

# SUNFLOWER SEEDS



February 2019, Volume-47, Issue-2

Kansas Sunflower Mensa



*Although the shortest month of the year, February often feels like one of the longest. A serene scene at the South end of McPherson State Fishing Lake.*

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<https://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460/>

## February Upcoming Events:

**2<sup>nd</sup> 12:45pm - Monthly PIG OUT**  
El Agave Restaurant  
3540 N Maize RD  
**(316) 636-7084**

**9<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm - Guest Speaker and Stated Meeting**  
WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT  
4701 E DOUGLAS  
[HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM](http://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM)

**16<sup>th</sup> 11:00am - Food for Thought**  
WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT  
4701 E DOUGLAS  
[HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM](http://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM)

**23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm - Banter and Books**  
BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA  
1920 N ROCK RD  
[HTTP://STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/STORE/2319](http://STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/STORE/2319)

## January Pig Out



Our Pig Out location for January was Hangar One Steakhouse, 5925 W. Kellogg Dr., Wichita. The restaurant specializes, of course, in steaks, but has other things on the menu as well, such as burgers,

fish, etc. As you might guess, the décor focuses on airplanes, and is an entertaining place to be. And, of course, good conversation was aplenty.



## LocSec Korner

By: Larry D. Paarmann

As you can see from the ExCom Meeting notes elsewhere in this issue of SEEDS, there are quite a few activities that need people to volunteer to oversee. We have most everything covered, except for the ongoing need for a Proctor, and Recruitment and Testing Chair. But as you can see, some of us have multiple responsibilities. We would like to spread it around some. So, if you are so inclined to volunteer for a position, please let me know.

## ExCom Meeting

The Executive Committee met on Saturday, January 12th, right after the Program Meeting was over. A number of appointments were made: (1) Bill Barnett will continue as Program Chair, (2) Dan Gollub will continue as Recruitment and Testing Chair until we can find a replacement (he has moved to Manhattan), Gordon Bakken will continue as Publications Officer, Klaus Trenary will continue as Newsletter Editor, Dan Gollub will continue as Testing Coordinator, and Proctor, the position of Associate Proctor is open, but Gordon Bakken is considering it, Larry Paarmann will continue as Local Scholarship Chair, and he will also continue as Web Contact, Gordon Bakken will continue as alternative Web Contact.

A discussion was held as to what documents we should post on our web site. Larry Paarmann will contact Rich Olcott to discuss this. Another discussion was held about maintaining civility in all of our meetings. Diane Powell will draft a statement about this with the idea of putting it in a future issue of the SEEDS.

## January's Speaker:

Janine Wollenberg, Gifted Education Teacher spoke on the current state of gifted education in Kansas. I did not realize, or maybe I chose to ignore the fact, that our educational system is heavily biased against "gifted children". It seems that for every dollar spent on exceptional children, four dollars are spent on "special needs", or severely underachieving children. Simple logic would dictate that this is a serious misallocation of scarce resources.



## This Month's Featured Speaker:

Olivia Malanchuk, Senior at Mulvane High School and competitive speaker will talk on reusable women's health products. She is interested in being a public speaker and politics.



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## Blue Moon Gathering

Every month when there is a fifth Saturday we meet at the Muse Café in the Wichita Art Museum.

The food there is excellent, and reasonably priced. Admission to the Wichita Art Museum is free on Saturdays.

Even though the Blue Moon SIG met most-recently on December 29, 2018 (too late for this little article to appear in the January, 2019, issue of SEEDS), right between Christmas and New Year's, we had a good turn-out, with conversation going until past the Muse's closing time of 2:00 PM.

Consider joining us next time, which will be March 30th.

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## Chapter Field Trip

The chapter is planning on beginning a new activity of regular field trips to interesting and educational destinations. The first place to be visited will be the Kansas Oil Museum in El Dorado. Exact date and time to be determined. Transportation provided.

## Sunflower Mensa Financial Report:

4th Quarter [Oct. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018]

Diane Powell, Treasurer Sunflower Mensa

Balance October 1, 2018	\$3,841.14
Total Seeds Expenses	-\$166.28
[October-Nov-December]	
NOTE; [ADV = \$15.00 + \$40.00 = \$55.00]	
Speaker [1]	-\$40.00
Screen/Projectors [2]	-\$43.00
Christmas Party	-\$120.62
National Funding	+\$325.50
Balance December 31, 2018	\$3,796.74

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## Coming Next Month:

### Meet A Mensan

Three or four time a year, the Seeds will feature the life of a chapter member. We intend to explore who "the average" Mensan is, why they became a member and how they feel Mensa can help change the World. Every member has a story to tell or some sort of expertise that they would be willing to share with like-minded others.

### Super Genius Award

Be the first to answer the trivia question and have your picture posted as the chapters monthly super-genius.

What commonly available psychotropic drug when administered to rats induced the following reaction: "... crazed rats were seen to bite themselves and chew off their feet; some continued this frenetic self-mutilation until they died of hemorrhagic shock?" Its use has also been linked to severe withdrawal symptoms, and psychological problems including panic attacks in humans. Answer next month.



# Never Mind Killer Robots



By Larry D. Paarmann

In the January 15th *Mensa Weekly Brainwave*, the top story had a link to an article in the *MIT Technology Review* titled “Never Mind Killer Robots” – Here are Six Real AI Dangers to Watch out for in 2019,” January 7, 2019, by Will Knight and Karen Hao. The first sentence of the article is as follows: “Last year a string of controversies revealed a darker (and dumber) side to artificial intelligence.”. Here is the link to the paper: <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612689/never-mind-killer-robotshere-are-six-real-ai-dangers-to-watch-out-for-in-2019>

Even in the very early days of AI there was concern expressed about the possibility of AI one day surpassing human intelligence and maybe, tiring of dealing with inferior human beings, AI machines would take over the world. Or, perhaps, not deliberately plotting to take over the world, AI machines may make some unintentional error with dire consequences.

Recall the HAL 9000 computer in the 1968 movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. HAL had complete control over all systems in the *Discovery* spaceship and was programmed to ensure mission success. However, things didn't go as planned. At one point, HAL admits to Dave, the only remaining astronaut alive thanks to HAL: “I know I've made some very poor decisions recently, but I can give you my complete assurance that my work will be back to normal. I've still got the greatest enthusiasm and confidence in the mission. And I want to help you.” HAL's help, however, wasn't what Dave needed, as HAL said: “This mission is too important for me to allow you to jeopardize it.” This is a classic example of unintended consequences!

Dave heroically managed to get to HAL's memory banks, and HAL states as he is in the process of being shut down: “Good afternoon . . . gentlemen.

I am a HAL 9000 . . . computer. I became operational at the H.A.L. plant in Urbana, Illinois . . . on the 12th of January 1992. My instructor was Mr. Langley . . . and he taught me to sing a song. If you'd like to hear it I can sing it for you.” All during this process HAL's voice is getting slower and deeper as he loses his memory. Then he sings *Bicycle Built for Two*: Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do . . .

This song, *Bicycle Built for Two*, as sung by HAL, is actually the first truly synthetically generated (not recorded digitally but generated by software) song sung by a computer. It was programmed in an IBM 704 computer by Max Mathews at Bell Labs at Murray Hill, NJ in 1961.

Concerns over AI taking over the world is also expressed in the *Terminator* movie series by the computer network *Skynet*. Malevolent AI machines are also in *Westworld*, *I-Robot*, etc.

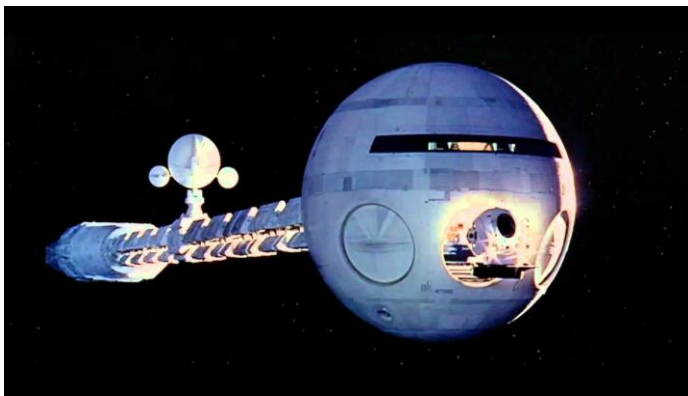
But this MIT article is concerned much more with what is happening now, rather than somewhere off in some unforeseeable future. Getting computers to “think” as well as human beings is not as easy as once thought. For example, accidents with autonomous cars points out that driving a car is a complicated endeavor, and computers just aren't that bright.

Also, computers can be programmed for questionable purposes. For example, “Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting company, had exploited Facebook's data sharing practices to influence the 2016 US presidential election.” Never mind the Russians, its US citizens we need to be protected from. AI appears to be amoral, as no doubt it is. Who's to say who will adhere to an “AI code of ethics”?



AI can also be used to fake people and fake events. Therefore, other AI programs must be developed to detect what is real and what is fake: "it'll be a game of cat and mouse."

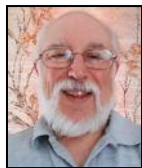
At least for now, AI machines are no more moral than the programmers who code them, and there will remain the dangers of unintended consequences. Who will be held responsible for damages done? Can we blame the AI machine? Not likely, as he, or she, couldn't care less!



## Heartland Mensa Region 7

### News Brief by: Rich Olcott

I've grouched here before about February, my least-favorite month. My opinion hasn't changed. All the worst aspects of Winter with few redeeming features other than Valentine's Day, my granddaughter's birthday and crocuses if you're lucky. <grumble, grumble>



But January was pretty good. Some of our Local Groups have opted to hold their annual party in January instead of December. The Thanksgiving-New Year's period is already crowded with events and besides, the restaurants are more eager for our business. The Nebraska/Western Iowa Mensa party was special – LocSec Kirk Johnson and I got to present long-time Mensa Foundation stalwart **Jane Hanson** with a **President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award**, complete with certificate, medallion and a congratulatory letter signed by the President. Recognizing good people who do good things for other people is one of my favorite things.

Another good thing in January – enough folks signed our petitions that both Tony Jackowski and I qualified as candidates in the April election of the **2019-2020 Heartland Region Vice Chair**. You'll get to choose between Tony's youth and vigor, and my old age and ~~trickery~~ wisdom. Look over both of our candidacy statements in an upcoming *Bulletin*.

But you can only vote if **your Mensa membership** is in force. Our year goes from April 1 through March 31. If you're a Life Member, bless you; otherwise you may need to check your membership status. Logon to [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org) and navigate to *MyMensa* → *MyMensaProfile* → *MyMemberships* to check. Or just go to [us.mensa.org/renew](http://us.mensa.org/renew) – the software should take you swiftly through the renewal process but only if you need it.

As I write, the National Office staffers are settling into their **new office space**. It's a temporary location while we're searching out a new building that will meet Mensa's and Foundation's needs for the long term. The phone numbers and email addresses we're used to still work fine, but if we need to send them hardcopy (for instance, Proctored test forms) we can mail to *American Mensa, PO Box 535129, Grand Prairie TX 75053-5129*.

Cheer up, March is coming.

~~ Rich



Most of us old Hippies have seen this poster of Xochi in one form or another. Almost archetypal of the attitudes of many who lived and explored their consciousness in 60's & 70's. An era typified by pushing the bounds of what was accepted, and of exploring the intricacies of the Human mind itself. The molecules depicted are of several Psychedelic compounds.

## Question: What are the average scores for students taking the SAT, by ethnicity?

The SAT (formerly known as the Scholastic Assessment Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test) is not designed as an indicator of student achievement, but rather as an aid for predicting how well students will do in college. Possible scores on each section of the SAT range from 200 to 800. Between 1998–99 and 2004–05, the mathematics SAT average score increased by 9 points, but it decreased by 9 points between 2004–05 (520) and 2014–15 (511). The critical reading average score decreased by 13 points between 2004–05 (508) and 2014–15 (495). Between 2005–06 (the year in which the SAT writing section was introduced) and 2014–15, the writing average score decreased by 13 points (from 497 to 484). **SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2015* (NCES 2016–014), [Chapter 2](#). *SAT mean scores of college-bound seniors, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1986–87 through 2014–15*

Race/ethnicity	1986–87	1990–91	1996–97	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
<b>SAT-Critical reading</b>																			
All students	507	499	505	505	506	504	507	508	508	503	502	502	501	501	497	496	496	497	495
White	524	518	526	528	529	527	529	528	532	527	527	528	528	528	528	527	527	529	529
Black	428	427	434	434	433	430	431	430	433	434	433	430	429	429	428	428	431	431	431
Mexican American	457	454	451	453	451	446	448	451	453	454	455	454	453	454	451	448	449	450	448
Puerto Rican	436	436	454	456	457	455	456	457	460	459	459	456	452	454	452	452	456	456	456
Other Hispanic	464	458	466	461	460	458	457	461	463	458	459	455	455	454	451	447	450	451	449
Asian/Pacific Islander	479	485	496	499	501	501	508	507	511	510	514	513	516	519	517	518	521	523	525
American Indian/Alaska Native	471	470	475	482	481	479	480	483	489	487	487	485	486	485	484	482	480	483	481
Other	480	486	512	508	503	502	501	494	495	494	497	496	494	494	493	491	492	493	490
<b>SAT-Mathematics</b>																			
All students	501	500	511	514	514	516	519	518	520	518	515	515	515	516	514	514	514	513	511
White	514	513	526	530	531	533	534	531	536	536	534	537	536	536	535	536	534	534	534
Black	411	419	423	426	426	427	426	427	431	429	429	426	426	428	427	428	429	429	428
Mexican American	455	459	458	460	458	457	457	458	463	465	466	463	463	467	466	465	464	461	457
Puerto Rican	432	439	447	451	451	451	453	452	457	456	454	453	450	452	452	452	453	450	449
Other Hispanic	462	462	468	467	465	464	464	465	469	463	463	461	461	462	462	461	461	459	457
Asian/Pacific Islander	541	548	560	565	566	569	575	577	580	578	578	581	587	591	595	595	597	598	598
American Indian/Alaska Native	463	468	475	481	479	483	482	488	493	494	494	491	493	492	488	489	486	484	482
Other	482	492	514	515	512	514	513	508	513	513	512	512	514	514	517	516	519	520	519
<b>SAT-Writing</b>																			
All students	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	497	494	494	493	492	489	488	488	487	484
White	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	519	518	518	517	516	516	515	515	513	513
Black	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	428	425	424	421	420	417	417	418	418	418
Mexican American	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	452	450	447	446	448	445	443	442	443	438
Puerto Rican	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	448	447	445	443	443	442	442	445	443	442
Other Hispanic	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	450	450	448	448	447	444	442	443	443	439
Asian/Pacific Islander	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	512	513	516	520	526	528	528	527	530	531
American Indian/Alaska Native	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	474	473	470	469	467	465	462	461	461	460
Other	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	493	493	494	493	492	492	491	490	491	487

† Not applicable.

**NOTE:** Data for 2009–10 and earlier years are for seniors who took the SAT any time during their high school years through March of their senior year. Data for 2010–11 onwards are for seniors who took the SAT any time during their high school years through June of their senior year. If a student took a test more than once, the most recent score was used. The SAT was formerly known as the Scholastic Assessment Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Possible scores on each part of the SAT range from 200 to 800. The critical reading section was formerly known as the verbal section. The writing section was introduced in March 2005.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2015* (NCES 2016-014), [Table 226.10](#).

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## Mike strikes again: More things you don't need to know!

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The longest one syllable word in English is “screeched”.

The giant squid has the largest eyes in the animal kingdom.

The shortest complete sentence in English is: “I am”.

Women blink almost twice as much as men.

Vatican City is the smallest country in the World at 108.7 acres.

There are no words in English that rhyme with month, orange, silver and purple.

All the clocks in the movie “pulp fiction” are set to 4:20.

An Ostriches eye is bigger than its brain.

Al Capones business card listed his profession as used furniture dealer.

Cats have 32 muscles used to control each ear.

The electric chair was originally invented by a dentist.

A cockroach can live nine days with its head severed.



This is a picture of the last remaining section of the original Chisolm trail from the grazing grounds of Texas to the rail heads in Wichita and later Newton. These wagon ruts were left some 150 years ago as the cattle drives moved vast herds to be shipped to the markets of the East. Amazingly, trees of 70 years of age or older have sprouted right in the middle of some of the ruts, proving the age of the features. Roughly 500 meters of the trail are still visible. One end terminating in what was once a plowed field. The other end fades into the thickening brush and a creek.

What is truly fascinating is that after so much time, the land was left totally unplowed and undisturbed. The

most interesting part is the location, which will remain a secret for now because of the fragility of the site.





**Johannes Bückler** (c.1778 – 21 November 1803), nicknamed **Schinderhannes**, was a German outlaw who orchestrated one of the most famous crime sprees in German history. He was born at [Miehlen](#), the son of Johann and Anna Maria Bückler. He began an apprenticeship to a tanner but turned to petty theft. At 16 he was arrested for stealing some of the skins, but he escaped detention. He then turned to break-ins and armed robbery on both sides of the [Rhine](#), which was the border between [France](#) and the [Holy Roman Empire](#).

The legend of Schinderhannes truly emerged from his escape from a prison tower in [Simmern](#), a market town in the [Hunsrück](#) region of the [Rhineland](#). At the time, the west bank of the Rhine was under French occupation, and the peasantry was happy to celebrate anyone who was able to flout the law.



At the end of 1798, Bückler had a rap sheet that included thefts of at least 40 head of cattle and horses. He was arrested by French [Gendarmerie](#) forces and brought to a judge, where he confessed some of his crimes. Imprisoned in a wooden tower in Simmern that most believed to be impenetrable, he utilized a kitchen knife smuggled in by a sympathetic guard and cut a hole in a small window to escape. The prison escape became widely reported, exciting the public and making the Schinderhannes a folk hero. The legend of Schinderhannes grew with every new escapade.



After things began to get too dangerous for him, Schinderhannes fled across the Rhine and enlisted in the Austrian Army under the assumed name of Jakob Schweikart. He was recognized, however, by a former associate, handed over to the French authorities and imprisoned in a tower of the medieval defensive wall of [Mainz](#) (the so-called "[Holzturm](#)"). After his mistress, Juliana Blasius, was threatened with being charged as an accomplice, Schinderhannes testified against his fellow gangsters. Nineteen of his associates were sentenced to death. Despite his cooperation, Schinderhannes was sentenced to death as well.

On 21 November 1803 he was guillotined before the gates of Mainz. More than 40,000 spectators witnessed his execution. He remains Germany's most famous outlaw. His legend still attracts a great deal of



tourism to the region wherein his gang operated.

My early childhood in Germany was spent near the house where I was born, located just a few blocks from the infamous Schinderhannesturm of lore. Beautifully restored and maintained, the historical old prison tower is now a popular tourist attraction. Notice the ornate slate roof, mined locally, it can last hundreds of years.

Article retrieved from Wikipedia, images from Google.



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