathering**

Erica Byrne, Club Med SIG of American Mensa

April 21-28, 2007 Cancún Club Med, Cancún, Mexico

Active Mensans of all ages, including children and grandparents, are invited to join the Club Med SIG of American Mensa for a week of beach sports and fun at the Cancún Club Med starting Saturday, April 21, 2007.

Sports include sailing, windsurfing, water skiing, flying trapeze, tennis, salsa dancing, snorkeling, beach volleyball, and kayaking. All sports equipment, lessons, French/Mexican meals, and drinks are included in the room price of \$150 (p.p. D.O.). (For 10% off the listed room rate, call Mill Travel at 1-800-2HandsUp.) Just bring your swimsuit and passport. If you want to learn to windsurf, bring water shoes or "Aqua Socks".

Meet the Mensa group Saturday evening in front of the main restaurant in Club Med at 7:25 P.M. for dinner, followed by a week of active fun and sports. Details are on the SIG website at [www.MensaClubMed.org](http://www.MensaClubMed.org).

Contact Erica Byrne, SIG coordinator, at [EMByrne@attglobal.net](mailto:EMByrne@attglobal.net) with any questions and/or to receive the latest SIG newsletter. Registration is free. SIG membership is free.

Event Calendar **insert**

Event Listing **insert**

MERF News **Here 1**

Culture Quest **Here 1**

Med SIG Gathering **Here 1**

**ExComm News Here 1**  
**Special Notice**

Small Stuff Re visited **2**

**Your Attention is Requested 3**

Coordinators corner **4**

Be on TV **4**

A Most Unusual Friendship **5**

St. Patrick's Day Celebration **5**

Three Flares, Mblem, Website **6**

MMWM M-counter Intelligence **6**

Officers **7**

Contact Information **7**

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

***ExComm to Continue***

*MENC-AP (MENC Associated Press) It has been learned that there will not be an election this year. The current members will assume the hard task of the ExComm duty till next year. Then there will be an election with scale to rival the US presidential race.*

## Small Stuff Revisited.

David Skaar

This column marks the anniversary of my first inspiration to write an article for the Mblem, St. David's Day. St. David is the patron saint of Wales, the day reserved in his honor is March 1<sup>st</sup>, and is one of the biggest holidays in Wales, an occasion of great national pride. Unfortunately, it is overshadowed by St. Patrick's Day for several reasons. 1) Because it happens on the first, people like me, who forget to flip their calendars until the second week of the month don't find out in time. 2) It's not on most calendars, because most Welsh people are still in Wales, so calendars for anywhere else don't really need to mention it. 3) The Irish emigration to the U.S. vastly overwhelms the Welsh emigration, and with two U.K. centric holidays in the same month, one is going to win. Therefore, St. Patrick's Day gets all the attention through a combination of items 1-3, and primarily item #4 which is - 4) St. Patrick's Day is a lot more fun. St. David founded a monastic order with rules such as: human powered ploughing (no horses allowed, I guess he thought they had better things to do); no personal possessions; eat only bread without butter (no meat); and drink only water (no alcohol, making for a very dull party). As a result, St. David's Day is celebrated with parades, the wearing of brown tweed, and the eating of Leeks (the symbol of St. David, I guess because the shamrock was already taken).

St. David did live to about 90 years old, a remarkable achievement for the 6<sup>th</sup> century, even if he didn't have a whole lot of fun. The thing he is best remembered for, and what I like best, is a statement of philosophy from his very last sermon, that has been summed up as "Do the little things." That was the theme of my original article, and I have tried to keep it as a guiding principal for subsequent ones. In my life, the little things seem to get to me more than the big ones, and I seem to see that pattern in the world around me as well. A good example from my life, I was less perturbed by a pine tree snapping off in an

ice storm and falling across my front door than I am by water being spilled on the carpet.

So, in the theme of little things, I will make this column in the time honored newspaper columnist format of catchy little non-sequiturs chained together to fill up space. Also, my more coherent ideas for a full column would take too much effort right now, and as I've repeatedly said, I tend to write past my deadline, and don't like working any harder than I have to, so on with the little things.

First of all, this topic has been getting a fair amount of press lately, so I may not be breaking new ground here, but it needs to be said, just to make sure that no one misses it. Napoleon Bonaparte was not short. Despite what the myths, stereotyped insane people, Napoleon complex descriptions, and movies say, he was about average height for the time, 168cm/5'6". The short jokes mostly come from his nickname of "The Little Corporal", given to him based on his close relationship with the enlisted men, even though he was a high ranking officer.

The verb decimate, to paraphrase Inigo Montoya, does not mean what people usually think it means. The original meaning can be seen in its etymology, the prefix "deci-" meaning 1/10 (as it is used in the metric system). Decimation was a punishment for a Roman military unit that had screwed up particularly badly (usually by showing cowardice), and was punished by having one in ten men of the unit executed (this method of raising morale has persisted in present day management, although stopping short of actual deliberate death). In modern usage, an acceptable definition is essentially a synonym of devastate, or as Webster's puts it, to destroy a great number or proportion of. I can accept that. However, I just heard someone on TV, who should have writers that know better, state that the shock wave from a certain explosive device would decimate any person standing within a large area. How can you destroy a great number of one person?

On a similar theme, how about less and fewer? Most of you should know

this one. Less refers to something measured on a continuous scale, like a weight or volume. Fewer refers to something that is numerically countable, like a number of people or grocery items. For those with mathematical backgrounds, if you're using the counting numbers, you should be using fewer, otherwise, use less. Grocery store express lane signs that say 10 items or less, are therefore wrong, fewer is appropriate. Be sure to point this out to all the store employees, they appreciate it. Likewise, the vaccine commercials that are on TV right now saying that each woman who gets vaccinated will be "one less" cancer patient are wrong.

Quick now, what's the difference between farther and further? Technically, nothing. There is a trend these days that insists that farther is used for physical distance, and further is used metaphorically. I followed this usage rigorously, but then found out that this is a recent trend, with no historical basis; both words can be used for both meanings. Farther and further were just different spellings of the same word, and both have persisted in English. Since they're different words, it was felt that they should have distinct meanings; apparently the redundancy makes the overly orderly types nervous.

On the topic of paying attention, which I wrote about some time back, I have a new addition. When I was looking at turkeys around Thanksgiving and Christmas, I noticed that one brand had a prominent statement on its packaging, "No antibiotics or steroids are given to these turkeys." Underneath this proud proclamation of character and noble intent, was a statement in much smaller type, "Federal law prohibits giving antibiotics or steroids to poultry." A statement that appears to be bragging about a company's high standards then becomes a statement that the company is merely following the law.

I mentioned antibiotics. To get technical, antibiotics should be called antibacterials, and most things touted as antibacterial should be properly called antibiotic.

(Conti. To P.3, Small Stuff)

## YOUR ATTENTION IS REQUESTED!

Please read the following if you reside in an area with the zip code 270--, 271--, 272--,273--, 274--.

Triad Mensa, which was dissolved in April 2003, is about to become Triad Mensa again! You may say, "Why?" We know that as members we are welcome to attend meetings and events wherever a Mensa meeting is being held. Why create another group?

The answer, simply stated, is "Triad Mensa...is who we are!"

Members living in Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and surrounding areas identify with the Triad area. Geographic proximity is a strong factor for participation and provides opportunities for leadership roles of local members. Current, jointly-held events demonstrate the cohesiveness of the area along the I-40 corridor. A concentration of activity in Triad's area will increase visibility of American Mensa itself. And finally, the Triad area has the population and membership to merit its own group, to be led by its own members. We, of the Triad area, feel that by re-establishing our group, we offer American Mensa an opportunity to adjust its geographic boundaries to conform to reality.

The above paragraph is a synthesis of statements made by several of the organizing members. However, there may be those of you, residing in the zip codes mentioned above (such as Hillsborough, Sanford, Pittsboro), because of distance, would prefer to remain with Mensa of Eastern North Carolina. If that is the case, write to Mike Seigler, our RVC, and indicate your preference. His email address is: [m.seigler@comcast.net](mailto:m.seigler@comcast.net) If you do not have email, send your letter to: Mike Seigler, RVC5, 192 Katrina Drive, Powder Springs, GA, 30127-8747.

The organizers realize that friends have been made on both sides of the boundaries, and expect those connections to remain firm; but we feel that the time has come to once again create a strong center for our members to identify with. Namely, Triad Mensa.

Sincerely submitted as spokesperson for the separating group,  
Ellen Muratori

( Conti. From Page 2, Small Stuff )

The word antibiotic means "against life", but antibiotics are very specific in killing bacteria, and leaving everything else untouched. Bleach, soaps, and peroxide, among many other items are touted as being antibacterial, when in fact, they are pretty non-specific, and will kill just about anything. It's just that they're applied to where just bacteria are, or they kill bacteria slightly more effectively anything else. In the case of iodine, peroxide, or antibacterial soap, the dead layer of skin cells on the surface protects the living cells from the deadly chemicals; that's why they don't have any noticeable effect, except on a cut, then they burn like blazes.

And a final note, when you buy something that is supposed to be secure, please, please, please, change the defaults. I once had a miserable time setting up a wireless router for my home computer, because one of my neighbors

had the same model, and had never changed the defaults. As a result, there were two routers sending out the same identifying info, my computer couldn't tell the difference, and was switching back and forth between the two so that I couldn't complete the setup. I was able to deal with this once I realized the problem. If I wasn't such a nice guy, I would have then connected to theirs and changed all the settings so they couldn't use it either. If they didn't know enough to set it up correctly, they shouldn't be allowed to use it, right?

Richard Feynman, the Nobel Prize winning physicist, was at Los Alamos on the Manhattan Project in his younger days. He became terribly interested in security problems, and had a lot of fun exposing problems with filing cabinets with combination locks, and studied safecracking, but never had a chance to try to open a serious safe. Then he found out that a maintenance man had cracked a serious, heavy-duty, ultra-

secure, bank vault type safe when the only person who knew the combination was unreachable, and a document in the safe was desperately needed. He found this mastermind, and asked him how he did it, expecting to learn about feeling for tumblers clicking, where to listen, and all that sneaky stuff. The maintenance man said that brand of safe comes from the factory with one of two default combinations set, so he tried those, and one worked. Not changing the factory setting is like putting five deadbolts and chains on your front door, and having a giant picture window right next to it giving a good view of the Van Gogh in your living room. Some factory settings are unique and you can't change them, but if they give you the option, and the starting combination is 10-10-10, this is not a tough decision.

Until next time, be sure to sweat the small stuff, and if you're interested in Culture Quest, let me know, we may have a slot open.

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Ellen Muratori

You members spoke, yours truly complied.

First Saturday in March we'll try out McAlister's, an eatery with "atmosphere", reasonable prices and a varied menu. It's located on same street as the Cafeteria, closer to Eastchester Dr. For seating we'll have a corner to ourselves.

At January's Tweaky Tuesday, we welcomed a renewing member, Chet Hasert. Tom Tyson riveted our attention with the description of his fascinating new business. (Ask when you see him. <g>) Brenda Byrd, a new member, was wedged between the two guys engaged in aeronautical talk and I failed to suggest that she move to the other end where she could hear all about the latest word on the reformation of Triad Mensa. Reformation?? Make that re-formation! That topic was discussed among Tim Joseph, Max and Cathy Harless and myself. Big doings ahead. Plus, Tweaky Tuesday has become Wednesday Lunch, starting in March, this

### Be on TV Shiangtai Tuan

Once a year, UNC-TV has a big fund-raising project they call it "The Festival." In the duration of a month or so, they broadcast many of their favorite sample programs. Several times in an hour, they have "breaks" in which they ask for support. A lot of people will call in to pledge for their donations during such breaks. During this period, they would set up a studio providing space for many volunteers to help answer the phone calls. Though not a Mensa official business, several of us from MENC usually go to volunteer as a group. It has been a proud tradition for us to show our support for the community. Every day they would announce the names of groups volunteering for that day. So, it is also a way for us to gain some recognition. Wouldn't you like to hear them thanking MENC in the air? It is also fun for us to visit their TV studio. Many of us saw HDTV there the first time. The TV camera often shows those who are answering the phones. We volunteers often get the chance to be on the tube, the fifteen second fame, so to speak.

The work is not hard: It mainly involves staying in the studio for the duration of the "breaks" which is about five minutes, three or four times in an hour. The session is usually five hours plus a training session to learn how to answer their phones. During the time we are not answering the phones, we stay in a "green room", an area where we get food, coffee, and soft drinks donated by many good local restaurants.

I have been the contact for the past several years. They sent me brochures and called me to be sure we are going this year. We got the slot on March 21, Wednesday, from 6:00PM to 11:30 PM.

Since it is not a Mensan only activity, please make a family affair and come with your

month.

The maiden voyage of "Videos from the Vault" proved priceless. ?? What I mean is we saw antics on the screen best described by Melinda Kite as Road Runner versus Wylie Coyote, with a Simon Legree and a damsel in distress (Ann-Margaret??? distressed!?) It was pure, classic spoof. Brian Stumpfig, Brenda Byrd and Ellen Muratori agreed: the actors must have had a heyday BEHIND the screen. Thank you, Tom Tyson, for a Ponderosa relaxing evening after a ponderously busy workweek. Watch for next month's feature in email calendar announcement.

We held our last Friday night, recreation center, Games Event in January. Henceforth it will be held on the Fourth Saturday, at the homes of members. Ray Burton, a new member, but long-time games player, and his wife, Jennifer, hosted on February 24, 7pm till whenever. Games Event in March will be held at Mandy McGehee's. Address: 209 Kensington Rd., Greensboro, 27403 Directions: Mapquest or see email calendar announcement..

family and friends. We will meet many people who are not Mensans. So please consider the possibility that some of our fellow Ms do not want to advertise the fact they are.

I hope many of you would volunteer. I have told the UNC-TV contact that we will be a group of ten or more. Please make it "more". Please do call me or send me a message by e-mail if you intend to go or if you have questions. (See contact information page on the inside back cover.) Do check their website at <http://unctv.org>. We will meet there at 6:00PM. Go in the building and sign up at the receptions area.

They are located at the Joseph and Kathleen Bryan Communications Center, 10 T. W. Alexander Drive, RTP. Direction: From I-40, take exit 279B onto Highway 147 North (Durham Freeway). Exit at Alexander Drive and take a left at the stop light at the end of the exit ramp. Cross over the bridge and turn right at the second light at approximately .5 mile. (If you are from Durham, turn right, no bridge to cross, and take the first light.) You will see UNC-TV signs.



When We Were at UNC-TV in 2004

## A Most Unusual Friendship

Ed Williams

I have met people and made friends in many unusual circumstances in the course of my life and career(s), but only once did I develop a decades-long friendship with two people after rejecting a visa application from one of them. I was assigned to the US Embassy at London in 1955-56. For the first year, I acted as the Ambassador's junior aide, and in my second year, I was transferred to the visa section for training as a consular officer. I interviewed hundreds of applicants for immigrant visas and many varieties of visitors visas. I have previously written about some of the unusual cases I dealt with.

One day, I interviewed a lady with a Swiss passport. I'll call her Joanna. She was accompanied by a beautiful four year old daughter, Ronda, and she was obviously pregnant - about 6 months. She told me she wanted to go to the US as a visitor to look for an American Marine, a former Marine Guard at the US Mission at Geneva, who was the father of her unborn child. I asked her why she had come to London to apply for a visa instead of going to the US Consul at Geneva. She said she thought he might be prejudiced against her if he thought she was pursuing her ex boy friend vindictively. She said he had not answered her letters, but she knew he was stationed at Camp Lejeune. She wanted to resolve the situa-

tion either by getting married or by persuading him to help with the costs of raising their child. She already had 5 children by her previous husband. After carefully evaluating her application, I told her she was not eligible for a visitor's visa because she had no one to sponsor her, and she did not have enough funds to ensure that she would not have to depend on charity or public funds during a visit. She was a sincere person, and made no effort to deceive me. I sympathized with her deeply, but there was nothing I could do officially.

Since Joanna was obviously short of money, I took her and Ronda to dinner that evening. She had to arrange her travel back to Geneva, so she was in London for a couple more days. I invited them to have dinner at my apartment, and she told me all about her family - including having lost her husband and having to raise 5 children by herself. She was looking forward very much to the birth of her child, who was a big bulge in her tummy. She allowed me to pat her tummy, and I had a wonderful feeling about having touched - or nearly touched - an unborn baby. That, I think, is what cemented our friendship.

Joanna went back to Geneva, and we stayed in contact. The baby was born at the end of 1956, at the time I was being transferred to the Embassy at Madrid. It turned out to be a girl, whom she named Celia. On my frequent visits to Germany for Army Reserve training, I visited them in Geneva. Soon after returning, she married a Swiss businessman who, though not wealthy, was able

to care for Joanna and her kids. I first saw Celia when she was less than a year old, and was delighted to hold her and think of when I patted her in her mother's tummy. Little Ronda seemed to think of me as a kind of uncle. For the next several years, I saw them usually twice a year, occasionally staying at their house, and got fairly friendly with Joanna's new husband. Ronda was growing up and Celia was no longer a baby.

I was transferred back to Washington in 1960, and didn't have opportunities to travel to Europe until 1966, when I was given an assignment involving international trade, which allowed me to go to meetings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva over the next several years. So I got to know Joanna and her family all over again. Celia and I got especially close, and I would kid her about patting her before she was born, not knowing if I was patting her head or her butt. So just to keep this story from being too long - Celia and I are still close friends after all these years. We correspond frequently, and have telephone conversations every couple of months. She has been married and divorced twice, and has six daughters - just like her mother. I have visited her and her family in Geneva several times and have gotten to know her children. I think of her not just as a friend but almost as a niece. I think this qualifies as an unusual friendship. What do you think?

### St. Patricks Day Celebration

LG News, Shiangtai Tuan

Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick, b. 387, d. March 17, 493 (or 461, from another account), was credited to have driven Druidism and snakes out of Ireland by a sermon given at a hill top. (Ahem, maybe that's why both came to America.) March 17 has been celebrated as St. Paddy's day for a long time. Shamrock is one of the symbols in the celebration because he used to use the three leaves of shamrock to illustrate trinity -- how three could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. (Ahem, beware if you found a four-leaf clover.) Like Chris-

tians who tried to do their conversion in many lands, he used local custom into Christian rituals instead of banishing them. For instance, he used bonfire to celebrate Easter because it was used in Irish tradition to honor their gods. He also superimposed the sun, a powerful Irish symbol, in the cross to form what is now known as the Celtic Cross. For some reason unknown to me, people who do not wear green on that day may risk being pinched. So, be careful. Those who do wear green may get kissed. There is no way out.

Whether St. Paddy drove snakes out of Ireland or not, we will help Joe to celebrate the special occasion, a good tradition in the U. S. started in Boston in

1737. He is preparing to feed and quench the thirst of thousands but you are welcome to bring some snacks and drinks though not required. Enjoy the evening with other friends, Mensans or not. (No need to ask: "Are you a Mensan" which serves no purpose.) There will not be a kitty. However, since he has a wonderful shepherd (or not) dog, don't forget your allergy pill if you need it. Come with family, significant others, friends.

Date: 2007. 3.17, the third Saturday, happens to be the Chinese New Year's Eve.

Time: 7:30 PM till late.

Contact info, place and directions: See back of calendar page.

“Three Flares”, Web and Mblem Updates  
MEditor/Mweb’s column  
Shiangtai Tuan

You may see some corrections in the contact page. That’s because I have updated the information according to our website information.

There is a Chinese proverb that says that you can expect three flares when a new boss comes into an office. It means that when someone newly becomes a head honcho, he/she would try hard to do something impressive, some hiring and firing (horror) at the beginning but would slack off. It also can be interpreted as to say to people who just get a new boss, if you have lasted the first round of hatching, you might survive at your job! Even though this saying is mostly sarcastic, it is nonetheless, often a true statement of the fact.

Before getting other people involved, I better make it a self evaluation. Speaking for myself, I see this proverb stays true. When I became LocSec I was very enthusiastic. I would call an ExComm meeting every month, meeting an hour before the speaker meeting, aka Local Gathering. Since our group covers such an wide area and only activities were a few in the Triangle area, my agenda was to get members from as many places as possible to be involved in activities. So, in our ExComm meetings we discussed how to add activities. I remember one of the members used to say, “Mensans are the most indifferent. No one is to come whatever you do. So why bother.” Well, I had faith. I paid out of my own pocket to call long distance to members at New Bern, Wilmington, and Fayetteville to ask where the good restaurants were to set up dinners or brunches. I set articles to Mblem (wasn’t editor then) to announce those activities, claiming: “Go, if you see any other MENCans, it is an MENC activity. If you don’t see anyone else, enjoy a nice meal.” Well, it was mostly “enjoy a nice meal” the few ever tried. However, eventually, a few enthusiastic people at various places revived the dinners and brunches and our calendar is sort of full. (Please look at some other Mensa groups. Say, in CA, Chicago, or DC area, there is almost something going on every day!) I did learn that leadership was to start something and then hand to someone else. So I did not run for office the next year. Even that, I think some “slacks” had shown. There were not too many new activities added in the last few month of “my reign” that year.

Back to the Mblem Editing, I was very enthusiastic when I first started. I had to because the job was laid on my lap without prior notice and I had no other choices. I had to learn the trade in a hurry. Again, I made some improve-

ments. For one thing, I made it possible to go online and with Brad Vaugh’s help, it went online. Now that when I think about it, after the first year or so, there has not been much improvement. I depend on a few faithful supporters to supply interesting material. Every month, I hope (in fact, wish, or rather, more like fantasize) some one will submit an article or so. Every month, I had to write something the last minute to fill up the pages. However, this month, I made some changes. You will have to look carefully to find them. One is to use mail alias addresses for the officers.

When Brad first became Webmaster, he made many valuable improvements. Among other things, he organized the pages into a very systematic fashion and helped to put Mblem online. He also methodically and laboriously created many forwarding addresses, one for each of the MENC officers. In the time while people are worried about protecting their privacy, this is most welcome. As a result, on the public website, no individual phone number needs to be revealed. However, since all MENC officers were volunteers and there had not been a procedure to coordinate, Brad might not been informed of the officer changes. As time went by, Brad also became too busy to keep up with the updates. Not only the three flares were over, Brad had to resign at the end of last year. Since there was no “deputy webmaster” he left and left me with couple of log-in IDs and passwords. It took me a few months, interrupted by travel and eye operation, for me to finally got a copy of web maintaining software and got the right ID and password to update the website. I apologize for the slow process but it is finally done.

As my first three flares as webmaster, I made a complete overhaul of this website. Not only all visible part (what you see when you use a web browser to go to <http://www.menc.us/>) are updated, I also checked all the forwarding addresses. So, when some one looks at our website, he/she can correctly send messages to the correct contact person.

Though Mblem is an internal magazine, not to be viewed by nonMs, I also changed all references on the officers/contacts page into forwarding addresses. This will help you to remember too. For instance, if you want to send a message to the LocSec, you only have to send it to [locsec@menc.us](mailto:locsec@menc.us), no need to remember LocSec’s private-mail address. It makes the Mblem editor’s job easier too. Once the contact page is set there is no need for any changes. The only update needs to be made is the forwarding address at the website. Now that my first three flares are over, the only work left is to sit and wait for someone who would like to take over as the next webmaster.

## M-counter Intelligence

At Maryland and Metropolitan Washington Mensa’s Joint  
Regional Gathering

Memorial Day Weekend: May 25-27, 2007

Laurel West Holiday Inn, 15101 Sweitzer Lane in Laurel,  
MD 20707

Please call 301 776-5300 or 1-888-HOLIDAY (888-465-4329) to make your reservation. Be sure to mention Mensa to get the special rate of \$89 (plus tax) per night.

RG Registration Rates:

Full registration: \$85 (through Feb 14), \$95 (Feb 15 – April 15), or \$105 (After April 15)

By day: Friday: \$40; Saturday: \$80; Sunday: \$20.

To register, make check to MMWM RG, then mail it along with your name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address to Bill Hansbury, 6128 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443- 9738 ([BillH1108@aol.com](mailto:BillH1108@aol.com)), 304-876-3948

(Editor’s note: They sent me large full page and half page ads in pdf files which I could not use. I wrote them and asked for .doc or .txt file version but they did not respond. So I had to type the above crucial info for them. For detail, you can see their ads on Mensa Bulletin. They have the usual RG program but with a special pool party and a chocolate orgy.)