

SUNFLOWER SEEDS



March 2019, Volume-47, Issue-3

Kansas Sunflower Mensa



Oh, you mighty month of March. Bringer of the bitter ravages of a bleak Winter, while maintaining hope for the eventual emergence of blessed Spring.

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Sunflower Seeds is the Official Publication of the Wichita Kansas Sunflower Mensa #670, published twelve times a year. The subscription fee of \$5.00 is included in annual dues paid to Wichita Sunflower Mensa and American Mensa, Ltd.; other subscriptions are \$18.00 per year.

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

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

March Upcoming Events:

**Saturday 2nd 12:45pm - MONTHLY PIG OUT
A CHANCE TO DINE WITH MENSA FRIENDS.**

PROST URBAN BIER GARTEN

2721 E CENTRAL AVE

[HTTP://WWW.PROSTWICHITA.COM](http://www.prostwichita.com)

**Saturday 9th 2:00pm - GUEST SPEAKER
James Thompson (see below and next page)
STATED MEETING AFTER PRESENTATION**

WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT

4701 E DOUGLAS

[HTTP://WWW.WATERMARKBOOKS.COM](http://www.watermarkbooks.com)

**Saturday 16th 11:00am – FOOD FOR THOUGHT
JOIN US FOR STIMULATING CONVERSATION.**

WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT

4701 E DOUGLAS

[HTTP://WWW.WATERMARKBOOKS.COM](http://www.watermarkbooks.com)

**Saturday 23rd 7:00pm – BANTER AND BOOKS
GOOD CAMARADERIE AND DISCUSSIONS.**

BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA

1920 N ROCK RD

[HTTP://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/
STORE/2319](http://www.stores.barnesandnobles.com/store/2319)

**Saturday 30TH 12:45PM – BLUE MOON FEAST
FINE DINING WITH FELLOW INTELLECTUALS.**

WICHITA ART MUSEUM, 2ND FLOOR DINING AREA

1400 W MUSEUM BLVD

[HTTP://WWW.WICHITAARTMUSEUM.ORG](http://www.wichitaartmuseum.org)

March's Featured Speaker:

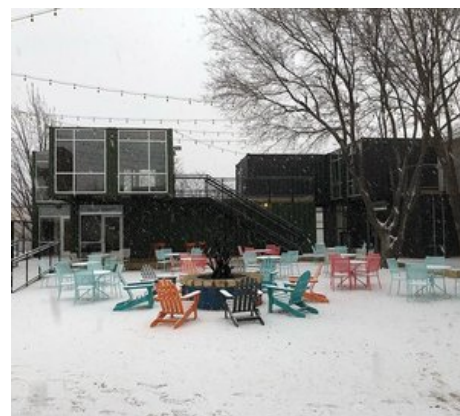
James Thompson, attorney, will speak on the law and how police interface with the citizenry. He will lead a discussion on this and related subjects. James is a civil rights attorney and army veteran. He ran for congress in 2017 and 2018. If you plan on being arrested in the near future or are just the kind of person who seems to attract unwanted police scrutiny, be sure and come.

February Pig Out Highlights:

Our Pig Out location for February was the El Agave restaurant in far West Wichita. The restaurant specializes in Mexican food and the décor is rather unique. The food was above average in my opinion and the service was also acceptable. Except for a cranky and stressed out editor, the lunch was enjoyed by all.



March Pig Out Details:



This month's adventure will be a brand-new restaurant open only opened a few months ago. It features authentic German fare that is true to

what one would expect to eat in Europe. In fact, it is the only spot in town serving anything close to authentic German cooking. The owner of the restaurant spent several years running a successful food truck that would always sell out early because the food was so good. She recently decided to make her delicacies available to a wider audience, hence the Prost.



Last Month's Guest Speaker:



Olivia Malanchuk, a senior at Mulvane High School gave our chapter a brief presentation on reusable feminine hygiene products. It proved to be an unusual, but interesting subject, even for the guys present. I have to admit that this was a subject that was unknown to me.

This Month's Super Genius Winner:



First month's winner, Mike Dickson.

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. Mike was the first to submit the correct answer. Answer: Caffeine.

Chapter Field Trip in April

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. We will meet as usual at the Watermark Books basement at 11:00am. We will plan on leaving by 11:30. I will be driving and have ample room for three other people. We may need additional drivers as the need arises.

Chapter Audit: John Prechtel conducted an audit of the chapters books and found them to be in order.

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. Coming soon.

Logical puzzle: Submitted by: Igor Ponomarev

Two persons, A and B are trying to guess two natural numbers N and M chosen by a third party such that: $1 < N < M$ and $N + M < 50$. The only information provided to A is the value of $N + M$, and to B - the value of $N \times M + N \times N$.

After being given that information, A and B discuss what they know based on the information given, and on what they learn from each other at each step of the conversation:

B. Based on what I know, I can't uniquely determine the numbers N and M .

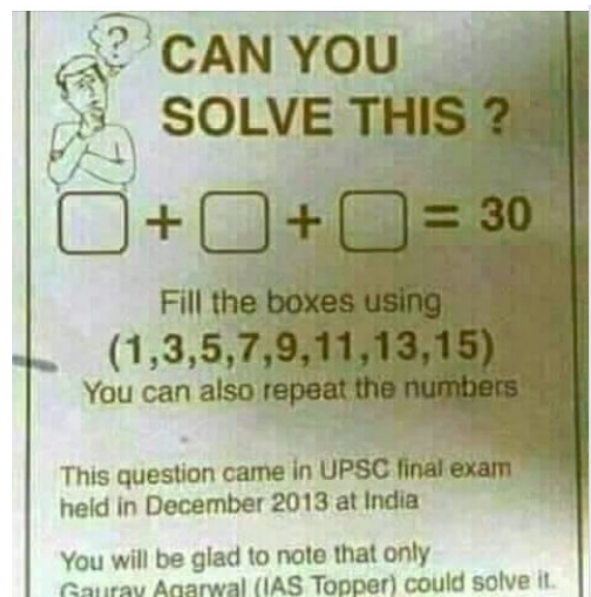
A. I knew that even before you told me.

B. Now I know both numbers.

A. And now I know them as well.

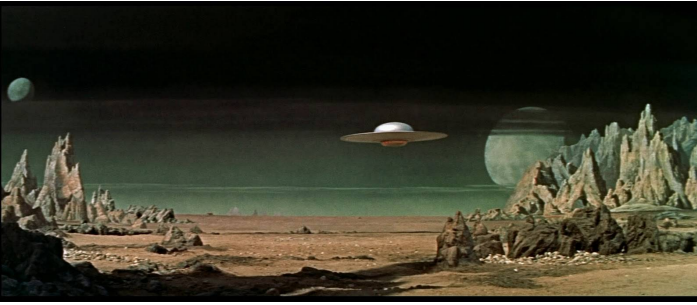
Provided that each individual is telling the truth, find the two numbers.

Hint: use of Excel worksheets will facilitate the solution.



The On-Off Switch

by Larry D. Paarmann



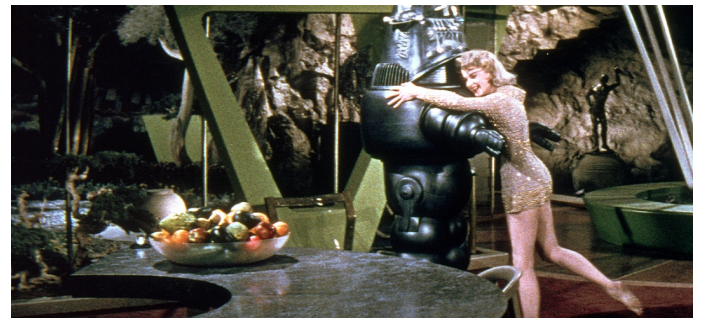
In the classic 1956 science fiction movie *Forbidden Planet*, astronauts from earth visit the planet Altair IV which is a very great distance from earth. An earlier scientific exploration team from earth came to Altair IV many years earlier but hadn't been heard from since their arrival. They find only two survivors of the earlier mission: Dr. Morbius and his scantily clad daughter played by Anne Francis. They learn that an earlier race, the Krell, were destroyed thousands of years earlier but left behind a still functioning and running enormous underground complex of nuclear reactors for almost limitless power and computers of almost limitless computational power and complexity. Morbius has gained amazing knowledge from the complex, but has unknowingly let loose horrific forces of destruction that, it turns out, are projections by the complex AI (my term, probably not used in 1956) of Morbius' own id (Freud's id was a big idea in 1956).

You may recall that Data, of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* TV series had a somewhat secret on-off switch. It appears that there was no on-off switch for the Krell's power/computer complex.



It would have been very useful for the astronauts of *Forbidden Planet* had there been one, because things were clearly out of control.

A recent example of AI going awry (I'm using AI rather loosely here, for the automatic pilot of an aircraft). On December 20, 1995, American Airlines Flight 965, a Boeing 757 flying from Miami, FL and destined for Cali, Colombia, crashed into a mountain in Colombia, killing 151 out of the 155 on board. The pilots erroneously punched in a single letter "R" for a Rozo directional beacon for Cali as they flew in a valley between mountain peaks at night. Unfortunately, the autopilot interpreted this "R" as the designation for the Romeo beacon at Bogota. Just before this they had lost their exact location, and the autopilot apparently thought (if I can use that word) they were in a different valley than they actually were in. It flew them into a mountain. The cause of the accident was attributed, to a great extent, to the pilots. But the plane AI sure didn't help any.



In Dan Brown's novel *Origin*, near the end of the book, Edmond Kirsch, the world's greatest authority on AI, predicts a new race of sentient beings will soon replace humans, and they will be a merger of human beings and AI. But what kind of a being would be this merger?

Let's suppose that it would be the most powerful intellect imaginable. But what would it be? Suppose its character was something like Adolf Hitler, or Joseph Stalin, or Mao Zedong, or Pol Pot. What then? Wouldn't it be nice if there was an on-off switch? Technology, automation, AI, etc. are wonderful servants, but horrible and inadequate taskmasters.

- In response to last month's article on AI: My name is Ted Saranchuk. As a matter of fact, I would like to discuss the premise with anyone that was interested. I have dabbled with AI since the 70's. Admittedly it was more stilted then. tsaranchuk@cox.net

News Brief by: Rich Olcott



Heartland Mensa Region 7

As a Mensan you probably know this, but here's a reminder. The Romans celebrated New Year in March, when the snows melt away, seeds sprout and flowers brighten our horizons. For American Mensa each membership year ends on March 31 and the new year starts April 1. So, *felix annus novus vobis* and I hope you've renewed your membership.



One reason to do so – **CultureQuest®**, one of Mensa's most Mensa-typical activities. It's a 200-question team trivia contest with proceeds going to the MERF scholarship fund. Well, we think it's fun, anyway. The contest will be on April 28 this year. Teams have to register in March and every team member has to be a paid-up Mensa member. Logon to us.mensa.org and navigate to *Play* → *CultureQuest* for details.

The word "scholarship" leads into my next topic. You may be one of the dozens of Heartland Region Mensans who judged hundreds of scholarship essays in January or February. On behalf of MERF and the scholarship applicants, I thank you and salute you.

A special nod to our **Scholarship Chairs**. They don't do the judging; they recruit the judges, arrange the judging session and manage the process – pre-screening the essays for rule infractions, printing off the essays and score sheets, and handling all the technical details to get each essay's scores correct and properly recorded in MERF's files. As I ran my eye down the list of Chairs I was struck by how long many of them have served us. Some took on the position relatively recently:

- South Dakota Mensa's **Mike Hamerly** in 2018, following **Christy Zwagermann's** terms

- Nebraska-Western Iowa Mensa's **Sherri Levers** starting in in 2016
- Kansas Sunflower Mensa's **Larry Paarmann** and North Dakota Mensa's **Maggie Kohls** in 2015
- Boulder/Front Range Mensa's **Martha Hyder** and Central Iowa Mensa's **Larry Brandt** in 2010
- Wyoming Mountain Mensa's **Terry Yentzer** in 2008

but these four have been with the project since 2005:

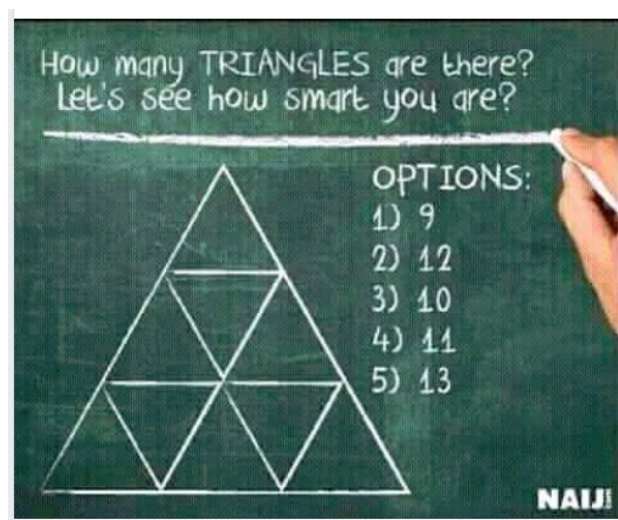
- Mid-America Mensa's **Rhonda Johnson**
- Missouri Ozarks Mensa's **Andrea Miller**
- Denver Mensa's **Tim Winkleman**
- Plains and Peaks Mensa's **Sandy Halby**

High Mountain Mensa's **Donna Scott** is our Longevity Champ. She chaired her first judging team in the year 2000. One more nod – Plains and Peaks Mensa's **Jane Cosper** stepped up to be our Regional Scholarship Chair in 2017. A round of applause for all of you.

March is a good time to plan for April's **Mensa Cares** event. There'll be T-shirts. ~ ~ Rich

Legend has it a German priest named Hans Muller told a joke about a German soldier dying in a hospital bed. He asked his nurse to see pictures of some of the people he was giving his life for.

She showed him pictures of Hitler and Goering. He responded that at least he could die like Jesus Christ - between two criminals. The nurse was executed.



A discussion of some cultural differences in attitudes about sexuality.



There is enormous diversity in the range of attitudes regarding sex. Despite the undeniable fact that sex is omnipresent, a powerful drive is a requisite for our species survival and is often stigmatized and controlled. Every culture has some sort of sexual norms and taboos, that might be considered open or promiscuous by our narrow Western standards.

Interestingly there is a general decrease in societal violence that correlates directly to the level of that group's sexual freedom. This is true not only for humans, but also for one of our closest cousins the Bonobo. This species is highly sexual, and all members of the group use sex to mitigate aggression and violence. I would posit that our distant ancestors were much more permissive and advanced sexually than our current insecure and inhibited society.

I will proffer examples of the sexual attitudes of three disparate societies, ranging from the most, to the least repressed.

(Rural Ireland) Inis Baag is a secluded, diminutive island off the coast. Nudity is disdained and considered shameful. The residents will not even remove clothing to bathe and wash only exposed flesh. Even during sex, both partners will keep on at least their undergarments.

Premarital sex is rare and female orgasm is almost unheard of. The husband always initiates sex with no foreplay other than perhaps squeezing of the buttocks. The missionary position is always utilized and the man is expected to ejaculate quickly, roll over, and go to sleep. Sex is not engaged in often as it is rumored to drain a

man's strength. Women fear menstruation and men avoid them accordingly. Menopause is looked upon with dread as it is considered a portent of insanity. Sex education is non-existent as couples are expected to figure it out naturally.

(Central Brazil) The people of the village of Mehinaku have lots of sex but also suffer from anxiety caused by the repercussions of those interactions. The culture is very eroticized and even the children know of sexual matters. The genders are generally separate, and a woman must never snoop around a man's house lest she be gang raped. In all other aspects, the society is remarkably non-violent.

Even married men openly vie for a woman's favor, usually by presenting her a small gift. Men are the sexual initiator as women are viewed to have an inferior sex drive. Even though extra-marital liaisons are deemed inappropriate by cultural standards they still occur, and fantastical punishments await those who deviate. Female orgasm is generally rare, and menstruation is understood to be dangerous. Dreams are interpreted to provide guidance in sexual matters. Though these people experience intense anxiety over their exploits, it does little to dissuade their continued activities.

(South Pacific) The Manganian islanders and Polynesian cultures in general enjoy a much greater sexual freedom than we are accustomed to. Not only is sex used for procreation it is considered a vital life force and necessary social lubricant. Nudity is totally normal, and the body is considered beautiful. Sexual discovery is considered a part of development and is not repressed, and in fact it is encouraged.

The concept of shame did not exist until the arrival of the European barbarians. The genitals were considered holy and treated with reverence and respect. It was not taboo for adults of either gender to engage minors in sex for purposes of instruction or otherwise. Most children were initiated at an early age and by all accounts were eager participants.

At age 7, a Manganian boy begins learning about his sexuality and is encouraged to explore his genitalia and start masturbating by 8 or 9. In preparation for a boy's later coming of age surgery, at birth an elder female blows into the child's penis to stretch the foreskin making it easier to slit.

This daily ritual is reduced in frequency when a boy is old enough to urinate in an arch. When he reaches 13, the boy undergoes a rite of passage into manhood ceremony. His penis is mutilated via superincision and he is instructed in the finer arts of manhood by elders. Performed similarly to a circumcision, the procedure is called a dorsal slit, the foreskin is cut along its entire length from the tip to the corona.

After 2 weeks of healing, the boy is assigned to an older woman who will instruct him in the arts of adulthood. They practice multiple positions and techniques and she teaches him to withhold ejaculation until after his partner has achieved orgasm. A man is taught that his primary source of pleasure is to bring satisfaction to his mate. The average boy will have at least 10 different partners prior to marriage and will actively seek out females on a nightly basis. Most young Manganian men will orgasm 3 times a night, although the frequency diminishes as they age.

Soon after birth, a Manganian girl has her mother's breast milk squirted into her vagina and her vulva pressed flat and massaged with coconut oil. This was intended to aid in her future fertility. The labia are stretched and elongated by being sucked on by the mother and other attendant females. Other related Oceanic societies would also elongate and sensitize the clitoris by similar methods.



Around 12, a Manganian girl starts receiving formal sexual instruction and actively explores her sexuality. She is expected to have several boyfriends before her marriage at

around 20. Parents know that the marriage is only successful if both partners are sexually compatible. Older women stretch the young girl's labia to make them more attractive. A grandmother is responsible for breaking a girl's hymen so that her first time would not hurt nor would she get blood on her lover.

Young girls are taught to use their bodies in such a way as to provide the maximum pleasure for their partner, including the art of rhythmically constricting the vaginal musculature. Once menarche is attained and pubic hair became evident, a girl covers her genitals but goes bare breasted.

Both boys and girls play together until around 6 or 7, then they congregate separately. Youth of both sexes and all ages are expected to explore the other person's genitals and engage in heterosexual and homosexual mutual masturbation and/or other types of sex play.

A man or woman rumored to be a selfish or a lazy lover would face community ridicule, while a skillful lover was much lauded and admired.

For adults, foreplay is almost non-existent with both parties engaging in coitus almost immediately after meeting, but both usually achieve an orgasm.

Homosexuality is accepted and not stigmatized as is pretty much any form of sexual encounter that can be envisaged.

This society is blessedly free from most of the violence that engenders our species although it is not totally utopian. Females who refuse sex can be raped or even beaten, although this behavior is now rare. Sex is the salve that eases societal interactions, the cement that holds together the culture and helps to deflect the scourge of aggression. We could learn much from them!

By: Klaus Trenary



This cat was recently found by its owner buried in a snow drift in Montana and was nearly frozen stiff. It did recover after intensive care at a veterinary clinic even though its core temperature was too low to be measured.

To check out how well you would fit in to our new YOUTH SIG, you might see where the list below would put you.

Young Interests

- Long hair
- Wanting a KEG
- Acid rock
- Hoping for a BMW
- Going to a hip joint
- Rolling Stones
- Passing the driver's test

Mature Interests

- Longing for hair
- Needing an EKG
- Acid reflux
- Hoping for a BM
- Getting a hip joint
- Kidney stones
- Passing vision test

Originally published in the Nov. 2011 Seeds.

Some signs we would love to see:



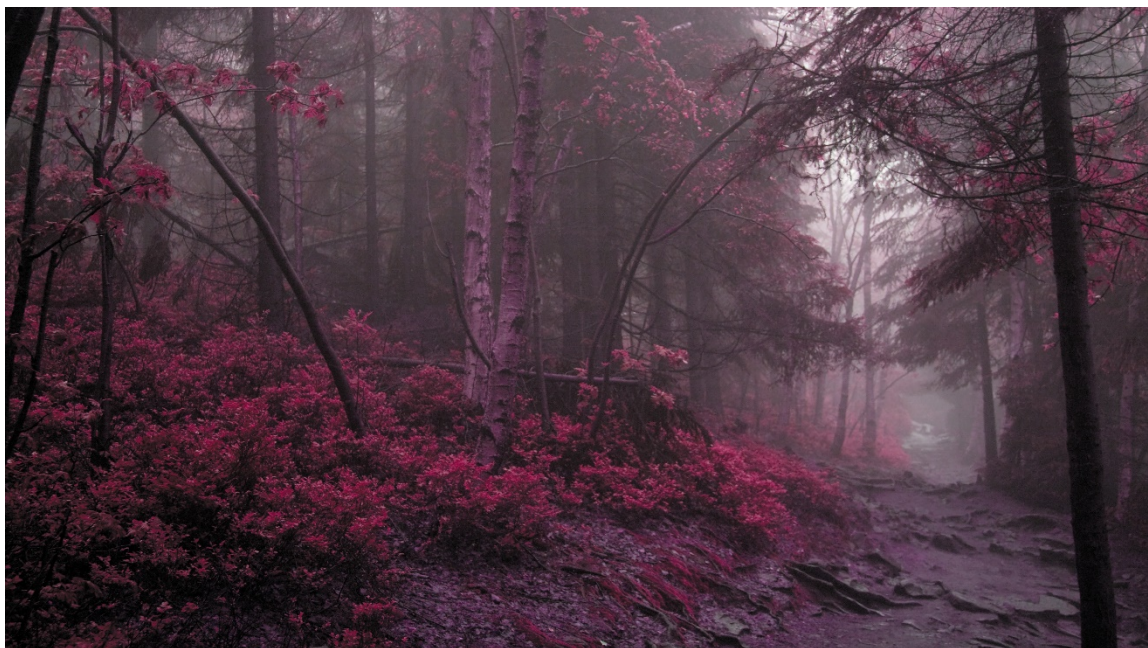
Square of side 4 with 5 circles in it. Find Diameter of the small one.

Cube of side 4 with 9 spheres in it. Find Diameter of the small one.

This one (supposedly) comes from Ben Franklin. I cannot solve it. Go for it!
Randy C. Hamilton

[A circle is inscribed in a quarter-circle of radius 10, and then another circle is inscribed between them.] The Area of this little Circle is requir'd

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