mensa world journal

OCTOBER 2023|EDITION |129

Participants at the European Mensa Science Camp 2023 (p05) *photo: Jana Middleton*

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...

- Silvensa, an international New Year's Eve event, is being held in Belgrade, Serbia this year. Details are on p2
- on P3, Director of Smaller National Mensas Tan Kee Aun writes of the positives and negatives of Artificial Intelligence
- one of Mensa's most influential members, Dave Remine of American Mensa, passed away recently. An Obituary for Dave is on p5
- snippets of recent research into neuroscience is on 6 and on p7, Susan Jensen, Profiles Editor, writes of yet another interesting member.
- pages 8 and 9 bring us further fascinating articles on just how the brain works and, as is usual, Supplementally... from John Blinke is on p10
- your Officer Directory is on p11, and Therese's Brain Teasers are on p12

Happy reading!

Kate

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

Silvensa 2023
Belgrade, Serbia

Silvensa is an international New Year's Eve event for members who want to celebrate December 31st (New Year's Eve) together!

Silvensa has existed since 2014 and so far has been organised in Warsaw, Vienna, Maastricht, Bratislava, Marseille and Cluj.

Every year Mensans from Europe come to spend time with other Mensans and take part in planned activities.

This year it will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from **December 28th, 2023 to January 1st, 2024.**

Program: NYE Party, Ice Breaker, Farewell Brunch, museum visits, sightseeing tours etc. More activities will come later; follow us on our networks!

More info about the program, activities, prices and accommodation on:

- our website: www.silvensa.org
- by email: 2023@silvensa.org
- our FanPage on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/silvensa/
- WhatsApp, Telegram, Messenger, Facebook group

articles - poetry - member achievements
Send your submissions
to the Editor at
mwjeditor@mensa.org

Please send your contribution as an MSWord file and please include a hi-res photo to accompany the article. The photo must be sent as a separate file and not embedded in the text.

Deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month two months before publication. Eg, the deadline for the January issue is November 1.

from your executive committee

from the Director of Smaller National Mensas, Tan Kee Aun

As I write this article, the hype behind ChatGPT is in full bloom. With more than 100 million users of ChatGPT and every major software company including Google and Microsoft introducing Artificial Intelligence into its products, it's exciting to see how life will be transformed in the years to come with the advent of this.

It's not that AI was anything new in the first place. A member that I know (and recently met up with) was already studying AI back in school. And yet even he exclaimed that the emergence of ChatGPT had come as a surprise. Which leads me to believe that we are in a very special age; that in which potential and possibilities are unknown. I'd liken it to the age when the internet first took hold of the world or when the App Store had become the breeding ground of new ideas. We live in exciting times and perhaps our only limitation is our imagination.

Naturally, when ChatGPT hit my news radar, the first thing I thought about was how can Artificial Intelligence assist the work in Mensa? I had expected it to be an explosion, a revolution of change to the society. No longer would volunteers have to slave on writing blurbs, event descriptions, articles, or designing posters. Social media management would now be a click of a button. Canva now offers generative AI in its software. Just click and you have your bunting. Websites can also be built with a mere prompt.

In the midst of all the excitement and possibilities surrounding AI integration, it's essential not to ignore the ethical implications and challenges that come with it. We must carefully address concerns like data privacy, algorithmic biases, and potential job displacement. As we enter this era of endless possibilities, it's crucial to find a balance between harnessing AI's power and using it responsibly to create a future that genuinely benefits society.

The advent of AI also prompted (excuse the irony) me to think about this. With the progress of AI and the incredible feats it can perform, what then are the implications towards high human intelligence? In other words, if AI is so capable, what then is so good about humans, particularly Mensans?

After all, if you think about it, the premise of an organisation such as ours is the mental and intellectual capabilities of our minds. If a prompt would be able to create in 10 seconds what a human being might need an hour or two to write, wouldn't that render our society meaningless?

The existential question of 'why Mensa' had also come up as I was observing the shift of generations. The workforce is clearly experiencing it. The world is also trying to get a grasp of what the generation – the Gen-Zs as we know it - want? This is important as more and more of our society's demographic now includes this generation.What does the society provide that meets the needs of our new members?

Now, this is not to say the needs of the existing members are not important. Every member seeks something deeply personal and deeply meaningful in the society. And this is true in every National Mensa around the world. This need is well met when we have a rich variety of members in connection with one another.

In that sense, it would then be beneficial to welcome the younger and new members. Their perspectives and needs would demand new understanding from the

Continued on p04

Continued from p03

members. To seek to understand a new perspective and in that vein, a new way of speaking, thinking and doing. I've always told members that as a society, we are always one generation away from extinction. Mensa can only be as relevant as the incoming generation that will continue to volunteer and provide for the future of the society. If we do not have new members who will be willing to take ownership of the society, then we will find this society writing its last page in the book.

As we approach our 80th anniversary in three years, I wonder if we will have the chance to celebrate our 100th anniversary? Oh, what a moment it would be! And we can only think about it if we start sowing the seeds of the society now.

With the advent of Artificial Intelligence and the rapid way in which our human needs for connections are being met, how is this society also evolving to meet the needs of our members for the next 30 years?

So, what then does AI and the longevity of our society have in connection? I had come to realise that in spite of how robust Artificial Intelligence is, and how capable it will be, there is one thing that cannot be replicated nor manufactured. In fact, it is the one thing that makes life meaningful and full of wonder. In fact, the very reason why AI continues to grow and develop is because of this one inherent attribute that we as humankind have: curiosity.

It is because we are inherently curious that we find the world around us meaningful. It is the unknown that makes us seek, and to seek is to find meaning to progress; to uncover that which is unknown. The unknown is all around us in the unique perspectives and interests of our members and in the vast variety of ways we think and live and interact with one another.

It is the idiosyncrasies of our kind that are so unique and inherent in each of us, that in the collective of our membership, become absolutely normal and accepted – simply because we are curious about one another.
The antithesis of this - and the death of our society will be this: indifference.

When we become indifferent about where the society is going, and where it can be or what it is doing now, then we become no better than artificial intelligence.

My hope as I write one of my last entries in this journal as Director of Smaller National Mensas is that we continue to be curious about one another and pursue that which is unknown to us; that we seek and find that what is uncommon is really more common than we thought. And through this, we can find a kinship that sees the same truth. Then we can celebrate that discovery because it is what makes being inherently human worth being.

Floreat Mensa!

Tan Kee Aun
Director of Smaller National Mensas, Mensa International

PS: It is not to say that I dismiss the usefulness of AI. Hidden in this article is a paragraph that is fully manufactured by AI. See if you can find it and prove that AI has not yet passed the Turing test - at least not with us. And tell me if you do find it, along with your thoughts on my essay, at dsnm-mil@mensa.org or on LinkedIn where I will post this after it is published in the *MWJ*.

what's on...

Mensa Serbia Giftedness Conference 2023
September 29-Oct 1, 2023
Mensa Serbia is delighted to announce The Sixth International Professional and Scientific Conference, entitled "Working with the Gifted: Methods and Programs", which will be held in Novi Sad, Serbia. https://www.mensa.org/system/files/first_call_for_conference_working_with_the_gifted_-_methods_and_programs.pdf

Asia-Pacific Mensa Gathering: Bali, Indonesia
November 2, 2023
The second AMG of 2023 will be held from November 2nd to 5th on the magical Indonesian island of Bali, famous worldwide for its warm hospitality, ancient culture, and stunning landscapes. https://www.facebook.com/asianMENSA/

IBD Meeting in Dallas, USA
12 Oct 2023 - 16 Oct 2023
At the International Board of Directors (IBD) Meeting, IBD members discuss, debate and vote on motions which affect Mensans locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. https://www.facebook.com/groups/1224844085031215
The meeting also includes activities for non-delegates. https://ibd.us.mensa.org/programming/

In Memoriam: Dave Remine, Versatile Volunteer Led Mensa on All Fronts

As the only person to lead American Mensa, Mensa International, and the Mensa Foundation, Dave Remine has been one of Mensa's most influential figures over the past three decades. His legacy was built almost literally brick by brick.

Dave passed away on July 19 at the age of 79.

A member of Tidewater Mensa in Virginia since 2016, he joined Central New Jersey Mensa in 1969 on the results of a Navy-issued IQ test. He began volunteering shortly thereafter, taking on increasing responsibility in national leadership roles. By 1985 he was serving as a Regional Vice Chair, a position he would serve for four years before becoming the national Treasurer (1989-93). Around this time, he also served as a National Representative to the International Board of Directors (1989-95), a Mensa governance forum he would later revisit. In 1995, while serving as American Mensa's First Vice Chair, he filled the vacated Chair position, a role he ended up holding for two terms until 1999.

As Chair, Dave cemented his legacy with Mensa, helping instigate the Mensa Foundation's ownership of an Arlington, Texas, building that housed the operations of the Foundation and American Mensa from 1998-2018. (The national office has since moved to nearby Hurst, Texas.) His national-level duty, plus widespread committee work, earned him the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to American Mensa in 2002 and the Margot Award, American Mensa's top honour, in 2004.

Immediately following his term as national Chair, he went on to lead Mensa International as its Chair from 1999-2003. Around the same time, he also began donating his time and talents to the Mensa Foundation. He went on to serve 12 years on the Foundation's Board of Trustees, including a term as Chair from 2012-16.

A Lifetime Member of American Mensa since 2002, Dave had a Mensa experience that was deeper and more personal than his governance and leadership imprint. He was a retired electrical contractor whose love for travel was also a way he made deep connections with his fellow Mensa members. "I met my wife and many close friends here," he said. "I even met Isaac Asimov through Mensa!"

European Mensa Science Camp 2023

72 children and students from eight European countries took part in the European Mensa Science Camp (EMSC) 2023.

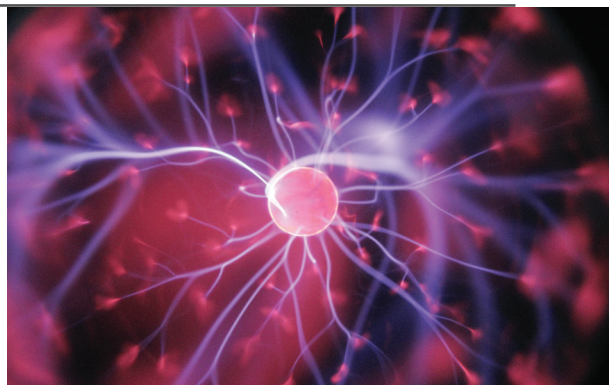
During the week-long programme at the Novy Svtelov Castle in Czechia, the students had the opportunity to attend lectures in mathematics, physics, biochemistry, structural engineering and more. The programme also included cipher games, trips to the countryside and a visit to the swimming pool.

On the final Saturday, the camp participants' week-long teamwork on a range of topics culminated in some great presentations which were attended by many of the parents.

Tomas Blumenstein, Jana Middleton, Natalie Kanakova and the other members of the EMSC organising team would like to thank all the participants for the wonderful atmosphere they created throughout the camp.

Log in to the International website at www.mensa.org for the calendar of national events

neuroscience research briefs...



The Adaptive Eye: Survival Dictates Our Visual Perception

Our view of the world is not always accurate, but it's often the most beneficial for our survival. Experiments involving the alteration of context and rewards in visual tasks show our visual perception - right down to the retinal level - adapts to maximise personal benefits.

This evidence implies cognitive biases could sway not only our decision-making but our core perception as well, contributing to our understanding of human biases and aiding the fine-tuning of AI perception algorithms.

Interoception: A Gateway to the Neuroscience of Self-Awareness

Interoception, our innate capacity to sense internal bodily states, plays a critical role in our conscious experiences and has become a central point of neuroscience research. This article presents key insights on interoception and how this 'sixth sense' molds our emotions, decisions, and even our self-identity.

We also explore how flawed interoception contributes to various mental health conditions such as depression and eating disorders, opening doors to more effective treatment methods and improved well-being.

Antihistamine Sparks Hope for Myelin Repair in Multiple Sclerosis

A recent study identifies an over-the-counter antihistamine, clemastine, as a promising agent for brain repair in Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Thanks to a new MRI scan technique, scientists could observe and measure the impact of clemastine on brain myelin levels.

This research provides the first-ever evidence of brain repair in a chronic neurological condition via MRI, setting a benchmark for future myelin-rebuilding therapy research.

From Thought to Text: AI Converts Silent Speech into Written Words

A cutting-edge AI system, the semantic decoder, is capable of converting brain activity into continuous text. This revolutionary system may change the game for people who can't speak due to conditions like stroke.

Using non-invasive fMRI scan data, it transforms thoughts into text without the need for surgical implants. While not perfect, this AI system successfully captures the core of a person's thoughts around 50% of the time.

Psychedelics Unlock Learning Windows in the Brain

Researchers have found an extraordinary attribute of psychedelic drugs: their potential to reactivate "critical periods" in the brain when it's most sensitive to environmental learning signals.

Usually associated with skills development such as language learning, psychedelics can reopen these periods for varying lengths of time.

This finding could have therapeutic applications for conditions like stroke and deafness.

Untangling Gut Feelings: Revealing the Colon's Sensory Neurons

A pioneering study has made a stride in understanding the gut-brain axis by identifying five distinct types of sensory neurons in the colon.

These neurons are responsible for transmitting diverse signals to the brain, with some responsive to gentle movements of substances, while others react to intense sensations like pain.

Should this finding be validated in humans, it could lead to more precise treatments for gastrointestinal conditions and shed light on the conversion of mechanical forces into electrical signals in the nervous system.

A Fresh Look at Free Will: Challenging the Libet Paradigm

In a recent intriguing study, the long-held Libet paradigm concerning free will has been challenged.

The researchers assert that the readiness potential, the pre-decision-making EEG activity observed in Libet's original experiment, doesn't directly correlate with the actual decision. They further revealed that experimental procedures can sway the moment of conscious intention.

This research reshapes the understanding of free will, indicating that the Libet paradigm may not be the definitive answer to the multifaceted question of human autonomy.

neurosciencenews.com June 18 /August 6, 2023 Photo: Hal Gatewood on Unsplash.com

member profile

by Susan Jensen

American Mensan (Edward) Lee Spence, the son of a military intelligence officer, found his first five shipwrecks in 1959. He went on to discover many more and to become a pioneer of the new field of underwater archaeology. Now 75, he is still researching and salvaging historic shipwrecks.

His father understood Lee was brilliant, despite Lee's not talking until age four and flunking first grade.The family travelled and lived all over the world, and his dad got Lee involved in art, the outdoors, competitive swimming, and target shooting. By third grade, he was doing the family's tax returns. Testing done in sixth grade showed he had the knowledge of a finishing college sophomore. School bored Lee so he often skipped classes.

When Lee was in fifth grade his father enrolled him in an adult, night-school computer class and, when in high school, he encouraged him to attend a summer program for gifted students at the University of Miami and another at Florida State University, both of which Lee greatly enjoyed.

At age twelve, Lee designed and built his own self-contained underwater breathing apparatus, which he laughingly says "was nothing like the kind divers use today, but served the same purpose, albeit dangerously and poorly. I used it to start finding wrecks, first in a river near Columbus, Georgia, then in France and Spain."

While in high school, Lee made his first major discovery, the Confederate steamer Georgiana, which had been described in various nineteenth-century accounts as the most powerful Confederate cruiser.

In 1970, he found the wrecked Confederate submarine the H.L. Hunley. The Hunley was the first submarine in history to sink a ship.

In 1975, Lee received his BA in Marine Archaeology from the University of South Carolina. He also has a Doctorate of Marine Histories for Underwater Archaeology from the College of Marine Arts.

From 1991 until 1994 Lee served as Chief of Underwater Archaeology for the archipelago of Providencia Y San Andres, Colombia. He has also worked in numerous other countries, but, mostly in the private sector.

Lee has Asperger's Syndrome which wasn't diagnosed until he was 51. Around that time he was also diagnosed with dyslexia. He was told that his spatial memory is almost photographic but his short-term memory and ability to recognise faces is less than 10% of normal. Like many Mensans, he has an exceptionally good ability to detect patterns, so good that he was able to take a SAT sample quiz in Russian and get all ten multiple-choice answers correct despite not knowing the Cyrillic alphabet or understanding any Russian.

Lee has earned many accolades, including a NOGI in 2012 from the National Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences. A NOGI is widely considered the most prestigious, international award in the diving community. His favourite career moment was his discovery that Margaret Mitchell's supposedly fictional character, Rhett Butler, was largely based on George Alfred Trenholm, a tall, handsome, and brave Charleston shipping magnate and banker, who served as Secretary of the Treasury for the Confederacy during the final year of the American Civil War.

For more about Lee, visit: www.shipwrecks.com/about-spence

SJ

Moral Conundrums: The Conflict Underlying Obedience to Authority

Researchers explored the conflict experience of individuals when instructed to act against their beliefs. Using the "bug destruction task," participants were ordered to grind live bugs, causing a moral conflict despite no bugs actually being harmed. The experiments highlighted that obedience can rise when the decision to act is presented as a demand rather than a choice. This suggests individuals tend to uphold initial agreements, even if they contradict their own moral values.

A group of researchers from Regensburg, Würzburg and Gottingen took up this challenge and investigated the conflict experience of obedient participants and their findings have been published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Almost all people reject violence against other people or other living beings. At the same time, the fact that people are urged to commit such acts in the context of obedience situations presents modern psychological research with an almost insurmountable ethical challenge.

An experimenter instructed the participants to grind live bugs in a manipulated electric coffee grinder. (No bugs were harmed, of course.) The research group built on the findings of others who have shown that people have far fewer qualms about violence against animals, and especially insects, than they do about violence against other people. Nevertheless, the senseless killing of bugs raises a (comparatively minor) moral conflict for many people.

Obedience and Destruction

In psychology, obedience is the willingness to comply with the demands of an authority figure, even if they conflict with one's own values and norms.

In the 1960s, for example, the social psychologist Stanley Milgram showed that a large majority of participants were willing to administer (supposedly) life-threatening electric shocks to another person as long as they were acting on the instructions of a legitimate authority.

"...contrary to one of the most prominent obedience theories in psychology, the obedient subjects admitted responsibility for the alleged death of the bugs"

No one was hurt, of course. Yet the tension between many participants' experiences of conflict on the one hand and their submission to authority on the other makes obedience one of the most fascinating phenomena in psychology.

In order to make the conflict experience underlying obedience visible, the researchers carried out two experiments. Each consisted of three destruction tasks in which, in addition to the live bugs, other objects (including coffee beans) were to be destroyed.

In the experimental group, participants were demanded to "destroy" the objects as well as the bugs in the coffee grinder; in the control group, participants were repeatedly reminded that the final decision (to destroy or not to destroy?) was up to them.

The results show that more participants in the experimental condition were willing to (supposedly) kill the bugs. In addition, all participants reported more arousal and discomfort after the bug-destruction task as compared to the others.

Conflict Resolution

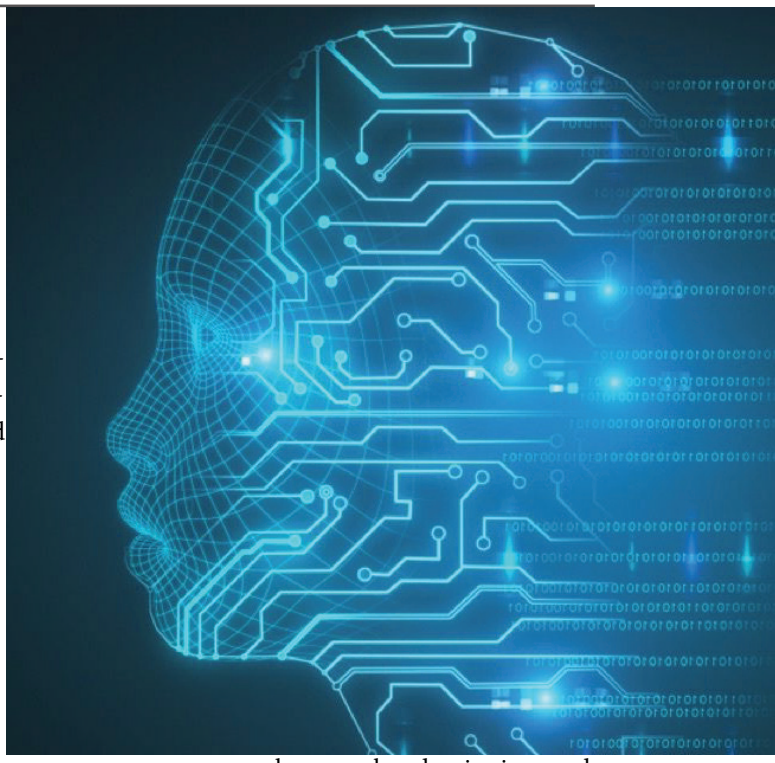
In Experiment 2, the researchers also looked at the conflict resolution process. As a physiological measure of arousal, the participants' skin conductance was measured.

Obedient participants showed an increase in skin conductance after the supposed destruction of the bugs; disobedient subjects showed no such increase, indicating ongoing tension in the former group. The subjects' sense of control and responsibility over their actions was also assessed.

However, contrary to one of the most prominent obedience theories in psychology, the obedient

Continued on p11

The Lonely Brain: Unravelling the Neuroscience and Psychology of Isolation



Research has shown that loneliness is related to unique brain processing patterns and can contribute to various mental health issues, including depression and anxiety. Despite the rise of digital communication, we are experiencing a "loneliness epidemic," highlighting the importance of understanding this complex issue.Various interventions, including mindfulness training, have shown promise in combatting the negative impacts of loneliness.

Loneliness is associated with unique brain processing patterns and can alter individual cognitive and perceptual experiences. Loneliness, a subjective feeling of social isolation, is a pervasive issue that has been further amplified by the global pandemic.

It is not simply a transient state of mind; loneliness has far-reaching implications for our physical and mental health, with strong ties to depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline.

With recent advancements in neuroscience and psychology, we are beginning to understand the complex mechanisms that underpin loneliness and its effects on the brain.

Loneliness is not synonymous with being alone. It's a subjective experience related to the perceived quality of social interactions rather than their quantity. It's possible to feel lonely in a crowd or perfectly content in solitude.

This differentiation is essential because the psychological experience of loneliness can trigger various biological responses that impact brain health.

Recent neuroscience research has shed light on the neurobiological mechanisms associated with loneliness. The feeling of loneliness is suggested to be linked to brain regions involved in social cognition and emotion regulation, such as the prefrontal cortex and amygdala.

Moreover, a study using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) discovered that individuals experiencing loneliness had more unique and idiosyncratic brain processing patterns compared to those who were not lonely.

These findings indicate that loneliness can alter individual brain processing, leading to distinct cognitive and perceptual experiences.

From a psychological standpoint, loneliness is intrinsically linked with mental health. Several studies have shown that loneliness can contribute to various mental health issues, including depression and anxiety.

Moreover, chronic loneliness can lead to a persistent feeling of threat and hypervigilance for social threat, contributing to an array of negative health outcomes, including sleep disturbances, decreased immune function, and increased morbidity.

Despite living in a hyper-connected era, the paradox of our time is that loneliness is more prevalent than ever. In the face of digital connections, we are grappling with a "loneliness epidemic." This emphasises that digital communication cannot replace the psychological benefits obtained from in-person interactions, highlighting the importance of understanding the complex neural underpinnings and psychological facets of loneliness.

Research has suggested various ways to combat loneliness and its negative impact. These range from interventions aimed at improving social skills, enhancing social support, increasing opportunities for social contact, and addressing maladaptive social cognition.

It has been shown that even a single session of mindfulness meditation can help reduce feelings of loneliness, demonstrating the importance of psychological interventions in addressing this issue.

In conclusion, the neuroscience and psychology of loneliness are complex and multifaceted fields that have seen significant advancements in recent years.

Continued research into the neurobiological and psychological underpinnings of loneliness will be essential to devise effective interventions and to provide aid to those who experience chronic loneliness.

neurosciencenews.com July 2, 2023

supplementally... by John Blinke

Rains in Africa

Although we think of Egypt as a dry place, it was considerably wetter in the fourth dynasty, around 2,600 BCE, when the Giza pyramids were built. Rain falls there occasionally today, and often too fast to soak into the dry ground. When conspiracy fans claim that water damage proves the Sphinx is 10,000 years older than Egyptian civilisation, they are incorrect. There has always been enough precipitation to erode limestone.

Rain is a problem for archaeology in other places, too. The AERA excavation site at the Giza necropolis was disrupted in 2022 by a downpour that flooded the area and damaged some excavated mudbrick buildings.

RAB

AERA Newsletter, Spring/Fall 2022, pp. 28-31. "Water from Below, Water from Above."

In their continuing efforts to learn about the lost city of the pyramid builders, the Ancient Egypt Research Associates were finally able to dig in a former soccer field located near the Giza pyramids. They have been excavating a building they call the Royal Administration Building (RAB), whose foundations are partially buried under the field. The AERA team uncovered remains of a dozen or more mudbrick grain silos surrounding a sloping court. But their excavations were disrupted by torrential rain during the 2022 field season. Water flooded test pits and dissolved some of the exposed mudbrick that had been safely buried since kings of the Fourth Dynasty built the pyramids at Giza.

Texas-Rex

ScienceDaily, June 27, 2023. "Newly Discovered Jurassic Fossils In Texas." (Rocky Mountain Geology)

Why are there no dinosaurs from Texas? It's because the state has the wrong kind of rock, for the most part. The only Jurassic age landscape in the Lone Star State can be found in the Malone Mountains, so scientists from Southern Methodist University went there to have a look. Bingo! They came up with some badly weathered limbs and vertebrae of a plesiosaur that had lived in the great inland sea 150 million years ago. The Malone Mountains are not easy to reach. But now that people know there are bones to find, there will certainly be more Texas fossil hunting expeditions. See also: 140 https://youtu.be/hol33ga9G_E

Devils May Care

Nature NEWS, June 30, 2023. "Tasmanian Devil Cancer Vaccine Approved For Testing."

Tasmanian Devils are afflicted by two strains of a transmissible facial tumor that first turned up in Tasmania thirty years ago. It has now wiped out 80% of the original population by starving them to death as the massive facial tumors prevent them from hunting. Because the animals never become immune to the disease naturally, scientists at University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, have created a vaccine. The idea is to cause tumor cells to become visible to the animals' immune systems. While it is not possible to catch all the remaining devils to inject them, researchers plan to use medicated baits distributed by an intelligent dispenser system that can recognise the animals.

Continued on p11

Bad Air

ScienceDaily, September 25, 2018. "Indoor HEPA Filters Significantly Reduce Pollution Indoors When Outside Air Unhealthy, Study Finds." The air is filled with forest fire smoke. You retreat indoors and close the windows. You turn on your portable HEPA filter — but, does it do any good? Yes, it does, according to scientists at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City. HEPA filters (High Efficiency Particulate Air) are significantly better at reducing levels of PM2.5 particles than cheaper air filters. This is from a study of 52 Utah homes during 12 weeks of Utah's 2017 "temperature inversion season," which is a bad time for air quality, even without forest fires.

Photo by Ruben Hassen on Unsplash.com

Continued from p08

subjects admitted responsibility for the alleged death of the bugs. This ruled out diffusion or ambiguity of responsibility as an explanation for obedience.

Although the question of why people are obedient remains unanswered, the researchers offered a new explanation. This is based on the hypothesis that people always tend to cooperate with others, even when they are in a subordinate role. According to them, people struggle with a dual sense of duty: on the one hand, they feel morally obliged to the bugs; on the other hand, they do not want to break their promises to the experimenter.

In the control group, when the experimenter pointed out the individual choice of the subject, the moral obligation to the bugs seemed to dominate and the subjects refused to obey.

When he did not, the sense of duty to the experimenter dominated and the subjects reluctantly destroyed the beetles.

The researchers also formulated two take-home messages for their readers. Firstly, people seem to be committed to an initial agreement, even if the consequences are detrimental to their own interests (if not their well-being).

Secondly, the lack of defiance in others should not be confused with an expression of their individual "free will."

neurosciencenews.com July 20, 2023

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
dsnm-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 Vicki Herd
ombudsman@mensa.org

Hon. President:
Mr Udo Schultz
udo-schultz@t-online.de

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

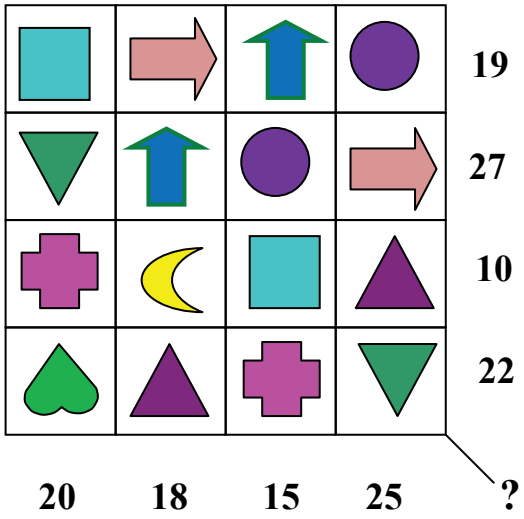
Sub-editors:

Science: Mr John Blinke Johnb44221@cs.com
Puzzles: Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom tmb@ozemail.com.au
Profiles: Dr Susan Jensen suejensen57@gmail.com
Features: *Position Vacant*
Proofreader: Ms Christine Pretty

Therese's
BRAIN TEASERS

Cryptosum October 2023

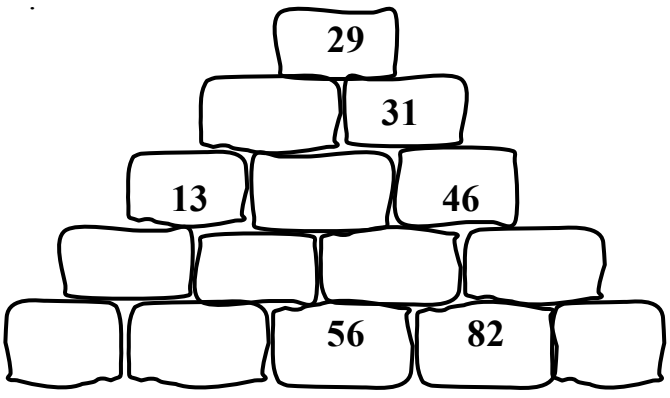
Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line starting from the top left-hand corner.



Cairn

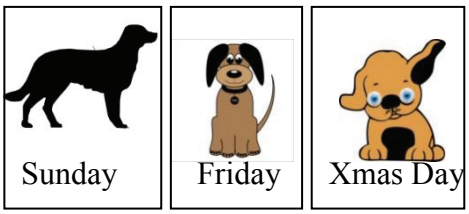
The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. There is a two-digit number in each of the bottom stones, using the digits 0-9 once each.

.



Rebus

Decipher the rebus to find a proverb:



Anagram Riddle

8 letters have I, you can change them around
To spell words which vary by more than a sound:

- A citizen from Etruria (– was really quite hip)
- Half men, half horses (they give me the pip)
- Non-churchgoer, rebel – he's not going to flip

Now that you've solved me, which words have you found?

Siblings

John has three times as many sisters as brothers. His sibling, Chris, has an equal number of brothers and sisters. How many children are in the family?

Answers

Cryptosum: ***16*** *(1 + 5 + 1 + 9)* ***Cairn:*** *43 97 56 82 10* ***Rebus:*** *Every dog has its day*
Anagram Riddle: *Etruscan Centaurs Recusant* ***Siblings:*** *Five (Three girls, including Chris, and two boys, including John).*