

High IQ group contains wide range of members

By Neal Haldane
staff writer

WHEN MENSA MEMBERS get together, they do not just discuss the philosophy of life or the ramifications of global thermonuclear war. Mensa members are just as likely to stop by Shields for a pizza or to someone's home for a party or game of Trivial Pursuit.

The group, which is open to people who have an IQ higher than 98 percent of the general population, has long been portrayed as an organization for elitists.

"People get a preconceived idea about Mensa," said David Kahn, vice president for the Southeast Michigan Mensa which meets every third Saturday at the Southfield Civic Center.

"Our members have a large variety of occupations ranging from chairman of the board of Ford Motor Co. to people on A.D.C. and welfare," said Kahn, who lives in Farmington Hills.

"We are like most organizations. We have people who are interesting and people who are not interesting, just like any other group."

Mensa, which is Greek for table, allows people who are smart the freedom to be themselves without being looked upon as someone flaunting their intelligence, he said.

"MENSA PROVIDES a place where people can expand themselves mentally without fear of ostracizing themselves. A lot of our members are even hesitant to say they are Mensans. That sometimes creates an undesirable barrier with other people."

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To qualify, members may take the Mensa test or submit IQ test scores showing an intelligence quotient of

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around 122 or an ACT composite test score of 29.

"Basically, we are a social group," Kahn said. "A large number of our activities are self-serving."

Kahn, who has been in charge of scheduling guest speakers for the monthly meetings, said only 200 of the group's 1,400 area members show up for the 12 get-togethers.

Some members join and do nothing while others take a more active interest in the group, he said.

One of the main areas of interest involves smaller numbers of people getting together in what are called SIGs—Special Interest Groups.

The SIGs range from an Artsy group dedicated to people who use the right side of their brain to a Shrimp Worshipers SIG to a Sexxy which travels around viewing X-rated films, Kahn said.

ONE PERSON WHO is involved in several of the SIGs is Lewis Clark of Southfield. He has taken part in the Games SIG which schedules gatherings to play Trivial Pursuit or Risk.

He also has participated in the Philosophy and Discussion SIG which discusses issues and ethics, he said.

SIG membership starts at just a few followers but some are as large as 20 or 30 regular members, Clark said.

"The main thing I like is seeing some

familiar faces on a fairly regular basis without having to create an event like a dinner party," he said. "It's a no fuss social activity."

The social aspect of the group is what attracted Clark to Mensa back in 1978.

"I didn't know that many people in this area and Mensa was a made-to-order social organization I could step right into."

His first meeting, however, did not go over too well.

"I wasn't worried about fitting in before the meeting, but once I got there I had this nervous tick in my eye that wouldn't go away."

But Clark eventually became comfortable in the group and increased his involvement in Mensa activities by working on the newsletter and with special events.

"The biggest activity is having a good time. There is an overemphasis on intelligence. I don't agree with some of the people in the group who think that if you are smart you don't have to have other things."

Another active member is Kathy Hawkins of West Bloomfield, who joined two years ago "just for kicks."

"IT FILLS A social need that a lot of people have," Hawkins said. "It's a way to have a lot of fun and get involved without feeling strange and watching what you say because sometimes people get the impression you are talking down to them. We just do real normal stuff."

Besides the social side of the group, Hawkins became coordinator of the gifted youth program for Mensa.

Between 70 and 80 children, one as young as 4, are involved in the program.

"The key is to remember they are still kids. Even though they are intelligent kids they still like to have fun. They like to do fun things but from a different perspective."

But more important than scheduling fun activities, the youth program provides a respite from some of the problems associated with being bright and in school.

"This gets them away from the 'egg-head' and 'brainy' things and lets them have fun. How many times have girls been told that they shouldn't show their smarts or boys won't ask them out. Or how many boys have been told it's better to be on the football team and not the debate team."

"This lets them be normal and encourages them to challenge each other. I've had them over my house and they do what all teen-agers do. They play the radio, talk and eat potato chips."

The next meeting is set for Saturday when Steve Graham, curator for the

Mensa mini test

1. Tom, Jim, Peter, Susan and Jane all took the Mensa test. Jane scored higher than Tom; Jim scored lower than Peter but higher than Susan, and Peter scored lower than Tom. All of them are eligible to join Mensa, but who had the highest score?

2. If it were two hours later, it would be half as long until midnight as it would be if it were an hour later. What time is it now?

3. Pear is to apple as potato is to?
a) banana
b) radish
c) strawberry
d) peach
e) lettuce

4. Continue the following numbers series with the group of numbers below that best continues the series?
1 10 3 9 5 8 7 7 9 6 7 7
a) 11 5
b) 10 5
c) 10 4
d) 11 6

5. Which of the following is least like the others?
a) poem
b) novel
c) painting
d) statue
e) flower

6. What is the following word when it is unscrambled?
HCPRAATEU

7. What is the number that is one half of one quarter of one tenth of 400?

8. Which of the sentences gives below means approximately the same as the proverb: "Don't count your



chickens until they have hatched?"

a) Some eggs have double yolks so you can't really count eggs and chickens
b) You can't walk around the henhouse to count the eggs because it will disturb the hens and they won't lay eggs.
c) It is not really sensible to rely on something that has not yet happened and may not ever happen.
d) Since eggs break so easily, you may not be accurate

In your count of future chickens.

9. The SAME four-letter word can be placed on the blank lines below to make two new words from each of those shown. Put in the correct four-letter word to make four new words from those shown below. (EACH HAND could be placed between BACK—WORK to make BACKHAND and HANDWORK).
HEAD—MARK
DREAM—FALL

Answers

1. JANE
2. 9 p.m.
3. b) both grow in the ground
4. a) alternate numbers go up by 2 and down by 1, starting with 1, and 10.
5. e) The only one that is not an artistic work made by man.
6. PARACHUTE
7. 5

8. c)
9. LAND
If you answered at least six questions correctly, you could send for a preliminary test which you can take at home without a supervisor. To receive the test, send \$2 to American Mensa, 1701 W. 3rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Detroit Zoo, will speak. The group starts to gather around 8:30 p.m. and the general membership

meeting will begin at 8 p.m. at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen.

Anyone who wants more information about the group can attend the meeting or call Beisy Mark, 462-0101.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 32202 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

Valuiss Inserts, a printing and publishing company of Free Standing Coupon Inserts in Farmington Hills, recently donated 20 food/gift packs to the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce offices. The food/gift packs were then distributed by the local Goodfellows to families in need. According to James Widmann, president of Valuiss Inserts, "We recognize the beneficial work of the Goodfellows and their activities of ensuring that the holiday season is joyous to all."

Sgt. LOUIS W. TRUMP, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Dugener of Farmington Hills, is one of three Howell Military School students who will attend the Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20. Chosen on the basis of good conduct, the young men have been given an invitation to dine in the White House during their four-day stay of sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

BRENDAN D. FITZPATRICK, son of Brendan G. Fitzpatrick of Farmington Hills and a student at the University of Notre Dame, Ind., has received a four-year Army ROTC scholarship. He was selected on the basis of comprehensive tests, high school scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities. The scholarship covers full tuition, textbooks and laboratory fees and pays a monthly subsistence allowance. Upon graduation and completion of the ROTC program, he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

CADET JOSEPH LOPERENA, 4th classman at the United States Air Force Academy, has been named to the dean's list. He achieved a 3.5 grade point during his fall term. He is the son of Sheryl and Raul Loperena of Farmington Hills.

JANUARY 1985 has been proclaimed National Volunteer Blood Donor Month by President Reagan. Blood can be donated by anyone in good health, between the ages of 17 and 65, and who weighs at least 110 pounds. A blood donation takes less than an hour, is relatively painless and can save up to four lives. Red Cross Bloodmobiles will be located from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17 in Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River and Thursday, Jan. 31 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For an appointment call Beverly Weiss at 471-8551.

LAURI MUIR, of Farmington, was one of eight students at Ball State University named to the autumn quarter dean's list. To qualify for the dean's list, an undergraduate must earn a grade point average of 3.6 to 4.0 and carry 12 or more hours of academic work for college credit.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD of Michigan will sponsor "Sit For Your Health" cross-country ski races Jan. 19 at Independence Oaks County Park and Jan. 27 at Glen Oaks Golf Course. Racers will be divided into eight age categories with the top three finishers in each receiving an award. All persons completing the race will receive a participant award. Free refreshments will be available. Starting times for the Jan. 19 race at Independence Oaks are 9 a.m. for experienced skiers and noon for novices. The Jan. 27 race at Glen Oaks will begin at 10 a.m. for experienced skiers and 1 p.m. for novices at another location.

"WE SAT down over lunch" and decided to make sure no holy days were neglected, McCullough said. The lease was approved by the temple's board of directors.

First Assembly of God leases both the sanctuary and library room for 7:30 p.m. church services on Thursdays and 10 a.m. worship services on Sundays.

The sanctuary, resembling an auditorium, requires no conversion between Jewish and Christian services. It is devoid of religious symbols, except for the Torah displayed in a cabinet. First As-

sembly of God members simply bring in their own song books and a sound system, then take them home when they leave, McCullough said.

"I LOOK AT a building to be just a building — really the people are the church," he said, noting that Jesus was Jewish and worshipped in temples. "The facility is very conducive to our purpose. I have a pulpit, and that's what I need."

First Assembly of God members — known for their speaking in tongues and belief in healing through prayer — are evangelical by nature.

Alarm program helps those who're in need

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tectors and installation, a resident must meet income qualifications established by the federal government. Residents who are physically impaired may also qualify.

According to the regulations, families of the following size and gross income level would qualify for the program.

- One member — \$17,250.
- Two members — \$19,750.
- Three members — \$22,200.
- Four members — \$24,650.
- Five members — \$26,200.
- Six members — \$27,700.
- Seven members — \$29,250.
- Eight members — \$30,800.

To apply for the program, residents are asked to contact Cheryl Carter in the city's office of community development at 474-8115.

At present senior citizens do not qualify for the program on age alone. Only if they meet the income qualifications can they participate in the program, Garr said.

If a resident qualifies for the program, firefighters will install the minimum number of smoke detectors — whether it's one, two or three that are needed explain its use and maintenance. Firefighters will also provide home inspection check lists and fire escape planning to those who participate in the program.

"We encourage people — while we are there — take advantage of our expertise," Garr said.

Brochures will also be handed out to residents explaining the use of the detector as part of an "early warning system."

"About three-quarters of all fires in the home occur between midnight and 6 a.m., a time when most people are asleep," Garr said. "Many people believe that they would be awakened in time to escape a fire by smell of smoke or the sound of fire. This is seldom the case."

"The typical home fire gives off toxic smoke and gases within minutes of ignition. A smoke detector reacts to these telltale signs of fire before a human being could, even if he were

awake. These few minutes of warning can make a life or death difference."

FIRE DEATHS occur not so much because people are burned as much as they are overcome from smoke, Garr said. Sometimes one breath of the smoke can impair a person's thinking.

"You have come in and out of your front door a thousand times and suddenly (when overcome by smoke) you can't find it," Garr said.

Because "people have a television view of what a fire is," they believe they can wait until a fire is raging through the house before escaping.

The truth of the matter is that shortly after ignition, "you can't see your hand in front of your face," he said.

When a detector is used in conjunction with a good home escape plan, detectors can prevent many of the approximately 6,000 annual home fire deaths, Garr said.

The fire department also plans to conduct a follow-up program with residents who receive the smoke detectors. Eleven months after a resident's detector has been installed fire officials will send a note reminding homeowners that the battery which lasts about a year must be changed.

"You just don't put it up and forget about it," Garr said.

IN CONJUNCTION with the free smoke detectors and installation, the department also intends to send fire fighters into schools, civic groups, homeowners associations and the like to provide smoke detector presentations.

Because 80 percent of home fire deaths involve children under six years of age and adults aged 60 and older, fire officials and "keying into these groups," Garr said.

Attempts will be made to have smoke detector information sent home with school children, he said. In addition, fire officials hope to work with Loretta Conway, director of Senior Adult Activities, under the auspices of Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department to inform the elderly about fire safety and smoke detectors, Garr said.

Temple shares its quarters

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by a non-Jewish religious group — Birmingham Unitarian — when it was new and needed a meeting place.

McCullough approached Temple Kol Ami about using its facility for a temporary worship center after he couldn't find a suitable location elsewhere.

"In this day and age, you don't really set up a tent or go to a storefront," he said. West Bloomfield's restaurants and community buildings have limited conference space. And other Christian churches, because they worship at the same time of the week, don't have room, McCullough said.

For the first six months of its existence, the new church met in the West Bloomfield Township library's conference room. But that posed problems, McCullough said, because it had no separate area for Sunday School.

The 37-year-old pastor contacted larger temples and synagogues, figuring their services would be on Saturdays. But most of them had Sunday morning Sunday School programs.

He decided to write a letter to Temple Kol Ami after driving past it one day. He noticed it was a smaller building with, perhaps, a smaller congregation and fewer programs. (The temple has a Sunday School program, but it