

PARTY SMART is the newsletter of the **Hell's M's** SIG of American Mensa, Ltd. It is published quarterly. Views expressed are solely those of the authors, and may or may not reflect the opinion of anyone (including the author). Mensa does not hold any opinions, or have, or express, any political or religious view.

### Submissions

Send in your party stories, party tips, party restaurants, party theories. Tell us how you go about throwing a small party, a large party, a theme party, a games party, a quiet party, or a wild party.

Party Animal votes are submitted to Skinner; please also submit a picture and a write-up to the Editor.

**Hell's M's** is the Party SIG—so let's write about partying!

**Deadline for the next issue: December 1, 2003**

### Advertising Rates

Advertising space is available at the following per issue rates: full page \$20, half-page \$10, quarter-page \$5, business card \$3. 50% discount for current Hell's M's SIG members. 25% discount for full year (buy 3, get 1 free). Contact the Editor.

### Appreciation

Thanks to Jim Robertson and Geri Neemidge for providing pictures. (A special double **Thank You** to Jim, since it's the best picture of me I've ever had! —The Editor) Much gratitude to Marcia Mariacher and Mary Lee Kemper for proofreading.

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Are you reading someone else's copy? Don't you want one of your very own? Contact Marcia (callmar@juno.com) and join the newly forming **Boot to the Head** chapter.



Volume 15  
Number 3

PARTY SMART

Fall 2003

## Party Animal Hall of Fame

If being elected **Party Animal** is special, then Linda Hathaway is three times special—and the 13th member of the **Party Animal Hall of Fame**.



The theme of the Rivers 3 RG put on by Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa over Labor Day 2003 was *Hell With the Lid Off*, and it was definitely a hellishly good party.

Somehow, Linda managed to be everywhere at once—when something needed to be done—there she was. Even in the middle of the night, weary and bleary-eyed, there she was—still with a smile, making sure things ran smoothly.

We don't know if that's what makes her a **Party Animal** or just plain crazy—or if there's a difference between the two—but we know that we'll be back next year for more of whatever Pittsburgh is dishing out—and maybe Linda will get to take a break and actually play a rail game or two!



Mary Lee Kemper,  
Linda Hathaway

*A Hell's M's party is any party, large or small, where everyone participating in or affected by the party has good memories the day after.*

## Skinner Sez

Skinner, Dayton Area Mensa, [skinner@hellsms.com](mailto:skinner@hellsms.com)



Hi there. Here is a quick overview of what is going on for us. Since the AG we have added 21 new members and our total is now 2321. 235 members have chosen to renew, with four members paid up through 2006. That's an increase of 45 **Hell's M's** who are paying dues over last year.

We got a lot done at the SIG Meeting at the AG and reports on those items will show up in the following pages. Right now I am just feeling good about Mensa in general. I just finished a phone conversation with a fellow Mensan in California. We spent a fair amount of time talking about how we each felt so very welcomed by the Mensa communities the first time we attended an event. We talked about how we were able to let parts of ourselves be seen that we cannot comfortably let out in the everyday world. For me that is one of the joys of my 20+ years in Mensa—how I am continually welcomed into the community. That attitude has helped me invite a number of my friends to Mensa functions. It has made it so much easier for me to ask people to volunteer their time as speakers at the RGs and at the AG when I was Speaker Chair.

First off, let me say *Thank You* for being such great people. Then let me say *Thank You* again for treating the people I have brought to Mensa in such a good way.

At the AG I had over 36 **Hell's M's** volunteer on our shift in Hospitality. I was going to list them all here, but I lost the list of names so I am going to say a *Big Thanks* here for all the work they did. The AG Committee asked me to pass on their thanks too.

Right now, as we approach the end of the year, Yvonne and I are planning to be at the RGs in Cleveland, Chicago, and Cincinnati. I hope I get to see many of you at those having a good time.

*Skinner*

## Beth's Turn

Beth Weiss, [PARTYSMART@hellsms.com](mailto:PARTYSMART@hellsms.com)



It's easy to get into a behavioral rut—and sometimes that's not so bad. But it's also easy to get into a cognitive rut—and that's much worse.

At the AG, I was told I didn't "look like a **Hell's M**". It made me want to wear a black t-shirt everyday. I was told "I don't like Skinner. And I don't like **Hell's M's**."—and he turned on his heel and walked away. No use trying to explain—some people are so deep in ruts that they can't be rescued from themselves.

I thought **Hell's M's** had been around long enough that everyone knew its origin and purpose, and Skinner didn't need to keep explaining it to people. But at the AG, I was asked multiple times what **Hell's M's** is all about—I was surprised that people didn't know, but did my best to spread the Gospel According to Party.

Everybody tells me that the Hospitality Chair is always elected **Party Animal**, and if the Hospitality Chair is in the Hall of Fame, then the RG Chair gets it. Not in Pittsburgh this year. Not in Austin. Not in Wisconsin. Not in Columbus. And that's just this quarter.

I was told that Ms don't tend to be that good-looking. Then I attended a St. Louis Area Mensa party last weekend. Hmmm. Pretty high percentage of good-looking men (and women!) there.

I read a recommendation to use initials on checks but sign your full name so an identity thief wouldn't know how you sign your checks. It sounds good in theory, but I also found multiple sources claiming that standard banking practice is to *not* check signature cards for checks under a bank-determined amount. My experiences bear that out—I was once a treasurer without a signature card—and I wrote checks for up to \$18,000.

Nothing is black and white except our **Hell's M's** t-shirts—and maybe the mugs, too. Other than that, it pays to remember that sometimes *what everybody knows* just isn't so.

Where do you buy all your neat restaurant kitchen toys, and how can others of us **not** in the restaurant business get them?

I get things from a number of sources—for items like inexpensive instant-read digital thermometers I'll go to *Bed, Bath and Beyond*, *Linens and Things*, or order them from **amazon.com**. For simple small quantity restaurant supplies, or any used equipment I might need, I'll go to a local restaurant supply store.

Here in Richmond, there is one in a large abandoned department store building in a dingy part of town (read: low overhead). When I walk in I feel like I just entered the set of a Godfather movie <laugh> but the owner, Joe Gusti, has just about anything I would want new piled to the ceiling haphazardly in the showroom up front, and half the world's supply (it seems) of used restaurant equipment (old walk-in coolers and freezers, **huge** restaurant stoves, and ovens, food choppers, and commercial 80-pound mixers) in the warehouse out back. You can find stores like this in most cities (check the Yellow Pages under *Restaurant Equipment*) and most will sell to anyone—just walk in and buy what you want.

There are two internet mail-order restaurant supply houses I regularly use, Big-Tray ([www.bigtray.com](http://www.bigtray.com)) and SERV-U ([www.servu-online.com](http://www.servu-online.com)). I've bought many hard-to-find supplies from each and I've never had a problem with either. If you're interested in serving a large group (and I assume you are, or else you wouldn't have read this far) I would suggest you look at both of these websites. They have lots of inexpensive supplies designed specifically for the caterer, which is what we are if we're providing food or snacks for a games night or a gathering.

And finally, as before, if you have food or prep questions, I'll be glad to research them and then get the answers and resources back to everyone. Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts, ideas or questions to me at [TGTyson@Earthlink.net](mailto:TGTyson@Earthlink.net).

See y'all in hospitality! And remember—*Party Smart!*

Join Hell's M's on-line: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HellsMs/>

## Recent Party Animals

### April Lashbrook



#### Bungle in the Jungle

*Columbus, Ohio, July 25-27, 2003*

April is now a two-time **Party Animal**. She was the Volunteer Chair for the Columbus RG, helping everyone else have a great party and then was the guest of honor at the surprise baby shower held after announcements. Little Julia, who was born on August 14th, shares the award with her mom.

### Betsy Allen

#### Gemütlichkeit

*Milwaukee, WI, August 15-17, 2003*

If you missed the Wisconsin RG, you missed a great backrub. Betsy stayed up late into the night (morning) giving wonderful backrubs to one and all. She helped keep the hospitality room clean by bussing what was left behind, and refilled snacks as needed. The backrubs were especially appreciated by her fellow RG workers!



### Why Go to RGs?

- To enjoy intelligent conversation with silly people, silly conversation with intelligent people, food, chocolate, dancing, programs, hugs, backrubs, and games. —Beth Weiss
- To get outside the box. To spend a whole weekend where you can use all the 50¢ words you want and no one looks at you funny. Where else can you Boingy! Boingy!—Dorine Sharp
- To hear some great lines, like "Life's a bitch, and sometimes she has puppies!" —Robert Little
- To see old friends, meet new ones, play hearts 'til my brain won't work, flirt with the cute new guy, eat, talk, eat chocolate, learn a new game, talk, and eat more chocolate. —Sue Hayes
- To be somewhere that I fit in. —Marcia Mariacher

## Heard on Hell's M's Yahoo!

### Bones of the Universe

#### Dave Plottel wrote:

Base e is my absolute favoritest number. So much is embodied in that single value—it's like examining one of the bones of the universe—the underlying structure of logic and reality.

Base e is a profoundly eloquent indicator of What Is So. It is the heart of exponentiation and logarithms, the core of the compounding of interest, the kingpin of the complex plane, the bridge between the Imaginary and the Real numbers.

Warning, if anyone really gets me started on this topic I can wax quite eloquent (and boring).

Just act natural! Dave

#### Virginia (formerly Boatman) Plottel followed up with:

Oooo, <swoon>—talk Mensa to me baby! :-p

Dave, may I have permission to use your first two paragraphs above?

I'd like to print it out and add it to the mass of papers that live in my purse, and then when I'm asked by my real-world associates to explain Mensa and Mensans to them, I can use it as an example.

I'd hand them the piece of paper and say, "Well, here's a typical Mensan baring his soul..." And then for balance, I'd add something like "This same guy says he's a member of the Department of Redundancy Department" (or whatever other silliness comes to mind), so they won't think Mensans spend **all** their time contemplating universal logic and never have any other kind of fun.

(And yes, I know you're not "typical" at all, you're at least as unique as any of the rest of us...maybe I'll say "Here's a typically unique Mensan" or "Here's a uniquely typical Mensan"....) How about it? Thanks & hugs, Virginia

dip or even cold Cheeze-Whiz™ out of these bottles (a restaurant I once worked for used them to put chunky Blue Cheese dressing onto salads quickly and neatly). There are no lids or spoons to deal with (or lose), the dip can be squeezed directly onto a plate using only one hand, and there should be no spillage. No one will be tempted to dip directly from a bowl of dip, and at the same time, the bottle can be used to apply dip directly onto one chip without contamination of the remainder.

**Squeeze bottles for sauces can be bought for under \$1.50 each. (\$15.85 plus shipping for a case of twelve 24 oz bottles from Serv-U)** The bottles can be kept in an ice bath on the table in hospitality and sauces stored this way will easily keep eight or more hours. Plus, the

dips and sauces may be prepared weeks in advance if you keep them below 36 degrees in a cooler. Just fill and label three or four bottles with each of the dips or sauces you plan to serve, and when one bottle runs out, just grab another out of the storage cooler and put it out. Wash the used bottle later when you have time (it will survive the dishwasher) and if necessary, refill it.

How do you sanitize table tops, cutting boards, knives and dishes if you don't have commercially-produced restaurant sanitizer?



¼ cup chlorine-based bleach in a gallon of water works very well. It can be wiped on or sprayed on using a hand pumped spray bottle, and then all you have to do is let it dry—**don't** wipe it off or dry it. When it dries it breaks down into little more than a weak salt water film.

**Mix ¼ cup bleach in a gallon of water, and store it in a hand-pumped spray bottle.**

Oh, and as we learned at the Dallas AG, do not soak sponges in the solution overnight to clean them. When you come back the next

**Wash hands frequently—before, during and after food preparation. Use plenty of hot water and soap and wash for at least 20 seconds (you can sing the "birthday song" twice). Use paper towels for drying hands. Be sure not to touch the faucet with your clean hands!**

morning, you'll have a gooey mass that looks kind of like "The Blob".

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Hospitality Legion



*Chef Toolman, (aka Tom Tyson), Thomas Jefferson Mensa, TGTyson@Earthlink.net*

Here we are entering Fall, which for me is the busiest time of the year for attending gatherings. I'm just back from the Pittsburgh RG where I had a delightful time seeing friends. They had fine hospitality suites there and I probably put on four or five pounds from the various forms of chocolate alone—chocolate candies, chocolate cookies, chocolate brownies (at least eight varieties, soft, chewy and crisp) and chocolate cake (but no chocolate pie, alas). Some of the goodies were store bought and some were homemade—all were wonderful.

While I was there I spent some time chatting with Nancy Heller, the Hospitality Chair for the Cleveland RG (Oct 3-5). For me, chatting with Nancy is most unsettling—she has the most delightful knack for asking only questions I can't answer—but after I came home, I did some research and here are some of the results. I hope you'll find the answers useful.

What is a good, inexpensive way to extend the life of sauces and dips once they are set out in hospitality, while at the same time cutting down on waste and volunteer labor?

(She doesn't want much, does she?) It turns out that there is an easy way to do all of those. A trick many restaurants use is to decant all sauces, dressings and other condiments into squeeze bottles (like the ones cafes serve BBQ sauce or mustard on the table in, only larger)

For dips and sauces, use wide mouth, wide tip, clear plastic squeeze bottles in 24 and 32 ounce sizes.

while prepping for the week. Several restaurant supply vendors sell wide mouth, wide tip, clear plastic squeeze bottles

in 24 and 32 ounce sizes. If you trim the tip back a little so the opening is between an eighth and a quarter inch diameter, you can easily squeeze french onion



## Party Term: PG

*Terry Boyle, Cincinnati Area Mensa, golumba@yahoo.com*



Mensans love word play—if perceptions serve, they also appreciate a good acronym (at least some of 'em do). We all know, and appreciate, the value of an RG. Nice as they are, however—if it weren't for the rapid adoption of a handy little acronym, we'd all be going around saying Regional Gathering, instead of its much more streamlined, and, let's face it, downright sexy abbreviation, RG. And, we'd spend unnecessary time saying Regional Gathering that should more rightly be applied to enjoying ourselves at said RG.

Sometimes, at a particularly rewarding RG, some of us meet, and click with, another M (a rather popular singularity-type acronym). Along these lines, and in the interest of saving time for our fellow Mensans who do, indeed, achieve 'clickage', I offer for public consumption the time saving acronym of PG—an activity commonly

encountered at RGs, but, by no means limited to same—PG, of course, referring to that oft-desirable circumstance which (mostly) transpires between two people—a Personal Gathering.



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### Did you Renew?

If you haven't renewed your **Hell's M's** membership, now's the time. The membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, and your dues cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, plus **Party Animal** shirts. If your mailing label says '03, this is your last newsletter. Send in the form—even get another t-shirt while you're at it! Dues are only \$8 per year and should be sent to Skinner.

# LonestaRG

## Five Year Reunion

*Geri Neemidge, Lonestar Mensa, gneemidge@usa.net*

This year's LonestaRG was very special. It was our fifth RG in Austin and we are very happy to have reached that milestone. Also, this year, our very good friend, and the man who was best man at our wedding, Johnny Zweig, got married at LonestaRG.

RG Chair—John Neemidge  
Program Chair—Geri Neemidge  
Hospitality Chair—Ray O'Connor

Since it was our fifth RG our theme was *Five Year Reunion* and our speaker track consisted of education-related topics as well as some of the most popular speakers invited back from previous LonestarRGs.

This year's most popular speaker was Spike Gillespie, a local author who writes for many national publications and websites and who has two published books and a novel on the Internet. Spike talked about writing honestly as well as some of the process of writing and getting published. She made the observation that Mensans are similar to junior high age kids since we so often feel like outsiders. Joe Nick Patoski, another local author and former *Texas Monthly* editor

**Spike observed that Mensans are similar to junior high age kids since we so often feel like outsiders.**

who has written books on Stevie Ray Vaughan and Selena, was also a very popular speaker. Joe Nick was invited back from LonestaRG I. He talked about the history of live music in Austin and he brought along Eddie Wilson. Eddie Wilson is a local restaurateur who was the owner of the legendary Armadillo World Headquarters.

We also had a lot of fun with our participatory track. **Hell's M's** Ray O'Connor gave a Massage for Couples workshop, Johnny Zweig gave dance lessons and Rick Jones presented the Top 40 Music Challenge. Our dance was formal this year—a prom. We imported Rick Jones from Houston to be our DJ and he did a great job.

tively, keep a folder with a statement from each of your accounts to make it easy to find the information you need.

Don't carry all of your cards at once; the ones left at home can't be stolen with your wallet (not that that makes it completely safe, of course). And if you aren't carrying what you don't need, your pants will fit better and/or your purse will be lighter.

### *Cutting Your Risk*

Check your credit report annually to check for any accounts you *didn't* open yourself. Close the ones you opened but you never use. A closed account can't be used against you. You can always open a new one if it turns out you need it.

If a bill doesn't arrive when it's supposed to, find out why. You need to know if an identity thief has changed your mailing address.

If you're going to be out of town, have someone bring in your mail or ask the Post Office to hold it. It feels a bit paranoid, but watch your trash, too. A small personal shredder can be bought for \$25 or so at any office supply store. Identity thieves like trash bins and recycling bins; let them find confetti instead of your statements.

If someone calls you, don't give out any information. Legitimate businesses should not expect you to give them your credit card information or verify your contact information if they call you.

Before entering information on a website, make sure that you recognize the URL—be sure you are really at the site you think you are. And if there isn't a lock in the lower corner, it isn't an encrypted site and you shouldn't enter any credit card information.

In an ideal world none of this would be necessary. But we aren't always living in an ideal world—so be careful and *Party Smart!*

### **Jumbled**

Acocdrnig to an elgnsih unviesitry sutdy the oredr of letetrs in a wrod dosen't mtttaer, the olny thnig thta's iopmrannt is that the frsit and lsat ltteer of eevry word is in the crcreat ptoision. The rset can be jmbueld and one is stlil able to raed the txet wiohtut dclftfuiiy.

# Party Advice

*You can't have fun if someone else is using your identity!*

*Note from the Editor:* Various Internet articles about identity theft are being forwarded around. I did a little web searching and tried to verify as much of the information as possible; this is a collection of what I found. A special **Thank You** to Skinner, who forwarded the initial article to me to share with all of you.

## What to Do if Your Identity is Stolen

Call one of the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Equifax</b><br>www.equifax.com                  | Fraud: 800-525-6285<br>Report: 800-685-1111 |
| <b>Experian (formerly TRW)</b><br>www.experian.com | 888-EXPERIAN                                |
| <b>Trans Union</b><br>www.transunion.com           | Fraud: 800-680-7289<br>Report: 800-888-4213 |
| <b>Social Security fraud line</b><br>www.ssa.gov   | 1-800-269-0271                              |

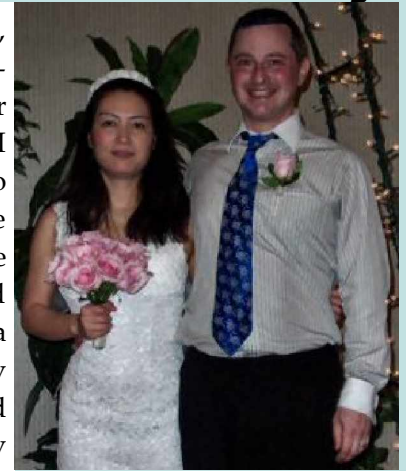
Close any account that you didn't open, or that was used by the identity thieves. You can open a new one with the same organization if you need one.

You do want to file a police report and *also* file a claim with the Federal Trade Commission. Identity theft is a federal crime. The police report is your proof of the crime and the report to the FTC adds your case to the database of identity thefts that the FTC tracks.

## Know your Numbers

Copy the contents of your wallet—both sides of each item. If your wallet is lost or stolen, you will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers as well as the phone numbers to call and cancel the cards. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Alterna-

Ray O'Connor, Hospitality Chair, massage therapist, and minister, performed the wedding ceremony for Grace Yuan and Johnny Zweig. I know some of you will be sad to hear that Johnny is no longer single but I'm sure you wish him and Grace all the happiness in the world and look forward to meeting Grace at a future Mensa event. The ceremony was serious and light hearted and just to break the tension my nearly two-year-old son knocked down a plant during the ceremony and loudly proclaimed "uh-oh"!



Newly wedded  
Grace Yuan and Johnny Zweig



Party Animal Don Graves

Our hospitality was wonderful. We had a meatball challenge with Ray O'Connor representing Texas and Betsy Skelly representing Oklahoma. I don't know how close the votes ran, but I hear that Texas won. I enjoyed them both and couldn't decide between the two. Don Graves assisted Ray in hospitality tirelessly cooking omelets for attendees every morning (or until 2:00 p.m. which is morning if you go to bed at 4:00 a.m., right?). For his heroic efforts Don won **Party Animal** this year.

Next year's LonestarRG will be RGMageddon. We hope to see all the **Hell's M's** from west of the Mississippi here (those of you east, go to Rivers3!)

**Games** Kremlin (Avalon Hill, out of print)—a sometimes hilarious game of backstabbing politics in the Politburo. If you have the right influence you can purge members, put them under investigation, get them sent to Siberia or to the sanitarium for "The Cure" and other wonderful things. —Rick Jones

## “Hey, Bob, will you write an article for me?”



Bob Fritz, Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa, [Bob.Fritz@comcast.net](mailto:Bob.Fritz@comcast.net)

### A Winner at Last

Beth came to me with this idea for a Party Smart article topic: “How is your love of horse racing related to your love of RGs?”

On the surface, not by much. I did give a presentation on horse racing at the Dayton RG once, but the only real common ground is the time I now spend at RGs that I used to spend at the racetrack.

Why do I now look forward to an RG with the type of anticipation I used to reserve for a weekend watching battle-scarred \$3,000 claimers at Beulah Park?

I’d like to think it’s a sign of maturity, but if you’ve ever seen the *Boingy! Boingy!* chapter of **Hell’s M’s** in action (of which I am a... uh...proud member...), you won’t buy that for a second.

So let me offer another explanation....

Imagine a boy of 10 or 11 who knew he was intelligent, as most intelligent children do.

He could see that he had abilities far above those of his peers. There wasn’t much in school that challenged him, so he found something that would absorb many of his abilities in the years to come.

He found horse racing.

His family had taken him to the track many times, so he came by the sport naturally. He found the *Daily Racing Form* more interesting than anything he learned in school. He found the process of picking a winner more challenging—and profitable—than anything else he saw people doing. And so, he devoted as much energy as he could

## A Little Bit of Everything

Peg Shambo, Iowa Mensa, [jazzie0523@mchsi.com](mailto:jazzie0523@mchsi.com)

I always have lots of milk and a couple of juices on hand.

Tea kettle filled and ready to turn on. Assortment of teas on the countertop.

Coffee maker is all set up with water and coffee. First one up gets to turn it on.

Sugar and other sweeteners set out.

Lots of bread and/or English muffins to be toasted.

Lots of breakfast sausages to brown up in a pan.

Scramble a couple dozen eggs.

If I’ve been really prepared, I’d baked up a bunch of potatoes a day or two earlier to cut up for homefries with some onions.

On occasion, I’ve set up my griddle and made pancakes if there aren’t too many people. Or crepes. Or “mashed potato pancakes”, served with sliced ham.

Sometimes I’ll do mimosas with OJ, bubbly, and Chambord to help wash the food down. :-)

And the most important part: **A big stack of heavy duty paper plates!!!** (Less clean-up)

**Peg, aka The Hostess with the Mostest**

### Breakfast Smoothie

In a blender, for each smoothie, combine 1½ cups of chopped fruit, 1 small banana, ½ cup yogurt, ½ cup milk, and 6 ice cubes. Puree until smooth. Add a little sugar if the drink is not as sweet as you like. Pour into a tall glass. Repeat until there are no more takers—the last one is yours!

#### How do you know how much to make?

Take what you used last time. To plan the volume of food, use a 3rd degree polynomial to figure out number of attendees and growth over time, multiply by the temperature variant :-) —Bruce Glassford

## Party Food

### Eggs? Bacon? Sausage? Cereal?

Enough of us have parties that last overnight that we have more breakfast ideas to share!

#### Breakfast Casserole Recipe

*Beth Weiss, Dayton Area Mensa,*

**PARTYSMART@hellsms.com**

I found this recipe on-line; it's from the Dutch Colonial Inn in Holland, Michigan. I've made it several times—and never had leftovers. I make it up the night before and slip it into the refrigerator. Without meat, it would be appropriate for lacto-ovo-vegetarians.

#### *DeKoster Breakfast Casserole*

- 1 box seasoned croutons
- 2 cups milk
- 10 eggs
- Parsley or cilantro
- ½-⅔ cup of a few or all of the following vegetables: zucchini, broccoli, onion, mushroom, green or red pepper
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese (or 2 cups combination)
- 1 can reduced fat cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup chopped ham or sausage

#### **Optional**

Anything you want, probably—it's a casserole after all!

**Tell everyone that the first person up should pop the casserole in the oven and start the coffee!** Coat a 9x13 glass pan with non-stick cooking spray. Fill the bottom with croutons. Reserve ½ cup of cheese.

Layer cheese, meat, and vegetables by ½ cups over the croutons until gone. Mix eggs, milk, and soup thoroughly. Pour over mixture. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Lightly cover with parsley or cilantro. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Cook for an hour at 350°.

to that process.

He had good days and bad days over the years. The good days brought him profit—sometimes in the thousands of dollars. The bad days were depressing sometimes, but there was the consolation of simply being at the track. He felt safe there because he knew so much about the game. It was his turf.

He grew to manhood and even found a job related to his interest. But as the years went on, something felt missing in his life. He had always felt like he couldn't relate to other people. He felt like he had to hide his intelligence. He always felt like there were no people who were exactly like he was.

Then he went to his first Mensa RG, and he found people who were exactly like he was.

Well, not quite. There weren't many horse racing fans at the RG, but there were people who shared something more important—that intangible bond that somehow enables Mensans to communicate wherever they meet.

He found out that he was not alone—that there are actually many people around the world who have known what it's like to be different. He found acceptance and friends. He felt safe there because he no longer had to hide his intelligence.

He still goes to the track often, but RGs are what really keep him going. At RGs, he's found something that he could never win at the races.

*Prior to joining the Region 3 RG circuit, Bob was a track representative for Daily Racing Form and fulfilled his lifelong ambition to make money by hanging around the racetrack.*

## Lonely Party Shirts

Shirts going for \$2.00 less than the listed price (see the order form).

DAYTON CHAPTER (S)

GEMUETLICHKEIT (L, XL)

LA REPUBLIC DE TEJAS (XL)

STORMHENGE (XL)

## Hell on Wings

*Rochelle Lefarth, St. Louis Area Mensa,  
gahlka@earthlink.net*

For her noteworthy efforts to ensure smokers and their friends have a place to congregate at Gatherings, Merrilee Tanner was presented with a **Hell on Wings** t-shirt and certificate "for supporting the rights of smokers, and the sanity of their friends", during the **Hell's M's** meeting at the 2003 AG.



At the 2002 AG in Phoenix, smokers were told that smoking hospitality had been moved to an outdoor location (in Phoenix...in July...114F... but it's a dry heat), however Merrilee and others, now known as the "Phoenix Six", stood their ground, reclaimed (in a civil manner) their rightful accommodations, and unofficially formed

the Sir Walter Raleigh Society SIG.

The SIG has since become official with Merrilee as SIG Coordinator and George Bobeck as Webmaster.. Visit their website at

[www.sirwalterraleigh.netfirms.com](http://www.sirwalterraleigh.netfirms.com)

When it appeared there would not be a smoking hospitality at the 2003 AG in St. Paul, Merrilee announced that there would indeed be a room for smokers even if it meant paying for a suite herself. Several people spoke up in her support, the rumblings reached the ears of the AG planning committee and thanks to Merrilee, aka the "Leader of the Pack", a smoking hospitality area (dubbed "The Sir Walter Raleigh Cafe") was guaranteed.

For going the extra mile to make sure that all smoking Ms can go away from Gatherings with good memories, thank you, Merrilee!

## SIG Meeting at the AG

### Party Europe

LUk Aerts of Belgium reported on a gathering where there were a number of **Hell's M's**. The great time they had was really helped along by one person and he wanted to know if that person could be a **Party Animal** even though the gathering did not meet the requirements for the voting process (fewer than 10 **Hell's M's** were present). We discussed his request at the AG SIG Meeting and decided that any and all selections of **Party Animal** will have to follow the rules. Someone (I forget who) mentioned the **Hell on Wings** chapter as an alternative. LUk thought the **Hell on Wings** alternative was a great idea and that the European **Hell's M's** would use that until they have enough **Hell's M's** to select a **Party Animal** at their gatherings.

### Name and Logo Report

I attended the Name and Logo Committee meeting. The issue about printing the shirts seems to be settled. They confirmed that the Dayton, Ohio Mensa chapter did and does have permission to print the **Hell's M's** shirts as a fundraiser.

Reminder: the shirts say HELL'S MENSANS; the SIG is **Hell's M's**. It will help if you say **Hell's M's** when talking about SIG activities.

### Sanctioned Events Update

**Hell's M's** is continuing the policy of sanctioning events as **Hell's M's** events *if* a set of requirements is fulfilled. The requirements include filling out a form with information about the event, its location, who will be the Host, and how the event will be handled if the Host (or major committee member) has to drop out. There will be a charge to the event of \$25.00. Anyone interested in having a sanctioned event can get the forms from Skinner ([skinner@hellsms.com](mailto:skinner@hellsms.com)).

Sanctioned events will be listed in the Bulletin as a **Hell's M's** event. We will be using this approach for a year (unless a problem develops) and we will review it at the 2004 AG.