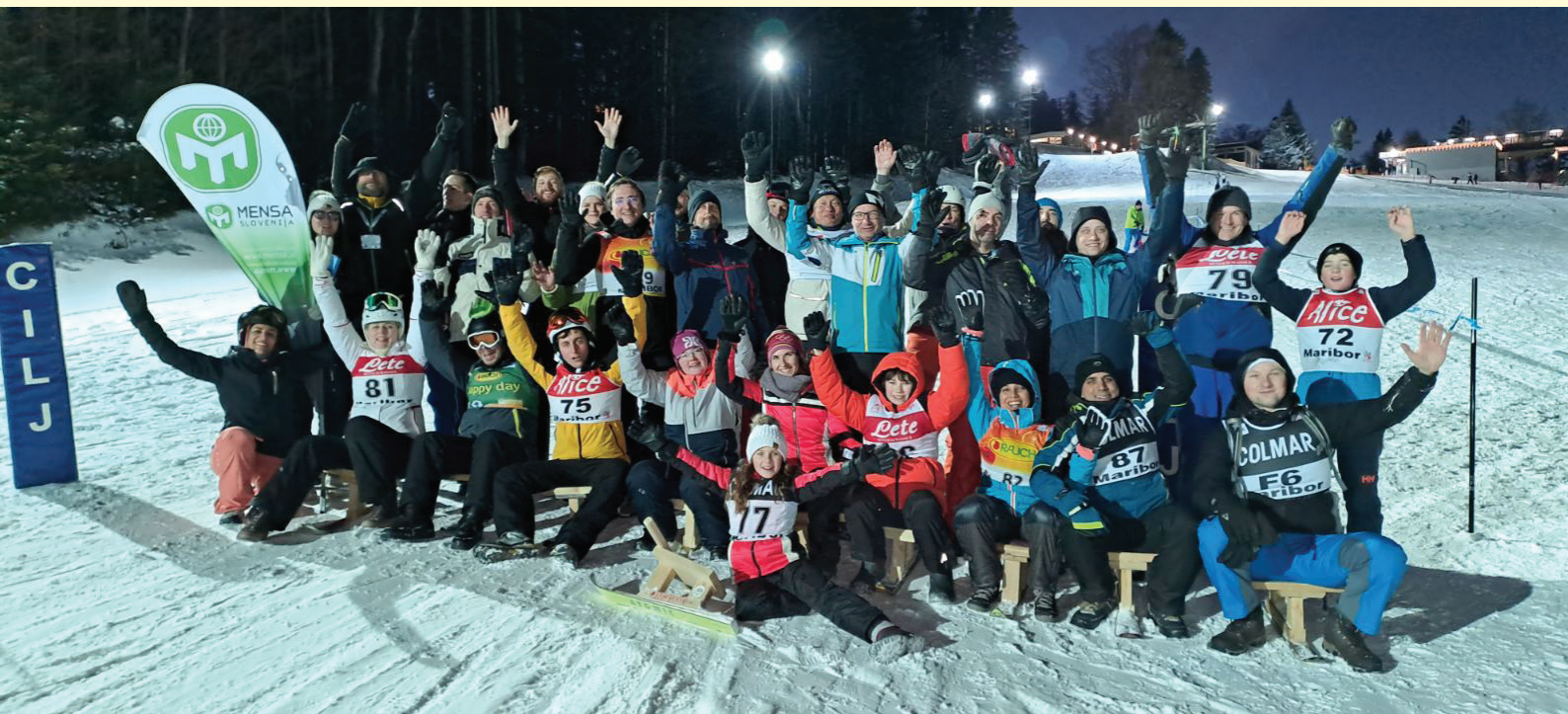


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The 21st Mensa Slovenia Ski Weekend Pohorje 2024

Stanislav Rozman's report on the event is on p9

MENSA INTERNATIONAL

TO READ OUR WELCOME LETTER OR ACCESS LINKS TO USEFUL
INFORMATION & SERVICES FOR NEW
MEMBERS, PLEASE GO TO

https://bit.ly/MI_welcome

from the editor..



Hi All,

- On p3 this month, Ann Rootkin gives us a run-down on the January ExComm meeting in London - get your Poetry thinking-caps on! The rules and deadline for entries are on p4, along with two of the wonderful international events happening this year! -read about a voyage inspired by Darwin on p5, and on p6 we look at the theory that laziness is an indicator of intelligence! -our Member Profile is on p7, and on p8, newly-appointed associate professor of psychology, Erika Bergelson, studies how infants and toddlers learn language from the world around them - on p9 there is a report on the The 21st Mensa Slovenia Ski Weekend 2024 in Pohorje, and John Blinke brings us the latest in Science news on p10 -the Officer Directory is on p11 and Therese's Teasers are on p12.

Happy reading!

Kate

Log in to www.mensa.org to read or download the MWJ in full colour

HELLENIC MENSA ANNUAL GATHERING – HMAG 2024

TRIKALA

Mensa Greece invites you to its members' Annual Gathering HMAG 2024!!! After seven highly successful meetings in the previous years, HMAG 2024 will take place from **Thursday May 16 to Sunday May 19, 2024**, in Trikala.

Hellenic Mensa Annual Gathering 2024 acquires an international character with the participation of Mensans from other countries as well!

The program includes excursions to Pyli, Elati and Pertouli, as well as visits to Meteora and Lake Plastiras. In addition, as always, we will make new acquaintances and have fun with the demanding treasure hunt and board game tournaments.

Program details and costs are announced on HMAG 2024 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HellenicMensaAnnualGathering>



Mission End

Ingenuity, the experimental Martian helicopter, has had its wings clipped. But it isn't quite dead. I think we should call it "Ingenuity Base" now because it can still take pictures and communicate - at least while the rover is in range. Beware when you search for news on the matter. I found a rather convincing YouTube video that showed a crash crater and pictures of rotor damage. Some of those are real photos and some are simulations. They are labelled as such, but you have to look closely. The best we can do for the moment is the statement from NASA Administrator, Bill Nelson,

who says the mission of the *Ingenuity* Mars helicopter is over as of January 18, 2024 after exceeding its mission goal by 1,400%. It broke a rotor, probably as a result of a hard landing. But it certainly paid for itself before this. Originally planned for five technology demonstration flights, the solar/battery powered flier completed 72 flights over its 3 year extended life and became a valuable scout for the Perseverance rover. Thanks to the great success of *Ingenuity*, copters will be included on future Mars missions.

John Blinke

from your Executive Committee

from British Mensa's Ann Rootkin

In October of 2023, the IBD said goodbye to British National Representative Chris Leek, who has been a consistent driving force in Mensa International for 25 years. This was brought about due to a 2022 change to British Mensa's governing documents. These now limit directors' three year terms to two in succession, although it is permissible to stand again after a two year break.

Chris will be sorely missed, both by British Mensa and Mensa International, and it now falls to me to take his place on the Executive Committee. I hope I can even partially live up to his excellent record!

Consequently I found myself in London, on a cold January weekend, for a face-to-face meeting of the International Executive Committee (ExComm). Although we had a brief meeting prior to the IBD weekend in Dallas, this was my first "real" meeting and I was a little nervous. However, I was made very welcome by all the long standing ExComm members, and didn't find them nearly as intimidating as I had feared!

Over the course of the weekend we discussed a number of topics which included the five elected officer positions on ExComm (Chairman, Treasurer, Director of Administration, Director of Development and Director of Small National Mensas), which are all up for election this year.

The incumbents are keen to ensure a smooth handover to the new ExComm who will take up their posts in July. Details such

as which processes and procedures need documenting and which outstanding actions can be closed were discussed.

There was discussion about the format of the face-to-face IBD meetings held each year, when all of the Chairmen of Full National Mensas can meet each other and exchange ideas. Possible changes for the 2024 and 2025 meetings were proposed that could result in substantial cost savings.

We talked about development of new Mensa groups and the first GLAM (Gathering of Latin American Mensas), due to take place in Rio later this year. This initiative is intended to encourage budding Mensa groups in the South American continent.

We also spent some time discussing the ongoing CRM project. The CRM is ready to be populated with limited membership details, but all groups will need to sign a contract with MIL regarding the specific purposes for which the data will



be used. The system will be fully General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant and will hopefully be up and running in time for member validation as part of the International Elections this year.

There was a progress update on the new public-facing part of the Mensa website. This is being rewritten based on WordPress, to make maintenance much easier. The public-facing part of the website is where we potentially attract new members from new countries, and we want it to be easily updated, without any risk of affecting the separate member area.

We also discussed the status of the project to implement an online test for Mensa membership. An adaptive, on-line test has been developed and is currently being normed in the UK. Once these final stages are completed, individual National Mensas will be able to use the test if they wish. This electronic test can be taken using tablets/iPads/laptops etc., by such means as

Continued on p4

Continued from p3

each Mensa chooses.

In other news, this year's European Annual Gathering (EMAG) is taking place in Bucharest, Romania, between July 31st and August 4th 2024. Bookings are being taken at emag24.eu. The 2024 IBD meeting will take place in Perth, Australia, between October 10th and 14th 2024, and EMAG 2025 will be in Cardiff, UK, between 6th and 10th August 2025.

Ann Rootkin British Mensa

MWJ INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION 2024

Members are invited to submit their original poems to the editor, mwjeditor@mensa.org, by August 1, 2024.

Poems are to be previously unpublished and no longer than 30 lines in length.

The theme for the competition is "Memories". All entries must be in English and following the judges' decision, no correspondence will be entered into. Entries generated by AI will be immediately disqualified.

By submitting an entry (maximum of one entry) into the competition, members understand that their poem may be published in the Mensa World Journal or in any other National Mensa journal at the editor's discretion. The author will, of course, be acknowledged.

Please include your National Mensa and membership number with your entry.

what's happening around the Mensa world...

Mensa Canada's Annual Gathering will be held in June (21-23) at Hotel Casablanca in Grimsby (Ontario); quite a beautiful site close to the famous and scenic wine region of Niagara-on-The-Lake.

"Magic in Movies" is the theme of Mensa Canada's Annual Gathering. Please note that on Saturday, before the gala dinner, we will have a costume contest with prizes. To get your ticket, simply go to the Mensa Canada website (<https://mensa.ca>) and click the AG link. Aside from all of the entertainment, your event ticket includes Friday night *hors d'oeuvres*, Saturday and Sunday continental breakfasts and Saturday and Sunday fabulous lunches. The Gala dinner is optional and costs an additional fee of \$50CAD. Details will be provided on the website.

Hotel

To book your hotel room, prior to May 8th, call the Casablanca at (905) 309-7171 or 1 (877) 446-5746. Be sure to say that you are attending the "Mensa Event" to get our discounted room rate of \$189CAD +tax for a standard room with 2 double beds. (If these rooms sell out, we have a backup hotel in mind and will update everyone if necessary.) Like we say in our bilingual country, *au plaisir de vous rencontrer!*

P.S. Here's the hashtag, if you could add it to your posts: [#MensaCanadaAG2024](https://twitter.com/MensaCanadaAG2024)

Danie Blais

(for the Mensa Canada organisational team)



Don't forget to Unlock the Magic at MY-Camp 2024: Where Culture, Fun, and Friendship Collide!
June 19-28.

What is MY-SIG?

What started as a one-off event to celebrate Mensa Denmark's 25th anniversary quickly grew into a legendary summer camp that draws a crowd of 200+ young (and young at heart) members from all over the world each summer. MY-SIG is the international SIG that organizes the itinerant MY-Camp (in July) and MY-NY (New Year's), as well as many weekends all over Europe. The SIG has a network of over 3,000 Mensa members. We welcome any Mensan above the age of 18 in a spirit of openness, active volunteering, and most of all, fun!
MY-SIG Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MYSIG/>

A Voyage Inspired by Darwin

Mensa member Andrew Fox, and Stewart McPherson, directors of DARWIN200, describe DARWIN200 as an extraordinary life-changing adventure designed to nurture a fresh generation of conservationists.

Last August, a 105-year-old historic tall ship cast off her ropes from the dockside in Plymouth and set sail on a two-year journey around the world. The *Oosterschelde* is the centre of the DARWIN200 project and will voyage more than 40,000 nautical miles to every major port that Charles Darwin visited.

DARWIN200 is so-called because the project will empower 200 of the world's most exceptional young conservationists. Aged between 18-30 and known as 'Darwin Leaders', these young environmentalists are selected for their extraordinary drive and track record of outstanding conservation achievements.

Each Darwin Leader stays on board the *Oosterschelde* to complete a life-changing, immersive training programme. Using the ship as a floating laboratory and media platform, the multinational Darwin Leaders are mentored by local conservation experts to study species of animals or plants that Darwin encountered. They assess the population status of their chosen species and how it has changed during the two centuries since Darwin's visit,

investigate the success of current conservation initiatives, and develop their own ideas for conservation strategies. The mission is to drive a valuable exchange of skills so that Darwin Leaders return home empowered with knowledge they will use during their careers as conservationists.

DARWIN200 also offers an immense platform of free, online educational resources known as the 'World's Most Exciting Classroom'. 100 weekly one-hour lessons are streamed to schools across the globe to engage with millions of students via DIY experiments, research projects, lectures, competitions, quizzes, and live uplinks to conservationists in the field.

In continuation of Darwin's work aboard HMS Beagle, the DARWIN200 ship also offers a unique platform for researchers studying some of the world's critical environmental problems.

While at sea, studies of marine micro-plastic pollution are carried out, along with surveys of wildlife, trends in sea-surface temperature data, and hydrophone recordings of whales and dolphins. And when



in port, researchers undertake biodiversity surveys, reforestation projects and studies of methods to mitigate impacts of petrochemical pollution.

When *Oosterschelde* reaches Falmouth in July 2025, DARWIN200 aims to have had an immense ripple effect by empowering a new wave of exceptional conservationists and engaging the global public in practical ways in which we can contribute to a brighter future.

More information at www.darwin200.com.

From British Mensa's IQ Magazine (Nov/Dec 2023)

Laziness as an Indicator of Intelligence

Introduction

In a world that puts value on hard work and productivity, laziness may seem like the last trait a highly intelligent person would possess. However, research reveals that laziness is common amongst the highly intelligent, and can actually serve as a subtle indicator of a high IQ.

While this challenges societal norms, some laziness is not simply a lack of motivation, but rather can reveal complex internal processes that are taking place in the brain. Scientific research indicates that laziness, when viewed through a different lens, offers a rich insight into the cognitive processes of intellectually gifted people.

The Science of Laziness

Productivity is a bit of a buzzword at the moment, and the idea of productivity tools and the routines of impressively accomplished people such as Richard Branson make it easy to see why laziness is considered to be synonymous with unintelligent. While traditionally, the world of success and intelligence may, on the surface, not support laziness, science does.

A study published in the *Journal of Health Psychology* showed that people who are less physically active tend to be more intelligent. This was attributed to what was called a “need for cognition”, where people pursue intellectual activities that provide mental stimulation, rather than physical. The research also showed that people with a high IQ are less likely to become bored,

since their internal cognition is always fired up, thinking through problems, memories, and plans. This may mean that some individuals prefer to sit on the couch watching documentaries, completing a crossword, or just thinking, as opposed to hitting the gym. This is because the latter does not give them the cognition they desperately crave.

Those with a lower IQ turn to more external, active tasks such as sports or fitness as they are more likely to get bored when left with just their own thoughts.

School Struggles and the Misconception of Laziness

I found this research to be particularly relatable. As a school student, all of my reports and teacher-parent evenings were filled with the same phrases. “She is very bright. If she applied herself, she would do very well.” While this backhanded compliment was intended to motivate me, it essentially just labelled me as lazy. However, this was a false laziness. On reflection, my lack of application was probably more to do with my ability to grasp concepts more quickly than my peers, finding the classroom environment slow and unchallenging.

This meant I quickly became unengaged with the work, as I found it lacked enough intellectual stimulation to keep me motivated. My perceived laziness did not, perhaps, accurately reflect my situation. Instead, it neglected a complex interplay of factors, one of which

was high IQ.

Digital gaming is a good example of false laziness. Gaming is often perceived as lazy because people have to sit while they play, but anyone who has played games such as Fortnite or Baldur’s Gate 3 knows that these games require problem-solving skills and strategy. Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg are both prolific gamers and are not likely to be deemed lazy or unintelligent.

What Does This Mean for Laziness?

While this research is great news for those of us who prefer the couch over the treadmill, we must be careful not to fall into the trap of excessive lethargy and procrastination, as this could impact on our physical and mental health. Individuals with a high IQ should prioritise their introspective time, and intellectual activities that satisfy their need for cognition, but they also need to recognise the importance of activity in creating a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

Being sedentary does not need to look like hours and hours of Netflix. It could be sitting at your desk to plan out your week, mapping out your monthly goals. So, don’t feel guilty if you don’t get out of bed at 5am like Richard Branson does. It’s not necessarily laziness; you might just be smarter than the average bear.

Taryn Dryfhout

member profile

by Susan Jensen

Australian Mensan, Jordan Box (34) is an impassioned advocate for the educational needs of gifted students. Jordan hates the phrase “Yes, the student is bright, but I wouldn’t say they’re gifted...”, and he hears it all too often. His response? “Watch my TedX talk”.

Formerly a behavioural neuroscientist, Jordan completed his Master of Teaching in 2021 before undertaking further study in gifted education through the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

In 2022, Jordan gave a TedX talk (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_q0rDZKSveg&t=7s) on gifted underachievement. In it, he explains that the gifted child isn't always the one who has the answer for everything; sometimes they do poorly in school, or drop out, and often are diagnosed with autism or ADHD without a second thought of giftedness.

Growing up, Jordan was placed into a pull-out style gifted and talented program, but neither he nor his family paid much heed to it. He competed in karate world cups at age 11 and 13, ranking third in the world in 2003. He then joined the Army Cadets, at which he excelled.

In his final year of high school, he joined St. John Ambulance as an instructor, eventually moving on to state staff. A highlight of his time in St. John was being deployed as a post commander to the 2009 Victorian bushfires.



Jordan sat for the Mensa test in 2020 and has enjoyed many aspects of being a Mensan, including working as South Australia's Gifted Children Coordinator from 2021 to 2023.

Jordan currently teaches biology and psychology at a girls' school in the Adelaide hills and has a daughter (14) and a son (7). He enjoys an active lifestyle, going to the gym and skydiving when he can.

He also spends a lot of time volunteering. He is currently the Commanding Officer of the largest Air Force Cadets squadron in South Australia, assistant team leader and training officer for a St. John Ambulance youth division, and a scout leader. On top of this, he also volunteers as a Justice of the Peace, with Disaster Relief Australia and with Legacy Australia (which supports the families of deceased or incapacitated veterans).

New Insights Into Early Childhood Language Learning

Newly-appointed associate professor of psychology, Erika Bergelson, studies how infants and toddlers learn language from the world around them. The developmental psychologist specifically strives to parse the various theories that account for the onset and eventual mastery of language comprehension and production.

Bergelson's latest paper, published last month in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, takes a global approach to developing and testing such theories, with the results refuting common critiques of low-income parents and caregivers.

"Our results question some of the received wisdom, certainly in the American policy space, that families in certain socioeconomic circumstances are providing less or less 'good' language input to their kids," she said.

As a language scientist, Bergelson has a history of generating such myth-busting insights. Her first experiments on early word-learning, performed 15 years ago when she was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, revealed that comprehension begins at a far younger age than previously thought. "At around 6 or 7 months, babies are starting to understand some really common nouns," she said.

Scientists have long acknowledged the burst of word production that occurs around age 18 months, Bergelson explained. In follow-up studies, she and her colleagues

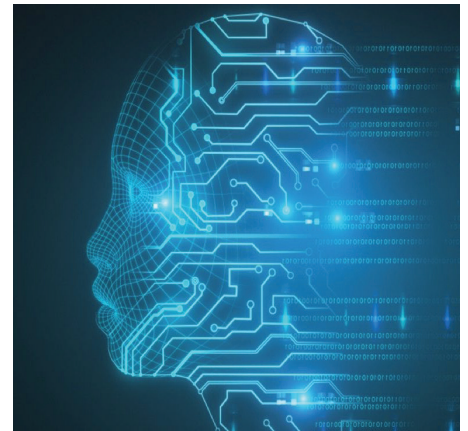
found a similar qualitative improvement in language comprehension near a child's first birthday, around the time the first *bona fide* words arrive. It's as though children around age 1 go from just barely grasping the mechanics of language to suddenly becoming true communicative partners.

Could this be because parents talked more or differently to older babies? Bergelson investigated this theory as a postdoctoral and research professor at the University of Rochester, where she led the creation of a large naturalistic data set that tracked babies from 6 to 18 months old with audio and video recordings, eye tracking, and more.

"It doesn't seem like there's something fundamentally different in how parents or caretakers interact with 6- versus 12-month-olds," she concluded.

With a grant from the National Institute of Health, Bergelson's new Harvard lab recently embarked on a project designed to test what she calls the "better learner models" of language acquisition. The comprehension tipping point is ascribed by these theories to the baby's growing social, cognitive, or linguistic abilities, rather than just their accumulation of more input from caretakers.

But what, exactly, are the skills that support word learning? Bergelson and her colleagues plan to test comprehension indicators that appear sooner than talking itself, such as pointing or looking in the direction of a mentioned object.



This research holds the long-term potential of improving early interventions for children who struggle with language acquisition.

Bergelson has the additional goal of growing the pool of children who language scientists study. "One really important shift in the field recently has been a much more serious reckoning with the fact that we tend to study white, middle-class Americans," she said. Her recent PNAS paper, written with senior co-author Alejandrina Cristia at France's École Normale Supérieure, PSL University, is based on a large sample of 2- to 48-month-olds.

Daylong audio recordings captured the babbling and baby talk of 1,001 children representing 12 countries and 43 languages. Financial support for this work was provided by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others.

Analysing the recordings was completed with the help of machine learning. Bergelson called it a "coarse-grained" approach to studying the topic. "It's the algorithm's es-

timate of how much speech the kid is hearing or producing,” she said. “But I think it’s a complementary approach to what otherwise is very, very time-consuming and sample-limiting work.”

The results show that the main predictors of language development globally are age, clinical factors such as prematurity or dyslexia, and how much speech children receive from the world around them. In contrast to previous research, no effects were found related to gender, multilingualism, or socioeconomic status.

“There’s been much debate and discussion in the literature in recent years about how socioeconomic status does or doesn’t link to language input and language output,” noted Bergelson.

“We looked in many, many, many different ways ... In no form did we ever find evidence that moms with more education had kids who produced more speech in these tens of thousands of hours of recordings from daily life.”

With a grant from the National Science Foundation, Bergelson is also pursuing new research on language development in children who are deaf or blind. The case of blindness is especially interesting, she noted.

“Blind adults’ language skills are largely indistinguishable from sighted folks,” she said. “But a lot of our theories about early language learning rely on children seeing others to refer to things in the world. So there’s a mystery — how does that happen? And what does that tell us about how language develops for everybody?”

neurosciencenews.com Dec. 8, 2023

The 21st Mensa Slovenia Ski Weekend Pohorje 2024

Since the foundation of Slovenian Mensa in 2002 a tradition emerged for members to meet in a wintery environment. It’s no surprise the event gained traction as most Slovenians are keen skiers or at least love to spend time in the country and outdoors. Usually set in the third weekend of January, since 2010 this small getaway holiday also hosts and unites fellow Mensans from all over the world.

For this year, an ambitious organisational team decided to take the whole event even further. The Mariborsko Pohorje ski resort was chosen to be the best for the challenge of how to offer as many interesting experiences as possible, both indoor and outside, regardless of weather and climate conditions, with a lot of activities for non-skiers as well, so as many people as possible could participate. Different workshops thus included fractal drawing, wellness therapies, reiki, hiking, survival courses, and many more.

The grand and gala winter paradise

In less than four days a visitor could see it all: too warm, typical climate change impacted weather on Thursday afternoon, followed by a surprise snowstorm early Friday morning, to finally have

fresh snow and bright sun Saturday and Sunday, with clear star-filled nights in between. Skiers really had their schedules full if they wanted to take advantage of everything that was offered. There was very little time to rest and regenerate, but everybody wanted to look their best at the Saturday’s gala Casino Royale event with a James Bond dress code.

Maribor is special

This weekend was anything but just an alpine weekend on the ski slopes. Maribor is the second largest city of Slovenia and has a lot more to offer besides skiing and a casino. It’s a rare setting – all the smaller south-faced hills opposite the ski slopes are full of vineyards. This special region has its own different charm, as anyone visiting different parts of Slovenia will happily confirm. Even the sports competition was special this time. Mensans raced down the snowy slope on ‘Pležuh’, a small single-ski sled, that requires balancing (some did better than others) on a tiny seat while making turns through gates, trying to clock the best time. Not only was the Mensa crowd up to that challenge; after all the skiing, walking over sometimes icy and slippery paths, driving in winterconditions etc. there were no accidents, and everybody returned home safely.

(Continued on page 11)

supplementally... by John Blinke

Cicadapocalypse

CNN, January 26, 2024. "Billions Of Cicadas Are Set To Appear In A Rare 'Double Brood Emergence,' Scientists Say."

Here in Michigan, the most recent periodic cicada boom was lame. But, it might be better this spring. Two different broods are due to emerge in 2024 — one in April in the south, and another in May in the midwest. Most places will not see both broods. But there might be some overlap in central Illinois, and it will be spectacular if that happens. The US has not seen simultaneous emergences of broods XIX and XIII since 1803, when Thomas Jefferson was US president. These giant, ugly, red eyed insects are not dangerous to people or pets. They will not eat your trees, although the cicada smorgasbord will discourage birds from eating as many leaf-munching caterpillars as they normally would. But cicadas are loud! If you can't handle the event, this might be a good time for that Alaskan vacation you were planning.

SLIM Pickins

Nature, January 22, 2024. "Japan's Successful Moon Landing Was The Most Precise Ever."

Good news and bad news. First, Japan's lunar lander, SLIM, (Smart Lander for Investigating the Moon) touched down with unequalled precision about a hundred metres from its target zone and has been talking to Earth. The bad news: its solar panels are not generating power, so it will go quiet when the

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batteries drain.

According to *YouTube* space commentator, Scott Manley, part of an engine cone may have broken off, causing the craft to land badly. It is upside down with its solar panels facing the wrong way. But, according to the Planetary Radio podcast, there is a chance the batteries may be able to charge as the sun direction changes through the month. Then SLIM might call home and continue its mission. Whether it revives or not, this makes Japan the fifth country to have a successful robot moon landing.

Nanomachines

ScienceDaily, January 19, 2024. "DNA Origami Folded Into Tiny Motor." (Nature Nanotechnology) If you wanted to create a really tiny electric motor, what would you make it from? How about DNA? A motor made from one helix of DNA can spin at a billion RPM. Scientists at University of Texas built a triple bladed rotor out of 30 DNA helices on an axle. The rotor sits in a nanometer-sized hole in a membrane of solid-state silicon nitride. They can control the speed and direction by changing surrounding electric fields and the salt solution the thing lives in. The project was made possible by the use of three major supercomputers - ACCESS, Anvil, and Frontera - located at different universities. The DNA motor is a proof of principle device that could lead to all kinds of nano machines in the future.



Narcs on Facebook

ScienceDaily, September 23, 2008. "Facebook Profiles Can Be Used To Detect Narcissism." (Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin) People don't enjoy associating with narcissists because of their exhausting demand for attention. But, it can be hard to identify them before they cause trouble. One thing you can do is to observe a new acquaintance on social media. Scientists at University of Georgia say that even untrained observers recognise narcissists' excessive demands for attention. There tend to be lots of "wall postings" and huge numbers of "friends." They may use glamour photos rather than simple snap shots in their profiles. People encounter more narcissists online than in-person because the narcs follow opportunities for attention.

Kicking Gas

Smithsonian, January 17, 2024. "This Distant Exoplanet Has a 350,000-Mile-Long Tail, Like a Comet." (Astrophysical Journal) Contributed by Stephen Darnell. Mercury is the planet nearest to the

sun in our solar system. It takes 88 days to complete an orbit. The gas giant planet, WASP 69b, is slightly larger in diameter than Jupiter but a third of its mass. It takes less than four days to orbit its parent, which means it is very close. The star's unusually strong stellar wind is blowing the planet's atmosphere into a comet-like tail 600,000 kilometers long at a rate of 200,000 tons of mass per second. This partially explains why there are hardly any exoplanets between 1.4 and 2 times the diameter of Earth: The winds from the parent stars whittle them down if they get too big.

John Blinke

Photo by Ashlee Marie on Unsplash.com

(Continued from p9)

One for the record books

Between the 18th and 21st of January, a total of 89 participants from 19 countries all over the world met above Maribor, to socialize and enjoy what the region has to offer. This year's team is even more proud of the number and variety of experiences offered. The organisers combined resourceful Maribor local volunteers and veteran Slovenian Mensans that both have the experience of organising home events as well as travelling around the world and participating at Mensa gatherings such as Silven-sas, EMAGs etc. Therefore, a lot of effort was invested into following the good practices seen elsewhere, with a desire not only to further expand and

improve their own traditional event, but to build further on a growing community, enabling Mensa Slovenia to host even bigger and better events in the future.

Stanislav Rozman

**Would you like to
contribute to the
Mensa World Journal?
Articles, poetry and member
achievements
are all
welcome!**

**Send your submissions
to the Editor at
mwjeditor@mensa.org**

OFFICER DIRECTORY

Chair: Mr Björn Liljeqvist

chairman-mil@mensa.org

Director of Admin:

Ms Isabella Holz

admin-mil@mensa.org

Director of Development:

Mr Eivind Olsen

development-mil@mensa.org

Treasurer: Mr Jacek Cywinski

treasurer-mil@mensa.org

Dir. Smaller National Mensas:

Mr Tan Kee Aun

dsn-mil@mensa.org

SIGHT-Coordinators:

Mr Henkhenk Broekhuizen

Ms Andrea Schwelm

sight@mensa.org

International SIG Coordinator:

Ms Nancy McMahan Farrar

sigs@mensa.org

Ombudsman:

Ms Sylvia Lee

ombudsman@mensa.org

Mensa International

Executive Director:

Mr Michael Feenan

mensa@slatebarn.com

Slate Barn, Church Lane,

Caythorpe, Lincolnshire

NG32 3EL, UK

mensainternational@mensa.org

+44(0)1400272 675

www.mensa.org

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Ms Kate Nacard, 36 Macaulay Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia mwjeditor@mensa.org T: +61 402152858

Sub-editors:

Science: Mr John Blinke

Johnb44221@cs.com

Puzzles: Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom

tmb@ozemail.com.au

Profiles: Dr Susan Jensen

suejensen57@gmail.com

Features: Ms Taryn Dryfhout

anotherdesperatehousewife@gmail.com

Proofreader: Ms Christine Pretty

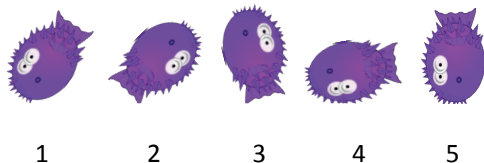
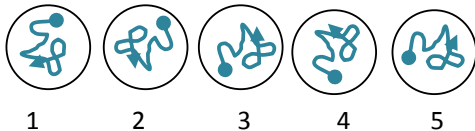
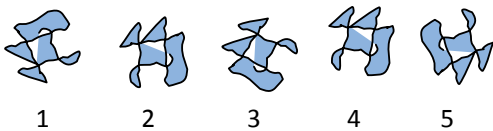
Therese's BRAIN TEASERS

Cryptosum

Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line from the top left-hand corner.

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| ⚡ | ☉ | ⊗ | ♯ | 23 |
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| ✈ | ❖ | ☉ | ⊗ | 25 |
| 23 | 18 | 29 | 15 | ? |

Odd Ones Out



Rebus

What kind of a low-life is this?

THE TURASPF

Elemental Riddle

Wrap lead 'round uranium and you will find
A place for drinks of a certain kind.
Add fifty, I see (or so they say)
It's no longer private, it's plain as the day.

Cryptic crooks

Each cryptic clue yields a villain of some kind:

- Successful fellow?
- Edgar's on 'is tip-toes, and is over-extended!
- Two fools in ...
- ... a collapsed funfair.
- Possibly could nurse, without hearing you
- Edit, if the ...
- ... florists really are underselling daffodils initially!
- She is feeling a bit 'under the weather'
- Comic on mandrake is too much!
- Burr (or shoe?) loses its head.

Anagram riddle

Seven letters have I, you can change them around
To make words which vary by more than a sound:
* A bundle of rods used for lining a ditch;
* These folk are engaged and soon they will hitch;
* Dreams and hopes, these have no bounds;
Now that you've solved me, which words have you found?

Answers

Cryptosum: 30 (6 + 9 + 8 + 7) **Odd Ones Out:** 3, 3, 1, 4
Rebus: a snake-in-the-grass **Elemental riddle:** Public
Cryptic crooks: a) Hitman b) Arsonist c) Assassin d) Ruffian e) Scoundrel f) Thief g) Fraud h) Crook j) Conman k)Rogue **Anagram Riddle:** Fascine, Fiances, Fancies

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